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Latvian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union



Presidency Activity “AMBERLIGHT 2015”



THE STATE BORDER GUARD OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA



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Introduction

Continuing with the tradition of previous activities held during the previous Presidencies of the Council of the European Union, the Presidency activity "AMBERLIGHT 2015" was implemented on the basis of the guidelines set out in the Guide for Joint Police Operations – JPOs (16825/10 ENFOPOL 343 JAI 995 COSI 76).



Objectives

To collect information on third-country nationals (and in particular at the external air borders upon exit of third country nationals), who have overstayed.

In order to support the Working Party on Frontiers/False documents, to collect information on cases when third country nationals were travelling with forged documents - especially in the case of impostors (analysis will be used in respect of the initiative of the Working Party on Frontiers/False documents).



Implementation

- Collecting the information provided by Member States, regarding the incidents on overstay and use of false documents via JORA system
- No personal data was collected within the activity
- Timing: 1-14 April (based on the risk analysis, it was foreseen that the highest number of departing third-country nationals from Member States and SAC would be the Easter period (in 2015 Western Christian holidays 3-6 April and the Orthodox holidays 10-13 April)
- All EU MS and SAC countries were invited

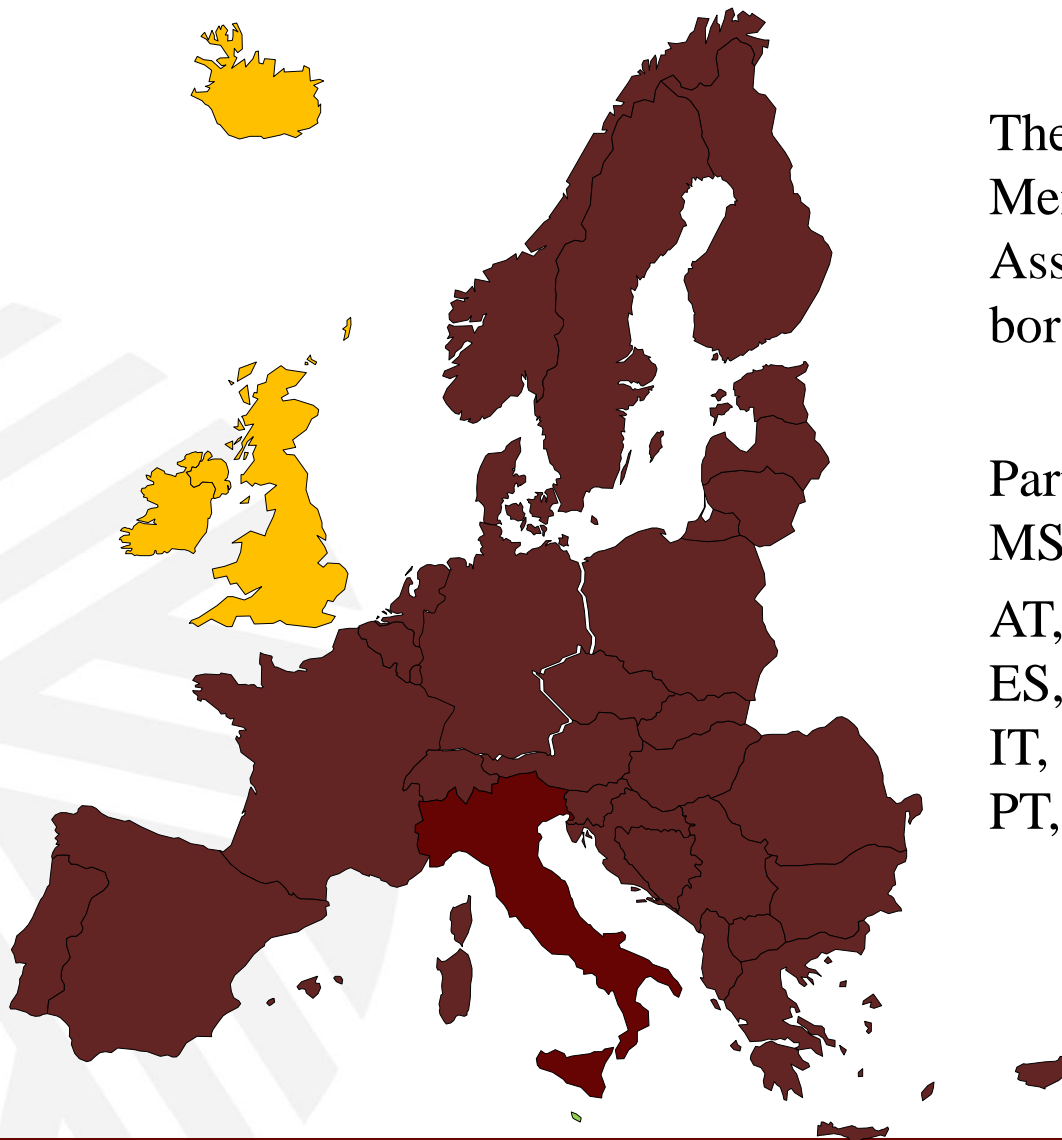




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Participants and area of the Activity



The activity was assigned to Member States and Schengen Associated Countries air borders.

Participation confirmed 28 EU MS/SAC (55 airports):

AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DK, ES, EE, FI, DE, EL, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, LU, MT, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, FR, NL.



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Reporting airports





Reporting

Participating Member States were asked to report the following information:

1. Detection details (date, time and place of detection);
2. Information on the third country national (nationality, gender, age and the duration of illegal stay in Member States/SAC);
3. Modus operandi;
4. Routes (MSs/SAC of entry and departure);
5. Further procedure in Member States/SAC and sanctions imposed.





