

# Eastern European Borders Quarterly

QUARTER 4 • OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2015

Q1

Q2

Q3

**Q4**





Frontex official publications fall into four main categories: risk analysis, training, operations and research, each marked with a distinct graphic identifier. Risk analysis publications bear a triangular symbol formed by an arrow drawing a triangle, with a dot at the centre. Metaphorically, the arrow represents the cyclical nature of risk analysis processes and its orientation towards an appropriate operational response. The triangle is a symbol of ideal proportions and knowledge, reflecting the pursuit of factual exactness, truth and exhaustive analysis. The dot at the centre represents the intelligence factor and the focal point where information from diverse sources converges to be processed, systematised and shared as analytical products. Thus, Frontex risk analysis is meant to be at the centre and to form a reliable basis for its operational activities.



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Throughout the report, references to Kosovo\* are marked with an asterisk to indicate that this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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## List of abbreviations used

<b>BCP</b>	border-crossing point
<b>CIS</b>	Community of Independent States
<b>EaP</b>	Eastern Partnership
<b>EB-RAN</b>	Eastern European Borders Risk Analysis Network
<b>EDF</b>	European Union Document-Fraud
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUR</b>	euro
<b>FRAN</b>	Frontex Risk Analysis Network
<b>Frontex</b>	European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union
<b>ICJ</b>	International Court of Justice
<b>ID</b>	identification document
<b>n.a.</b>	not available
<b>Q/Qtr</b>	quarter of the year
<b>RAU</b>	Frontex Risk Analysis Unit
<b>SAC</b>	Schengen Associated Countries
<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution

# Introduction

## Concept

The Eastern European Borders Risk Analysis Network (EB-RAN) performs monthly exchanges of statistical data and information on the most recent irregular migration trends. This information is compiled at the level of the Frontex Risk Analysis Unit (RAU) and analysed in cooperation with the regional partners on a quarterly and annual basis. The annual reports offer a more in-depth analysis of the occurring developments and phenomena which impact the regional and common borders, while the quarterly reports are meant to provide regular updates and identify emerging trends in order to maintain situational awareness. Both types of reports are aimed at offering support for strategic and operational decision making.

## Methodology

The Eastern European Borders Quarterly statistical overview is focused on quarterly developments for the seven key indicators of irregular migration: (1) detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs; (2) detections of illegal border-crossing at BCPs; (3) refusals of entry; (4) detections of illegal stay; (5) asylum applications; (6) detections of facilitators; and (7) detections of fraudulent documents.<sup>1</sup>

The backbone of this overview are monthly statistics provided within the framework of the EB-RAN (Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova) and reference period statistics from common border sections of the neighbouring EU Member States (Norway, Finland,

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania). The data are processed, checked for errors and merged into an Excel database for further analysis.

## Structure

The first part offers a general **Situational overview** broken down by main areas of work of border-control authorities and police activities related to irregular migration. The second part contains more in-depth **Featured risk analyses** of particular phenomena. As the current issue of the Eastern European Borders Quarterly is the third following a new approach adopted for risk analysis quarterlies, the structure of the report may still be subject to some readjustments.

