Deliverable 1.3

Mapping of migration related research and policy development in the Western Balkan Countries - Report on prospective regional networks

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1. Objectives and structure of the Report

Deliverable 1.3 is an output of WP1 – Stocktaking and identifying research challenges and opportunities (M1-M6). In particular, the task 1.3 (M3-M6) provides an assessment of existing networks of migration related research as well as information with regard to relevant stakeholders in the Western Balkans. Its fundamental purpose is to assist MIGREC in the formulation of an updated and well informed research strategy and agenda that will maximize its impact when it comes to policy discussions and decision-making in relation to migration in the Western Balkans.

In order to satisfy this ambition, the design and completion of the deliverable of Task 1.3, the report on the “Mapping of migration related research and policy development in the Western Balkans”, have been as comprehensive as possible. This entailed the gathering of information and data pertaining to all countries of the Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro and North Macedonia. Serbia was not included in the country reports due to the fact that the correspondent mapping was produced in the context of the deliverables 1.1 (Report on the state of the art of research, the gaps, needs and expectations related to migration research at the Faculty of Political Science and the University of Belgrade) and 1.2 (The current and future needs of Serbia regarding migration, integration and governance related research: mapping of the stakeholders at the national level). The decision to include Croatia, an EU member state since 2013, was founded upon the need to obtain a systematic overview of the country’s migration related governance and research characteristics, an element which could benefit MIGREC’s comprehensive overview regarding the Western Balkans. A second significant and distinct component of the gathering of information and data pertains to the international and regional organizations (policy/governance and research) dealing with migration in the Western Balkans. Serbia is included in this report.

The collection of all this information and data was completed on the basis of an agreed, by all MIGREC partners, methodology as well as guidelines. It included, fundamentally, two aspects: i) desk research and ii) contacts with relevant stakeholders and experts from the fields of governance, academia, research, think tanks as well as NGOs. With regard to the contacts made, informed consent procedures were adopted in order to ensure that participants were fully aware of the purpose and method of data collection, personal data processing and in accordance to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Furthermore, all stakeholders contacted were provided with the option to retain their anonymity.

When it comes to the rationale and the guidelines for the gathering of information and data, in the case of the countries of the Western Balkans, the effort was to address three key questions:

i) Meso-level/ governance: who makes decisions on migration policies and what are the current policy priorities of the decision makers?

ii) Micro-level/ research: who conducts relevant research in the countries of the Western Balkans (universities, research centres and think tanks)

iii) Micro-level: NGOs: Which NGOs operate in the field of migration and what kind of policy gaps are they filling in?
In each of the three cases an elaborate set of questions were used to guide the collection of data and information. In the case of international and regional organization a similar set of guideline questions was used.

The structure of the report is as follows: The report begins with an introduction which summarizes key aspects of the content. It is followed by the country reports in an alphabetical order: 1. Albania, 2. Bosnia and Herzegovina, 3. Croatia, 4. Kosovo, 5. Montenegro and 6. North Macedonia. The structure of the contents in each country report is the following: i) introduction, ii) Meso-level: State institutions and agencies dealing with migration governance, iii) Micro-level: Universities/ Academic departments, Research Centres and Institutes specializing on migration, iv) Micro-level: NGOs and other institutions from the civil society, v) analysis and vi) recommendations.

The next section of the report is dedicated to the report on the international and regional organizations dealing with migration in the Western Balkans. In this case, the contents are structured in the following order: i) international organizations dealing with migration in the Western Balkans, ii) regional organizations dealing with migration in the Western Balkans and iii) academic/ research networks dealing with migration in the Western Balkans.

The last section of the report contains concluding remarks and general recommendations on the basis of the analysis and the recommendations proposed in the country reports and the report on the international and regional organizations.

In Appendix, there is a comprehensive list of the questions used as guidelines for the collection of information and data.
2. Introduction

The completion of this report required a considerable effort from all MIGREC partners. According to the initial division of labor, the University of Sheffield provided the country reports of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. SEERC provided the country reports of Kosovo and Montenegro. ELIAMEP provided the country reports of Albania and North Macedonia, the report on the international and regional organizations dealing with migration in the Western Balkans as well as the overall recommendations on the basis of the country reports and the report on the international and regional organizations.

It must be stressed that the contents of this report are as exhaustive and extensive as they could be, taking into consideration the compact timeframe available for its completion. It is also certain that much of the information included is subject to modifications relating to factors that could not be foreseen such as political developments (i.e. elections and changes in the governance structures of the countries of the Western Balkans) or other developments affecting the field of academia (i.e. establishment of academic departments or research networks) that may take place in the near future. Nevertheless, the information and more importantly the analysis and the recommendations contained in this report will certainly provide MIGREC with valuable insights with regard to the formulation of its research and networking strategy in the region, elements which will maximize its appeal and impact.

This report has all the potential to function as a reference and a guide that will permit MIGREC staff to reflect on migration related issues in the Western Balkan region, both at a country level as well as at a regional. This second element is developed in more detail in the overall recommendations on the basis of the country reports and the report on the international and regional organizations. The usefulness of this report relates also to the fact that it provides MIGREC staff with shortcuts and an important number of quick references to a wide variety of stakeholders and sources at the country and the regional level and in relation to different areas of interest (governance/policy, academia/research, civil society/NGOs).

From a general standpoint, the report will facilitate the formulation of MIGREC’s research agenda and networking strategy both at the country level as well as the regional and international level. In essence, it exemplifies, with all its shortcomings and weaknesses, an attempt to outline a combination of three distinct and interconnected layers of reflection in relation to migration, namely the local (country level), the regional (Western Balkans) and the international (European, global). The characteristics of migration in the modern era necessitate not only a systematic and a multidisciplinary approach but also a flexible reflection with the capacity to observe the unfolding of the phenomenon from a wider scope; such a vision often entails an updated oversight and consideration of different national contexts, of different regions around the world and also of different normative and legislative frameworks. It is precisely from this point of view that the purpose of this report must be understood. It is evident that its contents can and must be revisited and updated at latter periods. Already, it has been peer-reviewed by MIGREC partners and particularly by the University of Belgrade and the FPN scholars who provided numerous remarks, comments and suggestions and also information that should have been included in the report. To the extent that it was possible, those remarks were incorporated. In the cases in which this was not possible, they can become

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Special thanks and gratitude must be attributed to Nteivis Tsaka and Iakovos Tsalikoglou, both research assistants at ELIAMEP’s South-East Europe Programme, for their valuable contribution in the collection of information and data pertaining to this report.
the object of a very fruitful task, the updating and further completion of this document in the context of MIGREC’s consolidation as a Research Centre.

3. Country reports

3.1. Albania

3.1.1. Introduction

With the collapse of communism in 1989–1991, Albania, which had become a People's Republic in 1944–1946, experienced one of the most important emigration flows not only by European standards but also at international level. Russell King, the British scholar of migration, described Albania as a “laboratory for the study of migration and development” in one of his publications in 2005. As Russell King noted: “No other country in Europe has been so deeply affected by migration over this period of time (...) After more than four decades of autarky and isolation in which emigration was regarded as an act of treason and punished by long imprisonment and even death, Albanians' repressed desire to see the outside world exploded in 1991. From being virtual prisoners in their own country, unable to move even internally without special permission and direction, Albanians became Europe's most visible emigrants: initially celebrated and exoticized; but then relentlessly stigmatized and vilified, especially in Italy and Greece, the two main destination countries.” According to official sources in 2008 there were about 459,390 Albanian citizens living in Greece. From 1991 onwards, Albanians constitute the most important immigrant population in Greece. This figure become even more revealing if one takes into account the fact that according to the 2011 census the population of the country was 2,821,977.

At present (2019) the population of Albania stands at 2,862,427. The evolution of the country's population from 1989 (3.2 million) to present day is, therefore, characterized by a relative decrease and a clear pattern of stagnation. According to Russell King, “until 1990, Albania's population growth was the fastest in Europe; the country's population increased from 1.2 million in 1950 to 3.2 million in 1989. The growth rate peaked at more than 3 percent annually during the 1950s and early 1960s; by 1990 the rate had fallen to 2 percent- still very high by European standards.” With regard to other key economic and social indicators, Albania's GDP is currently calculated at $ 15.418 billion (nominal) and $ 40.151 billion (PPP).

4 Russell King (2005), Albania a laboratory for the study of migration and development, Journal of Southern Europe and the Balkans, 7:2, 133-155, DOI: 10.1080/14613190500132880
5 The author is referring to the post-Cold War era
6 Ibid, p. 134
10 Russell King (2005), op. Cit., p. 135
11 Ibid, p. 135
Its GDP is growing with an important rate which currently (2020) is calculated at 3.4%. When it comes to unemployment, the figures of INSTAT (2018) calculate at 12.4%.

Albania acceded to NATO in 2009 along with Croatia. It has been strongly associated with the organization since the early 1990's and in particular through its Partnership for Peace scheme as early as 1994 (PfP). When it comes to the progress of its EU accession, Albania, which has been a candidate since 2014, was given the green light, along with North Macedonia, to begin accession negotiations in 2020, following a decision of the EU Council in late March 2020. This development was hailed by the EU Commission as a landmark confirming the EU’s commitment to the European perspective of not only the two countries but the entire Western Balkan region.

Albania and the question of Migration

Seen from the wider historical and regional perspective of the 20th century, the emigration of Albanians from Southeast Europe to other parts of the world took place in different periods. However, it is important to distinguish between, on the one hand, the case of the Republic of Albania (1991-today) and its predecessor, the People's Republic of Albania (1944-1991) and the numerous Albanian speaking populations that lived in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1945-1991) and since 1991 in Kosovo and North Macedonia but also in Serbia and Montenegro. As it was already mentioned, in the context of the People's Republic of Albania, emigration was restricted by harsh measures.

In the case of the Republic of Albania, the pattern of migration since 1990 was rather different, particularly when it comes to the destination countries. In particular, one may refer to the following periods and important dates of outward and inward migration:

- **1991-1996**, about 200,000 of Albanians moved towards other countries and particularly to Italy and Greece.
- **1997-1998**, following the severe political, economic and social unrest and crisis experienced by the country (collapse of the pyramid schemes), around 30,000 Albanians emigrated to Italy and 40,000 to Greece, with many of them being repatriated.
- **during the crisis and the conflict in Kosovo in 1998 and 1999**, about 500,000 Kosovo Albanians sought refuge in Albania with many of them attempting to transit through it towards other West European countries and with many Albanians intermingling with them.
- **since the late 2000's**, Albania has experienced the phenomenon of return migration and also circular/seasonal migration due to various factors (i.e. the Greek economic crisis).

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15 NATO, [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_50349.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_50349.htm)
17 This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence
crisis and the visa liberalization in the EU Schengen area for Albania citizens). If one takes the case of Greece, it is estimated that between 2007 and 2012, around 180,000 Albanians returned to Albania, a population equivalent to 18-22% of Albanian migrants in Greece.

- **the rise of the refugee and migrant flows** from the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia since the early 2010’s. In this context, the Republic of Albania was and still is considered to be a transit country for the populations that attempt to reach countries of Western Europe. However, the country did not have to deal with the arrival and passing through of the more than 1 million that traveled through the so-called “Balkan route”. It is noteworthy that in the peak of these movements (mid-late 2015 and early 2016), there were only 2047 apprehended migrants and 104 asylum applications (2015) and 915 apprehended migrants and 240 asylum applications (2016). However, more recent data indicate a considerable rise in those numbers; in 2018, there were 5,730 apprehended migrants and 4,378 applications for asylum. In all probability, this rise can be attributed to the effort of migrant populations to use an alternate route towards West European countries through Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia and from there to Austria and Italy.

- **Since 2015**, many Albanians have tried to reach West European countries and particularly Germany as “economic asylum seekers”. Germany tried to discourage this movement.

- **Since the beginning of the 2010’s**, there has been a significant increase of legal immigration to Albania. For instance, in 2013 there were 8,330 immigrants that came to the country whereas in 2010 there were 5,663. In 2013, the majority came from Turkey (1,712), Italy (1,553), Kosovo (773), Greece (496) and China (298).

The above mentioned data attest to the fact that Albania, particularly in its post-communist evolution, has been deeply affected by emigration, which on many occasions took and still takes place in an urgent and irregular manner. Another important indicator of the scale of this outward movement is the fact that, according to Kosta Barjaba and Joniada Barjada, by 2014 “the number of emigrants is now higher than the resident Albanian labor force which measures around 1.07 million”. This major element combined to the fact that the Republic of Albania never really was a destination country for inward migration could explain the long-standing propensity of Albanian authorities to manage and deal with the “management of irregular outflows and in general with emigration, rather than immigration issues”.

Another important question, also linked with migration governance and migration related research with regard to Albania, is the reason behind this enduring phenomenon as well as its impact on the country at all levels, political, economic, social and cultural. With regard to the first aspect, according to Kosta Barjaba ad Joniada Barjaba one of the most decisive factors for outward migration has been the will of many people to escape poverty, poor living conditions or inversely their will to secure a better life and more opportunities for their families. Despite the fact that Albanian economy and democracy have grown stronger since the early 1990’s, it seems

20 Ibid.
21 Ibid.
22 Armela Xhaho, Alma Lleshi Tandili (2019), op. Cit., p. 8
that poverty is still a major challenge to the lives of many Albanians. A turning point was undoubtedly the global economic crisis in 2008 as well as the Greek and subsequently the Eurozone crisis (2010-2016) which led many EU countries to recession and ultimately forced many Albanian migrants to return to Albania. Poverty had been reduced by 25.4% in 2002 to 12.4% in 2008. However, by 2014, poverty rose once more to 17.9% whilst Albanians held around that period one third of the purchasing power of other Europeans. In fact, it seems that one of the most immediate consequences of this rise in poverty was once more the rise of emigration flows with the most affected region of the country (i.e. the coastal areas) becoming the most significant in terms of people emigrating.

When it comes to the impact of this long-standing phenomenon of emigration, there are obviously many layers to be considered. One of the most discussed is undoubtedly the “migration-development nexus”, in other words the beneficial aspects of migration for Albania proper from a political, economic and social perspective, but also some more troubling impacts of emigration on Albania. According to Russell King, there are three distinct processes with regard to the effects of this phenomenon: i) the immediate effects of outmigration on the society and economy 'left behind' (stagnant population, brain and skill drain, the decline of rural communities and the abandonment of old people), ii) the economic impact of remittances and iii) the impact of return migration.

At the level of the economy, the remittances sent by the migrants since the early 1990's have played a capital role for the growth of the GDP and also for upgrading the well-being of the migrants' families. It is calculated that in 2007, a year before the global financial crisis began, the remittances had reached almost 1 billion Euros and stood for the 15% of the GDP, whilst they decreased significantly in the following years. Russell King referred to these remittances as the “vital plank” which shored for many years the country's balance of payments, whilst they have equaled at times twice the value of exports and five times the amount of foreign aid received by the international organization on a yearly basis.

