

MDR65001

7 June 2016

Combined Monthly Europe Population Movement Operations Update

A. Major developments by country

Country	Arrivals	People present*
Greece mainland	57	43,972
Greek islands	173	8,515
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0	378
Serbia	43	1,700
Croatia	0	70
Slovenia	0	N/A
Austria	132	N/A
Hungary	156	N/A

*Number of people present in Greece and estimated number of people currently present in countries along the previous route not applying for asylum. 2 June 2016, UNHCR.



Relocation centre in Skaramagas, Greece, 12 May 2016. The Hellenic Red Cross, supported by IFRC and a Spanish Red Cross medical team, provides people with basic health care including pediatricians and midwives, psychosocial support, and distributes food and hygiene items to everyone in need. Source: IFRC

Italy

The main route remains to be Southern Italy (especially Sicily) as first entry points from the North African coasts. In 2015, according to the UNHCR, 153,842 arrivals arrived in Italy by boats mainly from North African countries. In 2016, 47,820 people have arrived in Italy by sea (UNHCR- 2 June 2016).

Total arrivals in Italy in 2015	153,842
Total arrivals in Italy (Jan- 5 June 2016)	48,514
22% of arrivals are from the top 10 refugee emitting countries	14% are unaccompanied minors

There has been an increase in the number of migrants arriving Italy in the past few months. In May 2016, a series of shipwrecks and capsizing on the Mediterranean appears to have claimed at least 880 lives. To date, in 2016 some 2,510 lives have been lost compared to 1,855 in the same period in 2015. This highlights the importance of rescue operations as part of the response to the movement of refugees and migrants in the Mediterranean, and the need for real, safer alternatives for people needing international protection.¹

To date, 718 asylum seekers have been relocated from Italy to 19 EU countries and Switzerland.

¹ According to UNHCR-31 May 2016

Turkey

The over four-year crisis in Syria has displaced more than 4 million people into the neighbouring countries. As of 19 May 2016, there are over 2.7 million Syrian people living in Turkey and as of 15 May 2016, there are 262,129 people living in camps under the protection of the Turkish government. The remaining displaced Syrians are living outside the camps in urban areas in Turkey.

Greece

In May 1,465 of people arrived to Greece by sea. This is 40.13% less than in the previous month (3,650 arrivals). While in the past weeks we have seen several tragic incidents and thousands of people rescued in the Central Mediterranean route, the sea arrivals trends in this route remains similar to that of the previous year.

The Greek Government's efforts to increase the current reception capacity are on-going. According to the Alternate Minister for Migration Policy, 40,000 - 45,000 accommodation places were made available across the country in the past two months. The Alternate Minister for Migration Policy and the Regional Governor of Central Macedonia agreed that the refugee population present in Greece will be distributed fairly across the country by September 2016. The Minister explained that many of the current sites in Central Macedonia will close and be replaced by new sites across Greece.²

On 26 May, according to central Greek authorities, all refugees and migrants were evacuated from Idomeni. The Police have yet to confirm the official figures. UNHCR is in the process of collecting information on nationality breakdowns per site and additional interpreters are deployed through UNHCR's partners to support UNHCR in protection monitoring.

Conditions in the Reception and Identification Centres on the Greek islands continue to be dire, particularly for people with specific needs. This has led to increased tensions and to some protests. On Samos, some clashes broke out at the hotspot between Algerian and Pakistani nationals. Six people were hospitalized and between 30 and 40 Algerian and Pakistani nationals were arrested. This follows a similar clash in Lesbos the previous day, when severe fighting between Afghan and Pakistani nationals erupted on 1 June. A club hall was burnt to the ground and several people were taken to hospital for treatment of minor injuries.

So far, 1,142 asylum seekers have been relocated from Greece to 19 EU countries and Switzerland. (Source: European Commission data, as of 31 May).

Total arrivals in Greece in 2015	856,723
Total arrivals in Greece (Jan- 5 June 2016)	156,782
Demographics	Children (38%), women (21%), men (40%)

Western Balkans corridor (Albania, Bulgaria, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Croatia) and Hungary

On 5 April, **Albania** and **Italy** signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen border checks and patrols. With the closing of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greek border for migrants, there are now concerns that the migrants might try to cross into Albania and to enter Italy from there. According to the Minister of Social Welfare of Albania, the country is ready to handle an influx of migrants and children will be accommodated in special centres. Currently, the open regime reception centre for asylum seekers in Babrru, Tirana accommodates 140 people, while the closed regime holding centre in Vora, Tirana holds one migrant.

