

# Monthly data collection on the migration situation in the EU

## June 2017 Highlights

1–31 May 2017

### Contents

New arrivals .....	2
Initial registration and asylum processing.....	3
Return .....	5
Reception conditions.....	6
Child protection.....	9
Legal, social and policy responses .....	10
Hate speech and violent crime .....	13
Stakeholders interviewed in June 2017 (highlights and focus section) .....	14

**For the June 2017 focus section on community policing, see:**

[fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/june-monthly-migration-focus-community-policing](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/june-monthly-migration-focus-community-policing)

**DISCLAIMER:** These reports were commissioned under contract by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). The content was prepared by FRA's contracted research network, FRANET. The reports contain descriptive data that were based mainly on interviews, and do not include analysis or conclusions. They are made publicly available for information and transparency purposes only, and do not constitute legal advice or legal opinion. The reports do not necessarily reflect the views or official position of FRA.

***Since November 2016, FRA's monthly reports have highlighted key developments in 14 Member States: Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden. This month's highlights are published alongside a focus section on community policing.***

## New arrivals

### External land and sea borders

Arrivals to Italy further [increased](#) to some 23,220 persons, [including](#) around 700 unaccompanied children. Since the beginning of the year, some 60,230 persons disembarked in nearly 580 operations.

Arrivals in Hungary again increased, with more than 410 persons (150 in April) apprehended in the territory or upon trying to cross the border irregularly; in line with the [extended border control](#) policy, all were transferred to outside the transit zone. In spite of the new fence technology, the number of persons the police prevented from crossing the border irregularly increased significantly – to 280, compared to 30 in April.

In Bulgaria, some 410 persons were apprehended at the borders (100) and within the territory (310); most of the persons trying to enter from Turkey came from Syria.

Arrivals by small boat in Spain appeared to be increasing, with some 690 persons arriving at the [Andalusian](#) coastline; three persons reached Melilla by [swimming](#). Moroccan Coast Guards intercepted three small boats with some 110 persons.

A crowd of [300 persons](#) tried to climb the fence in Melilla, Spain; some [120](#) succeeded and were brought to the centre for temporary stay (CETI). Some organisations indicate that many migrants were injured by Moroccan police and 20 were hospitalised, according to the Delegation of Migrations at Nador. At least seven persons were reportedly pushed back by the Spanish Civil Guard, according to the Jesuit Refugee Service. Three Civil Guard officers were injured in the operation.

The NGO Walking Borders reported that some 390 persons travelling on small boats, including more than 120 [reported](#) children, died trying to reach the southern border of Spain between September 2015 and 31 December 2016; only 22 were identified. The NGO claims that many deaths occur due to late activation of rescue operations due to deficient cooperation between Moroccan and Spanish police and rescue authorities.

Some 270 persons, mostly citizens from the Ukraine, were apprehended in Slovakia both at borders and inside the territory. The border police apprehended 17 persons from Vietnam who were travelling in a van – including ten unaccompanied children, who were placed into the children's home in Medzilaborce.

## **Internal borders and airports**

Arrivals in Sweden were on par with previous months, totalling some 1,770 asylum seekers. They included more than 560 children, some 100 of them unaccompanied.

In Paris, France, one migrant trying to reach the United Kingdom died as he came into contact with a wire on top of a train.

Arrivals in Austria remained at a level of some 2,120 persons, mainly from Nigeria, Afghanistan, Syria, Pakistan and Morocco.

Some 300 persons arrived in Denmark, according to police estimates based on data collected in two districts.

The European Commission [reported](#) that some 5,710 asylum applicants had been relocated from Italy by 12 May, primarily to Germany, Norway, Finland, Switzerland and the Netherlands, of 11,794 places formally pledged and 34,953 committed, according to Council Decision 2016/946/EU. During May, some 1,340 asylum applicants were relocated from Greece, primarily to Germany, Finland and Norway.

## **Initial registration and asylum processing**

### **At the border**

Several associations in France have [criticised](#) the plan to open a “satellite” courtroom in the waiting area of Roissy Charles de Gaulle airport as access for lawyers will be difficult. The Public Defender of Rights plans to check the conditions guaranteeing procedural safeguards as well as the public nature and fairness of hearings at the courtroom.

Polish border guards registered fewer than 110 applications for international protection covering some 210 persons, mainly from Russia and the Ukraine. NGOs [continued](#) to [report](#) that persons seeking international protection are systematically refused entry at border crossing points.

### **Asylum**

The Greek Asylum Service registered some 4,080 asylum applications, primarily from Pakistan, Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Asylum applications in Hungary remained at a low level (some 210), as filing applications is possible only in one of the two transit zones, where admission is limited to 5 per day. Civil society organisations continued to raise concerns about the limited opening hours of the transit zones. NGOs reported that the recognition rate for persons from war and terror-torn countries remained extremely low.

The French NGO Forum Réfugiés-Cosi [reported](#) that migrants reaching the French-Italian border are not informed of the possibility to apply for asylum and that almost all of the 36,790 persons apprehended in the Alpes-Maritimes Department in 2016 (95 %) were returned to Italy.

