

Western Balkans Quarterly

QUARTER 1 • JANUARY–MARCH 2018

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4



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Throughout the report, references to Kosovo* are marked with an asterisk to indicate that 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.

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List of abbreviations used

BCP	border-crossing point
CIA	Central Investigation Agency
EDF	European Union Document-Fraud
EU	European Union
FRAN	Frontex Risk Analysis Network
Frontex	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ID	identification document
JORA	Joint Operations Reporting Application
n.a.	not available
Q/Qtr	quarter of the year
RAU	Frontex Risk Analysis Unit
UK	United Kingdom
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WB	Western Balkans
WB-RAN	Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network

Introduction

Concept

The Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network (WB-RAN) performs monthly exchanges of statistical data and information on the most recent irregular migration developments affecting the region. This information is compiled at Frontex Risk Analysis Unit (RAU) level and analysed in cooperation with the regional partners on a quarterly and annual basis. The annual reports offer a more in-depth analysis of the developments and phenomena which impact the regional and common borders, while the quarterly reports are meant to provide regular updates and identify emerging trends in order to maintain situational awareness. Both types of reports are aimed at offering support for strategic and operational decision making.

Methodology

The Western Balkans Quarterly is focused on quarterly developments as reflected by the seven key indicators of irregular migration: (1) detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs, (2) detections of illegal border-crossing at BCPs, (3) refusals of entry, (4) detections of illegal stay, (5) asylum applications, (6) detections of facilitators, and (7) detections of fraudulent documents¹.

The data presented in the overview are derived from monthly statistics provided within the framework of the WB-RAN and reference-period statistics from common border sections of neighbouring EU Member States (Croatia, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary and Romania). In addition, the Western Balkans Quarterly is drawing from FRAN Quarterly reports and also from data analysed in the framework of other risk analysis networks (FRAN, EDF).

Structure

The first part offers a general situational overview broken down by main areas of work of border-control authorities and police activities related to irregular migration and cross-border criminality (firearms smuggling). Nonetheless, the structure of the report may still be subject to some readjustments.

Changes in data scope after Croatia's entry to the EU

Important changes in the collection and use of data for Western Balkans Quarterly were introduced upon Croatia's joining the EU in July 2013. Firstly, data for Slovenia have not been included in the report since the third quarter of 2013. Slovenian historical data were also excluded from the tables

in order to make the comparison with previous quarters analytically meaningful.

Secondly, as the Croatian-Hungarian and Croatian-Slovenian border sections are now internal EU-borders and so they are not regularly covered by the datasets used for this report.

Thirdly, after joining the EU, Croatian data on illegal stay are limited to detections at the border. More precisely, Croatia's illegal stay data only include cases detected on exit at its external borders, while inland detections are not included. The analysis of the illegal stay indicator takes this fact into consideration.

Changes in data scope after Kosovo**s entry to the WB-RAN

Starting from the first quarter of 2014, data from Kosovo* on key indicators of irregular migration have been included in the reporting, making it possible to get a more comprehensive picture of the irregular movements in the region. However, as there are no historical data available for Kosovo*, the new data have some impact on the comparison of the examined period with previous quarters. When necessary for analytical purposes, some comparison can be made also excluding data from Kosovo*, which is noted in the text.

¹ Please note that the analysis of this indicator is now limited to WB-RAN countries only, given that EU Member States have transitioned to the European Union Document-Fraud (EDF) reporting scheme.

I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

Figure 1. General map of the Western Balkans region



Summary of WB-RAN indicators

Table 1. Overview of indicators

WB-RAN Indicator	Q1 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	% change on	
				same quarter last year	previous quarter
Illegal border-crossing between BCPs	7 048	7 177	6 385	-9.4	-11
Illegal border-crossing at BCPs	897	501	597	-33	19
Facilitators	188	244	193	2.7	-21
Illegal stay	1 327	3 661	3 438	159	-6.1
Refusals of entry	10 301	14 125	10 248	-0.5	-27
Asylum applications ²	20 709	19 364	16 309	-21	-16
False travel-document users	264	689	534	102	-22

² Applications for asylum for EU Member States include all applications received in the territory of the countries and are not limited to those made at Western Balkan borders.

Data for Croatia is only available for January and February 2018 at the moment of writing this report

Key findings

Overall, the number of illegal border-crossings by non-regional² migrants recorded at the green borders in Q1 2018 was slightly below the values of both Q1 and Q4 2017, in spite of seasonality;

Indications that migrants are searching for alternative routing to bypass the enhanced controls on the main Serbia-centred corridor, continued being observed into Q1 2018:

- Lower pressure reported at Serbia's northern common borders with Croatia, Hungary and Romania;
- Continued increase in migration pressure along the Albania – Montenegro – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia sub-route and adjacent border sections;

² Migrants who are not nationals of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo², the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia.

- Increase in the number of migrants trying to transit the borders hidden in means of transport (largely at the Croatian-Serbian border section);
- Increase in the number of non-regional migrants detected for illegal stay within the region; this increase was signalled largely along the emerging sub-route;

The overall pressure at the Greece-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia remained relatively stable compared to Q4 2017; However, less migrants were observed travelling south across this section;

The irregular flow of citizens of Western Balkan countries decreased and remained largely contained at the southern common borders with Greece;

Situation at the border

Border surveillance

Illegal border-crossings

In the first quarter of 2018, WB-RAN data show 4 253 illegal border-crossings by non-regional migrants³ en route from Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria reported at the common and regional borders (see Fig. 2). This represents a stable number compared to Q4 2017 and is roughly 8% below Q1 2017 (-8%). The total values reported remained at a level comparable to those of similar three-month periods of 2012, 2013 and 2014 before the onset of the migration crisis in 2015 and 2016.

