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**NOTE**

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From:	Italian delegation
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Final report on Joint Operation "MOS MAIORUM"

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**FINAL REPORT ON JOINT OPERATION “MOS MAIORUM”**

**1. BACKGROUND AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

Following the tradition well-established by previous EU Presidency Member States (MSs), on the basis of best practices, in the framework of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Central Directorate for Immigration and Border Police of the Italian Ministry of Interior organized the Joint Operation “*MOS MAIORUM*”, with the main goal to monitor the irregular migrations and to identify the link between irregular EU external border crossings and irregular migration within the EU and Schengen Area, as well as to focus on the “secondary movements” of irregular migrants who entered the Member States irregularly.

The Joint Operation “*MOS MAIORUM*” was prepared on the basis of the guidelines set out in the Guide for Joint Police Operation – JPOs (doc. 16825/10 ENFOPOL 343 JAI 995 COSI 76) and it was implemented from 13 to 26 October 2014 with the participation of 27 countries.

The operational area was identified with the territory of all Member States and SACs who agreed to participate in this Joint Operation (including air, land and maritime borders).

In accordance with the provisions of the doc. 11671/14 and of the “*MOS MAIORUM*” Operational Plan, each participating Member State was requested to:

- *carry out all the activities in a way that fully respects human dignity;*
- *maintain the highest standard of ethical conduct, professionalism and respect for human rights;*
- *- avoid discriminatory treatment on the basis of any ground such as sex, race, ethnic o social origin, religion, etc.;*
- *- take care throughout all operations of the special needs of vulnerable groups, such as women, unaccompanied minors, victim of trafficking or people in need of medical treatment.*

Before and during the operational phase of Joint Operation “*MOS MAIORUM*”, all participating countries were requested not to provide any kind of information to the media/press about the activities carried out in the operational area.

The Joint Operation was carried out using the available means of the Member States, with no additional costs.

## **2. COORDINATION AND SUPPORT**

The Joint Operation “*MOS MAIORUM*” was coordinated by the Central Directorate for Immigration and Border Police of the Italian Ministry of Interior.

In accordance with the provisions of the “*MOS MAIORUM*” Operational Plan, each participating Member State was requested to appoint a National Point of Contact to be responsible for gathering and forwarding the completed reporting templates to the “*MOS MAIORUM*” National Point of Contact/Operational Control Room (NPoC) that was implemented in Rome (at Italian MoI – Department of Public Security – Central Directorate for Immigration and Border Police – Border Division) to support all the participants.

The European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (FRONTEX) supported the Italian authorities by providing a final analytical assessment concerning the illegal border crossings at the EU's external borders, as a chapter of the Final report of the Presidency.

### **3. PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES**

The Italian delegation invited all EU MSs and SACs to participate in the Joint Operation "*MOS MAIORUM*".

A total of 26 Member States and 1 Schengen Associated Country (SAC) agreed to participate in the Joint Operation "*MOS MAIORUM*". The participants in the J.O. were: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

### **4. OBJECTIVES**

The main aim of the Joint Operation "*MOS MAIORUM*" was gathering information from all participating countries on irregular immigration flows within the EU MSs and Schengen Associated Countries (SACs) focusing on irregular border-crossing. It also monitored the secondary movements of irregular migrants who entered Member States irregularly.

In particular, the Joint Operation "*MOS MAIORUM*" was focused on:

- apprehend irregular migrants and their facilitators and gather relevant information;
- identify migration pressure in various countries;
- give a clear and updated situation picture concerning the operational area, modus operandi, main trends and possible rapid changes in these aspects;
- consolidate joint measures to achieve an impact on irregular immigration (border checks and border surveillance activities);

- carry out (based on the outcomes of the risk analysis made by FRONTEX Agency) controls along the main routes of irregular immigration on the main routes followed by irregular migrant networks (within the Schengen Area and at the external borders);
- collect and analyze information related also to the so-called “secondary movement”;
- identify the countries of origin and transit of irregular migrants and their final destination countries.

## 5. DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

Data were gathered during the operation through two different reporting templates in the form of an Excel spread sheet:

- a **blue form** for irregular migrants intercepted at the **internal borders** or **inland**;
- a **red form** for the irregular migrants intercepted at the **external borders**.

The distinction was made to facilitate the risk analysis and to have a more clear picture of the so-called “secondary movements”. For the same reasons, bearing in mind the objectives of the J.O., the borders between a Schengen country and an EU country were considered as “internal borders”.

It should be noted that the reporting templates did not include any personal data.

In line with previous operations, carried out by the Belgian (*Hermes*), Hungarian (*Mitras*), Danish (*Balder*), Cypriot (*Aphrodite*) and Lithuanian (*Perkunas*) EU Presidencies and following the recommendations agreed with FRONTEX Agency regarding the reporting of relevant data, the Joint Operation “*MOS MAIORUM*” collected information mainly focusing on the following topics:

### Interception details:

- case reference number – each case was given a unique number, so that it’s easy to request further information on any specific case from Member State's contact person;
- date and time of detection;
- location of interception of irregular migrants;

- nearest city or town;
- means of transportation used by irregular migrants during detection;
- means of transportation used by irregular migrants to enter the country;

**Intercepted irregular migrants:**

- irregular migrants' nationality;
- gender, age;
- first point of entry in the EU;
- first date of entry in the EU;

**Routes:**

- main routes followed by irregular migrants from third countries to enter the EU and SAC or using the EU or SAC as transit countries;
- irregular migrants' intended final destination;

**Modus operandi:**

- false/falsified travel documents used (including nationality of passport);
- asylum application after or during detection;
- indications of smuggling of irregular migrants;
- facilitator's (number of facilitators, nationality and country of residence);
- modus operandi comment box with free text (some description of modus operandi and facilitation or other relevant information example refusal, readmission, etc.)

The forms were sent electronically by the National Point of Contact of each participating countries to the “*MOS MAIORUM*” National Point of Contact/Operational Control Room (NPoC) implemented in Rome on a daily basis.

All data reported by participating countries were gathered, processed, elaborated and analysed by the mentioned “*MOS MAIORUM*” NPoC.

The data were also sent to the Risk Analysis Unit of FRONTEX Agency that supported the Italian Authority in providing risk analysis.

## 6. OVERVIEW OF THE OPERATIONAL RESULTS

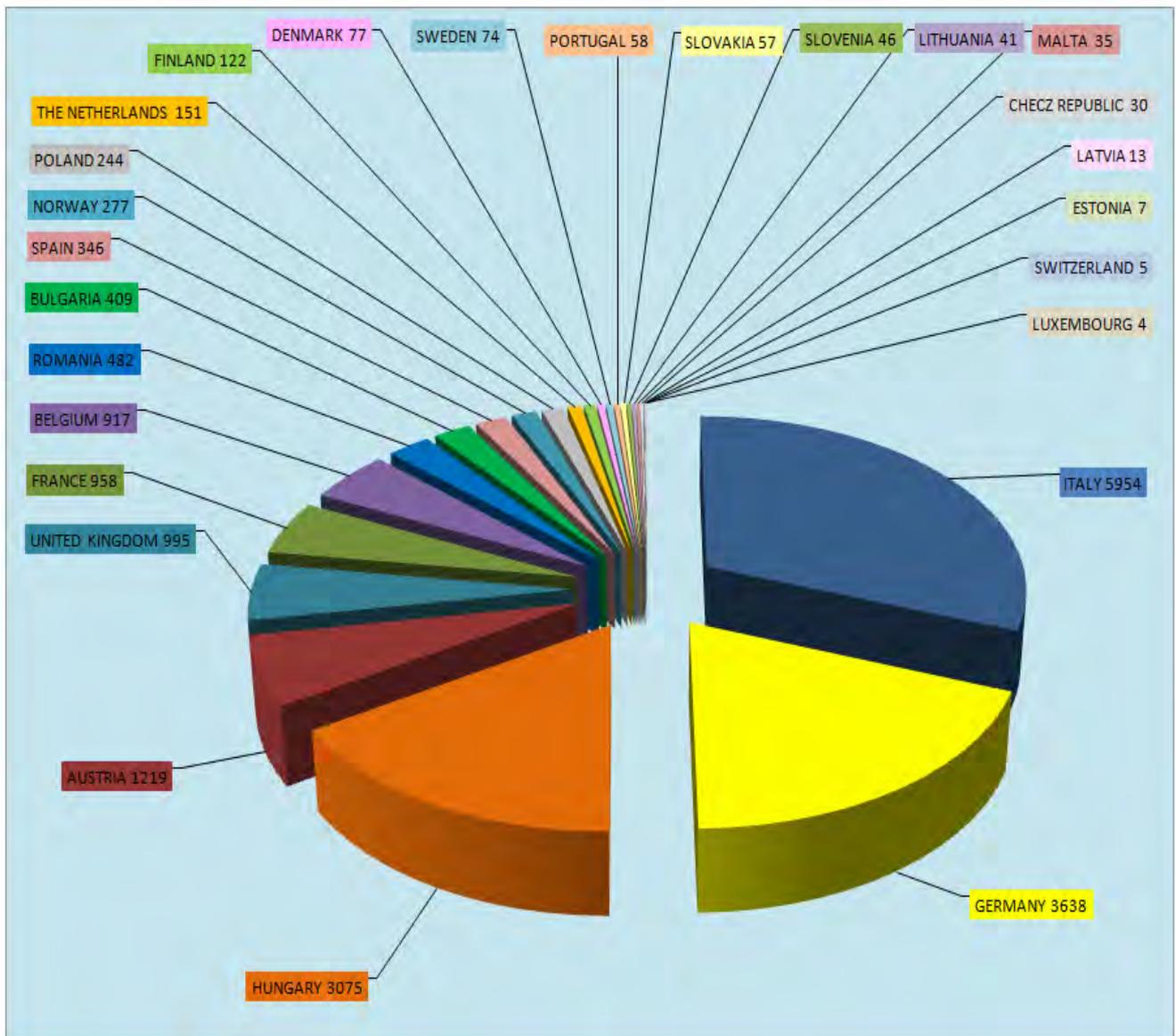
- Total results by participating countries

On the basis of the data provided by the participating countries, the following results were achieved:

**Table 1**

<b>TOT PEOPLE INTERCEPTED</b>	<b>9890</b>	<b>9344</b>	<b>19234</b>
	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	
ITALY	5611	343	5954
GERMANY	509	3129	3638
HUNGARY	2859	216	3075
AUSTRIA	36	1183	1219
UNITED KINGDOM	0	995	995
FRANCE	0	958	958
BELGIUM	74	843	917
ROMANIA	224	258	482
BULGARIA	304	105	409
SPAIN	42	304	346
NORWAY	16	261	277
POLAND	32	212	244
THE NETHERLANDS	61	90	151
FINLAND	11	111	122
DENMARK	1	76	77
SWEDEN	32	42	74
PORTUGAL	44	14	58
SLOVAKIA	13	44	57
SLOVENIA	0	46	46
LITHUANIA	4	37	41
MALTA	2	33	35
CHECZ REPUBLIC	6	24	30
LATVIA	1	12	13
ESTONIA	6	1	7
SWITZERLAND	2	3	5
LUXEMBOURG	0	4	4

CYPRUS <sup>1</sup>	84	2	86
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During the implementation of the Joint Operation “*MOS MAIORUM*”, a total of **6002** incidents were reported (1538 at the external borders and 4464 at the internal borders), with a total number of **19234 irregular migrants intercepted**.

<sup>1</sup> As Cyprus reported the data after the deadline it was not possible to insert them in the general table. For this reason the results made by this Country were not taken into account in all the analysis reported in this document, but a short report of the results was inserted at pages 22 and 23.

In particular, as showed in the Table 1, the number of irregular migrants intercepted at the external borders reached **9890**, while **9344** were found at the internal borders/inland.

It should be noted that in the external border figures are included also the irregular migrant intercepted by the National Authorities of the participating countries during the border surveillance activities, at land and sea borders.

The largest number of interceptions was reported by Italy with **5954** irregular migrants. Most of them (5397 people) arrived by sea and were intercepted during the border surveillance activities, while 214 were detected during the border controls in BCPs (at air and sea external borders). In addition, 343 people were intercepted at the internal borders (sea, air and land borders).

In particular, the following ten MS reported the largest numbers of irregular migrants intercepted during the J.O. “Mos Maiorum”:

- Italy with **5954** people, almost the 31% of the total;
- Germany with **3683** people, almost 19 % of the total;
- Hungary with **3075** people, almost 16 % of the total;
- Austria with **1219** people, almost 7 % of the total;
- United Kingdom with **995** people, around 5% of the total;
- France with **958** people, around 5 % of the total;
- Belgium with **917** people, almost 5 % of the total;
- Romania with **482** people, around 2 % of the total;
- Bulgaria with **409** people, around 2 % of the total;
- Spain with **346** people, almost 2 % of the total.

Evaluating the figures it should be kept in mind that, according to the Operational Plan of the Joint Operation “*MOS MAIORUM*”, the borders between a Schengen country and an EU country were considered as “internal borders” as well as the borders between EU countries that are not applying Schengen. For this reason, for example, all the data reported by the United Kingdom were inserted in the internal border data as they concern people found at the border with France.

Comparing the TOP 10 countries of the Joint Operation “*MOS MAIORUM*” with the TOP 10 countries of the Joint Operation “*PERKUNAS*” (IT, DEU, UK, HUN, AUT, CHE, POL, ESP, FRA, NLD) it seems that the trend has not changed as the majority of the reporting countries in the first 10 positions are the same.

- **Interception of irregular migrants, broken down by gender/category**

The overall number of interceptions (19234 people) was subdivided by gender/category in relation to internal/external borders, to give a more clear picture of the trends at both type of border.

