



**РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА  
ВЛАДА РЕПУБЛИКЕ СРБИЈЕ**

**MIGRATION PROFILE OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
FOR 2017**

This publication was translated with the support of the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration within the project “Support to Migration Management in Serbia 2016-2019” implemented by the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration and Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia.

## Acronyms

AP	Autonomous Province
B&H	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BPD	Border Police Directorate
BPS	Border Police Station
CHTVP	Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection
CRM	Commissariat for Refugees and Migration
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DR Congo	Democratic Republic Congo
DCP	Diplomatic Consular Post
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
FRY	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IPAC	Information and Professional Advisory Centre
LAP	Local Action Plan
MESTD	Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MGI	Migration Governance Index
NES	National Employment Service
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OHMR	Office for Human and Minority Rights
PR China	People's Republic of China
SORS	Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia
SAR	South African Republic
SFRY	Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia
THB	Trafficking in Human Beings
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USA	United States of America

# CONTENTS

MIGRATION PROFILE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA FOR 2017 .....	1
Acronyms.....	2
A. INTRODUCTION .....	4
B1. General cross-border mobility .....	5
1.1. Visa issuance .....	5
1.2. Cross-border mobility that is not migration .....	8
B2. International migration, temporary residence permits, permanent resident population and naturalization.....	8
2.1. Immigration .....	8
2.2. Temporary residence permit.....	9
2.3. Foreigners permanently residing in the Republic of Serbia .....	13
2.4. Labour immigration.....	14
2.5. Foreign students.....	24
2.6. Acquisition of citizenship.....	24
2.7. Emigration .....	26
B3. Statistics relating to the prevention of illegal entry and stay .....	30
3.1. Prevention of illegal entry into the Republic of Serbia .....	30
3.2. Return of individuals residing illegally in the Republic of Serbia .....	32
3.3. Trafficking in human beings.....	36
B4. Statistics on forced migration and international protection .....	39
4.1. Asylum seekers.....	39
4.2. First instance decisions on asylum applications.....	40
4.3. Second instance decisions on appeals lodged against decisions on asylum applications	41
4.4. Decisions based on administrative disputes .....	41
4.5. Returnees under Readmission Agreements .....	41
4.6. Refugees under the Law on Refugees.....	52
4.7. Internally displaced persons (IDPs).....	54
B5. <i>Statistics on internal migration</i> .....	57
B6. CONCLUSION .....	59
C1. Republic of Serbia Migration Governance Profile.....	59
Appendix 1: Tables, charts and maps.....	64
Tables.....	64
Charts .....	67

## ***A. INTRODUCTION***

The Migration Profile is a document which compiles data on all categories of migrants in the country, classified in accordance with the Regulation 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007, on Community statistics on migration and international protection, and provides a description and analysis of the overall situation relating to migration in the Republic of Serbia. The development of the Migration Profile and its regular updating was the obligation of the Republic of Serbia in accordance with the Visa Liberalization Roadmap, as well as the specific goal set by the Migration Management Strategy (Official Gazette RS, No. 59/09).

The Republic of Serbia has for eight consecutive years been independently developing the Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia. Data on different categories of migrants are collected from competent institutions, which enables regular updates of the profile on annual level, under overall leadership of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (CRM).

The Migration Profile is a general overview of statistics on migration and migration policies in the country, in order to provide to the stakeholders involved in migration management and the broader public with a comprehensive insight into the migration situation. Precise data are necessary for planning and undertaking appropriate measures with the aim to achieve comprehensive migration flow management. In addition to providing an overview of all data on migrants and serving as means to monitor migration flows and trends in the country, the Migration Profile also attempts to identify and analyse key challenges in the area of migration. Primary data for the development of this instrument are official statistics collected by competent authorities, also using data from international organisations and experts, as well as relevant studies and research.

The main idea behind the Migration Profile is for it to serve as an instrument aimed to provide support for key state actors in planning adequate migration policies, as well as for the representatives of the civil society and the academic community in the analysis of current migration flows. Regular annual updates provide better insight into the overall migration situation in the country. The document aims to provide competent authorities in the Republic of Serbia with an insight into relevant migration trends, and thus enable the development of policies and the adoption of necessary legislation in the area of migration management. Meanwhile, the Migration Profile is being constantly improved globally, giving rise to a second generation of the profile, entitled the Extended Migration Profile. Therefore, the Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2017 will be upgraded to include the segment on Migration Governance Index, the aim of which is to identify good practices and gaps in the area of migration in the Republic of Serbia.

## ***B1. General cross-border mobility***

### **1.1. Visa issuance**

The EU Regulation establishing a Community code on visas (Regulation (EC) No. 810/09 of the European Parliament and of the Council) regulates the manner of visa issuance and reporting. Under this regulation, issuing of visas should be monitored separately for A and C types of visa. At the moment, it is not possible to keep records of the issuing of visas in this manner in the Republic of Serbia.

In 2017, a slight decrease in the number of issued visas was recorded in comparison with the previous year, from 9,504 issued visas in 2016, to 9,276 issued visas in 2017. The highest number of visas was issued to the citizens of China (14.6%) and Libya (11.27%)

**Table 1:** Visas issued in 2017 by citizenship and sex of the visa applicant

<b>Country</b>	<b>Number of visas issued</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>%</b>
China	1,357	1.024	333	14.6
Libya	1,134	805	329	12.2
Lebanon	801	484	317	8.6
India	488	363	125	5.3
Egypt	470	399	71	5.1
Stateless	414	249	165	4.5
SAR	387	202	185	4.2
Georgia	322	240	82	3.4
Iraq	315	179	136	3.3
Algeria	296	219	77	3.2
Jordan	233	148	85	2.5
Nigeria	224	172	52	2.4
Armenia	220	140	80	2.3
Philippines	207	51	156	2.2
Syria	166	114	52	1.8
Indonesia	162	87	75	1.7
Thailand	160	65	95	1.7
Palestine	146	91	55	1.6
Morocco	113	77	36	1.2
Kenya	97	69	28	1.04
Sudan	97	70	27	1.04
Uzbekistan	90	67	23	0.9
Russian Federation	71	36	35	0.7
Pakistan	65	58	7	0.7
Kyrgyzstan	63	40	23	0.7
Ghana	51	38	13	0.5
Bangladesh	46	44	2	0.5

Colombia	46	9	37	0.5
Ethiopia	45	26	19	0.5
Cameroon	42	32	10	0.5
Tajikistan	39	22	17	0.4
Angola	37	24	13	0.4
Saudi Arabia	36	34	2	0.4
Iran	32	20	12	0.3
Sri Lanka	31	26	5	0.3
Uganda	29	20	9	0.3
Botswana	27	16	11	0.3
Venezuela	27	16	11	0.3
Azerbaijan	24	12	12	0.3
France	24	11	13	0.3
Croatia	24	12	12	0.3
Mauritius	24	15	9	0.3
Myanmar	23	8	15	0.2
Zambia	23	19	4	0.2
Paraguay	21	13	8	0.2
Vietnam	21	10	11	0.2
Nepal	19	12	7	0.2
Honduras	18	12	6	0.2
Yemen	18	15	3	0.2
Tanzania	18	13	5	0.2
Ukraine	18	6	12	0.2
Zimbabwe	18	14	4	0.2
Germany	17	9	8	0.2
Turkmenistan	17	11	6	0.2
DR Congo	16	12	4	0.2
Senegal	16	14	2	0.2
Ecuador	14	9	5	0.1
B&H	13	5	8	0.1
Gabon	12	6	6	0.1
Macedonia	12	4	8	0.1
Mali	12	9	3	0.1
Panama	12	5	7	0.1
Commonwealth of Dominica	11	5	6	0.1
UK	11	6	5	0.1
Burundi	10	7	3	0.1
Namibia	10	8	2	0.1
Slovenia	10	3	7	0.1
Spain	10	4	6	0.1
Czech Republic	9	7	2	0.1
Greece	9	5	4	0.1
Italy	9	4	5	0.1
Afghanistan	8	8	0	0.08
Netherlands	8	3	5	0.08

Dominican Republic	7	0	7	0.07
Canada	7	4	3	0.07
Kazakhstan	7	1	6	0.07
Peru	7	2	5	0.07
Slovakia	7	2	5	0.07
Guinea	6	2	4	0.06
Malaysia	6	3	3	0.06
Ivory Coast	6	6	0	0.06
Cambodia	5	2	3	0.05
Madagascar	5	4	1	0.05
Moldova	5	3	2	0.05
Mozambique	5	4	1	0.05
Serbia	5	3	2	0.05
Comoros	4	3	1	0.04
Latvia	4	4	0	0.04
Niger	4	4	0	0.04
Belarus	3	2	1	0.03
Grenada	3	1	2	0.03
Liberia	3	3	0	0.03
Malawi	3	2	1	0.03
Nicaragua	3	0	3	0.03
Rwanda	3	2	1	0.03
Saint Kitts and Nevis	3	3	0	0.03
Cape Verde	3	2	1	0.03
Equatorial Guinea	2	0	2	0.02
El Salvador	2	1	1	0.02
Fiji	2	0	2	0.02
The Gambia	2	2	0	0.02
Jamaica	2	2	0	0.02
Congo	2	2	0	0.02
Mauritania	2	2	0	0.02
Somalia	2	1	1	0.02
Switzerland	2	1	1	0.02
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2	2	0	0.02
Togo	2	2	0	0.02
Benin	1	1	0	0.01
Bulgaria	1	1	0	0.01
Burkina Faso	1	1	0	0.01
Montenegro	1	1	0	0.01
Eritrea	1	1	0	0.01
Guyana	1	1	0	0.01
Guatemala	1	1	0	0.01
Timor-Leste	1	0	1	0.01
Israel	1	1	0	0.01
Japan	1	1	0	0.01
South Sudan	1	0	1	0.01

Qatar	1	1	0	0.01
Korea (South)	1	0	1	0.01
Maldives	1	1	0	0.01
Trinidad and Tobago	1	1	0	0.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.276</b>	<b>6.180</b>	<b>3.096</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

As in the previous years, current records in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs do not allow for differentiation between visas issued by type<sup>1</sup>, so it cannot be determined for which purposes they were issued.

## 1.2. Cross-border mobility that is not migration

According to data provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, over 26,600,000 entries into and over 26,600,000 exits from the Republic of Serbia were registered in 2017, most of which among foreign nationals. The number of entries into and exists from the Republic of Serbia is by over 1 million higher than in 2016 (the number of entries was 25,367,609 and the number of exits 24,759,058).

**Table 2:** Cross-border mobility in the Republic of Serbia in 2017

	<b>Number of entries into the Republic of</b>	<b>Number of exits from the Republic of Serbia</b>
<b>Republic of Serbia citizens</b>	<b>9,375,354</b>	<b>10,294,664</b>
<b>Foreign citizens</b>	<b>17,265,313</b>	<b>15,939,541</b>
<b>Republic of Serbia</b>	<b>26,640,667</b>	<b>26,234,205</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

As in the previous year, available data do not allow further disaggregation of cross-border mobility according to the purpose of entry into the Republic of Serbia, but only register the total number of persons entering and exiting the Republic of Serbia at any border crossing.

## ***B2. International migration, temporary residence permits, permanent resident population and naturalization***

### **2.1. Immigration**

Article 2 of the Law on Migration Management (Official Gazette RS, No. 107/12) defines immigration as external migration into the Republic of Serbia which lasts or is expected to last over 12 months. Such definition and monitoring of immigration is in line with the EU Regulation 862.

As in the previous years, this year also, countries of origin of the highest number of immigrants were PR China (17.4%) and the Russian Federation (13.5%).

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to the type A visa which is for airport transit, there is also a regular type B transit visa, and in addition to the type C visa for short stay, there is also the type D visa, issued for temporary residence (Article 15 of the Law on Foreigners)

**Table 3:** Countries with the highest number of citizens among the immigrant population in the Republic of Serbia in 2016 and 2017

Citizenship	2016	2017
	Share in total immigration in %	Share in total immigration in %
PR China	17	17.4
Russian Federation	12.4	13.5
Romania	7.5	6.7
Macedonia	7.1	6.9
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	6.3	6.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>50.6</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Compared to 2016, and in relation to the most numerous immigrants in the Republic of Serbia, the trend continues, with the citizens of Romania and the Russian Federation dominating. The share of women is the highest among Romanian (82.5%) and Macedonian citizens (63.4%).

**Table 4:** The most numerous immigrant population in the Republic of Serbia in 2016 and 2017, by citizenship and sex

Citizenship	2016		2017	
	Total	Women (%)		Total
China	4,512	43.1	4,880	14.0
Russian Federation	3,297	65.7	3,472	31.5
Romania	1,997	80.5	1,854	82.5
Macedonia	1,902	62.0	1,911	63.4
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1,668	42.2	1,715	39.8

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

## 2.2. Temporary residence permit

According to Article 24 of the Law on Foreigners, foreigners may stay up to 90 days, on a basis of a temporary or permanent residence. Temporary residence may be permitted to a foreigner whose intention is to stay in the Republic of Serbia for longer than 90 days for the purposes of:

- 1) Work, employment, economic or other professional activities;
- 2) Education, attending university or a specialist education course, scientific research, practical training, participation in programmes of international exchange of pupils and university students, and/or other scientific and educational activities;
- 3) Family reunification;
- 4) Other justifiable grounds in accordance with the Law or an international treaty (Article 26 of the Law on Foreigners).

In 2017, 6,714 temporary residence permits were issued for the first time. The highest number of permits were issued for the first time to the citizens of PR China (14%) and the Russian Federation

(10.1%). The trend remains unchanged compared to 2016.

**Table 5:** Persons issued temporary residence permits for the first time, by citizenship, in 2017

Citizenship	2017.	
	Number of issued permits	Share in total number of issued permits (%)
PRC	944	14.0
Russian Federation	681	10.1
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	566	8.4
Turkey	401	6.0
Ukraine	294	4.3
Macedonia	279	4.5
USA	225	3.1
Germany	178	2.7
Romania	164	2.4
Italy	160	2.3
Other	2,822	42.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,714</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Disaggregation by grounds for approval shows that, as in the previous years, in 2017 the most common grounds for temporary residence was work (40.2%). Family reunification still comes second, but the share is lower than in 2016 (from 41% to 33.7%).

**Table 6:** Temporary residence permits issued for the first time according to grounds for approval, 2016 and 2017

Grounds for approval	2016.		2017.	
	Number	%	Number	%
Family reunification	2,592	41.0	2,258	33.7
Work	2,717	43.0	2,701	40.2
Education	619	9.8	731	10.9
Other	398	6.2	1,024	15.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,323</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6,714</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Disaggregation by citizenship shows that in 2017, the same as in 2015 and 2016, again there is the highest number of Chinese citizens among those that came on the grounds of work (24.1%).

