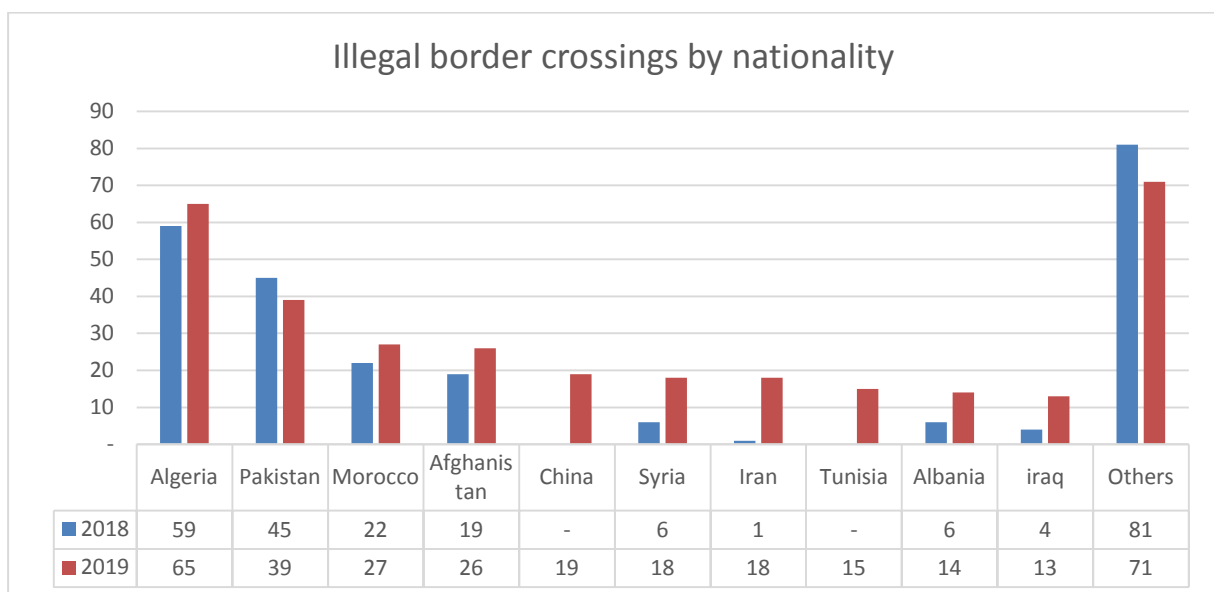


ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

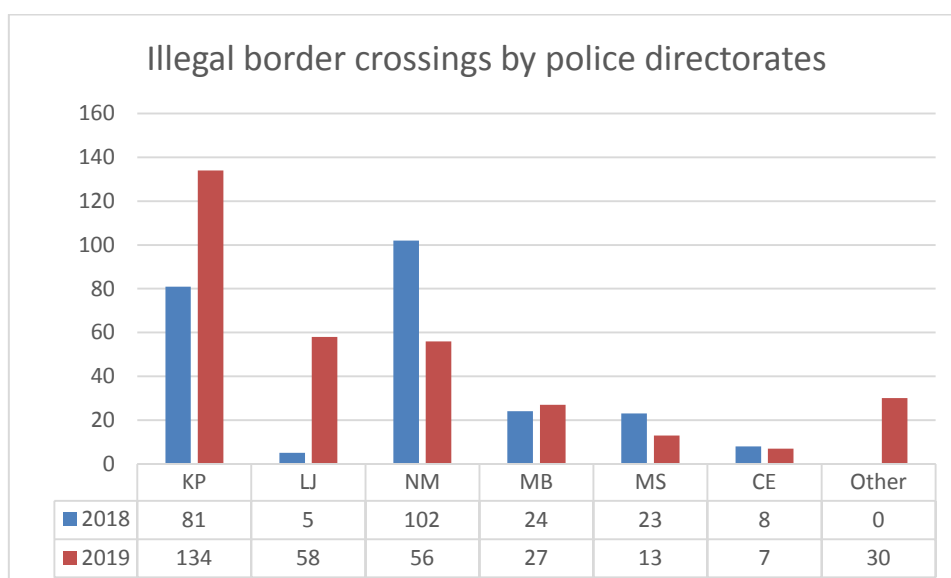
Between January 1 and 31, 2019, the police recorded a total of 325 (243) illegal crossings of the state border of the Republic of Slovenia. The current figure represents a 33.7% increase compared to the number reported in January 2018.

Pakistani and Algerian nationals constitute the two largest nationality groups processed this January.