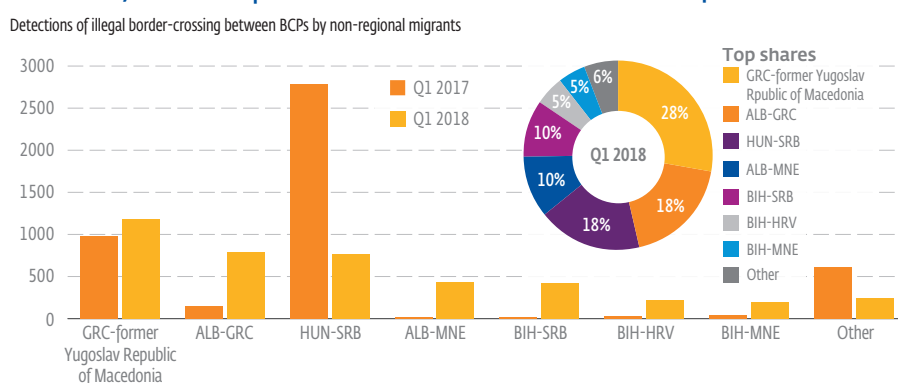
Additional information⁴ indicates that Bulgaria had fewer crossing attempts towards Serbia during the first quarter of 2018. The number was below that reported in the previous three-month period and even lower when compared with the first quarter of 2017. The low number of detections indicates that the pressure on this area continued to ease off, likely as a result of continued re-enforced border-controls on both sides of the Bulgarian-Serbian border that disrupt irregular travels further on the Western Balkan route.

The number of detected illegal border-crossings registered in Q1 2018 was largely linked to pressure observed at Greece's common borders with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania, as well as along the sub-route via Albania – Montenegro – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Croatia and adjacent intra-regional border sections.

3 Migrants who are not nationals of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia

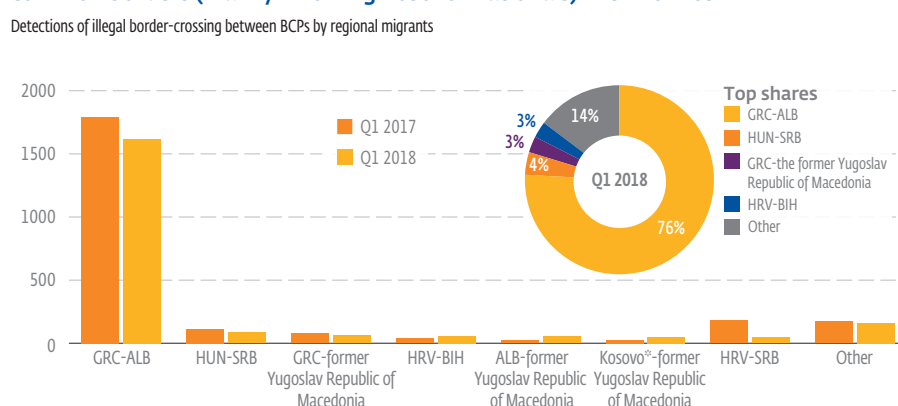
4 WB Daily information exchange data as of 4 August 2017

Figure 2. Increased pressure recorded along the Albania-Montenegro-Bosnia and Herzegovina sub-route; Stable pressure at the Greece-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; decrease in pressure at the northern common borders of Serbia with EU MSs



Source: WB-RAN data as of 7 May 2018

Figure 3. The overall pressure exerted by the regional migrants was 12% lower than in the same quarter of 2017; decrease in the number of detections reported at the southern common borders (Albanian circular migration) as well as at the northern common borders (mainly involving Kosovo* nationals) with EU MSs