On the other hand, according to Russell King, the beneficial role of the remittances must be thought both in connection to a micro and macro-level (individual and collective level, local and national level) and also to the short and long-term effects. From that respect, it is observable that remittances did not act as a panacea for many of Albania's more structural and long-term challenges (i.e. inequality and poverty at the collective level, institutional capacity to make an optimal use of this capital to the benefit of the country as a whole). According to Kosta Barjaba and Joniada Barjaba, there have been efforts by the Albanian governments and state agencies to harvest the benefits of remittances not only in terms of investments but also in terms of the human and social capital; however, there was also a lack of incentives that would support these initiatives (i.e. the return of emigrants who would like to invest).

A final element that needs to be considered is the character of this phenomenon of emigration from the standpoint of procedures and institutional preparedness both from the point of view of Albania as well as major reception countries like Greece and Italy. It is certain that from the 1990's until 2010, emigration proceeded in a framework of irregularity. By the late 1990's and early 2000's both Italy and Greece began a process of proper registration in the context of

24 Ibid.
25 Ibid.
26 Russell King (2005), op. Cit., p. 146
28 Russell King (2005), op. Cit. 149
29 Ibid.
important legislative initiatives that progressively permitted a better management of Albanian immigration, the provision of guarantees when it comes to the improvement of integration of those populations and also the gradual overcoming of the negative stereotypes and the stigmatization of Albanian immigrants. Another decisive factor has been the granting of visa-free travel to Albanians by the EU into the Schengen area in 2010. This decision also provided a more solid framework for more transparent procedures of emigration in its various forms (i.e. seasonal migration). With regard to the evolution of the Albanian state's institutional and legal framework for managing migration (in all its forms, inward and outward), Kosta Barjaba and Joniada Barjaba estimate that there has been, quite paradoxically, a bigger emphasis and sophistication when it comes to inward migration rather than outward.

This report focuses on 3 key and distinct fields of interest related to migration: I) the meso-level referring to the structures of migration governance, II) the micro-level referring to the academic departments, research centres and think tanks that deal with migration and III) the micro-level referring to the NGOs that relate to migration. These three parts are followed by sections dedicated to analysis and recommendations and lastly by the Appendices.

The information and the data presented in this report were assembled by: a) desk research and b) meetings and consultations with relevant stakeholders and experts from all three levels, to the extent that it was possible. In particular, these meetings were made possible in the context of a field trip to Tirana, Albania from 25 to 27 February 2020. The following meetings were conducted:

**Meso-level (migration governance):**

1) An Albanian official who has been involved in various frameworks of cooperation, at the governmental level, between Albania and other countries of the Western Balkans.

**Micro-level (academic departments/ research centers and think tanks):**

1) Dr. Islam Jusufi, who is a Lecturer and Head of the Department of Political Sciences and International Relations at the Epoka University in Tirana, Albania.
2) Dr. Eda Gemi, who is a Senior Lecturer of Sociology at the New York University in Tirana.
3) Dr. Ledion Krisafi, who is a Senior Researcher and Project Manager at the Albanian Institute for International Studies (AIIS) a non-governmental, non-profit and policy institute.
4) Mr. Ardian Hackaj, who is the Director of ShtetiWeb.org, the public policy platform for the Cooperation and Development Institute in Tirana (CDI).

One more meeting took place with a representative from UNHCR in Albania:

1) Mr Artur Marku, who is an Associate Protection Officer & PR at the UNHCR in Tirana Albania. The meeting with Mr. Marku took place at the premises of the UNHCR on 27 February 2020.
3.1.2. Meso-level: State institutions and agencies dealing with migration governance

Who makes decisions on migration policies

The magnitude of emigration for Albania has, understandably, drawn the constant attention of policy and governance related structures in Albania since the early 1990’s. The fundamental effort of many Albanian governments has been to facilitate and improve the living and working conditions of the numerous Albanian migrants in the receiving countries. At the same time, the country tried to respond to the international standards of dealing with immigration and irregular migration. For some analysts the results have not been as satisfactory as they should have when it comes to emigration. According to Kosta Barjaba and Joniada Barjaba “there is a visible asymmetry between emigration and immigration legislation in Albania”\(^{35}\). As they indicate, this asymmetry relates to the different capacities that the country disposes when it comes to managing inward and outward migration: “Considering Albania’s vulnerability in the global migration system, the government has limited power to manage migration outflow and no leverage to require that receiving countries meet all international standards on delivering services to Albanians. Within Albania, however, immigration and asylum legislation has met EU and international requirements to guarantee the necessary conditions for economic, social and cultural integration of foreigners, including workers, asylum seekers and refugees legally residing in Albania”\(^{36}\).

Since the early 1990’s and until today there have been several major frameworks for dealing with migration governance in a comprehensive manner. We could refer to the following 4 national strategies and action plans:

\textbullet\ 2005: “The National Strategy on Migration and National Action Plan on Migration, the road towards migration management”\(^{37}\). The preparation of this strategy and action plan was funded by the CARDS programme of the EU and was developed in cooperation with the IOM. There were 3 key policy areas covered by this strategy: address the root causes of emigration through economic development and job creation, reduce the irregular and promote legal migration and protect the Albanians living abroad\(^{38}\).

\textbullet\ 2006: “The National Strategy on Integrated Border Management and its action plan”. This strategy was further updated and developed in 2014 and extended to the period between 2014 and 2020. It was an attempt to address border management, including all migration related aspects, in a comprehensive manner\(^{39}\).

\(^{35}\) Ibid.

\(^{36}\) Ibid.

\(^{37}\) For the complete text visit the refWorld platform of the UNHCR at the following address: https://www.refworld.org/docid/5aaa807b4.html


\(^{39}\) For the complete text visit the site of Sheti (web library of Albanian public policies) at the following address: https://shtetiweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/L2-National-Strategy-on-Integrated-Border-Management-its-Action-Plan-2006-2010.pdf
➢ 2010: “The strategy on Reintegration of Returned Albanian citizens: 2010-2015”\(^{40}\). The strategy had a clear focus on the policy, the legislation and the institutional framework for return and reintegration. Its goal was to propose improvements for the legal framework, to set priorities and define the concrete measures to be taken in this direction.

➢ 2018: “The national strategy on Diaspora and migration: 2018-2024”. This is a very ambitious effort to address numerous aspects of relations between Albania and its Diaspora and in particular the following: vision and strategy with a focus on EU integration, the causes and stages of Albanian migration and “brain drain”, the relations between the Albanian state and the Diaspora, the involvement of the Diaspora in the economy of Albania and also questions of identity and cultural heritage\(^{41}\).

➢ 2019: “The national strategy on migration governance and Action plan: 2019-2022”. In this latest version of a national strategy on migration, adopted in June 2019, the Albanian government and the site of the State Minister for Diaspora in the following manner: “This decision aims to improve the legal framework in the area of migration according to the EU and international standards. The integration of migration issues into a single political document came as a necessity to fill the existing gaps and to improve the migration management and coordination structures. (…) The objective of this strategy is the effective governance of migration in Albania by addressing the challenges arising from migration flows and increasing the impact of migration on the country's development. In addition, the strategy includes the establishment of an institutional mechanism for coordinating work and competences between the relevant ministries”\(^{42}\).

Another major framework for the evolution of Albania's migration policies has been its EU accession process. Albania signed its Stabilization and Association Agreement in 2006 and applied for EU membership in 2009. It was in 2014 that it officially obtained the candidate status. Currently (March 2020), it awaits an imminent opening of its accession negotiations. Throughout all this period, the EU has provided guidelines and support so that Albania can adjust to the EU norms and regulations when it comes to migration policies and governance. Like North Macedonia and the other Western Balkan countries, Albania is not a member of the European Migration Network (EMN), which coordinates migration policies among EU member States. However, the country has had extensive cooperation in the past years with the European Asylum Office (EASO) and FRONTEX.

In its country progress report of 2019, the EU refers to Albania's migration policies on numerous occasions. At general level it states the following as to the country's efforts to adjust to EU standards: “With regard to migration, some progress was made in improving the institutional capacity on border management and asylum. Albania signed the European Border and Coast Guard Status Agreement with the EU in October 2018. Reception capacity to deal with mixed migration flows was further enhanced. The number of unfounded asylum lodged by Albanian nationals in the EU has decreased but remains high and requires continuous and

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\(^{40}\) For the complete text visit the site of the European Stability Initiative (ESI) at the following address: https://www.esiweb.org/pdf/schengen_whitelist_project_Strategy%20on%20Reintegration%20of%20Returned%20Albanian%20Citizens%202010-2015.pdf

\(^{41}\) For the complete text visit the site of the Albanian State Minister for Diaspora at the following address: http://diaspora.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Strategy-English.pdf

sustained efforts, as well as to address the phenomenon of unaccompanied minors. In the same report, the EU takes note of the adoption of national strategies on migration and Diaspora: “In June 2019, Albania plans to adopt the national strategy on migration governance and its action plan covering 2019-22, providing a clear framework to better manage and coordinate migration flows. The national strategy for the Diaspora 2018-24 and its action plan were adopted in May 2018. As part of the broader policy area of migration and development, efforts to engage the Diaspora should continue.

When it comes to the authorities and agencies that deal with migration and make decisions, we can refer to the following according to distinct policy areas as defined by the “Migration Profile -2016, Republic of Albania” prepared by the government of Albanian in collaboration with the IOM:

- **“Regular migration focused on migration for employment”**:  
  1) The Ministry of Internal Affairs through the State Police (Border and Migration Department) and the Directorate for Asylum (border control, movement and control of aliens, application of visa procedures)
  2) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (visa policy, international cooperation on migration, support of Albanian emigrants living abroad) and the Directorate of Consular Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  3) The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth through its Directorates and the National Employment Service (employment legislation, education, vocational training, social standards, pensions, family and youth policies...)

- **“Irregular Migration in the country”**  
  1) The Ministry of Internal Affairs through structures including the State Police (Border and Migration Department and the Department against Organized Crime and Serious Crimes), the Asylum Directorate and the Anti-trafficking Directorate. These structures deal with a number of issues such as prevention and fight against irregular migration, control of aliens in the country, voluntary removal, expulsion and detention of irregular aliens, implementation of Re-Admission Agreements, implementation of the National Referral Mechanism and Standard Operating Procedures for dealing with trafficking and irregular migration.

- **“Return, readmission and re-integration”**  
  1) The Ministry of Internal Affairs (Border and Migration department in the State Police)
  2) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Consular structure for return and readmission)
  3) The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth is responsible for the reintegration of returned Albanian citizens (assistance in dealing with economic problems, vocational training, employment opportunities)
  4) The Ministry of Education and Sports is responsible for contributing to the integration of aliens and Albanian returnees in the field of education, culture and science

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44 Ibid, p. 39
“Integration”

1) The Ministry of Internal Affairs has the overall responsibility but there is no specialized institutional system for coordination of integration and citizenship.

“Migration and Development”

1) The Ministry of Internal Affairs has the overall responsibility in the field of migration
2) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for Albanian communities living abroad.
3) Other ministries participate (Economic development, Tourism, Trade, Finance, Social Welfare and Youth, Education and Sports...)

“Asylum and international protection”

1) The Ministry of Internal Affairs has the main responsibility through the General Directorate for Border and Migration and the Asylum Directorate.

We can also refer to the State Ministry for Diaspora\textsuperscript{46} which works on promoting and strengthening the overall cooperation between the Albanian communities living outside of the Republic of Albania and the host countries, in every aspect. Its “operational Bible” is the national Diaspora Plan 2018-2024 which was adopted in 2018 by the ministerial council. Under the Ministry’s auspices are operating also the Diaspora Coordinative Council and the Sub-Commission on Diaspora and Migration. In a direct relation to the Ministry is also the National Diaspora Agency\textsuperscript{47}. Its main task is to improve the position of the Diaspora members and to protect their rights and interests in the destination countries providing assistance for the preservation of the national cultural heritage. On its website, all the Albanian Diaspora organizations around the globe can be easily found.

In a more purposeful way, the Parliamentary Sub-Committee for Diaspora and Migration\textsuperscript{48}, deals with Diaspora issues and migratory phenomena in Albania. Its whole action can be found on the website of the parliament as provided. Along with the Ministry of Health and social Protection, the National Employment Service\textsuperscript{49} acts within the frames of the legislation and state policies for migration concerning employment, educational and vocational training, social standards, pensions, family, children and youth policies. It is also responsible for permitting aliens to be employed at any time, including the professions.

Finally, the office of Ombudsman Albania\textsuperscript{50} is occupied with the rights of immigrants and is also publishing annual reports regarding their rights and the level in which they are being respected and treated. Last but not least, the Agency for the Support of the Civil Society\textsuperscript{51} (ASCS) is another relevant organization. According to the information provided on its website, the Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS) was established on the basis of Law No. 10093, dated 09.03.2009 and has the following mission and objectives: The encouragement, through financial assistance, of a sustainable development of civil society and the creation of favorable conditions for civil initiatives to the benefit of public in conformity with Article 4 of

\textsuperscript{46}https://diaspora.gov.al/en/
\textsuperscript{47}http://akd.gov.al/en/
\textsuperscript{48}https://www.parlament.al/Strukture?kategori=6&strukture=1019
\textsuperscript{49}http://www.puna.gov.al/
\textsuperscript{50}https://www.avokatipopullit.gov.al/en/
\textsuperscript{51}http://www.amshc.gov.al/web/index-en.php
the Law and with the priorities and strategies of the Government Program according to respective fields.

**What are the current policy priorities of the decision makers?**

The current policy priorities in Albania were very recently defined in two major frameworks: i) the “The national strategy on Diaspora and migration: 2018-2024” and ii) “The national strategy on migration governance and Action plan: 2019-2022”. On the basis of these two reference frameworks one could single out the following:

1) **“Ensure strategic governance of migration in Albania”**. According to the information provided in the document of the national strategy this priority includes the following objectives: the alignment of the national legal framework with the EU and international framework for migration governance, the enhancement of institutional capacities for migration governance, the improvement of coordination mechanisms for migration governance and the enhancement of partnerships for migration governance. As is described in the document, the general outcome of this objective will not only be the legal and institutional approximation with EU and international standards of migration governance but also a greater deal of transparency as well as readiness to deal with emergencies via the coordination of the relevant government authorities.

2) **“Ensure safe and orderly migration from, through and to Albania”**. This is also a priority which encompasses various parameters including: a more effective management of irregular movement at the country's borders and within Albania, the improvement of the effectiveness of return mechanisms for foreign citizens, a more efficient response to the irregular migration of Albanian citizens in EU member states and a more effective management of the mix migration flows. According to the description available in the document, the progress of this objective will depend on a more efficient operation of the Integrated Border and Migration Management particularly when it comes to irregular migration. Special attention will be also given to the cooperation with the authorities of the countries of migrants' origin and destination.

3) **“Develop an effective labor migration policy while enhancing the positive impact of migration in the national/local socioeconomic development”**.

