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## IOM Slovenia Newsletter

September 2016

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### Summit on Refugees and Migrants Opens as IOM Joins United Nations

The UN Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants, which took place on Monday (19/09) in New York, created a singular opportunity for the global community to forge a greater consensus on managing the world's movements of migrants and refugees. This mega-trend of the 21st Century now represents unprecedented human mobility, with one of every seven people worldwide living or working somewhere other than their place of birth.

“We are gathered here today for an historic Summit - the first ever to assemble Heads of State from around the world to address the question of refugees and migrants,” said IOM Director General William Lacy Swing in his opening remarks to the Summit at the UN General Assembly.

With representatives of nearly two hundred nation states looking on, DG Swing and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon signed a document formally linking IOM to the UN. It established IOM as a “related organization” of the UN, giving the UN for the first time, an explicit migration mandate.

He said that “The signature of this historic agreement brings the leading global migration agency, IOM, into the UN - the culmination of a 65-year relationship. For the very first time in 71 years, the UN now has a ‘UN Migration Agency’. This is a singular honour for our organization – and a genuine success for migrants, Member States and indeed for this Summit”.

“A record number of people are uprooted and forced to move - refugees, internally displaced persons, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minors. Climate change threatens yet a further 75 million living just one meter above sea level,” said Swing.





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He also noted that the timing of this Summit was critical. “We’re facing a series – that I have not seen in my lifetime – of unprecedented simultaneous, complex and protracted crises and humanitarian emergencies in an arc of instability that stretches from the Western bulge of Africa to the Himalayas,” he observed.

[Read more.](#)

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### **Over 50,000 Migrants Opted for Assisted Voluntary Return in First Half of 2016**

IOM assisted 51,031\* migrants in the first half of 2016 under its Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes. The migrants were from 150 different countries of origin and were returned from 92 host and/or transit countries.

Based on the figures outlined in the first AVRR bulletin the number of AVRR beneficiaries is likely to reach 100,000 by the end of the year.

By comparison IOM assisted 69,540 migrants in 2015 – nearly 60 percent more than in 2014, when it helped 43,786 migrants to return to their countries of origin in a safe and dignified manner.

The majority of migrants assisted by IOM to return voluntarily in the first half of 2016 departed from the European Economic Area, with Germany accounting for over half of the total.

“Voluntary returns from other regions such as the Middle-East and North Africa, and West and Central Africa, have also increased in 2016. For example, Niger and Morocco are among the top 10 most important host and/or transit countries for AVRR in the first half of the year,” said Anh Nguyen, Head of IOM’s Migrant Assistance Division.

According to the bulletin, 32 percent of returnees assisted by IOM between January and June 2016 were women and 27 percent were children. Nearly 600





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victims of trafficking were also helped to voluntarily return home under IOM specific standards, principles and guidelines.

The AVRR bulletin was produced by IOM Migrant Assistance Division with the support of IOM Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC). For further information on AVRR programmes, please click [here](#).

To download the bulletin please go to:

[http://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our\\_work/DMM/AVRR/AVRR\\_Bulletin\\_2016.PDF](http://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/DMM/AVRR/AVRR_Bulletin_2016.PDF)

\* Periodic data is provisional and should therefore be considered as an estimation. AVRR global data is reviewed and finalized on an annual basis.

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## **Children and Unsafe Migration in Europe: Data Briefing**

With an increasing number of migrant children reported missing in Europe, questions arise about the availability, coverage and reliability of data on children migrating to and through the European Union.

IOM's Berlin-based Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) analyses the evidence base in its latest Data Briefing Issue 5, released on September 2.

It is estimated that over 250,000 child migrants crossed irregularly into Italy and Greece in 2015. For Italy, of 16,500 child migrants, over 12,000 (72 percent) were unaccompanied. For Greece, no official distinction between accompanied and unaccompanied is made at entry for the purposes of data collection, although the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) estimates that at least 10 per cent arrived without parents or guardians.

“Child migration into Europe is diverse and often invisible in data and policy. European States consider children as “accompanied” or “unaccompanied”





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differently. This not only affects the rights and entitlements they receive, but how they are counted in the data,” notes GMDAC Director, Dr. Frank Laczko.

