Between 1 January and 30 April 2017, 37,325 persons arrived in Italy by sea. This is a 33% increase compared to sea arrivals in the same period last year (27,926). As in previous years, monthly arrivals were comparatively lower during the winter, due to less favourable weather and sea conditions. Monthly arrivals increased in the spring: in April 2017, 12,943 refugees and migrants reached Italian shores.

Trends in sea arrivals should be assessed over time, as fluctuations on a monthly basis may be linked to various factors, including weather and sea conditions or the situation in the countries of departure and origin. Geopolitical developments and the capacity of smugglers to organize departures may also affect sea arrivals.

The charts below are based on figures from the Italian Ministry of Interior and UNHCR estimates. All figures are provisional and subject to change.

### Most common nationalities of sea arrivals by month

Jan 2016- Apr 2017

- Nigeria
- Bangladesh
- Guinea
- Côte d’Ivoire
- The Gambia

Between 1 January and 30 April 2017, 14% of all arrivals originated from Nigeria, followed by Bangladesh (12%), Guinea (11%), Côte d’Ivoire (11%), The Gambia (8%), Senegal (7%), Morocco (7%), Mali (5%), Eritrea (3%), Pakistan (3%), and Somalia (3%). This is comparable to the most common sea arrival nationalities recorded in the first four months of 2016, except for Bangladesh and Pakistan. The numbers of arrivals from Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan decreased by 53%, 60%, and 41%, respectively.

If the January 2016 – April 2017 period is considered, sea arrivals most commonly originated from Nigeria, Bangladesh Guinea, Côte d’Ivoire, and The Gambia.
Between 1 January and 30 April 2017, most sea arrivals were men (75%), followed by UASC (14%), and adult women (10%). Consistent with last year, the proportion of women is significantly higher among Nigerians arriving in Italy. 1,582 Nigerian women arrived in the first four months of 2017, accounting for 30% of all arrivals. Relatively higher proportions of women have also been registered among Cameroonian arrivals (22% are women), Somalis (21%), Eritreans, Syrians, Iraqis (17% each), and Ivorians (13%).

Between 1 January and 30 April 2017, 5,190 UASC reached Italian shores, of whom 798 arrived in January, 1,077 in February, 1,616 in March and 1,699 in April. UASC arrivals have surged compared to the same period last year, when 4,541 UASC arrived. However, the proportion of UASC among sea arrivals (14%) is comparable to the first four months of 2016.

Libya is by far the main country of departure for persons arriving in Italy by sea. Between 1 January and 30 April 2017, 35,989 persons (96.7% of arrivals) crossed from Libya. Since the beginning of 2017, only 1.4% of arrivals departed from Turkey. Since the beginning of the year, only three persons were intercepted by the authorities who departed from Egypt. The majority of new arrivals are disembarked following SAR operations conducted on the high seas. However, autonomous sea arrivals also occur, with a small number of persons reaching southern Italy from Algeria, Tunisia, Turkey, and Greece. Most vessels arriving autonomously were intercepted by the authorities just off the Italian coast and transferred to port sites, subsequently undergoing identification procedures.