

# Public Summary of Migration Radar Tertial 3 2019

Migration Radar is published once per tertial. Tertial 3 comprises the months of September, October, November and December.

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

Figure 1 Total number of first asylum applications

### Nationalities placed on the list of safe countries

	T3 2017	T1 2018	T2 2018	T3 2018	Diff. from T2 2018		Diff. from T3 2017	
					Absolute diff.	% diff	Absolute diff.	% diff
Algerian	325	378	361	528	167	46%	203	62%
Moroccan	304	340	319	407	88	28%	103	34%
Albanian	61	71	192	288	96	50%	227	372%
Ukrainian	51	35	105	163	58	55%	112	220%
Georgian	89	117	123	110	-13	-11%	21	24%
Other	241	255	353	319	-34	-10%	78	32%
Subtotal	1.071	1.196	1.453	1.815	362	25%	744	69%

### Nationalities not placed on the list of safe countries

	T3 2017	T1 2018	T2 2018	T3 2018	Diff. from T2 2018		Diff. from T3 2017	
					Absolute diff.	% diff	Absolute diff.	% diff
Iranian	283	334	533	1.002	469	88%	719	254%
Syrian	844	780	1.177	999	-178	-15%	155	18%
Turkish	208	276	486	533	47	10%	325	156%
Moldovan	94	228	205	398	193	94%	304	323%
Iraqi	229	205	214	318	104	49%	89	39%
Other	2.286	2.324	2.731	3.020	289	11%	734	32%
Subtotal	3.944	4.147	5.346	6.270	924	17%	2.326	59%

### Total number of applications

	T3 2017	T1 2018	T2 2018	T3 2018	Diff. from T2 2018		Diff. from T3 2017	
					Absolute diff.	% diff	Absolute diff.	% diff
Total	5.015	5.343	6.799	8.085	1.286	19%	3.070	61%

The total number of first asylum applications in the Netherlands rose again in the third tertial of 2018 (see Figure 1). Most asylum applications were made by Iranians and Syrians. From the countries placed on the list of safe countries, mainly Algerians and Moroccans entered. The largest rises compared to a year ago were in Albanians, Moldovans and Iranians. Applications from Syrians decreased in comparison with a tertial earlier.