In **Bulgaria**, on 27 April, following tighter controls on the Aegean by the combined efforts of patrol ships from NATO, Greece and Turkey after the activation of the EU-Turkey agreement, refugees have started taking different routes to central Europe. Despite posing greater risks, one of them is via Bulgaria, which nearly 200 migrants are arrested every day. On 28 April, a total of 29 refugees were caught near Montana by a special police operation. 11 people were found (7 Pakistanis and 4 Afghans) who had been registered at the State Agency for Refugees. Currently, three a total of 757 migrants accommodated in open regime centres and 12,866 registered migrants between January 1 and 28 April 2016 in closed regime centres.

² [UNHCR- Weekly update 3 June 2016](#)

The initial figure of stranded people in **the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** on 19 February 2016 was 1,600 people, although by May the figure has gone own by half. However, since March 2016, the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia passed a decision for the Red Cross to be assigned as the lead agency for distribution of all humanitarian assistance (food and non-food items), particularly for running the kitchens for provision of food for the migrants in the country. As a result of the changed situation after February 2016 and in compliance with the previously adopted contingency plan of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for possible shelter of 2,000 migrants, the National Society aims to support this group of present migrants in the country until the end of 2016.³ According to the independent.uk⁴ news media, there is no plan as what to do with migrants accommodated at the Tabanovce and Gevgelija centres since western countries closed their borders for migrants, Greece started returning them to Turkey and there is still no bilateral agreement between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece, which has been recommended by the European Commission for overcoming the situation of stranded migrants. Currently, there are 821 migrants in the open regime centre for asylum seekers in Vizbegovo, Skopje

On 19 April in **Montenegro**, relevant agencies started to prepare plans on how to cope with refugees if they start passing through Montenegro on their way towards Western Europe. The country is preparing capacities to take in up to 2,000 migrants.

In **Serbia**, the number of asylum seekers near the “transit zones” at the border with Hungary again grew from 350 to over 440 on 1 June. Of those, some 39% were children, suffering under the lack of sufficient shelter, sanitary facilities and other basic services. Of the estimated 300 irregular arrivals per day, UNHCR and partners encountered and assisted around 140. Low number of departures, coupled by continued inflow of irregular arrivals has increased the estimated total number of refugees and migrants in Serbia to over 1,700. During the reporting period, 61 persons expressed intent to seek asylum, bringing the total in the year 2016 to 3,413 (statistics courtesy of the Ministry of Interior).

In the east of Serbia, the Reception Centre (RC) in Presevo accommodated between 87 and 100 refugees up to 1 June 2016. In addition, 62 new arrivals, many arriving in bad state and exhausted, were also temporarily accommodated there before departing to assigned asylum centres. All necessary assistance was provided by the Serbian Red Cross, UNICEF, Indigo, BCM, ADRA, ATINA, Grupa 484, Humedica SOS children Villages, DRC, Save the Children, Care, REMAR and Philanthropy.

In Belgrade, 28 irregular arrivals coming from Bulgaria were observed and assisted in the East. They comprised refugees of different nationalities, including children. Some of them who expressed an intent to seek asylum in Serbia were referred to and transferred to Krnjaca Asylum Centre. On 30 May, Refugee Aid Miksaliste has re-opened in a new facility at Gavrila Principa 15.

In the North of Serbia, between 350 and 447 asylum seekers, mainly women and children, camped outside the “transit zones” at Kelebija and Horgos I border crossings for days in the open, without shelter or access to sanitary facilities. 94 were admitted into Hungarian asylum procedures, i.e. around 30 per day. The authorities of Hungary continued admitting around 30 asylum seekers per day.

On 24 May, Greek officials started to move some 8,400 people from the makeshift camp in Idomeni to reception centres elsewhere in the country. **Hungarian** authorities said some people had managed to make their way up the migrant route, despite the border closure imposed in mid-February by many Balkan states in a bid to halt the influx to northern Europe.