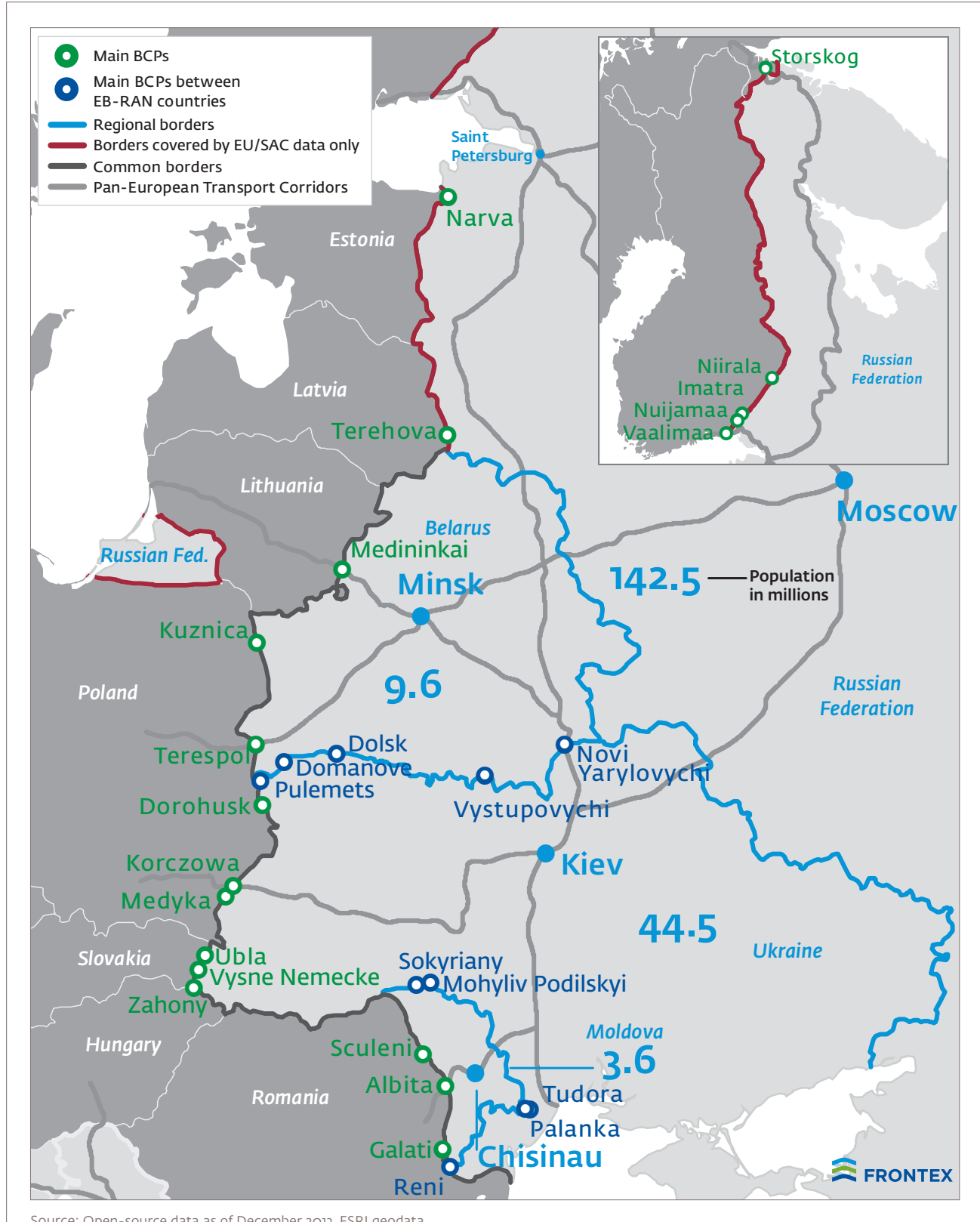
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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the analysis of this indicator is now limited to EB-RAN countries only, given that EU Member States have transitioned to the European Union Document-Fraud (EDF) reporting scheme.

# I. SITUATIONAL OVERVIEW

Figure 1. **Geographical scope of the Eastern European Borders Risk Analysis Network**

Note on definitions: in the text 'common borders' refers both to borders between EU Member States and EB-RAN countries (covered by both sides) and borders of EU Member States/Schengen Associated Countries with the Russian Federation (covered only by the EU/Schengen Associated Country side of the border)



# Summary of EB-RAN indicators

Table 1. Summary of FRAN, EB-RAN and selected EU Member State indicators for Q4 2015

Indicator	EU total	EU Member States (eastern land borders only)**	% of EU total	only EB-RAN countries*
Illegal border-crossing between BCPS	978 338	478	0.0%	627
Clandestine entries	1 057	1	0.1%	4 123
Facilitators	2 723	34	1.2%	13
Illegal stay	196 388	4 363	2.2%	7 015
Refusals of entry	29 648	11 057	37%	12 046
Applications for asylum	405 413	38 314	9%	40
False travel documents	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	96
Return decision issued	76 783	12 626***	16%	n.a.
Effective returns	48 456	9 025***	19%	n.a.

