



РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА
ВЛАДА РЕПУБЛИКЕ СРБИЈЕ

MIGRATION PROFILE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA FOR 2015



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ACRONYMS

AP	Autonomous Province
BPD	Border Police Directorate
B&H	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BPS	Border Police Station
CRM	Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DCP	Diplomatic-consular post
DRC	The Democratic Republic of the Congo
EU	European Union
FR Germany	Federal Republic of Germany
FRY	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
LSG	Local Self-Government
NES	National Employment Service
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PCI	Penal Correctional Institution
PRC	People's Republic of China
TAIEX	Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission
SAR	South African Republic
SFRY	Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
SORS	Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UK	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	UN Development Assistance Framework
USA	United States of America

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 on an annual basis is 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).

Republic of Serbia has for six 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 included 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.

In November 2015, a Conference marked the launch of the Twinning Project: Support to the National Asylum System in the Republic of Serbia, funded by the European Union (EU) within IPA 2013 programme. The project is implemented by CRM and Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, in partnership with Swedish Migration Agency, Immigration and Naturalization Service of the Netherlands and Slovenian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

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 updating provides better insight into the overall situation relating to migration 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 on the global level, giving rise to a second generation of the profile, entitled the Extended Migration Profile. This is the reason why the Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for the year 2015 will be improved with a segment related to identifying and defining the set of indicators for the assessment of reintegration of returnees based on Readmission Agreements. Also, it presents an overview of activities resulted from increased influx of migrants from the Middle East and Africa, who passed through Serbia in the period May-December 2015.

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 C1 types of visa. For the moment, it is not possible to keep records of the issuing of visas in this manner in the Republic of Serbia.

In 2015, a decrease in the number of issued visas was recorded in comparison with the previous year, from 19,630 issued visas in 2014, to 10,134 issued visas in 2015. The highest number of visas was issued to the citizens of China (2,176 or 21.47%), Libya (915 or 9%) and Egypt (745 or 7.35%).

Table 1:
Visas issued in 2015 by citizenship and sex of the visa applicant

Country	Number of visas issued	Men	Women	%
PRC	2,176	1,633	543	21.47
Libya	915	652	263	9.03
Egypt	745	593	152	7.35
Moldova	672	308	364	6.63
Algeria	670	545	125	6.61
Unknown citizenship	461	261	200	4.55
Iraq	424	333	91	4.18
India	413	307	106	4.08
SAR	386	200	186	3.81
Armenia	212	141	71	2.09
Georgia	200	134	66	1.97
Indonesia	162	95	67	1.60
Malaysia	159	82	77	1.57
Kyrgyzstan	156	100	56	1.54
Philippines	144	60	84	1.42
Nigeria	132	98	34	1.30
Thailand	121	49	72	1.19

B1. General cross-border mobility

Country	Number of visas issued	Men	Women	%
Morocco	110	75	35	1.09
Syria	96	73	23	0.95
Palestine	86	65	21	0.85
Jordan	76	59	17	0.75
Uzbekistan	73	46	27	0.72
Kenya	71	54	17	0.70
Sudan	70	62	8	0.69
Gabon	59	32	27	0.58
Bangladesh	57	56	1	0.56
Russian Federation	57	16	41	0.56
Pakistan	54	42	12	0.53
Turkmenistan	54	46	8	0.53
Angola	53	31	22	0.52
Myanmar	53	43	10	0.52
Saudi Arabia	52	43	9	0.51
Tajikistan	49	40	9	0.48
Cameroon	37	21	16	0.37
Vietnam	37	22	15	0.37
Iran	35	25	10	0.35
France	34	19	15	0.34
Lebanon	34	24	10	0.34
Kuwait	32	31	1	0.32
Paraguay	32	14	18	0.32
Ghana	31	23	8	0.31
FR Germany	30	19	11	0.30
Zambia	28	17	11	0.28
Afghanistan	27	22	5	0.27
Honduras	27	26	1	0.27
Peru	26	14	12	0.26

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Country	Number of visas issued	Men	Women	%
Croatia	25	10	15	0.25
DR Congo	22	14	8	0.22
Uganda	22	14	8	0.22
Mali	21	19	2	0.21
Ukraine	21	6	15	0.21
Ethiopia	19	8	11	0.19
Nepal	19	16	3	0.19
UK	19	10	9	0.19
Yemen	18	12	6	0.18
Sri Lanka	18	9	9	0.18
Venezuela	18	14	4	0.18
Italy	17	8	9	0.17
Columbia	16	7	9	0.16
Madagascar	16	10	6	0.16
Botswana	15	9	6	0.15
Azerbaijan	13	10	3	0.13
Mauritius	12	11	1	0.12
Oman	9	7	2	0.09
Senegal	9	8	1	0.09
Bahrain	8	5	3	0.08
B&H	8	4	4	0.08
Tanzania	8	5	3	0.08
Ecuador	7	7	0	0.07
Republic of Serbia	7	3	4	0.07
Burundi	6	5	1	0.06
Greece	6	3	3	0.06
Netherlands	6	3	3	0.06
Namibia	6	2	4	0.06
Ivory Coast	6	6	0	0.06

B1. General cross-border mobility

Country	Number of visas issued	Men	Women	%
Zimbabwe	6	5	1	0.06
Canada	5	1	4	0.05
USA	5	3	2	0.05
Switzerland	5	2	3	0.05
Dominican Republic	4	2	2	0.04
Equatorial Guinea	4	1	3	0.04
El Salvador	4	1	3	0.04
Latvia	4	2	2	0.04
Papua New Guinea	4	2	2	0.04
Slovenia	4	4	0	0.04
Belarus	3	1	2	0.03
Guinea	3	1	2	0.03
Qatar	3	3	0	0.03
Togo	3	1	2	0.03
Guatemala	2	0	2	0.02
Israel	2	1	1	0.02
Cambodia	2	0	2	0.02
Cuba	2	2	0	0.02
Macedonia	2	1	1	0.02
Norway	2	1	1	0.02
Ruanda	2	2	0	0.02
Somalia	2	1	1	0.02
Saint Kitts and Nevis	2	2	0	0.02
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2	2	0	0.02
Spain	2	1	1	0.02
Trinidad and Tobago	2	1	1	0.02
Cape Verde Islands	2	0	2	0.02
Antigua and Barbuda	1	0	1	0.01

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

Country	Number of visas issued	Men	Women	%
Australia	1	0	1	0.01
Austria	1	0	1	0.01
Benin	1	0	1	0.01
Chad	1	1	0	0.01
Czech Republic	1	1	0	0.01
Gambia	1	1	0	0.01
Guyana	1	1	0	0.01
Guinea Bissau	1	1	0	0.01
Haiti	1	1	0	0.01
South Sudan	1	1	0	0.01
Kazakhstan	1	0	1	0.01
Comoros Islands	1	1	0	0.01
Congo	1	0	1	0.01
Lesotho	1	0	1	0.01
Liberia	1	1	0	0.01
Hungary	1	0	1	0.01
Mauritania	1	1	0	0.01
Mozambique	1	1	0	0.01
Nicaragua	1	1	0	0.01
Poland	1	0	1	0.01
Portugal	1	0	1	0.01
Romania	1	0	1	0.01
Slovakia	1	1	0	0.01
Turkey	1	0	1	0.01
UAE	1	1	0	0.01
Total	10,134	6,953	3,181	100

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

B2. International migration, temporary residence permits

As during the previous year, current records in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs do not allow for differentiation between visas issued by type¹, so it cannot be determined for which purposes they were issued.

1.2. Cross-border mobility that is not migration

According to the data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, around 29.5 million entries were registered into Serbia and over 29 million exits from the Republic of Serbia in 2015, most of which were registered among foreign nationals.

Table 2:
Cross-border mobility in the Republic of Serbia in 2015

	Number of entries in the Republic of Serbia	Number of exits from the Republic of Serbia
Republic of Serbia citizens	11,432,593	12,430,693
Foreign citizens	18,020,295	16,572,641
Total	29,452,888	29,003,334

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.

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

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

In 2014 and 2015, the largest share of immigrants came from PRC and the Russian Federation. In 2015, the highest number of immigrants were the citizens of China (19.1%) and the Russian Federation (11.3%).

Table 3:
Countries with the highest number of citizens among the immigrant population in the Republic of Serbia in 2014 and 2015

Citizenship	2014	2015
	Share in total immigration in %	Share in total immigration in %
PRC	24.4	19.1
Russian Federation	11.4	11.3
Romania	4.3	6.7
Macedonia	6.0	8.9
Libya	7.1	6.7
Total	53.2	52.7

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

In 2014, there was a very high percentage of women (73.1%) only among immigrants from Romania. The same trend continued in 2015, with a high percentage of female immigrant population from Romania (72%), followed by the Russian Federation (62.7%).

Table 4:
The largest immigrant population in the Republic of Serbia in 2014 and 2015, by citizenship and sex

Citizenship	2014		2015	
	Total	Women (%)	Total	Women (%)
PRC	5,726	41.3	6,469	42.7
Russian Federation	2,531	62.1	3,854	61.7
Romania	1,019	73.1	2,274	72.0
Macedonia	1,445	59.0	3,044	58.0
Libya	1,769	41.5	2,269	42.4

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

2.2. Temporary residence permit

According to the Law on Foreigners, Article 24, 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 2015, 7,103 temporary residence permits were issued for the first time. The highest number of permits were issued for the first time to the citizens of the Russian Federation (14.3%) and China (13.4%).

Table 5:
Persons who were issued temporary residence permits for the first time,
by citizenship, in 2015

Citizenship	2015	
	Number of issued permits	Share in total number of issued permits (%)
Russian Federation	997	14.3
PRC	981	13.4
Libya	747	10.5
Ukraine	507	7.1
B&H	309	4.3
Macedonia	287	4.0
Italy	273	3.8
Croatia	236	3.3
Montenegro	225	3.6
<i>Other</i>	<i>2,541</i>	<i>35.7</i>
Total	7,103	100

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

In comparison with the year 2014, when 7,337 temporary residence permits were issued for the first time, in 2015 this number was 7,103.

Disaggregation by grounds for approval shows that in 2014 and 2015, work was the most common grounds for issuing temporary residence (41.7% and 42.9%).

Table 6:
Temporary residence permits issued for the first time according to grounds for approval, 2014 and 2015

Grounds for approval	2014		2015	
	Number	%	Number	%
Family reunification	3,060	41.7	2,794	39.3
Work	3,044	41.5	3,054	42.9
Education	768	10.5	803	11.5
<i>Other</i>	465	6.3	452	6.3
Total	7,337	100	7,103	100

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Disaggregation by citizenship shows that in 2015 again the highest number of Chinese citizens came on the grounds of work. In 2015, a downward trend can be observed in the number of persons issued temporary permits on the grounds of work for the first time among the citizens of Greece, Turkey, B&H and Croatia.

Table 7:
Temporary residence permits on the grounds of work issued for the first time in 2014 and 2015, by citizenship

Citizenship	2014		2015	
	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%
PRC	774	25.4	740	24.2
Greece	146	4.7	97	3.1
Russian Federation	292	9.5	292	9.8
Italy	137	4.5	205	6.7
Turkey	104	3.4	93	3.0
B&H	205	6.7	123	4.0
Croatia	198	6.5	96	3.1
Montenegro	60	1.9	83	2.7

B2. International migration, temporary residence permits

Citizenship	2014		2015	
	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%
Romania	/	/	126	4.1
Ukraine	/	/	315	10.3
<i>Other</i>	1,128	4.2	884	29.0
Total	3,044	100	3,054	100

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Regarding temporary residence permits on the grounds of family reunification issued for the first time, there is a change in trend in relation to previous years, and a decrease in that number is noted for all, except for citizens of the Russian Federation, where the only increase in the number of permits is recorded.

Table 8:
Temporary residence permits on the grounds of family reunification issued for the first time, 2014 and 2015

2014			2015		
Citizenship	No. of persons	%	Citizenship	No. of persons	%
Libya	627	20.5	Russian Federation	477	17.5
Russian Federation	459	15.0	Libya	465	16.6
PRC	279	9.2	PRC	211	7.7
B&H	185	6.0	Ukraine	151	5.04
Macedonia	176	5.8	B&H	141	5.04
Croatia	127	4.1	Croatia	108	3.8
<i>Other</i>	1,207	39.4	<i>Other</i>	1,241	44.4
Total	3,060	100	Total	2,794	100

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Regarding temporary residence permits on the grounds of education issued for the first time, in 2015 the highest number of persons came from Libya (29%).

Table 9:
Temporary residence permits on the grounds of education issued
for the first time, 2015

Citizenship	2015	
	No. of persons	%
Libya	233	29.0
Russian Federation	63	7.8
USA	39	4.8
Romania	34	4.2
B&H	38	4.7
Montenegro	32	3.9
Macedonia	28	3.5
Algeria	24	2.9
Italy	23	2.8
Croatia	19	2.6
Greece	19	2.6
<i>Other</i>	251	31.2
Total	803	100

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Looking at the sex structure of persons issued temporary residence permits for the first time, it is noted that there is no considerable difference in 2015, in comparison with 2014. Foreign men in the Republic of Serbia predominantly stay on the grounds of work (84.2%) and education (58.4%), while most women stay on the grounds of family reunification (62.1%).

