While populations from the Middle East, South East Asia, and Africa have been crossing the Mediterranean to reach Europe in growing numbers since 2011, 2015 marked the sharpest increase in arrivals to Europe and deaths in the Mediterranean. International organizations and EU policy makers recognized the urgent need to identify effective measures to tackle the resulting humanitarian issues, but at the start of the crisis, relatively little was known about migrants arriving to Europe beyond their nationality, sex, and age. Thus, IOM rolled out its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) across the affected region.

DTM is a suite of tools and methodologies designed to track and analyse human mobility in different displacement contexts, in a continuous manner. Through DTM’s flow monitoring system, over the course of 2015 IOM identified key locations along the migratory route to collect data through direct observation, consultations with relevant national authorities, and surveys with migrants. The transit point assessments provide information on numbers of migrants, countries of origin, demographics, routes, and transport, using data provided by ministries of interior, coast guards, police forces, and other relevant national authorities. The flow monitoring surveys provide more in-depth information on specific vulnerabilities, socioeconomic circumstances, routes, reasons for movement, and country of intended destination. IOM field staff started conducting these interviews in October, starting in Croatia and also covering Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM), and Slovenia. As of 31 December 2015 IOM had interviewed over 1,673 migrants and asylum seekers.

These activities allow IOM to systematically gather detailed information about migrants’ backgrounds, motivations, and the migratory routes, and to share ongoing analyses of migratory trends and patterns with humanitarian actors and policy makers. Such information is key to devising appropriate and effective measures to manage migration, including protection for those who are entitled to it, possible integration for those who can stay in the EU and more sustainable return and reintegration to the countries of origin. This report is an overview of the year, based on IOM’s weekly flows compilations.
Timeline 2015

14 September
Hungary completes construction of fence on its border with Serbia.

17 September
EU ministers approve disputed quota plan: the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania are outvoted at the ministerial meeting when member states decide to relocate 66,000 refugees from Greece and Italy to other EU countries.

08 October
IOM field staff start conducting DTM’s flow monitoring survey interviews with migrants and asylum seekers in Croatia.

16 October
EU announces it will give Turkey 3 billion EUR in aid and will fast-track approval of visas to Europe for Turkish citizens in exchange for increased controls on the flow of migration from the Middle East to Europe, and taking back migrants whose asylum applications have not been granted.

25 October
EU Leaders agree on 17-point plan of action on the Western Balkans Migration Route. This includes Point 14: “Reconfirming the principle of refusing entry to third country nationals who do not confirm a wish to apply for international protection (in line with international and EU refugee law and subject to prior non-refoulement and proportionality checks),” which is thought to have inspired FYROM to close its borders to any migrants not of Syrian, Afghan, or Iraqi nationality.

16 November
Hungary’s parliament passes a law to challenge the EU decision on refugee relocation quotas in court.

18 November
FYROM closes borders to non Syrian, Afghans, Iraqis resulting in blockages and protests at Idomeni border crossing in Greece. Some migrants and asylum seekers sew up their mouths in protest.

10 December
The European Commission begins legal action against Greece, Croatia and Italy for failing to correctly register migrants. It also launches an infringement case against Hungary over its asylum legislation. It says the three failed to implement the Eurodac Regulation, which involves fingerprinting asylum seekers and registering the data within 72 hours.

03 December
Pakistan refuses to allow 30 deported Pakistanis to disembark plane from Athens. Voluntary returns and deportations to Pakistan are suspended.

20 December
1,000,000 registered arrivals to Europe by land and sea reached for 2015
Monthly and cumulative arrivals

Arrivals to Europe by month in 2015 versus 2014

Nationalities of aggregate cumulative arrivals to Europe in 2015
Monthly arrivals by reporting date grouped by country (countries of first arrival)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Sea</th>
<th>Land</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>853,650</td>
<td>3,713</td>
<td>857,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31,174</td>
<td>31,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>153,842</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>153,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>3,845</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,011,712</td>
<td>34,887</td>
<td>1,046,599</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total arrivals overview: other countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FYROM</td>
<td>388,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serbia</td>
<td>579,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>411,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>556,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>378,604</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OVERVIEW: MIGRANT FLOWS TO EUROPE
Registered and reported arrivals to Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain From 01 January to 31 December 2015

Total arrivals to **EUROPE**: 1,046,599
- **By sea**: 1,011,712
- **By land**: 34,887