Some 270 persons applied for asylum in Bulgaria, including some 85 children.

Asylum applications in Germany [decreased](#) by more than 26 % compared to March, to some 14,850 in April. Since the beginning of 2017, more than 75 % of all applicants have been under 30, nearly 43 % children, and more than 20 % under four years old. Initial registrations of persons in need of international protection also [decreased](#) – by 3,000, to some 12,000 in April.

The number of appeals against negative asylum decisions in Germany significantly [increased](#) – to some 97,000 during the first quarter of 2017. Meanwhile, an internal [investigation](#) by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees concluded that nearly 1 in 2 (45 %) positive decisions were not adequately documented.

Sponsoring asylum seekers may entail high costs as sponsors' guarantees are generally considered to remain valid even if asylum is granted, according to the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs [responding](#) to a [parliamentarian question](#); exceptions may, however, be possible in individual cases. This is in line with a Federal Administrative Court [ruling](#) from early 2017, although an [administrative court](#) in Wiesbaden previously agreed with the assumption that the guarantee expires after asylum is granted.

In Finland, some 480 persons – including more than 140 children – applied for asylum. Based on interviews with staff of the Immigration Service, the media [reported](#) concerns over the quality of asylum decisions, including the distribution of negative asylum decisions within the Immigration Service as model templates; units seeking to make quality decisions being criticised for their slower pace; and celebrating large numbers of negative decisions. The administrative court overturned or returned to the Immigration Service a [third](#) of all decisions, which constitutes an [increase](#) over the past two years, forcing many asylum seekers to [rely](#) on court processes. Further [deficiencies](#) were reported concerning sensitivity to LGBTI issues and [interpretation](#).

While asylum applications claiming persecution based on sexual orientation have steadily increased in Spain, the LGBT State Federation [has noted](#) incidents of LGBTI-phobia in accommodation facilities, as well as decisions denying protection and instructing applicants to return to their home country and hide their homosexuality.

In Poland, NGOs have reported deficiencies in informing asylum seekers about the procedure, inaccurate translations during interviews and a lack of systematic [legal assistance](#) due to funding gaps; vulnerabilities are not recognised on time and thus not taken into account during the procedure.

The number of asylum applications in Austria has remained stable at some 500 to 550 applications per week, mainly from persons from Syria and Afghanistan. The backlog of pending applications is expected to be reduced as staff of the new offices of the Federal Office for Asylum is about to finish their training.

In the Netherlands, some [2,870 persons](#) arrived and applied for asylum in April; a [13 %](#) decrease compared to March. [Applicants](#) come primarily from Syria and Eritrea and include some 220 stateless persons.

In Denmark, some 290 persons applied for asylum – mainly from Syria, Eritrea and Morocco, and including many children.

## Return

Some 470 persons returned from Greece with voluntary return assistance, including five unaccompanied children. Some 920 persons were returned forcibly.

The press reported that Italy [returned](#) some 40 Nigerian citizens to Lagos, Nigeria, without allowing them to apply for asylum as the relevant form was not available in the reception centre in Agrigento (Sicily), according to their lawyer; two were [reportedly](#) returned to the centre before boarding the plane because the flight lacked sufficient seating.

The Italian Minister of Interior [announced](#) plans to accelerate returns to northern African countries and negotiate with third countries the readmission of their citizens.

Police in Milan, Italy, carried out several checks at the central railway station to identify irregular migrants. During one [operation](#), 52 persons were apprehended, 12 of whom were returned to their countries of origin based on public security reasons; 14 were detained pending identification; and the others were released as they regularly resided in Italy. Several associations [criticised](#) these operations. Police in Milan accompanied an ambulance called by an injured migrant to an occupied building and apprehended 19 irregular migrants. NGOs expressed [concern](#), stating that such operations discourage access to emergency healthcare.

NGOs in Hungary have been concerned about application of the extended border control policy, which has led to persons being returned to outside of the transit zones, even if they did not arrive from Serbia. The Interior Ministry [denied](#) accusations of collective expulsions and incidents of violence against asylum seekers in response to NGO [reports](#) asking for an investigation of violence against asylum seekers and for a commitment to human rights by the police and the newly recruited and insufficiently trained 'border hunter' unit.

NGOs in Austria, Germany and Sweden continued to express concerns over returns to Afghanistan. Sweden [returned](#) 15 young Afghans hours after a terror attack in Kabul.

Several NGOs in Germany have called for stopping returns to Afghanistan. A return flight to Afghanistan was suspended as a car [bomb](#) exploded near the German embassy in Kabul.

The NGO Pro Asyl in Germany [criticised](#) proactive return counselling, provided to asylum seekers early on or immediately upon arrival, as coercive and for treating return – voluntary or forced – like a foregone conclusion. Some 2,100 staff from [support organisations and academia signed](#) a [note](#) in protest of a [letter](#) from the Bavarian Ministry of Social Affairs threatening to reduce funding for organisations counselling rejected asylum seekers on legal remedies and return issues. The Bavarian Refugee Council also [requested](#) clarification.

