

# Western Balkans Quarterly

QUARTER 4 • OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2015

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4





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European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation  
at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union

Plac Europejski 6  
00-844 Warsaw, Poland  
T +48 22 205 95 00  
F +48 22 205 95 01  
frontex@frontex.europa.eu  
[www.frontex.europa.eu](http://www.frontex.europa.eu)

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Throughout the report, references to Kosovo\* are marked with an asterisk to indicate that this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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## List of abbreviations used

<b>BCP</b>	border-crossing point
<b>CIA</b>	Central Investigation Agency
<b>EDF</b>	European Union Document-Fraud
<b>EDF-RAN</b>	European Union Document-Fraud Risk Analysis Network
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FRAN</b>	Frontex Risk Analysis Network
<b>Frontex</b>	European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union
<b>FYR Macedonia</b>	former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
<b>ICJ</b>	International Court of Justice
<b>ID</b>	identification document
<b>n.a.</b>	not available
<b>Q/Qtr</b>	quarter of the year
<b>RAU</b>	Frontex Risk Analysis Unit
<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution
<b>WB-RAN</b>	Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network

# Introduction

## Concept

The Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network (WB-RAN) performs monthly exchanges of statistical data and information on the most recent irregular migration developments affecting the region. This information is compiled at Frontex Risk Analysis Unit (RAU) level and analysed in cooperation with the regional partners on a quarterly and annual basis. The annual reports offer a more in-depth analysis of the developments and phenomena which impact the regional and common borders, while the quarterly reports are meant to provide regular updates and identify emerging trends in order to maintain situational awareness. Both types of reports are aimed at offering support for strategic and operational decision making.

## Methodology

The Western Balkans Quarterly is focused on quarterly developments as reflected by the seven key indicators of irregular migration: (1) detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs, (2) detections of illegal border-crossing at BCPs, (3) refusals of entry, (4) detections of illegal stay, (5) asylum applications, (6) detections of facilitators, and (7) detections of fraudulent documents.<sup>1</sup>

The data presented in the overview are derived from monthly statistics provided within the framework of the WB-RAN and reference period statistics from common border sections of neighbouring EU Member States (Croatia, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary and Romania). In addition, the Western Balkans Quarterly is drawing from FRAN Quarterly reports and also from data analysed in the framework of other risk analysis networks (FRAN, EDF-RAN).

## Structure

The first part offers a general **situational overview** broken down by main areas of work of border-control authorities and police activities related to irregular migration. The second part presents more in-depth **featured risk analyses** of particular phenomena. As the current issue of the Western Balkans Quarterly is the fourth following a new approach adopted for risk analysis quarterlies, the structure of the report may still be subject to some readjustments.

### Changes in data scope after Croatia's entry to the EU

Important changes in the collection and use of data for Western Balkans Quarterly were introduced upon Croatia's joining the EU in July 2013. Firstly, data for Slovenia, which now has no external borders with non-EU Western Balkan countries, have not been included in the report since the

third quarter of 2013. Slovenian historical data were also excluded from the tables in order to make the comparison with previous quarters analytically meaningful.

Secondly, as the Croatian-Hungarian and Croatian-Slovenian border sections are now internal EU borders and so they are no longer covered by this report.

Thirdly, after joining the EU, Croatian data on illegal stay data are limited to detections at the border. More precisely, Croatia's illegal stay data only include cases detected on exit, while inland detections are not included. The analysis of the illegal stay indicator takes this fact into consideration.

### Changes in data scope after Kosovo's entry to the WB-RAN

Starting from the first quarter of 2014 data from Kosovo\* on key indicators of irregular migration have been included in the reporting, making it possible to get a more comprehensive picture of the irregular movements in the region. However, as there are no historical data available for Kosovo\*, the new data have some impact on the comparison of the examined period with previous quarters. When necessary for analytical purposes, some comparison can be made also excluding data from Kosovo.\*

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the analysis of this indicator is now limited to WB-RAN countries only, given that EU Member States have transitioned to the European Union Document-Fraud (EDF) reporting scheme.

## I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

Figure 1. General map of the Western Balkans region



# Summary of WB-RAN indicators

Table 1. Overview of indicators as reported by WB-RAN members

	Q4 2014	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	% change on same quarter last year	% change on previous quarter
<b>WB-RAN Indicator</b>					
Illegal border-crossing between BCPs	37 193	614 947	1 336 010	3 492%	117%
Illegal border-crossing at BCPs	545	249	152	-72%	-39%
Facilitators	486	618	273	-44%	-56%
Illegal stay	3 486	1 615	1 901	-45%	18%
Refusals of entry	10 209	13 956	9 626	-6%	-31%
Asylum applications*	38 645	119 038	13 248	-66%	-89%
False travel-document users	248	216	220	-11%	2%

\* Applications for asylum in EU Member States include all applications received in the territory of the countries, not limited to those made at the Western Balkan borders.