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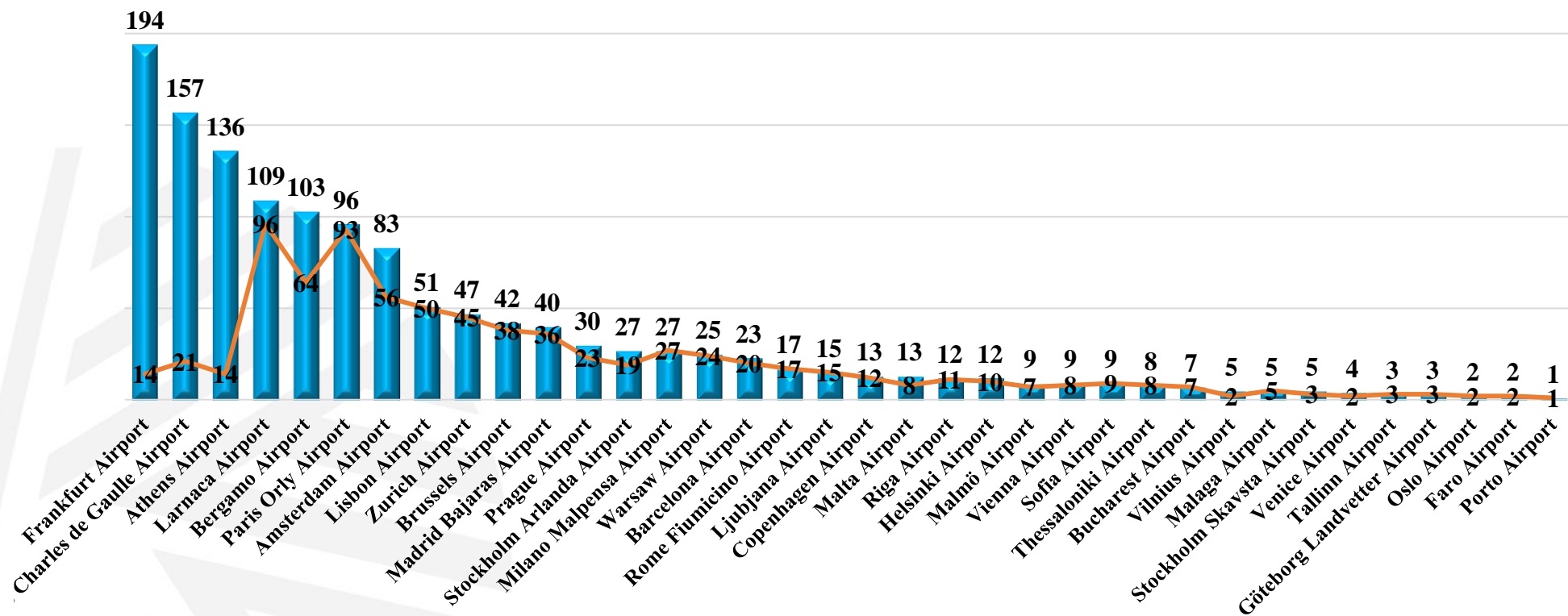
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RESULTS





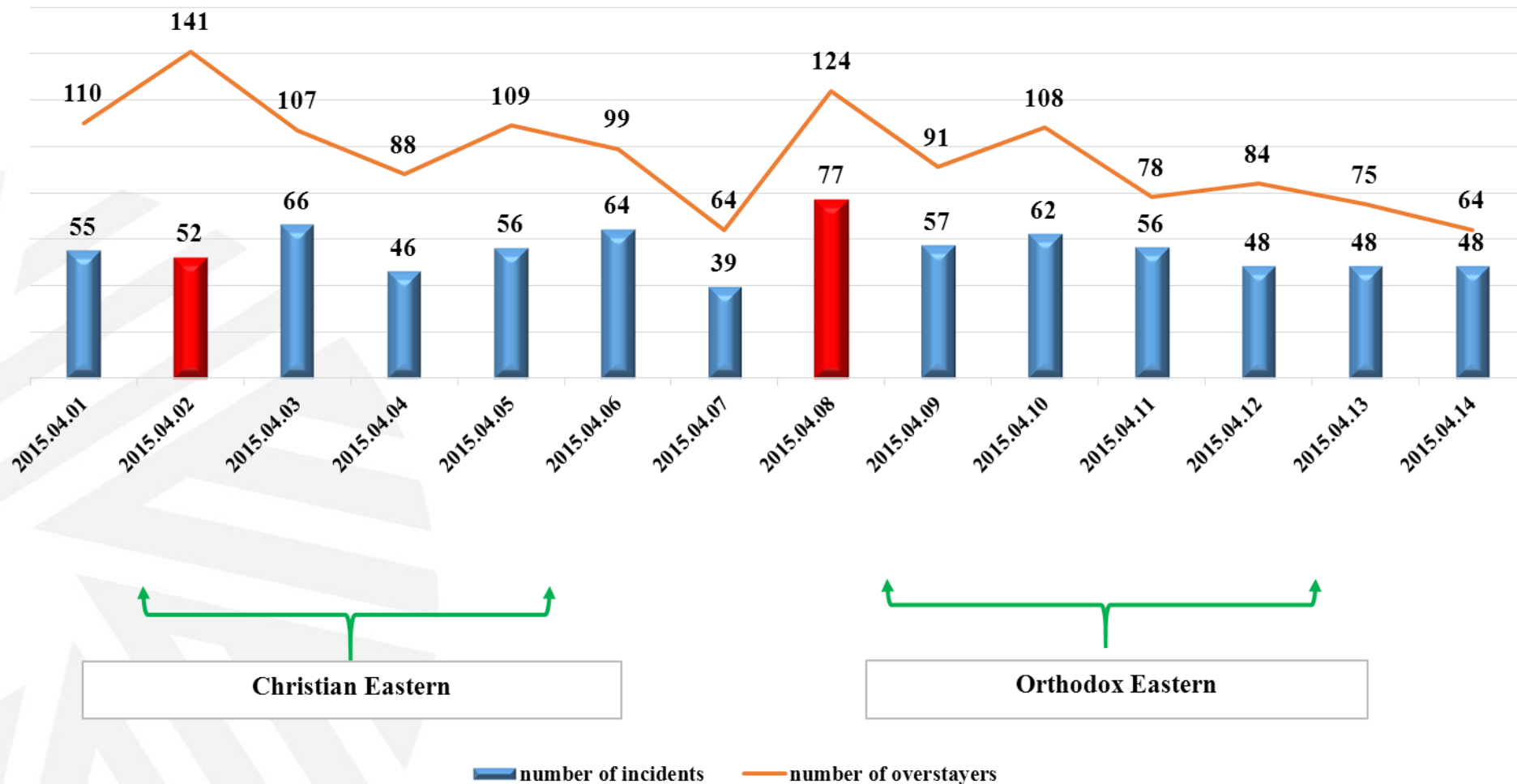
Number of incidents and overstayers by airports



