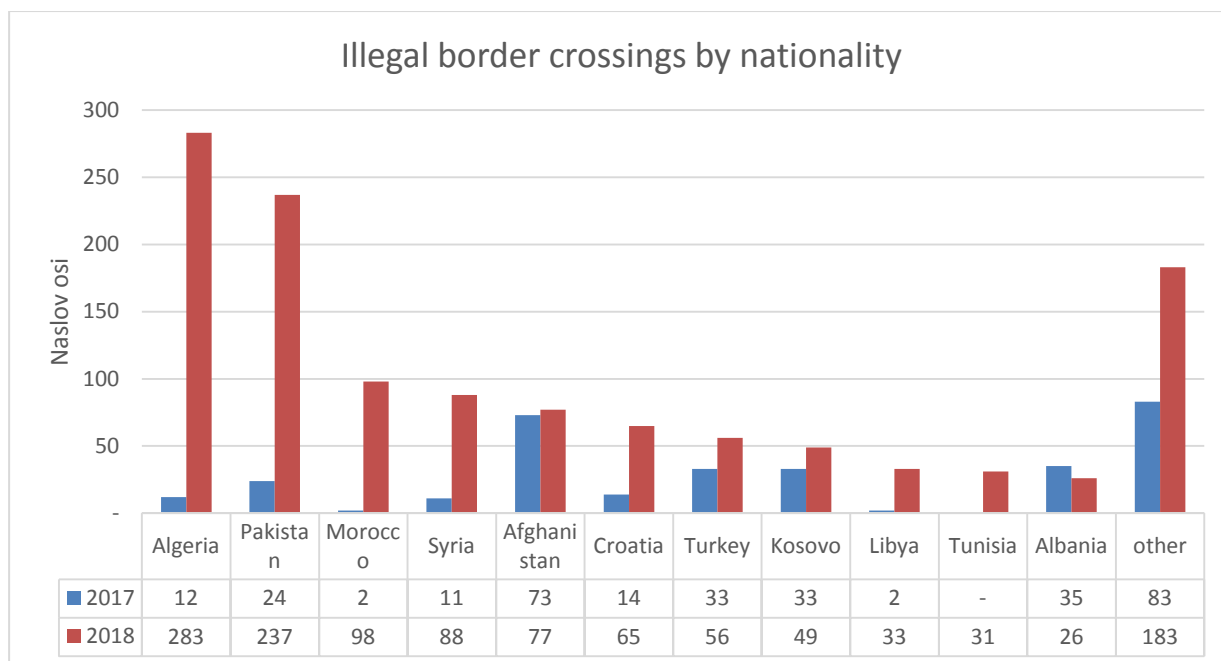


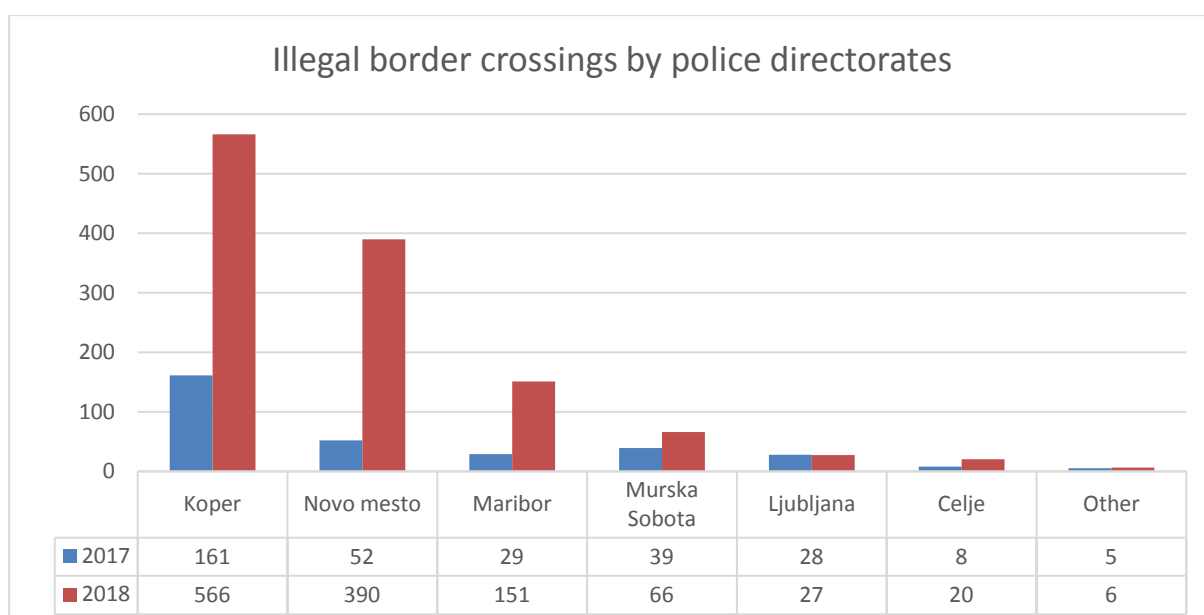
ILLEGAL MIGRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

