



SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE, EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REGION ON THE MOVE:

MIGRATION DATA REPORT
2021–2022



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**SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE,
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CENTRAL ASIA
REGION ON THE MOVE:**

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FOREWORD

Since the early 1990s, IOM has been active in the South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SEEECA) region and has established itself as a reliable counterpart for governments, international organizations, civil society, and migrants.

The IOM Regional Office for the SEEECA region, based in Vienna, oversees 20 countries, territories, areas, hosting a population of over 400 million people. Given the migration-related challenges, further exacerbated in the last years by the global COVID-19 pandemic and as well as the war in Ukraine which has led to unprecedented levels of forced displacement in the region, IOM has scaled up its operation to respond to the ever increasing needs.

The SEEECA region lies on the cross-roads of active migratory movements with significant migration from, within and through the region, and with growing inflows to the region itself, and is also home to the fourth and fifth largest migration corridors in the world. Millions of migrant workers move to different cities and countries in the SEEECA region and beyond, looking for better opportunities. In migrant sending countries, the remittances that migrants send back to their family constitute a significant part of their income. Migrants also return home with their experience and knowledge, becoming a valuable source for the country's sustainable development.

Data provide critical tools for monitoring national and regional progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. As such, data create the potential to change development outcomes as embedded in Objective 1 of the Global Compact for Migration, which emphasizes that improving the collection, quality, use and analysis of disaggregated data is the foundation of evidence-based policies.

Through the SEEECA Region on the Move 2021–2022 report, IOM aims to strengthen the development and implementation of evidence-based and inclusive migration policies and interventions. The goal of the report is to present the most up-to-date migration statistics and data related to the region for international and national actors on migrant protection, migrant health, migration and environment and climate change, education and assistance to migrants on pre-departure training, voluntary return and reintegration. The report also identifies data gaps in a call for action to strengthen the regional evidence base to ensure better informed IOM, United Nations and Government engagement on migration issues. IOM remains committed its goal to enhance the availability of and promote use of data to achieve stronger governance outcomes and positive impacts for migrants and societies, as outlined in the IOM Migration Data Strategy.

Manfred Profazi
Regional Director

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* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

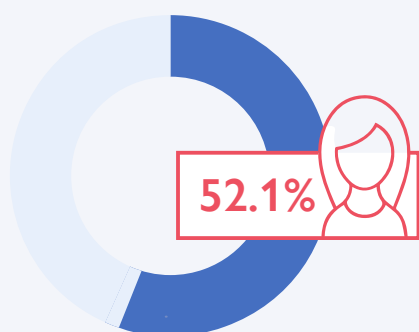
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AVRR	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
C/T/As	Countries, Territories, and Areas
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CoE	Council of Europe
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CTDC	Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative
DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
ECA	Europe and Central Asia
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
EMR	Eastern Mediterranean Route
EU	European Union
EUAA	European Union Agency for Asylum
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAP	Family Assistance Programme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDAC	International Data Alliance for Children on the move
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMRF	International Migration Review Forum
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KNOMAD	Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development
LMICs	Low and Middle Income Countries
MDR/RR-TB	Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis

MGI	Migration Governance Indicators
MHD	Migration Health Division
NDVPs	National Deployment and Vaccination Plans
NMS	National Monitoring System
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PXD	Protection Division
RMM	Resettlement and Movement Management Division
RO	Vienna - Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Vienna
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEEECA	South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia
TB	Tuberculosis
TCNs	Third Country Nationals
TP	Temporary Protection
UASC	Unaccompanied and Separated Children
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Funds
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USD	United States Dollar
VOTs	Victims of Trafficking
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

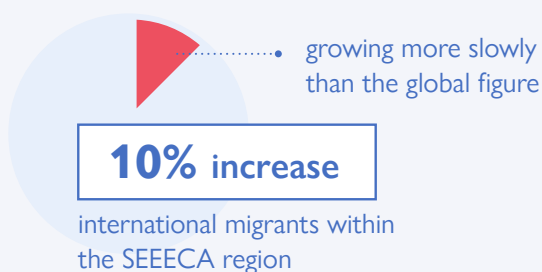
This report highlights important facts and figures related to migration trends in the South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SEEECA) region, which can be summarized as follows:

In 2020, the SEEECA region was home to 11.7 per cent of migrants worldwide, while 13.9 per cent, globally, are from the SEEECA region. The vast majority of migrants, (68.4%), in the SEEECA countries, territories and areas (C/T/As) is comprised of intraregional migrants (DESA, 2021a).



the majority of international migrants are women in the SEEECA region

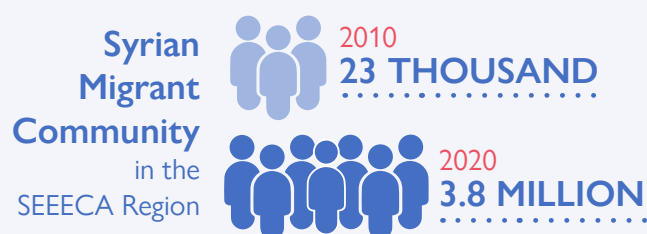
In the SEEECA region, the majority of international migrants are women (52.1%) same as the majority of migrants worldwide who originate from the SEEECA region (52.9%) (DESA, 2021a).



10% increase
international migrants within the SEEECA region

The presence of international migrants within the SEEECA region is growing more slowly than the global figure (two times slower in the 2015–2020 period). Nevertheless, it has grown by 10 per cent from 2010 to 2020 (DESA, 2021a).

Some of the most important migration corridors in the SEEECA region are linked to labour mobility, in particular between the Russian Federation and the Central Asia countries or the migration of professionals from Western Balkans to other countries on the European continent.



Due to the Syrian civil war (which broke out in 2011), the Syrian migrant community has grown considerably in the SEEECA region from 23 thousand people in 2010 to 3.8 million in 2020: the large majority is hosted by Türkiye (DESA, 2021a). As of December 2022, Türkiye hosts more than 5.2 million migrants, including 3.9 million people who are seeking international protection.

Climate change is also one of the drivers of human mobility in the region. Some countries of the SEEECA region present a high share of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) due to natural hazards, in addition to conflicts and violence. Over 2022, natural hazards displaced more than 6,900 persons in Türkiye, 4,000 in Kazakhstan and 2,700 in the Russian Federation.

The COVID-19 pandemic reshaped the public health priorities in 2020, however, prevention of other communicable diseases such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and tuberculosis remained on the agenda of the humanitarian contexts.



It has been estimated that in 2021 alone, IOM reached 857,750 persons directly with health promotion and/or risk communication and community engagement efforts within the SEECA region.

On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation invaded Ukraine, generating an abrupt and unprecedented displacement both within the country and in host countries. As of 5 December 2022, over 5.9 million persons were estimated to be internally displaced in Ukraine. At the same time, around 5.2 million were estimated to have returned, including both from other locations within Ukraine and from abroad.

The initial impact of the war in Ukraine was expected to result in downgraded growth rates of remittances, an energy crisis, an increase of food prices and accelerating inflation. Although the impact on the SEECA C/T/As is not homogenous, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) have recently adjusted their initial projections to more optimistic ones.

However, food security within the SEECA region needs to be monitored since the Russian Federation and Ukraine account for nearly a third of global wheat exports and 80 per cent of sunflower oil. From 2019 to 2020, due to the COVID-19-related mitigation measures, the European and Central Asia subregions, except the European Free Trade Association¹ countries, saw increases in the number of people facing severe food insecurity (FAO, 2021).



In 2022, IOM assisted a total of

10,329 migrants

FOR RETURNS TO THE SEECA REGION

In 2022, IOM assisted a total of 10,329 migrants with its Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme for returns to the SEECA region and 4,571 with return from the SEECA region. In 2022, IOM also provided assistance to 369 Victims of Trafficking (VOTs) in the SEECA region.



Increasing
Refugees



Coronavirus



Energy and
Food Crisis

The increase in arrivals of refugees and migrants, alongside the domestic socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, energy and food crises, continue to put pressure on the national systems in hosting countries, stretching government capacities to sustain equal access to quality basic services for all refugee and migrants, especially the most vulnerable, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) (UNICEF, 2022a).

The Taliban takeover in Afghanistan in 2021 has created further global migratory movements. One example of a migratory movement relevant for the SEECA region: Albania, North Macedonia and Kosovo² have been directly involved in evacuations of 4,531 Afghan migrants.

The SEECA countries, territories and areas have made considerable progress towards the realizations of the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. In collaboration with the IOM Regional Office for SEECA in Vienna, as part of Global Compact for Migration's mandate IOM Country Missions in the SEECA region continue to work for the path ahead traced by the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF).

¹ The EFTA countries are: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

² References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

INTRODUCTION

The report aims to present the most up-to-date evidence on migration dynamics in the SEECA region.

It covers the recent major global and regional developments which will continue to have an impact on internal and international migration in the region such as the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on migration caused by travel restrictions and stricter border controls; the EU-Belarus crisis; the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan and the outflows of Afghans in neighbouring countries and on different routes to Europe; and the war in Ukraine and the resulting humanitarian crisis across the country and the region. The SEECA region has hosted large IDP populations throughout history, as shown by the Western Balkans and the South Caucasus, many of IDPs are in protracted situations as a result of the conflict/displacement dating back to 1980s and the 1990s; the Second Nagorno-Karabakh conflict; and more recently in September 2022 hundreds of families were displaced by the violence that broke out in the remote Kyrgyz–Tajik border areas.³

The report draws upon data for 2022, 2021 or the latest available year for each of the missions under the coordination of IOM Regional Office (RO) in Vienna. Gender, sex, age and disability are mainstreamed throughout the report, highlighting where the most important data gaps and needs are by areas/types of migration.

It offers insights to better guide the governance of migration, which constitutes an essential step on the road towards the advancement of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#). The Objective 1 of the Global Compact for Migration focuses on collecting and utilizing accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies and Target 17.18 of SDGs calls for data to be disaggregated by, inter alia, migratory status. In line with [IOM's Strategic Vision](#) and [IOM Migration Data Strategy](#), the report provides a robust data collection to inform evidence-based policymaking within the SEECA region.

As set out in the [IOM SEECA Regional Strategy](#), RO Vienna works on strengthening its capacity to collect and disseminate accurate, reliable and comparable data on the C/T/As in the SEECA region.

METHODOLOGY

The compilation of this report was done through desk research and literature review. The RO Vienna Data and Research team collected and processed statistical data. The different aspects covered by the regional report on migratory movements in the SEECA region are reported analysing primary and secondary sources.

The research has been conducted through the scientific literature review of the research results from international organizations, national research centres and authors of interest in the SEECA region. The following data providers were the main data sources for this report:

- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA),
- International Labour Organization (ILO),
- World Bank,
- World Health Organization (WHO),
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD),
- Eurostat,
- National Statistics Offices,
- IOM (primary data collection through surveys, Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), Migration Research (RES), direct assistance to beneficiaries from the Migrant Management Operational Systems Application (MiMOSA), etc.).

³ For more information: www.iom.int/news/conflict-displaced-families-kyrgyzstan-face-coldest-winter-over-decade.

The report also incorporates the data collections validated and received by the following divisions: IOM Migration Health Division (MHD), Migrant Protection Division (PXD), IOM Resettlement and Movement Management Division (RMM), IOM DTM Global Mobility, IOM Regional Liaison and Policy Office (RLPO) and IOM Country Missions in Albania, North Macedonia, Türkiye, Ukraine and Kosovo.²

LIMITATIONS

The research presented in the report does not aim to cover all migration topics, but the most relevant ones for the SEECA region. For this purpose, different sources have been used which (1) may not have available data for 2020-2021-2022, (2) may not have compatible disaggregation or breakdowns with other data or (3) may not have their methodology publicly available. For more information, please refer to the sources listed in the bibliography.

Where possible the data are gender disaggregated, however some data sources only have data disaggregated by sex; this was indicated where applicable throughout the report. In addition, the references throughout the report are often binary because data on other genders are not commonly collected and shared (Hennebry et al., 2021).

Data for missing or dead migrants are best understood as a minimum estimate of the true number of people's lives lost during migration worldwide.

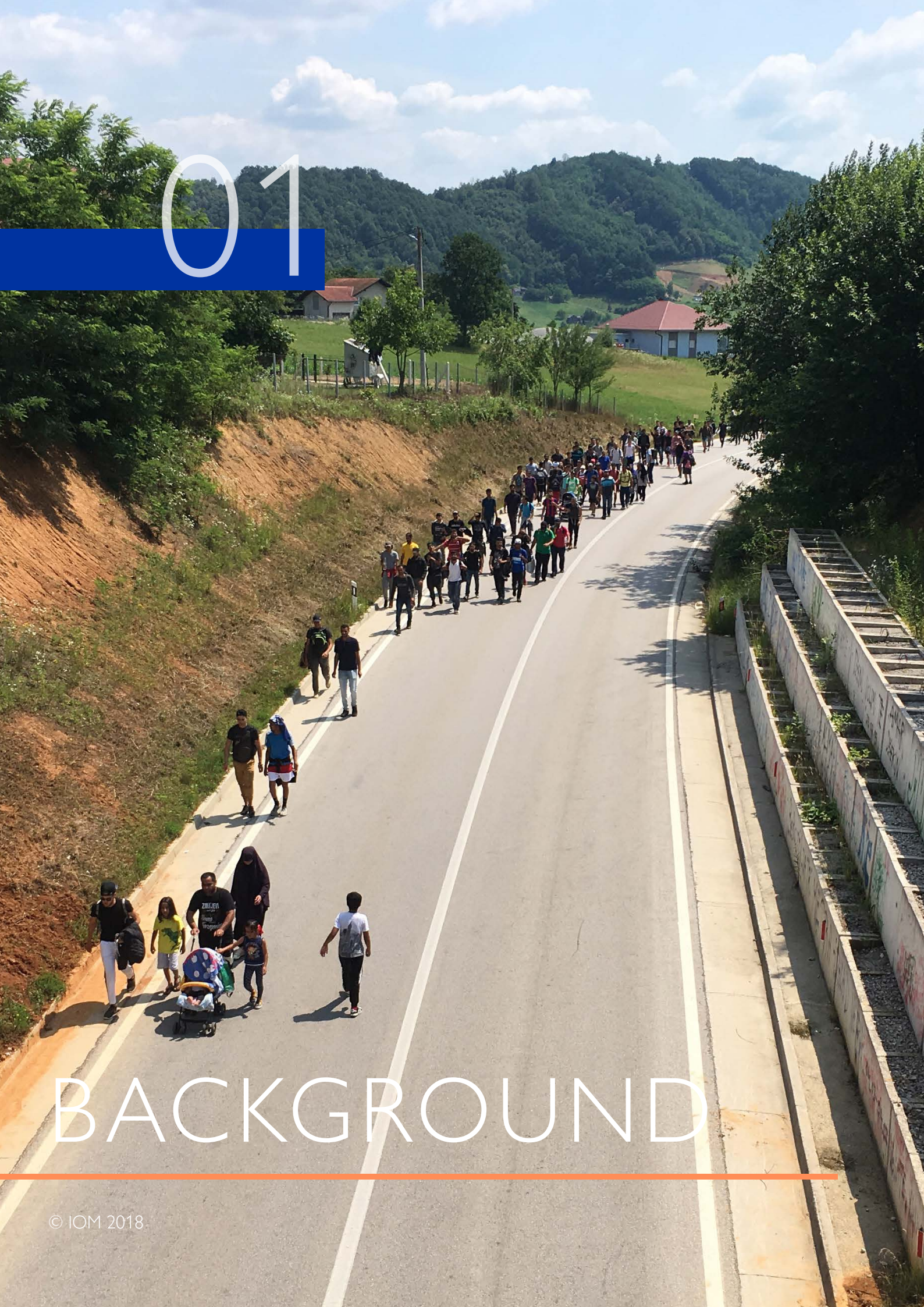
As for the PXD data related to 2022, the dataset is collected by IOM's migrants' Protection Division and only refers to direct assistance provided by IOM. This data is subject to the annual verification and consolidation process, therefore subject to change.



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BACKGROUND



1.1 IOM REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE, EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA IN VIENNA

IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people. Headquartered in Geneva, IOM has nine Regional Offices that oversee, plan, coordinate and support IOM activities within their region. They are responsible for project review and endorsement and provide technical support to country offices, particularly in the area of project development, project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, resource mobilization, resource management, and liaison coordination with regional and subregional governments, United Nations agencies and other key partners. Where requested, the regional offices also provide support for regional and national United Nations Networks on migration, thereby supporting implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. They also support United Nations reform efforts, ensuring that migration is mainstreamed common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

The [IOM RO for the SEECA region](#), based in Vienna, covers a vast area comprising diverse subregions, with a population of over 405 million people (DESA, 2022). The SEECA region is composed of 20 C/T/As, divided in different geographical areas – such as Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) or the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo²).

IOM has been active in the SEECA region from the early 1990s, when it established presence in most of the countries in the region to help governments address the highly complex mix of migration and displacement challenges which had emerged following the major political changes of that period (IOM SEECA, 2015). The IOM RO, established in Vienna in 2011, supports further improvement in quality and diversification of programmatic activities at the country level, promotes regional initiatives, and facilitates better support to interstate dialogue and cooperation in close coordination with more than 3,300 staff in the SEECA region.⁴ IOM, also in its capacity as Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration, is determined to ensure the advancement of the commitments adopted by Member States who recognize the developmental aspects of migration, as enshrined in the Global Compact for Migration, adopted on 19 December 2018, as reiterated during the IMRF. The IMRF serves as the primary intergovernmental global platform for representatives at the highest political level, including Heads of State or Government and stakeholders to discuss and share progress on the implementation of the Global Compact, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. RO Vienna regularly shares information with IOM missions and provides them with guidance and technical support to ensure their non-governmental stakeholder counterparts are included in Global Compact for Migration processes, such as national consultations ahead of Global Compact for Migration Regional Reviews in 2020 and the IMRF in 2022, and to ensure that stakeholder inputs are captured in the submitted reviews and voluntary national reports (IOM, 2022d).

⁴ As of November 2022: data extracted from Prism, the IOM Human Resource information system.

FIGURE 1: IOM MISSIONS IN THE SEECA REGION, 2022



Source: IOM Vienna, 2022d.

Note: This map is for illustration purpose only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used by on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization of Migration.

1.2 ABOUT SEECA REGION ON THE MOVE

This report SEECA Region on the Move aims to provide insight into the main migratory movements in the region, including the migration trends and dynamics. Chapter 2 offers an overview of the global and regional trends on international migration disaggregated by gender. Chapter 3 discusses specific mixed movement trends in the region covering labour migration, forced internal and international migration, return migration and irregular migration. The topic of stranded migrants and smuggling of migrants in the region is also covered. Chapter 4 illustrates the different strands in which migrant protection is offered to vulnerable migrants with particular attention paid to migrants' varying needs,

profiles, challenges, and vulnerabilities, including but not limited to those affected by crisis, victims of trafficking, unaccompanied children, and migrants who perished or went missing en route. Chapter 5 touches upon the health conditions of migrants within the SEECA region, discussing public health matters and interventions. Chapter 6 analyses trends on labour mobility and social inclusion including education, rural to urban migration international remittances and the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 in the region. Finally, Chapter 7 examines migration governance and policies adopted in the region to ensure migrant protection while Chapter 8 is dedicated to the conclusions of this report.



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02



MIGRATION STATISTICS

2.1 SEECA REGION DEMOGRAPHICS: AN OVERVIEW

The SEECA region is comprised of a population of over 405 million people (DESA, 2022): while 57 per cent of the global population are adults, almost two thirds (60.4%) of the SEECA population are between

20 and 64 years. The majority of total SEECA population are women (52.0%), two percentage points more than the global incidence (49.7%).

FIGURE 2: AGE BREAKDOWN BY SEX OF THE POPULATION OF THE SEECA REGION, 2021

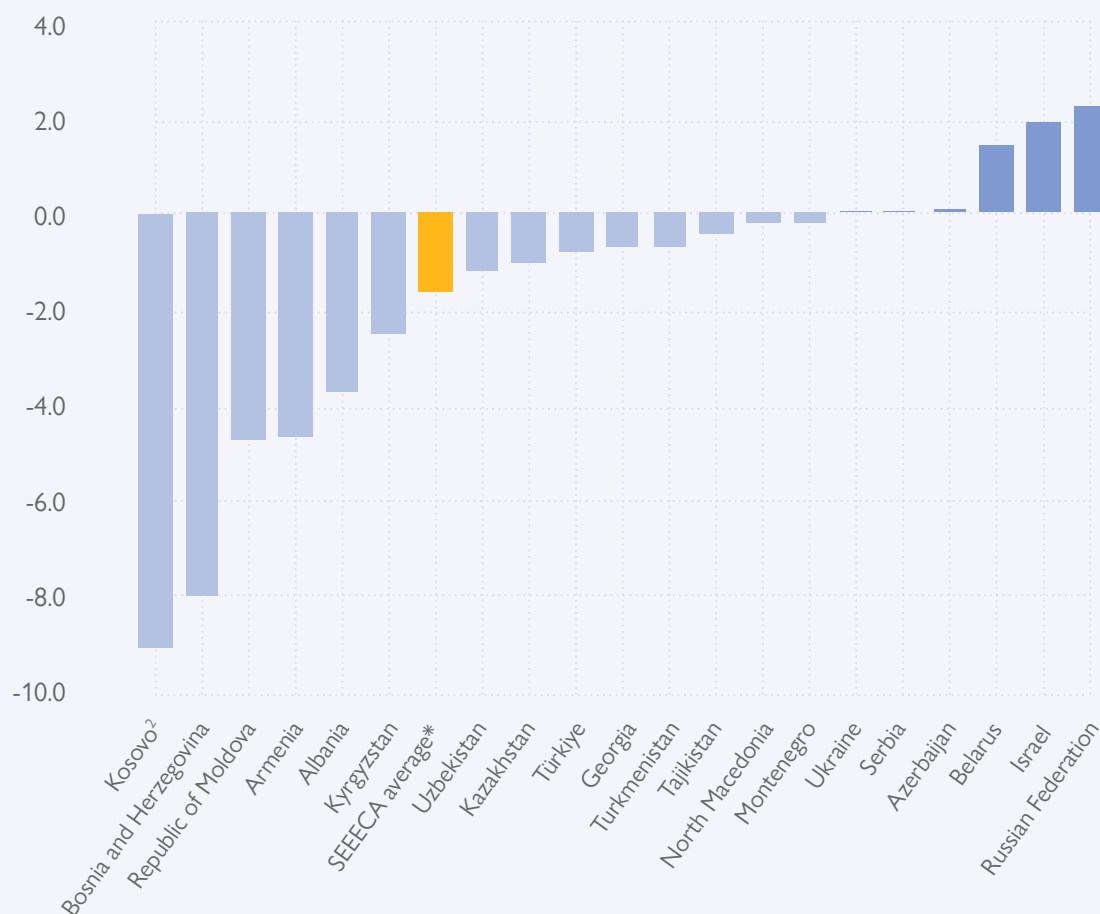


Source: DESA, World Population Prospects 2022.

The population in the region is shrinking – mainly due to the negative net migration, low total fertility rates and decreased life expectancy in the Central and Eastern Europe⁵ region (UNFPA, 2018). Most countries have a negative migration balance and only in Azerbaijan,

Belarus, Israel and the Russian Federation more people immigrate than emigrate, while for Serbia and Ukraine there is an even balance of immigrants and emigrants (DESA, 2021a).

FIGURE 3: NET MIGRATION RATES IN THE SEECA REGION, 2021 (%)



Source: DESA, World Population Prospects 2022.

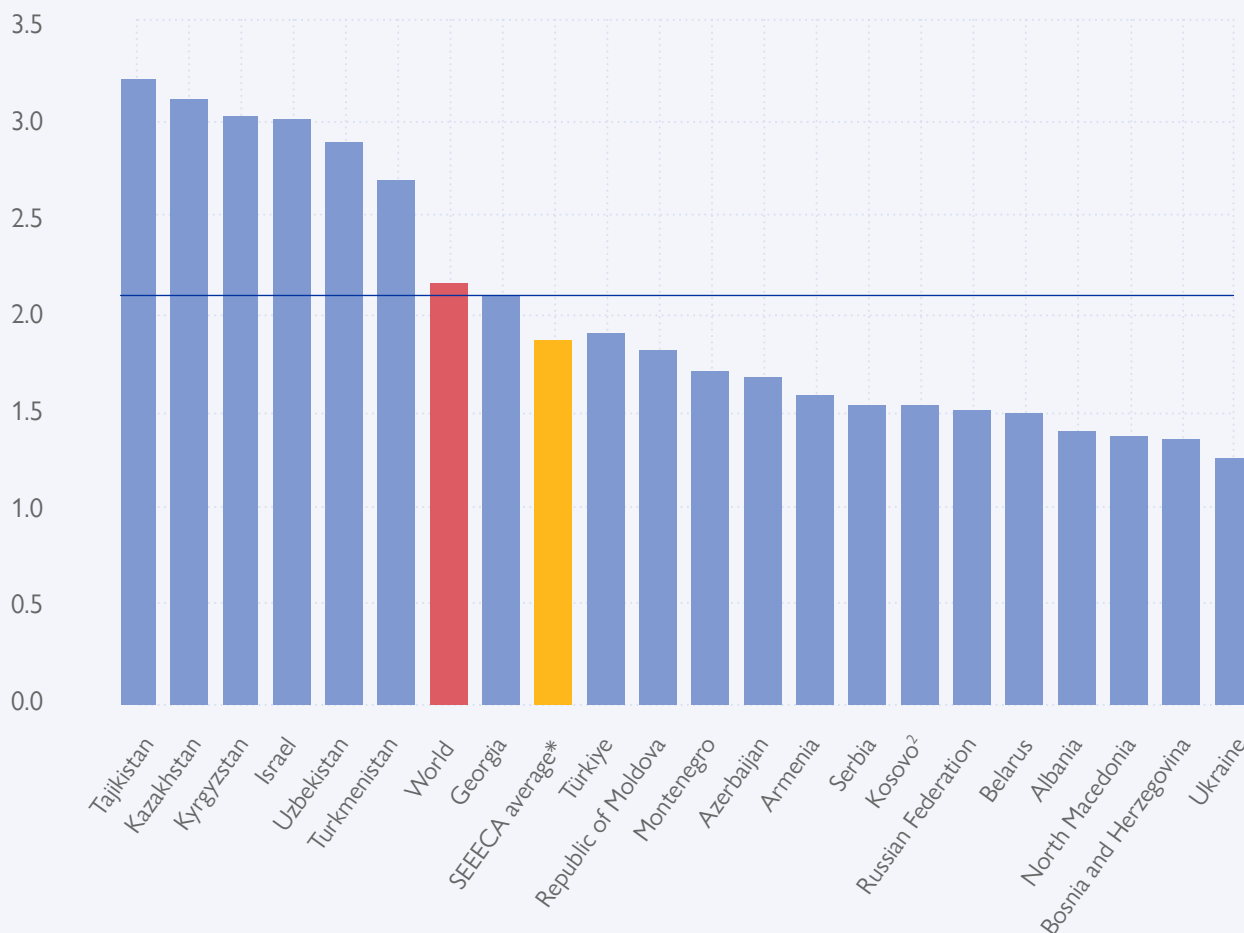
Note: * SEECA average is calculated as simple average of countries, territories and areas value.

5 The study covers Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Only Central Asia countries, Georgia and Israel have total fertility rates above the replacement level fertility,⁶ equal to 2.1 children per parent. In Albania, North Macedonia,

Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine the rate is the lowest in the region, below 1.5 children per parent (DESA, 2022).

FIGURE 4: TOTAL FERTILITY RATE IN THE SEECA REGION, 2021 (NUMBER OF CHILDREN)



Source: DESA, World Population Prospects 2022.

Note: * SEECA average is calculated as simple average of countries, territories and areas values.

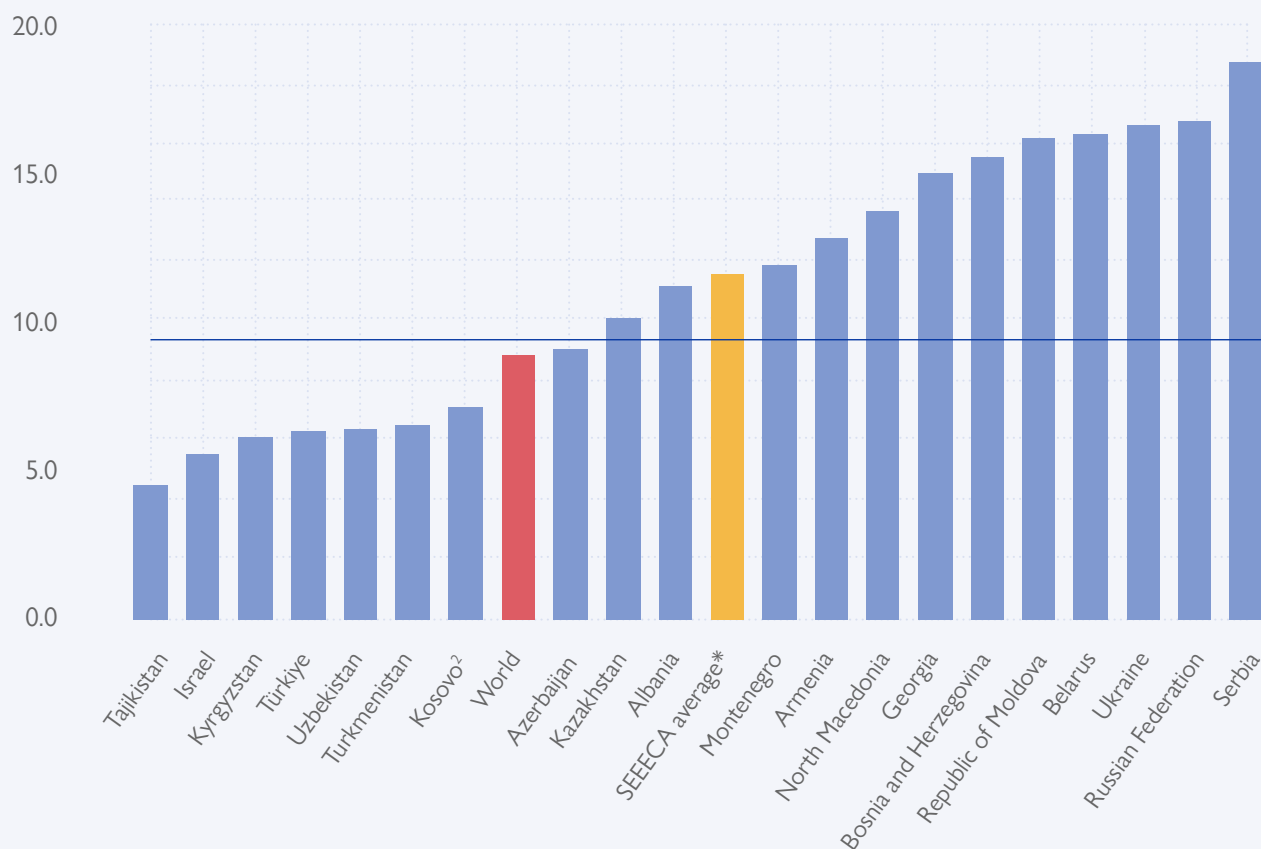
In more than half of the SEECA C/T/As, more people die every year than are being born: mortality rates are particularly high among men. According to the crude death rate⁷ in 2021 the SEECA region presents some of

the highest rates globally. Only roughly more than half of the C/T/As of the region present values below the global crude death rate equal to 8.8 (DESA, 2022).

6 Only Central Asia countries, Georgia and Israel have total fertility rates above the replacement level fertility, equal to 2.1 children per parent. In Albania, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine the rate is the lowest in the region, below 1.5 children per parent (DESA, 2022).

7 The crude death rate is the number of deaths in a given period divided by the population exposed to risk of death in that period.