The daily number of illegal entries in Hungary has risen from 70 to 90 people, to between 100 and 150 since Idomeni was evacuated. As a result, according to authorities, the government will install “permanent barriers” in places where the barbed wire is considered “no longer sufficient” to keep the migrants out. On 30 May, the Hungarian authorities informed starting to reinforce its anti-migrant fence on the Serbian border following an increase in arrivals after the evacuation of Idomeni camp. On 2 May a new, open-regime temporary tent reception centre was opened in Kormend and will offer capacity for 300 migrants.

As the waves of migrants began to reach the country, the **Croatian** government set up the first refugee camp for 5,000 people near the border with Serbia. This was followed by a second camp for 15,000 persons, near the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina. All the refugees were housed in military tents and processed here but registration details were not shared with other Member States in order to avoid later returns as stipulated by the Dublin Regulation. (This said that migrants were the responsibility of the country into which they had first entered the EU).

³ The Emergency Appeal for former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been revised, click [here](#) for more details.

⁴ [News story from independent.mk](#)

One of the main state undertakings during the height of the migrant flow was to provide transit facilities to the Hungarian and Slovenian borders but this came to an end with the abrupt closure of frontiers in March 2016. Humanitarian aid was offered in camps in Opatovac and Slavonski Brod mainly by volunteers from civil society organizations. The Slavonski Brod camp became a place of forcible detention for many refugees. After the closure of the camp on 15 April, refugees who left either claimed asylum and were transferred to asylum seekers' reception centers in Zagreb and Kutina in Croatia, or maintained the status of 'irregular migrants' and were transferred to a foreigners' detention centre in Ježevo. Those, who had written confirmation that their return had been postponed, were accommodated in alternative detention centres. Returns of migrants to their previous country went on between mid-November 2015 and March 2016. The process began with the Slovenian police segregating all non-Syrian, Afghan and Iraqi refugees for return and was soon adopted by all the police of the countries along the Balkan route. The extreme tension caused by the closure of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border meant that thousands of migrants massed on the Greek side found themselves in makeshift camps in squalid and insanitary conditions. This unhappy state of affairs meant that genuine asylum seekers were caught together with economic migrants in often inhuman conditions.

Although not a member of the Schengen area, Croatia is following the EU decision that migrants can only enter the EU Schengen area if they meet the official requirements of the zone i.e. wish to claim asylum or have been chosen on a case by case basis on humanitarian grounds. This has meant that migrant transit through Croatia has been brought to a halt. Like the Visegrad countries (Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia) Croatia has also introduced amendments to its Foreigners Act that criminalize any effort by its citizens to assist a foreigner illicitly entering, transiting or residing in the country.⁵

In Croatia, as agreed at the EU Council, public debate on hosting and accommodating 1,617 refugees by the end of 2017 has been twofold. While on the one hand, the Croatian public has been welcoming and open to providing assistance to refugees from Syria and other war affected countries (their own war and refugee experience being a major factor), some are more wary and prefer to keep their distance, fearing to face future reality.

This fear primarily reflects fear of the different cultural and religious influences of the new comers as well as economic concerns as Croatians see the newcomers taking scarce employment opportunities in an already difficult market. The lack of any effective government communication policy has only made the public more fearful and done little to prepare Croatian society for such rapid and visible change.

Croatia is, however, willing to participate in the EU's proposal to relocate and resettle refugees according to an agreed quota system. There is a plan to relocate and resettle 50 people from Italy, Greece and Turkey (one for one rule) in June and July and then 84 refugees every month until 2017, but the government does not appear to have either the operational capacity or resources to do it successfully. There are so far only poorly conceived integration programmes to accommodate the 170 people, who have obtained international protection status.⁶

Western Europe

France

On 2 June 2016, France's Minister of Interior said they will accept 400 refugees per month from Greece as part of the EU relocation deal it signed last year. He said, "this week, as part of the relocation, 97 additional refugees have arrived in France coming from Greece and Italy" and he added that another 253 were due to arrive next week. The relocation forms part of an EU-wide agreement signed last summer to reduce the pressure on frontline states. The scheme was set up as Greece struggled to cope with the chaotic arrival of nearly a million people last year, many of them Syrian refugees, most of whom went to Germany. As of last month, only 1,441 asylum seekers had been relocated to other EU countries out of the 160,000 provided for under the temporary scheme. The EU-Turkey agreement under which Ankara agreed to take back all irregular migrants who cross the Aegean to Greece has reduced the flow to a trickle since late March, but the numbers crossing from Libya to Italy have increased in recent weeks.⁷