Source: WB-RAN data as of 4 February 2016

## Key findings

- Record numbers of non-regional migrants observed for the second consecutive quarter
- Document checks filtering the flow reveal numerous cases of nationality swapping
- Regional flow continues below usual seasonal trends

## Situation at the border

### Border surveillance

#### Illegal border-crossings

During the analysed period, over 1.3 million illegal border-crossings by **non-regional migrants** en route from Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria were reported at the common and regional borders (Fig. 2). This represents an over twofold increase compared to the previous quarter, which was already an all-time record. Unsurprisingly, the sheer volume of the flow (at times reaching more than 12 000 persons per day) continued to overwhelm border-control authorities, as the procedures and legal framework currently in place are not designed for such large flows. At the

same time, less than 1% of the illegal border-crossings in the Western Balkans in Q4 2015 were associated with regional migrants.

Syrians and Afghans remained the two main nationalities, both registering high increases compared with the previous quarter (approx. twofold and threefold rise, respectively). Despite this high increase their respective shares of the total non-regional migration flow (32% and 16%, respectively) remained similar to the previous period, mainly due to a very high number of migrants still being reported as

'unknown'<sup>2</sup> (the number of such cases reported in Q4 was more than twice that of Q3 2015 and accounted for roughly 40% of the non-regional total).

Iraqi migrants continued to be the third most detected nationality, followed by Iranians, Pakistanis and Moroccans. All of these nationalities registered significant shifts from the previous quarter, ranging from a multiple increase for Iraqis, Iranians and Moroccans to a 60% drop in the case of Pakistanis.

The surge in illegal border-crossings involving Iranians could be attributed to better flow-filtering capacities implemented by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. The observed drop in detected Pakistanis is somewhat surprising given a high rising trend of this nationality in previous months. However, as it largely coincides with the introduction of transit restrictions limiting the flow to Syrians, Iraqis and Afghans, this reported drop may indicate that Pakistanis manage to pass undetected by swapping their nationality.

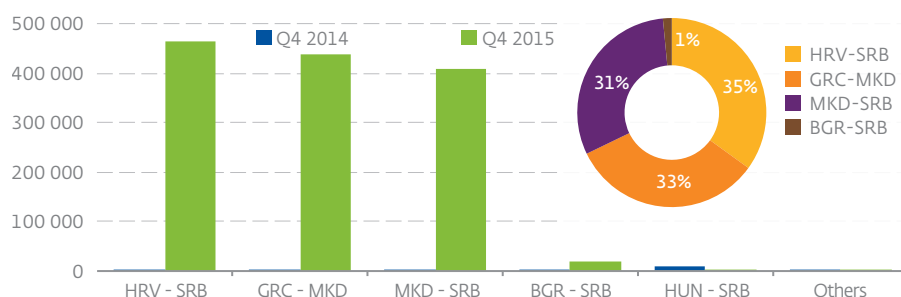
Together, these top five nationalities accounted for 59% of the non-regional migration flow between BCPs reported from all border sections, while the nationality of almost 40% of persons was reported as 'unknown'.

The detections of **Western Balkan regional migrants** remained broadly similar to the previous quarter and only represented less than 1% of the overall flow affecting the region. The vast majority (77%) of Western Balkan country nationals detected for illegal border-crossing were reported at the Greek-Albanian border, mainly as part of Albanian circular migration.

<sup>2</sup> The number of persons reported as unknown is analysed as part of the non-regional migration flow.

Figure 2. **The non-regional flow continues to enter the Western Balkans region through the southern common borders and then exit in its northern part, mostly across the Croatian-Serbian border (after the Hungarian-Serbian green border was sealed in mid-September)**

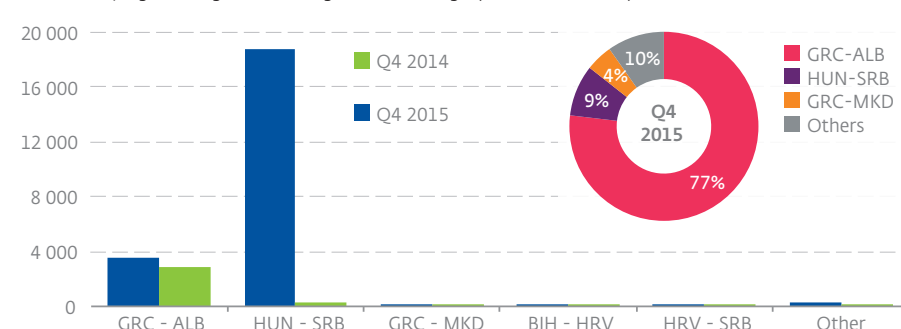
Detections of non-regional migrants crossing the border illegally between BCPs, by border section



Source: WB-RAN data as of 29 January 2016

Figure 3. **Detections of the regional migrants continue to concentrate at the southern common borders (Albanian circular migration to Greece), following the decrease at the Hungarian-Serbian border**

Detections of regional migrants crossing the border illegally between BCPs, by border section