FIGURE 5: CRUDE DEATH RATE IN THE SEECA REGION, 2021 (DEATHS PER 1,000 POPULATION)



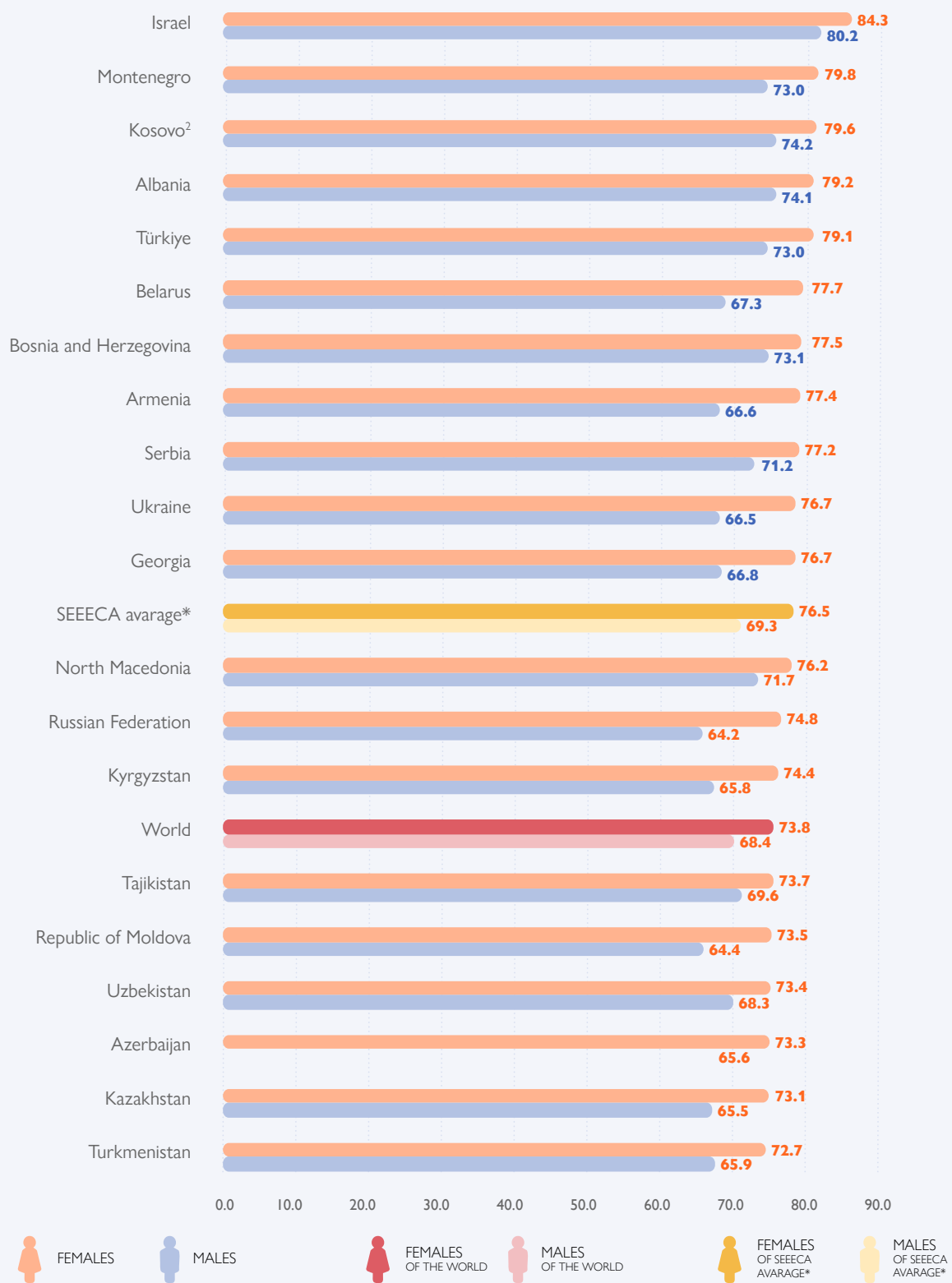
Source: DESA, World Population Prospects 2022.

Note: * SEECA average is calculated as simple average of countries, territories and areas values.

Worldwide and in the SEECA region female life expectancy is respectively 73.8 and 76.5 years, while male life expectancy is respectively 68.4 and 69.3 years. In Armenia, Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, male life expectancy is over 10 years

shorter than that of female life expectancy, while in Israel, Tajikistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia male life expectancy is less than 5 years shorter than that of female life expectancy (DESA, 2022).

FIGURE 6: LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH BY SEX IN THE SEECA REGION, 2021 (YEARS)



Source: DESA, World Population Prospects 2022.

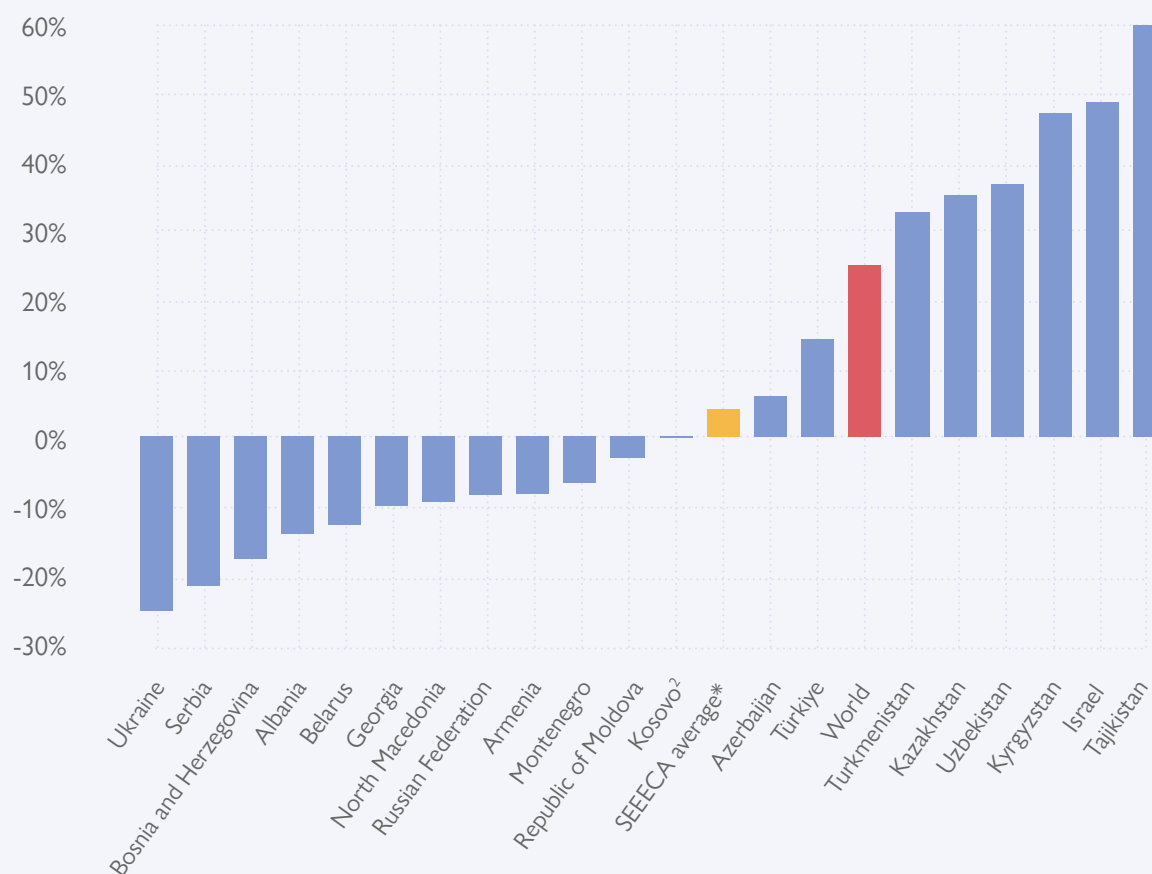
Notes: Life expectancy at birth summarizes the mortality pattern that prevails across all age groups - children and adolescents, adults, and the elderly, WHO Glossary.

* SEECA average is calculated as simple average of countries, territories, and areas value.

Following the DESA “medium scenario”, the in-out-migration rates are assumed to be constant at the levels observed over the past decades but the population base to which these constant rates are applied diminishes over time. Hence, the estimates of population growth

rates would change slightly the situation in the SEECA region in the next two decades: while Western Balkans are presenting decreasing trends, the Central Asia countries will increase their population.

FIGURE 7: EXPECTED/ESTIMATED POPULATION CHANGE IN THE SEECA REGION, 2020–2050** (%)



Source: DESA, World Population Prospects 2022.

Notes: * SEECA average is calculated as simple average of countries, territories and areas value.

** The estimates for 2050 are reported according to the “medium” scenario.

The Western Balkans seem to confirm the depopulation effect (Lutz and Gailey, 2020), together with other countries from Central and Eastern Europe, when the total population in 2020 and estimates for 2050 is compared. On the other hand, Central Asia, and Israel are expected to present growth rates above 30 per cent.

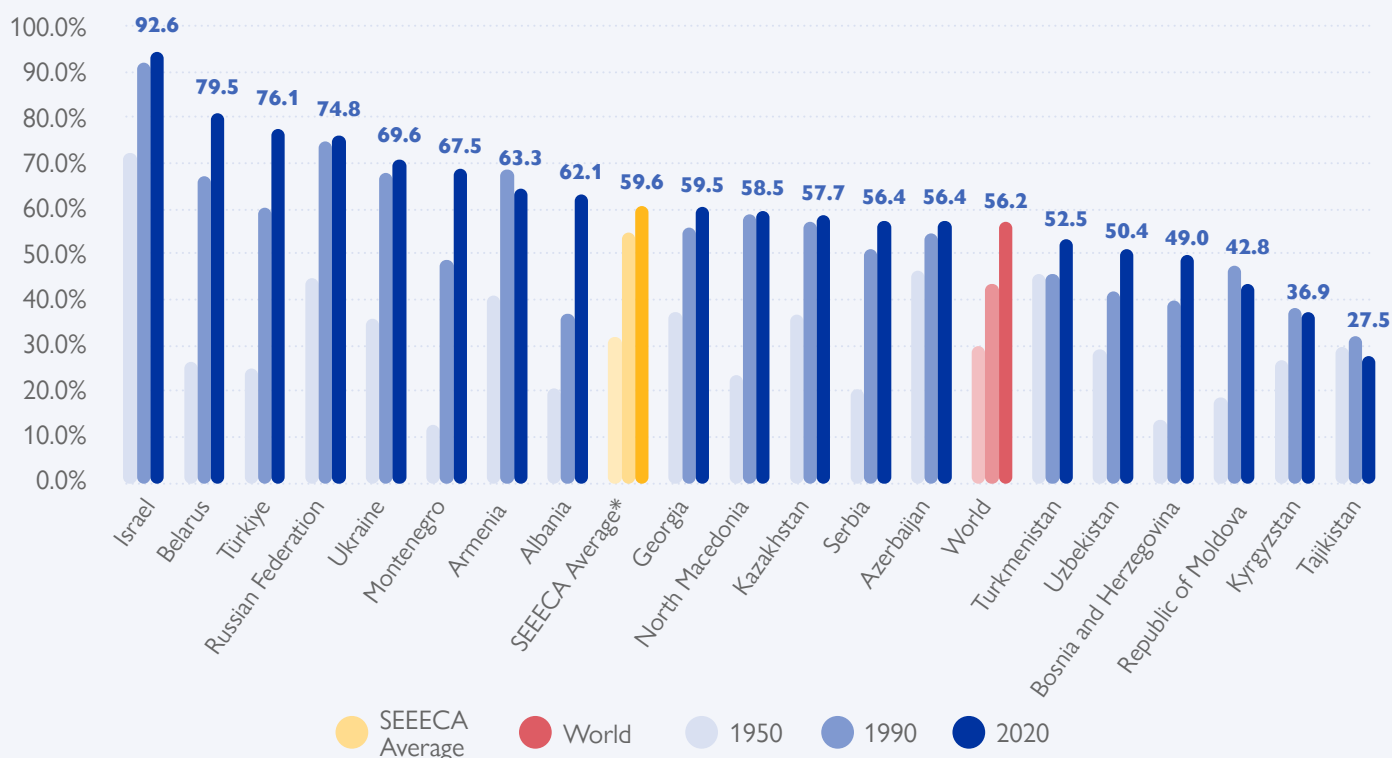
The relevance of the demographics and population trends of the region is even more prominent to be analysed for understanding the migratory movements in the SEECA region, and of the changes likely to result from the developments of the war in Ukraine.

2.1.2 URBANIZATION

In the last seventy years, globally the percentage of people living in urban areas has almost doubled from 29.6 per cent to 56.2 per cent: over the same time frame,

the SEECA region has seen increased urbanization of its population in similar proportions, from 31.6 per cent to 59.6 per cent.

FIGURE 8: PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE RESIDING IN URBAN AREAS IN THE SEECA REGION, SEECA AVERAGE AND WORLD IN 1950, 1990 AND 2020 (%)



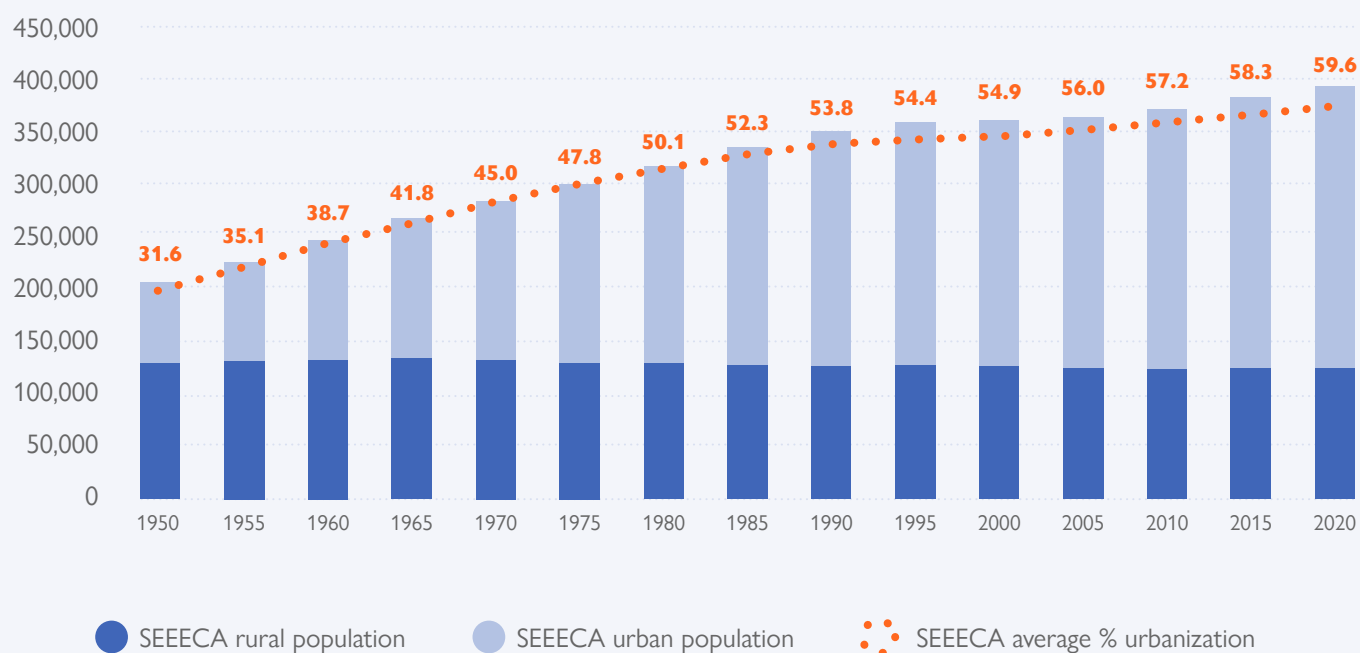
Source: DESA, 2022, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision.

Note: * SEECA average is calculated as simple average of country and areas value.

Urbanization is growing in most of the region: only six out of 19 SEECA countries and territories are experiencing a growth in urbanization at a lower rate than the world average. Israel is one of the most urbanized countries

in the region and the world, with over 92.6 per cent of its population living in urban areas. On the other hand, Tajikistan has the lowest rate, with only one in fourth (27.5%) of its population living in urban areas.

FIGURE 9: URBANIZATION DYNAMICS IN THE SEECA REGION AT MIDYEAR 1950–2020
(THOUSANDS AND %)



Source: DESA 2022, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision.

Note: * SEECA average is calculated as simple average of country and areas value.

While in the last seventy years the rural population has remained stable in absolute values, decreasing by only 3.4 per cent over this period, the urban population has increased by 250 per cent from 78.4 million in 1950 to

274.5 million in 2020. This also means that urban areas of the SEECA region have become more attractive in terms of internal as well as international migration.

2.2 MIGRATION STATISTICS OVERVIEW

As of mid-2020, more than 281 million individuals were living outside their country of origin (DESA, 2021a). The proportion of international migration⁸ out of the world total population is 3.6 per cent, while in the SEECA region is 8.1 per cent (33 million): more than twice

the world average. Focusing on the origin and destination of international migrants, in 2020 the SEECA region was home to 11.7 per cent (33 million) of migrants worldwide, while 13.9 per cent are from the SEECA region (39 million).

⁸ According to the DESA definition “International migrants refers to people living in a country or area other than they were born. In case information on the country of birth was not available, refers to people living in a country other than that of their citizenship”.

TABLE 1: INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK HOSTED AND SENT BY THE SEECA REGION AND AS PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION IN THE SEECA REGION, 2020 (MILLION AND %)

	TOTAL POPULATION	INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK HOSTED	INCIDENCE OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK HOSTED	INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK SENT	INCIDENCE OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK SENT
Albania	2,877,800	48,810	1.7%	1,250,451	43.5%
Armenia	2,963,234	190,349	6.4%	958,190	32.3%
Azerbaijan	10,139,175	252,228	2.5%	1,163,922	11.5%
Belarus	9,449,321	1,067,090	11.3%	1,483,626	15.7%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,280,815	36,042	1.1%	1,687,639	51.4%
Georgia	3,989,175	79,368	2.0%	861,077	21.6%
Israel	8,655,541	1,953,575	22.6%	358,691	4.1%
Kazakhstan	18,776,707	3,732,073	19.9%	4,203,899	22.4%
Krygystan	6,524,191	199,011	3.1%	774,377	11.9%
Montenegro	628,062	70,999	11.3%	132,965	21.2%
North Macedonia	2,083,380	131,311	6.3%	693,896	33.3%
Republic of Moldova	4,033,963	104,438	2.6%	1,159,443	28.7%
Russian Federation	145,934,460	11,636,911	8.0%	10,756,697	7.4%
Serbia*	8,737,370	823,011	9.4%	1,003,962	11.5%
Tajikistan	9,537,642	276,031	2.9%	586,851	6.2%
Türkiye	84,339,067	6,052,652	7.2%	3,411,408	4.0%
Turkmenistan	6,031,187	194,920	3.2%	242,554	4.0%
Ukraine	43,733,759	4,997,387	11.4%	6,139,144	14.0%
Uzbekistan	33,469,199	1,162,007	3.5%	2,027,823	6.1%

Source: DESA 2021a.

Note: * DESA data on Serbia include Kosovo's population: references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

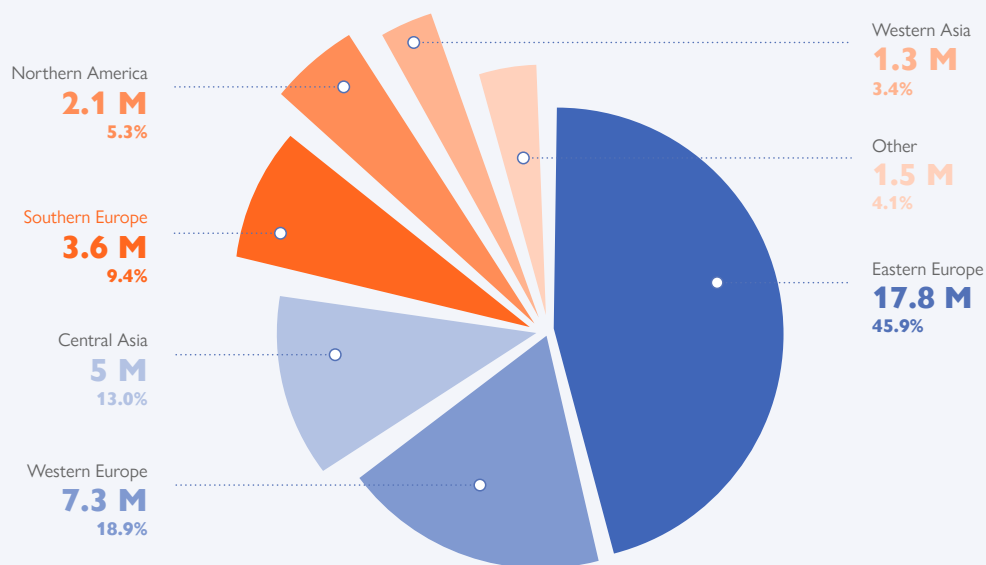
Looking at the international migrant stock as share of the total population, the SEECA region illustrates high variability in the percentage of international migrants hosted, from 1.1 per cent in Bosnia and Herzegovina to 22.6 per cent in Israel. Similarly, the share of international migrants from the SEECA C/T/As compared to their population ranges from 4.0 per cent of Turkmenistan to 51.4 per cent of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The main receiving countries of migrants from the SEECA region are the Russian Federation (11 million), Germany (5.3 million), Ukraine (4.4 million), Kazakhstan

(3.3 million), the United States of America (1.6 million), Italy (1.2 million), Uzbekistan (1.07 million), Belarus (1.02 million), Greece (0.7 million), and France and Austria (0.6 million each). More than two thirds of migrants (68.4%), in the SEECA region are the result of intraregional migration.

As per the DESA classification, Eastern Europe (45.9%), Western Europe (18.9%) and Southern Europe (9.4%) welcome 75 per cent of the whole migrant stock from the SEECA region, while Central Asia welcomes 13 per cent of the same stock.

FIGURE 10: MAIN REGIONS OF DESTINATION OF MIGRANTS FROM THE SEECA REGION, 2020 (%)



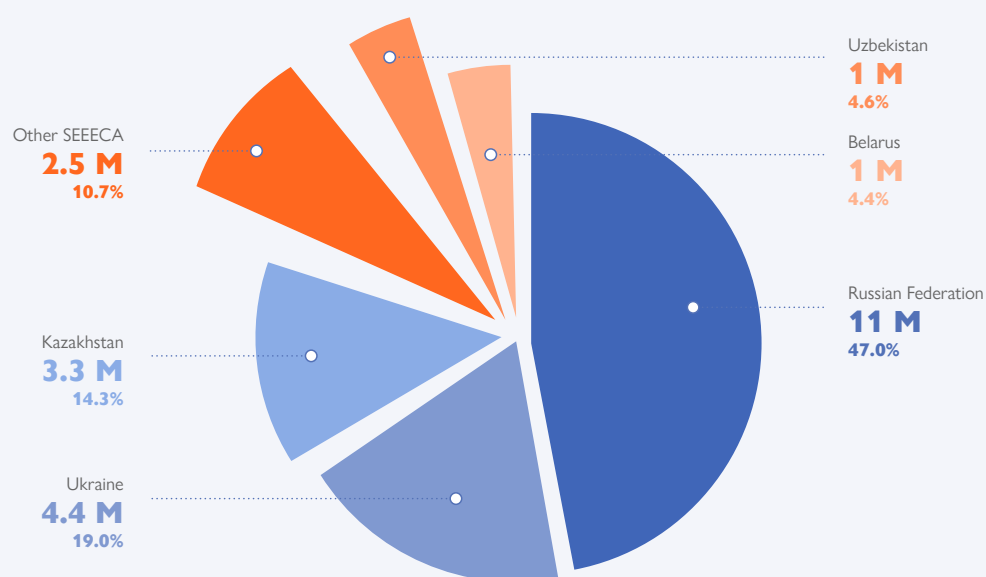
Source: DESA 2021a.

Notes: DESA data on Serbia include Kosovo's population: references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). This graph relies on the definition of [geographical regions adopted by the United Nations](#), which defines regions as the following: Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), Eastern Europe (Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Ukraine), and Southern Europe (Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Gibraltar, Greece, Holy See, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain).

In the SEECA region, the Russian Federation is the main destination for almost half (47.0%) of the intraregional migrants, followed by Ukraine (19.0%), Kazakhstan (14.3%), Uzbekistan (4.6%) and Belarus (4.4%). The rest of the region welcomes more than 10 per cent (10.7%)

of the intraregional migrant stock. The highest number of migrants in the SEECA region are from the Russian Federation (23.3%), Ukraine (12.7%), Syrian Arab Republic (12.6%), Kazakhstan (8.9%) and Uzbekistan (5.5%).

FIGURE 11: INTRAREGIONAL MIGRATION: MAIN DESTINATIONS WITHIN THE SEECA REGION, 2020 (%)



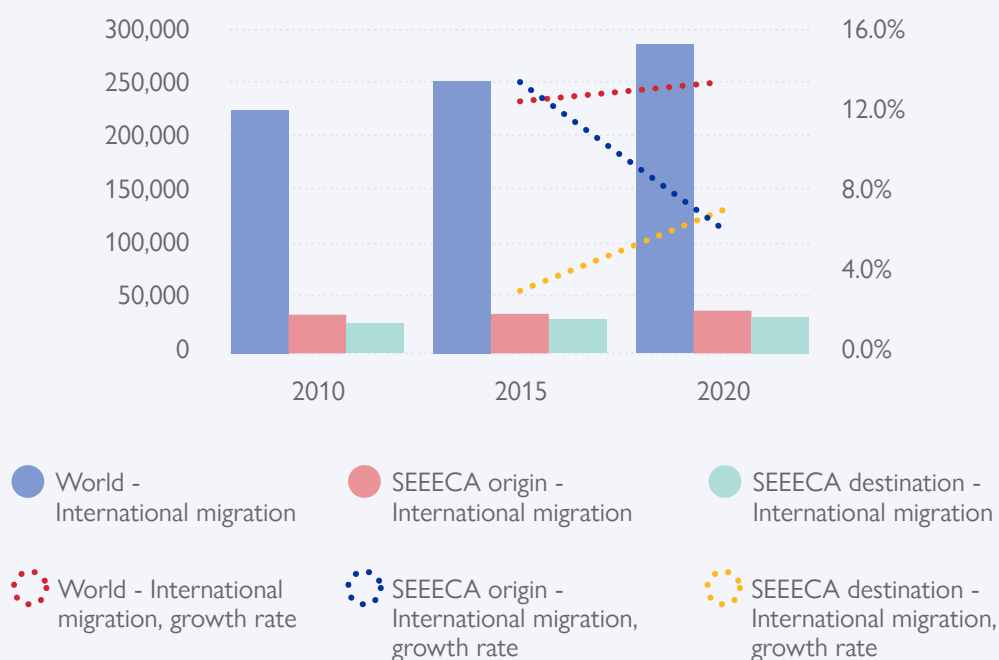
Source: DESA 2021a.

Note: DESA data on Serbia include Kosovo's population: references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Globally, the international migrant stock has increased by 12.2 per cent from 2010 (220 million) to 2015 (248 million) and by 13.2 per cent from 2015 to 2020 (281 million), while in the SEECA region it has increased by 13.1 per cent from 2010 (27.5 million) to 2015

(31 million) and by 6.0 per cent from 2015 to 2020 (33 million). The stock of international migrants within the SEECA region is growing more slowly than the global trend (two times slower in the time span 2015–2020).

FIGURE 12: STOCK AND GROWTH RATES OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION TO AND FROM THE SEECA REGION, 2010, 2015 AND 2020 (THOUSANDS AND %)



Source: DESA 2021a.

Note: * DESA data on Serbia include Kosovo's population: references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

The international migrant stock from the SEECA region has increased by 3.0 per cent from 2010 (35 million) to 2015 (36 million) and by 6.9 per cent from 2015 to 2020 (39 million). The stock of international migrants

from the SEECA region is growing more slowly than the global trend, nevertheless it still has growth by 3 per cent from 2010 to 2015 and by 10 per cent from 2010 to 2020.

FIGURE 13: TOP MIGRATION CORRIDORS WITHIN THE SEECA REGION, 2020* (MILLION)



Source: DESA 2021a.

Notes: * DESA data on Serbia include Kosovo's population: references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

* Data are dated 2020: Russia's invasion of Ukraine might have altered their exhaustivity.

In 2020, most bilateral migration corridors in the SEECA region involved the Russian Federation: Russian Federation–Ukraine, Kazakhstan–Russian Federation and Uzbekistan–Russian Federation. Most Central Asia States have visa free travel or facilitated work permit programmes with the Russian Federation, in addition to other drivers such as a common history, language, previously established migrant networks, and physical proximity (see Box 2). The bilateral corridors (both directions) between the Russian Federation and Ukraine rank as the fourth and fifth largest corridors in the world. At the time, 3 million people born in the Russian Federation live in Ukraine, while nearly the same number of people have moved from Ukraine to the Russian Federation (IOM, 2021a). The Russian invasion of Ukraine might have changed the migration trends in 2022, especially in terms of bilateral migration corridors.

In the last decade, some other migration corridors (North Macedonia–Türkiye; Ukraine–Poland; Russian Federation–Kazakhstan; Uzbekistan–Kazakhstan; Ukraine–Kazakhstan) have been growing due to different factors such as displacement and labour migration. Immigration to Kazakhstan is also closely related to repatriation of ethnic Kazakhs living abroad (Qandas), actively supported by the state (IOM, 2018a). Germany and Poland have recently emerged as growing countries of destination for migrants from the SEECA region and particularly for Belarus–Poland, Ukraine–Poland, Kazakhstan–Germany, Serbia–Germany, and Russian Federation–Germany corridors (DESA, 2021a). Moreover, new corridors are emerging, such as Serbia–Germany and Kyrgyzstan–Republic of Korea (IOM, 2021a).

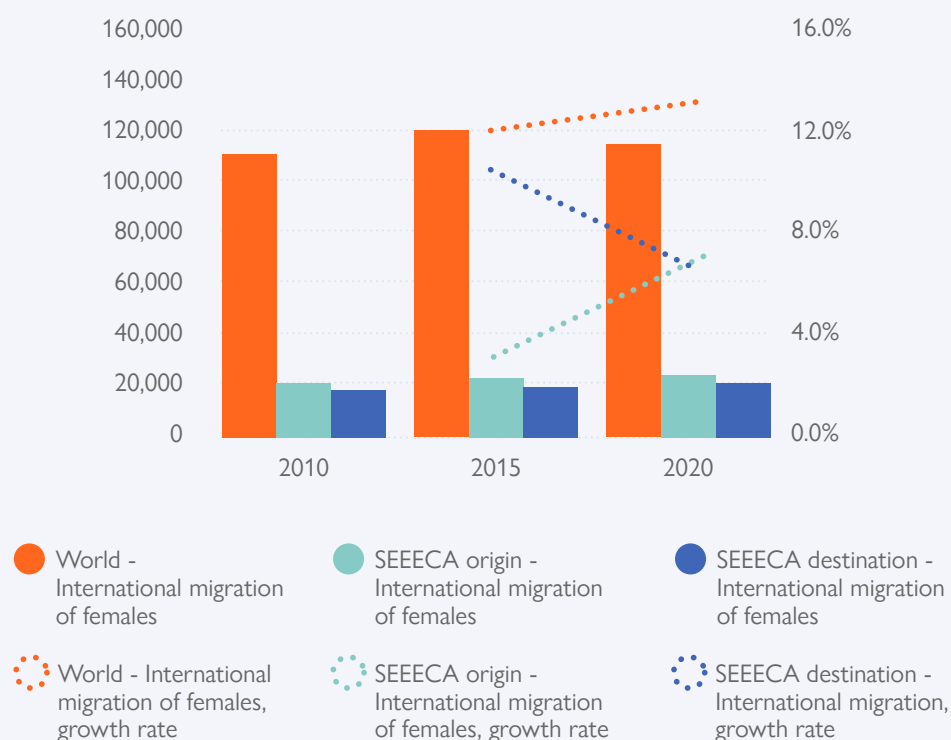
BOX 1.

GENDER⁹ IMBALANCES IN MIGRANT POPULATION IN THE REGION

Globally, migrant women constitute almost half of the international migrant stock: 135 million (48.1%) out of 281 million people in 2020. Therefore, collecting, producing, analysing and disseminating data disaggregated by gender for evidence-based policy action is essential for migration governance (Hennebry et al., 2021).

In the SEECA region most migrants are women: 17.1 million or 52.1 per cent – 1.3 million individuals more than men, equal to 15.8 million. Worldwide the migrant women stock has increased by 11.8 per cent from 2010 (107 million) to 2015 (119 million) and by 12.7 per cent from 2015 to 2020 (135 million), while in the SEECA region, the migrant women stock has increased by 10.4 per cent from 2010 (14.6 million) to 2015 (16 million) and by 6.5 per cent from 2015 to 2020 (17 million). As for the migrant stock from the SEECA region, the majority are women (52.9%): the international migrant stock has increased by 3.0 per cent from 2010 (18.6 million) to 2015 (19.2 million) and by 6.9 per cent from 2015 to 2020 (20.5 million) (DESA, 2021a). The women migrating from and within SEECA C/T/As are the absolute majority, however their numbers grew two times more slowly than the global figure during 2015-2020.

FIGURE 14: STOCK AND GROWTH RATES OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OF WOMEN WORLDWIDE, TO AND FROM THE SEECA REGION, 2010, 2015 AND 2020 (THOUSANDS AND %)



Source: DESA 2021a.