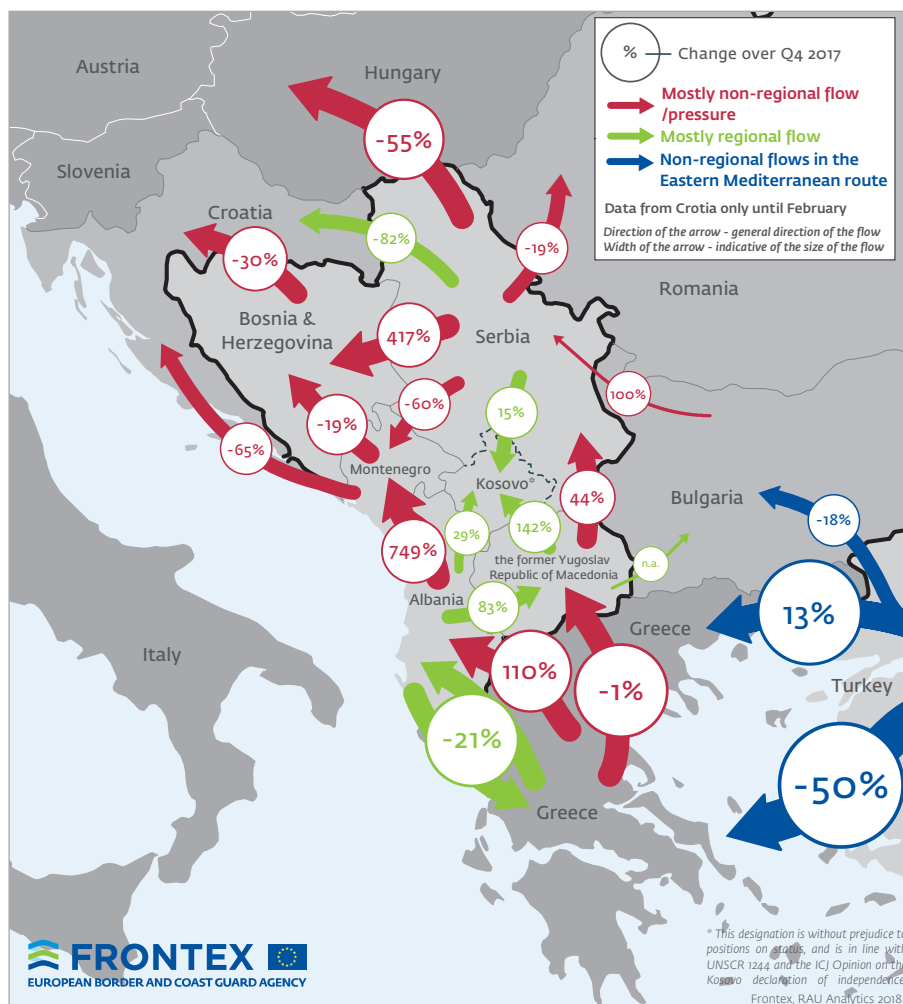


Source: WB-RAN data as of 7 May 2018

The number of detections reported at the border between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia remained relatively stable compared to Q4 2017 while the pressure at the common border with Albania and further north along the sub-route (and adjacent intra-regional

borders) increased compared to the previous three month period.

The continued pressure along the Greece-Albania-Montenegro-Bosnia and Herzegovina sub-route remains indicative of migrants trying to bypass existing security



measures along the main route via Serbia. This is supported by the fact that in the same period less migrants were reported attempting to cross Serbia's common borders with Hungary, Romania and Croatia compared to Q4 2017.

Similar to previous quarters, the size of the flow detected en route throughout the region may actually be lower than the reporting indicates, given that the same migrant may have been detected at the same border multiple times (i.e. preventions of crossings) but also at several different border sections while transiting the region.

Syrians were the top detected nationality in Q1 2018, registering an over three-fold rise compared to the previous three

month period. The largest part of this increase in the number of Syrians was associated with detections along the migratory sub-route stemming from the Greek-Albanian border section.

Pakistanis and Afghans ranked second and third in the top of detections despite registering 35% and 21% decreases over Q4 2017, respectively. The largest share of the reported decreases involving Pakistanis and Afghans were related to the situation at Serbia's common border with Hungary. Meanwhile the number of both Pakistanis and Afghans remained relatively stable at the Greece-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border and showed signs of increase at most of the border sections along the new sub-route of migration via Albania – Montenegro – Bosnia and

Figure 4. Overall relatively stable pressure exerted by non-regional migrants at the Serbia-Bulgaria and Greece – former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia borders (traditional entry points) during Q1 2018. Decrease in pressure at Serbia's northern common borders with Croatia, Hungary and Romania (traditional exit points). Continued pressure along the Albania-Montenegro-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Croatia sub-route.

The regional flow decreased and remained largely limited to the Greek-Albanian border

Changes in detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs between Q4 2017 and Q1 2018 at particular border sections; main directions and composition of the flow

Herzegovina – Croatia and also at intra-regional borders adjacent to this sub-route (i.e. especially at the Bosnia and Herzegovina-Serbia section).

In the period under review, Libyans, Iraqis, Iranians, Algerians, Moroccans, Palestinians and Turkish nationals completed the top ten detections in this order. Overall, the number of Algerian and Turkish nationals decreased (-23% and -58%), that of Iraqis and Iranians remained largely stable (-8% and +1%) while the detections of Libyans, Moroccans and Palestinians all registered increases (47%, 68% and 452% respectively) compared to Q4 2017. Most of the reported north-Africans were detected along the sub-route via Albania-Montenegro-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Croatia and at the Bosnia and Herzegovina-Serbia section, as were the reported Palestinians. Overall, the number of detected Western Balkan regional migrants⁵ (roughly 2 100) registered a 25% decrease over the previous quarter. The drop of detections was largely related to

5 Migrants who are nationals of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia

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the number of reported Albanians and to a lesser extent to the number Kosovo* nationals.

The majority (79%) of Western Balkan countries nationals detected for illegal border-crossing were still reported at Greece's borders with Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (by and large, Albanians). Migrants detected at the common borders with EU Member States in the north of the region accounted for 10% of the regional flow and continued to involve Kosovo* citizens (trying to reach Hungary and Croatia) and, to a lesser extent, Albanians and Serbs.

Facilitators

A total of 193 facilitators were detected at the regional level in the first quarter of

2018, a number 21% below that of the previous three-month period.

Given that migrants can no longer rely on the transportation services provided by the authorities⁶ and need to bypass reinforced border-control measures, the demand for facilitation services could in fact be high.

It is worth mentioning that some border sections along the Albania-Montenegro-Bosnia and-Herzegovina-Croatia sub-route (*i.e. Albania-Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina-Serbia*) also showed slight increases compared to Q4 2017. Meanwhile, the number of detections reported at Serbia's northern common borders with Hungary, Romania and Croatia appear to have decreased, along-side the decrease in migration pressure by non-regional migrants.

