

# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA MIGRATION PROFILE



IOM International Organization for Migration



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

# **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

## **Migration Profile**

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## Foreword

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina – Basic facts</b>	
Population (2005)	4,499.000 (est.)
Total Area	51.129 sq km
GDP per Capita PPP	USD 7.032
Human Development Index (HDI) Rank	62 of 177
Net Migration Rate	2.1 migrants/1.000 population
Sources: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division's World Population Prospects: the 2006 Revision Population Database; UN Development Programme Human Development Report, 2006	





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## 1. IMMIGRANTS

### 1.1. Number of immigrants

-----	40.814 (2005) <sup>1</sup>
As percentage of total population-----	1,0% (2005) <sup>2</sup>
Gender ratio-----	20.721 female / 20.093 male (2005) <sup>3</sup>

### 1.2. Status of immigrants

Refugees-----	-10.318 (end 2006) <sup>4</sup>
Asylum-seekers-----	-91 (end 2006) <sup>5</sup>

According to the UNHCR in BiH, there were 8,743 refugees and 529 asylum seekers as of 30 June 2007.

Labour migrants 1,419 residence permits for employment reasons issued in 2006 and 803 similar permits by 15 of August 2007<sup>6</sup>.

Transit migrants-----	19.935 (2005) <sup>7</sup>
-----------------------	----------------------------

Irregular migrants <sup>8</sup>	
-----	- 451 (2005)
-----	- 800 (2006)

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division [July 2007]: *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision* Many of the foreign born today were born in other states of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Therefore, this figure may reflect the country's changed geopolitical status rather than its immigration trends. The figure refers to estimated number at mid-year

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. Previous note applies. However, one must exercise caution in using these number given the complexity of statistics in BiH. No census has taken place since 1991 and all population stats since then are estimates.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division [July 2007]: *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision*  
Note: the figure refers to estimated numbers at mid-year.

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

<sup>5</sup> UNCHR [2006]: *Statistical Yearbook 2006. Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons*. Figures represent end-2006 statistics. Data are provisional and subject to change. Status as at 15 June 2007. The figure refers to Persons whose application for "asylum or refugee status is pending at any stage in the asylum procedure".

<sup>6</sup> Information provided to IOM Sarajevo by the director of the Service for Foreigner's Affairs, BiH Ministry of Security, 15.08.2007.

<sup>7</sup> Summary of State Border Service Annual Report for 2005, BiH Ministry of Security Report  
Note: the figure refers to "Entry and exit of foreign citizens on the airports of BiH. Citizens of countries of high migratory risk". Entries in 2005 amounted to 19,939 and exits amounted to 19,935. Origin countries include: Armenia, Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, China, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Romania, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Serbia, Zimbabwe.

### 1.3. Main countries of origin

In 2006, the Immigration Department within the Ministry of Security, issued 5427 decisions granting residence permits to foreigners in BiH. Out of that number 153 decisions relate to granted permanent stay while 5247 decisions relate to granted temporary stay of foreigners.

Out of 153 foreigners, to whom permanent stay was granted in BiH, the majority came from China (42), Croatia (19), Turkey (16), Macedonia (10), Ukraine (7), Germany (7), and Moldova (7).

Out of 5247 foreigners who were granted temporary residence permits in the last year, the highest number came from Serbia and Montenegro (1.839), China (823), Croatia (544), Turkey (480), Macedonia (228), which is 74,21% out of total of granted and processed temporary stays in the reporting period.

The highest number of temporary residence permits granted were issued on the basis of work permits (28,33%), on the basis of marriage (26,45%), on the basis of family reunion (13,48%), schooling (12,40%) profitable activities (10,56%), which constitute 91,22% of the total number of granted and processed temporary residence permits in the reporting period.<sup>9</sup>

## 2. EMIGRANTS

### 2.1. Number of emigrants<sup>10</sup>

----- 1,471.594 (2005)<sup>11</sup>  
 As percentage of total population----- 37,7 (2005)<sup>12</sup>

<sup>8</sup> ICMPD [2005]: Yearbook on Illegal Migration, Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Central and Eastern Europe  
 Note: the figure refers to the number of persons caught while attempting to cross the state border illegally or after having crossed the border illegally into BiH.

<sup>9</sup> State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Report of the Situation of Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2006, p. 38.

<sup>10</sup> Note: There has been a significant change in the Bosnian population from 4.4 million inhabitants in the year 1989 to 3.8 million inhabitants in the year 2004, meaning that the loss of more than 650,000 individuals amounted to a decrease of 14,7% of population in only five years.<sup>10</sup> Internal sources confirm that the term "brain drain" applies to Bosnia.

<sup>11</sup> World Bank, Development Prospects Group [2005]: *Migration and Remittances Factbook*, 2005

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

The population of BiH dwindled from 4.4 million inhabitants in 1989 to 3.8 million in 2004. The loss of more than 650,000 individuals amounted to a decrease of 14.7% of the population only in 5 years<sup>13</sup>.

Figures released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 2007<sup>14</sup> show that 1,343,805 citizens of BiH are currently living abroad, whereas the World Bank Remittance Migration and Remittances Factbook for BiH refers to a figure as high as 1,471,594. It is estimated that more than 800,000 are living in other parts of Europe (such as, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Italy, Austria, Croatia, Serbia, Switzerland) and nearly half a million in the US and Canada.

## 2.2. Status of emigrants

Refugees - - - - -	199.946 (2006) <sup>15</sup>
Asylum-seekers - - - - -	1.658 (2006) <sup>16</sup>
Emigration rate of tertiary educated persons - - - - -	28,6% (2005) <sup>17</sup>
Emigration of physicians - - - - -	821 or 12,7% (2005) <sup>18</sup>
Irregular migrants <sup>19</sup>	
- - - - -	204 in 2005
- - - - -	489 in 2006

In 2005, 1,533 BiH citizens were deported to BiH. The main countries of deportation were: Croatia (28%), Germany (24%), Sweden (14%), Switzerland (7%) and Denmark, Norway and France all below 5%<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> Elizabeth Stites, Sue Lautze, Dyan Mazurana and Alma Anic [2005]: *Coping with War, Coping with Peace: Livelihood Adaptation In Bosnia-Herzegovina, 1989 – 2004*. USAID commissioned study, available at [http://fic.tufts.edu/downloads/bosnia\\_livelihoods\\_study.pdf](http://fic.tufts.edu/downloads/bosnia_livelihoods_study.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Schwarz-Schilling, Ch. [13 April 2007]: *EU and Balkan News*

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

<sup>16</sup> UNCHR [2006]: *Statistical Yearbook 2006. Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons*. Figures represent end-2006 statistics. Data are provisional and subject to change. Status as at 15 June 2007. The figure refers to "Persons whose application for asylum or refugee status is pending at any stage in the asylum procedure"

<sup>17</sup> World Bank, Development Prospects Group, [2005]: *Migration and Remittances Factbook, 2005*

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Bosnia and Herzegovina State Border Service Annual Reports

Note 1: the figure refers to those intercepted illegal exits of both foreign nationals and Bosnian nationals.

Note 2: out of the total number in 2005, 119 individuals (more than 50%) were of BiH nationality.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.



In 2006, 1,350 BiH citizens were deported to BiH, which makes a decrease by 11,9 in comparison to 2005. The main countries of deportation were: Croatia (507), Germany (234), France (107), Sweden (89), Austria (63), Switzerland (67), Netherlands (52) and Italy (39).

### 2.3. Main countries of destination

The top 10 destination countries are Croatia, Germany, Austria, the United States, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, France and Australia<sup>21</sup>

Among “Third Country Citizen Groups Larger than 100,000 in the European Union Member States, 2003”<sup>22</sup>, citizens from BiH nationals accounted for a presence of 301,116 individuals in the EU15.

**Table 1:** Bosnia and Herzegovina nationals in OECD countries in 2004<sup>23</sup>

Country of destination	Inflows of foreigners	Asylum seekers	Foreign born population	Foreign population	Acquired nationality
Austria	5.000	198	139.700	-	-
Czech Republic	300	-	-	-	62
Denmark	-	-	17.900	13.600	-
Finland	100	-	-	1.600	-
France	-	2.915	-	-	-
Germany	8.000	416	-	156.000	2.103
Netherlands	-	-	-	-	216 (in 2003)
Norway	-	-	12.600	5.200	-
Poland	-	-	3.300 (in 2002)	-	-
Slovak Republic	-	-	-	-	30
Sweden	-	785	54.500	14.800	1.469
Switzerland	-	301	-	44.800	2371

Source: OECD/SOPEMI [2006]: “International Migration Outlook”, Report 2006

<sup>21</sup> World Bank, Development Prospects Group [2005]: *Migration and Remittances Factbook*, 2005

<sup>22</sup> G  DAP/Eurostat [2006]: *Migration and Asylum in Europe*, 2003

Note: Missing data for France, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and United Kingdom.

<sup>23</sup> Note: Fields where there’s “-” imply that the figures are not worthwhile mentioning because they are not among the top figures within that category or the figure is not available.

