



Koninklijke Marechaussee



Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst  
Ministerie van Veiligheid en Justitie

Migratie in beweging



Europese Unie  
het fonds voor asiel, migratie en  
integratie

Royal Netherlands Marechaussee

Immigration and Naturalisation Service  
Ministry of Security and Justice

European Union  
Fund for Asylum, Migration and  
Integration

## Public summary of Migration Radar Triannual Period 1 2019

The Migration Radar is published triannually. Triannual Period 1 encompasses January, February, March and April.

### 1. Number and division of (first) asylum applications in the Netherlands and the EU+

Figure 1 Total number of first asylum applications

Nationalities placed on the list of safe countries of origin					Difference from T3 2018		Difference from T1 2018	
	T1 2018	T2 2018	T3 2018	T1 2019	Absolute diff.	% diff.	Absolute diff.	% diff.
Algerian	380	360	530	450	-80	-15%	70	18%
Moroccan	340	320	405	405	-5	-1%	65	19%
Serbian	45	25	55	155	100	182%	115	256%
North-Macedonian	20	55	20	95	75	375%	75	375%
Tunesian	170	130	90	95	4	4%	-75	-44%
Other	250	570	735	395	-440	-60%	145	58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.205</b>	<b>1.460</b>	<b>1.835</b>	<b>1.595</b>	<b>-245</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>32%</b>

Nationalities not placed on the list of safe countries of origin					Difference from T3 2018		Difference from T1 2018	
	T1 2018	T2 2018	T3 2018	T1 2019	Absolute diff.	% diff.	Absolute diff.	% diff.
Syrian	780	1.175	1.000	825	-175	-18%	45	6%
Nigerian	100	165	295	725	430	146%	625	625%
Iranian	335	535	1.000	660	-340	-34%	325	97%
Turkish	275	485	535	415	-120	-22%	140	51%
Moldovan	230	205	400	405	6	2%	175	76%
Other	2.430	2.780	3.040	2.635	-405	-13%	205	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.150</b>	<b>5.345</b>	<b>6.270</b>	<b>5.665</b>	<b>-605</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>1520</b>	<b>37%</b>

Total number of applications				
	T1 2018	T2 2018	T3 2018	T1 2019
<b>Totaal</b>	<b>5.355</b>	<b>6.805</b>	<b>8.105</b>	<b>7.260</b>

The total number of first asylum applications in the Netherlands fell slightly in the first triannual period of 2019 (see Figure 1). Most asylum applications were lodged by Syrians and Nigerians. From the countries placed on the list of safe countries, mostly Algerians and Moroccans flowed in. The greatest rise compared to a year ago in the same period was in the number of Nigerians, North Macedonians and Serbians. Applications from Iranians, Turks and Syrians decreased compared to a triannual period earlier.

