



**РЕПУБЛИКА СРБИЈА  
ВЛАДА РЕПУБЛИКЕ СРБИЈЕ**

A stylized graphic of the Serbian flag, consisting of a red upper section and a blue lower section, both with wavy, curved borders. The text is centered within the blue section.

**MIGRATION PROFILE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA FOR 2019**

## Acronyms

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| AP           | Autonomous Province                                  |
| B&H          | Bosnia and Herzegovina                               |
| BPD          | Border Police Directorate                            |
| CRM          | Commissariat for Refugees and Migration              |
| DCP          | Diplomatic Consular Post                             |
| DR Congo     | Democratic Republic Congo                            |
| EC           | European Commission                                  |
| EC           | European Community                                   |
| EU           | European Union                                       |
| FRY          | Federal Republic of Yugoslavia                       |
| IDP          | Internally Displaced Person                          |
| IOM          | International Organisation for Migration             |
| NES          | National Employment Service                          |
| N. Macedonia | North Macedonia                                      |
| PR China     | People's Republic of China                           |
| SAR          | South African Republic                               |
| SFRY         | Socialist Federative 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                                       |
| USA          | United States of America                             |

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## ***A. INTRODUCTION***

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

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

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

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

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

### **1.1. Visa issuance**

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

In 2019, the number of issued visas increased in comparison with the previous year, from 9,587 to 11,117. The highest number of visas, even 39.8%, was issued to citizens in East Asian countries (the majority to the citizens of PR China), which is a notable increase looking at the previous year, when the share of visas issued to citizens from this region amounted to only 18.9%. The region of West Asia comes second, with 20.5%, followed by the region of North Africa with 15.9% and South and Southeast Asia, with 12.5% issued visas.

Citizens of as many as 133 world countries applied in 2019 for a visa for the Republic of Serbia, and the highest number was, the same as during the previous period, issued to the citizens of China (40%), Egypt (6.4%), and India (6.4%). Out of the total number of visas, the citizens of PR China were approved approximately one in three, with a considerable rising trend compared to previous years. This indicates a significant share of labour migration from this Asian country.

**Table 1:** Visas issued in 2019, by regions

| Citizenship               | Number of visas | %          |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| EU                        | 198             | 1.7        |
| North Africa              | 1,775           | 15.9       |
| Sub-Saharan Africa        | 510             | 4.5        |
| West Asia                 | 2,285           | 20.5       |
| Central Asia <sup>1</sup> | 168             | 1.5        |
| South and Southeast Asia  | 1,495           | 12.5       |
| East Asia                 | 4,444           | 39.8       |
| No citizenship            | 386             | 3.4        |
| Other                     | 24              | 0.2        |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>11,117</b>   | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Table 1a:** Visas issued in 2019 by citizenship and sex of the visa applicant

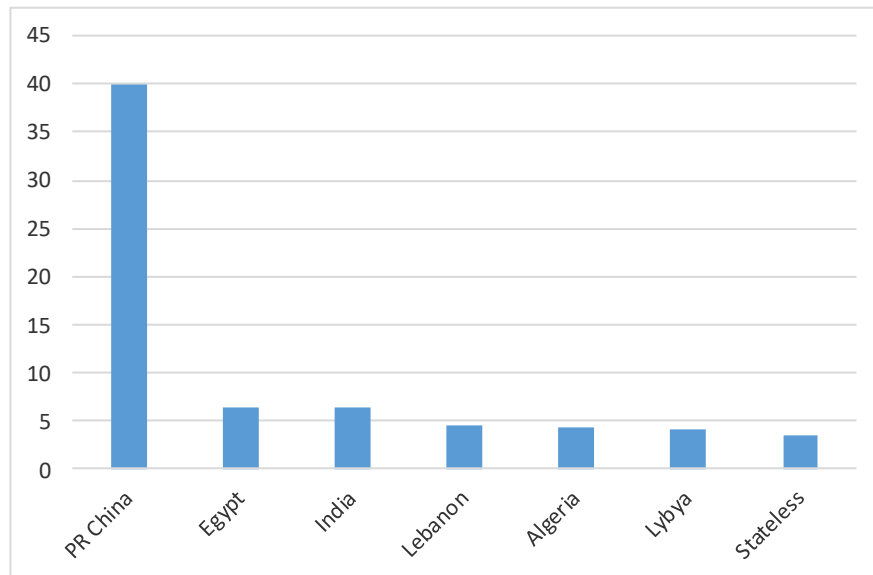
| Country   | Number of visas issued | %    | Men   |      | Women |      |
|-----------|------------------------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
|           |                        |      |       | %    |       | %    |
| PR China  | 4,442                  | 40.0 | 2,628 | 59.2 | 1,814 | 40.8 |
| India     | 714                    | 6.4  | 649   | 90.9 | 65    | 9.1  |
| Egypt     | 705                    | 6.4  | 603   | 85.5 | 102   | 14.5 |
| Lebanon   | 484                    | 4.4  | 343   | 70.9 | 141   | 29.1 |
| Algeria   | 454                    | 4.2  | 379   | 83.5 | 75    | 16.5 |
| Libya     | 448                    | 4.0  | 328   | 73.2 | 120   | 26.8 |
| Stateless | 386                    | 3.4  | 217   | 56.2 | 169   | 43.8 |

<sup>1</sup> Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

|                    |               |            |              |             |              |             |
|--------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Iran               | 350           | 3.1        | 218          | 62.2        | 132          | 37.8        |
| Iraq               | 346           | 3.1        | 264          | 76.3        | 82           | 23.7        |
| SAR                | 257           | 2.3        | 120          | 46.7        | 137          | 53.3        |
| Philippines        | 211           | 1.8        | 54           | 25.5        | 157          | 74.5        |
| Jordan             | 189           | 1.7        | 129          | 68.2        | 60           | 31.8        |
| Syria              | 153           | 1.4        | 117          | 76.4        | 36           | 23.6        |
| Thailand           | 134           | 1.2        | 54           | 40.2        | 80           | 59.8        |
| Russian Federation | 130           | 1.2        | 90           | 69.2        | 40           | 30.8        |
| Malaysia           | 115           | 1.1        | 48           | 41.7        | 67           | 58.3        |
| Other countries    | 1,599         | 14.3       | 921          | 57.6        | 678          | 45.4        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>11,117</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>7,162</b> | <b>64.4</b> | <b>3,955</b> | <b>35.5</b> |

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Chart 1: Visas issued in 2019 by citizenship of visa applicant**



Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Observed by sex, somewhat over 64% of visas were issued to men. India comes first, with 90.9% men, followed by Egypt (85.8%), and Algeria (83.5%).

As in the previous years, current records in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs do not allow for differentiation between visas issued by type<sup>2</sup>, so it cannot be determined for which purposes they were issued.

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

Data on cross-border mobility are an important indicator of the international position of a country, both geographically speaking, and from the perspective of traffic and transit. Also, this information is important for tourism, business activities, educational contents, etc. According to data provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 2019, 36,000,000 entries, and over 35,900,000 exits were registered into and out of the Republic of Serbia. Higher number of entries and exits were registered among foreign citizens than domestic, i.e. citizens of the Republic of Serbia.

**Table 2: Cross-border mobility in the Republic of Serbia in 2019**

|                                    | <b>Number of entries into the Republic of Serbia</b> | <b>Number of exits from the Republic of Serbia</b> |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Republic of Serbia citizens</b> | <b>13,990,897</b>                                    | <b>14,820,319</b>                                  |
| <b>Foreign citizens</b>            | <b>22,048,428</b>                                    | <b>21,157,975</b>                                  |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>36,039,324</b>                                    | <b>35,978,294</b>                                  |

<sup>2</sup> Visa types are: airport transit visa (type A visa), short stay visa (C type visa) and long stay visa (D type visa) (Art. 19 of the Law on Foreigners).

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***

Monitoring international migration in the Republic of Serbia is under harmonisation with EU frameworks and standards, defined by the Regulation on Community statistics on migration and international protection (EC, No. 862/2007). This Regulation defines the terms, categories and indicators for monitoring international migration and international protection in the EU space. Data on international migration flows and the characteristics of international migrants in the Republic of Serbia in this chapter are presented in line with the regulations, which means that they refer to regular migrants.

**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.

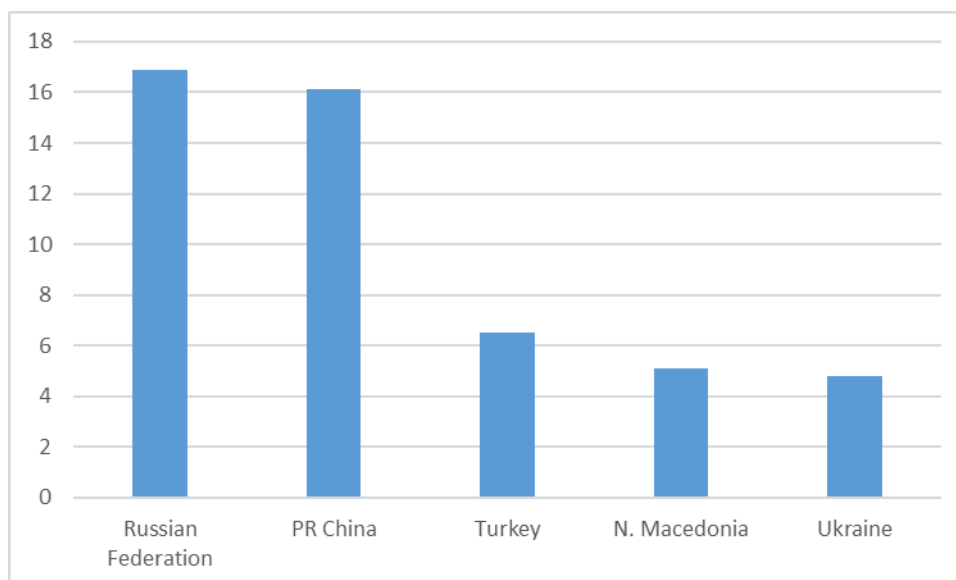
In 2019, the highest number of immigrants came from Russia and PR China (16.9% and 16.1%, respectively). What can be clearly seen by comparing previous observed years is the almost twofold share of immigrants from China.

**Table 3:** Countries with the highest number of citizens among the immigrant population in the Republic of Serbia in 2018 and 2019

| Citizenship            | 2018                            | Citizenship        | 2019                            |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
|                        | Share in total immigration in % |                    | Share in total immigration in % |
| PR China               | 32.5                            | Russian Federation | 16.9                            |
| Russian Federation     | 13.5                            | PR China           | 16.1                            |
| Romania                | 25.6                            | Turkey             | 6.5                             |
| N. Macedonia           | 12.2                            | N. Macedonia       | 5.1                             |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | 12.8                            | Ukraine            | 4.8                             |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>47.2</b>                     | <b>Total</b>       | <b>49.4</b>                     |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

**Chart 2:** Countries with the highest number of citizens among the immigrant population in the Republic of Serbia in 2019



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Observed by sex, there are notable differences by country of origin of immigrants. Namely, there is a higher share of women among the citizens of North Macedonia and the Russian Federation.

**Table 4:** The most numerous immigrant population in the Republic of Serbia in 2018 and 2019, by citizenship and sex

| Citizenship            | 2018  |              | Citizenship        | 2019  |              |
|------------------------|-------|--------------|--------------------|-------|--------------|
|                        | Total | Women (in %) |                    | Total | Women (in %) |
| PR China               | 5,934 | 35.8         | Russian Federation | 4,125 | 45.4         |
| Russian Federation     | 4,249 | 25.6         | PR China           | 3,935 | 27.4         |
| Romania                | 2,234 | 13.5         | Turkey             | 1,578 | 9.9          |
| N. Macedonia           | 2,117 | 12.8         | N. Macedonia       | 1,215 | 60.8         |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | 2,031 | 12.3         | Ukraine            | 1,185 | 38.5         |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

## 2.2. Temporary residence permit

Article 40 of the Law on Foreigners (Official Gazette RS, No. 24/2018 and 31/2019), defines that temporary residence is the resident permit for foreign citizen in the Republic of Serbia, which can be approved to a foreigner who intends to stay in the Republic of Serbia for longer than 90 days on the grounds of: employment, education or learning Serbian, studies, participation in student international exchange programmes, professional development, training and practice, scientific research or other scientific or educational activity, family reunification, religious service, treatment and care, property ownership, humanitarian stay, status of presumed victim of trafficking in human beings, status of victim of trafficking in human beings and other justified reasons, in accordance with the law or international treaty.

In 2019, 11,119 temporary residence permits were issued for the first time. The highest number of permits were issued to the citizens of Russia, PR China, and Turkey.

**Table 5:** Persons issued temporary residence permits for the first time, by citizenship in 2019

| Citizenship | 2019                     |   |
|-------------|--------------------------|---|
|             | Number of issued permits | Share in the total number of issued permits (%) |
|             |                          |   |



|                    |               |            |
|--------------------|---------------|------------|
| Russian Federation | 2,250         | 20.2       |
| PR China           | 1,695         | 15.2       |
| Turkey             | 1,327         | 12         |
| Ukraine            | 763           | 6.9        |
| B&H                | 395           | 3.5        |
| Romania            | 325           | 3.0        |
| India              | 321           | 2.9        |
| N. Macedonia       | 234           | 2.1        |
| Italy              | 221           | 2.0        |
| Other              | 3,588         | 32.2       |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>11,119</b> | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Disaggregation by grounds for approval shows that, in 2019, the most common grounds for temporary residence issued for the first time was employment (69.6%), which is an increase compared to the previous year when it was 44.7%. Family reunification still comes second as the grounds for approving temporary residence. At the beginning of this decade, the most significant grounds for residence was family reunification, while today this trend has changed considerably in favour of work permits. The share of education, as grounds for being awarded temporary residence for the first time has dropped, and in 2019, 622 persons or 5.6% of the total number was approved residence for this reason.

**Table 6:** Temporary residence permits issued for the first time according to grounds for approval, 2018 and 2019

| Grounds for approval | 2018         |            | 2019          |            |
|----------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|
|                      | Number       | %          | Number        | %          |
| Family reunification | 2,476        | 32.6       | 2,236         | 20.1       |
| Employment           | 3,396        | 44.7       | 7,740         | 69.6       |
| Education            | 675          | 8.9        | 622           | 5.6        |
| Other                | 1,044        | 13.8       | 521           | 4.7        |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>7,591</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>11,119</b> | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Disaggregation by citizenship shows that in 2019, the same as in the previous period, again there was the highest number of Chinese citizens among those that had come on the grounds of work, namely one in five (18.7%). The same situation is recorded regarding the citizens of the Russian Federation.

**Table 7:** Temporary residence permits on the grounds of work issued for the first time in 2018 and 2019, by citizenship

| Citizenship        | 2018           |            | 2019               |                |            |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|--------------------|----------------|------------|
|                    | No. of persons | %          | Citizenship        | No. of persons | %          |
| PR China           | 724            | 21.3       | PR China           | 1,448          | 18.7       |
| Turkey             | 400            | 11.8       | Russian Federation | 1,440          | 18.6       |
| Romania            | 245            | 7.2        | Turkey             | 1,239          | 16.0       |
| Russian Federation | 196            | 5.8        | Ukraine            | 533            | 6.9        |
| B&H                | 179            | 5.2        | Belarus            | 296            | 3.8        |
| Germany            | 109            | 3.2        | India              | 280            | 3.6        |
| Ukraine            | 99             | 3.0        | Romania            | 253            | 3.3        |
| Italy              | 95             | 2.8        | B&H                | 180            | 2.3        |
| Poland             | 78             | 2.2        | Italy              | 156            | 2.0        |
| Hungary            | 72             | 2.2        | Poland             | 128            | 1.7        |
| Other              | 1,199          | 35.3       | Other              | 1,787          | 23.1       |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>3,396</b>   | <b>100</b> | <b>Total</b>       | <b>7,740</b>   | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Regarding temporary residence permits on the grounds of family reunification issued for the first time, the citizens of the Russian Federation represent the highest share in this type of permit, which is twofold compared to the citizens of the next ranking country – PR China.

**Table 8:** Temporary residence permits on the grounds of family reunification issued for the first time, 2018 and 2019

| Citizenship        | 2018           |            | 2019               |                |            |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|--------------------|----------------|------------|
|                    | No. of persons | %          | Citizenship        | No. of persons | %          |
| Russian Federation | 407            | 16.4       | Russian Federation | 446            | 20.0       |
| Libya              | 208            | 8.4        | PR China           | 171            | 7.6        |
| PR China           | 200            | 8.0        | B&H                | 148            | 6.6        |
| N. Macedonia       | 170            | 6.9        | N. Macedonia       | 137            | 6.1        |
| B&H                | 151            | 6.1        | Montenegro         | 132            | 5.9        |
| Montenegro         | 126            | 5.1        | Ukraine            | 111            | 5.0        |
| Other              | 1,214          | 49.1       | Other              | 1,091          | 48.8       |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>2,476</b>   | <b>100</b> | <b>Total</b>       | <b>2,236</b>   | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Data on temporary residence permits issued for the first time on the grounds of education show the same trend in 2019 regarding the number of permits issued, with the citizens of Iran coming first according to the number of permits issued on these grounds, while in the previous year, the citizens of Libya came first.

**Table 9:** Temporary residence permits on the grounds of education issued for the first time, 2019

| Citizenship  | 2019           |            |
|--------------|----------------|------------|
|              | No. of persons | %          |
| Iran         | 48             | 7.7        |
| B&H          | 41             | 6.6        |
| Montenegro   | 36             | 5.8        |
| Spain        | 35             | 5.6        |
| USA          | 32             | 5.1        |
| Other        | 430            | 69.2       |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>622</b>     | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Looking at the sex structure of persons issued temporary residence permits for the first time on the grounds of work, the male population prevails, of family reunification the female population prevails, while of education, the share of the sexes is relatively equal. This trend, also present during the previous periods, continues in 2019.

**Table 10:** Temporary residence permits issued for the first time by sex, for 2018 and 2019

| Grounds              | 2018 |       |            | 2019 |       |            |
|----------------------|------|-------|------------|------|-------|------------|
|                      | Men  | Women | Total      | Men  | Women | Total      |
| Employment           | 83.7 | 16.3  | <b>100</b> | 88.1 | 11.9  | <b>100</b> |
| Family reunification | 36.0 | 64.0  | <b>100</b> | 38.4 | 61.6  | <b>100</b> |
| Education            | 55.4 | 44.6  | <b>100</b> | 56.3 | 43.7  | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

In 2019, a total of 24,421 temporary residence permits were issued, and an increase is observed compared to 2018 (21,102). The highest number of permits were issued to the citizens of the Russian Federation (16.9%) and China (16.1%). A considerable share of persons from ex-SFRY republics had valid temporary residence permits at the end of 2019, the majority coming from North Macedonia (1,215).

**Table 11:** Temporary residence permits valid at the end of 2019, by citizenship

| Citizenship        | No. of persons | %          |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|
| Russian Federation | 4,125          | 16.9       |
| PR China           | 3,935          | 16.1       |
| Turkey             | 1,578          | 6.4        |
| Ukraine            | 1,185          | 4.8        |
| N. Macedonia       | 1,215          | 5.0        |
| Libya              | 1,003          | 4.2        |
| Romania            | 917            | 3.7        |
| B&H                | 745            | 3.1        |
| Montenegro         | 704            | 2.9        |
| Croatia            | 659            | 2.7        |
| Other              | 8,355          | 34.2       |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>24,421</b>  | <b>100</b> |

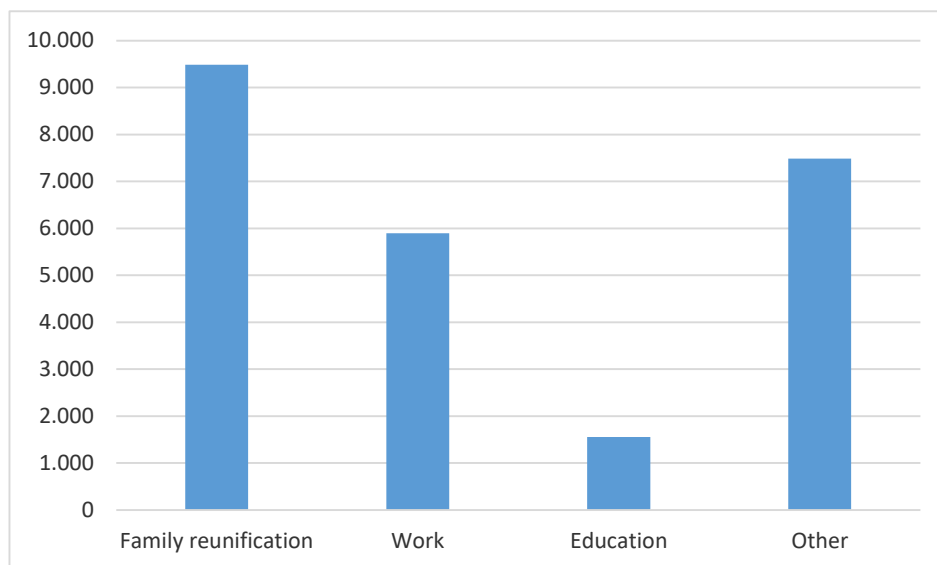
Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Unlike residence permits issued for the first time, the highest number of permits valid at the end of 2019 was on the grounds of family reunification. This trend was the same in previous years also. Permits on the grounds of work were approved to 38.5% of persons, while a considerably lower share of persons were approved permits on the grounds of education, i.e. 6.4%.

**Table 12:** Temporary residence permits valid at the end of 2019, by grounds for approval

| Grounds for approval | No. of persons | %          |
|----------------------|----------------|------------|
| Family reunification | 9,485          | 38.5       |
| Work                 | 5,892          | 24.1       |
| Education            | 1,557          | 6.4        |
| Other                | 7,487          | 31.0       |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>24,421</b>  | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

**Chart 3:** Temporary residence permits valid at the end of 2019, by grounds for approval

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

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

Permanent residence is a permit for long-term stay of a foreign citizen in the Republic of Serbia. The Law on Foreigners proscribes that permanent residence may be approved to a foreigner:

- Staying 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;
- Who has entered into, on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, marriage or civil union with a citizen of the Republic of Serbia or a foreigner who has a permanent residence permit and has spent no less than three years with no interruptions on a temporary residence permit on the grounds of family reunification;

- Whose origins are on the territory of the Republic of Serbia;
- 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;
- Other foreigners with a temporary residence permit, for the reasons of humanity or if it is in the interest of the Republic of Serbia.

In 2019, there were 8,721 foreigners residing permanently in the Republic of Serbia, which is an increase compared to 2018, when there were 7,866 of them. Among the foreigners residing permanently, the majority come from China (25.4%), Romania (11.7%) and the Russian Federation (10.8%). The trend has not changed compared to last year.

**Table 13:** Foreigners permanently residing in the Republic of Serbia in 2019, by citizenship

| Citizenship        | No. of persons | %          |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|
| China              | 2,218          | 25.4       |
| Romania            | 1,024          | 11.7       |
| Russian Federation | 943            | 10.8       |
| N. Macedonia       | 616            | 7.3        |
| Ukraine            | 397            | 4.7        |
| Germany            | 382            | 4.3        |
| Albania            | 289            | 3.3        |
| Bulgaria           | 249            | 2.8        |
| Poland             | 162            | 1.8        |
| Montenegro         | 159            | 1.7        |
| Other              | 2,282          | 26.2       |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>8,721</b>   | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

As in the previous years, in 2019 the highest number of foreigners were approved permanent residence on the grounds of marriage (61.5%).<sup>3</sup> If we add to this number the 9.6% of persons living in civil unions, it is clear that emotional reasons, i.e. reasons related to family, are by far the most prevailing for applying for permanent residence in the Republic of Serbia. Employment is the grounds in 20.8% of the cases, which is a relatively low percentage, if we take into account that economic migration is the most common form of migration, both in Serbia, and worldwide.

**Table 14:** Foreigners permanently residing in the Republic of Serbia by grounds for residence, in 2018 and 2019

| Grounds for residence              | 2018           |            | 2019           |            |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
|                                    | No. of persons | %          | No. of persons | %          |
| Marriage                           | 5,476          | 69.6       | 5,367          | 61.5       |
| Employment                         | 1,319          | 16.7       | 1,814          | 20.8       |
| Civil union                        | 510            | 6.5        | 840            | 9.6        |
| Property ownership                 | 218            | 2.8        | 323            | 3.7        |
| Minor                              | 144            | 1.8        | 184            | 2.1        |
| Interest of the Republic of Serbia | 104            | 1.5        | 89             | 1.2        |
| Origins in the Republic of Serbia  | 42             | 0.5        | 48             | 0.5        |
| Other                              | 53             | 0.6        | 56             | 0.6        |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>7,866</b>   | <b>100</b> | <b>8,721</b>   | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

## 2.4. Labour immigration

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

- 1) Who has been granted the right to work, or temporary residence as a precondition for approval of such right, in conformity with the regulations governing the work of foreigners in the Republic of Serbia;
- 2) Who intends to stay in the Republic of Serbia for more than 90 days, if he fulfils other conditions prescribed by the Law on Foreigners and does not need a work permit pursuant to the regulations governing the work of foreigners in the Republic of Serbia.

<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to the Law on Foreigners, which has been in force since 03 October 2018, 2 grounds for approval of permanent residence are provided: General – stay up to 5 years (family reunification, property ownership, employment) and Specific (marriage, civil union, origin, minor and R. of Serbia interest / humanitarian reasons).

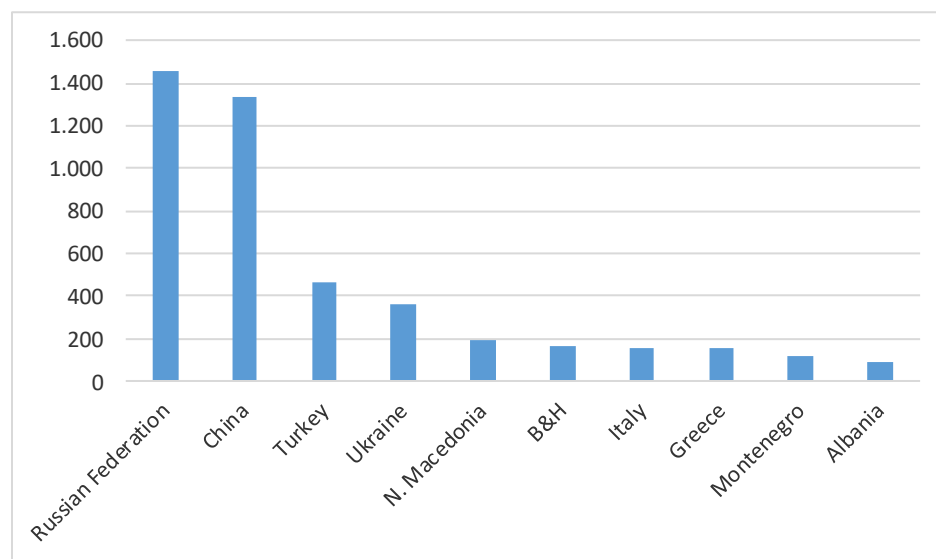
At the end of 2019, a total of 5,892 foreigners were issued temporary residence permits on the grounds of work. This number decreased relatively in comparison with 2018, when 8,283 foreigners resided in the Republic of Serbia on these grounds.

**Table 15:** Foreigners residing in Serbia on the grounds of work in 2019, by citizenship

| Citizenship        | No. of persons | %          |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|
| Russian Federation | 1,454          | 24.7       |
| China              | 1,336          | 22.7       |
| Turkey             | 469            | 8.0        |
| Ukraine            | 358            | 6.1        |
| N. Macedonia       | 191            | 3.2        |
| B&H                | 162            | 2.7        |
| Italy              | 157            | 2.6        |
| Greece             | 153            | 2.5        |
| Montenegro         | 121            | 2.2        |
| Albania            | 92             | 1.6        |
| Other              | 1,399          | 23.7       |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>5,892</b>   | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

**Chart 4:** Foreigners residing in Serbia on the grounds of work in 2019, by citizenship



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Employment of foreigners in the Republic of Serbia is regulated by the Law on the Employment of Foreigners (Official Gazette RS, No. 128/14, 113/17, 50/18 and 31/19), as well as the Rulebook on work permits (Official Gazette RS, No. 63/18 and 56/19), which more closely regulates the manner of issuance, or extension of the work permit, the ways in which fulfilment of conditions is proven and the necessary evidence for issuing or extending the work permit and the form and content of the work permit.

The Law proscribes that a foreigner employed in the Republic of Serbia, pursuant to 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 a long-term visa on the grounds of employment, temporary residence permit or permanent residence in accordance with the Law and work permit. The 2019 amendments to the Law on the Employment of Foreigners introduced the possibility to issue the following work permits on the grounds of approved long-term visa on the grounds of employment: work permit for employment, work permit for posts, work permits for inter-corporate transfers, work permit for independent professional and work permit for self-employment. These provisions become effective on 1 January 2020.

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

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

In the period between 1 January and 31 December 2019, National Employment Service (NES) issued a total of 13,802 work permits to foreign nationals, out of which 1,471 personal work permits, 7,400 work permits for employment, 1,079 work permits for posted workers, 1,516 work permits for inter-corporate transfers, 44 work permits for independent professionals, 2,243 work permits for self-employment and 49 work permits for vocational training and professional development.

There were 9,793 work permits issued to foreigners with temporary residence in the Republic of Serbia in 2019, which is an increase compared to 2018, when there were 8,689 of such permits.

As the number of persons with work permits includes only 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 SRJ, No. 42/92, 24/94 and 28/96 and Official Gazette RS, No. 101/05 – other Law), it is estimated that the number of foreigners working in the Republic of Serbia is considerably higher than the number of issued work permits, because it does not relate to the engagement of foreigners other than formal employment, members of management boards and other types of engagement. This also accounts for the difference between the number of approved residence permits on the grounds of work by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the number of issued work permits by the NES.

Regarding the attained education level, the majority of work permits were issued to permits with VII-1 (3,858 permits), IV (3,268 permits) and III (2,558 permits) education levels.

Out of the total number of issued work permits in 2019, 9,793 were issued to foreign citizens with temporary residence, out of which 1,955, or 19.9%, to women. Looking at the percentage of issued work permits to women by branch offices, out of the total number of issued permits, the majority of permits were issued in the branch office for the City of Belgrade (11.38%), followed by the branch office Novi Sad (2.17%), branch office Niš (0.65%), branch office Pančevo (0.56%), and branch office Sremska Mitrovica (0.55%).

**Table 16:** The number of work permits issued to foreigners with temporary residence in 2019, by citizenship

| Citizenship        | Number of work permits |              |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------|
|                    | Total                  | Women        |
| Russian Federation | 2,119                  | 492          |
| Albania            | 123                    | 11           |
| Austria            | 102                    | 24           |
| B&H                | 377                    | 72           |
| Bulgaria           | 183                    | 62           |
| Belarus            | 346                    | 22           |
| PR China           | 112                    | 55           |
| Croatia            | 249                    | 88           |
| France             | 146                    | 21           |
| Germany            | 212                    | 46           |
| Greece             | 247                    | 20           |
| India              | 254                    | 9            |
| Italy              | 439                    | 41           |
| Montenegro         | 288                    | 74           |
| Poland             | 175                    | 41           |
| Romania            | 421                    | 115          |
| Slovenia           | 142                    | 32           |
| Turkey             | 762                    | 52           |
| Ukraine            | 677                    | 104          |
| N. Macedonia       | 446                    | 127          |
| UK                 | 145                    | 29           |
| USA                | 121                    | 35           |
| Other              | 1,707                  | 383          |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>9,793</b>           | <b>1,955</b> |

Source: NES

In 2019, foreigners **with permanent residence** were issued 442 work permits, out of which nearly one-half to the female population (211, or 47.7%). By citizenship, again the citizens of China came first with 109 permits or 24.7% of the total number, and within this group men who were issued work permits prevail. The citizens of the Russian Federation came second, with more than one-half of the female population at 51.6%.

**Table 17:** The number of work permits issued to foreigners with permanent residence in 2019, by citizenship

| Citizenship        | Number of work permits |            |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------|
|                    | Total                  | Women      |
| PR China           | 109                    | 53         |
| Russian Federation | 64                     | 33         |
| N. Macedonia       | 55                     | 33         |
| Ukraine            | 20                     | 16         |
| Croatia            | 12                     | 5          |
| Romania            | 12                     | 7          |
| Greece             | 11                     | 0          |
| Turkey             | 10                     | 2          |
| Germany            | 9                      | 3          |
| Italy              | 9                      | 3          |
| Kazakhstan         | 7                      | 4          |
| Slovenia           | 7                      | 2          |
| B&H                | 6                      | 4          |
| Tunisia            | 6                      | 1          |
| Netherlands        | 5                      | 1          |
| Other              | 100                    | 44         |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>442</b>             | <b>211</b> |

Source: NES

There were 703 unemployed foreign citizens registered with NES on 31 December 2019, with 81.37% women. There were 506,865 registered unemployed persons with NES on 31 December 2019, with 703 foreign citizens, or 0.14%. The trend was identical during the previous year.

The majority of unemployed persons on NES records were from North Macedonia. They were followed by the citizens of Montenegro and Russia.

**Table 18:** Foreigners registered with NES on 31 December 2019, by citizenship

| Country            | No. of persons | %          |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|
| N. Macedonia       | 152            | 21.62      |
| Montenegro         | 79             | 11.24      |
| Russian Federation | 79             | 11.24      |
| Romania            | 71             | 10.10      |
| Albania            | 59             | 8.39       |
| Ukraine            | 38             | 5.41       |
| B&H                | 32             | 4.55       |
| Bulgaria           | 32             | 4.55       |
| Iran               | 23             | 3.27       |
| Croatia            | 12             | 1.71       |
| Slovakia           | 11             | 1.56       |
| Moldova            | 10             | 1.42       |
| Slovenia           | 8              | 1.14       |
| Greece             | 6              | 0.85       |
| Iraq               | 6              | 0.85       |
| Poland             | 6              | 0.85       |
| Germany            | 5              | 0.71       |
| Hungary            | 5              | 0.71       |
| Other              | 69             | 9.83       |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>703</b>     | <b>100</b> |

Source: NES

The highest number of unemployed persons belonged to the group of younger middle-aged population, or persons between 30 and 49 years of age (63.58%). They were followed by older workers, or persons belonging to the older middle-aged group (21.19%), and youth (15-29 years of age) with 15.23%. This trend was also the same the previous year.

**Table 19:** Foreigners registered with NES on 31 December 2019, by age

| Age groups               | No. of persons | %          |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Youth (15–29)            | 107            | 15.23      |
| Middle age group (30–49) | 447            | 63.58      |
| Older workers (50–64)    | 149            | 21.19      |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>703</b>     | <b>100</b> |

Source: NES

Observed by the educational structure of foreigners registered with NES on 31 December 2019, on record under 12 months, persons without formal education and persons with completed primary school had the highest share, 73.51% in total. It was the same with persons on record for over 12 months, and the share of this category of persons was as high as 77.24% of the total number.

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

| Highest completed educational level       | Registered up to 12 months |            | Registered over 12 months |            |
|---|----------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|
|   | No. of persons             | %          | No. of                    | %          |
| No education or incomplete primary school | 111                        | 41.42      | 163                       | 37.47      |
| Completed primary school                  | 86                         | 32.09      | 173                       | 39.77      |
| High school                               | 38                         | 14.18      | 67                        | 15.40      |
| College and university                    | 33                         | 12.31      | 32                        | 7.36       |
| <b>Total</b>                              | <b>268</b>                 | <b>100</b> | <b>435</b>                | <b>100</b> |

Source: NES

In 2019, a total of 523 foreign nationals registered with NES. The highest share of newly registered individuals came from North Macedonia (19.31%), the Russian Federation (13.38%) and Montenegro (10.9%). This shows that the trends from 2017 and 2018 continued.

**Table 21:** Foreigners registered with NES in 2019, by citizenship

| Citizenship          | No. of     | %          |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| N. Macedonia         | 101        | 19.31      |
| Russian Federation   | 70         | 13.38      |
| Montenegro           | 57         | 10.90      |
| Romania              | 42         | 8.03       |
| Iran                 | 39         | 7.46       |
| Ukraine              | 37         | 7.07       |
| Albania              | 24         | 4.59       |
| B&H                  | 18         | 3.44       |
| Bulgaria             | 17         | 3.25       |
| Croatia              | 16         | 3.06       |
| Philippines          | 6          | 1.15       |
| Italy                | 5          | 0.96       |
| Slovakia             | 5          | 0.96       |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 5          | 0.96       |
| Other                | 81         | 15.49      |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>523</b> | <b>100</b> |

Source: NES

## 2.5. Foreign students



There are no precise data available on foreign students enrolled in universities in the Republic of Serbia. The closest estimate is enabled by data on foreigners with temporary residence on the grounds of education with valid permits. At the end of 2019, 1,557 foreigners were temporary residing in the Republic of Serbia on the grounds of education, which is a slight decrease compared to 2018, when there were 1,683. This slightly decreasing trend has been perceived over several years. Most of these persons came from Libya (22.3%), followed by, to a much lesser extent, the citizens of Russia (5.8%). It is interesting to note that the citizens of Libya have been for a decade by far the most numerous group of persons with temporary residence permits on the grounds of education.

**Table 22:** Foreigners with valid temporary residence permits on the grounds of education, at the end of 2019, by citizenship

| Citizenship        | No. of persons | %        |
|--------------------|----------------|----------|
| Libya              | 347            | 22.3     |
| Russian Federation | 90             | 5.       |
| Montenegro         | 82             | 5.       |
| Greece             | 74             | 4.8      |
| Iran               | 67             | 4.3      |
| Croatia            | 62             | 3.9      |
| B&H                | 53             | 3.4      |
| Turkey             | 47             | 3.0      |
| China              | 43             | 2.8      |
| N. Macedonia       | 42             | 2.7      |
| Other              | 650            | 41.8     |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>1,557</b>   | <b>1</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

## 2.6. Acquisition of citizenship

In 2019, 15,554 persons acquired Serbian citizenship, which is a decrease compared to 2018, when 20,634 persons acquired citizenship. There were by far the most citizens originating from B&H, as many as 10,136 persons, or 65.16% of the total number.

**Table 23:** Newly admitted citizens of the Republic of Serbia in 2019, by previous citizenship

| Previous citizenship | No. of persons | %          |
|----------------------|----------------|------------|
| B&H                  | 10,136         | 65.16      |
| Montenegro           | 1,640          | 10.54      |
| Croatia              | 890            | 5.72       |
| Croatia              | 802            | 5.15       |
| N. Macedonia         | 468            | 3.06       |
| Austria              | 186            | 1.19       |
| Russian Federation   | 135            | 0.86       |
| USA                  | 121            | 0.77       |
| Romania              | 118            | 0.75       |
| Albania              | 103            | 0.66       |
| SFRY                 | 103            | 0.66       |
| Other                | 852            | 5.48       |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>15,554</b>  | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

## 2.7. Emigration

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

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). Monitoring migration is a particularly complex issue. Domestic records do not enable a comprehensive or precise overview of the size and characteristics of the emigrant population, and foreign country statistics towards which emigrants from the Republic of Serbia traditionally gravitate, are often not available or precise.

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 Republic of Serbia is an emigration country, but, like many other states, does not keep complete records of persons emigrating from the country, so data obtained from Eurostat, published by EU member states on the number of immigrants in the current year, were used for the Migration Profile. In addition to regular submission of data on estimated population size for the current year, countries also send to Eurostat data on immigration and emigration, published annually. Thus, referent data on population size, live births, deaths, immigration and emigration both on national and regional levels are available in Eurostat database, together with demographic indicators derived from the data.

As Eurostat has not published data for 2018 and 2019, data from 2017 will be presented below.

Out of the total of 16,046 Serbian citizens who left the Republic of Serbia during 2017, or newly arrived immigrants in some of EU and European countries (that submit data to Eurostat), the majority opted for Austria (29.5%).

**Table 24:** Republic of Serbia citizens registered in 2017 as newly arrived immigrants in European countries that submit data to Eurostat<sup>4</sup>

| Destination countries | 2017          |              |              |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
|                       | Total         | Men          | Women        |
| Austria               | 4,740         | 2,525        | 2,215        |
| Sweden                | 1,961         | 995          | 966          |
| Slovenia              | 1,956         | 1,556        | 400          |
| Hungary               | 1,659         | 1,233        | 426          |
| Switzerland           | 1,289         | 582          | 707          |
| Italy                 | 903           | 372          | 531          |
| Norway                | 683           | 333          | 350          |
| Croatia               | 553           | 389          | 164          |
| Romania               | 462           | 298          | 164          |
| Czech Republic        | 410           | 289          | 121          |
| Belgium               | 384           | 180          | 204          |
| Netherlands           | 303           | 137          | 166          |
| Bulgaria              | 283           | 165          | 115          |
| Luxembourg            | 182           | 99           | 83           |
| Denmark               | 136           | 79           | 57           |
| Finland               | 44            | 24           | 20           |
| Iceland               | 41            | 19           | 22           |
| Slovakia              | 35            | 20           | 15           |
| Estonia               | 12            | 5            | 7            |
| Liechtenstein         | 4             | 0            | 4            |
| Lithuania             | 4             | 4            | 0            |
| Latvia                | 2             | 0            | 2            |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>16,046</b> | <b>9,304</b> | <b>6,739</b> |

Source: Eurostat

Seeing, as mentioned already, that Eurostat does not have available data on annual estimated number of newly arrived Serbs in European countries submitting data to Eurostat, the table below, showing the number of Serbian citizens issued temporary residence permits for the first time, could represent the grounds or potential for future emigration of Serbian citizens.

<sup>4</sup> Data on how many Serbian citizens reside in Germany are not available.

**Table 24a:** Number of Serbian citizens issued temporary residence permits for the first time in 2018 in EU countries and Switzerland

| Destination countries | 2018          |
|-----------------------|---------------|
|                       | Total         |
| Germany               | 16,156        |
| Slovenia              | 5,147         |
| Croatia               | 4,910         |
| Slovakia              | 4,834         |
| Austria               | 3,956         |
| Hungary               | 3,767         |
| Malta                 | 2,209         |
| Czech Republic        | 1,693         |
| Sweden                | 1,620         |
| Switzerland           | 1,553         |
| Italy                 | 1,486         |
| Poland                | 1,151         |
| France                | 1,149         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>49,631</b> |

Source: Eurostat

## 2.7.2. Republic of Serbia citizens employed and posted abroad

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

In line with the provisions of the law, during 2019, NES implemented employment agency procedures upon request of foreign employers, resulting in the employment of 41 persons in Germany and six persons in Croatia. In addition to the above, 70 persons were also employed in Germany within the Triple Win Project. Also, through the German employment service, NES helped obtain work visas for 504 Republic of Serbia citizens, who found employers in Germany by themselves.

Pursuant to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the employment of citizens of the Republic of Serbia in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette RS – International Agreements, No. 9/18), which entered into force on 1 September 2019, the National Employment Service is the institution responsible for its implementation.

Having in mind the above mentioned, after the implementation of this agreement started, which is the period between the 1 September and 31 December 2019, 769 persons were employed in the Republic of Slovenia according to this agreement.

Based on employment agencies' reports submitted semi-annually, in the first six months of 2019, 2,973 Republic of Serbia citizens were employed with foreign employers (USA, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Czech Republic, Russian Federation, MSC ships – Panama, etc.), while in the second half of 2019, 3,715 citizens of the Republic of Serbia found employment with foreign employers (Russian Federation, USA, Czech Republic, MSC ships – Panama, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Slovakia, etc.).

In 2019, 25 work permits were issued to newly established employment agencies. Nine work permits were extended to employment agencies, while 5 permits were revoked. On 31 December 2019,

there were 129 employment agencies registered in the Republic of Serbia. The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs oversees the work of NES and employment agencies.

Temporary postings of employees abroad is regulated in the Republic of Serbia by the Law on Conditions for Posting Workers on Temporary Work Abroad and Their Protection, in effect since January 2016, with amendments in effect since 7 July 2018. This law regulates the rights of employees temporarily posted abroad, conditions, procedures and obligations of employers in relation to temporarily posting employees abroad.

According to the Central Registry of mandatory social insurance for 2018, 914 employers from the Republic of Serbia temporarily posted a total of 11,845 employees in 111 countries. Among the posted employees, those with limited duration contracts (10,931), men (11,219), between 41 and 65 years of age (4,903) prevail. The majority of workers were temporarily posted in Germany (5,443), Slovakia (871), Montenegro (435), Russian Federation (381), Croatia (208), Austria (263), Romania (285) and Hungary (159).

This law applies to employers that temporarily post their workers abroad for:

1) Investment and other works and service provision, based on business cooperation agreements, or on other appropriate grounds;

2) Work or vocational training and professional development commissioned by the employer in its business units abroad, based on the act on posting or on other appropriate grounds;

3) Work or vocational training and professional development commissioned by the employer within inter-corporate transfers based on an invitation letter, inter-corporate transfer policy, or on other appropriate grounds.

For the year 2017-2018 the competent authorities of Germany approved the quota of 2,770 work permits, and average utilization was 2,756 work permits. The Decision of the Minister No. 119-01-16/2016-02 of 22 June 2016, which was adopted based on the Government Conclusion 05 No. 337-4653/2016 of 17 May 2016, the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia was designated as suitable organization for distributing the determined maximum number of dispatched workers among employers from the territory of the Republic of Serbia, keeping records on the distribution of the group and control of use of the awarded group in accordance with the Agreement between the Federal Executive Council of the SFRY and the Government of Germany on referring Yugoslav associated workers from SFRY and their employment in Germany, on the grounds of contract on works, starting with the year 2017/2018.

### **Migration service centres**

Through an established network of seven NES migration service centres (MSCs) (Belgrade, Niš, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Kraljevo, Kruševac and Bor), migrants and potential migrants are offered information about risks involved in irregular migration, migrants' rights, procedures for obtaining visas, work and residence permits, opportunities for employment and study abroad, access to health care and education abroad and other, which contributes to efficient dissemination of information concerning legal migration flows, that is, equips them with better information in preparation for potential leaving, or suitable adjustment to conditions and regulations in force in destination countries. In 2019, the services in seven NES MSCs were used by a total of 775 persons, with 62.8% or 487 men and 37.2% or 288 women. Observed by status, service beneficiaries included 73% or 566 unemployed persons and 24.8% or 192 employed persons, and the least represented persons were students (5 persons). Beneficiaries, according to their own statements, came from rural areas and prevail over the beneficiaries coming from urban areas in the Republic of Serbia.

An important indicator on service beneficiaries is the formal attained education level. Among the total of 775 beneficiaries, in the above period, the largest share of persons have completed high school – IV education level (37.7% or 292 persons) and III education level (24% or 186 persons), followed by the persons with completed basic university studies – VII/1 (15% or 116 persons), persons with college – VI/1 (7.7% or 60 persons), while the least represented group interested to go to work abroad legally being persons with I education level (7.2% or 56 persons), II education level (2.1% or 16 persons), VI/2 education level (1.8% or 14 persons), V education level (10 persons) and VII/2 (5 persons).

Looking at age groups, the majority of beneficiaries came a from among the 31 to 50 age group (55.2% or 428 persons), followed by persons over 50 years of age (19% or 147 persons), then persons between 26 and 30 years (13% or 101 person) and persons up to 25 years of age (9.9% or 77 persons).

Migration with the aim to work prevails, followed by migratory decisions for the purposes of recognition of qualifications, emigration, education, acquiring residence, family reunification, and finally, self-employment and asylum.

The highest numbers of service beneficiaries in the given period were in MSC Belgrade (34.7% or 269 persons), MSC Kruševac (26.3% or 2014 persons), MSC Novi Sad (18.1% or 140 persons) and MSC Niš (13.3% or 103 persons). There were notably fewer registered service beneficiaries in MSC Kraljevo (3.7% or 29 persons), MSC Novi Pazar (2.6% or 20 persons) and MSC Bor (1.3% or 10 persons) last.

When it comes to the country of choice (destination) of potential migrants, the country of first choice is certainly Germany, followed by Austria, while Switzerland is the third most desirable destination of service beneficiaries of 7 NES MSCs in the given period. These are followed by Slovenia and Sweden from the European economic area, while Canada and Australia are recognised as the most desirable countries outside the European area, in which the beneficiaries of 7 NES MSCs are interested the most. By far the highest number of potential migrants from this area, in terms of the use of foreign languages, speak English, followed by German, Russian, Norwegian and other languages.

### **Bilateral agreements**

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

In the period January - December 2019, in the process of implementation of bilateral agreements on social insurance between the Republic of Serbia and other signatory countries, in the part related to using the right to financial compensation on the grounds of unemployment, a total of 433 cases were established, initiating procedures for issuing certificates of insurance periods and using the right to financial compensation in other countries (Croatia - 210, B&H - 205, Montenegro - 78, North Macedonia - 11, Slovenia - 28, Italy - 3, Turkey - 1, Netherlands - 1, and Austria - 2).

In response to previously submitted requests, 539 certificates on years of service fulfilled in other countries were received (210 from Croatia, 205 from B&H, 78 from Montenegro, 11 from N. Macedonia, 28 from Slovenia, 3 from Italy, 1 from Turkey, 1 from Netherlands, and 2 from Austria).

There were 405 requests received from signatory countries (17 from Croatia, 87 from B&H, 36 from Montenegro, 216 from Slovenia, 24 from Hungary, 2 from Netherlands, 2 from Bulgaria, and 21 from Austria).

In response to the requests received, 570 certificates of insurance periods in the Republic of Serbia were sent out (25 to Croatia, 118 to B&H, 49 to Montenegro, 321 to Slovenia, 18 to Hungary, 38 to Austria, and 1 to Netherlands).

Under the execution of the agreement between the Republic of Serbia and B&H on social insurance enabling transfer of benefits, there were 3 requests for monetary compensation for a person whose insurance ended in the Republic of Serbia submitted from B&H in the reporting period; and one request was submitted to B&H for persons whose insurance ended in that country, and were registered with NES.

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

With the adoption of the Law on ratification of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the employment of citizens of the Republic of Serbia in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette RS – International Agreements, No. 9/18), the said agreement was ratified.

In November 2018, two line ministries signed the Protocol on the implementation of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the employment of citizens of the Republic of Serbia in the Republic of Slovenia.

In addition, in 2018, a Memorandum on Cooperation in the area of employment was signed between the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of National Economy of Hungary.

Negotiations are under way to sign bilateral agreements on temporary employment with Qatar, Malta, Czech Republic and the Russian Federation.

### 2.7.3 Diaspora

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

Average age of persons that have citizenship of the Republic of Serbia is 34.7 years. This is of particular concern because these people are much younger than the total population of Serbia, which is on average 42.2 years old. The majority of citizens of Serbia go to live and work in Austria, and they stay the longest working in France, Switzerland and Germany, which is data jointly published by the Statistical Office and the Danube Transnational Programme.

Also, it is estimated that there are over 1,300 various associations active in the diaspora, gathering people from Serbia across all five continents, the majority being in the countries of the European Union, North America and Australia. According to the proportion of diaspora to the population in the homeland, Serbia is among the countries with a very numerous diaspora.

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

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

According to Article 15 of the Law on Foreigners, entry into the Republic of Serbia shall be refused to a foreigner if:

1. They do not have a valid travelling document or a visa, if required;
2. They do not have sufficient means of subsistence during their stay in the Republic of Serbia, for return to their country of origin or transit to another country, or are not in other ways provided with subsistence during their stay in the Republic of Serbia;
3. They are transiting and do not meet the requirements to enter the next transit country or final destination country;
4. A protective measure of removal or the security measure of expulsion is in effect, i.e. ban on entry into the Republic of Serbia;
5. They do not have a certificate of inoculation or other proof of good health, if coming from areas affected by an epidemic of infectious diseases;
6. They do not have travel health insurance for the period they are intending to stay in the Republic of Serbia;
7. This is necessary for reasons related to safeguarding the security of the Republic of Serbia and its citizens;
8. It is established that there is a negative security risk assessment regarding the entry and stay of foreigners on the territory of the Republic of Serbia;
9. This is an obligation of the Republic of Serbia regarding the implementation of international limitation measures;
10. It is established that the foreigner is using falsified documents;
11. The foreigner has already stayed in the Republic of Serbia for 90 days over a period of 180 days, if it is not defined otherwise in an international agreement, unless this is a foreigner who has a visa for long-term stay (visa D) or temporary residence permit;
12. There is reasonable doubt that they would take advantage of the stay for purposes other than declared;
13. There is reasonable doubt that they will not leave the Republic of Serbia before the expiry of the visa, or if there is a possibility of illegal migration after entry into the Republic of Serbia.

The above reasons also provide grounds for revocation of stay to foreigners in the Republic of Serbia. In 2019, the entry into the territory of the Republic of Serbia was not provided to a total of

5,214 foreign citizens. In 2019, out of the total number of foreign citizens who were refused entry into the Republic of Serbia, the majority were persons with unknown citizenship. In terms of the reason for refusal of entry into the Republic of Serbia, the majority of foreigners in 2019 were returned for the reasons of not having (valid) personal documents – visa/ID (41.8%).e

**Table 25:** Persons who were refused entry into the Republic of Serbia, by citizenship and reasons for refusal in 2019

| 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 third country | Other      | Data unavailable | Total        |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|------------|------------------|--------------|
| India               | 144                            | 1,249                   |                   |                                    |                 |                    |   | 1          |                  | 1,394        |
| Tunisia             | 14                             | 616                     | 1                 |                                    | 3               | 2                  |   |            |                  | 636          |
| Turkey              | 63                             | 329                     | 3                 | 2                                  | 5               | 2                  | 2                                       | 17         |                  | 423          |
| Unknown citizenship | 380                            | 11                      |                   |                                    |                 |                    |   | 1          |                  | 392          |
| Germany             | 234                            |                         |                   |                                    |                 | 3                  |   | 50         |                  | 287          |
| Montenegro          | 75                             |                         |                   |                                    | 87              | 10                 |   | 35         |                  | 207          |
| Bulgaria            | 127                            | 2                       |                   | 1                                  | 7               | 10                 |   | 24         |                  | 171          |
| Romania             | 112                            | 3                       |                   | 4                                  | 10              |                    |   | 10         |                  | 139          |
| UK                  | 130                            |                         |                   |                                    |                 |                    |   |            |                  | 130          |
| B&H                 | 27                             |                         |                   |                                    | 19              | 6                  |   | 64         |                  | 116          |
| Other               | 876                            | 203                     | 1                 | 12                                 | 21              | 28                 | 2                                       | 176        |                  | 1,319        |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>2,182</b>                   | <b>2,413</b>            | <b>5</b>          | <b>19</b>                          | <b>152</b>      | <b>61</b>          | <b>4</b>                                | <b>378</b> |                  | <b>5,214</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

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

In 2019, the number of foreigners that have been issued the measure of revocation of stay in the Republic of Serbia was 849. In comparison with 2018, this number significantly decreased. Among the persons revoked stay, the majority were from Turkey (103 individuals)

**Table 26:** The number of persons issued the measure of revocation of stay in 2018 and 2019, by citizenship

| Citizenship  | 2018           |            | Citizenship  | 2019           |            |
|--------------|----------------|------------|--------------|----------------|------------|
|              | No. of persons | %          |              | No. of persons | %          |
| Afghanistan  | 1,136          | 27.4       | Turkey       | 103            | 12.1       |
| Pakistan     | 676            | 16.3       | Bulgaria     | 92             | 10.8       |
| Iran         | 638            | 15.4       | Romania      | 66             | 7.8        |
| Iraq         | 204            | 5.0        | Afghanistan  | 56             | 6.6        |
| Syria        | 158            | 3.9        | Albania      | 47             | 5.5        |
| Bangladesh   | 118            | 2.8        | Tunisia      | 42             | 5.2        |
| Libya        | 108            | 2.6        | N. Macedonia | 34             | 4.0        |
| Albania      | 107            | 2.6        | Montenegro   | 31             | 3.6        |
| Bulgaria     | 107            | 2.6        | B&H          | 31             | 3.6        |
| Turkey       | 96             | 2.3        | Algeria      | 29             | 3.4        |
| Algeria      | 72             | 1.7        | Other        | 318            | 37.4       |
| Romania      | 66             | 1.6        | <b>Total</b> | <b>849</b>     | <b>100</b> |
| Other        | 656            | 15.8       |              |                |            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>4,142</b>   | <b>100</b> |              |                |            |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Pursuant to the new Law on Foreigners, decisions on return are issued to foreign citizens who have entered and/or are staying in the Republic of Serbia illegally. In this regard, the Ministry of Internal Affairs issued 7,513 decisions, 4,799 (63.8%) decisions on return with time allowed for voluntary return, 2,529 (33.7%) decisions on return with entry ban and 185 (2.5%) decisions on return without time allowed for voluntary return.



Compared to 2018, when the protective measure of removal of foreigner from the territory of the Republic of Serbia was issued in 164 cases, in 2019, there is a decrease to 109. The majority of these persons were the citizens of Afghanistan (over 33.03%), Iraq (19.27%) and Romania (11.01%).

**Table 27:** The number of citizens of other countries and stateless persons issued the protective measure of removal of foreigner from the territory of Republic of Serbia, by citizenship, 2019

| Citizenship  | Number of persons | %          |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| Afghanistan  | 36                | 33.03      |
| Iraq         | 21                | 19.27      |
| Romania      | 12                | 11.01      |
| Montenegro   | 7                 | 6.42       |
| Syria        | 6                 | 5.5        |
| Pakistan     | 5                 | 4.59       |
| Turkey       | 5                 | 4.59       |
| Morocco      | 4                 | 3.67       |
| Iran         | 3                 | 2.75       |
| Palestine    | 3                 | 2.75       |
| Somalia      | 2                 | 1.83       |
| Libya        | 1                 | 0.92       |
| Algeria      | 1                 | 0.92       |
| N. Macedonia | 1                 | 0.92       |
| Belgium      | 1                 | 0.92       |
| Other        | 1                 | 0.92       |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>109</b>        | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Justice

Looking at the age structure of the citizens of other countries and stateless persons issued the protective measure of removal of foreigner from the territory of the Republic of Serbia in 2019, the predominant group were persons between 21 and 40 years of age (52.29%). Out of the total number of persons issued the protective measure of removal, the majority were men – 92 persons, which is even 84.4% of the total number of persons.

**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 the Republic of Serbia, by age, 2019

| Age          | No. of persons | %              |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 14-20        | 29             | 26.61          |
| 21-40        | 57             | 52.29          |
| 41-60        | 21             | 19.27          |
| Over 60      | 2              | 1.83           |
| Unknown      | 0              | 0              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>109</b>     | <b>100.00%</b> |

Source: Ministry of Justice

Most common reasons for removing foreigners from the territory of the Republic of Serbia include illegal stay in the Republic of Serbia (54.13%) and illegal entry into the Republic of Serbia (28.4%).

**Table 29:** The number of citizens of other countries and stateless persons who were issued the protective measure of removal of foreigner from the territory of Republic of Serbia, by reason of removal, in 2019

| Reason  | No. of persons | %     |
|---|----------------|-------|
| Article 120 of the Law on Foreigners  | 59             | 54.13 |
| Article 84, paragraph 1, item 1) of the Law on Foreigners (illegal entry in the Republic of Serbia) | 31             | 28.44 |
| Article 121 of the Law on   | 5              | 4.59  |

|   |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|
| Foreigners  |            |            |
| Article 74 of the Law on Foreigners   | 5          | 4.59       |
| Article 122 of the Law on Foreigners  | 3          | 2.75       |
| Article 84, paragraph 1, item 3) of the Law on Foreigners (leaving the reception centre, violating house rules in the reception centre) | 2          | 1.83       |
| Article 85, paragraph 1, item 3) of the Law on Foreigners (illegal stay in RS)  | 2          | 1.83       |
| Article 48, paragraph 1, item 11) of the Law on Weapons and Ammunition  | 2          | 1.83       |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>109</b> | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Justice

In 2019, 258 persons were ordered the measure of expulsion from the country due to criminal offence. Observed by age groups, the trend has not changed compared to 2018 and 2017, with the highest percentage of persons issued the safety measure of expulsion from the country due to criminal offence being in the group between 18 and 30 years, followed by the group between 30 and 40 years. Disaggregated by sex, it can be seen that the measure was issued to 225 men and 33 women.

**Table 30:** Citizens of other states and stateless persons ordered the safety measure of expulsion from the country due to criminal offence, by age, 2019

| Age          | Number     |
|--------------|------------|
| 18-30        | 110        |
| 30-40        | 73         |
| 40-50        | 62         |
| Over 50      | 13         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>258</b> |

Source: Ministry of Justice

The safety measure of expulsion from the country, which is the most commonly ordered one, is ordered due to unauthorised production and putting in circulation narcotic drugs (Article 246a of the Criminal Code) in 36.4% of the cases, theft (Article 2013, para. 1 of the Criminal Code) in 15.8% of the cases, falsified identity documents (Art. 355, para. 2 of the Criminal Code) in 9.3% of the cases, aggravated theft (Article 2014, para. 1 of the Criminal Code) in 7.36% of the cases, etc.

### 3.3. Assisted voluntary return

Assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) was developed in the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) over 20 years ago. Over the last decade, IOM has helped more than a million migrants across the world to return to their home countries voluntarily and safely. IOM considers AVRR a crucial element of a comprehensive approach to migration management, bringing together different parts of the migration management system, such as efficient border management, effective processing of asylum applications and fast and dignified return and reintegration for those not qualified or not seeking international protection. In cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Serbia, IOM Office in Belgrade provided assistance with voluntary return of 193 migrants (172 adults – 146 men, 26 women, and 21 children), who returned to their countries of origin from the Republic of Serbia in 2019.

The majority of voluntary returns were effected by the citizens of Iran, even 53.4% of the total number.

**Table 31:** Number of voluntary returns to the countries of origin in 2018

| Country of origin  | Total      | Adult men  | Adult women | Children  |
|--------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| Iran               | 103        | 66         | 20          | 17        |
| Algeria            | 23         | 23         | 0           | 0         |
| Iraq               | 15         | 8          | 3           | 4         |
| Pakistan           | 15         | 15         | 0           | 0         |
| India              | 7          | 6          | 1           | 0         |
| Afghanistan        | 6          | 6          | 0           | 0         |
| Burundi            | 6          | 5          | 1           | 0         |
| Tunisia            | 5          | 5          | 0           | 0         |
| Russian Federation | 2          | 2          | 0           | 0         |
| Lebanon            | 2          | 2          | 0           | 0         |
| Bangladesh         | 2          | 2          | 0           | 0         |
| Ghana              | 2          | 1          | 1           | 0         |
| Cuba               | 1          | 1          | 0           | 0         |
| Nepal              | 1          | 1          | 0           | 0         |
| Sudan              | 1          | 1          | 0           | 0         |
| Turkey             | 1          | 1          | 0           | 0         |
| Ukraine            | 1          | 1          | 0           | 0         |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>193</b> | <b>146</b> | <b>26</b>   | <b>21</b> |

Source: International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

### 3.4. Trafficking in human beings

Data on victims of trafficking in human beings (THB) presented in this section come from two sources – the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia and the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection (CHTVP), which is a state institution authorised to identify victims of THB. The data supplied by the Ministry of Internal Affairs are provided based on the number of criminal charges brought against perpetrators of THB offences. The data from CHTVP are provided based on the identification procedure, which includes 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 numbers obtained from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

According to data provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, based on the number of criminal charges brought against perpetrators for the criminal offence of THB during 2018, there were 32 victims, and during 2019, 33 victims of THB. All above-mentioned victims of THB in 2019 were citizens of the Republic of Serbia.

**Table 32:** Victims of THB by citizenship, 2018 and 2019

| Citizenship        | Number of victims |           |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                    | 2018              | 2019      |
| Republic of Serbia | 28                | 33        |
| Romania            | 1                 |           |
| Albania            | 1                 |           |
| France             | 1                 |           |
| Bulgaria           | 1                 |           |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>32</b>         | <b>33</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

In terms of the age-sex structure, the majority of victims were female persons under 18 years of age. In 2019, 12 cases of trafficking in men was recorded, out of whom two were minors under 14 years of age.

**Table 33:** Victims of THB by sex and age, 2018 and 2019

| Age            | 2018     |           | 2019      |           |
|----------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                | Men      | Women     | Men       | Women     |
| Under 14 years | 2        | 13        | 2         | 3         |
| 14–18 years    |          | 9         |           | 8         |
| Over 18        | 1        | 8         | 10        | 10        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>3</b> | <b>30</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>21</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

According to data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 2019 the most frequent form of exploitation was sexual exploitation, to which only women were exposed (48.48%), the same as last year. This was followed by labour exploitation.

**Table 34:** Victims of THB by type of exploitation and sex, 2018 and 2019

| Type of exploitation  | 2018     |           | 2019      |           |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                       | men      | women     | men       | women     |
| Sexual exploitation   |          | <b>16</b> |           | <b>16</b> |
| Labour exploitation   | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b>  | <b>10</b> |           |
| Begging               | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>2</b>  | <b>1</b>  |
| Multiple exploitation |          | <b>5</b>  |           | <b>3</b>  |
| Forced marriage       |          | <b>2</b>  |           |           |
| No exploitation       | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b>  |           | <b>1</b>  |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

The identification of THB victims is organised as a professional procedure within CHTVP, implemented in accordance with the assessment standards under the social protection system.

In 2019, CHTVP registered 121 THB victims in the process of identification. Out of this number, 39 THB victims were formally identified, and it was established that 33 were not victims, 40 identification procedures were undergoing, and 9 procedures were suspended. Children (64%) and female persons (82%) prevail among the formally identified victims. Among female persons, girls prevail (59%). The most common form of exploitation is sexual exploitation (59%) for formally identified victims, followed by multiple exploitation and forced marriage. Formally identified THB victims come primarily from Serbia – 35 of them, followed by Pakistan, Afghanistan, Mali and Croatia.

**Table 35:** Formally identified THB victims by type of exploitation, age and sex, 2019

| Type of exploitation       | Under 18  |          | Over 18   |          | Total     |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
|                            | W         | M        | W         | M        |           |
| Sexual exploitation        | 15        |          | 8         |          | <b>23</b> |
| Forced marriage            | 1         |          | 2         |          | <b>3</b>  |
| Multiple exploitation      | 2         | 1        | 2         |          | <b>5</b>  |
| Labour exploitation        |           | 2        |           | 1        | <b>3</b>  |
| Forced begging             | 1         | 2        | 1         |          | <b>4</b>  |
| Forced criminal activities |           | 1        |           |          | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>Subtotal</b>            | <b>19</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>39</b> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>25</b> |          | <b>14</b> |          |           |

Source: Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection

Identified THB victims were primarily citizens of the Republic of Serbia. Among the identified THB victims, there were 35 citizens of the Republic of Serbia (19 girls, 4 boys and 12 women). The remaining four victims were the citizens of Croatia (adult woman), Pakistan (one man), Mali (one boy) and Afghanistan (one boy).

During the year, 27 cases of suspected THB among migrant groups were reported. In 9 reported cases, it was concluded that there were no elements of THB, so these reports were rejected. The procedure of identification was initiated based on 16 reported cases. The procedure of identification was completed for 20 migrants – 16 based on new reports and 4 identification procedures continued from last year. Identified THB victims among migrants came from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Mali.

Adult victims came from Pakistan and Mali. Multiple exploitation included labour exploitation and participation in armed conflict.

**Table 35a:** The number of formally identified victims by country of origin, 2019

| Country of origin | Number of identified victims |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Serbia            | 35                           |
| Afghanistan       | 1                            |
| Pakistan          | 1                            |
| Mali              | 1                            |
| Croatia           | 1                            |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>39</b>                    |

Source: Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection

**Table 36:** Structure of identified THB victims by country of exploitation and age, 2019

| Country of exploitation | Under 18 |           | Over 18  |          | Total     |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
|                         | W        | M         | W        | M        |           |
| Guinea                  |          | 1         |          |          | <b>1</b>  |
| Bulgaria                |          |           | 2        |          | <b>2</b>  |
| Pakistan                |          | 2         |          | 1        | <b>3</b>  |
| Iran                    | 1        | 3         |          |          | <b>4</b>  |
| Afghanistan             |          | 6         |          |          | <b>6</b>  |
| Congo                   |          |           | 1        |          | <b>1</b>  |
| Mali                    |          |           |          | 1        | <b>1</b>  |
| India                   | 1        |           | 1        |          | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Subtotal</b>         | <b>2</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>20</b> |

Source: Centre for Human Trafficking Victims Protection

In 2019, police officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs brought 21 criminal charges against 42 persons (26 men and 16 women) for the criminal offence of THB under Article 388 of the Criminal Code. Out of the total number of perpetrators, 40 persons were citizens of the Republic of Serbia, 1 citizen of Germany, and 1 citizen of Czech Republic.

In 2019, first instance courts in the Republic of Serbia pronounced a total of 12 judgements for the criminal offence of THB under Article 388 of the Criminal Code.

**Table 37:** Number of judgements against perpetrators of THB pronounced in 2018 and 2019, by type of judgement

| Type of judgement      | 2018      | 2019      |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Sentencing – final     | 25        | 4         |
| Sentencing – non-final | /         | 4         |
| Final acquitting       | /         | 4         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>25</b> | <b>12</b> |

Source: Ministry of Justice

Looking at the age structure, the majority of persons convicted of the criminal offence of THB were in the 18-30 years age contingent.

**Table 38:** Number of persons convicted for criminal offence of THB, by age, 2019

| Age          | Number of persons |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 18-30        | 4                 |
| 30-40        | 2                 |
| 40-50        | 3                 |
| Over 50      | 3                 |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>12</b>         |

Source: Ministry of Justice

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

### **4.1. Asylum seekers**

In 2019, 12,935 confirmations of the registration of foreigners who have expressed intent to apply for asylum in the Republic of Serbia were issued. Out of this number, 12,046 were men (9,431 adult and 2,615 minor) and 889 were women (574 adult and 315 minor). The largest number came from Afghanistan (29.7%), Pakistan (21.4%), and Syria (15.3%). Out of the total number of minors (2,920), 823 were unaccompanied minors (816 boys and 7 girls).

**Table 39:** Issued confirmation of registration to a foreigner who has expressed intent to apply for asylum in the Republic of Serbia in 2019, by citizenship

| <b>Citizenship</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>%</b>   |
|--------------------|---------------|------------|
| Afghanistan        | 3,843         | 29.71      |
| Pakistan           | 2,767         | 21.39      |
| Syria              | 1,975         | 15.27      |
| Iraq               | 1,560         | 12.06      |
| Bangladesh         | 849           | 6.56       |
| Other              | 1,941         | 15.01      |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>12,935</b> | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

In 11,780 (91%) cases, intent to apply for asylum was expressed in Regional Police Directorates, while in 1,014 cases, intent was expressed at border crossing points.

**Table 40:** Issued confirmation of registration to a foreigner who has expressed intent to apply for asylum in the Republic of Serbia in 2019, by place of expressing intent

| <b>The place of issuance of confirmation</b> | <b>Number of</b> |
|--|------------------|
| Reception centre for foreigners              | 9                |
| Regional police directorates                 | 11,780           |
| Reception Centre Preševo                     | /                |
| Border crossing (line)                       | 1,014            |
| Asylum Office                                | 39               |
| Nikola Tesla Airport                         | 93               |
| PCI  | /                |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>12,935</b>    |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Out of the total number of 12,935 expressed intents to seek asylum, only 251 persons, or 1.9% of the total number submitted an asylum application. Out of the total number of asylum applications submitted, around 40% were citizens of Iran and Afghanistan

**Table 41:** Number of submitted asylum applications by citizenship, 2019

| <b>Citizenship</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>%</b>   |
|--------------------|---------------|------------|
| Iran               | 63            | 25.10      |
| Afghanistan        | 38            | 15.14      |
| Burundi            | 30            | 11.95      |
| Iraq               | 19            | 7.57       |
| Turkey             | 14            | 5.58       |
| Other              | 87            | 34.66      |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>251</b>    | <b>100</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

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

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

In 2019, the Asylum Office made 25 decisions approving applications for asylum (for 34 persons), 10 decisions rejecting applications for asylum (for 15 persons), 131 conclusions on suspending the procedure (for 162 persons) and 52 decisions on refusing applications for asylum (for 80 persons).

The Asylum Office granted refuge to 19 persons (13 men and 6 women). Among the persons granted refuge, there were 3 minors (2 boys and 1 girl), and out of them, 2 were unaccompanied minors. Also, the Asylum Office granted subsidiary protection to 17 persons (12 men and 5 women). Among the persons awarded subsidiary protection there were 6 minors (3 boys and 3 girls), with no unaccompanied minors.

**Table 42:** First instance decisions on asylum applications, by type of decision in 2018 and 2019

| Decisions                                   | 2018                       | 2019                       |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rejected applications                       | 34 for 45 persons          | 10 for 15 persons          |
| Refused applications                        | 21 for 25 persons          | 56 for 80 persons          |
| Approved applications                       | 17 for 25 persons          | 25 for 34 persons          |
| Suspended proceedings                       | 128 for 178 persons        | 131 for 162 persons        |
| Conclusion/decision on rejecting the appeal | 4 for 5 persons            | /                          |
| Other                                       | 97 for 200 persons         | 82 for 152 persons         |
| <b>Total</b>                                | <b>301 for 478 persons</b> | <b>304 for 443 persons</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

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

The Asylum Commission makes second instance decisions on appeals against the decisions of the Asylum Office. The appeal delays the execution of the decision, and it must be lodged within 15 days after the delivery of the first instance decision, unless stipulated differently by the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection. The Asylum Commission received 45 complaints in the period between 1 January and 30 September 2019. Out of this number, 44 were appeals against the decisions of the Asylum Office, and one against the first instance decision not being issued within the legal timeframe. In the same period, the Asylum Commission made 43 decisions on appeals, out of which the appeal was rejected in 27 cases and approved in 16. The second instance authority made one decision overturning the negative first-instance decision and approving the asylum application.

#### 4.4. Decisions based on administrative disputes

The Administrative Court, pursuant to the Law on Asylum and Temporary Protection, is the designated authority competent to decide on administrative disputes initiated against final decisions of the Asylum Commission. The novelty here is that the Law on Asylum and Temporary protection provides that initiated proceedings have suspensive effect, delaying the execution of the decision against which they have been initiated.

The number of persons whose appeal was rejected in administrative proceedings or which led to suspended proceedings in 2019 was 3 (3 adult men, 2 from Pakistan and 1 from Ukraine).

In 2019, the number of persons whose appeals against second instance decisions on their applications for asylum were rejected as unfounded or overturned and the case returned to the competent authority for retrial was 23 (16 men and 7 women). These were the citizens of Ghana (6), Afghanistan (4), Ukraine (3), Cameroon (2), Syria (2), Pakistan (1), Cuba (1), Montenegro (1), Algeria (1), Somalia (1) and Iran (1). These were 18 adults and 4 minors, while one person's age is unknown.

#### 4.5. Returnees under Readmission Agreements

According to the records of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, there were 1,991 readmission requests received in 2019, out of which 1,585 requests were approved, and in this period 1,455 Republic of Serbia citizens returned.

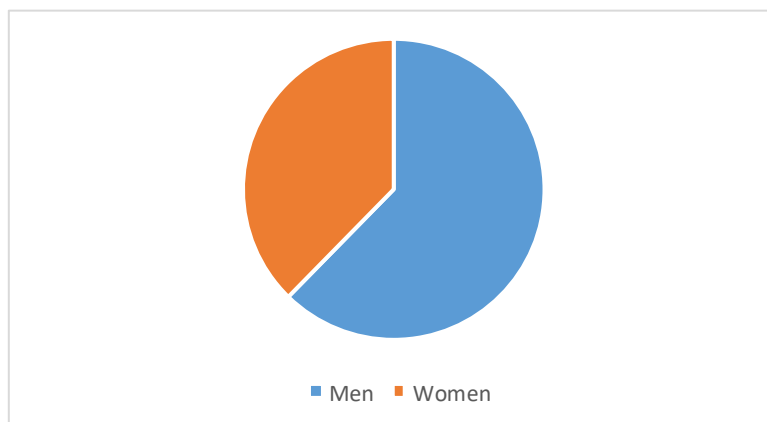
Out of the total number of received requests for readmission in 2019, 50.6% of applications were submitted by Germany. In terms of the sex structure, 62.3% were men. In terms of age structure, there 63.4% were adults and 36.6% minors. Netherlands come on the second places with 275 requests or 13.8% of the total number, followed by Austria with 169 requests or 8.5% of the total number.

**Table 43:** Readmission requests by country, sex and age of returnees in 2019

| Requesting country | Men        |            | Women      |            | Total        |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
|                    | Minor      | Adult      | Minor      | Adult      |              |
| Austria            | 8          | 140        | 3          | 18         | 169          |
| Belgium            | 6          | 56         | 8          | 21         | 91           |
| B&H                | 4          | 7          | 6          | 6          | 23           |
| Montenegro         | /          | 16         | /          | 2          | 18           |
| Bulgaria           | /          | 2          | /          | /          | 2            |
| Denmark            | 2          | 14         | 2          | 5          | 23           |
| Finland            | /          | 2          | /          | /          | 2            |
| France             | 20         | 78         | 22         | 35         | 155          |
| Greece             | /          | 2          | /          | /          | 2            |
| Netherlands        | 75         | 78         | 66         | 56         | 275          |
| Croatia            | /          | 30         | /          | /          | 30           |
| Italy              | /          | 34         | /          | 9          | 43           |
| Slovakia           | /          | 7          | /          | 2          | 9            |
| Luxembourg         | /          | 1          | /          | 2          | 3            |
| Hungary            | /          | 9          | /          | 2          | 11           |
| Germany            | 241        | 315        | 235        | 216        | 1,007        |
| Norway             | /          | 3          | /          | /          | 3            |
| Romania            | /          | 2          | /          | /          | 2            |
| Russian Federation | /          | 1          | /          | /          | 1            |
| Slovenia           | /          | 2          | /          | /          | 2            |
| Spain              | /          | 7          | /          | /          | 7            |
| Switzerland        | 13         | 33         | 12         | 9          | 67           |
| Sweden             | 4          | 26         | 1          | 9          | 40           |
| UK                 | /          | 3          | /          | 3          | 6            |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>373</b> | <b>868</b> | <b>355</b> | <b>395</b> | <b>1,991</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

**Chart 5:** Readmission requests by sex of returnee, 2019



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Out of the total number of approved readmission requests (1,585) in 2019, the highest number of requests approved were from Germany (46.3%). Among the returnees whose requests for readmission were approved, there were 63.2% men and 36.8% women. Out of the total number of approved requests, the majority were for adults (62.6%). Among the 592 minors who were approved requests, there were 307 boys and 285 girls.



**Table 44:** Approvals of requests to return citizens of the Republic of Serbia under Readmission Agreements in 2019

| Requesting country | Men        |            | Women      |            | Total        |
|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
|                    | Minor      | Adult      | Minor      | Adult      |              |
| Austria            | 8          | 133        | 1          | 18         | 160          |
| Belgium            | 4          | 44         | 3          | 12         | 63           |
| B&H                | 3          | 6          | 6          | 6          | 21           |
| Bulgaria           | /          | 2          | /          | /          | 2            |
| Montenegro         | /          | 14         | /          | 1          | 15           |
| Denmark            | 2          | 11         | 2          | 5          | 20           |
| Finland            | /          | 2          | /          | /          | 2            |
| France             | 17         | 67         | 14         | 23         | 121          |
| Greece             | /          | 2          | /          | /          | 2            |
| Netherlands        | 70         | 76         | 65         | 55         | 266          |
| Croatia            | /          | 17         | /          | /          | 17           |
| Italy              | /          | 26         | /          | 1          | 27           |
| Slovakia           | /          | 7          | /          | 2          | 9            |
| Luxembourg         | /          | 1          | /          | 2          | 3            |
| Hungary            | /          | 9          | /          | 1          | 10           |
| Germany            | 190        | 210        | 181        | 153        | 734          |
| Norway             | /          | 3          | /          | /          | 3            |
| Russian Federation | /          | 1          | /          | /          | 1            |
| Slovenia           | /          | 2          | /          | /          | 2            |
| Spain              | /          | 6          | /          | /          | 6            |
| Switzerland        | 9          | 30         | 12         | 9          | 60           |
| Sweden             | 4          | 24         | 1          | 9          | 38           |
| UK                 |            | 2          | /          | 1          | 3            |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>307</b> | <b>695</b> | <b>285</b> | <b>298</b> | <b>1,585</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

Out of the total number of returnees under Readmission Agreements that returned in 2019 to the Republic of Serbia (1,455), as many as 94.8% returned to the Republic of Serbia via the BPS Belgrade border crossing (Nikola Tesla Airport).

**Table 45:** Number of returnees under Readmission Agreements in 2019, by border crossing registration

| Regional centre (border police station) | Number of citizens of the Republic of Serbia |
|---|--|
| BPS Belgrade                            | 1,379  |
| Airport Niš                             | 5  |
| Bulgaria                                | 7  |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                  | 20   |
| Croatia                                 | 16   |
| Hungary                                 | 7  |

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Austria      | 8            |
| Montenegro   | 13           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1,455</b> |

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs

During the same period, 846 persons or 458 families addressed the Readmission Office at the Nikola Tesla Airport for information and assistance with return.

**Table 46:** Number of returnees registered with the Readmission Office by sex, 2019

| Persons/families   | Total | Men | Women |
|--------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| Number of persons  | 846   | 538 | 308   |
| Number of families | 458   |     |       |

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

The highest number of returnees registered with the Readmission Office at the Nikola Tesla Airport came from Germany (92.6%), followed by Sweden (2.2%). It is notable that the trends recorded in 2016, 2017 and 2018 continued in 2019.

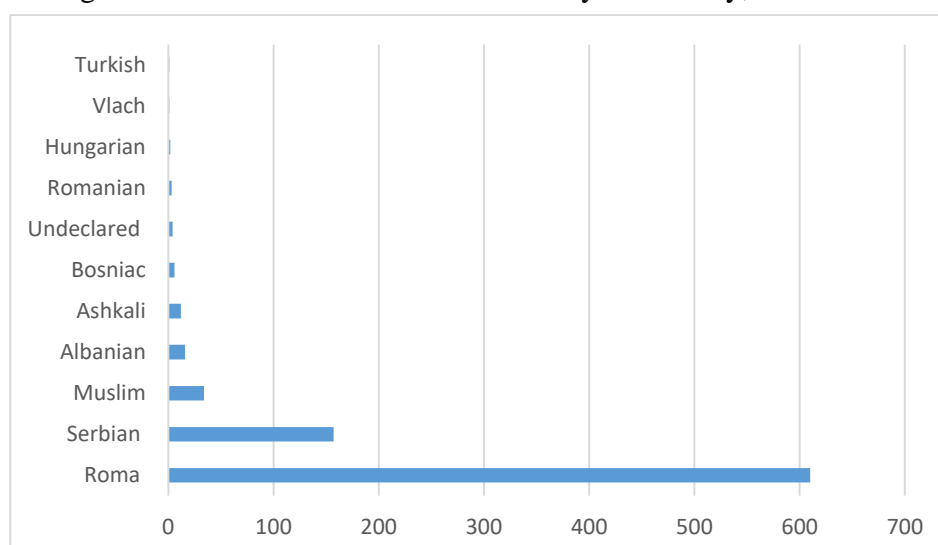
**Table 47:** Returnees registered with the Readmission Office by country they returned from, 2019

| Country      | Number     |
|--------------|------------|
| Germany      | 783        |
| Sweden       | 19         |
| France       | 11         |
| Austria      | 9          |
| Switzerland  | 9          |
| Netherlands  | 8          |
| Slovakia     | 2          |
| Slovenia     | 2          |
| Denmark      | 1          |
| Italy        | 1          |
| USA          | 1          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>846</b> |

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

In 2019, the share of Roma in the total number of returnees under Readmission Agreements registered by the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration was 72%, followed by returnees of Serbian nationality, with 18.6%. It can be concluded that the trend did not change in comparison with 2018.

**Chart 6:** Returnees registered with the Readmission Office by nationality, 2019



Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Over 60% of returnees under Readmission Agreements were adults (68.3%), while 31.7% were minors.

**Table 48:** Returnees registered with the Readmission Office, by age, 2019

| Age          | Number     | %          |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Adult        | 578        | 68.3       |
| Minor        | 268        | 31.7       |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>846</b> | <b>100</b> |

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Also, records are kept on the educational profile and employment status of returnees. Out of the total number, 67.4% of returnees were unemployed. The remaining 32.6% were children of pre-school age, pupils, pensioners and employed persons, and if we look at the year 2018, we will see that the trend has continued. The educational structure of returnees could be the cause of unemployment, because only 0.9% have completed college or university education, while 15.2% have no school, and 19.2% have incomplete primary school education.

**Table 49:** Returnees registered with the Readmission Office, by employment status, 2019

| Employment status | Number     |
|-------------------|------------|
| Child             | 161        |
| Pupil             | 108        |
| Employed          | 1          |
| Unemployed        | 570        |
| Pensioner         | 5          |
| Other             | 1          |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>846</b> |

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

**Table 50:** Returnees registered with the Readmission Office, by education status, 2019

| Education status          | Number     |
|---------------------------|------------|
| No education              | 129        |
| Incomplete primary school | 163        |
| Primary school            | 206        |
| Secondary school          | 65         |
| College                   | 8          |
| University                | /          |
| No answer                 | 272        |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>846</b> |

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

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

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

However, even with the mentioned activities, a lack of comprehensive records on this population turned out to be one of the greatest problems for adequate planning of assistance and all future activities. This problem is primarily caused by lack of any legal obligation to register returnees, and lack of systemic monitoring of voluntary returns. A part of this category of persons eludes

official statistics, and dedicated research done by some organisations and competent government institutions uncovers only parts of the problem.

**Table 51:** List of indicators for monitoring the reintegration of returnees under Readmission Agreements in the Republic of Serbia, 2019

| INSTITUTION   | INDICATORS   |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</b> | Number of public calls, projects and budget funds allocated by the MESTD at the local level, related to returnees. | MESTD published a call for accessing budget funds and allocated funds for 1 project, the beneficiaries of which were, among others, also families and pupils, returnees under Readmission Agreements.  |
| <b>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</b> | Number of returnees enrolled in appropriate grade (primary + secondary school) + disaggregated by age and sex      | <p>In the 2019/2020 school year a total of 77 returnee pupils were enrolled in primary schools on the territory of the Republic of Serbia (32 girls and 45 boys). Considering that primary schools approach the issues of returnees affirmatively, in most cases these pupils were not registered separately, but facilitated enrolment procedures applied, engaging teams to assess the level of knowledge and including pupils in regular classes.</p> <p>The majority of returnee pupils in the school year 2019/2020, joined age-appropriate grades, 70 (91%) of them, while others joined lower grades in line with the results of knowledge and skills tests. During the current, 2019/2020, school year, returnee pupils joined 19 primary schools under the following school directorates: Belgrade, Kragujevac, Leskovac, Valjevo, Sombor, Čačak, Kruševac, Kraljevo and Zrenjanin. The highest concentration of returnees was recorded in school administrations Belgrade, Zrenjanin and Leskovac.</p> |
| <b>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</b> | Number of requests for certificate equivalency and recognition of diplomas   | The Qualifications Agency used a simplified procedure during the school year 2019/2020 to finalise 65 requests for certificate equivalency and/or requests for diploma recognition, which facilitated further  |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|   |   | education.  |
| <b>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</b> | The number of returnees who applied FOR THE FIRST TIME to enrol appropriate grade (primary+high school) within the Serbian school system + disaggregated by age and sex   | 55 returnees applied for the first time to enrol appropriate grade  |
| <b>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</b> | Number of scholarships, financial support and number of free books distributed to returnees.  | In the school year 2019/2020, a total of 75 students received free schoolbooks.   |
| <b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b>                                  | Number of travel documents issued to returnees*   | 458 travel documents were issued to returnees   |
| <b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b>                                  | As general indicator: number of asylum seekers from the Republic of Serbia applying for asylum in EU countries and Schengen member states (source DCP)  | 3,834 asylum seekers from the Republic of Serbia. Out of this number 1,141 persons applied for the first time, while 1,577 were repeated requests.  |
| <b>Office for Cooperation with Civil Society</b>                    | Number of projects/programmes funded from the Republic of Serbia Budget, directly benefitting IDPs and refugees, returnees under Readmission Agreement, migrants, asylum seekers and Roma, including the number of direct beneficiaries listed in supported projects/programmes             | The Office for Cooperation with Civil Society did not have the requested information for the year 2019 at the time of drafting this report.   |
| <b>Ombudsman</b>  | Number of reported cases of human rights violations of returnees under Readmission Agreement.   | In 2019, the Ombudsman did not have any reported human rights violations against returnees under Readmission Agreements.  |
| <b>Office for Human and Minority Rights</b>                         | Number of Roma coordinators (their role is to be in contact with the Roma community, provide mediation and support, advice, cooperate with the NGO sector and LSG units) involved in the work of Migration Councils and/or programmes of support to returnees under Readmission Agreements. | According to the Association of Roma Coordinators, in 2019, a total of 53 Roma coordinators were engaged in the Republic of Serbia, 20 of whom on permanent contracts with clearly defined ToRs referring to the improvement of the position of Roma. |
| <b>NES</b>  | Number of persons that declared themselves as returnees and are registered with NES as unemployed persons.  | 38 (out of these 22 women).   |

|                           |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| <b>NES</b>                | Number of developed individual employment plans for persons registered with NES as unemployed persons and declared as returnees.  | 70 (out of these 40 with women).  |
| <b>NES</b>                | Number of beneficiaries of active labour market measures, who declared themselves as returnees (including the type of active measure).  | 15 (out of these 9 women).  |
| <b>Ministry of Health</b> | Number of health cards issued to returnees under Readmission Agreements.  | Ministry of Health, that is, the Republic Health Insurance Fund does not have data on how many returnees are covered by health insurance, or how many of them accessed health cards upon return, having in mind that there are no special grounds for insurance – returnee under Readmission Agreement. |
| <b>Ministry of Health</b> | Returnees have chosen doctors in the healthcare system. The number of returnees monitored by each chosen doctor could be an important indicator.  | The chosen doctor is chosen by the insured person, and as there is no special grounds for insurance (returnee under Readmission Agreements), it is not possible to monitor exactly how many returnees are covered by mandatory insurance and how many have chosen doctors.                              |
| <b>Ministry of Health</b> | Number of complaints lodged with the patient ombudsman by returnees related to accessing healthcare rights + average time needed to resolve these disputes.   | The Ministry of Health does not have this information (data on the number of times the patients' rights advisor was addressed are recorded by advisors in local self-government units), as the law and by-laws do not provide for keeping special records on complaints by returnees.                   |
| <b>Ministry of Health</b> | Number of trained health mediators and number of returnees monitored by each health mediator.<br><br>(Health mediators are specifically trained to work with Roma/returnees under Readmission Agreements) | Data not submitted.   |
| <b>Ministry of Health</b> | The number of info sessions held for returnees on the health system in Serbia could also be an important  | Data not submitted.   |

|            |   |   |
|------------|---|---|
|            | indicator (this group of people needs more detailed information about the functioning of the health system, considering that some of them may face the consequences of long-term stay abroad and the resulting “broken ties”).          |   |
| <b>CRM</b> | Number of public calls and approved projects dedicated to returnees, including also the number of beneficiaries covered by the projects (funded by CRM) for local self-government units (also, number of participating municipalities). | In 2019, CRM published 3 calls for municipalities with returnees under Readmission Agreements, who were in need. In this way, a total of 12 local self-government units were supported, with 15 approved projects. Assistance was provided to 28 families with the purchase of 11 village houses, 8 building material packages and 9 income-generating activity packages. |
| <b>CRM</b> | Number of public calls/projects dedicated to returnees (funded by CRM) for CSOs.  | In 2019, 2 calls were published supporting 3 projects related to the reintegration of returnees under Readmission Agreements.   |
| <b>CRM</b> | Number of returnees registered at the Belgrade Airport (Nikola Tesla) by the Readmission Office.  | 846 persons, i.e. 458 families were registered at the Belgrade Airport.   |
| <b>CRM</b> | CRM support provided to LSGs with the aim to revise existing LAPs to include returnees.   | Out of the total of 157 municipalities that adopted LAPs, 120 revised and extended LAPs to include the category of returnees under Readmission Agreement  |
| <b>CRM</b> | Number of information booklets on rights and obligations of returnees under Readmission Agreements distributed.   | In 2018, a total of 3,000 information booklets on rights and obligations of returnees under Readmission Agreements were distributed.  |
| <b>CRM</b> | Number of people placed by CRM in centres for emergency reception (in case of necessity/urgent need) + average length of stay + total number of awarded financial compensations to returnees by CRM.                                    | In 2019, a total of 15 persons stayed in the emergency reception centre.<br><br>Average length of stay in the emergency reception centre was around 6 months<br><br>20 financial assistance packages were awarded in  |

|                                  |   |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
|                                  |   | 2019 (in total 360,000 RSD)   |
| <b>CRM</b>                       | Frequency of meetings of the Team (representatives of different ministries) for the implementation of the Strategy for Reintegration of Returnees. General indicator (not directly related to services available to returnees). | There were no meetings of the Team for the implementation of the Strategy for Reintegration of Returnees.   |
| <b>CRM</b>                       | Number of articles (in printed media) on returnees.   | 10 articles on returnees.   |
| <b>All relevant institutions</b> | Number of civil servants who are/will be in charge of returnees under Readmission Agreements within various ministries/government bodies.   | <p>CRM – in the Department for reception and returnees under Readmission Agreements, 8 jobs have been classified (civil servants in charge of returnees under Readmission Agreements).</p> <p>MFA – travel documents in accordance with Readmission Agreements in Serbian DCPs are issued by officers – associates for consular affairs, signed by DCP Chief or person authorised by them. Serbia has 25 DCPs abroad.</p> <p>OHMR – By June 2019, in the Office for Human and Minority Rights, 1 civil servant (officer providing assistance to vulnerable migrant groups) was authorised to work on affairs related to returnees under Readmission Agreements. Under the new Rulebook on organisation and job classification in OHMR, no jobs are provided with the above description.</p> <p>MESTD – According to the job classification, MESTD has one civil servant in charge of these affairs.</p> |
| <b>All relevant institutions</b> | Number of organisational units / decentralised organisational units authorised to act on affairs related to returnees under Readmission Agreements.   | CRM has one internal organisational unit – Department for reception and returnees under Readmission Agreements.   |
| <b>All relevant institutions</b> | Number of returnees provided with free legal  | Office for Cooperation with Civil Society does not have   |



|  |             |   |
|--|-------------|---|
|  | aid/advice. | data on the number of returnees provided with free legal aid/advice.<br><br>OHMR – According to data submitted by the Officer with the OHMR, during the first half of 2019, 343 adult returnees were offered advisory assistance. |
|--|-------------|---|

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

In 2019, 26,164 refugees were living in the Republic of Serbia. The majority of refugees came from Croatia (68.7%). In the period between 2018 and 2019, the refugee population reduced by 338 persons.

**Table 52:** Refugee population in the Republic of Serbia by country of origin, 2018 and 2019

| Country of Origin | 2018          | 2019          |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Croatia           | 18,232        | 17,967        |
| B&H               | 8,270         | 8,197         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>26,502</b> | <b>26,164</b> |

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

Data on age structure indicate a substantial share of elderly age cohorts among the refugee population, meaning persons over 65 years of age (65.82%), and considerably fewer persons in the 50-64 age group (17.06%). This means that over 80% of persons in the refugee population were over 50 years old in 2019.

**Table 53:** Refugee population in the Republic of Serbia by age, 2019

| Age          | %          |
|--------------|------------|
| 0-14         | 0.04       |
| 15-29        | 4.12       |
| 30-39        | 7.02       |
| 40-49        | 5.94       |
| 50-64        | 17.06      |
| 65+          | 65.82      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>100</b> |

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

According to CRM data, out of the total number of refugees in 2019, the majority of refugees were living in the Belgrade District (25.1%), followed by South Bačka District (17.3%) and Srem District (15.3%), which is almost identical as in the previous years, 2017 and 2018.

**Table 54:** Number of refugees by districts in the Republic of Serbia, 2019

| District                        | Number of refugees |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| North Bačka                     | 816                |
| Central Banat                   | 769                |
| North Banat                     | 288                |
| South Banat                     | 1,118              |
| West Bačka                      | 1,899              |
| South Bačka                     | 4,534              |
| Srem                            | 4,008              |
| Mačva                           | 1,945              |
| Kolubara                        | 301                |
| Podunavlje                      | 316                |
| Braničevo                       | 391                |
| Šumadija                        | 495                |
| Pomoravlje                      | 391                |
| Bor                             | 155                |
| Zaječar                         | 187                |
| Zlatibor                        | 389                |
| Moravica                        | 341                |
| Raška                           | 344                |
| Rasina                          | 208                |
| Nišava                          | 341                |
| Toplica                         | 88                 |
| Pirot                           | 67                 |
| Jablanica                       | 124                |
| Pčinja                          | 82                 |
| Belgrade                        | 6,567              |
| <b>Republic of Serbia Total</b> | <b>26,164</b>      |

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

#### 4.7. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

In 2019, 198,545 persons displaced from AP Kosovo and Metohija lived in the Republic of Serbia. 58,299 IDPs lived on the territory of Belgrade, which is one-third of the total number of IDPs. As for the rest of the Republic of Serbia, the highest share of IDPs lived in Raška, Šumadija, Toplica, Nišava, Pčinja and Podunavlje districts. In terms of ethnic structure, the most numerous among IDPs were Serbs, followed by Roma, while Gorani, Bosniacs/Muslims, Montenegrins and others accounted for the minority share of the population

**Table 55:** The number of IDPs by districts in the Republic of Serbia, 2019

| District      | Number |
|---------------|--------|
| North Bačka   | 2,826  |
| Central Banat | 1,022  |
| North Banat   | 248    |
| South Banat   | 1,901  |
| West Bačka    | 650    |
| South Bačka   | 5,247  |
| Srem          | 1,171  |
| Mačva         | 989    |
| Kolubara      | 877    |
| Podunavlje    | 11,003 |
| Braničevo     | 2,288  |
| Šumadija      | 14,901 |
| Pomoravlje    | 8,007  |

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Bor                             | 1,309          |
| Zaječar                         | 1,651          |
| Zlatibor                        | 1,763          |
| Moravica                        | 3,913          |
| Raška                           | 30,175         |
| Rasina                          | 9,014          |
| Nišava                          | 11,246         |
| Toplica                         | 11,911         |
| Pirot                           | 581            |
| Jablanica                       | 6,499          |
| Pčinja                          | 11,054         |
| Belgrade                        | 58,299         |
| <b>Republic of Serbia Total</b> | <b>198,545</b> |

Source: Commissariat for Refugees and Migration

In 2019, 107 IDPs returned to AP Kosovo and Metohija (28 persons with support, 79 persons spontaneously). The age structure of returnees shows that the majority of those that returned were in the age cohorts 15-29 years, followed by 0-14 and 30-49 age groups. This indicates that mostly families with children returned. The majority of persons returned to the municipality Kosovska Kamenica.

**Table 56:** IDPs returned to AP Kosovo and Metohija according to municipality of return, sex and age in 2019

| Municipality of return         | Sex   | Subtotal   | Age structure |           |           |           |           |
|--------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                |       |            | 0-14          | 15-29     | 30-49     | 50-64     | 65+       |
| Municipality Istok             | Women | 3          |               | 1         | 2         |           |           |
|                                | Men   | 3          |               | 2         | 1         |           |           |
| Municipality Klina             | Women | 1          |               |           |           |           | 1         |
|                                | Men   | 1          |               |           |           |           | 1         |
| Municipality Kosovo Polje      | Women | 4          |               | 1         | 2         | 1         |           |
|                                | Men   | 4          | 2             | 1         | 1         |           |           |
| Municipality Kosovska Kamenica | Women | 19         | 2             | 6         | 4         | 4         | 3         |
|                                | Men   | 21         | 5             | 10        | 2         | 4         |           |
| Municipality Priština          | Women | 4          | 1             | 1         | 2         |           |           |
|                                | Men   | 3          |               | 1         | 1         | 1         |           |
| Municipality Novo Brdo         | Women | 1          |               |           |           | 1         |           |
|                                | Men   | -          |               |           |           |           |           |
| Municipality Obilić            | Women | 4          | 1             |           | 1         | 1         | 1         |
|                                | Men   | 3          |               | 1         | 1         | 1         |           |
| Municipality Peć               | Women | 6          | 3             | 1         | 2         |           |           |
|                                | Men   | 7          | 3             | 2         | 1         | 1         |           |
| Municipality Prizren           | Women | 2          |               |           |           | 1         | 1         |
|                                | Men   | 2          |               |           |           | 1         | 1         |
| Municipality Vitina            | Women | 1          |               |           |           |           | 1         |
|                                | Men   | 1          |               |           |           |           | 1         |
| Municipality Gnjilane          | Women | 7          | 2             |           | 3         | 2         |           |
|                                | Men   | 10         | 3             | 1         |           | 3         | 3         |
| <b>Total</b>                   |       | <b>107</b> | <b>22</b>     | <b>28</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>13</b> |

Source: Office for Kosovo and Metohija

**Table 57:** IDPs that returned to AP Kosovo and Metohija in 2019 – by municipality and manner of return

| Municipality of Return         | Number of persons | Manner of return |           |             |          |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|----------|
|                                | Total             | Supported        | Organised | Spontaneous | Other    |
| Municipality Istok             | 6                 | 6                | /         | /           | /        |
| Municipality Klina             | 2                 | 1                | /         | 1           | /        |
| Municipality Kosovo Polje      | 8                 | 4                | /         | 4           | /        |
| Municipality Kosovska Kamenica | 40                | 2                | /         | 38          | /        |
| Municipality Priština          | 7                 |                  | /         | 7           | /        |
| Municipality Novo Brdo         | 1                 |                  | /         | 1           | /        |
| Municipality Obilić            | 7                 |                  | /         | 7           | /        |
| Municipality Peć               | 13                | 13               | /         |             | /        |
| Municipality Prizren           | 4                 | 2                | /         | 2           | /        |
| Municipality Vitina            | 2                 |                  | /         | 2           | /        |
| Municipality Gnjilane          | 17                |                  | /         | 17          | /        |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>107</b>        | <b>28</b>        | <b>/</b>  | <b>79</b>   | <b>/</b> |

Source: Office for Kosovo and Metohija

The majority of persons returned to Kosovska Kamenica, spontaneously (38 persons). There was no organised return.

### ***B5. Statistics on internal migration***

According to the estimates of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS), the total population size in the Republic of Serbia has been continuously decreasing during the last 19 years. Total estimated population size in the Republic of Serbia on 1 January 2019 was 6,963,764 persons, which is over one-half a million less than at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Serbia is in advanced stages of demographic transition, with profound biological depopulation, developed all forms of modern internal and international migration, biological ageing, marriage, family and household transitions. As in 2001, there were more females in the population, at 51.3% compared to 48.7% of males, primarily due to the higher life expectancy of the female population.

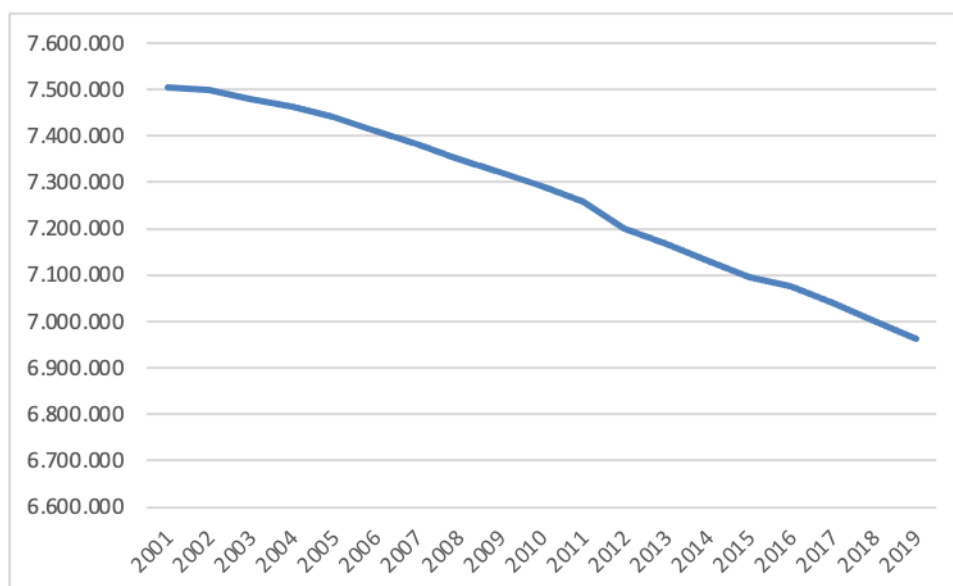
**Table 58:** Estimated population size in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2001-2019

| Year | Total population |           |           |
|------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
|      | Total            | Male      | Female    |
| 2001 | 7,503,433        | 3,648,533 | 3,854,900 |
| 2002 | 7,500,031        | 3,647,190 | 3,852,841 |
| 2003 | 7,480,591        | 3,637,789 | 3,842,802 |
| 2004 | 7,463,157        | 3,629,194 | 3,833,963 |
| 2005 | 7,440,769        | 3,618,040 | 3,822,729 |
| 2006 | 7,411,569        | 3,603,698 | 3,807,871 |
| 2007 | 7,381,579        | 3,588,957 | 3,792,622 |
| 2008 | 7,350,222        | 3,573,814 | 3,776,408 |
| 2009 | 7,320,807        | 3,560,048 | 3,760,759 |
| 2010 | 7,291,436        | 3,546,374 | 3,745,062 |
| 2011 | 7,258,753        | 3,530,924 | 3,727,829 |
| 2012 | 7,199,077        | 3,505,713 | 3,693,364 |
| 2013 | 7,166,552        | 3,489,683 | 3,676,869 |
| 2014 | 7,131,787        | 3,472,746 | 3,659,041 |
| 2015 | 7,095,383        | 3,455,335 | 3,640,048 |
| 2016 | 7,076,372        | 3,446,258 | 3,630,114 |

|              |           |           |           |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>2017</b>  | 7,040,272 | 3,429,027 | 3,611,245 |
| <b>2018</b>  | 7,001,444 | 3,410,592 | 3,590,852 |
| <b>2019*</b> | 6,963,764 | 3,392,811 | 3,570,953 |

Source: SORS \* Estimated population size on 1 January 2019

**Chart 7:** Population size in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2001-2019



Source: SORS

Looking at types of settlements, in 2019, larger part of the population lived in urban settlements, with 4,244,308 persons or 60.6%, than all other settlements inhabited by 2,719,456 persons or 39.4%. The female population prevailed in urban settlements, while in others, there were somewhat more men than women.

**Table 59:** Estimated population size in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2001-2019, by type of settlement and sex

| Year | Population in urban settlements |           |           | Population in other settlements |           |           |
|------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|      | Total                           | Male      | Female    | Total                           | Male      | Female    |
| 2001 | 4,215,583                       | 2,016,029 | 2,199,554 | 3,287,850                       | 1,632,504 | 1,655,346 |
| 2002 | 4,233,303                       | 2,023,817 | 2,209,486 | 3,266,728                       | 1,623,373 | 1,643,355 |
| 2003 | 4,239,980                       | 2,026,423 | 2,213,557 | 3,240,611                       | 1,611,366 | 1,629,245 |
| 2004 | 4,249,544                       | 2,030,310 | 2,219,234 | 3,213,613                       | 1,598,884 | 1,614,729 |
| 2005 | 4,257,878                       | 2,033,178 | 2,224,700 | 3,182,891                       | 1,584,862 | 1,598,029 |
| 2006 | 4,263,386                       | 2,034,616 | 2,228,770 | 3,148,183                       | 1,569,082 | 1,579,101 |
| 2007 | 4,270,400                       | 2,037,012 | 2,233,388 | 3,111,179                       | 1,551,945 | 1,559,234 |
| 2008 | 4,275,245                       | 2,038,642 | 2,236,603 | 3,074,977                       | 1,535,172 | 1,539,805 |
| 2009 | 4,279,035                       | 2,039,934 | 2,239,101 | 3,041,772                       | 1,520,114 | 1,521,658 |
| 2010 | 4,283,985                       | 2,041,975 | 2,242,010 | 3,007,451                       | 1,504,399 | 1,503,052 |
| 2011 | 4,286,114                       | 2,042,566 | 2,243,548 | 2,972,639                       | 1,488,358 | 1,484,281 |
| 2012 | 4,273,980                       | 2,039,174 | 2,234,806 | 2,925,097                       | 1,466,539 | 1,458,558 |
| 2013 | 4,272,061                       | 2,037,554 | 2,234,507 | 2,894,491                       | 1,452,129 | 1,442,362 |
| 2014 | 4,270,367                       | 2,035,772 | 2,234,595 | 2,861,420                       | 1,436,974 | 1,424,446 |
| 2015 | 4,267,079                       | 2,033,446 | 2,233,633 | 2,828,304                       | 1,421,889 | 1,406,415 |
| 2016 | 4,264,826                       | 2,031,983 | 2,232,843 | 2,811,546                       | 1,414,275 | 1,397,271 |
| 2017 | 4,259,678                       | 2,029,094 | 2,230,584 | 2,780,594                       | 1,399,933 | 1,380,661 |
| 2018 | 4,252,578                       | 2,025,256 | 2,227,322 | 2,748,866                       | 1,385,336 | 1,363,530 |
| 2019 | 4,244,308                       | 2,020,926 | 2,223,382 | 2,719,456                       | 1,371,885 | 1,347,571 |

Source: SORS

**Table 60:** Comparative overview of population that migrated in and out of the Republic of Serbia, by sex, 2018

|   |                     | 2018   |        |        |
|---|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|   |                     | Total  | Male   | Female |
| <b>Serbia-North</b><br>(Belgrade Region and Vojvodina Region)                             | <b>In-migration</b> | 78,754 | 36,202 | 42,552 |
|   | <b>Outmigration</b> | 71,468 | 32,982 | 38,486 |
| <b>Serbia-South</b><br>(Šumadija and West Serbia Region and South and East Serbia Region) | <b>In-migration</b> | 43,439 | 18,400 | 25,039 |
|   | <b>Outmigration</b> | 50,725 | 21,620 | 29,105 |

Source: SORS

Looking at the types of settlements, Serbian towns are still more migratory areas than other settlements. This primarily refers to the statistical region Serbia-North, where 80% of the male population moved to urban and only 20% to other settlements, and it is similar also with the female population. However, the towns in this statistical region are extremely migratory areas, out of which, in 2018, 78% of male (compared to 22% from other settlements) and 75% of female population (compared to 25% from other settlements) moved. In the statistical region Serbia South, migration according to sex and type of settlement is more balanced.

Observed by age structure, the most mobile population is in the age between 15 and 64 years, primarily between 20 and 35 years of age, which is fertile and working age population. In this category of persons, the majority moved to the region Serbia-North, namely 61,273 persons, while nearly one-half of this number, or 34,278 persons moved to Serbia-South. The same trends are with outmigration, only the share of the population that migrated out of the Serbia-South region is close to the number of people that moved out of the Serbia-North region in the 15-64 age group.

**Table 61:** Migrant population by type of settlement and sex, 2018 (internal migration)

| Area                | Type of | Moved in % |        | Moved out % |        |
|---------------------|---------|------------|--------|-------------|--------|
|                     |         | Male       | Female | Male        | Female |
| <b>Serbia-North</b> | Urban   | 80         | 79     | 78          | 75     |
|                     | Other   | 20         | 21     | 22          | 25     |
| <b>Serbia-South</b> | Urban   | 51         | 49     | 51          | 46     |
|                     | Other   | 49         | 51     | 49          | 54     |
| <b>Serbia Total</b> | Urban   | 70         | 68     | 67          | 62     |
|                     | Other   | 30         | 32     | 33          | 38     |

Source: SORS

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

| Age                 | Republic of Serbia | Serbia-North | Serbia-South |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>In-migration</b> |                    |              |              |
| <b>0-14</b>         | 17,293             | 11,288       | 6,005        |
| <b>15-64</b>        | 95,551             | 61,273       | 34,278       |
| <b>65 and over</b>  | 9,349              | 6,193        | 3,156        |
| <b>Outmigration</b> |                    |              |              |
| <b>0-14</b>         | 17,293             | 11,164       | 6,129        |
| <b>15-64</b>        | 95,551             | 54,465       | 41,086       |
| <b>65 and over</b>  | 9,349              | 5,839        | 3,510        |

Source: SORS

## ***B6. CONCLUSION***

Migration represents one of the most important social phenomena. It is under the influence of various factors, such as geographic, demographic, economic, environmental, political, cultural, religious, etc. However, the most dominant and the most important is the economic influence. Monitoring migration flows is crucial for efficient migration management, especially in terms of fulfilling positive migration effects on the socio-economic development of the Republic of Serbia. The snapshot of migration flows and migrant characteristics indicates that the Republic of Serbia, with its development processes and potentials, does not represent an important destination country attracting immigration caused by better employment opportunities and economic standards, but represents a country with high emigration. The following most important conclusions can be drawn based on the above presented data:

- The Republic of Serbia does not represent an important destination country that attracts immigration for its economic potentials and employment opportunities. Countries with the highest numbers of immigrants in 2019 were the Russian Federation, PR China and Turkey. This situation has not changed much compared to previous years.
- After the single Readmission Agreement with the EU entered into force on 1 January 2008, many citizens of the Republic of Serbia have been returned from EU countries. Among these persons there are those who lost the legal grounds for residence on the territory of one of EU member states, but still these are predominantly persons that applied for asylum on the territory of EU member states after the visa liberalisation. Out of the total number of received requests for readmission, the majority were from Germany, Netherlands and Austria. The majority of returnees registered with the Readmission Office at the Nikola Tesla Airport came from Germany and Sweden, so this situation did not change in comparison with 2017 and 2018.
- Out of the total of 12,935 issued confirmations about the registration of foreigners expressing intent to apply for asylum, the highest number of confirmations were issued in Regional Police Directorates (91%). Out of the total number of people that expressed intent, only 1.9% submitted applications for asylum. Out of the total number of submitted asylum applications, around 40% were submitted by the citizens of Iran and Afghanistan. In 2019, the Asylum Office made 25 decisions approving asylum applications.
- The issue of refugees and IDPs is still ongoing in the Republic of Serbia. The number of refugees decreased by 338 in comparison with 2018, while the number of IDPs decreased by 1,039. 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, supported by various support programmes in the Republic of Serbia.
- According to the estimates made by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, the total population size in the Republic of Serbia has been decreasing continuously over the past 19 years. This is partially caused by low, or negative population growth rates, which is a result of low natality (among the lowest in European countries) and high mortality, depopulation of rural areas, and outmigration of the population abroad (economic migration, brain drain, etc.) for temporary work/stay, which is increasingly permanent, and which is always there to a lesser or greater extent.
- Regarding external migration, the Republic of Serbia is traditionally an area of emigration. Albeit incomplete, data on emigration show considerable outmigration from the Republic of Serbia towards more developed countries in the EU, North America, Australia and New Zealand. Today it records a clear negative migration balance. Childbearing crisis and its effects related to population ageing and open depopulation will continue and become more profound in the times to come.

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