Source: FRAN and EB-RAN data as of 4 February 2016

\* Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine

\*\* Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania

\*\*\* Total numbers reported in FRAN by Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania

# Situation at the border

## Border surveillance

### Illegal border-crossing

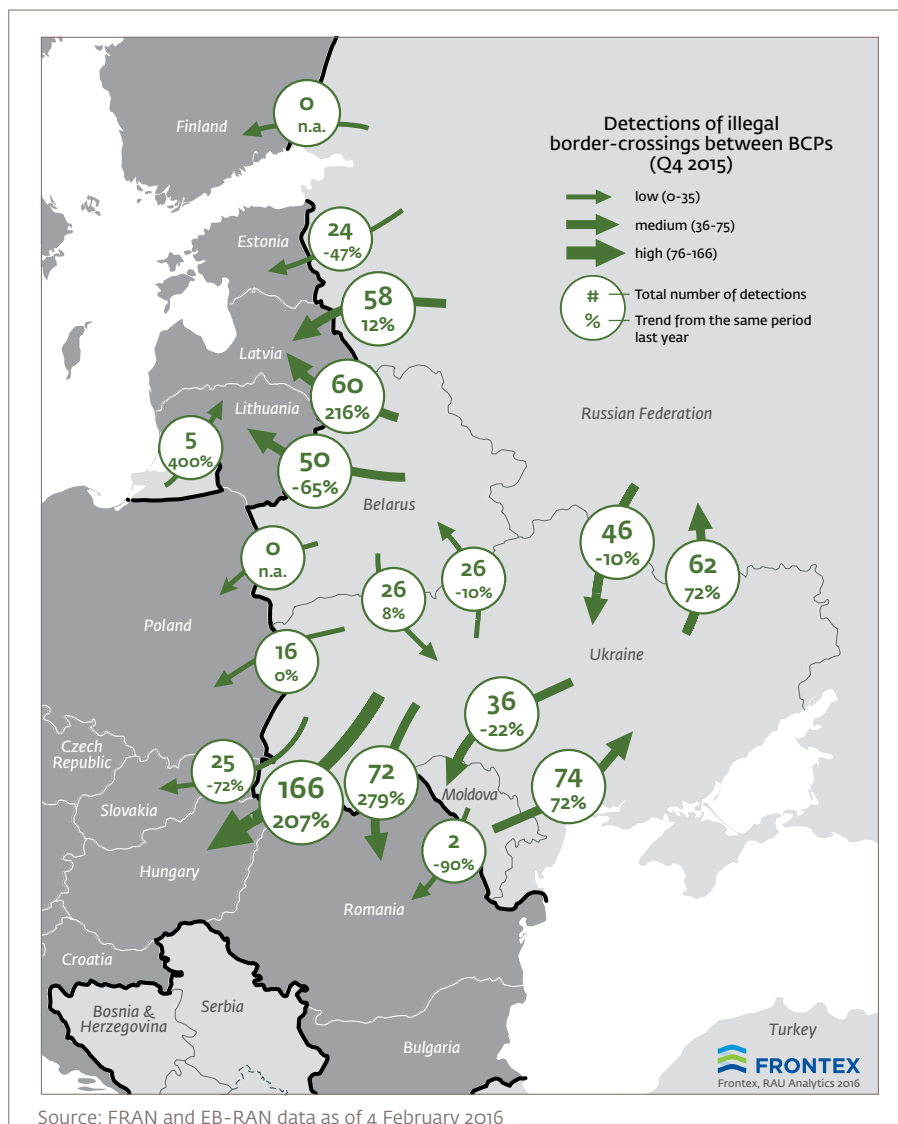
During the fourth quarter of 2015, 1 105 persons were detected for illegal crossing of the regional and common borders between BCPs. Detections of illegal border-crossing between BCPs decreased by 41% in relation to the third quarter of 2015 (down from 1 882) but increased by 8.5% compared with the same quarter of 2014. The most significant drop in absolute terms was observed for Ukrainians (from 483 in Q3 2015 to 236 in Q4 2015) and Vietnamese (from 254 in Q3 2015 to 122 in Q4 2015), and in relative terms – Syrians and Georgians. By contrast, the detections of Iraqis increased by 58%.