The document provides extensive information on this equally multilayered objective: to formulate a more effective labor migration policy framework for making a good use of the dynamics of the emigration of Albanian citizens and also for attracting Albanian and foreign workers with skills in short supply in the Albanian labor market, to facilitate the circular and seasonal migration for Albanian citizens with an emphasis on international cooperation, the protection of the migrant workers' rights and also their return and socio-economic reintegration and lastly to maximize the impact of migration to the national and local development through the productive use of remittances and the

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53 Ibid.
54 Ibid.
promotion of investments\textsuperscript{55}. Indeed, this priority indicates the acknowledgment on the part of the Albanian government that Albanian emigrants and their labor will continue to be considered as a major driving force for the development of the country, not only in permanent forms but also when it comes to seasonal and circular migration. It is also observable that the efforts of the Albanian government will focus on the protection of the rights of the Albanians living abroad as well as the maximization of the positive impact of Albanian migrants in many forms including remittances, investments, and incentives to return.

4) “Promote and protect migrants’ rights and their integration”

In this case, the efforts of the government and all migration related state agencies and authorities will be to ensure that a comprehensive non-discrimination framework will protect migrants’ rights (legal guaranteed, awareness, monitoring mechanisms) and also to identify migrants as a vulnerable category (assistance).\textsuperscript{56} This priority clearly emphasizes the long-term aspects of migration governance (integration). The approach appears to be two-fold, with the provision, on the one hand of all the necessary guarantees and mechanisms on the part of the state and, on the other hand, with the attention to render migrants more aware and active when it comes to their rights and the necessary assistance to which they are entitled not only at a general but also at a more personal level (i.e. tailor assistance to tend to the specific needs of children and youth).

The strategy adopted by the Albanian government presents the characteristic of addressing migration in a comprehensive manner at many layers. The first priority (strategic governance) aims at upgrading and adjusting the institutional and operational capacity of migration related authorities to the EU and international standards. The second (safe and orderly migration from, through and to Albania) deals with the issue of irregular migration (both inward and outward) and commits many different capacities to the prevention and the management of this form of migration. The third priority (effective labor migration policy and socio-economic impact of migration) seems to try to address many different issues: i.e. “labor/skill drain”, the upgrading of labor legislation for migrants in Albania and the protection of the Albanian migrants living abroad, the inclusion of more recent forms of migration (circular/seasonal) into more macroscopic policies for the economic development of Albania and in general maximize the positive impact of the remittances and the capital generated by the Albanian migrants. The fourth priority (promote and protect migrants’ rights and their integration) aims at establishing more proactive policies both at the level of the legal framework as well as the level of applied policy.

As it was noted, the Albanian government adopted in 2018 a national strategy for developing the relations with the Diaspora. Nevertheless, there are many references to the role of the Diaspora in the document pertaining to the strategy on migration governance. In fact, the importance and the potentially beneficial role of the Diaspora is mentioned in all four priorities and objectives that are defined in document, not only in general terms or in principle but more importantly via specific policies and actions.

One of the most indicative passages referring to the Diaspora in the document of the national strategy of migration governance is the following: “Engagement of the Diaspora could also be encouraged by establishing dedicated Government programmes specifically designed to attract the human and financial capital of Diaspora members and to utilize to the benefit of Albania’s

\textsuperscript{55} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{56} Ibid.
socio-economic advancement. In this respect Albania can also benefit from successful international experience in Diaspora engagement in national and local development such as the Diaspora Engagement Hub in Moldova or the programme 3x1 in Mexico. Such experiences would allow the Government of Albania to encourage the transfer of human capital and professional experience for the academic, social and economic development of Albania, as well as establishing successful models of matching funds to support public work.\textsuperscript{57} The document enumerates may different fields where the Diaspora can play a positive role including infrastructure in education and health, development of local communities, employment, (agro- ) tourism, investments and introduction of innovative technologies\textsuperscript{58}.

When it comes to the views expressed by the experts contacted in the course of the field trip to Albania, it appears that there is a consensus that the renewed flow of emigration is one of the most urgent priorities when it comes to migration governance in the country. This phenomenon is linked not only with the departure of skilled young people but also of people who contribute with their basic labor skills. On the other hand, there were different approaches on how one should think of migration priorities in Albania. Ledion Krisafi of AIIS describes several major challenges:

“It is not only outward migration or emigration a priority. Priority should also be given to inward migration and also internal migration. I would like to start with the last one. I think that this is the first time that we have now in Albania more people living in the cities, about 60%, than in the rural areas, about 40%. There has been an important flow of internal migration towards urban centers, like Tirana. In some cases, like in the region of Gjirokaster, the effects are tremendous. There are parts of Gjirokaster with a loss of population at the level of 65%. And in such parts of the country, there can be a lack of working force, of labor force with basic skills or with specific skills. The Albanian government needs to address this issue. Perhaps, it can do so by developing more proactive policies for bringing back Albanian migrants who want to invest, live and find employment in rural areas, in agro-tourism for instance. To achieve that, it needs to provide economic and fiscal incentives. And I must say, that the delays in crucial reforms, like the one of the justice system, are only discouraging people from returning or investing”.

(Interview with Ledion Krisafi, 27 February 2020)

For Ardian Hackaj (CDI) the renewed emigration flow in recent times is certainly on of the key priorities for migration governance in Albania. In his analysis, he reflects upon the political and social impact of emigration and he also focuses on the effectiveness of the designed migration policies.

“The issue of outward migration is certainly a priority. There is indeed in some cases a lack of labor force and of qualified workers. We see information that in some villages there aren’t enough people to harvest the fields. However, I think that there is something deeper and more urgent. This time, the emigration flow does not concern only persons with basic labor skills. It concerns highly educated persons or those with important professional experience. And from that perspective, I am worried that this time Albania is exporting its democracy, it exports people who are crucial for its development. It is estimated that every 120 seconds one person is leaving the country. And what is more worrying is the fact that the country is not ready to re-integrated those who return or who think of doing. It is not ready from the perspective of education, social welfare and also employment opportunities. Equally, there is an issue with the effectiveness of the legislation and the design of the policy frameworks for migration. The government is eager to collaborate with international organization like the IOM and the UN but it is debatable how much of this legislation is translated into applied policy. It is also debatable how much of this legislation and policy frameworks are actually prepared by the government or merely readymade”.

\textsuperscript{57} Ibid,
\textsuperscript{58} Ibid.
Information about migration governance in Albania

- Is there a ministry dealing specifically with migration in the country?

Though there is not a ministry dealing specifically with migration in Albania, the following ministries carry out relevant responsibilities:

1. **State Minister for Diaspora** (Pandeli Majko):
   The minister is responsible for communicating and dealing with issues that affect the Albanian Diaspora.

2. **The ministry of Health and Social Protection**:
   The responsibilities of the ministry include labor migration and immigration
   i) Directorate of Employment and Migration Policies

3. **The ministry of Interior**:
   [https://mb.gov.al/](https://mb.gov.al/) (there is no English version)
   There are numerous subordinate institutions such as:
   i) National reception center for Asylum seekers
   ii) Directorate of Asylum and Citizenship
   iii) Directorate of Anti-trafficking and Migration
   iv) State Police Directorate
   v) General Directorate for Border and Migration

4) **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs**:
   [https://punetejashtme.gov.al/](https://punetejashtme.gov.al/)
   The Ministry is responsible for the visa policy and other acts of international cooperation in the field of migration. It also supports the Albanian emigrants and their rights and organizes the Albanian Diaspora.
   i) The Directorate of Consular Affairs is responsible for the treatment of aliens and other policies concerning their stay in the Republic of Albania.

It focuses on ways to tackle illegal migration through shaping the legal framework related to the migratory issue.

It focuses on dealing with illegal migration and has taken part to multinational operations addressing this issue under the NATO umbrella.

When it comes to independent authorities or other agencies, our desk research yielded the following information:


Along with the Ministry of Health and social Protection, the National Employment Service acts within the frames of the legislation and state policies for emigration concerning employment, educational and vocational training, social standards, pensions, family, children and youth policies. It is also responsible for permitting aliens to be employed at any time, including the professions.

3) **The National Commission for Asylum and Refugees**: No website found.

This Commission is the only authority responsible for decision-making in the case of appeals against decisions of the authority responsible for asylum and refugees.


It is the state authority responsible for the publication of official data and statistics on various sectors including migration related areas. In general, all the above mentioned migration governance institutions publish statistical data on migration.


This is another very relevant organization. According to the information provided on its website, The Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS) was established on the basis of Law No. 10093, dated 09.03.2009 and has the following mission and objectives: The encouragement, through financial assistance, of a sustainable development of civil society and the creation of favorable conditions for civil initiatives to the benefit of public in conformity with Article 4 of the Law and with the priorities and strategies of the Government Program according to respective fields. (source, ASCS website: [http://www.amshc.gov.al/web/misioni-en.php](http://www.amshc.gov.al/web/misioni-en.php))

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• **Are there any recently established associations with the EU's migration related agencies?**

1) **EASO**: Albania, along with the other countries of the Western Balkans, is part of the third country support scheme of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO): [https://easo.europa.eu/operational-support/external-dimension](https://easo.europa.eu/operational-support/external-dimension).

EASO has been active in Albania since 2016 and providing training and other forms of support when it comes to migration management.

2) **FRONTEX**: Albania, along with Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey, is part of the “Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey (IPA II), Phase II”, a programme implemented by FRONTEX until 2021 and which aims at introducing EU standards and practices for migration management. ([https://frontex.europa.eu/partners/non-eu-countries/](https://frontex.europa.eu/partners/non-eu-countries/))

3) The **EU delegation in Albania** is a very informative source when it comes to the general framework of the relations between Albania and the EU. ([https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/albania/6953/albania-and-eu_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/albania/6953/albania-and-eu_en))

• **Do key international organizations have offices in the country?**

1) **IOM**: The organization is operationally present in Albania since 1992 (Albania became a IOM member in 1993). Since this period, IOM has become one of the main international partners of the government of Albania supporting its numerous migrations related activities at many levels: [https://albania.iom.int/sites/default/files/documents/iom%20anglisht.pdf](https://albania.iom.int/sites/default/files/documents/iom%20anglisht.pdf)

2) **UNHCR**: The UNHCR has also been very active in Albania for a long period. In a manner similar to the IOM, it has been assisting the Albanian government at various levels, including the assistance when it comes to the preparation of legislative and general policy frameworks on migration. It has also been very active at the operational level with the design of procedures pertaining to asylum, the provisions of services to vulnerable groups, the policies for integration and the development of frameworks for obtaining reliable statistics and data on various forms of migration (website: [https://www.unhcr.org/albania.html](https://www.unhcr.org/albania.html))

3) **USAID**: The organization has been very active in Albania since 1992. It has implemented numerous projects at the national level since the 1990’s and until today. In more recent times, there are projects that, implicitly, relate to migration and in particular to an effort to raise public awareness on the effects and the impact of emigration on Albanian society. Examples can be found in the country website of USAID:


• Do the ministries, general secretariats, state agencies and independent authorities provide statistical data on migration?

• Do the relevant to migration state institutions and independent authorities publish policy reports on migration issues?

• Do the relevant to migration state institutions and independent authorities organize policy relevant events on migration issues?


➢ The Ministry of Interior regarding the migration profile in Albania per year (last report on 2016) but only in the Albanian Language (https://mb.gov.al/)

➢ The Office of Ombudsman in Albania per year Annual Reports including sections regarding the rights of immigrants which contain statistics and many other relevant data (https://www.avokatipopullit.gov.al/en/#)

In 2016, it hosted an international conference on “Migration flows” organized by the International Ombudsman Institute (https://www.theoi.org/oi-news/current-news/international-conference-on-migration-flows-albania-7-8-september-2016)

It also publishes reports and recommendations (i.e. 2014 report “TRACING, ANALYSIS AND EVINCING FACTORS AFFECTING INCREASE OF ASYLUM APPLICATIONS BY ALBANIAN NATIONALS IN MEMBER STATES OF SCHENGEN AREA”).

➢ The website of the ministry of Health and social security (http://shendetesia.gov.al/) is also very informative, providing statistical data and reports as well as other documents. Unfortunately, the content is available only in the Albanian language.

➢ The Ministry of Education and Youth has organized several seminars regarding the Albanian culture on Diaspora but the whole publication is in the Albanian language (http://arsimi.gov.al/diaspora/)

➢ There has been on letter of intent of the Ministry of Justice along with the Netherlands' Ministry of Justice to tackle illegal migration (https://mb.gov.al/2018/05/24/shqiperi-holande-nenshkruet-dokumenti-per-bashkepunimin-ne-fushen-e-sigurise-e-drejtesise/) in Albanian language.
• **Do all migration related state institutions and independent authorities have websites and social media accounts? Are these sites and accounts informative with regular updates and other policy relevant material (i.e. reports, data)?**

Most of the government and independent structures related to migration do have websites and social media accounts. These accounts appear to contain regular updates including the publication of data, information as well as the organization of events.

• **What kinds of material do all the migration related institutions and independent authorities produce? Do they publish reports and newsletters? How do they organize the information that they are sharing?**

We were able to identify the following types of material:

i) statistical data, ii) news updates, iii) interviews of officials, iv) legislation, v) EU reports and data, vi) reports and vii) information about events. However, in the vast majority of cases, the corresponding data and information are available only in Albanian with the exception of the reports and other information provided by international organizations such as the EU, the UNHCR and the IOM.

• **What kind of partnerships and collaborations do all the migration related institutions and independent authorities have at the national, regional and international level?**

1) **MARRI**: One of the most significant partnerships, particularly at the regional level, is MARRI (“Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative”, website: [http://marri-rc.org.mk/](http://marri-rc.org.mk/)). MARRI is a regional initiative/centre among the countries of the Western Balkans (Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina). This initiative was formed in 2003 in the context of the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe and each of the countries participates at the government level. From Albania, the key institution representing the country is the Ministry of Interior and secondly the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. In the MARRI website one can find exhaustive lists with the regional and international initiatives and structures related to migration and other areas of interest. ([MARRI website: http://marri-rc.org.mk/partners/](http://marri-rc.org.mk/partners/))

• **Are there any policy working groups and policy task forces on migration (governmental or mixed state & non-state), Inter-Ministerial or inter-agency commissions, working groups etc, mixed EU-Western Balkan commissions, mixed EU-state commissions, mixed international organization-state commissions etc.?**

> **SELEC** (Southeast European Law Enforcement Center, website: [https://www.selec.org/task-forces/](https://www.selec.org/task-forces/)). In particular, we are referring to SELEC’s Task Force on Countering Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration which is composed by the ministries and state agencies of the SELEC countries that relate to migration governance.
SEPCA (Southeast Europe Police Chiefs Association). It is an association created in 2002. It brings together police chiefs of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia.

Prague Process: According to the information provided in the official website the Prague Process “is a targeted migration dialogue and a policy process promoting migration partnerships among the countries of the European Union, Schengen Area, Eastern Partnership, Western Balkans, Central Asia, Russia and Turkey. The Process originated from the EU financed project “Building Migration Partnerships”, and was initiated during the Czech EU Presidency at the 1st Prague Process Ministerial Conference (back then “Building Migration Partnerships”) with the signature of the Prague Process Joint Declaration in April 2009”.

Budapest Process: According to the information provided in the official website the “Budapest Process is a consultative forum with over 50 governments and 10 international organizations aiming at developing comprehensive and sustainable systems for orderly migration. It is one of the longest-standing cooperation frameworks on migration for Europe and its eastern neighbors and during its more than 20 years of operation, the Budapest Process has developed from an information sharing tool between European countries in a pre-EU enlargement setting to a far reaching Europe-Asia forum for improving migration management.”