**Table 7:** Temporary residence permits on the grounds of work issued for the first time in 2016 and 2017, by citizenship

	2016	2017
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Citizenship	No. of persons	%	Citizenship	No. of persons	%
China	448	18.2	China	653	24.1
Ukraine	187	7.6	Ukraine	184	6.9
Russian Federation	174	7.0	Turkey	179	6.7
Romania	163	6.6	Russian Federation	158	5.9
Turkey	145	5.9	Greece	104	3.9
B&H	138	5.6	Italy	102	3.8
Italy	111	4.5	Israel	102	3.8
Macedonia	93	3.9	Romania	100	3.6
Croatia	81	3.3	Macedonia	85	3.1
Algeria	65	2.7	USA	84	3.1
Other	853	34.7	Other	950	35.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,458</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,701</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Regarding temporary residence permits on the grounds of family reunification issued for the first time, the citizens of the Russian Federation still represent the highest share in this type of permit.

**Table 8:** Temporary residence permits on the grounds of family reunification issued for the first time, 2016 and 2017

Citizenship	2016		2017		
	No. of persons	%	Citizenship	No. of persons	%
Russian Federation	314	13.8	Russian Federation	329	14.6
China	205	9.3	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	248	11.0
Macedonia	173	7.7	B&H	132	5.8
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	166	7.3	China	213	9.4
B&H	147	6.4	Macedonia	133	5.9
Montenegro	122	5.3	Turkey	110	4.9
Other	1,144	50	Other	1,093	48.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,794</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Regarding temporary residence permits on the grounds of education issued for the first time, the trend continues in 2017 also, with the highest share in this type of permit issued to the citizens of Libya (11.6%).

**Table 9:** Temporary residence permits on the grounds of education issued for the first time, 2017

Citizenship	2017	
	No. of persons	%
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	85	11.6
Turkey	74	10.1

Russian Federation	45	6.1
Spain	41	5.7
USA	40	5.4
Germany	28	3.9
Montenegro	28	3.9
Croatia	27	3.8
Greece	31	4.2
B&H	21	2.9
PR China	21	2.9
Other	290	39.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Looking at the sex structure of persons issued temporary residence permits for the first time, women only dominate among the permits issued on the grounds of family reunification in 2017, the same as in 2015 and 2016.

**Table 10:** Temporary residence permits issued for the first time by sex and type of permit for 2016 and 2017

Grounds for Issuance	2016			2017		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Work	82,3	17,7	100	79,9	20,1	100
Family reunification	33,6	66,4	100	30,7	69,3	100
Education	54	45,2	100	58,8	41,3	100

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Temporary residence permits valid at the end of 2017 include the number of issued permits, but also permits not revoked or expired. In 2017, a total of 20,524 temporary residence permits were issued, registering a slight increase compared to 2016 (19,929). The highest number of permits were issued to the citizens of China (16%) and Russian Federation (13.6%).

**Table 11:** Temporary residence permits valid at the end of 2017, by citizenship

Citizenship	No. of persons	%
China	3,303	16.0
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1,677	8.1
Macedonia	1,360	6.7
Russian Federation	2,795	13.6
Ukraine	1,053	5.1
Croatia	687	3.3
Romania	778	3.8
Turkey	654	3.3
Other	8,217	40.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,524</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

The majority of permits valid at the end of 2017 were issued on the grounds of family

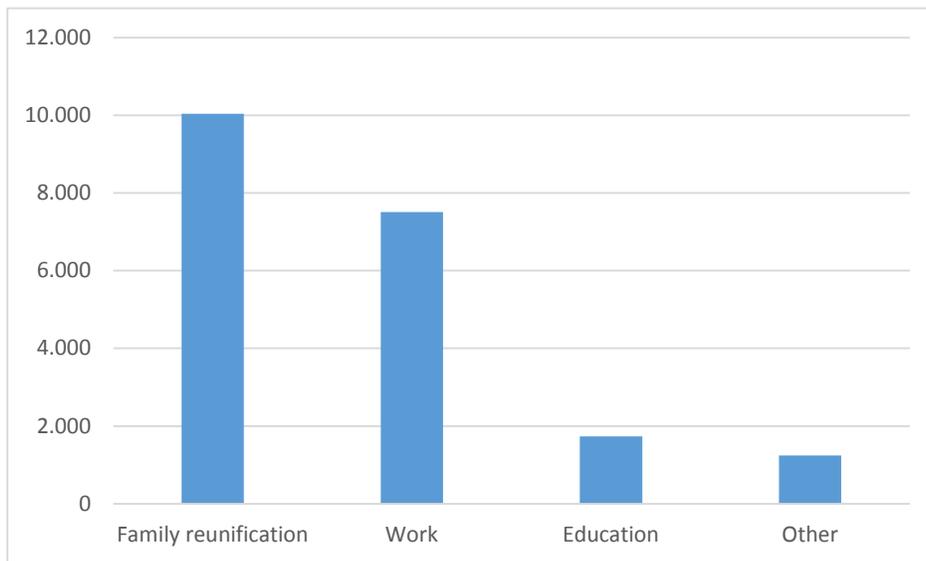
reunification, as was the case in 2016 and 2015. The share of permits on the grounds of family reunification account for one-half of the permits overall in 2017 (49%), the same as in 2016.

**Table 12:** Temporary residence permits valid at the end of 2017, by grounds for approval

Grounds for approval	No. of persons	%
Family reunification	10,039	49.0
Work	7,512	36.6
Education	1,733	8.4
Other	1,240	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,524</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

**Chart 1:** Temporary residence permits valid at the end of 2017, by grounds for approval



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

### 2.3. Foreigners permanently residing in the Republic of Serbia

- 1) Who has stayed with no interruptions in the Republic of Serbia for at least five years on the basis of a temporary residence permit before applying for permanent residence permit;
- 2) Who has been married for at least three years to a citizen of the Republic of Serbia, or a foreigner with permanent residence;<sup>2</sup>
- 3) Who is an underage person with temporary residence in the Republic of Serbia if one of the parents is a citizen of the Republic of Serbia or a foreigner with permanent residence, subject to the consent of the other parent;
- 4) Who has ancestral links to the territory of the Republic of Serbia (Article 37).

<sup>2</sup> Within the meaning of this paragraph of the Law on Foreigners, marriage shall mean a union for the purposes of cohabitation on the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Permanent residence on the grounds of marriage cannot be permitted unless the couple has spent three years living on the territory of the Republic of Serbia,

In 2017, there were 7,369 foreigners residing permanently in the Republic of Serbia, which is a minimum increase compared to 2016, when there were 6,684 of them. Among the foreigners residing permanently, the majority come from China (21.3%) and Romania (15.5%).

**Table 13:** Foreigners permanently residing in the Republic of Serbia in 2017, by citizenship

<b>Citizenship</b>	<b>No. of persons</b>	<b>%</b>
China	1,576	21.3
Romania	1,143	15.5
Russian Federation	684	9.8
Macedonia	549	7.4
Ukraine	354	4.9
Germany	331	4.4
Albania	228	3.0
Bulgaria	242	3.2
Croatia	180	2.4
Poland	165	2.2
Hungary	129	1.7
Other	1,788	24.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,369</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

As in the previous years, in 2017 the highest number of foreigners were approved permanent residence on the grounds of marriage (67.7%).

**Table 14:** Foreigners permanently residing in the Republic of Serbia by grounds for approval in 2016 and 2017

<b>Grounds for residence</b>	<b>2016</b>		<b>2017</b>	
	<b>No. of persons</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>No. of</b>	<b>%</b>
10 years of residence	1,243	18.8	1,549	21.3
5 years of residence	546	8.3	649	9.0
Marriage	4,667	70.7	4,913	67.7
Interest of the Republic of Serbia/humanitarian reasons	122	1.8	111	1.5
Ancestral links to the territory of the	24	0.4	39	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,602</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7,261</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

## 2.4. Labour immigration

Temporary residence for work, employment, entrepreneurial or other professional activity can be granted to a foreigner:

- 1) Who has been granted the right to work, or temporary residence as a precondition for approval of such right, in conformity with the regulations governing the work of foreigners in the Republic of Serbia;
- 2) Who intends to stay in the Republic of Serbia for more than 90 days, if he fulfils other

conditions prescribed by the Law on Foreigners and does not need a work permit pursuant to the regulations governing the work of foreigners in the Republic of Serbia (Article 30 of the Law on Foreigners).

At the end of 2017, a total of 7,550 foreigners were issued temporary residence permits on the grounds of work. This number increased in comparison with 2016, when 6,325 foreigners resided in the Republic of Serbia on the grounds of work. Out of the total number of foreigners, the majority were Chinese nationals (28.1%).

**Table 15:** Foreigners residing in Serbia on the grounds of work in 2017, by citizenship

<b>Citizenship</b>	<b>Number of persons</b>	<b>%</b>
PR China	2,123	28.1
Russian Federation	620	8.2
Ukraine	549	7.2
Macedonia	343	4.5
Italy	366	4.8
Turkey	340	4.5
Romania	297	4.0
Greece	272	3.7
Croatia	215	2.9
B&H	175	2.3
Germany	155	2.1
Montenegro	146	2.0
Other	1,949	25.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,550</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Employment of foreigners in the Republic of Serbia is regulated by the Law on Employment of Foreigners (Official Gazette RS, No. 128/14 and 113/17), as well as the Rulebook on Work Permits (Official Gazette RS, No. 94/2015 and 9/18), which more closely regulates the manner of issuance, or extension of the work permit, the ways in which fulfilment of conditions is proven and the necessary evidence for issuing or extending the work permit and the form and content of the work permit.

The Law stipulates that the foreigner employed in the Republic of Serbia, in accordance with this Law, has equal rights and obligations in relation to work, employment and self-employment as nationals, if conditions are met in accordance with the Law. Employment of foreigners is realised under the condition that they have temporary residence permit, regardless of the duration of the residence or permanent residence in accordance with the Law and work permit.

Work permits may be issued as personal work permits or as work permits. Personal work permit is issued at the request of the foreigner if they have permanent residence approved, if they have refugee status, or belong to special categories of foreigners (asylum seeker, temporary protection grantee, victim of trafficking in human beings, or person granted subsidiary protection, in accordance with the Law).

Work permit is a type of permit issued as work permit for employment, work permit for special cases of employment (posted workers, inter-corporate transfers, independent professionals) as well as work permit for self-employment.

In the period between 1 January and 31 December 2017, National Employment Service (NES) issued a

total of 7,645 work permits to foreign nationals, out of which 1,096 personal work permits, 537 for inter-corporate transfers, 11 for independent professionals, 2,172 for self-employment, 431 for posted workers and 3,398 work permits for employment.

In 2017, 7,405 work permits were issued to foreigners with temporary residence permit in the Republic of Serbia, as well as 240 work permits to foreigners with permanent residence permits in the Republic of Serbia.

The number of issued work permits to foreigners with temporary residence in the Republic of Serbia increased significantly to 7,139 in 2016, representing an increase also compared to 2015 (6,203), but the number of these work permits in 2017 was 7,405, representing minimum increase compared to 2016.

As the number of persons with work permits relates only to individuals that applied for employment in accordance with the then valid Law on Conditions for Employment of Foreign Nationals (Official Gazette SFRY, No. 11/78 and 64/89, Official Gazette SRY, No. 42/92, 24/94 and 28/96 and Official Gazette RS, No. 101/05 – other Law), it is estimated that the number of foreigners working in the Republic of Serbia is considerably higher than the number of issued work permits, because it does not relate to the engagement of foreigners other than formal employment, members of management boards and other types of engagement. This also accounts for the difference between the number of approved residence permits on the grounds of work by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the number of issued work permits by the NES.

In 2017, a total of 7,405 work permits were issued to foreigners **with temporary residence**, with 1,959 issued to women. The majority of permits were issued in the following branch offices: Belgrade (66.63%), Novi Sad (10.41%), Niš (3.98%), Sremska Mitrovica (2.39%), Subotica (1.65)

A total of 240 work permits were issued to foreigners with permanent residence in 2017, out of which 129 were issued to women.

**Table 16:** The number of work permits issued to foreigners with temporary residence in 2017, by citizenship

Citizenship	Number of work permits
PR China	1,575
Russian Federation	779
Macedonia	505
Italy	424
Turkey	404
Greece	334
Croatia	248
B&H	232
Montenegro	210
Germany	174
Ukraine	172
Romania	168
UK	153
Slovenia	148
USA	142
Israel	131

France	129
Bulgaria	111
Spain	87
Poland	82
India	81
Netherlands	62
Hungary	59
Austria	57
Portugal	43
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	41
Syrian Arab Republic	38
Slovakia	37
Czech Republic	34
Azerbaijan	33
Cuba	31
Korea	30
Switzerland	30
Belarus	29
Sweden	29
Albania	27
Australia	27
Canada	27
Philippines	27
Tunisia	24
Kazakhstan	22
Brazil	20
Denmark	20
Japan	19
Thailand	19
Afghanistan	18
Iraq	17
Jordan	16
Mexico	15
Moldova	14
Belgium	13
Ireland	13
Pakistan	11
Lebanon	10
Peru	10
Cyprus	9
Finland	9
Norway	9
Georgia	8

Ghana	8
Lithuania	8
Egypt	8
Armenia	7
South Africa	7
Cameroon	6
Morocco	6
New Zealand	6
Nigeria	6
Algeria	5
Indonesia	5
Iran	5
Latvia	5
Sudan	5
Uzbekistan	5
Palestine	4
Malaysia	4
Somalia	4
Sri Lanka	3
Chile	3
Costa Rica	3
Iceland	3
Ivory Coast	3
Kenya	3
Mongolia	3
Senegal	3
Argentina	2
Columbia	2
Gabon	2
Guinea	2
Korea, Democratic People's Republic	2
Zimbabwe	2
United Arab Republic	2
Uruguay	2
Venezuela	2
Angola	1
Bolivia	1
Botswana	1
Burundi	1
Dominican Republic	1
El Salvador	1

Ethiopia	1
Estonia	1
Jamaica	1
Kyrgyzstan	1
Nepal	1
Federated States of Micronesia	1
Singapore	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,405</b>

Source: NES

**Table 17:** The number of work permits issued to foreigners with permanent residence in 2017, by citizenship

<b>Citizenship</b>	<b>Number of work permits</b>
PR China	86
Russian Federation	23
Macedonia	18
Ukraine	14
Croatia	10
Germany	8
Italy	7
Romania	7
Greece	6
Montenegro	5
Austria	4
Bulgaria	4
Moldova	4
Poland	4
France	3
Slovenia	3
Brazil	2
Belarus	2
Morocco	2
Netherlands	2
Nigeria	2
Spain	2
Turkey	2
Venezuela	2
Albania	1
Algeria	1
Australia	1
Armenia	1

Dr Congo	1
Czech Republic	1
Ecuador	1
Georgia	1
Iran	1
Japan	1
Lebanon	1
Mauritius	1
Mongolia	1
Peru	1
Syrian Arab Republic	1
Thailand	1
Turkmenistan	1
USA	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>

Source: NES

Foreign nationals registered as unemployed with NES are individuals with temporary residence permit or permanent residence (approved by the Ministry of Internal Affairs), registered with NES.