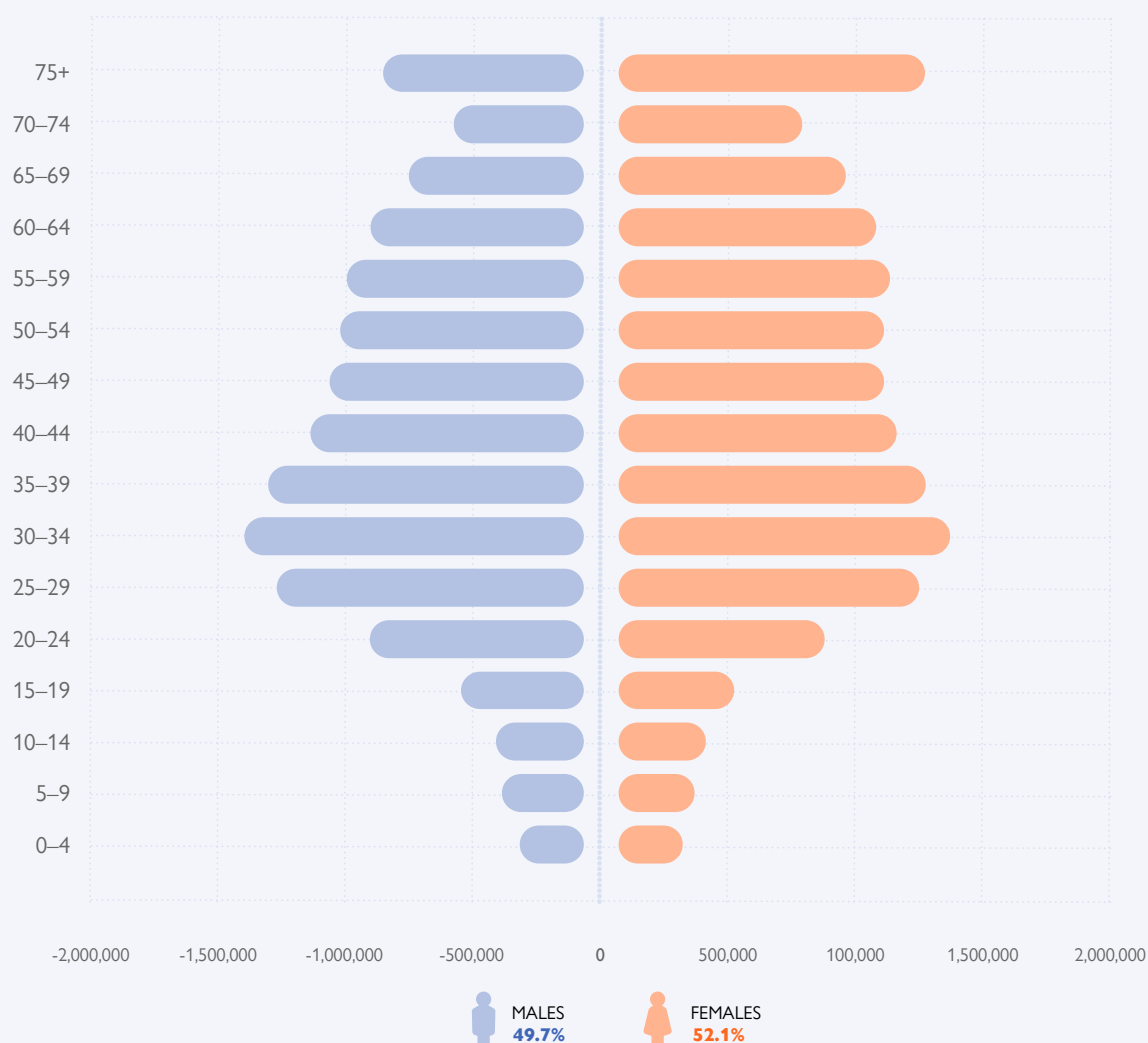
Note: * DESA data on Serbia include Kosovo's population: references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

9 The references throughout the report are often binary because data on other genders are not commonly available (Hennebry et al., 2021).

More than two thirds of the international migrant population are adults (71.6%) between the ages 20 and 64, but women between ages 20 and 60 represent almost two thirds (62.8%) of the total number of women. Considering that the 68.4 per cent of SEECCA

migration movements is constituted by intraregional migration, the demographic analysis on the SEECCA region might be considered valid also for the higher number of international migrant women compared to men.

FIGURE 15: THE MIGRANT POPULATION IN THE SEECCA REGION BY AGE AND SEX, 2020



Source: DESA 2021a.

Note: * DESA data on Serbia include Kosovo's population: references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

In the SEECCA region, international migrant women are more in absolute numbers, but they also represent 51 per cent of the foreign working-age labour force measured by citizenship. In Central Asia¹⁰ (2017), South Caucasus¹¹ and Western Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)¹² (2016), women's employment rates in the service

sector are higher in comparison to men's in terms of paid salaries and positions covered (Khitarishvili 2016; 2017). In 2021, 64.0 per cent of women were employed in the service sector, 21.6 per cent in agriculture and only 14.4 in the industry sector on average (ILOSTAT, 2022).

10 This study covers Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

11 This study covers Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

12 This study covers Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

TABLE 2: EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN BY SECTOR (AS % OF EMPLOYED WOMEN) IN THE SEECA REGION (MODELLED ILO ESTIMATE), 2021 (%)

	AGRICULTURE	INDUSTRY	SERVICES
Israel	0.5	8.0	91.6
Montenegro	6.1	7.5	86.4
Russian Federation	4.0	15.2	80.8
Ukraine	12.2	13.6	74.2
Kazakhstan	13.9	12.2	73.8
Belarus	6.6	24.0	69.4
Serbia	11.6	19.9	68.5
Kyrgyzstan	18.5	14.2	67.3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	13.3	19.5	67.2
North Macedonia	8.5	24.8	66.7
Uzbekistan	22.0	13.8	64.3
SEEECA Average*	21.6	14.4	64.0
Türkiye	22.3	16.6	61.1
Armenia	33.6	10.2	56.2
Republic of Moldova	34.1	10.9	55.0
Azerbaijan	39.4	7.1	53.5
Georgia	42.3	5.9	51.8
Turkmenistan	23.3	25.6	51.1
Albania	39.2	17.5	43.4
Tajikistan	59.5	7.2	33.3

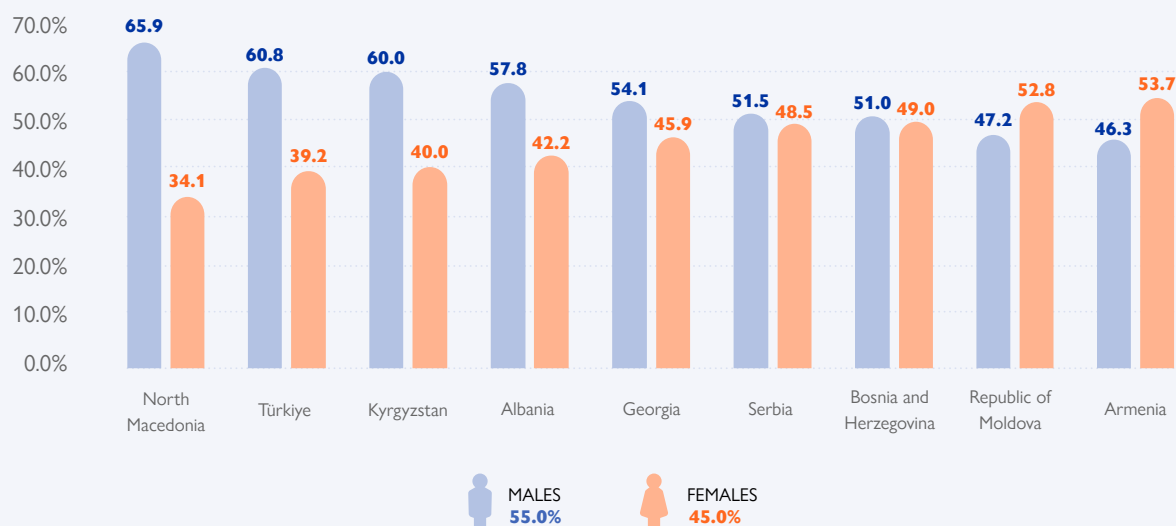
Source: ILOSTAT, 2023.

Note: * SEEECA average is calculated as simple average of country and areas value. Data for Kosovo are not available; references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Women are often employed in the informal sector in the SEECA region more than men (ILO, 2018).¹³ This might indicate that the number of migrant worker women are higher than the official estimates.

Women's employment rate in the informal sector is higher than those of men in Armenia (53.7%) and in the Republic of Moldova (52.8%).

FIGURE 16: EMPLOYMENT RATE BY SEX IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR OF SELECTED SEECA C/T/As, 2021 (%)



Source: ILOSTAT, 2023.

Note: Data collected are available for Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye. Data for Albania refer to 2019, data for Armenia and Georgia are for 2020.

13 This studied relies on the definition of [geographical regions adopted by the United Nations](#), which defines regions as the following: Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) and Eastern Europe (Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Ukraine).

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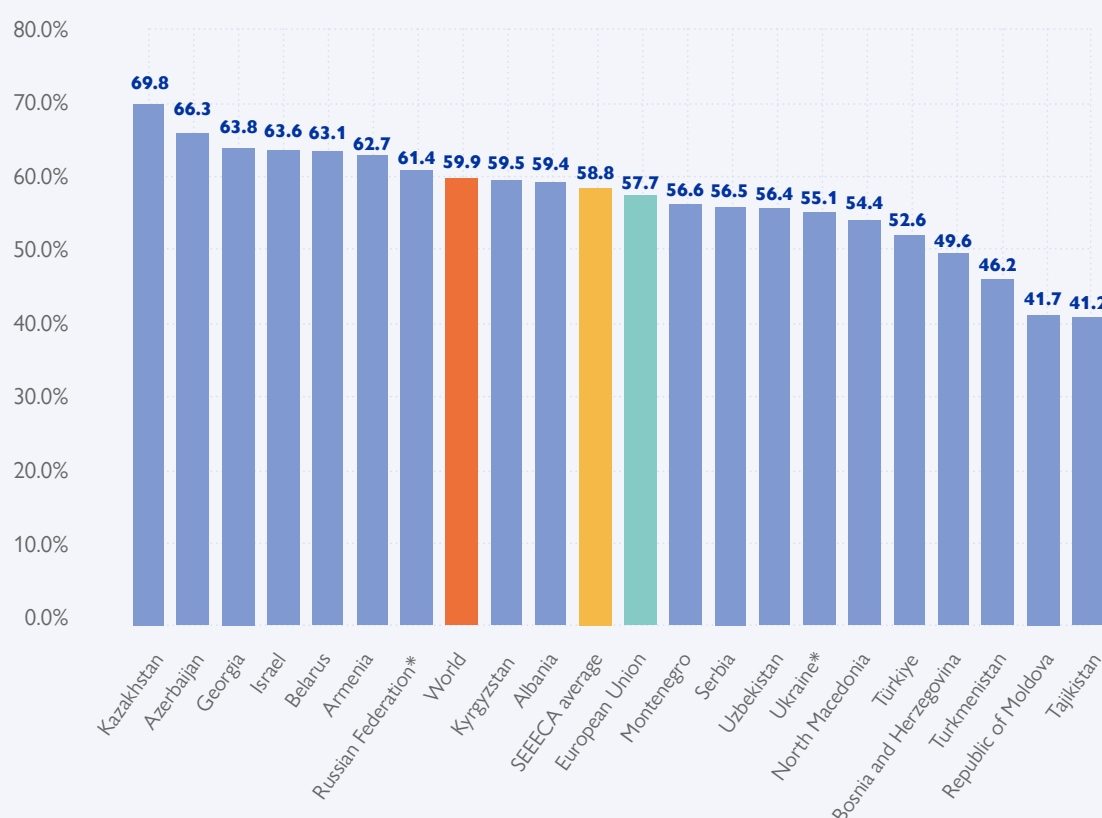
TYPES OF MIGRATION

3.1 LABOUR MIGRATION

According to ILOSTAT (2023), the total labour force participation is higher than the global average (59.9%) only in seven countries in the SEECA region: Kazakhstan (69.8%), Azerbaijan (66.3%), Georgia (63.8%), Israel (63.6%), Belarus (63.1%), Armenia (62.7%) and the Russian Federation (61.4%). International labour migration is playing a growing role in an increasingly interconnected global economy: workers have become ever more mobile, engaging in temporary and circular migration, as well as onward and return migration.

These dynamics are present throughout Central Asia and Eastern Europe in terms of migratory patterns, investment patterns, and remittance uses in countries of origin (IOM SEECA, 2021a). In 2019, there were 169 million international migrant workers in the world, constituting 4.9 per cent of the global labour force in the destination countries: 13.4 million or 9.4 per cent are in Eastern Europe¹⁴ and 9.4 million or 12 per cent in Central and Western Asia¹⁵ (ILO, 2021).

FIGURE 17: TOTAL LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION AS A SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION AGED 15+ (MODELLLED ILO ESTIMATE) IN SEECA REGION, 2022 (%)



Source: ILOSTAT, 2023.

Notes: * SEECA average is calculated as simple average of country and areas value. Data reported for Russian Federation and Ukraine are dated 2021.

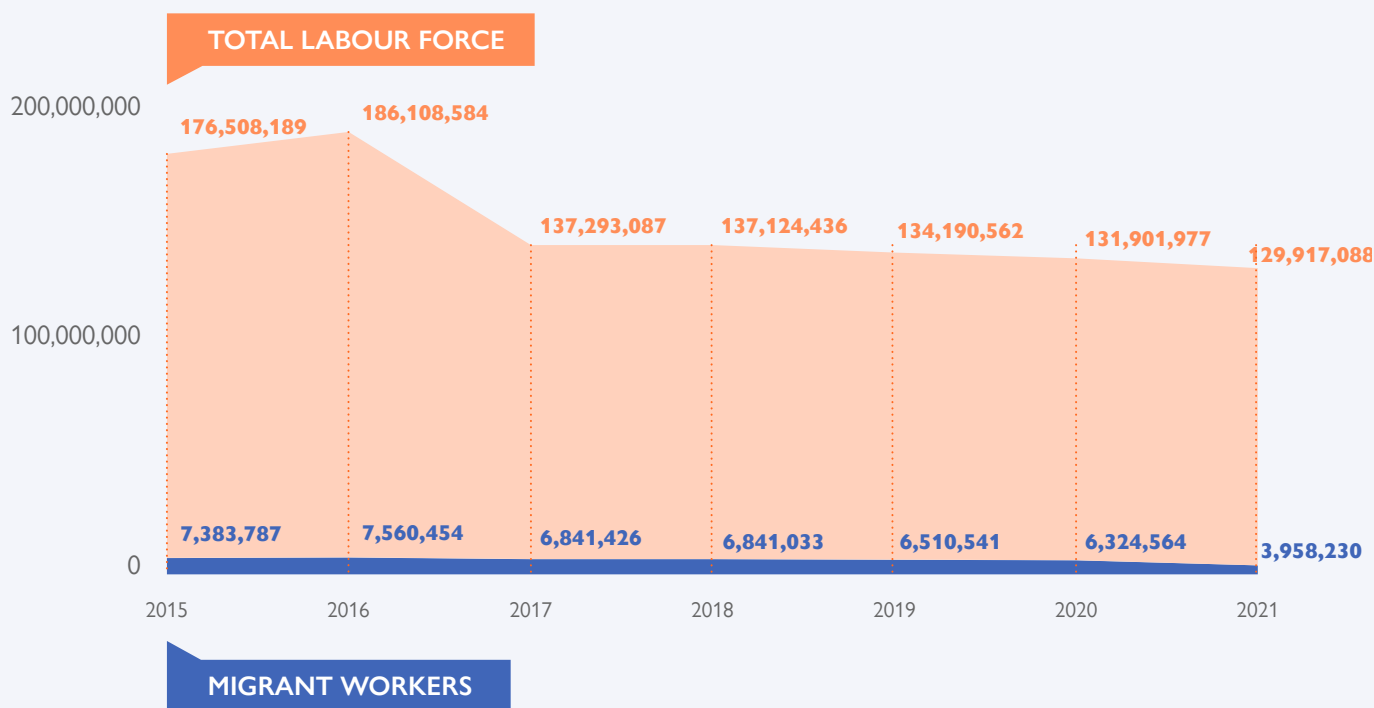
14 According to the ILOSTAT grouping of countries and territories, “Eastern Europe” includes Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Ukraine.

15 According to the ILOSTAT grouping of countries, “Central and Western Asia” includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

In ten C/T/As in the SEECA region, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Montenegro, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Türkiye and Kosovo² migrants aged

15 years and over represent four per cent of the total working age labour force population on average during the last seven years.

FIGURE 18: WORKING-AGE POPULATION BY CITIZENSHIP IN SELECTED SEECA C/T/As, 2015–2021 (MILLIONS)



Source: ILOSTAT, 2022.

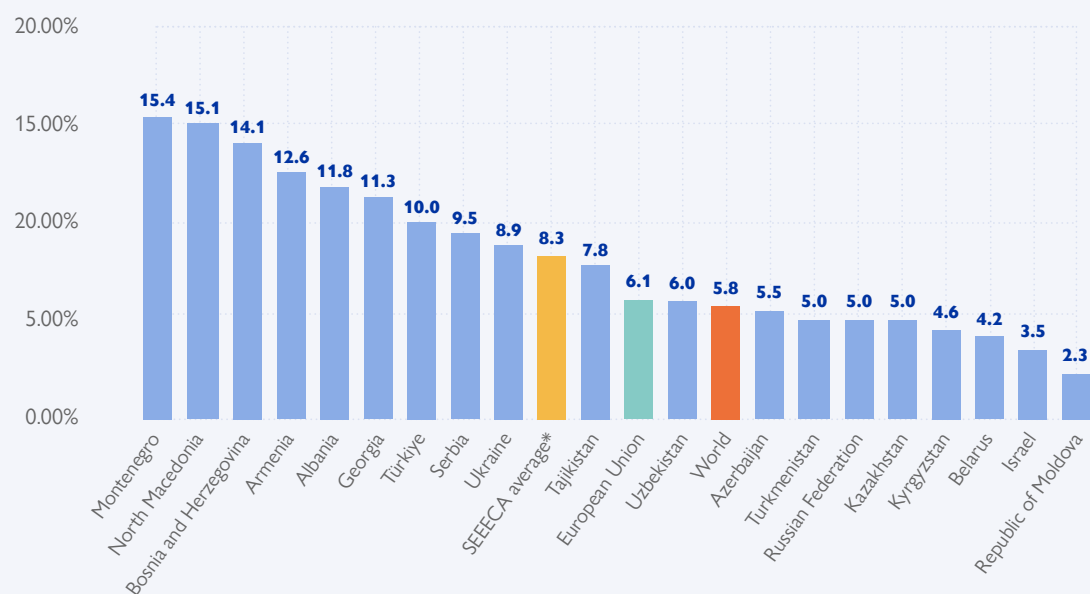
Notes: Data present break in series. Data collected are available for Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Montenegro, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Türkiye and Kosovo². References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Globally, men constitute 58.5 per cent (99 million) while women count for 41.5 per cent (70 million) of migrant workers (ILO, 2021). On average, in the SEECA C/T/As for which the information is available women represent 51 per cent of the migrant workers, around three percentage points lower than national female incidence, which is 54 per cent of the total working age population (ILOSTAT, 2022).

In 2021 the Russian Federation was still the primary country of destination for migrant workers in the region

(see Box 2) although Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Türkiye are receiving a growing number of migrant workers. Prominent countries of origin of migrant workers in the SEECA region are Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine. More recently, temporary, seasonal, and permanent labour migration has increased between EU (Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, etc.) and non-EU Member States (Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, etc.) in Eastern Europe (IOM SEECA, 2021a).

FIGURE 19: PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WITHIN THE SEECA REGION, 2022 (%)



Source: ILOSTAT, 2023.

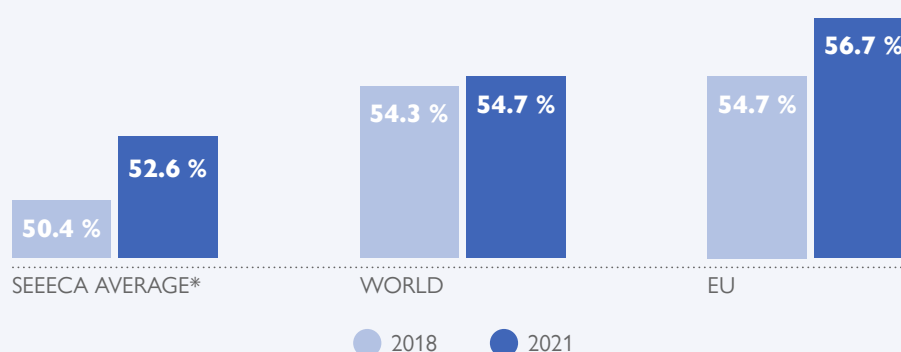
Notes: * SEECA average is calculated as simple average of country and areas value.

Data reported for Russian Federation and Ukraine are dated 2021.

Migrant workers leave their countries in search of better opportunities and working conditions. Labour migration can reduce unemployment challenges in countries of origin. While some economies in the region experience high rates of unemployment, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan,

Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Israel and the Republic of Moldova had unemployment rates lower than the world average in 2022. However, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Armenia, Albania, Georgia, Türkiye, Serbia and Ukraine had unemployment rates higher than the SEECA average in 2022.

FIGURE 20: DEPENDENCY RATIO FOR THE SEECA REGION, THE WORLD AND THE EUROPEAN UNION, 2018–2021 (%)



Source: World Bank, 2023.

Note: * SEECA average is calculated as simple average of country and areas value.

The dependency ratio (the proportion of the working age population, compared to those who are typically dependents – children and retirees) is lower in the SEECA region than the world and European Union average; however, an increase of 2.2 percentage points was recorded in the last three years, meaning that there are more people in need of social support especially for

older ages such as health care, and pension schemes. Although there are large differences within the region, with Western Balkans and South Caucasus facing rapidly ageing demographics, the SEECA region tends to have a younger population than the world average and a larger share of the population at working age.

BOX 2.

MIGRANTS' PROFILES IN CENTRAL ASIA

The Russian Federation ranks as the fourth top destination country worldwide with around 12 million estimated migrants, of which six million are migrant workers (IOM, 2021a). Given the visa-free movement between Central Asian countries and the Russian Federation, as well as free labour mobility among Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Member States,¹⁶ there is a longstanding historical mobility from Central Asia to the Russian Federation which occurs mainly informally in the corridor, with prospective migrants using social networks to plan their migratory routes and employment. According to Federal State Statistics of the Russian Federation (Rosstat), in 2021 there were approximately four million workers from Central Asia in the Russian Federation, including approximately one million from Tajikistan, one million from Kyrgyzstan and two million from Uzbekistan. In terms of stock presence, the three Central Asian countries remain the main countries of origin of international migrants in the Russian Federation (IOM, 2022c).

Migrant workers from Central Asia primarily work in construction, transportation, agriculture, and service sectors (both seasonally and in longer term) as well as, in much smaller numbers, in higher skilled professional occupations. Specific information on international migrant workers in Kazakhstan remains scarce (IOM, 2022c). Migration is regulated by the state authorities, but the enforcement may not be consistent, and migration and employment of migrants takes place informally. According to the Bureau of National Statistics of Kazakhstan, the Central Asia countries are the main countries of origin for international migrants in Kazakhstan (ibid.). The largest economic activities which attract migrants are trade, construction and transport in the Russian Federation and construction, agriculture and mining sector for Kazakhstan (Ryazantsev et al., 2021).

The migration drivers from Central Asia countries are high unemployment rates and low wages, demographic shifts such as growing population pressure, and environmental and climate change consequences such as land degradation (Burunciuc, 2020). One in four Central Asians are migrants, meaning ten million people are on the move, often irregularly, in search of work: the informal employment network and the poor skills matching are among the reasons for increased labour exploitation and abuse of migrants. Some migrants do not have residence registrations, or employment contracts, a situation which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, in the Russian Federation, there were an estimated 750,000 undocumented migrants from Central Asia. After the pandemic outbreak, employers stopped paying salaries thereby leaving them without money and in an undocumented situation with expired documents. As part of the COVID-19 relief response, labour quotas for international migrants were reduced in Kazakhstan in an attempt to preserve jobs for Kazakh nationals (Ryazantsev et al., 2021).

16 Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation.

BOX 3.

DEMAND FOR MIGRANT WORKERS FROM THE SEECA REGION TO OTHER COUNTRIES

Labour migration from the Western Balkans namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo² to Western and Northern Europe has a long tradition that still continues to influence the migration trends in the SEECA region. It is estimated that more than one-fifth of the Western Balkans population lives abroad (OECD, 2022a).

The migration drivers for Western Balkans migrants are mainly linked to the economic situation: low salaries, unsatisfactory labour market outcomes, economic insecurity and/or poor prospects for career progression. Low living standards and institutional quality can also influence emigration decisions (ibid.). Most of these migrants live in Western European destination countries – such as Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Albanian migrants are medium-skilled, mainly occupied in construction and related trades, manufacturing and agricultural work. For Serbian migrants, the category of science engineering and associate professions was included in the five most frequent occupations.

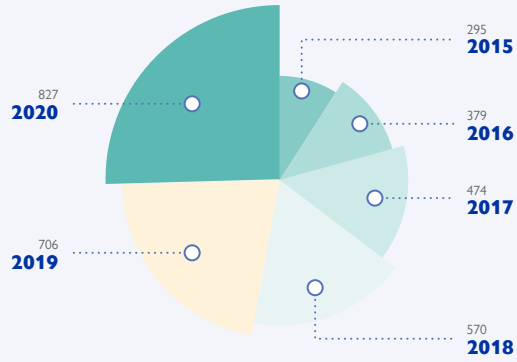
The health workforce migration from the SEECA region – most notably from Western Balkans, Belarus, the Russian Federation, Türkiye and Ukraine – towards Europe is a known phenomenon, with Germany and the United Kingdom being among the major destination countries for medical doctors, while Germany is also recruiting nurses from the Western Balkans on a large scale. Also, Norway, Switzerland and Canada are among the major destination countries for foreign-trained doctors (ibid.).



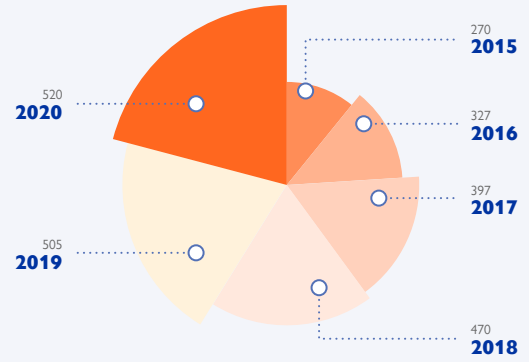
© IOM 2018

FIGURE 21: FOREIGN-TRAINED MEDICAL DOCTORS FROM WESTERN BALKANS TO GERMANY, 2015–2020 (THOUSANDS)

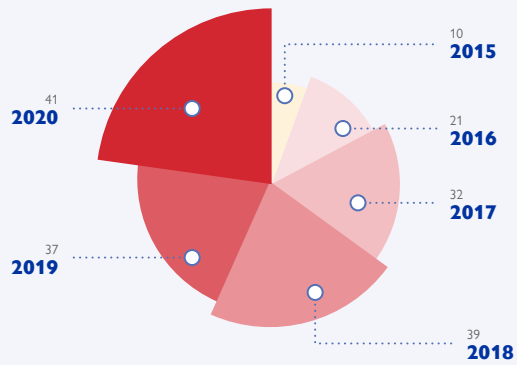
ALBANIA



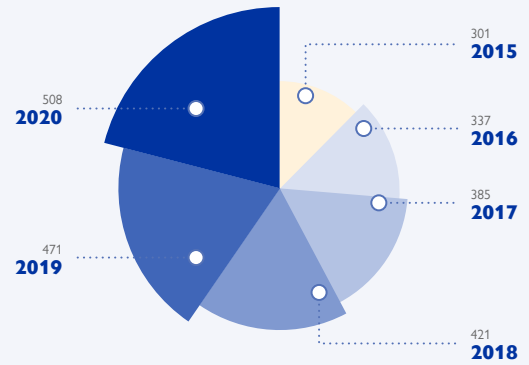
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



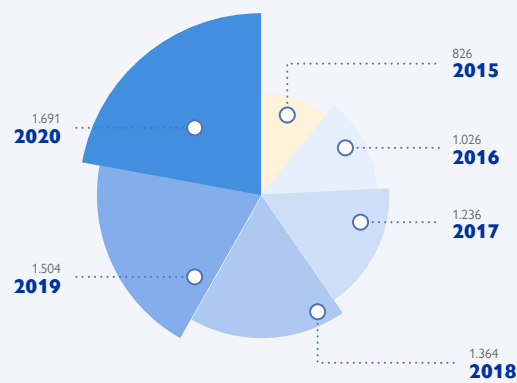
MONTENEGRO



NORTH MACEDONIA



SERBIA

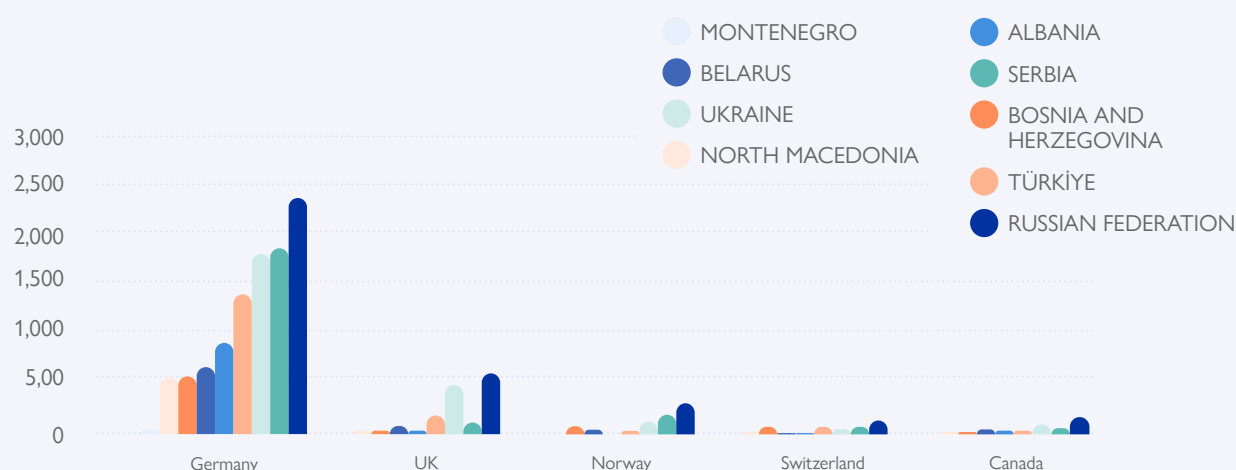


Source: OECD, 2022a.

As recently pointed out by World Bank (2021) in a study on health personnel's migration from Croatia, North Macedonia and Serbia to Germany, migration is influenced not only by countries joining the EU but also by other factors. Beyond individual preferences, which

are shaped by personal characteristics and professional aspirations, Germany has introduced legal changes to facilitate the recruitment of physicians and nurses from new EU member States, European enlargement countries, and from countries with high unemployment.

FIGURE 22: FOREIGN-TRAINED DOCTORS FROM SELECTED SEECA C/T/As TO SELECTED OECD COUNTRIES, 2020 (THOUSANDS)



Source: OECD, 2022a.

3.1.1 ECONOMIC REMITTANCES

Economic remittances¹⁷ play a fundamental role for the household income in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs),¹⁸ since they alleviate poverty and help in the countries' development.

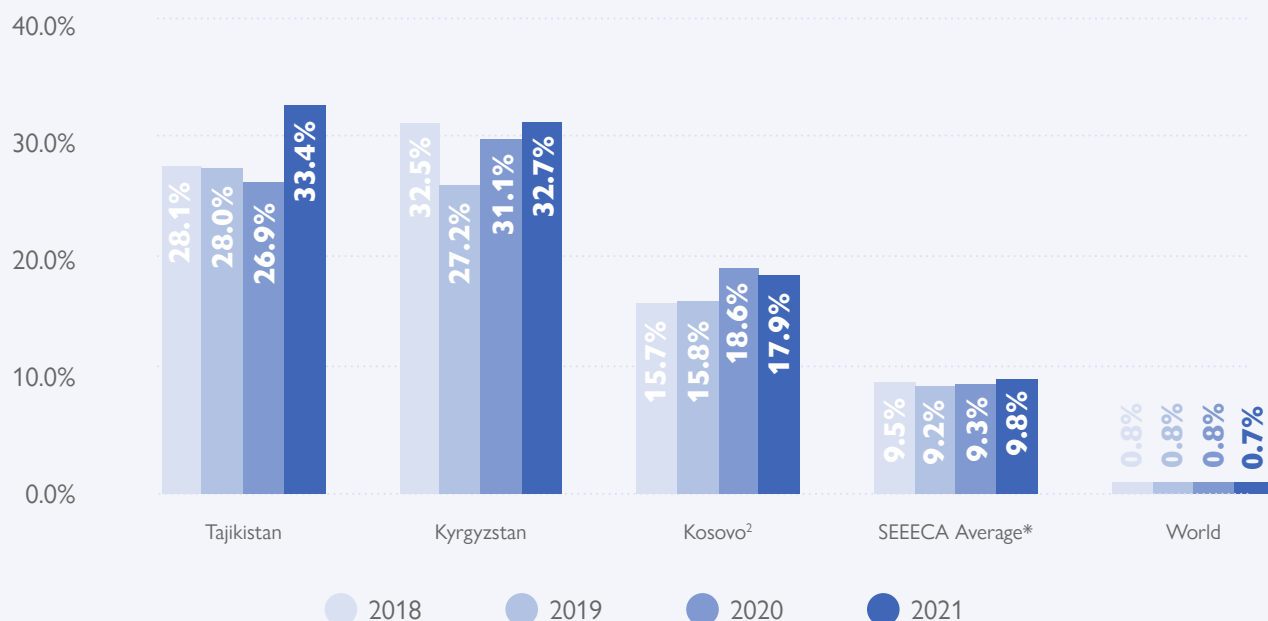
As a share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the SEECA region has some of the highest remittance rates in the world. In 2021 remittances accounted for 33.4 of Tajikistan's GDP, 32.7 per cent in Kyrgyzstan and 17.9 per cent in Kosovo.²

Tajikistan is also catalogued by the OECD as fragile state also for the high dependency of their economies by remittances, while Turkmenistan is part of the same ranking for its social fragility (OECD, 2022b). While reducing remittance costs to below three per cent of transaction costs is one of the SDG goals, it should be noted that remittance costs within the Russian Federation-Central Asia corridor are already among the lowest in the world and are below the SDG targets (NAFI, 2017).

