



**Report of the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration
Vice-President Mark Pritchard
to the Standing Committee
22nd OSCE PA Winter Meeting
(Vienna, 24 February 2023)**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for this opportunity to report to you in my capacity as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration. I will start by a snapshot of current migration trends in the OSCE region followed by a short overview of the activities of Committee.

I. Snapshot of migration trends in the OSCE Region

The Ukraine Refugee Situation

One year on after the start of the war in Ukraine, over 13 million people have been displaced. The number of refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe has surpassed 8 million.¹

Neighbouring countries are hosting the majority of refugees, with over 1.5 million in Poland, and about 100,000 have remained in Moldova, Romania and the Slovak Republic. However, the second and third largest groups of refugees have been recorded in Germany (1,055,323) and the Czech Republic (489,865). An additional 2.9 million refugees have been recorded in the Russian Federation and Belarus.

A further 5.35 million are internally displaced; nearly 60 per cent of them have been displaced for 6 months or more.² 26 per cent of IDPs are considering moving abroad, with Poland and Germany being the preferred destinations.



¹ UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, Ukraine Refugee Situation, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>, as at 20 February 2023.

² IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix, <https://dtm.iom.int/ukraine>, as at 20 February 2023.

Nearly 5 million refugees have registered for temporary protection or similar national schemes in Europe. Initially granted for a period of one year, the EU has extended its Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) for an additional year, until March 2024.

These protection schemes enabled affected countries to react quickly and effectively to the large influx of refugees, facilitating access to housing, schools and childcare services, health care, social benefits and jobs without overburdening their asylum systems. While the assessment of the implementation of this new framework has been largely positive, a number of challenges and areas for improvement have been highlighted by the UN refugee agency³ which countries will hopefully take into account as they enter the second year of implementation.

Some of the challenges identified are in a sense the ‘flip side’ of positive aspects: flexibility of movement (in many countries, beneficiaries of Temporary Protection do not have to de-register if they temporarily travel to Ukraine or even to a Third Country) makes it also harder for countries to keep track of the actual number of refugees remaining in the country due to the difficulties in monitoring secondary migration.

UNHCR has additionally identified challenges facing some individuals who change their place of residence from one EU Member State to another after having applied for Temporary Protection in their first host country. Such individuals, at times, face challenges in accessing Temporary Protection registration in their new host country and are asked for evidence that they have ‘de-registered’ in the first Member State they were registered in, despite guidance from the European Commission to the contrary. The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration has also received direct reports of such practices although the scale is hard to ascertain.

The mass arrivals of refugees has also laid bare a number of legislative and structural weaknesses in countries unaccustomed to dealing with such large numbers of persons seeking protection. Many countries do not have standard procedures for identifying persons with special needs or only do so for a limited number of categories, e.g., unaccompanied and separated children or victims of human trafficking. Often, identification largely depends on how “visible” these specific needs are or on what type of facility individuals are accommodated at.

Persons with disabilities in general struggle to access services, not only due to lack of identification procedures but also because of general issues in providing adapted services to disabled citizens of the host country.

Elderly refugees, too, face additional challenges, as language barriers are compounded by low computer or internet literacy skills which are key in accessing information on registration processes as this tends to be provided through online platforms.

Psychological support is an especially critical area given the severe psychological trauma which most refugees fleeing Ukraine have experienced.

The differential treatment of non-Ukrainian refugees, such as Third Country Nationals, has also been reported in a number of countries. Unless they enjoyed international protection in Ukraine, third country nationals are eligible for Temporary Protection under the EU Directive only if

³ UNHCR, “The Implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive: Six Months On” (October 2022, at: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/96266>).

they held permanent residence in Ukraine. De facto asylum seekers as well as stateless persons are excluded. In many cases, access to temporary protection is delayed because their documents in Ukrainian are not recognized. Roma refugees in particular have reported discriminatory treatment regarding access to temporary protection and accommodation. There have also been reports that they have been denied support because they also hold Hungarian citizenship. However, they cannot register as refugees in Hungary either because they are citizens.

Fortunately, there are also many positive takeaways. As we saw during our mission to Prague last December, the Czech Republic has managed an impressively efficient response, putting in place a network of registration centres, enactment of a set of laws (*Lex Ukraine*) to implement the EU's Temporary Protection Directive, adoption of immediate, medium and long-term strategic priorities to deal with the refugee influx, and setting up a strategic group to ensure coordination between the key stakeholders in 13 priority areas of action. Regional and local authorities are also involved to ensure a comprehensive, multilevel approach.

Thanks to the outpouring of support, the Czech Republic has managed to accommodate refugees mostly in private accommodation (roughly 85 per cent are believed to be hosted privately). The presence of a sizeable Ukrainian community prior to the war has provided new arrivals with a support network and has served as a source of bilingual teachers and teaching assistants in schools; they have also facilitated communication with parents.

Czech authorities have also tried to capitalise on the skills of refugees in the medical field. Ukrainian doctors can work as assistant doctors, providing services to Ukrainian refugees under the supervision of Czech doctors, until they are able to meet the national qualification requirements. There is always scope for more pragmatic recognition of qualifications and a more efficient utilization of skills of newcomers in the job market.

Local authorities in Prague cooperate closely with non-governmental organizations. They are also carrying out detailed needs assessment in order to provide better services. This comprehensive approach towards the integration of refugees involving authorities at various levels and in close cooperation with the NGO sector is pioneering and can serve as a source of inspiration. Prague is already sharing this experience with other cities hosting large numbers of refugees from Ukraine such as Warsaw.

In the absence of an incentive system to redistribute refugees throughout the country to ensure better access to housing, education and employment, the capital city Prague, which was already facing a housing shortage prior to the crisis, is feeling the strain. Public support in the Czech Republic and other host countries is weakening, compounded by worries about the economic and energy crisis and disinformation campaigns.