## Reception conditions

### Hotspots

Facilities on some Greek islands remained severely overcrowded, accommodating more than 13,930 persons – significantly exceeding the official capacity of 8,658 places.

Some 90 asylum seekers, primarily families, were transferred from Lesbos, Chios and Samos to a renovated former [children's home](#) in Ioannina on the mainland.

### Immigration detention

In mainland Greece, more than 2,620 persons were held in detention pending removal; the majority came from Pakistan and Algeria.

In Italy, the Ministry of Interior [informed](#) regional authorities of the location of repatriation centres, which should be operational by the end of July 2017. Demonstrations took place in Sardinia against the opening of a repatriation centre, demanding further efforts to tackle local unemployment as a precondition for integrating migrants.

In the Hungarian transit zones, asylum seekers – including children above the age of 14 – continued to live in shipping containers surrounded by high razor fences for the entire duration of their asylum procedures; they may only leave the transit zone to Serbia.

Spanish authorities [admitted](#) that healthcare at CIEs is inadequate because there are no separate units for detainees with physical or mental illnesses; however, they rejected a protocol proposed by the Ombudsperson for providing specialised psychological assistance to survivors of shipwrecks.

In Spain, a judge controlling the CIEs of Algeciras and Tarifa ordered the centres to implement 31 "[urgent measures](#)", including mandatory checks of tuberculosis, HIV, syphilis, hepatitis A, B and C, scabies and pediculosis, scabies and intestinal parasites; the removal of bars from detainees' rooms; and the direct referral of injuries by the medical service to the court. The CIE in Algeciras [continues to lack](#) heating and air conditioning, and humidity problems persist despite investments into maintenance.

In Poland, asylum applicants – including families with children and victims of torture – continue to be placed in detention often lasting for at least 60 days, as reported by NGOs.

In Austria, the number of persons held in pre-removal detention at Vordernberg increased to about 120.

### Safety and material conditions

Amnesty International [urged](#) the Greek authorities to ensure that asylum seekers evacuated from three Elliniko [camps](#) are provided with safe and adequate alternative housing.

The municipality in Larissa, Greece announced that it will inform home owners interested in renting their property to refugees of the UNHCR-rent assistance [programme](#) covering rent and utility bills. The programme aims to reduce the number of asylum seekers living in the nearby centre of Koutsochero. The



municipality of Trikala [decided](#) to participate in the assistance programme, planning to host some 400 refugees in 70 houses.

Following the [arrest](#) of a criminal association exploiting asylum seekers hosted in local reception centres in farming companies in Cosenza (Calabria), Italy, the Ministry of Interior decided to carry out 2,130 [inspections](#) at all Italian reception centres in the coming months to assess the adequacy of reception conditions.

The police in Crotona (Calabria), Italy, [arrested](#) 68 staff managing the reception centre in Isola Capo Rizzuto, on [accusation](#) of [mafia](#) association, extortion, criminal possession of a weapon, fraud, embezzlement of public funds and theft of some EUR 32 million intended for refugees. A previous inspection of the facility in 2013, managed by the same charity organisation, found some 70 unaccompanied children accommodated in aircraft hangars with two toilets.

The Italian Anti-corruption Authority [recalled](#) the steps taken to establish an administrative regulatory framework ensuring transparent management of reception centres before the Parliamentary Inquiry Commission on the Reception, Identification and Expulsion System, and on Migrants' Detention Conditions and Earmarked Public Resources.

The Prefect of Milan, Italy and mayors of 76 nearby municipalities [agreed](#) to identify adequate facilities for the location of reception centres.

Police in Mineo (Sicily), Italy [arrested](#) a Pakistani citizen for sexually assaulting a Nigerian woman hosted at the local reception centre; such assaults allegedly happen [frequently](#) due to continuing overcrowding at the centre.

As a result of Hungary's extended border policy, fewer than 40 refugees have been staying at the country's open refugee camps, although they have a capacity of more than 480 beds.

In Calais, France, some 100 returned to the former site of the camp, bringing the total number of migrants to around 700 in the municipality, according to the service centre for migrants. In Grande-Synthe, some 250 migrants returned to the camp following a fire in April. NGOs continued to criticise the lack of accommodation facilities in the North of France, which is particularly detrimental to children. Poor hygiene conditions and lack of drinking water have been reported from the sites. In Calais, migrants have no access to showers because the NGO Secours Catholique had to remove its shower containers in the absence of authorisation from the municipality, which is required to keep containers beyond three months. Strong police presence has prevented migrants from meeting organisations that distribute food and drinking water. The National Consultative Committee on Human Rights [criticised](#) the increasing intimidation of people who support refugees.

In Paris, France, large informal settlements have developed as many Afghans, primarily rejected asylum seekers arriving from Germany, joined Sudanese and Eritreans waiting outside the humanitarian camp to submit their requests for asylum. The police dismantled the informal settlements, [transferring](#) some 1610 persons, including 75 unaccompanied children or single women, to reception sites in the Île-de-France region.

