

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 165,409 in 2017 with Major Uptick in Western Route

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MEDITERRANEAN UPDATE MIGRATION FLOWS EUROPE: ARRIVALS AND FATALITIES



Geneva – IOM, the UN Migration Agency, reports that 165,409 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2017 through 6 December, with nearly 20,000 of those arriving to Spain via the Western Mediterranean route. While the total number of arrivals to Europe across the Mediterranean is about half compared with the same period last year, the number of arrivals using the Western Mediterranean route to Spain is nearly triple that of last year, while deaths on the Western route have increased more than 40 per cent compared with 2016.

MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENTS

TOTAL ARRIVALS BY SEA AND DEATHS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN 2016-2017				
1 JANUARY – 6 DECEMBER 2017			1 JANUARY – 6 DECEMBER 2016	
Country of Arrival	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Deaths
Italy	117,121	2,824 (Central Med. route)	174,602	4,249 (Central Med. route)
Greece	27,244 (as of 05/12)	61 (Eastern Med. route)	171,875 (as 03/12/2016)	429 (Eastern Med. route)
Cyprus	1,067	-	345	-
Spain	19,977	206 (Western Med. route)	6,046 (as of 31/10/16)	121 (Western Med. route)
Estimated Total	165,409	3,091	352,868	4,799

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 Spain's Ana Dodevska reports that arrivals to Spain in 2017 through 7 December

totalled 19,977. This is a marked increase in use of the Spanish route, given that only 8,000 migrants entered Europe across the Mediterranean via Spain in all of 2016. Already in 2017, 206 migrants died at sea using the Western Mediterranean route compared with 128 deaths along that route in all of last year.

ARRIVALS BY SEA TO SPAIN 2017

Arrivals by sea to Italy, primarily departing from Libya, remain about one-third lower than 2016, according to IOM, the UN Migration Agency’s Rome office. According to official figures of the Italian Ministry of Interior, 117,121 migrants arrived by sea to Italy this year: nearly 33 per cent less than the 181,346 migrants who arrived to Italy in the same period in 2016.

January	1,331
February	179
March	916
April	888
May	110
June	3,071
July	1,661
August	1,947
September	1,059
October	2,839
November	5,687
December	309
TOTAL	19,997 as of 07/12

Sea Arrivals in Italy and Greece 2014-2016

Country	Total 2014	Total 2015	Total 2016
Italy	170,100	153,842	181,436
Greece	34,442	853,650	173,614

IOM staff are deployed at the main landing points in Sicily (including Lampedusa), Calabria and Apulia and provide legal assistance to those arriving by sea, monitor the reception conditions and support the authorities in the identification of vulnerable groups.

By contrast, arrivals by sea to Greece across the Eastern Mediterranean route from Turkey are significantly lower than last year. Only 27,244 arrivals were reported to Greece as of 5 December, this year. This compares with 173,614 sea arrivals in Greece in 2016.

In Greece, IOM staff are present in the islands of Crete, Samos, Kos and Lesbos, working closely with authorities to identify vulnerable migrants including unaccompanied minors, elderly migrants, migrants with medical needs and families with children. Vulnerable groups are referred to authorities in order to be provided with the necessary care.

Worldwide, IOM's Missing Migrants Project (MMP) has recorded the deaths of 5,204 people during migration in 2017. In the Western Mediterranean, three people (including one woman) died when the boat in which they were travelling overturned in waters close to Larache, Morocco, on 4 December. The Moroccan authorities rescued 40 people. On the same day, one migrant died off the coast of Nerja, Spain.

On the US/Mexico border, the remains of one migrant were found in Tecate, Baja California (Mexico) on 30 November. Additionally, reports emerged of the death of a 33-year-old man from Ecuador who drowned when crossing the Río Bravo on 21 January near Laredo, Texas. In Central America, a 12-year-old boy was hit by a train in Tenosique, Tabasco (Mexico) on 28 November, after crossing the border with Guatemala.

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 missing migrants are collected, click [here](#).

Arrivals by sea in Italy January - December 2017/2016/2015 <i>(source: Italian Ministry of Interior)</i>			
	2017	2016	2015
January	4,468	5,273	3,528
February	8,971	3,828	4,354
March	10,853	9,676	2,283
April	12,943	9,149	16,056
May	22,993	19,925	21,231
June	23,524	22,371	22,877
July	11,459	23,552	23,210
August	3,914	21,294	22,610
September	6,291	16,975	15,922
October	5,979	27,384	8,916
November	5,641	13,962	3,219
December	78 <small>(as of 06/12)</small>	8,047	9,636

Latest Mediterranean Update
infographic:

Global Migrant Deaths Jan 1 – December 6 (Source: Missing Migrants Project)		
REGION	2017	2016
Mediterranean	3,091	4,799
Europe	90	56
Middle East	108	111
North Africa	467	1280
Horn of Africa	170	199
Sub-Saharan Africa	387	76
Southeast Asia	295	167
South Asia	21	0
East Asia	1	3
North America	1	0
US/Mexico	341	343
Central America	76	163
Caribbean	156	104
South America	0	32
TOTAL	5,204	7,333

http://migration.iom.int/docs/MMP/171208_Mediterranean_Update.pdf

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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