

Eastern European Borders Quarterly

QUARTER 3 • JULY–SEPTEMBER 2015

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4





Frontex official publications fall into four main categories: risk analysis, training, operations and research, each marked with a distinct graphic identifier. Risk analysis publications bear a triangular symbol formed by an arrow drawing a triangle, with a dot at the centre. Metaphorically, the arrow represents the cyclical nature of risk analysis processes and its orientation towards an appropriate operational response. The triangle is a symbol of ideal proportions and knowledge, reflecting the pursuit of factual exactness, truth and exhaustive analysis. The dot at the centre represents the intelligence factor and the focal point where information from diverse sources converges to be processed, systematised and shared as analytical products. Thus, Frontex risk analysis is meant to be at the centre and to form a reliable basis for its operational activities.



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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.

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List of abbreviations used

BCP	border-crossing point
CIS	Community of Independent States
EaP	Eastern Partnership
EB-RAN	Eastern European Borders Risk Analysis Network
EDF	European Union Document-Fraud
EU	European Union
FRAN	Frontex Risk Analysis Network
Frontex	European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ID	identification document
n.a.	not available
Q/Qtr	quarter of the year
RAU	Frontex Risk Analysis Unit
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UK	United Kingdom

Introduction

Concept

The Eastern European Borders Risk Analysis Network (EB-RAN) performs monthly exchanges of statistical data and information on the most recent irregular migration trends. This information is compiled at the level of the Frontex Risk Analysis Unit (RAU) 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 occurring 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 Eastern European Borders Quarterly statistical overview is focused on quarterly developments for 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.¹

The backbone of this overview are monthly statistics provided within the framework

of the EB-RAN (Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova) and reference period statistics from common border sections of the neighbouring EU Member States (Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania). The data are processed, checked for errors and merged into an Excel database for further analysis.

Structure

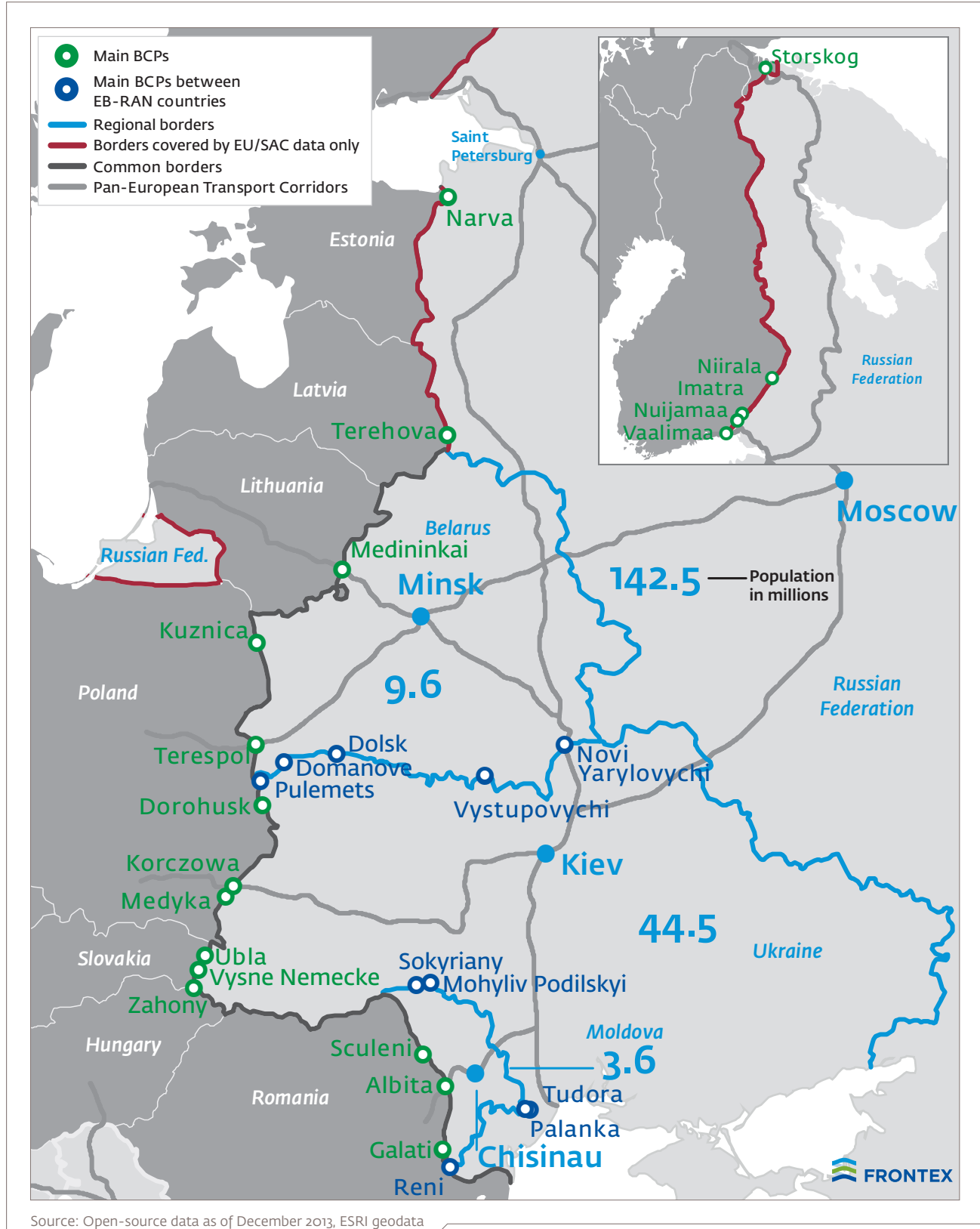
The report consists of a general **situational overview** broken down by main areas of work of border-control authorities and police activities related to irregular migration and the **statistical annex**.