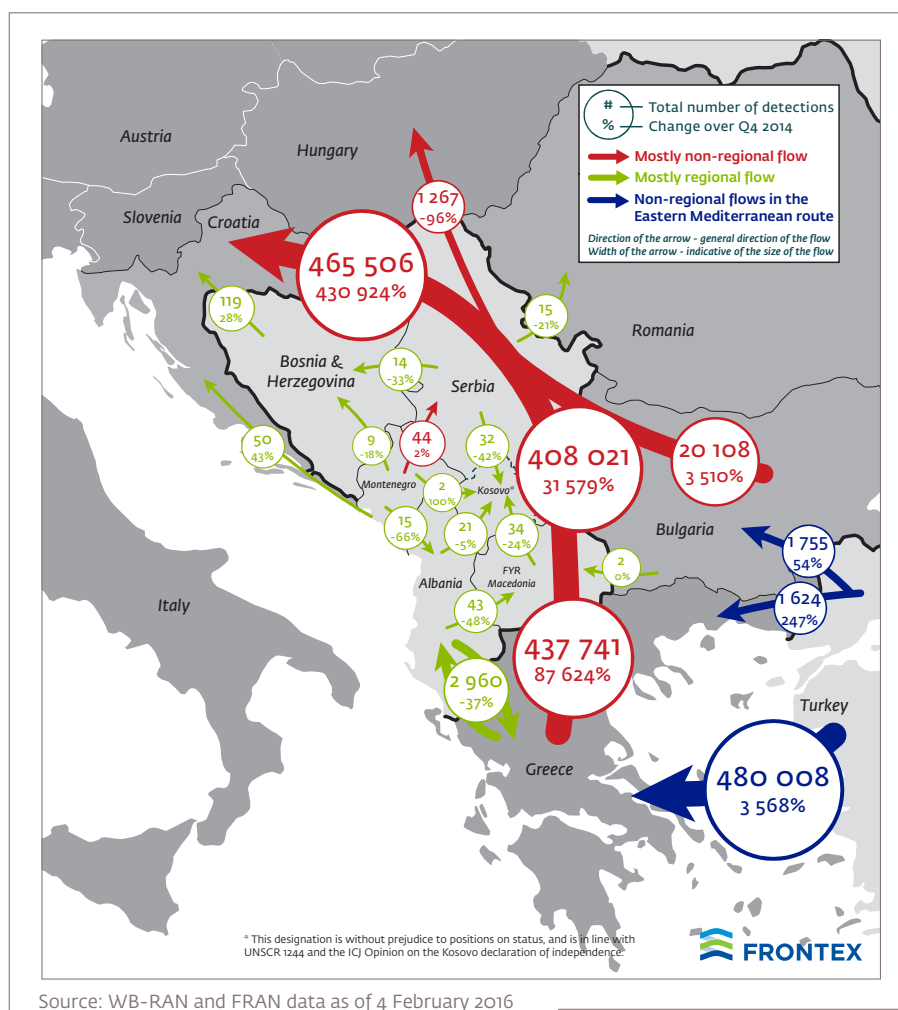


Source: WB-RAN data as of 29 January 2016



Figure 4. In the southern part of the region, the border between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece remained the main entry point for the non-regional transiting flow, followed by the Bulgarian-Serbian border, both registering high increases. In the northern part, the Croatian-Serbian border became the main point of exit from the region, after the Hungarian-Serbian section was sealed in mid-September. The regional flow was still mainly restricted to the Greek-Albanian border

Changes in detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs between Q4 2014 and Q4 2015 at particular border sections and main directions of the flow



## Facilitators

During the fourth quarter of 2015, the number of facilitators was 273, representing an important 56% decrease compared with the previous three-month period and reaching the lowest number of such detections since Q3 2014. Considering the over twofold rise in the number of reported illegal border-crossings involving non-regional nationals, the very low number of facilitators indicates that migrants are increasingly able to self-organise and/or rely on authorities when it comes to travel arrangements for transiting the region.

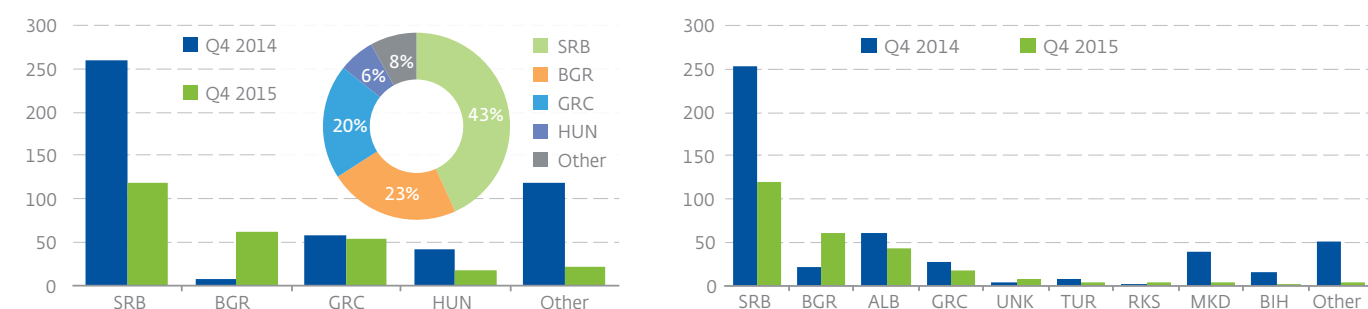
As regards nationalities, 64% of all facilitators detected in the analysed quarter were nationals of Western Balkan countries, 29% were citizens of the neighbouring EU Member States and 6% were nationals of third countries from outside the region or 'unknown'. The highest share of detections was

still reported by Serbia (43%), mostly Serbian nationals, followed by Bulgaria (23%).

Importantly, another quarterly increase in detected facilitators was reported by Bulgaria at its border with Serbia (11% more than in Q3), which is in line with the increasing number of migrants targeting this section.