Slovenia is also one of the main countries of destination for BiH nationals. In 2004, the Slovenian Ministry of Interior recorded 470 irregular border crossings by BiH nationals. In 2005, the number of BiH migrant workers in Slovenia was 21,973<sup>24</sup>, and as of 31 December 2004, the number of work permits issued by Slovenian authorities to BiH nationals amounted to 19,807 (personal permits and permits included in the official quota).<sup>25</sup>

### 3. REMITTANCES

#### 3.1. Quantitative aspects of remittances

Bosnia is the sixth among the 20 leading remittance-receiving countries in the world. It is second within the South Eastern Europe as a share of GDP after Moldova. In comparison with all other remittance receiving countries it had the most significant Growth Rate of Remittances in ECA from 1995 until 2004<sup>26</sup>.

**Table 2:** World Bank estimates of remittances per annum (in million USD)<sup>27</sup>

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Workers' remittances	950	919	956	1.143	1.343	1.347	1.383
Compensation of employees	631	581	540	595	579	570	560
Migrants' Transfer	26	25	30	11	19	14	-

Source: World Bank, Development Prospects Group [2005]: *Migration and Remittances Factbook*, 2005

As percentage of GDP (2005) - - - - - 19,7<sup>28</sup>

As percentage of exports (2003) - - - - - 66,9<sup>29</sup>

<sup>24</sup> European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Trbank M.), Organization and Human Ressources Research Center, Faculty of Social Science, [2007]: *Employment and Working Conditions of Migrant Workers – Slovenia*

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/studies/tn0701038s/si0701039q.htm>

<sup>25</sup> Employment Service of Slovenia [2003]: *Annual Report*, 2003

<sup>26</sup> World Bank, Development Prospects Group [2005]: *Migration and Remittances Factbook*, 2005

<sup>27</sup> Note: the true size of remittances including unrecorded flows through formal and informal channels is believed to be larger.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

Note: the true size of remittances including unrecorded flows through formal and informal channels is believed to be larger.

<sup>29</sup> Schorooten, M., Associate Professor, The Institution of Economic Research/ German Institute for Economic Research (DiW) [2005]: *Bringing Home the Money: What Determines Worker's Remittances in Transition countries?*

Note 1: Sources used in this publication: World Bank [2005]: World Development Indicators 2005, and own calculations). Note 2: the indicators refer to 2003

### 3.2. Qualitative aspects of remittances

Remittances played a major role in sustaining the citizens of BiH during the conflict time<sup>30</sup> and have in recent years continued to uphold the living standards of the Bosnians while also contributing substantially to the country's economic growth. When combined with the informal economy (the other major source of foreign hard currency), they total over 1 billion USD in income for the country per year<sup>31</sup>.

In 2004, more households in some villages were making use of remittance systems than in 1989 or the conflict period. In Prud, for example, households are better able to meet their needs and have excess cash and/or goods and these are likely to be cascaded to less well-off households<sup>32</sup>. In other villages, e.g. Jakes, fewer households were making use of remittance systems in 2004 than in earlier time periods<sup>33</sup>. An explanation for this difference might be the economic hardship that continues to affect household coping strategies and remittances systems<sup>34</sup>. Nevertheless, the post-war period has seen families actively trying to reunite with their siblings, including across borders. As contact and communication is re-established, remittances systems are also set up or reignited<sup>35</sup>.

Remittances are largely spent (in order of importance) on: food and clothing, education, home repair, savings, property purchase, medical expenses, business investments and durables as well as on "special events". Unlike other international transfers, remittances may be counter-cyclical.

According to a USAID commissioned study<sup>36</sup>, qualitative examples show that overall remittances in BiH have contributed and continue to contribute to poverty reduction and have the potential to help boost longer-term economic development if there are incentives for savings and investment. Further up-to-date research on the nature and scale of remittances and of their impact in BiH is required before definitive conclusions can be reached about the current role of remittances in the country.

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<sup>30</sup> For more information, see [www.sendmoneyhome.org/services/Bosnia-Herzegovina](http://www.sendmoneyhome.org/services/Bosnia-Herzegovina)

<sup>31</sup> Financial Times [02 February 2003]: Rate of Change – Bosnia

Note: An interview with Peter Nicholls, governor of the Central Bank of BiH from 1998 to 2003, revealed that upon the introduction of the Euro and the conversion of the Deutschmark and other currencies, Bosnians brought in over 3.4 billion USD, three times the amount that was expected. Nicholls speculated that the combination of the grey economy and the inflow of hard currency from remittances accounted for 1 billion USD a year. See [http://www.fdimagazine.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/130/Rate\\_of\\_changeBosnia.html](http://www.fdimagazine.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/130/Rate_of_changeBosnia.html)

<sup>32</sup> Elizabeth Stites, Sue Lautze, Dyan Mazurana and Alma Anic [2005]: *Coping with War, Coping with Peace: Livelihood Adaptation In Bosnia-Herzegovina, 1989 – 2004*. USAID commissioned study, available at [http://fic.tufts.edu/downloads/bosnia\\_livelihoods\\_study.pdf](http://fic.tufts.edu/downloads/bosnia_livelihoods_study.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Elizabeth Stites, Sue Lautze, Dyan Mazurana and Alma Anic [2005]: *Coping with War, Coping with Peace: Livelihood Adaptation In Bosnia-Herzegovina, 1989 – 2004*. USAID commissioned study, available at [http://fic.tufts.edu/downloads/bosnia\\_livelihoods\\_study.pdf](http://fic.tufts.edu/downloads/bosnia_livelihoods_study.pdf)

## 4. MIGRANT COMMUNITIES/DIASPORAS

### 4.1. Description of the relationship between migrant communities/diasporas and country of origin<sup>37</sup>

According to the World Diaspora Association, a large number of BiH diasporas are willing to build stronger ties with their homeland<sup>38</sup>. As an illustration, a recent five day event was organized in Sarajevo entitled "Diaspora days in Bosnia and Herzegovina"<sup>39</sup> to further promote ties between the diasporas community and resident community.

Refugees abroad, however, have had a low participation in BiH elections and in political parties. The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) points out that there are low levels of registration and turnout amongst BiH citizens living in the UK, US and Netherlands, but much higher levels of both in countries such as Germany and Switzerland.<sup>40</sup> On the other hand, we can identify certain diasporas organizations mentioned previously that try to promote a multi-ethnic BiH by establishing cultural and social activities. According to the ESRC<sup>41</sup>, Bosnians maintain regular contacts with family and friends. Many come back to visit Bosnia and some consider permanent return. However, the continuing unstable political and economic situation, as well as the poor health care and education systems, discourages them from returning.

### 4.2. Migrant community/diasporas organizations

While there is no consolidated data available of all the BiH diasporas organizations, below are some illustrative examples in some of the main destination countries:

- U.S.A.: "Bosnian Community Center for Resource Development", Inc. 298 Union Street
- Lynn, Ma 01902 Fax: 781-599-3329, Tel: 781-593-0100, ext. – 20, Email: [office@bccrd.org](mailto:office@bccrd.org), website <http://www.bccrd.org/> and <http://www.bosniak.org/06/>, the official website of "The Congress of North American Bosniaks"
- Germany [www.avangardabih.de](http://www.avangardabih.de) 80075 Munchen Postfach 10 01 14 and [www.libertybih.de/](http://www.libertybih.de/) - both sites are currently under construction

<sup>37</sup> MARRI [December 2006]: *Questionnaire on Diasporas, Republic of Serbia Response*

<sup>38</sup> Limun.hr [26 July 2007]: "Diaspora days in Sarajevo"  
<http://www.limun.hr/en/main.aspx?id=179418>

<sup>39</sup> "Diaspora days in Bosnia and Herzegovina" was held in Sarajevo from July 25-29 and provided a focus on business initiatives.

<sup>40</sup> ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council)[1998-2000]: *"Trans-national Communities", an ESRC Research Programme, Research briefing No.1 "The Mobilisation and Participation of Trans-national Exile Communities in Post-Conflict Reconstruction: A Comparison of Bosnia and Eritrea" (1998-2000)*

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

- Denmark: "Savez bosanskohercegovackih udruzenja u Danskoj" Email: bhsavezdk@hotmail.com, website <http://www.bhsavez.dk/>
- Austria and Slovenia: <http://www.bihklub-linz.at/> -
- Slovenia: "Bosnjacki Internet Portal u Sloveniji" <http://www.slotekbir.net/>
- Australia: <http://www.ausbhcouncil.org/> "Australian Council of Bosnian Herzegovinian Organizations" PO BOX 190, FOOTSCRAY 3011, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA
- UK: <http://www.bosnia.org.uk/> "The Bosnian Institute SAVO", 8th floor, Hannibal House Elephant and Castle, London SE1 6TE, e-mail address: [info@bosnia.org.uk](mailto:info@bosnia.org.uk)
- Sweden "Bosnisk Hercegovinska Ungdomsforbundet" <http://www.bhuf.org/> BHUF, Box 1011, 101 38 Stockholm, Sweden, Telefon: 0771-19 10 80
- Netherlands "BiH Platform" <http://www.bihplatform.nl/>. There seem to be numerous local Bosnian organizations, but only names of individuals and their email-addresses are listed.