Austria

On 5 June 2016, Austria's foreign minister said migrants who try to enter Europe illegally by boat should be denied the chance to apply for asylum and be sent back. Austria's centrist government promised tougher action on immigration after the far right's candidate very nearly won a presidential election two weeks ago on voter concerns about Europe's biggest peacetime migration crisis.⁸

⁵ [Heinrich Boll Stiftung- The European refugee crisis - the Croatian view, 26 May 2016](#)

⁶ [Heinrich Boll Stiftung- The European refugee crisis - the Croatian view, 26 May 2016](#)

⁷ [Reuters- 2 June 2016](#)

⁸ [Reuters- 5 June 2016](#)

On 1 June, Police informed a newly-built but still empty refugee centre in northern Austria was burnt down. The huge fire broke out in the early hours of Wednesday in the village of Altenfelden and left only charred remains of the building. The alleged attack happened two weeks before 48 asylum-seekers were due to move in. No one was harmed in the blaze. The Austrian Red Cross operates this centre and estimates the damages to be around 300,000 euros.⁹

Austria has so far been spared the string of arson attacks on refugee centres seen in neighbouring Germany, but many people are unhappy about the arrival last year of 90,000 asylum-seekers in Europe's biggest migrant influx in decades.

Spain

According to UNHCR, in the past week, 20 asylum-seekers from Syria and Iraq were relocated from Greece to Spain, as part of the agreement by the Spanish Government to take in 15,000 refugees from Syria and Iraq under the EU scheme. As of 31 March 2016 there have been 903 arrivals by sea.

Based on information from the European Commission, the relocation and resettlement as of 13 May 2016 is as follows:

Member states	Relocated from Italy	Relocated from Greece
Belgium	24	n.a.
Bulgaria	n.a.	4
Cyprus	n.a.	6
Czech Republic	n.a.	4
Estonia	n.a.	19
Finland	148	111
France	137	362
Germany	20	37
Ireland	n.a.	10
Latvia	2	21
Lithuania	n.a.	6
Luxembourg	n.a.	30
Malta	15	11
Netherlands	50	142
Portugal	122	89
Romania	6	29
Slovenia	n.a.	28
Spain	18	n.a.
Sweden	39	n.a.
Switzerland	10	n.a.
Total	591	909

Based on information made available by Member states and Associated countries as of 13 May 2016, 6,321 people have been resettled since the launch of the EU agreement with Turkey. See table below.

Member state/Associated state	Total resettled under the 20 July scheme by 13 May 2016	Total resettled under the 1:1 agreement with Turkey (since 4 April 2016)
Austria	1,443	n.a.
Belgium	321	n.a.
Czech Republic	52	n.a.
Denmark	481	n.a.
Finland	139	11
France	221	n.a.
Germany	n.a.	54
Iceland	48	n.a.
Ireland	263	n.a.
Italy	266	n.a.
Lithuania	n.a.	5
Netherlands	301	52

⁹ [Reliefweb – 1 June 2016.](#)

Sweden	n.a.	55
United Kingdom	1,864	n.a.
Norway	323	n.a.
Liechtenstein	20	n.a.
Switzerland	413	n.a.

B. Red Cross Movement

The IFRC's ROE has been ensuring effective coordination between Movement components (National Societies and the ICRC) to meet the needs of the affected countries through the National Society in each country (see progress to date). This has been achieved through regular WebEx conferences, exchanges of information, regular visits to the affected countries, and through meetings.

As auxiliaries to the public authorities, National Societies are supporting the migration response operations led by their own governments' coordination bodies. National Societies are also coordinating closely with United Nations (UN) agencies, International Organizations and non-governmental organizations. Many National Societies are receiving support from UNHCR for their response activities and are coordinating with UNICEF on child-friendly places. The IFRC's ROE also coordinates with the regional offices for UNHCR and IOM.