TOT	9890	9344	19234
	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	
MALE	7179	7168	14347
FEMALE	1213	953	2166
MINORS	1498	1223	2721

Analysing the reported data, it can be observed that there is not a big difference between genders of irregular migrants detected at the internal or external borders. However, there is a significant difference between the number of male and the other two categories. Groups of families or people coming from the same geographic area were often intercepted while they were moving together to reach the external borders. No data were provided concerning the interception of unaccompanied minors.

- **Interception of irregular migrants, broken down by nationalities**

The overall number of intercepted irregular migrants, on external and internal borders, includes individuals originated from 137 different countries.

Syrian nationals (5088 people) were the most detected irregular migrants, followed by Afghans (1466 people), K-Serbians (1196), Eritreans (1116), Somalis (641) and Albanians (587).

A large number of people (2075) intercepted at sea during the border surveillance activities didn't state their nationalities, for this reason they were classified as "unknown".

Breaking down the number of each nationality into internal and external border, it could be verified that nationalities are more or less the same.

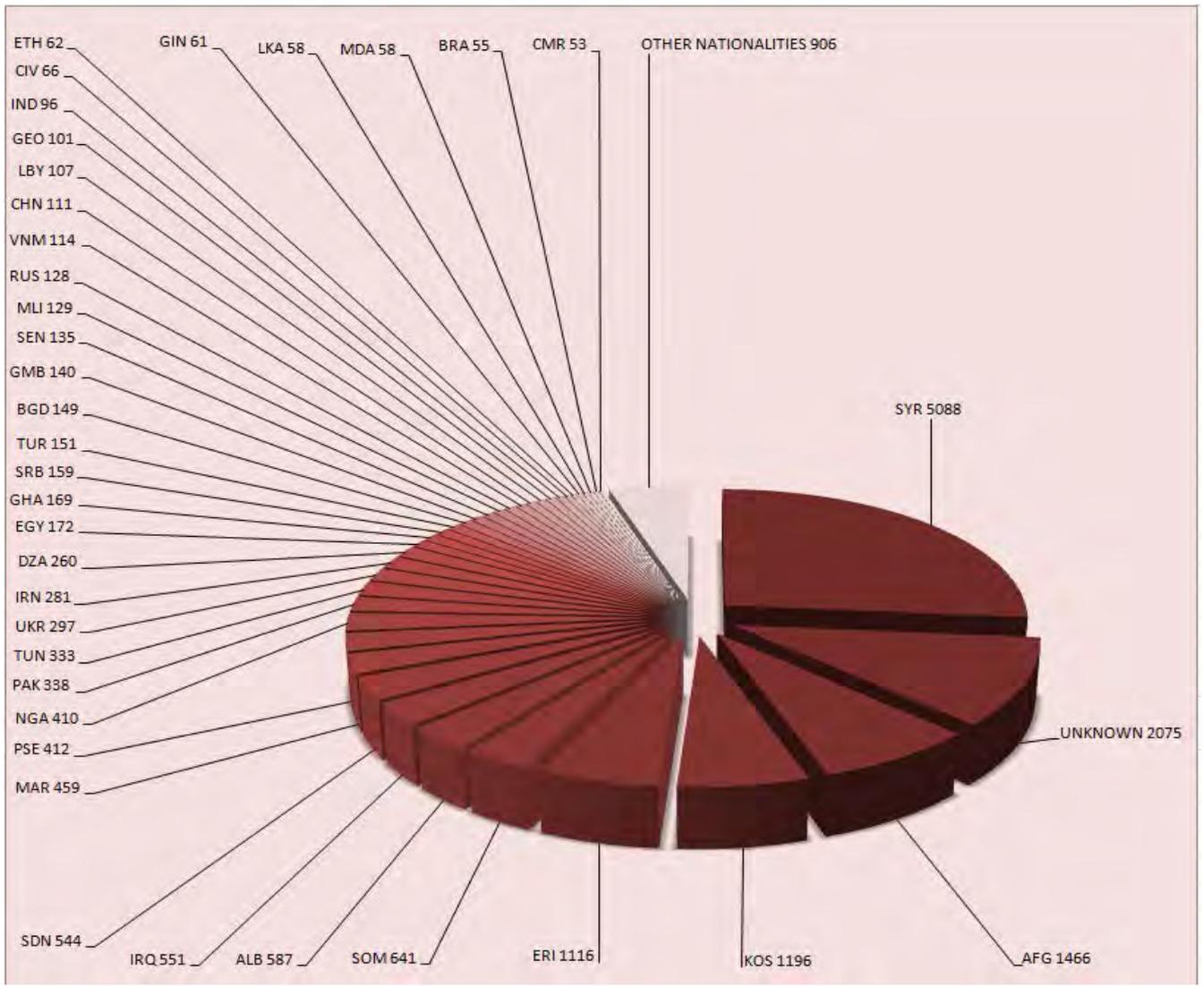
**Table 2**

<u>TOTALS</u>		<u>EXTERNAL BORDERS</u>		<u>INTERNAL BORDERS</u>	
SYR	5088	SYR	2629	SYR	2459
AFG	1466	K-SRB	1128	ERI	951
K-SRB	1196	AFG	708	AFG	758
ERI	1116	SOM	359	ALB	413
SOM	641	PSE	352	MAR	350
ALB	587	NGA	247	IRQ	306
IRQ	551	IRQ	245	SDN	301
SDN	544	SDN	243	SOM	282
MAR	459	TUN	196	DZA	247
PSE	412	ALB	174	UKR	219

*Notes: (Please take into account that it was given a colour to each nationality to make clear the position in each column.)*

Analysing the table 2, it's clear that almost the same number of Syrians, Afghans, Somalis, Iraqis and Sudanese were intercepted at the external and at the internal borders. While Moroccans, Algerians and Eritreans were intercepted almost exclusively at the internal borders, vice versa, the majority of Palestinians were found at the external borders.

It should be noted that **2075** people intercepted did not state their nationalities.



Looking into the TOP 10 nationality figures, broken down into countries of interception, it could be noted that:

- **Syrian nationals** were detected at the external borders (2629) as well as at the internal borders (2459).

At the external borders: most of them were apprehended by the Italian Authorities on boats, coming from Libya, Tunisia and Egypt, during the border surveillance activities (1514), other big groups were intercepted at the land borders in Hungary (794) and in Bulgaria (201).

At the internal borders: the majority were apprehended in Germany (977), Austria (480), United Kingdom (182), France (176), Hungary (145) and Italy (96);

- **Afghans** were found at the external borders in Hungary (512), Italy (91 – via sea) and Bulgaria (57). At the internal borders were intercepted in Germany (202), Austria (181), United Kingdom (105), Italy (78) and France (66).
- **K-Serbians** were intercepted above all in Hungary (1227) at the external borders and in Austria (46) at the internal borders;
- **Eritreans** were detected at the external sea borders of Italy (134) and at the external land border of Hungary (21). However, at the internal borders they were intercepted by Germany (399), United Kingdom (256), Austria (115), France (105) and Italy (53);
- **Somalis** were almost all intercepted at the external sea borders of Italy (353), while at the internal borders they were detected by Germany (111), Austria (71), Finland (27) and Italy (25);
- **Albanians** were detected at the external borders in Italy (95), Romania (24), Hungary (17) and Germany (13) and at the internal borders in the UK (142), France (90), Austria (37), Belgium (34), Germany (29), Italy (25) and Norway (19);
- **Iraqis** were intercepted at the land external borders in Hungary (90), Romania (55) and at the sea borders Italy (48). At the internal borders they were detected in Germany (63), Austria (51), Romania (48) and Finland (44);
- **Sudanese nationals** were almost all intercepted at the external sea borders of Italy (231), while at the internal borders they were detected by the UK (135), France (89) and Germany (58);
- **Moroccans** were almost all intercepted at the external sea borders of Italy (80). At the internal borders they were intercepted in Belgium (135), Germany (84), Spain (75) and France (28);
- **Palestinians** were almost all intercepted at the external sea borders of Italy (279) and at the external land border of Hungary (65). Only 60 Palestinians were intercepted at the internal borders above all in Germany (17), Austria (7), France (5), Belgium (5) and Romania (5).

In order to have a better view of the nationalities of migrants intercepted by the participating countries in different **geographic areas**, the different groups of nationalities have been put together in graphs below.

In addition, a difference has been made between external and internal borders of the same geographic area.

Regarding the first geographic area taken into account (**Finland, Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania**) it should be noted that:

- Vietnamese were found at the internal border in Lithuania and at the external border in Norway, while Thais targeted Norway and Chinese were found in Finland;
- Syrian nationals targeted above all Norway (where they were intercepted at the internal borders) and Sweden (found in the same way in both borders), while Iraqis preferred Finland and Latvia.

In the second geographic area analyzed (**Denmark, The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and Switzerland**) the interception are the following:

- Syrians were intercepted above all in Germany followed by The Netherlands and Denmark, while the vast majority of Afghans targeted Germany coming from internal borders (only few were found in the Netherlands but at the external borders);
- Moroccans and Algerians were found only in Belgium, especially at the internal borders;
- Eritreans targeted Germany and very few were found also in The Netherlands and Denmark.



Finland



Norway



Sweden



Estonia



Latvia



Lithuania

**INTERNAL BORDERS**

IRQ	44	SYR	59	SYR	17			IRQ	6	VNM	16
SOM	27	NGA	55	SOM	8			CMR	2	GEO	14
AFG DZA MAR	6	ALB	19	PSE NGA	4	RUS	1	SYR	2	RUS	7

**EXTERNAL BORDERS**

CHN	4	THA	5	SYR	21	EGY	4				
MMR	4			ALB	5			PAK	1	IND	4
RUS	2	IRN PHL VNM	2	AFG	2	MLI	2				



Denmark



Netherlands



Belgium



Luxembourg



Germany



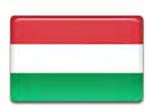
Switzerland

**INTERNAL BORDERS**

SYR	63	SYR	62	MAR	135			SYR	977		
ERI	5	ALB	9	DZA	99	BIH GNB IRN SYR	1	ERI	399	SYR	2
PSE MNG GHA	2	ERI	5	SYR	60			AFG	202	RUS	1

**EXTERNAL BORDERS**

IRN	1	SYR	18	ALB	8			CHN	70	SYR	
		AFG	9	IRQ	6	///		IRN	36	COD	1
		IRQ	9	MAR	6			TUR	28		



Poland

Czech Republic

Slovakia

Slovenia

Hungary

Austria

### INTERNAL BORDERS

UKR	94
RUS	35
SYR	28

SYR	5
TUR	3
UKR	

UKR	19
VNM	10
RUS	4

AFG	11
EGY	10
SYR	8

SYR	145
AFG	24
IRQ	13

AFG	181
ERI	115
SYR	480

### EXTERNAL BORDERS

GEO	7
UKR	17
ARM	3
BLR	

KAZ	1
NGA	
RUS	
TUR	
UKR	
UNKNOWN	

UKR	12
RUS	1

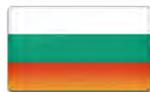
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RKS	1127
SYR	794
AFG	512

LBY	10
ALB	7
IRN	4



Romania



Bulgaria

### INTERNAL BORDERS

IRQ	48
GEO	40
LBY	32

SYR	65
AFG	23
IRQ	14

### EXTERNAL BORDERS

IRQ	55
UKR	33
MDA	29

SYR	201
AFG	57
IRQ	17

Looking at the nationalities of the irregular migrants intercepted in this geographic area is noted that two different flows of migration were detected:

- people from Syria and Afghanistan were found in large number in Bulgaria, Hungary and Austria (and only few Syrians in Slovenia, Poland and Czech Republic), but the one from Kosovo was intercepted only in Hungary;
- the majority of migrants coming from Ukraine and Russia were intercepted in Poland.

However, people from both flows (Iraqis and Ukrainians) were found in Romania.

It should be noted also the interception in Slovakia of 10 Vietnamese found hidden in vehicles (coming from Ukraine but intercepted inland).