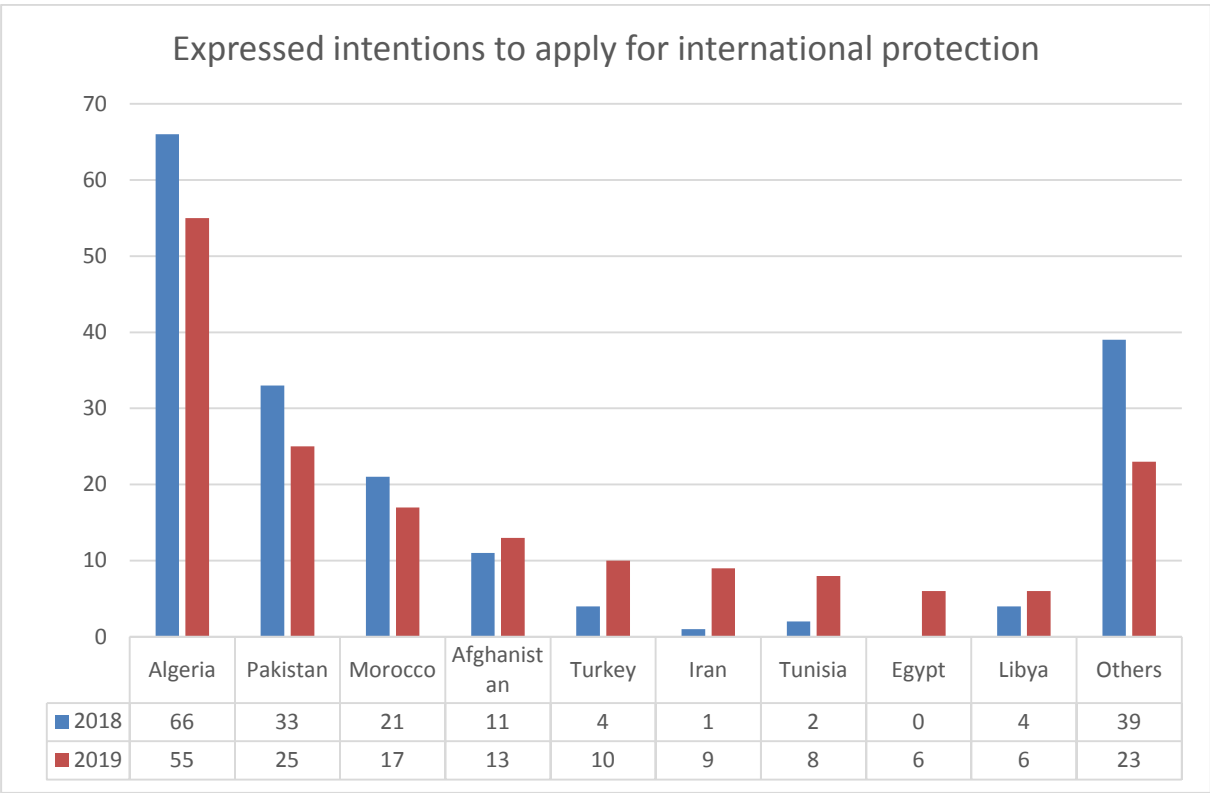
Overview of illegal crossings by nationality:



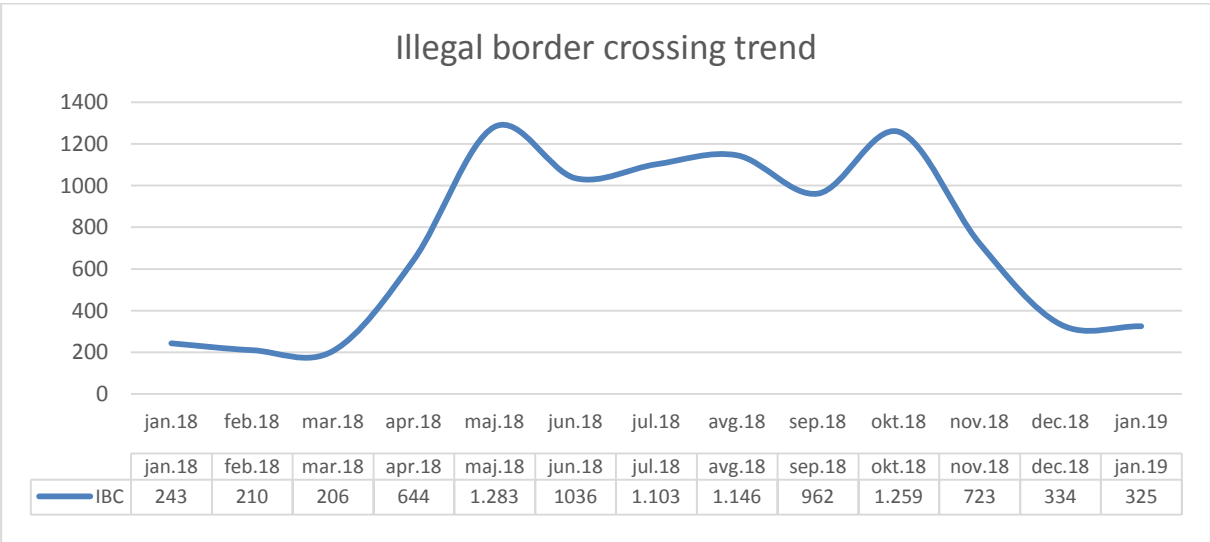
The majority of illegal crossings (41%) was dealt with by Koper Police Directorate (KP). Ljubljana Police Directorate (LJ) and Novo mesto Police Directorate (NM) dealt with almost one fifth of all cases. The data are presented below.



In January 2019, 172 illegal migrants expressed their intention to apply for international protection. The number of persons who intended to apply for international protection in January 2018 was 181. Among these, Algerian nationals were by far the largest group. Illegal migrants were taken over by the authority competent for international protection.



Illegal crossings increased significantly in the middle of 2018. Towards the end of the year, migrant numbers decreased due to bad weather conditions. With improved weather the trend is expected to rise again.



Unauthorised entry at internal borders

During police checks within the country or upon border checks on the external border, the police detected 43 (69) violations by foreigners who had illegally entered Slovenia at its internal border without possessing a proper travel document or permit (e.g. residence permit or visa). The number decreased by 37.7%.

Unauthorised entry at internal borders by nationality

Border	Austria		Italy		Hungary		Air borders		Total	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Kosovo	0	1	1	5	0	1	0	0	1	7
Albania	1	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	5	4
Pakistan	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	3	3
Others	21	10	37	17	2	2	0	0	60	29
Total	23	11	44	29	2	3	0	0	69	43

Refusals of entry at Slovenia's border crossing points

As a result on non-compliance with the conditions for entry into the Republic of Slovenia or other EU Member States, a total of 519 (450 third country nationals were rejected at border crossing points in accordance with the Schengen Borders Code. The majority of these were refused entry into Slovenia on the land border (with Croatia). The number of refused persons increased by 6%. The statistics are presented in the table.

Refused entries by nationality

Nationality / Border	Land borders		Air borders		Sea borders		Total	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Albania	97	168	16	35	0	0	113	203
Serbia	87	79	0	1	0	0	87	80
Bosnia and Herzegovina	111	80	2	0	0	0	113	80
Macedonia	71	59	2	0	0	0	73	59
Kosovo	27	32	0	5	0	0	27	37
Afghanistan	2	18	0	0	0	0	2	18
Other	33	32	2	10	0	0	35	42
Total	428	468	22	51	0	0	450	519

Unauthorised residence

Police officers handled a total of 296 foreigners on the grounds of their unauthorised residence in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia or other EU Member States. The number in the corresponding period last year was 329. The number is down by a tenth.

Persons processed for unauthorised stay by nationality

Nationality	2018	2019
Albania	64	81
Bosnia and Herzegovina	75	55
Serbia	66	50
Moldova	42	45
Macedonia	55	42
Kosovo	4	4
Australia	2	3
Turkey	0	3
Others	21	13
Total	329	296

Implementation of interstate readmission agreements

a) Return of persons to foreign police authorities

Pursuant to international agreements, the Slovenian Police returned 184 (37) foreigners to foreign law enforcement agencies. Of these, the majority was returned on the border with Croatia – 166 (29). Nationals of Afghanistan represent the largest group, i.e. 30 persons (3).

Admission of persons from foreign police authorities

Based on international agreements, 50 (19) persons were handed over to Slovenia by foreign police authorities. Seven of these were Slovenian nationals.

Persons returned or readmitted based on international agreements

Country	Admission from		Readmission to	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
Italy	7	17	2	10
Austria	3	6	4	0
Croatia	0	4	29	166
Hungary	0	0	0	0
Air borders	9	23	2	8
Total	19	50	37	184

Assessment of the situation

After last year's consistent increase, the trend in illegal crossings declined at the end of 2018 due to bad weather. This was an expected trend. With improved weather, illegal migration is expected to increase again. The nationality structure of illegal migrants changes regularly.

A great majority of illegal migrants express their intention to apply for international protection. After they are placed in the asylum accommodation facilities, they often continue their journey to the country of their choice. Algerian nationals constitute the largest group among those who leave the facilities.

Most foreigners entered Slovenia at the internal border with Italy, however, their numbers are relatively low. The overall number is notably lower. Illegal migrants usually come from countries posing a low migration risk.

The number of persons whose entry was refused at the Schengen external border is slightly higher from the figure reported last January. The overstaying nationals mainly come from the states of the Western Balkan region. A notable exception are nationals of Afghanistan who tend to evade border checks by hiding in lorries.

The number of foreigners dealt with by the police on account of unauthorised stay has grown slightly. The main reason for foreigners' irregular stay in Slovenia is that they exceed their permitted duration of residence; these nationals usually come from the countries located in the broader Balkan region.

The issues related to (re)admission and Slovenia's neighbouring countries occur as a result of illegal migration in our area. These numbers also depend on the specific issues pertaining to Slovenia's internal borders.

Note:

- The statistical data are reported on 12 February 2019. Subsequent data entries or updates may affect the above statistical data.
- The numbers in brackets show the 2018 statistics.

Uniformed Police Directorate
Border Police Division