

OIM: oltre un milione di migranti irregolari, rifugiati e arrivi in Europa

Organizzazione internazionale per le migrazioni

Comunicato stampa del 22 dicembre 2015

Greece - IOM confirmed yesterday (21/12) that over a million irregular migrants and refugees arrived in Europe in 2015, mostly from Syria, Africa and South Asia.

Through the weekend, IOM's *Displacement Tracking Matrix - Flow Monitoring System* counted 999,745 irregular arrivals across the Mediterranean, including migrants journeying by both land and sea to Greece, as well as to Bulgaria, Spain, Italy, Malta and Cyprus.

With arrivals of 4,141 migrants or refugees landing in Greece on Monday, IOM reports total arrivals to Europe at roughly 1,005,504, with just 3% coming by land. The total is the highest migration flow since World War II.

Till 21 December	Total	Sea	Land
Greece	821,008	816,752	4,256
Bulgaria	29,959		29,959
Italy	150,317	150,317	
Spain	3,845	3,845	
Malta	106	106	
Cyprus	269	269	
TOTAL	1,005,504	971,289	34,215

The tally of fatalities also continues to rise, with 20 new deaths recorded in the Eastern Mediterranean since last Friday. This year's total of migrant/refugee deaths now stands at 3,692 - over 400 more than in 2014 - plus at least 30 more deaths reported by African migrants seeking to enter Europe through Spain's Canary Islands.

IOM Greece continues to monitor fatalities in the Greek islands, where a growing number of victims are young children. On 19 December a wooden boat carrying 62 migrants capsized off Chios Island and a 2-year old Iraqi boy drowned. According to the Greek Coast Guard, six of the 15 bodies of migrants and refugees to wash up on Greek islands this month have been infants or children.

"We know migration is inevitable, necessary and desirable," said IOM Director General William Lacy Swing. "But it's not enough to count the number of those arriving - or the nearly 4,000 this year reported missing or drowned. We must also act. Migration must be legal, safe and secure for all - both for the migrants themselves and the countries that will become their new homes."

In December alone, IOM estimates that 67,700 or more migrants have crossed into Greece through the country's maritime borders. During the same period, some 52,500 people crossed from Greece into the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRoM.) This means that roughly 77% of all migrant arrivals in December already have passed through Greece and into FYROM and other points further north.

Since the beginning of the year, IOM estimates that over 810,000 migrants and refugees have crossed into Greece by sea. Only about 5,000 migrants have crossed into Greece by land.

According to IOM's monitoring system between 9-20 December 45.6% of migrants crossing Greece's FYRoM border were male adults; 21.9% were female adults; 35% were accompanied children and 1.5% unaccompanied minors. The vast majority are Syrians, followed by Iraqi and Afghans, as no other nationalities are now allowed to cross.

IOM is offering assisted voluntary return to their country of origin for migrants who have been turned back from the border. An increasing number of migrants, notably Moroccans, are expressing an interest, given the lack of other options to return home safely.

Mediterranean Developments

Arrivals by sea and deaths in the Mediterranean: 1 January – 21 December 2015

Country of Arrival	Arrivals	Deaths
Italy	150,317 (IOM est.)	2,889
Malta	106	<i>(Central Med route)</i>
Greece	816,752	731
Cyprus	269	<i>(Eastern Med route)</i>
		72
Spain	3,845	<i>(Western Med and Western African routes)</i>
Estimated Total	971,183	3,692*

***An additional 32 deaths occurred en route to the Spanish archipelago the Canary Islands.**

Arrivals BY SEA TO Italy

1 January – 21 December 2015

150,317 *

2014 Totals: 170,100 arrived in Italy

Arrivals by sea to Italy

January to November 2014/2015

(source: Italian MoI)

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
January	2,171	3,528
February	3,335	4,354
March	5,459	2,283
April	15,679	16,063
May	14,599	21,221
June	22,641	22,905
July	24,031	23,186
August	24,774	22,607
September	26,107	15,924
October	15,393	8,916
November	9,179	3,218
TOTAL	163,368	144,205

For the latest updates on arrivals and fatalities in the Mediterranean please visit www.Migration.iom.int/Europe

For further information please contact IOM Greece: Daniel Esdras Tel: +30 210 9912174

Email: iomeathens@iom.int or Kelly Namia, Tel: +302109919040, +302109912174,

Email: Knamia@iom.int