To download the report, please visit: <https://publications.iom.int/books/global-migration-data-analysis-centre-data-briefing-series-issue-no-5-september-2016>

[Read more.](#)

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### **Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 300,450; Deaths at Sea: 3,501**

IOM reports that 300,450 migrants and refugees entered Europe by sea in 2016 through 21 September, arriving mostly in Greece and Italy. Some 166,050 people have arrived in Greece and 130,567 in Italy during 2016.

Totals in 2015 through the entire month of September last year were 518,181 - nearly 50 percent higher than 2016’s totals, with slightly over a week remaining in September.

Deaths, however, are considerably higher than last year’s total of 2,887 on this date. According to IOM’s Missing Migrants Project, this year they stand at 3,501, with reports arriving yesterday of the latest tragedy off Egypt.

Through mid-September this year some 2,765 deaths had been reported on this route. With this week’s additional fatalities the total will be over 3,000 or nearly 90% of all Mediterranean fatalities in 2016.





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### Total arrivals by sea and deaths in the Mediterranean 2015 and 2016

1 Jan – 21 Sep 2016			1 Jan – 30 Sep 2015		
Country	Arrivals	Deaths	Arrivals	Deaths	
Greece	166,050	386 (Eastern Med route)	381,996	280 (Eastern Med Route)	
Cyprus	28		269**		
Italy	130,567	3,054 (Central Med route)	132,071	2,622 (Central Med route)	
Spain	3,805*	61 (Western Med and Western African routes)	3,845**	22 (Western Med and Western African routes)	
<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>300,450</b>	<b>3,501</b>	<b>518,181</b>	<b>2,924</b>	

\* As of 30 Jun 2016

\*\*Jan-Dec 2015

For the latest Mediterranean Update infographic, please go to:

[https://missingmigrants.iom.int/sites/default/files/Mediterranean Update 23 September 2016.pdf](https://missingmigrants.iom.int/sites/default/files/Mediterranean_Update_23_September_2016.pdf)

For latest arrivals and fatalities in the Mediterranean, please visit:

<http://migration.iom.int/europe>

Learn more about Missing Migrants Project at: <http://missingmigrants.iom.int>

[Read more.](#)

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### IOM Aids EU Relocation of 5,000 Asylum Seekers in First Year, Urges Renewed Effort

As the European Union (EU) relocation scheme reaches its one year anniversary, only 5,000 asylum seekers have been relocated from Greece and Italy to other EU Member States with IOM assistance. The EU programme adopted a year ago was set up to relocate 160,000 asylum seekers from frontline EU Member States. Since then, IOM has assisted 4,954 people relocate from Greece and Italy with pre-departure preparation and travel assistance.





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Given the slow progress made in the first year, IOM Director General William Lacy Swing has called on all EU Member States to step up and fully meet the commitments made under the programme.

“Relocation was put in place as a vital protection tool with the promise of a shared European response to the challenges of dealing with the migration flows across the Mediterranean. But we see that implementation is clearly lagging,” said Ambassador Swing.

“If Europe is to seize the opportunity to make this programme work, it will need to keep up recent momentum and do much better in the coming year,” he added.

Eugenio Ambrosi, Director of IOM’s Regional Office for the EU, Norway and Switzerland, said that faster and full implementation of the EU relocation plan is important because it will help to alleviate overcrowding, suffering and desperation among migrants and refugees in Greece and Italy.

“It also reduces the chances that asylum seekers will give up waiting and resort to smugglers, which means more irregular migration. Relocation is an orderly and humane way of dealing with the pressures on people and states alike,” he said.

For updated statistics on EU relocations, please see: <http://migration.iom.int/europe>

More information on relocations from Greece can be found here: <http://greece.iom.int/en/relocation-program>

[Read more.](#)

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**IOM, Frontend to Develop Healthcare Access Solutions for Displaced**





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IOM and an Irish design consultancy, Frontend.com, have announced plans to develop technological solutions to some of the healthcare challenges facing migrants, refugees and other displaced people around the world

"When we spoke to the IOM, we realized that their challenges boiled down to two things; movement and communication. Currently with the crisis in Europe, migrants are moving from one area to another, making it difficult to provide continuity of care. We needed to open up communication between agencies, migrants and healthcare systems," said Frontend Director Frank Long.