Almost 40% detections involved regional nationals (of CIS and EaP countries), mostly Ukrainians, Moldovans and Russians. Despite Ukrainian citizens being among the most often detected for the illegal border-crossing between BCPs in Q4 2015, only 19 of such cases were related to irregular migration, the rest being linked to smuggling (30%) or reported under other reasons (60%).

The remaining 60% of illegal border-crossings involved non-regional nationals, mainly citizens of Afghanistan, Vietnam and Iraq. Ukraine reported the highest number of illegal border-crossings, followed by Hungary, Latvia and Belarus.

Figure 2. Detections between BCPs at the common borders and EU Member States' land borders with the Russian Federation (data only from EU side) show that the pressure in Q4 2015 as compared with the same quarter last year was the highest at the Hungarian-Ukrainian border section

Detections of illegal border-crossing at common and regional borders between BCPs in Q4 2015





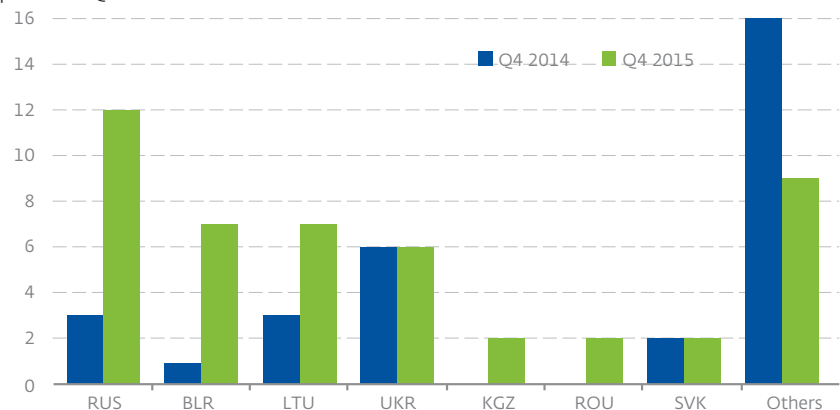
## Facilitators

The number of detected facilitators decreased by 20% in the fourth quarter 2015 compared to the third quarter (from 59 in Q3 2015 down to 47 in Q4 2015) and increased by 47% in comparison to the same period in 2014 (from 32 in Q4 2014).

With regards to nationalities, over 91% of all facilitators detected in the analysed period were citizens of the countries of the region, with Russians ranking top, followed by Lithuanians, Belarusians, and Ukrainians.

Figure 3. In Q4 2015, the number of facilitators increased significantly when compared with Q4 2014, with Russian facilitators ranking top in the number of detections, followed by Belarusians, Lithuanians, Ukrainians and Kirgiz

The top nationalities of facilitators apprehended along the eastern European land borders in Q4 2015 when compared with Q4 2014



Source: FRAN and EB-RAN data as of 8 February 2016

### Ukrainian citizen accused of smuggling 33 migrants hiding in a refrigerator truck

Public Prosecutor's Office in Transcarpathia (Ukraine) approved the bill of indictment regarding the citizen of Ukraine accused of assisting in unlawful transportation of persons across the Ukrainian state border (Part 2, Article 332 of Criminal Code of Ukraine). Pre-trial investigation established that the Transcarpathian resident transported 30 Afghans and 3 Syrians from Zhytomyr to Uzhgorod, by hiding them in the refrigerated compartment of his vehicle.

Source: [www.ua-reporter.com/novosti/180652](http://www.ua-reporter.com/novosti/180652), 3 November 2015

# Border checks

## Clandestine entries

In the fourth quarter of 2015 there was only one case of clandestine entry involving a Moldovan citizen reported by Romania at a BCP at the country's border with Moldova.