Figure 5. The number of facilitators remains low, possibly indicating the ability of migrants to self-organise or rely on transportation organised by authorities

Detections of facilitators (at BCPs, between BCPs and inland), by reporting country, top shares (left) and nationalities (right)



Source: WB-RAN data as of 29 January 2016

# Border checks

## Clandestine entries

In Q4 2015, a total of 38 non-regional migrants were detected while attempting to illegally cross the border hiding in vehicles. This is the lowest quarterly number since data collection began, which indicates that migrants successfully crossed the borders relying on the policies facilitating their transit. Additionally, only 114 nationals of Western Balkan countries were reported at BCPs, mostly Albanians reported at the Greek–Albanian border section.

## Document fraud

During the fourth quarter, there were 220 cases of false document use reported by the six Western Balkan countries at BCPs, a number 2% higher than that of the previous quarter.

Serbia continued to rank first, with 29% of all regional detections, followed by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania, each with 28% shares. As regards nationalities, in Q4 2015 Albanians continued to rank first amongst false document

users, accounting for 50% of all detections, followed by Kosovo\* and Serbian citizens.

Passports, ID cards and border stamps were still the most commonly used false documents. Unsurprisingly, the large majority of ID cards (33 out of 37) were EU Member States' documents, as they can be used to move freely within the Schengen area and the EU.

As far as detections of false passports are concerned, the majority (93) were reportedly issued by countries from the region. The majority of these documents were Albanian (66), mostly used by Albanian nationals (66) who attempted to avoid entry bans imposed in connection to their misuse of visa liberalisation.

## Refusals of entry

In the analysed period, the number of refusals of entry decreased by 31% compared to the previous quarter: from roughly 14 000 to 9 600. This decrease appears to be largely corresponding to the usual contraction of tourist mobility in the final

quarter of the year. As compared to the corresponding quarter of 2014, the number of issued refusals was similar. However, despite the overall decrease compared to Q3, the number of refusals issued to Turkish nationals continued to rise, being 8% higher in Q4.

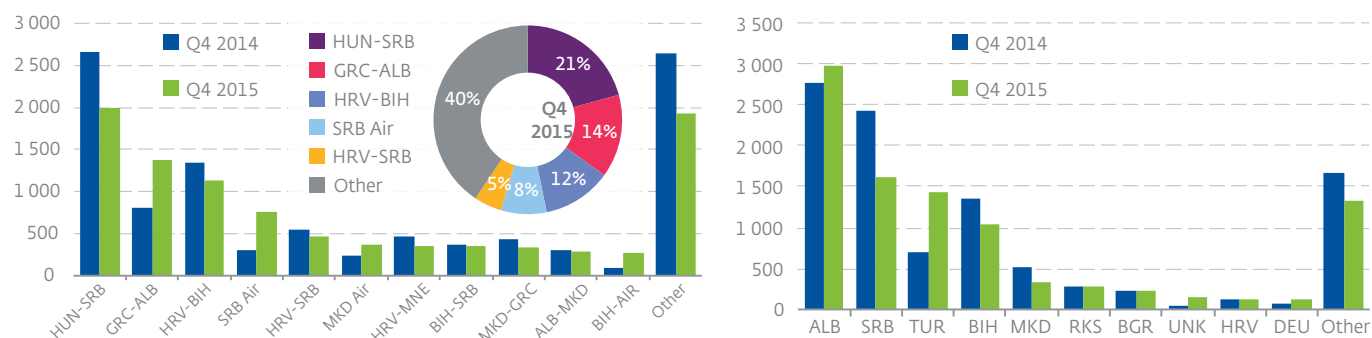
As usual, a large majority of refusals of entry were issued at land borders (81%), while the remaining 19% were largely reported at air borders.

Most of the refusals reported by the neighbouring EU Member States were issued to nationals of Western Balkan countries (96%). In turn, among those refused entry by the six countries of the region 31% were local residents, 30% were Turkish nationals and 20% were nationals of EU Member States/Schengen Associated Countries.

The overall number of refusals issued to the non-regional nationalities associated with the migratory flow originating from Turkey/Greece continued to represent a very low share of the total.

Figure 6. Turkish nationals continue to rank third among the top refused nationalities, indicating that an increasing number of these persons attempt reaching the EU by taking advantage of the high migration pressure

Persons refused entry by top border sections, top shares (left) and nationalities (right)



Source: WB-RAN data as of 29 January 2016

# Situation in the Western Balkans

## Illegal stay in Western Balkan countries

There were 786 detections of illegal stay, reported by the six Western Balkan countries during the period under review, a number 21% higher than that of the previous quarter, but very low considering the overall size of the flow transiting the region in the recent period. The number was also significantly lower in relation to the corresponding quarter of 2014 (-65%). This development can be attributed to the accelerated transit of the flow, which was caused by migrants trying to cross the Western Balkans as fast as possible before the various announced restrictions or border closures are put into effect and/or by the provision of transportation services by the authorities.