In total 775 incidents reports on 1344 overstayers were received from 36 airports

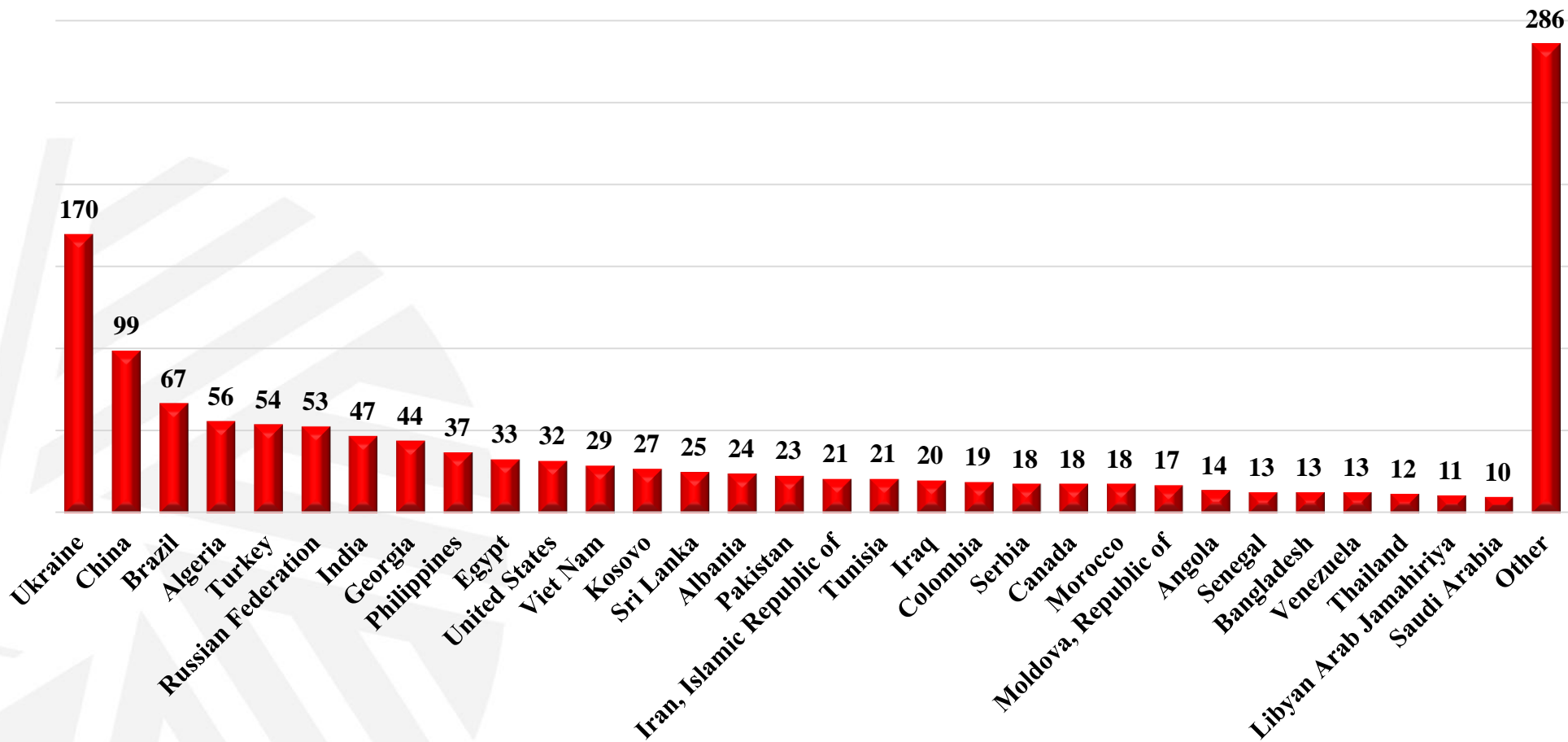


Number of incidents and overstayers