## Refusals of entry

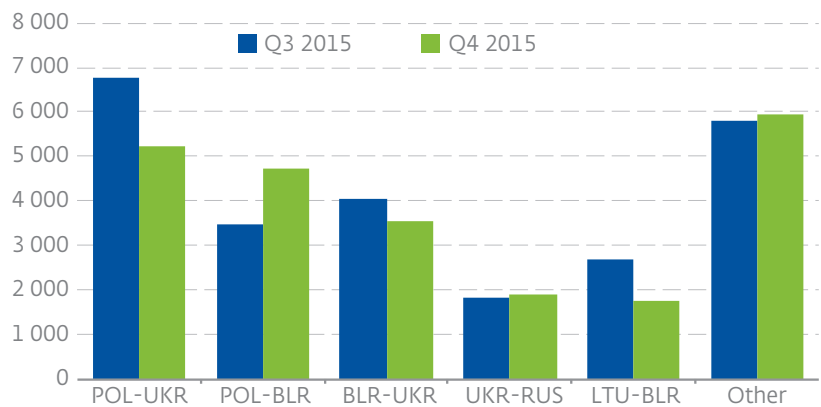
The number of refusals of entry reported during the fourth quarter 2015 at the common and regional borders decreased by 6% when compared to the third quarter of 2015 (from 24 641 in Q3 2015 down to 23 103 in Q4 2015) and increased by 3% in relation to the same period in 2014 (from 22 380 in Q4 2014). The vast majority of refusals (89%) was reported at land borders, while the remaining 11% at air and sea borders. Most refusals were issued by Poland, Belarus and Ukraine.

The top five refused nationalities were citizens of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Belarus, Moldova and Lithuania. In general, there were fewer Uzbeks, Georgians, Tajiks, Russians, Azeris and Moldovans refused entry in Q4 2015 when compared to Q3 2015, and more Lithuanians, Belarusians and Ukrainians.

Poland mostly refused entry to Ukrainians, Russians, Belarusians, Tajiks, Armenians and Georgians. The highest drop in refusals was reported among Ukrainians and Georgians, while the most pronounced growth was related to Tajiks.

Figure 5. The highest number of refusals of entry in Q4 2015 was issued at the Polish border sections with Ukraine and Belarus, while the most remarkable drop in refusals (when compared to Q3 2015) was reported by Ukraine at its border with the Russian Federation

Refusals of entry reported in Q4 2015 by top five common and regional border sections



Source: FRAN and EB-RAN data as of 8 February 2016

Belarus, in turn, issued most refusals of entry to Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Moldovans, Russians and Azeris.

The top five nationalities refused entry by Ukraine were citizens of the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Georgia and Uzbekistan. The most significant drops were related to Kirgiz, Tajiks and Uzbeks.

## Document fraud

In the fourth quarter of 2015 detections of persons using fraudulent documents reported by the three EB-RAN countries (Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine) decreased by 33% when compared to the third quarter of 2015. Falls were observed in Belarus and Ukraine with fewer document fraud cases reported. Over 50% of detections were reported at airports and 32% at land borders.

With regards to nationalities, Moldovans were still the most frequently detected as fraudulent document users, followed by Ukrainians and Georgians. Similarly to the third quarter of 2015, the vast majority of fraudulent documents used were passports.

## Situation in the Eastern European region

# Illegal stay in EB-RAN countries

In the fourth quarter of 2015 there were 7 015 detections of illegal stay reported by the three EB-RAN countries, which represents a decrease of almost 9% when compared with the third quarter and a 12% increase in relation to Q4 2014.

The top five nationalities detected for illegal stay in the EB-RAN countries were Russians, Ukrainians, Moldovans, Azeris and Georgians. Citizens of the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan were mostly detected by Ukraine, while the majority of Ukrainians, Moldovans and Georgians in were reported by Belarus. Detections for illegal

stay decreased among Russians, Ukrainians and Georgians, while the number of Azeris and Moldovans increased when compared with the third quarter of 2015.

Over 98% of detections of illegal stay were reported on exit, of which 54% were recorded by Ukraine and 42% by Belarus.