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

### Number of first asylum applications by unaccompanied minors

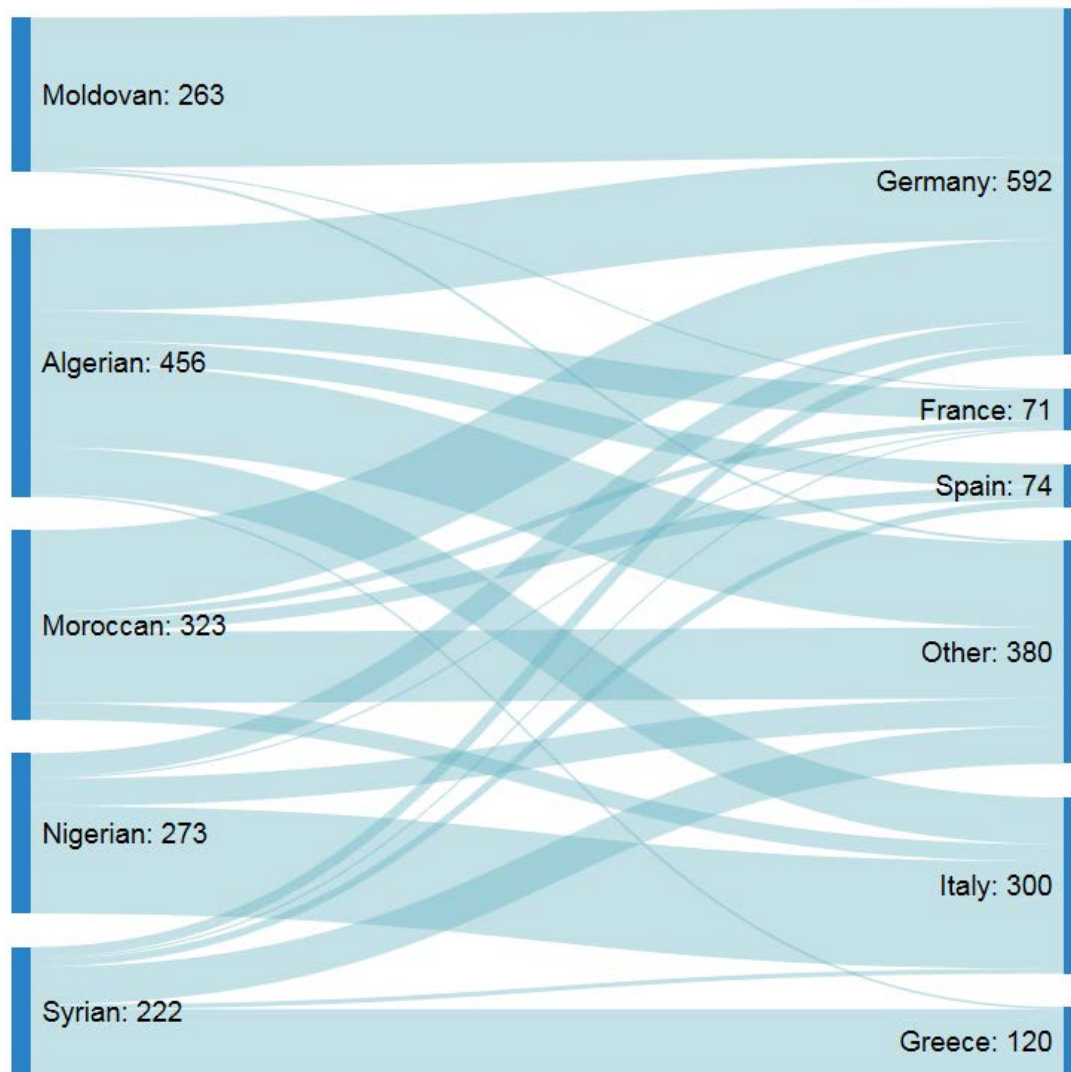
	T3 2017	T1 2018	T2 2018	T3 2018	Diff. from T2 2018		Diff. from T3 2017	
					Absolute diff.	% diff	Absolute diff.	% diff
Eritrean	128	188	155	85	-70	-45%	-43	-34%
Moroccan	40	26	46	73	27	59%	33	83%
Syrian	49	45	75	52	-23	-31%	3	6%
Iraqi	10	12	15	42	27	180%	32	320%
Algerian	32	10	15	30	15	100%	-2	-6%
Other	174	63	116	177	61	53%	3	2%
Total	433	344	422	459	37	9%	26	6%

In the third tertial of 2018, the share of unaccompanied minors in the asylum procedure rose slightly (see Figure 2). Despite a large decrease compared to the preceding tertial and the preceding year, Eritreans remained the largest group of unaccompanied minors (19%).

The total number of Dublin claims put out (3.590) in the third tertial of 2018 rose by 2% (+61) compared to the preceding tertial and by 56% (+1287) compared to a year earlier in the same period. The number of approved claims was approximately equal to the second tertial, but a rise can be observed in comparison with a year earlier

in the same period (+352, +26%). See Figure 3 for an overview of the number of Dublin claims sent from the top 5 nationalities to the top 5 countries.

Figure 3 Sankey diagram of the number of Dublin claims sent<sup>1</sup> from the top 5 nationalities to the top 5 countries



In November<sup>2</sup> 2018, 56,369 asylum applications were submitted in the EU+. On average, in the year before (October 2017 to October 2018), about 53,000 asylum applications were submitted monthly in the EU+. The