Table 10:
Temporary residence permits issued for the first time by sex, for 2014 and 2015

Grounds for issuance	2014			2015		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Work	84.6	15.4	100	84.2	15.8	100
Family reunification	35.9	64.1	100	37.9	62.1	100
Education	65.3	34.7	100	58.4	41.6	100

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

B2. International migration, temporary residence permits

Temporary residence permits valid at the end of 2015 include the number of issued permits, but also permits not revoked or expired. In 2015, a total of 28,139 temporary residence permits were issued. The highest number of permits were issued for the citizens of China (21.1%) and Russian Federation (12.2%), while the share of citizens of other countries was under 10%.

Table 11:
Temporary residence permits valid at the end of 2015, by citizenship

Citizenship	No. of persons	%
PRC	6,160	21.1
Russian Federation	3,430	12.2
Libya	2,287	8.7
Macedonia	1,573	5.5
Ukraine	1,241	4.5
Romania	1,140	4.4
B&H	972	3.4
Croatia	936	3.5
Italy	867	3.0
Greece	743	2.6
Montenegro	688	2.4
USA	471	1.6
Albania	464	1.6
Turkey	436	1.9
Bulgaria	400	1.7
<i>Other</i>	6,331	22.5
Total	28,139	100

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

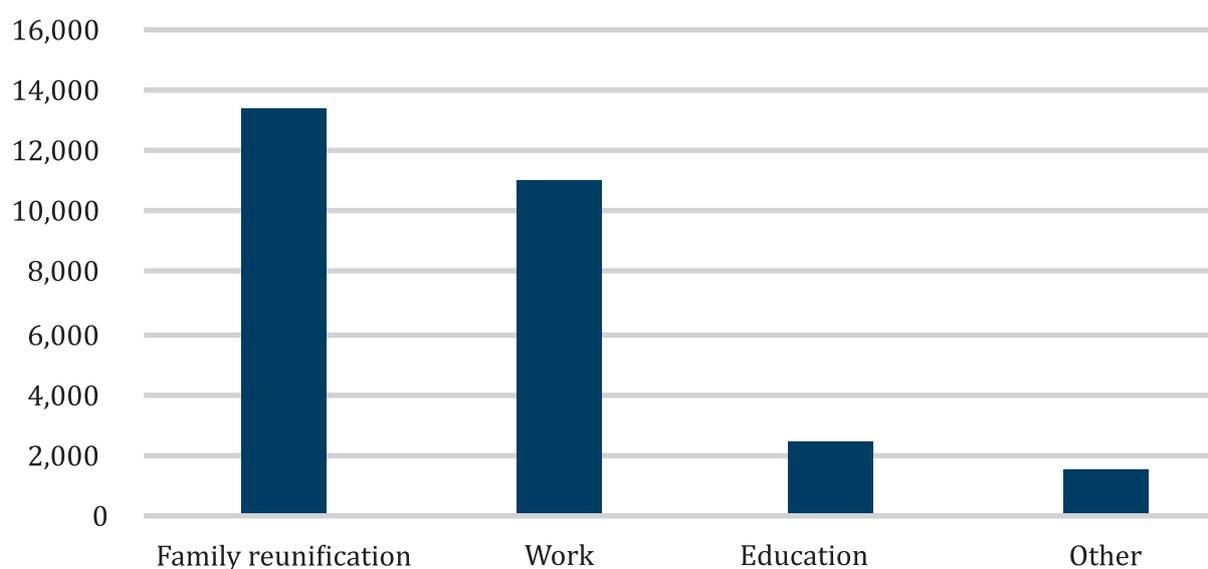
The majority of permits valid at the end of 2015 were issued on the grounds of family reunification. In comparison with 2014, the share of permits on the grounds of family reunification did not change significantly (in 2014 it was 51.5% of the total number of temporary residence permits, while in 2015 it was 47.5%).

Table 12:
Temporary residence permits valid at the end of 2015, by grounds for approval

Grounds for approval	No. of persons	%
Family reunification	13,376	47.5
Work	10,983	39.1
Education	2,384	8.5
<i>Other</i>	1,396	4.9
Total	28,139	100

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Chart 1:
Temporary residence permits valid at the end of 2015, by grounds for approval



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

2.3. Foreigners permanently residing in the Republic of Serbia

According to the Law on Foreigners, permanent residence can be granted to a foreigner:

- 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;

B2. International migration, temporary residence permits

- 1) Who has been married for at least three years to a citizen of the Republic of Serbia, or a foreigner with permanent residence;²
- 2) 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;
- 3) Who has ancestral links to the territory of the Republic of Serbia (Article 37).

In 2015, there were 5,721 permanently residing foreigners, which represents a slight increase in comparison with 2014, when there were 5,035 individuals. Among the foreigners permanently residing, the majority came from Romania (20%) and China (11.3%).

Table 13:
Foreigners permanently residing in the Republic of Serbia in 2015, by citizenship

Citizenship	No. of persons	%
Romania	1,146	20.0
PRC	647	11.3
Russian Federation	554	9.7
Macedonia	501	8.8
Ukraine	317	5.5
Germany	302	5.3
Bulgaria	234	4.1
Poland	176	3.1
Croatia	137	2.4
Albania	131	2.3
<i>Other</i>	<i>1,576</i>	<i>27.5</i>
Total	5,721	100

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

As in the previous years, in 2015 the highest number of foreigners were approved permanent residence on the grounds of marriage (76.8%). Other grounds accounted for a significantly lower percentage and did not represent a substantial difference in relation to 2014, except with the grounds for residence of 10 years, for which an increase was recorded (from 283 in 2014 to 684 in 2015).

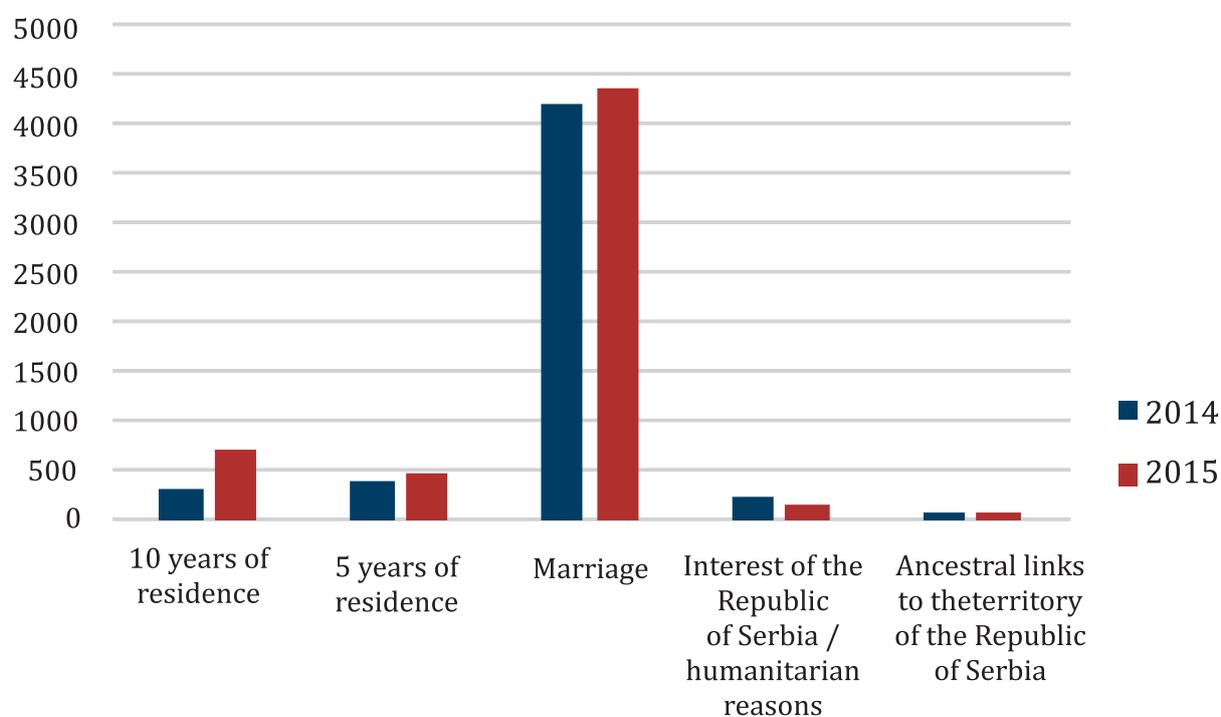
² Within the meaning of this paragraph of the Law on Foreigners, marriage is a matrimonial community for the purposes of living together in the territory of the Republic of Serbia. Permanent residence based on marriage cannot be permitted unless the couple has spent three years living in the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

Table 14:
Foreigners permanently residing in the Republic of Serbia by grounds for approval in 2014 and 2015

Grounds for residence	2014		2015	
	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%
10 years of residence	283	5.6	684	12.0
5 years of residence	364	7.2	443	7.7
Marriage	4,214	83.6	4,392	76.8
Interest of the Republic of Serbia/ humanitarian reasons	139	2.7	128	2.2
Ancestral links to the territory of the Republic of Serbia	35	0.6	74	1.3
Total	5,035	100	5,721	100

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Chart 2:
Foreigners permanently residing in the Republic of Serbia by grounds for approval in 2014 and 2015



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 acquired a 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 2015, a total of 11,862 foreigners were issued temporary residence permits on the grounds of work. This number was a slight increase in comparison with 2014, when 11,208 foreigners resided in the Republic of Serbia on the grounds of work. Out of the total number of foreigners, the majority were Chinese nationals (4,006 or 33.7%).

Table 15:

Foreigners residing in Serbia on the grounds of work in 2015, by citizenship

Citizenship	No. of persons	%
PRC	4,006	33.7
Russian Federation	887	7.5
Italy	651	5.5
Ukraine	644	5.6
Greece	530	4.6
Romania	422	3.7
Macedonia	405	3.4
B&H	377	3.1
Croatia	364	3.0
Turkey	310	2.6
FR Germany	262	2.2
Slovenia	252	2.1
Bulgaria	241	2.0
Montenegro	237	1.9
<i>Other</i>	<i>2,274</i>	<i>19.1</i>
Total	11,862	100

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), which entered into force on 4 December 2014. 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 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 on 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, human trafficking victim, 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.

Also, on 25 November 2015, the new Rulebook on work permits entered into force (Official Gazette RS, No. 94/15), regulating in more detail the manner of issuing or extending work permits, the manner of proving that the conditions have been met and the necessary proof provided for issuing or extending the work permit, as well as the form and content of the work permit.

In the period between 1 January and 31 December 2015, National Employment Service (NES) issued a total of 6,376 work permits to foreign nationals, out of which 715 personal work permits, 490 for inter-corporate transfers, 3 for independent professionals, 1,995 for self-employment, 293 for posted workers and 2,877 work permits for employment.

The number of issued work permits to foreigners with temporary residence in the Republic of Serbia was almost equal, ranging between 2,490 in 2009 and 2,892 in 2014. The number of issued work permits to foreigners with temporary residence permits in the Republic of Serbia considerably increased in 2015 to 6,203. These indicators show that there were major deviations in the number of issued work permits in relation to previous years.

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 engaging foreigners without formal employment, members of managing 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 2014, foreigners with permanent residence were issued 170 work permits. The highest number of work permits was issued to the citizens of China (70), Macedonia (14) and Ukraine (13). Out of the total number of issued permits to foreigners with permanent residence, women were issued 85 work permits, out of which 50 in the City of Belgrade branch office and 10 in the Novi Sad branch office.

B2. International migration, temporary residence permits

In 2015, 6,203 work permits were issued to foreigners with temporary residence, which is a considerably higher number in relation to the number of work permits issued to foreigners with permanent residence (170). The highest number of work permits was issued to foreigners with temporary residence from China (1,501 or 24.2%), the Russian Federation (739, or 12%) and Macedonia (344, or 5.5%).

Foreigners with temporary residence in the Republic of Serbia were issued a total of 6,203 work permits, out of which 1,670 (27%) was issued to women. Out of the total number of issued work permits to foreigners with temporary residence, the highest number of work permits were issued in the Belgrade branch office (1,200 or 19.3%) and the Novi Sad branch office (192 or 3.1%).

Work permits were most often issued to foreigners with temporary residence who have acquired university education, or the 7th level of professional qualifications (2,087 or 33.6%), followed by the 4th level of professional qualifications (1,717 or 27.7%), 6th level of professional qualifications (1,140), 3rd level of professional qualifications (655), 1st level of professional qualifications (311), 2nd level of professional qualifications (132), 8th level of professional qualifications (88) and the least with the 5th level of professional qualifications (50).

Out of the total number of issued permits to foreigners with permanent residence (170), women were issued 85 work permits. Out of the total number of issued permits to foreigners with permanent residence, the majority were issued in the City of Belgrade branch office (50) and the Novi Sad branch office (10).