The police in Sweden are concerned about the emergence of areas, especially in the region of Gothenburg, where criminal groups intimidate residents, including

through violence against witnesses, plaintiffs and persons reporting crimes, making it difficult or impossible for the police to carry out their duties. These areas are characterised by a parallel social structure, extremism, residents travelling to conflict areas to participate in the conflicts, and a high level of criminality. Undocumented and other vulnerable persons run greater risks of being exploited or getting involved in criminal activities.

### **Healthcare and basic services**

As contracts for NGO healthcare providers are about to expire in Greece, healthcare will be provided primarily through the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

Several NGOs in Sweden reported that the temporary restrictions on obtaining a residence permit have negatively affected the health and ability to integrate into Swedish society of persons with temporary residence permits. Unaccompanied children continue to suffer from anxiety and stress due to the continuing age re-registration and the long duration of asylum procedures.

### **Vulnerable persons**

A humanitarian organisation in Greece faces [allegations](#) of sexual exploitation of beneficiaries and corruption by some staff members; the organisation [committed](#) itself to fully cooperating with the investigation [launched](#) by the Supreme Court Prosecutor.

In view of alarmingly high rates of [gender-related violence](#), Doctors of the World Greece have attached particular importance to the basic and mandatory training of their staff on ways of dealing with gender-based violence.

Activists launched a national [campaign](#) in support of a young Moroccan university student who is suffering from mental illness and has lived in Italy for ten years. He was apprehended at the canteen of the University of Palermo and has been detained in the expulsion centre of Caltanissetta, where adequate medical assistance is not provided and his health condition is dramatically worsening.

The Cordelia Foundation in Hungary continued to urge the authorities to pay more attention to possible victims of torture or trauma upon registration and in detention facilities.

Reception facilities in Slovakia urgently need mental healthcare services, according to NGOs that are counselling and identifying trauma in many asylum seekers and refugees.

The Parliamentary Ombudsman in Denmark [criticised](#) the blanket policy of separating married couples involving at least one child without assessing the individual case. In response to further criticism, the Immigration and Integration Minister [justified](#) the instructions sent to the Immigration Service, [maintaining](#) that the need for an individual case assessment had been included in oral guidance to the Immigration Board and not called into question.



## Child protection

Some 2,150 unaccompanied children were estimated to be in Greece, while only 1,294 places are available in special accommodation facilities.

Human Rights Watch released a [report](#) on delays and barriers to family reunification affecting older refugees and asylum seekers stranded in Greece, often for several months. Authorities in Greece [denied](#) having an agreement with Germany to limit Dublin transfers for family reunification to 70 per month, while confirming in a [letter](#) to the German Interior Minister that family reunification transfers will slow down as agreed.

The Greek Ombudsman [wrote](#) to the Greek authorities concerning obstacles to family reunification and relocation procedures for children.

In Greece, [guidelines](#) for the registration of children in refugee school programmes offering additional support classes for non-Greek speakers have been published and distributed.

According to the Special Commissioner for Missing People in Italy, the number of unaccompanied children absconding from reception centres rose by more than 27 % during 2016, amounting to nearly [28,000 children](#) at the end of the year.

The Italian government issued [guidelines](#) on the role and functions of voluntary guardians, established by [law](#) in April 2017, which give children a right to be heard concerning the appointment of a voluntary guardian.

Terre des Hommes published [guidelines](#) for protecting the mental health, and promoting the social and health wellbeing, of migrant children at reception facilities in Italy.

In Hungary, only children below the age of 14 are transferred to children's homes, have access to child protection services and may be appointed a guardian, whereas children above this age are transferred to the transit zone. The Hungarian Helsinki Committee [reported](#) that age is often assessed incorrectly and children below 14 are held in the transit zones, where guardians are not appointed for unaccompanied children; very young children can also be held in the transit zones with their family. In response to criticism from the European People's Party, the government is [considering](#) introducing DNA testing for age assessments, the accuracy of which is contested; children found to be below 18 years old pursuant to such tests would be allowed to stay in special open camps.

In Germany, some 43,840 unaccompanied children have been under the [protection](#) of youth welfare offices, in addition to some 18,000 young adults.

The German government presented a [concept](#) for establishing two homes for about 100 children in Morocco with the [aim](#) of preparing the conditions for returning unaccompanied children, primarily "voluntary" and delinquent returnees. Fear of being returned is likely to push young people into [hiding](#) and possibly illegal activities, according to the [Federal Association of Unaccompanied Minor Refugees](#).

In April, asylum applicants in the Netherlands include some 100 unaccompanied children, primarily from Eritrea, Afghanistan, Morocco and Guinea.

In Sweden, the National Board of Forensic Medicine issued a first [statement](#) on age assessment of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, after taking over this task from the general health care system in March. In 442 of 581 cases, the asylum seekers were assessed to be 18 years or older; in 134 cases, the applicants were assessed as clearly being children.