On 31 December 2017, there were a total of 799 unemployed foreign nationals on NES records, out of whom 80.23% women.

There were 618,827 unemployed persons on NES records on 31 December 2017, 0.13% of whom were registered as foreign nationals.

There were 324,977 unemployed women on NES records on 31 December 2017, 0.20% of whom were registered as foreign nationals.

**Table 18:** Foreigners registered with NES on 31 Dec 2017, by citizenship

<b>Country</b>	<b>No. of persons</b>	<b>%</b>
Macedonia	160	20.03
Russian Federation	86	10.76
Romania	84	10.51
Montenegro	82	10.26
Albania	62	7.76
Ukraine	60	7.51
B&H	51	6.38
Bulgaria	34	4.26
Moldova	24	3.00
Croatia	13	1.63
Other	13	1.63
Poland	10	1.25
Serbia	8	1.00

Belarus	6	0.75
Czech Republic	6	0.75
Hungary	6	0.75
Slovakia	6	0.75
Syrian Arab Republic	6	0.75
Armenia	4	0.50
Cuba	4	0.50
Germany	4	0.50
Greece	4	0.50
Kazakhstan	4	0.50
Pakistan	4	0.50
Slovenia	4	0.50
Egypt	4	0.50
Afghanistan	3	0.38
Algeria	3	0.38
PR China	3	0.38
Italy	3	0.38
Sudan	3	0.38
Iran	2	0.25
Iraq	2	0.25
Jordan	2	0.25
Switzerland	2	0.25
Tunisia	2	0.25
UK	2	0.25
Azerbaijan	1	0.13
Argentina	1	0.13
Austria	1	0.13
Burundi	1	0.13
Estonia	1	0.13
Georgia	1	0.13
Palestine	1	0.13
Ghana	1	0.13
India	1	0.13
Indonesia	1	0.13
Jamaica	1	0.13
Japan	1	0.13
Kenya	1	0.13
Lithuania	1	0.13
Morocco	1	0.13
South Sudan	1	0.13
Thailand	1	0.13
Turkey	1	0.13
Turkmenistan	1	0.13
Uganda	1	0.13
USA	1	0.13
Uzbekistan	1	0.13
Yemen	1	0.13

<b>Total</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>100</b>
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Source: NES

**Table 19:** Foreigners registered with NES on 31 December 2017, by age

<b>Age groups</b>	<b>No. of persons</b>	<b>%</b>
Youth (15–29)	137	17.15
Middle age group (30–49)	518	64.83
Older workers (50–64)	144	18.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: NES

Observed by educational structure of foreigners registered with NES on 31 December 2017, registered up to 12 months, persons with completed primary school had the highest share (64.83%), and of foreigners registered more than 12 months, persons with no education and incomplete primary school had the highest share (37.78%).

**Table 20:** Foreigners registered with NES on 31 December 2017, by education

<b>Highest completed educational level</b>	<b>Registered up to 12 months</b>		<b>Registered over 12 months</b>	
	<b>No. of persons</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>No. of</b>	<b>%</b>
No education or incomplete primary	137	17.15	187	37.78
Complete primary school	518	64.83	177	35.76
High school	144	18.02	93	18.79
College and university	137	17.15	38	7.68
<b>Total</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: NES

In 2017, a total of 550 foreign nationals registered with NES. The highest share of newly registered individuals came from Macedonia (20.18%), the Russian Federation (12.36%) and Romania (9.27%). This shows that the trend from 2016 continued.

**Table 21:** Foreigners registered with NES in 2017, by citizenship

<b>Citizenship</b>	<b>No. of persons</b>	<b>%</b>
Macedonia	111	20.18
Russian Federation	68	12.3
Romania	51	9.27
B&H	48	8.73
Montenegro	47	8.55
Ukraine	40	7.27
Albania	35	6.36
Croatia	17	3.09
Bulgaria	15	2.73
Moldova	13	2.36
Other	7	1.27
Cuba	6	1.09

Afghanistan	5	0.91
Belarus	5	0.91
PR China	5	0.91
Italy	5	0.91
Armenia	4	0.73
Iraq	4	0.73
Pakistan	4	0.73
Poland	4	0.73
Greece	3	0.55
Hungary	3	0.55
Serbia	3	0.55
Sudan	3	0.55
Syrian Arab Republic	3	0.55
Algeria	2	0.36
Czech Republic	2	0.36
Georgia	2	0.36
Morocco	2	0.36
Philippines	2	0.36
Somalia	2	0.36
Turkey	2	0.36
Egypt	2	0.36
Argentina	1	0.18
Brazil	1	0.18
Burundi	1	0.18
Columbia	1	0.18
Ecuador	1	0.18
Estonia	1	0.18
Germany	1	0.18
Ghana	1	0.18
India	1	0.18
Iran	1	0.18
Jamaica	1	0.18
Kazakhstan	1	0.18
Jordan	1	0.18
Kenya	1	0.18
Liberia	1	0.18
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1	0.18
Mexico	1	0.18
Slovakia	1	0.18
Slovenia	1	0.18
South Sudan	1	0.18
Thailand	1	0.18
Tunisia	1	0.18
Turkmenistan	1	0.18

Uzbekistan	1	0.18
Yemen	1	0.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: NES

## 2.5. Foreign students

At the end of 2017, 1,753 foreigners were temporary residing in the Republic of Serbia on the grounds of education, which is a slight increase compared to 2016, when there were 1,703. Most of them came from Libya (33.3%).

**Table 22:** Foreigners with valid temporary residence permits on the grounds of education, at the end of 2017, by citizenship

<b>Citizenship</b>	<b>No. of persons</b>	<b>%</b>
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	585	33.3
Russian Federation	117	6.7
Turkey	85	4.9
Montenegro	68	3.9
Greece	67	3.8
Croatia	59	3.3
Macedonia	58	3.6
China	57	2.7
Palestine	37	2.1
Germany	36	2.0
B&H	31	1.7
Albania	25	1.4
Slovenia	23	1.3
Other	515	29.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.753</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

## 2.6. Acquisition of citizenship

In 2017, 23,507 persons acquired Serbian citizenship, which is a slight decrease compared to 23,737 persons that acquired citizenship in 2016. These were largely citizens of B&H (66.63%), Montenegro (14.76%) and Croatia (7.37%).

**Table 23:** Newly admitted citizens of the Republic of Serbia in 2017, by previous citizenship

<b>Previous citizenship</b>	<b>Number of persons</b>	<b>%</b>
B&H	15,662	66.63
Montenegro	3,470	14.76
Croatia	1,732	7.37
SFRY	766	3.26
Turkey	580	2.47

Macedonia	510	2.17
Austria	104	0.44
Russian Federation	82	0.35
Slovenia	77	0.33
Romania	67	0.28
Germany	53	0.22
USA	45	0.19
SRY	38	0.16
Ukraine	31	0.13
Australia	30	0.13
Albania	27	0.11
France	18	0.08
Israel	15	0.06
Switzerland	15	0.06
Canada	14	0.06
Italy	13	0.05
Palestine	11	0.05
UK	11	0.05
SAR	10	0.04
Belarus	8	0.03
Netherlands	8	0.03
Jordan	8	0.03
Moldova	8	0.03
Venezuela	8	0.03
Iraq	7	0.03
Bulgaria	6	0.03
Greece	5	0.02
Hungary	5	0.02
Syria	5	0.02
Philippines	4	0.02
Armenia	4	0.02
Sweden	4	0.02
Algeria	3	0.01
Argentina	3	0.01
Denmark	3	0.01
Finland	3	0.01
Poland	3	0.01
Peru	3	0.01
Tunisia	3	0.01
Czech Republic	2	0.008
Egypt	2	0.008
Morocco	2	0.008
Slovakia	2	0.008
Uzbekistan	2	0.008
Brazil	1	0.004
Ghana	1	0.004
Iceland	1	0.004
Ireland	1	0.004
Kazakhstan	1	0.004

Lebanon	1	0.004
Libya	1	0.004
Liechtenstein	1	0.004
Mauritius	1	0.004
Norway	1	0.004
Saint Lucia	1	0.004
Sudan	1	0.004
Thailand	1	0.004
Togo	1	0.004
Zimbabwe	1	0.004
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,507</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

## 2.7. Emigration

### 2.7.1. Emigration from the Republic of Serbia to European countries

According to the Law on Permanent and Temporary Residence of Citizens (Official Gazette RS, No. 87/11), which regulates reporting the start and end of temporary and permanent residence, reporting temporary residence abroad, competences and manner of keeping appropriate records, the citizens of the Republic of Serbia who go abroad with the intention to stay abroad continually up to 90 days, and extend their stay, are obliged to report their temporary residence extending beyond 90 days to a competent authority through diplomatic-consular posts (DCP) (Article 19).

The Law on Migration Management (Official Gazette RS, No. 107/12) defines emigration as external migration from the Republic of Serbia which lasts, or is expected to last, over 12 months (Article 2).

The Republic of Serbia is an emigration country, but, like many other states, does not keep complete records of persons emigrating from the country, so data obtained from Eurostat, published by EU member states on the number of immigrants in the current year, were used for the Migration Profile.

In addition to regular submission of data on estimated population size for the current year, countries also send to Eurostat data on immigration and emigration, published annually. Thus, referent data on population size, live births, deaths, immigration and emigration both on national and regional levels are available in Eurostat database, together with demographic indicators derived from the data.

Table 24 shows that a total of 14,413 Serbian citizens left the Republic of Serbia in 2016, i.e. that the said number of Serbian citizens were registered in 2016 as newly arrived immigrants in some EU and European countries that submit data to Eurostat. The latest data published by Eurostat are for the year 2016.

**Table 24:** Republic of Serbia citizens registered in 2016 as newly arrived immigrants in European countries that submit data to Eurostat <sup>3</sup>

Destination countries	2016
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<sup>3</sup> Data on how many Serbian citizens reside in Germany are not available because they were not published at the moment Eurostat database was accessed. Database was accessed on 19 April 2018.

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
Austria	5,022	2,615	2,407
Sweden	1,598	780	818
Slovenia	1,597	1,222	375
Switzerland	1,424	637	787
Italy	784	322	462
Norway	711	353	358
Hungary	578	434	144
Croatia	557	343	214
Romania	428	310	118
Czech Republic	373	271	102
Belgium	352	155	197
Netherlands	312	143	169
Bulgaria	223	127	96
Luxembourg	214	101	113
Denmark	122	56	66
Finland	49	19	30
Iceland	30	14	16
Slovakia	26	19	7
Liechtenstein	6	3	3
Estonia	5	2	3
Lithuania	2	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,413</b>	<b>7,927</b>	<b>6,486</b>

Source: EUROSTAT, <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>

### 2.7.2. Employment of the citizens of the Republic of Serbia and referral of employees to work abroad

Employment of citizens of the Republic of Serbia abroad is governed by the Law on Employment and Unemployment Insurance (Official Gazette RS, No. 36/09, 88/10, 38/15, 113/17 and 113/17-other law). The National Employment Service (NES) and employment agencies are in charge of agency activities in employment abroad, both for unemployed persons and those looking to change jobs. NES and private employment agencies provide information on the opportunities and conditions for employment abroad, working and living conditions, labour related rights and obligations, and forms and manners of protection in accordance with the employment contract abroad, as well as the rights upon return from work abroad, in accordance with the law. These employment agencies are obligated to provide protection to persons employed abroad, which includes at least equal treatment in labour relations with the citizens of the country of employment.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Law, in 2017, after implemented procedures of agency in employment upon request of foreign employers, 9 persons were employed through NES in Slovenia, two in Croatia, 155 persons were employed in Germany under the Triple Win project, as well as 288 persons in Germany for

the needs of a known employer (persons found employers independently, and NES implemented the process of contracting).

Based on employment agencies' reports submitted semi-annually, in the first six months of 2017, 1,799 Republic of Serbia citizens were employed with foreign employers (USA, Germany, Greece, Macedonia, UAE, Russian Federation, MSC ships – Panama, Slovakia, etc.), while in the second six months of 2017, 3,933 citizens of the Republic of Serbia found employment with foreign employers (Slovakia, Russian Federation, USA, Czech Republic, MSC ships – Panama, Hungary, Cyprus, Switzerland, etc.).

In 2017, 28 new work permits were issued to employment agencies. Five work permits were extended to employment agencies, while 3 permits were revoked. On 31 December 2017, there were 104 employment agencies registered in the Republic of Serbia. Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs is providing oversight over the work of NES and employment agencies.

On 31 December 2017, NES records registered 799 foreigners (641 women), which represents 0.13% of the total number of the registered unemployed persons with NES.

Pursuant to Article 20 of the Law on Conditions for Posting Workers on Temporary Work Abroad and Their Protection (Official Gazette RS, No. 91/15), which has been implemented since 13 January 2016, regulating the rights of employees posted on temporary work abroad, conditions, procedures and obligations of employers in relation to posting employees on temporary work abroad, in 2017, 542 employers in the Republic of Serbia submitted 4,049 notifications, posting 13,916 employees on temporary work abroad. Data on the number of postings on temporary work abroad are the following:

- Work on investment and other works and service provision (investment and other works 6,812, service provision 3,912 – total 10,724),
- Work or vocational training and professional development commissioned by the employer in its business units abroad (work 1,556, vocational training and development 483 – total 2,039) and
- Work or vocational training and professional development commissioned by the employer within inter-corporate transfers (work 809, vocational training and development 344 – total 1,153)

The majority of employees were posted to work temporarily in Germany (3,920), Slovakia (3,046), Russian Federation (1,222), Romania (556), Croatia (484), Hungary (353), SAR (248), Austria (267), Norway (239), Italy (135), Kuwait (178) and Poland (170).

For the year 2016-2017, the competent authorities of Germany approved the quota of 2,770 work permits, and average utilization was 2,156 work permits. The Decision of the Minister of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs No. 119-01-16/2016-02 of 22 June 2016, which was adopted based on the Government Conclusion 05 No. 337-4653/2016 of 17 May 2016, the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia was designated as suitable organization for distributing the determined maximum number of detached workers among employers from the territory of the Republic of Serbia, keeping records on the distribution of the group and control of use of the awarded group in accordance with the Agreement between the Federal Executive Council of the SFRY and the Government of Germany on referring Yugoslav associated workers from SFRY and their employment in Germany, on the grounds of contract on works, starting with the year 2017/2018.

### **Migration service centres**

Through an established network of seven NES migration service centres (MSCs) (Belgrade, Niš, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Kraljevo, Kruševac and Bor), migrants and potential migrants are offered information about risks involved in irregular migration, migrants' rights, procedures for obtaining visas, work and residence permits, opportunities for employment and study abroad, access to health care and education

abroad and other, which contributes to efficient dissemination of information concerning legal migration flows, that is, equips them with better information in preparation for potential leaving, or suitable adjustment to conditions and regulations in force in destination countries. Also, one of the activities involves the referral of immigrants, returnees under readmission agreement and asylum seekers in the process of integration in the Republic of Serbia to relevant local institutions so they can access their rights.