Relying to a large extent on the goodwill of private citizens to host refugees, even with a system of subsidies in place, is not a sustainable approach in the medium- and long-terms. It also makes the task of monitoring the actual numbers of refugees difficult. The lack of proper screening of host families, which is an issue in many other countries, also entails heightened risk of trafficking, exploitation and other forms of abuse.

The Czech Republic has disseminated information on trafficking risks to target groups and has a specialized body dedicated to coordinating trafficking preventive measures which includes

representatives of non-governmental organizations. No cases of trafficking of persons fleeing the armed conflict in Ukraine have been confirmed so far. Rather, authorities have noted instances of allegedly voluntary cases of prostitution. They have also recorded an increase in cases of non-compliance with regulations on employment conditions. Countering risks of sexual and labour exploitation is another area where heightened focus is warranted.

According to the authorities, the Czech Republic is hosting a relatively small number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) (about 200), although some non-governmental organizations believe the true numbers are in the thousands. Exact numbers are hard to come by due to the lack of a systematic registration system and the difficulties of tracking secondary movements across Schengen borders. This raises concerns about the vulnerability of unaccompanied minors to traffickers and other forms of abuse, in particular of minors aged 16-18 who, according to Ukrainian legislation, are legally authorized to travel abroad unaccompanied and may be largely off the radar in the Czech Republic, as they tend to attend remote education online rather than attend local schools.

There is a need in host countries more generally for further action to ensure an effective guardianship system as well as systematic assessment of the best interests of the child to ensure protection of unaccompanied and separated children. Better information exchange across borders between relevant authorities would also facilitate tracking down family members and help counter risks of trafficking of these vulnerable refugees.

Czech authorities hope to get a more accurate overview of actual numbers as beneficiaries of temporary protection re-register for a second year of protection by the end of March 2023. The online registration system should also capture educational background, skills as well as disabilities and other key information which will help authorities address their needs.

Forcible transfers/adoptions of Ukrainian children

One issue of grave concern is that of the deportations or forcible transfers of hundreds of thousands of civilians from Ukraine, in particular children. At the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration in Warsaw last November, a member of the Delegation of Ukraine raised the issue of illegal adoptions and naturalizations of Ukrainian children, citing a preliminary figure of around 11,000 although, according to Ukrainian sources, the true number is believed to be much higher.

The UN has stated that allegations of forced transfers of unaccompanied children from Ukraine to Russian occupied territories or to the Russian Federation are credible. The UN has furthermore expressed concern that Russian authorities have adopted a simplified procedure to grant Russian citizenship to these children in order to make them eligible for adoption.⁴ However, an accurate estimate of the scale of these cases is hard to come by.

⁴ Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Human rights concerns related to forced displacement in Ukraine – Statement” (9 September 2022), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/09/human-rights-concerns-related-forced-displacement-ukraine>.

The relevant international standards in this regard, notably Article 50 of the Fourth Geneva Convention which prohibits changing these children’s personal status, must be respected.⁵ Children separated from their parents during a humanitarian emergency cannot be assumed to be orphans and are not available for adoption. For this reason, adoption should not occur during or immediately after emergencies. Every effort should be made to reunify children with their families when suitable, if such reunification is in their best interest. Furthermore, governments have a duty to respect the right of each child to preserve his or her identity, including family relations and nationality.

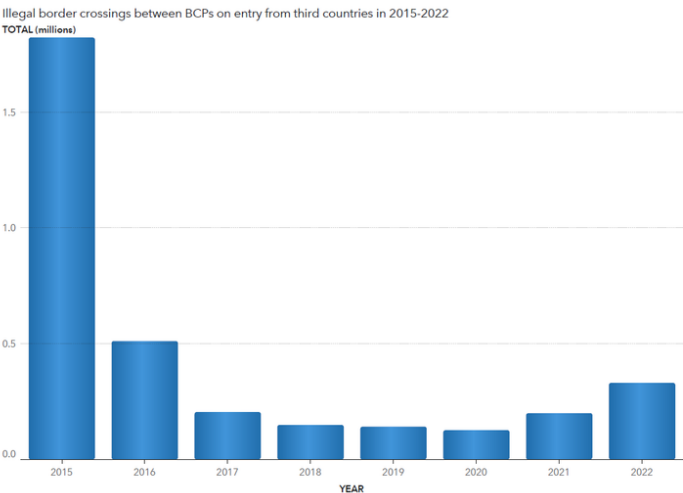
I express my full support for the work of the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings (SR/CTHB) Mr. Valiant Richey. He has worked diligently since the start of the crisis to highlight the risks of trafficking amongst the mass refugee flows from Ukraine, and to develop recommendations to prevent this humanitarian crisis from turning into a trafficking crisis. I am encouraged that he is seeking further information on the issue of forcible transfers/adoptions of children from Ukraine through UNHCR and other actors. The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration enjoys excellent cooperation with the OSCE SR/CTHB and we stand ready to assist in any way which we can.

The PA can also count on the expertise and dedication of my colleague Chris Smith, the OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues, in the area of countering trafficking risks, especially amongst children, in the OSCE area.

Migration developments elsewhere in the OSCE region

While our focus remains on the consequences of the war in Ukraine, people continue to seek to enter the EU through a number of deadly routes – both by land and at sea.

Irregular migration flows are returning to pre-Covid levels across the Mediterranean routes. The EU and Schengen-associated countries have been experiencing significant pressure at their external borders not only due to the Ukraine refugee crisis but also as a result of an increase in irregular crossings by nationals of Syria, Afghanistan and Tunisia who together accounted for 47 per cent of the detections in 2022.