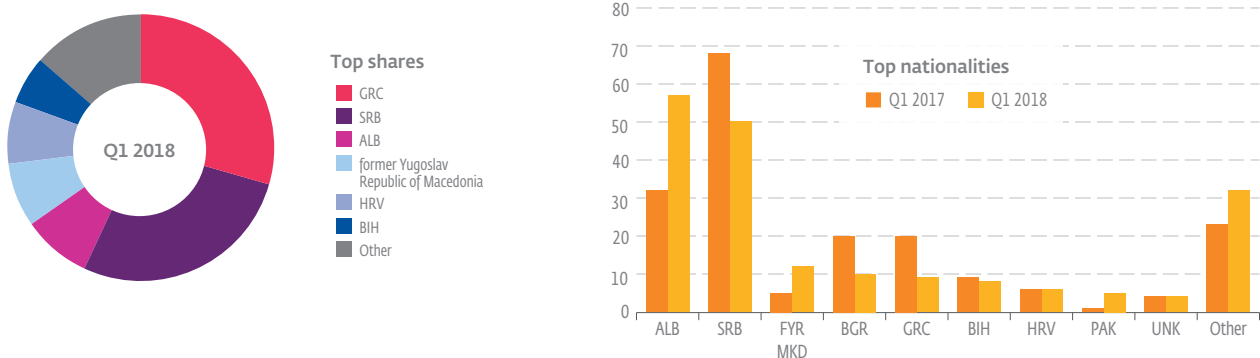
Nonetheless, facilitation services continued being used on entry to the region at the Greece-former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria-Serbia borders, possibly linked to the enhanced controls in these areas.

Roughly 67% of all facilitators detected in the period under review were nationals of Western Balkan countries, 21% were citizens of EU Member States (primarily those neighbouring the region), while the remaining 12% were nationals of third countries from outside the region or persons of 'unknown nationality'. The highest share of detected facilitators was reported by Greece who reported mostly Albanian and Greek nationals, followed by Serbia, who reported mostly Serbs.

6 i.e. organised transportation offered by the authorities through the region during the crisis period (WB transit corridor)

Figure 5. **The number of people smugglers was relatively stable compared to the same quarter of 2017 but the locations of detections slightly changed between different parts of the region**

Detections of facilitators (at BCPs, between BCPs and inland), by reporting country, top shares (left) and nationalities (right)



Source: WB-RAN data as of 7 May 2018

Border checks

Clandestine entries

In Q1 2018, a total of 515 non-regional migrants were detected while attempting to illegally cross the borders via BCPs, largely by hiding in vehicles, a number roughly 73% above that of Q4 2017 but 39% below that of the same three-month period of 2017. The largest part of the increase over Q4 2017 was due to a rise in detections reported at the Croatian-Serbian border section. Meanwhile, the Hungarian-Serbian and Bosnian-Herzegovinian-Serbian border sections also registered rises over Q4 2017, but their overall numbers were lower.

Additionally, 82 nationals of Western Balkan countries were reported for clandestine travels at BCPs, with the Croatia-Serbia border registering most detections, by and large of Kosovo* nationals.

Document fraud

In the first quarter of 2018, there were 534 cases of false document use reported by the six Western Balkan countries, the second highest number of such cases since data collection began in 2009. With 534 document fraud cases, Q1 2018 was 22% below Q4 2017, which still holds the record.

The largest part of the 22% decrease in detections over Q4 2017 is due to less cases recorded by Serbia, especially at its airports and at its land border with Hungary but also due to less cases registered by Albania especially at its airports and at its border with Greece.

At Serbia's land border with Hungary, the largest part of the decrease was due to the fact that the number of Iranian document fraudsters shrank by a factor of 9 compared to Q4 2017, and to a lesser

extent to the less dramatic decreases in the number of Serbs, nationals of Kosovo*, Turkish nationals and Tunisians. Meanwhile the largest part of the decrease in detections reported at Serbia's airports was largely due to the number of Iranian fraudsters halving compared to Q4 of last year as the rest of the main reported nationalities described a relatively stable evolution.

Most of the decrease reported by Albania was linked to fewer cases in which its own nationals used fraudulent documents at the airports and at the land border with Greece.

Nationals of Kosovo* were the most detected document fraudsters, ahead of Albanian and Turkish citizens. Iranians who ranked first in Q4 2017 were now only fourth in the top of detected document fraudsters at regional level following a 64% drop, largely linked to Serbia's borders. Together these four nationalities accounted for 72% of all detections at regional level.

The number of Chinese and Indian document fraudsters, also nationalities for whom Serbia lifted visa requirements, ran relatively stable compared to Q4 2017. All cases involving these nationals were reported by Serbia either at its airports or at the common land borders with Hungary and Croatia.

Serbia remained the top reporting country, followed by Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, respectively.

Passports, ID cards and residence permits were the most commonly used fraudulent documents. Moreover, 45 forged stamps and 30 visas were detected. The large majority of ID cards, residence permits and visas were EU Member States' documents.

As regards false passports, 155 out of the detected 304 were reportedly issued by countries from the region.

Refusals of entry

In the period under review, the number of refusals of entry decreased by 27% compared with the previous quarter: from roughly 14 000 to 10 000 but was roughly on par with the corresponding quarter of 2017. All reporting countries, with the exception of Hungary (which issued a higher number of refusals of entry, largely to Serbians), registered decreases over the previous three-month reporting period.

Albanians remained the most refused nationality, receiving roughly 41% of all issued decisions despite registering a 42% decrease compared with Q4 2017. Among the top ten nationalities refused entry only the numbers of Serbs, nationals of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and nationals of Kosovo* rose compared to Q4.

Turkish nationals continued to rank high among refused persons, occupying the fourth place despite registering a 21% decrease in relation to Q4 2017.