3.1.3 Micro-level: Universities/ Academic Departments, Research Centres and Institutes specializing on migration

Who conducts relevant academic research in the country and on what topics?

According to our desk research and the contacts with relevant experts from the field of academia and think tanks we were able to identify a major paradox when it comes to the characteristics of research on migration in Albania. On the one hand, it is observable that there is an important number of researchers that have conducted and still conduct research on migration with regard to Albania; however, there is a notable lack of academic institutions dedicated specifically to migration in Albania proper. There are numerous Albanian researchers and scholars, many of whom are based in Albania or abroad, who have produced and still produce a considerable amount of scholarly work on migration related issues regarding Albania. On the other hand, it is observable that this work has not become more systematic due to the absence of academic institutions and research centers dealing with migration in Albania.

There are numerous elements that need to be considered. The first one is the general trend of the underestimation and the abandonment of higher education in the country. This was the effect of a long-standing lack of policies concerning the linking of academia to very important realities and phenomena that have shaped the country such as migration. It is also important to take into account the fact that emigration has also left its mark on academia with numerous researchers, scholars and professor leaving the country to pursue a career abroad. The same counts for...

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62 See the Budapest Process website: [https://www.budapestprocess.org/about](https://www.budapestprocess.org/about)
students particularly at the post-graduate and Ph. D. level. The second important element is the trend, which began since the early 2000’s, to promote vocational training and in general the curricula that guarantee a more immediate professional success in the labor market. This was counterproductive for research on migration since such a preference translated into an underestimation of social sciences and research within this context. Taking all this into consideration, it would be difficult to imagine how this trend could be reversed in the near future. The public universities which could have been a pillar for creating research hubs on migration were not supported in this direction”

(Meeting with Eda Gemi, 27 February 2020)

Information about migration research in Albania

• Are there academic departments in state or private universities dealing-according to their title- with migration?

- The Faculty of Law in the University of Tirana offers courses relating to migration and refugee law (https://unitir.edu.al/eng/fakulteti-i-drejtesise/)
- The department of Social Work and Social Policy in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Tirana (website: http://fshs-ut.edu.al/). The information is available only in the Albanian language.
- The faculty of education at the University of Shkodër "Luigj Gurakuqi" offers a bachelor on Social work (website: www.unishk.edu.al). The information on the content of the studies is available only in the Albanian language.

• Are there other academic departments which include migration as a distinct specialization in their curricula?

Our desk research was unable to identify any such information.

• Do these departments host an academic journal dealing with migration related issues? Provide information on the scope of the journal.

In our desk research, we were not able to identify any academic journal dealing specifically with migration.

• Provide names of scholars working on migration with links to their websites, profiles, Google scholar etc.

Eda Gemi: Senior Lecturer at the New York University in Tirana. She has published extensively on migration related topics with an emphasis, among other on the Albanian migrants living in Greece.

(Google scholar profile: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=qeVnHckAAAAJ&hl=en)

Ermira Danaj: Lecture and Researcher at the University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal and other institutions. She has published extensively on migration related issues with an emphasis on migration and gender.
Kosta Barjaba: Professor of Sociology and Public Policies at the European University of Tirana. He has published extensively on migration and has contributed, among other topics, in the effort to theorize Albanian migration from a general standpoint.

Ilir Gëdeshi: Economist and Director at the Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) based in Tirana, Albania. He has published extensively on migration with an emphasis on Diaspora and the ‘migration-development’ nexus.

Zana Vathi: Reader in Social Sciences at the Edge Hill University. She has published extensively on international migration in Europe, on the cross-generational comparative aspects of migration and migration policies.

Julie Vullnetari: Lecturer in Human Geography at the University of Southampton. She has published extensively on the topics of migration and development, the geographies of development of Socialist and Post-Socialist countries and also on issues related to conflict, communities and coerced mobility.

Our research has been able to identify the following examples:

- The European University of Tirana is participating in an EU financed ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme entitled “MIGRATUP” aiming at raising knowledge on the territorial impact of migration in Adriatic-Ionian and Danube macro-regions (responsible from Albania: Dr. Eda Gemi)

- The Luigj Gurakuqi University in Shkoder organized in September 2019 a second edition of a summer school on “Migration and Mobility in the Balkans” with international participants delivering presentations. (https://unishk.edu.al/njoftimi-63

In Appendix, there is a comprehensive list of publications, including several academic articles of the above mentioned scholars.

- Are these departments part of regional and international academic/research/policy related networks dealing with migration? What kind of collaborations and partnerships do they have when it comes to migration related issues at a national, regional and international level?

Our research has been able to identify the following examples:

- The Faculty of Law of the University of Tirana is part of SEELS (South East European Law School Network)
  
  According to the information provided in the official website, this is the first academic network that brings together 12 active distinct Law Schools from the region. Though it does not deal specifically with migration, it has organized a summer school on the following topic: “Challenges of Migration and Asylum- Legal Aspects” which took place in Ohrid in September 2016. (http://www.seelawschool.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=455&Itemid=1076&lang=en)

- Are there research centres, think tanks and institutes dealing specifically with migration in the country? Are there research centres, think tanks and institutes that include migration in their scope even without it being their primary interest?

- Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize conferences/events and/or seminars on migration?

On the basis of our desk research, we were not able to identify a research centre or think tank that deals specifically with migration related issues. However, some of the leading research centres and think tanks in the country do include migration in their scope of activities:

- The Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM). It was established in 1999 and is a non-governmental organization dedicated to consolidate participatory governance and democratic institutions, Euro-Atlantic processes, civil society development, regional cooperation and security through independent research, capacity building of societal players (source IDM’s website: https://idmalbania.org/about-idm/). IDM has organized at least one school that dealt partially with migration in the Western Balkan region (‘Second School on Security Policy’, September 2018, information: https://idmalbania.org/school-on-security-policy-4-18-september-2015/)
The Albanian Institute for International Studies (AIIS). According to its website, The Albanian Institute for International Studies (AIIS) is a non-governmental, non-profit research and policy institute created in recognition of the need for independent, in-depth analysis of the complex issues surrounding Albania’s security. AIIS was founded by a group of academics and analysts with extensive experience on foreign policy and policy-making issues. (source, AIIS website: http://www.aiis-albania.org/?q=node/41). Migration is included in the areas of interest of AIIS. AIIS’ newsletter contains migration related issues.

The Center for Economic and Social studies (CESS). According to its website, the CESS is an independent, non-partisan and nonprofit organization dedicated to the study of economic and social issues in Albania following the democratic changes of 1990. Naturally areas like migration, issues related to marginalized societal groups like Roma and Egyptians, economic and social development as well as regional and European integration, became the main areas of CESS research activity. (CESS website: http://cessalbania.al/about/profile/). Migration is one of its core areas of interest. In particular, it has studied the following topics: Brain gain/ brain drain, scientific Diaspora, poverty and migration, remittances and development, returned migrants, potential migrants, migration and global economic crises, human trafficking and Roma migration. We were unable to identify a newsletter including the topic of migration. On the other hand, CESS has organized public events on migration related issues, i.e. “New Trends in Potential migration from Albania”, October 2018 with the support of the FES in Albania. (https://www.fes-tirana.org/e/new-trends-in-potential-migration-from-albania/)

The Albanian Centre for Economic Research (ACER). According to information found on the website of the centre, Albanian Centre for Economic Research is the first Albanian independent non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in 1992. ACER is highly dedicated to foster and accelerate Albania’s socio-economic transition and development. ACER’s philosophy is building bridges between scholars, policy-makers and public opinion and fostering the dialogue in the interest of an accelerated reform process, economic development and prosperity. (Source, ACER website, https://acer.org.al/history/). Although our research was not able to find a newsletter or the organization of events related to migration (on the basis of the information provided on ACER’s website), the think tank is extremely active when it comes to the implementation of programmes and projects related to migration.

Cooperation and Development Institute (http://cdinstitute.eu/web/publikime/?lang=en) As stated in the CDI website: CDI is an Albanian think tank focused in analyzing and contributing to public policy at national and regional scale. Established in 2000, it is a politically independent, not for profit, non-governmental organization. CDI’s mission is to contribute to the quality of policy-makings with open and fact-based research, analysis, advocacy and debate. CDI is active on topics pertaining to migration through its social cohesion program (http://cdinstitute.eu/web/kohezion-social-3/?lang=en) We were unable to identify a newsletter related to migration. However, there are numerous updates and material related to the projects dealing with migration that the Institute has implemented.
• Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes participate in international research programmes and projects? Have they implemented any EU-funded or other collaborative research project in the last five years?

The Institute for Democracy and Mediation:
➢SEEDS (South-Eastern European Data Services) 2015. Funded by Switzerland and aiming at establishing new data services for social sciences in Croatia, Kosovo, Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. [https://seedsproject.ch/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/SEEDS-brochure.pdf]

The Albanian Institute for International Studies (AIIS)
➢TRAIN (Fostering policy dialogue in the Western Balkans) 2015. Funded by the German Council on Foreign Relations. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

The Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS)
➢As the institution that represents Albania in WB-MIGNET (Western Balkans Migration Network), CESS participates in various international projects.

The Albanian Center for Economic search (ACER)
➢SELDI (Southeast Europe Leadership for Development and Integrity), funded by the EU. Participants: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.
➢SELDI (Strategy and Action Agenda for Good Governance and Anticorruption in Southeast Europe). Funded by the EU. Participants: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.

Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI)
➢“Monitoring the migration to Germany 2014-2016, and returnee integration context”, funded by the Hanns Seidel Foundation.
Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes publish reports, including any policy oriented material?

The Institute for Democracy and Mediation
https://idmalbania.org/category/latest-publications/cesa-publications/
- “Human Rights Defenders in the Western Balkans”, 2019
- “Assessment Report on State Police Ethics and Integrity”, 2019
- “The uncertainty of EU enlargement”, 2019
- “Violent extremism in Albania”, 2018
- “Vulnerable Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants in Albania”, 2019
- “Fighting Corruption in Albania: Improving the Efficiency of Internal Auditing”, 2017

The Albanian Institute for International Studies (AIIS)
- “Albania- Serbia: through the eyes of the media”, 2017
- “Assessment of risks on national security/ the capacity of state and violent extremism and religious radicalization in Albania”, 2016
- “Albania in the next ten years - Politics, Economy, Society - Perceptions”, 2015
- “Cultural collaboration between Albania and Serbia and what can be done to use the potential in the future”, 2017
- “Financial cooperation between Albania and Serbia”, 2017

The Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS)
- Social and Economic Profile of the Return Migrants in Albania, 2016
- Albanian migration in Greece: understanding irregularity in time of crisis, 2017
- A study on substandard Roma settlements at the municipality of Elbasan, Pogradec, Maliq, Korça, and Bilisht with a purpose of assessing the need for investments for improving housing and living conditions of the Roma/Egyptian Community, 2016

The Albanian Center for Economic search (ACER)
- “Ethics in Albanian education system”
- “Corruption Assessment report”

Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI)
- “Disconnected: Return from Germany and Reintegration challenges of Albanian Asylum Seeker (2017)"
- “Albania in the Western Balkans route August 2015- June 2016”
• Are these research centres, think tanks and institutes part of regional and international academic/research/policy related networks dealing with migration? What kind of collaborations and partnerships do they have when it comes to migration related issues at a national, regional and international level?

The Institute for Democracy and Mediation
- Southeast Europe Coalition on Whistleblower protection, https://see-whistleblowing.org/
- Balkan civil society development network, http://www.balkancsd.net/
- OSCE Network of think tanks and academic institutions, http://osce-network.net/members/institutions.html
- SELDI, Southeast European Leadership for Development and Integrity, http://seldi.net/home/

The Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS)
- WB- MIGNET (Western Balkan Migration Network), (wb-mignet.org)
- IMISCOE (International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion), (https://www.imiscoe.org/)
- Migration DRC (Development Research Center on Migration Globalization and Poverty)- University of Sussex, UK. (http://www.sussex.ac.uk/migration/)
- European Values Study (https://europeanvaluesstudy.eu/)

The Albanian Center for Economic Search (ACER)
- GiZ – German Society for International Cooperation
- OSCE- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe-Presence in Albania
- SELDI- Southeast Europe Leadership Development Integrity
- EBRD – European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- EC – European Commission, Delegation in Albania
- IOM – international Organization for Migration
- UNDP – United Nations Development Program
- UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
- UNICEF – The United Nations Children’s Fund
- UNIFEM – The United Nations Development Fund for Women
- USAID – United States Agency for International Development
3.1.4 Micro-level: NGOs and other institutions from the civil society

- **Which NGOs operate in the field of migration at the national level, what issues are they working on and what kind of policy gaps are they filling in?**

In Albania there are several NGOs operating in the migration field. Their role constitutes of assisting the migrants and refugees, shaping tendencies and affecting policies. Bearing in mind, the country’s lack of reliable institutional capacities, NGOs play a crucial role in addressing the migration policy, the integration process as well as relevant practices in order to facilitate the whole venture. Up to this point, it has been observed that apart from the national NGOs which operate within the Albanian territory there are also several international NGOs, whose Albanian branches are functional in the Albanian field.

Despite the fact that, as it is often the case, many of these NGOs depend on funding in order to be able to carry on with their activities, it is necessary to point out the significance of their work and operation by assisting individuals in the Albanian territory in such ways that the Albanian governmental institutions aren’t able of due to their lack of funds and capabilities. Especially the international NGOs seem to be more familiar with migratory issues and have an extended know-how ability to deal with those matters. Finally, it is essential to point out the need of strong cooperation among the authorities and the engaged NGOs in order to achieve better levels of integration.

**Information about NGOs working in the field of migration in Albania**

- **Is there a registry which includes all or most of them as such (i.e. “Registry of NGOs dealing with migration” or “General registry of NGOs”)?**

When it comes to a general registry of NGOs active in Albania the Agency for the Support of the Civil Society (ASCS) does provide one: [http://www.amshc.gov.al/web/ojf/](http://www.amshc.gov.al/web/ojf/).

- **Which are the NGOs dealing with migration at the national level?**

Our research was able to identify the following NGOs:

- **The Observatory for Children and Youth rights** ([https://observator.org.al/](https://observator.org.al/))
- **Caritas- Albania** ([http://caritasalbania.org/](http://caritasalbania.org/))
The Institute for Romani Culture in Albania (https://irca.al/)

Refugees and Migrant Services in Albania (http://rmsa.al/)


Terre des homes Albania: https://www.tdh.ch/en/our-interventions/albania

• Is there a thematic specialization among NGOs dealing with migration at the national level? Mention what type of work the NGOs do: humanitarian work, service delivery, education, information and awareness raising, advocacy etc.

The observatory for Children and Youth rights: children and youth rights, refugees, gender equality, education of Roma population.

The Mary Ward Loreto Foundation: combat human trafficking, protection of vulnerable populations (women, children, youth and impoverished population in general)

Caritas Albania: humanitarian work, protection of vulnerable populations

The Institute of Human Rights and non-formal Education: human rights and non-formal education, gender equality, youth, employment.