Italy(BC)



Italy(BS)



France



Spain



Portugal



UK

### **INTERNAL BORDERS**

SYR	96
AFG	78
ERI	53

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SYR	176
ERI	105
ALB	90

MAR	75
PAK	20
ECU	17

BRA	4
SEN	3
IND GNB	2

ERI	256
SYR	182
ALB	142

### **EXTERNAL BORDERS**

ALB	95
SYR	43
IRQ	12

SYR	1514
SOM	353
PSE	279

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MAR	17
MLI	6
ALB SEN	5

BRA	11
NIC	9
PAK SEN VEN	4

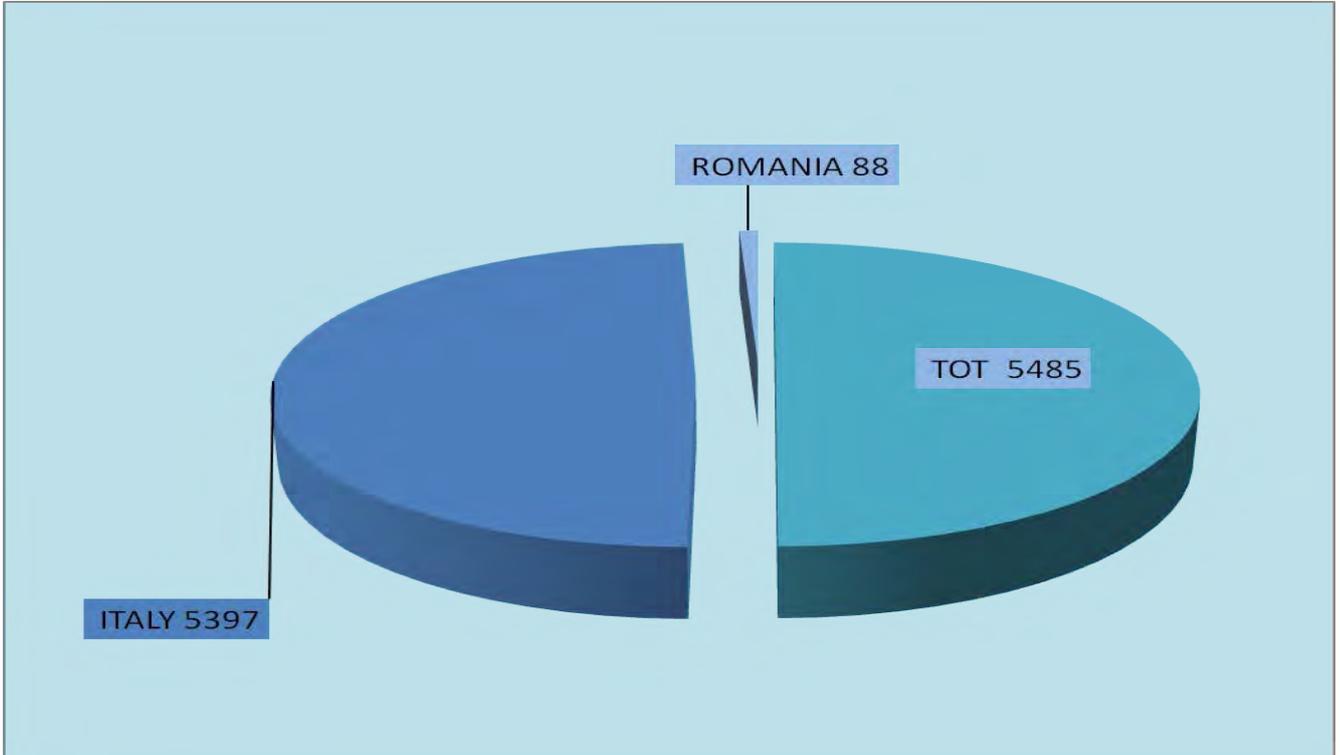
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In this geographic area the majority it should be noted that:

- Syrians, Somalis and Palestinians were found above all in Italy (during the Sea Border Surveillance activities);
- Eritreans were intercepted at the internal borders in France and the United Kingdom;
- Moroccan arrived above all in Spain while Brazilian were found only in Portugal.

- Interception of irregular migrants during the sea border surveillance activities

TOT	5485
ITALY	5397
ROMANIA	88



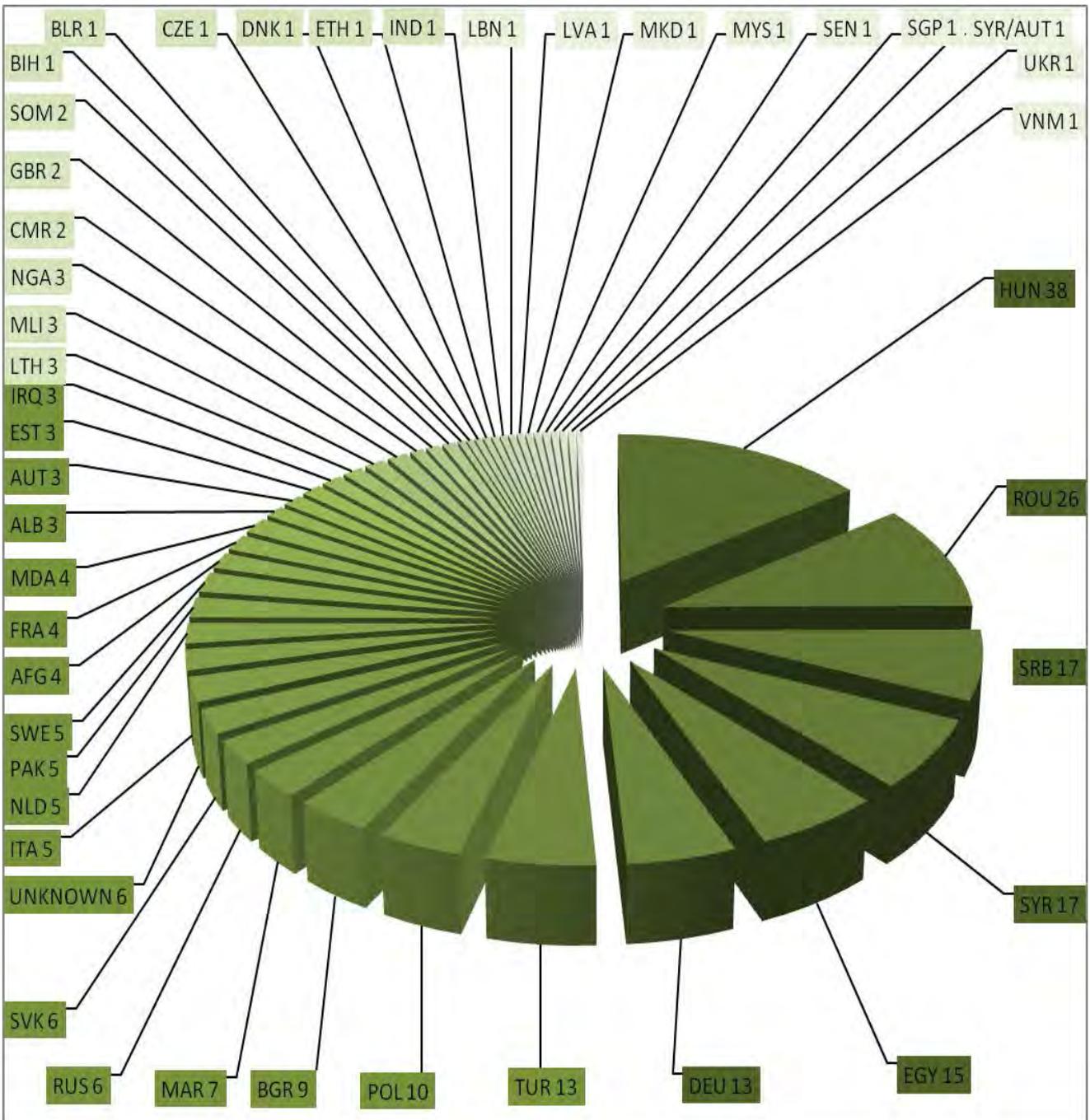
In Italy, during the sea border surveillance activities were intercepted a total of 86 boats transporting a total of **5397** migrants. The majority of intercepted boats arrived from: Libya and Tunisia, few of them from Egypt, Turkey and Greece.

In Romania, during the sea border surveillance activities, a boat was intercepted in the Black Sea, **18 miles** far from Costanza. It was coming from Turkey and he had **88** migrants on board.

- **Facilitators apprehended**

During the implementation of the Joint Operation “*MOS MAIORUM*”, a total of **257 facilitators** were apprehended: **53** at the external borders and **204** at the internal borders.

The graph below shows the nationalities of the facilitators, arrested by the participating countries. Most of whom are EU citizens.



The table below shows, in details, the facilitators arrested by each participating countries and their nationalities:

	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	257	
GERMANY	5	90	95	1 IND - 1 ITA - 1 NYS – 1 SOM – 1 AFG / 10 ROU – 10 HUN – 7 DEU – 11 SYR – 4 ITA – 4 RUS – 4 NLD – 4 UNKNOWN – 3 AUT - 3 MAR – 3 SVK – 3 IRQ – 2 ALB – 2 FRA - 2 NGA - 2 POL – 2 SRB— 2 SWE - 2 TUR – 1 (AFG – BGR – BIH – CMR – EGY – LBN – GBR -MKD –PAK –TUR)
HUNGARY	10	22	32	4 HUN – 4 SRB – 1 ROM – 1 SYR/ 8 HUN – 8 SRB – 2 DEU – 2 PAK – 2 SVK
AUSTRIA	0	28	28	16 HUN – 3 ROU – 2 SRB – 2 PAK – 1 BGR – 1 AFG – 1 SYR – 1 TUR – 1 UNKNOWN
ITALY	16	1	17	14 EGY – 2 SWE/ 1 SOM
ROMANIA	7	8	15	3 MDA – 2 ROU – 1 TUR – 1 SYR/AUT/ 4 TUR – 2 POL – 1 BGR – 1 SYR
BULGARIA	6	7	13	3 TUR – 2 BGR – 1 MDA / 4 BGR – 2 ROU – 1 SRB
UNITED KINGDOM	0	13	13	5 ROU – 2 FRA – 2 POL – 1 CZE – 1 DEU – 1 GBR – 1 SVK
POLAND	2	7	9	1 UKR – 1 BLR/ 3 POL – 2 EST – 1 RUS – 1 VNM
SPAIN	6	2	8	3 MAR – 2 MLI – 1 SYR/ 1 MAR – 1 MLI
LITHUANIA	0	7	7	3 LTU – 1 LTV – 1 EST – 1 RUS – 1 UNKNOWN
FRANCE	0	6	6	3 DEU - 3 ROU
THE NETHERLANDS	0	5	5	1 ALB – 1 MAR – 1 NLD – 1 SEN – 1 TUR
NORWAY	0	3	3	2 SYR – 1 POL
FINLAND	0	2	2	1 CMR – 1 NGA
BELGIUM	1	0	1	1 SGP
CZECH REPUBLIC	0	1	1	1 DNK
DENMARK	0	1	1	1 ETH
SLOVAKIA	0	1	1	1 SVK

In particular, there are some example of the most *modus operandi* used by facilitators to help migrants to reach the external borders as well as the internal borders.

At the **external borders**, during the sea border surveillance activities, the following people were apprehended:

- **14 Egyptians** (in Italy) as they tried to facilitate **171** irregular migrants (83 Syrians, 85 Palestinians and 3 Iraqis) from Turkey to Sicily with a 15 mt. fish ship;
- **1 Turkish** (in Romania) as he facilitate **88** irregular migrants (55 Iraqis, 24 Afghans, 5 Iranians and 4 Syrians). They arrived by boat that was intercepted by Romanian Authorities 18 miles far from Costanta, on the Black Sea.

At the land borders:

- **the 6 facilitators apprehended in Bulgaria** transported irregular migrants hidden in their vehicles (car or lorry);
- **the majority of facilitators apprehended in Hungary** were intercepted on land borders by border patrols outside the border crossing points.

At the **internal border** were apprehended a total of **204** facilitators:

- in Germany the majority of facilitators apprehended (85%) were smuggling people on their vehicles, as passengers or hidden in them and they were intercepted above all on the motorway. Only 14 facilitators stated to be resident in Germany and 6 of them had German nationality;
- also in Austria the use of private vehicles was the *modus operandi* most used by the apprehended facilitators to smuggle people from one country to another (78%), the others were arrested on trains or buses;
- in the United Kingdom all the facilitators transported the irregular migrants hidden in vehicles, 8 hidden in a lorry and 5 in cars, for a total of 70 irregular migrants. In one case a group of 21 people (19 Eritreans, 1 Afghan and 1 Serbian) were found hidden in a lorry driven by a British driver, while in another case 13 Albanians were found hidden in boxes on a lorry driven by a Polish woman that was arrested;

➤ in Romania, 11 irregular migrants (Iraqi nationals) were transported in a lorry coming from Turkey and 4 men (3 Turkish and 1 Bulgarian) were arrested as facilitators;

• Means of transportation used by irregular migrants

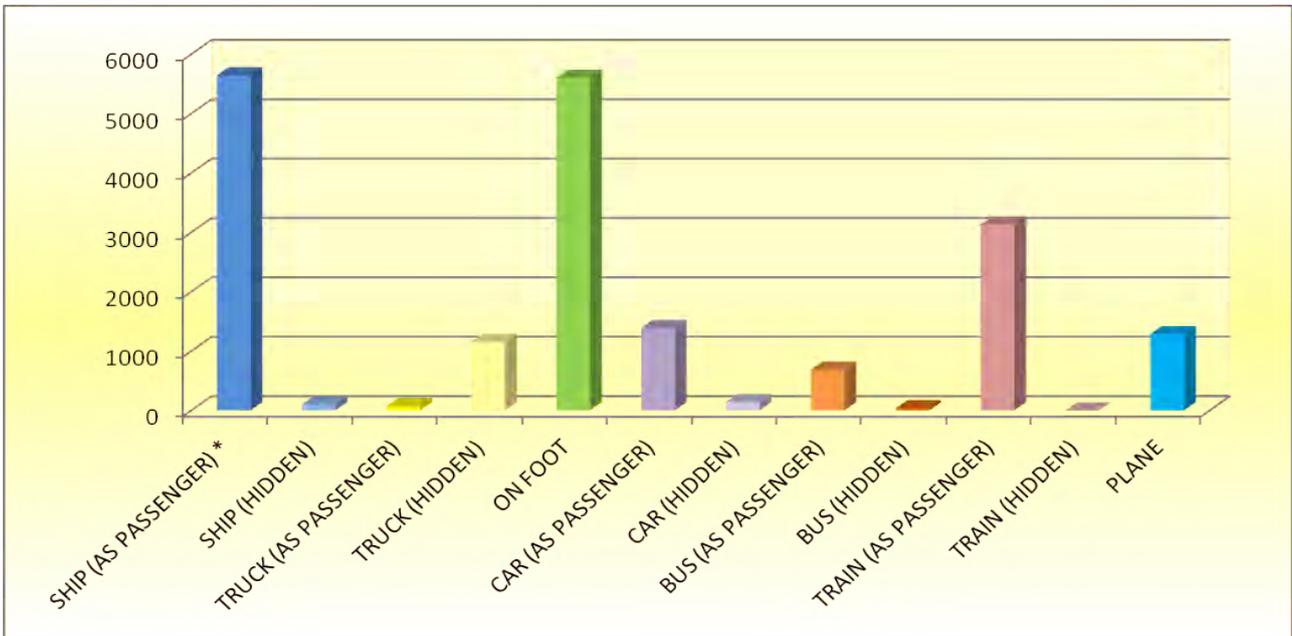
TOT	9890	9344	19234
	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	
SHIP (AS PASSENGER) *	5497*	146	<b>5643</b>
SHIP (HIDDEN)	93	7	<b>100</b>
TRUCK (AS PASSENGER)	7	63	<b>70</b>
TRUCK (HIDDEN)	78	1075	<b>1153</b>
ON FOOT	3098	2505	<b>5603</b>
CAR (AS PASSENGER)	73	1313	<b>1386</b>
CAR (HIDDEN)	14	128	<b>142</b>
BUS (AS PASSENGER)	105	581	<b>686</b>
BUS (HIDDEN)	5	32	<b>37</b>
TRAIN (AS PASSENGER)	6	3123	<b>3129</b>
TRAIN (HIDDEN)	0	0	<b>0</b>
PLANE**	914	371	<b>1285</b>

\*The entry “ship (as passenger)” includes also the 5485 people intercepted during the sea border surveillance activities by the national authorities.

