

MMC Europe QUARTER 1 2023

Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: Europe

This Quarterly Mixed Migration Update (QMMU) covers Europe. The core countries of focus are Spain, Italy, Greece and countries along the Balkan migration route. Depending on the quarterly trends and migration-related updates, more attention may be given to any of the countries over the rest.

The QMMUs offer a quarterly update on new trends and dynamics related to mixed migration and relevant policy developments in the region. These updates are based on a compilation of a wide range of secondary (data) sources, brought together within a regional framework and applying a mixed migration analytical lens. Similar QMMUs are available for all MMC regions.

MMC is a global network engaged in data collection, research, analysis, and policy and programmatic development on mixed migration, with regional hubs hosted in Danish Refugee Council (DRC) regional offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Latin America, and a global team based across Copenhagen, Geneva and Brussels. For more information on MMC, the QMMUs from other regions and contact details of regional MMC teams, visit <u>mixedmigration.org</u> and follow us at <u>@Mixed_Migration</u>

MMC's understanding of mixed migration

"Mixed migration" refers to cross-border movements of people, including refugees fleeing persecution and conflict, victims of trafficking, and people seeking better lives and opportunities. Motivated to move by a multiplicity of factors, people engaged in mixed migration have a range of legal statuses as well as a variety of vulnerabilities. Although entitled to protection under international human rights law, they are exposed to multiple rights violations along their journey. Mixed migration describes refugees and migrants travelling along similar routes, using similar means of travel – often travelling irregularly, and wholly or partially, assisted by migrant smugglers.

Front cover photo credit: Lesbos, Moria camp. Jan Krarup 2019

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Quarterly Mixed Migration Update: **Europe**

Quarter 1 - 2023

Key Updates

- Increase in irregular arrivals: Irregular migration to the EU in the last quarter of 2022 was nearly double the same period in the previous year, with most reported to be arriving via the Western Balkan, then the Central Mediterranean routes.
- Serbia's visa policy change: Visa changes that cut off air routes to Serbia for key nationalities (Burundians, Indians) likely played a role in a shift in dynamics in the first quarter of 2023, reducing the importance of the Western Balkan route relative to the Central Mediterranean.
- Increase in asylum applications: Over the New Year period (1 December to 31 January 2023), Germany registered the most first-time asylum applications, followed by France, Spain, and the UK. Germany also registered the highest relative increase, with applications up 89% in the same period last year.
- **Missing migrants:** Until 9 April, 494 refugees and migrants have died or gone missing in the Mediterranean in 2023; most drowned. The Central crossing towards Italy was the deadliest geographically and January was the deadliest month so far this year.
- **Expanding returns:** The Swedish Presidency of the European Council is focusing heavily on returns and border security in neighbourhood countries. Technical and financial support particularly in the Western Balkans aims to increase returns and interceptions at the region's 'internal' borders.
- Deals on managing migration: Cooperation on migration is increasing between Morocco and Europe, as well as Tunisia and Europe. Memoranda of Understanding was agreed between Spain and Morocco and talks were held between Italy and Tunisia. The EU also presented new cooperation programmes with Morocco, including a "comprehensive programme on migration".
- **Courts move to protect migrants and refugees:** The European Court of Human Rights found Hungarian and Croatian authorities at fault in the deaths of refugees and migrants in 2015 and 2016; courts in Italy and Spain found national authorities' efforts to repel arriving migrants and refugees unlawful.
- **UK seeking to halt irregular arrivals:** The UK's 'Stop the Boats' Illegal Migration Bill underwent its first rounds of Parliamentary scrutiny. It has caused controversy for its apparent departure from the international norms around the interpretation of the 1951 Refugee Convention, namely the right of people who reach the territory to lodge an application for asylum.



*Information on the map relates to selected updates and does not represent all mixed migration within and out of Europe.