Iranians received 54% less refusals of entry compared to Q4 2017, by and large due to a decrease at Serbia's air borders. Following this development they ranked seventh among the most refused nationalities.

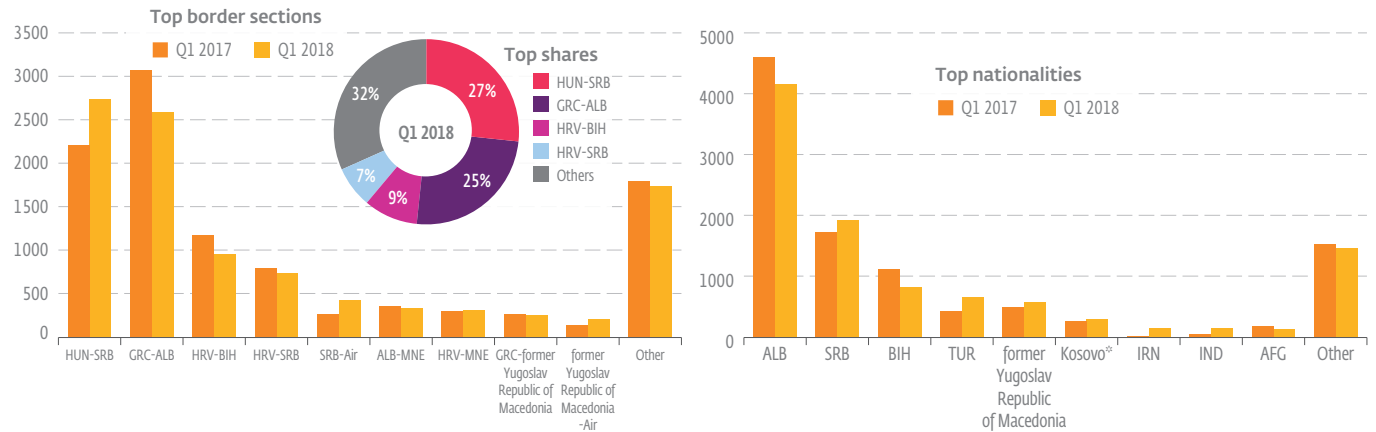
As usual, the vast majority of refusals of entry was issued at land borders (91%), while all of the remaining 9% were recorded at air borders, which reported 34% less refusals compared with Q4 2017.

Most of the refusals reported by the neighbouring EU Member States were issued to nationals of Western Balkan countries

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Figure 6. Turkish nationals still ranked high among the top refused nationalities; Iranians and Indians ranked among the top ten recipients of refusal decisions

Persons refused entry, by top border sections, top shares (left) and nationalities (right)



Source: WB-RAN data as of 7 May 2018

(94%). In turn, among those refused entry by the authorities of the six regional partners, 34% were nationals of Western Balkan countries, 19% nationals of EU Member States/Schengen Associated Countries, and 18% Turkish nationals.

The rise in the number of Georgian nationals refused entry by the six regional countries observed in Q2 and Q3 reversed during the reporting period (i.e. their total number decreased from 125 in Q2 2017, 182 in Q3 2017 and 96 in Q4 2017 to 85 in Q1 2018). The 85 refusal decisions issued

to Georgians in Q1 2018 remain considerably higher than in previous quarters, before these nationals became visa-free travellers to the EU⁷. The higher numbers of refusals of entry received by Georgians indicate increased mobility by these citizens coupled with a lack of knowledge regarding the fact that the visa liberalisation for the EU does not automatically grant them visa-free access also to the Western Balkan countries.

Afghans, Syrians, Iraqis, Libyans or Pakistanis (nationalities generally associated

with the non-regional transiting flow) continued to receive a low number of refusals of entry during Q1 2018, accounting for roughly 2% of all such decisions issued at regional level. Nonetheless, all these nationalities and especially Afghans continued to be refused entry mostly by Croatia at its border with Serbia.

It remains possible that enhanced border surveillance activities in the region push migrants to look for alternative travel options, including transit via BCPs without fulfilling the conditions of travel.

⁷ Georgians became visa-free travelers to the EU starting 28 March 2017

Situation in the Western Balkans

Illegal stay on the territories of the six Western Balkan partners

In Q1 2018, 1 528 detections of illegal stay were reported by the six Western Balkan partners, a number 30% higher compared with the previous quarter and double that of the corresponding three-month period of 2017.

Opposite to previous periods, when they accounted for the largest share of detections at regional level, during Q1 2018 the citizens from the six regional partners were outranked by non-regional nationalities associated with the migration flow originating from Turkey. Specifically only 22% of the total illegal stayers reported in Q1 2018 were represented by citizens from the region, 9% were nationals of EU MSs while 69% were third country nationals from outside the region.

Syrians, Libyans, Pakistanis, Palestinians, Afghans, Algerians, and Iraqis, generally do not regard the region as a destination but rather an area to cross on the way towards Western Europe, and are nationalities directly linked to the non-regional transiting flow. Thus a look at these nationalities' performance against the illegal

stay indicator on the territories of the six regional partners can give some indication as to the general situation in the Western Balkans region.

A total of 720 of the abovementioned nationals staying illegally were detected by the six regional partners in Q1, a number almost four times higher than the one registered by the same nationalities during the previous three-month period (i.e. 163). All the mentioned nationals registered significant increases.

It is worth observing that Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania have reported the highest increases, together reporting roughly 600 out of the total 720 detections of the mentioned nationals in the region. Montenegro also registered a 68% increase but in absolute terms its numbers remained modest. Meanwhile the numbers reported by the other three regional partners remained largely on a par with that of Q4 2017.