For the second year in a row, the number of irregular entries at the EU’s external borders has been on the rise. In 2022, around 330,000 irregular border crossings were detected according

⁵ See in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoptions: see also: <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/guidance-protecting-displaced-children-ukraine#6>.

to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex (see Annex II).⁶ This is the highest number since 2016 yet far below the level experienced in 2015. Note, however, that Ukrainian refugees crossing into the EU from Ukraine and Moldova are not included in this figure.

The **Western Balkan route** accounted for nearly half of the total number of irregular entries into the EU in 2022, with 145,600 irregular border crossings, representing 136 per cent more than in 2021. This is the highest number of crossings on this route since 2015. Citizens of Syria, Afghanistan and Türkiye accounted for the largest number of detections.

The number of detections in the **Central Mediterranean** rose by more than half to over 100,000. Egyptians, Tunisians and Bangladeshis were the top three nationalities in a year that saw the most arrivals from Libya since 2017 and the most from Tunisia in recent history.

Irregular border crossings detected on the **Eastern Mediterranean** route numbered about 42,800. This is double compared with 2021 yet remained below half of the figures in 2019. Syrians, Afghans and Nigerians were the top reported nationalities.

The **Western Mediterranean** route saw a decrease in migratory pressure in 2022 with around a fifth fewer detections than in the previous year. While 80 per cent of the irregular migrants along this route come from Northwest African countries, selected Sub-Saharan African nationalities recorded major increases, as did Syrians.

On the **Western African** route, there were 15,460 arrivals in 2022, 31 per cent less than in 2021. More than two-thirds of migrants were from Morocco and various sub-Saharan countries.

Last but not least, in the **English Channel**, over 71,000 irregular border crossings were detected on exit from France, including both attempts and successful crossings. Over 50 different nationalities were recorded, most from the Middle East, Albania and the Horn of Africa.

The picture would not be complete without mentioning **fatalities**. Nearly 26,000 migrants have died trying to reach Europe across the Mediterranean since 2014, with most deaths (20,295) occurring along the Central Mediterranean. In Europe (excluding the Mediterranean), a further 939 migrants have been recorded dead or missing since 2014. Looking to the Americas, 7,344 migrants have died or gone missing, of which 4,294 at the US-Mexico border.

Reports from survivors relayed to IOM indicate that at least 252 people died during alleged forced expulsions by European authorities, also known as pushbacks, since 2021. According to IOM, pushback-related deaths were documented in the Central Mediterranean (97 deaths since 2021), in the Eastern Mediterranean (70 deaths), on the Türkiye-Greece land border (58 deaths), in the Western Mediterranean (23 deaths) and on the Belarus-Poland border (4 deaths). IOM also notes that such cases are “nearly impossible to verify in full due to the lack of transparency, lack of access, and the highly politicized nature of such events, and as such these figures are likely an underestimate of the true number of deaths.”

Many deaths of migrants seeking to reach Europe could have been prevented “by prompt and effective assistance to migrants in distress,” IOM underlines, claiming there is also a “structural failure to provide adequate safe pathways”.

⁶ Frontex, “EU’s external borders in 2022: Number of irregular border crossings highest since 2016,” Press Release (13 January 2023).

EU Migration and Asylum Policies

As we look ahead and seek to develop sustainable migration policies to better welcome and integrate persons displaced by the war in Ukraine, it is vital that we identify and share examples of ‘good practice’ which will not only benefit refugees from Ukraine but perhaps also inspire changes to national asylum systems and benefit people fleeing other war-torn countries.

The EU is at an important juncture as discussions on the EU’s Pact on Migration and Asylum have entered a new phase. A number of countries calling for further reinforcing borders through visible and invisible walls. Let us step back for a moment and look at the unprecedented mobilization of solidarity and resources in response to the mass arrival of Ukrainian refugees. We have seen that large movements of refugees may be effectively managed.

I would encourage you to take a look at the “roadmap” which UNHCR has recently released.⁷ Addressed to the current Swedish and incoming Spanish EU presidencies, these recommendations seek to outline simple but effective actions for EU countries that work both for States and for people fleeing wars and persecution. It highlights, amongst others, the positive effect of allowing Ukrainian refugees to move beyond the first country of asylum. This has contributed to relieving the pressure on countries neighbouring Ukraine and enhanced solidarity across Europe. This flexible approach has also provided refugees the option of reuniting with family members or joining community networks in other countries.

Other key elements of a functional asylum system include a functioning intra-EU solidarity and responsibility-sharing measures, a predictable search and rescue /disembarkation mechanism as well as effective returns. The issue of funding is also examined, with a recommendation to develop more flexible funding for forced displacement situations.

Afghanistan

We must not lose sight of the need to provide humanitarian and development aid to mitigate future migration influxes to the OSCE region.

The UN has recently warned that 70 per cent of the population of Afghanistan is facing extreme hunger and need aid. Heavily dependent on foreign aid, the country’s health care system is under risk of collapse following the international sanctions on the Taliban regime. More than 7 million Afghans with varying status are residing in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in search of protection and asylum. Additional refugee influxes are expected in 2023. Afghan women are at heightened risk of persecution and discrimination. Denmark recently announced that it would grant asylum to Afghan women solely on the basis of gender, while Sweden will grant all women and girls from Afghanistan refugee status and a three-year residence permit. I would encourage all OSCE participating States to follow their lead and to implement the guidance issued by the European Union Asylum Agency (EUAA) which concluded in January 2023 that “women and girls are in general at risk

⁷ UNHCR, “UNHCR’s Recommendations for the Swedish and Spanish Presidencies of the Council of the European Union, January - December 2023” (January 2023), <https://www.unhcr.org/news/announc/2023/1/63be7eeb4/unhcr-presents-roadmap-eu-better-protects-refugees.html>

of persecution” under Taliban rule and “hence eligible for refugee status.” Such a move would both offer vital protection to women and girls facing gender-based persecution in Afghanistan and reflect faithful compliance with international refugee legal standards.

