

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 10,949 in 2018; Deaths Reach 442

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Geneva – IOM, the UN Migration Agency, reports that 10,949 migrants and refugees have entered Europe by sea through the first nine weeks of 2018, with just under 51 percent arriving in Italy and the remainder divided between Greece (27%) Spain (22%) and Cyprus (less than 1%). This compares with 20,051 arrivals across the region through the same period last year.

MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENTS

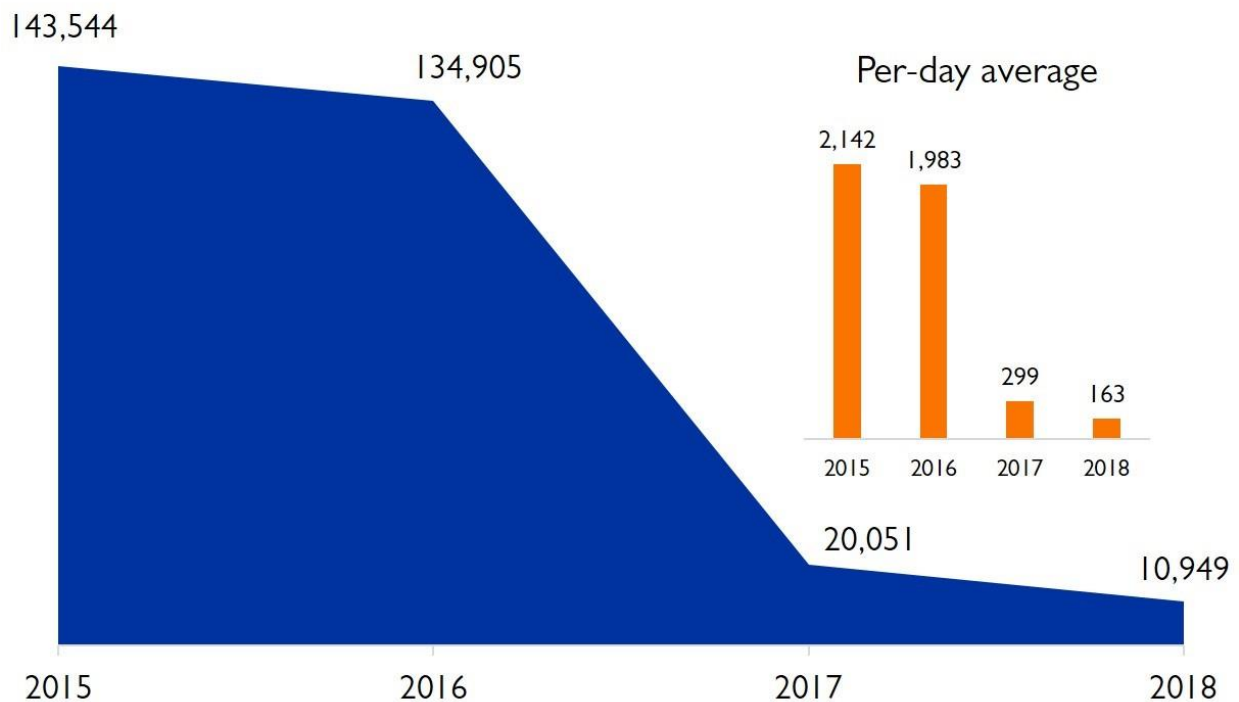
TOTAL ARRIVALS BY SEA AND DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2017-2018				
	1 JANUARY – 7 MARCH 2018		1 JANUARY – 7 MARCH 2017	
Country of Arrival	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Deaths
Italy	5,457	337 (Central Med. route)	15,843	475 (Central Med. route)
Greece	2,915 (as of 6 march)	0 (Eastern Med. route)	2,624	2 (Eastern Med. route)
Cyprus	37		N/A	
Spain	2,540 (as of 28 February)	105 (Western Med. route)	1,584 (as of 28 February)	44 (Western Med. route)
Estimated Total	10,949	442	20,051	521
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.				

IOM Rome's Flavio Di Giacomo said Monday that, according to Ministry of Interior figures, 5,457 migrants have arrived by sea to Italy this year: or barely one third the figure at this time last year, when 15,843 migrant men, women and children were brought to Italy after being rescued in the waters north of Africa. Through 7 March Italy arrivals are averaging fewer than 83 persons per day. This compares with 240 per day in 2017 and 140 per day in 2016. (see chart below).