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

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

Figure 1. **Geographical scope of the Eastern European Borders Risk Analysis Network**

Note on definitions: in the text 'common borders' refers both to borders between EU Member States and EB-RAN countries (covered by both sides) and borders of EU Member States/Schengen Associated Countries with the Russian Federation (covered only by the EU/Schengen Associated Country side of the border)



Summary of EB-RAN indicators

Table 1. Summary of FRAN, EB-RAN and selected EU Member State indicators for Q3 2015

Indicator	EU total	EU Member States (eastern land borders only)**	% of EU total	only EB-RAN countries*
Illegal border-crossing between BCPS	617 536	713	0.1%	1 153
Clandestine entries	678	0	0.0%	4 699
Facilitators	3 322	51	1.5%	5
Illegal stay	284 831	3 442	1.2%	7 687
Refusals of entry	32 910	12 834	39%	11 807
Applications for asylum	405 131	137 873	34%	74
False travel documents	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	107
Return decision issued	73 709	12 259***	17%	n.a.
Effective returns	44 001	8 628***	20%	n.a.

Source: FRAN and EB-RAN data as of 30 November 2015

* Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine

** Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania

*** Total numbers reported in FRAN by Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania

Situation at the border

Border surveillance

Illegal border-crossing

During the third quarter of 2015, 1 866 cases of illegal crossing of the regional and common borders between BCPs were reported. This constitutes an increase of 32% in relation to the second quarter of 2015 and 87% compared to the same quarter of 2014.

Nationals of CIS and EaP countries (mostly Ukrainians, Russians and Moldovans) accounted for almost half (49%) of the total detections. Although Ukrainian citizens were among the most numerous nationals detected for the illegal border-crossing between BCPs in Q3 2015, only 22 such cases were related to irregular migration, the rest being reported under smuggling (21%) or as other reasons (75%).

The remaining 51% of the reported illegal border-crossings involved non-regional nationals, mainly citizens of Afghanistan, Vietnam and Syria.