17 Remittances are financial transfers made by migrants directly to families or communities in their countries of origin: these private funds can contribute significantly to poverty reduction and economic development for entire communities and countries of origin.

18 According to the classification of World Bank, all SEECA C/T/As, except Israel, are considered under the LMICs. For more information: <https://data.worldbank.org/country/XO>

FIGURE 23: PERSONAL REMITTANCES AS A SHARE OF GDP IN SOME SEECA C/T/As, 2018–2021 (%)



Source: World Bank, 2023.

Notes: * SEECA average is calculated as simple average of country and areas value. Personal remittances comprise personal transfers and compensation of employees. Personal transfers consist of all current transfers in cash or in kind made or received by resident households to or from nonresident households. Personal transfers thus include all current transfers between resident and nonresident individuals. Compensation of employees refers to the income of border, seasonal, and other short-term workers who are employed in an economy where they are not resident and of residents employed by non-residents entities.

Globally, remittance flows to LMICs registered an increase of 10.2 per cent in 2021 to reach USD 596 billion. In 2021, the remittance inflows to Europe and Central Asia (ECA)¹⁹ increased by about 16 per cent, reaching historic highs of USD 94 billion mainly due to economic activity in the EU and the rebounding energy prices. In the same period, the SEECA region registered an increase of 16.7 per cent in remittance inflows with USD 72 billion in total (Ratha et al., 2022a). The region's largest recipient of remittances, Ukraine, reached the record-high inflows of USD 18.2 billion in 2021 mainly due to the Ukrainian migrant community in Poland (ibid.).

Remittances were estimated to increase by 2 per cent in 2022 in Ukraine, with a significant probability of an

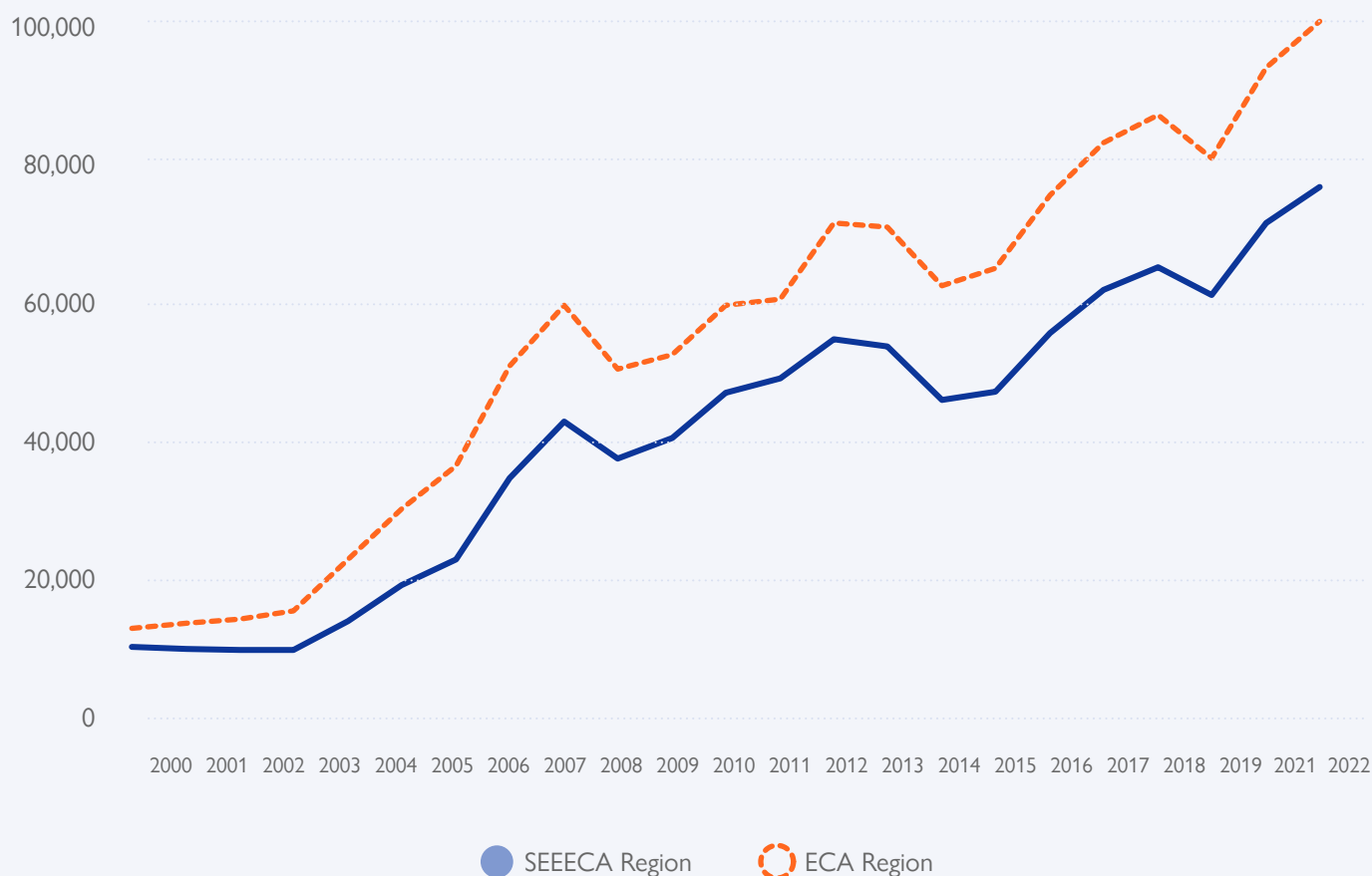
even stronger rate of increase – except for those received from the Russian Federation (ibid.). Remittances from the Russian Federation to Ukraine had already declined steadily as a share of remittances to Ukraine from 26 per cent in 2015 to 6 per cent in 2021, as the main countries of destination for Ukrainian migrant workers shifted rapidly towards countries in Eastern and Central EU after the Russian Federation annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in 2014 (Ratha et al., 2022b), and are expected to reduce even more since the start of the war. As stated by the World Bank and the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) (Ratha et al., 2022a) in November 2022, remittance flows to Europe and Central Asia were estimated to increase by 7 per cent to USD 100 billion in 2022 compared to 2021.

19 According to the World Bank definition, the Europe and Central Asia region covers Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Kosovo. References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). For more information: www.worldbank.org/en/region/eca.

The increase of oil prices and demand for migrant workers by Russian enterprises that moved abroad after the beginning of the war increased the flow of remittances from the Russian Federation to Central Asian countries. The appreciation of the Russian Ruble

against the USD since the end of March 2022, after the initial depreciation in February 2022, translated into higher value of outward remittances from the Russian Federation to Central Asia in USD terms.

FIGURE 24: REMITTANCES FLOWS (USD) TO SEECA AND ECA REGIONS, 2000–2022 (MILLION)



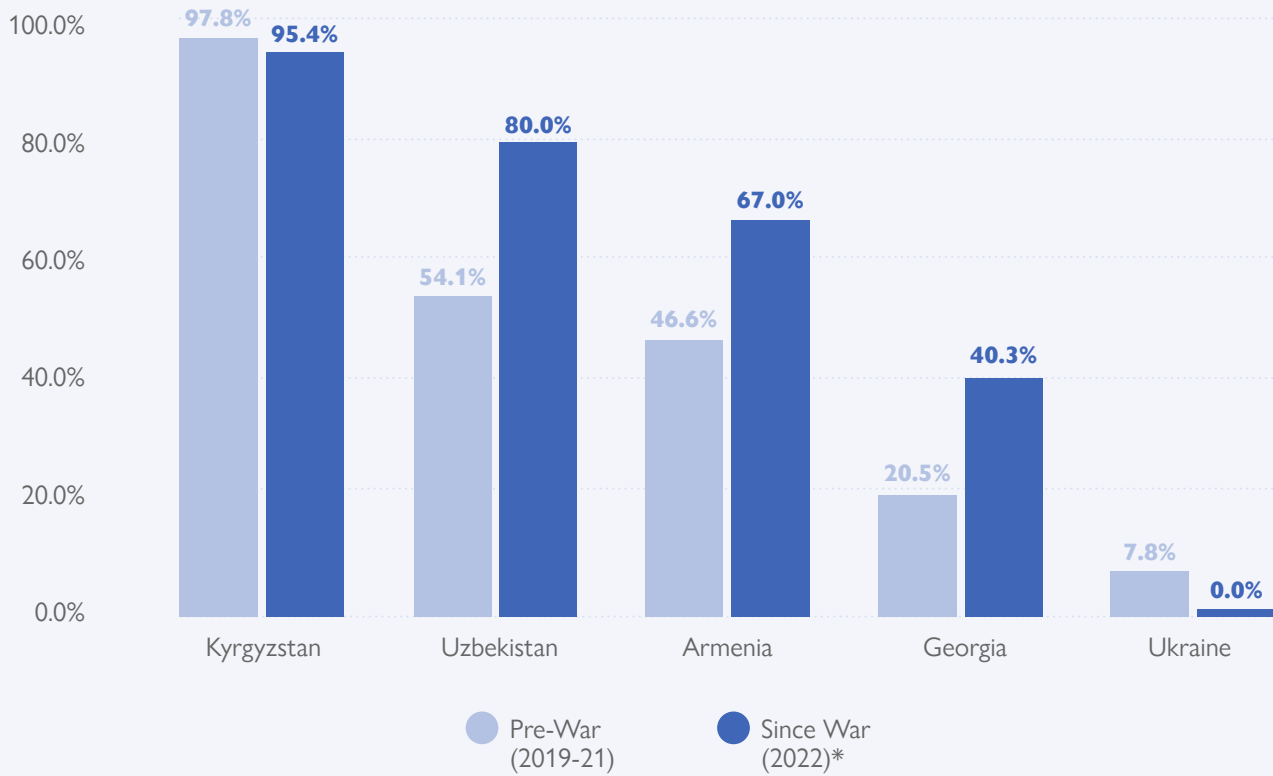
Source: World Bank–KNOMAD staff estimates, 2022; World Development Indicators, 2022; IMF Balance of Payments Statistics, 2022.

For many Central Asian and South Caucasus countries within the CIS, the Russian Federation has been a major source of remittances, accounting for more than half of total flows for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and over 20 per cent for Georgia and Belarus (Ratha et al., 2022a).

Despite the projection that remittances to the CIS would decrease due to the economic sanctions against the Russian Federation (Ratha et al., 2022b), Kyrgyzstan,

Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are likely to receive record high amounts of remittances from the Russian Federation in 2022. The number of migrant workers in the Russian Federation from Central Asia has remained high since February 2022. For Uzbekistan, it is reported that a substantial part of this increase reflects migrant workers' greater use of formal channels to send money home, resulting in improved recording of cross-border financial flows (Ratha et al., 2022a).

FIGURE 25: SHARE OF REMITTANCES FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN SELECTED SEECA C/T/As, 2019–2022* (%)



Source: Respective central banks.

Notes: * Data up to August 2022 for Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine.

* Data up to September 2022 for Armenia and Georgia. Transfers from the Russian Federation to Ukraine are prohibited by the National Bank of Ukraine (Regulation n.18).

3.2 FORCED INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL DISPLACEMENT

As of June 2022, 103 million individuals worldwide were forcibly displaced due to reasons including but not limited to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, or events seriously disturbing public order. This figure includes refugees (including those not

covered by UNHCR's mandate²⁰), asylum-seekers, internally displaced people (IDPs) and other people in need of international protection. The vast majority of displacement is internal: however, the total number includes 32.5 million refugees and 4.9 asylum-seekers.

TABLE 3: REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN AND FROM THE SEECA REGION, CUMULATIVE, MID-2022 (THOUSANDS)

	Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
	from	to	from	to
Albania	20 263	2 306	24 519	6
Armenia	14 446	34 274	10 528	395
Azerbaijan	41 632	6 466	5 324	121
Belarus	8 920	12 547	7 231	780
Bosnia and Herzegovina	18 176	349	1 401	134
Georgia	11 924	24 024	20 789	1 160
Israel	582	1 298	900	25 162
Serbia	3 583	350	6 261	642
Kazakhstan	3 257	304	3 025	809
Montenegro	616	9 236	865	121
North Macedonia	1 901	1 430	3 288	15
Republic of Moldova	3 620	79 477	6 412	8 117
Russian Federation	75 851	1 458 388	49 384	4 662
Serbia	30 937	26 417	5 547	282
Tajikistan	3 107	9 629	2 345	1 638
Türkiye	102 429	3 673 808	51 444	294 078
Türkmenistan	1 754	14	808	0
Ukraine	5 437 961	2 345	42 120	1 325
Uzbekistan	3 760	13 031	6 020	0
Total	5 784 719	5 355 693	248 211	339 447

Source: UNHCR, 2022a.

Notes: Data from UNHCR refer to mid-June 2022 update. UNHCR data on Serbia includes Kosovo: references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

20 The figure includes Palestine refugees under the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)'s mandate.

The SEECA C/T/As present a huge variability in terms of destination and origin countries of refugees and asylum-seekers, as demonstrated through the example of Türkiye with the Syrians under Temporary Protection (Box 4). In June 2022, there were about

5.3 million refugees and 339 thousand asylum-seekers in the SEECA region, while 5.7 million refugees and 248 thousand asylum-seekers were recorded from the SEECA region (including 5.4 million refugees in Europe from Ukraine)(UNCHR, 2022).

BOX 4.

IOM TÜRKİYE'S MIGRANT AND REFUGEE RESPONSE

Since the outbreak of the civil war in 2011 in the Syrian Arab Republic, the number of Syrian nationals in the SEECA region has grown drastically from 23 thousand people in 2010 to 3.8 million in 2020 (DESA 2021a), most of whom reside in Türkiye.

As of 31 December 2022, 3,535,898 Syrian nationals were granted temporary protection (TP) status (IOM Türkiye, 2022a). The TP grants Syrians the right to legally stay in Türkiye as well as some level of access to basic rights and services. Most of them live outside camps, mainly spread across cities at the Turkish border provinces of Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep, Hatay and Kilis as well as other major cities in Türkiye (ibid.). A minor group, around 47,525 Syrian nationals live in the seven Temporary Accommodation Centres (TACs) that are also located in the provinces close to the Syrian Arab Republic border such as Kilis and Hatay, as well as in other cities such as Osmaniye, Adana and Kahramanmaraş (ibid.).

Since March 2012, IOM Türkiye has been a part of the coordinated efforts of the United Nations, NGOs and government partners providing humanitarian assistance, including cash assistance, accommodation assistance, physical, mental and social well-being and social services to help non-Syrian migrants, refugees, mobile populations and the host community live a better and more stable life (IOM Türkiye, 2022b). According to UNHCR, there were 318,9032 refugees and asylum-seekers in Türkiye as of mid of 2022 (UNHCR, 2022a). IOM also provides transport, sanitation and other services to thousands of Syrians living in refugee camps.

Following the EU-Türkiye statement²¹ on returns and resettlement in 2016, IOM has facilitated the resettlement of Syrian nationals to EU countries and supported their access to the family reunification programmes. IOM's Resettlement and Movement Management Division (RMM) facilitated 56,164 (1,829 Syrian families) resettlements, EU relocation, humanitarian admission and family reunification from 2016 to 1 December 2022. This figure represents, on average, one third of the total resettlements, EU relocation, humanitarian admission and family reunification programmes for Syrian nationals conducted by IOM.

21 The 18 March 2016 EU-Türkiye Statement aims to replace disorganized and irregular migratory flows by facilitating organized and safe pathways to European countries. Specifically, the statement stipulates that for every Syrian returned to Türkiye from the Greek islands, another Syrian will be resettled directly to Europe from Türkiye (IOM Türkiye, 2022a).

TABLE 4: IOM TÜRKİYE RESETTLEMENT AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROGRAMMES, 2016–2022* (THOUSANDS)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Movement from Türkiye**	13 447	11 535	9 305	8 656	3 331	5 729	4 161	56 164
Family Reunification from Türkiye	1 191	265	188	117	44	6	18	1 829
FAP Programme Beneficiaries	9 564	18 488	10 742	9 699	2 443	4 520	6 069	61 525
FAP Programme - Number of Families	1 231	6 957	3 865	3 524	1 182	2 175	2 459	21 393

Source: IOM – RMM and IOM Türkiye.

Notes: * As of 1 December 2022.

** The cumulative data includes resettlements, EU relocation, humanitarian admission program and family reunification.

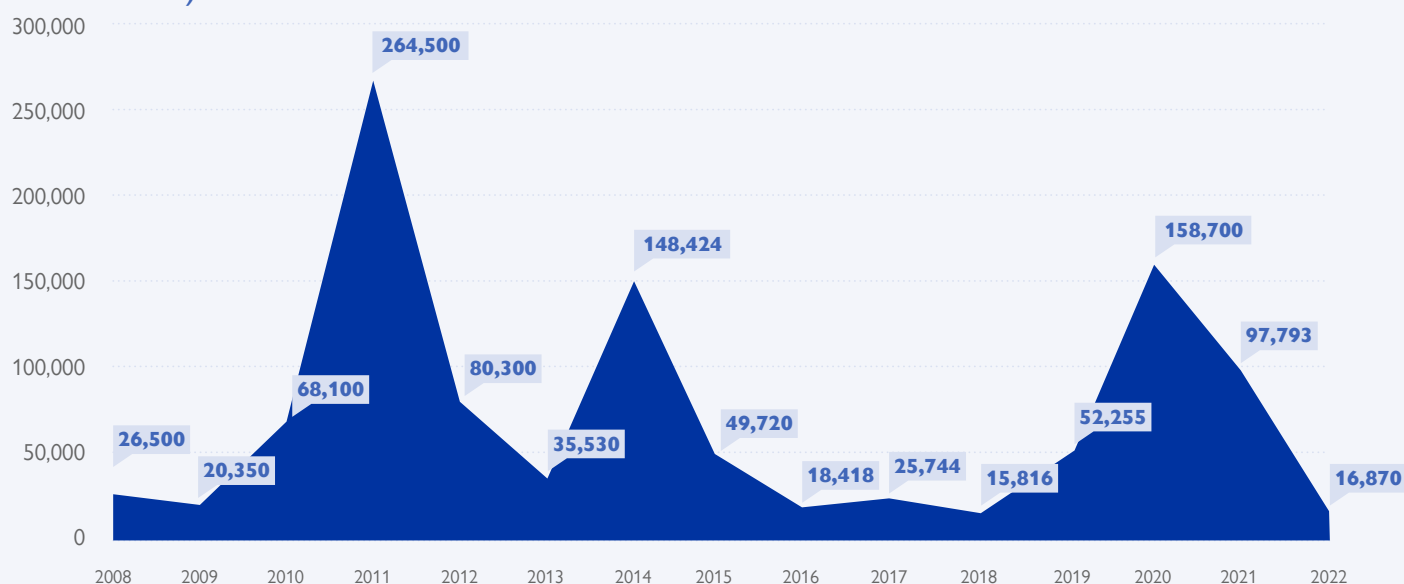
Individuals entitled to international protection in Germany have the right to bring their core family to the country for humanitarian reasons. From 2016 to 1 December 2022, IOM Türkiye has supported 61,525 Syrian beneficiaries (21,393 families) to get to Germany under the Family Assistance Programme (FAP).

3.2.1 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

At the end of 2022, in the region there was an estimated stock of 8.3 million of IDPs out of which the majority for displacement due to conflicts (IDMC, 2023). This figure might even be higher in the years to come due to the Russian war in Ukraine. According to the International

Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC),²² over 2022 natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods, wildfires, and landslides displaced more than 6,900 people in Türkiye, 4,000 in Kazakhstan and 2,700 the Russian Federation (IDMC, 2023).

FIGURE 26: TOTAL INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN SEECA DUE TO NATURAL HAZARDS, 2008–2022 (THOUSANDS)



Source: IDMC, 2023.

22 The IDMC uses two similar but distinct methodologies to produce displacement estimates related to conflict and violence, and disasters. In the case of conflict- and violence-induced displacement, IDMC conducts situational monitoring in certain countries after they learn of the occurrence of displacement, and report the country-wide estimates of new displacement during the year and the total number of people displaced at year's end. In contrast, IDMC monitors and reports cases of disaster-induced displacement on an event-by-event basis. For each of these events, IDMC collects information from different sources and generates the most comprehensive and reliable displacement estimate for that disaster. For more information: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/database/methodology>

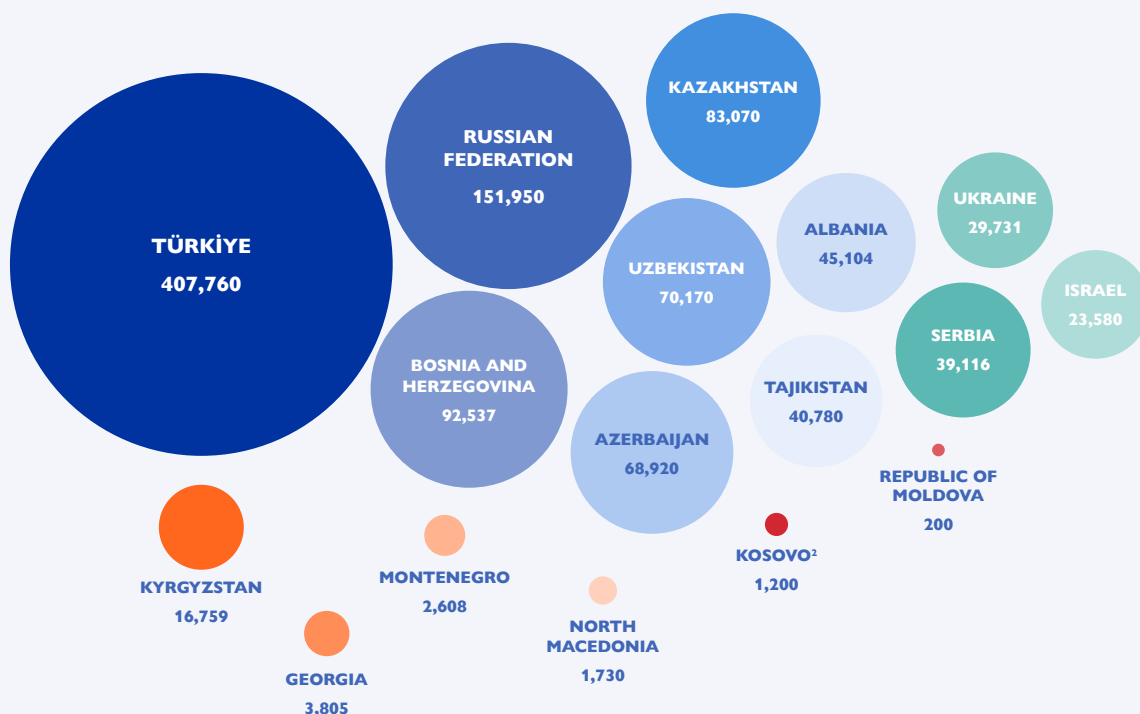
Climate change, environmental degradation and disasters are reshaping the contemporary human mobility patterns around the world (IOM, 2022b). Although climate change is a global emergency, the SEECA region presents different ecosystems and environmental situations within the region.

Central Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change, with warming levels projected to be higher than the global mean (Reyer et al., 2017). These changes will adversely affect food and water security, livelihoods and biodiversity. The inadequate infrastructure and a dependency on hazard-prone sectors make several countries in the region extremely vulnerable to climate-induced extreme weather events. It is estimated that 6.6 million people in Kyrgyzstan will be at risk of the impacts of climate change by 2050 (UNDP, 2018). In May 2020, around 70,000 people

were evacuated from their homes after a dam breach and heavy rains caused floods in Uzbekistan (IOM SEECA, 2020). In addition, the region has several vulnerable ecosystems, such as the Caspian Sea and Aral Sea, the Carpathian Mountains and the Danube River basin (ibid.).

Furthermore, air pollution is one of the most serious environmental risks and a public health problem, with major health and socioeconomic consequences for residents and migrants in the SEECA region, particularly in Kyrgyzstan (IOM, 2021b) and in the entire Western Balkans region (UNEP, 2019). Western Balkans is prone to rapid-onset natural hazards, such as earthquakes and floods, with significant displacement as one of the consequences. Most recently, 14,000 inhabitants were displaced in the aftermath of the November 2019 earthquake in Albania (IOM SEECA, 2020).

FIGURE 27: SUM OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT DUE TO NATURAL HAZARDS PER COUNTRY, 2008–2022 (THOUSANDS)



Source: IDMC, 2023.

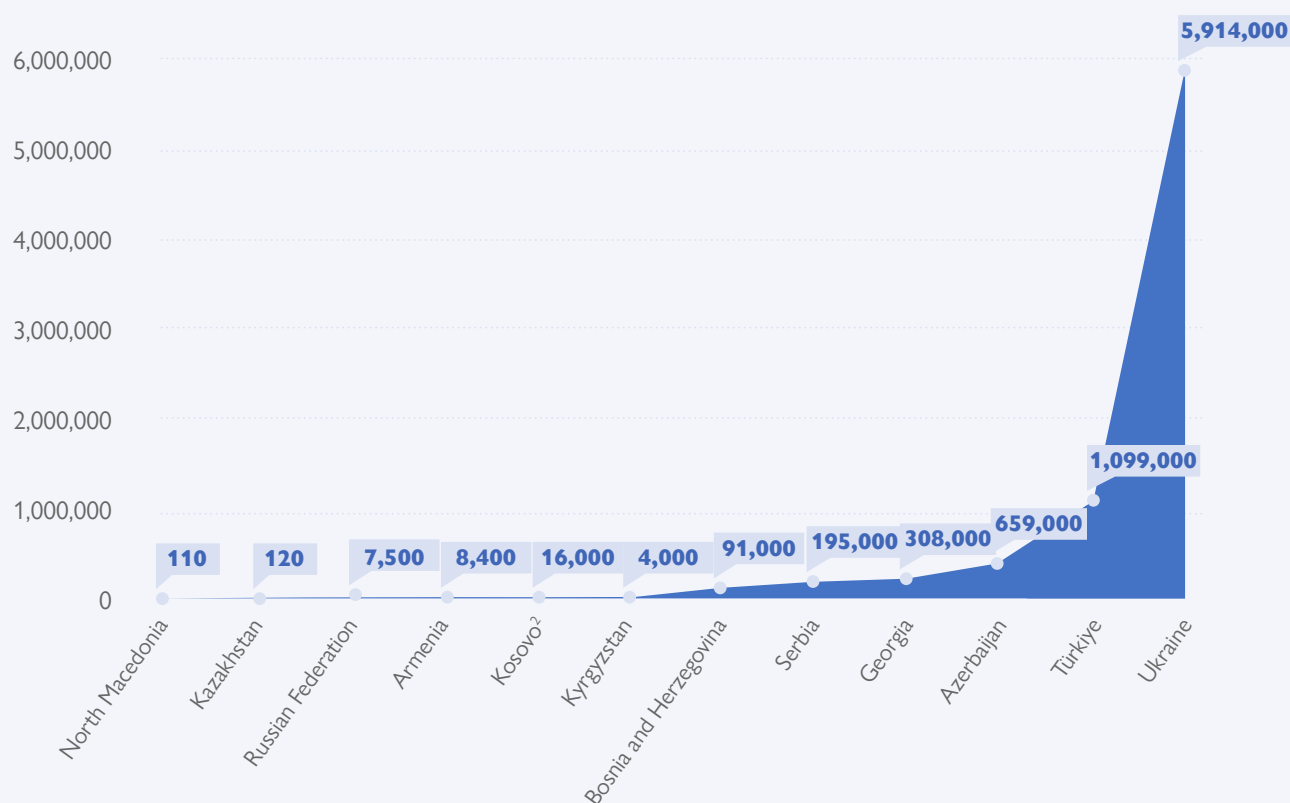
Note: for the methodology, please refer to footnote number 22.

In 2018, the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\) Task Force on Displacement \(TFD\)](#) provided a comprehensive set of recommendations for action in this area. In countries like Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine, the adaptation of national policies to the global commitments into national actions is laying the ground for alleviating the situation. In Kyrgyzstan, this policy analysis is supporting the development of a new National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the establishment of a National Statistics Committee, as well as the creation of a working group on climate change and migration under the national United Nations Network on Migration (IOM, 2022b). In Tajikistan, women are key stakeholders to climate adaptation strategies in communities of origin since they manage household

assets while their partners are working abroad. IOM and the Government of Tajikistan are providing training on climate change adaptation and financial literacy and management to support women who remain behind to channel remittances into climate change adaptation, resilience-building and sustainable development (IOM Tajikistan, 2022).

According to IDMC, there were also more than eight million people in protracted displacement due to conflict and violence mainly in Ukraine, Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Serbia at the end of 2022, with most of those forcibly displaced as a result of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. These figures refer to IDPs stocks as of December 2022: the Russian invasion of Ukraine has changed the trends in the past year as shown in the Box 5.

FIGURE 28: IDPs DUE TO CONFLICTS, AT THE END OF 2022 (THOUSANDS)



Source: IDMC, 2023.

The SEECA region hosts large historic IDP populations: as shown by the Western Balkans and the South Caucasus, many of IDPs are in protracted situations as a result of the conflict/displacement events of the late 1980s and the 1990s. According to the IDMC, the majority of people still displaced in Bosnia and Herzegovina were displaced during the Bosnian War, which took place between 1992 and 1995: at the end of 2022 there are more than 91 thousands IDPs in the country (IDMC, 2023).

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)²³ is one of the main sources of data on displacement and human mobility in the region.²⁴ DTM gathers and analyses data to disseminate critical multi layered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of displaced and mobile populations that enables decision makers and responders to provide these populations with better context-specific assistance. (see DTM's information products on displacement and human mobility in Türkiye (Box 4), Ukraine (Box 5) and the Western Balkans Region (Box 6) to monitor recent developments).



23 For more information: <https://dtm.iom.int/>

24 For more information: <https://dtm.iom.int/methodological-framework>

3.2.2 RESETTLEMENT: 2021 EVACUATIONS OF AFGHANS TO ALBANIA, NORTH MACEDONIA AND KOSOVO²

IOM supports durable solutions (local integration, relocation, resettlement, or return and reintegration) for migrants and host communities. As of April 2022, over 130,000 Afghan nationals are estimated to have been resettled in other countries, including at least 27,000 in EU countries (IRCC, 2022).

Within the SEECA region, in 2021 the evacuations of Afghans have been particularly significant for the IOM Missions of Albania, North Macedonia and Kosovo.² According to IOM data, a total of 4,531 Afghan nationals arrived in the three countries as of December 2021: 2,494 in Albania, 1,418 in Kosovo² and 619 in North Macedonia.²⁵ The three Governments granted them TP status for one year, renewable on the basis of humanitarian grounds. In Albania, Afghans were accommodated in two centres, one in Durrës (central Albania) and one in Shengjin (northwest of the country), which is still operational. In Kosovo² two camps were used to accommodate the Afghan nationals the Bechtel-Enka NATO Camp and the Liya Camp (inside the United States of America Army base). In North Macedonia, Afghans were accommodated in hotels for which the costs were covered by the Government.

BOX 5.