The Institute for Romani Culture in Albania: defense of the rights of Roma population in Albania, employment opportunities for vulnerable population including asylum seekers and refugees

Refugees and Migrant services in Albania: human rights, defense of vulnerable populations, including migrants and refugees.

Tirana legal aid society (TLAS): support of vulnerable populations, social and legal assistance, advocating improvements in the Albanian legislation

Terre des Hommes: protection of children and youth affected by migration (voluntary or forced), promote awareness of risks of vulnerable populations affected by migration, provision of services to migrant populations along all stages of their path

• Do these NGOs participate in regional and international research projects and programmes?

Caritas Albania: Has implemented projects against trafficking (the content on the website in provided only in the Albanian language)

The Institute of Human Rights and non-formal Education:
-“Edges of gender”, (2019), Erasmus+

The Institute for Romani Culture in Albania:
-“Establishing the basis for livelihood program in Albania”, 2017-2018, funded by the UNHCR and supported the insertion of asylum seekers, refugees and disassociates groups in the labor market through a combination of training, professional coaching and access to micro-finance geared towards economic empowerment.
-“ROMACTED”, (Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level” funded by the EU and the Council of Europe, participating countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey.

➢ **Refugees and Migrant services in Albania:** Has implemented projects concerning the migrant populations in 2016 funded by the UNHCR (the content is available only in the Albanian language).

➢ **Tirana Legal Aid Society:**
- Enhancing the protection of rights of accused in BiH, Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Albania”, funded by USAID

➢ **Terre des Hommes:**
- Reintegration of returned migrant children in Albania and Kosovo

- **Do these NGOs publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize conferences/events and/or seminars on migration (at least in the recent past, from 2014-2015 onwards)? Do these research centres and institutes publish reports and papers including any policy oriented material?**

➢ **The observatory for Children and Youth rights:**
  Report- “What happens to Albanian returnee families and children?”, 2017
  Newsletter -”Newsletter nr 1: Transit Refugees passing from Albania”, 2015

➢ **Tirana legal aid society (TLAS):** human rights, defense of vulnerable populations, including migrants and refugees.
  Policy paper- “Enhancing the protection of rights of accused in Albania”, policy paper

- **Are these NGOs part of regional/international networks related to migration?**

➢ **The observatory for Children and Youth rights:**
  - Terre des hommes (Switzerland: [https://www.tdh.ch/en/about-us](https://www.tdh.ch/en/about-us))
  - Save the children ([https://www.savethechildren.net/](https://www.savethechildren.net/))

➢ **The Institute for Romani Culture in Albania:**
  - IRIS Network, Balkan Coalition for Social Services ([https://iris-see.eu/about-us/](https://iris-see.eu/about-us/))
  - Justice for all coalition ([https://www.justiceforall.org/](https://www.justiceforall.org/))
  - Open Society foundations ([https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/](https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/))

➢ **Tirana legal aid society (TLAS):**
3.1.5. Analysis

Our desk research as well as the contacts with experts informed us on the specificities of the migration profile of Albania. This does not imply that Albania does not face similar challenges as other countries of the Western Balkan region (i.e. EU accession, integration of the EU acquis when it comes to migration, adjustment of the legal, institutional and operational framework for coping with and responding to inward and outward migration). The specificity of Albania seems to lie in the following elements: firstly, the magnitude and the long-standing impact of the phenomenon of emigration which has left an enduring mark on the political, social, economic and cultural evolution of the country and still remains a dynamic and evolving phenomenon and secondly, the various and intermingling parameters of this process (emigration, irregular migration, asylum, return migration, circular/seasonal migration) which if combined to other contemporary challenges such as the migrant flows towards Europe, do seem to constitute a very demanding subject not only from the standpoint of governance and applied policy but also from the standpoint of research.

In this report, we focused on three levels: migration governance, academia/research/think tanks and civil society/NGOs. In many respects, it seems that the period which began in 2008 (global economic crisis) was a turning point for the country. After 2008, the emigration flows (both irregular and regular) which slowed down only to be accentuated after 2016 were accompanied by return migration as well as circular and seasonal migration. Thus in the 2010’s migration governance and migration research with regard to Albania had to interpret and respond to more complex realities (make the best of the decreased but extremely valuable remittances and at the same time provide incentives for attracting emigrants who want to invest, promote the rights of Albanian migrants abroad and upgrade and improve all mechanisms for returnees and their (re-)integration, respond to the labor shortage with legislation facilitating the import of labor and at the same time confront the irregular migration of Albanian citizens towards West European countries. This demanding context became even more complex with the recent (2018- today) increase in the outward migration flows which did not affect the country as much as they did in the case of other Western Balkan countries but which must be also addressed according to the international and EU standards.

It is noteworthy that this has been a demanding context not only at the level of governance but also at the level of research. Indeed, one of the indications that attest to its impact on the research community is the multiplicity of research fields, the impressive number of researchers with an important number of publications on migration as well as the important degree of interdisciplinarity. However, it is striking that, even in this context, there is still a lack of efforts, from the government’s standpoint, to empower academic research and research capacity, in general, in order to be able to benefit from valuable policy recommendations and create research hubs that will produce constantly knowledge that only adds to the goal of transparency and efficiency.

In our report, we were able to show that the recent initiatives of the Albanian government (National strategy for migration governance 2019-2022) exemplify more than ever a comprehensive approach that attempts to move the migration agenda forward at all levels:

- Adjustment to EU and international standards (legislation, procedures, transparency, coordination among different stakeholders) both for inward and outward migration.
- Safeguarding the effective application of this framework (safety, security, rule of law) both for inward and outward migration.
- Development of an effective labor policy to cope with labor shortage and circular migration and at the same time upholding of the fundamental dynamic of the migration-
development nexus.

- Promote the integration of migrants at all levels with an emphasis on their specific needs

This is certainly a very ambitious framework. It will be important for MIGREC to follow closely its application and evolution, not only in relation to the EU accession process of the country but also in relation to the positive effects that it will have if it bears positive results in the short-term.

### 3.1.6. Recommendations

MIGREC has every interest to pay close attention to the application of the national strategy for migration governance in Albania for a number of reasons: 1) the strategy will be correlated to the accession negotiations and the necessity for Albania to meet the criteria for advancing, 2) on the basis of its ambition and its significance for the EU accession, it will necessitate an even more active participation of research institutions when comes to its monitoring and 3) the Albanian government itself may seek to strengthen regional cooperation not only with Western Balkan countries but EU member states and Greece. The beginning of accession negotiations may provide a positive context for the acceleration of initiatives and for a more effective application. This may not transform radically migration governance in the Western Balkans at once but it may provide new perspectives and dynamic. In this context, MIGREC should

- Follow closely and seek collaboration with think tanks that are part of migration related regional networks (i.e. CESS that is part of WB- Mignet)
- Follow closely and seek collaboration with think tanks that have an important record of monitoring the application of government policies and have published policy reports on migration (i.e. CDI)
- Follow closely the government’s initiatives when it comes to regional cooperation in the field of migration or any initiative that relates to the upgrading of migration related research capacity in the country
- Seek contact and collaboration with some of the numerous and distinguished Albanian migration scholars

### 3.2. Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### 3.2.1. Introduction

In February 2016, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) applied for EU membership and in September 2016 the European Council invited the European Commission to submit its Opinion on the merits of BiH's application. In December 2016, the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations handed over a comprehensive Questionnaire covering all EU accession criteria. The country's consolidated answers were
finalised in February 2018 and the answers returned to the President of the European Commission\textsuperscript{64}. The EU and BiH have established diplomatic relations. The EU is represented in the country by a Delegation of the European Union. In the context of the Common Foreign and Security Policy, the Council of the European Union has also mandated a European Union Special Representative in BiH and the European Union Force Althea. From 2003 – 2012, the Union mandated a Police Mission (EUPM)\textsuperscript{65}. At present, BiH has a potential candidate status for EU accession. Given this wider political context, it is important to consider how migration is managed within BiH, and how this relates to EU policy, as well as to consider what are understood to be the key migration challenges and the capacity in terms of state, research and civil society actors for addressing those.

This report provides an overview of the current state of play and infrastructure regarding migration policy, governance, research and civil society activity within BiH. It is based on desk research and consultation with a national expert on migration policy in BiH: Dr Nermin Oruc, Director and Founder of the Centre for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research, Sarajevo\textsuperscript{66}. The report is structured as follows:

- Meso-level findings (part I)
- Micro-level findings (part II)
- Macro-level findings (part III)
- Analysis
- Recommendations
- Appendices.

3.2.2. Meso-level: State institutions and agencies dealing with migration governance

This section focuses on meso-level governance and explores migration governance in BiH in terms of the gathering of information, state institutions and agencies with responsibility for migration nationally. It seeks to establish who makes decisions on migration policies and at what administrative level. This is far from a straightforward task however given the complex political and administrative fragmentation of BiH in the post-war era.

BiH has been labelled as probably ‘the world’s most complicated system of government’\textsuperscript{67}. The Dayton peace accord that brought an end to the former Yugoslav conflict (1992–1995), triggered by Slovenia’s move for independence subsequently followed by Bosnia’s and a secessionist bid by Bosnian Serbs, also led to the separation of Bosnia into two distinct political entities: the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska. The function of the peace accord was to end the war, with governance and future state apparatus of secondary concern. Yet, in hindsight, it effectively cemented ethnic divisions with the population of Republika Srpska aligned more with Serbian national identity than Bosnian, and the Federation of BiH made up mainly of Bosniaks and Croats. According to our national expert, this has major implications for migration policy and its implementation, because the various levels of semi-autonomous bodies often shift

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\textsuperscript{64} See https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/20180417-bosnia-and-herzegovina-report.pdf
\textsuperscript{65} See https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/27560/bosnia-and-herzegovina-and-eu_en
\textsuperscript{66} This consultation took the form of an interview via Skype on 20\textsuperscript{th} February 2020.
\textsuperscript{67} See https://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2014/oct/08/bosnia-herzegovina-elections-the-worlds-most-complicated-system-of-government
responsibility to each other, and questions of accountability are often difficult to discern (see examples below).

The system has honoured the Dayton agreement’s most pressing objective: granting the players in an inconclusive three-way conflict a stake in the peace. This was facilitated by dividing Bosnia into the two entities as noted above. These entities form an intermediate level of administration between the central government and local government. To complicate matters further, the Federation of BiH has two levels of local government: 10 cantons and 74 municipalities. In contrast, the Republika Srpska has only one municipal level comprising 63 municipalities. In addition, formally part of both entities is the Brčko District, a multi-ethnic self-governing administrative unit, which was created in 2000.

The division of the country along these ethnic lines has inevitably produced tensions in the form of governance aspirations across the three constituent groups: Bosniaks (Muslims), Croats (mostly Catholics), and Bosnian Serbs (Orthodox). The largest minorities are the Roma and Jewish communities. According to a 2013 census, Bosnia and Herzegovina has a population of about 3.8 million people. Bosniaks constitute 50 per cent of the population, Serbs 31 per cent, and Croats 15 per cent (though the results of the census were contested).

Many duties of the state, such as the provision of housing, education and social welfare have been assigned across all these levels, as a way of reconciling demands for extensive autonomy with power-sharing. In practice, however, this has led to duplication and dysfunction. The state’s tasks have been neglected, and its resources allegedly squandered without anyone knowing whom exactly to blame. In theory, the state government retains control of security and defence, customs and immigration, fiscal and monetary policy, and facilitating inter-entity coordination and regulation. In reality, the central government’s power is limited, however, due to the decentralisation of numerous powers to sub-national entities. Immigration, refugee, and asylum policy and regulation are directly listed as one of the responsibilities of the State-level Parliamentary Assembly.

What are the current policy priorities of the decision makers?

Findings on policy priorities related to migration can be divided into four key areas:

- the migrant and refugee crisis
- the return of refugees displaced during the 1992-95 conflict
- co-operation with Diaspora abroad
- emigration and “brain drain”.

Nermin Oruc referred to the first and third of these in his interview as the two policy priorities. Transit migration had emerged as a key concern in recent years related to the so-called ‘migrant and refugee crisis’ along the Balkan corridor. He was also asked about returning refugees displaced during the former Yugoslav war, and his insights are included below.

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69 See: https://balkaninsight.com/2020/01/22/no-country-for-the-needy-bosnia-fails-to-house-its-displaced

70 http://www.parlament.ba/Content/Read/25?title=FunkcijeParlamentarneskup%C5%A1tineBiH
The ‘migrant and refugee crisis’

Today, the most pressing migration-related issue in the country appears to be the ‘migrant/refugee crisis’, with BiH one of the countries along the so-called ‘Balkan route’ or ‘Western Balkan Route’ to Western Europe. Migrants arrive in BiH via two different routes: one through Albania and Montenegro; and the other through the Republic of North Macedonia or Bulgaria, and Serbia. The majority of people arriving are heading towards Una-Sana Canton (North West) and seeking to enter the European Union through Croatia.

The latter (across Bulgaria or North Macedonia, then Serbia and Hungary, before heading toward Germany or Austria) was closed off after Hungary built a fence on the Serbian border to stop migrants and refugees from entering the country from Serbia, and then moving on to Austria. Other countries including Croatia and Slovenia have also closed their borders. Consequently, BiH has become a transit route for migrants heading westwards since early 2018, and has experienced a significant increase in the number of arrivals. Issues of border control and securitization have gained prominence, resulting in more investments and cooperation agreements between the EU and Western Balkan countries, given Europe’s goal is to tighten its external borders and protect the Schengen Area.

As part of the EU’s enlargement strategy towards the Western Balkans there is a highly increased emphasis on issues of rule of law. In the context of the ‘Six Flagships Initiative’ between EU and the Western Balkans, border security and migration management has become one of the key priority areas for reform, policy monitoring and EU-WB coordination and collaboration. The EU is in advanced stage of formalizing its cooperation with BiH in the area of border management. Through an agreement on operational cooperation with BiH the EU aims to help “manage irregular migration better and further enhancing security at the EU’s external borders”. This is part of the broader EU policy of agreeing individual frameworks of cooperation with Western Balkan countries in view of deployment of or advanced cooperation with Frontex. Predictably though, in the case of BiH, domestic political infighting and the complex state organization threaten to derail this planned cooperation.

A report by Amnesty International, Pushed to the Edge: Violence and Abuse against Refugees and Migrants along the Balkan Route, accuses the EU and European governments of being actively complicit in ‘violent and illegal’ pushbacks of migrants and refugees from Croatia. It finds evidence of widespread collective expulsions – often accompanied by violence – and routine denial of access to asylum on the border between BiH and Croatia. The report argues that these measures are also a part of the systemic and deliberate policy of the Croatian authorities to discourage future irregular entries and demonstrate that Croatia can effectively protect the EU’s external border. These practices have been well documented by NGOs and media in BiH and are said to include: beatings; stealing phones and other valuables; breaking

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77 See: https://balkaninsight.com/2020/02/20/dodik-stops-bosnia-from-cooperating-with-frontex/
mobile phones (so people can’t use GPS localization); strip-searching of people including women and teenage girls; many who attempt the crossing are being captured by the Croatian police and forcibly returned to Bosnia (illegal pushbacks). According to the Amnesty report, these records vary significantly from the official Croatian policy documents presenting Croatia’s approach as mostly humanitarian.

