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:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irregular migrants apprehended</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>2 398</td>
<td>3 412</td>
<td>3 946</td>
<td>3 244</td>
<td>3 768</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>267</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blocked entries since 5 July</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4 396</td>
<td>4 017</td>
<td>2 354</td>
<td>3 102</td>
<td>2 176</td>
<td>3 012</td>
<td>19 057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>2 398</td>
<td>3 412</td>
<td>3 946</td>
<td>3 244</td>
<td>3 768</td>
<td>4 968</td>
<td>4 363</td>
<td>2 506</td>
<td>3 266</td>
<td>2 365</td>
<td>3 279</td>
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Since the ‘8-kilometre rule’ legalising push-backs came into force on 5 July, the number of registered asylum applications radically decreased:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asylum-seekers registered in Hungary</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>2 175</td>
<td>4 574</td>
<td>5 812</td>
<td>4 752</td>
<td>4 745</td>
<td>1 688</td>
<td>1 402</td>
<td>1 118</td>
<td>728</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>29 432</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.