## 5. IRREGULAR MIGRATION

### 5.1. Number/estimates of irregular movements

As with other data, the number of irregular migrants from BiH is unclear. The most recent account on reliable statistics is the 2003 European Commission Annual Report on Asylum and Migration. Based on this, a proxy for irregular migration would comprise the number of citizens apprehended within the territory or at the border of another country, number of citizens refused entry into one country, and the number of removed aliens from one country. Unfortunately, the EC<sup>42</sup> provides information only on those countries included in the top ten of each specific country and it provides namely stocks. These are just a few reasons why the data is rather fragmented. Thus, with regard to apprehended citizens the EC report highlights 1,042 BiH citizens apprehended in Sweden in 2003 and 387 in Slovenia, for the same year. There were 866 BiH citizens refused entry on the Czech Republic, 254 in Bulgaria, 819 in Hungary, and a 5,226 in Slovenia. In terms of removed BiH citizens, 295 from Denmark, 123 from Finland, 1,352 from Sweden, 704 from Norway, and 271 from Slovenia. While data is fragmented, it does show a tendency of BiH citizens to migrate irregularly to Slovenia, but this has to be cautiously interpreted. Other inferences – lacking more precise and updated data – cannot be made.

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<sup>42</sup> European Commission [2003]: *Annual Report on Asylum and Migration*

## 5.2. Figures and information on return migration flows

BiH is not among the top nationalities of removed and refused aliens from EU-25<sup>43</sup>.

In 2004, 2,144 BiH nationals were sent back to their country, primarily from Sweden (28%) and Germany (22%). These figures represent a significant decrease from 2003, when 3,387 BiH nationals were repatriated.

In 2005 1,533 persons, citizens of BiH, were deported on various grounds to BiH from countries in Western Europe and other countries. This is a 611 (or 28.50%) absolute drop from 2004. Out of the total, 1,325 or 86.43% of the cases were deported for 'irregular stay'. In this year, most citizens of BiH were deported from the following countries:

- Croatia: 426 or 27.79%
- Germany: 363 or 23.68%
- Sweden: 210 or 13.70%
- Switzerland: 108 or 7.04%
- Denmark: 67 or 4.37%
- Norway: 57 or 3.72%
- France: 55 or 3.59%
- Others: 247 or 16.11%<sup>44</sup>

**Table 3: IOM Assisted Voluntary Return to BiH**

Return from:	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Grand Total
Austria	16	10	27	17	40	110
Belgium	63	64	55	35	40	257
Czech Republic	0	1	0	0	0	1
Finland	15	32	1	4	3	55
Germany	5	10	30	177	116	338
Hungary	1	1	2	2	2	8
Italy	25	19	3	6	2	55
Netherlands	116	195	190	137	74	712
Slovakia	0	0	1	0	0	1

<sup>43</sup> CIREFI, EC [2005]: *Working Paper Accompanying the Proposal for the Establishment of a Framework Programme on Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows*

Note: In some cases data was not provided by Member States and the Commission had to made estimates. As no definitions exist yet of 'voluntary return', 'enforced return' or 'return decision' in Community law, data was collected on the basis of existing information and data collections. No statistical validation was done to this data, so it must be taken with caution; CIREFI [July 2006]: *Working Document accompanying Communication from the EC on "Policy Priorities in the Fight against Illegal Migration of Third Country Nationals"*

<sup>44</sup> Summary of SBS Annual Report for 2005, BiH Ministry of Security

United Kingdom	0	648	3	6	9	666
Norway	119	204	85	44	14	466
Switzerland	1	12	33	57	35	137
Croatia	1.244	1.592	185	0	1	3.022
Montenegro					2	2
Total	1.604	2.788	615	485	338	5.830

*Source: IOM Headquarters AVR Database and IOM Sarajevo AVR database.*

## 6. ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS OF MIGRATION ISSUES

### 6.1. Summary assessment of migration issues

Full data necessary for an in-depth analysis of the migration situation in BiH is generally not available. Accessible figures are usually not in an appropriate format - needing extensive refining. The overall danger is that partial, outdated or unreliable statistics from BiH are accepted as fact by researchers and analysts and used as the basis for convenient interpretations. Considering the absence of full data or the resources to pursue it, below is an outline of general trends and basic indicators.

The main current challenge facing BiH is the development of coordination and leadership with regard to migration policy and management. The most daunting problem in that context is the highly complex and often overloaded administration that results from two independent administrative areas (Federation, Republica Srpska) with a third area, Brčko, having some legislative independence as well. There is a clear recognition of the importance of migration among public policies, but there is no overarching migration strategy or policy at state or entity level with clear aims and objectives to help steer the priorities of all the involved institutions and actors. The country sees the different levels of basic migration control in place or addressed by different institutions. The weakness to both immediate and sustainable migration management is however mainly due to their lack of coordination, in addition to limitations in capacity and resources.

Despite tremendous efforts in the last decade, today, 12 years after the conflict, the return and sustainable solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons continues to be one of the main issues of concern in the migration agenda. Additionally, in more recent years, BiH can generally be assessed as a source and transit country for irregular migration. Relatively liberal visa regimes and porous borders among other factors have contributed to making BiH an attractive transit country for traffickers, smugglers and irregular migrants in general.

The general findings on irregular flows are that irregular migration routes are generally East-West, land-based (both entry and exit) and regionally focussed. Though overall numbers are decreasing, specific threats continue. BiH authorities focus mainly on the citizens of Serbia, Croatia, Albania, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Slovenia and Romania. On the other hand, EU final destinations focus on the citizens of BiH, Former SCG, Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

Strengthening links with BiH migrant communities abroad and their contribution to BiH's development, enlarging possibilities for labour migration of BiH nationals, and facilitating immigration/entry and stay of foreign nationals on Bosnian territory, add up to the abovementioned challenges as more "positive" aspects of the BiH migration agenda nowadays. The BiH diasporas around the globe amounts to more than 1.3 million individuals. While they seem to have expanded networks and be well organized, there appears to be space for improvement in what regards their links with home communities and potential for contribution to development back home.

On the other hand, from the point of view of BiH labour supply, there's a lack of general working skills and more specialized qualifications to fit the BiH labour market needs. While developing skills is crucial to fill that gap, migration of certain groups having potential to positively contribute to alternative labour markets abroad can be one way of making best use of such 'inadequate' labour force present in a country with approximately 22% unemployment (42,4% youth unemployment)<sup>45</sup>.

Finally, little evidence exists for its consideration as a destination state as yet – regular immigration is low (the last full-year statistics available for numbers of temporary residence granted was in 2004 when 4607 cases were reported). However, unofficial observations point to the fact that inflows – both regular and irregular – of nationals from the region itself, Central Europe as well as from China, the Ukraine and from further East, are on the rise. According to the EC 2006 report on progress made by BiH, the labour legislation and the policy framework in BiH have remained fragmented and labour mobility continues to be limited. For foreign nationals, including those with legal residence in any Entity to have legal access to employment, they need to obtain a work permit. These working permits – valid for one year – are issued only if no unemployed, qualified citizen of BiH is available to fill a particular vacancy. Informal administrative procedures for foreigners (e.g. educational qualifications requirements/verification) are often cumbersome and represent

<sup>45</sup> ETF [2006]: *Labour Market Review BiH* and own calculations from Household Survey Panel Series (HSPS) data.

Note: according to statistics from PES, long-term unemployment is very high. However, as registration as unemployed often is combined with work in the informal sector, movements between unemployment and informal employment are poorly captured in these statistics.

According to the EC Progress report on BiH of 2006, official data show that unemployment rose from 43% in 2004 to 44.6% in 2005. Using ILO definitions, unemployment was estimated at 31% in April 2006. Taking informal jobs into account, unemployment is estimated to be closer to around 20% of the working-age population, although no recent official estimate is available.



a deterrent to mobility. As for social security rights, the social security system of BiH remains fragmented. Moreover, the system does not provide entitlements to social security benefits for dependent, resident family members of foreign nationals working in BiH.

## **6.2. Government institutions responsible for migration policy**

### **Political Background**

The unique political context within BiH continues to impact heavily upon the country's ability to manage migration issues. The current political arrangement of BiH was established in the General Framework Agreement for Peace (or the Dayton Accords) signed on 14th December 1995, which introduced a new constitution in BiH. As stipulated within the GFAP, BiH is divided into two administrative and political entities, the Republika Srpska ('RS') and the Federation of BiH ('Federation') with their own governments and ministries. The Federation is further divided into 10 Cantons, each with its own, devolved decision-making powers. Independent of entities' jurisdiction, Brčko District was established by the International Arbitration in 1999, as a single administrative unit.