<sup>1</sup> In all cases with a claim indication in Greece, a Dublin procedure is entered (with claim country Greece). The IND however only sends claim applications (for non-vulnerable foreign nationals) to a limited extent to Greece, based on a recommendation by the European Commission. The claim applications that are not sent to Greece are closed immediately after entry by the application desk (as also in Western Balkan cases). Therefore, only some of the registered claims are actually sent. The underlying idea of this registration is that insight is provided in this way into the number of Dublin claims that could have been sent to Greece. The Netherlands follows the developments in Italy and assesses Dublin cases of families with minor children on an individual basis. There has been no policy change regarding the sending of Dublin claims to Italy. No claims are sent to Hungary. Because, unlike claims to Greece, no start has been made with sending claims, no registrations of claims in Hungary at all are included in the Dublin figures. Moreover, asylum applications are no longer handled in Track 1 (Dublin) but in Track 2 (safe country of origin) if they are from Georgians and from foreign nationals coming from one of the six safe Western Balkan countries (Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia), and regarding which there is a Dublin indication. This is because a pilot project of the Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V) has shown that the processing time of Track 2 cases is shorter than that of Track 1 cases. For process-related reasons (such cases should of course be handled expeditiously), a choice was made for the time being to handle the aforementioned cases in Track 2. None of the registrations of the claims from the nationalities in question are included either in the Dublin figures.

asylum applications in November 2018 therefore show a slight rise by 6% compared to the average of the preceding twelve months. The number of applications in November 2018 show a slight decrease with respect to November 2017 (-4,292, -7%). Most asylum applications were submitted in Germany, France and Greece. The most frequently occurring nationalities were Syrian, Afghan and Iraqi. The sharpest rise was in Iranian nationality.

## 2. Profile countries

### *Iranians*

The number of asylum applications in the Netherlands and EU+ from Iranians in the third tertial of 2018 rose sharply. This is largely attributable to the months of September and October. November and December are comparable to July and August. Eighteen applications in total came from unaccompanied minors. The sanctions imposed by the US and EU and the related deteriorating economy combined with the lack of improvement in the situation regarding human rights violations is a likely explanation of the increased influx. Moreover, the possibility introduced in August 2017 for Iranians to travel visa-free to Serbia was abolished in October 2018 owing to suspicions of abuse.

### *Syrians*

The number of asylum applications from Syrians in late 2018 showed approximately the same trend as in 2017, except for July and August (somewhat higher in 2018). In the third tertial, the number of applications was slightly higher than in 2017. There were 52 applications in total from unaccompanied minors. Approximately half of the Dublin claims were sent to Greece, Germany and Spain. Idlib has not been attacked as yet, but there are still parties fighting against one another in different areas. The Islamic Hirabah legislation has also been introduced in Idlib. The effect of the possible withdrawal of the US is still uncertain, but a power vacuum is expected that will be filled by one of the parties (Syria, IS, Russia, Turkey or Iran). The return to Syria from Lebanon and Jordan is proceeding steadily.

### *Algerians*

From March 2018, there have been more asylum applications each month than in the year before during the same period. An upward trend in the number of asylum applications can be seen from August. The applications largely come from young men in the age category 18-34. In addition, 30 applications in total came from unaccompanied minors. There is no unambiguous explanation for the increased influx of Algerians into the Netherlands. It seems to be due to a combination of factors, including a bad economic situation and high youth unemployment rate. The political situation is also uncertain at the moment. Elections will be held again in April 2019 and it is still uncertain whether the sitting President Bouteflika will stand for election again. Different groups of refugees are staying in Algeria (Palestinians and Syrians). The UN is once again calling upon Algeria to stop deportations from the country.

### *Moroccans*

The asylum applications from Moroccans showed approximately the same trend in 2018 as in 2017. Only from October did the number of applications in 2018 rise far above the number of applications in 2017 in the same period. Most applications from Moroccans came from young men in the age category 18 to 34. In addition, a large number of the applications (71) came from unaccompanied minors. The reintroduction of conscription will become official in the summer of 2019. On the one hand, this development can have a positive effect (more employment opportunities among Moroccan youth) and, on the other, there is a suspicion that, in the context of increased social tension and the repressive reactions of the Moroccan authorities to this tension, it will serve to create order in the country. The importance of Morocco as a transit country has increased as well.