In 2017, according to NES data, the services of MSCs were used by a total of 1,122 persons that contacted NES in person. Compared to 2016, there is a decrease of 1.9%. In addition to beneficiaries contacting NES personally, MSCs also provide services to users that contact them on the telephone, email, as well as through the NES website.

Out of the total number of service beneficiaries, the majority come from Kruševac (31.7% or 356 persons) and Belgrade (30.6% or 343 persons), relative to beneficiaries coming from other places in the Republic of Serbia (37.7% or 423 persons). In terms of (destination) country of choice of potential migrants, the country of first choice is Germany, followed by Austria, third choice is Switzerland and then other EU countries (primarily Sweden and Norway) and the most important non-European country is Canada.

Out of the total number of service beneficiaries, 66% or 741 were men, while 34% or 381 were women. According to status, the majority of service users were unemployed (76.1% or 854 persons), 22.5% were employed (253 employed persons) out of the total number of beneficiaries, while 1.4% of the beneficiaries said they were students.

In terms of the level of formal education, the highest share of persons completed secondary school (687), followed by persons with completed graduate studies (202) and persons with completed college (100). Looking at age groups, the majority of users came from the 31 to 50 age group (593), followed by the 26 to 30 age group (168), then persons over 50 (134) and persons under 25 (129) years of age.

Professions that were more likely to be interested in migration potentials were technicians of different specialties. They appeared in much higher numbers compared to the total number of registered NES MSC service beneficiaries. Among the technicians of different specialties, **medical nurses and medical technicians (73), followed by drivers (66), cooks (24) and elderly home care providers (21)** dominate. Among registered service beneficiaries with higher levels of education, **medical doctors (10)** dentists (11), followed by economists, architects and physical therapists stand out. Other professions include electricians, waiters, salespersons, designers, veterinarians, auto mechanics, but in far lower numbers.

## **Bilateral agreements**

Serbia has signed **bilateral agreements on social security** with the following 28 countries: Austria, Cyprus, Slovakia, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, France, Hungary, Denmark, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Slovenia, Netherlands, Poland, Belgium, Romania, Croatia, Norway, Switzerland, Panama, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Canada and Turkey.

In the period January – December 2017, in the process of implementation of bilateral agreements on social insurance between Serbia and other signatory countries, in the part related to using the right to financial compensation on grounds of unemployment, a total of 897 cases were established, initiating procedures for issuing certificates of insurance periods and using the right to financial compensation from foreign insurance providers (Croatia - 357, Bosnia and Herzegovina - 209, Montenegro - 67, Macedonia - 15, Slovenia - 234, Austria - 7, Czech Republic - 1, Italy - 1, Bulgaria - 1, Cyprus - 1, Turkey - 1, Netherlands - 1, UK - 1 and Hungary - 1).

In response to previously submitted requests, 848 certificates were received (397 from Croatia, 261 from B&H, 94 from Montenegro, 31 from Macedonia, 54 from Slovenia, one from Slovakia, 2 from Czech Republic, 1 from Bulgaria and 7 from Austria).

333 requests were received from signatory countries (37 from Croatia, 75 from B&H, 45 from Montenegro, 134 from Slovenia, 2 from Slovakia, 23 from Hungary, 1 from Italy, 3 from Bulgaria and 13 from Austria).

In response to the requests received, 567 certificates of insurance periods in the Republic of Serbia were sent out (67 to Croatia, 119 to B&H, 86 to Montenegro, 249 to Slovenia, 4 to Slovakia, 15 to Hungary, 1 to Macedonia, 2 to Italy, 3 to Bulgaria and 21 to Austria).

Within the implementation of the agreement between FRY and B&H on social insurance enabling transfer of benefits, there were no requests submitted from B&H in the reporting period, and a total of 2 requests were submitted to B&H.

On 30 and 31 March 2017 in Belgrade, meetings were held between liaison authorities of Serbia and Bulgaria to discuss pension and disability, and unemployment insurance.

Serbia signed bilateral agreements on temporary employment of migrant workers with Belarus and B&H, while the agreement with Slovenia is under ratification procedure. Also, in 2017, the Serbian Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs and Slovakian Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs and Family, signed a Cooperation Protocol on the elimination of illegal employment and more efficient exchange of information and control of temporary employment and posting of workers temporarily employed or posted by employers, intermediary agencies or agencies for temporary employment from the territory of one state, temporarily employed or posted in a different state. In addition, in 2018, a Memorandum of Cooperation on employment was signed between the Serbian Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs and the Hungarian Ministry of National Economy, while negotiations are under way on bilateral agreements on temporary employment with Qatar, Malta and the Russian Federation.

### **2.7.3 Diaspora**

According to information from the Republic of Serbia DCPs abroad, although a comprehensive census of Serbian diaspora and Serbs in the region has never been done, it is estimated that Serbian diaspora, including Serbs in the region, today counts around 5 million people. Out of this number, close to 2 million Serbs live in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Romania, Albania and Hungary. Looking at the ratio of diaspora members to the number of residents in the country, Republic of Serbia is among the countries with very large diaspora. Such a high number of people in diaspora abroad and Serbs in the region is the result of a long history of outmigration of the Serbian population from their country for different reasons in different periods, ranging from economic, political, religious, cultural, family to even fleeing violence and persecution. Within the meaning of the Law on Diaspora and Serbs in the Region (Official Gazette RS, No. 88/09), “Serbs in the region” are Serbian individuals who live in Slovenia, Croatia, B&H, Montenegro, Macedonia, Romania, Albania and Hungary (Article 2).

## ***B3. Statistics relating to the prevention of illegal entry and stay***

### **3.1. Prevention of illegal entry into the Republic of Serbia**

According to Article 11 of the Law on Foreigners, the entry into the Republic of Serbia shall be refused to a foreigner who:

- 1) Does not have a valid travelling document or a visa, if required;
- 2) Does not have sufficient means of subsistence during his stay in the Republic of Serbia, for return to his country of origin or transit to another country, or is not in other ways provided with subsistence during his stay in the Republic of Serbia;
- 3) Is in transit, but does not meet the criteria for entry into a third country;
- 4) Is the object of a protective measure of removal or the security measure of expulsion, or if his permission to stay has been revoked, and/or other measures recognized in the domestic or international law, which include the ban on crossing the state border are effective; this ban shall apply during the period in which the respective measure, or the revocation of the permission to stay, is in force;
- 5) Does not have the certificate of inoculation or other proof of good health, if coming from areas affected by an epidemic of infectious diseases;
- 6) If it necessary for reasons related to safeguarding public order or security of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens;
- 7) Is registered as an international offender in relevant records;
- 8) There is reasonable doubt that they would take advantage of the stay for purposes other than declared.

The above reasons also provide grounds for revocation of stay to foreigners in the Republic of Serbia. In 2017, the entry into the territory of the Republic of Serbia has not been provided to a total of 6,787 foreign citizens, which represents a slight decrease in comparison with 2016 (6,899).

In 2017, among the total number of foreign citizens who were denied entry into the Republic of Serbia, the highest share were the citizens of Turkey, stateless persons and citizens of B&H. This trend was repeated compared to 2014, 2015 and 2016.

As for the reasons for denying entry into the Republic of Serbia, there is no major difference in comparison with 2015 and 2016. In 2017, the highest number of foreigners (54%) were returned because they did not have (valid) personal documents (visas/ID cards).

**Table 25:** Persons who were refused entry into the Republic of Serbia, by citizenship and reasons for refusal in 2017<sup>4</sup>

Nationality	document/visa/P D/ID	Unclear purpose of stay	Overextended stay	Insufficient funds for subsistence	Imposed measure	Threat to security	Condition for third country	Other	Total
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<sup>4</sup> BPD collects data on persons refused entry into the Republic of Serbia in the forms required by the Frontex, within the Western Balkans Risk Analysis Network, the reasons are defined in accordance with national legislation.

Turkey	58	486		3	6	9		131	693
Stateless persons	629							3	632
B&H	158	2		2	14	8		428	612
Germany	348	1			3	2		83	437
Iran	89	300			1			3	393
Bulgaria	229			37	5	13		83	367
Georgia	359							1	360
India	12	323							335
Romania	217	5		19	3			29	273
Unknown citizenship	257							1	258
Other	1,315	447		27	174	24		440	2427
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,671</b>	<b>1,564</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>6,787</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

### 3.2. Return of individuals residing illegally in the Republic of Serbia

In 2017, the number of foreigners that have been issued the measure of revocation of stay in the Republic of Serbia was 3,717. In comparison with 2016, this number has decreased. Among the persons revoked stay, the majority were from Afghanistan, as in the previous year, because of increased influx of migrants from Afghanistan and Pakistan as of 2015.

**Table 26:** The number of persons issued the measure of revocation of stay in 2016 and 2017, by citizenship

Citizenship	2016		Citizenship	2017	
	No. of persons	%		No. of	%
Afghanistan	2,404	38.6	Afghanistan	1,178	35.3
Pakistan	743	11.9	Pakistan	572	14.1
Iraq	719	11.5	Syria	182	5.0
Syria	606	9.7	Iraq	316	8.0
Iran	237	3.8	Iran	142	4.5
Turkey	151	2.5	Albania	136	4.3
Algeria	148	2.4	Algeria	135	4.2
Albania	135	2.2	Turkey	119	3.9
Morocco	132	2.1	Bulgaria	117	3.8
Bulgaria	121	1.9	Macedonia	74	2.3
Romania	81	1.3	Romania	63	2.0
Bangladesh	77	1.2	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	61	1.8
Other	677	10.9	Other	622	10.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,231</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,717</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Compared to 2016, when the protective measure of removal of foreigner from the territory of the Republic of Serbia was issued in 164 cases, in 2017, there is a decrease to 84. The majority of these persons were the citizens of Pakistan (over 18.6%), Albania (9.3%) and Afghanistan (5.81%).

**Table 27:** The number of citizens of other countries and stateless persons issued the protective measure of removal of foreigner from the territory of Republic of Serbia, by citizenship, 2017

Citizenship	Number of persons	%
Pakistan	16	18.60%
Albania	8	9.30%
Afghanistan	5	5.81%
Syria	5	5.81%
Bulgaria	3	3.49%
Iran	3	3.49%
Germany	3	3.49%
Romania	3	3.49%
Somalia	3	3.49%
Belgium	2	2.33%
B&H	2	2.33%
PR China	2	2.33%
Macedonia	2	2.33%
Palestine	2	2.33%
Croatia	2	2.33%
Algeria	1	1.16%
Austria	1	1.16%
Italy	1	1.16%
Mali	1	1.16%
Turkey	1	1.16%
Uganda	1	1.16%
Other	19	22.09%
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Justice

Looking at the age structure of the citizens of other countries and stateless persons issued the protective measure of removal of foreigner from the territory of the Republic of Serbia in 2017, the dominating group were persons between 21 and 40 years of age (55.81%). Out of the total number of persons issued the protective measure of removal in 2017, the majority were men (77 persons). The most common reasons for removal were illegal stay in the Republic of Serbia and illegal crossing of the state border.

**Table 28:** The number of citizens of other countries and stateless persons who were issued the protective measure of removal of foreigner from the territory of Republic of Serbia, by age, 2017

Age	No. of persons	%
14-20	18	20.93
21-40	48	55.81
41-60	15	17.44

Over 60	4	4.65
Unknown	1	1.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Justice

**Table 29:** The number of citizens of other countries and stateless persons who were issued the protective measure of removal of foreigner from the territory of Republic of Serbia, by reason of removal, in 2017

<b>Reason</b>	<b>No. of persons</b>	<b>%</b>
Article 84, paragraph 1, item 1) of the Law on Foreigners (illegal entry in the Republic of Serbia)	18	18.95
Article 85, paragraph 1, item 3) of the Law on Foreigners (illegal stay in RS)	24	25.26
Article 84, Paragraph 1, item 2) of the Law on Foreigners (person who has not left RS in the provided timeframe)	18	18.95
Article 65, paragraph 1, item 2) of the Law on Protection of State Border (no document in possession upon crossing the border, avoiding control)	2	2.11
Article 85, paragraph 1, item 1) of the Law on Foreigners (movement outside of area designated pursuant to Article 5 of the Law on Foreigners)	2	2.11
Article 65, paragraph 1, item 1) of the Law on Protection of State Border and Movement in the Border Area (crossing the border outside the border crossing point)	21	22.11
Article 292, paragraph 1, item 1) of the Law on Customs (transfer of goods through the border crossing when it is not open, concealing goods)	1	1.05
Article 86, paragraph 1, item 1) and item 6) of the Law on Foreigners (failure to file an application for the extension of residence permit, failure to register the change of address)	8	8.42
Article 85, paragraph 1, item 4) of the Law on Foreigners	1	1.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Justice

In 2017, 191 persons were ordered the measure of expulsion from the country due to criminal offence. Observed by age groups, the trend has not changed compared to 2016, with the highest percentage of persons issued the safety measure of expulsion from the country due to criminal offence being in the group between 18 and 30 years (43%), followed by the group between 30 and

40 years (33%). Disaggregated by sex, it can be seen that the measure was issued to 165 men and 26 women.

**Table 30:** Citizens of other states and stateless persons ordered the safety measure of expulsion from the country due to criminal offence, by age, 2017

Age	Number
18-30	82
30-40	63
40-50	32
Over 50	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>191</b>

Source: Ministry of Justice

The safety measure of expulsion from the country was ordered to 54 persons for unauthorised production and putting in circulation narcotic drugs (Article 246, paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code), and to 33 persons for theft (Article 203 of the Criminal Code), as well as for other criminal offences.

### Assisted voluntary return

Assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) was developed in the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) over 20 years ago. Over the last decade, IOM has helped more than a million migrants across the world to return to their home countries voluntarily and safely. IOM considers AVRR a crucial element of a comprehensive approach to migration management, bringing together different parts of the migration management system, such as efficient border management, effective processing of asylum applications and fast and dignified return and reintegration for those not qualified or not seeking international protection. In cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Serbia, IOM Office in Belgrade provided assistance with voluntary return of 234 migrants, who returned from the Republic of Serbia to their countries of origin during 2017. Out of the total number of voluntary returns, there were two unaccompanied minors, one from Afghanistan and one from Iran. The majority of returnees were returned from reception centres in Šid (52), Preševo (44), Obrenovac (36), asylum centre in Krnjača (20), etc.

IOM has provided information related to return, medical screening, transport to the country of origin, and reception and assistance upon return. AVRR staff interviewed each migrant, cooperated with embassies to obtain the necessary documentation using the global network of IOM offices to organise safe return of migrants to their final destinations.