IOM UKRAINE INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL DISPLACEMENT

Following the outbreak of the conflict in eastern Ukraine which brought the oblasts of Donetsk and Luhanska out of the control of the Government of Ukraine in 2014, IOM established the Ukraine National Monitoring System (NMS) in 2016 to monitor internal displacement.²⁶

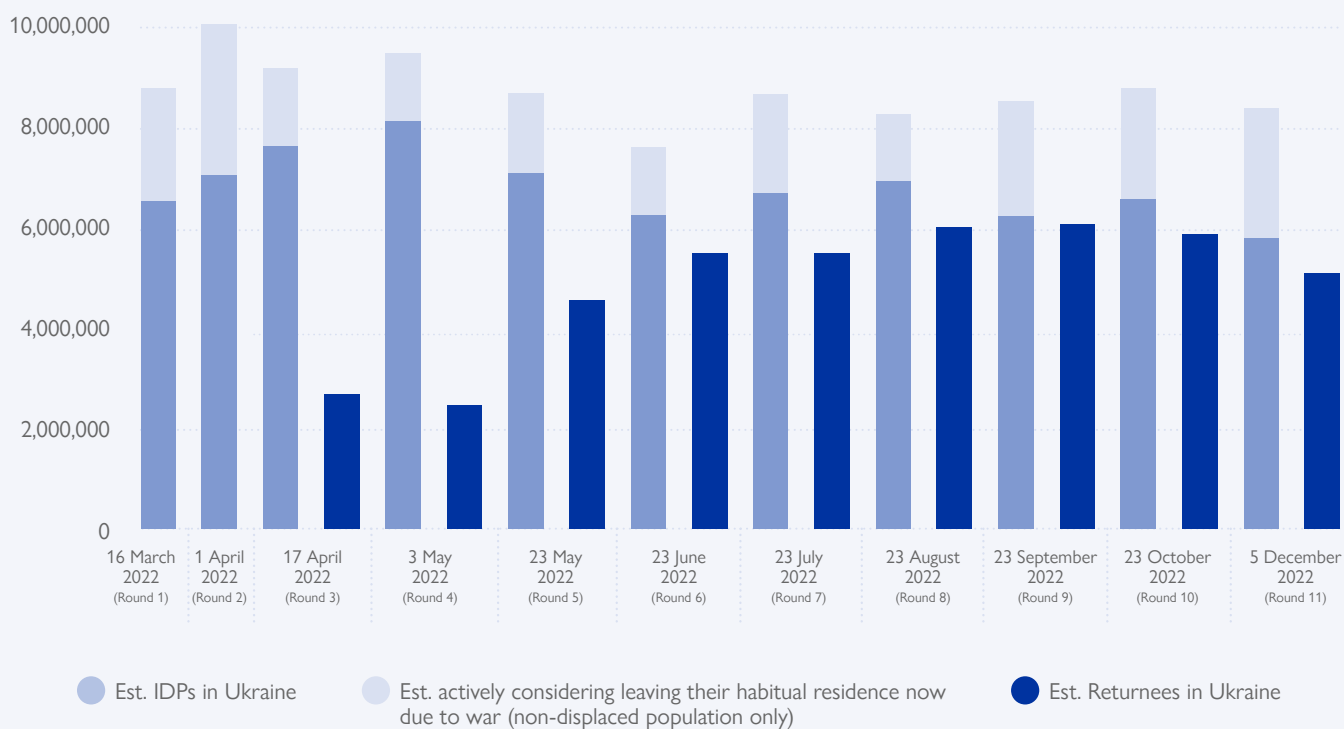
Since then, IOM Ukraine has expanded its programming capacity in protection, health, shelter, and stabilization to respond to the identified needs among IDPs. In addition, the NMS programme was scaled up to provide real time monitoring on demographics, locations, needs and gaps of the displaced populations in Ukraine and countries surrounding Ukraine. Since February 2022, following the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, IOM has rolled out a General Population Survey (replacing the NMS) to gather insights into internal displacement and mobility flows, and to assess local needs. The arrival of the winter season the Russian Federation's attacks on the Ukraine's energy infrastructure has exacerbated the protection risks (IOM, 2022h) despite the expansion of the humanitarian programming of IOM and other actors.

As of 5 December 2022, over 5.9 million persons were estimated to be internally displaced in Ukraine (IOM Ukraine, 2022a). At the same time, around 5.2 million were estimated to have returned including both from other locations within Ukraine and from abroad (ibid.). To this it should be added that around 7.9 individual refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe as of 10 January 2023 (UNHCR, 2023).

25 All the data were collected thanks to the IOM Mission in Albania, IOM Mission in North Macedonia and IOM Mission in Kosovo. References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

26 IOM Ukraine has adapted DTM tools to the Ukrainian context via the NMS to collect, process and disseminate data on the displaced populations in Ukraine (IOM, 2021e). For more information: <https://dtm.iom.int/ukraine>

FIGURE 29: **DISPLACEMENT AND MOBILITY TRENDS IN UKRAINE, AS OF 5 DECEMBER 2022 (THOUSANDS)**



Source: IOM – DTM General Population Survey in Ukraine, 2022.

Note: Data refers to the last update available, 5 December 2022.

As of December 2022, half of the IDPs are adults (54%) and more than half are women (57%). The East macroregion has been the main region of origin of IDPs (4 million displaced coming from the East) whilst also hosting the largest share of current IDPs (1.8 million displaced in the East). Financial assistance (cash), and medicine and health services continue to be among the most pressing needs identified among all respondents. With decreasing temperatures, solid fuel is also a pressing need for IDPs. The average time of displacement among IDPs is 197 days. As of December 5, 32 per cent of IDPs were reportedly considering leaving their current location in the coming weeks (an estimated 1.89 million individuals), inclusive of 9.8 per cent of IDPs who were planning to return in the 2 weeks following survey. Among those who do not intend to return, IDPs reported the instability of the security situation (54%) as well as military occupation (27%) of their area of habitual residence (IOM Ukraine, 2022a).²⁷

Using the General Population Survey in Ukraine, IOM has also been collecting information to better understand the situation of Ukrainian returnees, who have returned to their usual residence after having been displaced within the country or abroad for a significant period. In line with the profile of the displaced population, the majority of the returnee population are women (42.6%), and adults (57.6%) aged 18 to 59 years old. The top three reasons for their return are reasons such perception they would be safer in another location (38%), followed by concern about further utility disruption (33%), the inability to make sufficient income or find suitable work in their area of origin (17%) and and a wish to reunite with family and friends (13%).

²⁷ IOM has also conducted two regional studies: one based on surveys with Ukrainian and TCNs in 17 Border Crossing Points (BCPs), in Poland, Romania, Slovakia and the Republic of Moldova (IOM SEECCA, 2022b) and the second in the same four European countries plus Hungary, with adult refugees from Ukraine and TCNs crossing to Ukraine (IOM SEECCA, 2022c).

The average time since their return was 134 days (out of 284 days of war at the time of data collection). Returnees experienced disservices due to damage to their properties. The needs of returnees do not differ significantly from the non-displaced population: those who have returned seem to have fewer needs than those who were unable or unwilling to displace (IOM Ukraine, 2022b).

Amongst the displaced persons from Ukraine there are also several hundred thousand third-country nationals (TCNs).²⁸ As emerged in a joint report of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), IOM and OECD, TCNs are mainly composed of students and migrant workers who fled Ukraine due to the war. Most are nationals of Türkiye, the Russian Federation, India and Azerbaijan, and their top three countries of destination were Poland, Romania and the Republic of Moldova (EUAA, 2022a).

As a secondary effect of the Russian Federation's war in Ukraine, the available evidence suggests an increase in mobility trends of Russian citizens in the SEECA region and outside the region since the start of the war in Ukraine. In September 2022, Rosstat has reported that 419,000 people had left the Russian Federation, doubling the number of the previous year. According to the country which have reported the statistics, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova and Tajikistan have registered an increase in entries of Russian citizens in their territories since February 2022.²⁹

3.2.3 THE TEMPORARY PROTECTION DIRECTIVE IN THE SEECA REGION

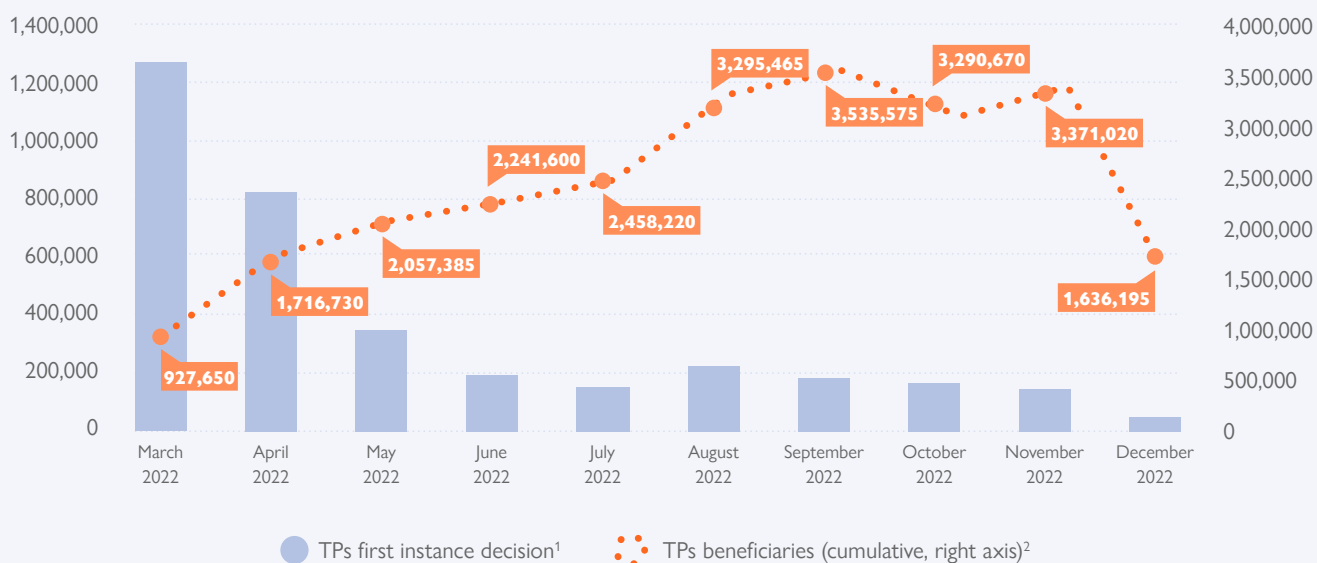
Following the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, the European Council triggered the Temporary Protection Directive for the first time since its emanation in 2001.³⁰

28 According to the IOM [Glossary on Migration](#), a TCN is defined as “in situations in which two States are concerned, any person who is not a national of either State; or, in the context of regional organizations, nationals of States who are not member States of such organization”.

29 For more information: www.forbes.ru/society/478827-rossiu-posle-21-sentabra-pokinuli-okolo-700-000-grazdan.

30 This policy decision was made based on the expectations of the European Commission of a large influx of displaced persons from Ukraine enable to come back home in short time. The risk of affecting the efficiency of national asylum processes and so the rights of people applying for international protection pushed the European Commission to activate the TPD on 2 March 2022 and on 4 March 2022, the Council unanimously adopted the decision (European Commission, 2022). The beneficiaries of TP receive a residence permit valid for one year, with possible prolongation of up to three years. They are granted rights and benefits such as access to employment, accommodation or housing, social welfare and medical care. Children have access to education, and families have the right to reunite. Beneficiaries also have access to banking services and can move freely in EU countries for 90 days within a 180-day period (FRA, 2022). For more information: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32001L0055&qid=1648223587338>.

FIGURE 30: UKRAINIAN TPS IN EU 27+, MARCH – DECEMBER 2022 (MILLION)



Source: Eurostat, 2022.

Note: EU + means EU plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Data might present breaks in series and December 2022 is still under consolidation.

According to Eurostat, as of December 2022, more than 3.8 million of TP have been reported in the EU-27+ (the EU plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland). The TP statuses given to Ukrainians represent on average 98.2 per cent of the total, with the remaining 1.8 per cent granted to TCNs³¹ from Ukraine. Poland granted the highest number of Ukrainian

beneficiaries of TP (956,760), followed by Germany³² (936,375) and Czechia (431,310). However, looking at the citizenship of other beneficiaries to which TP have been granted in the same period, Russians come first (11,055), followed by Nigerians (7,005) and Morocco (4,840).

31 According to Eurostat, a TCN is “any person who is not a citizen of the EU within the meaning of Art. 20(1) of Treaty on the Functioning of the EU and who is not a person enjoying the EU right to free movement, as defined in Art. 2(5) of the Regulation (EU) 2016/399 (Schengen Borders Code)”.

32 Czechia is not reporting on TPs into Eurostat since April 2022.

TABLE 5: TOP TCNS CITIZENSHIP OF TP BENEFICIARIES EXCLUDING UKRAINIANS IN THE EU-27+, MARCH-DECEMBER 2022 (THOUSANDS)

Top TCNs Citizenship	March - December 2022
Russian	11,055
Nigerian	7,005
Moroccan	4,840
Unknown	3,970
Azerbaijani	3,585
Georgian	3,045
Moldovan	3,005
Armenian	2,980
Belarusian	2,750
Vietnamese	2,350
Iraqi	2,000
Turkish	1,990
Indian	1,745
Turkmenistani	1,740
Algerian	1,670
Syrian	1,440
Pakistani	1,410
Afghan	1,390

Source: Eurostat, 2022.

Note: EU + means EU plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Data might present breaks in series and December 2022 is still under consolidation.

Beyond the language difficulties, it has been found that the administrative and legal barriers may prevent TP beneficiaries to access the whole set of rights allowed under TP (UNHCR, 2022c). UNHCR has also found that 24 per cent of respondents reported at least one household member with a specific need, including persons with disabilities, serious medical needs, older persons and separated or unaccompanied children.

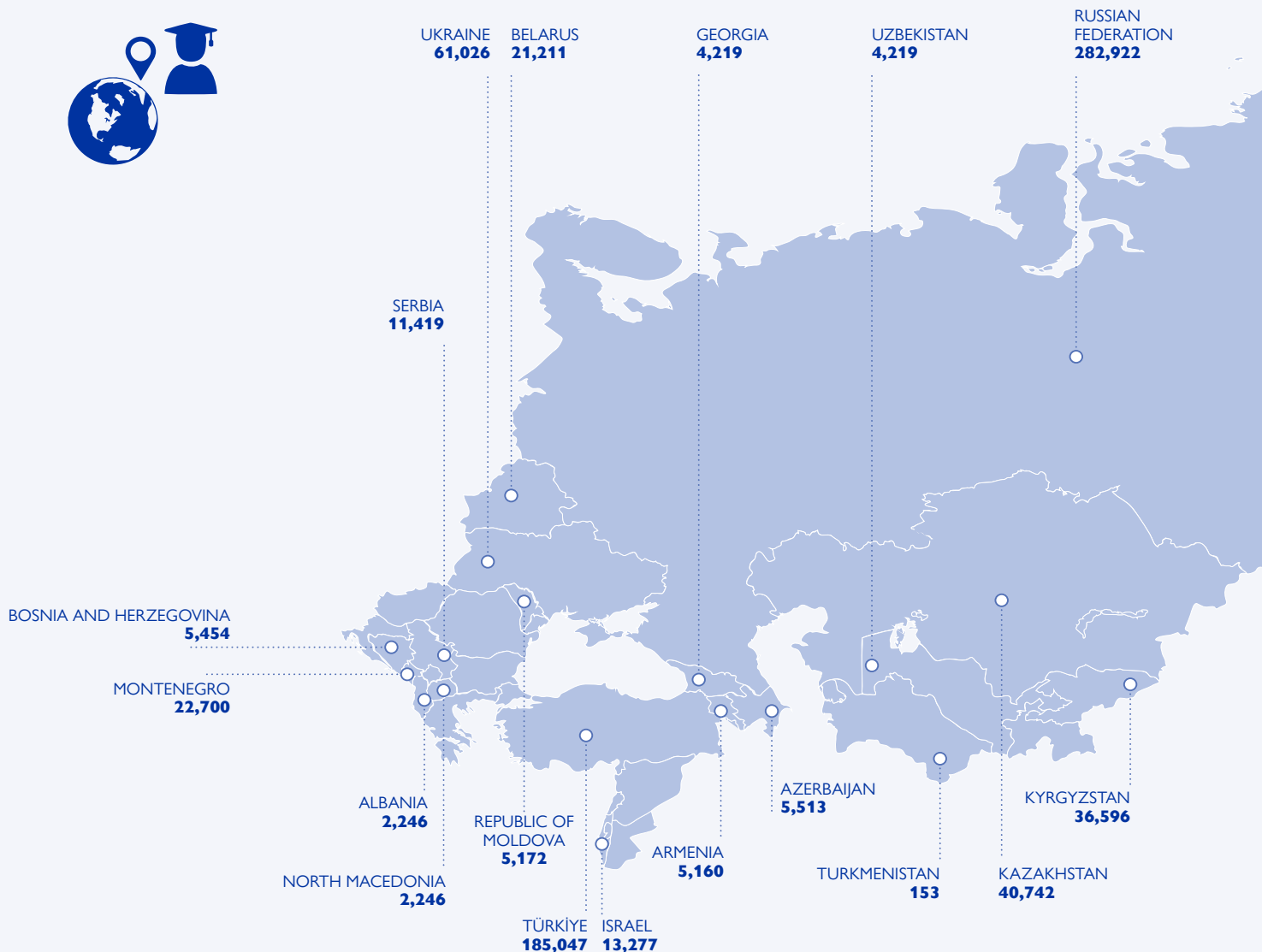
In 2021, almost three million first residence permits were issued in the EU to non-EU citizens (Eurostat): citizens of Ukraine received the highest number of first residence permits (875,783), followed by citizens of Morocco (150,065) and Belarus (149,021). Russians were at the fifth place (86,832). Poland was the main destination for Ukrainian citizens (83% of all resident permits issued to Ukrainians in the EU in 2021), for Belarusians (88%) and Russians (27%).

3.3 EDUCATION

In 2020, there were over 6.3 million international students, in comparison to the 2 million in 2000 (UIS, 2020). More than one third of these were enrolled in educational programmes in six countries: the United

States of America (957,475), the United Kingdom (550,877), Australia (458,279), Germany (368,717), the Russian Federation (282,922 in 2019) and France (252,444).

FIGURE 31: TOTAL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE SEECA REGION, 2020 (THOUSANDS)



Source: UIS, 2022.

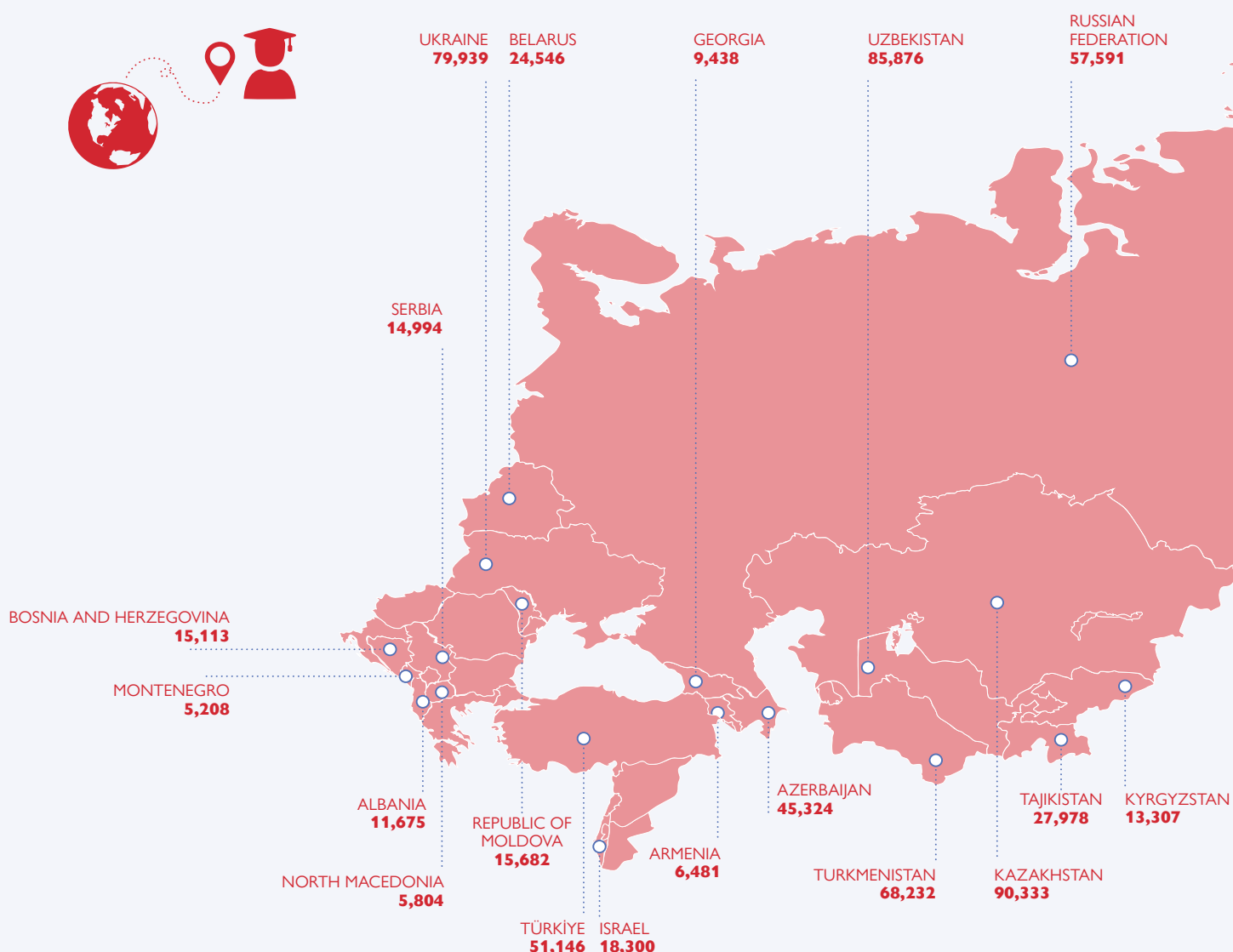
Notes: Data reported for Russian Federation are dated 2019, while for Montenegro and Uzbekistan are dated 2021. UIS data on Serbia include Kosovo's population. References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

This map is for illustration purpose only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used by on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization of Migration.

In 2020, the SEECA region welcomed more than 718 thousand international students: within the region, the Russian Federation is the main destination country welcoming 280 thousand internationally mobile students, followed by Türkiye with 185 thousand and Ukraine with 61 thousand. In general, the number of tertiary students from the SEECA region studying abroad rose in 2020: 650 thousand students left their

countries of origin for other destinations, with prominent countries of origin of international students in the SEECA region including Kazakhstan (90,333), Uzbekistan (85,876) and Ukraine (79,939). The Central and Eastern Europe³³ is region the main host region welcoming two thirds of the total internationally mobile students from the SEECA region (UNESCO, 2021).

FIGURE 32: TOTAL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM THE SEECA REGION, 2020 (THOUSANDS)



Source: UIS, 2022.

Notes: This map is for illustration purpose only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used by on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization of Migration.

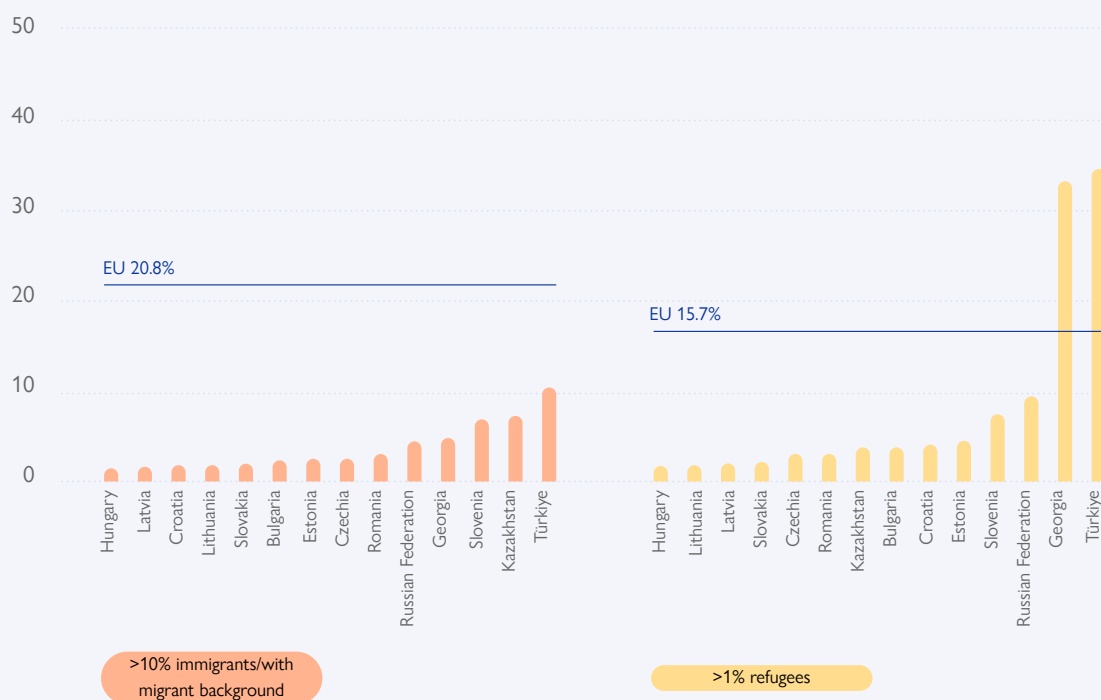
UIS data on Serbia include Kosovo's population. References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

33 This study relies on the definition of geographical regions adopted by the UNESCO which defines the Central and Eastern Europe region composed by Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

At the end of 2019, Türkiye absorbed 684,728 Syrians in its public schools but 37 per cent of Syrian refugees were still out of school (UNICEF, 2020). In Serbia, about 2,500 or 98 per cent of pre and primary school-

age children in reception centres were placed in public schools in the academic year 2018–2019; however, only 14 per cent of refugee and asylum-seeking children attended school regularly (ECRE, 2019).

FIGURE 33: **PERCENTAGE OF LOWER-SECONDARY TEACHERS TEACHING IN SCHOOLS WITH THE FOLLOWING STUDENT POPULATION COMPOSITION, SELECTED COUNTRIES, 2018 (%)**



Source: OECD Talis, 2019.

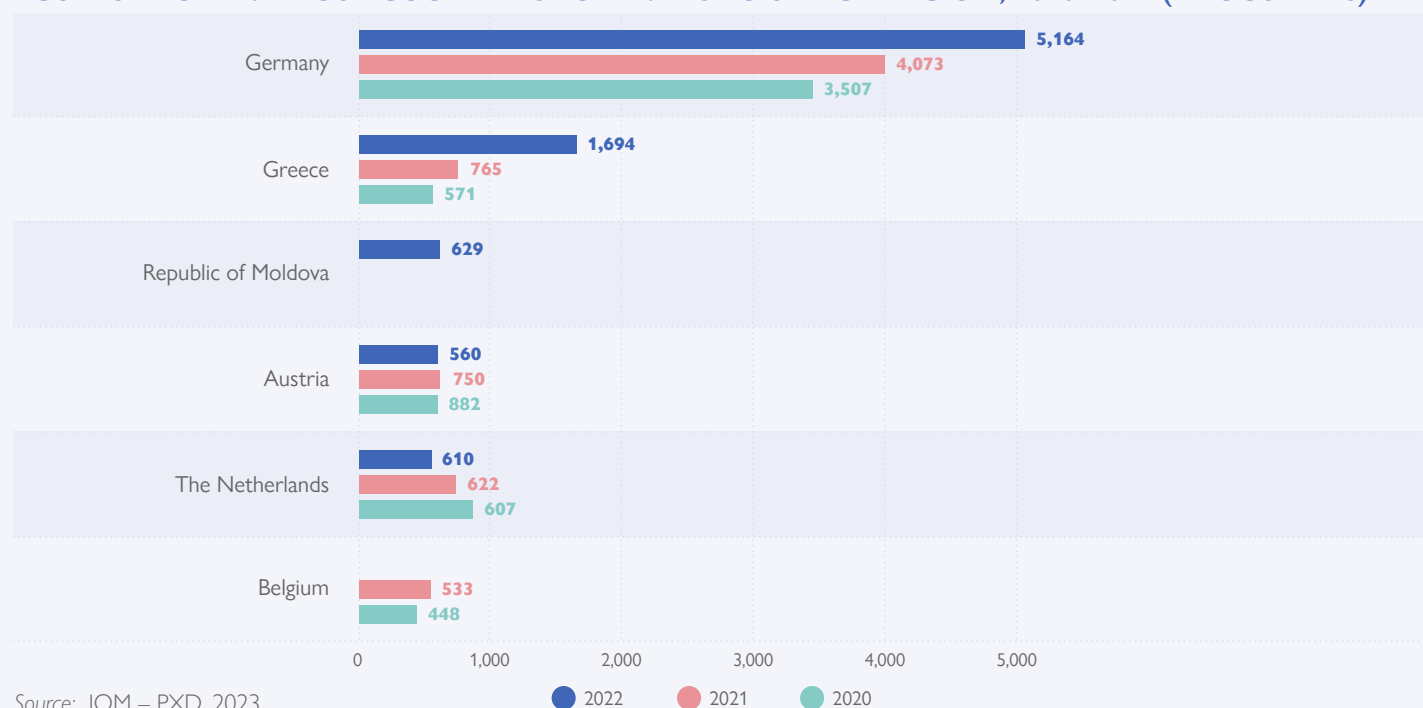
Education is also one of the drivers for rural-to-urban migration; this is particularly observed in Central Asia in the SEECA region (IOM, 2022a).

3.4 RETURN MIGRATION³⁴

In 2022, 10,329 migrants returned to SEECA region, while 4,571 migrants returned from SEECA region through IOM's AVRR programme. In 2021, 7,814 migrants returned to SEECA region, while 2,757 migrants have been assisted to return to their countries from the SEECA region through IOM's AVRR programme. IOM's AVRR programme provides administrative, logistical and financial support, including reintegration assistance, to migrants who are unwilling or unable to remain in host or transit countries and decide to return to their country of origin. This programme has proven to be an effective tool to assist migrants in distress, who are stranded or destitute, or who lack the means to go back home (IOM, 2022g). IOM's Protection Division (PXD) provides protection and assistance to migrants in need, including but not limited to victims of trafficking, asylum-seekers, those whose claims have not been successful, stranded migrants, unaccompanied and separated migrant children (UASC), and migrants subjected to violence, exploitation, or abuse.

IOM PXD assisted a total of 10,279 migrants in 2020, 7,814 migrants in 2021 and 10,329 in 2022 with return to SEECA C/T/As. In 2022, 906 (9%) were migrants with health-related needs, 32 victims of trafficking (VoTs) and 41 UASC. In 2021, 787 (10%) were migrants with health-related needs, 58 VoTs and 22 UASC. Respectively 57 per cent (5,898) in 2022 and 58 per cent (4,521) in 2021 of the returnees were men, while 43 per cent (4,430) in 2022 and 42 per cent (3,293) in 2021 were women (IOM-PXD, 2023). Both in 2022 and in 2021, half of the total migrants returned to the SEECA region from Germany (respectively 50.0% in 2022 and 52.1% in 2021), followed by Greece (16.4% in 2022 and 9.8% in 2021). In 2022, the Republic of Moldova was the third country (6.1%) for the migrants returning to the SEECA region followed by Austria (5.9%) and the Netherlands (5.1%). While in 2021, the third country was the Netherlands (9.6%), followed by Austria (8.0%) and Belgium (7.1%). In 2021 returns from Greece recorded a major increase of 34 per cent in comparison to 2020 and in 2022, this was 121 per cent in comparison to 2021.