Croatian Red Cross team at Slavonski Brod transit centre, which closed on 15 April 2016.
Source: Croatian Red Cross

Since the start of the migration crisis in Europe, the IFRC has launched seven emergency appeals over the period of April 2015 to February 2016 to support the National Societies of : Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. A coordination, response and preparedness emergency appeal was launched for the IFRC Regional Office for Europe with the objective to provide appropriate, timely and flexible support and resources to effectively and efficiently manage the response to the migration operations with response management and coordination, disaster response preparedness, early warning and risk reduction. In addition, Turkey has had an international appeal since 2012. All of the Appeals have been revised to adapt to fluctuating situation. To obtain additional information please **click on each title** for the latest reports on each operation.

Operation	Budget CHF	Operation timeframe	Targeted people
MDRHR002 Croatia: Population Movement	2,601,799	5 February 2016 to 5 August 2016	175,000
MDRE65001 Europe: Migration: coordination, response and preparedness	4,655,612	20 November to 31 December 2016	1 million people supported indirectly through the National Societies.
MDRTR003: Turkey Population Movement	32,356,188	9 November 2012 to 30 April 2017	500,000
MDRGR001 Greece: Population Movement	28,667,500	2 September 2015 to 31 March 2017	304,000
MDRMK005 Macedonia: Population Movement	6,095,910	10 September 2015 to 31 December 2016	First phase (until March 2016): 214,886 Second phase (until December 2016): 6,250
MDRRS011 Serbia: Population Movement	4,608,610	9 September 2015 to 9 September 2016	380,580
MDRIT002 Italy: Population Movement	2,775,269	8 May 2015 to 31 August 2016	105,000
MDRHU004 Hungary: Population Movement	1,072,713	September 2015 to 30 June 2016	5,000

Currently, the emergency appeals for Serbia, Italy, Croatia, Hungary and Turkey are being revised due to the changed migrant situation in each country.

The IFRC's Regional Office in Europe (ROE) has been fully involved in the coordination of the response to the migration crisis carrying out a wide range of activities including meetings with European National Societies: operational coordination meetings, partnership meetings and WebEx meetings with partners including submitting proposals to access the New Emergency Assistance instrument (EAI) from DG ECHO for Greece and Turkey.

Latest developments from the Turkish Red Crescent (TRCS)

The IFRC continues to support the Turkish Red Crescent (TRCS) in its response to the growing humanitarian needs in Turkey following the Syrian crisis. The timeframe of the IFRC's Turkey: Population Movement International Appeal has been extended until 30 April 2017 due to the growing humanitarian needs in Turkey during the crisis.

The TRCS continues to work in close coordination with its partners and in line with its assigned mandate and duties which consist of the procurement, delivery and distribution of essential relief supplies (shelter and other non-food items) and the organization of food supplies for the camps. In addition to this, the operation includes contingency preparedness for massive displacement of people including food and NFI support for short-term periods. These services are in addition to the continuation of relief services and food support provided on/off camps.

Discussions are being held between the IFRC and the TRCS followed by the visit of the Regional Office for Europe (ROE) technical team from 20 to 23 April for the revision of plan of action and budget of the International Appeal in view of the new funding opportunities that will allow further activities, and therefore extend the timeframe of the appeal up to 30 December 2017. The revision is focused to increase the number of community centres as well as additional needs related to the newly displaced people, and for the people remaining in the camps and urban areas, including provision of contingency stocks to meet emergency influx of new refugees.

An application for ECHO was approved for 8 million EUR to support in-camp and off-camp relief support to displaced Syrian population with a timeframe from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. TRCS has started the implementing the planned activities. Additionally, in June 2016 a technical team from IFRC ROE will be in Turkey for the preparation for a second application for ECHO. The emergency appeal is currently being revised and will be published shortly.

Latest developments from the Croatian Red Cross

The National Society is currently revising the emergency appeal and it is expected to be finalized in the coming weeks. The budget which is currently CHF2,601,799, will be decreased due to the changed migratory situation in Croatia after closing the Balkan trail in March 2016 and consequently the changed needs of stranded migrants in line with their relocation to other shelter locations after closing Slavonski Brod Camp in mid-April 2016. The areas of assistances will focus on: direct assistance on protection and psycho-social support (PSS), shelter upgrading, community engagement and restoring family links (RFL), non-food items assistance, hygiene and health activities as well as food relief sorting and distribution. Excluding the food distribution, all these services will continue to be provided to a total of 500 migrants and refugees sheltered in two facilities for migrants and asylum seekers and one detention facility as well as to additional 1,000 people through contingency planning. The operation timeframe will be extended for three months until 31 October 2016.