\*\*The item “plane” reports also people being refused entry at the external borders or readmitted in other Schengen/EU countries.

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Apart from people that arrived in Italy and Romania by sea, the majority of irregular migrants were intercepted on foot at the **external border** and on board of trains at the **internal borders**.



However, especially at the **internal borders**, a huge number of people tried to reach their final destination hidden in vehicles (1075 in trucks, 128 in cars, 32 in bus and 7 in ship).

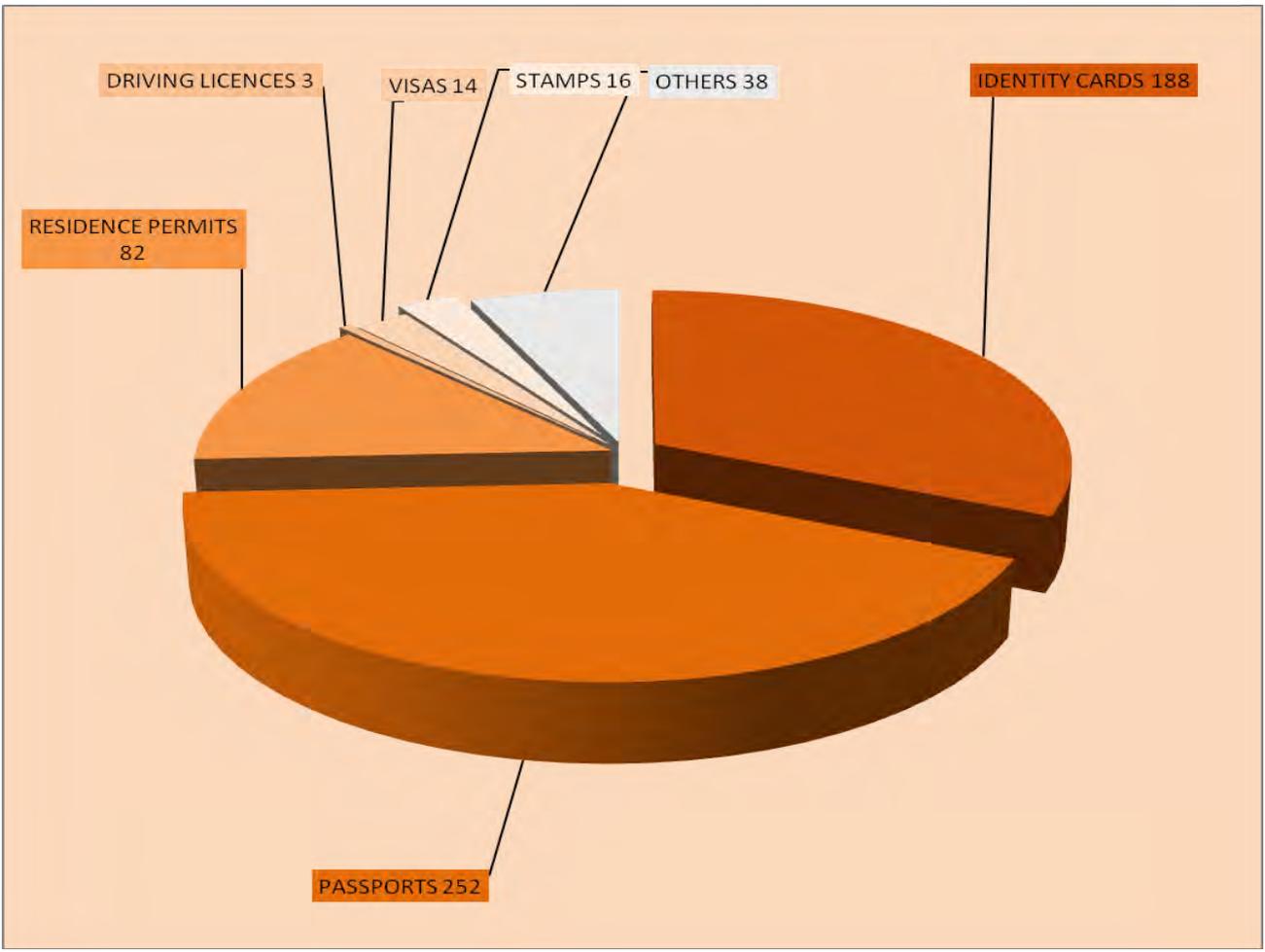
- **Documents seized**

The **593** documents reported in the table below were detected and seized as false, falsified, stolen or used by “impostors”.

At the **external borders** the majority of documents seized were passports (only few issued by EU countries), and residence permits (issued by Belgium, France, Italy, Spain and Greece) followed by identity cards (issued by Italy and Romania).

At the **internal borders** above all identity cards (issued by Greece, Italy, Romania and Poland) were sized, followed by passports (issued by Bulgaria, Italy, Sweden, France and Greece), and residence permits (issued by Italy, Spain and Belgium).

<b>TOT</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>593</b>
	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	
IDENTITY CARDS	29	159	188
PASSPORTS	98	154	252
RESIDENCE PERMITS	30	52	82
DRIVING LICENCES	0	3	3
VISAS	5	9	14
STAMPS	10	6	16
OTHERS	11	27	38

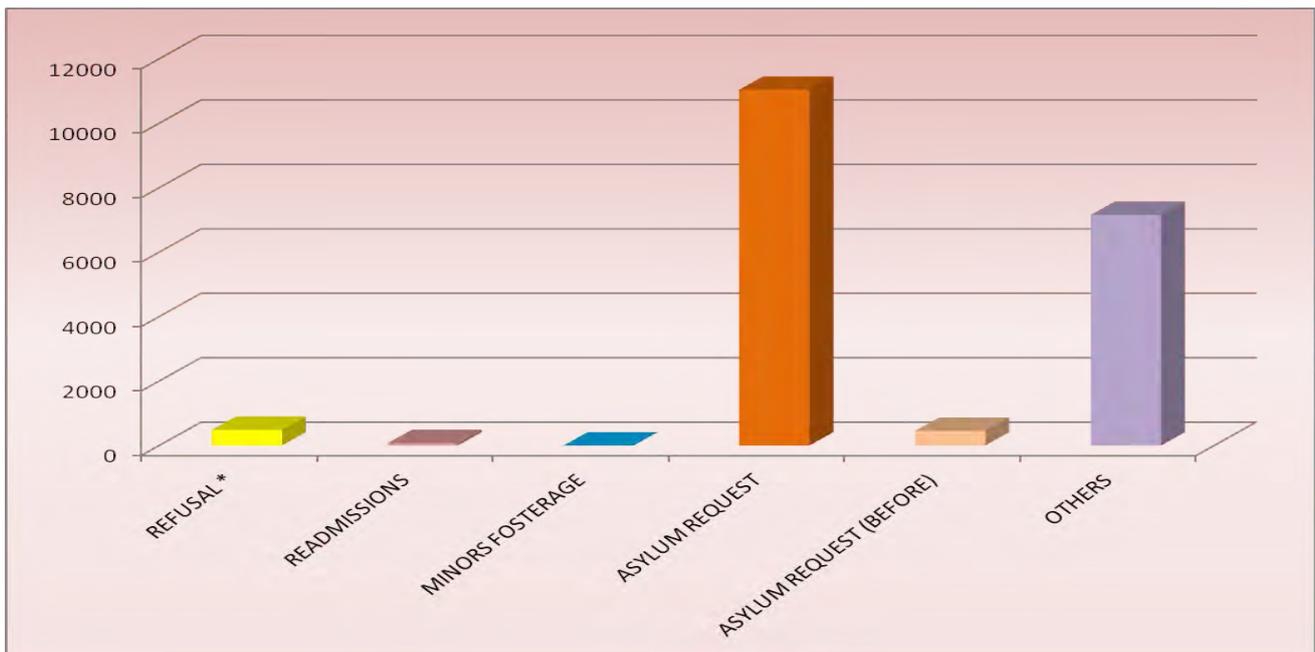


- Administrative measures

TOT	9890	9270	19234
	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	
REFUSAL *	415	74*	489
READMISSIONS	0	79	79
MINORS FOSTERAGE	1	0	1
ASYLUM REQUEST	7249	3797	11046
ASYLUM REQUEST (BEFORE)	18	439	457
OTHERS	2207	4955	7162

*\*It should be taken into account that a border between two EU non Schengen countries or between a Schengen country and an EU country was considered an “internal border” in line with the operational plan.*

A total of 11046 people asked for asylum during or after their interception. Most of them were intercepted at the external borders, and 40% of them arrived by boat. Also at the internal borders a consistent number of people (3797) asked for asylum while 457 migrants were in possession of documentation attesting that they have already applied for international protection.



It was reported only one case of minor fosterage and no incidents were related to unaccompanied minors.

The item “others” includes other administrative measures not mentioned in the list or not specified by MSs in their reports.

- *Final destinations stated by intercepted migrants*

TOT	9890	9344	19234
	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	
UNKNOWN	7351	2132	9483
GERMANY	557	2456	3013
UNITED KINGDOM	57	1499	1556
BELGIUM	79	698	777
HUNGARY	744	6	750
THIRD COUNTRIES	387	219	606
AUSTRIA	128	308	436
SWEDEN	127	306	433
FRANCE	31	375	406
ITALY	113	216	329
SPAIN	53	228	281
DENMARK	2	237	239
NORWAY	17	180	197
THE NETHERLANDS	58	129	187
ROMANIA	92	86	178
FINLAND	11	110	121
IRELAND	18	26	44
SWITZERLAND	8	32	40
PORTUGAL	23	13	36
POLAND	1	29	30
CZECH REPUBLIC	6	19	25
SLOVAKIA	9	14	23
GREECE	11	0	11
MALTA	2	9	11
LUXEMBOURG	0	7	7
BULGARIA	5	0	5
CROATIA	0	4	4
SLOVENIA	0	3	3
LATVIA	0	3	3

The table above shows the final destinations stated by irregular migrants during the interviews, after their interception at the external and internal borders.

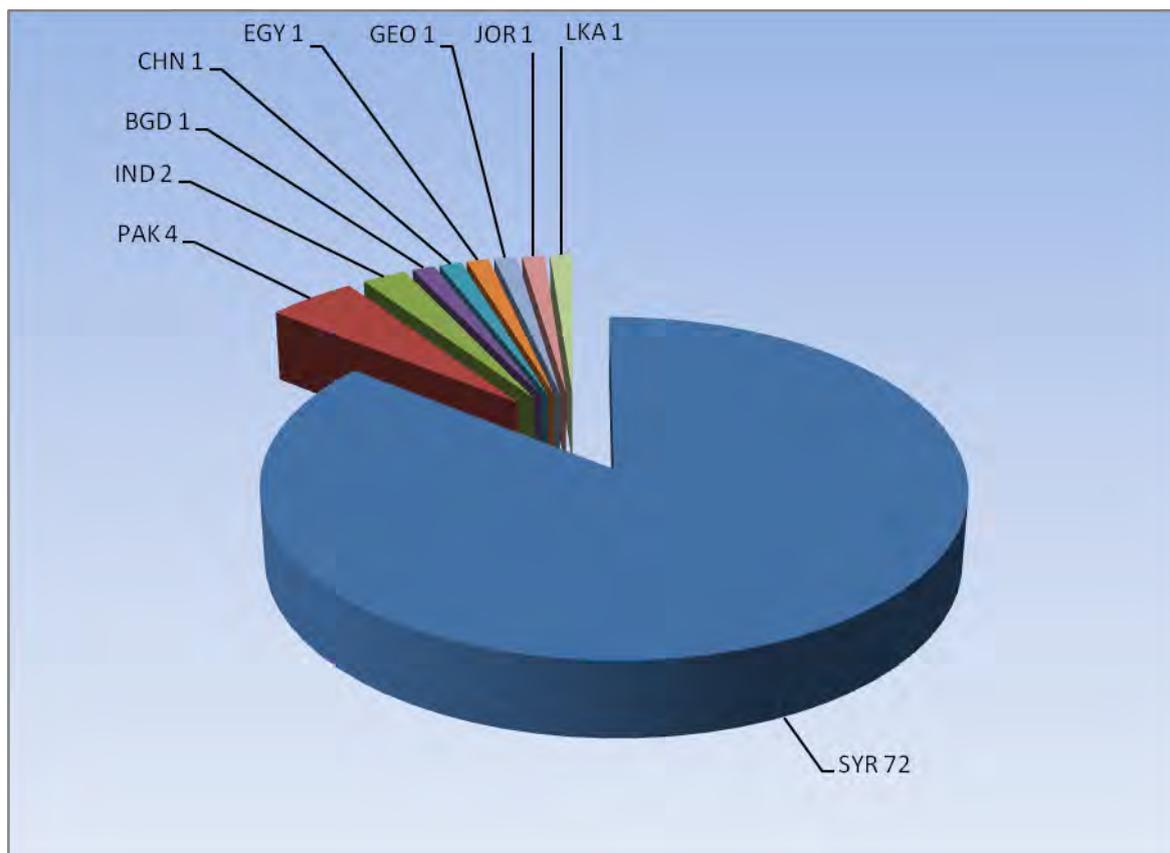
The majority of migrants intercepted by sea (during the surveillance activities) didn't declare their final destination or stated generically "Europe", both these statements were indicated in the table under the item "unknown". Moreover, under the item "third countries" were gathered a lot of different third countries, stated as final destinations by migrants originated from these countries.