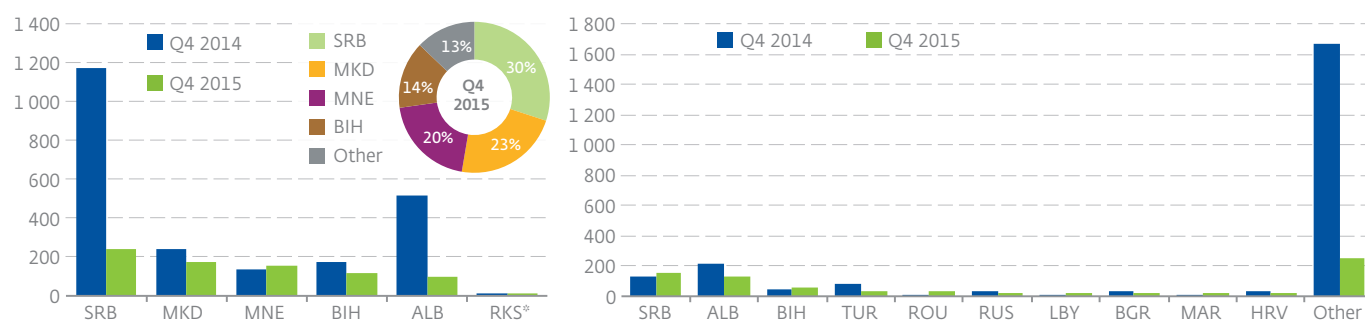
During the analysed quarter, Serbian and Albanian nationals ranked first and second, respectively, among detected illegal stayers. Citizens of Serbia were mainly reported by Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro in almost equal shares, and to a lesser extent by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, while the Albanians seem to have preferred staying in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to rank third in detections of illegal stayers during the fourth quarter and were mainly reported by Montenegro and Serbia.

Syrians, who used to be among the top three nationalities of illegal stayers in previous quarters, practically disappeared during the analysed period when only six such nationals were reported.

As in the previous quarter, very few of those who have transited Turkey/Greece or Bulgaria before reaching the Western Balkans region were detected while illegally staying in the six Western Balkan countries.

Figure 7. **Only a small share of non-regional nationalities reported for illegal border-crossing are detected as illegal stayers (indicating that they perceive the Western Balkans as a transit area)**

Illegal stayers, by reporting Western Balkan country, top shares (left) and nationality (right)



Source: WB-RAN data as of 29 January 2016

# Large and sustained transiting flow through the Western Balkans continues despite winter

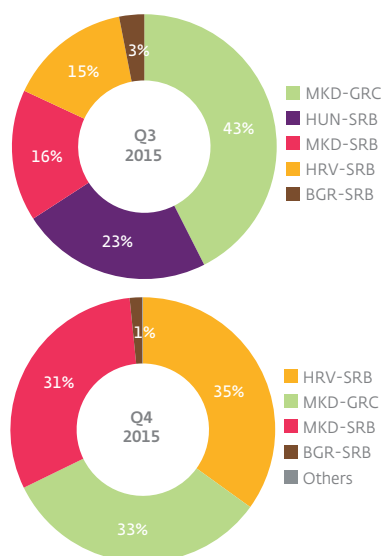
The number of detected illegal border-crossings associated with the non-regional transiting flow in the fourth quarter set a new record, exceeding even the unprecedented situation in the third quarter. More exactly, the quarterly total of over 1 330 000 detected illegal border-crossings of non-regional migrants was more than double the overall number of such detections registered during the third quarter and over 63% higher than the total number reported since data collection began (i.e. 818 000 illegal border-crossings between BCPs reported between January 2009 and September 2015).

The direct link between the non-regional migration flow transiting the Western Balkans and the one affecting Greek borders, especially in the Eastern Aegean Sea, was also observed in the last three months of 2015. Specifically, the pressure from the Aegean Islands continued to manifest itself on the Western Balkan route with an even shorter lag, as the access to transportation shortened the time necessary for migrants to organise their onwards movements (roughly 48 hours after arriving in the Aegean they would head towards the common border between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) (see Fig. 8).

As border prevention measures and the policies of facilitated transit did not change much compared to the previous period, during Q4 2015 the non-regional migration flow continued to enter the Western Balkans across the southern common borders with Greece and Bulgaria before heading north and leaving the region especially across the Croatian-Serbian border section.

Figure 8. **The southern borders continue to be the main points of entry to the region. The Croatian-Serbian border became the main exit point in Q4 after the Hungarian-Serbian green border was sealed off in mid-September**

Shares of the non-regional flow detected between BCPs in Q3 and Q4 2015, by top border sections



Source: FRAN and WB-RAN data as of 29 January 2016

It was decided that starting from 19 November the passage would be restricted for migrants who did not originate from conflict areas (who are not Syrian, Iraqi or Afghan). Although this decision was taken in a coordinated manner by most of the countries along the main route (Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) the possibility of verifying the nationality declared when crossing the border remained severely limited. Most of the transited countries having difficulties to obtain enough interpreters or screeners mainly rely on the documents/statements provided by migrants



Figure 9. **Border police of Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ensuring orderly transit of the flow across the common border in Idomeni-Gevgelija**

attest their nationality. In many cases the documents are the registration certificates with no security features issued on the Greek islands and in many cases they can be obtained under false pretences or easily altered (Fig. 10).



Figure 10. **Greek registration documents bear no security features and can be easily copied or counterfeited**

When migrants got word of new restriction measures, many of them used different *modi operandi* trying to blend in with the flow of nationals allowed transit.