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Mixed Migration Regional Updates

Europe region

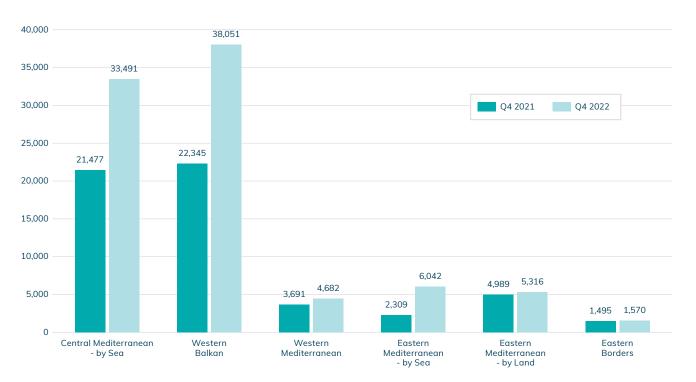


Figure 1. Frontex detections of irregular arrivals, by route, Q4 2021 vs. Q4 2022¹

Frontex <u>reported</u> 330,000 irregular border crossings at the EU's external border in 2022. Syrians, Afghans and Tunisians accounted for 47% of detections. In the final quarter of 2022, the Western Balkans was the most important entry route into the EU (Figure 1).

In the first quarter of 2023, reports of irregular border crossings in the Western Balkans slowed, while the Central Mediterranean once more became the busier route according to both <u>Frontex</u> and <u>UNHCR</u>.²

Data on the countries of origin of those detected arriving irregularly into the European Union showed:³

- On the Central Mediterranean, arrivals from Egypt (5,369) remained the most common; detections of individuals from Bangladesh doubled to 4,364; Côte d'Ivoire moved into the top three (4,022).
- Western Balkans: Syria remained most common (24,589) and increased 86%; Afghanistan was second (4,597); and Burundi (1,709) moved into the top three, eclipsing Turkey.

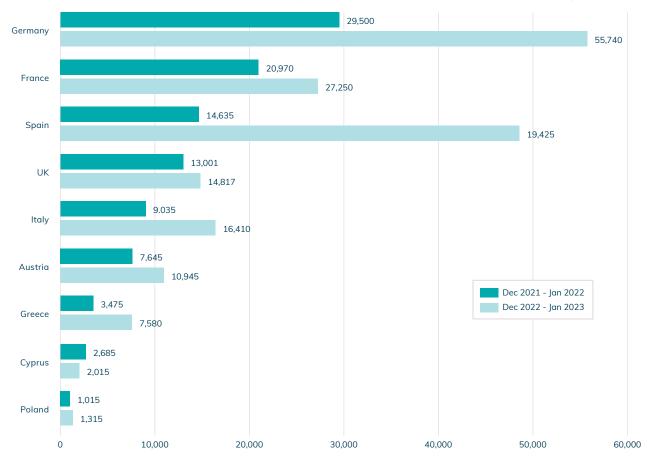
¹ Monthly data taken from Frontex dataset: Detections of Irregular Border Crossings. February 3, 2023. Accessed 27 March 2023. As of 4 April 2023, the dataset appeared to be no longer available. Note that Frontex assimilates data from national authorities on attempts to cross borders irregularly. As migrants and refugees often make multiple attempts to cross the same border, double counting is likely.

² UNHCR. "Situation Mediterranean Situation," accessed 8 April 2023.

³ Frontex dataset: Detections of Irregular Border Crossings. February 3, 2023. Accessed 27 March 2023. Note that detections can include multiple attempts by the same individual.

- Western Mediterranean: nationals from Algeria (2,828), Morocco (1,231), and Syria (185) were detected at similar rates to the year before.
- Eastern Mediterranean: Palestine arrivals were the most common on the sea route, tripling from the previous year to 1,564. Individuals from Afghanistan were the second most common among sea (1,283) and land (538) detections and Somalia (670) made up the rest of the top three by sea; Nigeria (533) on land.

Figure 2. First-time asylum applications in key EU countries and the UK, comparison of December 2021-January 2022 and December 2022-January 2023.⁴



This New Year period saw an increase in fresh asylum applications across the EU compared to the same period 12 months ago. The largest number of applications was in Germany, with 55,740 – an 89% increase. However, Spain and Greece received larger relative increases. Fewer applied in Cyprus than this time last year (-25%).

<u>IOM</u> and <u>UNHCR</u> data found 494 and 443 people to be dead or missing, respectively, so far in 2023. January is the deadliest month so far in 2023, with 227 reported dead or missing.