## II. STATISTICAL ANNEX

### LEGEND

**Symbols and abbreviations:** **n.a.** not applicable  
: data not available

**Source:** EB-RAN and FRAN data as of 4 February 2016,  
unless otherwise indicated

**Note:** 'Member States' in the tables refer to FRAN Member  
States, including both 28 EU Member States  
and three Schengen Associated Countries

Table 1. **Illegal border-crossing between BCPs**

Detections reported by EB-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by purpose of illegal border crossing and top ten nationalities

	2014		2015 Q4						per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on		
							year ago	previous Qtr	
<b>Purpose of Illegal Border-Crossing</b>									
Irregular migration	503	613	373	760	935	607	-1	-35	55
Other	352	238	234	322	560	239	0.4	-57	22
Not specified	46	54	75	161	245	166	207	-32	15
Smuggling	99	113	86	169	133	93	-18	-30	8.4
<b>Top Ten Nationalities</b>									
Afghanistan	37	196	66	212	277	241	23	-13	22
Ukraine	252	215	201	335	483	236	9.8	-51	21
Vietnam	181	96	100	283	254	122	27	-52	11
Iraq	13	18	12	33	52	82	356	58	7.4
Moldova	111	67	56	88	107	70	4.5	-35	6.3
Russian Federation	104	68	52	82	111	61	-10	-45	5.5
Pakistan	2	2	1	9	48	48	2 300	0	4.3
Sri Lanka	1	9	3	12	17	40	344	135	3.6
Syria	40	56	66	55	113	36	-36	-68	3.3
Georgia	108	149	68	107	145	25	-83	-83	2.3
Others	151	142	144	196	275	144	1.4	-48	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 000</b>	<b>1 018</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>1 412</b>	<b>1 882</b>	<b>1 105</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>-41</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2. **Illegal border-crossing at BCPs**

Detections reported by EB-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by purpose of illegal border-crossing and top ten nationalities

	2014		2015 Q4						per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	% change on		
							year ago	previous Qtr	
<b>Purpose of Illegal Border-Crossing</b>									
Other	223	205	3 049	6 035	4 574	4 001	1 852	-13	97
Smuggling	65	65	91	98	93	96	48	3.2	2.3
Irregular migration	20	39	35	44	32	26	-33	-19	0.6
Not specified	7	1	1	1	0	1	0	n.a.	0
<b>Top Ten Nationalities</b>									
Ukraine	158	117	2 948	5 893	4 423	3 832	3 175	-13	93
Moldova	96	126	158	207	129	141	12	9.3	3.4
Russian Federation	10	20	9	19	47	37	85	-21	0.9
Romania	11	9	16	13	28	26	189	-7.1	0.6
Belarus	5	4	7	6	6	18	350	200	0.4
Azerbaijan	1	0	6	4	8	12	n.a.	50	0.3
Armenia	1	0	1	8	7	11	n.a.	57	0.3
Uzbekistan	0	0	2	2	2	8	n.a.	300	0.2
Bulgaria	0	2	1	1	3	7	250	133	0.2
Kazakhstan	0	0	0	1	2	6	n.a.	200	0.1
Others	34	32	28	24	44	26	-19	-41	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>3 176</b>	<b>6 178</b>	<b>4 699</b>	<b>4 124</b>	<b>1 230</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3. **Facilitators**

Detections reported by EB-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by place of detection and top ten nationalities

Place of Detection	2014		2015 Q4				% change on		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	year ago	previous Qtr	
	Land	49	32	50	33	59	47	47	
Air	0	0	3	1	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	
<b>Top Ten Nationalities</b>									
Russian Federation	8	3	16	14	24	12	300	-50	26
Lithuania	3	3	0	1	3	7	133	133	15
Belarus	12	1	12	2	0	7	600	n.a.	15
Ukraine	1	6	0	2	11	6	0	-45	13
Latvia	0	3	0	4	8	2	-33	-75	4.3
Estonia	3	2	2	1	0	2	0	n.a.	4.3
Romania	0	1	0	0	5	2	100	-60	4.3
Not specified	8	2	1	1	1	2	0	100	4.3
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	6	1	3	2	n.a.	-33	4.3
Slovakia	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	100	4.3
Others	14	9	16	8	3	3	-67	0	6.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4. **Illegal stay**