**Table 31:** Number of voluntary returns to the countries of origin in 2017

Country of origin	Men	Women	Children	Singles	Families	Total
Iraq	56	25	19	33	11	81
Pakistan	58			58		58
Afghanistan	14	9	4 (*1)	11	2	23
Iran	18	2	*1	18		20
Algeria	16			15		16
Mongolia	4	3	2		2	7

Cuba	3	2		5		5
Ghana	3	2		5		5
Azerbaijan	3	1	2		1	4
Turkey	2			2		2
Vietnam	2			2		2
India	2			2		2
Somalia	2			2		2
Tunisia	2			2		2
Lebanon	1			1		1
Egypt	1			1		1
Somalia	1			1		1
Sri Lanka	1			1		1
Cameroon	1					1
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>234</b>

Source: International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

### 3.3. Trafficking in human beings

Data on victims of trafficking in human beings (THB) presented in this section come from two sources – the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia and the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection (CHTVP), which is a state institution authorised to identify victims of THB. The data supplied by the Ministry of Internal Affairs were provided based on the number of criminal charges brought against perpetrators of THB offences. The data from CHTVP were provided based on the identification procedure, which is based on the violation of human rights of the victim in a THB situation, even though it does not necessarily result in criminal proceedings for THB and a sentence for the perpetrator. This is the reason why the number of identified victims of THB in Serbia exceeds the data obtained from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

According to the data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, based on the number of criminal charges brought against perpetrators for the criminal offence of THB during 2016, there were 31 victims of THB in 2016 and 20 in 2017. All covered victims of THB in 2017 were citizens of the Republic of Serbia.

**Table 32:** Victims of THB by citizenship, 2016 and 2017

Citizenship	Number of victims	
	2016	2017
Republic of Serbia	31	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>20</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

**Table 33:** Victims of THB by sex and age, 2016 and 2017

Age	2016		2017	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Under 14	-	-	-	7
14–18 years of age	-	5	-	6

Over 18	3	23	-	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

According to data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 2017 the most frequent form of exploitation was begging, to which only women were exposed (9).

**Table 34:** Victims of THB by type of exploitation and sex, 2016 and 2017

Type of exploitation	2016		2017	
	men	women	men	women
Sexual exploitation	-	26	-	6
Labour exploitation	3	-	-	-
Exploitation for perpetrating criminal offences	-	2	-	3
Exploitation for begging	-	-	-	9
Forced marriage	-	-	-	1
No exploitation	-	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

The identification of THB victims is organised as a professional procedure within CHTVP, implemented in accordance with the standards and rules of social work under the social protection system. Since 2015, CHTVP, in order to harmonise with EUROSTAT, introduced reporting on victims only within the group “identified THB victim” (no longer making a difference between potential and exploited victims, because ultimately, they are recorded as THB victims)

In 2017, 43 THB victims were formally identified, out of which 21 minor and 22 adult victims. Among the minor victims, girls were exploited in over 95% of the cases (there was only one boy). Women were exploited considerably more than men, accounting for 91% of the total number of victims. In 2017, the majority were victims of sexual exploitation, followed by multiple exploitation.

**Table 35:** Formally identified THB victims by type of exploitation, age and sex, 2017

Type of exploitation	Under 18		Over 18		TOTAL
	W	M	W	M	
Sexual exploitation	12		9		<b>21</b>
Multiple exploitation	3		7		<b>10</b>
Forced begging	2	1		1	<b>4</b>
Labour exploitation			2	2	<b>4</b>
Forced marriage	3				<b>3</b>
Forced criminal activities			1		<b>1</b>
SUBTOTAL	20	1	19	3	<b>43</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>22</b>		

Source: Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection

Serbia is the country of origin and country of exploitation of THB victims. In 2017 also, identified THB victims were mostly citizens of the Republic of Serbia accounting for 93% of the total number of identified victims.

The number of Serbian citizens exploited abroad increased to 35% of the total number of victims, citizens of the Republic of Serbia (transnational THB). Serbian citizens were exploited in Slovenia (female victims of sexual and labour exploitation), France, Austria, Sweden, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Denmark and Belgium, while one victim was exploited in 2 countries (France and Italy). Foreign citizens (Afghanistan, Macedonia and Montenegro) were exploited in their countries, and identified in the Republic of Serbia as THB victims (included in data on national THB). Under transnational THB, multiple exploitation, sexual and labour exploitation are almost equally reported, with adults accounting for 86% of the total number of transnational THB victims.

In 2017, a total of 14 reports were received of presumed THB among migrants. In all 14 cases identification was initiated. By end of 2017, 1 THB victim was identified, a boy, victim of multiple sexual exploitation. In 3 cases, it was concluded that the person was not a victim of THB, while in 10 cases identification is still ongoing.

**Table 36:** Structure of identified THB victims by country of exploitation and age, 2017<sup>5</sup>

Country	Minors	Adults	Total
Serbia	18	8	26
Slovenia		3	3
France		5	5
Austria		1	1
Montenegro		1	1
Sweden		1	1
Italy		1	1
B&H		1	1
Germany		1	1
Denmark	1		1
Afghanistan	1		1
Macedonia		1	1
Belgium	1		1

Source: CHTVP

In 2017, police officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs brought criminal charges against 20 persons (15 men and 5 women) for the criminal offence of THB under Article 388 of the Criminal Code. All 20 persons were citizens of the Republic of Serbia.

In 2017, first instance courts in the Republic of Serbia pronounced a total of 54 judgements for the criminal offence of THB under Article 388 of the Criminal Code, out of which 41 final convictions and 6 acquittals.

**Table 37:** Number of judgements against perpetrators of THB pronounced in 2016 and 2017, by type of judgement

<sup>5</sup> The numbers in the table do not show the number of natural persons, considering that some victims were exploited in multiple countries. One RS victim was exploited in two countries (France and Italy).

Type of judgement	2016	2017
Sentencing – final	21	41
Sentencing – non-final	5	7
Final acquitting	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>54</b>

Source: Ministry of Justice

Looking at the age structure, the majority of persons convicted of the criminal offence of THB were in the 30-40 years age contingent.

**Table 38:** Number of persons convicted for criminal offence of THB, by age, 2017

Age	Number of persons
18-30	17
30-40	18
40-50	10
Over 50	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

Source: Ministry of Justice

## ***B4. Statistics on forced migration and international protection***

### **4.1. Asylum seekers**

In 2017, there were 6,195 expressed intents to seek asylum in the Republic of Serbia, by 5,136 men (2,940 adults and 2,196 minors) and 1,059 women (628 adults and 431 minors). The majority of asylum seekers came from Afghanistan (40.1%), Iraq (19%), and Pakistan (17.6%), all due to increased influx of migrants coming from the Middle East. The number of asylum seekers reduced drastically compared to 2016, when it was 12,811.

**Table 39:** Persons that expressed intent to seek asylum in the Republic of Serbia in 2017, by citizenship

Citizenship	Number	%
Afghanistan	2,483	40.18
Iraq	1,177	19.0
Pakistan	1,088	17.66
Iran	488	7.9
Syria	369	6.0
Other	590	9.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,195</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Out of the total number of persons expressing intent to seek asylum in the Republic of Serbia in 2017, 2,627 were minors, with 2,196 boys and 431 girls. Out of the total number of minors expressing intent to seek asylum in the Republic of Serbia, there were 156 unaccompanied minors (149 boys and 7 girls).

In 5.832 (94%) cases, intent to seek asylum was expressed in Regional Police Directorates.

**Table 40:** Expressed intent to seek asylum by place, 2017

Place of expression of intent to seek asylum	Number
Reception centre for foreigners	26
Regional police directorates	5,832
Reception Centre Preševo	156
Border crossing (line)	77
Asylum Office	17
Nikola Tesla Airport	87
PCI	/
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,195</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Out of the total number of 6,195 expressed intents to seek asylum, only 235 persons, or 3.8% of the total number submitted an asylum application. Out of the total number of asylum applications submitted, around 40% were citizens of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

**Table 41:** Number of submitted asylum applications by citizenship, 2017

Citizenship	Number	%
Pakistan	49	20.6
Afghanistan	48	20.4
Iraq	30	12.8
Cuba	30	12.8
Syria	16	6,8
Other	62	26.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

#### 4.2. First instance decisions on asylum applications

The statistics on asylum procedure show that proceedings are suspended for the majority of asylum seekers, which is the result of the fact that the majority of persons continue migrating on, not waiting for the first instance decision on their asylum application.

After the interview, the Asylum Office makes the decision on the asylum application, either approving the application for asylum and recognizing the foreigner's right to refuge or subsidiary protection or making a decision to reject the application for asylum upon determining that the application is unfounded or there are reasons to deny the right to asylum. In 2017, the Asylum Office made 6 decisions approving asylum applications (for 14 persons), 42 decisions rejecting asylum applications (for 53 persons) and 112 conclusions suspending the procedure (for 159 persons) because the asylum seekers left the Asylum Centre after submitting the application. In 2017, there were 9 decisions refusing asylum applications (for 11 persons).

The Asylum Office granted refuge to 3 persons (3 men), including 1 citizen of Afghanistan, 1 citizen of Burundi and 1 citizen of Syria. Also, the Asylum Office granted subsidiary protection to 11 persons (2 men and 4 women and 5 minors), including 9 citizens of Libyan Jamahiriya, 1 citizen of Nigeria and 1 citizen of Ukraine. There were no unaccompanied minors granted asylum in the Republic of Serbia.

**Table 42:** First instance decisions on asylum applications, by type of decision in 2016 and 2017

<b>Decisions</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Rejected applications	49 for 64 persons	42 for 53 persons
Refused applications	16 for 49 persons	9 for 11 persons
Approved applications	26 for 40 persons	6 for 14 persons
Suspended proceedings	267 for 491 persons	112 for 159 persons
Conclusion on rejecting the appeal	4 for 4 persons	1 for 1 person
Other	146 for 371 persons	55 for 115 persons
<b>Total</b>	<b>508 for 1019 persons</b>	<b>225 for 353 persons</b>

Source: Ministry of the Interior

### **4.3. Second instance decisions on appeals lodged against decisions on asylum applications**

The Asylum Commission makes second instance decisions on appeals against the decisions of the Asylum Office, and it is consisted of the Chair and eight members appointed by the Government for a period of four years. The Asylum Commission is independent and decides by majority vote of the total number of members. The appeal is lodged within 15 days of the submission of the first instance decision to the asylum seeker or his/her proxy and has suspensive effect.

The mandate of the last Asylum Commission expired on 16 September 2016, and between then and 23 March 2017 there was no second-instance authority. In the period between 23 March and 23 July 2017, the Asylum Commission undertook 57 appeals submitted before the election of new members. Out of the total number of appeals, 29 were approved and the cases were returned to the first-instance authority for retrial, while 28 appeals were refused. In 2017, the Commission did not have corrective influence on the work of the Asylum Office, nor did it make meritory decisions on asylum applications.

### **4.4. Decisions based on administrative disputes**

There was one person whose appeal was rejected in administrative disputes or which ended in suspended procedure in 2017, and this was a man from Iraq. There were 29 persons in 2017 whose appeals to the second instance decisions on asylum application were rejected by the Administrative Court as unfounded or the administrative decision was overturned, and the case returned to competent authority for retrial (26 men and 3 women). These persons were the citizens of Pakistan (6), Russian Federation (5), Cuba (5), Iraq (4), Syria (2), Iran (2), Macedonia (2), Ghana (1), Afghanistan (1) and Algeria (1).

### **4.5. Returnees under Readmission Agreements**

According to the records of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, there were 3,458 readmission requests received in 2017, out of which 2,725 requests were approved, and in this period 3,933 Republic of Serbia citizens returned.

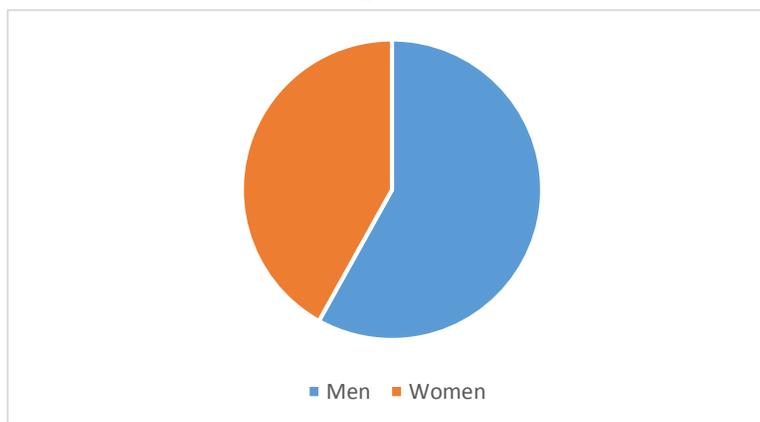
Out of the total number of received requests for readmission in 2017, 67.6% of applications were submitted by Germany. In terms of the sex structure, 58% were men. In terms of age structure, there were 59% of adults and 41% of minors.

**Table 43:** Readmission requests by country, sex and age of returnees in 2017

Requesting country	Men		Women		Total
	Minor	Adult	Minor	Adult	
Germany	564	685	540	549	2,338
Netherlands	39	61	32	36	168
Austria	21	115	10	20	166
Belgium	13	68	11	38	130
Croatia	19	53	16	28	116
France	12	54	11	18	95
Sweden	19	41	10	25	95
Switzerland	16	34	12	24	86
B&H	14	23	18	14	69
Montenegro	/	31	/	1	32
Hungary	4	15	5	3	27
Denmark	8	9	2	3	22
Norway	1	12	2	3	18
UK	/	16	/	/	16
Luxembourg	3	5	5	1	14
Romania	1	11	/	1	13
Italy	/	7	1	4	12
Slovakia	/	9	/	2	11
Bulgaria	/	10	/	/	10
Spain	/	7	/	1	8
Greece	/	4	/	/	4
Macedonia	/	3	/	/	3
Slovenia	/	2	1	/	3
Finland	/	1	/	/	1
Canada	/	1	/	/	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>3,458</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

**Chart 2:** Readmission requests by sex of returnee, 2017



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Out of the total number of approved readmission requests (2,725) in 2017, the highest number of requests approved were from Germany (67%). Among the returnees whose requests for readmission were approved, there were 57% men and 43% women. Out of the total number of approved requests, the majority were for adults (59%). Among the 1,128 minors who were approved requests, there were 583 boys and 545 girls

**Table 44:** Approvals of requests to return citizens of the Republic of Serbia under Readmission Agreements in 2017

Requesting country	Men		Women		Total
	Minor	Adult	Minor	Adult	
Germany	441	512	433	436	1.822
Austria	21	109	10	20	160
Netherlands	29	56	24	33	142
Croatia	19	35	16	25	95
Sweden	18	40	10	25	93
Belgium	10	46	8	21	85
B&H	13	22	16	13	64
France	10	32	11	10	63
Switzerland	10	25	9	18	62
Montenegro	/	27	/	1	28
Hungary	3	14	3	3	23
Denmark	8	8	2	3	21
Norway	1	7	2	1	11
Slovakia	/	9	/	2	11
Bulgaria	/	10	/	/	10
UK	/	9	/	/	9
Spain	/	7	/	1	8
Italy	/	3	1	2	6
Greece	/	3	/	/	3
Luxembourg	/	2	/	1	3
Romania	/	2	/	/	2
Slovenia	/	2	/	/	2
Finland	/	1	/	/	1
Macedonia	/	1	/	/	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>2,725</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Out of the total number of returnees under Readmission Agreements that returned in 2017 to the Republic of Serbia (3,933), as many as 94% returned to the Republic of Serbia via the BPS Belgrade border crossing (Nikola Tesla Airport).