### *Moldovans*

The influx of Moldovans in 2018 was higher in almost all months than in 2017. There were considerably fewer applications in the second tertial, after which the number increased again sharply from September. Applications came from both men and women and the age distribution was also almost equal. There were few persons over the age of 65, whereas strikingly more (more than one third) were minors. All of these minors entered with their immediate family or other relatives, as no Moldovan unaccompanied minors entered. The presumption is that these are mainly Roma. The European Parliament has adopted a critical resolution in which concern is expressed about the decline in democracy and the rule of law, and in which, among other things, Moldova is called a "state captured by oligarchic interests". Parliamentary elections in Moldova are scheduled on 24 February 2019.

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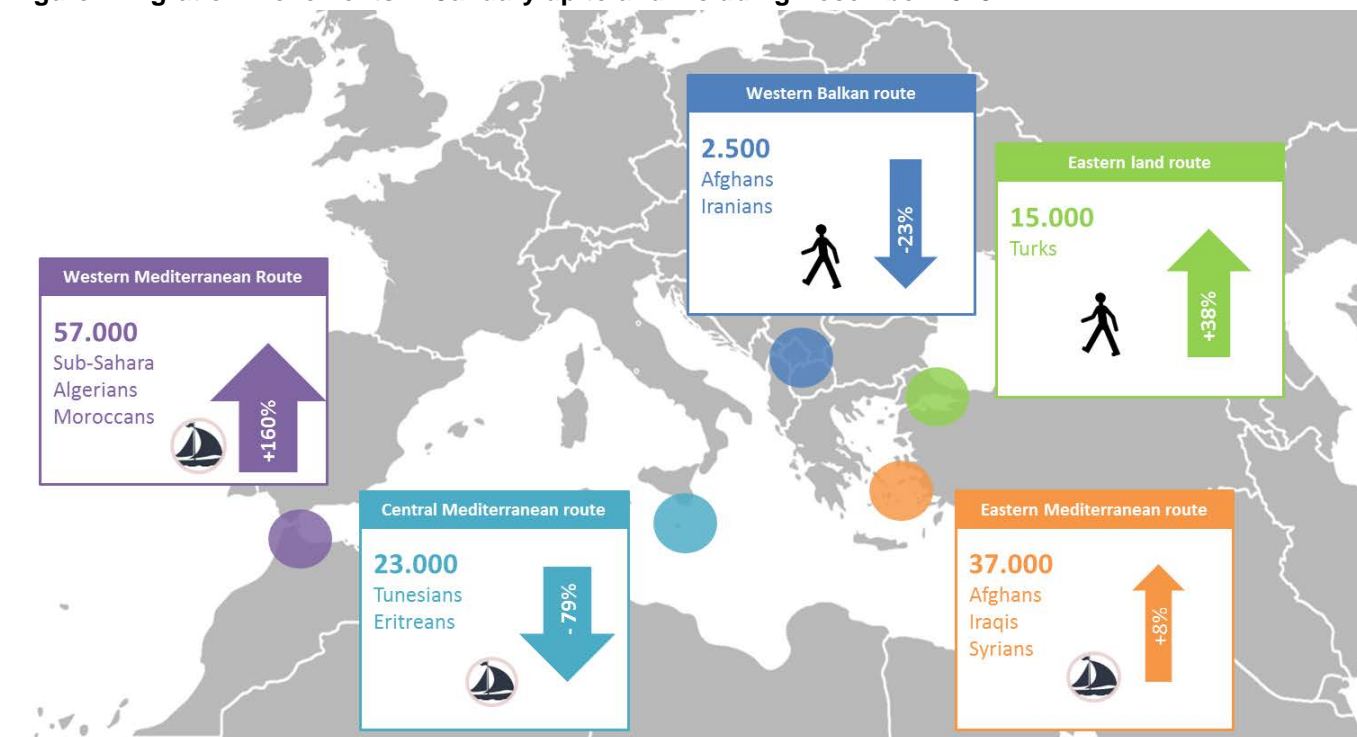
<sup>2</sup> Details on December 2018 are not yet known, so calculation based on tertials is not possible.