From 1 January to 30 April 2018, a total of 1,226 illegal crossings of the state border of the Republic of Slovenia were recorded. Last year's comparative figure stood at 322. The current figure represents a 280 per cent increase on the number of illegal migrants who came to Slovenia in the January–April period last year.

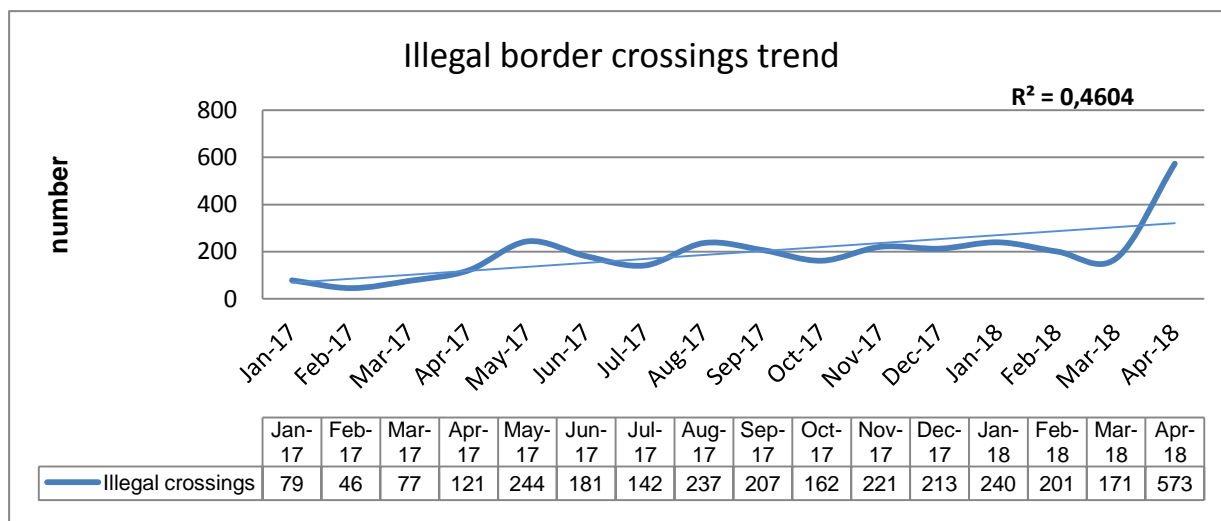
Algerian, Pakistani and Moroccan nationals constitute the three largest nationality groups reported. Their numbers have gone up significantly. The distribution is shown below.



Almost a half of these illegal crossings occurred in the area of Koper Police Directorate (the littoral part of Slovenia), and one third of the migrants was dealt with by Novo mesto Police Directorate. The data are shown on the chart below.



Since the beginning of 2017 illegal crossings have been on the rise but the trend was unstable in terms of intensity. The numbers surged again this April.



Illegal entries on the internal border

Detected inland or upon exiting the state on the external border were 255 foreign nationals who had made an unauthorised entry into Slovenia on the internal borders and failed to possess a proper travel document or permit (e.g. residence permit or visa). The corresponding figure as regards last year was 276. This represents a 7.6 per cent decrease in comparison with the same period last year.

border	Austria		Italy		Hungary		Air borders		TOTAL	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
nationality										
China	0	1	25	24	0	1	0	0	25	26
Bosnia and Herzegovina	23	16	11	7	0	0	0	0	34	23
Albania	1	2	29	19	0	1	0	0	30	22
Serbia	2	3	17	15	0	0	0	0	19	18
Other	42	64	118	95	7	7	1	0	168	166
Total	68	86	200	160	7	9	1	0	276	255

Entry refusals at Slovenia's border crossing points

A total of 1,478 third-country nationals were refused entry at the state border on the grounds of non-compliance with the requirements to enter Slovenia or another Member State of the European Union, based on the Schengen Borders Code. The majority of these were banned from entering Slovenia on the land border with Croatia. Last year, the number of entry refusals stood at 1,417. The trend increased by 4.3 per cent.