**Table 45:** Number of returnees under Readmission Agreements in 2017, by border crossing registration

<b>Regional centre (border police station)</b>	<b>Number of citizens of the Republic of Serbia</b>
BPS Belgrade	3,687
Towards B&H	65
Towards Croatia	64
BPS Niš	58
Towards Hungary	28
Towards Montenegro	25
Towards Bulgaria	5
Towards Romania	1
Towards Macedonia	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,933</b>

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

During the same period, 1,891 or 699 families addressed the Readmission Office at the Nikola Tesla Airport for information and assistance with return

**Table 46:** Number of returnees registered with the Readmission Office by sex, 2017

<b>Persons/families</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
Number of persons	1,891	1,025	866
Number of families	699		

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

The highest number of returnees registered with the Readmission Office at the Nikola Tesla Airport came from Germany (93%), followed by Sweden (1.75%). It is notable that the trends recorded in 2015 and 2016 continued in 2017.

**Table 47:** Returnees registered with the Readmission Office by country they returned from, 2017

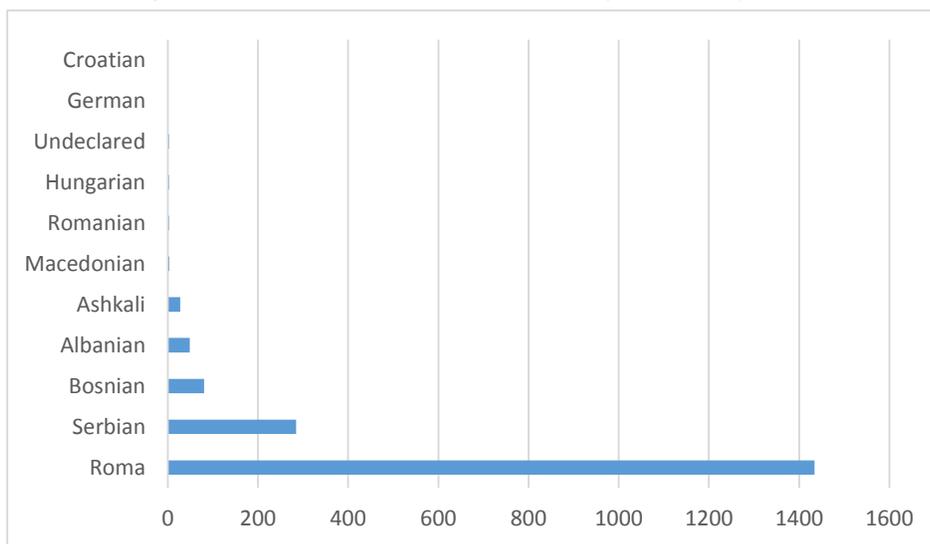
<b>Country</b>	<b>Number</b>
Germany	1,755
Sweden	33
Netherlands	24
Austria	24
France	16
Luxembourg	13

Switzerland	11
Belgium	11
Denmark	2
Spain	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,891</b>

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

In 2017, the share of Roma in the total number of returnees under Readmission Agreements registered by the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration was 76%, followed by returnees of Serbian nationality, with 15%. It can be concluded that the trend did not change in comparison with 2016.

**Chart 3:** Returnees registered with the Readmission Office by nationality, 2017



Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

**Table 48:** Returnees registered with the Readmission Office, by age, 2017

Age	Number	%
Adult	1,039	55
Minor	852	45
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

Source Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Also, records are kept on the educational profile and employment status of returnees. Out of the total number, 53.8% of returnees were unemployed. The remaining 45.8% were children and students, and if we look at the year 2016, we will see that the situation was the same.

The educational structure of returnees may be the cause of unemployment, because only 0.6% completed college or university, while 10% had no education, and 15.6% did not complete primary school. There were 19.7% of returnees with completed primary school.

**Table 49:** Returnees registered with the Readmission Office, by employment status, 2017

Employment status	Number
-------------------	--------

Child	574
Pupil	293
Student	3
Employed	1,017
Unemployed	2
Pensioner	2
<b>Other</b>	<b>1,891</b>

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

**Table 50:** Returnees registered with the Readmission Office, by education status, 2017

<b>Education status</b>	<b>Number</b>
No education	189
Incomplete primary school	295
Primary school	373
Secondary school	155
College	9
University	3
Other	867
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.891</b>

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

#### 4.5.1 Identifying and defining the set of indicators for evaluation of reintegration of returnees under Readmission Agreements

The Republic of Serbia developed mechanisms at the central and local levels to implement different types of returnee support programmes. Also, with the aim to collect data on returnees, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration developed a special questionnaire, voluntarily filled in by returnees in the Readmission Office. Based on the recommendations by experts of the European Commission Peer Review Mission organised in February 2014, covering key areas for Chapters 23 and 24, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration developed a set of indicators to assess reintegration of returnees, measuring the efficiency of measures undertaken on reintegration of returnees under Readmission Agreements. The development of indicators was necessary also for collecting data on concrete progress on maintaining the visa-free regime and preventing remigration of returnees to EU countries and preventing secondary migration. Reporting on these indicators was included for the first time in the 2015 Migration Profile.

However, even with the mentioned activities, a lack of comprehensive records on this population turned out to be one of the greatest problems for adequate planning of assistance and all future activities. This problem is primarily caused by lack of any legal obligation to register returnees, and lack of systemic monitoring of voluntary returns. A part of this category of persons eludes official statistics, and dedicated research done by some organisations and competent government institutions uncovers only parts of the problem.

**Table 51:** List of indicators for monitoring reintegration of returnees under Readmission Agreements in the Republic of Serbia, 2017

<b>INSTITUTION</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>	
<b>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</b>	Number of public calls, projects and budget funds allocated by the MESTD at the	MESTD published 1 public call at the local level related to returnees

	local level, related to returnees	
<b>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</b>	Number of returnees enrolled in appropriate grade (primary + high school) + disaggregated by age and sex	In 2017/18 school year, a total of 378 returnee students were enrolled in <b>primary and high schools</b> on the territory of the Republic of Serbia (194 girls and 184 boys).  This is aggregated data submitted by 12 school administrations from the territory of the Republic of Serbia.
<b>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</b>	The number of returnees that filled the questionnaire for placement/enrolment in appropriate grade/level	147 returnee students filled the questionnaire for placement/enrolment in appropriate grade
<b>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</b>	Number of requests for certificate equivalency and recognition of diplomas	There were 67 applications for certificate equivalency and recognition of diplomas
<b>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</b>	Number of scholarships, financial support and number of free books distributed to returnees	Out of the total number of accommodation capacities, scholarships and credits, MESTD sets aside up to 10% for university students and up to 10% for school students from vulnerable social groups. During school year 2017/2018 there were no applications for using these measures of support on the grounds of return under Readmission Agreements.  175 students received school books.
<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b>	Number of travel documents issued to returnees*	485 travel documents issued to returnees
<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b>	As general indicator: number of asylum seekers from the Republic of Serbia applying for asylum in EU countries and Schengen member states (source DCP)	8,167
<b>Office for Cooperation with Civil Society</b>	Number of projects/programmes funded	The Office for Cooperation with Civil Society reports on

	from the Republic of Serbia Budget, directly benefitting IDPs and refugees, returnees under Readmission Agreement, migrants, asylum seekers and Roma, including the number of direct beneficiaries listed in supported projects/programmes	<p>delivery of funds allocated for civil society organisations' programmatic activities, based on the data received from a questionnaire on the delivery of budget funds for associations and other organisations. Over 70% public authorities responded to the questionnaire. According to the data submitted, IDPs and refugees are direct beneficiaries in 138 programmes/projects, returnees under Readmission Agreements in 12 programmes/projects, migrants in 26 programmes/projects, asylum seekers in 12 programmes/projects, while Roma are direct beneficiaries in 498 programmes/projects.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> As the Office did not have available requested data for 2017 at the time of drafting this report, data submitted are for 2016.</p>
<b>Ombudsman</b>	Number of reported cases of human rights violations of returnees under Readmission Agreement	No cases reported
<b>Office for Human and Minority Rights</b>	Number of Roma coordinators (their role is to be in contact with the Roma community, provide mediation and support, advice, cooperate with the NGO sector and LSG units) involved in the work of Migration Councils and/or programmes of support to returnees under Readmission Agreements	According to the Association of Roma Coordinators, in 2017 in the Republic of Serbia, a total of 43 Roma coordinators were engaged, among whom 9 on permanent contracts, and others on various other contracts.
<b>NES</b>	Number of persons that declared themselves as returnees and are registered with NES as unemployed persons	65

<b>NES</b>	Number of developed individual employment plans for persons registered with NES as unemployed persons, and declared as returnees	83
<b>NES</b>	Number of beneficiaries of active labour market measures, who declared themselves as returnees (including the type of active measure)	<p>Employment fairs - 6</p> <p>Motivational and activation training for unskilled and low-skilled persons - 6</p> <p>Informed about opportunities for career development (IPAC) – 1</p> <p>Selection – 1</p> <p>Adult functional primary education – 1</p>
<b>Ministry of Health</b>	Number of health cards issued to returnees under Readmission Agreements	Ministry of Health, that is, the Republic Health Insurance Fund does not have data on how many returnees are covered by health insurance, or how many of them accessed health cards upon return, having in mind that there are no special grounds for insurance – returnee under Readmission Agreement.
<b>Ministry of Health</b>	Returnees have chosen doctors in the healthcare system. The number of returnees monitored by each chosen doctor could be an important indicator.	The chosen doctor is chosen by the insured person, and as there is no special grounds for insurance (returnee under Readmission Agreements), it is not possible to monitor exactly how many returnees are covered by mandatory insurance and how many have chosen doctors.
<b>Ministry of Health</b>	Number of complaints lodged with the patient ombudsman by returnees related to accessing healthcare rights + average time needed to resolve these disputes	The Ministry of Health does not have data on the number of complaints lodged with the patient ombudsman (patients' advisor, insurance beneficiaries' ombudsman, health inspection) by returnees, related to accessing healthcare

		rights, considering that no regulation or any other act regulates the obligation to disaggregate such complaints.
<b>Ministry of Health</b>	Number of trained health mediators and number of returnees monitored by each health mediator (health mediators are specifically trained to work with Roma/returnees under Readmission Agreements)	/
<b>CRM</b>	Number of public calls and approved projects dedicated to returnees, including also the number of beneficiaries covered by the projects (funded by CRM) for local self-government units (also, number of participating municipalities)	In 2017, CRM published one call for municipalities where there are returnees under Readmission Agreements. In this way, a total of 16 local self-government units were supported, with 6 projects for assistance to complete or adapt housing units by purchasing construction material, benefitted by a total of 21 families; 2 projects for assistance in buying village houses with garden, benefitting a total of 2 families; and 8 projects awarding grants for purchase and distribution of goods and materials to start, develop and improve income-generating activities in the area of agriculture, crafts, services or other, benefitting a total of 49 families.
<b>CRM</b>	Number of public calls/projects dedicated to returnees (funded by CRM) for CSOs	3 public calls  In 2017, a total of 3 projects were supported related to reintegration of returnees under Readmission Agreements
<b>CRM</b>	Number of returnees registered at the Belgrade Airport (Nikola Tesla) by the Readmission Office	1,891 persons, or 699 families were registered at the Belgrade Airport

<b>CRM</b>	CRM support provided to LSGs with the aim to revise existing LAPs to include returnees	Out of the total of 156 municipalities that adopted LAPs, 104 revised and extended LAPs to include the category of returnees under Readmission Agreement
<b>CRM</b>	Number of information booklets on rights and obligations of returnees under Readmission Agreements distributed	In 2017, CRM distributed a total of 3,400 information booklets on rights and obligations of returnees under Readmission Agreements
<b>CRM</b>	Number of people placed by CRM in centres for emergency reception (in case of necessity/urgent need) + average length of stay + total number of awarded financial compensations to returnees by CRM	In 2017, a total of 23 persons stayed in the emergency reception centre  Average length of stay in the emergency reception centre was around 6 months  26 financial assistance packages were awarded in 2017 (in total 458,000 RSD)
<b>CRM</b>	Frequency of meetings of the Team (representatives of different ministries) for the implementation of the Strategy for Reintegration of Returnees. General indicator (not directly related to services available to returnees)	0
<b>CRM</b>	Number of articles (in printed media) on returnees	28 articles on returnees
<b>All relevant institutions</b>	Number of civil servants who are/will be in charge of returnees under Readmission Agreements within various ministries/government bodies	CRM – 6 civil servants in charge of returnees under Readmission Agreements  MFA – travel documents in accordance with Readmission Agreements in Serbian DCPs are issued by officers – associates for consular affairs, signed by DCP Chief or person authorised by them. Serbia has 24 DCPs abroad.  OHMR – according to job

		<p>classification in the Office for Human and Minority Rights, 1 (one) civil servant is authorised to work on affairs related to returnees under Readmission Agreements, and this is an officer providing assistance to vulnerable migrant groups</p> <p>Ministry of Health – according to the Rulebook on Internal Organisation and Job Classification in the Ministry of Health, there is no classified job post filled by a civil servant in charge only for returnees under Readmission Agreements, but the job entails monitoring the situation in the area of health insurance.</p>
<b>All relevant institutions</b>	Number of organisational units / decentralised organisational units authorised to act on affairs related to returnees under Readmission Agreements	CRM has one internal organisational unit dealing with admission, care and returnees under readmission
<b>All relevant institutions</b>	Number of returnees provided with free legal aid/advice	<p>Office for Cooperation with Civil Society does not have data on the number of returnees provided with free legal aid/advice</p> <p>OHMR – according to the Office for Human and Minority Rights, in 2017, 1,131 adult returnees were offered advisory assistance, including legal aid.</p>

\*Considering that the competent authorities of Germany, but also other EU member states, started returning asylum seekers from Serbia with EU travel documents, the presented number of issued travel documents under Readmission Agreements in diplomatic and consular posts of the Republic of Serbia should be taken with reservations in terms of the indicator of reintegration of returnees in the Republic of Serbia on these grounds.

#### **4.6. Refugees under the Law on Refugees**

In 2017, 27,802 refugees were living in the Republic of Serbia. The majority of refugees come from Croatia (68.5%). In the period between 2016 and 2017, the refugee population reduced by 1,655 persons.

**Table 52:** Refugee population in the Republic of Serbia by country of origin, 2016 and 2017

Country of origin	2016	2017
Croatia	20,256	19,038
B&H	9,161	8,764
Slovenia	1	/
Macedonia	39	/
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,457</b>	<b>27,802</b>

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Data on age structure indicate a substantial share of elderly age cohorts, with 58.81% of persons over 65 years of age.