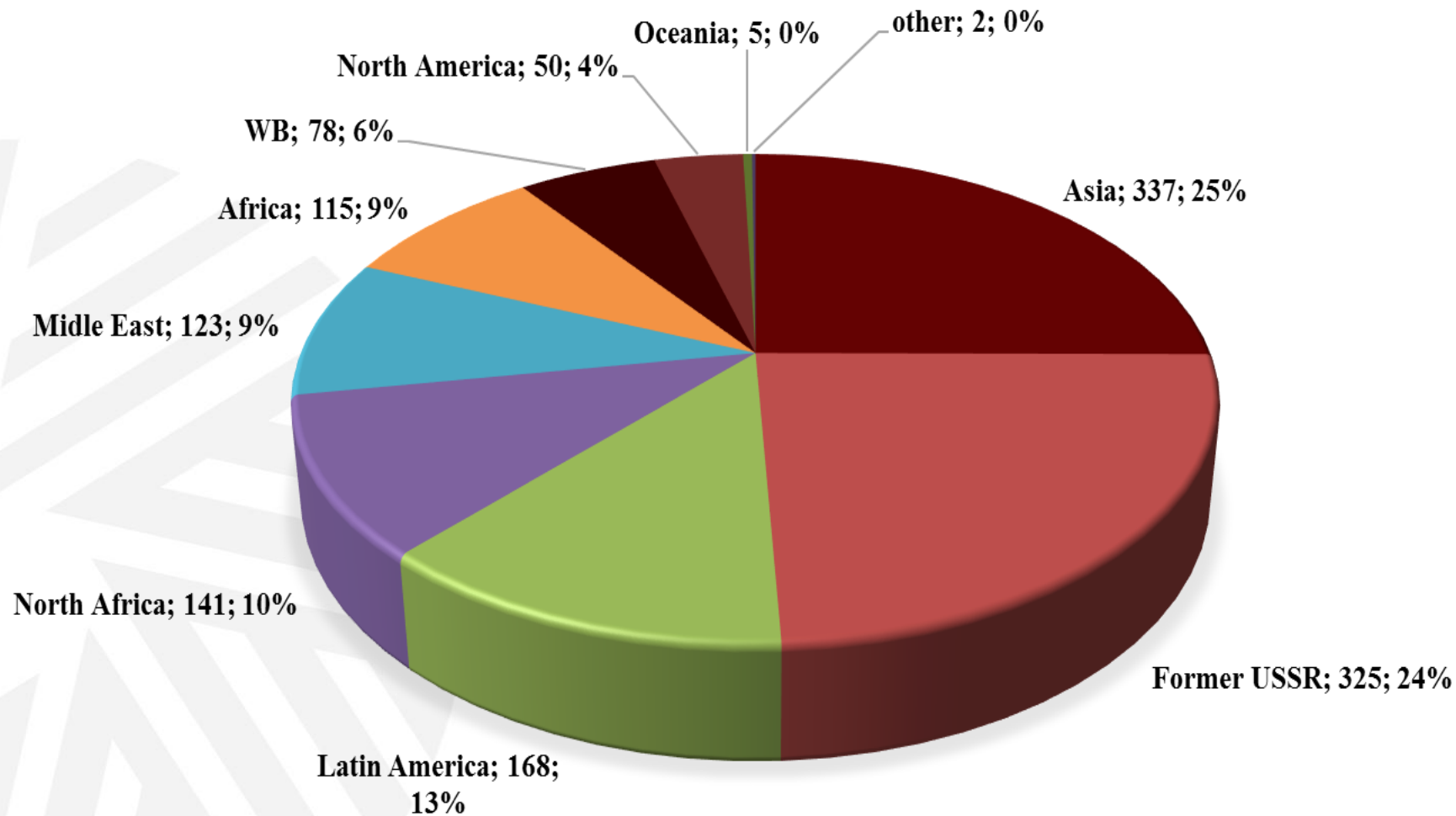


Nationality of overstayers





Nationality of overstayers by region

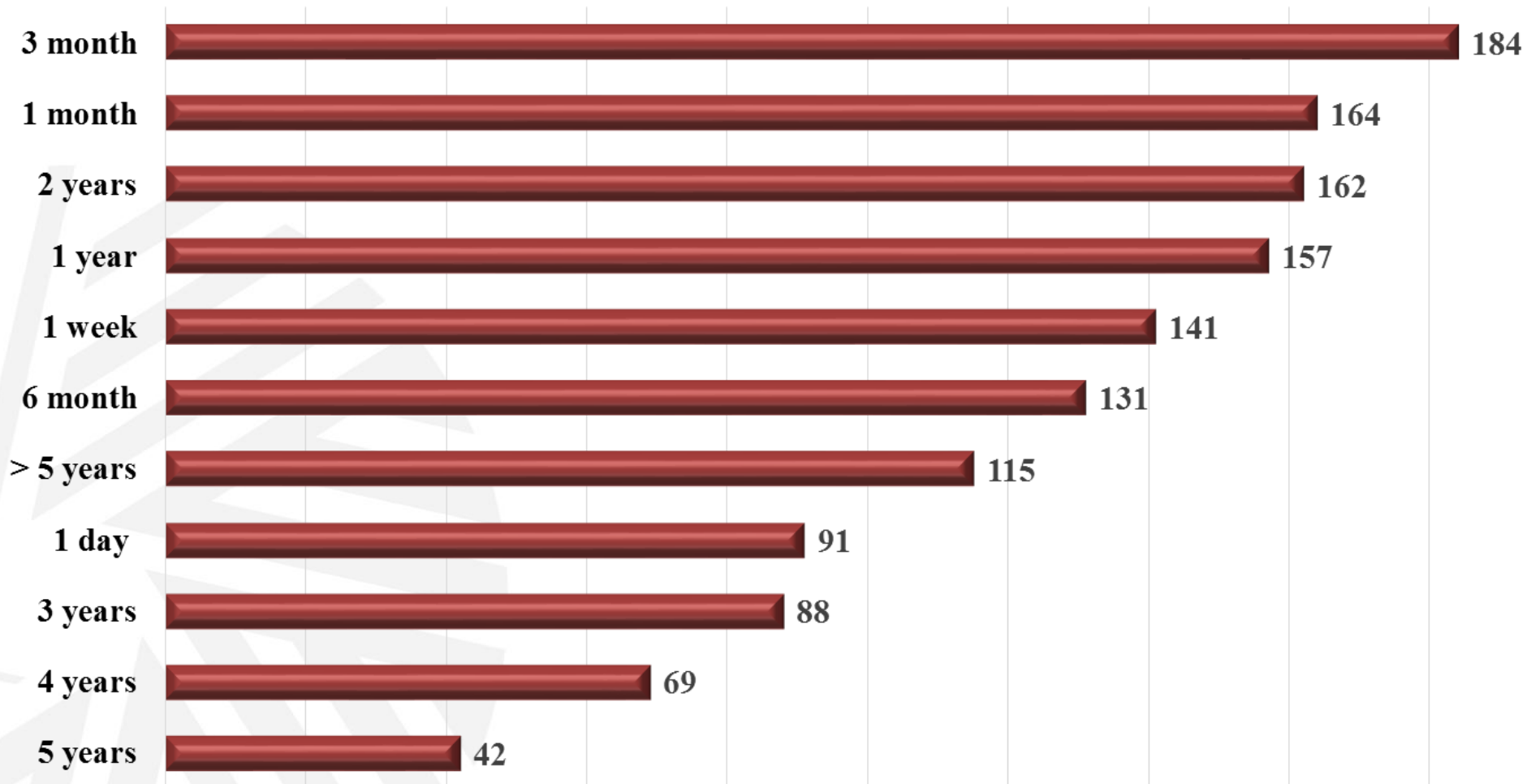




