

Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network Quarterly

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List of abbreviations used

BCP	border-crossing point
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CSTO	Collective Security Treaty Organization
EaP	Eastern Partnership
EaP-RAN	Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network
EB-RAN	Eastern European Borders Risk Analysis Network
EU	European Union
Q/Qtr	quarter of the year
SBCRB	State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus

Introduction

In January 2016, three new countries joined the Eastern Borders Risk Analysis Network (EB-RAN) operating under the EU-funded Eastern Partnership Integrated Border Management Capacity Building Project: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Upon this extension, the network has been renamed as the Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network (EaP-RAN).

Concept

The Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network (EaP-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 Partnership 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 EaP-RAN (Armenia², Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) and

reference period statistics from common border sections of the neighbouring EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries (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 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 contains statistical annex.

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- 1 Please note that the analysis of this indicator is now limited to EaP countries only given that EU Member States have transitioned to the European Union Document-Fraud (EDF) reporting scheme.
 - 2 Statistical data provided from Armenia is not consistent with the definitions and format of the EaP-RAN.

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

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

Note on definitions: 'common borders' refers both to borders between EU Member States and Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (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 EaP-RAN indicators

Table 1. Overview of indicators

	2017 Q4	% of total	2017 Q4	% of total
1B. Clandestine entries***	153	3	2,0%	10 664
2. Facilitators	2 489	20	0,8%	28
1A. Illegal border-crossing between BCPS	41 406	189	0,5%	547
6. Persons using fraudulent documents	5 843	930	16%	244
5. Applications for asylum	128 467	4 325	3,4%	349
3. Illegal stay	112 728	7 206	6,4%	15 349
7B. Effective returns	37 438	9 993	27%	:
7A. Returns decision issued	64 653	13 698	21%	:
4. Refusals of entry	47 521	22 688	48%	17 275

* Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

** Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania, total numbers reported as RET-7A and RET-7B from FRAN

*** Persons hiding in means of transport

Border surveillance

Illegal border-crossing

In the fourth quarter of 2017, 736 persons were detected for illegal border-crossing between BCPs by the Eastern Partnership Risk Analysis Network (EaP-RAN) member countries¹. This represents a 31% decrease compared with the third quarter of 2017 and a decrease of 22% in comparison with the same quarter of the previous year. Ukraine reported the highest number of detections, followed by Belarus and Georgia. In comparison with Q3 2017, in absolute terms, the most significant drop in the number of detections was reported by Ukraine, while only Lithuania reported an increase.

Almost 47% of detections involved regional nationals (citizens of Eastern Partnership – EaP – and Commonwealth of Independent States – CIS – countries), mostly Ukrainians, followed by Moldovans and Russians. The vast majority of the reported cases (79%) were linked either to smuggling or to other reasons not related to migration.

Over 53% of detections involved non-regional migrants, with the majority reported to be Vietnamese, Turkish, Syrian and Bangladeshi. Irregular migration was the main reason for these non-regional nationals to cross the border illegally.

At the common borders and at the borders covered by EU/SAC data only², detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs (reported by both sides) decreased by 28% compared with the third quarter of 2017, and decreased by almost 33% in relation to the same quarter of 2016. The most significant decrease in the number of detections in Q4 2017, in absolute terms, was reported by Hungary.

At the Eastern Partnership and external borders, 304 cases of illegal border-crossing were reported, representing a 34% decrease compared with Q3 2017. More than 62% of detections were made at the Ukrainian borders with Russia, Moldova and, to a lesser extent, Belarus. The majority of detections involved regional migrants.

Facilitators

The number of detected facilitators at the common borders and at the borders covered by EU/SAC data only³ increased by 3% in the fourth quarter of 2017 compared with the third quarter of that year, but decreased by 22% compared with the same period of 2016. As regards nationalities, the facilitators were mostly citizens of Russia, Turkey and Georgia.

¹ Data for Armenia not available.

