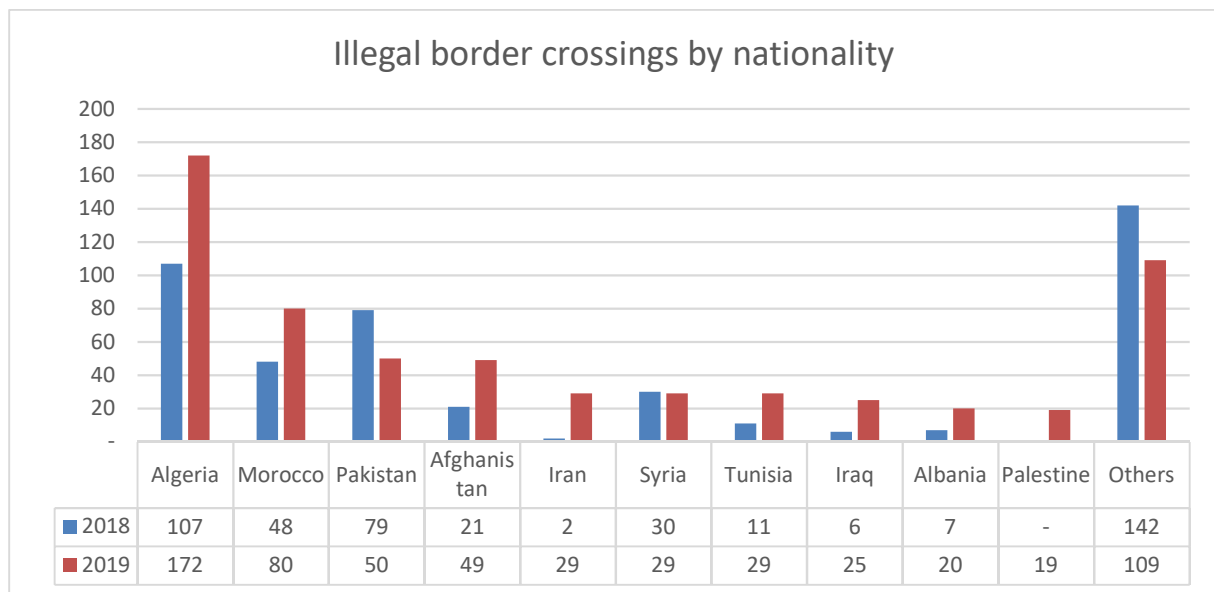


ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

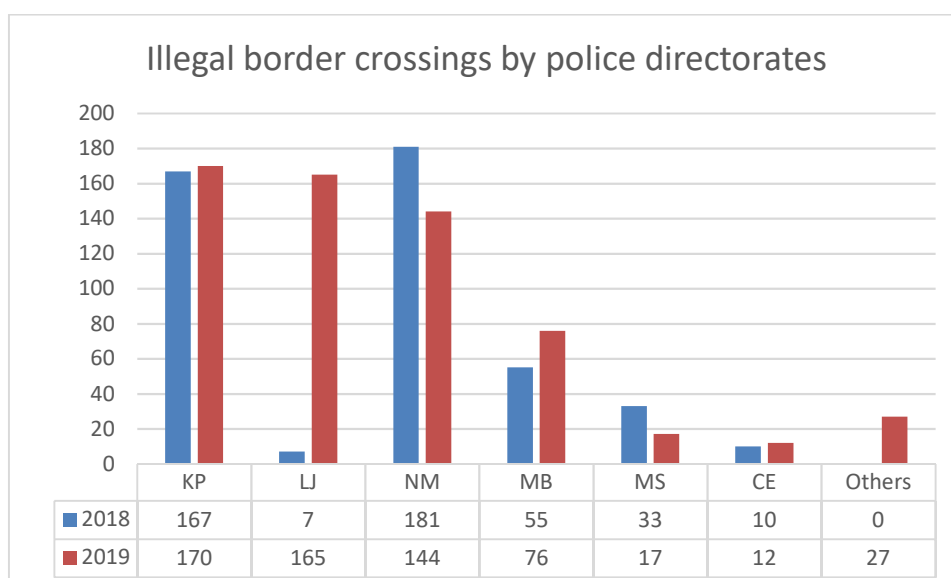
Between January 1 and February 28, 2019, the police registered a total of 611 (453) illegal crossings of the state border of the Republic of Slovenia. The total number of irregular arrivals increased by 34.9% compared to the total number in the same period in 2018.

Algerians and Moroccans are the two top nationalities registered in January and February.