Arrivals by sea in Italy			
January - March (source: Italian Ministry of Interior)			
	2018	2017	2016
January	4,182	4,468	5,273
February	1,065	8,971	3,828
March	210 (as of 7/03)	2,404 (as of 8/03)	395 (as of 8/03)

Across the entire region, along three principal migrant routes, the dramatic drop in arrivals is reflected in the statistics as well. In 2015 on this same date, IOM counted 143,544 irregular migrants entering Europe by sea, an average of 2,142 daily. Those numbers dropped to 134,905 (1,983 average, daily) this point in 2016 and to 20,051 (daily: 299). So far this year daily arrivals average 163 men, women and children across the zone. (see chart below)

Mediterranean arrivals during first 9½ weeks of the year



IOM's Missing Migrant Project (MMP) reported Monday that deaths on the Central Mediterranean route—442 as of March 8—were down some 15% below their total at this same time in 2017, when 521 migrants had been counted as drowned or missing in the waters between North Africa and Italy.

IOM Athens' Kelly Namia on Thursday said that over three days ending 6 March the Hellenic Coast Guard reported no incidents requiring search and rescue operations in the Aegean and just one irregular migrant landing, on the island of Kos this past Monday.

That brings the total number of sea arrivals to Greek territory through 6 March February to 2,915 (see chart below)—an average of about 45 persons per day.

Country	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2014	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2015	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2016	1 Jan – 31 Dec 2017	1 Jan – 6 March 2018
Greece	34,442	853,650	173,614	29,501	2,915

IOM Spain’s Ana Dodevska reported that total arrivals by sea in 2018 have reached 2,540 men, women and children who have been rescued in Western Mediterranean waters through 8 March. In 2017 IOM recorded 1,584 entering Spain irregularly by sea through the end of February. Sea arrivals for Spain in March 2917 totalled almost 850 for the entire month of March last year; to date this month only 38 arrivals have been recorded.

Worldwide, IOM’s Missing Migrants Project has recorded 710 migrant fatalities in 2018, compared with 1025 through March 7 last year. (see chart below)

Global Migrant Deaths Jan 1 – March 7 <i>(Source: Missing Migrants Project)</i>		
REGION	2018	2017
Mediterranean	442	521
Europe	8	14
Middle East	31	14
North Africa	27	217
Horn of Africa	56	28
Sub-Saharan Africa	10	12
Central Asia	52	-
Southeast Asia	4	44
South Asia	-	-
East Asia	-	-
North America	-	-
US/Mexico border	45	79
Central America	12	13
Caribbean	18	83
South America	5	-
TOTAL	710	1025

IOM reports 442 migrants are estimated to have died this year on the Mediterranean Sea’s three routes. Most recently, 21 people went missing after a boat capsized off the coast of Libya on Saturday, 3 March. A Cypriot merchant vessel rescued 30 survivors from the sinking boat and transferred them to SOS Méditerranée’s ship Aquarius. IOM staff on the ground spoke with them when they were brought to Pozzallo on Tuesday, and they reported that 51 people were on the boat when it sank. Tragically, 21 migrants went missing and are presumed dead.

On the US/Mexico border, the remains of a young man were recovered from the Río Bravo near Eagle Pass, Texas on 4 March – he is thought to be part of a group of migrants that went missing on 27 February when trying to cross from Piedras Negras, Coahuila. The Missing Migrants Project also recorded the death of one Honduran migrant in Reynosa, Mexico on 1 March. On the Mexico/Guatemala border, a 47-year-old Honduran migrant was hit by a freight train in Huimanguillo, Tabasco on 5 March.

The remains of a young Afghan migrant were retrieved in the Evros/Meriç River on 6 March by Turkish authorities. He fell into the river and drowned when attempting to cross to Greece. The Missing Migrants Project has recorded the deaths of 8 people on the Evros in 2018.

MMP 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 missing migrants are collected, click here.

For latest arrivals and fatalities in the Mediterranean, please visit: <http://migration.iom.int/europe>

Learn more about the Missing Migrants Project at: <http://missingmigrants.iom.int>

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