⁴ EU figures are from Eurostat, "Asylum and First Time Asylum Applicants by Citizenship, Age and Sex - Monthly Data." Accessed on 11 April 2023 (last updated 6 April), <u>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database</u>. UK figures are from UK government, "UK Government Irregular Migration Statistics, Year Ending December 2022." Accessed 3 April 2023 Ukraine nationals in the EU are usually granted protection under the Temporary Protection Directive and are insignificant among asylum applications, except in Estonia, where they make up the majority.,<u>https:// www.gov.uk/government/statistics/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-december-2022</u>. UK government statistics are given quarterly; for better comparability with EU data, the chart gives two thirds of the quarterly figure.

Eastern routes

- While the level of detection of irregular entry at the EU's eastern borders has changed little between Q4 of 2022 and Q4 of 2021 (see Figure 1), the population attempting to reach the EU has changed. Irregular entry of Iraq and Syria nationals via the EU's Eastern borders dramatically declined in 2022. This has been attributed to the halting of direct flights between Iraq and Belarus in later 2021. While 846 Iraqis were detected crossing from Belarus to Poland and, some to Latvia and Lithuania, this was down to just 52 in 2022.⁵ There is some evidence that following the cessation of direct flights to Minsk, smugglers began to promote <u>a new route via Moscow.</u>
- Nine bodies were found in the swampy area at the Belarus-Poland border in <u>January</u> and <u>February</u>. IOM estimated 20 dead and missing at the EU-Belarus border in the first quarter of 2023,⁶ although NGOs on the border collectively known as Grupo Granica say 285 have been reported missing.
- A <u>shipwreck off Crotone that killed 86 people</u> began its journey in Turkey. The route from Turkey to Italy is a more direct and expensive route from Turkey to the Schengen zone.

Ukraine

- Around <u>5 million⁷ Ukrainians are registered</u> under the EU's Temporary Protection Directive and equivalent schemes in non-EU European countries. After Russia (2.9m), Poland (1.6m) and Germany (0.9m) have the highest numbers registered. Third-country nationals with long-term residence in Ukraine <u>can also</u> <u>claim</u> Temporary Protection.
- Despite conflict continuing, there is evidence of Ukrainians returning to Ukraine in 2023. A <u>survey</u> of 3,900 Ukrainians displaced to neighbouring countries, undertaken between December 2022 and January 2023, found nearly one in five (17%) intended to return during 2023, with rates higher among older respondents and those who had integrated less at destination.
- Non-Ukrainians living in Ukraine on 24 February 2022 who did not have long-term status are only covered by the Directive if they are <u>"unable to return to their country [...] of origin in safe and durable conditions"</u>. There were an estimated <u>38,000-61,000 undocumented migrants</u> and <u>77,000 international students</u> in Ukraine before the war, (44%) came from India and Morocco. A January 2023 survey of <u>300</u> refugees and asylum seekers who were residing in Ukraine prior to 24 February 2022 found significant gaps in protection. Most respondents had not received temporary protection, were not aware of where to find legal aid, and faced obstacles in applying for or being granted status. Additionally, they did not have access to full housing assistance or free medical care, and some had no identity or travel documents.

⁵ In its definition of Eastern Land Borders, Frontex aggregates detections from Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Norway land borders with Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus and Russian Federation.

⁶ Based on IOM Missing Migrant data, <u>downloadable here.</u>

⁷ UNHCR counted 5,027,182 as of 4 April 2023, but notes that this may include double counting as some Ukrainians register in more than one country.