Syrian Refugees

Finally, a note regarding the Syrian refugee crisis at the heart of the 2015 migration crisis which motivated the OSCE PA Standing Committee to establish our Committee. There are now 6.6 million Syrian refugees worldwide of whom 5.5 million are hosted in neighbouring countries (3.6 million in Türkiye alone), and a further 6.7 million internally displaced persons. Many have lost employment as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. In Lebanon, 9 out of 10 Syrian refugees live in extreme poverty.

The terrible earthquake which struck Türkiye affected an area hosting large numbers of refugees (which the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration visited in May 2017) , once more shattering lives. It is likely to cause further displacement, amidst reports of growing resentment against Syrian refugees having been exacerbated by the disaster. Syrian refugees have also been the target of a misinformation campaign by far right politicians accusing them of looting homes and stealing aid. Looking across to Syria, preliminary data suggests that as many as 5.3 million people may have been affected and will need some form of shelter assistance.

II. Implemented and Upcoming Activities.

The Committee’s next field visit will be to Moldova from 8-11 March with the aim to learn more about the country’s response to the arrival of large numbers of refugees from Ukraine. While most of the 770,000 refugees who have crossed into Moldova from Ukraine transit through the country towards the EU, over 100,000 have remained. In early January, the Moldovan government decided to implement a temporary protection system similar to what is in place in EU Member States. This very welcome move is expected to pave the way for more sustainable planning and access to employment, education and other key services and provide refugees with more stability. In line with the Committee’s mandate, we will seek to identify specific examples of ‘best practice’ as well as areas where further support is needed.

This was the Committee’s second field visit focussing on the Ukraine refugee response, following up on the visit to the Czech Republic last December (see Annex VI). I would like to take this opportunity to again commend the Czech Republic for its generosity in hosting nearly half a million refugees from Ukraine (representing the highest number per capita in Europe) and to the OSCE PA Czech Delegation and the Czech Chamber of Deputies for putting together such a comprehensive programme. A separate report highlighting the main topics discussed and summarising our observations is under preparation.

The Committee is also planning on a visit focussing on irregular migration along the Eastern Mediterranean route as a follow up to the visit to Lesbos in March 2022. This visit will most likely have to be scheduled after the Annual Session.

III. Concluding remarks

Over 100 million people worldwide were forced to flee their homes in 2022 due to violence, conflict, human rights violations or fears of persecution. This figure is the highest since World War II. It is up from the 90 million displaced in 2021 and more than double the 42.7 million people who remained forcibly displaced a decade ago. This sad milestone, described by UNHCR head Filippo Grandi as “a record that should never have been set”, has been reached due to the war in Ukraine. This means 1 in every 78 people on earth has been forced to flee.

Around one-third to one-half of refugees want to return home. For some, such as Ukrainians and Syrians, this share is much higher. If lasting peace were achieved in a few key locations, global refugee figures could halve to around 10 million, where they stood two decades ago.

I would therefore like to end my report with an appeal to you, colleagues, to provide the key ingredient for peace: the political will to make peace.

We must also continue to advocate for sustainable, effective and dignified migration policies and for safe and legal pathways for those in need of protection.

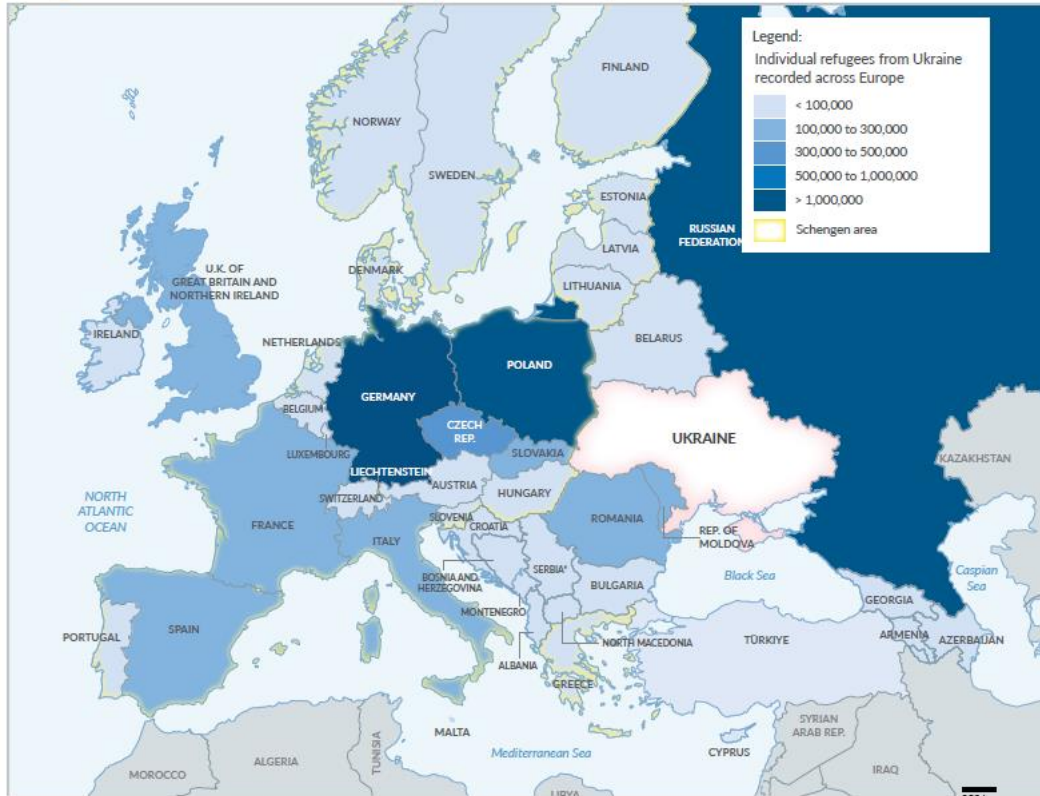
I look forward to reporting to you again at our Annual Session in Vancouver.

