



Hungary: Key Asylum Figures as of 1 January 2017

Hungarian Helsinki Committee

How many?

Despite the construction of the border fence on the Serbian and Croatian border sections, the number of **irregular migrants** apprehended by the Hungarian police has been **on the rise** for most part of 2016:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Irregular migrants apprehended	553	2 398	3 412	3 946	3 244	3 768	572	346	152	164	189	267	19 162
Blocked entries since 5 July	0	0	0	0	0	0	4 396	4 017	2 354	3 102	2 176	3 012	19 057
Total	553	2 398	3 412	3 946	3 244	3 768	4 968	4 363	2 506	3 266	2 365	3 279	38 219

Since the '8-kilometre rule' legalising push-backs came into force on 5 July, the number of registered asylum **applications radically decreased**:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Asylum-seekers registered in Hungary	433	2 175	4 574	5 812	4 752	4 745	1 688	1 402	1 118	1 198	728	629	29 432

In 2016, only **425** asylum-seekers were **granted protection** (of which 154 were refugee and 271 were "subsidiary protection" statuses).

From where?

In 2016 months of 2016, the majority of asylum-seekers (**67 %**) **came from war- and terror-torn countries**, including 17 % from Syria, 38 % from Afghanistan, 12 % from Iraq and 1 % from Somalia. Of all the applicants, **29 %** were **children** and **22 % women**.

Where are they?

Based on the information provided to the HHC by the UNHCR, the facilities of the Office of Immigration and Nationality hosted **467** asylum-seekers on 27 December: **194** were accommodated at **open reception centres** and **273 in specific "asylum jails"**.

Dublin returns

In 2016, **513** asylum-seekers were **returned to Hungary** under the Dublin Regulation, primarily from Germany (285) and Switzerland (66).

Returns to Serbia

Based on statistics provided by the Police, in January-November 2016, only **182** irregular migrants were officially **returned to Serbia**. (Neither the refusal of the asylum applications in the transit zones, nor the "legalised" push-backs since 5 July result in such official readmissions). Among the readmitted persons, there were 84 Serbian, 35 Kosovar and 27 Albanian citizens. None of the returnees were Syrian, Afghan, Iraqi or Somali citizens.

Criminalisation of irregular border-crossing

Between 15 September 2015 and 31 December 2016, **2 895** persons faced criminal trial, out of which **2 843** were convicted for the "prohibited crossing of the border closure", i.e. the border fence between Serbia and Hungary. Only 7 cases have been tried since 10 July 2016.