- **Operational results made by Cyprus**

As Cyprus reported the data after the deadline it was not possible to insert them in the general table. For this reason the results made by this Country were not taken into account in all the analysis reported in this document.

However, Cyprus results in the J.O. "*MOS MAIORUM*" are the following:

- **84** irregular migrants were intercepted at the **external borders** (4 people came by plane and all the others were found on foot, all undocumented) and **2** at the **internal border** (both arrived by plane with fake documents);
- **2** irregular migrants were intercepted at the **internal borders** (and they arrived by plane);



- 3 facilitators were apprehended (their nationality is unknown);
- 2 documents were seized, both at the **internal border** (1 Spanish Residence Permit and 1 Hungarian Identity card)
- 76 people asked for asylum after the apprehension, while 3 had already applied for international protection in some other countries.

The 2 Syrians intercepted at the **internal border** stated to arrive in Cyprus coming from Syria and Turkey (on foot and using cars and boats).

All the Syrians intercepted at the **external** border stated the route followed to reach the country of interception:

- 40 people declared to have arrived in Cyprus by boat (from Turkey) and to have crossed the Syrian-Turkish border on foot;
- 32 irregular migrants stated to have reached Cyprus by boat directly from Syria.

However, the 3 Pakistani and the 2 Indians stated to have arrived from their own countries (through Turkey) to Cyprus by plane.

The **final destination** stated by the 98% of the irregular migrants intercepted was Cyprus.

➤ **IRREGULAR MIGRATION AT THE EU’S EXTERNAL BORDERS**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Operation MOS MAIORUM was organised by the Central Directorate for Immigration and Border Police of the Italian Ministry of the Interior in the framework of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union between 13 and 26 October 2014. The main aim of the Operation “MOS MAIORUM” was to gather information from all participating countries, on irregular migration flows within the Member States of the European Union and Schengen associated countries focusing on irregular border-crossings. In addition, focus was placed on monitoring the secondary movements of irregular migrants who entered the Member States irregularly.

All EU Member States and Schengen associated countries were invited to participate in the operation and report their data according to the data collection method agreed. The Italian Presidency submitted the data gathered during the Operation after the finalisation of the operation to Frontex’s Risk Analysis Unit.

As stipulated in the operation plan of “MOS MAIORUM”, the aim of the Frontex contribution to the final report of the Italian Presidency is to provide an overview of the situation concerning irregular migration at the EU’s external borders before and during the Operation “MOS MAIORUM”. For the purposes of this report FRAN data from January to September 2014 were taken into account in conjunction with data from the Joint Operations Poseidon Land, Poseidon Sea, Aeneas, Hermes, Indalo, Flexi Operational Activities and Focal Points Land for the month of October. In addition to this data, information from the European Union Document-Fraud Network (EDF), PULSAR as well as from the most recent publication of the Assessment for Operational Deployment<sup>2</sup> were also used to compile this report.

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<sup>2</sup> Ref R15292 Assessment for Operational Deployment 2015

## 2. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AT THE EU'S EXTERNAL BORDERS

At EU level, during the first 6 months of 2014, detections of irregular border-crossings at the external land and sea borders<sup>3</sup> of the EU totalled 90 200, a level which shows an increase of 160% compared to the first half of 2013 despite a 30% decrease in the number of irregular migrant apprehensions at the land borders.

As of 31 October 2014, this number had risen to approximately 229 000. This enormous increase is due to the unprecedented scale of irregular migratory flows at sea across the Central Mediterranean and to a lesser extent to the increasing number of irregular migrant apprehensions on the Eastern Mediterranean sea route.

### 2.1. Irregular Migration Routes

#### 2.1.1. Eastern Mediterranean Route

Over the past few years the Eastern Mediterranean region remained a hotspot of irregular migration. Detections have been concentrated at the Greek-Turkish land border and to a lesser extent at the sea border.

However, in August 2012 following the implementation of the Greek operation Aspida at the Greek-Turkish land border and the implementation of the Special Police Operation in Bulgaria at the Bulgarian–Turkish land border at the beginning of November 2013 together with the implementation of Frontex coordinated Joint Operations, the number of irregular migrant apprehensions dropped significantly at the Greek-Turkish and Bulgarian-Turkish land borders. Thus far in 2014 on the Eastern Mediterranean route, the highest number of apprehensions has clearly been registered at the Greek-Turkish maritime border.

In regard to the nationality of irregular migrants recorded in the Eastern Mediterranean - Syrian, Afghan, and Somali nationals were the top nationalities as of 31 October 2014.

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<sup>3</sup> Data collected through the Frontex Risk Analysis Network on persons apprehended for irregular border crossings at the external sea and land borders of the EU out of official border crossing points.

### 2.1.2. Maritime Border

The shift of irregular migratory flows, which started after the strengthening of land border surveillance activities at the Greek–Turkish land border in August 2012, towards the Greek-Turkish sea border continued during 2014. From 1 January to 31 October 2014, more than 35 000 irregular migrants crossed the Greek-Turkish sea border. This figure shows a 330% increase on the Greek Eastern Aegean Islands compared to the same period of 2013. In addition, the Greek authorities apprehended 191 facilitators and prevented the crossing of more than 300 migrant boats, which had departed from the Turkish coast.

Moreover, the Turkish authorities have continued patrolling the Aegean Sea intercepting migrants, typically aboard inflatable boats, before they could reach Greek territorial waters.

From 1 January to 31 October this year, the highest migratory pressure was reported from the Greek Eastern Aegean Islands, with nearly 98% of the total number of apprehensions reported in this region, while only 2% of the irregular migrants were apprehended on or off the west coast of Greece, south Peloponnesus and Crete.

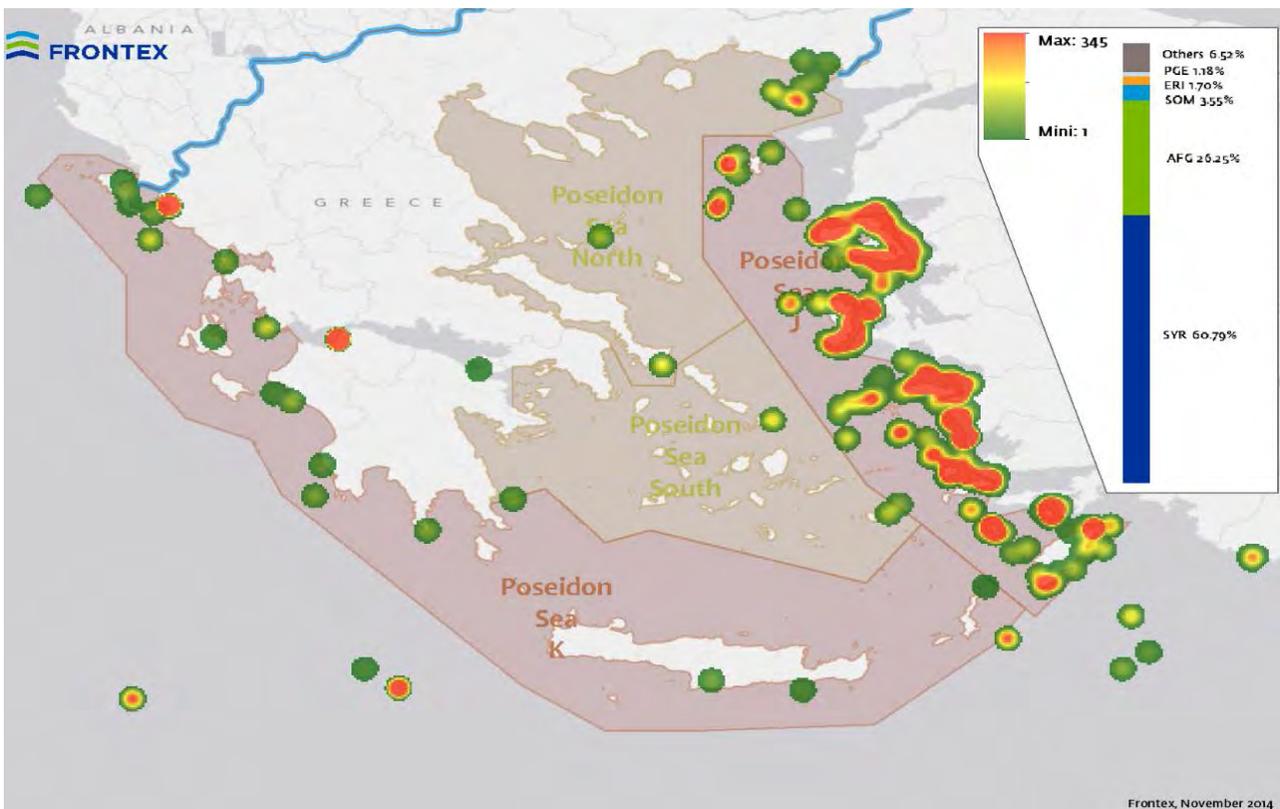


Figure 1: Density of apprehensions in the South Eastern Mediterranean sea region (1 Jan to 31 Oct 2014).

Thus far in 2014, the **most targeted islands** have been, as last year, Lesbos (9 324), Samos (6 164) and Chios (5 918). However, during 2014 facilitation networks operating on the Turkish coast have also started to target other islands in the Eastern Aegean Sea, which reported low numbers of irregular border-crossings during 2013. As facilitation networks are constantly changing the landing points, in an attempt to avoid apprehension, almost all islands in the Eastern Aegean Sea have started to report apprehensions.

Following the implementation of the special operations at both the Greek and Bulgarian land borders with Turkey, facilitation networks operating in Turkey have increased their activities on the west coast of Turkey and are now specialising in sea crossings.

One of the main '**pull factors**', which attracts migrants **towards the Greek Islands**, is the lack of detention capacity and the fact that after a few days in detention they are released and given an expulsion order **permitting, de facto, their stay** on Greek territory **for 30 days**.

Therefore, once the migrants reach one of the Greek Islands, they report themselves to the local authorities in order to obtain an administrative document that allows them to travel by ferry to Athens. It is worth mentioning that in the case of **Syrian** nationals the administrative document allows them to remain legally in Greece for up to **6 months**. Therefore, Arabic speaking migrants from different countries often claim to be Syrian in the hope that they can take advantage of the specific status of this particular nationality.

As far as vulnerable groups are concerned, the Syrian migrants arriving in family groups on the Greek Aegean Islands comprise a high number of women and children.

Apart from irregular migration, the Eastern Mediterranean Sea region is also affected by smuggling activities, namely cigarettes and drugs. In this regard, it is worth mentioning one of the largest hauls of cigarettes detected in Greek territorial waters, containing 10.9 million cigarettes. On 23 June, aircraft deployed under the JO Poseidon Sea detected two suspicious vessels in the area of Marathopoli (south-west coast of Peloponnesus in Greece). A Hellenic Coast Guard vessel arrived in the area and following a pursuit intercepted and seized a speed boat laden with cigarettes (many different brands were seized). A cargo ship, also laden with cigarettes, was intercepted and seized after a pursuit with 6 Ukrainian crew members on board, while a lorry used for transporting the cigarettes was found abandoned in the coastal area.

## *Secondary movement from Greece to the EU*

The secondary movement of irregular migrants via the Balkan route from Greece across the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to Serbia and then to the EU via Hungary is still relevant. The vast majority of irregular migrants detected at the Hungarian-Serbian border claim to have departed from Greece and to have travelled on the aforementioned route.

The organisation of secondary movements from Greece usually starts from Athens where facilitation networks composed mainly of Afghans, Pakistanis, Syrian nationals of Kurdish ethnicity and Albanian nationals offer various options for further travel to other EU Member States.

### *2.1.3. Greek-Turkish Land Border*

From 1 January until 31 October 2014, a total of 1563 irregular migrants were apprehended along the Greek–Turkish land border section. This represents a 130% increase compared with the same period in 2013. In other words, whilst in 2013 the average monthly figure for apprehended irregular migrants at this border section was around 60, the number increased during the first 10 months of 2014 to 156 migrants per month. In addition, several incidents were reported concerning the detection of irregular migrants inland, within a few kilometres from the border, mainly on highways. It is worth noting that these migrants had successfully crossed the border irregularly.

The **main hub** for irregular migrants, who gather before travelling onwards to Greece, remains Istanbul. In the centre of Istanbul facilitation networks offer numerous routes to enter the EU. The **Turkish** authorities **reported** a decrease in migration pressure at the Bulgarian green border during the first 10 months of 2014. At the same time, the **Turkish** authorities reported an increase in detections at the Turkish land border section with Greece<sup>4</sup>.