Table 16:
The number of work permits issued to foreigners with temporary residence in 2015, by citizenship

Citizenship	Number of work permits
PRC	1,501
Russian Federation	739
Macedonia	344
Italy	303
Greece	283
Croatia	244
Turkey	205
B&H	204
Montenegro	183
Ukraine	167
Slovenia	165
FR Germany	158

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

Citizenship	Number of work permits
France	124
Bulgaria	119
Romania	104
Spain	99
Azerbaijan	96
UK	89
Austria	86
USA	66
Hungary	52
Poland	50
Netherlands	46
Korea	44
Slovakia	42
Israel	38
Czech Republic	35
Kazakhstan	31
Sweden	31
Philippines	30
Libya	29
Cuba	25
Thailand	25
Tunisia	24
Albania	23
Belarus	22
Switzerland	21
Cyprus	20
India	19
Canada	18

B2. International migration, temporary residence permits

Citizenship	Number of work permits
Japan	18
Denmark	17
Mexico	17
SAR	17
Egypt	15
Australia	13
Iraq	12
Ireland	12
Moldavia	11
Portugal	11
Belgium	9
Jordan	9
Lithuania	9
Norway	9
Brazil	8
Iran	7
Latvia	7
SAR	7
Georgia	6
Lebanon	6
Mongolia	5
Algeria	4
El Salvador	4
Finland	4
Iceland	4
New Zealand	4
Nigeria	4
Costa Rica	3

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

Citizenship	Number of work permits
Ghana	3
Morocco	3
Pakistan	3
Armenia	2
Chile	2
Estonia	2
Palestine	2
Indonesia	2
Jamaica	2
Mauritius	2
Singapore	2
UAE	2
Tanzania	2
Venezuela	2
Bahrain	1
Bangladesh	1
Bolivia	1
Botswana	1
Cameroon	1
Columbia	1
Congo	1
Dominican Republic	1
Ethiopia	1
Ivory Coast	1
DPR Korea	1
Malawi	1
Peru	1
Zimbabwe	1

B2. International migration, temporary residence permits

Citizenship	Number of work permits
Tajikistan	1
Uzbekistan	1
Total	6,203

Source: NES

Table 17:
The number of work permits issued to foreigners with permanent residence in 2015, by citizenship

Citizenship	Number of work permits
PRC	70
Macedonia	14
Ukraine	13
Russian Federation	10
Romania	8
Bulgaria	4
Croatia	4
Greece	4
USA	4
Czech Republic	3
FR Germany	3
Turkey	3
UK	3
Belarus	2
Italy	2
Poland	2
Austria	1
B&H	1
Chile	1

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

Citizenship	Number of work permits
Finland	1
Hungary	1
Indonesia	1
Iran	1
Jordan	1
Latvia	1
Libya	1
Malta	1
Montenegro	1
Morocco	1
Netherlands	1
Panama	1
Peru	1
Slovakia	1
Spain	1
Syria	1
Thailand	1
Turkmenistan	1
Total	170

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 2015, there was a total of 776 foreign nationals on NES records, which is 0.1% of the total number (724,096) of unemployed active individuals registered with NES. A slight decrease is recorded in comparison with 2014, when there were 769 individuals registered with NES. In the same period, 618 foreign women were registered with NES, which is 79.6% of the total number of registered foreign nationals.

According to age structure, the highest number of individuals are the unemployed between the ages of 30 to 49 (66.24%), with the lowest share of youth between 15 and 29 (15.59%).

B2. International migration, temporary residence permits

Table 18:
Foreigners registered with NES on 31 Dec 2015, by age

Age groups	No. of persons	%
Youth (15–29)	121	15.59
Middle age group (30–49)	514	66.24
Older workers (50–64)	141	18.17
Total	776	100

Source: NES

Observed by educational structure of foreigners registered with NES on 31 December 2014, registered up to 12 months, persons with no education and incomplete primary school have the highest share (42.64%), followed by persons with completed primary school (27.91%), while the persons with completed high vocational school and university have the lowest share.

Table 19:
Foreigners registered with NES on 31 Dec. 2015, by education

Highest completed educational level	Registered up to 12 months		Registered over 12 months	
	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%
No education or incomplete primary school	139	42.64	158	35.11
Complete primary school	91	27.91	152	33.78
School for qualified labour	16	4.91	26	5.78
Other vocational school	0	0	4	0.89
School for highly skilled labour	2	0.61	6	1.33
Schools for medium skilled labour	6	1.84	15	3.33
Secondary vocational school	34	10.43	46	10.22
Secondary school for professional education (Ser. <i>usmereno obrazovanje</i>)	1	0.31	3	0.67
College (Ser. <i>visa skola</i>)	6	1.84	6	1.33
First level university	5	1.53	7	1.56

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

Highest completed educational level	Registered up to 12 months		Registered over 12 months	
	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%
University and college	23	7.06	26	5.78
University and art academy	3	0.92	1	0.22
Total	326	100	450	100

Source: NES

In 2015, a total of 626 foreign nationals registered with NES. The highest share of newly registered individuals came from Macedonia (21.25%), Romania (13.42%) and the Russian Federation.

Table 20:
Foreigners registered with NES in 2015, by citizenship

Citizenship	No. of persons	%
Macedonia	133	21.25
Romania	84	13.42
Russian Federation	64	10.22
Ukraine	60	9.58
Montenegro	45	7.19
B&H	43	6.87
Bulgaria	24	3.83
Croatia	23	3.67
Moldavia	19	3.04
Albania	17	2.72
Serbia and Montenegro	9	1.44
Greece	8	1.28
Syria	7	1.12
Czech Republic	5	0.80
Belarus	4	0.64

B2. International migration, temporary residence permits

Citizenship	No. of persons	%
PRC	4	0.64
Germany	4	0.64
Italy	4	0.64
Slovakia	4	0.64
Slovenia	4	0.64
USA	4	0.64
Hungary	3	0.48
Jordan	3	0.48
Morocco	3	0.48
Philippines	3	0.48
Poland	3	0.48
Republic of Serbia	3	0.48
Egypt	3	0.48
Algeria	2	0.32
Armenia	2	0.32
Georgia	2	0.32
Israel	2	0.32
Kazakhstan	2	0.32
Switzerland	2	0.32
Tunisia	2	0.32
Turkey	2	0.32
UK	2	0.32
Argentina	1	0.16
Canada	1	0.16
Cuba	1	0.16
Dominican Republic	1	0.16
France	1	0.16
Iceland	1	0.16

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

Citizenship	No. of persons	%
Iraq	1	0.16
Ireland	1	0.16
Japan	1	0.16
Lebanon	1	0.16
Latvia	1	0.16
Lithuania	1	0.16
Mongolia	1	0.16
Peru	1	0.16
Senegal	1	0.16
Spain	1	0.16
Turkmenistan	1	0.16
Venezuela	1	0.16
Total	626	100

Source: NES

2.5. Foreign students

At the end of 2015, 1,674 foreigners were in the Republic of Serbia with temporary residence on the grounds of education, which is a slight increase in relation to 2014, when there were 1,288. Most of them came from Libya (41.5%).

Table 21:
Foreigners with valid temporary residence permits on the grounds of education,
at the end of 2015, by citizenship

Citizenship	No. of persons	%
Libya	695	41.5
B&H	88	5.4
Russian Federation	73	4.3
Croatia	65	3.6
Montenegro	58	3.4

B2. International migration, temporary residence permits

Citizenship	No. of persons	%
Greece	48	2.8
Sudan	47	2.8
USA	44	2.6
Angola	38	2.3
FYR Macedonia	36	2.2
Palestine	32	2.0
Algeria	28	1.6
FR Germany	22	1.5
Iraq	22	1.5
Other	378	22.5
Total	1,674	100

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

2.6. Acquisition of citizenship

In 2015, 20,279 persons acquired Serbian citizenship, which is a decrease in relation to 23,678 persons that acquired citizenship in 2014. These were largely citizens of B&H (64.75%), Montenegro (9.87%) and Turkey (8.9%).

Table 22:

Newly admitted citizens of the Republic of Serbia in 2015, by previous citizenship

Previous citizenship	Number of persons	%
B&H	13,131	64.75
Montenegro	2,003	9.87
Turkey	1,805	8.9
Croatia	1,424	7.02
Macedonia	806	3.97
Austria	203	1.001
SFRY	196	0.96
Slovenia	100	0.49

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

Previous citizenship	Number of persons	%
Russian Federation	99	0.48
Romania	70	0.34
Ukraine	53	0.26
Albania	49	0.24
FR Germany	42	0.207
USA	30	0.14
Australia	25	0.12
Israel	23	0.11
Canada	20	0.098
France	13	0.064
Italy	13	0.064
Moldavia	12	0.059
Bulgaria	11	0.054
Netherlands	11	0.054
Switzerland	11	0.054
Greece	9	0.044
Czech Republic	7	0.034
Jordan	7	0.034
Sweden	7	0.034
Argentine	6	0.029
Brazil	6	0.029
Armenia	6	0.029
Belarus	5	0.024
Philippines	5	0.024
Venezuela	5	0.024
Algeria	4	0.019
Iraq	4	0.019
Syria	4	0.019

B2. International migration, temporary residence permits

Previous citizenship	Number of persons	%
Egypt	3	0.014
Finland	3	0.014
Iran	3	0.014
Slovakia	3	0.014
Tunisia	3	0.014
Denmark	2	0.009
Kazakhstan	2	0.009
Cuba	2	0.009
Libya	2	0.009
Hungary	2	0.009
Nigeria	2	0.009
Norway	2	0.009
Peru	2	0.009
Poland	2	0.009
Thailand	2	0.009
Uzbekistan	2	0.009
Azerbaijan	1	0.004
Dominican Republic	1	0.004
Ethiopia	1	0.004
Georgia	1	0.004
Guinea	1	0.004
India	1	0.004
Ireland	1	0.004
SAR	1	0.004
Kyrgyzstan	1	0.004
Columbia	1	0.004
DRC	1	0.004
Liechtenstein	1	0.004

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

Previous citizenship	Number of persons	%
Luxembourg	1	0.004
Malta	1	0.004
Salvador	1	0.004
Senegal	1	0.004
UK	1	0.004
Total	20,279	100

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).

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

In addition to regularly submitting data on the estimated number of residents for the current year, they also submit relevant data to Eurostat about immigration and emigration published on annual level. Thus, relevant data on the size of population, live births, deaths, immigration and emigration both on national and regional levels are available in Eurostat's database, together with demographic indicators derived from this data.

In 2014, according to Eurostat data, a total of 3.8 million persons immigrated into one of the 28 EU member states, and it was estimated that 1.6 million of them were nationals of non-EU member states, including Serbian nationals. Data presented do not give a full picture of the persons that emigrated from the Republic of Serbia during the said year, considering that data in certain countries are neither regularly updated nor presented.

B2. International migration, temporary residence permits

Table 23 shows that a total of 13,250 Serbian nationals left the Republic of Serbia in 2014, i.e. that the said number of Serbian citizens was registered in 2014 as newly arrived immigrants in some EU and European countries that submit data to Eurostat.

It is important to mention that since 2014, Eurostat has been publishing data on immigration in the form of newly arrived registered immigrants, so data is not methodologically comparable with previous years.

Table 23:

Republic of Serbia citizens registered in 2014 as newly arrived immigrants in European countries that submit data to Eurostat³

Destination countries	2014		
	Total	Men	Women
Austria	4,435	2,361	2,074
Sweden	1,696	820	876
Switzerland	1,316	598	718
Slovenia	1,266	877	389
Romania	1,138	781	359
Italy	727	302	425
Norway	563	286	277
Hungary	464	314	150
Croatia	456	187	269
Belgium	339	168	171
Netherlands	252	124	128
Bulgaria	173	113	60
Luxembourg	126	57	69
Denmark	120	65	55
Czech Republic	59	35	24
Finland	48	27	21
Ireland	40	18	22
Slovakia	15	15	0

³ FR Germany data are not available because they were not revised at the moment of accessing Eurostat database. According to information from Eurostat, FR Germany is planning to submit revised migration data by end of 2016.

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

Destination countries	2014		
	Total	Men	Women
Iceland	7	4	3
Estonia	4	1	3
Latvia	2	1	1
Lithuania	2	2	0
Liechtenstein	2	1	1
Total	13,250	7,157	6,093

Source: EUROSTAT, <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> and <http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do> (Accessed on 20 June 2016)

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 and 38/15). 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 contract on employment abroad, as well as the rights upon return from working abroad, in accordance with the law. Those agencies in charge of employment activity have the duty to provide protection for persons that get employment abroad, which includes at least equal treatment in labour relations with the citizens of the country of employment.

Having in mind the provisions of the Law, in 2015, through NES, after implemented procedures of agency in employment upon request of foreign employers, 35 citizens of the Republic of Serbia were employed abroad (FR Germany, Slovenia, Japan), as well as 270 citizens for the needs of known employer in FR Germany, while 88 citizens were employed in FR Germany through the Triple Win project.

Based on employment agencies' reports submitted semi-annually, in the first six months of 2015, 523 persons were employed abroad with foreign employers (USA, UK, Greece, Macedonia, UAE, etc.), while in the last six months 462 persons found employment with foreign employers (Bahrain, Libya, FR Germany, Panama, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, USA, Switzerland, Cyprus, UAE, Slovenia and Nigeria).