In Denmark, some 40 % of arrivals (some 290 in total) were children, including 50 unaccompanied children, mainly from Morocco, Afghanistan and Libya.

In line with the Council of Europe GRETA committee of experts, the Ombudsperson in Spain [called](#) for stronger mechanisms for identifying and protecting child victims of trafficking, as numbers of identified victims remain low.

In Spain, a [protocol](#) on children was revised due to the high-level terrorism alert, allowing the police to completely strip search children in certain circumstances, including against their will and using handcuffs; reference to the respect of fundamental rights during the search was removed.

Family reunification has remained practically unattainable in Poland, according to NGOs, due to restrictive deadlines, limitations on spouses and underage children, and high costs.

## Legal, social and policy responses

### Legal changes

The ECtHR [communicated](#) a first case (*B.J. v. Greece*) concerning the implementation of the EU-Turkey Joint Statement on Syrian citizens, and will start to assess whether the procedure followed was in line with the prohibition of torture (Article 3) and the right to an effective remedy (Article 12); if the detention and reception conditions in Turkey constituted degrading treatment in the event of return (Article 3); and if detention in the police station of Mytilene (Lesvos), Greece, for one and a half months violated Article 3.

The Council of State in Greece [rejected](#) an appeal challenging the constitutionality and independence of the Greek appeal committees, which was based on the judges deciding on the composition of the appeal committees also reviewing their rulings.

The Italian Council of State [confirmed](#) that Hungary cannot be considered a safe country for Dublin returns.

According to the [Federal Social Court](#) in Germany, social benefits may be reduced to mere physical subsistence if asylum seekers refuse to cooperate in obtaining their passports.

As elections in Austria have been brought forward to October, it is unclear whether part II of the [Alien Law Amendment Act](#) will be adopted before the elections. NGOs criticised the draft for allowing coercive detention if persons obliged to return do not cooperate.

The District Court of The Hague [confirmed](#) the decision to return an asylum seeker from Iraq for not being able to prove his homosexuality as he did not refer to or reflect on the development of homosexual feelings. The case was

[covered](#) extensively by Dutch [media](#). The NGO LGBT Asylum Support has [asked](#) for a committee to be set up to assess individual asylum applications based on sexual orientation. Members of parliament have [followed up](#) this suggestion and also [inquired about the instructions](#) used during interviews with LGBTI asylum seekers.

Sweden [amended](#) its Act on temporary restrictions of the possibility to obtain a residence permit to allow unaccompanied children enrolled in upper secondary schools to get their temporary residence permits extended so that they can finish school and find employment within six months.

The Danish Refugee Appeals Board [confirmed](#) decisions to withdraw subsidiary protection in two cases concerning persons from Somalia, including a family with small children born in Denmark. This, according to an NGO, despite continuous instability and merely slight improvements in the security situation noted in the country of origin information. NGOs have expressed concerned about the withdrawal of protection in future cases affecting refugees who originate from areas controlled by the militant group Al-Shabaab.

### **Policy responses**

In Italy, the ministers of interior and justice expressed their [solidarity](#) with NGOs operating in save-and-rescue operations.

The Italian Senate Defence Commission [investigated](#) the contribution of the Italian army to controlling migration and the impact of NGOs. According to the commission, the chief of the Italian Navy underlined that there is no interference by NGOs with the activities of the navy. The Public Prosecutor suggested that the judiciary police could embark on NGOs' vessels, which NGOs rejected or contested, questioning the effectiveness of such a measure. The commission suggested several other measures, including opening a maritime rescue coordination centre in Libya, tackling the issue concerning the borders of Maltese and Italian save-and-rescue areas, rationalising the presence of NGOs' vessels, setting up an accreditation system for NGOs, and allowing authorities to intervene promptly after save-and-rescue operations.

Together with counterparts from Chad, Libya and Niger, the Italian Interior Minister [discussed](#) strengthening border checks and setting up reception centres in these countries to stem the flow of migration.

In Hungary, the government proposed a [750-fold increase](#) of the 2018 budget for managing the "mass migration crisis" compared to the 2017 budget.

The government in Bulgaria launched a public [consultation](#) on a draft decision determining the areas in which asylum seekers accommodated in reception centres can move freely without having to request permission from the State Agency for Refugees.

Sweden [stopped](#) requiring carriers to check passengers' identities on busses, trains and passenger ships from Denmark to Sweden and [extended](#) internal border controls for six more months, which has led to systematic [border checks](#) of trains at Hyllie station, vehicles at Lernacken and harbours in Trelleborg, Helsingborg and Malmö.

The Green Party in Sweden, a coalition partner in the government, [proposed](#) having asylum applications from unaccompanied children processed based on their age at the time of registration rather than their age at the end of the procedure, and re-examining negative asylum decisions concerning unaccompanied children, who arrived in 2015, based on their age at arrival; the Prime Minister of the main party in government (Social Democrats) did [not support](#) the proposal.