### 3. Overview of routes and developments

#### *Registered illegal border crossings*

In 2018 the total number of migrants registered during illegal border crossings on the four main routes to the EU was approximately 150,000. This is a decrease by 25% compared to 2017. In comparison with the number of migrants registered during illegal border crossings during the migration peak in 2015, there was a 90% decrease.

**Figure 4 Migration movements in January up to and including December 2018\***



\* rounded numbers

#### *Main socio-political developments in the region*

- North Africa and Horn of Africa

The relaxation of tension between Ethiopia and Eritrea discussed in the last Migration Radar has continued further and even led to free border traffic between the two countries for a short period. After initial euphoria about the opening of borders, the situation has become much less clear. In many places the border on the Eritrean side has been closed again. Opening resulted in a slight increase in the number of refugees in Ethiopia. Ethiopian officials made great efforts to receive refugees in a proper manner and integrate them into Ethiopian society. Although the Eritrean regime always used the previous tense relationship with Ethiopia as justification for the often endlessly long conscription, there are still no indications that this conscription (the main reason mentioned by Eritreans for fleeing from their country) will be abolished or its duration adjusted.

In Tunisia, there have been various strikes and new ones have been announced because of cutbacks, and a terroristic attack has been committed. In addition, despite overfull refugee centres, Tunisia still refuses to build more refugee centres. The importance of Libya as a transit country to Europe has diminished, owing to both alliances between the EU and the Libyan Coastguard and measures taken against smugglers in (North) Niger. Human smuggling nevertheless continues to exist because of weak law enforcement.

- Middle East

The number of involuntary and early returnees to Iraq has been increasing since the official end of the war in December 2017. Violent protests were held nevertheless in Basra in southern Iraq, owing to, among other things, unemployment, corruption and faulty infrastructure and public services including clean water.

Various parties in Yemen are in conflict with one another: pro-government troops (led by President Hadi), anti-government troops (led by the Houthis and supported by former President Saleh). Between January 2016 and October 2018, Sana'a was the scene of battles with intensive air attacks and fierce ground fights. Besides fights and air operations, students are demonstrating against the worsened situation and the Houthis government, against which firm action is being taken. Since December 2018, peace negotiations have been taking place under the direction of the UN, in order to call a halt to the alarming humanitarian situation. The peace negotiations were,

however, disrupted by a drone attack on a military parade of the Yemenite army. It is estimated that over 20 million Yemenites are in need of humanitarian aid.

In Turkey, more and more citizens (and academics) are being subjected to criminal prosecution for statements (on social media or otherwise) against President Erdogan and/or Turkish military actions in Syria. According to figures of the World Bank, the number of refugees registered in Turkey is the largest number of accommodated refugees in the world, about 5.7 million, the vast majority of whom, almost 3.6 million, are Syrian refugees. The influx of Syrian refugees has put great pressure on the public facilities, which were already in dire need.

#### 4. Policy developments

##### *European policy*

On 17 December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the GCM. The *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* (GSM) is the first international, nonbinding legal framework for cooperation in relation to migration. Despite the fact that the agreements are nonbinding and do not extend further than that by which most countries are already bound under the Refugee Convention, the government considers the GCM a shared starting point on the basis of which cooperation with transit countries and countries of origin can be further intensified, for example in order to make agreements on return. In his speech on the State of the Union 2018, among other things, Juncker spoke of the strengthening and further extension of the European external borders, improvement of the return procedures and increasing the possibilities for legal migration. The Council also approved a proposal to improve the Schengen Information System (SIS). A cooperative venture has been set up between Frontex and Serbia, Albania and Macedonia to strengthen the European border and coastguard. Moroccan help has also been intensified. Serbia has reintroduced the visa requirement for Iranians.

##### *Dutch policy*

On 4 December 2018, the programme 'Samen tegen mensenhandel' (Together against human trafficking) was started. One of the pillars of the programme is to prevent human trafficking on migration routes and to provide victims with support in transit countries and countries of origin. This programme includes working on awareness campaigns in countries of origin, strengthening cooperation with the main countries of origin of victims and improving the situation of irregular migrants in transit countries, and facilitating voluntary return to the country of origin.