There is no consensus on the numbers of new arrivals with different agencies reporting different figures:

- According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in 2017, BiH reported 1,116 migrants and refugees; in 2018 authorities registered a total of 23,848 migrants and refugees - 20 times more than the previous year. Other sources estimate higher numbers: over 26,000 arrivals to BiH in 2018 according to a report from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The report mentions that in addition to registered arrivals, significant numbers of unregistered arrivals had been observed.
- In 2019, according to the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, nearly 21,000 migrants arrived. However, an article in Balkan Insight claims that an estimated 50,000 refugees and migrants entered Bosnia in 2019.

Of these, around 8,000 have been stranded in BiH as a result of “pushbacks”. Many have ended up sleeping rough in the mountains near the border, or in overcrowded, insanitary camps. The most notorious camp was at Vucjak, near the north-western town of Bihac, which was built on the site of a former rubbish dump surrounded by minefields (from the Bosnian war), with no access to running water or electricity, people living in tents during the winter, and prone to disease outbreaks. Aid agencies warned that the site had become too dangerous for their staff and for the refugees and migrants who depended upon them. At one point in October 2019, Vucjak was host to some 2,500 people – more than three times its capacity. Vucjak was eventually shut down in early December 2019, when a facility in the capital, Sarajevo, agreed to take in its inhabitants.

The story of the Vucjak camp illustrates the problems caused by the complex and ineffective system of government in BiH. Attempts to find alternative housing were opposed by local communities and the multiple layers of administration, unwilling to accommodate refugees and migrants. According to an article in Balkan Insight, the provision of shelter and foreign aid was held up by a complex political system that breeds neglect and muddles questions of accountability. Peter Van der Auweraert, the IOM chief in BiH said that it is time the country’s state institutions took more responsibility for handling the flow of migrants and refugees crossing the country. But handling the migration crisis revealed the weaknesses of Bosnia’s state institutions, so IOM became the central point for managing the situation.

Only relatively small numbers are claiming asylum in BiH: between 1 Jan 2018 and 30 Nov 2019, 2,304 asylum applications were registered. The state border police lack the resources to effectively address the flow of illegal migration into the country. The most problematic area is the eastern border with Serbia and Montenegro, where most irregular migrants cross over.

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79 See https://reliefweb.int/report/bosnia-and-herzegovina/inhuman-conditions-migrants-camps-bosnia-herzegovina
80 See https://www.ifrc.org/docs/Appeals/19/IB_BiH_Population_Movement_210619.pdf
81 See https://ec.europa.eu/echo/where/europe/bosnia-and-herzegovina_en
82 See https://balkaninsight.com/2020/01/22/no-country-for-the-needy-bosnia-fails-to-house-its-displaced/
83 See https://balkaninsight.com/2020/01/22/no-country-for-the-needy-bosnia-fails-to-house-its-displaced/
84 See https://balkaninsight.com/2020/01/22/no-country-for-the-needy-bosnia-fails-to-house-its-displaced/
86 See https://reliefweb.int/report/bosnia-and-herzegovina/inter-agency-operational-update-bosnia-and-herzegovina-1-30-november
In 2019, the top declared country of origin of arrivals remained Pakistan, followed by Iran, Syria, Afghanistan, Algeria and Iraq, among others. Other sources mention Afghanistan (31 per cent), followed by Morocco (20 per cent), Egypt (11 percent), Pakistan (11 per cent), the Syrian Arab Republic (8 percent), and Iraq (8 per cent).

According to IOM data, from June 2018 to 2020, Bosnia received a total of 40.9 million Euros in donor funding to address the migrant crisis.

Nermin Oruc explained that a new Minister of Security was appointed, recently, and met the Minister of Interior in Croatia; at the meeting the Minister of Security asserted that migration is not primarily a humanitarian issue, but rather primarily a security issue. Oruc noted:

Cooperation with the Croatian Ministry of Interior does not really give much hope because we know the history of behaviour of Croatian police towards these migrants. As you might have heard, they are beating them, forcibly sending them back to Bosnia, stealing their property and similar. All this is well recorded, I would say. So now, I think, if the Minister of Security in Bosnia is saying that transit migration is primarily a security issue, then this implies that we should expect these people will be treated even worse. And support by Bosnian government was not very good so far as well. There were some camps in Bihac [...] where people were living in conditions that maybe were even worse than in refugee camps in Syria. Really bad conditions. Now it slightly improved as they were relocated to reception centres near Sarajevo recently. But I still see many of them begging in the street, you can see hundreds of them around every day, especially around shopping centres. So, it suggests that the new conditions are probably not something they are happy with.

Return of refugees of the Bosnian war

The Bosnian war displaced 2.2 million people – or more than half BiH’s population. BiH is obliged to re-house them as part of its commitment to the Dayton Agreement, which enshrines the right of the displaced to return to their homes. However, some 8,000 people who lost their homes in the Bosnian war are still waiting to be re-housed. They have spent 25 years in wretched conditions in so-called “collective centres”: wartime shelters that were meant to be temporary but that have, for want of alternatives, become permanent. This issue has been discussed in some English language media, connected with the recent ‘migrant and refugee crisis’: “[T]he country’s treatment of thousands of foreign citizens, seeking to make a home elsewhere, is foreshadowed by its treatment of thousands of its own citizens, waiting for a home for 25 years.” Similarly, the IOM assessment notes that, “[T]oday, the return of displaced persons and a rise in illegal migration, such as human trafficking and smuggling, make migration a major challenge for BiH’s post-conflict recovery and development.” According to the UN’s refugee agency, there were still 98,324 IDPs at the end of 2015, 7,000 of them in temporary or collective shelters some 20 years on from the end of the conflict.

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88 See https://www.ifrc.org/docs/Appeals/19/IB_BiH_Population_Movement_210619.pdf
89 See https://reliefweb.int/report/bosnia-and-herzegovina/inter-agency-operational-update-bosnia-and-herzegovina-1-30-november
90 See https://balkaninsight.com/2020/01/22/no-country-for-the-needy-bosnia-fails-to-house-its-displaced/
91 See https://balkaninsight.com/2020/01/22/no-country-for-the-needy-bosnia-fails-to-house-its-displaced/
92 See https://balkaninsight.com/2020/01/22/no-country-for-the-needy-bosnia-fails-to-house-its-displaced/
93 See https://bih.iom.int/iom-bosnia-and-herzegovina
94 See, https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6a8cd0.html
**Cooperation with the Diaspora**

The 1992–1995 war caused huge economic and human losses. UNHCR (1997) estimates that over a million refugees from BiH, constituting 23.9 per cent of the pre-war population, live in about a hundred countries all over the world. Out of some 2.2 million persons from BiH who were forcibly displaced during the war in the 1990s, some 800,000 left for Western Europe. According to Nermin Oruc:

> This is an issue that is becoming more important. I remember when I started working on the issues of diaspora for development in 2007, I had trouble explaining to people, ministries, what diaspora actually is. Which was really surprising given the fact that we have a stock of migrants that is about 50 per cent share of total population residing in the country (i.e. 2 million Bosnians living abroad, while less than four million still live in Bosnia). So, we are among the top countries with regards to that indicator. But the government was not really interested in getting these people involved in any processes, including economic development.

There is, however, increasing recognition in BiH of the diaspora as a resource to harness. Thus, in 2017, a multi-sector working group chaired by the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH published the report ‘Policy on Cooperation with Diaspora’. Following that the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees in BiH has been coordinating a working group which is charged with drafting the first Strategy for Cooperation with Diaspora.

**Emigration**

It has been argued that emigration from BiH can be divided into three phases. ‘The pre-war period’ before the 1990s, ‘when the BiH population emigrated mainly for economic reasons’. Secondly, the war period (1991 and 1995), ‘which saw the largest outflow of refugees and forced migrants, with more than 1.2 million BiH citizens leaving the country and settling abroad, while there were around a million internally displaced persons (IDPs) within the country’. The third phase, the ‘post-war period, ‘covers the period from 1996 onwards. This emigration wave is often linked to the undesirable economic situation in the country’. In the decades since the end of the war, the population has continued to fall mainly due to high levels of outward migration, especially among young people. Recent empirical research by Efendic found that ‘young and educated respondents have the strongest intentions for emigration’. This motivation to emigrate among educated young people contributes to the ‘brain drain’:

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Bosnia has failed on many fronts. It does not fully function as a unitary state because its political system has preserved wartime divisions. Following elections in 2018, the country spent more than a year in administrative paralysis as its leaders argued over the future government. Meanwhile, its ablest citizens have been fleeing abroad, escaping a youth unemployment rate that is one of the highest in the world. The economy, weighed down by corruption, is kept afloat by aid, remittances, and loans\textsuperscript{103}.

Nermin Oruc and others, such as Will Bartlett and colleagues\textsuperscript{104} and Alida Vracic\textsuperscript{105}, see this as a labour market issue with the lack of a skilled workforce a deterrent to potential investment. Oruc for example, highlighted cases where businesses from Bosnia were moved to Slovenia because of problems of labour supply e.g. transport companies lacking drivers.

On the other hand, at the same time, you have the Labour and Employment Agency of BiH proudly stating how many people they employed through bilateral agreements with Slovenia and Germany. […] The programme with Germany is called Triple Win. I said, this is probably triple win for the government, because they reduce unemployment, they reduce pressure possibly on social benefits, and they increase future expected inflows of remittances.

However, this policy of exporting labour could be seen as problematic as it encourages emigration and places emphasis on remittances, as opposed to developing policy to improve local conditions to encourage people to stay.

**Information about migration governance in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

- **Is there a ministry dealing specifically with migration in the country?**

  The State-level Ministry of Security is responsible for the protection of international borders, inner border crossings, trafficking in human beings, among others. It also enforces the immigration and asylum policy in BiH and regulates procedures regarding movement and stay of ‘aliens’ in BiH\textsuperscript{106}. However, the make-up of the Ministry appears complex and sectors include:

  - Sector for Immigration
  - Sector for Asylum
  - Sector for Border and General Security
  - Sector for International Cooperation and European Integrations
  - Border Police of BiH
  - Service for Foreigners' Affairs
  - State Investigations and Protection Agency
  - Sector for IT and Telecommunications Systems.

\textsuperscript{103} [https://balkaninsight.com/2020/01/22/no-country-for-the-needy-bosnia-fails-to-house-its-displaced/](https://balkaninsight.com/2020/01/22/no-country-for-the-needy-bosnia-fails-to-house-its-displaced/)
\textsuperscript{104} [http://wwwlse.ac.uk/business-and-consultancy/consulting/assets/documents/From-University-to-Employment.pdf](http://wwwlse.ac.uk/business-and-consultancy/consulting/assets/documents/From-University-to-Employment.pdf)
\textsuperscript{105} [https://wwwecfr.eu/publications/summary/the-way_back_brain_drain_and_prosperity_in_the_western_balkans](https://wwwecfr.eu/publications/summary/the-way_back_brain_drain_and_prosperity_in_the_western_balkans)
Dr Oruc also noted that on the emigration issue there is a Sector for Diaspora within the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees.

**Strategy in the Area of Migrations and Asylum and Action Plan for the Period 2016-2020**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Civil Affairs have also contributed to the above report, as well as the Directorate for European Integrations.

Desk research also identified the following ministries that, according to their name, deal with migration-related issues:

- **Displaced Persons and Refugees Ministry** - in the Federation of BiH
- **Refugees Ministry** - in Republika Srpska

Government institutions are also active in relation to the reintegration of returnees (mostly Roma). At central level this involves: Ministry of Security; Ministry of Civil Affairs; Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees. At the local level responsibility rests with the Centres for Social Work (Ministry of Civil Affairs).

A recent Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) report cited major issues of unpreparedness and a lack of co-ordination in response to migrants and refugees. The report concluded that relevant stakeholders in BiH are insufficiently co-ordinated and under-prepared to respond to the current situation surrounding migrants and refugees in the country. Key actors listed were: BiH Border Police, BiH Service for Foreigners’ Affairs, Health Centres/Hospitals, Social Welfare Centres, NGOs, local administration, local law enforcement, prosecutors’ offices and courts, informal volunteer groups, religious communities. NGO employees interviewed for the report indicated that city, cantonal, entity and state-level authorities were reluctant to actively co-operate on migrant and refugee issues or to become actively involved; negative media coverage of the situation as well as language barriers were also frequently mentioned challenges to their work.

- **Are there any recently established associations with the EU’s migration related agencies?**

Due to an increased number of mixed migration flows in BiH, the European Commission has been in contact with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and the project partners of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)-funded Regional Programme “Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey” on how to best support the Bosnian ‘Action Plan to Combat Illegal Migration’ within the scope of the project and possibly beyond.

Frontex has concluded working arrangements with BiH. It also provides a technical assistance project: Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey (IPA II), Phase II (2019-2021), which includes BiH. Funding - EU Grant: 3.4 million Euros (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance/DG NEAR); project partners: EASO, IOM, UNHCR. Project goals:

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**Notes:**

109 See [https://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyril/Vlada/Ministarstva/mirl/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vladars.net/sr-SP-Cyril/Vlada/Ministarstva/mirl/Pages/default.aspx)
113 See [https://frontex.europa.eu/partners/non-eu-countries/](https://frontex.europa.eu/partners/non-eu-countries/)
to introduce and share EU standards and best practices on protection-sensitive migration management;

to support the beneficiaries in developing a protection-sensitive response to mixed migration flows by strengthening their identification, registration, referral, asylum systems and return mechanisms.

• **Do key international organizations have offices in the country?**

A range of key international organisations retain a presence in BiH:

- IOM[https://BiH.iom.int/iom-bosnia-and-herzegovina](https://BiH.iom.int/iom-bosnia-and-herzegovina), address: Zmaja od Bosne, Sarajevo 71000, Bosnia & Herzegovina. IOM’s programmes aim to prevent irregular migration, stop the trafficking of human beings, contribute to national development, and assist the BiH Government to manage migration activities. IOM is running several accommodation centres/shelters across BiH\(^\text{114}\).  

- UNHCR – has representation in BiH: [https://www.unhcr.org/uk/bosnia-and-herzegovina.html](https://www.unhcr.org/uk/bosnia-and-herzegovina.html) Address: UNITIC Building, Fra Andjela Zvizdovica 1, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

- United States Agency for International Development, USAID – funded the Sounds of Migration project, which points to the similarities between hosts and migrants and whose goal is furthering cultural exchanges between the local population and migrants; implemented by IOM.

- UNHCR, UNICEF, DRC, and Save the Children, in collaboration with other actors on the ground, work to identify, profile, and prioritize cases for referral to appropriate spaces, as available.

• **Are there any state agencies, besides the ministry (-ies) dealing with migration?**

Federal police agencies have been hired to assist the Border Police to deal with the ‘migration crisis’:

- **State Investigation and Protection Agency** (SIPA) - the official state police agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is under the direct administration of the **Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina**.