The Migration Office in Slovakia has prepared a [guide](#) for socio-cultural orientation for newly arrived asylum seekers together with IOM, NGOs, UNHCR and migrants from Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia and Syria.

### **Responses by civil society, local and political actors**

15 NGOs [urged](#) the Greek government to reverse the current practice of excluding from IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return programme all asylum seekers on the islands who are appealing a negative asylum decision, forcing those who wish to benefit from the programme to forego their right to appeal.

In Greece, NGOs [launched](#) a comprehensive training programme for community interpreters and cultural mediators. Translators Without Borders launched a mobile application providing a glossary for interpreters and other fieldworkers.

In Italy, the public campaigns "[I was a foreigner](#)" and "[No one is illegal](#)" propose legislative changes to create legal ways to migrate to Italy and improve the reception system.

The Hungarian Association for Migrants trained volunteers to assist refugees and asylum seekers in transit zones, detention centres and open camps.

The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Poland continued to [report](#) that foreigners considered to be a threat to the defence or security of the state do not have access to classified information used as evidence against them and are immediately [returned](#).

Police in Ceuta, Spain, [arrested](#) a soccer player at the Ceuta Sports Association for involvement in facilitation. According to the Civil Guard and Maritime Rescue, facilitators have been changing routes due to the effectiveness of the [Integrated Surveillance System](#) (SIVE).

20 refugees were resettled from Turkey to Spain; Amnesty International submitted a petition signed by 52,000 persons asking the Spanish government to fulfil its commitment to receive 17,337 persons by 16 September 2017; at the current [pace](#), this would take some 22 years.

In Spain, a book was published on *Human Rights and Universal Justice on the southern border*, drawing on experiences of refugees, law enforcement, judiciary, legal professionals and NGOs in Melilla.

In Germany, several [demonstrations](#) against returns to Afghanistan took place – some of them [weekly](#), as in Bamberg, Nürnberg and Munich.

A [survey](#) by the State School Inspection in Slovakia showed that secondary school pupils are least tolerant of migrants and Muslims, compared to tolerance of other groups, such as persons with intellectual disabilities, LGBTI persons, Hungarians or Roma. More than half believe that asylum seekers receive too much support in Slovakia and 84 % oppose accepting further asylum seekers.

In Denmark, [political actors](#) discussed the possibility of detaining some asylum seekers accommodated in asylum facilities, or prohibiting them from leaving accommodation at night, in response to a recent [assault](#) on a [Danish couple](#), presumably by unaccompanied child asylum seekers.

## Hate speech and violent crime

Two transgender asylum seekers were [attacked](#) on the island of Leros, Greece.

The police in La Spezia (Liguria), Italy [arrested](#) members of a Nazi group aiming to organise violent raids against migrants.

In response to the debate on the role of NGOs in save-and-rescue operations in Italy, the radical party Forza Nuova (New Force) [occupied](#) the external area of the Rome office of the International Organization for Migration. The fascist groups National Movement and Identity Youth [protested](#) against NGOs during a conference on geopolitics in the Mediterranean in Prato (Tuscany), Italy. Identity Youth together with a similar Austrian organisation (Identity Movement Austria) tried to [block](#) the NGO vessel "SOS Méditerranée" with a small boat.

NGOs and UNHCR in Poland [reported](#) pervasive hate speech and an increase in the number of violent crimes motivated by prejudice.

Germany recorded six [attacks](#) specifically against asylum seekers in May, including four violent attacks and two attacks against reception and accommodation centres. Although attacks on reception facilities decreased in 2017, the police expect a possible [increase](#) in attacks against refugees during the parliamentary election campaign as right-wing activists may intensify their anti-asylum agitation.