The **main nationalities** of migrants apprehended during the first 10 months of 2014 were Syrian (986) followed in descending order by Iraqi (224), Afghan (137), Pakistani (48), Georgian (33) and Eritrean (21).

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<sup>4</sup> *This information was confirmed by the Turkish authorities during a bilateral meeting with the Greek authorities where the Turkish Police reported that a total of 11 000 migrants were apprehended on Turkish territory in the Police District of Edirne from 1 January to 16 June 2014.*

Syrian nationals, who also represented the highest number of irregular migrants apprehended in Bulgaria, mainly travel from Syria to Turkey. Primarily, these migrants travel via the cities of Van, Urfa and Gaziantep and further by local bus or by making use of a facilitator to Istanbul or Edirne. They arrange their transport from Istanbul to Edirne and then further to the Greek–Turkish border section.

Recently the operational areas **affected the most** by irregular migration have been the operational areas of **Orestiada and Didimoteicho**. The Egnatia highway, which provides excellent transport opportunities towards Athens or Thessaloniki, the river border and the difficult topographical conditions to patrol and survey this area properly, act together in making this border section a vulnerable point of entry into the EU. The *modi operandi* used to enter Greece have not changed significantly in the past year. Mainly inflatable boats are used by irregular migrants to cross the Evros River. Especially noteworthy is that recently facilitators have changed their behaviour, for instance, they are not accompanying migrants across the river in order not to be arrested by the Greek border authorities.

Before the operation Aspida was implemented, irregular migrants usually crossed the river border on their own without the assistance of a facilitator and reported themselves to the police after their irregular border-crossing. This has changed due to amendments in Greek migration law and the increased length of time in which irregular migrants can be detained after apprehension. For this reason irregular migrants try to avoid apprehension and make use of arranged transportation from the border area along the Egnatia highway to major cities and seaports such as Athens and Thessaloniki or Patras.

#### *2.1.4. Bulgarian-Turkish Land Border*

In 2013, irregular migration pressure at this border section reached its peak with a total of 856 apprehended migrants in one week during October. The implementation of the Special Police Operation in Bulgaria and the deployment of approximately 1 600 additional officers starting on 11 November 2013 resulted in a sharp decrease in the number of irregular migrant detections at the Bulgarian–Turkish land border.

This decreasing trend along the green border continued during the first 10 months of 2014. The total number of apprehended migrants from 1 January until 31 October 2014 was 3 213, this represents a decrease of more than 60% on the same period the previous year.

The main nationalities apprehended from 1 January to 31 October 2014 were nationals from Syria (2 372) followed by migrants from Afghanistan (536) and Iraq (137).

After reaching Edirne migrants cross the green border irregularly on foot either assisted by facilitators until they reach the borderline or they are equipped with smart phones including GPS applications with recorded paths to be followed. Having crossed the border, the migrants usually walk for several hours through the forest. They are instructed that if they get lost, they should telephone the emergency services, in order to be rescued by the Bulgarian Police.

If the migrants are apprehended, they are instructed by facilitators to apply for asylum in order to be transferred to an open migration reception centre. In this way, they are able to continue their travel to their destination countries.

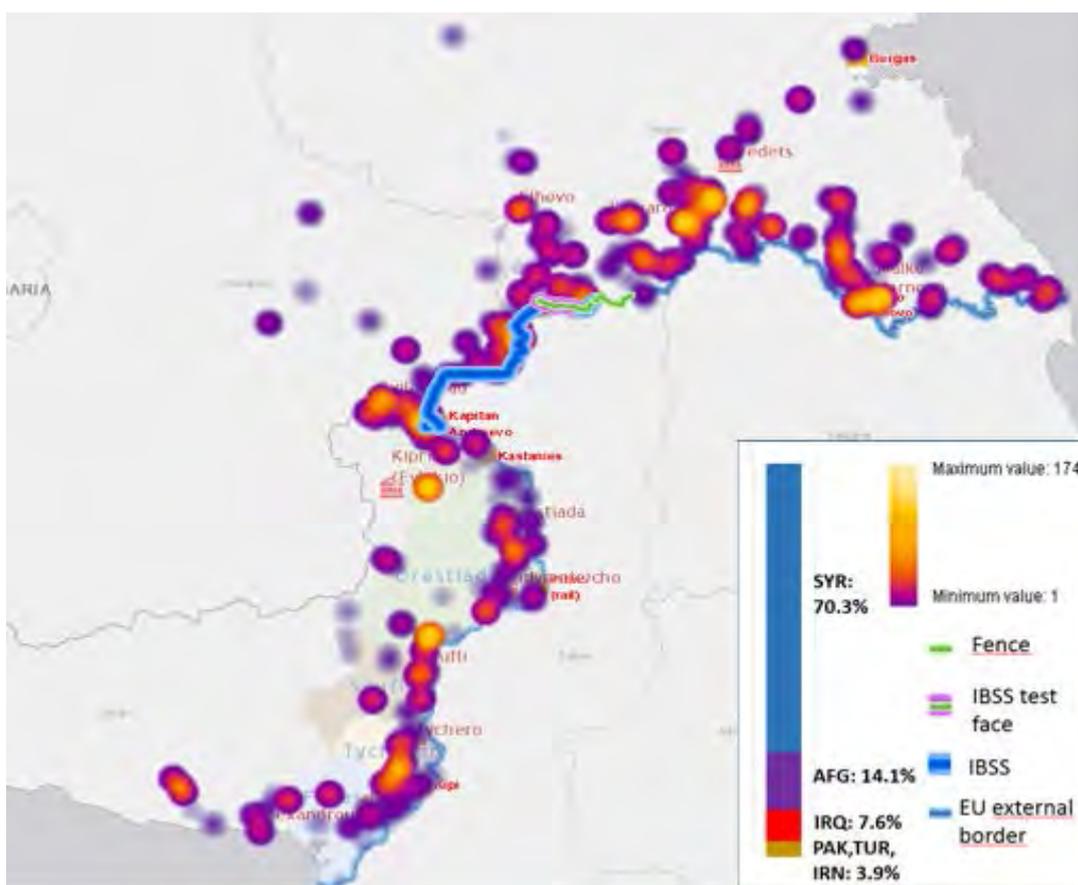


Figure 2: Main areas of migrant apprehensions at the GRC-TUR and BGR-TUR land borders from 1 January to 31 October 2014.

Thus far in 2014, the main areas of apprehension have been similar to last year: for instance, the BCU Malko Tarnovo reported the highest number of irregular migrant apprehensions followed by the BCU Elhovo and the BCU Sredets. Facilitators are aware of the location and range of the IBSS system and the newly constructed technical engineering obstacle and therefore migrants are more often apprehended in an area not covered by these systems. Those migrants detected by the system while moving inside Turkish territory were usually apprehended by Turkish forces.

Since the crossing of the Bulgarian-Turkish land border has become more difficult facilitation networks have started to smuggle migrants hidden in lorries to Bulgaria via the BCPs Kapitan Andreevo and Lesovo and further to other EU Member States.

#### *2.1.5. Central Mediterranean Region*

The disproportionate increase witnessed in the Central Mediterranean in 2014 has been related to migrants departing mainly from the Libyan coast towards the Italian Islands of Lampedusa and Sicily. Over 86% of them were rescued in the Search and Rescue area outside the operational area, most of them by Italian Naval assets deployed in the framework of Operation Mare Nostrum (MN).

This trend increased rapidly during the second and third quarters of 2014. By the end of October more than **150 000 irregular migrants** were reported in the region targeting Italy. The figures for the whole region are about five times higher than in the same period of 2013, including detections by Malta for which Operation MN has caused a reduction in the number of irregular migrants arriving (about 659 arrivals during 2014 compared to the 2 090 arrivals reported during 2013) on the island, roughly 60% less than last year.

In 2014, Libya has clearly become the main departure point to the EU for tens of thousands of irregular migrants mainly from Syria, Eritrea, Mali, Nigeria, Gambia and many other sub-Saharan, Middle Eastern and Asian countries. All together more than 53 different nationalities have been identified.

The unprecedented increase in the irregular migratory flow from Libya is associated to a series of reasons. On the one hand, the growing presence in coastal areas of Libya of a large number of migrants from sub-Saharan and Horn of African countries, as well as Syrian, Palestinian refugees and Bangladeshi nationals willing to migrate to the EU. This is linked to the unstable situation in Libya, the increased level of violence and the lack of public order since the fall of the Gaddafi regime, making life in Libya unbearable for migrants, mainly for those coming from sub-Saharan and Horn of African countries that are constantly abused by Libyan citizens.

The presence of the assets of the operation Mare Nostrum, patrolling closer to the Libyan coast with the aim of preventing the loss of migrants' lives, has been exploited by facilitation networks in Libya, who have been able to push an increasing number of migrants to depart in unseaworthy vessels, with the expectation of being rescued soon after departure.

From April to September this year, the number of migrants targeting Italy mainly from the coast of Libya, has remained high with an average of ~4 650 migrants per week. According to intelligence, many Syrians are travelling from Istanbul, and to a lesser extent from Beirut and Amman to Algiers in order to reach Libya via land.

The reception of Syrian migrants at the Libyan border (in Gadamis) is well-organised: trucks are already standing by to carry them to Zuwarah. As the border is closed, they cross the border on foot, although the border guards are easily bribed, some migrants claim.

A similar pattern was described by Eritrean migrants who mentioned that the trilateral border of Libya-Egypt-Sudan is a common rally point where Sudanese facilitators hand over migrants to their Libyan counterparts. The facilitation of Eritrean nationals appears to be very well-organised from their country of origin to EU destination countries. Several migrants mentioned that the facilitators operating in Catania and Milan are linked to the networks in Libya, Turkey or Egypt.

In many cases migrants have to stay in safe houses for certain periods of time which can vary from a few days to a few weeks. The reason why migrants have to wait is to give facilitators the time to gather enough migrants together as they intend to use the boats to their full capacity by overloading the boats with migrants, in this way maximising the financial gain.

In 2014, there has been more than a fourfold increase in irregular migration from Egypt to Italy across the Central Mediterranean from 8 433 to 14 405 irregular migrants. Despite this fourfold increase the total number of migrants is on a smaller scale than irregular migratory flows from Libya. Most of the migrants along this route are Syrian and Egyptian and these Egyptians often claim to be Syrian in order not to be repatriated to Egypt and to be able to obtain asylum. The main final destinations of these migrants were Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands.

In relation to boats/incidents stemming from Tunisia, they all involved small fibreglass or inflatable boats with not more than a dozen migrants on-board that were targeting either Pantelleria or Lampedusa. Despite the favourable weather conditions for sea crossings, the low number of arrivals is related to the traditionally good level of cooperation between the Tunisian and Italian authorities as well as effective border controls conducted on the Tunisian coast by the local authorities and the non-existence of facilitation networks. Moreover, Tunisian migrants are aware of the readmission agreement between Tunisia and Italy and the fact that they will be repatriated immediately upon apprehension by the Italian authorities.

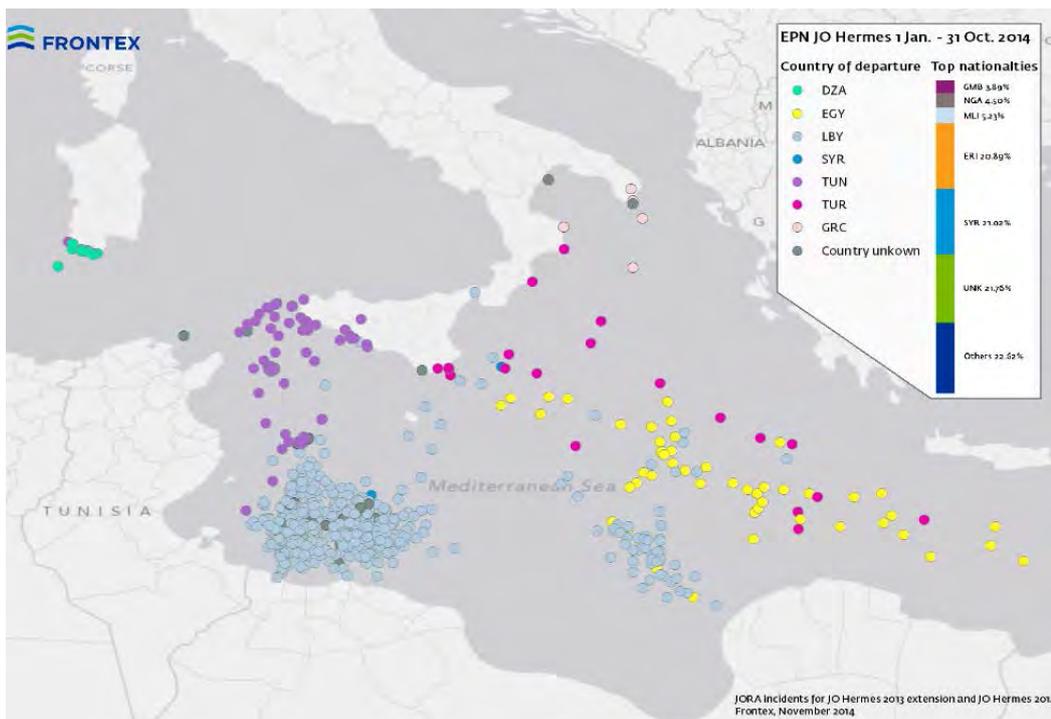


Figure 3: Boats detected by the assets of operation Mare Nostrum and Joint Operation Hermes (1 Jan – 31 Oct 2014), and percentage of nationalities detected. The coloured dots indicate the last country of departure.