As the authorities generally have competent document experts who can be used to filter the flow, a large number of forged Greek registration papers were detected on migrants making false declaration of their nationality (i.e. over 8 000 discovered by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia between December 2015 and January 2016). This better capacity to detect forgeries could also explain the observed rise in reported Iranians, especially that they could easily alter their Greek registration papers (by changing one letter only: from 'Iran' to 'Iraq') in order to pass as Iraqis and be allowed transit.

On the other hand, nationality swapping can consist in a simple act of making a false statement or in the use of original documents obtained under false pretences (i.e. false declaration of nationality at first arrival in Greece). This *modus operandi* does not include the use of forged documents and is generally more difficult to uncover. Therefore, it could lead to many persons

managing to pass undetected among the large number of migrants still allowed transit (nationals of Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan). This may explain the sudden drop in the flow of Pakistani migrants reported during the analysed period (-59% compared to Q3), which stands in stark contrast with the previously observed rising trend.

Another remarkable change was observed in terms of detections of Moroccan nationals, who became the sixth most reported migrants in the Western Balkans during Q4 after registering a roughly fortyfold rise compared with the previous three-month period. As mentioned above, this could be partly explained by the authorities' better filtering the flow and revealing a larger share of nationality swapping. On the other hand, this increase can also have to do with an observed deflection of the migration pressure from Morocco away from the Spanish coast (as Moroccan migrants are quickly readmitted based on a well-functioning bi-lateral agreement) towards the Central and especially the Eastern Mediterranean routes, where the liberal visa policy of Turkey and the per-

ceived easy transit through the Balkans act as pull factors.

In the northern part of the region, the Croatian-Serbian border section became the main exit point of the transiting flow, after the Hungarian-Serbian green border was sealed off in mid-September. Similarly to the previous quarter, a decisive majority of the flow (>99%) across the Croatian-Serbian border was registered as 'unknown nationality', indicating that the high numbers of migrants severely overstretch the screening and registration capacities of the authorities.

At regional level, the share of illegal border-crossings associated with migrants of 'unknown nationality' remained similar to the previous quarter, accounting for 40% of the total non-regional flow. However, an improvement of registration capacities could be observed at the border between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, where despite a massive increase in the flow (68% higher than Q3) only 15% of the detections were reported as involving 'unknown' nationals, compared with 60% in Q3.

## III. STATISTICAL ANNEX

### LEGEND

**Symbols and abbreviations:** **n.a.** not applicable  
: data not available

**Source:** WB-RAN and FRAN data as of 4 February 2016,  
unless otherwise indicated

**Note:** 'Member States' in the tables refer to FRAN Member  
States, including both 28 EU Member States  
and three Schengen Associated Countries

Table 1. **Illegal border-crossing between BCPs**

Detections reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, by purpose of illegal border-crossing, top five border sections and top ten nationalities

	2014				2015		2015 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Purpose of Illegal Border-Crossing									
Irregular migration	6 006	9 326	15 739	46 797	476 179	1074 117	11 417	126	80
Other	91	85	69	92	88	260 671	306 572	296 117	20
Not specified	8 751	27 715	32 802	34 439	138 596	1 169	-96	-99	0.1
Smuggling	72	67	143	328	84	53	-21	-37	0
Top Five Sections									
Croatia – Serbia	280	108	174	173	91 698	465 506	430 924	408	35
FYR Macedonia – Greece	675	499	591	6 547	259 986	437 741	87 624	68	33
FYR Macedonia – Serbia	1 082	1 288	5 381	21 881	98 209	408 021	31 579	315	31
Bulgaria – Serbia	147	557	1 886	7 828	18 673	20 108	3 510	7.7	1.5
Albania – Greece	2 620	4 666	2 890	3 959	2 506	2 960	-37	18	0.2
Others	10 116	30 075	37 831	41 268	143 875	1 674	-94	-99	0.1
Top Ten Nationalities									
Not specified	36	138	137	214	247 991	530 893	384 605	114	40
Syria	3 912	6 476	8 446	33 182	236 445	431 847	6 568	83	32
Afghanistan	2 605	5 445	7 986	24 293	67 428	214 699	3 843	218	16
Iraq	114	383	1 618	6 258	21 198	112 462	29 263	431	8.4
Iran	60	113	236	643	2 332	16 985	14 931	628	1.3
Pakistan	107	241	897	3 891	19 757	8 004	3 221	-59	0.6
Morocco	10	8	27	133	125	5 034	62 825	3 927	0.4
Albania	2 995	4 018	2 760	3 749	2 972	3 301	-18	11	0.2
Palestine	370	515	351	757	1 506	2 203	328	46	0.2
Somalia	101	66	1 113	1 511	1 634	2 004	2 936	23	0.1
Others	4 610	19 790	25 182	7 025	13 559	8 578	-57	-37	0.6
Total	14 920	37 193	48 753	81 656	614 947	1 336 010	3 492	117	100



Table 2. **Illegal border-crossing at BCPs**

Detections reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, by type of entry, purpose of illegal border-crossing, top five border sections and top ten nationalities