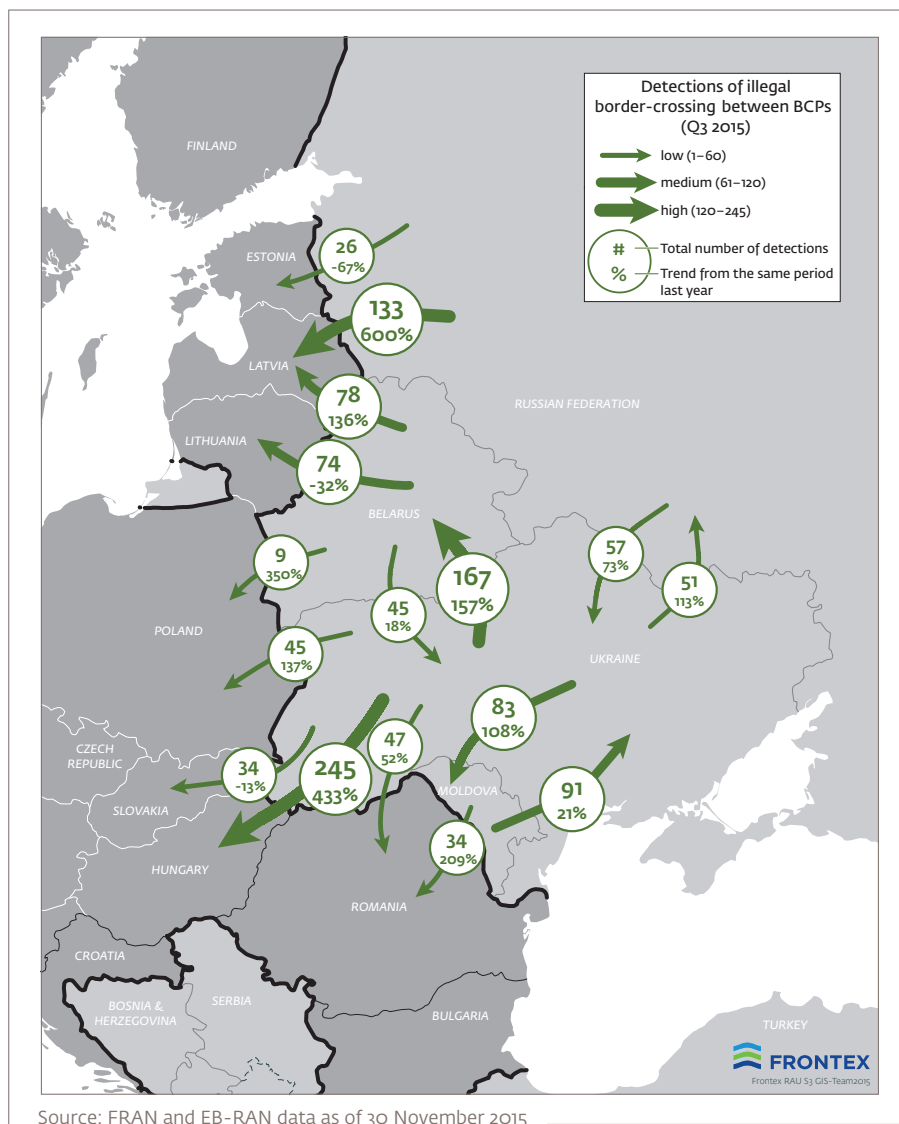
The majority of detections of illegal border-crossing were reported by Ukraine, Belarus, Hungary and Latvia.



Figure 2. In July 2015, 22 Afghans (including four women and three children) were discovered in Ukraine 150 m from the state border with Hungary

Figure 3. Detections between BCPs at the common borders and EU Member States' land borders with the Russian Federation (data only from the EU side) show that the pressure in Q3 2015 as compared with the same period last year was the highest at the Hungarian-Ukrainian and Latvian-Russian border sections

Detections of illegal border-crossing at common and regional borders between BCPs in Q3 2015