Western Balkan route

- 45% of Frontex irregular border detections in 2022 were via the Western Balkans, making it the single biggest source of irregular arrivals to the EU. Most did not claim asylum but continued onwards towards the Schengen area.
- The Schengen area expanded, with the addition of Croatia on 1 January 2023 (and <u>air borders removed</u> <u>on 26 March</u>). Applications from Bulgaria and Romania were rebuffed.
- In 2022, migrants and refugees were found to have <u>moved faster through the Western Balkans</u> than before. The number of people encountered by reception authorities was higher than ever but average stays shorter, with migrants staying about five times longer in 2021. Croatia's softened approach to pushbacks may have played a role, having been <u>a prominent offender</u> throughout the year. <u>Pushbacks</u> <u>continued</u> across the EU's external borders with the Western Balkans and beyond, as well as within the Schengen zone, from France to Italy.
- Bosnia & Herzegovina's first forcible returns of <u>Pakistani</u>, Bangladeshi, and Moroccan nationals took place in 2022. This may be a factor in the apparent reduction in the <u>number of Pakistanis transiting</u> Bosnia & Herzegovina and a parallel increase in the number of Pakistanis <u>on the Central Mediterranean</u> <u>route</u>.
- On 24 February, the EU concluded a border cooperation <u>agreement</u> with North Macedonia. From 1 April 2023, Frontex will assist North Macedonia in its efforts to manage migratory flows, counter illegal immigration and tackle cross-border crime.
- In January 2023, the Swiss Federal Office for Customs and Border Security reported that 52,077 irregular migrants were intercepted in the country in 2022, <u>an almost three-fold increase</u> compared to 2021 (18,859). This can be <u>attributed to a rise in irregular entries from Austria</u> and, during the second half of 2022, from Italy. The <u>prevailing nationalities</u> intercepted were Afghans, Tunisians and Moroccans, who have also commonly been detected in significant numbers in Western Balkan countries.

Central Mediterranean route

- UNHCR <u>reported</u> 27,876 arrivals in the Central Mediterranean, more than half of whom arrived in March as the weather warmed. Frontex <u>reported</u> the same trend, with a 118% increase (to 11,951) in the first two months of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. Most arrivals come from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Pakistan.
- <u>More than 4,000 refugees and migrants arrived</u> in Southern Italy in a 48-hour period in March, the largest number recorded over such a period. <u>Better than expected weather conditions and a crackdown on sub-Saharan migrants in Tunisia</u> may have factored into the increase.
- Based on the IOM Missing Migrants project, which draws on media and other reports, the Central Mediterranean continues to be the most dangerous crossing in the world.⁸ In the Mediterranean as a whole, 494 were recorded dead and missing so far in 2023 (<u>as of 9 April</u>). While sub-Saharan nationals were frequently among victims, the country of origin is usually unknown.

⁸ The IOM's missing migrants project found consistently more refugees and migrants dying or going missing in the Central Mediterranean since 2014 than any other region. Last year, it recorded 2,406 dead and missing compared to 1,434 in the Americas, the second most deadly region.

• There has been a series of shipwrecks in the past quarter involving a large number of fatalities. On 26 February, a shipwreck off <u>Crotone</u>, Italy, killed at least <u>86</u>, having set off from Turkey. On 26 March, 29 people died in two shipwrecks off the coast of Tunisia.

Western Mediterranean Route and Atlantic Route

- While the final quarter of 2022 saw a rise in irregular detections compared to the previous year (Figure 1), the first two months of 2023 saw a decrease of 38% when compared to the first two months of 2022.
 Spain recorded a 51% decrease in irregular arrivals via land and sea (4,287) during the first quarter of the year, compared to the same period in 2022. The Spanish mainland and the Balearic Islands registered an increase of about 15%, while the enclaves of Melilla and Ceuta saw a large drop.
- 23 people were recorded missing and dead on the Western Mediterranean route in the first quarter of 2023. According to the reports compiled by the IOM Missing Migrants project, most records concerned attempts to enter Ceuta. In 2022, 605 migrants died on the Western Mediterranean route.
- On 13 March, the Spanish ombudsman <u>concluded</u> the investigation into the tragedy that took place on 24 June 2022, when at least 23 migrants were killed by Moroccan security forces at the border between the city of Nador and Melilla after having been pushed back from Melilla. Contrary to the Ministry of the Interior, the ombudsman concluded that the 470 forced returns that were carried out that day were illegal. In January, Morocco's Court of Appeals <u>extended the jail terms</u> of 13 refugees and migrants who attempted to reach Melilla that day.

Policy and Legal Updates

The EU and Member States focus on expanding returns

Sweden assumed the Presidency of the Council on 1 January (until 30 June), with a focus on returns and progress with the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. Key actions and debate outcomes so far:

- On 24 January, the European Commission <u>published</u> a strategy for more effective returns, which seeks to "double the number of third countries covered by the Frontex Joint Reintegration Services."
- In February, a special <u>meeting of the European Council</u> emphasised external action on irregular migration. There is a call for enhanced monitoring of migration movements and reception centre capacity, revisions to the Schengen Borders Code and the Return Directive, and the continued implementation of Frontex's expanded mandate to operate outside of the EU.
- In March, the European Commission <u>recommendation</u> on the Return Directive proposed concrete measures to create "mobile support teams" to process rapid returns that respect fundamental rights, and a renewed push on alternatives to detention. Separately, potential <u>plans</u> to offer lower trade tariffs to countries cooperating on returns may breach global trade rules.