Thank you for your attention.

ANNEX I

Ukraine Refugee Situation

Refugees from Ukraine across Europe (as of 7 February 2023)



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. *Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999]) Source: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe

Source: UNHCR, Ukraine Situation Flash Update #40 (10 February 2023), <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/98705>.

Countries featured in the Refugee Response Plan

Country	Data Date	Refugees from Ukraine registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes	Refugees from Ukraine recorded in country	Border crossings from Ukraine*	Border crossings to Ukraine**
Bulgaria	2/13/2023	152,515	50,373	Not applicable	Not applicable
Czech Republic	2/12/2023	488,227	489,865	Not applicable	Not applicable
Hungary	2/14/2023	34,248	34,248	2,215,943	Data not available
Poland	2/14/2023	1,563,386	1,563,386	9,604,232	7,390,201
Republic of Moldova	2/12/2023	Not applicable	109,410	770,354	402,841
Romania	2/12/2023	113,086	109,871	1,967,211	1,588,968
Slovakia	2/14/2023	108,985	109,185	1,162,862	914,991
Total		2,460,447	2,466,338	15,720,602	10,297,001

Other countries neighbouring Ukraine

Country	Data Date	Refugees from Ukraine registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes	Refugees from Ukraine recorded in country	Border crossings from Ukraine*	Border crossings to Ukraine**
Belarus	2/7/2023	Not applicable	20,235	16,705	Data not available
Russian Federation	10/3/2022	Not applicable	2,852,395	2,852,395	Data not available
Total		Not applicable	2,872,630	2,869,100	Data not available

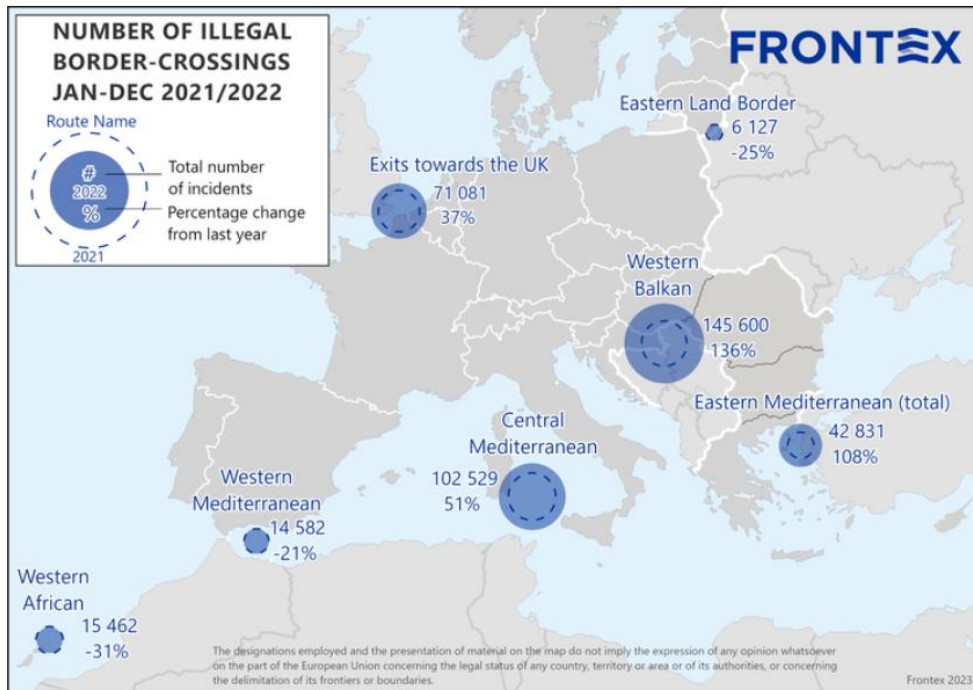
Statistics are compiled mainly from data provided by authorities. For statistical purposes, UNHCR uses the term refugees generically, referring to all refugees having left Ukraine due to the international armed conflict. UNHCR's means of verification and level of access to refugees from Ukraine varies by country. While every effort has been made to ensure that all statistical information is verified, figures represent an estimate, and potential further movements cannot be factored for the time being for all countries.

Other European countries

Country	Data Date	Refugees from Ukraine registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes	Refugees from Ukraine recorded in country
Albania	1/31/2023	Not applicable	2,542
Armenia	2/13/2023	Not applicable	511
Austria	2/13/2023	93,171	93,171
Azerbaijan	2/15/2023	Not applicable	4,928
Belgium	2/13/2023	67,021	67,761
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1/29/2023	Not applicable	152
Croatia	2/10/2023	20,796	20,796
Cyprus	2/5/2023	20,981	15,750
Denmark	1/29/2023	37,687	39,756
Estonia	2/13/2023	43,057	67,243
Finland	2/6/2023	49,726	47,067
France	10/31/2022	118,994	118,994
Georgia	1/24/2023	Not applicable	25,101
Germany	1/31/2023	881,399	1,055,323
Greece	12/6/2022	20,955	20,955
Iceland	1/3/2023	2,239	2,239
Ireland	1/26/2023	72,584	73,002
Italy	1/27/2023	169,837	169,837
Latvia	2/13/2023	45,687	35,322
Liechtenstein	1/18/2023	536	410
Lithuania	2/13/2023	74,611	74,611
Luxembourg	10/25/2022	6,756	6,756
Malta	11/7/2022	1,541	1,603
Montenegro	2/13/2023	8,014	33,739
Netherlands	11/25/2022	85,210	85,210
North Macedonia	2/6/2023	Not applicable	6,410
Norway	2/10/2023	39,931	39,931
Portugal	2/12/2023	57,859	57,859
Serbia and Kosovo: S/RES/1244 (1999)	1/30/2023	1,230	2,989
Slovenia	2/7/2023	8,644	9,076
Spain	2/13/2023	166,832	166,832
Sweden	2/13/2023	50,740	50,740
Switzerland	2/13/2023	80,324	80,324
Türkiye	1/26/2023	Not applicable	95,874
United Kingdom	2/7/2023	161,400	161,400
Total		2,387,762	2,734,214

Source: UNHCR, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>, as at 20 February 2023.