Source: FRAN and EB-RAN data as of 30 November 2015

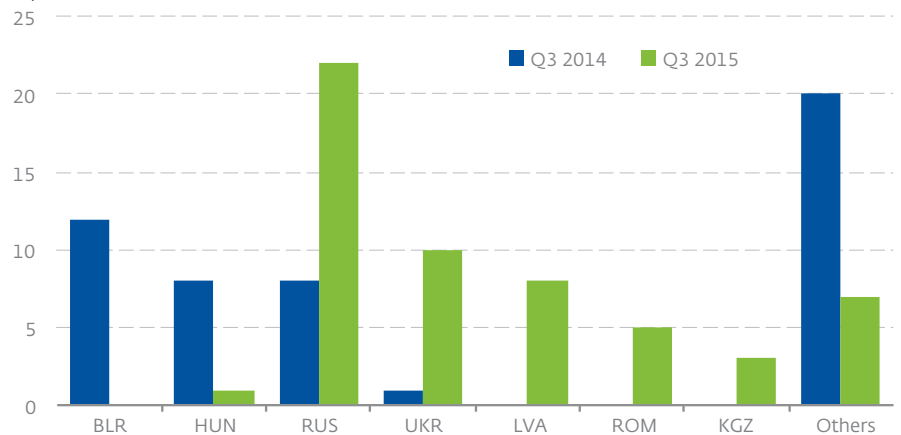
Facilitators

The number of detected facilitators increased by 75% in the third quarter of 2015 in relation to the second quarter (from 32 in Q2 2015 to 56 in Q3 2015) and by 14% in comparison to the same period in 2014 (from 49 in Q3 2014).

66% of all facilitators detected in the analysed period were mostly citizens of the countries of the region, with Russians ranking top, followed by Ukrainians, Latvians, Romanians and Kazakhs.

Figure 4. In Q3 2015, Russian facilitators ranked top in the number of detections, followed by Ukrainians, Latvians, Romanians and Kazakhs. The number of Hungarian facilitators was much lower than in Q3 2014, and no Belarusians were reported

The top nationalities of facilitators apprehended along the eastern European land borders in Q3 2015 as compared with Q3 2014



Source: FRAN and EB-RAN data as of 30 November 2015

Border checks

Clandestine entries

In the third quarter of 2015, no cases of clandestine entry were reported at the Eastern European borders.

Refusals of entry

The number of refusals of entry reported during Q3 2015 at the common and regional borders decreased by 1.7% when compared with Q2 2015 and increased by 4.7% in relation to the third quarter of 2014. The vast majority of refusals (92%) was reported at land borders, while the remaining 8% at air and sea borders. The highest number

of refusals was issued by Poland, Ukraine and Belarus.

The top five refused nationalities were those of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Moldova, Belarus and Azerbaijan.

Poland mostly refused entry to Ukrainians, Russians, Belarusians, Tajiks and Georgians. Ukraine, in turn, issued most refusals of entry to Russians, Azeri, Moldovans, Uzbeks and Tajiks, with a significant drop observed for Russians, Uzbeks and Tajiks.

Document fraud

In the third quarter of 2015, detections of persons using fraudulent documents reported by the three EB-RAN countries (Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine) decreased by 18% when compared with the second quarter of 2015. Over 70% of detections were reported by Ukraine, while the most significant drop was observed in Moldova.

Moldovans were still the most frequently detected fraudulent document users, followed by Ukrainians. Similarly to Q2 2015, the most commonly used fraudulent documents were Moldovan passports.

Situation in the Eastern European region

Illegal stay in EB-RAN countries

In the third quarter of 2015 there were 7 687 detections of illegal stay reported by the three EB-RAN countries, which represents an increase of 19% when compared with the second quarter of 2015 and by 29% in relation to Q3 2014.

The top five nationalities detected for illegal stay in the EB-RAN countries were Russians, Ukrainians, Moldovans, Georgians and Azeris. Citizens of the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan were mostly detected by Ukraine, while Ukrainians, Georgians and Moldovans – by Belarus.

Almost 98% of detections of illegal stay was reported on exit, out of which 49% were recorded by Ukraine and 44% by Belarus. Most illegal stayers were reported at the Ukrainian land borders with Belarus and the Russian Federation, followed by Belarusian and Ukrainian air borders.

II. STATISTICAL ANNEX

LEGEND

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

Source: EB-RAN and FRAN data as of 30 November 2015,
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 EB-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by purpose of illegal border-crossing and top ten nationalities

	2014			2015 Q3					
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on		per cent of total
							year ago	previous Qtr	
Purpose of Illegal Border-Crossing									
Irregular migration	344	503	613	372	759	921	83	21	49
Other	353	352	238	240	322	558	59	73	30
Not specified	14	46	54	75	161	245	433	52	13
Smuggling	100	99	113	86	169	133	34	-21	7.1
Top Ten Nationalities									
Ukraine	245	252	215	201	335	481	91	44	26
Afghanistan	44	37	196	66	212	277	649	31	15
Vietnam	35	181	96	99	283	254	40	-10	14
Georgia	60	108	149	68	106	143	32	35	7.7
Syria	29	40	56	66	55	110	175	100	5.9
Russian Federation	79	104	68	57	82	109	4.8	33	5.8
Moldova	129	111	67	56	88	106	-4.5	20	5.7
Iraq		13	18	12	33	52	300	58	2.8
Pakistan	1	2	2	1	9	48	2300	433	2.6
Belarus	27	25	22	28	24	38	52	58	2
Others	162	127	129	120	184	248	95	35	13
Total	807	999	1 015	772	1 411	1 866	87	32	100