**Table 53:** Refugee population in the Republic of Serbia by age, 2017

Age	%
0-14	0.12
15-29	6.43
30-39	9.52
40-49	8.59
50-64	16.53
65+	58.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

According to CRM data, out of the total number of refugees in 2017, the majority of refugees were living in the Belgrade District (25.4%), followed by South Bačka District (16.9%) and Srem District (15%). In comparison with 2016, the situation regarding distribution by districts has not changed at all.

**Table 54:** Number of refugees by districts in the Republic of Serbia, 2017

District	Number of refugees
North Bačka	840
Central Banat	803
North Banat	299
South Banat	1,159
West Bačka	2,022
South Bačka	4,695
Srem	4,180
Mačva	2,110
Kolubara	323
Podunavlje	361
Braničevo	418
Šumadija	521
Pomoravlje	430

Bor	164
Zaječar	199
Zlatibor	419
Moravica	358
Raška	364
Rasina	226
Nišava	360
Toplica	93
Pirot	71
Jablanica	131
Pčinja	83
Kosovo	12
Kosovska Mitrovica	85
Belgrade	7,075
<b>Total Republic of Serbia</b>	<b>27,802</b>

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

#### 4.7. Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

In 2017, 201,047 persons displaced from AP Kosovo and Metohija lived in the Republic of Serbia. 58,137 IDPs lived on the territory of Belgrade. As for the rest of the Republic of Serbia, the highest share of IDPs lived in Raška, Šumadija, Toplica, Nišava, Pčinja and Podunavlje districts. In terms of ethnic structure, the most numerous among IDPs were Serbs, followed by Roma, while the Gorani, Bosniacs/Muslims, Montenegrins and others accounted for the minority of the population.

**Table 55:** The number of IDPs by districts in the Republic of Serbia, 2017

District	Number of refugees
North Bačka	2,849
Central Banat	1,025
North Banat	230
South Banat	1,953
West Bačka	666
South Bačka	5,211
Srem	1,175
Mačva	989
Kolubara	875
Podunavlje	11,096
Braničevo	2,295
Šumadija	15,589
Pomoravlje	8,201
Bor	1,287

Zaječar	1,659
Zlatibor	1,764
Moravica	3,943
Raška	30,438
Rasina	9,330
Nišava	11,799
Toplica	12,093
Pirot	587
Jablanica	6,564
Pčinja	11,292
Belgrade	58,137
<b>Republic of Serbia total</b>	<b>201,047</b>

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

In 2017, 498 IDPs returned to AP Kosovo and Metohija (423 persons with support, 75 persons spontaneously, while nobody returned in an organised manner).

The age structure of returnees shows that the majority of those that returned were children between 0 and 14 years of age, probably with parents (30.5%).

**Table 56:** IDPs returned to AP Kosovo and Metohija according to municipality of return, sex and age in 2017

Municipality of return	Sex	Subtotal	Age structure				
			0–14	15–29	30–49	50–64	65+
Municipality Đakovica	Women	<b>16</b>	6	5	2	2	1
	Men	<b>15</b>	4	5	3		3
Municipality Gnjilane	Women	<b>12</b>	5	4	3		
	Men	<b>9</b>	4	3	2		
Municipality Priština	Women	<b>35</b>	11	10	8	3	3
	Men	<b>34</b>	12	8	11	3	
Municipality Istok	Women	<b>16</b>	1	2	6	2	5
	Men	<b>32</b>	1	8	5	12	6
Municipality Kosovska Kamenica	Women	<b>4</b>	2	1	1		
	Men	<b>2</b>		2			
Municipality Klina	Women	<b>0</b>					
	Men	<b>2</b>					2
Municipality Vitina	Women	<b>2</b>		1			1
	Men	<b>2</b>			2		
Municipality Kosovo Polje	Women	<b>5</b>	2	1	1		1
	Men	<b>5</b>	3		2		
Municipality Lipljan	Women	<b>6</b>	3	1	1		1
	Men	<b>4</b>	2	1	1		
Municipality Kosovska Mitrovica	Women	<b>22</b>	9	2	7	1	3
	Men	<b>14</b>	3	4	4	1	2

Municipality Novo Brdo	Women	<b>5</b>	1	1	2	1	
	Men	<b>6</b>	1	2	2	1	
Municipality Obilić	Women	<b>26</b>	6	9	5	5	1
	Men	<b>42</b>	11	15	11	3	2
Municipality Orahovac	Women	<b>6</b>	1	4	1		
	Men	<b>3</b>	1	1	1		
Municipality Peć	Women	<b>31</b>	17	6	6	1	1
	Men	<b>23</b>	5	10	5	3	
Municipality Prizren	Women	<b>6</b>	1		1	1	3
	Men	<b>3</b>	1			1	1
Municipality Štrpce	Women	<b>13</b>	2	3	3	3	2
	Men	<b>13</b>	2	2	5	2	2
Municipality Uroševac	Women	<b>41</b>	1	14	8	2	2
	Men	<b>43</b>	2	9	1	3	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>498</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>43</b>

Source: Office for Kosovo and Metohija

**Table 57:** IDPs that returned to AP Kosovo and Metohija in 2017 – by municipality and manner of return

Municipality of return	Number	Manner of return			
	Total	Supported	Organised	Spontaneous	Supported
Municipality Đakovica	<b>31</b>	28	/	3	/
Municipality Gnjilane	<b>21</b>	18	/	3	/
Municipality Priština	<b>69</b>	65	/	4	/
Municipality Istok	<b>48</b>	33	/	15	/
Municipality Kosovska Kamenica	<b>6</b>		/	6	/
Municipality Klina	<b>2</b>		/	2	/
Municipality Vitina	<b>4</b>	1	/	3	/
Municipality Kosovo Polje	<b>10</b>	10	/		/
Municipality Lipljan	<b>10</b>	7	/	3	/
Municipality Kosovska Mitrovica	<b>36</b>	36	/		/
Municipality Novo Brdo	<b>11</b>		/	11	/
Municipality Obilić	<b>68</b>	68	/		/
Municipality Orahovac	<b>9</b>		/	9	/
Municipality Peć	<b>54</b>	54	/		/
Municipality Prizren	<b>9</b>	7	/	2	/
Municipality Štrpce	<b>26</b>	2	/	2	/

Municipality Uroševac	84	7	/	12	/
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>/</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>/</b>

Source: Office for Kosovo and Metohija

## B5. Statistics on internal migration

According to the estimate of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS), the total population size in the Republic of Serbia has been continuously decreasing during the last 17 years. Population size in 2017 in the Republic of Serbia, estimated on 1 January 2017, was 7,040,272 people.

**Table 58:** Estimated population size in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2001-2017, by type of settlement and sex

	Total population			Urban population			Rural population		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
2001	7,503,433	3,648,533	3,854,900	4,215,583	2,016,029	2,199,554	3,287,850	1,632,504	1,655,346
2002	7,500,031	3,647,190	3,852,841	4,233,303	2,023,817	2,209,486	3,266,728	1,623,373	1,643,355
2003	7,480,591	3,637,789	3,842,802	4,239,980	2,026,423	2,213,557	3,240,611	1,611,366	1,629,245
2004	7,463,157	3,629,194	3,833,963	4,249,544	2,030,310	2,219,234	3,213,613	1,598,884	1,614,729
2005	7,440,769	3,618,040	3,822,729	4,257,878	2,033,178	2,224,700	3,182,891	1,584,862	1,598,029
2006	7,411,569	3,603,698	3,807,871	4,263,386	2,034,616	2,228,770	3,148,183	1,569,082	1,579,101
2007	7,381,579	3,588,957	3,792,622	4,270,400	2,037,012	2,233,388	3,111,179	1,551,945	1,559,234
2008	7,350,222	3,573,814	3,776,408	4,275,245	2,038,642	2,236,603	3,074,977	1,535,172	1,539,805
2009	7,320,807	3,560,048	3,760,759	4,279,035	2,039,934	2,239,101	3,041,772	1,520,114	1,521,658
2010	7,291,436	3,546,374	3,745,062	4,283,985	2,041,975	2,242,010	3,007,451	1,504,399	1,503,052
2011	7,258,753	3,530,924	3,727,829	4,286,114	2,042,566	2,243,548	2,972,639	1,488,358	1,484,281
2012	7,199,077	3,505,713	3,693,364	4,273,980	2,039,174	2,234,806	2,925,097	1,466,539	1,458,558
2013	7,166,552	3,489,683	3,676,869	4,272,061	2,037,554	2,234,507	2,894,491	1,452,129	1,442,362
2014	7,131,787	3,472,746	3,659,041	4,270,367	2,035,772	2,234,595	2,861,420	1,436,974	1,424,446
2015	7,095,383	3,455,335	3,640,048	4,267,079	2,033,446	2,233,633	2,828,304	1,421,889	1,406,415
2016	7,076,372	3,446,258	3,630,114	4,264,826	2,031,983	2,232,843	2,811,546	1,414,275	1,397,271
2017*	7,040,272	3,429,027	3,611,245	4,259,678	2,029,094	2,230,584	2,780,594	1,399,933	1,380,661

Source: SORS \*Estimated population size on 1 January 2017

Data on internal migration are collected for all persons that take permanent residence within the borders of the Republic of Serbia (without data for AP Kosovo and Metohija) and then apply for registration or deregistration of residence to the Ministry of Internal Affairs responsible for keeping records on residence. Data in tables no. 61, 62, 63 and 64 are for 2016.

**Table 59:** Comparative overview of population that migrated in and out of the Republic of Serbia, by sex, 2016

	2016		
	Total	Male	Female

<b>Serbia-North</b> (Belgrade region and Vojvodina region)	<b>In-migration</b>	78,931	35,613	43,318
	<b>Outmigration</b>	72,585	32,965	39,620
<b>Serbia-South</b> (Šumadija and West Serbia regions and South and East Serbia regions)	<b>In-migration</b>	46,751	19,428	27,323
	<b>Outmigration</b>	53,097	22,076	31,021

Source: SORS

**Table 60:** Migrant population by type of settlement and sex, 2016 (internal migration)

Area	Type of settlement	In-migration %		Outmigration %	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Serbia-North</b>	Urban	80	78	78	74
	Other	20	22	22	26
<b>Serbia-South</b>	Urban	52	49	51	46
	Other	48	51	49	54
<b>Republic of Serbia</b>	Urban	70	67	67	62
	Other	30	33	33	38

Source: SORS

**Table 61:** Migrant population by sex, 2016 (internal migration)

Area	In-migration %		Outmigration %	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Serbia-North</b>	45	55	45	55
	42	58	42	58
<b>Serbia-South</b>	44	56	44	56

Source: SORS

**Table 62:** Migrant population by age groups in the Republic of Serbia, 2016 (internal migration)

Age	Republic of Serbia	Serbia-North	Serbia-South
	<b>In-migration</b>		
<b>0-14</b>	18,346	11,936	6,410
<b>15-64</b>	96,296	60,371	35,925
<b>65 and over</b>	11,040	6,624	4,416
	<b>Outmigration</b>		
<b>0-14</b>	18,346	11,996	6,350
<b>15-64</b>	96,296	54,140	42,156
<b>65 and over</b>	11,040	6,449	4,591

Source: SORS

## ***B6. CONCLUSION***

4.7.1. With regards to immigration, the Republic of Serbia is still not a destination country. Countries from which the majority of immigrants came in 2017 were PR China, the Russian Federation and Macedonia. The situation did not change in comparison with 2015 and 2016.

5. After the single Readmission Agreement with the EU entered into force on 1 January 2008, many citizens of the Republic of Serbia have been returned from EU countries. Among these persons there are those who lost the legal grounds for residence on the territory of one of EU member states, but still these are predominantly persons that applied for asylum on the territory of EU member states after the visa liberalisation. Out of the total number of received requests for readmission, the majority were from Germany, Netherlands, Austria and Belgium. The majority of returnees registered with the Readmission Office at the Nikola Tesla Airport came from Germany and Sweden, so this situation did not change in comparison with 2016, either.

5.1.1. The highest number of intents to seek asylum were expressed in regional police directorates (94%). Out of the total number of expressed intents, only 3.8% actually applied for asylum.

5.1.2. The issue of refugees and IDPs is still ongoing in the Republic of Serbia. The number of refugees decreased by 1,655 in comparison with 2016, while the number of IDPs decreased by 2,093. Having in mind that sustainable return is not possible, internal displacement remains a great challenge for the Republic of Serbia. The decrease in the number of refugees is not the result of return of these persons to the countries of previous residence, but the process of their integration in the Republic of Serbia.

5.1.3. According to the estimates made by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, the total population size in the Republic of Serbia has been reducing continuously over the past 17 years. This is partially caused by low, or negative growth rates, which is a result of low natality (among the lowest in European countries) and high mortality, depopulation of rural areas, and outmigration of the population abroad (economic migration, brain drain, etc.) for temporary work/stay, which is increasingly permanent, and which is always there to a lesser or greater intensity.

5.1.4. Regarding external migration, the Republic of Serbia is traditionally an area of emigration. Today it records a clear negative migration balance. Childbearing crisis and its effects related to population ageing and open depopulation will continue and become more profound in the time to come.

### ***C1. Republic of Serbia Migration Governance Profile***

In 2016, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), in cooperation with the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), initiated and developed the Migration Governance Index (MGI), with the aim to identify good practices and gaps in the area of migration and to help countries improve their institutional capacities and develop new policies and programmes. IOM continued with the second phase of the MGI and produced a Profile of the Republic of Serbia. This report presents IOM indicators applied in the development of profiles in 15 countries.

In October 2017, the Profile of the Republic of Serbia was developed, describing well-developed areas and areas of migration governance structures that could be further developed, in accordance with an

assessment based on six domains of the MGI. They are related to migrant rights, whole-of-government approach, partnership, migrant social and economic well-being, mobility dimension of crisis and safe and orderly migration.

**The part related to adherence to international standards and fulfilment of migrants' rights** shows areas that are well-developed and those that have potential for further development. Well-developed areas – all foreigners, including migrant workers, with permanent or temporary residence in Serbia have the right to healthcare, pursuant to Article 3 of the Law on Healthcare. Health services, as well as primary and secondary education are available free of charge. Undocumented migrants are eligible for emergency medical assistance.

The valid legislation in Serbia enables non-nationals, who have been granted temporary or permanent residence in Serbia as well as individuals who have been granted asylum to apply for work permits.

People residing in Serbia legally have the right to apply for permanent residence if they fulfil some of the following criteria: legal stay of at least five years in Serbia; or at least three years married to a citizen of the Republic of Serbia, or a foreigner with permanent residence; or is of Serbian descent (has family roots in Serbia); or a minor (under 18 years of age) staying temporarily in Serbia with at least one parent who is a Serbian national or foreigner with permanent residence permit (with full consent of the other parent).