**Spatial Arrivals**:
- **SPAIN**
  - sea: 3,845
  - land: n/a
  - total: 3,845
- **ITALY**
  - sea: 153,842
  - land: n/a
  - total: 153,842
- **MALTA**
  - sea: 106
- **CYPRUS**
  - sea: 269
- **GREECE**
  - sea: 853,650
  - land: 3,713
  - total: 857,363
- **BULGARIA**
  - land: 31,174

Disclaimer: Base Map Source: ESRI. This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.
**OVERVIEW: MIGRANT FLOWS TO EUROPE**

Registered and reported arrivals to FYROM, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary. From 01 January to 31 December 2015

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**Disclaimer:** Base Map Source: ESRI. This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.
**Turkey**

**Overview**

The Turkish Coast Guard detected a total of 91,611 migrants entering the country over 2015. This represents a 512% increase on 2014, during which 14,961 irregular migrants were apprehended. The number of fatalities also saw an increase of over 300% from 2014 to 2015, with 69 recorded deaths in 2014, and 279 in 2015. However, these figures only include those apprehended and rescued by the Coast Guard; actual numbers of migrants and asylum seekers departing Turkey by sea are in fact much higher than this.

**Rescues and apprehensions in Turkey: 2014 and 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Number of Irregular migrants</th>
<th>Number of deaths</th>
<th>Number of facilitators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>14,961</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2,430</td>
<td>91,611</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percentage increase**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Number of Irregular migrants</th>
<th>Number of deaths</th>
<th>Number of facilitators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 to 2015</td>
<td>323.34%</td>
<td>512.33%</td>
<td>304.35%</td>
<td>79.25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**15 October**

16 October—EU announces it will give Turkey EUR 3 billion in aid and will fast-track approval of visas to Europe for Turkish citizens in exchange for increased controls on the flow of migration from the Middle East to Europe, and taking back migrants whose asylum applications have not been granted.

**18 August**

The Government declares a crisis situation on the country’s south and north state borders.

**29 November**

EU-Turkey Action Plan is agreed.
Bulgaria

Overview

Over the course of 2015, Bulgarian authorities apprehended a total of 31,174 migrants and entering, exiting, and within the country. The most prominent nationalities in descending order were Iraqis, Syrians, Afghans, Pakistanis and Iranians (data from January to November 2015).

Unlike other Balkan states, Bulgaria does not have a policy to facilitate the migration flow to Western Europe. Therefore, numbers from Bulgaria are not of registered arrivals but rather of apprehensions by the Bulgarian authorities of irregular migrants on entry, within the country, and on exit.

Cumulative arrivals by reporting date in Bulgaria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cumulative Arrivals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 Nov 2015</td>
<td>29,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Dec 2015</td>
<td>29,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Dec 2015</td>
<td>29,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Dec 2015</td>
<td>30,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Dec 2015</td>
<td>31,174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Highlights from 2015

January
The government approves a decision to build a fence along the Turkish-Bulgarian border.

February
The National Council for Migration and Integration is established.

May
Parliament amends Law of Public Procurement, for construction of the fence on the Bulgarian-Turkish border.

August
Units of the gendarmerie directorate are deployed to assist the border police in guarding the country’s frontier with Turkey.

September
The number of detained irregular migrants since the start of the year reaches 17,000. The majority of these have requested refugee status.
**Greece**

**Overview**

Over the course of 2015, 853,650 migrants and asylum seekers arrived Greece by sea, and 3,713 arrived by land. In all, 857,363

**Flow Monitoring:** Between 16 November 2015 and 31 December 2015, IOM field staff in Greece collected surveys from interviews with 255 migrants and asylum seekers. (23% PAK, 20% SYR, 14% IRN, 12% IRQ, 11% MAR, 9% AFG, 11% other).

**Arrivals by month in Greece**

- **21 February**
  Authorities begin releasing undocumented migrants from the detention center in Amygdaleza, northwest of Athens.

- **11 April**
  The Migration Policy Ministry has asked municipalities and regions to propose covered spaces that could be used – with a minimum repair - to host newcomers.

- **03 July**
  547 police officers deployed to Eastern Macedonia and Thrace in order to manage borders and migration flows.

- **08 July**
  Citizenship law is passed. The new law allows children who attend primary school in Greece and with at least one migrant parent who has resided legally in Greece for five years prior to their birth to obtain citizenship.

- **25 September**
  Government Idomeni Exit Camp becomes operational. Migrants waiting to cross to FYROM are provided with shelter, food, water, NFI, toilets and showers, wi-fi and phone chargers.

- **21 October**
  Official For two consecutive days arrivals of migrants at the blue borders exceed 10,000 per day.