	2014				2015		2015 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Type of Entry									
Clandestine	477	455	315	178	78	101	-78	29	n.a.
Others	113	90	61	133	170	47	-48	-72	n.a.
Not specified	0	0	18	36	1	4	n.a.	300	n.a.
Purpose of Illegal Border-Crossing									
Irregular migration	181	378	332	268	212	117	-69	-45	n.a.
Not specified	392	154	42	31	25	14	-91	-44	n.a.
Other	14	13	19	12	12	9	-31	-25	n.a.
Smuggling	3	0	1	36	2	2	n.a.	0	n.a.
Top Five Sections									
Albania – Greece	0	7	2	0	0	81	1 057	n.a.	53
Bulgaria – Serbia	9	34	19	114	147	30	-12	-80	20
Croatia – Serbia	225	113	11	19	6	14	-88	133	9.2
FYR Macedonia – Albania	0	0	0	37	0	7	n.a.	n.a.	4.6
Kosovo* – Albania	1	43	6	0	5	5	-88	0	3.3
Others	355	348	356	177	91	15	-96	-84	9.9
Top Ten Nationalities									
Albania	33	42	29	18	9	91	117	911	60
Kosovo*	13	4	7	1	7	18	350	157	12
Afghanistan	274	293	197	142	72	14	-95	-81	9.2
Iraq	7	6	9	34	16	14	133	-13	9.2
Syria	107	110	86	115	126	4	-96	-97	2.6
Not specified	0	41	20	0	0	4	-90	n.a.	2.6
FYR Macedonia	3	5	1	2	1	2	-60	100	1.3
Serbia	14	7	8	2	10	2	-71	-80	1.3
Turkey	6	19	0	0	1	1	-95	0	0.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	0	0	0	1	1	n.a.	0	0.7
Others	133	18	37	33	6	1	-94	-83	0.7
Total	590	545	394	347	249	152	-72	-39	100

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence



Table 3. **Facilitators**

Detections reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, by place of detection and top ten nationalities

	2014				2015		2015 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Place of Detection									
Land	242	418	448	551	542	240	-43	-56	88
Inland	44	65	66	21	76	25	-62	-67	9.2
Air	0	1	0	0	0	6	500	n.a.	2.2
Sea	6	2	3	0	0	2	0	n.a.	0.7
Top Ten Nationalities									
Serbia	92	254	285	338	348	119	-53	-66	44
Bulgaria	20	22	30	32	51	61	177	20	22
Albania	61	60	49	48	38	44	-27	16	16
Greece	22	28	21	31	28	18	-36	-36	6.6
Not specified	18	18	27	13	22	9	-50	-59	3.3
Turkey	2	9	5	4	0	5	-44	n.a.	1.8
Kosovo*	6	2	13	6	4	5	150	25	1.8
FYR Macedonia	14	40	36	49	6	4	-90	-33	1.5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	15	18	6	4	3	-80	-25	1.1
Syria	15	0	6	6	8	1	n.a.	-88	0.4
Others	41	38	27	39	109	4	-89	-96	1.5
Total	292	486	517	572	618	273	-44	-56	100

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Table 4. **Illegal stay**

Detections reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, by place of detection and top ten nationalities

	2014				2015		2015 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Place of Detection									
Land	1 611	1 232	925	1 595	966	1 115	-9.5	15	59
Inland	926	2 096	1 185	778	562	645	-69	15	34
Not specified	114	158	99	110	87	141	-11	62	7.4
Top Ten Nationalities									
Serbia	864	684	700	791	599	842	23	41	44
Albania	215	245	167	149	127	188	-23	48	9.9
FYR Macedonia	187	130	74	100	107	147	13	37	7.7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	50	73	62	56	74	79	8.2	6.8	4.2
Kosovo*	43	41	47	28	37	51	24	38	2.7
Syria	415	1 439	391	547	125	46	-97	-63	2.4
Montenegro	30	16	35	25	36	44	175	22	2.3
Turkey	111	90	74	63	92	42	-53	-54	2.2
Morocco	2	3	7	6	6	37	1133	517	1.9
Romania	34	15	20	27	17	33	120	94	1.7
Others	700	750	632	691	395	392	-48	-0.8	21
Total	2 651	3 486	2 209	2 483	1 615	1 901	-45	18	100

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Table 5. **Refusals of entry**

Refusals reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, by place of detection and top ten nationalities

Place of Detection							2015 Q4		per cent of total
	2014		2015		% change on				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	year ago	previous Qtr	
Land	13 269	9 354	7 684	9 046	12 581	7 835	-16	-38	81
Air	741	853	704	757	1 335	1 775	108	33	18
Sea	19	2	3	24	40	16	700	-60	0.2
Top Ten Nationalities									
Albania	2 541	2 770	2 206	2 763	2 736	2 980	7.6	8.9	31
Serbia	2 575	2 426	1 925	1 715	1 852	1 621	-33	-12	17
Turkey	812	693	554	578	1 332	1 434	107	7.7	15
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 687	1 359	1 257	1 379	1 391	1 042	-23	-25	11
FYR Macedonia	568	506	433	463	578	331	-35	-43	3.4
Kosovo*	886	289	252	291	708	271	-6.2	-62	2.8
Bulgaria	298	239	223	265	372	231	-3.3	-38	2.4
Not specified	470	121	80	157	587	158	31	-73	1.6
Croatia	133	130	227	168	260	119	-8.5	-54	1.2
Germany	578	82	79	197	567	119	45	-79	1.2
Others	3 481	1 594	1 155	1 851	3 573	1 320	-17	-63	14
Total	14 029	10 209	8 391	9 827	13 956	9 626	-5.7	-31	100