## Stakeholders interviewed in June 2017 (highlights and focus section)

Country	Stakeholders interviewed
Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Ministry of the Interior/Department II/2, Operational Affairs (<i>Bundesministerium für Inneres/Abteilung II/2 Einsatzangelegenheiten</i>);</li> <li>• Federal Ministry of the Interior, Department III/9 (<i>Bundesministerium für Inneres, Abteilung III/9 Grundversorgung und Bundesbetreuung</i>);</li> <li>• Regional Police Styria (<i>Landespolizeidirektion Steiermark, Gemeinsam Sicher in der Steiermark</i>);</li> <li>• City of Graz, Department Education and Integration (<i>Stadt Graz, Abteilung für Bildung und Integration</i>);</li> <li>• Caritas Styria, Accomodation of Refugees (<i>Caritas Steiermark, Flüchtlingsunterbringung</i>);</li> <li>• Caritas Vienna (<i>Caritas Wien</i>);</li> <li>• Austrian Red Cross (<i>Österreichisches Rotes Kreuz</i>).</li> </ul>
Bulgaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Agency for Refugees (SAR) (<i>Държавна агенция за бежанците, ДАБ</i>);</li> <li>• Ministry of the Interior, Directorate General Border Police (MoI – DGBP) (<i>Министерство на вътрешните работи, Главна дирекция „Гранична полиция“, МВР – ГДГП</i>);</li> <li>• Ministry of the Interior, Sofia Directorate of the Interior (MoI – SDI) (<i>Министерство на вътрешните работи, Столична дирекция на вътрешните работи, МВР – СДВР</i>);</li> <li>• Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC) (<i>Български червен кръст, БЧК</i>);</li> <li>• Refugee Support Group (RSG);</li> <li>• Caritas Bulgaria (<i>Каритас България</i>).</li> </ul>
Denmark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danish Ministry of Justice (<i>Justitsministeriet</i>);</li> <li>• Danish Immigration Service (<i>Udlændingestyrelsen</i>);</li> <li>• Municipality of Jammerbugt, asylum section (<i>Asylafdelingen i Jammerbugt Kommune</i>);</li> <li>• Danish Red Cross (<i>Røde Kors</i>);</li> <li>• Danish Refugee Council (<i>Dansk Flygtningehjælp</i>).</li> </ul>
Finland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Police Board (<i>Poliisihallitus/Polisstyrelsen</i>);</li> <li>• Finnish Immigration Service (<i>Maahanmuuttovirasto/Migrationsverket</i>);</li> <li>• Helsinki Police Department (<i>Helsingin poliisilaitos/Polisinrättningen in Helsingfors</i>);</li> <li>• City of Helsinki, Safety and Preparedness Unit (<i>Helsingin kaupunki/Helsingfors stad, Turvallisuus- ja valmiusyksikkö/Säkerhets- och beredskapsenheten</i>);</li> <li>• Helsinki reception centre;</li> <li>• Amnesty International Finland;</li> <li>• Red Cross Finland (<i>Punainen Risti/Röda Korset</i>).</li> </ul>
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paris Prefecture of Police (<i>Préfecture de Police de Paris</i>);</li> <li>• National Consultative Committee on Human Rights (<i>Commission nationale consultative des droits de l'homme - CNCDH</i>);</li> <li>• Public Defender of Rights (<i>Défenseur des droits – DDD</i>);</li> </ul>



Country	Stakeholders interviewed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association France Land of Asylum (<i>Association France Terre d'Asile – FTA</i>);</li> <li>• Service centre for migrants in Calais (<i>Plateforme de service aux migrants à Calais</i>);</li> <li>• Association The Immigrant Information and Support Group (<i>Groupe d'information et de soutien des immigrés - GISTI</i>);</li> <li>• Association Cimade - Intermovement Committee for evacuees (<i>Comité intermouvements auprès des évacués – La Cimade</i>);</li> <li>• Association Utopia 56;</li> <li>• Association The Voice of Children (<i>La Voix de l'enfant</i>).</li> </ul>
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (<i>Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend</i>);</li> <li>• Federal Association for Unaccompanied Minor Refugees (<i>Bundesfachverband Unbegleitete Minderjährige Flüchtlinge</i>);</li> <li>• Bavarian Refugee Council (<i>Bayerischer Flüchtlingsrat</i>);</li> <li>• Heilbronn Police Headquarter (<i>Polizeipräsidium Heilbronn, Führungs- und Einsatzstab, Zentrale Dienste</i>);</li> <li>• Heilbronn District Administration (<i>Landratsamt Heilbronn, Stabsstelle Landrat und Dezernat 6 Migration und Integration</i>);</li> <li>• Diakonie District Association Heilbronn (<i>Diakonie Kreisdiakonieverband Heilbronn, Team Migration und Flucht - kirchliche Flüchtlingsarbeit</i>);</li> <li>• Caritas Region Heilbronn-Hohenlohe (<i>Caritas Region Heilbronn-Hohenlohe</i>);</li> <li>• Pro Asyl.</li> </ul>
Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hellenic Police Headquarters (<i>Αρχηγείο Ελληνικής Αστυνομίας</i>);</li> <li>• Hellenic Police, General Policing Division;</li> <li>• Hellenic Police, Migration Management Division;</li> <li>• Reception and Identification Service;</li> <li>• Asylum Service Greece (<i>Υπηρεσία Ασύλου</i>);</li> <li>• Municipality of Athens (<i>Δήμος Αθηνών</i>);</li> <li>• National Centre for Social Solidarity (<i>Εθνικό Κέντρο Κοινωνικής Αλληλεγγύης</i>);</li> <li>• Medecins Du Monde-Doctors of the World (<i>Γιατροί του Κόσμου</i>);</li> <li>• International Organization for Migration-IOM (<i>Διεθνής Οργανισμός Μετανάστευσης</i>);</li> <li>• United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Greece (<i>Υπατη Αρμοστεία του ΟΗΕ για τους Πρόσφυγες, γραφείο Ελλάδας</i>);</li> <li>• Greek Forum for Refugees (<i>Ελληνικό Φόρουμ Προσφύγων</i>).</li> </ul>
Hungary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Police Headquarters (<i>Országos Rendőr-főkapitányság</i>);</li> <li>• Immigration and Asylum Office (<i>Bevándorlási és Menekültügyi Hivatal</i>);</li> <li>• City Mayor's Office in Röszke (<i>Röszkei Polgármesteri Hivatal</i>);</li> <li>• UNHCR Hungary;</li> <li>• Hungarian Association for Migrants (<i>Menedék Migránsokat Segítő Egyesület</i>).</li> </ul>
Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of the Interior;</li> <li>• Authority for the Protection of People who are Detained or Deprived of their Personal Freedom (<i>Garante nazionale per i diritti delle persone detenute o private della libertà personale</i>);</li> <li>• Local authorities of Settimo Torinese;</li> </ul>