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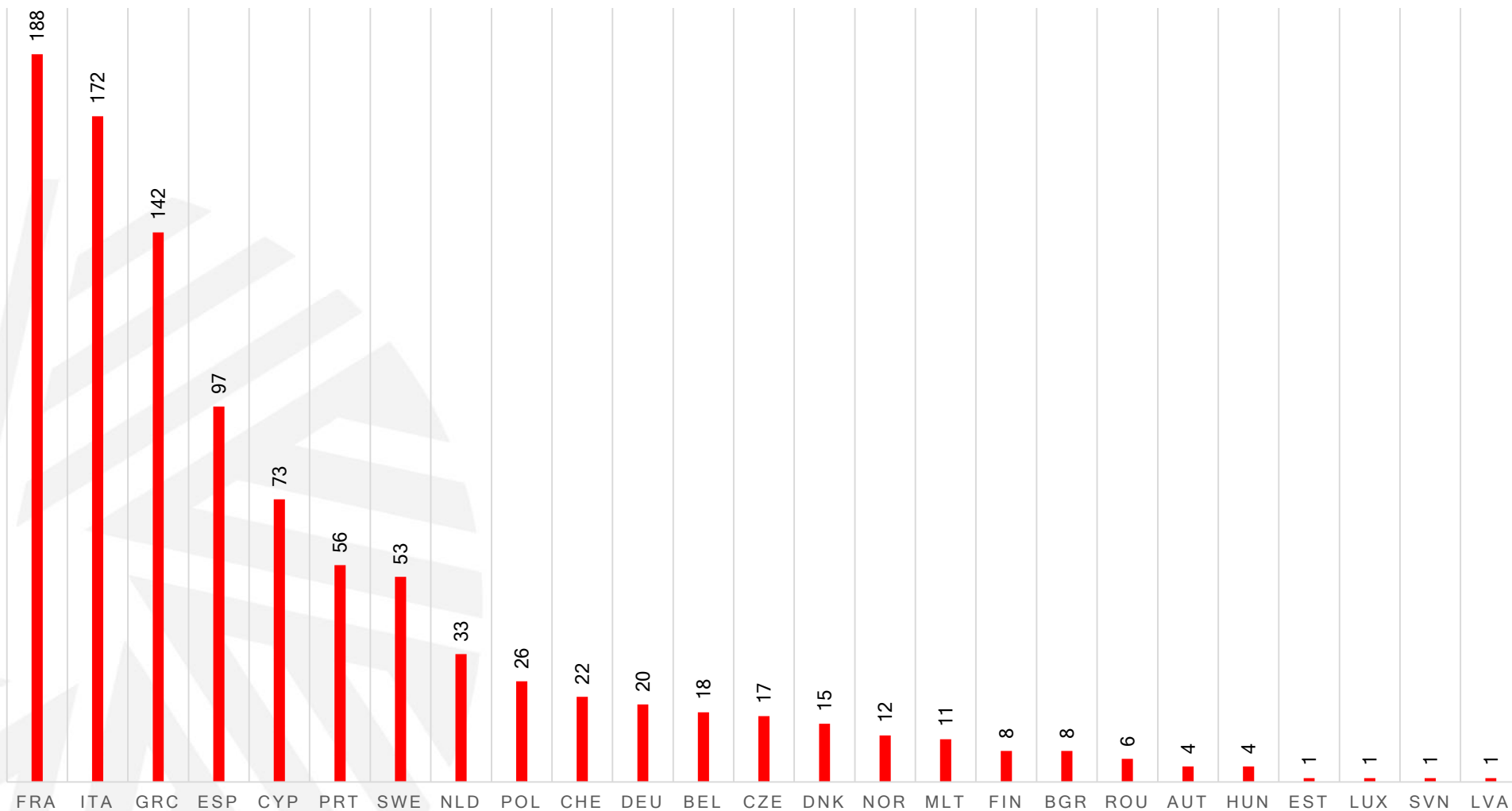
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Number of persons and duration of overstay





Countries of overstaying

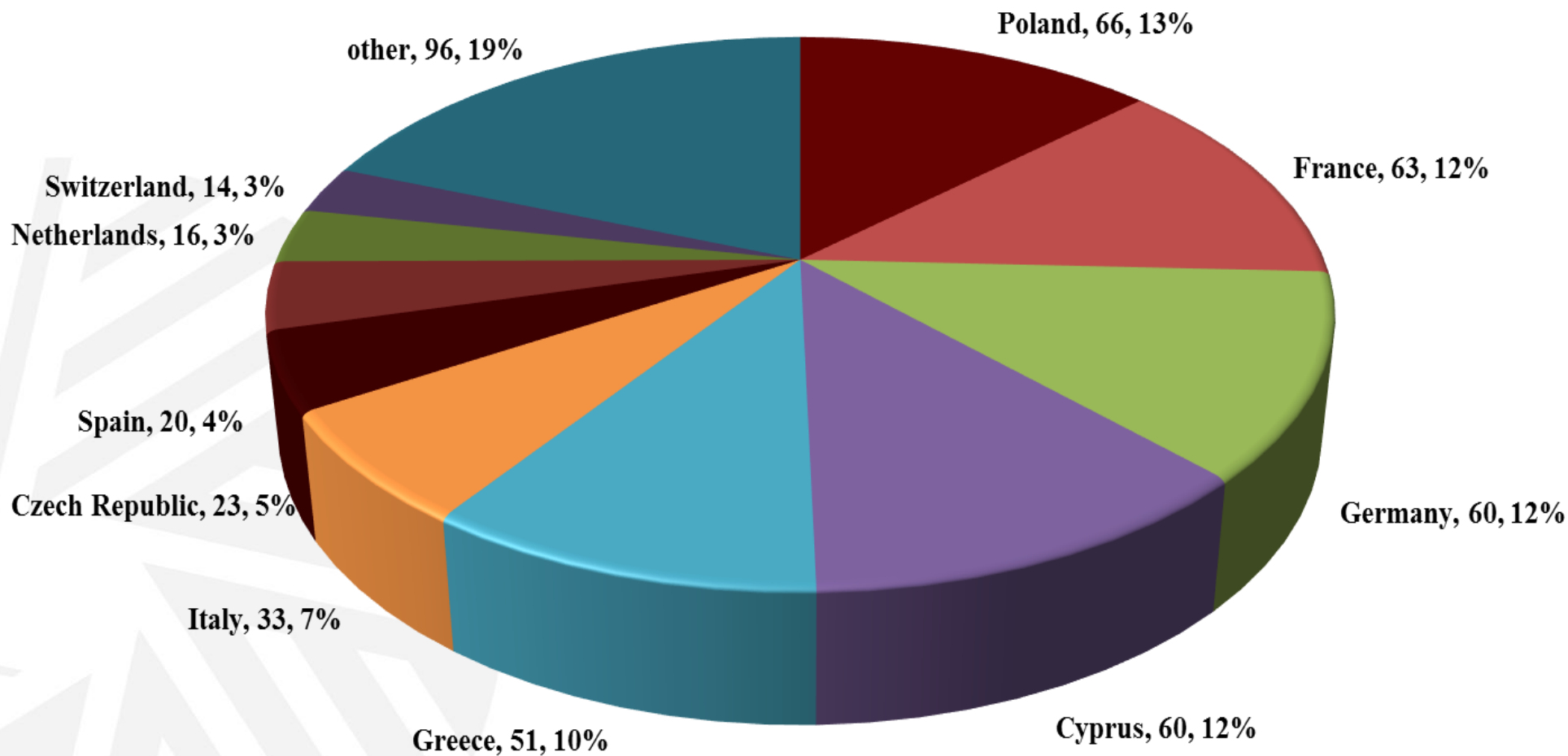




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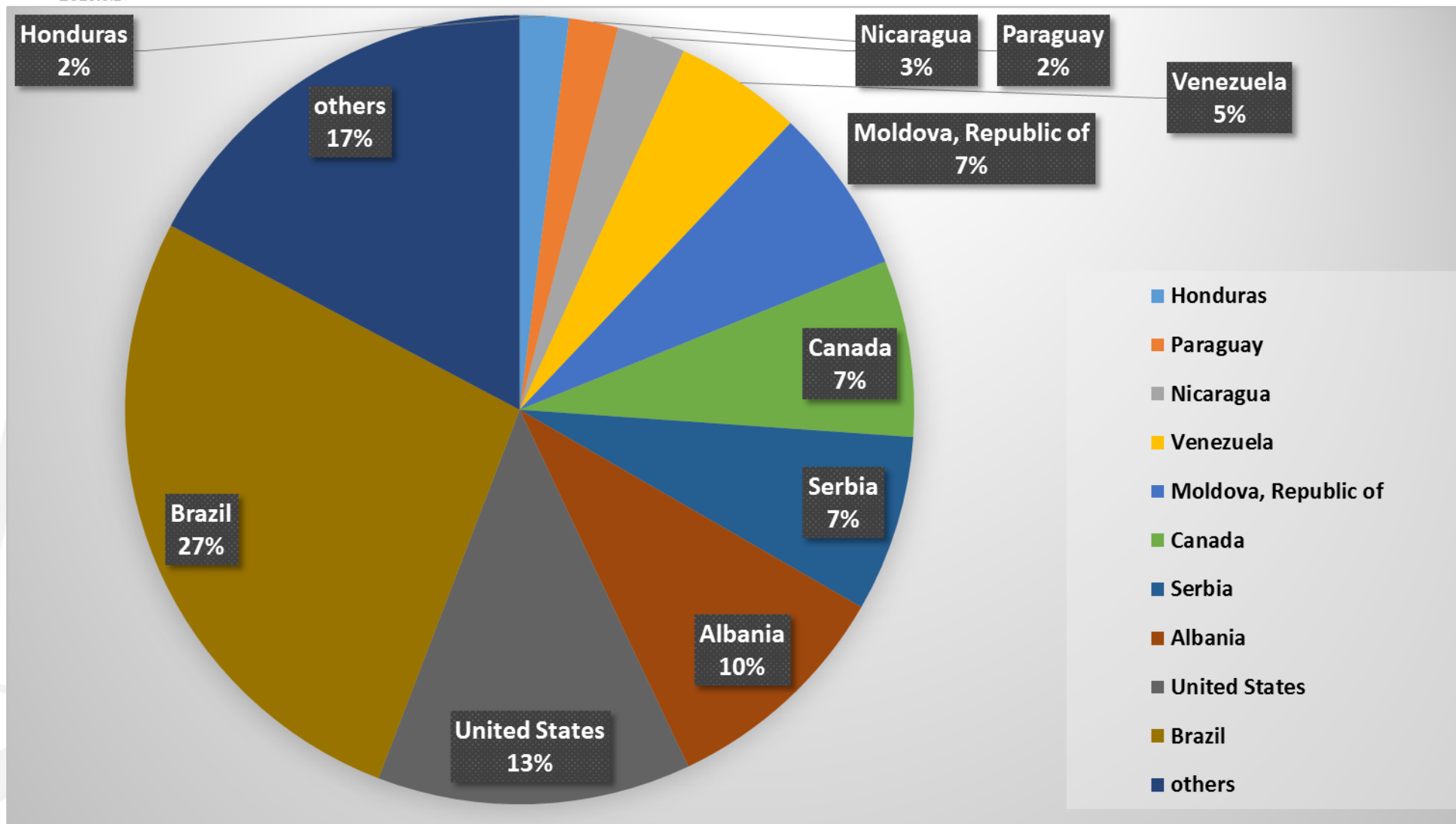
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TOP 10 visa and supportive document issuing countries