ANNEX II
IRREGULAR ENTRIES AT THE EU’S EXTERNAL BORDERS IN 2022



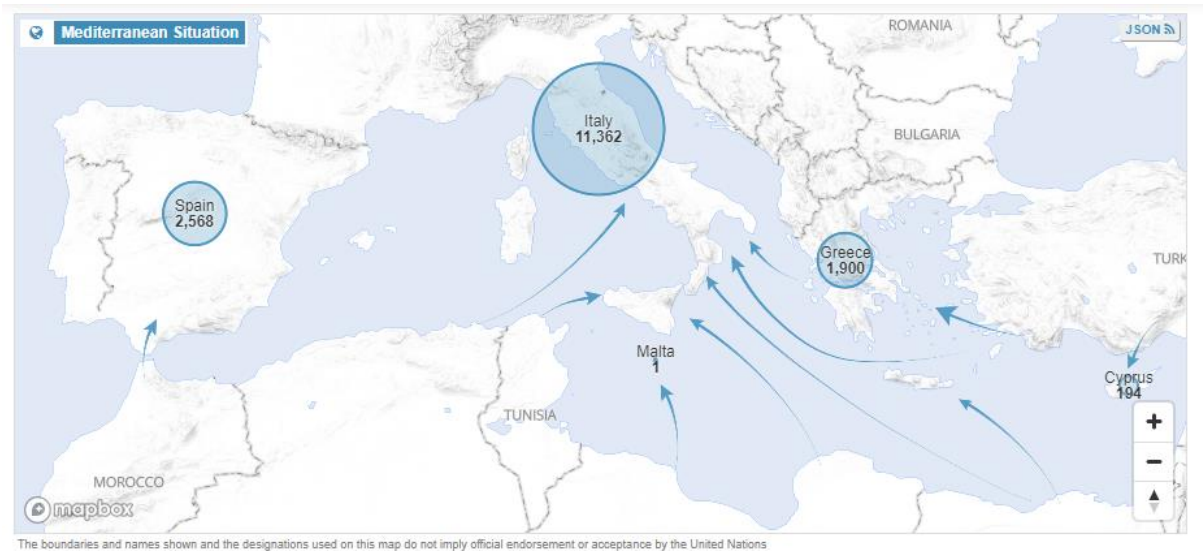
Route	January-December 2022	December 2022	Jan-Dec 2021/Jan-Dec 2022	Top nationalities
Western Balkans	145 600	8 944	+136%	Syria, Afghanistan, Türkiye, Tunisia
Central Mediterranean	102 529	7 760	+51%	Egypt, Tunisia, Bangladesh, Syria
Eastern Mediterranean	42 831	1 898	+108%	Syria, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Congo (Kinshasa)
Western Mediterranean	14 582	784	-21%	Algeria, Morocco, Syria
Western African	15 462	468	-31%	Morocco, Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast
Exits towards the UK	71 081	2 875	+37%	Afghanistan, Iraq, Albania

*The figure includes other less active migratory routes not mentioned in this press release. The final figures may be higher due to delayed reporting.

Source: Frontex, “EU’s external borders in 2022: Number of irregular border crossings highest since 2016,” Press Release, 13 January 2023.

ANNEX III

SITUATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



Most common nationalities of Mediterranean sea and land arrivals from January 2021

[.CSV](#) [JSON](#)

NOTE: Detailed data on countries of origin of arrivals to Spain in 2021 has yet to be made available by relevant authorities.

Country of origin	Source	Data date	Population	
Tunisia		31 Jan 2023	22.5%	34,140
Egypt		31 Jan 2023	20.0%	30,395
Bangladesh		31 Jan 2023	15.4%	23,305
Syrian Arab Rep.		31 Dec 2022	10.0%	15,214
Afghanistan		31 Dec 2022	8.3%	12,617
Côte d'Ivoire		31 Jan 2023	6.9%	10,431
Guinea		31 Jan 2023	5.0%	7,576
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)		31 Dec 2022	4.3%	6,572
Others		31 Jan 2023	3.8%	5,789
Pakistan		31 Jan 2023	3.7%	5,607

Total arrivals in 2023

[JSON](#)

16,025

Last updated 19 Feb 2023

Sea arrivals in 2023

[JSON](#)

Includes refugees and migrants arriving by sea to Italy, Greece, Spain, Cyprus and Malta

15,720

Last updated 19 Feb 2023

Land arrivals in 2023

[JSON](#)

Includes refugees and migrants arriving by land to Greece and Spain.