FIGURE 34: TOP FIVE HOST COUNTRIES FOR AVRRs TO SEECA REGION, 2020–2022 (THOUSANDS)



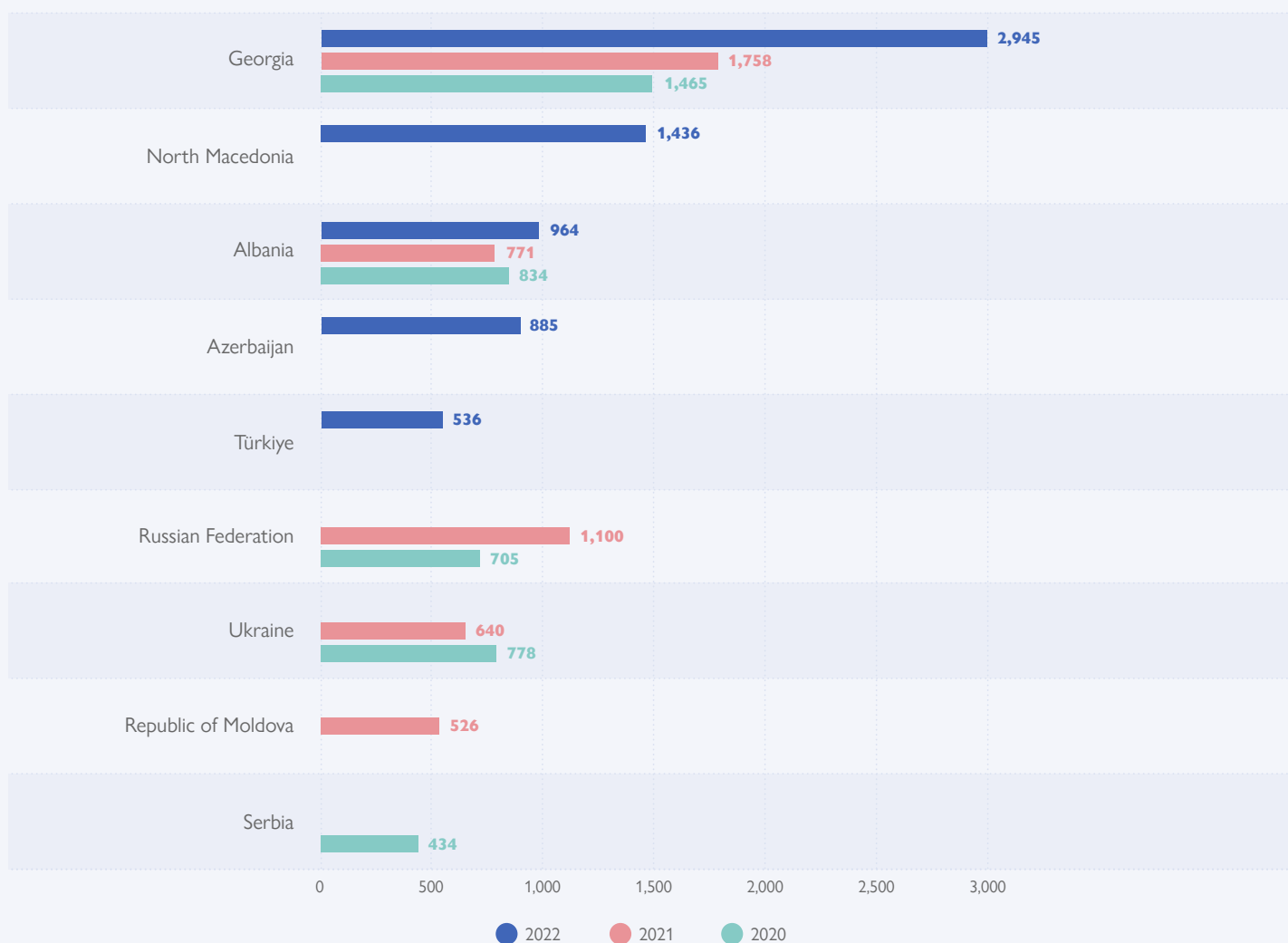
Source: IOM – PXD, 2023.

³⁴ The data within this section was collected by the Protection Division of IOM Regional Office Vienna. Correct figures may vary and are estimates with 5 per cent variance.

In 2022, the top five C/T/As of origin in the SEECA region were Georgia (28.5%), North Macedonia (13.9%), Albania (9.3%), Azerbaijan (8.6%) and Türkiye (5.2%). In 2021, the top five C/T/As of origin in the SEECA region were Georgia (22.5%), followed by the Russian Federation (14.1%), Albania (9.9%), Ukraine

(8.2%) and the Republic of Moldova (6.7%). Return migrants from the Russian Federation increased by 56 percentage points in 2021 in comparison to 2020 and those from Georgia increase by 67 percentage points in 2022 in comparison to 2021.

FIGURE 35: TOP SEECA COUNTRIES, TERRITORIES, AND AREAS OF ORIGIN FOR AVRRs, 2020–2022 (THOUSANDS)

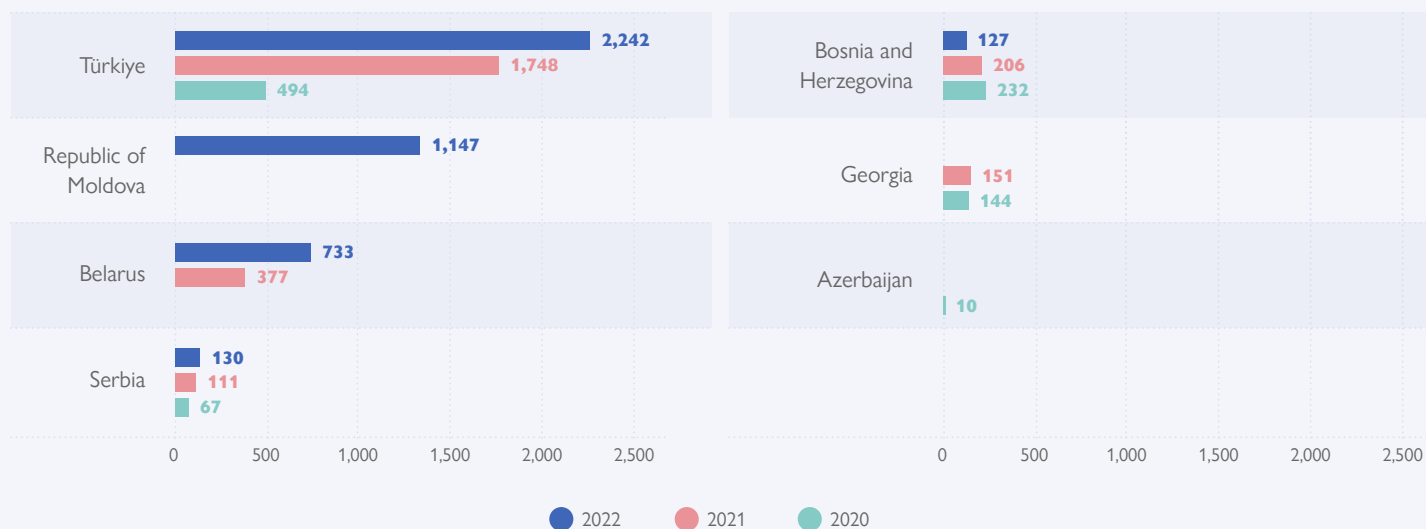


Source: IOM – PXD, 2023.

The IOM PXD has also assisted a total of 4,275 (2020), 2,757 (2021) and 4,571 (2022) migrants with return to their countries of origin from the SEECA region. In 2022, Türkiye hosted almost half of the total migrants assisted to return (49.0%), followed by the Republic of Moldova (25.0%), Belarus (16.0%), Serbia (2.8%) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (2.7%). In 2021, Türkiye hosted almost two thirds of the total migrants assisted

to return (63.4%), followed by Belarus (13.7%), Bosnia and Herzegovina (7.5%), Georgia (5.5%) and Serbia (4.0%). The AVRR assisted cases from Türkiye increased more than 253 per cent from 2020 to 2021 and by 28 per cent from 2021 to 2022, while those from Serbia increased by 65 per cent from 2020 to 2021 and by 17 per cent from 2021 to 2022.

FIGURE 36: TOP FIVE HOST SEECA COUNTRIES, TERRITORIES, AND AREAS FOR AVRRs, 2020–2022 (THOUSANDS)

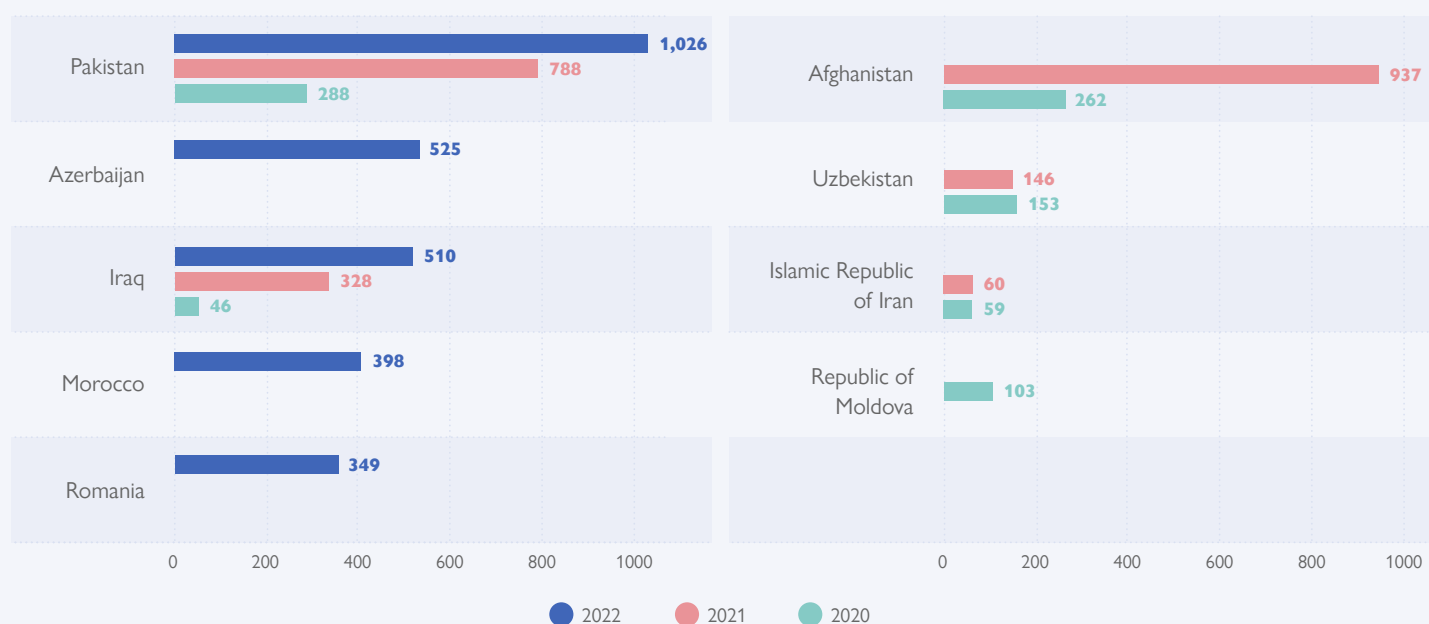


Source: IOM – PXD, 2023.

In 2022, the top five countries of origin of return migrants hosted in the SEECA region were Pakistan (22.4%), followed by Azerbaijan (11.5%), Iraq (11.1%), Morocco (8.7%) and Romania (7.6%). In 2021, the top five countries of origin of return migrants hosted in the SEECA region were Afghanistan³⁵ (34.0%), followed by Pakistan (28.6%), Iraq (11.9%), Uzbekistan (5.3%) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (2.2%).

As shown by the case of Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, the SEECA region presents also returns within C/T/As of the region itself. The AVRR requests from Iraqi nationals increased by more than 600 per cent from 2020 to 2021 and more than 55 per cent from 2021 to 2022; the AVRR requests from Afghan nationals increased by 200 per cent from 2020 to 2021.

FIGURE 37: TOP FIVE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR AVRRs HOSTED IN THE SEECA REGION, 2020–2022 (THOUSANDS)



Source: IOM – PXD, 2023.

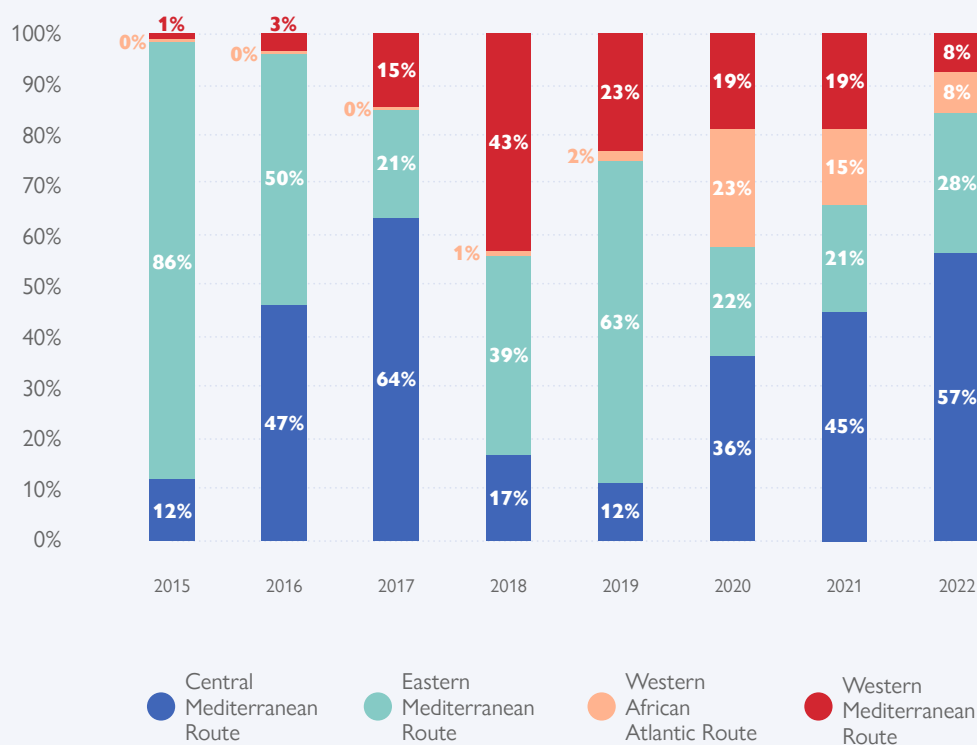
35 Since the Taliban takeover on 15 August 2021, IOM does not facilitate returns to Afghanistan.

3.5 MIXED MIGRATION FLOWS

Since 2015, IOM's DTM Europe tracks and analyses mixed migration flows³⁶ towards Europe by land and by sea in terms of arrivals, main nationalities, and presence in reception. These migratory movements include asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants in search of a better life and are monitored along four main migration routes: the Central Mediterranean route, the Western

Mediterranean route, the Western African Atlantic route and the Eastern Mediterranean route (Bartolini and Zakoska-Todorovska, 2022). In 2022, similar to the figures in the last seven years, migrants from the SEECA region represent 0.4 per cent of the total arrivals and transits towards Europe.

FIGURE 38: FIRST ARRIVALS TO EUROPE BY ROUTE, 2015–2022 (%)



Source: IOM – DTM Europe, 2022.

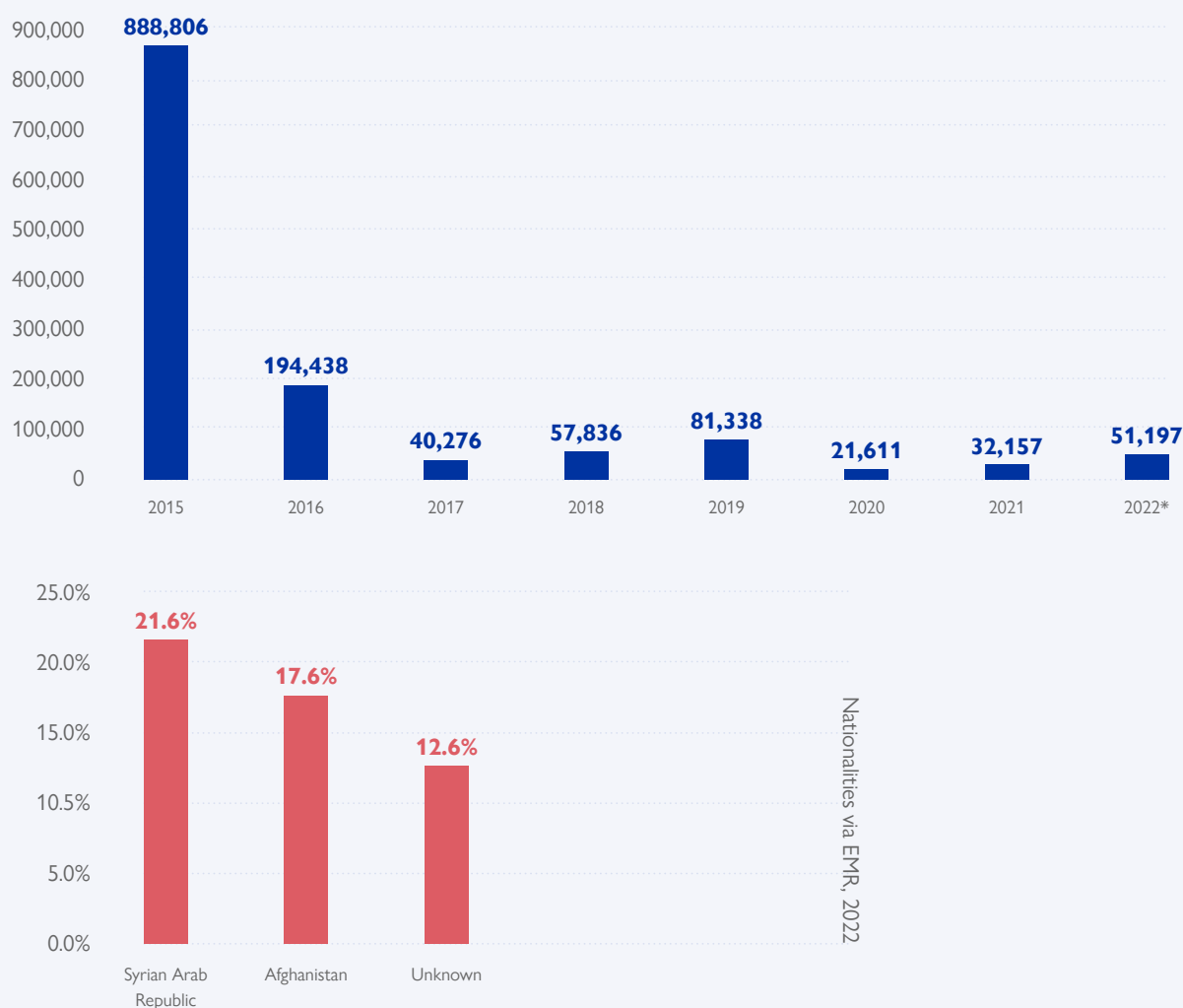
Note: * Latest available data, 16 January 2023.

36 According to the IOM Glossary on Migration the mixed migration flows are defined as “a movement in which a number of people are travelling together, generally in an irregular manner, using the same routes and means of transport, but for different reasons. People travelling as part of mixed movements have varying needs and profiles and may include asylum-seekers, refugees, trafficked persons, unaccompanied/separated children, and migrants in an irregular situation”.

The Eastern Mediterranean Route (EMR) involves migration flows from Türkiye and to a lesser extent from Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic towards Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria by land and sea, including through the Western Balkans' region. Arrivals along the EMR have represented 86 per cent of the total arrivals to Europe in 2015, with 888,806 total arrivals of whose 68.7 per cent regarded Syrians. After the peak year represented by 2015, in 2016 arrivals (194,438) on EMR represented still half of the arrivals to Europe but registering a decrease of 78.8 per cent on the route. Since the implementation of the EU–Türkiye statement in March 2016 arrivals decreased consistently

in the successive years. In Greece which used to be the country receiving 90 per cent of the total EMR arrivals, the arrivals by sea and land decreased by 80.2 per cent in 2017 and by 70.1 per cent in 2018 in comparison to those in 2016. In 2019, arrivals on the route reached the 23 per cent (equal to 81,338) of total arrivals to Europe. After 2020 with 21,611 arrivals, the total arrivals along this route started to increase again but remained between 32,157 (2021) and 51,197 in 2022. The main nationalities of migrants travelling along this route are Syrians (21.6%), followed by Afghans (17.6%) and people with other nationalities (12.6%).

FIGURE 39: NUMBER OF ARRIVALS TO EUROPE AND TOP THREE NATIONALITIES VIA EMR, 2015–2022* (THOUSAND AND %)



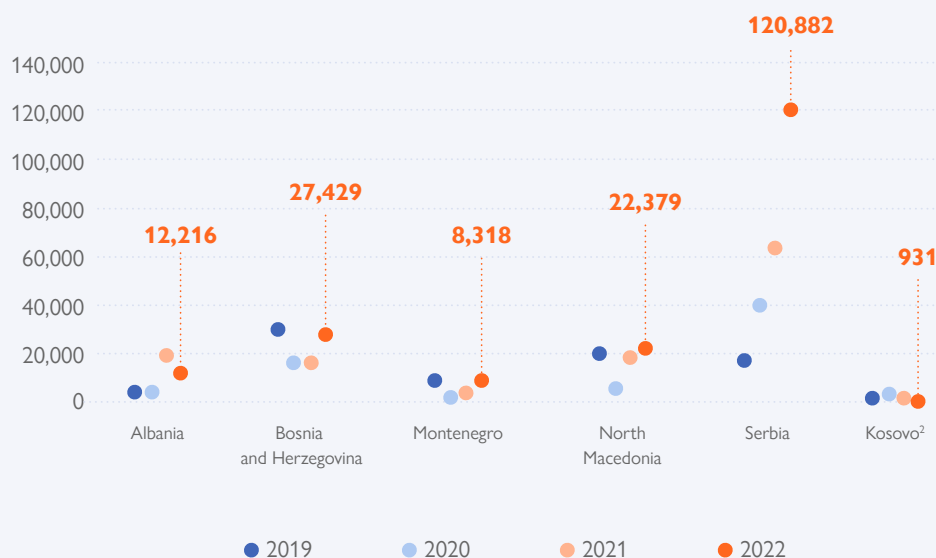
Source: IOM – DTM Europe, 2022.

Note: * Latest data available as of 16 January 2023

Additionally, transits through the Western Balkan region of migrants arrived to Europe through the EMR and moving on towards north are also monitored by IOM's DTM-Europe, compiling official statistics on apprehensions at borders by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Kosovo.² Given that migrants may cross multiple times into EU or not-EU borders, DTM assumes that most of the individuals travelling along the Western Balkans region are already included in the arrivals' figures for either Greece, Bulgaria or Cyprus (Bartolini and Zakoska-Todorovska, 2022).

Since 2015, over 1.5 million migrants have transited through the Western Balkans, including 102,000 in 2021 and over 192,000 in 2022: Serbia reported the highest number of apprehensions and/or registrations in the region (more than 60% of the total). In 2022, migrants travelling along the Western Balkans have been primarily from the Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, followed by countries of North Africa. As noted earlier, the evacuations out of Afghanistan in 2021, and recent movements out of Ukraine, have contributed to further complexify mixed movements in the Western Balkans (IOM, 2022f).

FIGURE 40: NUMBER OF TRANSIT AT ENTRY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS, 2019–2022* (THOUSANDS)



Source: IOM – DTM Europe, 2022.

Note: * Data refers to the last update available, 16 January 2023.

Most migrants identified along the Western Balkans route are adult men (91%) and pass through Türkiye and Greece before entering the Western Balkans in an attempt to reach their destination in the EU (ibid.). In general, migrants from Central and South Asia countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan – and the Middle East – Syrian Arab Republic – attempt to reach the European Union by land. Indian nationals are observed to fly directly to Serbia via the United Arab Emirates. Most African migrants leave their countries of origin or departure by plane

to reach directly or through a transit country, Türkiye, and then continue to the EU by taking a land route via the Western Balkans or by sea to reach Cyprus, Greece, or Italy. Cuban nationals, who account for a significant share among the main nationalities observed along the EMR, start their journey by plane to Serbia via the Russian Federation. Also, from 22 February 2022 to December 2022, more than 336,000 arrivals from Ukraine have been recorded in the region, and around 18,000 Ukrainians are still present in the Western Balkans (ibid.).

FIGURE 41: LAND ROUTES TAKEN BY MIGRANTS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS, AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2022



Source: IOM – DTM Europe, 2022.

Note: This map is for illustration purpose only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used by on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization of Migration.

In the first eight months of 2022, Europol reported an increase in smuggling detection and interception of irregular migrants in the northern Western Balkans, in particular towards Hungary, Austria, Czechia and Germany (Europol, 2022).

According to the data collected by the Government of Türkiye (PMM, 2022), Afghans are the first nationality for number of irregular migrants detected by Turkish authorities in 2022. The Turkish Ministry of Interior reported that as of 17 November 2022, 105,208 Afghan irregular migrants have been detained in Türkiye in 2022, accounting for 41.5 per cent of irregular migrants captured from the beginning of the year. Smuggling of Afghan nationals into Türkiye is extremely prevalent since very few Afghans can enter the country through legal routes (EUAA, 2022b). The Mixed Migration Centre (2022) has been reporting on the role of smugglers in Afghans' irregular journeys to Türkiye. Based on 2,403 surveys conducted with Afghans en route to Türkiye, the study reports that 83 per cent of respondents used smugglers during their journey considering the use of smugglers dangerous (79%) as efficient or even the only way to get their destinations (55%).

Migrants travelling along irregular routes may also remain stranded in areas close to borders they intend to cross, as recently observed in the case of Belarus in the SEECA region. As reported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2022), in May 2021 an increasing number of migrants irregularly entered Lithuania from Belarus, and later, in August 2021, there was an increase of migrants in Latvia and Poland. Since then, the situation has impacted an estimated 20,000 people spread across several countries, mainly Belarus, Poland and Lithuania. Following regular and daily attempts by people to cross the borders into the European Union during the autumn of 2021, and an escalation on the border which led to clashes in early November 2021, the situation de-escalated in December 2021 and early January 2022. Since the start of the war in Ukraine on 24 February 2022, Ukrainian nationals have also been arriving to Belarus: IOM recently estimated that as of August 2022, 6,623 Ukrainian nationals and 896 TCNs were present in Belarus (IOM Belarus, 2022). As recently documented by the Council of Europe (CoE), at the Polish–Belarussian border displaced persons are also violently pushed back (CoE, 2022).

BOX 6.

PROFILES OF MIGRANTS IN AND OUTSIDE RECEPTION CENTRES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

The popularity of the EMR and of the land route through the Western Balkan region is reflected in the large numbers of migrants residing in reception facilities in Western Balkans. The end of restrictions on movements linked to COVID-19, high inflation rates and difficult economic situations in the countries of transit are some of the factors cited to explain the sudden increase (IOM-DTM Europe, 2022), together with the tightening of land border controls by EU countries in the region which are part of the Schengen zone.

FIGURE 42: MONTHLY CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF MIGRANTS REGISTERED AT ARRIVAL BY AUTHORITIES OF WESTERN BALKANS, JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2022 (THOUSANDS)



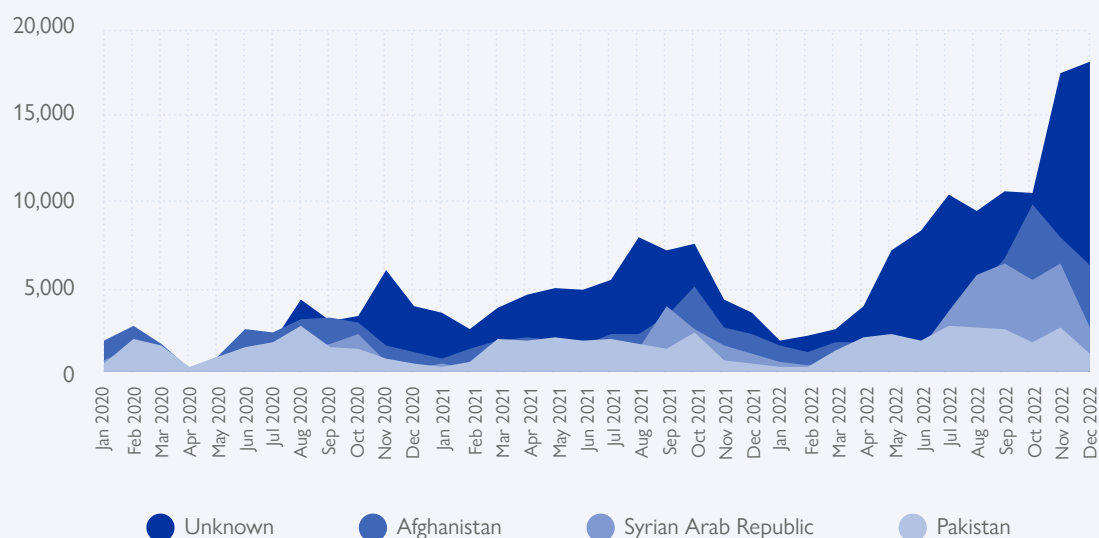
Source: IOM – DTM Europe, 2022.

Note: Data refers to the last update available, 23 March 2023.

According to DTM, following the trends from 2021, in 2022 the nationality of migrants transiting through the Western Balkans region is unknown for 18.3 per cent of the total. Other commonly reported nationalities are Afghans (8.6%) and Syrians (6.3%) and Pakistanis (3.8%).

The number irregular border crossings increased by 270 percentage points in 2022 (Iraqis (+320.4%), Indians (+269.8%), Syrians (+153.6%), Afghans (+77.6%) and Turks (+31.3%)) (IOM-DTM Europe, 2022).

FIGURE 43: MAIN NATIONALITIES OF TRANSITS AT THE ENTRY IN THE WESTERN BALKAN ROUTE, MONTHLY STATISTICS, JANUARY 2020–DECEMBER 2022 (THOUSANDS)



Source: IOM-DTM, 2022.

Note: Data refers to the last update available, 11 January 2023.

2020 has registered a peak presence, equal to 18,751 migrants, of whom more than 29 per cent have been hosted in Bosnia and Herzegovina reception facilities.

FIGURE 44: TRENDS IN WESTERN BALKANS FACILITIES OCCUPANCY, AS OF DECEMBER 2022 (THOUSANDS)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
Bosnia and Herzegovina		● 175	● 4 291	● 8 128	● 10 726	● 2 294	● 3 086
Montenegro		● 190	● 100	● 302	● 77	● 45	● 50
North Macedonia	● 137	● 40	● 35	● 109	● 38	● 110	● 48
Serbia	● 5 594	● 3 979	● 4 671	● 5 753	● 7 738	● 4 550	● 3 925
Kosovo ²			● 88	● 154	● 172	● 58	● 43
Total	5 731	4 384	9 185	14 446	18 751	7 057	7 152

Source: IOM – DTM Europe, 2022.

Note: * Data refers to the last update available, 11 January 2023.

As of December 2022, around 5,996 migrants were hosted in reception facilities in the Western Balkans, occupying 42.3 per cent of the total 41 reception facilities. Serbia is hosting 65.5 per cent of the migrants' sheltered in the Western Balkans, followed by

Bosnia and Herzegovina with 22.5 per cent, Albania with 9.7 per cent, Montenegro and North Macedonia each with 0.8 per cent and Kosovo² with 0.7 per cent (IOM, 2022f).

FIGURE 45: **MIGRANT RECEPTION FACILITIES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS, DECEMBER 2022**



Source: IOM – DTM Europe, 2022.

Notes: This map is for illustration purpose only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used by on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization of Migration.

The data for Albania refer to the cumulative number of migrants registered in the existing structures in August by the Border and Migration Department within the Border Police of Albania.

Data refers to the last update available, 31 December 2022.

Among the Western Balkans countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia register particularly high mobility. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, January to December 2022, there was significant increase in the numbers of arrivals registered by the Service for Foreigners Affairs. In December 2022, 3,252 individuals were registered as new arrivals by the Service for Foreigners Affairs, 2,722 in November and 5,441 in October, representing the highest number this year. After months of relatively low numbers in the Temporary Reception Centres (TRCs) in the country, the number of registered migrants is growing again, returning to 2021 levels (IOM, 2022f). As of 21 August 2022, the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina has estimated that 11,971 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers entered the country to reach the European Union taking back the country to the level of transits pre-COVID-19 pandemic.³⁷

On 27 October 2022, IOM conducted the 16th data collection round in Bosnia and Herzegovina in partnership with the Service for Foreigners Affairs and the Red Cross Society Bosnia and Herzegovina to collect information on the number of migrants and asylum-seekers³⁸ present in the country as well as to provide an estimation of the migrant population currently not accommodated or registered in any official Temporary Reception Centres. IOM estimated the presence of 896 migrants residing outside Temporary Reception Centres (IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2022a). In this round, almost half of respondents reported Germany (48.3%) as their intended destination outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina, followed by France (16.6%), Italy (10%) and Belgium (9.9%) (ibid.).



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37 IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina functions as a subregional hub for the Western Balkans. It supports the development and implementation of sub-regional programmes to promote common and coordinated strategies with partners and donors (ibid.). IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina established the key flow monitoring points (FMPs) in the north of the country and on the border with Croatia for collecting data on irregular movements and migrants in and outside the reception centres.

38 No document checks are carried out during the data collection to confirm the statements. Interviewees therefore include asylum-seekers and refugees.

04

MIGRANT PROTECTION

4.1 FOOD INSECURITY

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the severe food insecurity that plagued 2020 affected 2.4 per cent of the population in Europe and Central Asia. From 2019 to 2020, the number of affected people increased by 7.1 million (from 15.7 million in 2019 to 22.8 million in 2020). The Western Balkans registered a 5.4 per cent (equal to 900 thousands of people) increase, followed by Central Asia (4.7%) (around 3.5 million people), the Caucasus³⁹ (3.3%) (or 600,000 individuals), CIS Europe⁴⁰ (2.3%), 1.4 per cent in the European Union and the United Kingdom (7.1 million people), 0.5 per cent in European Free Trade Association countries (equal to 100,000 persons) and 6.3 for the rest of Europe and Central Asia countries (5.8 million people) (FAO, 2021).

Rising numbers of people facing severe food insecurity in this period was also due to the pandemic, which led to an increase of 1.9 million people in a condition of food insecurity in Central Asia, 300,000 in the Caucasus, 2 million in CIS Europe, 1.7 million in the EU27 and the United Kingdom, and 400,000 in the Western Balkans. About 800,000 additional severely food insecure people are spread throughout the rest of the region. The highest increases in severe food insecurity were reported in Ukraine and Uzbekistan: In one year 400 thousand people became severely food insecure in each of these countries (ibid.).