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

Detections reported by EB-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by purpose of illegal border-crossing and top ten nationalities

	2014			2015 Q3					
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	% change on		per cent of total
							year ago	previous Qtr	
Purpose of illegal border-crossing									
Other	228	223	205	3 049	6 035	4 574	1 951	-24	n.a.
Smuggling	86	65	65	91	98	93	43	-5.1	n.a.
Irregular migration	17	20	39	35	44	32	60	-27	n.a.
Not defined	7	7	1	1	1	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Ukraine	141	158	117	2 948	5 893	4 423	2 699	-25	94
Moldova	132	96	126	158	207	129	34	-38	2.7
Russian Federation	11	10	20	9	19	47	370	147	1
Romania	20	11	9	16	13	28	155	115	0.6
Azerbaijan	1	1	0	6	4	8	700	100	0.2
Syria	1	2	4	5	1	8	300	700	0.2
Armenia	0	1	0	1	8	7	600	-13	0.1
Belarus	3	5	4	7	6	6	20	0	0.1
Not specified	5	4	3	3	5	5	25	0	0.1
Slovakia	0	1	0	0	0	3	200	n.a.	0.1
Others	24	27	27	23	22	35	30	59	0.7
Total	338	316	310	3 176	6 178	4 699	1 387	-24	100

Table 3. **Facilitators**

Detections reported by EB-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by place of detection and top ten nationalities

Place of Detection	2014			2015 Q3			% change on		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	year ago	previous Qtr	
	Land	20	49	32	49	31	56	14	
Inland	0	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Air	0	0	0	3	1	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Russian Federation	3	8	3	16	13	22	175	69	39
Ukraine	7	1	6	0	2	10	900	400	18
Latvia	1	0	3	0	4	8	n.a.	100	14
Romania	0	0	1	0	0	5	n.a.	n.a.	8.9
Lithuania	2	3	3	0	1	3	0	200	5.4
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	0	6	1	3	n.a.	200	5.4
Hungary	0	8	0	1	0	1	-88	n.a.	1.8
Moldova	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	n.a.	1.8
Tajikistan	0	0	2	1	2	1	n.a.	-50	1.8
Slovakia	0	0	2	0	0	1	n.a.	n.a.	1.8
Others	5	28	12	28	9	1	-96	-89	1.8
Total	20	49	32	52	32	56	14	75	100

Table 4. **Illegal stay**

Detections reported by EB-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by place of detection and top ten nationalities

Place of Detection	2014			2015 Q3			% change on		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	year ago	previous Qtr	
	Land	4 315	7 604	7 395	5 996	7 423	9 146	20	
Air	1 025	1 188	1 616	1 558	1 640	1 703	43	3.8	15
Between BCPS	33	46	54	109	60	155	237	158	1.4
Sea	46	105	76	55	101	101	-3.8	0	0.9
Inland	416	176	15	37	25	24	-86	-4	0.2
Top Ten Nationalities									
Ukraine	1 989	3 017	3 413	2 135	3 060	4 024	33	32	36
Russian Federation	802	2 209	1 781	1 962	1 828	2 139	-3.2	17	19
Moldova	455	520	718	549	775	839	61	8.3	7.5
Georgia	388	443	840	627	792	742	67	-6.3	6.7
Azerbaijan	131	147	188	286	330	402	173	22	3.6
Belarus	300	549	296	288	316	401	-27	27	3.6
Poland	107	215	143	132	177	230	7	30	2.1
Armenia	137	190	103	152	198	224	18	13	2
Germany	47	99	79	70	110	166	68	51	1.5
Turkey	167	115	102	150	153	166	44	8.5	1.5
Others	1 312	1 615	1 493	1 404	1 510	1 796	11	19	16
Total	5 835	9 119	9 156	7 755	9 249	11 129	22	20	100