Latest developments from the German Red Cross

The German Red Cross is running more than 490 emergency accommodation centres across the country hosting more than 141,000 people. Since last year, and estimated 25,000 volunteers and staff have been working on the migration crisis in Germany. The National Society is shifting the migration response focus to social inclusion. Swimming lessons, a second-hand bike service, language lessons and support with asylum claims are part of the German Red Cross' pledge to focus on the social inclusion of migrants going from emergency response to



The Hungarian Red Cross has scaled up its operation in Vamosszabadi - the country's biggest reception centre, and also in Kormend (pictured), a camp in western part of the country near the Austrian border. Source: IFRC



Asylum-seekers at the German Red Cross transit camp in Hamburg at a language class. Brigitte Hiss/GRC

longer-term programmes. The National Society is currently playing an active part in language and integration sessions, employment training, family tracing services, medical care and psychosocial support for people suffering from stress and trauma. Germany has been one of the main destination countries for people heading into Europe through the Western Balkan route and across the Mediterranean.

The German Red Cross has a long tradition of assisting migrants in Germany that stretches back to the Second World War and runs 200 information centre for migrants and refugees nationwide. Last year, the German Red Cross was tasked with setting up and running two camps in Bavaria which are still operating – a response replicated in other parts of the country when the Red Cross is called upon to help by federal governments.

The camps have received support by the Red Cross Societies of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Canada, USA, the Netherlands, Norway, France, Sweden and Switzerland. This support means it is the only national German Red Cross relief operation within Germany carried out using international support in recent history.

The German Red Cross has in turn provided support to the Hellenic Red Cross and the Red Cross in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.¹⁰

Latest developments from the Italian Red Cross

The current emergency appeal is being revised with an increased budget and it is expected to be finalized this month. The Italian Red Cross is upscaling activities due to the higher influx of migrants received in the past months and more are expected during the summer months. Among the new activities, are search and rescue services through an agreement with the NGO, Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS). The Italian Red Cross will be engaged in providing the primary health care and humanitarian assistance during Search and Rescue operations. The Italian Red Cross will collaborate with MOAS aboard a ship dedicated to Search and Rescue activities with provision of food and non-food items and hygiene kits.

ICRC- Restoring Family Links (RFL) update

Annual RFL Conference

From 20 to 22 of April this year, more than one hundred representatives from 44 countries participated in the European Annual RFL Conference held in Sarajevo. In accordance with the latest trends, provision of RFL Services to migrants featured high on the meeting's agenda. RFL specialists from the RCs in transit countries managed to visualise their RFL response and address a number of new challenges that the RFL Network has been facing recently. The ICRC protection delegates working in the ICRC Delegations in the countries of migrants' origin (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran and Tunisia) complemented the event with valuable and most recent information from their respective regions.

For the first time, in accordance with the proposal made at last year's conference in Dublin, doors of the RFL conference in Sarajevo were opened to experts coming from the Disaster Management units in NSs. Together with RFL experts and representatives from IFRC they explored opportunities as to how to enhance RFL response in emergency situations. Besides taking a brief review of the Implementation of RFL Strategy 2008-2018, participants had a chance to learn about the creation of new tools in RFL network (Trace The Face Back Office, Personal Data Description form etc.) and upgrades of the existing ones (FLAnswers DB, Trace the Face etc.) with a focus on the strategy for the Missing persons in Europe and unidentified dead migrants. Our hosts from the ICRC Sarajevo Delegation and the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Hercegovina organised the event in a masterful way and were living proof that the famed Balkan hospitality is still very much alive.

ICRC online photo tracing tool
(www.tracetheface.org)

A number of National Red Cross Societies in Europe are publishing more than 1,050 photos of people looking for their missing relatives in the hope of reconnecting families. Bulgaria and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia started contributing photos to trace the face in April 2016, bringing the number of National Societies who publish photos to 16. Click on photo to view video.