Focus on the Western Balkans

Much attention is focused on the Western Balkans. A November 2022 trilateral agreement between Austria-Hungary-Serbia <u>promised</u> to help Serbia organise the swift removal of asylum seekers from 'safe' third countries. European Council conclusions have paid particular attention to: the need to bring Serbia's visa policy into line with that of the EU (see below), returns and readmission, and including mutual recognition of visa decisions. On 20 March 2023, the EC launched a <u>pilot project</u> with Bulgaria to effect "more effective returns and increased border protection."

Relocation from Mediterranean countries remains slow

<u>The Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism</u> was established in June 2022 by 21 European countries to help ease the burden on Mediterranean Member States receiving high numbers of irregular arrivals. It is the latest iteration of various EU relocation mechanisms since 2015, and anticipates the establishment of a permanent mechanism as part of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. By 1 December 2022, <u>207 people had been transferred</u>, all of them from Italy. This contrasts with <u>5,000 relocated from Greece to other European countries from 2020 to 2022</u> under a previous version of the scheme.

Protection to Ukrainians to be extended "as long as needed"

<u>On 8 March, the European Commission</u> reiterated the extension of the Temporary Protection Directive to March 2024 and its commitment to further extensions as needed. It outlined labour market integration support, access to funding for student exchanges, and support for those who wish to return. Almost 4 million people have taken refuge in the EU since the outbreak of war.

Courts move to protect migrant and refugee rights

The European Court of Human Rights <u>found</u> Hungary to have violated Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights by removing applicants to Serbia from a transit zone in 2016 without assessing the risk of ill treatment and for the <u>death of a Syrian national</u> in similar circumstances in the same year. In January, <u>it ruled against</u> Croatia, which it found had not protected the right to life of three Moroccans who died in a fire at a border police station in 2015.

The Italian Court of Catania, Sicily, <u>ruled</u> in February that the Italian inter-ministerial decree, which prohibited the rescue ship Humanity 1 from stopping in Italian territorial waters on 4 November 2022, obstructed the right to rescue and access to the asylum process in a discriminatory manner – <u>hailed</u> as a 'win' for sea rescue organisations.

Serbia takes steps to align its visa policy with that of the EU

Serbia <u>changed</u> its visa-free travel regime after pressure from the EU for the accession candidate to align with its rules. Since 2022, Burundi and Tunisia nationals can no longer enter visa free, and since January 2023, Indian nationals also need a visa. Austrian authorities noted a 70% drop in irregular arrivals in December, ostensibly due to a fall in arrivals of Indian nationals.

The EU and individual member states seeking deals to curb irregular migration and increase legal departures from Morocco and Tunisia

With departures from Tunisia on the rise, Italy said it was <u>prepared</u> to allow more Tunisians to reach its shores legally in exchange for greater efforts to cut irregular migration from Tunisia. Italy and France both <u>voiced support</u> for Tunisia during the European Summit held in March.

In February 2023, the <u>governments</u> of Spain and Morocco signed deals on managing migration and boosting Spanish investment in Morocco. The <u>high level declaration</u> promised the two would "intensify their cooperation in the field of the fight against irregular migration, border control, the fight against networks and the readmission of irregular migrant", while at the same time acknowledging "their common commitment to dynamic mobility allowing the smooth and orderly movement of people".

The European Union also <u>presented new cooperation programmes</u> with Morocco in March, including a "comprehensive programme on migration" of €152 million.

Thematic Focus: "Stopping the Boats"

In 2022, 45,755 migrants and refugees arrived in the UK via small boats, the highest ever recorded. They were mostly adults (84%), male (84%) and from Albania, Afghanistan, and Iran (Figure 3). There were more women among Iranian (15%) and Albanian (12%) arrivals, and more children among Afghans (21%) and Iranians (17%). <u>13 people died or went missing</u> crossing the Channel in 2022, including <u>four who drowned in December</u>.