Nationality/border	Land border		Airports		Ports		Total	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Albania	302	306	136	102	0	0	438	408
Bosnia and Herzegovina	314	348	4	6	0	0	318	354
Serbia	237	266	4	2	0	0	241	268
Macedonia	154	158	11	2	0	0	165	160
Kosovo	41	66	1	0	0	0	42	66
Turkey	14	17	20	23	0	0	34	40
Other	170	172	9	9	0	1	179	182
Total	1.232	1.333	185	144	0	1	1.417	1.478

Illegal residence

The police dealt with 1,383 foreign nationals on the grounds of their illegal stay in the Republic of Slovenia or another Member State of the European Union. The figure for the corresponding period in 2017 was 1,307. This represents a 6 per cent increase.

NATIONALITY	2017	2018
Bosnia and Herzegovina	327	295
Albania	298	285
Serbia	216	258
Macedonia	160	241
Moldova	134	159
Turkey	39	38
Kosovo	16	17
Montenegro	13	16
Other	104	74
TOTAL	1.307	1.383

Implementation of interstate agreements as regards the taking back or returning of persons

a) Returning persons to foreign law enforcement authorities

Based on international agreements, Slovenia's police handed over (returned) 261 foreign nationals to foreign law enforcement authorities. The corresponding figure relevant to the same period last year was 274. A great majority of these, i.e. 224 persons, were returned at the border with Croatia. The number of returned persons in the corresponding period of 2017 was 217. As regards the nationality of persons returned at the border of Croatia, nationals of Kosovo represent the largest group (35). Last year, 29 nationals of Kosovo were returned.

b) Taking back persons from other law enforcement authorities

On the basis of international agreements, 84 persons were handed over to Slovenia by foreign law enforcement authorities handed over. The figure for the comparative period in 2017 was 109 persons. Of these, 13 persons returned were Slovenian nationals.

Country	Persons handed over to Slovenia by foreign law enforcement		Persons handed over to foreign law enforcement by Slovenia	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
Italy	21	29	40	11
Austria	12	9	1	8
Croatia	2	1	217	224
Hungary	14	10	2	1
airport	60	35	14	17
Total	109	84	274	261

Overview of the situation

In 2017 and at the beginning of 2018, unauthorised migration was unstable but on the rise again. As expected, the number of illegal migrants significantly increased in April this year due to improved weather conditions, the new alternative route across Bosnia and Herzegovina and a large pool of migrants building up in the Western Balkan area. Algerian, Pakistani and Moroccan nationals are strongest migration groups.

The number of persons taken back from foreign law enforcement authorities is smaller than that in the corresponding period last year. The significant decrease in the number of persons who were returned to the neighbouring states is the result of many persons lodging applications for international protection. Such migrants take advantage of the international protection mechanism only to be able to continue their travels. This pattern is a reality in the entire territory of the Western Balkans. Once apprehended illegal migrants immediately declare their intention to lodge an application for international protection after which they leave accommodation facilities and continue their irregular travels.

The number of foreigners who are processed for illegal stay continues to grow. The most common ground on which foreigners are found to be staying illegally is the overstay of permitted residence.

A big majority of foreigners who make an illegal entry in the Republic of Slovenia on the Schengen internal borders come from Italy, but their numbers have declined by a fifth. These foreign nationals come from countries representing low migration risks or they already enjoy a valid status in one of the Member States but lack a proper travel document to enter Slovenia.

The number of entry refusals as regards third-country nationals has increased slightly. The overstaying nationals mainly come from the states of the Western Balkan region. The number of refusal is directly related to the number of travellers recorded at border crossing points.

Note: The statistical data are as of 10 May 2018. Any subsequent data corrections or updates may change the statistics indicated above.