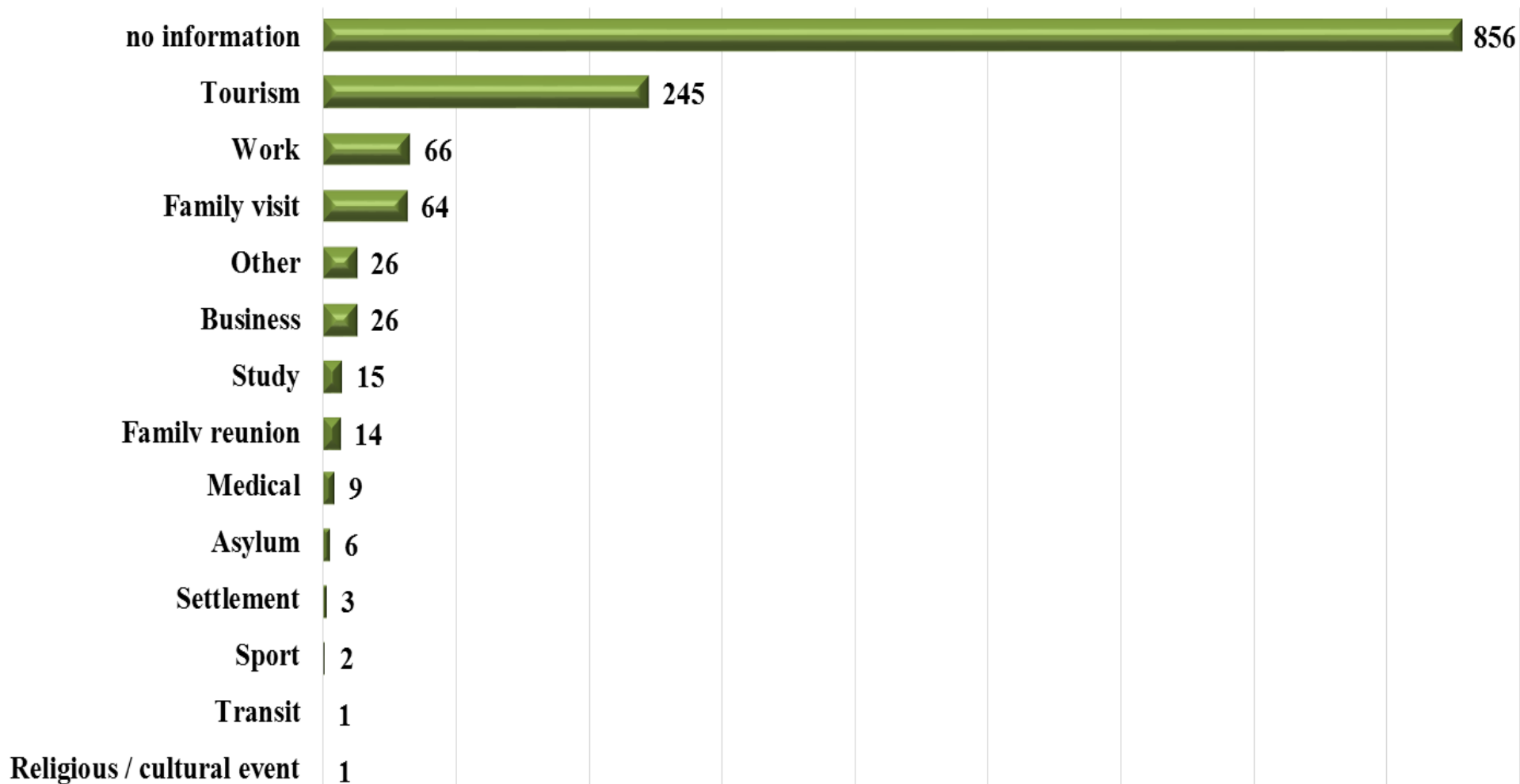


Overstayers from visa free countries



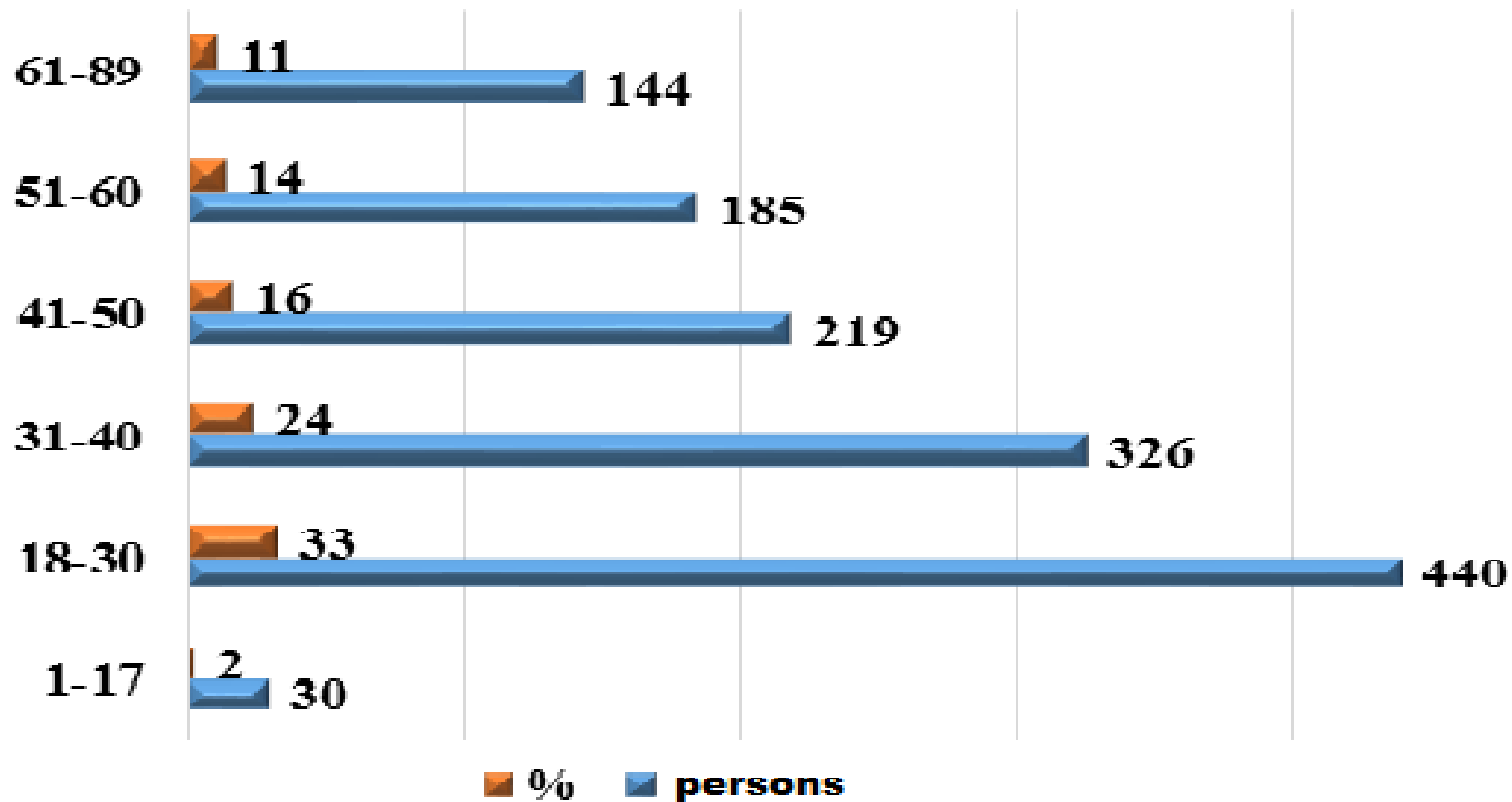


Number of persons and claimed travel purpose to entry EU/SAC





Age groups





Nationalities and follow up

| TOP nationalities (when action is taken) | Purpose of entry | Decision taken | Reporting airport | Fine |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| Ukraine | Tourism, work | Voluntarily return | Italy -Bergamo | |
| China | Tourism, work | fine | Portugal -Lisbon | Up to 250 EUR |
| Algeria | Family visit/reunion | Voluntarily return | France -Charles de Gaulle, Paris- Orly | |
| Brazil | Tourism | fine | Portugal -Lisbon | Up to 500-700 EUR |
| Georgia | Tourism | fine | Greece- Athens | Up to 1200 EUR |



Comparison of TOP nationalities

| | Illegal Stay (Frontex ARA 2015) | Overstayers (Activity Amberlight 2015) |
|-----|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Syria | Ukraine |
| 2. | Eritrea | China |
| 3. | Morocco | Brazil |
| 4. | unknown | Algeria |
| 5. | Afghanistan | Turkey |
| 6. | Albania | Russia |
| 7. | Ukraine | India |
| 8. | Algeria | Georgia |
| 9. | Kosovo | Philippines |
| 10. | other | Egypt |

False/falsified documents

Only three airports reported on detection of persons in possession of false/falsified documents:

1. Italian airports (Rome Fiumicino and Milan Malpensa) mainly Nigerian nationals were detected (five) and one Jamaica citizen;
2. Brussels airport reported on detection of two Turkish, one Rwanda and one Russian citizen;