- **04 November**
  IOM Greece implements the first pilot relocation movement to Luxembourg.

- **19 November**
  The FYROM authorities announce that only Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis are allowed to cross borders, consequently, congestion and tension builds at Idomeni area, with excluded nationalities protesting and blocking the border.

- **03 December**
  Greek authorities evacuate Idomeni Exit Camp. Train transportation blocked for several days by migrants protesting. During the protests a 22 year-old Moroccan man died from electrocution after climbing on a train.

- **15 December**
  The European Commission announces funding for the creation of 20,000 places for the provision of accommodation to asylum seekers in Greece.
Cumulative arrivals by nationality of origin (1 Jan to 31 Dec 2015)

OVERVIEW: MIGRANT FLOWS TO EUROPE

Cumulative arrivals to Greece by nationality of origin. From 01 January 2015 to 31 December 2015.

ARRIVALS BY SEA TO GREECE - MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN
(JANUARY - DECEMBER 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Countries of Origin</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Main Countries of Origin</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>56.1%</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>Other (67 Countries)</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ARRIVALS BY SEA TO GREECE
(JANUARY – DECEMBER 2014/2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Differential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>72,632</td>
<td>853,650</td>
<td>+ 1075.3 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM)

Overview
From the start of the crisis on 19 June to the end of 2015, 388,233 migrants and asylum seekers were registered entering fYROM. Data on monthly arrivals was not available for the months preceding September 2015.

Flow Monitoring: Between 21 December 2015 and 31 December 2015, IOM field staff in fYROM collected surveys from interviews with 82 migrants and asylum seekers. (43% SYR, 30% AFG, 26% IRQ, 1% IRN)

Arrivals by month in fYROM

Demographic information on arrivals: Overview 31 Aug 2015 – 31 Dec 2015 (Source: MoI)

Highlights from 2015

19 June
Government amends the Law on Asylum seekers, allowing persons who express intention to seek asylum a period of 72 hours to apply for asylum, or to leave the country.

15 August
Official activation of Vinojug Transit Camp, Gevgelija (GR/MK border) crossing procedures

18 August
The Government declares a crisis situation on the country’s south and north state borders.

07 October
10,471 migrants entered the south border to Vinojug Transit Camp, Gevgelija (highest number of migrants to enter the TC over 24 hours)

18 November
fYROM closes borders to so-called “economic migrants”. Only migrants of Syrian, Iraqi and Afghan nationalities are allowed to enter the country.
Cumulative arrivals to FYROM by nationality of origin (from 19 Jun 2015 to 19 Nov 2016)

- SYR 62%
- AFG 22%
- IRQ 8%
- IRN 2%
- PAK 2%
- OOO 1%
- PSE 1%

Cumulative arrivals to FYROM by nationality of origin (from 19 Nov 2015 to 31 Dec 2016)

- SYR 44%
- AFG 30%
- IRQ 26%
Serbia

Overview

Over 2015 a total of 579,518 migrants and asylum seekers were registered arriving in Presevo transit and registration centre, Serbia.

Arrivals by month in Serbia

18 June
Government establishes a Working Group for addressing issues related to mixed migration flows.

08 July
Reception centre in Presevo, on the border with FYROM, opens.

16 September
Hungary closes its borders with Serbia, causing the migratory flows to change route and enter Croatia instead.

October
Centre for registering migrants in Dimitrovgrad (near border with Bulgaria) begins to operate.

03 November
The governments of Serbia and Croatia agree to allow Croatian trains to enter Serbia before transporting migrants and asylum seekers back through Croatia to Slovenia.

Highlights from 2015
Hungary

Overview

Over the course of 2015, a total of 411,515 migrants and asylum seekers were registered arriving in Hungary.

Arrivals by month in Hungary

Highlights from 2015

09-14 September
A Hungarian TV camerawoman provokes international outcry after being caught kicking Syrians, including children, live on camera. She is fired on 09 September.
14 Sept: completion of the fence along the Serbian border

15 September
Widely-criticized amendments to the asylum law entered into force that designates Serbia as a safe third country, allows expedited asylum determination and limits procedural safeguards. Additionally, climbing through the fence or damaging it becomes a criminal offence punishable with imprisonment. The Government declares “emergency situation caused by mass immigration” and deployed military troops to the southern border.

07 October
The Government declares that if needed, it is ready to extend the fence towards Romanian border.

16-17 October
Hungary finishes the fence along the Croatian border and reinstated border control with regard to Slovenia.

