

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 107,216 in 2018; Deaths Reach 2,123

[Home](#) › [Press Room](#) › [Press Releases](#) › Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 107,216 in 2018; Deaths Reach 2,123

Posted: 11/30/18 **Themes:** Refugee and Asylum Issues

Geneva – IOM, the UN Migration Agency, reports that 107,216 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2018 through 28 November. This year is the fifth straight during which the arrival of irregular migrants and refugees has topped the 100,000 threshold – although 2018’s total is low compared to those recorded at this time in 2017 (160,440) and 2016 (350,549).

IOM Italy.

IOM Rome’s Flavio Di Giacomo on Thursday noted that all seaborne irregular arrivals in the Mediterranean region remain lower – by almost 10,000 people – than arrivals last year at this time only to Italy, which recorded 117,042 through this date (see chart below).

Mediterranean Developments

TOTAL ARRIVALS BY SEA AND DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2017-2018					
	1 JANUARY – 28 NOVEMBER 2018		1 – 28 NOVEMBER 2018	1 JANUARY – 28 NOVEMBER 2017	
Country of Arrival	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Arrivals	Deaths
Italy	23,009	1,278 (Central Med. route)	978	117,042	2,844 (Central Med. route)
Malta	1,182 (IOM est.)		149	N/A	
Greece	29,417	167 (Eastern Med. route)	1,914	26,915	61 (Eastern Med. route)
Cyprus	930		184	501 (as of 31/07)	
Spain	52,678	678 (Western Med. route)	4,277	15,982 (as of 31/10)	176 (Western Med. route)
Estimated Total	107,216	2,123	7,502	160,440	3,081

Data on deaths of migrants compiled by IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre.
All numbers are minimum estimates. Arrivals based on data from respective governments and IOM field offices.

Di Giacomo noted as well on Thursday that a Spanish fishing boat, the “Nuestra Madre Loreto,” has been stuck at sea for six days now after rescuing 12 migrants who sailed from Libya on a dinghy earlier this month. Thus far no EU country has agreed to grant these migrants authorization to land.

IOM’s Missing Migrants Project (MMP) has recorded 2,123 people who have drowned or gone missing on migratory routes across

Mediterranean in 2018.

Most recently, three people drowned in the Western Mediterranean where Spanish rescue services recovered the remains of three migrants from a sinking boat in the Alboran Sea on 28 November; 90 survivors from that voyage were disembarked in Motril, Granada.

MMP also increased by one its total of drownings on the Central Mediterranean route because it received new information about an incident that occurred on 15 November off Sardinia in which at least 10 youths from Algeria were lost. Since IOM first reported on this incident another body has been recovered. MMP now believes six victims remain missing, with four bodies recovered. Initial reports indicated only nine victims were recorded.

IOM Spain

IOM Spain's Ana Dodevska reported that through Wednesday (28 November) 4,277 men, women and children have arrived as irregular migrants this month, or slightly more than 1,000 people per week. This is a sharp drop from October (nearly 2,500 per week) or September (almost 1,900) when deaths at sea were lower, despite the higher arrival volume (see chart below).

MONTHLY BREAKDOWN - ARRIVALS BY SEA TO SPAIN 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018				
Month	2018	2017	2016	2015
January	1.400	1.049	492	264
February	1.102	535	222	44
March	867	842	351	280
April	1.258	900	451	243
May	3.523	835	575	512
June	6.926	2.352	715	414
July	7.855	2.164	458	409
August	6.406	2.203	934	417
September	8.054	1.486	1.248	621
October	11.010	3.616	1.110	1.059
November	4.277 (as of 28/11)	4.061	854	557
December		2.065	752	492
TOTAL	52.678	22.108	8.162	5.309

IOM Greece

IOM Greece reported on Thursday that no rescue operations have been conducted by the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG) since at least

last Tuesday (27 November) and that over two of four days this past week (25-28 November) IOM has been made aware of no new sea arrivals to Greece via the eastern Mediterranean route. On those other two days – when there were arrivals to Chios, Samos, Lesvos and Leros – a total of 253 migrants came ashore, including 89 last Sunday to Leros, an island rarely accessed by irregular migrants or the smugglers who transport them.

Those 253 arrivals (236 on Sunday and 17 on Monday), bring to 29,417 the total number of sea arrivals to Greece this year through 28 November. That is just short of the total (29,595) arriving through all last year, a total that appears will be surpassed in the coming days (see chart below).

Arrivals by sea

Country	01 Jan – 31 Dec 2014	01 Jan – 31 Dec 2015	01 Jan – 31 Dec 2016	01 Jan – 31 Dec 2017	01 Jan – 28 Nov 2018
Greece	34,442	853,650	173,614	29,501	29,417

* Unofficial data collected by IOM Greece and the Greek authorities of arrivals by sea.

IOM Greece’s Christine Nikolaidou also reported that land crossings to Greece by irregular migrants mainly using Turkey and Bulgaria are, through ten months of 2018, well ahead of crossings from the same period last year. During the period 1 January to 31 October 2017, 5,428 irregular land arrivals were recorded by the Hellenic Police monitoring movements either from Bulgaria or Turkey. During the same period in 2018 the same authorities recorded 15,276 irregular arrivals – nearly triple the previous year’s rate.

Missing Migrants Project

IOM’s Missing Migrants Project (MMP) has recorded 3,323 people who have died or gone missing on migratory routes across the globe in 2018 (see chart below).

Beyond the Mediterranean, the MMP team recorded several deaths on land routes in Europe. On 27 November, the remains of four men were found on train tracks near the town of Fylakas, in north-eastern Greece. Local authorities reported that a night train ran over the group of migrants, who may have been sleeping on the lines. On the same day, a young Algerian man reportedly drowned in the Reka river, in Ilirska Bistrica, Slovenia. He was travelling with a group of six migrants, who were apprehended by authorities on 27 November.

A vehicle accident on Wednesday, 28 November killed a young Syrian man in the Egnatia Odos highway, near the town of Kavala,

Greece. Missing Migrants Project data show that migrants are often forced to take unsafe modes of travel, as transportation accidents are the cause of 48 per cent of migrant deaths recorded in Europe in 2018.

In the Americas, four people who had left their homes to migrate north lost their lives.

On 26 November, a one-year-old baby who was travelling with his mother from their home country, Guatemala, died of pneumonia in Meoqui, Mexico. The week before, the remains of a 28-year-old Cuban woman were found off the coast of Guanaja, Honduras. She was part of a group of 18 Cuban balseros (rafters) who were trying to reach the US by boat. However, their craft capsized near Honduras' Bay Islands, in the Caribbean Sea, and those on board were forced to swim to shore.

On 16 November, the remains of an unidentified man were found on railroad tracks near the town of Atotonilco de Tula, in Mexico's state of Hidalgo. Another man was found dead near train tracks on 28 November in Hermosillo, Sonora. The MMP team has recorded the deaths of 39 people due to train-related injuries across Central America and Mexico since the beginning of the year.

Global Migrant Deaths Jan 1 – November 28 (Source: Missing Migrants Project)		
REGION	2018	2017
Mediterranean	2,123	3,081
Europe	101	93
Middle East	117	181
North Africa	93	869
Horn of Africa	156	172
Sub-Saharan Africa	120	535
Central Asia	52	-
Southeast Asia	66	299
South Asia	11	22
East Asia	3	1
North America	-	1
US/Mexico border	357	316
Central America	75	75
Caribbean	25	156
South America	24	-
TOTAL	3,323	5,801

Missing Migrants Project data are compiled by IOM staff based at its Global Migration Data Analysis Centre but come from a variety of sources, some of which are unofficial. To learn more about how data on migrants' deaths and disappearances are collected, [click here](#).

Missing Migrants Project data are compiled by IOM staff but come from a variety of sources, some of which are unofficial. To learn more about how data on migrants' deaths and disappearances are collected, [click here](#).

For latest arrivals and fatalities in the Mediterranean, [click here](#). Learn more about the [Missing Migrants Project](#).

See contacts [here](#).

IOM HQ - Switzerland		IOM Greece		IOM Cyprus	
J. Millman	0041 79.1038720 jmillman@iom.int	K. Namia	0030 210.9912174 knamia@iom.int	D. Tsagilas	0022 77.2270 dtsagilas@iom.int
IOM Italy		A. Avgeropoulou	0030 69.48929809 aavgeropoulou@iom.int	IOM Morocco	
F. Di Giacomo	0039 347.0898996 fdgiacomo@iom.int	C. Nikolaidou	0030 210.9919040 cnikolaidou@iom.int	M. Meryem	0021 2.537.652881 mmassaia@iom.int
IOM Spain		IOM Libya		H. Hasnaoui	hhasnaoui@iom.int
A. Dodevska	0034 91.4457116 adodevska@iom.int	C. Petré	00216 29.240.448 chpetre@iom.int	IOM Romania	
IOM Regional DTM (Austria)				M. Mocanu	0040 212.115657 mmocanu@iom.int
I. Zakoska	0043 15.812222 izakoska@iom.int	GMDAC (Germany)		J. Black	0049 30.27877827 jblack@iom.int