Detections reported by EB-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by place of detection and top ten nationalities

Place of Detection	2014		2015 Q4				% change on		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	year ago	previous Qtr	
	Land	7 604	7 395	5 996	7 426	9 904	9 890	34	
Air	1 188	1 616	1 558	1 640	1 703	1 341	-17	-21	12
Sea	105	76	55	101	101	60	-21	-41	0.5
Between BCPs	46	54	109	60	155	57	5.6	-63	0.5
Inland	176	15	37	25	24	30	100	25	0.3
<b>Top Ten Nationalities</b>									
Ukraine	3 017	3 413	2 135	3 060	4 625	4 981	46	7.7	44
Russian Federation	2 209	1 781	1 962	1 829	2 202	1 748	-1.9	-21	15
Moldova	520	718	549	775	852	1 019	42	20	9
Azerbaijan	147	188	286	330	402	466	148	16	4.1
Georgia	443	840	627	792	743	448	-47	-40	3.9
Belarus	549	296	288	318	455	346	17	-24	3
Armenia	190	103	152	198	225	201	95	-11	1.8
Turkey	115	102	150	153	169	189	85	12	1.7
Romania	91	90	94	84	83	180	100	117	1.6
Poland	215	143	132	177	230	168	17	-27	1.5
Others	1 623	1 482	1 380	1 536	1 901	1 632	10	-14	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>9 119</b>	<b>9 156</b>	<b>7 755</b>	<b>9 252</b>	<b>11 887</b>	<b>11 378</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>-4.3</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 5. Refusals of entry

Refusals reported by EB-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by border type and top ten nationalities

	2014		2015 Q4				% change on		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	year ago	previous Qtr	
<b>Border Type</b>									
Land	21 166	20 192	18 410	21 950	22 626	<b>20 476</b>	1.4	-9.5	89
Air	1 312	1 093	1 204	2 190	1 198	<b>1 405</b>	29	17	6.1
Sea	1 055	1 095	811	933	817	<b>1 222</b>	12	50	5.3
<b>Top Ten Nationalities</b>									
Ukraine	6 331	5 384	6 095	7 606	8 909	<b>8 989</b>	67	0.9	39
Russian Federation	7 178	5 048	3 832	6 007	6 045	<b>5 340</b>	5.8	-12	23
Belarus	1 490	1 393	890	1 106	1 382	<b>1 399</b>	0.4	1.2	6.1
Moldova	1 744	1 699	1 521	1 589	1 391	<b>1 264</b>	-26	-9.1	5.5
Lithuania	1 051	898	702	696	657	<b>707</b>	-21	7.6	3.1
Azerbaijan	326	352	628	832	753	<b>667</b>	89	-11	2.9
Tajikistan	218	737	1 428	1 291	570	<b>504</b>	-32	-12	2.2
Georgia	1 384	2 202	346	756	562	<b>477</b>	-78	-15	2.1
Armenia	385	596	353	464	402	<b>406</b>	-32	1	1.8
Uzbekistan	476	884	1 969	1 340	573	<b>343</b>	-61	-40	1.5
Others	2 950	3 187	2 661	3 386	3 397	<b>3 007</b>	-5.6	-11	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>23 533</b>	<b>22 380</b>	<b>20 425</b>	<b>25 073</b>	<b>24 641</b>	<b>23 103</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>-6.2</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 6. Applications for asylum

Applications for international protection reported by EB-RAN countries and neighbouring EU Member States, by top ten nationalities