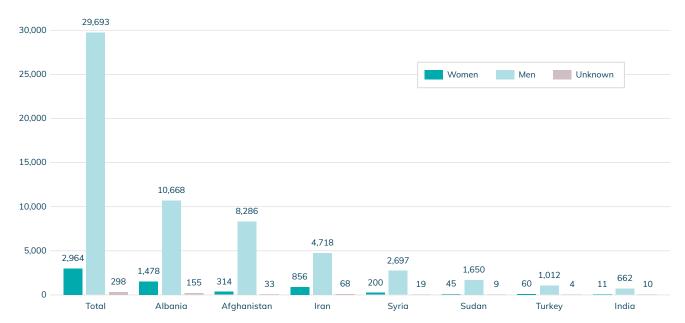


Figure 3. Small boat arrivals to the UK in 2022: Total and most common nationalities $^{\rm 9}$

<u>9 in 10 individuals arriving by small boat claimed asylum</u> and small boat arrivals made up about 45% of total UK claims in 2022.¹⁰ Most who arrive by boat <u>come from nationalities with high</u> rates of protection, although they are lower among Albanians (49% granted) and Indians (4%). As of February 2023, only <u>340</u> <u>arrivals in 2022 had received a decision, 210 of which were positive.</u>

More generally, the UK has a record backlog of 166,000 unresolved asylum applications, and is spending a significant portion of its overseas aid budget on housing asylum seekers, who do not have the right to work. The government is subject to repeated <u>criticism</u> for the conditions in which asylum seekers are accommodated and <u>child protection failings</u>.

⁹ Created from UK Government Statistics for the year ending December 2022, downloadable here.

¹⁰ There were 74,751 applications in 2022, relating to 89.398 people. See UK government, "How many people do we grant protection to?" 23 February 2023, https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-december-2022/how-many-peopledo-we-grant-protection-to.

Irregular arrivals by boat have taken up significant political attention in the UK, and halting these arrivals is one of <u>five key promises</u> made by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's new government. With multilateral levers such as the Dublin III agreement no longer available due to the UK's exit from the European Union, the UK has focused on bilateral measures – from <u>security in France</u> to stabilisation programmes in fragile origin countries – and unilateral action, namely <u>the introduction of progressively stringent legislation and policy</u> that has narrowed the rights of new arrivals.

The UK continues to work to prevent departures from France through cooperation with the French government. On 10 March, <u>the UK agreed</u> to pay France £476m (\leq 538m) over three years to cover activities including a detention centre for migrants in Northern France, a joint command centre, more patrols of the French coastline using drones, and an additional 500 French police officers. This more than doubles the spending of 2022, and is many multiples of previous cooperation <u>stretching back around 10 years</u>.

A more radical approach lies in the proposed legislation. Introduced less than a year after the passing of the <u>Nationalities and Borders Act</u>, which already altered the UK's protection regime and led to the 'Rwanda policy', the UK's new Illegal Migration Bill <u>seeks to</u> remove from the country all but the cases deemed to be most vulnerable. The Illegal Migration Bill would, should it become law, place a legal duty on the UK Home Office to remove all people who, regardless of whether they apply for asylum, meet four conditions: 1) they entered irregularly; 2) on or after 7 March 2023; 3) via a safe country; and 4) requires permission to stay but do not have it. Unaccompanied children and victims of trafficking are exempted from the obligation, with caveats. Asylum applicants suspected to be victims of trafficking in persons who would not ordinarily be granted the right to remain within the context of the asylum system, would no longer benefit from these protections. The bill articulates it as follows: "protections and entitlements to assistance and support which are available to victims of modern slavery or human trafficking [would] not [...] apply to persons who are subject to removal under this Act."

The thesis behind the bill is that removing the prospect of a right to stay in the UK will end demand for the route, and that the deal with Rwanda ensures that the UK complies with international obligations. The scheme, which the <u>UK High Court ruled legal</u> in December 2022, involves the UK <u>paying £140m to Rwanda</u> <u>plus relocation</u>, <u>processing</u>, <u>and integration costs</u>, and accepting an unspecified number of vulnerable refugees from Rwanda. Rwanda has agreed to process <u>1,000 asylum seekers</u> during the trial period and has capacity for more. Yet the 'Rwanda policy' remains non-operational since an <u>interim measure</u> of the European Court of Human Rights in June 2022 prevented the first flight from departing. The UK <u>government says that it hopes</u> it will be operational by mid-2023.