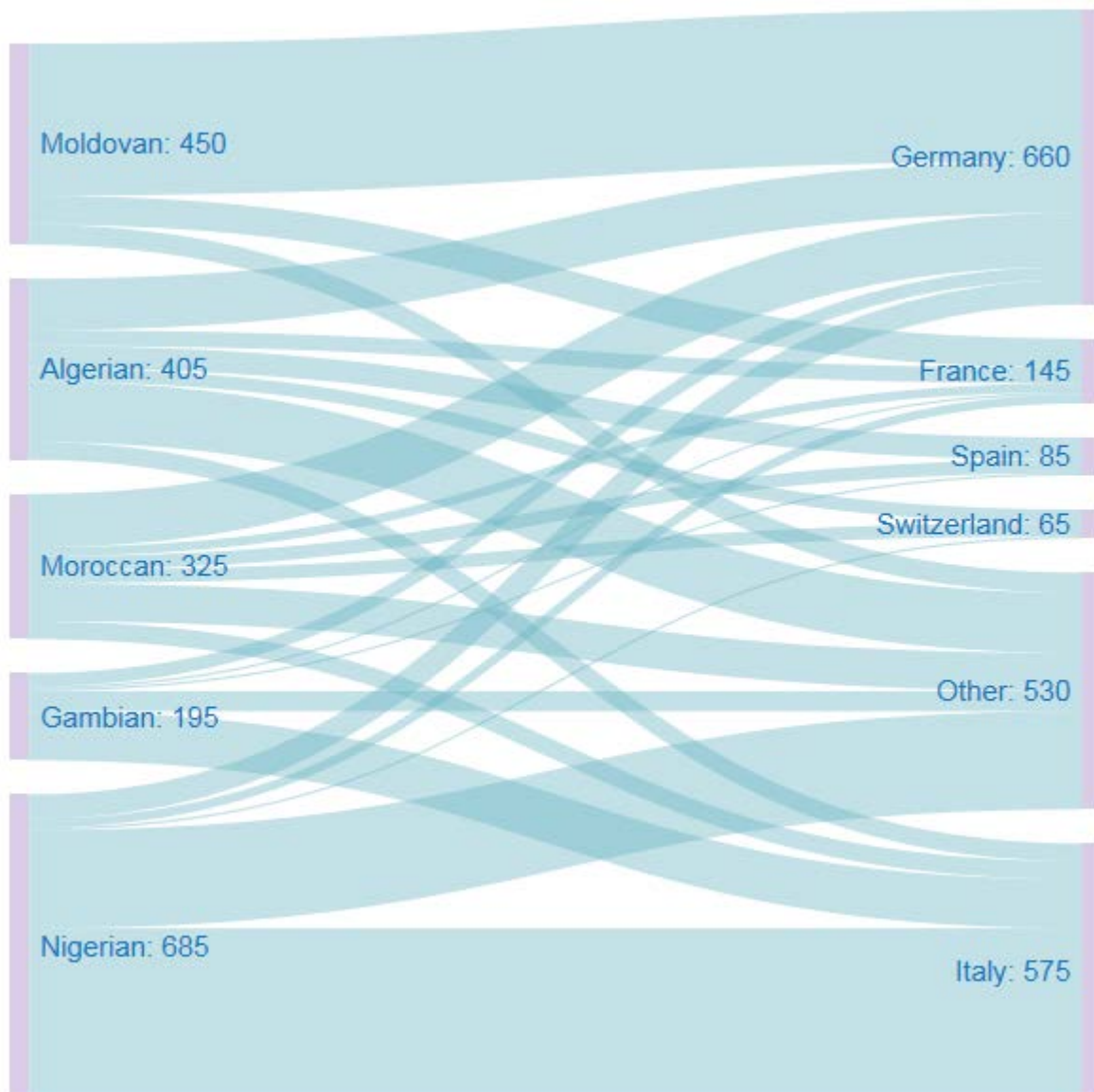
Figure 2 Total number of first asylum applications by UMFNs broken down according to nationality

	T1 2018	T2 2018	T3 2018	T1 2019	Difference from T3 2018		Difference from T1 2018	
					Absolute diff.	% diff.	Absolute diff.	% diff.
Moroccan	25	45	75	65	-10	-13%	40	160%
Syrian	45	75	50	60	10	20%	15	33%
Iraqi	10	15	40	35	-5	-13%	25	250%
Algerian	10	15	30	35	5	17%	25	250%
Eritrean	190	155	85	35	-50	-59%	-155	-82%
Other	65	115	180	135	-45	-25%	70	108%
<b>Total</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>-95</b>	<b>-21%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6%</b>

The number of unaccompanied minor foreign nationals (UMFNs) in the Dutch asylum procedure decreased sharply in the first triannual period of 2019 (see Figure 2). The number of Eritreans once again decreased sharply compared to the preceding triannual period and the previous year in the same period. Moroccans now constitute the largest group of UMFNs (18%).

The total number of Dublin claimants deported (4,041) in the first triannual period of 2019 rose by 13% (+451) compared to the preceding triannual period and by 47% (+1,290) compared to a year earlier in the same period. The number of approved claims is increasing in proportion to the number of claims sent; so there has been no change in the percentage of approved claims. See Figure 3 for an overview of the number of Dublin claims sent by the top 5 nationalities to the top 5 countries.

Figure 3 Sankey diagram of the number of Dublin claims sent by the top 5 nationalities to the top 5 countries



In January-March<sup>2</sup> 2019, 174,614 asylum applications were submitted in EU+. This is an increase by 6% (+9,234) compared to the three preceding months and by 18% (+27,188) compared to the same period a year earlier. Most asylum applications were submitted in Germany, France and Spain. The number of asylum applications in Spain has increased enormously since December 2018. The nationalities most frequently appearing were the Syrian, Afghan and Venezuelan nationalities. The Venezuelan nationality rose most sharply.