- the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies and the **Interior Ministry of Republika Srpska**\(^\text{115}\).

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\(^{114}\) See [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/73135.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/73135.pdf)

• Are there any independent authorities dealing specifically with migration related issues or including migration related issues?

According to Nermin Oruc there are no independent authorities dealing specifically with migration related issues. He further noted that a dedicated council or body which would be responsible for developing relations with the diaspora should exist:

I was advocating for some time and there are some initiatives within the new strategy to establish something like a Diaspora Council which would be something like an inter-ministerial plus some non-governmental institution council or board where they would be discussing migration issues, priorities, such things… There is obviously a need but there is nothing yet formally established.

• Do the ministries, general secretariats, state agencies and independent authorities provide statistical data on migration? If so, on what basis (i.e. weekly, monthly, annually…) and on what topics?

There are many institutions collecting, analysing and disseminating statistical data on migration in BiH, and according to Dr Oruc data have a good coverage. The Strategy in the Area of Migrations and Asylum in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is being implemented by the Ministry of Security with ‘the objective of defining comprehensive, sustainable and European standards-based policies in the area of migrations and asylum’116.

➢ Since 2010, various ministries and agencies are required by law to submit annually information for 16 pre-defined tables on migration to the Ministry of Security: visas, work permits, residency, border crossings etc. The frameworks were developed to make BiH data comparable to other international data sources and in line with the Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 on migration and international protection. The Migration Profile reports compile data from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Sector for International, Legal and Consular Affairs), the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (Sector for Diaspora), the Ministry of Civil Affairs (Sector for Citizenship and Travel Documents), the BiH Labour and Employment Agency, the BiH Ministry of Security (Immigration Sector), the BiH Ministry of Security (Asylum Sector), the BiH Ministry of Security (Service for Foreigners’ Affairs), and the BiH Ministry of Security (BiH Border Police)117.

Yet, reports indicate some issues in terms of collaboration between agencies and space for improvement:

➢ According to IOM BiH mechanism for migration data management needs to be strengthened: BiH ‘divides migration competences among a large number of agencies and though the capacity exists, there is a need to reinforce and enhance existing structures to ensure that the Ministry of Security can liaise promptly and effectively with the EU and other relevant stakeholders’118. A similar observation was made by Nermin

117 See migration data on pages 8-10 http://msb.gov.ba/PDF/010720194.pdf
118 Source: https://bih.iom.int/migration-management
Oruc: ‘There is no really good cooperation between ministries and offices of statistics in the country at any level because (...) data is often considered as comparative advantage of one institution over another’.

- The main statistical agency in BiH is Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina. There are three statistical institutes: (1) the Agency for statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the level of the state, (BHAS), (2) the Federal Office of Statistics for the Entity of Federation of Bosnia Herzegovina (FZS) and (3) the Republika Srpska Institute of Statistics for the Entity of Republika Srpska (RZSRS). They collect statistics on ‘Demography and social statistics’, which includes Internal migration. BHAS is responsible for data collection on external migration on state level.

- Nermin Oruc noted that there is also a potential to build a register data collecting information from personal ID cards. The system would have to allow recording emigration through de-registration option, which would need to be implemented.

- Do the relevant to migration state institutions and independent authorities publish policy reports on migration issues?

Most reports on migration in BiH seem to have been published by international organizations, at least the English language ones. Some reports published recently by the Ministry of Security, Sector for Immigration:

- Strategy in the Area of Migrations and Asylum and Action Plan for the Period 2016-2020
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Migration Profile – annual reports: 2018; 2017 and 2014
- Immigration and Asylum Training Program (2016-2020).

- Do the regional and local administrations (regional councils and municipalities) take part in the management of migration related issues?

Yes, extensively, see description above.

- Do all migration related state institutions and independent authorities have websites?

Yes, see above.
Are there any partnerships and collaborations of the migration related institutions and independent authorities at the national, regional and international level?


  - Aim: to promote closer regional cooperation and common, comprehensive and harmonized approach of MARRI participants in areas of: migration, asylum, border control, trafficking in human beings, visa regime, integration and return of refugees with the ambition to reach international and European standards in these areas.

  - Main bodies of MARRI are: (1) Forum of Ministers, (2) Committee and (3) Regional Centre

  - Mission of the Regional Centre in Skopje is to act as Executive Secretariat of MARRI and focal point for consultations, dialogue, trainings, information exchange, capacity building and other activities agreed by Participants.

  - There are also four sector networks: (1) Border management police network, (2) Cooperation on readmission network, (3) Coordinators for prevention of trafficking in human beings network, (4) Heads of Asylum Departments network.

Some other examples of regional collaborations:

- IOM and EU bodies seem to be funding several initiatives with the help of local organisations. Examples include: some of the asylum and accommodation sites are run by governmental bodies and IOM\(^\text{124}\); UNHCR, UNICEF, DRC, and Save the Children, in collaboration with other actors on the ground, work to identify, profile, and prioritize cases for referral to appropriate accommodation centres.

- On 6 February 2018, a meeting was held between the representatives of the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Office of the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs (SFA) and UNHCR Representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Service’s premises. Topic: the current situation of increased number of asylum seekers in Bosnia and Herzegovina\(^\text{125}\).

- Diaspora cooperation strategy – main beneficiary is the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees:

  - Diaspora for Development - implemented by the UNDP and IOM, funded by SDC – Swiss Developmental Cooperation\(^\text{126}\).

  - Diaspora invest - funded by USAID; providing grants to investors in Diaspora\(^\text{127}\).

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\(^{124}\) [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/73135.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/73135.pdf)


Are there any policy working groups and policy task forces on migration?

According to our key informant Dr Oruc:

- There is a working group for drafting strategy- inter-ministerial.
- There was a working group on improving migration statistics, for example, in which Nermin Oruc participated.
- Usually there are an inter-ministerial working groups for drafting strategy that work on it, but there is no body to continuously monitor the implementation and suggest changes.
- There was an initiative to establish something like a Diaspora Advisory Board, composed of Diaspora investors and ministries. But once the RS MPs decided to withdraw from the process, it stopped. They had one meeting in 2017 and nothing else.

3.2.3. Micro-level: Universities/ Academic Departments, Research Centres and Institutes specializing on migration

Who conducts relevant academic research in the said countries and on what topics?

The Centre for Refugee and IDP Studies (CESI128) at the Faculty of Political Sciences at University of Sarajevo used to be a key centre for migration research, which, however, ceased to exist. Currently, there are a number of research centres and departments at universities that conduct – among others – research on migration-related issues, these include the Post-Conflict Research Centre (PCRC) in Sarajevo; the Economic Institute Sarajevo; the Balkan Studies Center (BSC) at the International University of Sarajevo; the WARM Foundation.

Moreover, it is apparent that academics across different universities in Tuzla, Sarajevo, Banja Luka and elsewhere in the country are conducting new research on migration and the impact on BiH society.

Nermin Oruc identified constraints on migration research capacity in BiH:

- the lack of internal capacity to train migration scholars, hence they study abroad and then often decide to work abroad;
- issues with access to national and international funding – not enough funding in BiH to do research, and researchers not being competitive enough to bid for EU grants (also in terms of institutional capacity to host projects)

He would welcome more regional collaborations aiming to strengthen institutional capacity to host research and improve skills among migration scholars:

128 See https://www.rrpp-efm.net/cesi/en/
It would be great to have further collaboration increased between European and Western Balkan researchers because this would be basically capacity building for them.

**Information about migration research in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

- **Are there academic departments in state or private universities dealing according to their title with migration?**
  
  No

- **Are there other academic departments which include migration as a distinct specialization in their curricula?**
  
  - University of Banja Luka, University of East Sarajevo

- **Do these departments host an academic journal dealing with migration related issues?**
  
  - University of Banja Luka – Faculty of Natural Science and Mathematics, Department of Geography. Journal named Herald.

- **Provide names of scholars working on migration with links to their websites, profiles, Google scholar etc.**

According to Dr Oruc many migration scholars originating from BiH are working abroad. We identified a small number of migration scholars working in BiH, their full profiles are in Appendix 1. We should note that most of these are not working exclusively on migration because of a lack of available funding.

- **Nermin Oruc**, founder and director of the Centre for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research, Sarajevo.

- **Adnan S. Efendic**, Professor of Economics, Head of the Department of Economic Theory and Policy and Editor-in-chief of the South East European Journal of Economics and Business and member of editorial board of the Post-communist Economies journal; University of Sarajevo, School of Economics and Business.

- **Nina Bosankić**, Adjunct Instructor, International University of Sarajevo, Department of Psychology.

- **Draško Marinković**, Full Professor at the Faculty of Natural Science and Mathematics, Department of Geography, University of Banja Luka and also founder of the Centre for demographic research (drasko.marinkovic@pmf.unibl.org)
• **At a general level, are there academic journals dealing with migration related issues?**
  No

• **Do these academic departments publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize national / international level conferences/events involving external speakers?**
  Dr Oruc identified some events which ran between 2013-15 within the joint project by the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, Embassy of Switzerland, and the United Nations Development Program in Bosnia and Herzegovina, titled Migrations and Development: Streamlining of Migration into the Relevant Policies, Plans and Activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. There have been some edited volumes from these events

  ➢ **Migration in the Function of Development,**
    https://www.ba.undp.org/content/dam/bosnia_and_herzegovina/docs/Research&Publications/Poverty%20reduction/Migration%20in%20function%20of%20Development.pdf
  ➢ **Migration from Bosnia and Herzegovina**

  Dr. Oruc organized a migration conference in Sarajevo in 2017 – 2nd annual conference of the Western Balkans Migration Network (2018 in Zagreb; last year the network did not manage to organize a conference because of lack of funds). The next conference is planned for September 2020 in Skopje.

• **Are there research centres, think tanks and institutes dealing specifically with migration in the country? Provide the essential info on their scope / thematic interest**

  Not at the moment. Yet, it is worth mentioning Centre for Refugee and IDP Studies (CESI): http://www.rrpp-efm.net/cesi/about-cesi/- CESI was established in 2011 through partnership of UNHCR and Faculty of Political Sciences at University of Sarajevo, as a first academic centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and Western Balkans Region dedicated to forced migration studies. However, CESI ceased to exist within the premises of the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo in September 2015. According to Nermin Oruc CESI did not manage to become a sustainable research centre:

  Centre for Refugee Studies was receiving funding for 3 years for establishment by UNHCR. When the funds dried up, the director [didn’t] managed to make it sustainable. Although it was placed at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Sarajevo, they never accepted it as part of the university, they didn’t want to incorporate it into their structure. The director now works in another country.

  Research: [http://www.rrpp-efm.net/cesi/research/](http://www.rrpp-efm.net/cesi/research/)

  ➢ Engendering Forced Migration, Socio-political Transition and Mental Health in BiH, Serbia and Kosovo. CESI lead & CEDAR Hosted RRPP – Regional Research Promotion Programme, Fribourg University, Switzerland. 2014-2016 project with partners, Group 484 in Serbia and IPOL in Kosovo.
- Social capital of returnees in BiH – *An Overlooked Potential of Social Capital in Returnee Communities: A Way Forward to Sustainability of Return in BiH, Policy Development Fellowship Program 2013, Open Society Fund BiH*

- ‘Contemporary Return Migration from Western Europe to BiH’, with Norwegian University of Science and Technology and Oslo University (Analysis of empiric data in progress).


- ISS ‘International Summer School on Forced Migration Studies’ (2013-2014), Project with DAAD Germany and Hamburg University and with Professor Barbara Harrell Bond and Fahamu Refugee Programme.

- University of Washington (2013-2014)): Bosnia/Croatia/Serbia Study Abroad Program. Involved study visits, exchange and study activity in the CESI library for the students of the programme.

- Proactive arts (2013) – Documenting the Livelihoods of internally displaced children and youth in BiH.

- ‘Regional Housing Program follow up Research’ – putting in focus social inclusion of BH ‘returnees’ / work in progress with University of Banja Luka.

- CESI engaged in research collaboration with Maja Povrzanovic Frykman, Malmo Institute for studies of Migration, Diversity and Welfare, Malmo University, Sweden

They also organized seminars and conferences

**Forced Migration Research Methods** - e-learning platform with particular focus on the methodological tools and techniques relevant to research in the field of forced migration studies.

- *Are there research centres, think tanks and institutes that include migration in their scope even without it being their primary interest?*

- Centre for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research (CREDI), Sarajevo - [https://credi.ba/en/](https://credi.ba/en/), an independent, non-profit and non-partisan think tank aimed at strengthening the evidence-based culture in BiH and the Western Balkans region. Nermin Oruc is the founder and director, Centre is involved in a number of migration-related projects and is a coordinator of Western Balkan Migration Network.

Other research centres as less loosely related to migration:

- Post-Conflict Research Center (PCRC), Sarajevo, [https://p-crc.org/-](https://p-crc.org/-) held one project in 2017 on Challenges and Experiences of Migrant Integration

- Economic Institute Sarajevo[http://eis.ba/-](http://eis.ba/-) studied Diaspora and Development in 2014
➢ Balkan Studies Center (BSC) at the International University of Sarajevo, [https://bsc.ius.edu.ba](https://bsc.ius.edu.ba) - run a BSC Summer School on Critical Thinking 2019 "Migration Management in the Balkans: Challenges and Obstacles"


* Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize national / international level conferences/events involving external speakers on migration?

➢ We identified an academic international conference on migration: **Irregular Migration towards EU and Balkan Countries**, 27-30 April 2017; 3rd Sarajevo International Conference by Faculty of Business and Administration, International University of Sarajevo.

➢ **WARM Academy**, [https://p-crc.org/our-work/peace-education/warm-academy/](https://p-crc.org/our-work/peace-education/warm-academy/) – the War Art Reporting and Memory (WARM) Academy is a multidisciplinary, educational and training program that focuses on developing participants’ knowledge, understanding, and critical skills in the fields of peacebuilding and conflict transformation. It takes place during Sarajevo’s annual WARM Festival. The 1st WARM Festival opened on 28th June 2014, the day of the 100th anniversary of World War I. The **WARM Foundation** and the **Post-Conflict Research Center (PCRC)** organized the **2019 WARM Academy** taking place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina from 8 to 13 July 2019. It featured masterclasses, workshops, and interactive panel discussions that present cutting-edge approaches, innovative techniques, and best practices being utilized across the globe to address issues related to contemporary conflict and post-conflict transitions.

* Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes participate in international research programmes and projects? Have they implemented any EU-funded or other collaborative research project in the last five years?

➢ **CREDI** research centre had many externally financed projects in cooperation with other institutions.

➢ The **Warm Foundation** and the **Post-Conflict Research Center (PCRC)** work together with numerous external partners.

➢ **PCRC** list of partners, governmental, academic and nongovernmental organizations operating on local, national, regional and international levels: [https://p-crc.org/partnerships/](https://p-crc.org/partnerships/). Includes, among many others:

   a) Academic: LSE; University of Arts London; Yale, University of Sussex; University of York; Sarajevo School of Science and Technology; University of Sarajevo; Columbia University; University of Denver; Harvard Law School; Stanford University; Georgetown University;

• Are these research centres, think tanks and institutes part of regional and international academic/research/policy related networks dealing with migration? What kind of collaborations and partnerships do they have when it comes to migration related issues at a national, regional and international level?