Country	Stakeholders interviewed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association for Legal Studies on Immigration (<i>Associazione per gli studi giuridici sull'immigrazione - ASGI</i>);</li> <li>• Italian Refugee Council (<i>Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati - CIR</i>);</li> <li>• Doctors Without Borders Italy (<i>Medici Senza Frontiere Italia, MSF Italia</i>);</li> <li>• Save the Children Italia Onlus;</li> <li>• United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (<i>UNHCR</i>);</li> <li>• Italian Red Cross (<i>IRC</i>);</li> <li>• Jesuit Refugee Service 'Centro Astalli';</li> <li>• Community of Sant'Egidio (<i>Comunità di Sant'Egidio</i>);</li> <li>• 'Melting Pot Europa' project;</li> <li>• NGO 'Borderline Sicilia';</li> <li>• NGO 'Naga'.</li> </ul>
Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry for Security and Justice, Central information point, providing information on behalf of: Immigration and Naturalisation Service, Aliens Police, Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers;</li> <li>• Statistics Netherlands (<i>Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek</i>);</li> <li>• Municipality of Rotterdam;</li> <li>• Defence for Children the Netherlands;</li> <li>• Amnesty International the Netherlands.</li> </ul>
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association for Legal Intervention (<i>Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej - SIP</i>);</li> <li>• The Halina Nieć Legal Aid Center (<i>Centrum Pomocy Prawnej in Haliny Niećm - CPPHN</i>);</li> <li>• Caritas Poland (<i>Caritas Polska</i>);</li> <li>• Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (<i>Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka - HFHR</i>);</li> <li>• UNHCR Poland;</li> <li>• Head of the Office for Foreigners (<i>Szef Urzędu do spraw Cudzoziemców - UdSC</i>).</li> </ul>
Slovakia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic;</li> <li>• Office of Border and Alien Police of the Police Presidium;</li> <li>• Regional Police Headquarters Nitra ;</li> <li>• City Police Nitra;</li> <li>• Municipality Office Nitra;</li> <li>• Human Rights League;</li> <li>• Pokoj a dobro;</li> <li>• Slovenská humanitná rada.</li> </ul>
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asylum and Refugee Office of the Spanish Ministry of the Interior (<i>Oficina de Asilo y Refugio del Ministerio del Interior - OAR</i>);</li> <li>• General Police Station of Foreigners and Borders of the National Police, Ministry of Interior (<i>Comisaría General de Extranjería y Fronteras de la Policía Nacional, Ministerio del Interior</i>);</li> <li>• Management of the Diversity Unit of the Municipal Police Officers, Madrid City Council (<i>Unidad de Gestión de la Diversidad de la Policía Municipal de Madrid, Ayuntamiento de Madrid</i>);</li> <li>• Office for Refugee Affairs of the Autonomous Community of Madrid (<i>Oficina de Atención al Refugiado de la Comunidad Autónoma de Madrid</i>);</li> </ul>

Country	Stakeholders interviewed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accem NGO;</li> <li>• Chair of Refugees and Forced Migrants of Comillas ICAI-ICADE, INDITEX (<i>Cátedra de Refugiados y Migrantes Forzosos de Comillas ICAI-ICADE, INDITEX</i>);</li> <li>• Jesuit Migrant Service (<i>Servicio Jesuita Migrantes – SJM</i>);</li> <li>• Spanish Refugee Aid Commission (<i>Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado - CEAR</i>);</li> <li>• Rights International Spain (RIS);</li> <li>• SOS-Racism (<i>SOS Racismo</i>).</li> </ul>
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swedish Migration Agency (<i>Migrationsverket</i>);</li> <li>• Swedish Police Authority (<i>Polismyndigheten</i>);</li> <li>• Integration Centre of Gothenburg (<i>Integrationscenter Göteborgs Stad</i>);</li> <li>• Real Estate's Property Management Committee of Gothenburg (<i>Fastighetskontoret, Göteborg Stad</i>);</li> <li>• Staff at Swedish Migration Agency Reception Centre (<i>Personal på Migrationsverkets mottagningsenhet</i>) (public officials – national level);</li> <li>• Staff at Accommodation centres for unaccompanied children (<i>Personal på boende för ensamkommande</i>) (public officials – local level);</li> <li>• Red Cross Sweden (<i>Svenska Röda Korset</i>);</li> <li>• No Human Being is Illegal (<i>Ingen människa är illegal</i>);</li> <li>• Amnesty International.</li> </ul>