² i.e. the external border of the EU/SAC with Russia.

³ i.e. the external border of the EU/SAC with Russia.

Border checks

Clandestine entries

In the fourth quarter of 2017, there were three cases of clandestine entry attempts reported by Belarus, Georgia, and Poland. One case, involving a Ukrainian national, was reported at the border between Belarus and Ukraine and another case, also involving a Ukrainian national, at the border between Poland and Ukraine. A Georgian national was detected on entry at the Georgian border with Turkey.

Refusals of entry

In the fourth quarter of 2017, 39 963 refusals of entry were reported within the EaP-RAN at the common, EaP and external regional borders⁴. The vast majority of refusals (almost 87%) was reported at land borders, almost 55% of which having been issued by Poland.

At the common borders and at the borders covered by EU/SAC data only⁵, refusals of entry issued by EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries decreased by 2% in relation to Q3 2017, and decreased by 16% in relation to the same period of 2016. As in the previous quarter, the vast majority was reported by Poland (84%) with Russian and Ukrainian citizens representing the top-ranking nationalities.

Eastern Partnership countries reported 17 275 refusals; 69% and 28% of them were issued at land and air borders, respectively.

⁴ Data for Armenia not available.
⁵ i.e. the external border of the EU/SAC with Russia.

The majority of refusals was issued by Ukraine, followed by Belarus and Georgia.

Document fraud

In the fourth quarter of 2017, the number of detections of persons using fraudulent documents reported by the five Eastern Partnership countries (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine)⁶ increased by almost 63% compared with the second quarter of 2017. The increase was observed mainly in Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Georgia while the number of detections increased only slightly in Belarus.

The top six nationalities among fraudulent document users were: Ukrainian, Iranian, Turkish, Uzbek, Moldovan and Georgian..

The most frequently detected fraudulent documents were passports (50%), Visas, stamps, ID cards and residence permits accounted for 23%, 14%, 9% and 4% shares, respectively, of the reported cases.

Illegal stay in EaP-RAN countries

A decrease of 12% in detections of illegal stay was reported by Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine⁷ in the fourth quarter of 2017. The top five detected nationalities included Ukrainian, Moldovan, Russian,

Hungarian and Azerbaijani⁸. Within the EaP-RAN countries.

Following the introduction of an automatic tally facilitating the detection of illegal stay on exit, in Q3 2017 the Ukrainian authorities reported a sharp increase in the number of detections with regard to various nationalities, including most of the nationalities of the neighbouring countries.

Over 99% of illegal stay detections were reported on exit. As Ukraine was the top reporting country (79% of total detections), the Ukrainian airports were most affected, followed by the Ukrainian border with Moldova, the Ukrainian border with Russia, the Ukrainian border with Hungary and the Belarussian border with Ukraine.

⁸ The top five nationalities for detections of illegal stay in both EaP-RAN countries and EU MS/SAC. For the detections in EaP-RAN countries only, the top five nationalities are: Moldovan, Russian, Hungarian, Ukrainian and Azerbaijani.

II. STATISTICAL ANNEX

LEGEND

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

Source: EaP-RAN and FRAN data as of 23 January 2018 ,
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

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

Detections reported by EaP-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by purpose of top ten nationalities

	2016		2017				2017 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on		
							year ago	previous Qtr	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Vietnam	187	172	46	81	141	198	15	40	27
Ukraine	421	221	217	248	295	174	-21	-41	24
Moldova	87	62	84	84	102	76	23	-25	10
Russia	76	65	59	62	100	37	-43	-63	5.0
Belarus	26	21	27	20	29	26	24	-10	3.5
Turkey	19	30	23	43	54	25	-17	-54	3.4
Not specified	28	16	17	17	27	19	19	-30	2.6
Syria	11	23	5	19	11	16	-30	45	2.2
Bangladesh	46	29	22	53	45	14	-52	-69	1.9
Georgia	45	46	32	21	14	11	-76	-21	1.5
All Other	315	259	128	187	249	140	-46	-44	19