## 2. Profile countries

### *Algerians*

The number of first asylum applications by Algerians in the Netherlands in 2019, except for January, shows the same picture as in 2018. The increase in the number of first asylum applications in the third triannual period did not continue in the first triannual period. Almost 8% came from persons who said they were UMFNs. The top 3 claim countries are Germany, Spain and Italy. It has remained disorderly in Algeria even after the Algerian president stepped down, with confrontations between security services and demonstrators. The hope for change and the expectation of being able to contribute to this are leading to a decrease in the number of illegal migrants going to Europe. If this expectation is not met, however, this could in fact lead to an increase.

### *Eritreans*

The number of first asylum applications by Eritreans has fallen sharply compared to last year. Most of the applicants are young people (80% are under 35 years of age), 33% of whom stated that they were UMFNs. The number of first applications in the EU+ has also increased compared to last year. Dublin claims were sent mainly to Switzerland and Italy. Eritreans, with 95 registered irregular border crossings, constituted the second-largest nationality on the Central Mediterranean Route in the first triannual period of 2019. The outward journey from Eritrea appears to have become less dangerous and there appears to be an increase in the outflow from Eritrea, especially for the purpose of family reunification. It is possible that improved conditions for Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia will result in Eritreans attempting more often to build a life for themselves in Ethiopia.

### *Iranians*

The number of first asylum applications in the first triannual period remained stable and comparable to the last two months of 2018. The number of applications is however higher than a year ago, but has decreased compared to the preceding triannual period. Dublin claims were sent mainly to Italy and Greece in T1 2019. A large group of Iranians entered the Netherlands with a Dutch visa.

Large parts of Iran are faced with the consequences of floods. According to the IMF the Iranian economy will shrink this year by 6 per cent and inflation will rise this year to 50 per cent. The military tension between Iran and the US is rising increasingly further. Based on the foregoing, an increasing number of Iranians are expected to want to leave their country.

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<sup>1</sup> Greece is not included in this, because IND only sends a limited number of claim applications to Greece on the basis of the recommendation of the European Commission.

<sup>2</sup> Data for April 2019 are not yet known, so calculation based on triannual periods is not possible.

### *Nigerians*

The number of first asylum applications by Nigerians rose sharply in T1 2019 compared to last year, and was also rising during the first triannual period. At European level this sharp increase is only seen in a few countries, especially Germany. This country-related increase can be explained by an increased number of onward travelling Nigerians. It can be concluded from the Dublin claims that most Nigerians travel onward from Italy.

Boko Haram and other violent groups are still active even after the recently held elections, and regularly cause incidents in which victims fall. Human trafficking also often plays a major role in the outflow from Nigeria. The UNHCR reported at the end of January 2019 that 80% of the Nigerian women who arrive in Italy are brought there for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Human trafficking is regularly reported on arrival in the Netherlands.

### *Turks*

The number of first asylum applications in T1 2019 is comparable to T3 2018, but shows an increase compared to T1 2018. Most of the Turkish applicants for asylum are between the ages of 18 and 65 and have young children (under 13 years of age). On 13 February 2019 the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State delivered judgment in three Gülen cases. This could have influence on the higher percentage of applications granted compared to 2018. On the Eastern Land Route, Turks constitute the largest group. In addition, according to the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), the number of Turks is increasing within the flow of secondary migration. Germany is the primary country of destination in this regard, and Greece the main transit country.