In 2015, 13 new work permits were issued to employment agencies. Seven work permits were extended to employment agencies, while two permits were revoked. On 31 December 2015, there were 77 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.

In 2015, NES records included 776 foreigners, which represents 0.1% of the total number of the unemployed. Out of this number, there were 618 women, which is 79.6% of the total number of registered foreign nationals.

Under the provisions of Article 16 of the Law on Protection of Citizens of FRY Employed Abroad (Official Gazette FRY, No. 24/98 and Official Gazette RS, No. 101/05 and 36/09-other law), in 2015 there were 304 applications from employers to refer 1,394 employees to temporarily work abroad, and the countries to which employers referred the most employees were Austria, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Macedonia, FR Germany, Slovakia, Kyrgyzstan, and Norway. The approved quota for the detachment year 2014–2015 was 2,770 work permits, and average usage was 1,633 work permits.

On 3 November 2015, the Law on Conditions for Referral of Employees for Temporary Work Abroad and Their Protection (Official Gazette RS, No. 91/15) was adopted, which regulates the rights of employees referred to temporary work abroad, conditions, procedures and obligations of employers in relation to referring employees for temporary work abroad, regulating separately the protection of minors. The Law has been implemented since January 2016, repealing the Law on Protection of Citizens of FRY Employed Abroad (Official Gazette FRY, No. 24/98 and Official Gazette RS, No. 101/05 and 36/09-other law).

In 2015, 6,203 work permits were issued to foreigners with temporary resident permits in the Republic of Serbia, as well as 170 work permits to foreigners with permanent residence permits in the Republic of Serbia.

Agreement on youth mobility

The agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of France on youth mobility entered into force on 1 June 2013. The Agreement regulates the following areas:

1. Professional development
2. Internship
3. Referral of employees

The Agreement aims to promote mobility of undergraduate students, graduated students and young professionals, in addition to the exchange of Serbian and French experts aged between 18 and 35, for them to advance their professional careers and expand their knowledge of the destination country, on the basis of work experience in the area of health care, social affairs, education, agriculture, crafts, industry, trade, free professions or services and other. Such persons can be engaged for work regardless of the situation on the labour market. The permitted length of stay is 12 months with the possibility of extension for another year. The total number of persons on an annual level cannot exceed 500. These individuals enjoy the same rights to work, social security, health care, occupational health and safety as the citizens of the destination country.

Migration service centres

Through an established network of seven migration service centres (MSCs) (Belgrade, Niš, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Kraljevo, Kruševac and Bor), formed within NES, migrants and potential migrants are offered information about risks involved in irregular migration, migrants' rights, procedures for obtaining visas, work and residence permits, possibilities 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 for the propose of exercising their rights.

In 2015, according to NES data, the services of MSCs were used by a total of 696 persons that contacted NES in person. In addition to users contacting NES personally, MSCs also provide services to users that contact them on the telephone, as well as through the NES website.

Out of the total number of users, the majority are from Belgrade (83.2% or 579 persons) in comparison with users coming from other places in the Republic of Serbia (16.8% or 117 persons). In terms of (destination) country of choice of potential migrants, the country of first choice is certainly Germany, followed by other EU countries, Norway and Canada.

Out of the total number of service users, 55.6% or 387 were men, while 44.4% or 309 were women. According to status, the majority of service users were unemployed (75.9% or 528 persons), 23.1% were employed (161 employed person), while 1% of the users said they were students.

In terms of the level of formal education, the highest participation is of persons with secondary school, followed by persons with completed basic level university studies and persons with completed post-graduate studies. Looking at age groups, the majority of users came from the 30 to 34 age group, followed by the 25 to 29 age group, then persons from the 35 to 39 age group and persons between 40 and 44 years of age.

Professions that were more likely to be interested in migration potentials were technicians of different specialties, who appeared in much higher numbers in relation to the total number of registered service users. They were followed by medical nurses or medical technicians, engineers, drivers, economists, doctors, architects, physical therapists, dentists and welders. Other common professions were also electricians, machinists, professors, waiters, cooks, salespersons, designers, veterinarians, pedagogues, auto mechanics, but in much lower numbers.

Bilateral agreements

Republic of Serbia entered in bilateral agreements on social security with the following 28 countries: Austria, Cyprus, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Luxembourg, France, Hungary, Denmark, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Italy, FR Germany, Sweden, Slovenia, Netherlands, Poland, Belgium, Romania, Croatia, Norway, Switzerland, Panama, Libya, B&H, Montenegro, Macedonia, Canada and Turkey.

In the implementation of bilateral agreements on social insurance, in the part related to using the right to financial compensation on grounds of unemployment, in 2015 a total of 965 cases were formed, for initiating procedures for issuing certificates of insurance periods and using the right to financial compensation directed at other signatory countries. Out of this number, 490 requests were sent to Croatia, 294 to B&H, 79 to Montenegro, 21 to Macedonia, 75 to Slovenia, one to Cyprus, three to Austria and one to Italy.

According to previously submitted requests, 1,107 certificates of insurance periods were issued: 568 from Croatia, 233 from B&H, 82 from Montenegro, 32 from Macedonia, 98 from Slovenia, one from Slovakia, two from Austria and one from the UK.

440 requests for certification of insurance period were received from signatory countries in the Republic of Serbia: 69 from Croatia, 54 from B&H, 76 from Montenegro, 221 from Slovenia, five from Slovakia, five from Hungary, nine from Austria and one from Bulgaria.

In relation to the requests received, 624 certificates of insurance periods in the Republic of Serbia were sent: 100 to Croatia, 75 to B&H, 93 to Montenegro, 345 to Slovenia, two to Slovakia, six to Austria and three certificates to Hungary.

Within the implementation of the agreement between FRY and B&H on social insurance enabling transfer of benefits, a total of 19 requests were submitted from B&H, and a total of five requests were submitted to B&H.

The Republic of Serbia signed two bilateral agreements on temporary employment of migrant workers with Belarus and B&H.

The Agreement on agency in temporary employment of citizens of the Republic of Serbia in Federal Republic of Germany was signed between two employment services, of the Republic of Serbia and of the Federal Republic of Germany. The Agreement specifies terms of cooperation and forming teams that will lead the activities on the selection and engagement of workers of medical profession in hospitals and homes for the elderly in Germany. Having in mind the provisions of the said Agreement, 270 citizens of the Republic of Serbia independently found employers and entered in labour agreements, having obtained work permits through the agency of the two services, to work on in the area of health care.

2.7.3 Diaspora

According to the latest information of the Republic of Serbia DCPs abroad, although a comprehensive census of our diaspora and Serbs in the region has never been conducted, it is estimated that Republic of Serbia diaspora, including Serbs in the region, today counts around 5 million people. Out of this number around 2 million are Republic of Serbia citizens, with a considerable number of dual citizenships, meaning they also have the citizenship of the country of immigration. It is estimated that there are over 1,300 different associations active abroad, gathering people from here on all five continents, with the majority being in EU countries, North America and Australia. According to the percentage of diaspora members in relation 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 Serbian population from their country for different reasons in different periods, ranging from economic, political, religious, cultural, family to even outmigration

before 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 members of the Serbian people who live in the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Croatia, B&H, Montenegro, the Republic of Macedonia, Romania, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Hungary (Article 2).

After democratic changes in the country, diaspora and Serbs in the region wish to be actively and equally involved in the political, social and economic life of the country and to get involved in its rehabilitation and development. People in diaspora may have an important role as investors in the country of origin considering they have many advantages resulting from their experience and skills, new professional culture, numerous business contacts in the country of origin and country of destination that facilitate cooperation.

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

3.1. Prevention of illegal entry into the Republic of Serbia

According to the 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 it is required;
- 2) Does not have sufficient funds to pay for his upkeep during the stay in the Republic of Serbia, for return in the country of origin or transit into a third country, or if his upkeep has not been provided in some other manner during his stay in the Republic of Serbia;
- 3) Is in transit, but does not comply with the conditions for entering 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 cancelled, and/or other measures recognized in the domestic or international law, which include the prohibition of crossing the state border are effective; this prohibition shall apply during the period in which the respective measure, or the cancellation of the permission to stay, is in force;
- 5) Does not have the certificate of vaccination or other proof of good health, when arriving from areas affected by an epidemic of infectious diseases;
- 6) If it necessary for reasons related to the protection of public order or safety 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 cancellation of stay to foreigners in the Republic of Serbia.

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

In 2015, entry into the territory of the Republic of Serbia was denied to a total of 7,718 foreign nationals, which represents a decrease in comparison with 2014 (8,238).

In 2015, out of the total number of foreign nationals who were denied entry into the Republic of Serbia, the majority were citizens of Turkey, B&H and stateless persons. This trend was almost repeated in comparison with 2014, when there was also the highest number of B&H nationals and stateless persons.

As for the reasons for denying entry into the Republic of Serbia, there is no major difference in comparison with 2014. The highest number of foreigners were returned because of no/invalid personal documents (visas/ID cards) (4,082 in 2015 and 5,377 in 2014), then because of unclear purpose of stay (1,762 in 2015 and 813 in 2014) and because of insufficient funds for subsistence (294 in 2015 and 260 in 2014).

Table 24:
Persons who were refused entry into the Republic of Serbia,
by citizenship and reasons for refusal in 2015⁴

Nationality	No/invalid document/ visa/PD/ID	Unclear purpose of stay	Overextended stay	Insufficient funds for subsistence	Imposed measure	Threat to security	Unfulfilled condition for this country	Other	Data unavailable	Total
Turkey	39	1,004		25	8			41		1,117
B&H	363	5		8	12	3		673		1,064
Stateless persons	649							1		650
FR Germany	495	10				1		77		583
Bulgaria	266	1		91	13	43		155		569
Romania	246			55	10			42		353
Hungary	133			85				114		332
Unknown citizenship	300							1		301
Moldavia	280									280
Tunisia	1	195			1					197
Austria	145							37		182

⁴ 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 have been defined in accordance with national legislation.

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

Nationality	No/invalid document/ visa/PD/ID	Unclear purpose of stay	Overextended stay	Insufficient funds for subsistence	Imposed measure	Threat to security	Unfulfilled condition for this country	Other	Data unavailable	Total
Albania	21	79		20	9		3	19		151
Croatia	108			1	1			27	2	139
Mongolia	2	103								105
Czech Republic	91							8		99
Russian Federation	2	77						6		85
Macedonia	56	1		2	3	3		19		84
Greece	69	2		2				10		83
Montenegro	14				4			59	1	78
Syria	55	14		1	2			2		74
Other	747	271	1	4	10			159		1,192
Total	4,082	1,762	1	294	73	50	3	1,450	3	7,718

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

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

In 2015, the number of foreigners that have been issued the measure of termination of residence in the Republic of Serbia was 15,306. In comparison with 2014, this number drastically increased by 10,584 persons. Among the persons whose residence was terminated in 2015, over one-half were citizens of Syria (53.5%), because of increased influx of migrants in 2015.

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

Table 25:
The number of persons issued the measure of termination of residence
in 2014 and 2015, by citizenship

Citizenship	2014		Citizenship	2015	
	No. of persons	%		No. of persons	%
Syria	3,580	48.6	Syria	8,199	53.5
Afghanistan	1,333	18.1	Afghanistan	3,212	20.9
Albania	264	3.5	Iraq	1,099	7.6
Pakistan	243	3.3	Pakistan	630	4.1
Turkey	185	2.5	Somalia	356	2.3
Palestine	177	2.4	Algeria	213	1.4
Eritrea	162	2.2	Palestine	170	1.1
Iraq	131	1.5	Turkey	161	1.1
Bulgaria	121	1.6	Bulgaria	122	0.8
Romania	97	1.3	Bangladesh	117	0.7
Somalia	84	1.1	Iran	103	0.6
Bangladesh	69	0.9	Eritrea	74	0.4
Other	1,008	13.0	Other	850	5.5
Total	4,722	100	Total	15,306	100

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

In 2015, the protective measure of removal of foreigners from the territory of the Republic of Serbia was issued in 1,506 cases, which is by half less than in 2014, when the protective measure of removal of foreigner from the territory of the Republic of Serbia was issued in 3,222 cases. Among these persons citizens of Syria (over 50%) and Afghanistan made for the majority of the total of issued protective measures of removal.

Table 26:

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, 2015

Citizenship	No. of persons	%
Syria	756	50.20
Afghanistan	408	27.09
Iraq	72	4.78
Pakistan	46	3.05
Somalia	41	2.72
Algeria	29	1.93
Palestine	21	1.39
Gambia	20	1.33
Eritrea	19	1.26
Romania	18	1.20
Mali	12	0.80
PRC	8	0.53
Nigeria	8	0.53
B&H	6	0.40
Albania	5	0.33
Macedonia	5	0.33
Iran	4	0.27
Libya	4	0.27
Sudan	3	0.20
Tunisia	3	0.20
Montenegro	2	0.13
Bangladesh	1	0.07
Bulgaria	1	0.07
Ghana	1	0.07
Guinea	1	0.07

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

India	1	0.07
Cameroon	1	0.07
Senegal	1	0.07
Turkey	1	0.07
Other	8	0.53
Total	1,506	100

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 2015, the dominating group were persons between 21 and 40 years of age (77.29%). Out of the total number of persons issued the protective measure of removal in 2015, 95.4% were men (1,436).