The highly decentralized system established in the GFAP limited the decision-making institutions and powers of the state in many areas, as entity level governments were granted significant powers related to territorial control. Jurisdiction not explicitly held by the Bosnian state is assumed by the two entities, and both therefore have their own constitutions and laws which govern entity level actions. However, as outlined in the Constitution of BiH, competencies regarding immigration, refugee and asylum policy and procedures are held at state level. Of further note regarding the Constitution is the declaration therein of three Constituent peoples, the Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks, and additionally 'Others'. Constituent peoples must be equally represented within political institutions at the state level.

### **A. State Level Bodies**

#### **A1. Presidency**

Comprising a 3-part Presidency with a rotating chair, the Presidency has the responsibility for conducting foreign policy within BiH, including the ratification or denouncement of treaties with the consent of the Parliamentary Assembly and the pursuit of membership within international and European organizations.

#### **A2. Council of Ministers**

The Council of Ministers of BiH, which is comprised of representatives of nine national Ministries, operates at the state level as the central BiH Government. Its duties include the adoption or amendment of decisions, resolutions, laws, strategies and other acts. Each Minister has a Deputy Minister from a different constituent ethnic group.

The following Ministries hold responsibilities directly related to migration management:

#### A2.1. Ministry of Security (MoS)

The Ministry of Security was formed in 2003 to, among other responsibilities, act as a “strong, organized, well trained and centralized institution [...] able to quickly and effectively resolve all migration related issues”. The MoS oversees a national migration service for BiH, comprising the Sector for Immigration, and the Sector for Asylum. The two sectors hold joint responsibility for the coordination of immigration and asylum management, including overseeing the enforcement bodies and organizational units under the MoS. In addition, the MoS is responsible for the creation, maintenance and implementation of immigration and asylum policy in BiH.

Specific tasks under the control of the MoS include the regulation of procedures related to movement and stay of aliens, the protection of international borders, prevention and tracing of perpetrators of international organized crime, including human trafficking and smuggling and collection of migration data useful for the security of BiH. The MoS and its organizational bodies make first instance decisions regarding the entry, movement and stay of foreigners within BiH, including the granting of refugee status for asylum seekers and temporary residence permits for humanitarian reasons. In addition, the MoS is responsible for second instance decisions regarding appeals made by foreigners who have entered BiH. Successful functioning of the MoS has been weakened by organizational and staffing difficulties; for example, as of November 2006, the Ministry of Security had 45 % of the total staff which were planned in its introductory Book of Rules on Internal Structure.

In order to systematically manage the migration sector in BiH, the MoS currently exercises control over two enforcement units and one operational body:

- BiH Border Police

Introduced in 2000, the BiH Border Police (originally the State Border Service, hereafter BiH Bp or simply BP) is the police body responsible for enforcement of migration legislation pertaining to border control, involving the surveillance and control of the borders, and movement of goods, persons and traffic within a 10 kilometre radius of the borders in BiH as well as the protection of its international airports. BiH BP border control tasks include the inspection of goods and people, detention of irregular migrants, and investigation of irregular activities related to migration such as smuggling or human trafficking within the entire territory of BiH. The BiH BP is legally permitted to act as a police authority in cases of suspected criminal activity related to borders, or if specifically requested to act as such by a competent authority. It is responsible for collecting and sharing data regarding entry and exit in BiH, as determined by the Ministry of Security.

As the first state-level institution for law enforcement in BiH the BP has faced challenges regarding the centralization of facilities and competencies. Moreover, changes to the organization of state level institutions have altered the command structure governing the BiH BP since 2000 – initially the BiH BP, under the direct management of the Council of Ministers, enjoyed substantial operational autonomy before its transfer in 2003 to the MoS.

- State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA)

The State Investigation and Protection Agency, in its present capacity, began activities in July 2004, taking the place of the ‘State Information and Protection Agency’. SIPA was created in order to be a ‘state level enforcement agency that would act as the operational arm of the (new BiH) court’ and counter organized crime in BiH, including trafficking in human beings and smuggling.

- The Service for Foreigners Affairs

A third MoS operational body, established in late 2006, the Service for Foreigners Affairs (SFA), by the BiH Council of Ministers, at its session held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006. The Service, as a new state level enforcement agency of MoS, will have full administrative and operational competencies over foreign nationals in BiH. To date, a significant progress has been seen in this area. The relevant books of rules have been developed, and 51 Aliens Inspectors, previously attached to entity Ministries of Internal Affairs have been transferred to the SFA.

## A2.2. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (MHRR)

The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees is responsible for monitoring and protecting human rights, as defined and prescribed in international conventions and treaties ratified by BiH; this responsibility also relates specifically to the rights and issues of refugees with determined status residing in BiH. In addition, the MHRR holds the competency for ensuring the implementation of Annex VII of the GFAP (‘Agreement on Refugees and Displaced Persons’), involving the creation of suitable conditions for sustainable return to pre-war properties and the coordination of related activities and initiatives.

The role of the MHRR in migration has been significantly reduced since the inception of the MoS. Upon its establishment in 2000, the competencies of the MHRR also included the responsibility for activities related to refugees, immigration and asylum; in 2003, the Law on Ministries and Other Administrative Bodies expanded its competencies to include the creation of immigration, asylum, refugee and returnee policy, including Annex VII implementation. However, according to a European Commission assessment the MHRR was, in 2002, severely understaffed and under-funded. The MHRR was not successful in the development of national asylum or immigration policy and this responsibility,

alongside that of implementing immigration/asylum policy, was transferred to the MoS following its inception in 2003. UNHCR continued to exercise responsibility over first instance asylum decisions until 2004 when the MoS took over this duty.

#### A2.3. Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA)

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is responsible for the implementation of foreign policy, the monitoring of national compliance with international agreements and the preparation of bilateral or multilateral agreements between BiH and other states. The MFA, in conjunction with the MoS, advises the Council of Ministers on the state visa regime, determining which foreign nationals are required to possess a visa in order to enter BiH territory.

Pre-entry migration is also determined by the MFA, which regulates the consular representation of BiH and the issuance of visas abroad. It also has the competency to make recommendations on whether the BiH BP should issue visas for entry to BiH at the border, and on the extension/revocation of visas in exceptional circumstances.

#### A2.4. Ministry of Justice (MoJ)

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for inspecting the administrative proceedings of the Ministries and other civil bodies, including those responsible for migration and asylum management. This, in theory, includes the harmonization of Entity work regarding compliance with best practice. However, in March 2005, it was recorded that the MoJ had staffing levels that were 38% of those anticipated by the MoJ Book of Rules, severely impeding its ability to carry out its tasks.

#### A2.5. Ministry for Civil Affairs and Communications (MCAC)

Prior to 2000, the Ministry for Civil Affairs and Communications was responsible for immigration and asylum issues. It continues to hold responsibility for citizenship, identity and travel documents in BiH.

#### A2.6. Directorate of European Integration (DEI)

Formed in 2003, the Directorate of European Integration was created in order to direct the progress of BiH towards integration into the EU. One of the three Divisions within the DEI, the Division for Harmonization of the Legal System, is pursuing the harmonization of BiH legislation with EU *Acquis Communautaire*, through the coordination of inter-institutional working groups within related fields. Changes pertaining to migration legislation in BiH are therefore being developed through coordination with the DEI.

#### A2.7. State Commission for Refugees and Displaced Persons (SCRDP)

Established under the Amendments to the Law on Refugees from BiH and Displaced

Persons in BiH in 2003, the State Commission for Refugees and Displaced Persons aims to coordinate national and entity-level returns activities. Meeting monthly, the SCRDP contains nine members, including the state-level Minister for Human Rights and Refugees. In particular, the SCRDP supports the development of sustainable and coordinated returns related activities in BiH and controls the distribution of assistance from the state-level Return Fund.

#### A2.8. State Court of BiH

The State Court has jurisdiction over crimes violating the state laws of BiH, if provided for in the Law, and may operate in order to settle inter-Entity disputes regarding legal implementation. It may also rule over cases concerning international treaties, and issues concerning international or national criminal law enforcement.

#### A2.9. Constitutional Court

The Constitutional Court of BiH also operates at the state level with appellate jurisdiction pertaining to decisions from BiH courts. It aims to judge adherence to the principles of the 1995 Constitution, in particular to the human rights outlined therein.

### **B. Entity-Level Bodies**

The increasing competency of state bodies over migration management has impacted directly upon the role of entity level actors within related matters. Prior to the inception of the BiH BP (former State Border Service in 2000, entity level Ministries of Interior (MUPs), held relatively wide competencies regarding migration management, including border control duties and the operation of a 'Department for Foreigners' within each MUP. Currently, the responsibility for enforcing in-country migration management has been shifted from the cantonal/regional level of each MUP to the recently established Service for Foreigners Affairs within the MoS. The Service was established to change an under-funded and decentralized system under which Aliens Inspectors have operated and which resulted in ineffective actions. The Aliens Inspectors' authority could not be exercised beyond the cantonal/entity boundaries under which they were employed. In addition, the powers of the Aliens Inspectors have varied according to the relevant cantonal/entity level legislation. Poor communication between Aliens Inspectors, entity and state level bodies had resulted in a lack of both harmonized activities and centralized data. Nationally, the enforcement powers of the Departments for Foreigners within each MUP will be superseded by the new Service for Foreigners when it becomes operational. Therefore, by the establishment of the Service for Foreigners Affairs, all these obstacles for effective migration management will be removed.