Annex Table 2. **Clandestine entries**

Detections reported by EB-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States by top ten nationalities

	2016		2017				2017 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on		
							year ago	previous Qtr	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Ukraine	2	3	1	2	2	2	-33	0.0	40
Turkey	0	2	3	0	0	2	0.0	n.a.	40
Georgia	0	4	3	0	0	1	-75	n.a.	20
Yemen	0	0	0	17	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Turkmenistan	0	0	0	0	1	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Russia	1	2	7	4	2	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Moldova	0	0	0	0	2	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	0	0	1	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Iran	5	5	10	2	3	0	n.a.	n.a.	
Indonesia	0	0	0	1	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
All Other	1	1	0	2	2	0	n.a.	n.a.	

Annex Table 3. **Facilitators**

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

Place of Detection	2016		2017				2017 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on		
							year ago	previous Qtr	
Land	36	42	10	34	42	46	9.5	9.5	96
Inland	0	0	0	0	0	2	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	4.2
Air	0	0	3	0	3	0	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Russia	14	23	0	5	8	16	-30	100	33
Turkey	0	1	2	5	3	7	<i>n.a.</i>	133	15
Georgia	2	1	1	2	6	5	<i>n.a.</i>	-17	10
Ukraine	5	1	0	6	4	3	200	-25	6.3
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	1	0	3	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	6.3
Syria	0	0	0	1	0	2	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	4.2
Mongolia	0	0	0	0	0	2	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	4.2
China	0	0	0	0	0	2	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	4.2
Belarus	7	4	7	2	8	2	-50	-75	4.2
United States	0	0	0	0	0	1	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	2.1
All Other	8	12	3	12	16	5	-58	-69	10

Annex Table 4. **Illegal stay**

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

Place of Detection	2016		2017				2017 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on		
							year ago	previous Qtr	
Land	11 857	11 793	8 588	9 714	17 899	16 911	43	-5.5	75
Air	2 413	2 746	3 617	3 803	5 657	5 528	101	-2.3	25
Sea	109	102	62	75	82	77	-25	-6.1	0.3
Inland	67	55	55	61	74	39	-29	-47	0.2
Between BCP	77	108	20	:	:	:	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Ukraine	5 522	6 099	3 897	4 686	5 102	6 634	8.8	30	29
Moldova	1 355	1 536	1 134	1 408	4 050	2 992	95	-26	13
Russia	2 334	2 004	1 560	1 500	2 325	1 811	-9.6	-22	8
Hungary	159	145	295	157	2 144	1 381	852	-36	6.1
Azerbaijan	515	571	696	637	823	948	66	15	4.2
Belarus	462	470	423	452	943	893	90	-5.3	4
Georgia	737	882	672	686	652	818	-7.3	25	3.6
United States	149	170	235	258	413	530	212	28	2.3
Romania	139	129	96	97	564	529	310	-6.2	2.3
Armenia	340	295	302	340	326	498	69	53	2.2
All Other	2 811	2 503	3 032	3 432	6 370	5 521	121	-13	24

Annex Table 5. **Refusals of entry**

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

	2016		2017				2017 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Border Type									
Land	66 181	35 159	26 897	31 102	35 803	34 671	-1.4	-3.2	87
Air	1 766	2 381	2 442	2 834	3 232	4 875	105	51	12
Sea	862	826	555	210	436	417	-50	-4.4	1.0
Top Ten Nationalities									
Ukraine	10 437	8 777	10 023	10 563	11 622	11 702	33	0.7	29
Russia	44 026	16 139	9 016	10 737	12 915	11 332	-30	-12	28
Moldova	1 638	1 589	1 505	1 622	2 826	3 530	122	25	8.8
Belarus	1 510	1 856	1 604	3 206	2 026	2 440	31	20	6.1
India	221	173	307	540	732	855	n.a.	17	2.1
Lithuania	642	731	669	866	999	794	8.6	-21	2.0
Poland	307	309	294	382	720	719	133	-0.1	1.8
Romania	210	228	214	231	757	701	207	-7.4	1.8
Georgia	709	784	623	343	262	635	-19	142	1.6
Turkey	435	338	368	630	387	597	77	54	1.5
All Other	8 674	7 442	5 271	5 026	6 225	6 658	-11	7.0	17