¹⁰ [Information taken from a IFRC news story published on 17 May 2016.](#)

On 4 May 2016, the European Commission presented several proposals to [reform the Common European Asylum System](#) following its [Communication](#). This first set of legislative proposals includes: a reform of the Dublin System, a reinforcement of the Eurodac system, the establishment of a European Union Agency for Asylum. Rather than seeking ways to enhance the protection capacity of the EU, these seem to rather prioritise measures for reducing attractiveness and secondary movement of asylum seekers within the EU. The new proposal to modify the Dublin regulation has also been questioned by several members of the European Parliament who doubt the proposed redistribution scheme would work. After initial discussions with member national societies at the last PERCO meeting, RCEU circulated internally for comments draft EUNS recommendations on the proposal to jointly influence the negotiating process.

On 4 May 2016, the European Commission reported on the implementation of the [EU-Turkey Statement](#) adopted on 18 March, when EU Heads of State or Government and Turkey agreed on a set of measures to prevent irregular migration from Turkey to the EU and replace it with resettlement of Syrian refugees. In the past week, the Statement has been highly discussed by Members of the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament ([1](#) / [2](#) / [3](#)). Moreover, some recent reports have revealed the serious humanitarian impact it has on migrants currently detained in Greek hotspots (see [Human Rights Watch](#) and the [GUE/NGL](#)). On 20 May, [ministers of Justice and Home Affairs](#) discussed the implementation of the March EU-Turkey Statement and the proposed regulation establishing a European Border Guard. Ahead of this meeting, Red Cross EU office shared internal key messages to assist EUNS in approaching national decision makers which sit within these meetings with a view to raising our concerns in relation to these policy developments. These relate in particular to reception conditions in the hotspots especially for vulnerable groups, the urgency of reinforcing and guaranteeing a uniform European refugee protection system and the need for clear search and rescue capacities in the Mediterranean.

From 10 to 11 May, Red Cross EU office took part in the 10th meeting of the consultative forum of FRONTEX¹¹. We discussed FRONTEX's return and readmission operations, in particular from the hotspots in the context of the EU-Turkey statement, as well as child protection within the framework of FRONTEX operations.

On 25 May, Red Cross EU office participated in an exchange of views in the European Parliament upon invitation of MEP Wikström (ALDE / Sweden) who was appointed rapporteur for [the revision of the Dublin regulation](#). The Red Cross EU office presented some initial concerns regarding the proposal particularly in relation to the disproportionate emphasis of the procedure on the point of first entry and the punitive approach and logic which underpins the revised system.

On 27 May, Red Cross EU office provided inputs to the European Commission's written Consultation on the post 2016 Strategy on Trafficking in Human Beings. The Red Cross EU office called for the development, promotion and implementation of EU-wide training materials for frontline staff working with vulnerable migrants on recognizing signals of trafficking in human beings, especially in the context of large arrivals of migrants.

World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)

The first World Humanitarian Summit organized by United Nations was held in Istanbul on **23 and 24 May 2016**. The summit brought together governments, humanitarian organizations (including Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners), people affected by humanitarian crises, new partners including the private sector to propose solutions to the most pressing challenges and set an agenda to keep humanitarian action fit for the future. During the summit the Turkish Red Crescent played important role and actively participated in the event along with other Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners.

During the summit the Turkish Red Crescent participated in the side-event, exhibition and innovation activities. A documentary video on the activities of the Community Centre Project and photos were exhibited depicting its activities in support of the displaced Syrians. Moreover, handicraft items produced by the beneficiaries of the community centre including promotional materials, brochures and booklets were on display. The National Society also held activities such as Child Protection Project Effect Analysis, Time Tunnel Photography Exhibition, Red Crescent E –food Card Promotion/Exhibition, Disaster Simulation Game Project and International Soup and Lunch in coordination with Knorr.

From 13 to 15 April 2016, the Turkish Red Crescent co-organized the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Preparatory Workshop for the World Humanitarian Summit, in Istanbul with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The primary objective

¹¹ [Frontex](#) promotes, coordinates and develops European border management in line with the EU fundamental rights charter applying the concept of Integrated Border Management.

of the meeting was to consolidate and align the Movement's key messages, policy inquires and approach to engage in the World Humanitarian Summit.