## B1. Republika Srpska

### B1.1. Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior (RSMUP)

The competencies of the Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior include, among other civil and security related investigative responsibilities, the support of state migration management bodies, primarily State Investigation Protection Agency and the BiH Border Police. The RSMUP comprises five public safety centres across the RS that report directly to the central RSMUP office.

The 'Department for Foreigners' within the RSMUP held enforcement responsibilities for in-entity activities related to aliens in the field but this responsibility has recently been transferred to the Service for Foreigners Affairs, within the Ministry of Security.

### B1.2. Ministry for Refugees and Displaced Persons

The RS Ministry for Refugees and Displaced Persons is responsible for ensuring the rights of refugees, returnees and displaced people within the Republika Srpska, including local level social integration. Operating through 54 municipal level Departments across the RS, the implementation of Annex VII of the GFAP and return-related activities are overseen by this Ministry, in coordination with the MHRP.

## B2. Federation of BiH

### B2.1. Federation Ministry of Interior (FMUP)

As with the RSMUP, the Federation Ministry of Interior is responsible for dealing with security and citizenship issues within the Federation, in coordination with state level Ministries. The FMUP is not centralized, however, as each of the 10 cantons within the Federation contains its own, semi-autonomous Ministry of Interior. The 'Department for Foreigners' within the FMUP currently holds enforcement responsibilities for in-entity activities related to aliens in the field, but this responsibility will be transferred to the SFF.

### B2.2. Ministry of Social Policy, Displaced Persons and Refugees

The Federation Ministry of Social Policy, Displaced Persons and Refugees operates at entity level in conjunction with the legal framework of the Federation of BiH and state level legislation regarding IDPs, refugees and returnees. Its competencies concern data-collection on relevant peoples, coordination of reconstruction and reintegration activities at local levels and other tasks outlined by the Law on Federal Ministries and Other Bodies of the Federal Administration.

## B3. District of Brčko

Due to its small area and uncertain semi-autonomy, bodies in the field of migration management within the District of Brčko are not outlined in this report.

### 6.3. Migration policies in place

BiH currently lacks a national level migration policy, which heavily influences the cohesion of migration-related activities. However, in the absence of a state level migration policy there are a number of strategies related to specific migration areas.

#### *National Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in BiH*

In April 2005, the third National Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (NAP) was adopted by the Council of Ministers for the period 2005-2007. The Action Plan outlines a comprehensive state-level approach to combating trafficking in human beings: prevention, protection of victims and victim witnesses, prosecution and international cooperation, which additionally enhances the entire process of coordination and the system of combating trafficking in human beings and illegal immigration in BiH<sup>46</sup>. The three-year Action Plan is based on a multi-sector, cooperative approach and includes all the relevant actors. However, no funding has been allocated in the 2005-2010 budget for its implementation but financing is sought through international donors.

#### *National Integrated Border Management Strategy for BiH*

The National Integrated Border Strategy for BiH, adopted in July 2005, was created in accordance with the IBM Guidelines for the Western Balkans. Since then, the Strategy was subject to a revision which required a revision to the connected IBM Strategy that was prepared together with the National Action Plans for its implementation. Currently, both of the aforementioned documents are in the process of being adopted by the Council of Ministers of BiH. The concept of Integrated Border Management includes the coordination and cooperation of all agencies and bodies involved in cross-border activities to ensure the maximum efficiency and effectiveness of border management in order to have open, but well controlled and safe borders. The aim is to build a functional, efficient and integrated system of border management at both the national and international level.

#### *Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum (LMSAA) and other key national legislation*

The 'Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum'<sup>47</sup> came into force in 2003. The legislation was introduced by the Council of Ministers with the strong support

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<sup>46</sup> State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration, 'Bosnia and Herzegovina State Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2005-2007', January 2005.

<sup>47</sup> Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum entered into force on October 14<sup>th</sup> 2003, Official Gazette BiH 29/03



of the international community, including the EC, IOM, OHR, OHCHR and UNHCR. In addition State Ministries, the BiH BP and entity level Ministries of the Interior and police representatives were also able to comment on the law, incorporating legislative, political and implementation perspectives into the drafting.

The LMSAA established a coherent and centralized set of migration-related competencies, designating the responsibilities of relevant bodies, in particular the Council of Ministers, the newly formed MOS, the MFA, the MHRR and MUPs. In addition, the LMSAA provided a more comprehensive and substantial legislative framework for migration management in BiH, tackling a number of legislative ‘gaps’ in the previous legislation, including provisions related to trafficking, to irregular migration and to sanctions for breaking of the LMSAA itself.

The LMSAA also introduced mechanisms for many of the international principles established within international conventions ratified by BiH, including ‘Protection of Rights’ in order to secure the rights of foreign nationals in BiH<sup>48</sup>. Within the law, the principle of ‘non-refoulement’ was also incorporated. Under this principle, BiH may not return foreign nationals, regardless of their status, to the frontier of any territories in which they may suffer threat against their life or liberty, or the possibility of torture or other inhumane or degrading treatment, on the basis of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

Since its introduction, the LMSAA has acted as ‘umbrella legislation’ for migration laws regarding foreign nationals, including alterations to competencies outlined in the LMSAA and closer alignment with European Aquis. Since 2003 all existing migration legislation in BiH has been amended or replaced. New legislation pertaining to migration included: ‘By-Law on Asylum in BiH’<sup>49</sup>; ‘Law on Surveillance and Control of State Border Crossing’<sup>50</sup>; ‘Law on the State Border Service’<sup>51</sup>; ‘Law on Central Records and Exchange of Data’; ‘Bylaw on One-Way Travel Documents of Aliens’<sup>52</sup>; ‘Bylaw on Protection of Foreign Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings’<sup>53</sup>; ‘Law on Amendments to the Law on Refugees from BiH and Displaced Persons in BiH’<sup>54</sup>; ‘Law on Transportation of Arms and Military Equipment’; ‘Law on International and Inter-Entity Traffic’; ‘BiH Law on Passports’; ‘Law on Service for Foreigners’<sup>55</sup>

The LMSAA is currently under amendment as it contains a number of significant omissions that prevent conformity with EU Aquis. Beginning on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2006, a

<sup>48</sup> LMSAA Article 88

<sup>49</sup> BiH Official Gazette 26/04

<sup>50</sup> BiH Official Gazette 56/04

<sup>51</sup> BiH Official Gazette 50/04

<sup>52</sup> BiH Official Gazette 25/04

<sup>53</sup> BiH Official Gazette 33/04

<sup>54</sup> BiH Official Gazette 33/03, Entered into force November 13<sup>th</sup> 2003.

<sup>55</sup> BiH Official Gazette 54/05



MOS Commission comprising representatives from the MOS, MFA and BiH BP has been developing the legal framework for migration and asylum management in BiH. Guided by representatives from the EC, EUPM, ICITAP, IOM, OHCHR, OHR, and UNHCR, the Commission will work on the alignment of the LMSAA with European standards.

### **Returns**

The status and rights of displaced persons and returnees are regulated by the Law on Refugees from BiH and Displaced Persons in BiH (state level), the Law on Displaced Persons and Returnees in the FBiH and Refugees from BiH (Federation), and the Law on Displaced Persons, Returnees and Refugees in the Republika Srpska (RS).<sup>56</sup>

The BIH Strategy for Implementation of Annex 7 of the Dayton Peace Agreement (adopted in Jan 2003) outlines the necessary actions and reforms with a view to achieve the following strategic goals:

- to complete the process of return of refugees from BIH and displaced persons (DPs) in BIH;
- to complete the process of reconstruction of housing units for the needs of return;
- to accomplish the property return and occupancy rights repossession;
- to create conditions for sustainable return.<sup>57</sup>

The strategy serves as a roadmap for the transfer of responsibilities from the international community to the BiH Government for the coordination of the return process.

The “Sarajevo Declaration on Refugee Returns” signed by the governments of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro in January 2005 committed the governments to solving the remaining population displacement by the end of 2006 through facilitating returns or local integration of refugees and internally displaced persons, depending on the individuals’ decisions, without any discrimination. Unfortunately, the process is still ongoing and the deadline stipulated in the Declaration has not been met.

### **Diasporas**

There is no diasporas policy or related legislation in BiH. There is, however, a Sector for diasporas within the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees ([www.dijasporabih.gov.ba](http://www.dijasporabih.gov.ba)). The Sector acts as a resource point for BiH citizens living abroad, providing up-to-date information on citizenship laws, investment opportunities and developments within the country. There is currently no diasporas strategy or Action Plan but initial

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<sup>56</sup> Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly [24-05-2007] Document 11289 rev., “*Situation of longstanding refugees and displaced persons in South East Europe*”

<sup>57</sup> Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly [24-05-2007] Document 11289 rev., “*Situation of longstanding refugees and displaced persons in South East Europe*”

discussions have begun on developing a unifying strategy to ensure the activities outputs are maximized.