Annex Table 6. **Applications for asylum**

Applications for international protection reported by EaP-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States by top ten nationalities

	2016		2017				2017 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Top Ten Nationalities									
Iraq	1 068	1 096	842	1 127	1 911	1 380	26	-28	30
Russia	2 096	1 159	1 032	990	902	747	-36	-17	16
Afghanistan	1 903	1 179	756	539	615	473	-60	-23	10
Syria	1 750	1 258	1 044	1 254	893	414	-67	-54	8.9
Iran	256	143	139	109	187	174	22	-7.0	3.7
Ukraine	329	258	274	199	211	123	-52	-42	2.6
Eritrea	261	410	595	539	155	113	-72	-27	2.4
Turkey	124	129	160	126	120	103	-20	-14	2.2
Georgia	47	30	68	40	65	90	200	38	1.9
Somalia	151	79	57	47	58	85	7.6	47	1.8
All Other	2 155	1 640	1 222	1 095	1 044	972	-41	-6.9	21

Annex Table 7. **Persons using false documents**

Detections reported by EaP-RAN countries, by border type, document type and top ten nationalities.

	2016		2017				2017 Q4		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on year ago	previous Qtr	
Border Type									
Air	75	94	128	63	67	150	60	124	61
Land	56	74	54	45	70	77	4.1	10	32
Sea	7	10	20	18	13	17	70	31	7.0
Not specified	1	2	0	0	0	0	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	
Document Type									
Passports	91	100	94	74	77	122	22	58	50
Visas	20	31	54	21	18	55	77	206	23
Stamps	16	27	37	19	32	34	26	6.3	14
ID cards	6	19	11	8	18	22	16	22	9.0
Residence permit	5	3	6	3	1	10	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	4.1
Not specified	1	0	0	1	4	1	<i>n.a.</i>	-75	0.4
Top Ten Nationalities									
	K								
Ukraine	28	18	19	13	22	38	111	73	16
Iran	1	18	12	1	12	27	50	125	11
Turkey	4	10	8	16	8	24	140	200	9.8
Uzbekistan	11	16	15	10	22	21	31	-4.5	8.6
Moldova	21	32	15	10	28	18	-44	-36	7.4
Georgia	16	23	14	14	7	14	-39	100	5.7
Sri Lanka	0	0	1	0	0	11	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	4.5
Egypt	5	4	6	12	7	11	175	57	4.5
Tajikistan	6	6	16	3	4	9	50	125	3.7
Pakistan	0	1	4	4	0	8	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	3.3
All Other	47	52	92	43	40	63	21	58	26
Top Ten Countries of Issuance of Documents									
Russia	5	19	23	19	34	40	111	18	16
Ukraine	17	15	15	11	19	33	120	74	14
Turkey	5	14	47	12	12	16	14	33	6.6
Romania	1	2	6	3	10	16	<i>n.a.</i>	60	6.6
Georgia	10	22	12	10	2	15	-32	<i>n.a.</i>	6.1
Germany	1	7	2	4	2	11	57	<i>n.a.</i>	4.5
Egypt	1	3	6	6	5	10	233	100	4.1
Spain	1	1	1	0	0	9	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	3.7
India	4	4	8	5	3	9	125	200	3.7
Canada	0	0	0	0	4	9	<i>n.a.</i>	125	3.7
All Other	94	93	82	56	59	76	-18	29	31

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

For EaP-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 refers to total detections reported by EaP-RAN countries and to land border detections reported by neighbouring Member States.



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