Table 27:

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, 2015

Age	No. of persons	%
14-20	144	9.56
21-40	1,164	77.29
41-60	188	12.48
Over 60	1	0.07
Unknown	9	0.60
Total	1,506	100

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 reason of removal, in 2015

Reason	No. of persons	%
Article 84, paragraph 1, item 1) of the Law on Foreigners (illegal entry in the Republic of Serbia)	1,276	84.73
Article 85, paragraph 1, item 3) of the Law on Foreigners (illegal stay in RS)	49	3.25
Article 84, Paragraph 1, item 2) of the Law on Foreigners (person who has not left RS in the provided timeframe)	42	2.79
Article 85, paragraph 1, item 2) of the Law on Foreigners (stay in the Republic of Serbia for purposes other than those for which he/she was granted stay or issued a visa)	5	0.33
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)	5	0.33
Article 65, paragraph 1, item 2) of the Law on Protection of State Border and Movement in the Border Area (crossing the border outside the border crossing point)	83	5.51
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)	8	0.53
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)	32	2.12
Article 76, paragraph 1, item 1 of the Law on Trade (illicit trade in goods)	1	0.07
Article 85, paragraph 1, item 4) of the Law on Foreigners	1	0.07
Article 6, paragraph 2 of the Law on Public Peace and Order	4	0.27
Total	1,506	100

Source: Ministry of Justice

In 2015, 155 persons were ordered the measure of expulsion from the country due to criminal offence. Observed by age groups, the highest percentage of persons ordered the safety measure of expulsion from the country due to criminal offence were in the group between 18 and 30 years (39%), followed by the group between 30 and 40 years (31%). Disaggregated by sex, it is perceived that the measure was issued to 129 men and 26 women.

Table 29:

Citizens of other states and stateless persons ordered the safety measure of expulsion from the country due to criminal offence, by age, 2015

Age	Number
18–30	60
30–40	48
40–50	32
Over 50	15
Total	155

Source: Ministry of Justice

The safety measure of expulsion from the country was ordered to 36 persons that admitted to the criminal offence (Article 88 of the Criminal Code), for 43 persons for unauthorised possession of narcotic drugs (Article 246a of the Criminal Code), for 13 persons for unauthorised production and putting in circulation narcotic drugs (Article 246, paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code), as well as for other criminal offences.

3.3. Trafficking in human beings

The 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 delegated authority 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 given 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 figure obtained from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

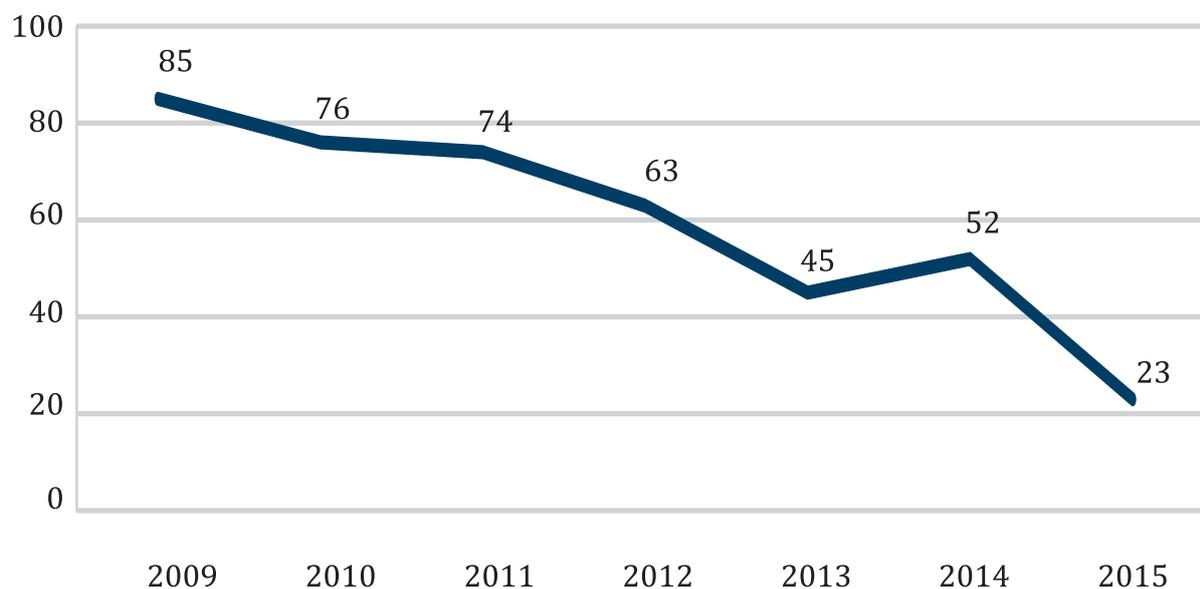
According to the data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, based on the number of criminal charges brought against perpetrators for the criminal offence of THB during 2014, there were 52 victims of THB in 2014 and 32 in 2015. All covered victims of THB in 2015 were citizens of the Republic of Serbia.

Table 30:
Victims of THB by citizenship, 2014 and 2015

Citizenship	Number of victims	
	2014	2015
Republic of Serbia	52	32
Montenegro	/	/
Moldavia	/	/
Ukraine	/	/
B&H	/	/
Stateless	/	/
Total	52	32

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Chart 3: Trend in the number of THB victims from 2009 until 2015



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

The number of THB victims decreased in comparison with 2014, and the shares of men and women also decreased significantly. In 2015, among both men and women victims, predominant age group was over 18 years of age.

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

Table 31:
Victims of THB by sex and age, 2014 and 2015

Age	2014		2015	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Up to 14	1	2	–	1
14–18 years of age	2	6	–	3
Over 18	36	5	9	19
Total	39	13	9	23

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

In contrast to 2014, when the predominant form of exploitation was labour exploitation, the data on the type of exploitation and sex for 2015 indicate that the most common form was sexual exploitation, with only women exposed (20).

Table 32:
Victims of THB by type of exploitation and sex, 2014 and 2015

Type of exploitation	2014		2015	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Sexual exploitation	/	8	/	20
Labour exploitation	35	/	8	/
Exploitation for perpetrating criminal offences	2	/	1	/
Exploitation for begging	1	2	/	/
Forced marriage	/	/	/	/
Multiple exploitation	1	2	/	/
No exploitation	/	1	/	3
Total	39	13	9	23
	52		32	

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

The identification of THB victims is organised as professional procedure within CHTVP, implemented in accordance with the standards and rules of social work in the social protection system. Starting with this year, CHTVP, in order to harmonise with EUROSTAT, introduced reporting on victims only monitoring the group „identified THB vic-

tim” (there being no longer a difference between potential and exploited victims, because ultimately they are recorded as THB victims).

In 2015, 40 THB victims were identified, out of which 24 minor and 16 adult victims. Among the minor victims, there were more girls with 75% of minor victims – a total of 18 girls and 4 boys. Among adult victims, there were also more women – 14 women and 2 men. In relation to the previous year, the number of identified victims was reduced by 62%.

The share of minor THB victims was 60% of the total number of identified victims. Women were exploited considerably more than men at 80% of the total number of victims. Girls dominated in the group of exploited females, appearing as victims in 56% of the cases.

Table 33:

Presentation of identified THB victims by type of exploitation, age and sex, 2015

Type of exploitation	Up to 18 years of age		Over 18 years of age		TOTAL
	W	M	W	M	
Sexual exploitation	7		12		19
Other type of sexual exploitation, for personal need	1		1		2
Abuse for pornography		1			1
Labour exploitation	2			1	3
Forced marriage	1		1		2
Forced begging	6	4			10
Illegal adoption		1			1
Forced criminal activities	1			1	2
SUBTOTAL	18	6	14	2	
TOTAL		24		16	40

Source: Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection

Republic of Serbia is the country of origin and country of exploitation of THB victims. THB victims are mostly citizens of the Republic of Serbia and predominantly exploited within the Republic of Serbia. In national THB, minors constitute 60%. The number of women dominated at 72%, among whom 50% were girls. The prevailing type of exploitation was sexual exploitation, present among 48% of the victims, followed by forced begging, present among 28% of the victims.

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

Table 34:
Structure of identified THB victims by country of exploitation and age, 2015

Country	Minors	Adults
Italy	1	/
Germany	1	3
Austria	3	1
Belgium	1	/
Switzerland	1	/
Montenegro	1	/
Serbia	16	12
Total	24	16

Source: CHTVP

In 2015, police officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs brought criminal charges against 27 persons (17 men and 10 women) for the criminal offence of THB under Article 388 of the Criminal Code. Out of this, 21 persons were citizens of the Republic of Serbia (13 men and 8 women), 3 persons were citizens of France (1 man and 2 women), 2 persons were citizens of B&H and 1 person was citizen of Austria.

In 2015, first instance courts in the Republic of Serbia pronounced a total of 90 judgements for the criminal offence of THB under Article 388 of the Criminal Code, out of which 53 final convictions and 23 acquittals.

Table 35:
Number of judgements against perpetrators of THB pronounced in 2014 and 2015, by type of judgement

Type of judgement	2014	2015
Sentencing – final	37	53
Sentencing – non-final	32	14
Final acquitting	15	23
Total	84	90

Source: Ministry of Justice

Looking at the age structure, the majority of persons convicted of the criminal offence of THB belongs to the age group of over 50 years (26 persons).

Table 36:
Number of persons convicted for criminal offence of THB, by age, 2015

Age	Number
18-30	22
30-40	19
40-50	23
Over 50	26
Total	90

Source: Ministry of Justice

B4. Statistics on forced migration and international protection

4.1. Asylum seekers

In 2015, there were 579,518 expressed intents to seek asylum in the Republic of Serbia, from 313,335 men and 92,188 women. The majority of asylum seekers came from Syria (52.1%) and Afghanistan (27.82%), followed by Iraq (13.3%), Iran (1.99%) and Pakistan (1.57%), all due to increased influx of migrants coming from the Middle East and Africa. As of May 2015, there was a sudden increase in the number of persons expressing intent to seek asylum in the Republic of Serbia. This number grew rapidly from one day to the next, and from one month to the next, and finally reached a number 35 times higher than in 2014.

B4. Statistics on forced migration and international protection

Table 37:
Persons that expressed intent to seek asylum
in the Republic of Serbia in 2015, by citizenship

Citizenship	Number	%
Syria	302,597	52.22
Afghanistan	161,250	27.82
Iraq	76,109	13.14
Iran	11,585	1.99
Pakistan	9,114	1.57
Other	18,863	3.26
Total	579,518	100

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Out of the total number of persons expressing intent to seek asylum in the Republic of Serbia, 173,284 were minors, with 108,995 boys and 64,289 girls. Out of the total number of minors expressing intent to seek asylum, there were 10,644 unaccompanied minors (8,391 boys and 2,253 girls).

In 487,136 cases, intent to seek asylum was expressed in the Reception Centre Preševo, while 27,161 persons expressed intent at the border crossing point. In the police directorate, 63,766 persons expressed intent.

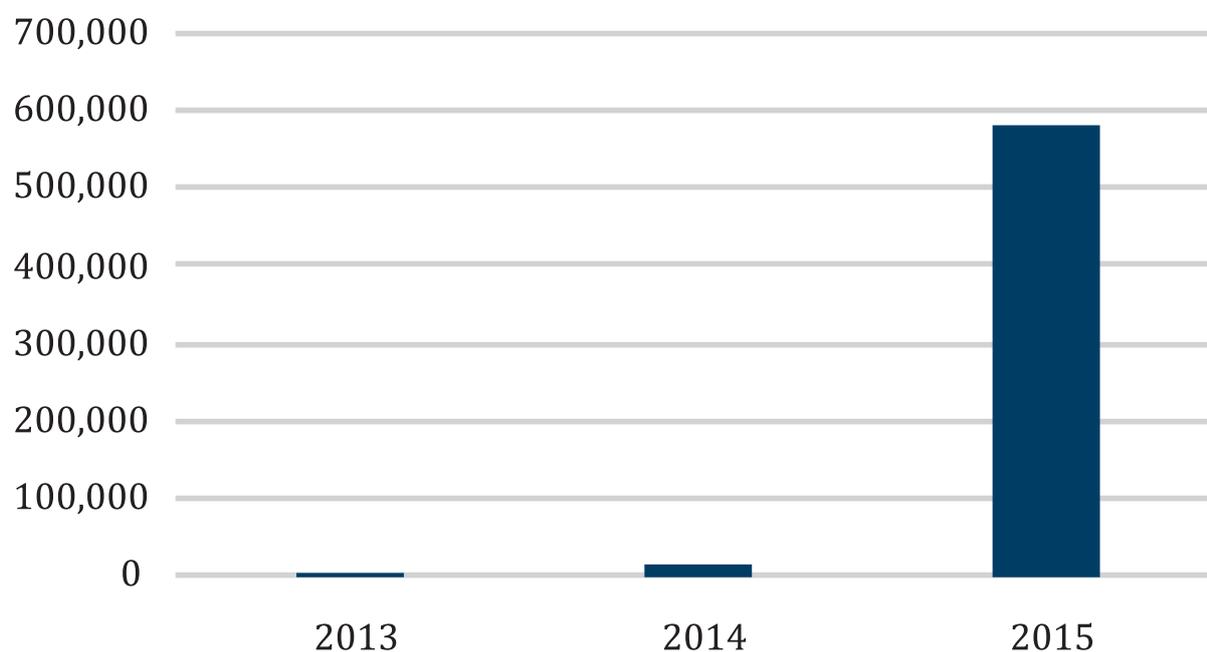
Table 38:
Expressed intent to seek asylum by place of expression, 2015

Place of expression of intent	No. of persons
Reception Centre Preševo	487,136
Border crossing (line)	27,161
Regional border police centre towards Bulgaria	1,020
Police directorates	63,766
Nikola Tesla Airport	269
Reception centre for foreigners	141
Centre for foreign minors	20
PCI	5
Total	579,518

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Chart 4:

The number of persons that expressed intent to seek asylum in the Republic of Serbia between 2013 and 2015



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

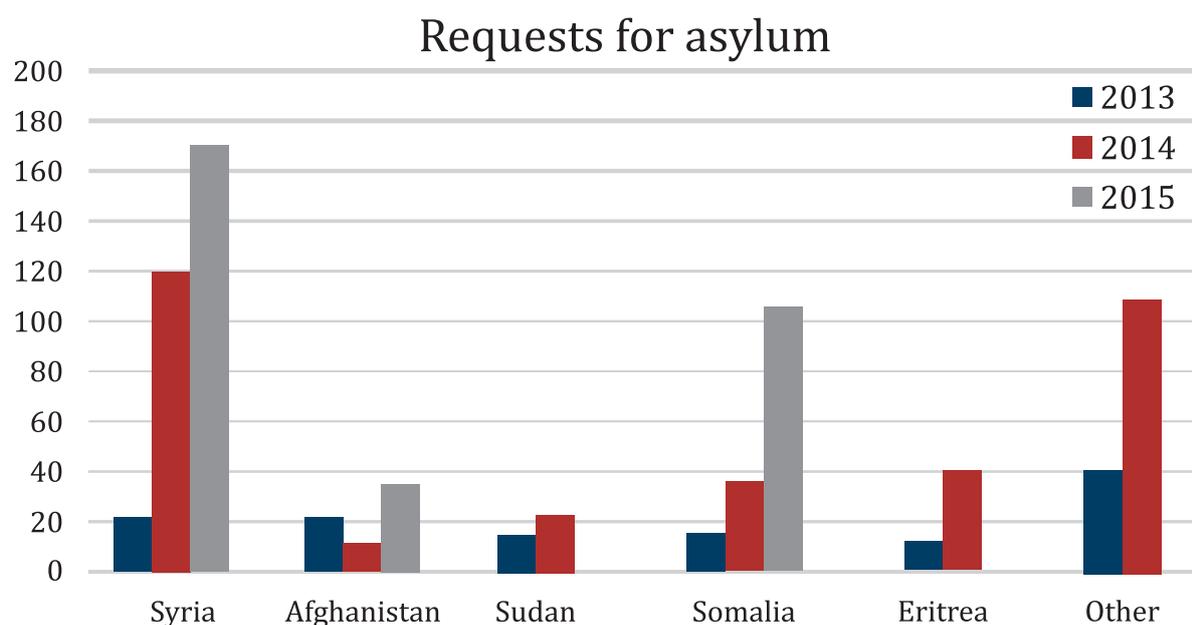
Out of the total of 579,518 expressed intents to seek asylum, only 586 persons, or 0.1% of the total number of persons filed an application for asylum. Out of the total number of filed applications for asylum, 31.74% were citizens of Syria.

Table 39:

The number of asylum applications, by citizenship, 2015

Citizenship	No. of persons	%
Syria	186	31.74
Somalia	118	20.13
Afghanistan	39	6.65
Libya	29	4.94
Iraq	11	1.87
Other	203	34.65
Total	586	100

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Chart 5: Number of submitted asylum applications 2013–2015, by citizenship

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

4.2. First instance decisions on asylum applications

The statistics on asylum procedure show that it was suspended for the majority of asylum seekers, which is the result of the fact that the majority of persons migrated further on, without waiting for the first instance decision on their asylum application.

After a hearing, 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 2015, the Asylum Office made 24 decisions approving asylum applications, 19 decisions rejecting asylum applications and 546 conclusions suspending the procedure because the asylum seekers left the Asylum Centre after submitting the application. In 2015, there were 6 decisions refusing asylum applications.

The Asylum Office issued 15 decisions on approving asylum applications and granting refuge for 16 persons, including 3 citizens of Iraq, 4 citizens of Syria, 6 citizens of Ukraine, 2 citizens of South Sudan and 1 citizen of Lebanon. Also, the Asylum Office issued 9 decisions approving asylum applications and awarding subsidiary protection for 14 persons, including 8 Libyan citizens, 1 Iraqi citizen, 3 Ukrainian citizens and 2 Syrian citizens.

Table 40:

First instance decisions on asylum applications, by type of decision in 2014 and 2015

Decisions	2014	2015
Rejected applications	12	19
Refused applications	0	6
Approved applications	6	24
Suspended proceedings	322	546
Decision on rejecting the appeal	0	1
Total	344	584

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

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

Asylum seeker may lodge an appeal against the decision of the Asylum Office to the Asylum Commission. The appeal may be lodged to the Asylum Commission in case when first instance body does not decide on the asylum application, in accordance with the law regulating general administrative procedure. In 2015, 30 appeals were lodged with the Asylum Commission on first instance decisions and three appeals due to lack of response from the administration. In the same period, the Asylum Commission issued 35 decisions on lodged appeals: 25 decisions granting the appeal, 8 decisions refusing the appeal, one decision rejecting the appeal and one conclusion granting the appeal due to lack of response from the administration. In one case, the Asylum Commission decided on the merit of the asylum application.

4.4. Decisions based on administrative disputes

The number of persons whose appeal was rejected in administrative disputes or which ended in suspended procedure in 2015 was 1, it was a male from Syria. In 2015, the number of persons 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 was 9. These persons were the citizens of Syria (3), Macedonia (2), France (2), Somalia (1) and Libya. Out of these, there were 8 men and 1 woman.

4.5. Returnees under Readmission Agreements

According to the records of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, there were 9,495 re-admission applications received in 2015, out of which 7,985 applications were approved, and in the same period, based on Readmission Agreements, 4,974 citizens returned to the Republic of Serbia via border crossings.

Out of the total number of received readmission applications (9,495) in 2015, 76.4% of applications were submitted from FR Germany and 11.2% from Hungary. As for the sex structure, 58% were men, while there were 42% women. In terms of age structure, there were 57.4% of adults and 42.6% minors.

Table 41:
Readmission applications by country, sex and age of returnees in 2015

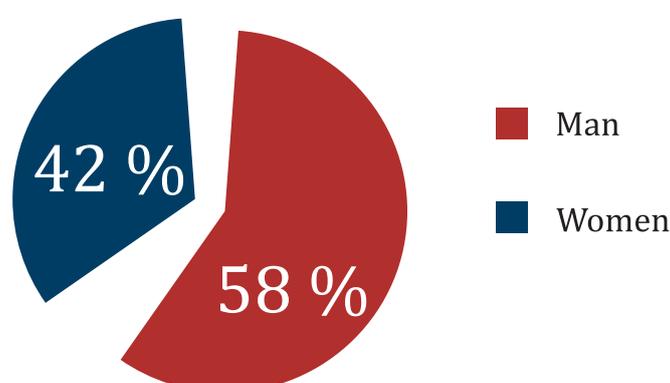
Applying country	Men		Women		Total
	Minor	Adult	Minor	Adult	
Germany	1,814	2,001	1,680	1,755	7,250
Hungary	92	819	44	104	1,059
Sweden	83	99	86	87	355
Belgium	47	103	46	48	244
France	22	77	18	27	144
Switzerland	16	47	19	23	105
Austria	7	59	7	8	81
Netherlands	13	27	16	12	68
Denmark	5	19	6	9	39
B&H	7	15	3	8	33
Spain	/	18		5	23
Croatia	2	13	1	2	18
Norway	/	12	/	3	15
Montenegro	/	12	/	/	12
Luxembourg	3	4	3	2	12
Italy	/	6	/	2	8
UK	1	4	1	2	8
Romania	/	4	/	/	4

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

Applying country	Men		Women		Total
	Minor	Adult	Minor	Adult	
Slovenia	/	4	/	/	4
Canada	/	3	/	/	3
Czech Republic	/	2	/	/	2
Finland	1	1	/	/	2
Greece	/	2	/	/	2
FYR Macedonia	/	/	/	1	1
Bulgaria	/	1	/	/	1
Portugal	/	/	/	1	1
Slovakia	/	1	/	/	1
Total	2,113	3,352	1,930	2,099	9,495

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Chart 6:
Readmission applications by sex of returnee, 2015



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Out of the total number of approved readmission applications (7,985) in 2015, the highest number of applications approved were from FR Germany (83.9%). Among the returnees whose applications for readmission were approved, there were 55.2% men and 44.8% women. Out of the total number of approved applications, the majority were adults (4,520), among whom the majority of adult men (2,587). Among 2,587 minors who were approved requests, there were 1,818 boys and 1,647 girls.

B4. Statistics on forced migration and international protection

Table 42:
Approvals of applications to return citizens of the Republic of Serbia
under Readmission Agreements in 2015

Application country	Men		Women		Total
	Minor	Adult	Minor	Adult	
Germany	1,611	1,936	1,457	1,699	6,703
Sweden	83	91	85	75	334
Hungary	32	218	17	34	301
Belgium	33	80	32	38	183
France	17	54	14	23	108
Austria	7	53	7	11	78
Switzerland	10	37	12	15	74
Netherlands	10	29	13	12	64
Denmark	3	15	4	7	29
B&H	6	12	2	7	27
Montenegro	/	12	/	/	12
Luxembourg	3	4	3	2	12
Spain	/	9	/	3	12
Croatia	1	9	/	1	11
Italy	/	6	/	1	7
Norway	/	5	/	1	6
UK	1	2	1	2	6
Slovenia	/	4	/	/	4
Romania	/	3	/	/	3
Czech Republic	/	2	/	/	2
Finland	1	1	/	/	2
Greece	/	2	/	/	2
Canada	/	2	/	/	2

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

Application country	Men		Women		Total
	Minor	Adult	Minor	Adult	
Macedonia	/	/	/	1	1
Portugal	/	/	/	1	1
Slovakia	/	1	/	/	1
Total	1,818	2,587	1,647	1,933	7,985

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Out of the total number of returnees under Readmission Agreements that returned in 2015 via border crossings (4,974), even 95% or 4,742 citizens returned to the Republic of Serbia via the BPS Belgrade border crossing (Nikola Tesla Airport).

Table 43:
Number of returnees under Readmission Agreements for 2015,
by border crossing registration

Regional centre (border police station)	Number of citizens of the Republic of Serbia
BPS Belgrade	4,742
Towards Hungary	117
Towards Croatia	41
Towards B&H	45
Towards Romania	6
Towards Bulgaria	3
Towards Macedonia	4
Towards Montenegro	15
BPS Niš	1
Total	4,974

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

During the same period, 3,174 or 794 families addressed the Readmission Office at the Nikola Tesla Airport for information and assistance with return.

B4. Statistics on forced migration and international protection

Table 44:

The number of returnees registered with the Readmission Office by sex, 2015

Persons/Families	Total	Men	Women
Number of persons	3,174	1,698	1,476
Number of families	794		

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

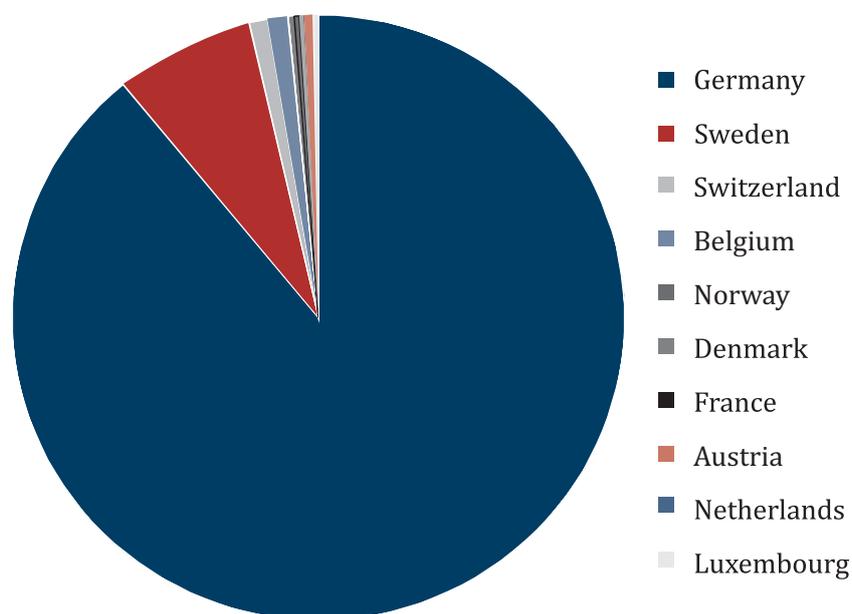
The highest number of returnees registered with the Readmission Office at the Nikola Tesla Airport came from FR Germany (89%).