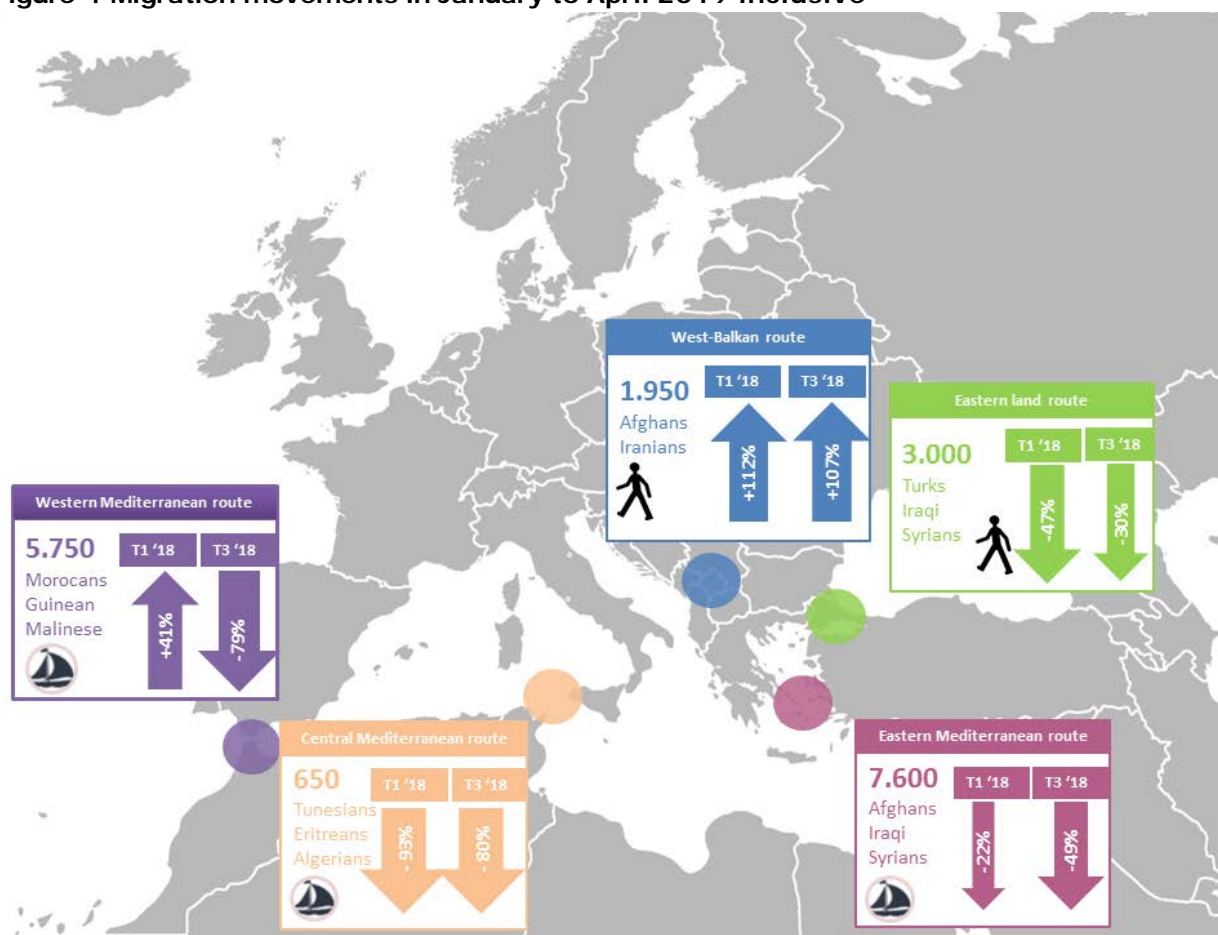
In the municipal council elections in Turkey on 31 March 2019, the alliance led by the AKP (Justice and Development Party) gained 51.6% of the votes. The AKP alleged that fraud had been committed and, in view of the narrow defeat in the municipal council elections, demanded a new vote in Istanbul and Ankara. A week after the municipal council elections, the electoral committee robbed mayors elected from the pro-Kurdish HDP party (People's Democracy Party) of their victory based on the fact that they had been removed from public office after the failed coup of 2016 and therefore did not hold a public office. According to the High Electoral Committee, the candidates who ended up in second place had to fill the positions instead of them. All these candidates are members of the governing AKP Party. On Monday 6 May 2019 the High Electoral Council of Turkey declared the results of the mayoral elections held on 31 March invalid for Istanbul.

## **3. Overview of routes and developments**

### *Registered irregular border crossings*

The total number of migrants registered in 2019 during illegal border crossings on the four main routes to the EU fell by about 8% compared to the first four months of 2018. In the figure below a summary can be seen of the developments per route in the first triannual period of 2019 compared to triannual period 3 of 2018 and triannual period 1 of 2018.

Figure 4 Migration movements in January to April 2019 inclusive\*



\*rounded numbers.

#### Main socio-political developments in the regions

The main development in the *North Africa* region in the past triannual period is the situation in Libya. From mid-January 2019, the Libyan National Army (LNA) under General Khalifa Haftar, allied to the government in the East, consolidated its control in the thinly populated south of Libya. It has various cities in the south under control, as well as oil fields. It is still not clear what influence this has on migration flows from Libya to Europe. Another development is that people's protests in Sudan (started months ago) led to the fall of President Omar al-Bashir and the two intended successors from the military regime.

In the *Middle East* it is important that the number of returnees to the place of origin has risen. Syrians are returning to an increasing extent from Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. In many cases this is due to push factors in these countries. Most Syrians are nevertheless still hesitant about returning to Syria from neighbouring countries because of the lack of trust in a quick end of the war. It appears that Assad will almost certainly win the war and thus remain in power. Infrastructure and homes have been destroyed, and there is a lack of work and education. There are amnesty schemes so that evading compulsory military service is no longer made punishable, but compulsory military service still has to be performed. In Yemen the humanitarian disaster still continues and the unclear agreement after the peace negotiations has not yet led to results.