Table 5. Refusals of entry

Refusals reported by EB-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by border type and top ten nationalities

Place of Detection	2014			2015 Q3			% change on		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	year ago	previous Qtr	
Place of Detection									
Land	18 651	21 166	20 192	18 410	21 949	22 626	6.9	3.1	92
Air	1 720	1 312	1 093	1 204	2 190	1 198	-8.7	-45	4.9
Sea	991	1 055	1 095	811	933	817	-23	-12	3.3
Top Ten Nationalities									
Ukraine	5 295	6 331	5 384	6 095	7 606	8 909	41	17	36
Russian Federation	7 034	7 178	5 048	3 832	6 006	6 045	-16	0.6	25
Moldova	1 416	1 744	1 699	1 521	1 589	1 391	-20	-12	5.6
Belarus	1 241	1 490	1 393	890	1 106	1 382	-7.2	25	5.6
Azerbaijan	335	326	352	628	832	753	131	-9.5	3.1
Lithuania	1 147	1 051	898	702	696	657	-37	-5.6	2.7
Uzbekistan	618	476	884	1 969	1 340	573	20	-57	2.3
Tajikistan	287	218	737	1 428	1 291	570	161	-56	2.3
Georgia	1 147	1 384	2 202	346	756	562	-59	-26	2.3
Armenia	306	385	596	353	464	402	4.4	-13	1.6
Others	2 536	2 950	3 187	2 661	3 386	3 397	15	0.3	14
Total	21 362	23 533	22 380	20 425	25 072	24 641	4.7	-1.7	100

Table 6. Document fraud

Detections reported by EB-RAN countries, by border type, document type, top ten nationalities and top ten countries of issuance

	2014			2015 Q3			% change on		per cent of total
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	year ago	previous Qtr	
Border Type									
Air	25	17	35	37	53	54	218	1.9	50
Land	18	38	31	31	72	37	-2.6	-49	35
Sea	8	7	4	7	6	10	43	67	9.3
Not specified	4	1	2	3	0	6	500	n.a.	5.6
Document type									
Passport	49	47	58	61	113	95	102	-16	89
Visa	4	7	2	3	13	8	14	-38	7.5
Unknown	0	1	6	9	3	2	100	-33	1.9
Residence permit	1	0	1	0	0	1	n.a.	n.a.	0.9
ID card	1	2	3	3	2	1	-50	-50	0.9
Others	0	6	2	2	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Moldova	18	16	19	16	60	25	56	-58	23
Ukraine	13	14	10	9	13	12	-14	-7.7	11
Syria	1	5	8	10	5	8	60	60	7.5
Afghanistan	0	0	1	4	3	6	n.a.	100	5.6
Russian Federation	2	2	4	2	5	6	200	20	5.6
Georgia	0	1	4	5	1	6	500	500	5.6
Uzbekistan	2	0	1	1	2	4	n.a.	100	3.7
Iran	1	3	3	0	3	4	33	33	3.7
Turkey	2	1	1	2	2	4	300	100	3.7
India	1	4	2	1	1	4	0	300	3.7
Others	15	17	19	28	36	28	65	-22	26
Top Ten Countries of Issuance of Documents									
Moldova	5	15	11	11	54	23	53	-57	21
Ukraine	15	15	9	9	15	16	6.7	6.7	15
Israel	0	1	3	2	4	9	800	125	8.4
Uzbekistan	6	0	3	1	0	5	n.a.	n.a.	4.7
Georgia	0	0	1	2	1	5	n.a.	400	4.7
Turkey	3	1	2	2	1	5	400	400	4.7
India	1	4	2	1	1	4	0	300	3.7
Algeria	0	0	0	0	0	4	n.a.	n.a.	3.7
UK	0	0	1	4	0	3	n.a.	n.a.	2.8
Romania	8	6	5	2	4	3	-50	-25	2.8
Others	17	21	35	44	51	30	43	-41	28
Total	55	63	72	78	131	107	70	-18	100

Explanatory note

Detections reported for 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 bor-

ders on exit only are included. For Asylum, all applications (land, sea, air and inland) are included.

For EB-RAN 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 EB-RAN countries and to neighbouring land border detections reported by Member States.



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