### *2.1.6. Western Mediterranean Route*

The Western Mediterranean and the Atlantic regions have been less affected by irregular migration compared to other sea border areas of the Central or Eastern Mediterranean over the past number of years.

The trends and figures concerning this route have to be carefully assessed taking into consideration the interventions reported by the Moroccan authorities with regard to the prevention of departures of would-be migrants as well as the number of migrants deterred. The detection figures confirm the irregular migratory pressures, mainly from Morocco, despite the fact that the overall number cannot be considered high compared with the number of irregular migrants apprehended in other regions.

From 1 January to 31 October 2014, the number of irregular border-crossing incidents increased from 142 in 2013 (1 492 persons) to 238 in 2014 involving the apprehension of 2 760 irregular migrants.

Of the total number of apprehended irregular migrants in irregular border-crossing incidents in 2014, 407 were Algerian, 246 were Moroccan, and the remaining migrants were almost without exception from sub-Saharan countries with a special reference to Cameroonians – 602, Chadians – 250 and Central African Republic nationals - 144.

It is worth noting that during weeks 33 and 34, 134 incidents concerning irregular border-crossing were reported involving the apprehension of 1 342 irregular migrants. This represents the highest number of irregular border-crossing incidents ever registered in the framework of the JO Indalo. It also represents the highest number of apprehended irregular migrants both in the framework of the JO Indalo and in Spain.

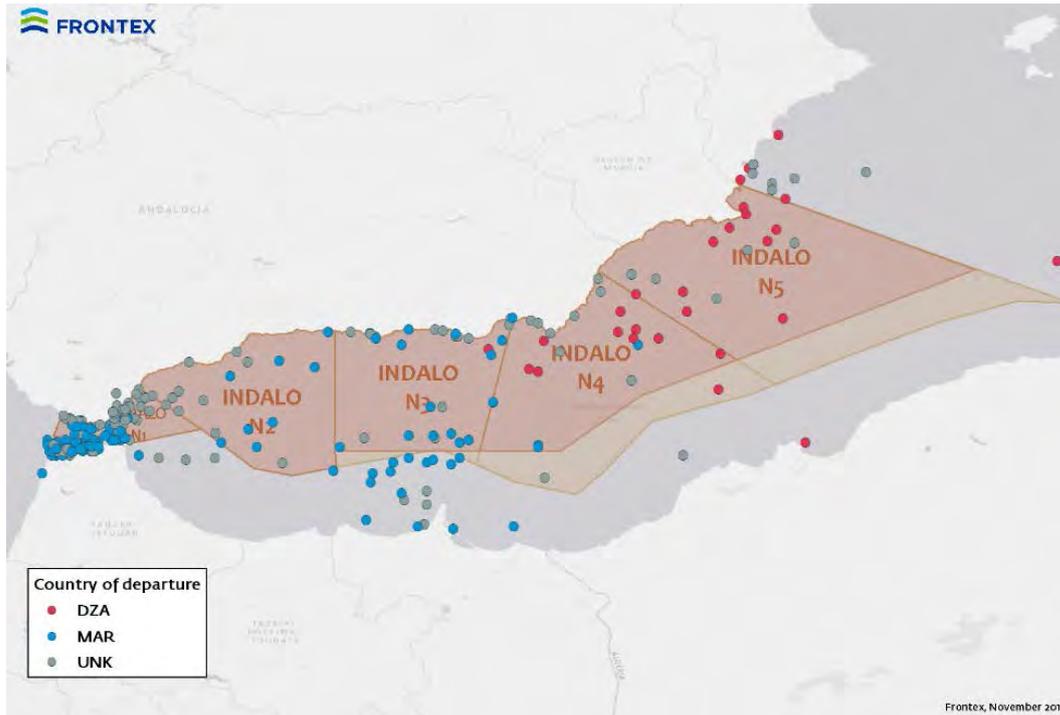


Figure 4: Detections in the Western Mediterranean region from 1 Jan - 31 October.

### 2.1.7. Western Balkan Route

Irregular migration in the Western Balkans is largely influenced by secondary movements along the Eastern Mediterranean route and also shaped by the visa and asylum policy of Member States towards Western Balkan migrants. Since, apart from Kosovars, migrants from Western Balkan countries are visa exempt to the EU, the region has been transformed from being largely a source area to mostly a transit area in terms of irregular border-crossings. The vast majority of detections of irregular border-crossing are related to irregular migrants transiting en route from Greece. This trend changed only in the first half of 2013 when there were more migrants apprehended from the Western Balkans (predominantly migrants from Kosovo<sup>5</sup> 5 031 and Albania 3 923). This trend however has not repeated itself since then.

<sup>5</sup> “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”.

During the first seven months of 2014, the number Kosovar migrants dropped to an average of 160 migrants per month and became the third nationality group after Afghans and Syrians. The reasons for the drop are the measures implemented by EU Member States, particularly in Hungary such as changes in detention policy, accelerated asylum procedures, strengthened voluntary and forced return programs aimed at minimising the abuse of legal channels for entering the EU and residing irregularly.

In August 2014, the number of Kosovar migrants steadily increased and reached a peak in September. This increasing trend may be associated to an increase in the number of Kosovars travelling with their family members (the ratio of females and minors increased compared to the previous months of 2014).

The fact that Kosovo<sup>6</sup> represents the only Western Balkan country without a signed visa liberation agreement with the EU, makes it the main source country of irregular migrants from the region as roughly 70% of all Western Balkan migrants detected for irregular border-crossings at the EU's borders with the Western Balkans in 2014 were Kosovars.

From January to September 2014, along the EU's external land borders with the Western Balkans, by far the highest number of irregular border-crossings was reported from the HUN-SRB border section (12 169). This was followed by detections of irregular border-crossings at the HRV-SRB border section (1 081), indicating that roughly 98% of the irregular migrants detected at the EU's external land borders with the Western Balkans entered the EU from Serbia.

The total number of detected irregular border-crossings involving non-Western Balkan migrants that were reported at the Hungarian external border with Serbia, is much higher than the number of detections reported in Western Balkan countries along the Western Balkan route. This indicates that a large part of the migrants en route from Greece or Bulgaria and travelling across the Western Balkans remain undetected.

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<sup>6</sup> *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.*

As regards refusals of entry issued to migrants from visa-free Western Balkan countries, the number increased during the first seven months of 2014 compared to the same period of 2013. Of the 15 197 persons reported, most were refused entry because of a Schengen alert (5 099), and also for not having sufficient means of subsistence (3 511), and had already stayed for three months within the preceding six month period on the territory of the Member States of the European Union (2 907). Most of these refusals were issued at the border between Hungary and Serbia (6 362), Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2 984) and Greece and Albania (2 515).

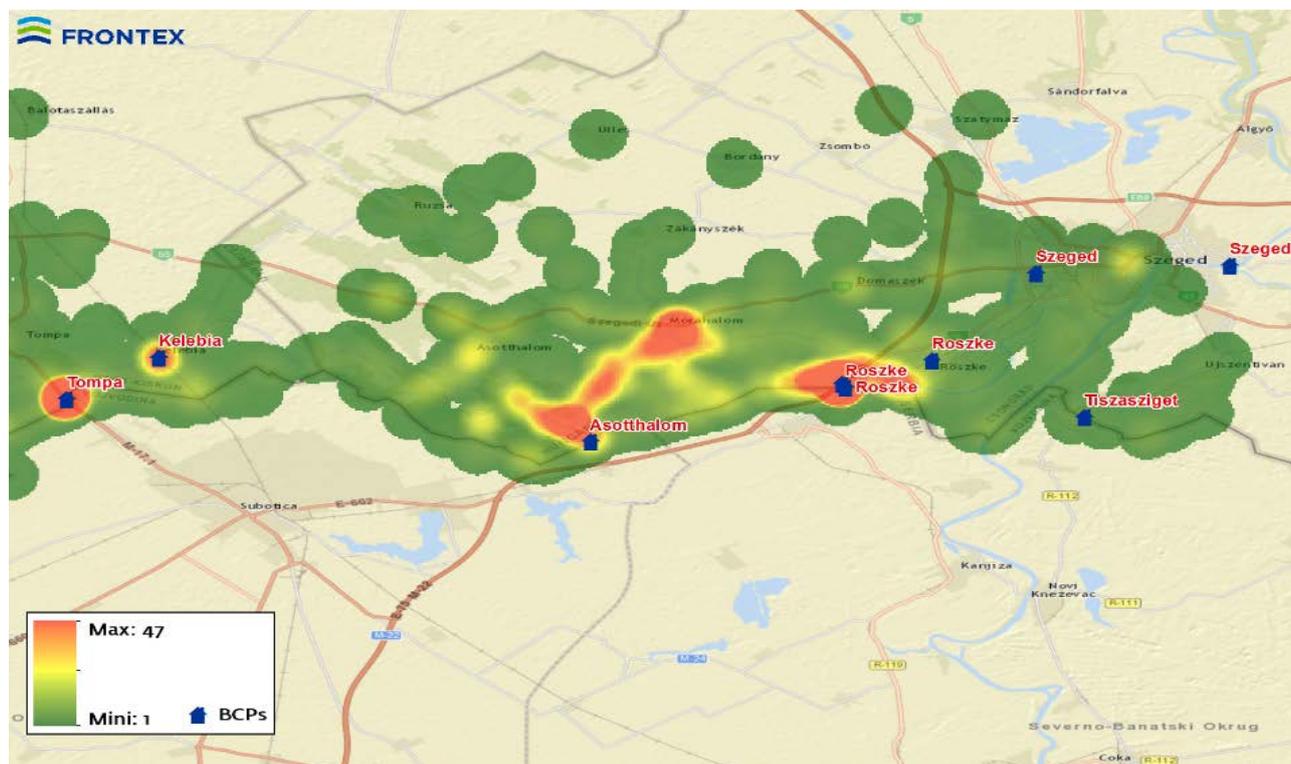


Figure 5: Main areas of migrant apprehensions at the HUN-SRB land border from 1 Jan – 31 Oct 2014.

### 2.1.8. Eastern Border Route

Despite the breakout of the Ukrainian crises which have turned into an armed conflict in the eastern part of Ukraine with 430 000 internally displaced people<sup>7</sup>, so far there has been no significant impact on border security at the eastern land borders. Nonetheless, Ukrainian border guards have continued their surveillance duties at the western borders of the country. Nevertheless, the Member States that share a border with Ukraine have prepared emergency plans in the event of a large influx of refugees from Ukrainian territory.

<sup>7</sup> UNHCR estimates as of Thursday 23 October 2014 are that Ukraine's internally displaced population has risen to 430 000 people, some 170 000 more than at the start of September.

Thus far in 2014, irregular border-crossing<sup>8</sup> detections have remained low at the EU's Eastern land borders. From January to September 2014, only 720 cases of irregular border-crossings were recorded; this represents a 29% decrease compared to the same period in 2013 when 1 013 irregular border-crossing incidents were reported.

### *2.1.9. Air borders*

The migratory situation at the air borders develops dynamically and is driven by many factors. However, the abuse of transit regulations and asylum procedures and the use of document fraud are persistent at the air borders. Migration pressure usually concentrates at airports having direct connections to third countries of migration or airports of major destination countries targeted by certain group of migrants. The large existing Diasporas in the EU, labour opportunities or social benefits provided to migrants and particularly the acceptance rate of asylum applications usually act as 'pull factors' and makes a MS a target for migrants.

The number of asylum claims in the first eight months of 2014 at the EU's air borders was 14 461; the top 5 nationalities were from Syria (6 801), Eritrea (1 721), Iran (582), Sri Lanka (498) and Afghanistan (464). The main affected airports were, in descending order: Stockholm (ARN), London (LHR), Frankfurt (FRA), Amsterdam (AMS) and Vienna (VIE). The weekly average of asylum claims in the first eight months of 2014 was 328 persons. The trend has slightly decreased if compared to the same period in 2013 when the average was about 366 persons per week. Overall, we have seen a decrease in the number of asylum claims due both to the Egyptian nationals claiming asylum in Germany and in Italy from August to October 2013 and the dwindling of the number of Eritrean nationals claiming asylum in Sweden in 2014.

In relation to refusal of entry, the total number was 32 988 persons; the top refused nationalities came from Albania (2 381), the United States (1 883), Brazil (1 742), Algeria (1 305) and Nigeria (1 247). The main airports reporting refusals were Paris (CDG), London (LHR), Madrid (MAD), Rome (FCO) and Frankfurt (FRA). The decreasing trend of Brazilian nationals refused entry started in 2012 when the average was 50 persons per week; thus far in 2014 the weekly refusal rate of Brazilian nationals has stabilised at 40 persons. The drop is related to the economic crisis primarily in Spain and Portugal. The top nationalities refused entry in the EU are almost all refused due to a

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<sup>8</sup> *Total number of irregular border-crossings between BCPs and Irregular border-crossings at BCPs (FRAN data).*

lack of sufficient means (Brazilians) or have no appropriate documentation justifying the purpose and conditions of stay (Albanians, Algerians and Nigerians), and are coming to the EU to seek better living conditions. The exception is nationals from the United States who are almost all refused in the United Kingdom due to a lack of work permits. The trend remains almost at the same level as in 2013 with an average of about 43 refusals of entry per week.

During the first eight months of 2014, most of the cases at the air borders related to Syrian and Eritrean nationals but also to Albanians and Algerians. Syrian and Eritrean nationals were the main nationalities claiming asylum during the first eight months of the year whilst Albanians and Algerians reported the highest increase as persons refused entry.

Nationals from Syria have been the main nationality claiming asylum at the EU's air borders thus far in 2014; by the end of October, 6 801 Syrians claimed asylum. An average of 155 Syrians applied for asylum at EU airports each week during the first eight months of 2014, the main affected airport by far was Stockholm (ARN) followed by Frankfurt (FRA), Amsterdam (AMS) and Oslo (OSL). In Sweden, about 30% of the Syrian nationals who have claimed asylum have arrived by air in 2014.