Other important developments in regions can be read at the profile countries in Section 2.

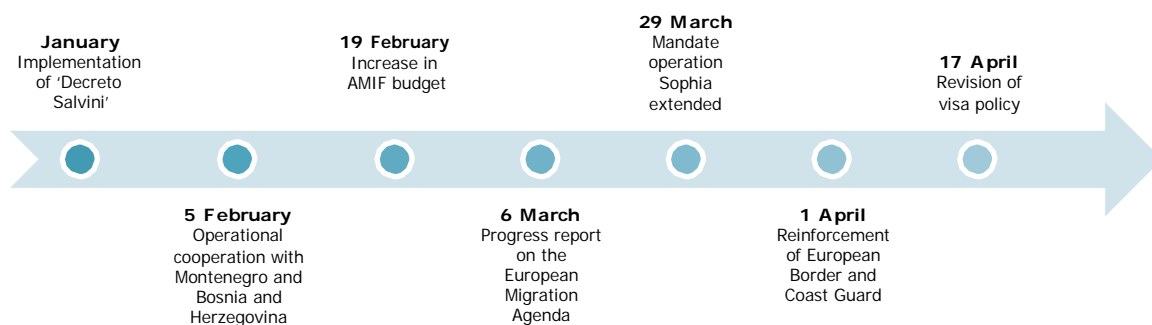
## 4. Policy developments

### European policy

In the figure below, the main European and international developments are mentioned. One of

these developments is reinforcement of the European Border and Coast Guard with a 10,000-strong standing corps, announced on 1 April 2019, as a result of Juncker’s proposal in his speech on the State of the Union in 2018. Italy has taken steps pursuant to the ‘Decreto Salvini’ announced in September 2018, a legislative package relating inter alia to asylum and migration. In January 2019, one of the largest reception centres for asylum seekers in Italy was vacated.<sup>3</sup> In addition, it was announced that the reception centre in Sicily with more than 1300 asylum seekers will also close. Under the new law, asylum seekers will no longer have a right to reception after their status of two years has ended.

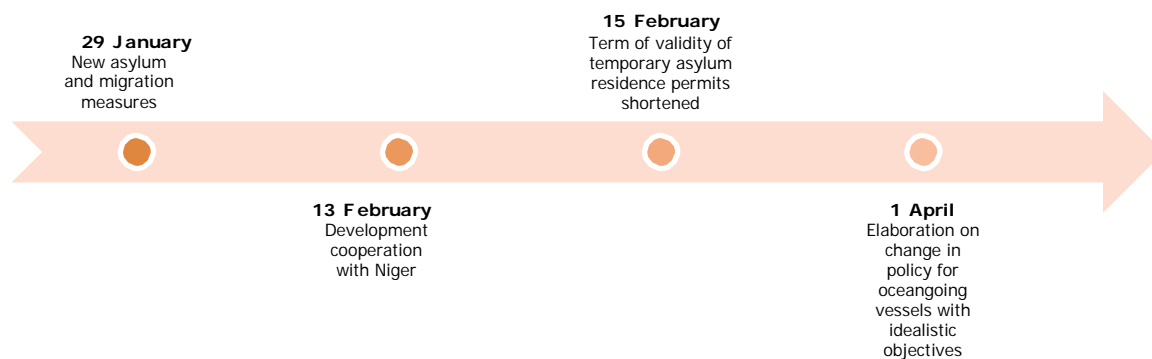
**Figure 4.1 Timeline of European and international policy developments**



*Dutch policy*

In the figure below, the main Dutch policy developments are mentioned. For instance, on 15 February 2019, the cabinet agreed with the legislative proposal by former State Secretary Harbers to issue a permanent asylum residence permit for three years and no longer for five years. On 29 January, former State Secretary Harbers also announced new measures to be taken in relation to asylum and migration, including the reassessment and termination of the amnesty scheme for minor asylum seekers, abolishment of the existing discretionary power and lowering of the resettlement quota.

**Figure 4.2 Timeline of policy developments in the Netherlands**



<sup>3</sup> The Guardian, 'Italy evicts more than 500 people from refugee centre', dd. 23-01-2019, found on: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/23/italy-evicts-more-than-500-people-refugee-centre-near-rome>