As mentioned in previous editions of the quarterly, the increased number of illegal

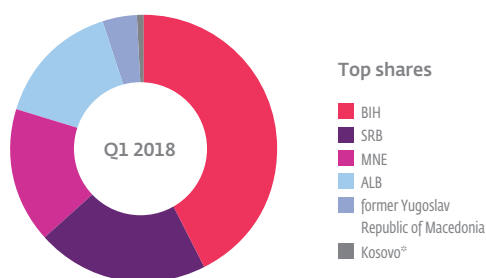
stayers associated with the non-regional transiting flow might also indicate that enhanced border controls are making the region more difficult to transit, which means that migrants have to spend more time en route.

Moreover the sharp increases reported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and to a lesser extent Montenegro, all indicate increased migratory pressure along the sub-route via Albania-Montenegro-Bosnia and Herzegovina.

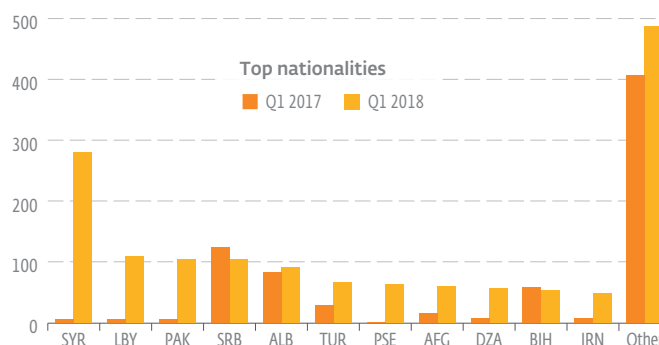
The number of Iranian nationals detected for illegally staying in the Western Balkans countries remained similar to that of Q4 2017. However if in Q4 they were all reported by Serbia, during the analysed quarter they were reported in almost equal shares by both Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. This development indicates that after reaching Serbia legally, Iranians also attempt to join the new sub-route stemming from the Greece-Albania border section.

Figure 7. **More non-regional persons detected as illegal stayers, especially by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and to a lesser extent by Montenegro**

Illegal stayers, by reporting Western Balkan country, top shares (left) and nationalities (right)



Source: WB-RAN data as of 7 May 2018



II. Statistical annex

LEGEND

Symbols and abbreviations: **n.a.** not applicable
: data not available

Source: WB-RAN and FRAN data as of 7 May 2018, unless otherwise indicated

Note: 'Member States' in the tables refer to FRAN Member States, including both 28 EU Member states and three Schengen Associated Countries

Disclaimer: 'Data for Croatia is only available for January and February 2018 at the moment of writing this report

Table 1. **Illegal border-crossing between BCPs**

Detections reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, , top five border sections and top ten nationalities

	2016		2017			2018	% change on		per cent of total	Highest share	Nationality
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	year ago	previous Qtr			
Top Five Sections											
Albania-Land-Greece	1 603	1 939	1 867	1 924	2 424	2 404	24	-0.8	38	Albania (67%)	
Greece-Land-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1 891	1 056	809	656	1 265	1 249	18	-1.3	20	Pakistan (26%)	
Hungary-Land-Serbia	4 002	2 900	1 074	2 971	1 883	851	-71	-55	13	Afghanistan (40%)	
Albania-Land-Montenegro	22	38	10	81	53	450	1 084	749	7	Syria (45%)	
Bosnia and Herzegovina-Land-Serbia	31	26	23	90	86	445	1 612	417	7	Pakistan (17%)	
All Other	1 434	1 089	1 601	1 649	1 466	986	-9.5	-33	15	Syria (24%)	
Top Ten Nationalities											
Albania	1 875	1 994	2 138	1 997	2 423	1 841	-7.7	-24	29	Albania-Land-Greece (88%)	
Syria	794	705	246	197	322	1 037	47	222	16	Albania-Land-Greece (36%)	
Pakistan	1 443	1 157	921	1 991	1 459	942	-19	-35	15	Greece-Land-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (35%)	
Afghanistan	2 793	1 529	594	1 478	993	784	-49	-21	12	Hungary-Land-Serbia (43%)	
Libya	22	54	48	98	179	263	387	47	4.1	Bosnia and Herzegovina-Land-Serbia (28%)	
Iraq	490	421	487	94	279	256	-39	-8.2	4	Greece-Land-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (41%)	
Iran	94	58	93	79	243	246	324	1.2	3.9	Greece-Land-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (54%)	
Algeria	208	303	125	245	248	191	-37	-23	3	Albania-Land-Greece (39%)	
Kosovo ^o	246	335	224	432	283	188	-44	-34	2.9	Hungary-Land-Serbia (29%)	
Morocco	52	58	17	67	74	124	114	68	1.9	Albania-Land-Greece (40%)	
All Other	966	434	491	693	674	513	18	-24	8	Greece-Land-the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (19%)	
Total	8 983	7 048	5 384	7 371	7 177	6 385	-9.4	-11	100		

^o 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.