305

Last updated 12 Feb 2023

Dead and missing in 2023 (estimate)

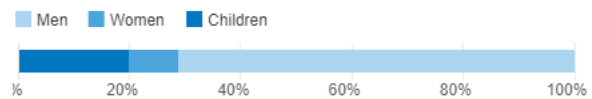
[JSON](#)

195

Last updated 19 Feb 2023

Demography of Mediterranean sea arrivals from January 2022

[.CSV](#) [JSON](#)



Previous years	Arrivals *	Dead and missing
2022	159,410	1,953
2021	123,318	3,231
2020	95,774	1,881
2019	123,663	1,510
2018	141,472	2,277
2017	185,139	3,139
2016	373,652	5,096
2015	1,032,408	3,771

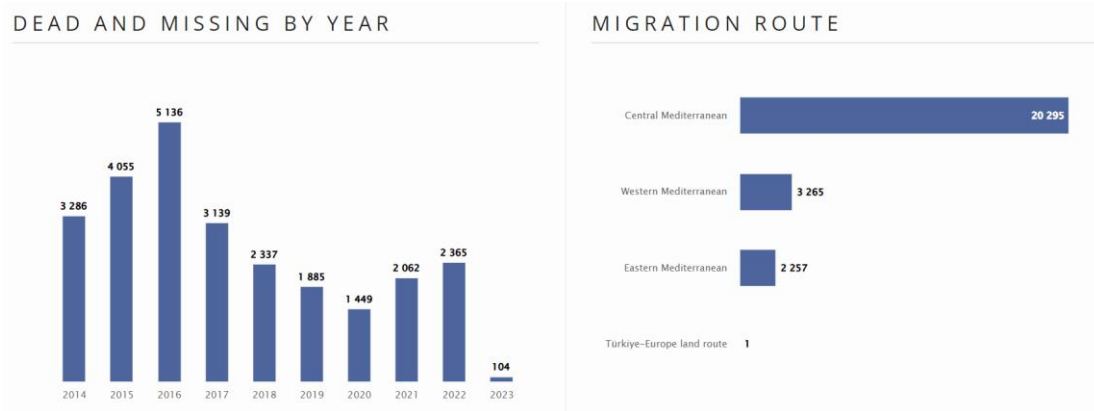
* Include sea arrivals to Italy, Cyprus, and Malta, and both sea and land arrivals to Greece and Spain (including the Canary Islands). Data are as of 31 December 2021 for all countries.

Source: UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, Refugee Situations – Mediterranean Situation <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean> (as at 20 February 2023).

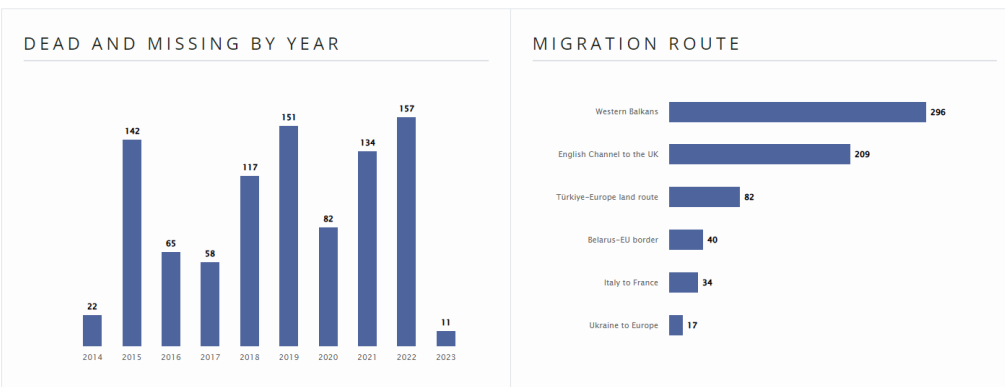
ANNEX IV

DEAD AND MISSING MIGRANTS

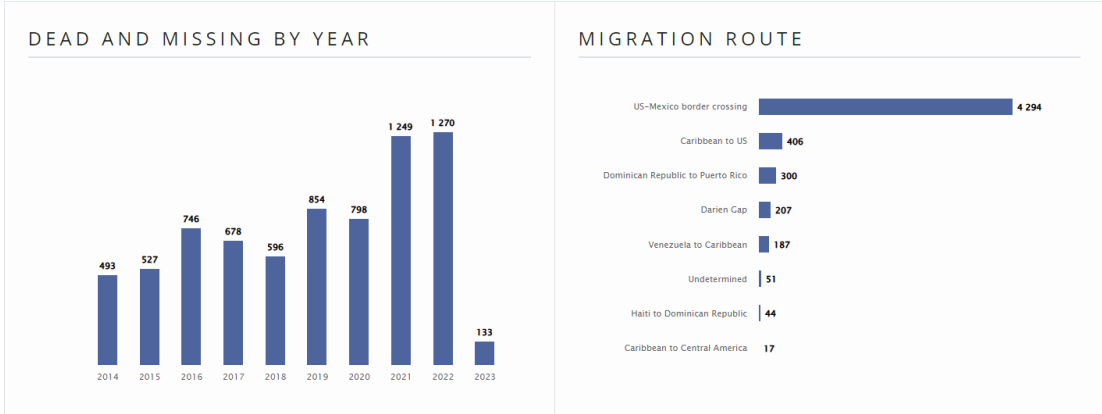
Mediterranean: 25,818 total dead and missing recorded (since 2014)



Europe: 939 total dead and missing recorded (since 2014)



Americas: 7,344 total dead and missing recorded (since 2014)



Source: IOM, Missing Migrants Project, <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/> (as at 9 February 2023).

ANNEX V
BACKGROUND ON THE OSCE PA AD HOC COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION

A. Mandate

The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration was established following the unanimous decision of the OSCE PA Standing Committee on 25 February 2016 in Vienna. Its mandate is defined as follows:

- Serve as a focal point for the OSCE PA's work in the field of migration in all three dimensions of the OSCE: political and security questions; economic issues; and human rights and humanitarian questions; and report back to the President and the Standing Committee;
- Develop policy recommendations aimed at enhancing OSCE work in the field of migration and at improving the treatment of, and prospects for, migrants in OSCE countries;
- Promote discussion within the Assembly on issues related to migration, and promote parliamentary exchanges of best practice in these fields;
- Work closely with the OSCE Secretariat and Institutions as well as with relevant outside actors on issues related to migration to promote the understanding among the members of the Assembly of the importance of the work done in this field.