	2014		2015 Q4				% change on		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	year ago	previous Qtr	
<b>Top Ten Nationalities</b>									
Iraq	431	778	1 219	3 068	18 241	<b>10 834</b>	1 293	-41	28
Afghanistan	2 402	5 098	4 394	14 403	30 239	<b>9 690</b>	90	-68	25
Syria	3 115	4 451	3 027	9 206	57 870	<b>7 056</b>	59	-88	18
Russian Federation	880	953	760	1 397	2 971	<b>2 887</b>	203	-2.8	7.5
Iran	178	194	254	518	1 420	<b>1 619</b>	735	14	4.2
Eritrea	717	402	183	1 119	1 560	<b>785</b>	95	-50	2
Not specified	354	760	533	364	1 359	<b>772</b>	1.6	-43	2
Pakistan	142	291	602	2 757	11 881	<b>557</b>	91	-95	1.5
Ukraine	1 226	817	916	698	658	<b>481</b>	-41	-27	1.3
Somalia	371	389	361	684	1 485	<b>392</b>	0.8	-74	1
Others	6 172	21 304	27 523	6 744	10 264	<b>3 281</b>	-85	-68	8.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 988</b>	<b>35 437</b>	<b>39 772</b>	<b>40 958</b>	<b>137 948</b>	<b>38 354</b>	<b>8,2</b>	<b>-72</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 7. Document fraud

Detections reported by EB-RAN countries, border type, document type, fraud type, top ten nationalities

	2014		2015 Q4				% change on		per cent of total
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	year ago	previous Qtr	
<b>Border Type</b>									
Air	17	35	37	53	54	50	43	-7.4	52
Land	38	31	31	72	37	31	0	-16	32
Sea	7	4	7	6	10	11	175	10	11
Not specified	1	2	3	0	6	4	100	-33	4.2
<b>Document type</b>									
Passports	47	58	61	113	95	81	40	-15	84
ID cards	2	3	3	2	1	6	100	500	6.3
Not specified	1	6	9	3	2	5	-17	150	5.2
Stamps	6	2	2	0	0	2	0	n.a.	2.1
Visas	7	2	3	13	8	2	0	-75	2.1
Residence permits	0	1	0	0	1	0	n.a.	n.a.	
<b>Top Ten Nationalities</b>									
Moldova	16	19	16	60	25	20	5.3	-20	21
Ukraine	14	10	9	13	12	13	30	8.3	14
Georgia	1	4	5	1	6	7	75	17	7.3
Iraq	0	3	7	3	1	6	100	500	6.3
Turkey	1	1	2	2	4	5	400	25	5.2
India	4	2	1	1	4	5	150	25	5.2
Russian Federation	2	4	2	5	6	5	25	-17	5.2
Syria	5	8	10	5	8	4	-50	-50	4.2
Armenia	0	2	1	6	1	4	100	300	4.2
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	0	4	n.a.	n.a.	4.2
Others	20	19	25	35	40	23	21	-43	24
<b>Top Ten Countries of Issuance of Documents</b>									
Romania	6	5	2	4	3	18	260	500	19
Moldova	15	11	11	54	23	12	9.1	-48	13
Ukraine	15	9	9	15	16	10	11	-38	10
Uzbekistan	0	3	1	0	5	6	100	20	6.3
Not specified	1	5	7	3	2	5	0	150	5.2
Bulgaria	2	2	6	0	2	5	150	150	5.2
India	4	2	1	1	4	5	150	25	5.2
Georgia	0	1	2	1	5	5	400	0	5.2
Tajikistan	1	2	2	4	2	4	100	100	4.2
Egypt	0	0	0	3	1	3	n.a.	200	3.1
Others	19	32	37	46	44	23	-28	-48	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>100</b>



## Explanatory note

Detections reported for Member States for indicators Illegal border-crossing between BCPs, Illegal border-crossing at BCPs, Refusals of entry and Document fraud are detections at the common land borders on entry only. For Facilitators, detections at the common land borders on entry and exit are included. For Illegal stay, detections at the common land bor-

ders on exit only are included. For Asylum, all applications (land, sea, air and inland) are included.

For EB-RAN countries, all indicators – save for Refusals of entry – include detections (applications) on exit and entry at the land, sea and air borders.

Each section in the table (Reporting country, Border type, Place of detection, Top five border section and Top ten nationalities) refers to total detections reported by EB-RAN countries and to neighbouring land border detections reported by Member States.



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