3. Nine out of ten persons tended to travel to Canada with impostors (four Canadian and one Belgian) ordinary passports, two false Greek ID cards, one false Canadian visa and false Great Britain passport.





Findings

1. Comparing Frontex risk analysis (on the illegal stay including overstayers) and the results of the activity shows that the TOP 10 nationalities differ significantly.
2. Main reasons for the overstay are tourism and work (mostly illegal) in EU countries, but there are still lot of cases when reason was not reported.
3. 81% of reported overstayers were required to have a visa upon entry EU/SAC.
4. Most of overstayers using direct flights to return to their countries of origin, therefore air borders are the most under the pressure.



Risk profile of overstayer

Ukrainian, Chinese, Brazilian, Algerian or Turkish national, both male and female aged between 18-40, who entered EU/SAC country with Polish, French, Cyprus, Greek or German visa. To return to their countries of origin using direct flight.





Follow up

- The Presidency would like to encourage MSs/SAC to carry out similar activities on all borders in order to understand deeper phenomenon of overstaying.
- The Presidency advise FRONTEX Agency to assess possibility to provide analysis of category «overstayers» separately from the persons reported under the current indicator - illegal to stay. FRONTEX Agency is advised to report to WP on Frontiers on results of the assessment.
- The Presidency believes that usage of FRONTEX Agency's JORA system would become a practice.





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THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION