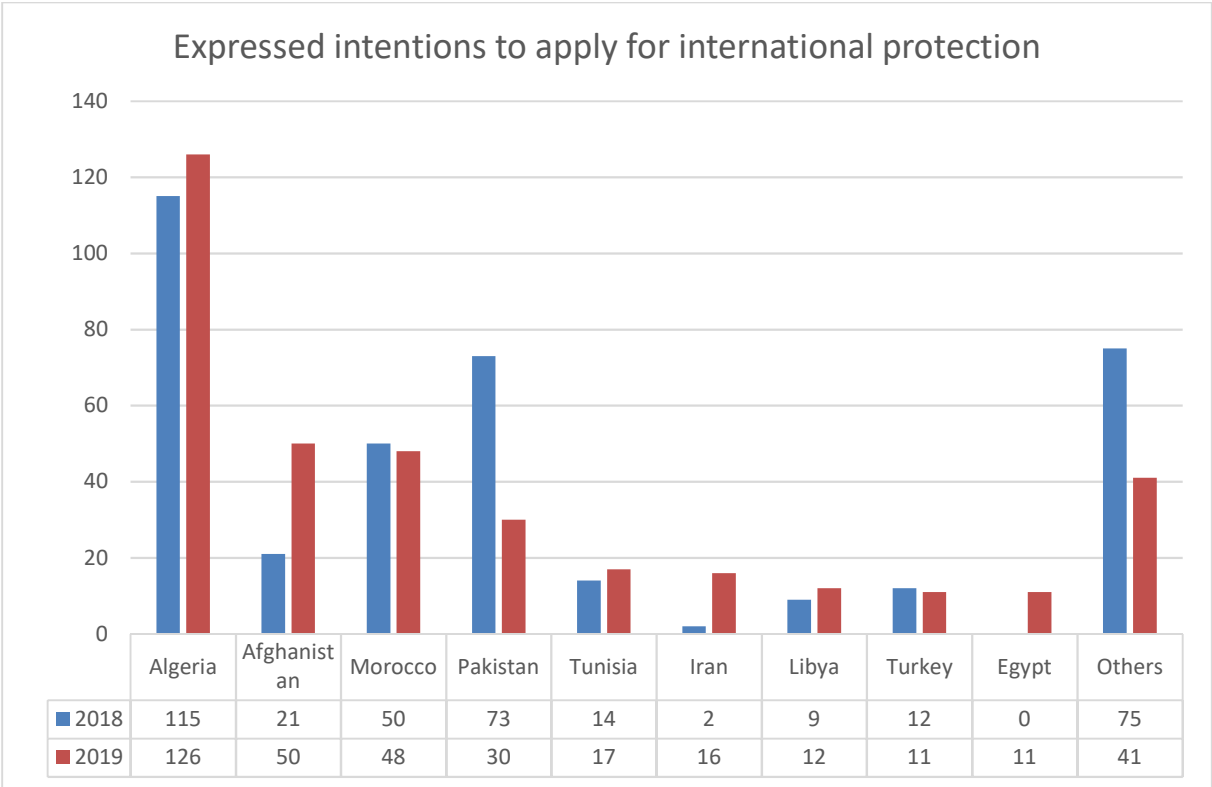
Overview of illegal crossings by nationality:



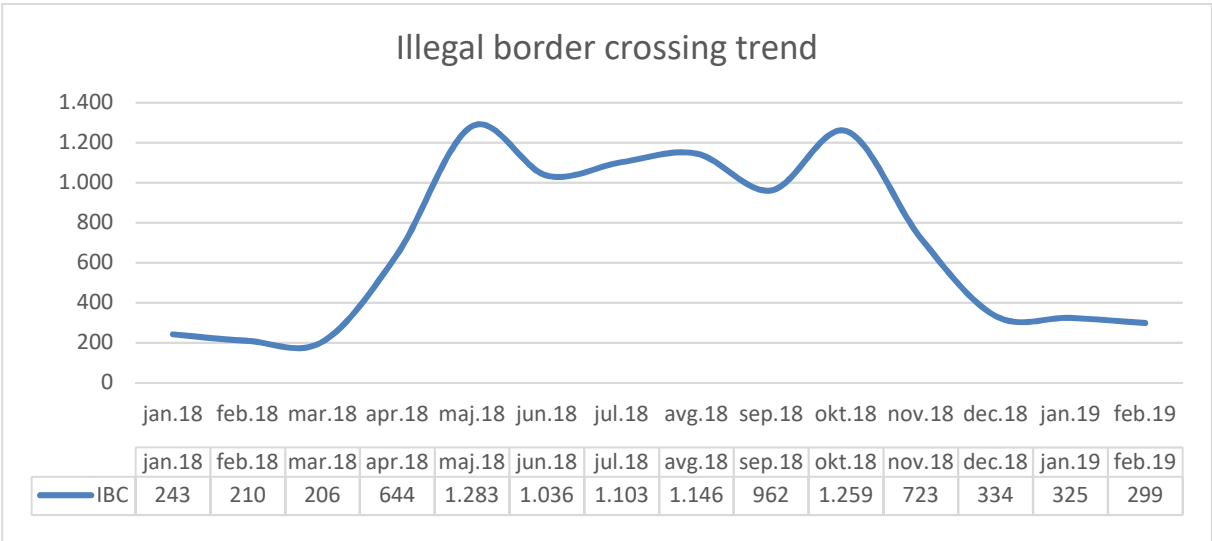
The majority of illegal crossings (28%) was dealt with by Koper Police Directorate (KP). Ljubljana Police Directorate (LJ) registered a little more than one quarter of illegal arrivals and has observed an increasing trend. Novo mesto Police Directorate (NM) registered a quarter of all illegal crossings. The data are presented below.



In January and February 2019, 362 illegal migrants declared their intention to apply for international protection. The number reported in the same period last year was 371. Among these, Algerians were by far the strongest group. These illegal migrants were surrendered to the authority responsible 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. Illegal arrivals reported in the first two months of 2019 already exceeded last year's total for the same period. The numbers are expected to rise in the months to come.



Unauthorised entry at internal borders

During police checks within the country or upon exit at the external border, 94 (121) foreigners were found to have illegally entered Slovenia at its internal borders without possessing a proper travel document or permit (e.g. residence permit or visa). This number decreased by 22.3%.

Unauthorised entry at internal borders by nationality

Border	Austria		Italy		Hungary		Air borders		Total	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Albania	1	0	6	9	1	0	0	0	8	9
Pakistan	1	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	3	8
Kosovo	2	1	2	5	0	1	0	0	4	7
Others	31	18	72	50	3	2	0	0	106	70
Total	35	19	82	72	4	3	0	0	121	94

Refusals of entry at Slovenia's border crossing points

As a result of non-compliance with the conditions for entry into the Republic of Slovenia or other EU Member States, a total of 831 (745) 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). Refused entries were up by 11.5 per cent. The statistics are presented in the table.

Refused entry by nationality

Nationality / Border	Land borders		Air borders		Sea borders		Total	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Albania	157	262	32	51	0	0	189	313
Serbia	142	148	0	1	0	0	142	149
Bosnia and Herzegovina	187	133	4	4	0	0	191	137
North Macedonia	96	80	2	0	0	0	98	80
Kosovo	40	39	0	6	0	0	40	45
Afghanistan	9	35	0	0	0	0	9	35
Other	73	59	3	13	0	0	76	72
Total	704	756	41	75	0	0	745	831

Unauthorised residence

The police registered a total of 727 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 602. This figure is up by a tenth.

Persons found to be illegally present in Slovenia, by nationality

Nationality	2018	2019
Albania	112	181
Moldova	66	147
Bosnia and Herzegovina	142	145
Serbia	125	117
North Macedonia	105	93
Ukraine	7	10
Montenegro	6	5
Kosovo	8	5
Others	31	24
Total	602	727

Implementation of return and readmission agreements

a) Return of persons to foreign police authorities

Pursuant to international agreements, the Slovenian police returned 315 (92) foreigners to foreign law enforcement agencies. Of these, the majority was returned on the border with Croatia – 296 (76). A total of 60 Algerians were returned at the border, representing the top nationality. In the same period last year only 1 Algerian was returned.

Admission of persons from foreign police authorities

Based on international readmission agreements, 89 (41) persons were handed over by Slovenia from foreign police authorities. Of these, 9 were Slovenians.

Persons returned or readmitted based on international agreements, by sections of state border

Country	Admission from		Readmission to	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
Italy	12	27	3	15
Austria	5	14	6	0
Croatia	0	5	76	296
Hungary	4	0	1	0
Air borders	20	43	6	4
Total	41	89	92	315

Overall 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. However, the numbers are expected to rise again due to improved weather conditions. This trend has already become stronger in the first two months of 2019 during which the number of illegal border crossings was higher than in the same period in 2018. The nationality structure in illegal border crossings is changing while a significant rise in the arrival of Moroccans has been observed.

Also, a significant proportion of illegal migrants declare their intention to file an application for international protection. After being placed in reception/asylum centres, they usually leave the facilities to continue their journey to countries of their intended destination. Algerians are the strongest group among those who leave such facilities.

Most foreigners illegally entered Slovenia at its internal border with Italy, however, this number is still relatively low. The total number is down by two fifths. These irregular arrivals are usually perpetrated by persons coming from countries that pose a low migration-related risk. Although Pakistanis remain the second top nationality, their numbers are relatively insignificant.

The number of refused third country nationals at the external Schengen border in Slovenia is up by one tenth. The refused nationals mainly come from the states of the Western Balkan region. In this regard, nationals of Afghanistan are an exception because of they attempt to avoid border control by hiding in transport vehicles.

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, which is typical of nationals of the countries from the broader region. The number of Moldovans is higher as a result of visa liberalisation.

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

Note:

- The statistical data were captured on 18 March 2019. Subsequent data entries or up-dates may affect the above statistical data. The numbers in brackets indicate last year's statistics.

Uniformed Police Directorate
Border Police Division