If passed into law, the bill will bring a significant change in protection norms, and almost certainly attract legal challenges. UNHCR has <u>stated</u> that the bill, if passed, "would amount to an asylum ban" and clearly breaches international law.

The effectiveness of these measures in deterring small boat arrivals is yet to be seen. Fluctuations in arrival numbers will, in any case, be difficult to attribute to one or more of these measures. <u>1,180 people arrived in small boats in January 2023</u>, suggesting the UK is on course to exceed numbers in previous years (4,548 did so in the first three months of 2022).

Highlighted New Research and Reports



Responding to displacement from Ukraine: Past, present and future policies

ICMPD | March 2023

The paper reviews events that have taken place since the war against Ukraine began and summarises the displacement that caused the invasion, with key policy reactions by ICMPD and IGC Member States. The paper also discusses different policy options at states' disposal once temporary protection and similar schemes end.



Providing Temporary Protection to Displaced Persons in Ukraine

European Union Agency for Asylum | March 2023

The report covers national developments in the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive, from crisis measures to changing legislation and practices.



Lives on Hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees from Ukraine

UNHCR | February 2023

This is the third Ukraine refugee intention survey since the beginning of the war. The study is based on surveys with around 3,900 refugees from Ukraine hosted in Europe in December 2022 and January 2023. The report provides an in-depth analysis of the factors and drivers behind refugee decisions and key insights into enabling factors of refugees' intentions, with the goal of informing advocacy, programming and decision-making of all stakeholders.



Frontex Year in Brief

Frontex | February 2023

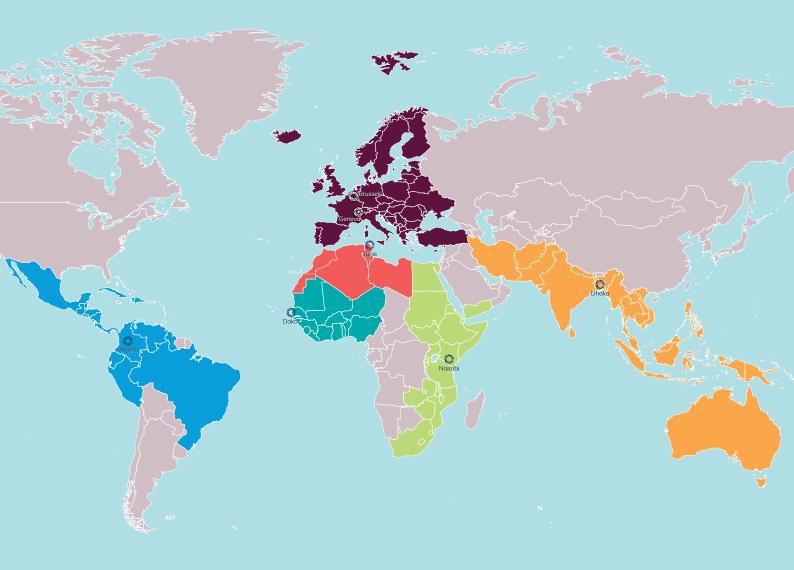
The report presents data from the past year on the operation support, crisis response, flight returns and fighting border crimes and illegal activities conducted by Frontex across the EU.



Beaten, Punished and Pushed Back: Protecting Rights at Borders

Protecting Rights at Borders (PRAB) | January 2023

This report presents rights violations at the borders of the European Union between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022 through information gathered with partner organisations across 8 countries in Europe: Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Poland, Serbia and Belgium. The report found violations with regard to denial of access to asylum procedures, arbitrary arrest or detention, physical abuse, theft or destruction of property across the borders of the EU.



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MMC is a leading source for independent and high-quality data, research, analysis and expertise. MMC aims to increase understanding of mixed migration, to positively impact global and regional migration policies, to inform evidence-based protection responses for people on the move and to stimulate forward thinking in public and policy debates on mixed migration. MMC's overarching focus is on human rights and protection for all people on the move.

MMC is part of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

For more information visit: <u>mixedmigration.org</u> and follow us at <u>@Mixed_Migration</u>