All foreigners who have permanent residence permits may apply for citizenship in the Republic of Serbia, under specific conditions, including, but not limited to: being a resident for at least three years continuously, with permanent address registered in Serbia; being a resident for at least three years married to a citizen of the Republic of Serbia and permanent residence permit in Serbia; having been released from foreign citizenship or submitting evidence that they will be released if they are given citizenship in the Republic of Serbia; and submitting a written statement by the resident that they consider the Republic of Serbia their country of nationality. Family reunification is available to non-nationals with permanent or temporary resident status or to those who have been granted asylum in the country.

Areas with potential for further development – while Serbia has numerous provisions on the fulfilment of migrants' rights, according to the Law on Public Servants (Article 45), only Serbian nationals are permitted to work as civil servants in the public sector. However, foreign citizens are allowed to work in state-owned or public enterprises. Currently, only Serbian citizens can vote and stand for elections, both at the local and at the central levels.

Areas that are well-developed related to formulating evidence-based policies and whole-of-government approach – the objectives and priorities of the overall migration policy in Serbia are managed by the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (CRM). In addition to CRM, there are several other ministries involved in migration management, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs.

At the central level, coordination across government institutions is ensured through several inter-ministerial bodies. The Coordination Body for Migration Monitoring and Management is responsible for providing guidance on the operations of ministries and special organizations, defining goals and priorities of the migration policy, as well as monitoring and managing migration at the national level. The Council for the Reintegration of Returnees proposes policies, measures and activities for the admission, care and integration of returnees under readmission agreements. Other relevant coordination mechanisms include

the Commission for Coordination of the Permanent Integration Process of Refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, the ad hoc Working group on Mixed Migration Flows, and the Technical Working Group for Development of the Migration Profile.

At the local level, each municipality in the Republic of Serbia has a Migration Council, as well as a Local Commissioner for Refugees and Migration, where migrants can go for help and referral to competent authorities or NGOs providing different forms of assistance. The Migration Council also performs tasks related to: monitoring and reporting to the CRM on the territory of the Autonomous Province or local self-government. Local policy planning is ensured through local action plans (LAPs), which are strategic and action documents that determine the needs of refugees, IDPs, returnees, migrants without legal status and asylum seekers, and define measures, activities and funds to improve their situation.

The migration strategic framework consists of several strategies, including the Migration Management Strategy, Strategy for Combating Illegal Migration in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2009-2014, Strategy for the Reintegration of Returnees under Readmission Agreements, Integrated Border Management Strategy, Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, National Strategy for Resolving the Issues of Refugees and IDPs 2015-2020, Strategy on Preserving and Strengthening Relations with the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region and Strategy for Sustainable Survival and Return to Kosovo and Metohija.

Migration is regulated by the Law on Migration Management. Other relevant laws, such as the Law on Foreigners (2008), Law on Asylum (2007) and Law on Refugees (2002) regulate specific rights and assistance in terms of accessing accommodation, healthcare, education and employment. Since 2010, the CRM has been collecting data on migration and publishing it annually in the Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia.

The part related to engaging with partners to address migration and related issues, also contains areas that are well-developed. The Republic of Serbia has established grounds for efficient migration management by signing various international conventions related to the protection of migrant rights. Pursuant to the Stabilisation and Accession Agreement signed by the Republic of Serbia and European Union in 2008, the Republic of Serbia is working on harmonising its national legislation with the EU Acquis, in order to facilitate the implementation of international commitments and standards.

The Republic of Serbia is actively involved in international and regional cooperation. This country is a member of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), the Budapest Process, the Prague Process, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI). Specific migration related issues between the Republic of Serbia and other countries are regulated through bilateral agreements, such as the issues related to readmission with each EU member state.

Serbian authorities include civil society organisations (CSOs) in activities related to the development of legislation and coordination. Serbian Government established the Office for Cooperation with the Civil Society in 2011 to facilitate CSO participation in the legislative process together with the government authorities. Also, the Government, through the Chamber of Commerce, also engages the private sector in the implementation of migration policy.

In the part related to advancing the socio-economic well-being of migrants and the society, well-developed areas are those related to foreign citizens being able to enrol in education programmes under the same criteria as nationals (according to Article 97 of the Law on Higher Education). Also, according

to Serbian Law on the Employment of Foreigners (2014), a foreign student can work during their studies for a maximum of 20 hours per week or 80 hours per month.

Serbia is a member of the ENIC-NARIC network (ENIC – European Network of Information Centres; NARIC – National Academic Recognition Information Centres) and its procedures are in line with international best practices recognised by these bodies. Serbian Ministry of Education (Sector for Recognition and Validation of Education Certificates) is the authority competent responsible for validating elementary and high school certificates and university diplomas.

Serbia has mechanisms established for the protection of foreigners working in the country and its citizens working abroad. The Republic of Serbia has signed the UN Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees in 2001 and ratified relevant conventions of the Council of Europe and International Labour Organisation related to migration. Pursuant to Article 5 of the Law on Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in charge of protecting the interests of the Republic of Serbia, its citizens and legal entities abroad.

Areas with potential for further development – the Republic of Serbia is primarily a country of transit and migrant-sending, and there is no defined programme for managing labour migration. There are no specific visa schemes in place for managing labour immigration to meet demand for skills. The Law on Foreigners (2008) provides only conditions for issuing type-D visas, temporary and permanent residence permits on the grounds of the applicant's intent to work and contribute to improving the social situation in Serbia.

Remittance flows take place outside the financial system, and a series of practical recommendations need to be designed to record incoming and outgoing remittances, promote the use of financial institutions for money transfers, reduce fees and encourage competitiveness.

Well-developed areas in the part related to mobility dimensions of crises – Serbian authorities promote the protection of the rights of migrants (including refugees), as well as their safe return to Serbia upon cessation of circumstances that resulted in their displacement. The Regional Housing Programme, a joint initiative by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, is a multi-donor effort to provide durable housing solutions to the most vulnerable refugees and displaced persons following the 1991–1995 conflicts in the territory of former Yugoslavia.

In the event of disasters, authorities can use several types of communication systems to reach the population, including TV channels, national radio and SMS.

Commissariat for Refugees and Migration coordinates humanitarian assistance for all migrants. NGOs are generally directly involved in the distribution of humanitarian assistance, while international organizations are involved in their monitoring and take an active role in providing and funding humanitarian support. Humanitarian assistance is provided regardless of the migration status.

The Republic of Serbia has 69 embassies and 23 consulates abroad, and consular assistance is guaranteed to all citizens living abroad. A citizen of the Republic of Serbia is obligated to inform the relevant international mission when they move abroad.

In the second half of 2015, the number of migrants and asylum seekers in Serbia increased rapidly. In order to prepare an adequate response, the Government adopted a Response Plan, identifying competent authorities, organisations and institutions, as well as their areas of activity in the event of rapid increase in the number of migrants and asylum seekers in the country. The plan includes measures and activities to be undertaken, as well as human, financial and other resources necessary for providing urgent accommodation and unhindered access to rights. The Response Plan is updated regularly as needed.

Areas with potential for further development – Serbia does not have a strategy for dealing with environmental challenges and climate change. However, a draft strategy is being prepared with support from the EU-funded project “Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan”. In addition, Serbia’s Migration Management Strategy does not refer to migratory movements caused by the adverse effects of environmental degradation and climate change.

The National Strategy for Protection and Rescue in Emergency Situations was adopted by the Government in 2011. However, there are no specific provisions for addressing the displacement impacts of disasters. Also, Serbia does not have a contingency plan to manage large-scale population movements in times of crisis, even though such a need is recognized in the Strategy of National Security (2009).

Well-developed areas, related to ensuring that migration takes place in a safe, orderly and dignified manner – there is a dedicated body (the Ministry of Interior’s Border Police Directorate) tasked with integrated border control and security. The Border Police Directorate exercises its functions through its different departments: the Department of Borders, the Aliens Department, the Office for Asylum, the Department to Fight Cross-Border Crime and Criminal Intelligence Affairs, the Department for International Cooperation and the Duty Centre. At the local level, the Border Police controls the border at 40 border police stations (regular border crossings).

Serbia has developed measures to combat trafficking in human beings by establishing the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection, appointing a National Coordinator for combating human trafficking, and adopting a strategy to counter and prevent human trafficking for the period 2017–2022. The Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection is an institution of social protection and publishes monthly statistical data and annual work reports. Inter-ministerial cooperation and collaboration between state actors (various judiciary, police and social protection institutions) and NGOs is promoted and supported.

There are currently 18 centres for reception of asylum-seekers and migrants (asylum centres: Banja Koviljača, Krnjača, Bogovađa, Sjenica and Tutin; reception centres: Preševo, Vranje, Dimitrovgrad, Bosilegrad, Pirot, Obrenovac, Subotica, Sombor, Kikinda, Principovac, Adaševci, Bujanovac, Divljani). Detailed information is available on the website of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration.

Areas with potential for further development – there is currently no comprehensive system to ensure that immigration authorities are alerted when individuals overstay their visas. However, police officers may determine on a case-to-case basis whether a migrant has actually overstayed their authorized admission period by analysing relevant records for each individual case (travel documents or any biometrics obtained before or during entry to the country, etc.).

## Appendix 1: Tables, charts and maps

### *Tables*

Table 1: Visas issued in 2017 by citizenship and sex of the visa applicant, Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Table 2: Cross-border mobility in the Republic of Serbia in 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 3: Countries with the highest number of citizens among the immigrant population in the Republic of Serbia in 2016 and 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 4: The most numerous immigrant population in the Republic of Serbia in 2016 and 2017, by citizenship and sex, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 5: Persons issued temporary residence permits for the first time, by citizenship, in 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 6: Temporary residence permits issued for the first time according to grounds for approval, 2016 and 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 7: Temporary residence permits on the grounds of work issued for the first time in 2016 and 2017, by citizenship, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 8: Temporary residence permits on the grounds of family reunification issued for the first time, 2016 and 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 9: Temporary residence permits on the grounds of education issued for the first time, 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 10: Temporary residence permits issued for the first time by sex and type of permit for 2016 and 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 11: Temporary residence permits valid at the end of 2017, by citizenship, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 12: Temporary residence permits valid at the end of 2017, by grounds for approval, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 13: Foreigners permanently residing in the Republic of Serbia in 2017, by citizenship, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 14: Foreigners permanently residing in the Republic of Serbia by grounds for approval in 2016 and 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 15: Foreigners residing in Serbia on the grounds of work in 2017, by citizenship, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 16: The number of work permits issued to foreigners with temporary residence in 2017, by citizenship, Source: NES

- Table 17: The number of work permits issued to foreigners with permanent residence in 2017, by citizenship, Source: NES
- Table 18: Foreigners registered with NES on 31 Dec 2017, by citizenship, Source: NES
- Table 19: Foreigners registered with NES on 31 December 2017, by age, Source: NES
- Table 20: Foreigners registered with NES on 31 December 2017, by education, Source: NES
- Table 21: Foreigners registered with NES in 2017, by citizenship, Source: NES
- Table 22: Foreigners with valid temporary residence permits on the grounds of education, at the end of 2017, by Newly admitted citizens of the Republic of Serbia in 2017, by previous citizenship, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Table 24: Republic of Serbia citizens registered in 2016 as newly arrived immigrants in European countries that submit data to Eurostat
- Table 25: Persons who were refused entry into the Republic of Serbia, by citizenship and reasons for refusal in 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Table 26: The number of persons issued the measure of revocation of stay in 2016 and 2017, by citizenship, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Table 27: The number of citizens of other countries and stateless persons issued the protective measure of removal of foreigner from the territory of Republic of Serbia, by citizenship, 2017, Source: Ministry of Justice
- Table 28: The number of citizens of other countries and stateless persons who were issued the protective measure of removal of foreigner from the territory of Republic of Serbia, by age, 2017, Source: Ministry of Justice
- Table 29: The number of citizens of other countries and stateless persons who were issued the protective measure of removal of foreigner from the territory of Republic of Serbia, by reason of removal, in 2017, Source: Ministry of Justice
- Table 30: Citizens of other states and stateless persons ordered the safety measure of expulsion from the country due to criminal offence, by age, 2017, Source: Ministry of Justice
- Table 31: Number of voluntary returns to the countries of origin in 2017, Source: IOM
- Table 32: Victims of THB by citizenship, 2016 and 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Table 33: Victims of THB by sex and age, 2016 and 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Table 34: Victims of THB by type of exploitation and sex, 2016 and 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Table 35: Formally identified THB victims by type of exploitation, age and sex, 2017, Source: Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection
- Table 36: Structure of identified THB victims by country of exploitation and age, 2017, Source: Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection
- Table 37: Number of judgements against perpetrators of THB pronounced in 2016 and 2017, by type of judgement, Source: Ministry of Justice
- Table 38: Number of persons convicted for criminal offence of THB, by age, 2017, Source: Ministry

of Justice

Table 39: Persons that expressed intent to seek asylum in the Republic of Serbia in 2017, by citizenship, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 40: Expressed intent to seek asylum by place, 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 41: Number of submitted asylum applications by citizenship, 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 42: First instance decisions on asylum applications, by type of decision in 2016

and 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 43: Readmission requests by country, sex and age of returnees in 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 44: Approvals of requests to return citizens of the Republic of Serbia under Readmission Agreements in 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 45: Number of returnees under Readmission Agreements in 2017, by border crossing registration, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Table 46: Number of returnees registered with the Readmission Office by sex, 2017, Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Table 47: Returnees registered with the Readmission Office by country they returned from, 2017, Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Table 48: Returnees registered with the Readmission Office, by age, 2017

Table 49: Returnees registered with the Readmission Office, by employment status, 2017, Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Table 50: Returnees registered with the Readmission Office, by education status, 2017, Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Table 51: List of indicators for monitoring reintegration of returnees under Readmission Agreements in the Republic of Serbia, 2017, Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Table 52: Refugee population in the Republic of Serbia by country of origin, 2016 and 2017, Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Table 53: Refugee population in the Republic of Serbia by age, 2017, Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Table 54: Number of refugees by districts in the Republic of Serbia, 2017, Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Table 55: The number of IDPs by districts in the Republic of Serbia, 2017

Table 56: IDPs returned to AP Kosovo and Metohija according to municipality of return, sex and age in 2017, Source: Office for Kosovo and Metohija

Table 57: IDPs that returned to AP Kosovo and Metohija in 2017 – by municipality and manner of return, Source: Office for Kosovo and Metohija

Table 58: Estimated population size in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2001-2017, by type of settlement and sex, Source: SORS

Table 59: Comparative overview of population that migrated in and out of the Republic of Serbia, by sex, 2016, Source: SORS

Table 60: Migrant population by type of settlement and sex, 2016 (internal migration), Source: SORS

Table 61: Migrant population by sex, 2016 (internal migration), Source: SORS

Table 62: Migrant population by age groups in the Republic of Serbia, 2016 (internal migration), Source: SORS

### *Charts*

**Chart 1:** Temporary residence permits valid at the end of 2017, by grounds for approval, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

**Chart 2:** Readmission requests by sex of returnee, 2017, Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

**Chart 3:** Returnees registered with the Readmission Office by nationality, 2017, Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration