

# THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA MIGRATION PROFILE



IOM International Organization for Migration



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

October 2007



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IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

# **The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

## **Migration Profile**

September 2007

**Prepared by:** International Organization for migration (IOM)  
**Publisher:** Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia  
**Front Cover Design:** Boris Teodorović  
**Text Design:** Branka Derenčin  
**First Edition, first printing:** 120 copies  
**Printed by:** Mond grafika, d. o. o.

Text Unedited

Ljubljana, September 2007

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## **Acknowledgements**

This set of publications is the result of the cooperation of many individuals from within IOM and outside. A special thanks to Christine Aghazarm, Saskia Buschman-Petit, Sanja Celebic Lukovac, Veronica Escudero, Teuta Grazhdani, Jacqueline Koster, Balazs Lehel, Biljana Nastovska, Miriam Neziri, Anna Eva Radicetti, Sarah Schwarz, Jovana Skrnjug, Suna Skupnjak-Kapic, Mariko Tomiyama, Dusica Zivkovic, Kasia Zaremba, Branka Zulj, and all other IOM staff involved. Although they remain unnamed, thanks are also due to each government official within the respective administrations who provided valuable information.

The support of the Government of Slovenia in financing the production of this study is thankfully acknowledged.



## Foreword

Migration patterns and trends have profound consequences for demographic, social and economic conditions. Studying these trends and patterns is required for national accounting and planning.

Recognizing the above, in view of its upcoming EU Presidency during the first half of 2008 and its migration agenda therein, the Slovenian government has taken the initiative to request IOM to draft “migration profiles” (as defined by the European Commission) for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia and Turkey.

This undertaking strengthens the EC’s efforts to address migration in its broadest sense, in partnerships with third countries. It follows the lines of the EU’s Global Approach to Migration<sup>1</sup> and more particularly sets the ground for concrete action along the lines of the EC Communication on Applying the Global Approach to the Eastern and South-Eastern Regions Neighbouring the European Union of May 2007<sup>2</sup>

This document was prepared by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in July and August 2007 on the basis of publicly available information and data, analysis and comment, and on IOM’s own knowledge.

The “migration profiles” documents represent ad-hoc compilation of existing data drawn from various sources including the governments of the countries; international organisations and bodies; independent academic research reports; as well as IOM’s internal sources and information. As such, it does not purport to be either exhaustive or conclusive.

All sources are cited. For clarifications on the definitions, the reader must refer to the original source of the data, where more than one source may be given. The variety of sources might result in inconsistencies due to differences in data collection, definitions, and reference dates used.

National contexts differ from one country to another with regard to the existing institutional settings, legislative and strategic frameworks, as well as methodological approaches.

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<sup>1</sup> Presidency Conclusions on the Global Approach to Migration: Priority actions focusing on Africa and the Mediterranean, European Council, Brussels, 15-16 December 2005.

<sup>2</sup> EC Communication (“COM(2006) 735 final) The Global Approach to Migration one year on: Towards a comprehensive European migration policy”

In general, fragmented national institutional frameworks can be noted in all the countries with several institutions and offices recording and compiling migration-related information; along with various international organisations and bodies present in most of the countries.

The results of this exercise point out to the imminent need for agreement on uniform definitions and methodology to record information on emigration and immigration. A general problem is the actual lack of or availability of data per se. Where data exists, the low level of standardization in terms and methodology results in varying degrees of comparability of data.

Despite such shortfalls on information available and comparability, it is our hope that this publication raises awareness on migration issues in these countries and provides useful background for policy development.



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<b>The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – Basic facts</b>	
Population (2005)	2,034.000
Total Area	25.333 sq km
GDP per Capita PPP	USD 6.610
Human Development Index (HDI) Rank	66 of 177
Net Migration Rate	-1 migrant/1.000 population
Sources: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division's World Population Prospects: the 2006 Revision Population Database; UN Development Programme Human Development Report, 2006	





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## 1. IMMIGRANTS

### 1.1. Number of immigrants

----- 121.291<sup>1</sup> (2005)  
 As percentage of total population----- -6 (2005)<sup>2</sup>  
 Gender-ratio----- -70.724 female, 50.567 male (2005)<sup>3</sup>

### 1.2. Status of immigrants

Refugees<sup>4</sup>----- 1.240 assisted (2006)  
 ----- - 176 returned (2006)  
 Asylum-seekers<sup>5</sup>----- -205 (2006)

Labour migrants

**Table 1:** Registered immigrants with short term and long term residence by country

Country	2002	2003
Serbia and Montenegro	879	712
Albania	297	206
Bulgaria	160	97
Ukraine	129	44
Bosnia and Herzegovina	103	62
Turkey	87	48
Russian Federation	57	30

<sup>1</sup> World Bank, Development Prospects Group [2005]: *Migration and Remittances Factbook*. Many of the foreign born today were born in other states of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Therefore, this figure may reflect the country's changed geopolitical status rather than its immigration trends.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INIPROSPPECTS/Resources/334934-1181678518183/Macedonia.pdf>. Their source is the UN Population Division statistics which show the estimated number of international migrants (both sexes) at mid year.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> UN Population Division Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN Secretariat, "Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision", July 2007. Figures represent estimated number at mid-year.

<sup>4</sup> UNCHR [2006]: *Statistical Yearbook 2006. Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons*. Figures represent end-2006 statistics. Data are provisional and subject to change. Status as at 15 June 2007. The figure refers to "Persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 UN Convention/1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention, in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, persons granted a complementary form of protection and those granted temporary protection".

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

Croatia	46	33
Greece	46	56
Germany	25	25
United States of America	-	90
China	-	20
Unknown citizenship	11	59
Other countries	284	190

Source: Ministry of Interior of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia answers to the EU questionnaire by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, 2005.

**Table 2:** Registered immigrants with short term and long term residence by reasons for immigration

	2002	2003
Employment	311	192
Marriage	303	254
Family reasons	1.366	1.071
Personal activities	154	192
Other reasons	664	530
Total	2.798	2.230

Source: Ministry of Interior of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia answers to the EU questionnaire by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, 2005.

### 1.3. Main countries of origin of immigrants

Albania, Turkey, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Croatia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Greece, Russia<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> World Bank, Development Prospects Group [2005]: Migration and Remittances Factbook, <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1181678518183/Macedonia.pdf>.

## 2. EMIGRANTS

### 2.1. Number of emigrants

	- 370.826 <sup>7</sup>
As percentage of total population-	- 18,2 <sup>8</sup>

### 2.2. Status of emigrants

Refugees - - - - -	7.940 (2006) <sup>9</sup>
Asylum-seekers - - - - -	1.587 (2006) <sup>10</sup>
Emigration rate of tertiary educated - - - - -	-20,9% <sup>11</sup>

#### Labour migrants

Of the 1,282 emigrants in 2005, 518 have left for employment reasons, 420 for family related issues, and 85 for marriage, 41 for educational purposes, and 218 for other reasons<sup>12</sup>.

#### Temporary migrants/Circular migration

According to the updated list of registered voters presented at the beginning of May 2007 by the Ministry of Justice there are 59,650 voters staying abroad up to one year out of 1,742,316 registered voters in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>13</sup>. The population census of 2002 identified 22,995 people being abroad for a period of up to one year and another 12,128 staying longer<sup>14</sup>. Recent research<sup>15</sup> reveals that 56.3% of Macedonian migrants have been staying in their host countries for two to five years. Women are more likely to stay less than 2 years while men are believed to spend longer periods in the destination country. Furthermore, their results underlined that 78.4% of Macedonian migrants have left their home for the first time.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> UNCHR [2006]: *Statistical Yearbook 2006. Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons*. Figures represent end-2006 statistics. Data are provisional and subject to change. Status as at 15 June 2007. The figure refers to "Persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 UN Convention/1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention, in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, persons granted a complementary form of protection and those granted temporary protection".

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> World Bank, Development Prospects Group [2007]: *Migration and Remittances Factbook*, <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1181678518183/Macedonia.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> UN Population Division Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN Secretariat [2007]: *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision*. Figures represent estimated number at mid-year.

<sup>13</sup> Center for Research and Policy Making [2007]: *Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation in the Western Balkan Regarding Migration Management. Macedonia. Migration Flows in Modern Macedonia*. Skopje.

<sup>14</sup> Malgorzata Markiewicz [2006]: *Migration and Remittances in Macedonia*. Center for Economic Analyses. Skopje.

<sup>15</sup> Center for Research and Policy Making [2007]: *Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation in the Western Balkan Regarding Migration Management. Macedonia. Migration Flows in Modern Macedonia*. Skopje



### 2.3. Main countries of destination<sup>16</sup>

Germany, Switzerland, Australia, Italy, Turkey, US, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, France

**Table 3:** Estimated number of Macedonians in the World<sup>17</sup>

Country	Official numbers plus source
Overseas countries	
Australia	81,898 (Australian statistical bureau - 2001)
USA	43,783 (US Census Bureau - 2000)
Canada	30,915 (Canadian Statistical Office - 1996) 31,265 (Canadian Census - 2001)
New Zealand	621 (New Zealand Statistical bureau - 2001)
European countries	
Germany	42,550 (German Central Statistical Office - 2005)
Switzerland	61,455 (Union Institute for Standards of Swiss Confederation)
Italy	34,500 (in 2004)
The Netherlands	10-15,000 (Netherlands organization for cooperation with emigrants - LIZE)
Austria	13,948 (Markiewicz 2007 using OECD database)
Sweden	4,144 (Swedish statistical bureau in 2004)
France	2,560 (1999 Census)
Belgium	3,288 (MOI of Belgium - 2005)
Denmark	1,607 (2002 Census)
England	1,285 (2001 Census)
Norway	715 (2002 Census)
Czech Republic	533 (2001 Census)
Poland	204 (2001 Census)
Russia	
<b>Neighbouring countries</b>	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,278 (2005 Population census)
Serbia	25,847 (2002 Census)
Croatia	4,270 (2001 Census)
Slovenia	3,972 (2002 Census)
Bulgaria	5,071 (2001 Census)

Source: Data for Overseas and European countries (except for Austria) is from *The Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI) 2006 Questionnaire on Diaspora*. Data for Austria and neighbouring countries are from *Małgorzata Markiewicz [2006]: Migration and Remittances in Macedonia. Center for Economic Analyses. Skopje*.

<sup>16</sup> World Bank, Development Prospects Group [2007]: *Migration and Remittances Factbook*, <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1181678518183/Macedonia.pdf>.

<sup>17</sup> There is hardly any agreement on what the actual number of emigrants is. Counting the Macedonians abroad can prove a daunting exercise; fortunately, there are several sources that provide data of this kind. The problematic aspect is the numbers differs even when these various sources cite, apparently, the same original source. As can be seen, various sources have different numbers with regard to emigrants. Data limitations are further discussed in sections 4 and 6 below.

### 3. REMITTANCES

#### 3.1. Quantitative aspects of remittances

Remittances constitute an increasing source of revenue for many families in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. At a macro level, remittances finance the balance of payment (i.e. without remittances the current account balance would deteriorate<sup>18</sup>). In fact, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is among the top 30 developing countries with respect to the highest remittances received as a percentage of GDP (11<sup>th</sup>) and with the highest remittances per capita (278 in 2002 and that makes it the 14<sup>th</sup>)<sup>19</sup>. What constitutes remittances varies from one source to another. For example, the figures below show different amounts when considering the National Bank of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (NBM) and the World Bank (WB) data. The difference lies in the definition adopted. The WB one is much broader and is the summation of three components, namely: workers remittances, compensation of employees and migrant transfers. The NBM does not include migrant transfers in the definition as it is not an item per se in the balance of payments but is incorporated in the cash exchange item<sup>20</sup>. This difference becomes even more complex when considering other sources, such as the IMF data. The figures on remittances as percentage of GDP and of exports vary dramatically according to the source. For instance, in 2002 remittances amounted to 15.2%<sup>21</sup> of GDP according to the Center for Research and Policy Studies in Skopje, whereas in 2003 this constitutes only 3.7%<sup>22</sup>. For 2005, Joanne Van Selm cites IMF figures on remittances as high as 18% of GDP<sup>23</sup>. This is mainly due to the slightly different definitions of remittances of IMF: the sum of the compensation of employees, worker's remittances, and other current transfers in other sectors<sup>24</sup>. Nevertheless, this is not to discard the importance of remittances. On the contrary, the constant rise in remittances is seen as having a high potential to assist the country<sup>25</sup>.

<sup>18</sup> Malgorzata Markiewicz [2006]: *Migration and Remittances in Macedonia*. Center for Economic Analyses. Skopje.

<sup>19</sup> OECD [2006]: *International Migration Outlook*. SOPEMI report.

<sup>20</sup> Malgorzata Markiewicz [2006]: *Migration and Remittances in Macedonia*. Center for Economic Analyses. Skopje. The latter item, as Markiewicz state, also includes payments for unrecorded trade and services and thus the real amount of official remittances (notwithstanding the informal remittances) lies somewhere between these two figures.

<sup>21</sup> Center for Research and Policy Making [2007]: *Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation in the Western Balkan Regarding Migration Management. Macedonia. Migration Flows in Modern Macedonia*. Skopje, p. 9.

<sup>22</sup> Mechthid Schorooten [2005]: *Bringing Home the Money: What Determines Worker's Remittances in Transition Countries?* The Institution of Economic Research/DiW (German Institute for Economic Research).

<sup>23</sup> Van Selm, Joanne [2007]: *Macedonia: At a Quiet Crossroads*. Migration Information Source at Migration Policy Institute. Available online at: <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?ID=608>.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Van Selm, Joanne [2007]: *Macedonia: At a Quiet Crossroads*. Migration Information Source at Migration Policy Institute. Available online at: <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?ID=608>.

**Table 4:** Estimated migrant remittances in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, US million dollars

Year Source	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
National Bank of Macedonia <sup>26</sup>	13	34	42,5	64,2	66,2	47,4	69,8	130,2	146,3	155,3
World Bank <sup>27</sup>	68	78	63	77	81	73	106	174	213	226

### 3.2. Qualitative aspects of remittances

There is not much evidence on the qualitative aspects of remittances sent home by Macedonian migrants, despite the increasing developmental potential these transfers entail. Both the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) confirmed that the Government does not have any official measurable feature of the qualitative aspect of remittances. However, a recent study<sup>28</sup> estimates that only 15% of the pecuniary transfers were made through official channels (i.e. banks – there is no mention of money transfer operators). The study estimated that the remainder is brought in the country either by migrants themselves or through “couriers” such as friends, relatives, coach carriers or other private tour operators, but no figures are provided. The Macedonian migrant sends home remittances very often, i.e. on a monthly or bimonthly basis. 32.4% of Macedonian Migrants are estimated to be remittance senders<sup>29</sup>. Male migrants are more likely to send home remittances, although the gender discrepancy in this case is rather small. The same source reveals that 33% of the migrants believe remittances are important to their families and a recent World Bank study estimate that remittances constitute up to 5% of the total household expenditure<sup>30</sup>.

<sup>26</sup> NBM data from Center for Research and Policy Making [2007]: *Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation in the Western Balkan Regarding Migration Management. Macedonia. Migration Flows in Modern Macedonia*. Skopje

<sup>27</sup> Data for 1996-2002: Global Economic Prospects [2006]: *Economic Implications of Remittances and Migration*, Washington, D.C.: World Bank. For 2003-2005, World Bank’s World Development Indicators database.

<sup>28</sup> Center for Research and Policy Making [2007]: *Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation in the Western Balkan Regarding Migration Management. Macedonia. Migration Flows in Modern Macedonia*. Skopje

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Ali Mansoor and Bryce Quillin [2007]: *Migration and Remittances. Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.

## 4. MIGRANT COMMUNITIES/DIASPORAS

The size of the Macedonian diasporas is hard to grasp and is even more difficult to provide recent updates on existing figures. Existing estimates vary from 350,000 to 2 million<sup>31</sup>. The table in the Emigrants sections above provides a glimpse of what the most recent censuses in various countries presented with regard to Macedonian diasporas. One of the main causes of difficulties is that some of the censuses include Macedonian citizens while others count only those of ethnic-Macedonian ancestry.

Emigration of the citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is not a recent phenomenon and – according to the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – one can distinguish several events/reasons that have caused large flows of people along years. The Balkans wars of 1912-1913, the First World War, the Second World War, the Civil war in Greece (1945 – 1949) have led to massive emigration to USA, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand<sup>32</sup>. In the sixties emigration of Macedonian was triggered mainly by the poor economical situation of the country and the main destinations were Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Sweden while smaller numbers found their way to Austria, Denmark, Netherlands, and Norway<sup>33</sup>. The poor economic performance in the 1990s, the Kosovo (Province of Serbia) crisis and the 2001 internal security crisis increased the number of emigrants and asylum seekers from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia<sup>34</sup>.

### 4.1. Description of the relationship between diasporas and country of origin

There are no catch-all words or expressions that could characterize the relationship between Macedonian diasporas and the country of origin. A recent Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis portrays the Macedonian diasporas as not “a well-organized community” but it does emphasize that domestic authorities began to recognize its increasing importance (i.e. through remittances and the potential of attracting foreign investors)<sup>35</sup>. In fact, as Joanne van Selm – the author of the MPI analysis – reveals, four members of the diasporas have been appointed in key cabinet positions, following the 2006 elections, with a key aim to stimulate foreign investment<sup>36</sup>.

<sup>31</sup> Van Selm, Joanne [2007]: *Macedonia: At a Quiet Crossroads*. Migration Information Source at Migration Policy Institute. Available online at: <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?ID=608>. Last accessed: 30 July 2007.

<sup>32</sup> The Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI) 2006 Questionnaire on Diaspora. Available online at: [http://marri-rc.org/documents/Questionnaire%20on%20Diaspora%20\\_September%202006.pdf](http://marri-rc.org/documents/Questionnaire%20on%20Diaspora%20_September%202006.pdf). Last accessed: 31 July 2007

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Center for Research and Policy Making [2007]: *Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation in the Western Balkan Regarding Migration Management. Macedonia. Migration Flows in Modern Macedonia*. Skopje

<sup>35</sup> Van Selm, Joanne [2007]: *Macedonia: At a Quiet Crossroads*. Migration Information Source at Migration Policy Institute. Available online at: <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?ID=608>. Last accessed: 30 July 2007.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

The EU candidacy status, acquired in December 2005, triggered substantial actions regarding the country's diasporas, mainly legislative in nature. Of particular importance was the defining of the term diasporas by the MFA "as a concept that involves the Macedonian National Minority (MNM), and emigrants (former nationals of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), as well as all nationals of the Republic of Macedonia staying and working abroad regardless of the duration of their stay, and ethnic Macedonians that have never had Macedonian nationality"<sup>37</sup>. According to the MFA, this has enabled the ministry to pursue more active diasporas policies. Indeed a series of institutional setups and various events have been arranged under the framework of this policy (please refer to sections 6.2. and 6.3. for more information).

## 4.2. Migrant community/diasporas organisations

(Please note the list below do not purport to be exhaustive or representative. IOM does not take responsibility for the accuracy of the contact details).

### WORLDWIDE

- United Macedonian Diaspora  
Address: P.O. Box 19028 Washington, D.C. 20036  
[http://umdiaspora.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=67](http://umdiaspora.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=67)

### EUROPE

#### Greece

- **Pollitecon Publications**  
Address: PO Box W102  
Abbotsford NSW 2046  
Australia  
Phone: +61 2 9713 7608  
Fax: +61 2 9713 1004  
<http://www.pollitecon.com/>

#### France

- **Association, France-Macedonia – Paris**  
Address: 20 avenue D'Ivry Tour Tokio app.2282. 75013  
Tel: 0145826678

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<sup>37</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs website. <http://www.mfa.gov.mk/default1.aspx?ItemID=340>

## Germany

- **Macedonian Community for the North Germany**

Address: Brunnen Strasse 17, D 49 124 Hutte

Tel: +49 5401346001

- **Macedonian Community for the Middle Germany**

Address: Irenen Strasse 89, 40468 Düsseldorf

Tel: +49 2114228663

- **Macedonian Community for the South Germany**

Address: Vioatis str. 25, 90480 Nurnberg

Tel: +49 9114468170

## Austria

- **Austrian Macedonian Association**

Pa BMBVK Freyung 1 Wien

Tel: 531202780

[http://www.mazedonien.cc/AUT/Home\\_aut.htm](http://www.mazedonien.cc/AUT/Home_aut.htm)

## Denmark

- **Macedonian association "Macedonia"**

Address: Kongshaven 21, 2500 Valby

Tel: +4536463573

Switzerland<sup>38</sup>

- **Community of Macedonia associations**

Tel: 0244410611

mobile: 0788144466

- **Macedonian charity association "Macedonia"**

Address: Rue de la POste

case Postale 329

1040 Eschallens

[www.zmd.ch](http://www.zmd.ch)

## United Kingdom

- **Association of Macedonian Citizens in United Kingdom**

<http://www.macedonians.co.uk/>

- **Macedonian Cultural and Information Centre**

E-mail: [info@macedonia.co.uk](mailto:info@macedonia.co.uk)

<http://www.macedonia.co.uk/client/index.aspx?page=1>

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<sup>38</sup> The information for organizations in France, Germany, Austria, Denmark and Switzerland is from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, <http://www.mfa.gov.mk//Upload/ContentManagement/Files/Adresar%20na%20makedonski%20klubovi%20i%20drustva%20vo%20svetot.doc>

Bulgaria

- **United Macedonian Organisation: Ilinden–Pirin**  
<http://lgi.osi.hu/ethnic/relations/1/ivanov.html>

Albania

- **The Official Website of the Macedonian Associations in Albania**  
<http://www.macedoniansinalbania.org/>

OTHER COUNTRIES

United States of America

- **The Macedonian American Friendship Association**  
Address: 57 Jefferson Avenue, Columbus, OH 43215  
Tel.: 614.668-9656; Fax: 614.457-5926  
E-mail: [contact@macedonianamerican.org](mailto:contact@macedonianamerican.org)  
<http://www.macedonianamerican.org/>
- **Macedonian Arts Council**  
Address: P. O. Box 23905  
New York, NY 10023 USA  
Tel: (212) 799-0009; Fax: (815) 301-3893  
E-mail: [pproevska@macedonianarts.org](mailto:pproevska@macedonianarts.org)  
<http://www.macedonianarts.org/index.html>

Canada

- **The United Macedonians' Organization of Canada**  
Address: 686 McCowan Road, P.O. Box 66517  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
M1J 3N8  
Tel: (416) 490-0181  
Fax: (416) 490-0398  
E-mail: [info@unitedmacedonians.org](mailto:info@unitedmacedonians.org)  
[http://www.unitedmacedonians.org/about\\_us.html](http://www.unitedmacedonians.org/about_us.html)
- **Macedonian Human Rights Movement International (formerly Macedonian Human Rights Movement of Canada)**  
Address: 157 Adelaide St. West, Suite 434  
Toronto, Canada M5H 4E7  
Tel: 416-850-7125  
Fax: 416-850-7127  
Email: [info@mhrmi.org](mailto:info@mhrmi.org)  
<http://www.mhrmi.org/about.html>

- **Macedonia 2025**  
Address: 99 Blue Jays Way  
Suite 300, Toronto, Ontario  
Canada, M5V 9G9  
Tel: 416-341-2400 ext. 291; Fax: 416-341-2494  
E-Mail: [info@macedonia2025.com](mailto:info@macedonia2025.com)  
<http://www.unrealideas.net/macedonia2025/about.php>
- **Macedonian Centre for Cultural and Social Integration**  
Address: 76 Overlea Blvd.,  
Toronto, Ontario,  
M4H 1C5  
Canada  
<http://www.macedoniancentre.ca/>
- Headquarters of the Macedonian Community in Canada: Tugjino Jabano.  
<http://www.tugjinojabano.com/>
- **Canadian Macedonian Business and Professional Association.**  
Address: 3-100 West Beaver Creek Road  
Richmond Hill, Ontario  
L4B 1H4  
Canada  
Tel: (905) 764-7816; Fax: (905) 764-8352  
Email: [info@makbiz.net](mailto:info@makbiz.net)  
<http://www.makbiz.net/AboutUs.aspx>  
<http://www.makbiz.net/AboutUs.aspx>
- **Ryerson Association of Macedonian Students**  
<http://www.ryerson.ca/calendar/2007-2008/pg1403.html>
- **Canadian Macedonian Historical Society**  
Address: 850 O'Connor Drive  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada M4B 3L6  
Tel/Fax: (416) 755-3117  
E-mail: [info@MacedonianHistory.ca](mailto:info@MacedonianHistory.ca)  
<http://www.macedonianhistory.ca/>

#### Australia

- **Macedonian Australian humanitarian organization**  
Address: POBox1120, CivicSquare  
Canberra, ACT, 2608  
Tel: (02) 62997514; Fax: (02)62992138(QBN)  
Tel/Fax: (02)62956593(CBR)  
Webmaster: Jovica Gorgoski [maho\\_cbr\\_qbn\\_2001@hotmail.com](mailto:maho_cbr_qbn_2001@hotmail.com)



- **Macedonian welfare association**  
Address: Cnr. Allen Street & Wentworth Lane Port Kembla 2505  
Tel: 02 4275 2266; Fax - 02 4276 4264  
E-mail: [mwa@mwainc.org](mailto:mwa@mwainc.org)
- **Macedonian human right committee of Melbourne and Victoria**  
Address: P.O. Box 364  
Doncaster VIC, 3108  
Australia  
Tel/Fax: +61 3 9460 2910  
E-mail: [mail@macedonianhr.org.au](mailto:mail@macedonianhr.org.au)

## 5. IRREGULAR MIGRATION

### 5.1. Number/estimates on irregular movements

From 2002 to 2006 (included), the Ministry for Internal Affairs has apprehended 12,903 irregular migrants<sup>39</sup>, either intercepted at the Macedonian border or discovered at official border crossing (both in exit and entry). Out of the overall number the top five countries are Albania, Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo, Province of Serbia), Bulgaria, Romania and Moldova (see the table below).

**Table 5:** Number of irregular migrants discovered at Macedonian border or on the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, per year and per nationality

YEAR	NATIONALITY	Apprehended at official CROSS BORDER	Apprehended after crossing BORDER	Total
2002	Albanian	510	332	842
	Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo, Province of Serbia)	29	90	119
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <sup>40</sup>	28	31	59
	Moldova	28	-	28
	Nigeria	20	14	34
	Bulgaria	19	26	45
	Turkey	10	-	10
	Romania	-	76	76
Other	40	72	112	

<sup>39</sup> Official data for from the Ministry of Interior, Sector for Analytics, letter no.15.2-145; 01.02.2007

<sup>40</sup> Data refer to Macedonian Nationals apprehended in foreign countries (Irregular Migrants) or attempting to illegally cross the border.

YEAR	NATIONALITY	Apprehended at official CROSS BORDER	Apprehended after crossing BORDER	Total
2003	Albanian	328	553	881
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	76	88	164
	Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo, Province of Serbia)	23	27	50
	Moldova	19	21	40
	Ukraine	10		10
	Bulgarian	-	41	41
	Romanian	-	26	26
	Other	21	25	46
2004	Albanian	604	1.294	1.898
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	53	62	115
	Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo, Province of Serbia)	33	44	77
	India	11	-	11
	Turkey	9	-	9
	Romania	6	3	9
	Bulgaria	5	14	19
	China	4	-	4
	BiH	4	-	4
	Ukraine	-	8	8
	Moldova	-	7	7
	Others	3	4	7
	2005	Albanian	1.473	1.201
Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo, Province of Serbia)		8	58	66
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		52	69	121
Bulgarian		13	11	24
Turkey		12	4	16
Greece		6	-	6
India		6	-	6
Moldova		3	-	3
Romania		3	3	6
Peru		-	3	3
Other		56	3	59

YEAR	NATIONALITY	Apprehended at official CROSS BORDER	Apprehended after crossing BORDER	Total
2006	Albanian	1.529	2.623	4.152
	Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo, Province of Serbia)	79	71	150
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	210	601	811
	Greece	19	-	19
	China	8	-	8
	Bulgaria	6	-	6
	India	4	-	4
	Other	11	7	18
TOTAL	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia			1.270
TOTAL		5.931	7.512	12.903

Source: Official data from the Ministry of Interior, Sector for Analytics, letter no.15.2-145; 01.02.2007

### Irregular Migration of Macedonians in the EU

According to Van Selm (2007)<sup>41</sup> in 2005 2,050 Macedonian citizens have been readmitted to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia after failing to migrate illegally to Western Europe. Other sources – see the table below – offer additional figures.

**Table 6:** Irregular Migration of Macedonians to EU, other sources

Variable \ Country	Denmark	Greece	Italy	Slovenia	Bulgaria	Romania
Macedonian citizens apprehended within the EU 15 and in non-EU MS 2003 <sup>42</sup>	-	1.051	-	397	-	-
Number of Macedonian citizens refused entry in the EU 15 and in non-EU MS, 2003 <sup>43</sup>	1.466	1.019	599	2.031	303	246
Number of Removed Macedonians from the EU 15 and in non-MS, 2003 <sup>44</sup>	-	1.117	-	307	-	-

<sup>41</sup> Van Selm, Joanne [2007]: *Macedonia: At a Quiet Crossroads*. Migration Information Source at Migration Policy Institute. Available online at: <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?ID=608>. Last accessed: 30 July 2007.

<sup>42</sup> EC 2003, *Annual Report on Asylum and Migration*. For Greece information is available at [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/doc\\_centre/asylum/statistics/docs/2003/9.5.6\\_apprehended\\_aliases\\_citizenship\\_15ms\\_2003\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/asylum/statistics/docs/2003/9.5.6_apprehended_aliases_citizenship_15ms_2003_final.pdf). For Slovenia: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/doc\\_centre/asylum/statistics/docs/2003/9.5.7\\_apprehended\\_aliases\\_citizenship\\_other\\_2003\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/asylum/statistics/docs/2003/9.5.7_apprehended_aliases_citizenship_other_2003_final.pdf)

<sup>43</sup> Ibid. Data for the Denmark, Greece and Italy available at [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/doc\\_centre/asylum/statistics/docs/2003/9.5.2\\_refused\\_aliases\\_citizenship\\_15ms\\_2003\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/asylum/statistics/docs/2003/9.5.2_refused_aliases_citizenship_15ms_2003_final.pdf). Data for Slovenia, Bulgaria, and

## 5.2. Figures and information on return migration flows

Between 2002 and 2006, 142 individuals have returned to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia through IOM voluntary assisted return programs. Below there is a breakdown of returned people by country of last residence and year.

**Table 7:** IOM Assisted Voluntary Returns by country of last residence and year

Returned from:	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
Austria			1		1	2
Belgium	1				4	5
Germany	4	7	4			15
Italy	12	14	17	11		54
Netherlands		4		5		9
United Kingdom					8	8
Norway		4	5			9
Switzerland		2	4	8		14
Croatia				1		1
Bosnia and Herzegovina		1			1	2
Liechtenstein		20				20
Albania	2		1			3
Total	19	52	32	25	14	142

Source: IOM AVR Database

## 6. ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS OF MIGRATION ISSUES

### 6.1. Summary assessment of migration flows

The above data (sections 1-5) offer an insight into the migration profile of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Nevertheless, one must exercise caution in interpreting these data due to several reasons. While part of it is outdated, other figures are inconsistent across sources. Certain items – for example labour migration – need to be better researched as

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Romania available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/doc\\_centre/asylum/statistics/docs/2003/9.5.3\\_refused\\_alien\\_citizenship\\_other\\_2003\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/asylum/statistics/docs/2003/9.5.3_refused_alien_citizenship_other_2003_final.pdf)

<sup>44</sup> Ibid. Data for Greece available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/doc\\_centre/asylum/statistics/docs/2003/9.5.4\\_removed\\_alien\\_citizenship\\_15ms\\_2003\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/asylum/statistics/docs/2003/9.5.4_removed_alien_citizenship_15ms_2003_final.pdf). Data for Slovenia available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/doc\\_centre/asylum/statistics/docs/2003/9.5.5\\_removed\\_alien\\_citizenship\\_other\\_2003\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/asylum/statistics/docs/2003/9.5.5_removed_alien_citizenship_other_2003_final.pdf).

data is rather scarce. Not least, some numbers might not reflect the country's migration trends. For example, the source of the number of immigrants in the country – i.e. UN Population Division – generally equates the number of international migrants generally with the number of persons born in a country other than that in which they live. However, many long-term residents in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia who are counted as “foreign born” today were born in other states of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Therefore, the number of foreign born in contemporary the country may reflect the country's changed geopolitical status rather than its immigration trends.

Nonetheless, these numbers do portray the country as one with high tradition in migration processes. The history of migration of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the 20<sup>th</sup> century was marked by various factors and events. It is interesting to note that in this historical perspective migration to/from the country is bracketed by similar events: on one extreme, the Balkan wars of 1912-1913, on the other the Balkan wars of the late 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century (the Kosovo crisis, Province of Serbia, as well as the 2001 internal crisis). In between, the two World Wars, the economic boom of the West in the '60s and '70s – acting as pull factors – shaped the migratory flows to/from the country<sup>45</sup>.

Nowadays, as the country enters a post-reconstruction phase, with the prospects of EU accession a reality, and having overcome the shock of the Balkan wars, the country is likely to become more attractive to immigrants. Meanwhile, the authorities came to pay more attention to the Macedonian diasporas. Emigrants are estimated to constitute up to a quarter of the total population. Section 4 above has highlighted the concrete actions taken by the authorities to involve the diasporas in the development of the country. More efforts can be invested into creating a more favourable return framework of the emigrants which would further strengthen the relationship with the diasporas. Certain physical obstacles as well as not so solid economic situation of the country preclude such returns. The 2007 research study of the Center for Research and Policy Making in Skopje found that 29.7% of Macedonian emigrants would like to come home, while 21.6% think often about it. Section 6.6. provides alarming estimates on the brain drain and brain waste of the country's highly skilled persons. Thus, a comprehensive policy to bring diasporas into development could involve targeted programs towards the optimization of the use of remittances, the exploration of the diasporas investment potential, the return and reintegration of the highly-skilled persons.

During the last five years there is a noticeable increase<sup>46</sup> in the number of stranded migrants intercepted in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, by assumption on

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<sup>45</sup> Although the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was part of the FYR, there was a significant number of migrants entering Germany as Gastarbeiter, and have settled there bringing their families with them. The German census does count both citizens of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and ethnic-Macedonians.

<sup>46</sup> Please refer to table “The number of illegal migrants discovered at Macedonian border or on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia territory per year and per nationality” provided by the Ministry for internal affairs; Official data for from the Ministry of Interior, Sector for Analytics, letter no.15.2-145; 01.02.2007, enclosed in section 5 above.

their way to the EU. The country's strategic position and vicinity to two EU members (Greece and Bulgaria) provides further ground for elaboration of its exposure to transit migration flows.

## 6.2. Government institutions responsible for migration policy

According to the new law on Foreigners article 8:

"The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia shall, upon proposal of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, bring a resolution on migration policy specifying situations, problems as well as measures to be undertaken in the field of migration". However the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia does not have yet a specialized Agency with the role of migration management, but different ministries cover different migration issues.

**Ministry of Internal Affairs:** It deals with the issues of Asylum (determining the status of the applicant), the entry and exit of Macedonian and foreign migrants (along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).<sup>47</sup> It includes a *Sector for Foreigners and Immigration* with a transit centre, a Unit for Asylum (former Sector for Asylum and Migrations until 2005), a Sector for Wider Affairs, Foreigners and the Travelling of Macedonian citizens.<sup>48</sup> It also includes a *Sector for Border Affairs* which deals with Border Management.<sup>49</sup>

<http://www.moi.gov.mk/en/DesktopDefault.aspx>

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**<sup>50</sup>: It deals with Visa policies as well as the general entry and exit of migrants. The State Councillor in the MFA is responsible for dealing with diasporas. There is a separate working unit: Section for Disapora, as well. MFA is dealing with matters pertaining to: protection of interests, rights and property of The Republic and its citizens as well as property of domestic legal entity abroad; status and rights of Macedonian people in neighbouring countries<sup>51</sup>.

**Agency for Diaspora.** It cooperates closely with the MFA. It works on the attainment of status and rights for emigrants from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and provides assistance for their cultural development. It also assists in uniting the

<sup>47</sup> MARRI Migration Questionnaire,

[http://marri-rc.org/documents/Migration%20Questionnaire%20\\_December%202006\\_%20FINAL.pdf](http://marri-rc.org/documents/Migration%20Questionnaire%20_December%202006_%20FINAL.pdf)

<sup>48</sup> Van Selm, Joanne [2007]: Macedonia: At a Quiet Crossroads. Migration Information Source at Migration Policy Institute. Available online at: <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?ID=608>. Last accessed: 30 July 2007.

<sup>49</sup> MARRI Migration Questionnaire,

[http://marri-rc.org/documents/Migration%20Questionnaire%20\\_December%202006\\_%20FINAL.pdf](http://marri-rc.org/documents/Migration%20Questionnaire%20_December%202006_%20FINAL.pdf)

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> The Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI) 2006 Questionnaire on Diaspora.

[http://marri-rc.org/documents/Questionnaire%20on%20Diaspora%20\\_September%202006.pdf](http://marri-rc.org/documents/Questionnaire%20on%20Diaspora%20_September%202006.pdf). The answers come from the Macedonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Macedonian diasporas, raising awareness of current Macedonian issues within the different communities worldwide. Their objectives include involving Macedonian emigrants in the public and economic life of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and assisting them to return.<sup>52</sup>

<http://www.mfa.gov.mk>

*Ministry of Labour and Social Policy*<sup>53</sup>: It deals with the enforcement of social rights of migrants as well as with issues concerning their lodging and food provision.

[www.mtsp.gov.mk](http://www.mtsp.gov.mk)

*National Center for Border Administration*<sup>54</sup>: It includes members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, The Ministry of Finance, Agriculture, Forestry and Water supply as well as the Customs. It has been established to provide greater efficiency in preventing irregular migration and to increase coordination in the exchange of information.

*State Office for Statistics*<sup>55</sup>: It collects data on migration flows.

[http://www.stat.gov.mk/english/glavna\\_eng.asp](http://www.stat.gov.mk/english/glavna_eng.asp)

### 6.3. Migration policies in place

In its alignment process to the *Acquis Communautaire*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is committed to applying a comprehensive, systematic and effective migration policy and take proper actions in implementing the relevant legislation. The Government has put efforts on defining and implementing consistent policies and programmes in the areas of rights and duties of foreign citizens residing in the country.

The Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has formally adopted the Law on Foreigners (in February 2006; its enforcement was envisaged for the 31st of March 2007 but has apparently been delayed to 2008). With this act the country aligned its migration legislation with the EU *Acquis*. The new law regulates and develops the EU minimum standards on: entry and admission; stay and residence; expulsion and voluntary return; irregular migration; trafficking in human beings and migration statistics and data protection.

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<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> MARRI Migration Questionnaire,  
[http://marri-rc.org/documents/Migration%20Questionnaire%20\\_December%202006\\_%20FINAL.pdf](http://marri-rc.org/documents/Migration%20Questionnaire%20_December%202006_%20FINAL.pdf)

<sup>54</sup> Van Selm, Joanne [2007]: *Macedonia: At a Quiet Crossroads*. Migration Information Source at Migration Policy Institute. Available online at: <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?ID=608>. Last accessed: 30 July 2007.

<sup>55</sup> MARRI Migration Questionnaire,  
[http://marri-rc.org/documents/Migration%20Questionnaire%20\\_December%202006\\_%20FINAL.pdf](http://marri-rc.org/documents/Migration%20Questionnaire%20_December%202006_%20FINAL.pdf)

A new Law on Employment of Foreigners was enforced (April 2007). The act is in line with the EU Acquis and follows the Migration Strategy<sup>56</sup>. It deals with the details regarding the regularization of the status of the foreign nationals residing and working in the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The act regulates the basic principles of the national policy for employment and work of foreigners, issuance of the working permits, types and procedure of issuance of the working permits, the conditions for cross border cooperation with foreign companies, seasonal work, right of foreign students to work, work performed by foreign companies or self employed persons. The law also regulates other issues related to work of foreigners, such as supervision, data management, protection of the employment rights of foreign workers etc.

With regard to return policies, the Center for Research and Policy Making's research claims that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has no policy to attract immigrants back home nor does it offer any type of return assistance<sup>57</sup>. Moreover, the study points out certain obstacles for potential returnees, namely the payment of customs fees for all belongings returning migrants might bring home<sup>58</sup>. IOM office in Skopje as well as IOM regional office in Budapest have been and are carrying out return related projects to those migrants that wish to return home. The activities under these projects<sup>59</sup> range from travel assistance to Macedonians wishing to return to reintegration assistance upon return, for short and medium term.

In recent times, the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has increased its efforts to strengthen the relationship with the diasporas. Apart from directly involving the diasporas in the policy making process (refer to section 4 above) the MFA has created the Immigration Coordination Body which manages a fund for and receives project proposals from diasporas organizations, under the so-called Program 40<sup>60</sup>. Program 40 refers to the following projects that have been approved for financing for 2007:

- Project 2007/1 Handbook "My motherland – Macedonia"
- Project 2007/2 Handbook – info "investing in the Macedonian export capacities"

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<sup>56</sup> EU Model Alignment Strategy on Migration, Macedonia - 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2005, Brussels. The EU Alignment strategy for Macedonia was produced within the framework of a CARDS Regional Programme on the "Establishment of EU compatible legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks in the fields of Asylum, Migration and Visa matters" (CARDS AMV). The strategy obligates the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to implement the minimum standards in the following areas for the period of the next 2 years:

- entry and admission of foreigners
- stay and residence
- expulsion voluntary return and readmission
- irregular migration, trafficking and data collection

<sup>57</sup> Center for Research and Policy Making [2007]: *Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation in the Western Balkan Regarding Migration Management. Macedonia. Migration Flows in Modern Macedonia. Skopje*, p. 29.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 31.

<sup>59</sup> For more information see [http://www.iomskopje.org.mk/HLWG/HLWG\\_start.html](http://www.iomskopje.org.mk/HLWG/HLWG_start.html) and <http://www.iom.hu/AVR.html#avr>.

<sup>60</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <http://www.mfa.gov.mk/default1.aspx?ItemID=340>.



- Project 2007/3 Football tournament for the Diaspora “Koreni”
- Project 2007/4 Newsletter “Prespa”
- Project 2007/5 Macedonian movie festival – Toronto
- Project 2007/6 Macedonian drama – Toronto

Currently, the approved projects are in the implementation phase. Other initiatives include the awarding of Government sponsored scholarships for persons belonging to the Macedonian national minority for studies at the Faculties in the country<sup>61</sup>. In addition, a series of measures consisting of legal and material assistance to a number of national NGOs dealing with Diasporas have been taken by the MFA<sup>62</sup>. Not least, to enhance the transparency in its work, the MFA has set up several databases: a) Address-Book of Macedonian Clubs and Associations Abroad; b) Review of the Number of Macedonians Abroad (estimates and statistical data); c) MARRI Questionnaire (explanation of operative procedures) d) Compilation of regulations (domestic provisions, ratified international treaties, international-standards-non-binding documents, and not ratified international treaties)<sup>63</sup>.

### **Diasporas legislation**

The country legislation regulates the issues regarding the diasporas in several acts.

The Macedonian Constitution envisages the following:

Article 27 “Every citizen of the Republic of Macedonia has the right of free movement on the territory of the Republic and freely to choose his/her place of residence. Every citizen has the right to leave the territory of the Republic and to return to the Republic.”  
Article 49 “The Republic cares for the status and rights of those persons belonging to the Macedonian people in neighbouring countries, as well as Macedonian expatriates, assists their cultural development and promotes links with them. The Republic cares for the cultural, economic and social rights of the citizens of the Republic abroad.”

Article 8 of the Law for Foreign Affairs stipulates that the Ministry for Foreign Affairs within its obligations protects:

- “...the interests, rights and the property of the state, its citizens and legal entities abroad.
- take care for the position and the rights of the Macedonian citizens abroad,
- take care for the protection of the human rights to the representatives of the ethnical communities, citizens of the republic of Macedonia abroad,

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<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

- take care for the position and the human rights of the Macedonian citizens who are temporary or permanently residing abroad, as well as emigrants...<sup>64</sup>

## 6.4. International legal framework in place relevant to migration

### *Key international treaties on migration*<sup>65</sup>

- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has signed the following treaties:
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) - succession on 18.01.1994
- The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations- succession on 17.11.1991
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) - succession on 18.01.1994
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) - succession on 18.01.1994
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women- ratification on 17.10.2003
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) - succession on 18.01.1994
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) - succession on 02.12.1993
- The Convention concerning Migration for Employment (Revised) (No.97) - succession on 17.11.1991
- The Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (No.143) - Treaty succession on 17.11.1991
- The Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour (No.29) - succession on 17.11.1991
- Abolition of Forced Labour (No.105) - ratification on 15.07.2003
- The Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No.100) - succession on 17.11.1991
- The Equal Remuneration Convention (No.100) - succession on 17.11.1991
- The 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees- 19.01.1994
- The Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees- succession on 18.01.1994

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<sup>64</sup> Article 8, Law on Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, official Gazette no 46/2006

<sup>65</sup> Center for Research and Policy Making [2007]: *Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation in the Western Balkan Regarding Migration Management. Macedonia. Migration Flows in Modern Macedonia*. Skopje

- The Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons - succession on 18.01.1994
- The Protocol Relating to a Certain Case of Statelessness - succession on 18.01.1994
- The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children - ratification on 12.01.2005
- The Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air - signature on 12.12.2000
- The International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children- succession on 18.01.1994
- The Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Sex Work of Others- signature on 12.12.2000
- The United Nations Convention Against Trans-national Organized Crime- ratified on 12.01.2005
- The Hague Convention 28 on Civil aspects of International Child Abduction- succession on 01.12.1991
- The ILO 182 Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour- ratification on 30.05.2002
- The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) - ratification on 10.04.1997
- The European Social Charter- ratified 31.03.2005

In July 2006, the Commission submitted a proposal to the Council for negotiating directives concerning visa facilitation and readmission agreements with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The revised European Partnership was adopted as well as an action plan for its implementation. The government adopted a draft National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis as well.<sup>66</sup>

### *Bilateral labour agreements*<sup>67</sup>

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has signed bilateral labour agreements with the following countries:

- Albania

Protocol on Cooperation in the field of Employment, Training and Social Security between Macedonian Ministry for Labour and Social Policy and Albanian Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs (22.01.1999)

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<sup>66</sup> European Commission of the European communities (Brussels, 08.11.2006). SEC (2006)1387-Commission staff working document: "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2006 Progress Report"

<sup>67</sup> MARRI questionnaire: "Labour Migration towards social cohesion and development in the Western Balkans"

- Bulgaria

Agreement between the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on Training, Qualification and Prequalification of the Employees of the Ministry of Interior of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the Higher Institute for Officers and for Scientific Research and other Educational Centres (26.02.2002)

Social Security agreements (06.02.2003; 17.04.2003; 01.08.2003)

- Belgium

Agreement on Employment and residence of Yugoslav Workers in Belgium (02.07.1970 20.11.1970 No. 22/71)

- Slovenia

Agreement on Cooperation between the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

- Germany

Agreement for the employment of Workers from Macedonian Enterprises with seat on the territory of the Macedonian contractual party for Project Agreements

23.06.1995

Agreement for the Project Called "Promotion of the Professional Education in the Technical Occupations (16.05.2003)

Agreement between the Macedonian Government and the Government of Federal Republic of Germany for employment of spouses of diplomats (18.10.1999)

### *Readmission agreements*

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has signed 20 readmission agreements including 14 with EU member states:

#### *EU member states*

- Italy

Readmission of persons whose entry and/or residence is in discrepancy with the applicable regulations

Signed in Skopje, on 26 February 1997

Ratified, 09 July 1997

In force from 23 October 1997

- Slovenia

Readmission of persons whose entry and/or residence is in discrepancy with the applicable regulations

Signed in Ljubljana, on 27 January 1998

Ratified, 28 April 1998

In force from 01 February 1999

- France

Agreement for accepting persons with non-regulated residence

Signed in Skopje, on 08 October 1998

Ratified, 25 February 1999

In force from 17 June 1999

- Republic of Slovakia

Readmission of persons whose entry or stay on the territory of other country is illegal

Signed in Skopje, on 05 May 2000

Ratified, 23 January 2002

In force from 01 November 2002

- Bulgaria

Readmission of persons with illegal residence

Signed in Sofia, on 04 June 2001

Ratified, 30 January 2002

In force from 19 June 2002

Note: the Agreement is ratified on the behalf of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, while on behalf of the Bulgarian Government the agreement is yet to be ratified

- Federal Republic of Germany

Readmission and transit

Signed in Berlin, on 24 June 2002

Ratified, 23 January 2004

In force from 01 May 2004

- Romania

Readmission of its own citizens and foreigners

Signed in Bucharest, on 12 November 2003

Ratified, 16 June 2004

In force from 16 June 2004

- Hungary

Readmission of persons who reside illegally on their territories

Signed in Budapest, on 26 September 2001

Ratified, 16 June 2004

In force from 13 August 2004

- Poland

Readmission of persons who reside illegally on their territories

Signed in Warsaw, on 06 April 2006.

In the course of ratification

- Spain

Readmission of persons who reside illegally on their territories

Signed in Skopje, on 06 February 2006.

Ratified, 23 May 2006

In force from 20 November 2006

- Austria

Readmission of persons who reside illegally on their territories

Signed in Vienna, on 05 May 2006

Ratified on 7 December 2006

published in OJ 131/2006

in power 4 February 2007

- Governments of BENELUX

Readmission of persons who reside illegally on their territories

Signed in the Hague, on 30 May 2006

ratified 19 March 2007

published in the OJ no37/07

in force 01 April 2007

- Denmark

Readmission of persons who reside illegally on their territories

Signed in Copenhagen, on 23 June 2006

Ratified on 26 February 2007

published in OJ 27/2007

- Sweden

Readmission of persons who reside illegally on their territories

Signed in Skopje, on 23 October 2006

Ratified on 28 March 2007

published in OJ no 43/2007

in force 01 July 2007

*Other states:*

- Swiss Confederation

Readmission of persons with illegal residence

Signed in Skopje, on 16 April 1998

Ratified, 09 June 1998

In force from 22 July 1998

- Croatia

Readmission of persons with illegal residence

Signed in Zagreb, on 17 September 2001

Ratified

In force from 01 February 2003

- Albania

Readmission of persons

Signed in Skopje, on 17 June 2004

Ratified, 19 May 2005

In force from 15 July 2005

- Norway

Readmission of persons who reside illegally on their territories

Signed in Skopje, 25 September 2006

Ratified on 26 February 2007

Published in OJ 27/2007

There are current negotiations with Latvia, the Czech Republic, Ukraine and Turkey. Discussions on the conclusion of a Readmission with the European Commission are also in progress<sup>68</sup>. The Government drafted a text on bilateral Readmission Agreements and Protocols, and formed an inter-ministerial working group to conclude readmission agreement procedures.

## **6.5. The scale of brain drain and policies to address it**

Over the past decade, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, like most of its neighbours in South East Europe, has suffered from brain drain, with a strong decline in the number of researchers throughout the 1990s. Between 1995 and 2000, for example, the number of scientists and engineers in research and development has decreased by over seventy percent (from 1,332.7 per million people to only 387.2)<sup>69</sup>. A 2003 study

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<sup>68</sup> Confirmed by the Ministry of Interior

<sup>69</sup> UNESCO project Piloting Solutions for Alleviating Brain Drain in South East Europe  
[http://portal.unesco.org/en/file\\_download.php/8ef257eea0f086a2d7e437a4775b60afNews+release-+April+05+FYR+Macedonia.pdf](http://portal.unesco.org/en/file_download.php/8ef257eea0f086a2d7e437a4775b60afNews+release-+April+05+FYR+Macedonia.pdf)

estimated that between 12 to 15,000 young, educated, and highly skilled persons left the country in the decade preceding the year of the study<sup>70</sup>.

However, there is no policy in place to address the brain drain or any research on the clear extent of the brain drain<sup>71</sup>. Section 6.9. provides information about existing or past projects addressing or investigating the brain drain in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

## 6.6. Irregular migration routes and policies to address irregular migration

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is considered a crossroad of irregular migrants. One of the main routes of smuggling in persons in Southern Europe runs through the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania to Greece and Southern Italy<sup>72</sup>. This fact is acknowledged in the National Concept for Security and Defence, the basic document concerning Macedonian security and the main base for fighting irregular migration until the implementation of the Law on Foreigners (i.e. tentatively foreseen for January 2008)<sup>73</sup>, the most recent piece of legislation that provides measures against irregular migration. In addition, several other acts are regulating the area of irregular migration: Law on Employment of Foreigners – March 2007, Instruction on dealing with foreigners who are victims of trafficking February 2006 and law on Police September 2006. The main activities undertaken in the fight against irregular migration (and terrorism and organized crime at the same time) include: improving effectiveness of the border police, harmonization of the mechanisms and procedures for exchange of information; improvement of the cooperation of the Ministry of Interior Affairs with the armed forces; decentralization of the police<sup>74</sup>.

According to the EC 2006 Progress Report, the Government adopted a strategy in March 2006, together with a national action plan, for combating irregular immigration and trafficking in human beings<sup>75</sup>. With this act the National Commission for combating trafficking in human beings and irregular migration aims to determine the directions and priorities in dealing with this criminal phenomenon. Prevention, identification, assistance, support, protection as well as the return and reintegration of the victims, adequate criminal prosecution, international cooperation, education of institutional personnel, coordination and, establishment of unique information system; as well as

<sup>70</sup> Verica Janeska [2003] in Vedran Horvath [2004:] *Brain Drain. Threat to Successful Transition in South Eastern Europe?* Southeast European Politics 1, pp. 76-93.

<sup>71</sup> Vedran Horvath [2004:] *Brain Drain. Threat to Successful Transition in South Eastern Europe?* Southeast European Politics 1, pp. 76-93; Center for Economic Analyses [2005]: USAID Report on the Labour Market in Macedonia. [http://www.cea.org.mk/Documents/First\\_USAID\\_report\\_labor\\_final\\_4.pdf](http://www.cea.org.mk/Documents/First_USAID_report_labor_final_4.pdf)

<sup>72</sup> EAR Regional Strategy Paper 2002-2006 Regional political analysis.

<sup>73</sup> Center for Research and Policy Making [2007]: *Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation in the Western Balkan Regarding Migration Management. Macedonia. Migration Flows in Modern Macedonia.* Skopje

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 22.

<sup>75</sup> European Commission. Commission Staff Working Document. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2006 Progress Report, p. 47.



information-propaganda effect on public opinion, are an integral part also of this strategy. The National Action Plan for combating trafficking in human beings refers to the strategic goals, specific objectives and tasks, activity/sub-activities, assigned responsibilities, timeframe and the criteria for monitoring and evaluation of the strategy.

## 6.7. Trafficking in human being and policies to address it

The Regional Clearing Point report for South-Eastern Europe of 2005<sup>76</sup> points out that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a country of destination in South Eastern Europe. While emerging as a transit and source country, this is rather with respect to internal trafficking. According to the US 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is both a source and transit country, and –“to a lesser extent”– a destination country for women and children trafficked for purpose of sexual exploitation<sup>77</sup>. This report classification places the country in the second Tier, i.e. the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia does not yet fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, but there are significant improvements in this sense.

Between 2002-2006, IOM Skopje has assisted 763 victims of trafficking. According to the statistics Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Russian Federation<sup>78</sup> appear as main countries of origin.

**Table 8:** Number of assisted victims of trafficking

Year	IOM caseload Third-County National	IOM Caseload Macedonian National	VoTs - Gender VS Age breakdown	Number
2000	114	-	Female	755
2001	257	-	Under 18	98
2002	220	-	Over 18	657
2003	135	1	Male	8
2004	15	-	Under 18	1
2005	3	1	Over 18	7
2006	14	3	Total	763
Sub totals	758	5		

Source: IOM Statistics 2000-2006 and Rebecca Surtees [2005]: *Second Annual Report on VoTs in South-Eastern Europe, Regional Clearing Point*.

<sup>76</sup> Rebecca Surtees [2005]: *Second Annual Report on VoTs in South-Eastern Europe, Regional Clearing Point*.

<sup>77</sup> US Dept of State, 2007, *Trafficking in Persons Report*, p. 140. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/82902.pdf>

<sup>78</sup> IOM Statistics 2000-2006 and Rebecca Surtees [2005]: *Second Annual Report on VoTs in South-Eastern Europe, Regional Clearing Point*.

Identified routes concerning VoT fluxes to the country are as follows<sup>79</sup>:

Romania – Serbia/Kosovo (Province of Serbia) – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (high incidence)

Romania – Hungary – Serbia/Kosovo (Province of Serbia) – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Romania – Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Moldova – Romania – Serbia – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Moldova – Romania – Hungary – Serbia – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Moldova – Romania – Serbia/Kosovo (Province of Serbia) – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (high incidence)

Moldova – Romania – Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Albania – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Bulgaria – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Serbia – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Kosovo (Province of Serbia) – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The number of prosecuted and convicted persons on the territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the criminal offences of trafficking in human beings (THB) from 2002-2004<sup>80</sup> and Smuggling of migrants for 2005-2006<sup>81</sup> can be seen in the below figures. While the numbers are not necessarily impressive, there has been significant improvement in the implementation of legal provisions and there were some 48 prosecutions in 2006<sup>82</sup>. Much more progress can be attained by increasing the support and strengthening the relevant judiciary instances<sup>83</sup>.

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<sup>79</sup> Rebecca Surtees [2005]: *Second Annual Report on VoTs in South-Eastern Europe*, Regional Clearing Point.

<sup>80</sup> Combating Trafficking in human beings through the practice of the domestic courts"- Coalition "All for fair trials" 2005 Report

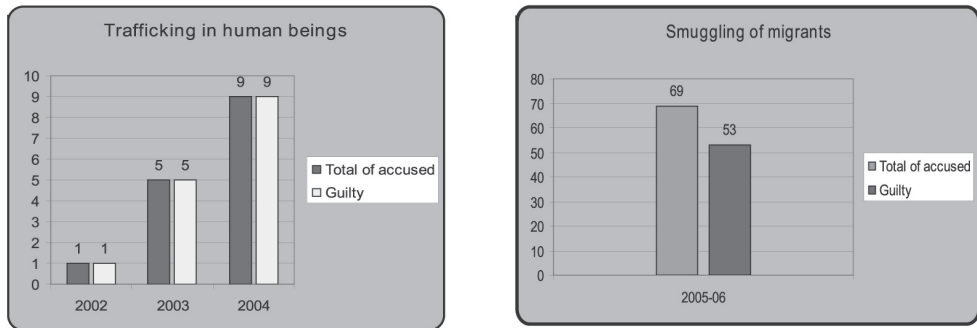
<sup>81</sup> Combating Trafficking in human beings through the practice of the domestic courts"- Coalition "All for fair trials" 2006 Report;

Note: Smuggling crime was incriminated in the CC in 2004; therefore data is available from 2005.

<sup>82</sup> US Dept of State, 2007, *Trafficking in Persons Report*, p. 140. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/82902.pdf>

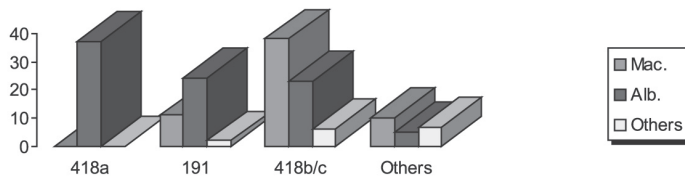
<sup>83</sup> A recommendation that flows from the US 2007 Trafficking in Persons report.

**Figure 1:** Number of prosecuted and sentenced persons for THB and smuggling for migrants



Concerning the criminal offence of trafficking in persons (article 418-a, Criminal Code (CC)), Smuggling of migrants (418-b, CC), Organizing criminal group (418-c, CC), Mediation in Prostitution (191, CC) the ethnic structure of the defendants in the cases observed before Macedonian Basic Courts is: 55% defendants are of Albanian ethnicity, followed by 36% defendants of Macedonian ethnicity, 9% defendants of other ethnicities<sup>84</sup>.

**Figure 2:** Ethnic structure of defendants for THB, Smuggling and Mediation into Prostitution



The Government has formally adopted the National Action Plan and the National Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Persons - NAP drafted by the National Commission for Combating Trafficking and Illegal Migration (23 of March 2006)<sup>85</sup>. The NAP is not yet published in the official gazette as the Government has endorsed/adopted the

<sup>84</sup> "Combating Trafficking in human beings through the practice of the domestic courts"- Coalition "All for fair trials" 2006 Report

<sup>85</sup> The endorsement of the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Children is yet to be formalized, either as an annex to the adopted National Action Plan or as a separate document.

document with one technical remark<sup>86,87</sup>. Moreover, the Ministry of Interior, jointly with IOM Skopje, operates a shelter transit centre for victims of trafficking with comprehensive assistance. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy established in September 2005 the National Referral Mechanism with the core objective of improving and consequently securing that a proper VoT's identification, referral and assistance are systematically carried out. The system, theoretically in place for both international and national VoT, is for the time being mainly focusing on the national caseload. The NRM is also involved in the procedure of guardian appointment to the cases of minors' victims of trafficking. To further synergize the counter trafficking efforts, the Ministry of Interior, in partnership with IOM, has launched an information campaign aimed at preventing trafficking in persons. Not least, the MFA requires the consular officers to receive training on recognizing potential victims of trafficking<sup>88</sup>.

## 6.8. Refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons and policies in place

The country's strongest affiliation with migration – according to an IOM research report<sup>89</sup> was in 1998, when the Kosovo (Province of Serbia) crisis resulted in approximately 360,000 Kosovar Albanians fleeing to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at the rate of 1,000/day at the height of the movements, the majority of whom returned to their homes in Kosovo (Province of Serbia) by mid-1999. Nowadays, the number of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs is relatively small (755 IDPs in 2007<sup>90</sup>), nearly all are ethnic minorities from Kosovo (Province of Serbia), particularly Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians who fled in 1999<sup>91</sup>.

The Law for Asylum and Temporary Protection (enacted in 2003) is the main piece of legislation governing the rights of asylum seekers<sup>92</sup>. Asylum seekers have the right to:

<sup>86</sup> The document addresses the necessity to further energize the multidimensional and multi-institutional national approaches enabling effective suppression of the human trafficking crime and illegal migration. In this perspective the Strategy addresses all the necessary activities and coordination among relevant national key players that are to be strengthened and undertaken towards discovering the causality-related linkages influencing trafficking in human beings (both the national and the regional levels,) underlining the measures within the national context that are to be applied at preventive level, as well as for more effective prosecution and for standardized protection of the victims trafficked.

<sup>87</sup> The Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Children prepared by the National Commission Working Group for Combating Trafficking and Illegal Migration has been adopted by the National Commission in 2006 and sent to the Government as information.

<sup>88</sup> US Dept of State, 2007, *Trafficking in Persons Report*, <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/82902.pdf>, p. 141.

<sup>89</sup> Amanda Klekowski von Koppenfels [2004]: *Profiling of Irregular Migrants and Analysis Of Reintegration Needs Of Potential Returnees From Kosovo (Serbia And Montenegro), Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Belgium, Italy, the United Kingdom and Germany*. Research Report to the European Union

<sup>90</sup> Van Selm, Joanne [2007]: Macedonia: *At a Quiet Crossroads*. Migration Information Source at Migration Policy Institute. Available online at: <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Profiles/display.cfm?ID=608>.

<sup>91</sup> UNHCR Global Appeal 2007 – South-Eastern Europe Regional Overview. Available online at: <http://www.unhcr.org/home/PUBL/455443af0.pdf>

<sup>92</sup> Center for Research and Policy Making [2007]: *Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation in the Western Balkan Regarding Migration Management. Macedonia. Migration Flows in Modern Macedonia*. Skopje, pp. 19-20.

residence, accommodation, basic health service, work (limited to the institutions and organizations for which Ministry of Labour and Social Policy has given its approval), legal counselling and the right to have an interpreter at the expense of the Ministry of Interior, to contact UNHCR and other humanitarian NGOs. A recognized refugee has the same rights as the Macedonian citizens except the right to vote and founding and membership in political organizations<sup>93</sup>. The 2006 EC progress report notes that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has registered some progress in the asylum section but draws attention that the law lacks implementation bylaws and recommends further administrative and legislative alignment with the acquis<sup>94</sup>. Since then, the Law for asylum and temporary protection has been amended and supplemented in order to fully implement the European Council Directive 2004/83/EC of 29 April 2004 on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and the content of the protection granted.

## **6.9. Projects and programmes on migration and development and information on who funds and implements them**

### *Piloting Solutions for Alleviating Brain Drain in South East Europe*<sup>95</sup>

In an effort to combat the effects associated with brain drain and brain waste, UNESCO in partnership with Hewlett Packard manages this regional project that provide technology to universities in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia, Montenegro to help them harness the power of grid computing. "By providing latest-technology Grid computing and seed money for exchange visits abroad, the joint UNESCO and HP project aims to encourage young scientists to remain in the region and cooperate with the Diaspora". In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the project was launched on April 12, 2005, and it is coordinated by the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje.

### *Migration Flows in Eastern Europe*<sup>96</sup>

The general objective of the regional project is strengthening cross-border cooperation in the Western Balkan regarding migration management. It has been carried out by the Center for Research and Policy Making, a think tank in Skopje. The aim was to identify patterns and problems associated with migration flows including local, idiosyncratic problems and their apparent causes. A study entitled "Strengthening

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<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> European Commission. Commission Staff Working Document. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2006 Progress Report, p. 47.

<sup>95</sup> For more information see

[http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URLID=27011&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URLID=27011&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

<sup>96</sup> See <http://www.crpm.org.mk/Home.htm>.

Cross-Border Cooperation in the Western Balkan Regarding Migration Management. Macedonia. Migration Flows in Modern Macedonia<sup>97</sup>. It covers general and historical issues pertaining to migration to/from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as a mapping of the structural problems concerning it. In addition, it also profiles the Macedonian migrant.

*A Study on Remittances in Macedonia*<sup>98</sup>

A project implemented by the Center for Economic Analyses, based in Skopje. It is envisaged to last from May to December 2007. The Contractors are the National Bank of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and USAID. No further information is available at this stage.

## 6.10. Other important migration actors within the country

### *External Donors*

- The United States (through USAID): It has invested over \$450 million in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia since 1993. It has an anti-trafficking project and contributes to the OSCE's multi-donor funded "Residence Project" to establish the first local NGO-managed safe house for trafficked victims.  
<http://macedonia.usaid.gov/>
- Norway: It has funded counter-trafficking and counter-smuggling projects such as a programme on technical cooperation on Migration to foster the regional network of prosecution structures in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to increase the cooperation in the fight against smuggling and human trafficking.
- Finland: It is a donor for counter-trafficking programmes such as capacity building programmes and the prevention of trafficking.
- The Netherlands: It has funded projects on the prevention of human trafficking through educational activities and capacity buildings in school.
- Italy: It has participated in funding programmes on transnational cooperation to prevent human trafficking and irregular migration. It has also participated in the reintegration of migrants.
- UK: It has funded a workshop on labour migration as well as a project on reintegration of migrant returnees.

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<sup>97</sup> Available at [www.pasos.org/content/download/7666/59077/file/macedonian20study20484.pdf](http://www.pasos.org/content/download/7666/59077/file/macedonian20study20484.pdf)

<sup>98</sup> See <http://www.cea.org.mk/Projects.htm>.

- Swiss Government: Through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation it funds projects related to the fight of Organized crime including human trafficking. It also participates in the strengthening of Macedonian borders.  
[http://www.sdc.admin.ch/en/Home/Countries/Southeastern\\_Eastern\\_Europe/Macedonia](http://www.sdc.admin.ch/en/Home/Countries/Southeastern_Eastern_Europe/Macedonia)
- EU: It funds projects on migration in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia mainly through the CARDS programme. It participates in projects promoting regular migration, enhancing police cooperation for border control and regulating asylum, migration and visa matters.  
<http://www.delmkd.ec.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

### *International Organizations*

- International Organization for Migration (IOM): Its programmes in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia include counter-trafficking activities, assisted voluntary return, technical cooperation to assist the country in aligning with the EU migration acquis, Roma issues and a general humanitarian and social programme. Its recent specific programmes include a training programme for the members of the judiciary and students of law, an economic and social stabilization programme for potential victims of trafficking and the prevention of human trafficking and irregular migration in Roma Communities through vocational trainings.  
<http://www.iomskopje.org.mk/about.html>
- The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR): Its objectives are to support the Macedonian Government and other national actors to provide international protection to refugees and asylum seekers. It will assist in making sure that the non-refoulement principle is respected, that border guards are trained, that enough care is provided to refugees and asylum seekers, and that durable solutions can be found. It just finished the establishment of a shelter assistance programme that helped thousands of families to rebuild their homes.  
<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/country?iso=mkd>
- The European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR): Its programmes include assisting the government in the fight against organized crime (including human trafficking), in establishing an efficient visa management system as well as a border management system, to identify durable solutions for refugees and IDPs and to promote a social dialogue between all the social and economic actors in the country. It has recently completed the construction of a reception centre for asylum-seekers and has established a Strategy for Roma inclusion. In fact, it also concentrates on helping the government to increase the representation of minority communities.  
<http://www.ear.europa.eu/macedonia/macedonia.htm>



- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): It defends the Children's rights in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and has developed several anti-trafficking activities. It raises awareness on the issues of child trafficking in the country and assists in the training of social workers, police officers, judges and lawyers on the matter. Its current objectives include the establishment of child-friendly interview rooms in selected police stations and Centres for Social Work and the development of child friendly interview standards but also vocational trainings to increase the chances of employment for potential victims of trafficking.  
<http://www.unicef.org/tfymacedonia/activities.html>
- The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE): It has been established in Skopje since 1992. Its programmes include the training of border police to fight against organized crime, to implement the OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti and to establish cooperation between police, municipalities, NGOs, government officials and citizens.  
<http://www.osce.org/skopje/>

## NGOs

The establishment of NGOs in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is relatively new and there is only a small number of NGOs working on migration issues. Here are several NGOs which do have programmes on migration issues:

- Open Society Institute: It focuses mainly on Roma issues but this includes human trafficking and integration processes.  
<http://www.soros.org/>
- The Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: It works on issues pertaining to refugees and IDPs.  
<http://www.ckrm.org.mk/>
- World Vision: It is a Christian humanitarian organization and works on helping and protecting displaced persons in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.  
<http://meero.worldvision.org/about.php>
- The Union of Women's Organizations of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (UWOM): It was established in 1994 and works on counter-trafficking activities and IDP issues (concerning women).  
<http://www.sozm.org.mk/eng/Who%20we%20are.asp>
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS): It is established in the country since 1992. It works with the Bureau of Educational Development and works on human trafficking issues through prevention, protection, reintegration and public awareness.  
[http://www.crs.org/our\\_work/where\\_we\\_work/overseas/eastern\\_europe\\_&\\_the\\_caucasus/macedonia/index.cfm](http://www.crs.org/our_work/where_we_work/overseas/eastern_europe_&_the_caucasus/macedonia/index.cfm)



- The Center for Economic Analyses is a think tank, founded by economists, who share a common vision for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as a new emerging European economy, integrated in the regional and world markets. CEA's mission is to continuously research the economic development and economic policy in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and offer policy relevant recommendations and solutions. It has carried out a study entitled "Migration and Remittances in Macedonia" (2006) as well as an analysis of the labour market (2005), both commissioned by the USAID.  
**[http://www.cea.org.mk/index\\_eng.htm](http://www.cea.org.mk/index_eng.htm)**
- Center for Research and Policy Making is an independent, non-profit policy research institute founded in March 2004. CRPM consists of local researchers as well as external consultants in close contact with the organization. It has recently authored a study on migration in Macedonia entitled Strengthening Cross-Border Cooperation in the Western Balkan Regarding Migration Management. Macedonia. Migration Flows in Modern Macedonia.  
**<http://www.crpm.org.mk/Home.htm>**