TABLE 6: PREVALENCE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA BY SUBREGION, 2020 (% OF TOTAL POPULATION)

	Moderate Food Insecurity (A)			Severe Food Insecurity (B)			Moderate or Severe Food Insecurity (A+B)		
	2014	2019	2020	2014	2019	2020	2014	2019	2020
World	14.3	16.5	18.5	8.3	10.1	11.9	22.6	26.6	30.4
Europe and Central Asia	8.8	8.7	9.5	1.8	1.7	2.4	10.6	10.4	11.9
Caucasus	12.8	14.1	13.4	1.2	1.9	3.3	14.0	16.0	16.7
Central Asia	6.9	10.9	13.3	1.6	2.3	4.7	8.5	13.2	18.0
CIS Europe	7.8	10.5	14.5	0.7	1.3	2.3	8.5	11.8	16.8
EFTA countries	3.5	2.4	1.7	1.6	0.7	0.5	5.1	3.1	2.2
EU 27 + United Kingdom	6.9	4.9	4.8	1.8	1.1	1.4	8.7	6.0	6.2
Western Balkans	13.2	11.9	12.2	3.0	2.8	5.4	16.2	14.7	17.6
Rest of ECA	23.4	23.5	20.7	4.7	5.4	6.3	28.1	28.9	27.0

Source: FAO, 2022.

39 According to the FAO country grouping, "South Caucasus" is composed by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

40 According to the FAO country grouping, "CIS Europe" is composed by Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The World Food Programme (WFP) has estimated that between 702 and 828 million people were affected by hunger in 2021 globally, registering an increase of 150 million since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic (WFP, 2022a). This estimate did not take in consideration the impact of the war in Ukraine since February 2022.

In 2022, the international community imposed severe sanctions to the Russian Federation, which translated into a depreciation of Russian rubbles against the United States dollars. Many Russian banks have had their assets frozen, including the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, whose foreign assets amount to around USD 630 billion. The United States, Canada and the United Kingdom have banned Russian energy imports, while the EU has pledged to end its dependence on Russian gas to progressively end before 2030 (WFP, 2022b).

As estimated by UNDP (2022a) in July 2022, a side effect of the war in Ukraine and the economic sanctions to the Russian Federation has been that 71 million people fell into poverty in just three months, a pace much faster than during the pandemic. The Western Balkans, countries in the Caspian Sea region (in particular Armenia and Uzbekistan) and sub-Saharan Africa (in particular the Sahel region) are the regions particularly affected. The increase of global poverty rate has been a direct consequence of global food and energy price surges.

In April 2022, the United Nations Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance (GCRG) noted already that the war in Ukraine, in all its dimensions, has been producing alarming cascading effects to a world economy already battered by COVID-19 and climate change, with particularly dramatic impacts on developing countries (GCRG, 2022a). Rising food prices, rising energy prices, and tightening financial conditions, can have major effects on their own, but they can also feed into each other exacerbating the overall impact. Around 94 countries, home to around 1.6 billion people, are severely exposed to at least one dimension of the crisis and unable to cope with it: Three quarters of them live in countries severely exposed and vulnerable to all three dimensions of finance, food, and energy, simultaneously (GCRG, 2022b).

Together, the Russian Federation and Ukraine account for nearly a third of global wheat exports and 80 per cent of sunflower oil. Worldwide many countries have close economic ties with the Russian Federation, hence, any change in the Russian economy has consequences on their economies, as shown also by the example of the African continent. Only in 2020, African countries imported USD four billion worth of agricultural products from the Russian Federation, 90 per cent of which was wheat (UNDP, 2022b). In the CIS subregion, FAO is monitoring the export and import prices of milling wheat, wheat flour and potatoes, staple food of the subregion. As of October 2022, the wheat export prices strengthened in the Russian Federation, while sales prices of milling wheat rose for the third consecutive month in Ukraine while domestic prices of wheat and potatoes showed mixed trends for the importing countries of the subregion (FAO, 2022). Starting from July 2022, the Secretary General of the Black Sea Grain initiative has been supporting the flow of grain and oil across the Black Sea. By mid-October 2022, 40 per cent of commodities – wheat and sunflower oil – went to low and lower-middle income countries and 7.4 million tons were exported: prices decreased five months in a row, while the Food Price Index decreased by nearly 14 per cent as of March 2022 (United Nations News, 2022).

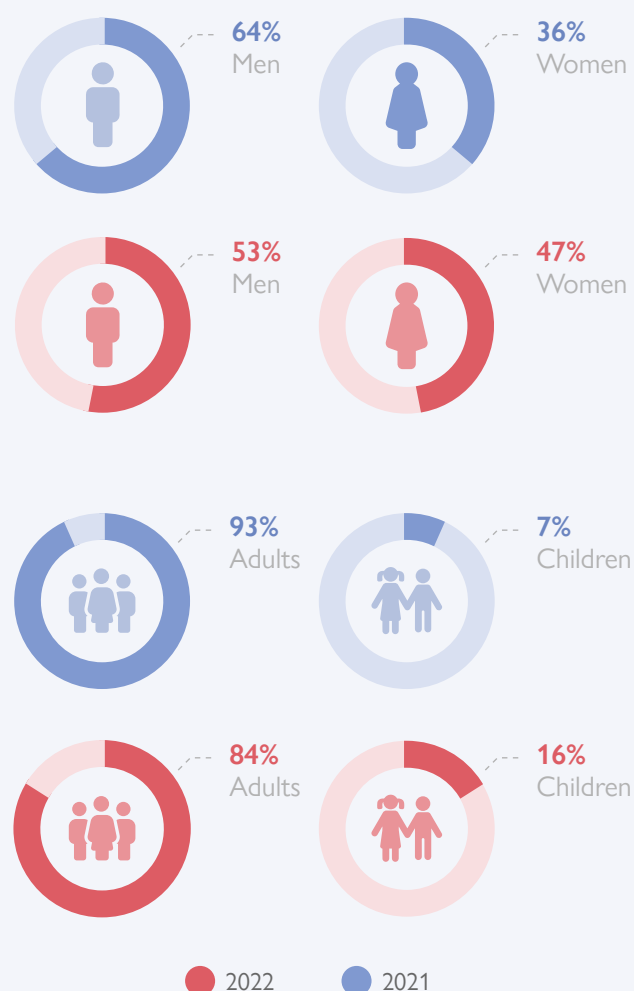
Some of the SEECCA C/T/As need to be monitored on the food security side, especially because increasing food insecurity can lead to competition for resources between the host community and migrants. Severe food insecurity is characterized by extreme food consumption gaps or significant loss of livelihoods or productive assets leading to consumption gaps. According to a recent study (WFP, 2022c), only 20 per cent – 1 out of 5 households – in Armenia were categorized as food secure. Also, as of October 2022, 17 per cent of Kyrgyzstan's population is food insecure and 54 per cent of the population remain only marginally food secure (WFP, 2022d).

4.2 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

According to the Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC), an IOM initiative that compiles and publishes harmonized data from counter-trafficking organizations globally, from 2002 to 2021 there were 193,051 cases of victims of trafficking (VoT)⁴¹ globally.⁴² Thirty-nine per cent (41,010) of the total cases for whom citizenship is known have citizenship from a SEECA C/T/As, of whom 60.2 per cent are women. Only 17.2 per cent (21,660) of the total cases for whom the information on the country of exploitation is known reported that the trafficking they experienced took place in the SEECA region. Seventy-three per cent (15,730) of the cases reporting that the trafficking took place in the SEECA region had citizenship from a SEECA country (CTDC, 2022).

In 2022 369 VoTs⁴³ have been assisted the SEECA region, compared to 1,325 in 2021 and 426 in 2020. In 2022, more than half of assisted VoTs were men while in 2021 two thirds of assisted VoTs were men- In both 2021 and 2022 the absolute majority are composed of adults (84% in 2022 and 93% in 2021), while the rest are children (16% in 2022 and 7% in 2021) (IOM-PXD, 2023).

FIGURE 46: SEX AND AGE BREAKDOWN OF VoTs IN THE SEECA REGION, 2021–2022 (%)



Source: IOM – PXD, 2023.

41 According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) definition trafficking in persons consists “in the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”. The definition comes from the so called Palermo Protocol “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime” (adopted 15 November 2000, entered into force 25 December 2003) 2237 UNTS 319, Art. 3(a).

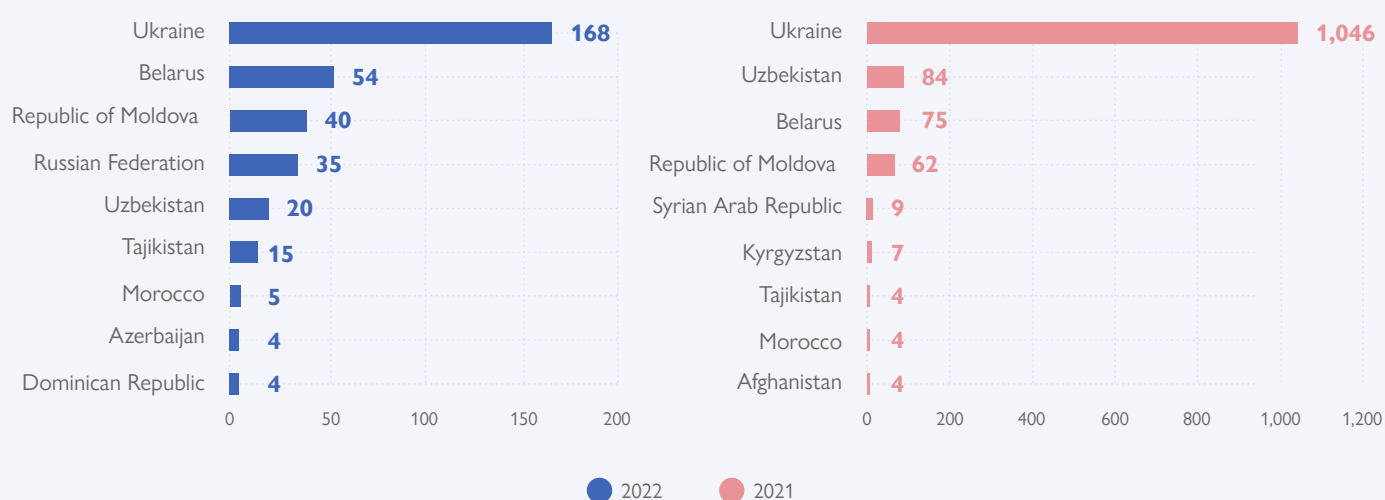
42 The number refers to the identified cases, hence provides a minimum estimate as unfortunately many cases remain undetected. The dataset presents a high share of missing information: only 65 per cent of cases reported the information on the country of exploitation and 54 per cent reported the information on the citizenship of the victim. For more information, please consult: www.ctdatacollaborative.org/.

43 IOM works in collaboration with governments, the United Nations, international and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and human rights, peace and development actors on all aspects of counter-trafficking responses – prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership – across humanitarian and development settings. Under the protection pillar, IOM provides direct assistance to VoTs in the SEECA region. The assistance provided may consist of social, medical, psychological, and legal assistance, as well as support to livelihood and, the above analysed, AVR programme.

In terms of the main nationalities of the VoTs assisted in the SEECA region, 91.6 in 2022 and 97.7 per cent in 2021 come from the SEECA region. In 2022 almost half of VoTs were Ukrainian, followed by Belarus (14.6%), the Republic of Moldova (10.8%),

the Russian Federation (9.5%) and Uzbekistan (5.4%). In 2021 79 per cent are Ukrainian, followed by Uzbekistan (6.3%), Belarus (5.7%) and the Republic of Moldova (4.7%).

FIGURE 47: TOP NATIONALITIES OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS ASSISTED IN THE SEECA REGION, 2021 AND 2022 (THOUSANDS)



Source: IOM – PXD, 2023.

There is a certain level of freedom of movement among the Central Asian countries and the Russian Federation, but facilitators and intermediaries are involved in the process of obtaining authorization and documentation for work and residence for Central Asian migrant workers (IOM, 2018b). This may lead to increased risks of exploitation or trafficking of migrants in their journeys. In addition, the outbreak of a war as the one in Ukraine has been raising serious concerns about human trafficking and migrant smuggling of people fleeing the conflict (UNODC, 2022).

UNODC warns that populations affected by the Ukraine war are at a higher risk of sex trafficking, labour trafficking, illegal adoption and exploitation in armed conflict, particularly children, minorities, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, and older and disabled people. The top five countries where Ukrainian VoTs were identified between 2017 and 2020 were the Russian Federation (56.1% of the total), Poland (24.6%), Germany (2.7%), Türkiye (1.7%) and Israel (1.6%) (ibid.).

4.3 UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED MIGRANT CHILDREN

In 2020, the number of international migrant stock reached 281 million, of which 36 million were children (DESA 2021a). At the end of 2021, at least 89.3 million people around the world have been forced to flee their homes, of whom around 27.1 million were refugees and half of which were under the age of 18. Worldwide, at the end of 2019, unaccompanied migrant children (UASC)⁴⁴ were estimated to be 153,300 (UNHCR, 2022b) but they might be underestimated since there is no comprehensive data on UASC migration, especially for irregular movements which involve smuggling networks (IDAC, 2021). The risk that can occur for UASC, being children alone on the move, are related to their personal safety such as the risk of abuse, harassment, trafficking, exploitation or violence that can lead to serious consequences for their health (Maioli et al., 2022). The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened the risks of violence and abuse for displaced women and children due to the higher risks for trafficking in persons, the exchange or sale of sex

as a coping mechanism, and child marriage (UNHCR 2021; World Vision, 2020).

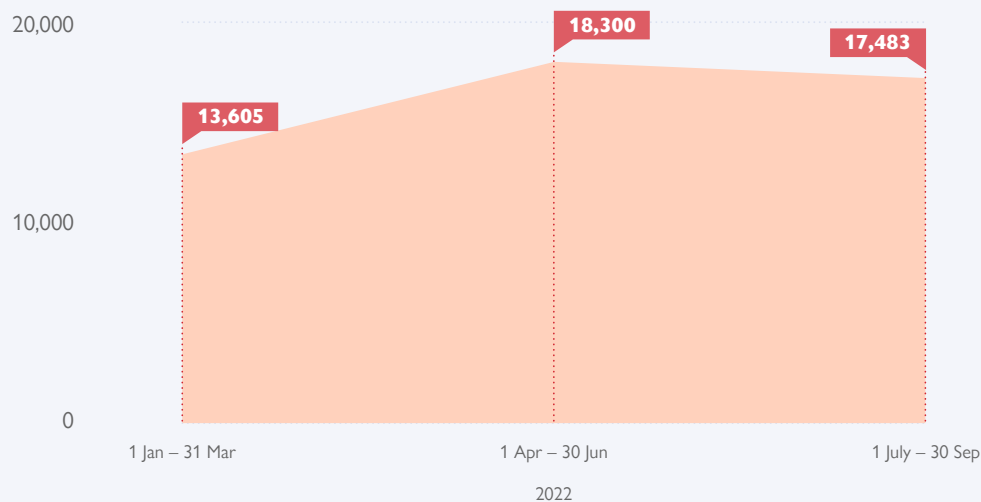
According to UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF, in 2021 about 24 thousand children arrived along the main mixed migration routes to Europe, a 44 per cent increase compared to 2020. Most children travelling by sea and by land through the Western Balkans to Europe are UMC (71% of the total in 2021) (UNHCR et al., 2022). Starting from 2022, UNICEF have been also reporting quarterly figures for children and UASC arrivals in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro.⁴⁵ With the start of the war in Ukraine, an increasing arrival of refugees and migrants has been observed in Europe, in addition to the continuous influx of Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war. As of the end of September 2022, over 243,900 refugees and migrants are estimated to be present in the six countries, including 44,614 children with their families and 17,483 UASC.



44 According to the UNHCR definition, UASC are defined as children who “have been separated from their parents or primary caregivers. If they are accompanied by other adult relatives, they are considered separated; if no adult relative is caring for them, they are considered unaccompanied”.

45 Estimations of arrivals are based on UNHCR, IOM, Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Greek Special Secretariat for Unaccompanied Minors, Italian Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Bulgarian Ministry of Interior and State Agency for Refugees, Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Border Police and Ministry of Interior in Montenegro.

FIGURE 48: ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UASC REGISTERED IN GREECE, ITALY, BULGARIA, SERBIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND MONTENEGRO (THOUSANDS)



Source: UNICEF, 2022a, 2022b and 2022c.

Most UASC that arrived in 2022 are reported to come mainly from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burundi, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Egypt and Tunisia.

Since the start of Russian war in Ukraine on 24 February 2022, as of 31 December 2022 1,148 children have been killed or injured and an estimated 5.9 million people have been internally displaced. Education for an estimated 5.7 children has been disrupted and 1.5 million children face mental health issues (UNICEF, 2022d).

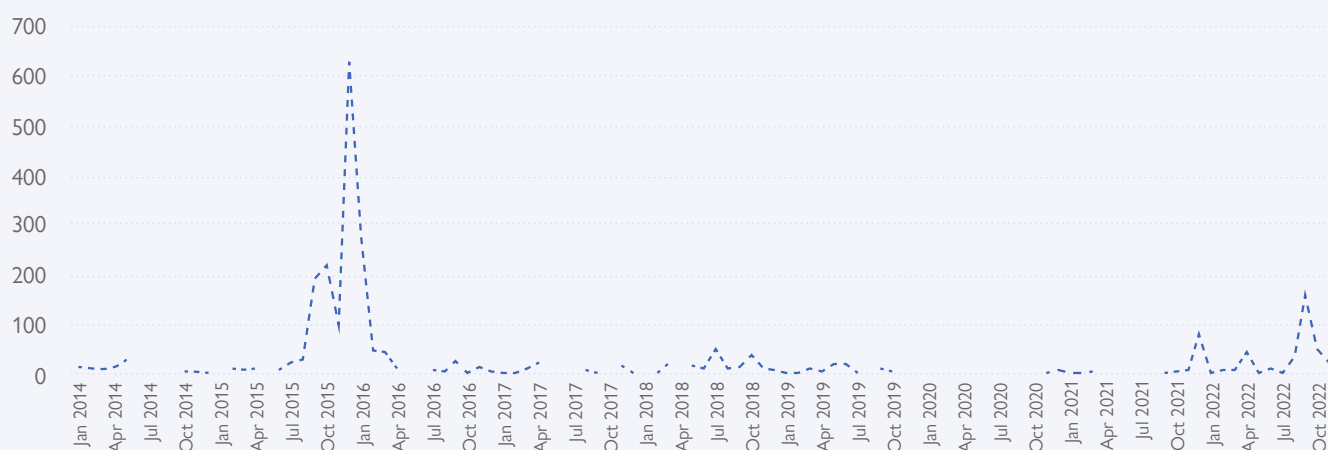
These figures need to be monitored also according to some provisional data that estimated an additional 10.4 million people in the ECA region into poverty due to the impact of the Ukrainian war, including almost 4 million children. The increase in child poverty is about 19 per cent higher than the projected child poverty in the absence of the war and economic downturn, accompanied by a worsening trend in infant mortality and compulsory schooling attendance (Richardson et al., 2022). However, this study has been based on April 2022 IMF estimations which have been partially improved with subsequent studies.

4.4 DEAD AND MISSING MIGRANTS

Since 2014, IOM's Missing Migrants Project⁴⁶ records incidents in which migrants, including refugees and asylum-seekers, have died at state borders or in the process of migrating to an international destination. Worldwide, more than 50,000 people have lost their lives during migratory movements since 2014: Europe has been the deadliest known migration destination, with 29,126 deaths or disappearances recorded within Europe and at its external borders on sea routes in the

Mediterranean and Atlantic, as well as at land borders such as the Greece–Türkiye border. The death toll for all sea routes to Europe is almost certainly underestimated due to 'invisible shipwrecks' that are difficult to verify and therefore quantify (IOM, 2022g). From 2016, 2,923 deaths have been registered on EMR of which 650 were in 2022, almost one fourth than of the total documented on this route.

FIGURE 49: **DEATH/DISAPPEARANCES ALONG THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE 2014–2022 (THOUSANDS)**



Source: IOM Missing Migrants Project, 2022.

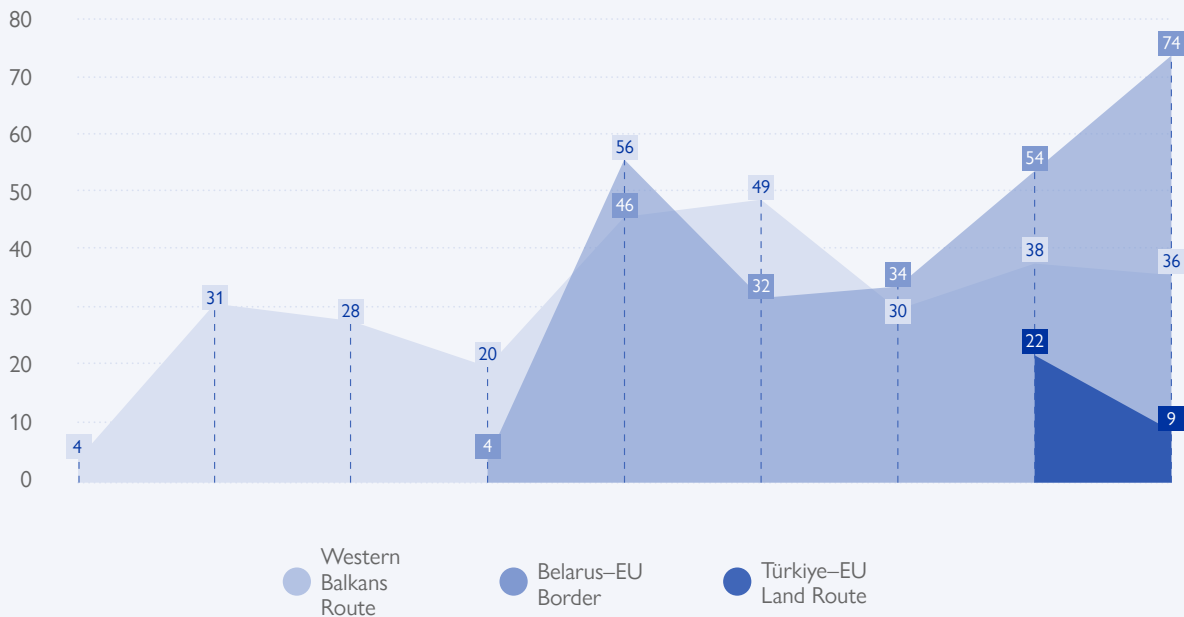
Note: Data refers to the last update available, 20 January 2023. The absence of dots means that no events were reported for that period.

46 MMP reports on the recorded cases: however complete numbers on migrant deaths and missing cases are unknown. For more information: <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/methodology>.

Since 2014, the lives lost on border crossings to the European Union account for more than half (569) of the total to Europe, including 282 in the Western

Balkans, 256 at the Türkiye–EU land border and 31 at the Belarus–EU border (IOM, 2022g).

FIGURE 50: DEAD AND MISSING MIGRANTS ON SELECTED EUROPEAN ROUTES, 2016–2022 (THOUSANDS)



Source: IOM Missing Migrants Project, 2022.

Note: Data refers to the last update available, 20 January 2023.

05

HEALTH

5.1 MIGRANT HEALTH WITHIN THE SEECA REGION

Health is a basic human right and one of the fundamental requirements for the safety of migrants and host communities: Being and staying healthy is a fundamental precondition for refugees and migrants to live, to travel, to work, to be productive and to contribute to the social and economic development of their communities of origin and destination (WHO, 2018).

Migrant health implies a huge variety of different physical and mental health needs, shaped by migrant experiences in their country of origin, their migration journey, their host country's entry and integration policies, and living and working conditions. Migrant health therefore regards communicable disease, such as tuberculosis (TB) and HIV, and non communicable diseases, including mental health issues: they both generate concerns in understanding and communicating to the patients and the hosting communities. IOM provided more than 2,200 health information sessions both respectively in 2020 and 2021.⁴⁷

In 2021, IOM estimated to have reached out to 857,750 persons directly with health promotion and/or risk communication and community engagement activities (IOM SEECA, 2022a).

Another serious public health issue for nationals and migrants in the SEECA region, in particular Central Asia and Eastern Europe countries, is represented by communicable diseases such as tuberculosis (TB) and Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV). An estimated global total of 10.6 million people fell ill with TB in 2021: 450,000 diagnosed new cases were the multidrug-resistant TB (MDR/RR-TB), of which 8.5 per cent were in the Russian Federation, the second country worldwide for this kind of TB. The MDR/RR-TB is relevant for the SEECA region, in particular for the Central Asian countries. Moreover, a recent study says that COVID-19 might have increased vulnerability to other infectious diseases including TB, HIV, viral hepatitis, and vaccine-preventable diseases (Baggaley et al., 2022).

TABLE 7: ESTIMATES OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES IN THE SEECA REGION, 2021 (CASES AND %)

Albania	• 480	• 15%	• 56%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total TB Incidence, Cases • Estimated % of TB cases with MDR/RR-TB, Previously Treated Cases • TB Treatment Coverage (notified/estimated incidence)
Armenia	• 770	• 48%	• 52%	
Azerbaijan	• 6,400	• 20%	• 57%	
Belarus	• 2,900	• 70%	• 51%	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	• 810	• 3%	• 45%	
Georgia	• 2,400	• 31%	• 62%	
Israel	• 240	• 14%	• 87%	
Kazakhstan	• 14,000	• 49%	• 68%	
Kyrgyzstan	• 8,500	• 59%	• 54%	
Montenegro	• 98	• 6%	• 81%	
North Macedonia	• 240	• 4%	• 61%	
Republic of Moldova	• 2,600	• 56%	• 80%	
Russian Federation	• 69,000	• 69%	• 83%	
Serbia	• 1,100	• 6%	• 42%	
Tajikistan	• 8,600	• 33%	• 48%	
Türkiye	• 15,000	• 8%	• 60%	
Turkmenistan	• 3,000	• 70%	• 63%	
Ukraine	• 31,000	• 45%	• 59%	
Uzbekistan	• 21,000	• 29%	• 64%	

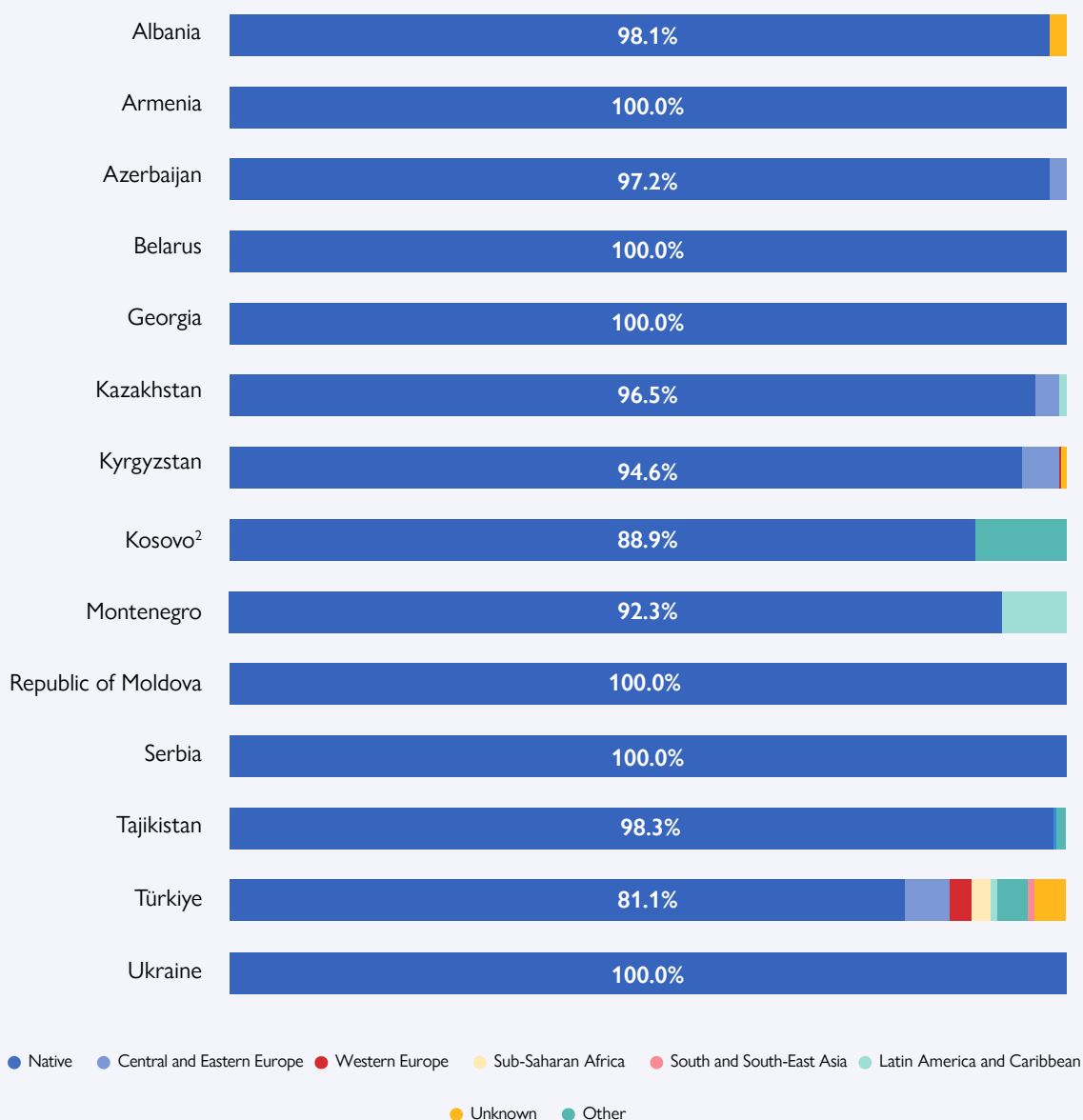
Source: WHO, 2022.

47 Please kindly note that statistics presented in paragraph 5.1 have been prepared by IOM – MHD RO Vienna e cleared by IOM Headquarters. However, they are based on statistics collected through the country offices that might present breaks in series and are not necessarily inclusive of the whole IOM's work in the SEECA region.

Along with TB, the HIV epidemic remains problematic in the SEECA region, having increased by 32 per cent the number of cases and by 48 per cent the number of newly infected with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia since 2010 (UNAIDS, 2022). The majority of HIV cases are recorded in the Russian Federation with

70 per cent of people living with HIV in the Eastern Europe. The region is also marked by high circular migration within Eastern Europe and mobility is known as a factor contributing to vulnerability for HIV, including through lack of access to health services (ECDC, 2022).

FIGURE 51: HIV DIAGNOSES IN 2021, BY COUNTRY OF REPORT AND REGION OF ORIGIN OF PATIENTS, IN SELECTED COUNTRIES IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (%)

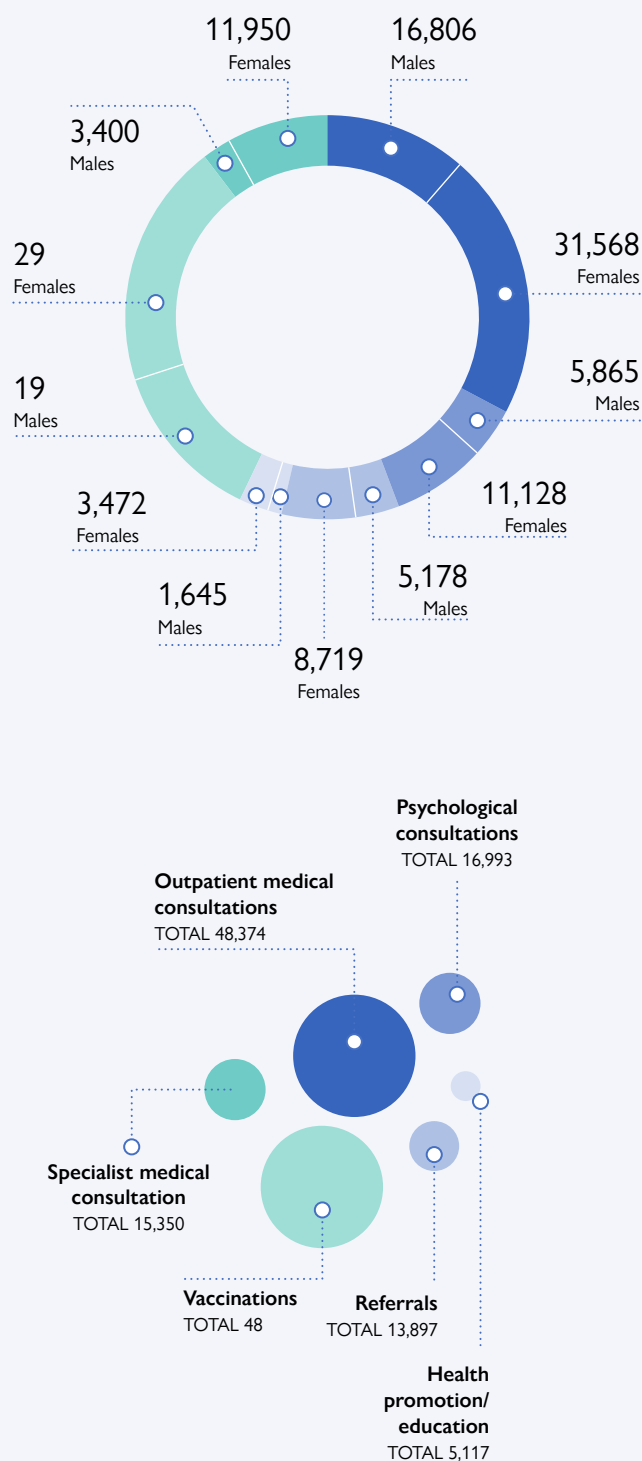


Source: ECDC, 2022.