Following Syrians, an average of 39 Eritrean nationals applied for asylum at EU airports each week during the first six months of 2014. After the peak of asylum claims submitted in May, the number of Eritrean nationals dropped. The main affected airports by far were Stockholm (ARN) and Oslo (OSL), followed by Stockholm (NYO), Amsterdam (AMS) and London (LHR) with a much lower number of claims.

The departure airports in the case of many Syrian and Eritrean nationals arriving at Stockholm (ARN) are unknown. It can be assumed that these migrants arrive on intra-Schengen flights since they are not detected and reported by the airport itself. The data was provided by the Swedish Migration Board mainly based on statements of the migrants recorded during asylum interviews.

When the route was known, Syrians mainly arrived from Istanbul (IST and SAW), or from other minor Turkish airports and from Beirut (BEY). However, increasing arrivals from other unusual locations, particularly from Newark (EWR), New York (JFK), Los Angeles (LAX), Beijing (PEK), Sao Paulo (GRU) and Belgrade (BEG) were also reported.

Travel document abuse, including passports, visas, identity cards, residence permits and travel documents issued to non-nationals is on the rise in the European Union. Pulsar data indicates that there has been an increase in the detection of document abuse at the entry controls of the EU, foremost in regard to passports and visas.

Passport fraud is the most detected document abuse at the EU's air borders; impersonation using genuine documents is increasing, and as last year this has remained the foremost in regard to Syrian nationals. In relation to Syrian nationals, they mainly use Swedish, Syrian, Turkish, Danish and Bulgarian passports, followed by Belgian identity cards and Swedish residence permits. Examining the countries of issuance of passports which were used for attempted irregular entry, overall the most reported passports have been from France, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria.

Visa fraud is the second highest reported type of document abuse at the EU's air borders; the visas detected are mainly fraudulently obtained, followed by counterfeit and forged. In regard to fraudulently obtained visas the main issuing countries are: Germany, France, Italy, Greece, Spain and Poland. Counterfeit visas are mainly of German, Italian and French origin while forged visas are mainly French and Italian. The main nationalities abusing visas are, in descending order, from: the Russian Federation, Nigeria, Afghanistan, China, Iran, Turkey, Libya and Syria.

## **7. EVALUATION AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE OPERATION**

It can be concluded that the aims and the objectives of the Joint Operation “Mos Maiorum” were largely achieved.

The participation was extensive as involved 27 countries (26 MS and 1 SAC) and the results exceeded the expectations.

The reporting system functioned in a proper way, also when more commitment was requested from the participating countries with the aim to divide the external border from the internal border results for analysis purposes.

### **7.1 Conclusions on irregular migration at the EU’s external borders** (made by FRONTEX Risk Analysis Unit)

- The continuing crises in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, the source countries of the main apprehended nationalities as well as the political and security situation in migrants’ countries of origin are having a heavy impact on the dimension and composition of the irregular migratory flow on the Eastern Mediterranean land and sea routes and also affect the Central Mediterranean Sea route and Hungary.
- The implementation of operation Aspida in Greece in August 2012 and the Special Police Operation by the Bulgarian authorities at the beginning of November 2013 resulted in a sharp decrease in the number of irregular migrant apprehensions at Greek and Bulgarian land borders with Turkey during 2013 which continued in 2014. At the same time, the increased activities of the Greek and Bulgarian authorities caused a clear displacement effect of irregular migration flows from the land border to the Greek–Turkish sea border during 2014.
- The Central Mediterranean route is the most important route for irregular border-crossing at the European Union’s external borders, being targeted by boats departing from Libya, Egypt, Tunisia, Turkey, Syria and Greece. Any changes in terms of increase and decrease have a significant impact on the overall picture of irregular migration towards European Union Member States. Consequently, any activities targeting irregular border-crossings and focused only in this area have an important influence on the overall number of irregular migrants irregularly entering the European Union.

- Libya has been plagued by instability since the fall of the Gaddafi regime, this instability is affecting the number of migrant's boats departing from Libya. At the moment, different factions, militias and high ranked officials are taking advantage of irregular migration. There is no central authority to implement effective measures to control migratory flows in Libya and it is unlikely that one will be formed in the short-term.
- Irregular migration in the Western Balkans is largely affected by developments at the EU's external land borders with Turkey and along the Eastern Mediterranean sea route. Therefore, it is likely that the irregular migratory flow generated by the unstable situation in the Middle East and Afghanistan will further reverberate its effects on the Western Balkans with a large number of irregular migrants from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq.
- It is expected that the main migratory routes across the Western Balkans will continue through Serbia and across the green borders of Hungary and Croatia. The number of incidents involving clandestine entry in sealed trucks across Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary to Austria may grow further due to enhanced border surveillance at the green border of Bulgaria with Turkey.
- As regards the Western Mediterranean region the patrolling activities of the Moroccan police and, at the same time, the high level of cooperation between Spain and Morocco are two of the main pillars with regard to preventing and curbing irregular migration in this region. Should these patrolling activities and/or cooperation levels decrease, the number of migrants arriving in Spain might increase significantly.
- In general terms there are no indicators to suggest that the Eastern land borders as a region will develop into a hotspot of irregular migration in 2015. Irregular border-crossings by migrants from neighbouring Eastern border countries towards the EU are low and are expected to remain low in 2015. This trend is likely to continue provided that legal travel channels are available through growing visa issuances and local border traffic agreements. Abuse of legal travel channels will remain the main method of trying to reach the EU by irregular means, resulting in a high number of refusals of entry.

- The high pressure at the air borders in regard to Syrian, Eritrean, Afghan, Sri Lankan and Iranian nationals claiming asylum will most likely continue and might even increase. Long-standing large-scale displacement continues to press humanitarian needs due to recent events in Iraq; therefore, it is very likely that an increasing number of Iraqi nationals will claim asylum at the external air borders.
- In relation to document fraud, an increase in the use of genuine documents as impersonation foremost in regard to Syrian and Stateless nationals from Syria is expected. The increased abuse of transit without visa as a modus operandi will most likely continue in 2015, especially if the conflict continues to escalate in the Middle East.

## 7.2 Conclusions on irregular migration at the internal borders/secondary movements

Looking at the Countries that detected the largest number of irregular migrants at the internal and external borders there are not many differences between them:

<b>EXTERNAL</b>	<b>TOT 9890</b>	<b>INTERNAL</b>	<b>TOT 9344</b>
ITALY	5611	GERMANY	3129
HUNGARY	2859	AUSTRIA	1183
GERMANY	509	UNITED KINGDOM	995
BULGARIA	304	FRANCE	958
ROMANIA	224	BELGIUM	843
BELGIUM	74	ITALY	343
THE NETHERLANDS	61	SPAIN	304
PORTUGAL	44	NORWAY	261
SPAIN	42	ROMANIA	258
AUSTRIA	36	HUNGARY	216

The irregular migrants intercepted at the internal borders were coming from different areas and following different routes to reach their final destinations.

In particular:

- Syrian/Afghan/Iraqi nationals (a total of **3523** irregular migrants);
- Eritreans, Somalis and Sudanese (a total of **1534** people);
- Moroccans and Algerians (a total of **597** persons);
- Albanians (**413** migrants);
- Ukrainians (**219** migrants).

The majority of people intercepted during the J.O. “Mos Maiorum” were trying to reach their final destination countries by train, car or bus. However most of them were found in land on foot or hidden in vehicles (1075 in trucks, 128 in cars, 32 in bus and 7 in ship).

The number of fake/false documents used by migrants and seized at the internal borders is twice the number of document seized at the external borders. The majority of them were identity cards (issued by Greece, Italy, Romania and Poland), passports (issued by Bulgaria, Italy, Sweden, France and Greece) and residence permits (issued by Italy, Spain and Belgium).

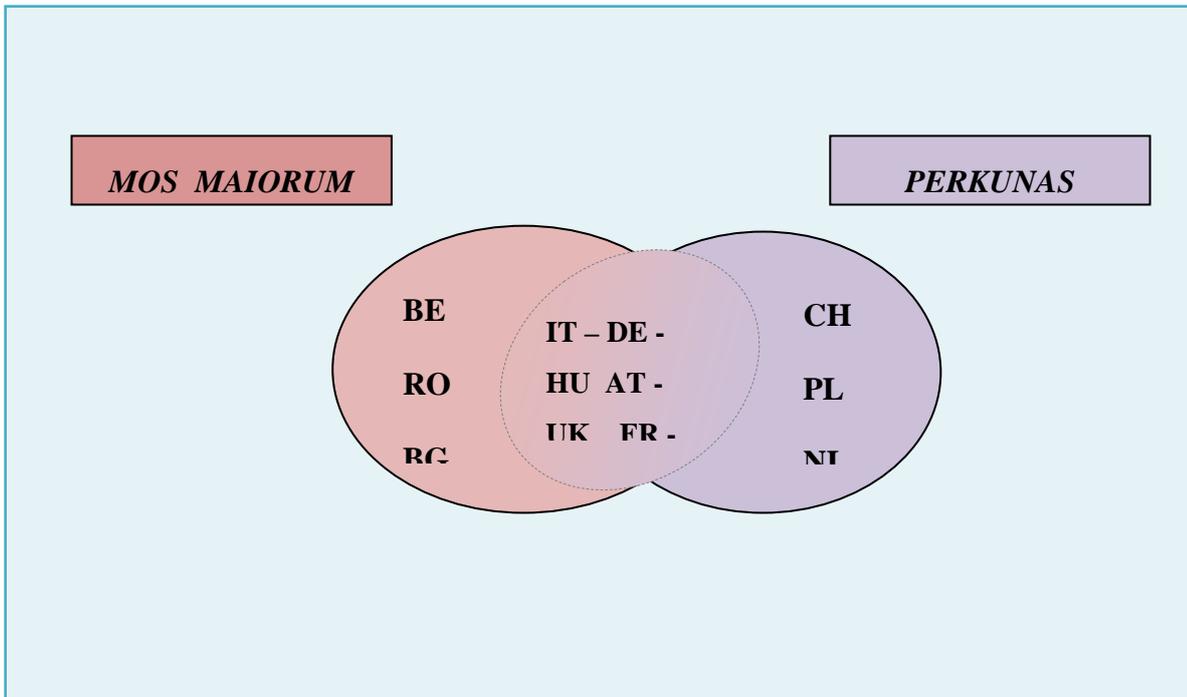
### 8.3 **Overall conclusions**

#### ➤ Comparison with the J.O. “PERKUNAS”

Comparing the TOP 10 countries of the Joint Operation “MOS MAIORUM” with the TOP 10 countries of the Joint Operation “PERKUNAS” it seems that the trend has not changed a lot as the majority of the reporting countries in the first 10 positions are the same.

**TOP 10 COUNTRIES**    *MOS MAIORUM (Total 19234) %*    *PERKUNAS (Total 10459)%*

ITALY	<b>5954</b>	30,96 %	<b>4800</b>	48,89%
GERMANY	<b>3683</b>	18,91 %	<b>1606</b>	15,36 %
HUNGARY	<b>3075</b>	15,99 %	<b>694</b>	6,64 %
AUSTRIA	<b>1219</b>	6,34 %	<b>411</b>	3,93%
UNITED KINGDOM	<b>995</b>	5,17 %	<b>694</b>	7,89 %
FRANCE	<b>958</b>	4,98 %	<b>154</b>	1,47 %
BELGIUM	<b>917</b>	4,77 %	----	----
ROMANIA	<b>482</b>	2,51 %	----	----
BULGARIA	<b>409</b>	2,13 %	----	----
SPAIN	<b>346</b>	1,80 %	<b>341</b>	3,26 %
SWITZERLAND	----	----	<b>392</b>	3,75%
POLAND	----	----	<b>368</b>	3,52 %
THE NETHERLANDS	----	----	<b>140</b>	1,34 %



➤ Mass media attention

For unknown reasons, the Joint Operation “*MOS MAIORUM*” captured the attention of the mass media that labeled it as an operation aiming at arresting migrants even if its aims were to target the criminal networks that facilitate the irregular migration and to monitor/check the most used routes followed by them. These goals were achieved (as a total of 257 facilitators were apprehended).

Moreover, in line with the Operational Plan, all participating countries were required to carry out all the activities in full respect of the highest standard of ethical conduct, professionalism and respect of human rights, taking also into account the special needs of vulnerable groups (as unaccompanied minors, victim of trafficking or people in need of medical treatments).



➤ Goals achieved

It can be concluded that the aims and objectives of the Joint Operation “*MOS MAIORUM*” were largely achieved.

The participation was extensive, involving 27 countries (26 MS and 1 SACs) that cooperated and supported the operation in an excellent spirit.

The experience of all the police officers from the participating countries, the deep knowledge of the modus operandi used by irregular migrants and of the main routes followed by criminal networks to transport people from one country to another permitted to intercept a huge number of migrants and apprehend a total of 257 facilitators. In particular it should be underlined that the number of facilitators intercepted at the internal borders is larger than the number of those intercepted at the external borders, despite the fact that it is more difficult to detect and apprehend facilitators during internal borders/inland checks than in BCPs.

Thanks to the professionalism, skills and competences of the above-mentioned police officers involved in the J.O., all the objectives and goals were successfully reached, with excellent operational results.

The good cooperation between participants and the Central Directorate for Immigration and Border Police of the Italian Ministry of Interior enabled also to gather a lot of useful information for intelligence and analysis purposes that were forwarded also to FRONTEX Agency.

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