The sector cooperates with the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FIPA) to promote investment opportunities. Recently FIPA held information sessions during the Diaspora days in Bosnia and Herzegovina where they presented their publications and guides for foreign investors, a new catalogue of small and medium size projects/companies specially tailored for potential investors from the diasporas and participated at the round table on BiH economic development and investment opportunities.

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

### *International Treaties Ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Ratified: 01/09/1993)
- C97 Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (Succession: 02/06/1993)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Succession: 06/03/1992)
- International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (Succession: 06/03/1992)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Succession: 01/09/1993)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women Succession: (01/10/1993)
- Convention on the Political Rights of Women
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (Succession: 06/03/1992)
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. (Succession: 29/12/1992)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Succession: 16 July 1993).
- Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Accession: 01/06/2003)
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, with Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and with Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea (Accession: 24/04/2002)

## Readmission Agreements

**Table 4:** BiH Bilateral Readmission Agreements

Country	Status	Date (signed/ratified/entered into force)
Austria	ratified	05/05/2006 11/04/2007
Belgium (Benelux)	ratified	19/07/2006 11/04/2007
Bulgaria	entered into force	18/03/2006 20/11/2006 05/01/2007
Croatia	Ratified	27/07/2000 09/08/2004
Denmark	Ratified	01/10/2004 27/06/2007
France	signed	20/12/2006
Germany	Signed	20/11/1996
Greece	Ratified	09/02/2006 20/11/2006
Hungary	entered into force	21/04/1996 08/09/2005 26/02/2006
Italy	entered into force	12/05/2004 20/09/2006 01/04/2007
Latvia	under negotiations	
Luxembourg (Benelux)	Ratified	19/07/2006 11/04/2007
the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Under negotiations	
Netherlands (Benelux)	ratified	19/07/2006 11/04/2007
Czech Republic	under negotiations	
Romania	ratified	10/10/2005 15/02/2006
Serbia (and Montenegro)	ratified	26/05/2004 25/07/2007
Slovenia	ratified	26/09/2006 11/04/2007
Slovakia	ratified	05/06/2006 11/04/2007
Sweden	ratified	01/03/2005 11/04/2007
Switzerland	entered into force	01/12/2000 21/04/2001 21/04/2005
Norway	ratified	30/06/2005 15/02/2006
Moldova	Under negotiations	
Turkey	Under negotiations	

Source: IOM Sarajevo monitoring as part of the project "EU Support to the Implementation of the Integrated Border Management Strategy for BiH"

### EU - BiH Readmission Agreement

Agreements on visa facilitation and readmission whose negotiations initiated in July 2006, have been signed on September 18 2007.

### *EU – BiH Stabilization and Association Agreement*

After the Council of the European Union approved the start of negotiations for a Stabilization and Association Agreement, talks officially opened in November 2005. According to the European Commission, the country still suffers from a number of serious deficiencies such as “complex government structures, fragmented policymaking, insufficient financial and personnel resources, inadequate coordination between the state and entities, the lack of a uniform corporate tax system and widespread corruption”<sup>58</sup>.

## **6.5. The scale of brain drain and policies to address it<sup>59</sup>**

As a result of the breakdown of Yugoslavia, the war and economic reforms, the old economic structure and patterns of employment in BiH have been deeply challenged. Positive progress has been made by BiH in macroeconomic stabilization and structural reforms, but the labour market is still challenged by a low rate of job creation, the need to attract more people into the formal labour market and address such issues as training levels and the motivation of workers.

It can generally be noted that the conflict in the Balkans and the consequent (financial) crises in the region caused a certain level of brain-drain, as many well-educated young people left BiH permanently to live and work in other countries<sup>60</sup>. This exodus of skilled people continues to have an impact on the labour market more visible by the existing shortages of labour supply.

Concerning current skill mismatches, evidence from the first survey on “labour market skill needs” undertaken by the EU funded CARDS VET reform programme in 2002 demonstrates that technical skill gaps are not pronounced. On the other hand, employers underline the serious lack of soft skills like teamwork and positive attitude to work. Similar results were reported by the labour market survey of the Employment Service in RS and FBiH in 2004 namely that 31.5% of the enterprises interviewed required work-place skills and only 10% specific skills and knowledge. These findings are quite common in countries at the beginning of the economic transition process. Findings from other countries in the region are similar.

Although widespread skill gaps are not yet present, if the particular shortages and a general concern about basics skills (partly concealed by the low levels of demand in the formal economy) are left unaddressed, the weakness in the supply side will be a serious impediment for the economic restructuring and development of the country. This refers both to initial and to continuing vocational training (CVET). In CVET some good practice

<sup>58</sup> Commission of the European Communities [2006]: *Bosnia and Herzegovina 2006 Progress Report*

<sup>59</sup> European Training Foundation, *Country Analysis for Bosnia and Herzegovina*, 2006.

<sup>60</sup> MARRI Questionnaire for Labour Migration Workshop in Zagreb, Feb 2006. Completed by BiH authorities

has been developed under pilot projects but it would be advisable to take it up to the system level. Upgrading the skills of the population represents a serious precondition for a sustained economic growth, particularly when recovery from previous existing levels of GDP will be reached and more exposure to global markets will require increased competitiveness of the economy. This is in turn impacting potential labour emigration.

The educational attainment levels of the population 25-65 years old are lagging behind with a higher percentage of people with low levels of education and a lower percentage of people with higher education. Women are particularly disadvantaged. Also it is likely that there has been a depletion of the skills of the population over recent years due to lack of employment and development opportunities and the low level economic activity of the country. Participation in education and training of young people has been increasing during the last years but deficiencies in the quality of the education provision raises questions about the preparedness of young people for the labour market.

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

BiH's proximity to the South of the EU, divisive political and state system, young migration management and enforcement structures, corruption and organised crime, porous borders and limited resources have made it, in last years, a target country for irregular migration (and associated cross-border criminality) routes and nexus points. However, the exact extent of irregular migration and its impact on EU is hard to estimate.

Analysis of general migration statistics – entries, exits, refusals by nationality, removals, and clandestine interceptions – would indicate that the majority of irregular movements are actually limited to a local/regional level. The top nationalities in refusals of entry from 2003 to 2006 inclusive have been mainly Croatian with Serbian and Montenegrin<sup>61</sup>. Whereas Croatia's statistics have remained remarkably stable, an increase of Serbian and Montenegrin citizens has occurred over the last 3 years. Lesser nationalities include Slovenian, Romanian and Bulgarian. This finding is reinforced with study of statistics (from 2004 to 2006 inclusive) of those intercepted attempting to illegally cross BiH borders. By far, the largest number intercepted is BiH nationals, with Serbia, Croatia, Albania and Romania making a routine appearance.

Consideration of the directional flows of these illegal crossings provides us with additional information showing a distinct flow from East to West (Entry attempts from Serbia, respectively Montenegro are increasing at similar rates to exit attempts into Croatia<sup>62</sup>). The migration flow for BiH is further complicated when the history of the

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<sup>61</sup> Because of its only recent independence Montenegro has been incorporated into Serbia statistics to allow statistical continuity.

<sup>62</sup> Note: An apparent anomaly in this comparison for the year 2004 can be explained when numbers of those returned under the readmission agreement with Croatia are factored in by year, thus indicating a failure in successful detection rates rather than a change to flows.

region is factored in. With the break up of the former Yugoslavia, artificial divisions were created separating families, friends, businesses etc. These ties continue and thus explain regular movements of regional nationals across the countries in all directions – including irregular movements.

Data regarding those deported to BiH sheds further light on the identification of the most frequent nationalities in this respect. When viewing the statistics regarding foreign nationals readmitted to BiH under the agreement with Croatia<sup>63</sup>, it can be seen that previously not only was the overall number much higher (2003 saw 756 cases) than currently (2006 saw 174 cases) but the variation and location of involved nationalities was much broader. Serbian and Montenegrin (including UNMIK) have remained the main nationalities throughout all the assessed years, with Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey being present throughout in significant numbers. Previous years saw the inclusion of China (in numbers too great to be dismissed a mere anomaly) as well as Pakistan, Senegal and Bangladesh.

Entry methods can also be identified in broad terms through analysis of statistics. Within the framework of the overall numbers of people entering and exiting BiH, those using airlines are a minority. The predominant method of both entry and exit is by road (over 17 million cars, goods vehicles and buses crossed over BiH borders in 2006 as opposed to around 13,200 aircraft<sup>64</sup>).

Putting this data in the context of prevention from the EU angle, those foreign nationalities using BiH as a transit point as well as the role of BiH nationals themselves must be assessed. To do this the readmission with Croatia data linked with analysis of the illegal exit data provides us with possible indicators of three nationalities – Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. None of these feature significantly in on-entry refusal data however appear to be those heading West via BiH (and therefore indicating a more obvious threat to EU). Thus the indication is that maybe BiH is being used as a transit country by these nationalities in their progress towards the EU.

With regard to the irregular migration of BiH nationals, they make up the most significant proportion of those intercepted attempting to illegally enter Croatia, however – to gain a contextual idea of the scale of this – data on BiH nationals deported/removed to BiH globally<sup>65</sup> should be addressed. The vast majority (routinely around the 90%

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<sup>63</sup> State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Report of the Situation of Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2006, p. 36.

<sup>64</sup> Note: Even accounting for full passenger loads on all flights the percentage of those entering/exiting by air would account for no more than 10% of overall number of people entering/exiting BiH.

<sup>65</sup> Note: Removals/deportations occur only with those states with agreements in place with BiH and so should only be seen as an indicator rather than the complete picture.

mark) of these removals are due to illegal residence within the sending states. Though the overall number of BiH nationals being removed is decreasing<sup>66</sup> it still represents a significant number. Analysis of the specific numbers for specific states provides us with a possible trend of concern to the EU. Despite the overall reduction in numbers, certain states have reported an increase in incidences – Croatia has shown a steady increase in the number of BiH nationals being deported for illegal residence there from 2003 (in 2005 and 2006 Croatia became the main source of BiH returns). Similarly, Italy and France have reported increasing numbers. Northern EU states are reporting a reduction whereas Southern EU states are reporting an increase. This would provisionally imply that following an initial ‘clearing’ of cases by the EU, irregular movements towards EU have continued (if this assumption is correct the future numbers from Northern EU states will also increase as the irregular migrants reach them).

Unfortunately data regarding in-country enforcement (irregular migrants identified or residencies requested/granted) where not made available. As a result, analysis of the removals enforced by the State Border Police has been used. The overall number has remained fairly steady, as has the national make-up – predominantly Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia and Albania. This would again tend to reinforce the identification of Former Serbia and Montenegro and Albania as key East-West movers.

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

**Table 5:** Number of Assisted Victims Trafficked to or originating from BiH, 2000-2006

Nationality	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
Foreign	199	200	252	49	48	44	40	832
BiH	0	0	3	4	6	22	31	66

*Source: State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, “Report of the Situation of Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2006, p. 22.*

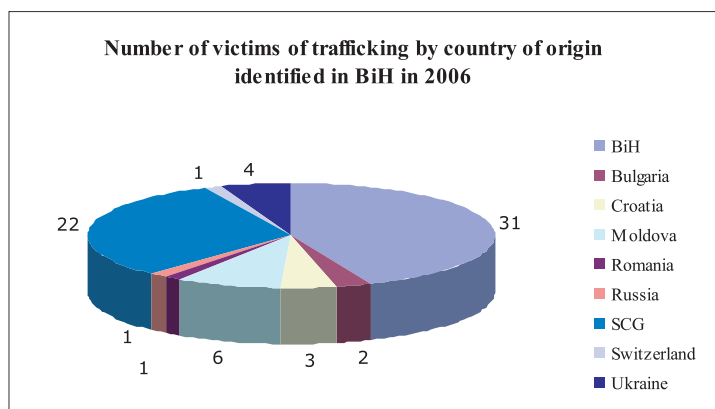
Trafficking in human beings, particularly women and girls, is a continuing problem in BiH and its neighbouring Eastern European countries. BiH, although, known as country of transit and destination for trafficking victims for the purposes of sexual exploitation, it is now also, increasingly, a country of origin, with BiH women not only being trafficked abroad but also internally within the region.

<sup>66</sup> 2003 – 3387, 2004 – 2144, 2005 – 1533, 2006 - 1350



While there is clearly a decrease in identified and assisted victims, most counter-trafficking actors maintain that the number of victims trafficked to and, increasingly from BiH remains high. The number presented in the table above refers only to victims identified and assisted by service providers in BiH. Secondary information, however, indicates the continued presence of trafficking victims throughout the country.

**Figure 1: Country of Origin of the Victims of Trafficking in 2006**



Source: State Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Report of the Situation of Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Immigration in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2006, p. 22.

The 2006 statistics regarding Country of Origin are fairly consistent with previous observations and the main countries of origin remain; Serbia, Moldova, Romania, Ukraine and Bulgaria. Most of those trafficked victims entered BiH overland through Serbia via Belgrade or Vojvodina, while others entered BiH through the Sarajevo International Airport, which served to further camouflage the transportation process.<sup>67</sup>

In recent years new strategies have been employed by traffickers to regularize foreign victims' status in BiH. Victims were in some cases required to marry their traffickers, while others were pressured to apply for asylum. Both serve as means to camouflage trafficking.<sup>68</sup>

In general, high unemployment, political instability and lack of opportunities for young people have resulted in an increasing number of youth looking for prospects to work

<sup>67</sup> Second Annual Report on Victims of Trafficking in South-Eastern Europe, 2005, Rebecca Surters/IOM, Regional Clearing Point

<sup>68</sup> Second Annual Report on Victims of Trafficking in South-Eastern Europe, 2005, Rebecca Surters/IOM, Regional Clearing Point, 115.



abroad. These conditions have created an opportunity for traffickers to exploit BiH youth through false promises about well-paid jobs abroad or other deceptive means. Youth are generally unaware of the risks of being trafficked. Several information initiatives have been implemented since the emergence of the issue of trafficking in BiH, mostly by IOM.

Government responses can be seen in the National Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, which was adopted in April 2005 for implementation in the period 2005-2007. It addressed mainly prevention and protection of victims, as well as the prosecution of perpetrators, based on the State and Entity level anti-trafficking laws. Since 2003, the BiH Criminal Code defines trafficking of human beings as a major crime. A Law on Witness Protection was adopted in July 2004 and entered into force in December 2004.<sup>69</sup>

According to the BiH US TIP report of 2006, the government has demonstrated increased efforts to address trafficking during 2006, particularly in the area of victim protection. In 2005, the BiH Government actively investigated trafficking cases and improved law enforcement capacity through specialized training on recognition and investigation. The government successfully implemented a formal victim screening and referral process and increased the number of trafficking investigations; however, sentences for trafficking remained low or suspended. The US report recommends that the government increases efforts to address trafficking-related complicity of public officials.

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

By the end of June 2007, 1,018,991 former refugees and IDPs have been recorded as having returned to their pre-war homes and municipalities in BiH, out of an estimated 2.2 million persons forcibly displaced during the war. Recorded returns include some 460,224 minority returns, and 558,767 majority returns, who returned to localities where their own people of BiH are in a numeric majority. Of the total number of returnees, 443,688 were refugees who left BiH, and 574,604 were forcibly displaced within the country. Nearly three quarters of the total have returned to the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and one quarter to the Republika Srpska. 21,382 refugees and IDPs have also returned to the Brčko District<sup>70</sup>. In total, 135,500 IDPs have been assisted and 4,184 returned as at 15 June 2007<sup>71</sup>.

These return figures provide a clear indication that the demography of BiH has been altered as a result of the right to return of all those displaced during the war, although a

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<sup>69</sup> EC 2006 Progress Report for BiH

<sup>70</sup> UNCHR Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, *Statistical Summary as at 30 June 2007*

<sup>71</sup> UNHCR [2006]: *Statistics, Yearbook 2006*  
Note: Yearbook is still 'provisional' state.

definite assessment of the demographic composition of the population in BiH will only be possible with a new census.

While the number of returns each year has been steadily dropping in recent years, a significant number of persons from BiH still remain displaced mainly in the region (in Serbia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia), but also outside of the region (Western Europe).

The process of return is therefore ongoing and the new strategies required for returnees who have spent an ever increasing amount of time outside of the country. Ongoing international and local assistance projects are still seeking to facilitate the reintegration of those who wish to return but have not been able to as their houses remain damaged and the areas of return in many occasions still lack the minimum infrastructure in terms of road access, access to utilities such as water and electricity, etc. New and additional sources of funding have been pursued, including funding from multilateral lending institutions such as the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), who provided a loan of 8 million EUR for the reconstruction of approximately 1,100 housing units, benefiting persons living in temporary accommodation such as Collective Centres and Alternative Accommodation. Valuable local contributions of 4 million EUR add up to the total project budget of 12 million EUR.

In addition to strict return and reintegration measures, the international and local community is making great effort to facilitate the larger scope of creating an atmosphere for durable solutions for these groups, by facilitating access to rights of property, education, employment, health care, pensions, as integral part of the overall strategy for the stability and development of the country. Responses among the various actors involved in this wider picture need strict coordination to ensure overall impact.

Despite all efforts, and while the numbers of displaced populations and refugees are substantially decreasing and some have found durable solutions through either return to their homes, or local integration in their new place of residence, living conditions for those still seeking displaced population protection or refugee status remain a grave concern. The collective accommodation which is available, such as collective centres, provides only very rudimentary living conditions. While it was originally intended to be a temporary solution, many persons have lived there for years due to a lack of funds for reconstruction in certain areas of BiH, insufficient resources in the social welfare systems and the limited capacity of medical institutions, among other reasons.

## **6.9. Projects and programmes on migration and development**

### *Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (ToKtEN)*

The project contributed to the development of BiH through the temporary return of

highly qualified BiH nationals abroad who came back for maximum 2 months on short-term consultancy contracts. A large number of ToKtEN consultants were sent to institutions, companies and organizations to work on scientific, technological and socio-economic matters and provide specific solutions thanks to their expertise. Though the project period is finished, all the 32 ToKtEN consultants who were engaged in the project agreed to continue their cooperation in the future with the local institutions. A database and a ToKtEN website were created and information campaigns took place.