Frontend and IOM, working with masters design students at Trinity College Dublin, the University of Limerick, Institute of Technology Carlow and the National College of Art and Design, are responding by developing a standardized medication label concept, which conveys essential information graphically/visually and therefore avoids language barriers and helps people with literacy challenges.

Another concept under development is a cloud-based system that will allow migrants and refugees to upload, store and translate test results wherever they are during the migration process.

"The current refugee and migration flows to and within Europe, as well as humanitarian emergencies in many other parts of the world, pose a real challenge in terms of accessible healthcare and our task, along with our partners such as Frontend, is to come up with good and innovative solutions. In this instance, good design and effective use of technology can help resolve some of the problems that affected people are facing," said Dr Teresa Zakaria, IOM's Migration Health Emergency Operations Coordinator.

"Everyone in the world has a human right to access healthcare, and as a global society we have built frameworks to ensure that we look after one another. But frameworks sometimes break down, especially in times of crisis and this challenges us to catch those falling through the net," she added.





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For further information, please go to [www.frontend.com/futurevision](http://www.frontend.com/futurevision) or watch this video: [www.vimeo.com/frontendux/futurevision](http://www.vimeo.com/frontendux/futurevision). A downloadable version of the video can be accessed at <https://we.tl/VMj05dYyJY>

[Read more.](#)

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## **IOM, COMESA Launch Zambia, Zimbabwe Training on Free Movement Protocol**

IOM and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat this week launched a flagship training programme for the governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe on the signature and ratification of the COMESA Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, Labour, Services, Right of Establishment and Residence (known as the Free Movement Protocol).

The training, the first of its kind, represents a significant milestone for the COMESA free movement agenda, and brings together members of the National Monitoring Committees from a cross-section of government departments, including Ministries of Home Affairs, Labour, Trade and Foreign Affairs from both countries.

Migration holds considerable potential for economic and social growth and development for countries of origin and destination alike, as well as for individual migrants and their families.

COMESA recognizes the great importance of migration in the context of free trade, noting that for regional integration to be fully realized, citizens of COMESA Member States must be allowed to move freely in order to provide and enhance services, tourism, labour, cultural activities, among other aspects of the COMESA integration agenda.

[Read more.](#)

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## **IOM Addresses Migration, Population Mobility and Health at UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants**

On September 22 IOM participated in an event on Health in the Context of Migration and Forced Displacement on the sidelines of the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants in New York.

The panel, hosted by the Governments of Italy and Sri Lanka, and co-organized by IOM, UNHCR and WHO, included participants from Johns Hopkins University, the World Bank and the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC).

Speaking at the event, Ambassador Laura Thompson, IOM Deputy Director General said: “As long as migrant populations have restricted abilities and rights to access affordable health services, concepts and slogans such as ‘Universal Health Coverage’ and ‘leaving no one behind are pointless’.”

She also pointed out that obstacles to migrants’ access to health care, whether societal, cultural, or economic needed to be identified and removed. “After all migration health issues cannot be solved by the health sector alone and migration and health are inextricably linked with other policies on development, labor, foreign policy, security, the environment, and so on.”

[Read more.](#)

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## **IOM, Belgium Sign Framework Agreement to Support Safer, Orderly Migration**

The Government of Belgium, represented by the Ministry of Development Cooperation, signed a framework agreement with IOM.

From 2017 onward, the Belgian Government intends to provide multi-annual funding to IOM in order to assist in managing migration in a human and orderly manner and promote international cooperation on migration.





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This agreement seeks to support IOM in the realization of its mandate and to strengthen the priorities of the Belgian Ministry of Development Cooperation by undertaking efforts to contribute to better coherence between IOM's activities and those of the Belgian Government. This will be partly done through greater exchange of best practices and strategic and technical knowledge relating to migration.

Through this agreement, the Belgian Government recognizes IOM as a multilateral partner in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals by emphasizing IOM's role as the global lead agency on migration.

"No State or organization can stand alone in today's interconnected world. There is an urgent need for strengthened collective action, including global, regional and local solutions, to improve migration management," remarked IOM's Director General William Swing following the signing of the agreement.