The summit highlighted major gaps in the way the international community approaches crises. It acknowledged the limitations of short-term relief that does not reduce future need. The IFRC believes that the social and economic case for a resilience approach is clear. Building stronger, more resilient communities means saving lives today, protecting livelihoods tomorrow and providing economic and social stability in the years to come. The summit also affirmed that the humanitarian community needs to improve how it works with national and local partners.

C. Communications & Cooperation

International media continues to contact the IFRC and the National Societies for expert and humanitarian points of view. Working in partnership with National Societies, the IFRC communications team will continue to prioritize media relations and proactively promote RCRC positioning on migration (access, protection, dignity, safety, etc.), in order to highlight humanitarian needs, support fundraising and profile the response of transit as well as destination countries. Communications delegates will continue support National Societies in-country, particularly when there is international media on the ground and generate compelling content for use across the network. The communications team will also deliver capacity building for responding National Societies in anticipation of a summer surge in arrivals and an increase in media and stakeholder interest. Communications delegates will also support advocacy and policy colleagues to promote key advocacy areas including o protection, family reunification and inclusion.

An evaluation of recent media coverage on migration is also being undertaken, with support from IFRC communications team in Geneva to help us inform and assess our media messaging and planning.

All communications materials including Key Messages, Facts and Figures, and AV materials can be found on <https://fednet.ifrc.org/migrationineurope> and <https://av.ifrc.org/>.

A **Youth and Migration Handbook** has been completed by the Youth delegate of the IFRC Regional Office in Europe with the contributions from several European National Societies. This handbook is a collection of best practices in the area of youth and migration contributed by the Red Cross Red Crescent European Youth Network. To obtain a copy please contact: Nis Sperling, Youth delegate: nis.sperling@ifrc.org.

National Societies are encouraged to share their activities on the migration response in Europe to be included in this *Europe: Population Movement update*. These are published once a month. To share information, please contact: maria.larios@ifrc.org- Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting delegate for Europe migration operations.



Youth and Migration Handbook

A collection of best practices in the area of youth and migration contributed by the Red Cross Red Crescent European Youth Network



www.ercyouth.wordpress.com

D. Financial situation – Resource Mobilisation - at-a-glance

The below table summarizes the funding and implementation figures when looking at budgets and income and incurred until May 2016.

Population Movement Emergency Appeals							
Currency: CHF	Europe Migration Coordination	Greece	Croatia	the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Serbia	Italy	Hungary
Appeal							
Budget	4,655,612	26,558,921	2,601,799	5,927,821	4,608,611	2,775,269	1,072,713
Income to date	2,570,439	26,676,828	751,101	5,164,584	4,601,805	2,921,999	1,042,900
Coverage	55%	100%	29%	87%	100%	100%	97%
Funding gap	2,085,173	0	1,850,698	763,237	6,806	0	29,813
Expenditure to date	857,460	5,610,388	329,986	3,751,463	1,420,217	2,648,299	703,096

On behalf of the National Societies affected by the influx of migrants, the IFRC Secretariat would like to thank the following Red Cross Societies: American Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross (Flanders), British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Croatian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, French Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Irish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Red Cross of Monaco, Spanish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross for their generous contributions to the Population Movement Emergency Appeals. Additionally, the IFRC would like to thank the Governments of Italy, Japan, Luxembourg as well as the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) and all private donors for their contributions to the Population Movement Emergency Appeals.

Contact information

For further information related to this document please contact:

IFRC Regional Office for Europe

- **Leonardo Carmenati**, Head of Migration
Phone: + 36 1 888 4500, email: leonardo.carmenati@ifrc.org
- **Lucia Lasso**, Operations manager for migration
Phone: + 36 1 888 4500, email: lucia.lasso@ifrc.org
- **Nichola Jones**, Emergency communications delegate
Phone: + 36 1 888 4500, email: nicholalyndsay.jones@ifrc.org
- **Olga Dzhumaeva**, Partnerships and Resource Development Coordinator
Phone: +36 1 888 4500; email: olga.dzhumaeva@ifrc.org
- **Imre Nagy**, Planning and Reporting Manager
Phone: +36 1 888 4500; email: imre.nagy@ifrc.org

IFRC Geneva

Cristina Estrada, Operations Support

phone: +41 22 7304260; email: cristina.estrada@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