Table 45: Returnees registered with the Readmission Office by country they returned from, 2015

Country	Number
Germany	2,859
Sweden	211
Switzerland	29
Belgium	30
Norway	1
Denmark	9
France	8
Austria	6
Spain	1
Netherlands	12
Luxembourg	6
Portugal	1
Slovenia	1
Total	3,174

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

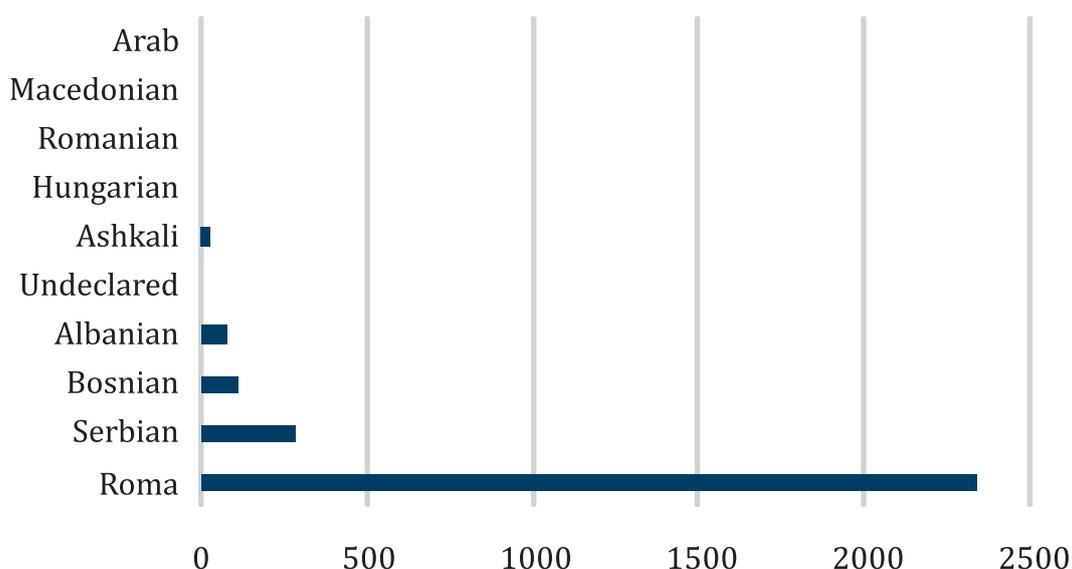
Chart 7:
Returnees registered with the Readmission Office, by country they returned from in 2015



Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

In 2015, the Roma population was represented with 82% in the total number of returnees under Readmission Agreements registered by the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, followed by returnees of Serbian nationality, with 10%. It can be concluded that the trend did not change in comparison with 2014.

Chart 8:
Returnees registered with the Readmission Office by nationality, 2015



Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

B4. Statistics on forced migration and international protection

In terms of the age structure of returnees registered by the Readmission Office, in 2015, the highest number of returnees belonged to the age group between 0 and 14 years (33% of the total number of registered individuals in the Readmission Office).

Table 46:
Returnees registered with the Readmission Office,
by age, 2015

Age	%
0-14	33
15-29	27
30-39	17
40-49	12.5
50-64	6.9
65+	3.9
Total	100

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Also, records are kept of the educational profile and employment status of returnees. Out of the total number, 54.2% of returnees is unemployed. The remaining 45% are children and pupils, and if we look at the year 2014, we will see that the situation was the same.

Educational structure of returnees can be the cause of unemployment, because only 1% completed secondary school, while 20.3% persons did not complete secondary school, and 31% did not complete primary school. There were 26.6% of returnees with completed primary school.

Table 47:
Returnees registered with the Readmission Office,
by employment status, 2015

Employment status	%
Child	28
Pupil	17
Student	0.1
Employed	0.2
Unemployed	54.2
Pensioner	0.2
Other	0.3
Total	100

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Table 48: Returnees registered with the Readmission Office,
by attained level of education, 2015

Education level	%
Without school education	20.3
Incomplete primary school	31
Primary school	26.6
Secondary school	10.2
College	1
University	0.4
Other	10.5
Total	100

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

4.6. Refugees under the Law on Refugees

In 2015, 35,295 refugees lived in the Republic of Serbia. The majority came from Croatia (25,962). In the period between 2014 and 2015, the refugee population was reduced by 8,468 persons (25,962 from Croatia, 9,287 from B&H and 45 persons from Slovenia).

Table 49:

Refugee population in the Republic of Serbia by country of origin, 2014 and 2015

Country of origin	2014	2015
Croatia	32,372	25,962
B&H	11,323	9,287
Slovenia	67	45
Macedonia	1	1
Total	43,763	35,295

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Data on age structure indicate substantial share of elderly age cohorts, with 50% of persons over 65 years of age.

Table 50:

Refugee population in the Republic of Serbia by age, 2015

Age	%
0-14	1
15-29	10
30-39	11
40-49	9
50-64	19
65+	50
Total	100

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

According to data from the Commissariat, out of the total number of refugees in 2015, the majority of refugees live in the Belgrade District (9,098), followed by South Bačka District (5,893), Srem District (5,359), West Bačka District (2,410) and Mačva District (2,339).

Table 51:
Number of refugees by districts in the Republic of Serbia, 2015

District	Number of refugees
North Bačka	1,088
Central Banat	1,203
North Banat	464
South Banat	1,565
West Banat	2,410
South Bačka	5,983
Srem	5,359
Mačva	2,339
Kolubara	402
Podunavlje	515
Braničevo	548
Šumadija	644
Pomoravlje	555
Bor	215
Zaječar	244
Zlatibor	479
Moravica	465
Raška	438
Rasina	300
Nišava	421
Toplica	112
Pirot	92
Jablanica	155

District	Number of refugees
Pčinja	94
Kosovo	14
Kosovska Mitrovica	91
Belgrade	9,098
Total Republic of Serbia	35,295

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

4.7. Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

In 2015, 203,140 persons displaced from AP Kosovo and Metohija lived in the Republic of Serbia. 58,220 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, Nišava and Toplica districts. In terms of ethnic structure, the most numerous among IDPs were Serbs, followed by Roma, while the Gorani, Bosniaks/Muslims, Montenegrins and others accounted for the minority of the population.

Table 52:

The number of IDPs by districts in the Republic of Serbia, 2015

District	Number of IDPs
North Bačka	2,849
Central Banat	1,026
North Banat	230
South Banat	1,975
West Bačka	667
South Bačka	5,213
Srem	1,183
Mačva	994
Kolubara	878
Podunavlje	11,136
Braničevo	2,298
Šumadija	15,976

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

District	Number of IDPs
Pomoravlje	8,248
Bor	1,303
Zaječar	1,684
Zlatibor	1,770
Moravica	3,959
Raška	30,543
Rasina	9,731
Nišava	12,424
Toplica	12,195
Pirot	601
Jablanica	6,613
Pčinja	11,424
Belgrade	58,220
Total Republic of Serbia	203,140

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

In 2015, 304 IDPs returned to AP Kosovo and Metohija (176 persons with support, 12 persons in organised return and 116 persons spontaneously).

In terms of the age structure of returnees, the majority of the population is in the age group between 15 and 29 years of age (22.4%) and 50 and 64 years (22.4%).

Table 53:
IDPs returned to AP Kosovo and Metohija according to municipality of return, sex and age in 2015

Municipality	Sex	Subtotal	Age structure				
			0-14	15-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Gora	Women	11	1	5	2	2	1
	Men	8	1	2	1	3	1
Gnjilane	Women						
	Men	5	2		2	1	

B4. Statistics on forced migration and international protection

Municipality	Sex	Subtotal	Age structure				
			0-14	15-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Istok	Women	13		1	2	8	2
	Men	18	3	3	5	4	3
Klina	Women	18	6	4	1	3	4
	Men	10	1		3	6	
Kosovo Polje	Women						
	Men	1			1		
Kosovska Kamenica	Women	13		4	4	2	3
	Men	17	2	4	5	4	2
Priština	Women	4	3		1		
	Men	2	1		1		
Novo Brdo	Women	11	4	3	2	1	1
	Men	8	3		3	1	1
Obilić	Women	2	1		1		
	Men	2	1		1		
Orahovac	Women	4	2	1		1	
	Men	4	1	1	2		
Peć	Women	2	1		1		
	Men	4	2		1		1
Prizren	Women	5				3	2
	Men	7		1	1	3	2
Štrpce	Women	63	10	21	10	14	8
	Men	71	17	18	16	11	9
Vitina	Women						
	Men	1				1	
Total		304	62	68	66	68	40

Source: Office for Kosovo and Metohija

Table 54:
IDPs that returned to AP Kosovo and Metohija in 2015 –
by municipality and manner of return

Municipality	No. of persons		Manner of return	
	Total	Supported	Organised	Spontaneous
Gnjilane	5	3	/	2
Gora	19	4	/	15
Priština	6		/	6
Istok	31	20	/	11
Klina	28	12	/	16
Kosovo Polje	1	/	/	1
Obilić	4	4	/	/
Orahovac	8	/	/	8
Peć	6	1	/	5
Prizren	12	/	12	/
Kosovska Kamenica	30	/	/	30
Vitina	1	/	/	1
Novo Brdo	19	/	/	19
Štrpce	134	132	/	2
Total	304	176	12	116

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 during the last 14 years decreased by over 350,000 people. Population size was estimated on 1 January 2015.

Table 55:
Estimated population size in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2001–2015,
by type of settlement and sex

	Population size (30 Jun)			In urban settlements			In other settlements		
	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	7,236,519	3,523,911	3,712,608	4,284,218	2,045,719	2,238,499	2,952,301	1,478,192	1,474,109
2012	7,201,497	3,506,934	3,694,563	4,273,973	2,042,083	2,231,890	2,927,524	1,464,851	1,462,673
2013	7,166,553	3,489,688	3,676,865	4,272,060	2,037,550	2,234,510	2,894,493	1,452,137	1,442,356
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*	7,149,179	3,481,080	3,668,099	4,271,421	2,036,656	2,234,765	2,877,758	1,444,424	1,433,334

Source: SORS

The 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 to the Ministry of Internal Affairs responsible for keeping records on residence.

Table 56:
Comparative overview of population that migrated in and out
of the Republic of Serbia, by sex, 2014

		2014		
		Total	Male	Female
Serbia-North (Belgrade region and the region of Vojvodina)	Immigration	78,813	35,649	43,164
	Outmigration	71,727	32,586	39,141
Serbia-South ⁵ (Šumadija and West Serbia regions and South and East Serbia regions)	Immigration	45,659	19,063	26,596
	Outmigration	52,745	22,126	30,619

Source: SORS⁵

Table 57:
Migrant population by type of settlement and sex, 2014 (internal migration)

Area	Type of settlement	Migrated in %		Migrated out %	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
Serbia-North	Urban	79	78	78	73
	Other	21	22	22	27
Serbia-South	Urban	53	50	51	46
	Other	47	50	49	54
Republic of Serbia	Urban	70	67	67	61
	Other	23	33	33	39

Source: SORS

5 Since 1998, SORS has not had access to data for AP Kosovo and Metohija, and therefore they are not covered by the scope of data for the Republic of Serbia.

B5. Statistics on internal migration

Table 58:
Migrant population by sex, 2014 (internal migration)

Area	Migrated in %		Migrated out %	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Serbia-North	45	55	45	55
Serbia-South	42	58	42	58
Republic of Serbia	44	56	44	56

Source: SORS

Table 59: Migrant population by age groups in the Republic of Serbia, 2014
(internal migration)

Age	Republic of Serbia	Serbia-North	Serbia-South
Migrated in			
0-14	18,135	11,790	6,345
15-64	98,578	62,162	36,416
65 and over	7,759	4,861	2,898
Migrated out			
0-14	18,135	11,724	6,411
15-64	98,578	55,346	43,232
65 and over	7,759	4,657	3,102

Source: SORS

C1. Identifying and defining the set of indicators for the assessment of reintegration of returnees under Readmission Agreements

One of the recommendations of the Screening Expert Mission of the European Commission for Chapter 24 (Justice, Freedom and Security) from February 2014, was the need to improve the monitoring system of the reintegration process, i.e. the assessment of the quality of services provided by competent institutions on the central and local levels, in order to assess the efficiency of the implemented measures. As it was necessary to improve data records related to reintegration of returnees under readmission, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration and the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission (TAIEX) organised two expert missions to identify and define the set of indicators for the assessment of reintegration of returnees. The aim of the expert missions was to identify and develop the set of indicators to be used for monitoring measures undertaken on the national level for efficient implementation of the Strategy of Returnees Reintegration under the Readmission Agreement, which would be implemented in practice. All relevant institutions and organisations participated in the development of the set of indicators. The use of output indicators with objectively verifiable indicators is necessary in order to get a clear picture of what has been done in the area of reintegration of returnees.