B. Membership (as of 6 February 2023)

The Ad Hoc Committee on Migration consists of 17 members from 13 participating States:

1. OSCE PA Vice-President Mark PRITCHARD (United Kingdom), Chair
2. Lord Alfred DUBS (United Kingdom), Vice-Chair
3. Mr. Kyriakos HADJIYIANNI (Cyprus), Vice-Chair
4. Ms. Farah KARIMI (The Netherlands), Vice-Chair
5. Ms. Gudrun KUGLER (Austria), Vice-Chair
6. Mr. Jan BAUER (Czech Republic)
7. Ms. Valérie BOYER (France)
8. Mr. Johan BÜSER (Sweden)
9. Ms. Daniela DE RIDDER (Germany)
10. Ms. Hedy FRY (Canada)
11. Ms. Sheila JACKSON LEE (United States of America)
12. Mr. Laurynas KASČIŪNAS (Lithuania)
13. Mr. Mehmet Sait KIRAZOĞLU (Türkiye)
14. Mr. Dimitrios MARKOPOULOS (Greece)
15. Ms. Gwen MOORE (United States of America)
16. Mr. David STÖGMÜLLER (Austria)
17. Mr. Georgios VAREMENOS (Greece)

C. **Adopted Resolutions**

- Resolution on “*Ensuring a Coherent, Shared and Responsible Governance of Migration and Refugee Flows*” (2017 OSCE PA Minsk Declaration)⁸
- Resolution on “*Minors on the Move: The Role of the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Building an Effective Protection Framework*” (2018 OSCE PA Berlin Declaration)⁹
- Resolution on “*Effective Migration Governance Based on Promoting Inclusive Societies and Dignified Returns*” (2019 OSCE PA Luxembourg Declaration)¹⁰
- [Call for Action on World Refugee Day 2021](#)

D. **Implemented Activities**

For more information on implemented activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration, incl. reports and press releases, please see: <https://www.oscepa.org/en/activities/ad-hoc-committees-and-working-groups/migration>

⁸ <https://www.oscepa.org/documents/annual-sessions/2017-minsk/declaration-25>.

⁹ <https://www.oscepa.org/documents/annual-sessions/2018-berlin/declaration-26>.

¹⁰ <https://www.oscepa.org/documents/annual-sessions/2019-luxembourg>.

ANNEX VI

OSCE PA's visit to Czech Republic highlights challenges of meeting Ukrainian refugees' needs

PRAGUE, 16 December 2022 – Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on Migration today concluded a three-day field visit to Prague, where they met a range of ministers, legislators, stakeholders and policy advocates to focus on the response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis and develop policy recommendations for the wider OSCE area. With the aim of learning more about how Ukrainian refugees have been welcomed in the Czech Republic, the committee members identified best practices that can be replicated in other countries, but also observed areas for improvement.

Developing effective and sustainable responses is especially important as the war continues and a potential new influx of Ukrainians is expected to seek refuge in Europe, the PA delegation said. In particular focus was the implementation of the European Union's temporary protection mechanism that provides immediate and collective protection to Ukrainian citizens and others fleeing Ukraine and the Czech legal framework for meeting the challenge of hosting nearly half a million refugees from Ukraine – the largest number of Ukrainian refugees per capita in Europe.

The OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee members met with Czech parliamentarians including the Vice-President of the lower chamber Olga Richterová as well as members of the Czech Delegation to the PA, and various parliamentary committees, officials from relevant ministries, and the Government Commissioner for Human Rights. They were hosted by the OSCE PA's Czech Delegation and the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament.

“Czechia is doing its best to provide refuge for as many Ukrainians as possible and to make them feel welcome and safe here,” said Lucie Potůčková, Member of the OSCE PA Czech Delegation. “We are also looking into how we can provide more adapted care to those who need it, for example through innovative means of delivering psychological support.”

Ad Hoc Committee members also met with local authorities, including the Mayor of Prague Zdeněk Hřib, visited the Regional Centre for Assistance and Help to Ukraine (KACPU) in Prague and as well as an elementary school where Ukrainian children are enrolled. In meetings, the Ad Hoc Committee members focused on critical areas such as accommodation, access to education, employment, health care and social services as well as the protection of refugees in vulnerable categories, and prevention of trafficking in human beings.

“It is heartbreaking to see the hardship that Ukrainians have had to endure due to the Russian invasion, but also inspiring to see the solidarity on display in the Czech Republic,” said Rt. Hon. Mark Pritchard (United Kingdom), Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration and Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. “The efforts of the authorities at all levels – from the national to the local – and the dedication of civil society have not gone unnoticed. All of our countries, including mine, could do well to learn from the Czech experience and people.”

With the onset of cold weather and the Russian military's targeting of Ukraine's energy infrastructure, Ad Hoc Committee members were particularly interested to learn more about preparations for a potential future wave of refugees over the winter and where national, regional and municipal help is most needed and where additional help from the international community is most required.

Committee Vice-Chair Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus) highlighted the contribution of NGOs and volunteers: “Effective responses to managing crises such as the influx of Ukrainian Refugees into Europe are not possible without the support of civil society. I have been impressed by the professionalism and compassion displayed by Czech NGOs and volunteers in meeting these challenges. The Czech response has shown that when there is a will, there is a way.”

In addition to Pritchard, the delegation included Kyriakos Hadjiyianni (Cyprus), Vice-Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration and Special Representative on Civil Society Engagement; Georgios Varenos (Greece), Member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration. Lucie Potůčková, Hayato Josef Okamura and Jana Pastuchová from the Czech PA Delegation also participated in some of the meetings.