Table 2. **Illegal border-crossing at BCPs**

Detections reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, top five border sections and top ten nationalities

	2017					2018		2018 Q1		Highest share	Nationality	
	2016		2017			2018		% change on				per cent of total
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	year ago	previous Qtr				
Top Five Sections												
Croatia-Land-Serbia	211	746	653	71	104	347	-53	234	58	Afghanistan (57%)		
Hungary-Land-Serbia	78	21	21	7	16	76	262	375	13	Afghanistan (54%)		
Bosnia and Herzegovina-Land-Serbia	0	45	32	21	20	66	47	230	11	Afghanistan (29%)		
Bosnia and Herzegovina-Land-Croatia	9	10	1	10	12	28	180	133	4.7	Albania (21%)		
Romania-Land-Serbia	0	0	0	0	0	14	n.a.	n.a.	2.3	Kosovo* (79%)		
All Other	60	75	156	406	349	66	-12	-81	11	Albania (24%)		
Top Ten Nationalities												
Afghanistan	198	674	667	73	122	263	-61	116	44	Serbia (48%)		
Pakistan	50	112	45	12	6	108	-3.6	1 700	18	Serbia (45%)		
Kosovo*	13	19	5	14	19	53	179	179	8.9	Croatia (64%)		
Iran	5	8	1	0	9	36	350	300	6	Croatia (58%)		
Albania	28	22	21	176	182	22	0	-88	3.7	Montenegro (27%)		
Bangladesh	1	0	0	0	0	14	n.a.	n.a.	2.3	Bosnia and Herzegovina (50%)		
Iraq	10	7	14	23	24	13	86	-46	2.2	Serbia (92%)		
India	0	4	0	1	0	11	175	n.a.	1.8	Croatia (82%)		
Turkey	5	2	5	9	9	9	350	0	1.5	Croatia (67%)		
Syria	16	11	27	37	50	9	-18	-82	1.5	Bosnia and Herzegovina (44%)		
All Other	32	38	78	170	80	59	55	-26	9.9	Serbia (41%)		
Total	358	897	863	515	501	597	-33	19	100			

* 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.

Table 3. **Facilitators**

Detections reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, place of detection and top ten nationalities

						2018 Q1				Highest share
	2016		2017		2018	% change on		per cent of total	Nationality	
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	year ago			
Place of Detection										
Land	226	149	122	132	184	155	4	-16	80	Albania (33%)
Inland	40	39	49	24	51	35	-10	-31	18	Serbia (57%)
Sea	0	0	2	5	5	3	n.a.	-40	1.6	Albania (100%)
Air	0	0	0	0	4	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Top Ten Nationalities										
Albania	34	32	34	29	43	57	78	33	30	Greece (60%)
Serbia	108	68	71	58	81	50	-26	-38	26	Serbia (96%)
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	11	5	1	7	6	12	140	100	6.2	Greece (50%)
Bulgaria	39	20	5	3	10	10	-50	0	5.2	the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (60%)
Greece	23	20	22	16	18	9	-55	-50	4.7	Greece (78%)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	9	4	19	10	8	-11	-20	4.1	Bosnia and Herzegovina (100%)
Croatia	1	6	0	4	3	6	0	100	3.1	Croatia (50%)
Pakistan	3	1	3	2	5	5	400	0	2.6	Greece (100%)
Unknown	16	4	5	1	9	4	0	-56	2.1	Bulgaria (75%)
Turkey	5	7	3	4	7	4	-43	-43	2.1	Greece (50%)
All Other	23	16	25	18	52	28	75	-46	15	Croatia (25%)
Total	266	188	173	161	244	193	2.7	-21	100	

Table 4. **Illegal stay**

Detections reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, place of detection and top ten nationalities

Place of Detection	2016		2017		2018		2018 Q1		Highest share	Nationality	
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	% change on year ago	% change on previous Qtr			per cent of total
	Land	765	576	1 479	2 534	2 484	1 909	231			-23
Inland	566	721	776	752	1 177	1 528	112	30	44	Syria (18%)	
Sea	0	0	0	0	0	1	n.a.	n.a.	0	Libya (100%)	
Not specified	183	30	0	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Top Ten Nationalities										Reporting Country	
Serbia	589	514	1 061	1 612	1 682	1 149	124	-32	33	Hungary (89%)	
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	89	88	289	654	486	329	274	-32	9.6	Hungary (90%)	
Albania	240	114	173	287	450	319	180	-29	9.3	Hungary (49%)	
Syria	24	15	12	19	26	292	1 847	1 023	8.5	Bosnia and Herzegovina (68%)	
Pakistan	26	18	43	17	49	142	689	190	4.1	Bosnia and Herzegovina (42%)	
Libya	5	5	1	13	25	112	2 140	348	3.3	Bosnia and Herzegovina (59%)	
Afghanistan	20	21	40	56	13	101	381	677	2.9	Bosnia and Herzegovina (47%)	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	45	69	103	104	130	98	42	-25	2.9	Montenegro (31%)	
Iran	3	10	8	7	47	82	720	74	2.4	Serbia (34%)	
Turkey	45	31	55	47	71	78	152	9.9	2.3	Serbia (33%)	
All Other	428	442	470	470	682	736	67	7.9	21	Bosnia and Herzegovina (26%)	
Total	1 514	1 327	2 255	3 286	3 661	3 438	159	-6.1	100		

Table 5. Refusals of entry

Refusals reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring countries, border type and top ten nationalities