Table 60:
List of indicators for monitoring reintegration of returnees under Readmission Agreements in the Republic of Serbia, 2015

INSTITUTION	INDICATORS	
Ministry of education, science and technological development	The number of public calls, projects and budget funds allocated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development at the local level, related to returnees	7 Public Calls
Ministry of education, science and technological development	The number of returnees enrolled in the appropriate grade (primary+secondary school)+disaggregated by age and sex	I grade – 75 (46 boys and 29 girls) II grade – 63 (36 boys and 27 girls) III grade – 102 (49 boys and 53 girls) IV grade – 72 (31 boys and 41 girls) V grade – 81 (42 boys and 39 girls) VI grade – 47 (25 boys and 22 girls) VII grade – 38 (18 boys and 20 girls) VIII grade – 33 (12 boys and 21 girls)

C1. Identifying and defining the set of indicators

INSTITUTION	INDICATORS	
Ministry of education, science and technological development	The number of returnees who filled in the questionnaire for the assignment/enrolment in the appropriate grade	40 returnees filled in the questionnaire
Ministry of education, science and technological development	The number of applications for certificate equivalency and recognition of diplomas	63 requests for certificate equivalency and the number of requests for recognition of diplomas
Ministry of education, science and technological development	Number of scholarships, financial support and free books awarded to returnees	7
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Number of travel documents issued to returnees	4,127 travel documents under Re-admission Agreements (01 Jan 2015 – 01 Dec 2015)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	As general indicator: number of asylum applicants from the Republic of Serbia in EU countries and Schengen member states (source DCP)	25,155 citizens of the Republic of Serbia sought asylum in EU countries (in FR Germany 23,780, in Sweden 904, in Belgium 181, in Switzerland 184, in Denmark 53 and in Luxembourg 53)
Office for Cooperation with Civil Society	The number of projects/programmes funded from the Republic of Serbia Budget directly benefiting IDPs and refugees, returnees under readmission, migrants, asylum seekers and Roma	<p><i>Annual cumulative report on the disbursement of funds provided and transferred as support to programme and project activities to associations and other civil society organisations from the Republic of Serbia budget funds, developed by the Office on annual level, based on data from the previous fiscal year provided by authorities. The report shall contain an overview of the number of programmes/projects funded from the Budget directly benefitting Roma, refugees and IDPs, returnees under readmission and migrants.</i></p> <p>Annual cumulative report for 2015 is under preparation, so data are still not available.</p>
Ombudsman	Number of reported cases of human rights violations of returnees under Readmission Agreements	There were no such cases

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2015

INSTITUTION	INDICATORS	
Office for Human and Minority Rights	Number of Roma coordinators (their role is to be in contact with the Roma community, provide mediation and support, counselling, cooperate with the NGO sector and LSG units)	56
CRM	The number of public calls/projects aimed at returnees (funded by CRM) for LSG units (also number of included municipalities)	<p>1 public call</p> <p>-Value: 20 million RSD</p> <p>-11 municipalities included</p>
CRM	Number of public calls/projects aimed at returnees (funded by CRM) for CSOs	<p>In May 2015, one public call was opened for project proposals of importance for asylum seekers and returnees under readmission agreements.</p> <p>- Total value 4,000,000.00 RSD</p> <p>- 2,343,000.00 RSD allocated for projects of importance for returnees under readmission agreements</p> <p>- A total of 9 CSOs were given support for projects of importance to returnees under readmission agreements</p>
CRM	The number of returnees registered at the Nikola Tesla Airport in Belgrade that contacted commissioners for refugees and migration on the local level	3,174 registered with the Readmission Office at Nikola Tesla Airport in Belgrade
CRM	CRM support provided to LSGs with the aim to revise existing local action plans to include returnees	Out of 147 municipalities, 99 municipalities revised existing local action plans to include returnees under readmission agreement
CRM	Number of printed information sheets on rights and obligations of returnees under Readmission Agreements	3,000

C2: Increased inflow of migrants in the Republic of Serbia

INSTITUTION	INDICATORS	
CRM	Number of people placed by CRM in emergency reception centres (in case of necessity/emergency need) + average length of stay + total number of awarded financial compensations to returnees by CRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total of 42 persons placed - Average stay 4–5 months - 40 financial assistance packages distributed
CRM	Frequency of meetings of the Team for Implementation of the Strategy for Reintegration of Returnees. General indicator (not directly connected to services available to returnees).	0
CRM	Number of articles (in printed media) dedicated to returnees	72 articles + local media
All relevant institutions	The number of civil servants (to be) in charge of returnees under Readmission Agreements within different ministries/government bodies.	CRM – 3 (under job classification) + 3 (added)
All relevant institutions	Free legal support/advice for returnees	

C2: Increased inflow of migrants in the Republic of Serbia

Between 1 January and 31 December 2015, 579,518 migrants from the Middle East and Africa who expressed intent to seek asylum, crossed the state border of the Republic of Serbia. This number is much higher than the number of asylum seekers in 2014 (16,500). From May 2015, hundreds of thousands of migrants left for Europe, for the reasons of continued warfare in their countries of origin and daily increase of civil victims, as well as the collapse of state systems in some countries of sub-Saharan Africa. During this period, the number of asylum seekers in the Republic of Serbia also grew rapidly, but the number of asylum seekers in asylum centres decreased gradually, leaving some asylum centres empty. Migrants passing through the Republic of Serbia stayed only for a few days, or however long necessary to organise their journey further towards EU countries, due to announced closing of European borders.

Despite the great challenge, CRM, in cooperation with other government authorities and international organisations and local NGOs, in accordance with its competences defined by the Law on Asylum and Law on Migration Management, based on decades of

experience in reception, care and integration of forced migrants, managed to provide accommodation and services necessary for a dignified stay of people passing through the Republic of Serbia. Although essentially a transit country, Republic of Serbia can meet all the standards of protection of migrants. From the start of increased inflow of migrants in June 2015, the Government of the Republic of Serbia chose a proactive approach in order to ensure adequate protection and assistance to people in need. Enormous efforts were made to provide adequate assistance to migrants during their stay in the Republic of Serbia, to provide them with adequate reception, temporary accommodation, health care, assistance in food and medicines, as well as all information on the asylum procedure, with full respect of their human rights.

Simultaneously, efforts were made to increase border control and prevent smuggling and trafficking in human beings. Recognising the need for urgent and coordinated action, on 18 June 2015, the Government of the Republic of Serbia formed a Working Group for addressing the issues of mixed migration flows, made up of ministers of six line ministries (Minister of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, also Working Group Chair; Minister of Internal Affairs, Minister of Defence, Minister of Health, Minister without portfolio responsible for European integration and Minister of Foreign Affairs) and Commissioner for Refugees and Migration. The Working Group was formed with the task to monitor, analyse and consider issues relating to mixed migration flows in the Republic of Serbia, provide situation analyses and proposals for measures to address identified issues. Also, on 4 September 2015, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted a Response Plan in case of increased inflow of migrants, defining measures, activities, human, financial and other resources necessary for providing urgent accommodation to migrants and unhindered access to their rights. The Response Plan includes a number of serious measures to expand old and open new accommodation capacities. Different situations were considered during the plan preparation, including a shift in migrants' direction of movement.

Reception Centre in Preševo was opened in July 2015 in order to perform registration and provide humanitarian assistance to migrants entering the Republic of Serbia from Macedonia. Reception Centres providing humanitarian assistance and health care to migrants, without registration, were opened at different times in Miratovac, Bujanovac, Kanjiža, Subotica, Principovac, Adaševci and Šid. In September 2015, when the border with Hungary was closed for migrants, the flow of migrants was redirected towards the border with Croatia. At the end of 2015, a number of countries along the Western Balkan route, including the Republic of Serbia, decided to limit access to their territories to migrants coming from „war-affected areas”, i.e. from Syria, Iraq or Afghanistan.

In cooperation with the Local Councils for Migration, the Commissariat opened additional transit centres and identified adequate facilities for urgent reception of migrants, who would, in case they need to, be quickly adapted to provide accommodation for migrants.

In addition to five permanent Asylum Centres (Krnjača, Banja Koviljača, Bogovađa, Sjenica and Tutin), from the beginning of increased influx of migrants, facilities were opened in Preševo, Bujanovac, Kanjiža, Pirot, Bosilegrad, Dimitrovgrad, Kikinda, Šid, Sombor, Subotica, Zaječar and Negotin, with the aim to expand reception capacities aimed at shorter or longer stay of migrants in the Republic of Serbia, if needed.

Map 1:

Map with routes and centres for reception and accommodation of migrants in the Republic of Serbia in 2015



Source: CRM

Conclusion

- With regards to immigration, the Republic of Serbia is still not a destination country, not even among the countries in the region, especially for migrants whose aim is employment. Countries from which the majority of migrants came in 2015 were PRC, the Russian Federation, Romania, Macedonia and Libya.
- After the single Readmission Agreement with the EU entered into force on 1 January 2008, many citizens of the Republic of Serbia were returned from EU countries. Among these persons there were those who lost the legal grounds for residence on the territory of one of EU member states, but still these were predominantly persons that applied for asylum on the territory of EU member states after visa liberalisation. Out of the total number of received applications for readmission, the majority were from FR Germany, Hungary and Sweden. The majority of returnees registered with the Readmission Office at the Nikola Tesla Airport came from FR Germany and Sweden.
- In 2015, the Republic of Serbia became a highly frequent transit country for numerous migrants from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Pakistan, wanting to reach EU countries, so the number of expressed intents to seek asylum increased significantly. In 2015, the number of asylum seekers was 35 times higher than in 2014.
- With the opening of new transit and reception centres, the capacity for reception of migrants during their stay in the Republic of Serbia increased.
- It is necessary, as soon as possible, to agree on EU level on a comprehensive, sustainable solution for migrant crisis, which would also include transit countries on the Western Balkans route. For the Republic of Serbia, as a candidate for EU membership and a highly burdened transit country on the Western Balkans route, it is of key importance for the EU to reach a unified position and come to a comprehensive solution, which would also include joint measures and activities in order to provide a proper and efficient response.
- Having in mind that the Twinning Project provides the opportunity to apply knowledge and experiences of competent institutions of Sweden, Netherlands and Slovenia in the process of improving the asylum system of the Republic of Serbia, the above-mentioned Project will have great importance on further development of the asylum system in the Republic of Serbia, in order to further meet international standards. The project will enable harmonization of the Republic of Serbia legislation in the area of asylum with EU legislation and fulfil the preconditions defined in Chapter 24 and Action Plan for the Republic of Serbia EU accession. By ensuring a better-quality asylum procedure, providing services to unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in accordance with international standards, the development of mechanisms for the integration of persons awarded refugee or temporary protection in the Republic of Serbia, the quality of work of competent services of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Commissariat for Refugees and Migration will be improved as well as the response to the challenges of intercontinental migration. Project implementation will have a significant impact on providing a humane and adequate treatment of asylum seekers, promoting solidarity and tolerance as key EU values, as well as the Republic of Serbia's European perspective.

The component related to developing mechanisms for integration of persons awarded international protection includes developing the plan of integration in the local community. Integration in the local community is one of the preconditions for the person provided international protection to be able to lead a dignified and safe life in the receiving country. The Law on Migration Management and Law on Asylum provide for the adoption of a by-law that will enable the Republic of Serbia, within its abilities, to include persons approved some sort of international protection in the social, cultural and economic life of the country.

The issue of refugees and IDPs is still ongoing in the Republic of Serbia. Looking at the 2009 trends, it can be perceived that the number of refugees has increased by around 10,000 a year, while the number of IDPs remains mostly unchanged. 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.

- The changes in the population size in the Republic of Serbia are in part caused by low, i.e. negative population growth, which is the result of low birth rates (among the lowest in European countries) and high mortality rates, depopulation of agrarian areas, as well as movement of the population abroad (economic migration, brain drain, etc.) to work/stay there temporarily, which is becoming increasingly permanent, and which is ever present in greater or lesser intensity.
- The Republic of Serbia has for years been collecting and disaggregating data in accordance with the demands of EUROSTAT and Regulation 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection. Although most data have been harmonised, there is need to further improve indicators and data disaggregation in the following areas:
 - In accordance with EU Regulation on visa regulations (Regulation (EC) No. 810/09 of the European Parliament and of the Council) regulating also the reporting on visa issuance, it is necessary to introduce evidence of visas issued on annual level by type of visas issued (A, B, C and D);
 - Monitoring cross-border mobility records only the total number of entries and exits, regardless of the purpose of entry and the border crossing point where the person entered, so there is a great gap between the number of foreign citizens that entered the Republic of Serbia and of those that have left it during the year, which indicates imprecise evidence on exit;
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