

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 104,506 in 2018; Deaths Reach 2,075

Geneva – IOM, the UN Migration Agency, reports that 104,506 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2018 through 18 November. Spain topped 50,962 – more irregular arrivals to Spain through 45 weeks of 2018 than all arrivals during the past three years **combined**.

This makes it the fifth straight year arrivals of irregular migrants and refugees have topped the 100,000 mark, although this year's totals are low compared to those at this time in 2017 (157,323) and 2016 (345,831).

MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENTS

					
TOTAL ARRIVALS BY SEA AND DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2017-2018					
Country of Arrival	1 JANUARY – 21 NOVEMBER 2018		1 – 21 NOVEMBER 2018	1 JANUARY – 21 NOVEMBER 2017	
	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Arrivals	Deaths
Italy	22.541	1.277 (Central Med. route)	510	114.673	2.786
Malta	1.182 (IOM est.)		149	N/A	(Central Med. route)
Greece	28.891 (as of 20/11)	167 (Eastern Med. route)	1.388 (as of 20/11)	26.167	60
Cyprus	930		184	501 (as of 31/07)	(Eastern Med. route)
Spain	50.962 (as of 21/11)	631 (Western Med. route)	2.510 (as of 21/11)	15.982 (as of 31/10)	163 (Western Med. route)
Estimated Total	104.506	2.075	4.741	157.323	3.009
<small>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.</small>					
<small>Updated data: 23.11</small>					

As colder weather conditions arrive, the sea passage to Europe grows ever deadlier.

IOM's Missing Migrants Project (MMP) has recorded 2,075 people who have died or gone missing on one of three migratory routes across the Mediterranean in 2018.

Most recently, at least nine people lost their lives in the Western Mediterranean. The sole survivor, a teenage boy from Guinea, was rescued off the coast of Vejer de la Frontera, Cádiz, on Monday 19 November. He told Spanish authorities that he was travelling with nine others, including his brother, in an inflatable row boat which had departed from Tangiers, Morocco over a week before. Bad weather conditions, as well as the lack of food and water, caused several people to die during the journey. Their bodies were lost at sea, this youth said.

The boy was the only survivor. He is currently in the intensive care unit in the hospital in Cádiz with severe hypothermia. The remains of two people, believed to have been on board the same boat, washed ashore on two beaches in the area: on Tuesday 20 November, the body of a woman was recovered on Playa del Palmar, while the day after, 21 November, the body of a man was found on Playa de los Corrales. Additionally, two more bodies connected to the 5 November shipwreck off the coast of Barbate, Cádiz were recovered on 19 November. At least 23 people died in that single shipwreck at the beginning of the month.

Since the beginning of 2018, at least 631 people have lost their lives trying to reach Spain. A recent report by a Spanish foundation for investigative journalism, porCausa.org, found that more than 6,700 people have died or disappeared while trying to reach Spain since 1988.

Based on the data compiled by IOM's Missing Migrants Project, at least 1,144 people died or were lost in the Western Mediterranean in the last five years (data for 1 January 2014 – 21 November 2018), more than half of those – 631 of 1,144 – just in the 325 days of 2018, or almost two victims per day.

DEATHS IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN BY MONTH, 2014-2018													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
2014	0	15	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	8	0	32	59
2015	15	0	0	0	1	22	0	8	3	50	1	2	102
2016	5	2	21	9	48	1	11	19	0	4	1	7	128
2017	28	13	7	9	2	10	56	8	12	9	54	16	224
2018*	28	75	25	89	21	55	15	68	99	90	66	0	631

*1 January – 21 November 2018

Missing Migrants also has recorded deaths these years on Spain's other seaborne migratory route, from the West African mainland to the Islas Canarias. Since 2014, 319 men, women and children have perished on this route ([See Table 12](#)).

IOM Spain

Ana Dodevska reported Thursday irregular migrants to Spain continue to arrive at a rate of over 120 per day during the [month of November](#). October was Spain's busiest month for sea arrivals on month on record, with migrants or refugees entering by sea at a rate of over 350 people per day ([See Table 2](#)).

IOM Greece

Antigoni Avgeropoulou reported Thursday (22 November) that since Tuesday, and through Thursday afternoon, the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG) reported there were at least five incidents requiring search and rescue operations off the island of Samos. The HCG rescued a total of 182 migrants and transferred them to the island.

Another 60 arrivals Tuesday and Wednesday to Lesbos and Kalymnos bring to 28,891 the total number of sea arrivals to Greece this year through 21 November. That is just short of the total (29,501) arriving through all of last year, a total that appears will be surpassed in 2018 ([See Table 8.b](#)).

In the Eastern Mediterranean, IOM's Missing Migrants Project recorded news of a boat capsized off the coast of Bodrum, Turkey on 19 November. Ten survivors (four Syrians, four Palestinians and two Egyptians) were rescued, two of them in critical condition. Tragically, a young Syrian man lost his life.

IOM Italy

Flavio Di Giacomo reported Monday monthly arrivals to Italy have averaged fewer than 2,500 men, women and children entering Italy by sea after departing North Africa since the start of November 2017. July 2017 was the last time monthly sea arrivals of irregular migrants and refugees surpassed 10,000 men, women and children – a total that arrived in 12 of the previous 13 months before that date – and had been arriving regularly in previous years of the Mediterranean emergency ([See Table 7](#)).

IOM's Missing Migrants Project has recorded 3,260 people who have died or gone missing on migratory routes across the globe in 2018 ([See Table 3](#)).

Beyond the Mediterranean Sea, migrant corridors in the Americas are among the deadliest in the world today.

Since the beginning of the year, the Missing Migrants Project team has documented the deaths of 354 migrants on the US-Mexico border, a slight increase over the 313 deaths recorded during the same period in 2017. On 13 November, the remains of a 34-year-old Mexican woman were found on a ranch west of Falfurrias, Texas.

On 20 November, a 17-year-old Honduran young man was hit by a vehicle as he was walking on the side of the road connecting Mexicali with Tijuana, in Mexico's Pacific state of Baja California. He was part of the group of Central American migrants fleeing violence and poverty in large groups or "caravans," who recently began arriving in the border city of Tijuana, intent on seeking asylum in the US.

The MMP team also recorded the death of another Honduran teenage boy, who died from pneumonia at the General Hospital of Tijuana on 21 November ([See Table 3](#)).

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](#).

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