The project was funded by UNDP and its partners were IOM, the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) - Department for International, Scientific, Technical, Educational, Cultural and Sports Cooperation, BiH Diplomatic Consular Missions abroad, The BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees (MHRR) - Department for Emigration, Bosnia and Herzegovina World Network, The Australian Council of Bosnian- Herzegovina Organizations, The Congress of North American Bosniaks.

### *Reconnect<sup>72</sup>*

Re-Connect is the Community of Bosnia (CoB)'s flagship project. Since 2000, it has enabled over 58 young Bosnians in the United States and elsewhere to re-engage with their native country and help the country's development by transferring knowledge and skills working abroad. This is accomplished through an internship program whereby interns work for BiH organizations and businesses and volunteer as teachers of computer skills and English for the disadvantaged BiH population such as children and single mothers. The community service component of the CoB program fills the gaps created by sporadic war schooling and an unreformed educational system, and provides skills that are in demand in today's BiH. It also models an ethic of voluntarism and positive energy that is key for building self-sufficiency and civil society in BiH. As a result of Re-Connect, some of its participants will return to their country, and others will establish professional networks that will encourage them to stay productively engaged in the rebuilding of BiH.

### *Domestic Product Promotion Alliance*

Among other things, it aims to channel diasporas investment potential into production in BiH. The objective is not domestic-market protection but rather to help this country's companies to compete more successfully in the open global market. The groups will attempt to establish networks connecting BiH's business people with their counterparts in the diasporas.

### *BiHStudenti*

[www.BiHStudenti.com](http://www.BiHStudenti.com) is a website aimed at students who have connections with BiH. It is a source of information and contact with other Bosnian students around the world. Discussions on topics of BiH are held and the website serves as a source of information

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<sup>72</sup> <http://www.cobonline.org/rec2003.html>;

and allows the students to participate in lobbying vis-à-vis the Bosnian government and to cooperate amongst themselves to work for the development of their home country.

***Reconstruction, Capacity Building and Development through the Return of Qualified Nationals to Bosnia (RCDB)***

Implemented by IOM, this project aimed at attracting highly qualified nationals back to their areas of origin in BiH, in contribution to the country's reconstruction and development. The targeted host areas were Europe, North America, Australia and Arab countries.

***Temporary Return of Qualified Nationals (TRQN)***

Implemented by IOM with funding from the Netherlands the project aims to encourage BiH Citizens who have acquired permanent residence or citizenship in the Netherlands to temporarily return to BiH to provide technical expertise in their field.

In addition many smaller organizations and projects support different aspects of return and reintegration to BiH. For example, Swiss CARITAS, UMCOR, Mercy Coprs and Care International who all support reconstruction of returnees homes and businesses. Or organizations focusing on economic issues such as IRC, Corridor and Land-o-Lakes.

## **6.10. Important migration actors within the country (EU MS with specific migration programmes, relevant international organizations, NGOs etc)**

### **International Organizations**

■ **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

Vilsonovo Setaliste 10, 71000 Sarajevo

Telephone: +387 (0) 33 648 137

Fax: +387 (0) 33 648 202

E-mail: [missionsarajevo@iom.int](mailto:missionsarajevo@iom.int)

Website: <http://www.iom.ba/>

IOM established a mission in Sarajevo in 1992, setting up the MEDEVAC programme to evacuate war-wounded individuals who could not be treated locally. Following the end of the war, IOM expanded its activities to the voluntary return of refugees from abroad and to assist BiH nationals resettling in third countries. Today, IOM's programmes in BiH aim to prevent irregular migration, including trafficking of human beings, facilitate regular emigration, and generally technically assist the BiH Government to effectively manage migration.

■ **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

UNITIC Building, Tower B, Fra Andjela Zvizdovica 1, 71 000 Sarajevo,

Telephone: +387 (0)33 666-160

Fax: +387 (0)33 470 171

E-mail: [bsnsa@unhcr.org](mailto:bsnsa@unhcr.org)

Website: <http://www.unhcr.ba>

UNHCR has been entrusted with the mandate to ensure the international protection of refugees and to seek solutions for refugees. UNHCR, in line with the Dayton Peace Agreement, is the lead agency with regard to the implementation of Annex 7, and actively facilitates the return and reintegration of former BiH refugees and internally displaced persons. UNHCR has been operationally based in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1991 and has a nation-wide presence with 4 regional offices in Banja Luka, Tuzla, Mostar and Sarajevo.

▪ **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

48 Marsala Tita Street, 71000 Sarajevo

Telephone: +387 (0)33 563 841 / +387 (0)33 563 842

Fax: +387 (0)33 552 330

E-mail: [registry@undp.ba](mailto:registry@undp.ba)

Website: <http://www.undp.ba>

The UNDP's areas of activity in BiH include: democratic governance, pro-poor socio-economic development, human security, environment, gender and youth. Some of these areas involve migrant groups as vulnerable ones.

▪ **Office of the High Representative and European Union Special Representative (OHR)**

Emerika Bluma 1, 71 000 Sarajevo

Telephone: +387 (0)33 283 500

Fax: +387 (0)33 283 501

Website: <http://www.eusrbih.org>

The EU itself has assumed a leading position in BiH's international engagement – not to the exclusion of other partners, but through a naturally evolving relationship based on BiH's aspiration to obtain EU membership. The EU Special Representative plays a central role in promoting overall EU political co-ordination in BiH, and offering political guidance to the EUFOR Commander, including in justice and home affairs issues.

▪ **European Commission Delegation to BiH**

Dubrovacka 6, 71000 Sarajevo

Telephone: +387 0(33) 254 700

Fax: +387 (0)33 666 037

Website: <http://www.delbih.ec.europa.eu/>

EC Delegations play an important role in the conduct of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), providing regular political analysis, carrying out evaluations jointly with Member State Embassies and contributing to the policy-making process. The Delegation of the European Commission to BiH was established on 10 July 1996. In addition to the tasks mentioned above, including in the area of justice and home affairs, this Delegation plays a key role in the implementation of substantial external assistance to BiH.

■ **International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)**

Grbavicka 54, 71000 Sarajevo

Telephone: +387 (0)33 529 740

Website: <http://www.icmpd.org/>

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development is an inter-governmental organisation with UN Observer status, created in 1993 at the initiative of Switzerland and Austria. The purpose of the Centre is to promote innovative, comprehensive and sustainable migration policies and to function as a service exchange mechanism for governments and organisations in the wider European region.

■ **USAID**

Hamdije Cemerlica 39, 71000 Sarajevo

Telephone +387 (0)33 619-211

Fax: +387 (0)33 611-973

Website: <http://www.usaid.ba/>

Since 1995, the U.S. Government has spent more than one billion USD through the USAID to support BiH's transition into a multi-ethnic, stable society with a functioning free market economy and democratic system. On migration-related areas, USAID has particularly supported counter-trafficking efforts.

■ **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**

Fra Andela Zvizdovica 1, 71000 Sarajevo

Telephone: +387 (0)33 752 100

Website: <http://www.oscebih.org/>

OSCE's mandate in BiH includes organizing and supervising elections, promoting democratic values, monitoring and furthering the development of human rights, as well as implementing arms control and security-building measures

**NGOs**

**Vasa Prava**

Dolina 9, 71000 Sarajevo

Telephone: +387 (0)33 260 760

Website: <http://www.vasaprava.org>

The association Vaša Prava Bosnia and Herzegovina is a local organisation with its headquarters in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Association was originally founded in 1996 as a network of information and legal aid centres under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with its mandate to ensure safe, legal, and dignified return of refugees and displaced persons to their pre-war homes. Registered at the state level in 2005, today the Association Vaša Prava BiH represents the largest free legal aid provider and one of the largest non-governmental organisations in the region. It has developed into an effective network of the legal aid and information centres in the region with over 80 employees in 16 offices and 60 mobile teams across BiH. The organization provides assistance to victims of trafficking among other vulnerable groups.

**La Strada Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Bulevar Revolucije 35, 88000 Mostar

Telephone +387 (0)36 557 191

Website: <http://www.lastrada.ba>

**Medica**

Mokušnice 20, 72000 Zenica

Telephone: +38732441541

Medica1@bih.net.ba

**Zene sa Une**

Krupska bb, 77000 Bihac

Telephone: +38737220855

zena-una@bih.net.ba

**Zena BiH**

Trg Ivana Krndelja 3, 88104 Mostar

Telephone: +38736550339

zenabih@cob.net.ba

**Lara**

Beogradska 38, 76300 Bijeljina

Telephone: +38755220255

Lara@rstel.net

**MFS Emaus**

22 Divizije 17, Gracanica

Telephone: +38735726020

mfs@bih.net.ba

These organizations are focused on the prevention of trafficking in women and protection of victims, through public education and awareness raising, as well as direct assistance, including a hotline service for victims and potential victims.