Border Type	2016		2017		2018		2018 Q1			Highest share
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	% change on		per cent of total	
							year ago	previous Qtr		
Land	12 939	9 749	11 797	14 808	12 662	9 300	-4.6	-27	91	Albania (45%)
Air	772	548	694	1 347	1 447	948	73	-34	9.3	Turkey (41%)
Sea	22	4	32	35	16	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Top Ten Nationalities										Reporting Country
Albania	3 507	4 589	5 909	5 715	7 224	4 155	-9.5	-42	41	Greece (63%)
Serbia	1 460	1 717	1 715	2 271	1 787	1 919	12	7.4	19	Hungary (78%)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1 126	1 107	1 068	1 135	1 036	806	-27	-22	7.9	Croatia (75%)
Turkey	534	417	524	873	831	653	57	-21	6.4	Croatia (22%)
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	381	483	436	691	476	571	18	20	5.6	Hungary (45%)
Kosovo ^a	326	254	303	941	268	286	13	6.7	2.8	Bosnia and Herzegovina (38%)
Iran	10	6	20	167	319	146	2 333	-54	1.4	Serbia (68%)
India	28	34	46	138	281	134	294	-52	1.3	Serbia (75%)
Afghanistan	66	167	148	173	125	123	-26	-1.6	1.2	Croatia (92%)
Montenegro	126	110	125	155	141	106	-3.6	-25	1	Serbia (42%)
All Other	6 169	1 417	2 229	3 931	1 637	1 349	-4.8	-18	13	Serbia (46%)
Total	13 733	10 301	12 523	16 190	14 125	10 248	-0.5	-27	100	

^a 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.

Table 6. Applications for asylum

Applications for international protection reported by Western Balkan and neighbouring by ten nationalities

							2018 Q1			Highest share
	2016		2017		2018		% change on		per cent of total	
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	year ago	previous Qtr		
Top Ten Nationalities										Reporting Country
Syria	11 573	6 126	3 093	5 053	5 155	4 607	-25	-11	28	Greece (76%)
Iraq	4 683	2 876	2 089	3 781	3 869	3 234	12	-16	20	Greece (85%)
Pakistan	2 701	2 549	2 355	2 674	2 384	2 061	-19	-14	13	Greece (83%)
Afghanistan	6 520	3 781	2 193	2 657	2 492	1 658	-56	-33	10	Greece (78%)
Albania	499	336	688	741	696	751	124	7.9	4.6	Greece (100%)
Turkey	197	236	350	786	760	433	83	-43	2.7	Greece (91%)
Iran	692	538	432	441	444	423	-21	-4.7	2.6	Greece (73%)
Bangladesh	417	343	359	437	356	365	6.4	2.5	2.2	Greece (98%)
Algeria	591	410	230	381	475	363	-11	-24	2.2	Greece (59%)
Congo (D.R.)	117	442	407	91	162	280	-37	73	1.7	Greece (100%)
All Other	2 479	3 072	2 197	2 548	2 571	2 134	-31	-17	13	Greece (83%)
Total	30 469	20 709	14 393	19 590	19 364	16 309	-21	-16	100	

^o 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.

Table 7. **Persons using false documents**

Detections reported by Western Balkan countries, border type, document type, top ten nationalities and top ten countries of issuance of documents

	2016		2017			2018	2018 Q1		per cent of total
	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	% change on year ago previous Qtr		
Border Type									
Land	179	212	184	199	387	326	54	-16	61
Air	53	40	88	152	255	168	320	-34	31
Sea	5	12	21	37	34	40	233	18	7.5
Not available	0	0	0	2	13	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Document Type									
Passports	121	135	159	228	426	304	125	-29	57
ID cards	69	65	82	93	134	104	60	-22	19
Residence permit	21	25	18	25	56	48	92	-14	9
Stamps	3	10	0	8	11	45	350	309	8.4
Visas	16	20	19	34	48	30	50	-38	5.6
Not specified	7	9	15	2	14	3	-67	-79	0.6
Top Ten Nationalities									
Kosovo ^o	58	75	68	90	118	129	72	9.3	24
Albania	87	91	104	126	169	100	9.9	-41	19
Turkey	10	24	17	35	74	86	258	16	16
Iran	5	2	7	24	190	68	3 300	-64	13
Serbia	12	27	36	19	40	27	0	-33	5.1
Pakistan	12	2	3	11	13	13	550	0	2.4
China	0	1	20	3	15	13	1 200	-13	2.4
Syria	3	3	3	3	2	10	233	400	1.9
Russia	0	0	3	0	2	10	n.a.	400	1.9
India	1	0	3	13	5	9	n.a.	80	1.7
All Other	49	39	29	66	61	69	77	13	13
Top Ten Countries of Issuance of Documents									
Albania	51	47	56	69	81	73	55	-9.9	14
Italy	32	42	63	47	85	50	19	-41	9.4
Turkey	2	3	3	13	32	47	1 467	47	8.8
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	13	16	11	13	33	43	169	30	8.1
Serbia	14	27	29	31	55	43	59	-22	8.1
Greece	13	24	18	35	36	26	8.3	-28	4.9
Bulgaria	23	13	7	21	29	23	77	-21	4.3
France	7	8	12	19	64	21	163	-67	3.9
Kosovo ^o	8	7	7	12	17	18	157	5.9	3.4
Germany	9	8	11	13	41	16	100	-61	3
All Other	65	69	76	117	216	174	152	-19	33
Total	237	264	293	390	689	534	102	-22	100

^o 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..

Explanatory note

Detections reported for EU Member States for indicators Illegal border-crossing between BCPs, Illegal border-crossing at BCPs, Refusals of entry and Document fraud are detections at the common land borders on entry only. For Facilitators, detections at the common land borders on entry and exit are included.

For Illegal stay, only detections at the common land borders on exit are included. For

Asylum, all applications (land, sea, air and inland) are included.

For Western Balkan countries, all indicators – save for Refusals of entry – include detections (applications) on exit and entry at the land, sea and air borders. Each section in the table refers to total detections reported by WB-RAN countries and to neighbouring land border detections reported by EU Member States.



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