16 November
Hungarian government passes a law to challenge the EU decision on mandatory refugee relocation quotas in court.
Croatia

Overview

The number of migrants and asylum seekers registered arriving in Croatia from the start of the crisis on 16 September until the end of 2015 totaled 555,761. Data on monthly arrivals was not available for the months preceding October 2015.

Flow Monitoring: Between 8 October 2015 date and 31 December 2015, IOM field staff in Croatia collected surveys from interviews with 1283 migrants and asylum seekers. (50% SYR, 25% AFG, 14% IRQ, 3% PAK, 3% IRN, 2% PSE, 3% other)

Arrivals by month in Croatia

Highlights from 2015

17 September
Croatian Government establishes Activity Coordination Headquarters to deal with the influx of immigrants.

21 September
Opatovac Transit Camp is opened.

08 October
IOM field staff start conducting DTM’s flow monitoring survey interviews with migrants and asylum seekers in Opatovac Transit Center.

16 October
The Hungarian government closes the border with Croatia, causing the flow of migrants to be redirected towards Slovenia.

25 October
Croatian Ministry of Interior records the highest number of daily arrivals, totaling 11,500 in one day.

01 November
Croatian and Serbian interior ministers arrange for migrants to Croatian trains in Šid, Serbia and go directly to Slavonski Brod. The two sides agree on the daily movement of four trains or 6,000 migrants.

03 November
Winter Transit Centre in Slavonski Brod Ready for first migrants. All activities are relocated to new location.

07 November
Croatia holds first election since joining the EU. The migrant crisis is a major issue, and the conservative opposition wins three more seats than the ruling alliance.
Slovenia

Overview

From the start of the crisis on 16 October 2015 to the end of the year, 378,604 migrants and asylum seekers were been registered entering Slovenia.

Flow Monitoring: Between 6 and 31 December 2015, IOM field staff in Slovenia collected surveys from interviews with 18 migrants and asylum seekers. (44%SYR, 28%AFG, 11%IRN, 11%IRQ, 6%PSE)

Arrivals by month in Slovenia

Highlights from 2015

17 September
Slovenia faces its first large influx of migrants between 17 and 22 September, when approximately 3,500 migrants enter Slovenia.

16 October
Hungary closes its border with Croatia with a razor-wire fence. Croatia begins directing migrants westward towards Slovenia.

20 October
Parliament amends the Defence Act granting the Armed Forces additional powers for border protection and security at reception and accommodation centres, to support the Police.

21 October
The highest number of migrants entering Slovenia in one day reaches 12,616 persons.

11 November
Slovenia begins erecting a razor-wire fence on its border with Croatia to control the influx of migrants.

29 December
Language checks are introduced by Austrian authorities, increasing returns to Slovenia.
Italy

Overview
From 01 January to 31 December 2015, an estimated 153,842 migrants and asylum seekers were registered arriving in Italy by sea.

Arrivals by month in Italy

![Graph showing arrivals by month in Italy](image)

Highlights from 2015

**22 September**
EU ministers approve disputed quota plan: the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania are outvoted when member states decide to relocate 66,000 refugees from Greece and Italy to other EU countries.

**05 December**
A popular accommodation center for migrants run by volunteers in Rome and known as "Baobab" is shut down due to a decision by the site’s owner. Social media and the press criticize the closure, but the Ministry of Interior points out that a vast network of over 2,000 reception and accommodation centers is available throughout the country.

**10 December**
The European Commission begins legal action against Greece, Croatia and Italy for failing to correctly register migrants.

Table: Arrivals in Italy by country of origin 2015 (from 1 Jan to 31 Dec)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Countries of Origin</th>
<th>Arrivals</th>
<th>Main Countries of Origin</th>
<th>Arrivals</th>
<th>Main Countries of Origin</th>
<th>Arrivals</th>
<th>Main Countries of Origin</th>
<th>Arrivals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>39,162</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>4,431</td>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>22,237</td>
<td>Ivory Coast</td>
<td>3,772</td>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>12,433</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>2,631</td>
<td>Guinea Bissau</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>8,932</td>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>2,629</td>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>8,454</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>2,610</td>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>Other (26 countries)</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>7,448</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>1,982</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td>7,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>5,981</td>
<td>Occ. Palestinian T.</td>
<td>1,673</td>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>250</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>5,826</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>996</td>
<td>Comoros</td>
<td>192</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>5,040</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>174</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>4,647</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>153,842</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OVERVIEW: MIGRANT FLOWS TO EUROPE

Cumulative arrivals to Italy by nationality of origin  from 01 January 2015 to 31 December 2015

Disclaimer: Base Map Source: ESRI. This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.
The Northern Route

Norway

According to IOM Russia, in 2015 Norway returned approximately 250 of the 5,440 migrants to Russia. A further 280 migrants had been scheduled to be returned to Russia in early 2016, but at the time of writing this plan was still on hold, pending discussions between the two countries. These 5,440 migrants came from 42 nationalities, of which Afghans represented the highest number (1,628), followed by Iraqis (403), Pakistanis (300), and Egyptians (285) made up the highest numbers (Source: Norwegian Embassy in Russia).