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Table 6. **Applications for asylum**

Applications for international protection reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, by top ten nationalities

							2015 Q4		per cent of total
	2014		2015		% change on				
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	year ago	previous Qtr	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Iraq	355	845	1 423	3 856	7 929	4 150	391	-48	31
Afghanistan	3 447	6 889	5 772	15 262	30 111	3 581	-48	-88	27
Syria	4 899	7 952	5 561	13 018	56 443	2 160	-73	-96	16
Pakistan	537	753	1 180	3 329	12 418	826	9.7	-93	6.2
Albania	97	137	223	217	382	499	264	31	3.8
Bangladesh	263	371	528	918	3 209	267	-28	-92	2
Egypt	65	80	50	89	115	194	143	69	1.5
Georgia	69	64	56	83	127	170	166	34	1.3
Turkey	30	92	113	83	110	123	34	12	0.9
Iran	203	518	318	563	1 288	121	-77	-91	0.9
Others	5 503	20 944	27 616	6 015	6 906	1 157	-94	-83	8.7
Total	15 468	38 645	42 840	43 433	119 038	13 248	-66	-89	100

Table 7. **Document fraud**

Detections reported by Western Balkan countries, by border type, document type, fraud type, top ten nationalities and top countries of issuance of documents

	2014				2015		2015 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Border Type									
Land	110	171	161	139	136	120	-30	-12	55
Air	50	59	76	88	60	83	41	38	38
Sea	51	18	23	8	15	17	-5.6	13	7.7
Not specified	2	0	0	0	5	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Document Type									
Passports	131	117	161	119	133	132	13	-0.8	60
ID cards	36	87	54	49	43	37	-57	-14	17
Stamps	8	15	13	49	17	28	87	65	13
Visas	5	7	13	5	7	11	57	57	5
Residence permits	20	12	17	13	11	10	-17	-9.1	4.5
Unknown	13	10	2	0	5	2	-80	-60	0.9
Fraud Type									
False-counterfeit	57	80	64	121	83	109	36	31	50
Auth-impostor	73	64	80	40	46	41	-36	-11	19
False-mutilated	2	6	10	9	14	21	250	50	9.5
False-page substitution	3	7	8	13	6	17	143	183	7.7
Genuine/Authentic	0	0	4	0	1	7	n.a.	600	3.2
Others	78	91	94	52	66	25	-73	-62	11
Top Ten Nationalities									
Albania	57	81	102	85	74	109	35	47	50
Kosovo*	64	32	43	34	41	26	-19	-37	12
Serbia	15	23	20	34	30	19	-17	-37	8.6
Turkey	8	14	10	21	11	18	29	64	8.2
Syria	28	47	27	25	18	5	-89	-72	2.3
Turkmenistan	0	0	0	0	0	5	n.a.	n.a.	2.3
Bulgaria	0	0	2	0	1	4	n.a.	300	1.8
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	0	5	7	1	3	n.a.	200	1.4
Mali	0	1	0	0	0	3	200	n.a.	1.4
FYR Macedonia	3	7	3	4	1	3	-57	200	1.4
Others	35	43	48	25	39	25	-42	-36	11
Top Ten Countries of Issuance of Documents									
Albania	50	55	72	56	63	75	36	19	34
Greece	23	22	27	27	15	19	-14	27	8.6
Italy	8	29	26	18	11	19	-34	73	8.6
Serbia	16	25	30	42	22	16	-36	-27	7.3
Turkey	3	4	6	13	6	13	225	117	5.9
FYR Macedonia	14	7	8	4	4	9	29	125	4.1
Kosovo*	2	2	5	7	3	8	300	167	3.6
Bulgaria	15	14	12	10	10	8	-43	-20	3.6
Russian Federation				2	6	6	n.a.	0	2.7
Slovenia	4	3	5	4	6	6	100	0	2.7
Others	78	87	69	52	70	41	-53	-41	19
Total	213	248	260	235	216	220	-11	1.9	100

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Explanatory note

Detections reported for EU Member States for indicators Illegal border-crossing between BCPs, Illegal border-crossing at BCPs, Refusals of entry and Document fraud are detections at the common land borders on entry only. For Facilitators, detections at the common land borders on entry and exit are included.

For Illegal stay, detections at the common land borders on exit only are included. For Asylum, all applications (land, sea, air and inland) are included.

For Western Balkan countries, all indicators – save for Refusals of entry – include detections (applications) on exit and entry at the land, sea and air borders.

Each section in the table (Reporting country, Border type, Place of detection, Top five border section and Top ten nationalities) refers to total detections reported by WB-RAN countries and to neighbouring land border detections reported by EU Member States.



European Agency for the Management  
of Operational Cooperation  
at the External Borders of the Member  
States of the European Union

Plac Europejski 6  
00-844 Warsaw, Poland

T +48 22 205 95 00  
F +48 22 205 95 01

[frontex@frontex.europa.eu](mailto:frontex@frontex.europa.eu)  
[www.frontex.europa.eu](http://www.frontex.europa.eu)



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