Not all SEECA C/T/As report their HIV figures, and only a few have separate statistics on migrants among their HIV cases. However, among those who report in the region,⁴⁸ between 0.1 to almost 5.1 per cent of their HIV diagnoses are among migrants from Central and Eastern Europe and to a very small extent from Western Europe. In Türkiye, almost 19 per cent of HIV diagnoses are among migrants, with a broader spectrum of region of origin, also including cases from sub-Saharan Africa and Western Europe next to Central and Eastern Europe (ECDC, 2022). This also been confirmed by a previous study according to which about 17 per cent of those infected with HIV in Türkiye are foreign nationals (Gülümser and Erbaydar, 2015).

IOM is providing assistance in crisis contexts, one example being Ukraine and neighbouring countries. As of December 2022, IOM in Ukraine has contributed to improving access to primary care to 84,429 individuals, including psychological consultations/counselling. 15,350 (individuals received specialized consultations. The specialists in the mobile clinics focus on specific diseases or conditions. They include cardiologists, endocrinologists, and gynaecologists. The services provided include clinical laboratory testing/procedure, gynaecological services, cytology, and ultrasound scan services (IOM Ukraine, 2022c).

TABLE 8: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY HEALTH-CARE SERVICES IN UKRAINE, AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2022 (THOUSANDS)



Source: IOM Ukraine, 2022c.

48 Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine and Kosovo. References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

5.2 COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As of 15 December 2022,⁴⁹ 646 million COVID-19 cases had been registered worldwide, of which 59.3 million were in the SEECCA region resulting in more than 745 thousand deaths (WHO, 2022). The enhanced border restrictions introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic significantly decreased human mobility, which in the long term could also have demographic effects on C/T/As dependent on migration for population growth. Due to the COVID-19 pandemics globally, assuming zero-growth scenario in the number of migrants, DESA has estimated a decrease of nearly two million international migrants between 1 March and 1 July 2020, compared to the initially expected increase between mid-2019 and mid-2020 (DESA, 2021b). A number of migrants have been stranded, including seasonal workers and international students, unable to return to their countries of origin (IOM, 2020).⁵⁰

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and reinforced underlying inequalities: the mobility restrictions had a rebounding effect on both, regular and irregular movements of people (Benton et al., 2022). As of 31 December 2022,⁵¹ worldwide 64.3 per cent of the population has been fully vaccinated with the last dose of a primary series; in the SEECCA region this incidence is lower, at 45 per cent of the population (WHO, 2022).

There are also vulnerabilities arising from the cost of testing, the financial and time burden of mandatory quarantines, the psychosocial costs and difficult decisions taken under risk and uncertainty. While some groups of migrants can navigate these limitations, some others were excluded or faced disproportionate barriers to travel (Benton et al., 2022). Taking the example of reception facilities and referral pathways for migrants in vulnerable situations – in particular victims of domestic violence, VOTs, and UASC, among others – have faced disruption of services and facilities, undermining their specific protection needs (IOM SEECCA, 2021b).

In virtually all countries for which data are available,⁵² migrants were much more likely than the host communities to catch the disease, to develop severe symptoms, and to face higher mortality risks (OECD, 2022c). Migrants were also underrepresented among those who get vaccinated, even though part of the gap is due to the fact that they might not be registered in their origin or destination countries (ibid.).

49 Caution needed when interpreting all data presented, and differences between information products published by WHO, national public health authorities, and other sources using different inclusion criteria and different data cut-off times are to be expected. While steps are taken to ensure accuracy and reliability, all data are subject to continuous verification and change. All counts are subject to variations in case detection, definitions, laboratory testing, vaccination strategy, and reporting strategies. For more information: <https://covid19.who.int/data>.

50 The DTM Global Mobility Restrictions Overview provides updates on international air travel restrictions and conditions for authorized entry (IOM, 2022e).

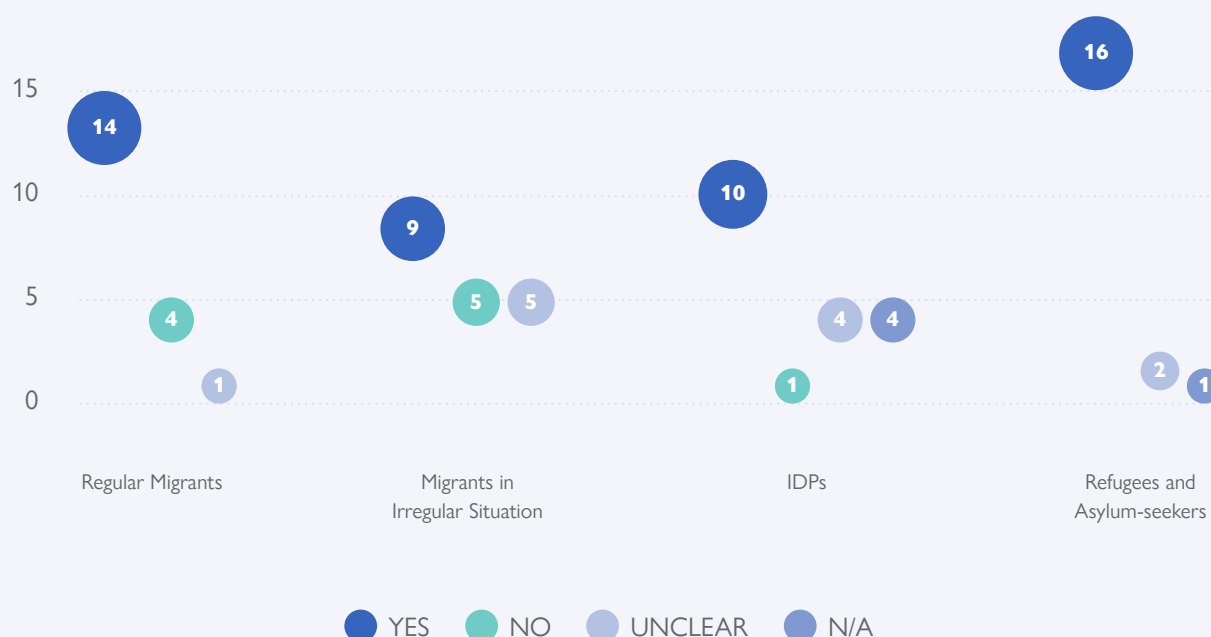
51 Caution must be taken when interpreting all data presented, and differences between information products published by WHO, national public health authorities, and other sources using different inclusion criteria and different data cut-off times are to be expected. While steps are taken to ensure accuracy and reliability, all data are subject to continuous verification and change. All counts are subject to variations in case detection, definitions, laboratory testing, vaccination strategy, and reporting strategies. For more information: <https://covid19.who.int/data>.

52 Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered throughout 2021 across the SEECA region; however, refugees, migrants and displaced populations were often excluded from national deployment and vaccination plans (NDVPs) (Benton et al., 2022).⁵³

As recently reported for the European Economic Area countries,⁵⁴ there might be legal, economic, logistic, linguistic, and cultural barriers for immunization of migrants, regardless of their status (Marchetti et al., 2021).

FIGURE 52: INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS IN THE SEECA COUNTRIES, AREAS AND TERRITORIES COVID-19 VACCINATION PLANS AS OF DECEMBER 2021 (ABSOLUTE VALUES)



Source: IOM – MHD, 2022.

Note: Israel is not included in this graph.

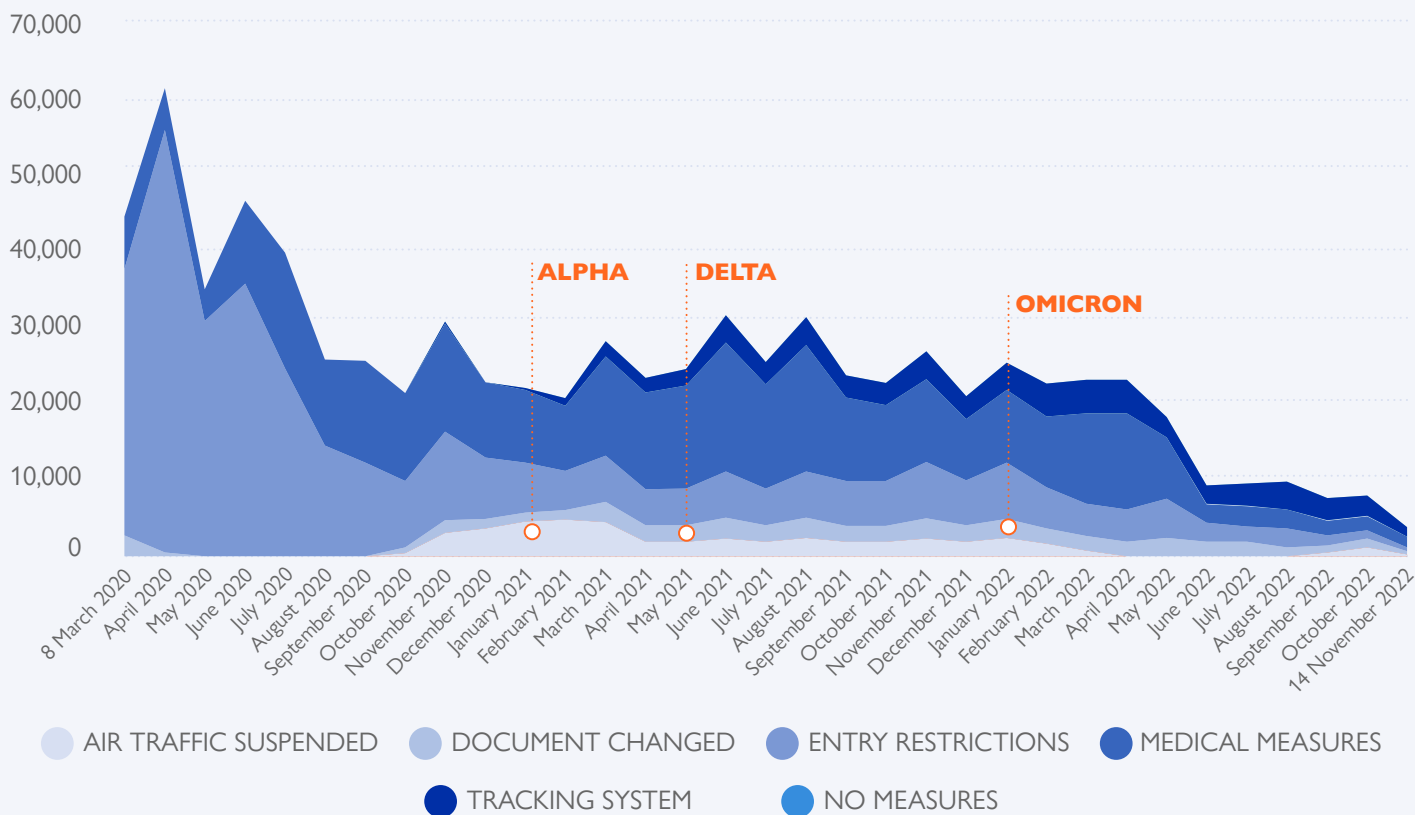
As compared to other regions globally, SEECA region has registered the highest share of air traffic suspension in the first quarter of 2021 (29.8%), and the largest share of the entry restriction in the second quarter of

2020 (35.7%). Strict travel requirements were imposed such as quarantine prior or after entering the country, health screening upon arrival, or COVID-19 certificates in the second quarter of 2021 (13.9%).

⁵³ Millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered throughout 2021 across the SEECA region; however, refugees, migrants and displaced populations were often excluded from national deployment and vaccination plans (NDVPs) (Benton et al., 2022). As recently reported for the European Economic Area countries, there might be legal, economic, logistic, linguistic, and cultural barriers for immunization of migrants, regardless of their status (Marchetti et al., 2021).

⁵⁴ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

FIGURE 53: TRAVEL MEASURES IN THE SEECA REGION, MARCH 2020-MID NOVEMBER 2022 (THOUSANDS)



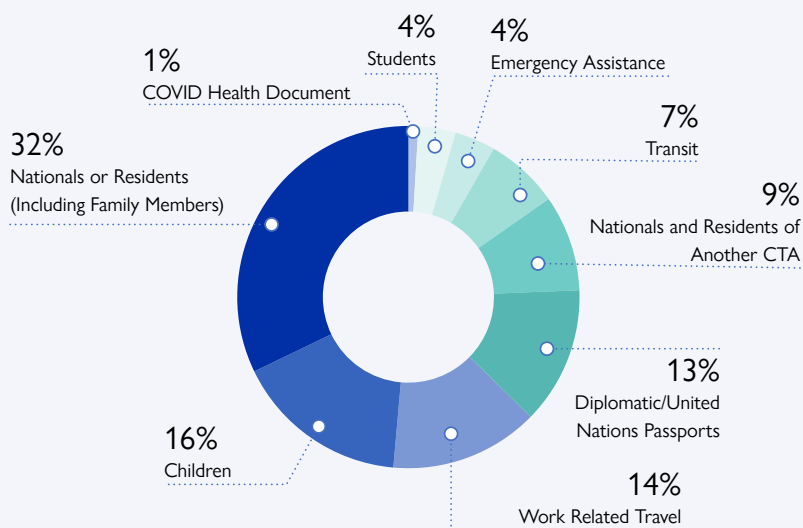
Source: IOM – DTM Global Mobility Restrictions Overview, 2022.

Note: Data collection started at 8 March 2020, and it has been updated at the latest time available, 14 November 2022.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, some categories were exempted from the travel restrictions: nationals and residents (including family members) (32%), children (16%) and those travelling due to work reasons (14%).

However, currently, only few limitations are still in place due to the removal of travel measures in this phase of COVID-19 pandemic since January 2022.

FIGURE 54: EXCEPTIONS TO TRAVEL MEASURES IN THE SEECA REGION, MARCH 2020–MID NOVEMBER 2022 (%)



Source: IOM – DTM Global Mobility Restrictions Overview, 2022.

Note: Data collection started at 8 March 2020, and it has been updated at the latest time available, 14 November 2022.

06

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

6.1 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: PROGRESS OF THE SEECA COUNTRIES, AREAS AND TERRITORIES

Following the Millennium Summit, in 2000 the United Nations adopted eight international development goals – the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – for the year 2015. Later, a revision was made laying the groundwork for the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which presented the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 17 interlinked global goals which succeeded the MDGs from 2016. IOM and DESA have developed the indicator 10.7.2. “Number of countries with policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility

of people” that aims to describe the state of national migration policies and how such policies change over time and is a useful tool to inform the global review of SDG target 10.7. This target calls on countries to facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, and it is the target most explicitly and directly related to international migration among all of the targets of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see Annex I).

TABLE 9: SDG INDICATOR 10.7.2. AND DOMAINS ORDERED FOR THE SEECA REGION, 2021

	SDG Indicator 10.7.2 Overall Summary	DOMAIN 1. Migrant Rights	DOMAIN 2. Whole-of-Government Evidence-based Policies	DOMAIN 3. Cooperation and Partnerships	DOMAIN 4. Socioeconomic Well-being	DOMAIN 5. Mobility Dimensions of Crises	DOMAIN 6. Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
Albania	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Armenia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Azerbaijan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Belarus	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bosnia and Herzegovina	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Georgia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Israel	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Kazakhstan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Krygystan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Montenegro	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
North Macedonia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Republic of Moldova	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Russian Federation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Serbia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Slovakia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tajikistan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Türkiye	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Turkmenistan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ukraine	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Uzbekistan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● Fully Meets ● Meets ● Partially Meets ● Requires Further Progress ● Didn't Respond

Source: DESA, 2022.

Note: DESA data on Serbia include Kosovo's population: references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

As reported by the data, the SEECA region presents a high variability in terms of progress towards SDG 10.7.2, registering a particular resistance in the Domain 1. related

to the adoption of policies favourable to migrants' rights (DESA, 2022).

6.2 GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION: PROGRESS OF THE SEECA COUNTRIES, AREAS AND TERRITORIES

6.2.1 UNITED NATIONS NETWORK ON MIGRATION

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is the first-ever intergovernmentally negotiated United Nations agreement on a common approach to managing international migration. By creating this cooperative framework on international migration, Member States have developed a common terminology for discussing key migration issues and laid a fertile ground for comprehensive, rights-based migration policies. The Global Compact for Migration builds on 23 objectives and 10 cross-cutting guiding principles, covering all aspects of migration (“360-degree” approach). While not legally binding, the Global Compact for Migration’s guiding principles, objectives and actions are based on established obligations and principles, underpinned by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and international law.

Upon request of the Secretary-General in May 2018, the United Nations established the United Nations Network on Migration as a “new way of working” to ensure effective, timely and coordinated United Nations system-wide support, at country, regional and global level, for the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact for Migration. IOM supports Member States and other stakeholders in the SEECA Region in the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration and 2030 Agenda through the operationalization of the [United Nations Network on Migration](#) at the national level. With a total of 15 United Nations Country Networks on Migration (UNMNs), in addition to [one Regional Network](#), the SEECA region has the second highest proportion of UNMNs established vis-à-vis countries covered.

FIGURE 55: ESTABLISHED UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY NETWORKS ON MIGRATION IN THE SEECA REGION



Source: IOM SEECA, 2022d.

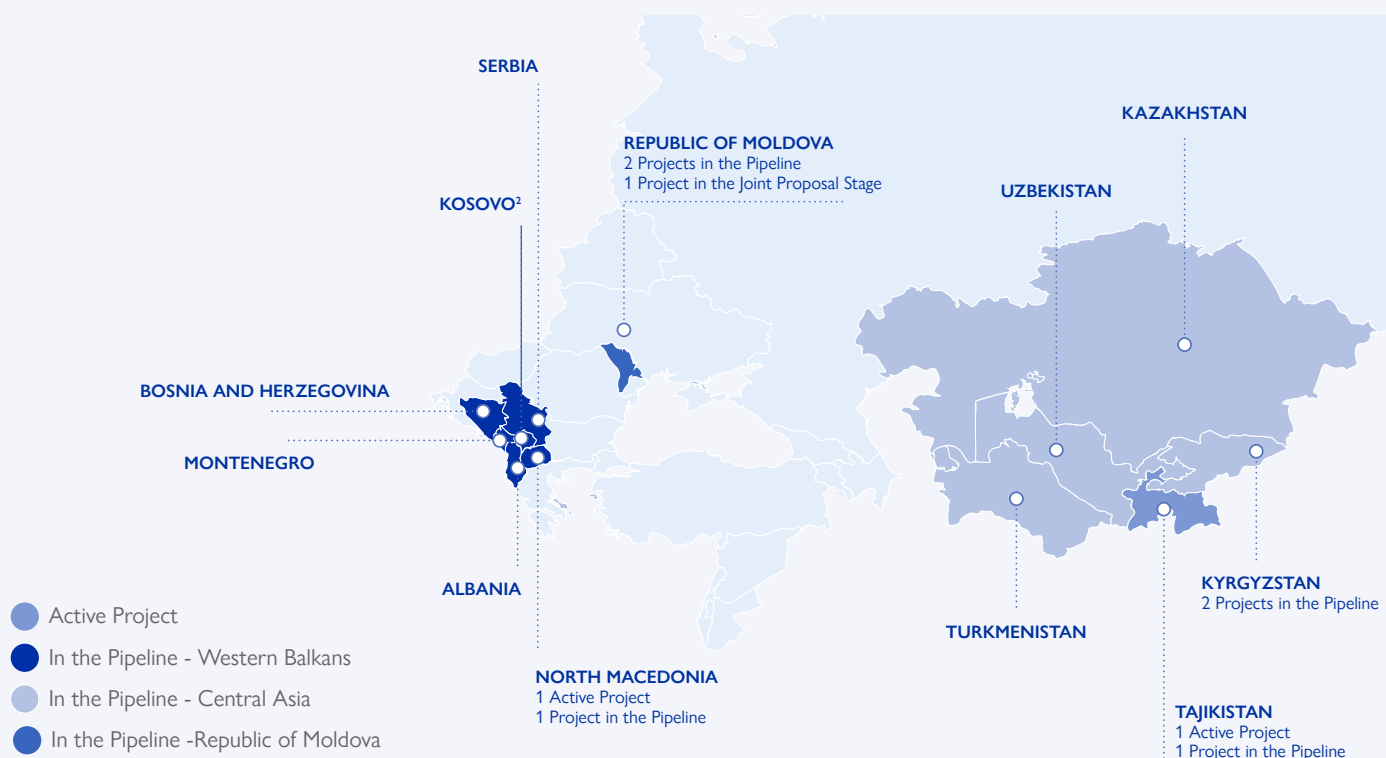
Note: This map is for illustration purpose only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used by on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization of Migration.

6.2.2 SEECA COUNTRIES' ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LEAD UP TO AND FOLLOWING THE 2022 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM

In the Global Compact for Migration, Member States decided that IMRF would serve as the primary intergovernmental global platform to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact for Migration, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. A number of Global Compact for Migration-related

milestones were achieved by Member States and Other Stakeholders in the region in the lead up to the Forum, including the following: six Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund Concept notes were submitted. In total in the SEECA Region: 8 projects are currently in the pipeline; 1 project has been advanced to the joint proposal stage, and 2 projects are active and in receipt of funding as of May 2020.

FIGURE 56: OVERVIEW OF M-MPTF PROJECTS IN THE SEECA REGION IN 2022 (ABSOLUTE VALUES)



Source: IOM SEECA, 2022d.

Note: This map is for illustration purpose only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used by on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization of Migration.

A remarkable achievement was that Azerbaijan and Türkiye became [Global Compact for Migration Champion countries](#) – namely “Champion countries” for the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration, which receive targeted support from the United Nations Network. These countries also generate key insights, lessons learned, and positive practices that can be shared in dedicated spaces and with other Member States. The governments of Azerbaijan, Luxembourg and Portugal, in their capacity as Global Compact for Migration Champion countries, pledged to convene a

virtual event for the UNECE region on 1 February 2022, involving non-governmental stakeholders, to provide a [briefing on IMRF preparations](#). The event brought together 169 representatives from 30 Member States and 47 stakeholders and was crucial to gain momentum on the preparations to the IMRF. Representatives from the private sector, International Organisation of Employers (IEO) and civil society, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) also delivered remarks at the event.

Through IOM's advocacy efforts, a strong engagement was attained by governments and other stakeholders at the IMRF, which took place from 17 to 20 May 2022, and preceded by a Multi-Stakeholder Hearing: 17 (of 18 eligible) Countries from then region participated, seven of which attended at the level of Vice-Minister of Higher – with the highest-level participation at the Forum from Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was represented by the Chairman of the Council of Minister.

2 Member States from SEECA also co-chaired 2 (out of 4) IMRF roundtables. Additionally, 23 non-governmental stakeholders from SEECA applied for special accreditation to participate in the Forum, and 6 heads of organizations from civil society attended in person.

Remarkably, 13 Member States in the region also submitted a voluntary national report at the IMRF.

FIGURE 57: SEECA MEMBER STATES' PARTICIPATION AT THE 2022 IMRF



Source: IOM SEECA, 2022d.

Note: This map is for illustration purpose only. The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used by on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization of Migration.

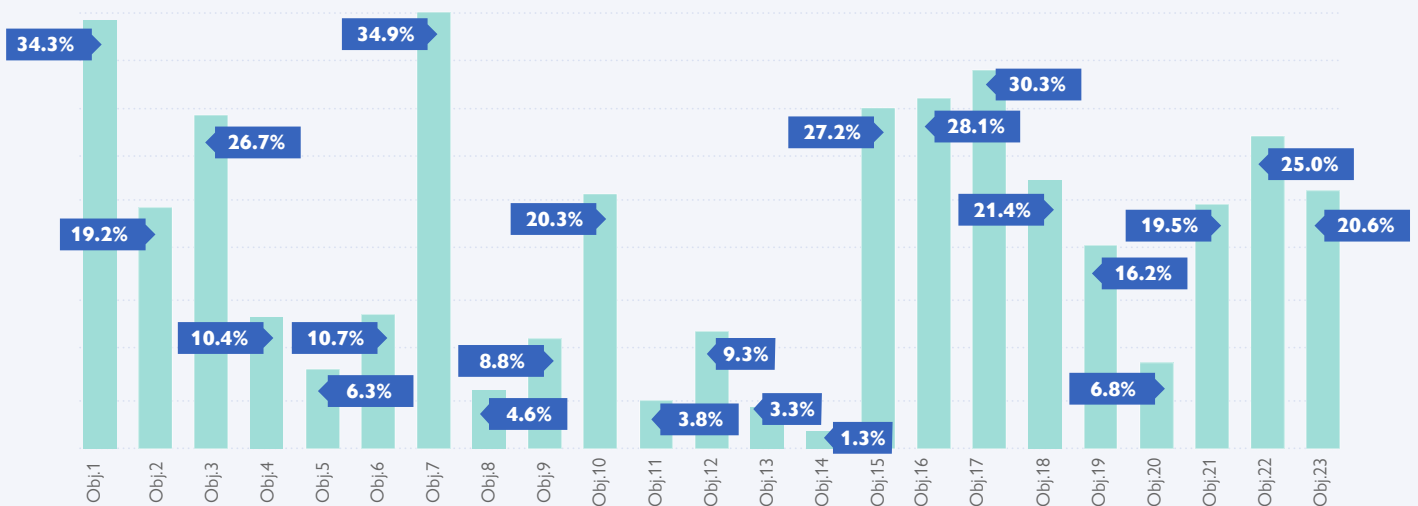
Notably, 15 pledges to advance the Global Compact for Migration, out of the 201 submitted ahead of the IMRF, were from the SEECCA region, with Azerbaijan having submitted the highest number. Moreover, 13 SEECCA countries submitted a Global Compact for Migration Voluntary National Report to the IMRF, accounting for 22 per cent of all the reports submitted globally. To ensure momentum gained on the Global Compact for Migration was not lost following the IMRF, the below initiatives were undertaken in the SEECCA region: post IMRF debriefs were organized in 9 countries across the region, including with high-level participation from IOM Chiefs of Mission, United Nations Resident Coordinators, as well as government and other stakeholder representatives.

In an effort to “breathe life into the Progress Declaration”, the IMRF key outcome document, IOM RO Vienna broke down the Progress Declaration’s Recommended Actions into concrete actions and mapped them against global, regional and in collaboration with missions’ national frameworks. Following this exercise, IOM

supported 15 countries in the region to develop a “Global Compact for Migration national snapshot” for IOM Staff and government officials to obtain the following information: (1) Country’s achieved milestones on Global Compact for Migration implementation; (2) Country’s most relevant national priorities vis-à-vis the Progress Declaration Recommended Actions; (3) Country’s five Global Compact for Migration actionable recommendations indicating how IOM may support its Member States in the achievement of their Global Compact for Migration related priorities, in collaboration with relevant implementing partners. These snapshots are also useful for cohesive project development and reporting in alignment with international frameworks as well as for fundraising activities.

With a view to mainstream the whole-of-society approach promoted by the Global Compact for Migration an analysis of stakeholders in the region was conducted to observe how their work contributes to Global Compact for Migration Objectives.

FIGURE 58: PERCENTAGE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE SEECCA REGION ADDRESSING EACH GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION OBJECTIVE IN 2022 (%)



Source: IOM SEECCA, 2022d.



CONCLUSIONS



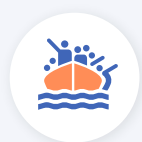
General

The report SEEECA – Region on the Move provides an overview of migration trends across the SEEECA region through a compilation of available international, regional and national data. The importance of data and their quality analysis for decision-making is revealed throughout the report. The need for quality, accessible, disaggregated, reliable and timely data becomes even more acute in times of emergency and crises for humanitarian interventions and planning (IOM, 2021c).



Migration Statistics

As presented in Chapter 2, data disaggregation is essential for developing nuanced and well-informed policies and action. It is needed to facilitate inclusivity and uphold the key principle of the 2030 Agenda that “no one will be left behind”. There is some variation in the main disaggregation dimensions highlighted in different reference documents, and a recognition that these should be context specific. SDG target 17.18 includes the following disaggregation dimensions: “income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national context”. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, in its Objective 1, “Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies”, lists “sex, age, migration status and other characteristics relevant in national contexts”.



Types of Migration

Chapter 3 highlights the need for the SEEECA C/T/As, as in the main migrant origin and destination countries outside the region, to be aligned in terms of data collection and validation since the migration corridors demonstrate the prominence of labour mobility within the region. As shown by the data on refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs the interagency collaboration brings an added value for analysing the mixed migratory movements in the region. The IOM General Population Survey emerged as a good practice, following the paradigm that internal displacement is multi-layered subject, requiring a holistic understanding of context-specific conditions faced by displaced populations (IOM, 2021d). The research and data on migrant smuggling and irregular movements need to be improved in this direction for the protection of migrants and the well-being of communities in destination or transit countries. Relevant data and research might facilitate cooperative effort to disseminate international standards for victim of trafficking administrative data and establishing a global statistical measurement framework for estimating the prevalence of trafficking for forced labour. Data collection on AVVR provided by IOM are a comprehensive example on returns from and within the SEEECA region.



Migrant Protection

Chapter 4 illustrates emergencies which affect populations in the SEECA region including those impacted by food insecurity, and IOM's protection programmes on VoTs. The section dedicated to dead or missing migrants while en route offers the picture of the perils of the journeys faced by migrants. From this section emerges a clear need for better data collection for vulnerable migrants, with a particular attention to children and UASC among them.



Health

Chapter 5 offers an overview on public health concerns and data from the IOM Migration Health Division on the dimensions of the public health interventions made in the SEECA region. The health conditions of people on the move are central for a better understanding of their needs and the public health of the destination countries.



Migration Governance and Policy

Chapter 6 shows trends on migration and development topics, such as the attractiveness of the education systems of the SEECA region, and the urban-rural dimension of migration within the region that have direct impact on human mobility, societies and economies in the region.



Conclusion

Finally, Chapter 7 examines some examples of migration governance and policies adopted in the region and the progress made by the C/T/As of the region towards SDGs and the Global Compact for Migration.

This report reinforces the importance of the three strategic priorities of IOM within the SEECA region, in line with IOM's Global Strategic Vision, which are resilience, mobility and governance. "Resilience" regards the empowerment of migrants and communities to strengthen their resilience in situations of vulnerability, addressing the different drivers of migration. "Mobility" means to advance positive, sustainable, and innovative development outcomes that are responsive to several impacts, and other emergent regional migration trends. "Governance" implies strengthening cooperative development and implementation of evidence-based and inclusive migration governance that addresses migration challenges and leverages opportunities, to facilitate safe, orderly, and regular migration (IOM SEECA, 2020).

ANNEX I

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS INDICATORS

TABLE 10: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS INDICATORS WITH EXPLICIT REFERENCES TO MIGRATION

SDG indicators in relation to types of migration

SDG 8.8.1	Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status
SDG 8.8.2	Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on ILO textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status
SDG 10.c.1	Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted
SDG 10.7.1	Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of early income earned in country of destination
SDG 17.3.2	Volume of remittances in GDP
SDG 3.c.1	Health worker density and distribution
SDG 4.b.1	Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study

SDG indicators in relation to migration and vulnerabilities

SDG 11.5.1	Number of deaths, missing and persons affected by disaster
SDG 16.2.2	Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation

SDG indicators in relation to types of migration

SDG 8.8.2	Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on ILO textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status
SDG 10.7.2	Number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people
SDG 17.18.1	Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Source: For more information, see [IOM Migration Data Portal thematic page](#).

ANNEX II

MOST RECENT MGI PROFILES IN THE SEECA REGION

Migration Governance Indicators Profile 2021 | North Macedonia, 18 Nov 2021.

Migration Governance Indicators Second Profile 2021 | Ukraine, 29 Nov 2021.

Migration Governance Indicators Profile 2021 | Republic of Tajikistan, 28 June 2021.

ANNEX III

SEECA STRATEGIES 2020–2024

IOM, South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia – Regional Strategy 2020–2024, 2020.

IOM, Central Asia Regional Strategy 2021–2025, February 2022.

IOM, IOM Strategy in the Western Balkans, November 2022.

IOM, IOM Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2022–2025), July 2022.

IOM, IOM Strategy for Albania (2022–2025), October 2022.

IOM, IOM Turkey Mission Strategy 2021–2025, 2021.

IOM, IOM Ukraine Strategic Approach, July 2021.

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Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship (IRCC) of the Government of Canada

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