**Numbers:** About 31,000 migrants arrived in Norway in 2015 across all borders. Source [here](#).

**Entry points:** The Arctic Circle border crossing of Storskog, on the Russian-Norwegian border, has become a popular point of entry for would-be asylum-seekers who obtain Russian visas and then fly to Moscow where they make the journey by train near the Norwegian border, crossing by bicycle. Source [here](#).

Finland

**Numbers:** According to IOM Russia, in 2015 approximately 700 migrants and asylum seekers entered Finland from Russia. As of 03 February 2016, 500 migrants and asylum seekers had entered via the same route since the start of 2016. These groups comprised 26 nationalities including Afghans, Indians, Syrians, Iran, Lebanon. Exact numbers were not available at time of writing (Source: Finnish Embassy in Russia).

**Entry points:** The Russian border town of Alakurtti is a growing conduit into Lapland, Finland’s northernmost region, where many asylum-seekers have entered by car.

Russia

Of the 5,440 migrants and asylum seekers who entered Norway from Russia in 2015, it remains unknown how many of these came to Russia from their countries of origin in the last year, and how many had previously entered Russia by plane with tourist, business, or transit visas. To date, establishing a mechanism to distinguish these groups has proved challenging. According to data IOM Moscow was able to collect from various experts and sources, in 2015 there were an estimated 12,000 Syrians in Russia. Of these, approximately 2,000 are considered members of the diaspora who have been legally residing in Russia for some time and have business interests in the country.

According to the Russian government entity responsible for migration, the Russian Federal Migration Service (RFMS), in 2015, 1,566 Syrians were registered with RFMS as temporary asylum seekers. This number may include people who entered Russia prior to 2015, as the temporary asylum permit is only valid for one year. Therefore, some of these applicants may have entered Russia and applied previously for temporary asylum, and re-applied in 2015.
Relocations from Italy and Greece

On 14 September, EU Home Affairs Ministers adopted the Decision to relocate 40,000 people in clear need of international protection from Italy and Greece. On 17 September, the European Parliament voted in support of the Commission's proposal to relocate a further 120,000 refugees, which was welcomed by the Commission. On 22 September, Home Affairs Ministers adopted the Decision to relocate 120,000 people in clear need of international protection from Italy and Greece and other Member States directly affected by the refugee crisis. 54,000 of these 120,000 individuals were supposed to be relocated from Hungary, but following that state’s opposition to the scheme and challenge to the Council’s decision, it remains to be decided where these 54,000 will be relocated from. A further 7,744 places from the 40,000 quota also have yet to be allocated. You can find the EU Commission’s press release [here](#).

By 31 December 2015, **273 individuals** were relocated, of which **191 individuals** were relocated **from Italy** (87 to Finland, 18 to France, 41 to Sweden, 12 to Spain, 11 to Germany, 6 to Belgium, 10 to Portugal, 6 to Spain) and **82 from Greece** (30 to Luxembourg, 24 to Finland, 10 to Germany, 4 to Lithuania, 14 to Portugal). The European Commission has made available an overview of Member States’ support to the EU relocation mechanism. As of the end of 2015, 18 out of the 31 participating countries have pledged to make places available, namely Belgium (30), Bulgaria (1,302), Cyprus (30), Finland (150), France (900), Germany (40), Ireland (20), Latvia (481), Lithuania (40), Luxembourg (90), Malta (131), the Netherlands (100), Poland (100), Portugal (130), Romania (300), Spain (50), Sweden (300) and Liechtenstein (43), with an overall number of only **4,207 places**. You can find the overview [here](#).
Missing Migrants: Fatalities and missing persons

3,770 dead/missing
1 January - 31 December 2015

Comparison of monthly Mediterranean fatalities

Deadliest month: In Mediterranean for 2015 was April with an estimated 1,244 dead/missing
Deadliest week: 12-18 April, 5 incidents: 1,226 dead/missing
Deadliest day: 18 April, 1 incident: 772 dead/missing

Child fatalities at sea, Eastern Mediterranean route to Greece

Names and boundaries on map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.