[Read more.](#)

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## **New IOM Report Urges Cohesion on ASEAN Labour Mobility**

ASEAN member states' labour migration policy frameworks need improving in order to increase mobility of skilled labour as envisioned by the ASEAN Economic Community, a new IOM report has found.

In *Preparing for Increased Labour Mobility in ASEAN*, the study comprehensively maps policy and rights frameworks among all ten ASEAN member states for facilitating skilled labour mobility, and provides a tool to assess each framework's alignment with free movement principles.

Funded by USAID and the IOM Development Fund, the study reveals several challenges faced by high-and lower-income ASEAN countries related to skilled





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labour, including shortages, skills mismatch and an over-reliance on labour-intensive industries.

These challenges are exacerbated by the varying availability and quality of labour market data, as well as differing national standards in the classification of 'skilled' or 'highly-skilled' workers, which impedes comprehensive analysis of labour trends at both local and regional levels.

The study is available at:

<http://th.iom.int/images/report/IOMaseanReportFinalLow.pdf>

[Read more.](#)

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For many more up to date news and articles on migration, please visit [IOM website](#) (section: [Press Room](#), pages: particularly [News](#) and [Newsdesk](#)).

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## Situation Reports

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### Europe/Mediterranean Migration Response Situation Report

As of 21 September 2016, a total of 317,228 migrants and refugees have arrived in Europe by land and sea routes since the start of 2016.

On 19 September, a large fire swept through Moria's hotspot in Greece, destroying tents and prefabricated homes, and prompted the evacuation of the facility's estimated 4,000 residents. According to the Shipping and Island Policy





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Minister, a vessel will be sent out immediately to Lesvos to temporarily host the migrants and refugees until the hotspot becomes fully operational again.

In Serbia, an estimated 4,900 refugees and migrants remain in the country, out of which approximately 46 per cent are men, 16 per cent are women, and 38 per cent are children. The majority are coming from Afghanistan (44 per cent), Syria (21 per cent), and Iraq (nine per cent).

On 16 September, the Italian Navy rescued 654 migrants off the coast of Augusta. The majority of migrants were from Mali, Gambia and Guinea. On 21 September, a record high number of search and rescue operations took place when a shipwreck in the Channel of Sicily required Italian navy ships to rescue more than 6,000 migrants.

As of 20 September, the Turkish Coast Guard has rescued 30,866 migrants and refugees since the start of the year.

Read more in the latest [Europe/Mediterranean Migration Response](#).

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## WEEKLY Flows Compilation No.22

- Until 21 September, there were 130,567 cumulative arrivals in Italy, compared to 123,665 in the last reporting period (a 6% increase). Comparing arrivals to Italy until 31 August from 2015 and 2016, there were 116,147 and 114,691 cumulative arrivals respectively, an increase of 7%. In Greece, to date, there have been 168,390 arrivals in contrast to 166,292 up until the last reporting period (an increase of 1%). Relative to the 31 August last year, there were 236,180 and 165,591 arrivals to Greece for 2015 and 2016 respectively.





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- As of 21 September, there have been 5,297 individuals relocated to 22 EU Member States. Please see the new page on relocations for more information.

[Read more.](#)

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## **IOM Slovenia holds three-day training for health mediators in Ljubljana**

Within the IOM regional project Re-health IOM Slovenia held a three-day training for health mediators in Ljubljana from 20 to 22 September 2016. The training involved ten health mediators from Croatia and Slovenia as well as participants from the National Institute of Public Health and the Asylum Home. The objective of the training was to equip health mediators with fundamental knowledge and skills required to provide quality assistance and support to patients and health personnel in migration contexts. International and national trainers delivered a series of lectures and workshops on various aspects of migration health, including psychosocial support and self-care. The training was co-funded by DG SANTE and forms part of IOM Slovenia's broader efforts of increasing access of asylum seekers and migrants to the health system.

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This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the Migrant and Refugee Fund received through Council of Europe Development Bank. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and can therefore in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the Donors to the Migrant and Refugee Fund or the CEB, as manager of the Migrant and Refugee Fund.

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