➢ The Western Balkans Migration Network-https://wb-mignet.org/

3.2.4. Micro-level: NGOs and other institutions from the civil society

• Which NGOs operate in the field of migration at the national level, what issues are they working on and what kind of policy gaps are they filling in?

According to 2018 OSCE report Assessment: Migrant and Refugee Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Overview of the intervention of key actors in the field129 international and local NGOs have been the main providers of direct humanitarian assistance to migrants and refugees throughout the country. This is recognized by stakeholders such as the BiH Service for Foreigners’ Affairs, police bodies and international organizations, which consistently refer migrants to NGOs. NGOs are engaged countrywide, in reception centres in major cities and in areas like Una-Sana Canton, where the highest numbers of migrants are currently located. They mainly collaborate with the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs, international organizations, local administrations and the police.

However, NGOs in the country also face significant challenges to their efficacy related to a lack of funding (and in particular, a lack of long-term funding plans) as well as poor coordination with other organizations, whether governmental, non-governmental, national or international.

Information about NGOs working in the field of migration in Bosnia and Herzegovina

• Is there a registry which includes all or most of them as such (i.e. “Registry of NGOs dealing with migration” or “General registry of NGOs”)?

➢ Bosnian Registry of NGO :https://aleph.occrp.org/datasets/922- it is difficult to assess without language knowledge how many are migration-related; there are well over 100 registries (see below), with varying numbers of NGOs, from 19,302 in the Federation of BiH and 7,709 in Republika Srpska to 5 on a specific street. It seems there are 64,547 entries, including organisations, people and legal entities.

➢ The bureaucratic structure of BiH leads to a somewhat chaotic outcome in NGO registration. There are separate registries for civil society organizations in Republika Srpska, Federation of BiH and the fourteen cantons of the federation. In addition, a number of different directories and registries being created by the NGOs themselves.

129 See: https://www.osce.org/mission-to-bosnia-and-herzegovina/397319
According to http://ngoaccountability.eu/ngo-registries/bosnia-and-herzegovina/ (2015, a website based on research for a MA thesis) the civil sector is very much foreign-donor funded and relatively disconnected from the political sphere.

**Which are the NGOs dealing with migration at the national level?**

- 2018 OSCE report *Assessment: Migrant and Refugee Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Overview of the intervention of key actors in the field*130 mentions interviewing 32 NGOs of which 18 were directly working with migrant and refugee populations. According to the report the NGOs found to be providing the greatest amount of assistance to migrants and refugees in BiH are: pomozi.ba, International Forum of Solidarity (IFS) Emmaus, the BiH Red Cross, particularly the Red Cross office in BiH.

- A number of NGOs are operating at the region, Western Balkan level, providing support for refugees, for example: No Name Kitchen (NKK), Are You Syrious? or Collective Aid.

- NGOs are also providing assistance in reception centres and in areas highly populated by migrants and refugees. Examples include the Red Cross in Mostar, which is providing support to the Salakovac Refugee and Readmission Centre, and the Red Cross in BiH, which is coordinating assistance for migrants living in a ruined building in that city, Caritas Bosnia and Herzegovina which provides a laundry service for migrants in Tuzla and Bira camp.

- Vaša Prava (UNHCR’s free legal aid partner) provides free legal help to migrants in matters such as: property repossession; social, economic and cultural rights; discrimination in access to employment; utilities; education; and social welfare as well as broader human rights.

- Many other NGOs are not providing services specifically to migrants, but many of them are including migrants as one of many groups in need. For example, Women’s Power or LIR Civil Society.

An extended list of NGOs with web links is in Appendix B.

**Is there a thematic specialization among NGOs dealing with migration at the national level?**

- Some of the INGOs (see above) entered BiH during and after the Bosnian war to do humanitarian work, service delivery, help with post-war reconstruction, advocacy and legal aid for the dispossessed and victims of sexual violence, etc.

- Others, such as Collective aid was funded specifically as a response to the ‘migration crisis’. In addition, already established NGOs, such as the Red Cross are also helping with the migrant crisis.

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130 See https://www.osce.org/mission-to-bosnia-and-herzegovina/397319?download=true
Thematic specialization: humanitarian work, service delivery, information and awareness raising – e.g. websites / web pages to provide information to migrants, refugees, asylum seekers\(^\text{131}\).  

There are NGOs working with diaspora investors, victims of human trafficking and the reintegration of (mostly) Roma returnees to BiH (see above).

2018 OSCE report on key actors: ‘Generally, NGOs provide migrants and refugees with humanitarian assistance in the form of food, clothes, childcare equipment and hygienic products, including female hygienic products. Some are also providing legal support, psychological support, medicine or simple healthcare, transport and accommodation.’\(^\text{132}\).

Do these NGOs participate in regional and international research projects and programmes?

Many NGOs seem to be local branches of international organizations (Red Cross, Caritas, Doctors Without Borders, Amnesty international) so they work across borders.

Smaller local NGOs, such as Collective Aid, No Name Kitchen, Are You Syrious? operate across the countries on the Balkan Route.

Most programmes for migrants and refugees are funded by international organisations, such as IOM.

2018 OSCE report on key actors: ‘They receive funding from a variety of sources, ranging from government institutions to citizen donations to international organizations. Additionally, organizations such as the Red Cross, Caritas, Merhamet or Catholic Relief Services use their own core funding.’\(^\text{133}\).

Do these NGOs publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize national or international conferences/ events (at least in the recent past, from 2014-2015 onwards)? Provide a summary of the main themes


Do these NGOs publish reports and papers including any policy-oriented material?

VašapravaBiH reports:

a) International protection and asylum in practice\(^\text{134}\)(not in English)

b) Asylum in BiH\(^\text{135}\)(not in English)

c) Information for asylum seekers in Bosnia and Herzegovina\(^\text{136}\)(in several languages)

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\(^{131}\) See [https://blog.refugee.info/bosnia-how-to-register-and-claim-asylum/](https://blog.refugee.info/bosnia-how-to-register-and-claim-asylum/)


\(^{135}\) See [https://vasaprava.org/?wpdmpro=azil-u-bih&lang=en](https://vasaprava.org/?wpdmpro=azil-u-bih&lang=en)

➢ No Name Kitchen publish a monthly report on the situation with the testimonies of victims of abuse: https://www.nonamekitchen.org/en/violence-reports/.

• Are these NGOs part of regional/ international networks related to migration?

Dr Nermin Oruc is not aware of NGO networks at the national level. Regional cooperation is more common:

➢ VašaprapaBiH (https://vasaprava.org/?page_id=2&lang=en) is cooperating with other organisations at the local and regional levels through the Balkans Asylum Network. In addition, in 2006 VašaprapaBiH signed the memorandum on cooperation with the European Council on Refugees and Exiles, ECRE, by which the Association Vaša prava BiH became a national partner in the regional project. Also, VPBiH continuously carries out the activities surrounding the making of the Law on Free Legal Aid in Non-Criminal Matters.

➢ IRIS network (https://iris-see.eu/). IRIS network is the only regional network that brings together social service providers in South East Europe. One of their areas is migration management.

Partner from BiH: LIR Civil Society, http://lircd.org/

➢ The Balkan Refugee and Migration Council, an informal coalition of five civil society organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Kosovo* and Serbia. The members of the coalition are prominent CSOs with specific competences demonstrated through long-standing work in the asylum and migration policy area, both at the national and regional level. These are Belgrade Centre for Human Rights (Serbia), Civil Rights Program Kosovo*, Group 484 (Serbia), Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, Vašaprapa BiH. https://vasaprava.org/?wpdmpro=english-common-western-balkan-migration-policy-borders-and-returns&lang=en

• Are there any other civil society institutions (i.e. organizations, funds…) dealing with migration in the country?

➢ BiHac Music Youth – oversees a project, Sounds of Migration, which gathers local musicians, as well as talented musicians from the Middle East, with the help of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Resilience Initiative, BHRI, funded by United States Agency for International Development, USAID, and implemented by International Organization for Migration, IOM. Children and youngsters from the local community and migrant community are participating in 30 music workshops.137

➢ Local volunteers helping migrants.138

138 See https://balkaninsight.com/2018/08/17/we-too-were-refugees-in-a-bosnian-field-a-helping-hand-08-16-2018/
• Do these organizations participate in regional and international research projects and programmes?
  ➢ The Sounds of Migration project is funded from abroad.
  ➢ ’’Merhamet’’ Muslim charity seems to have branches in several countries

• Do these organizations publish newsletters or statistical data on migration? Do they organize conferences/ events and/or seminars on migration?
No information found.

• Do these organizations publish reports and papers including any policy-oriented material? Provide the essential information on their scope
No information found.

• Are these organizations part of regional/ international networks related to migration?
  ➢ The Sounds of Migration project is funded from abroad.
  ➢ ’’Merhamet’’ Muslim charity seems to have branches in several countries

3.2.5. Analysis

Similarities/Differences with other countries of study
BiH shares many of the migration and related challenges confronting Serbia. These include:
• the reception and integration of migrants and refugees arriving as a result of the ongoing and multiple crises in the Middle East and Africa
• the integration of IDPs
• the integration of (returned) Roma populations
• large-scale outward migration composing multiple waves over-time
• demographic ageing
• population decline

BiH also shares many of Serbia’s key geo-political positioning. These include:
• a country located along the (Western) Balkan ‘migrant/refugee corridor’
• an EU border / ‘neighbourhood’ country
• an EU candidate country
• a middle-income country on the border of high-income countries, many with significant labour demand
• a country located along the ‘Belt and Road’ initiative
The commonalities in challenges and context suggest that there is strong potential to develop collaborative research agendas with BiH. Certainly, the core themes of MIGREC as currently defined – migration governance, migration and integration and the migration-development nexus – are all highly relevant to BiH. International migration is predominantly viewed through the lens of border management and as a security issue, which could be a legacy of post-war/post-conflict context.

Migration seems to be a hot topic among BiH state agencies, and a number of different state agencies have a role in policy development and implementation. The governance landscape is complex, however: not only is it decentralised, but it is so along ‘ethnic’ lines. While our research indicates that migration issues which are clearly of national concern are often addressed at the level of the two entities, it was beyond our remit to investigate whether this results in significantly different policy agendas and responses between entities. What is clear, however, is that any engagement with policy stakeholders requires important ‘insider’ knowledge of the political context spanning both entities.

As such, a potential obstacle in developing effective networks across the region – yet at the same time an opportunity for a new research centre – might be lack of effective collaborations between neighbouring countries, which became evident during the ‘migration crisis’ and a lack of common measures on tackling the issue of irregular border crossings. National stakeholders even within the same country might not collaborate effectively with each other either (e.g. collection of statistical data on migration in BiH).

Migration infrastructure (academic and NGOs)

Migration-related research capacity in BiH, however, has been impacted by ‘brain-drain’. There is a small number of researchers based in BiH currently researching and publishing in relevant areas. The questions guiding this review did not ask us to consider the disciplinary base of the migration scholars in BiH, but our tentative view is that the disciplines making up MIGREC – Political Science, Journalism and Communication Studies, International Relations, Social Policy, Social Work and Geography, are not so prominent; Economics rather seems quite prominent. Data from our key informant interview suggest that there is a larger number of migration scholars originating from BiH now working overseas, although it was beyond the remit of this task to map BiH’s academic diaspora in the migration field. The migration-related research ‘environment’ in BiH is therefore quite ‘thin’, lacking in journals and sustained research-related activities, such as conferences and other events. The research capacity of Universities more generally is constrained by a lack of funding, which has created challenges for the sustainability of migration-related research centres, beyond the initial one or two externally-funded projects (see for example, the experience of CESI). Migration researchers in BiH have appreciated the importance, therefore, of firstly developing regional collaborations (e.g. through the Western Balkan Migration Network and now MIGREC) and collaborations with research institutions in the EU with a stronger track record / stronger institutional capacity.

There is a plethora of migration-related NGOs operating in BiH. The key INGOs have a presence, there are also many local NGOs, but in addition, there are some NGOs which appear to span the region. The recent and ongoing ‘migrant and refugee crisis’ has led to the emergence of new NGOs, as well as a re-orientation of the activities of more longstanding NGOs.
3.2.6. Recommendations

On the basis of the research conducted, we have identified a number of recommendations for the MIGREC as a research centre:

- MIGREC needs a strategy for embedding itself institutionally within the University of Belgrade / within its respective Faculties and for developing institutional capacity in migration research. Such a strategy should be developed keeping in mind that EU-Twinning resources are for a short period of time and more sustainable options on how to operate should be considered.

- While there is potential for regional collaborations, those regional groups need to connect with institutions beyond the region – most likely in the EU. More importantly, an EU-facing centre might be more welcomed by stakeholders whose interests in the region often vary.

- All countries in the region suffer from a ‘brain drain’ and loss of academic research staff. With the above in mind, MIGREC should consider a strategy for engaging Serbian (and possibly other Western Balkan) migration scholars working in other countries. The BiH case demonstrates that emigration has resulted in the lack of internal capacity to train new migration scholars; hence such a capacity building role in the region could be taken by MIGREC in the future.

- MIGREC should consider its relationship to the Western Balkan Migration Network. It would be, however, necessary to consider how the new research centre should be positioned in relation to this network. Although University of Belgrade is not a leader of the network, MIGREC could mobilise the network to more collaborations across region.

- MIGREC should consider prioritising NGO partnership-building with organisations working across the region. There are a few influential regional and international NGOs whose expertise on how to bring various stakeholders together will be invaluable.

3.3. Croatia

3.3.1 Introduction

This report provides an overview of the current state of play and infrastructure regarding migration policy, governance, research and civil society activity within The Republic of Croatia (henceforth referred to as Croatia). It is based on desk research and consultation with a national expert on migration in Croatia, employed in a leading centre of migration research in Croatia. The report is structured as follows:

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139 This consultation took the form of an interview via Skype on 21st February 2020. The expert has asked to remain anonymous.
3.3.2. Meso-level: State institutions and agencies dealing with migration governance

Who makes decisions on migration policies?

Migration policy is made at the national level in Croatia. However, since Croatia is an EU Member State, many of its provisions relating to migration and asylum are made with reference to EU legislation. Since joining the EU in 2013, there has been an ongoing process of transposing EU legislation in the field of migration and asylum into national law. Croatia is currently without a migration strategy, according to our national expert and other sources. The last migration strategy was for the 2013-2015 period.

What are the current policy priorities of the decision makers?

Four key issues dominate political discourse currently: emigration and ‘brain drain’; economic migration; the ‘migrant and refugee crisis’; and integration. The degree to which those issues are being addressed in the policy domain, however, seems uneven.

Emigration and ‘brain drain’

Emigration was a key issue in the recent 2019 / 2020 Croatian presidential elections. Throughout the 1990s and most of the first decade of the 2000s, Croatia was a country of positive net migration, mainly of citizens from other parts of the former Yugoslavia. Since joining the EU, Croatia has become a country of negative net migration, due largely to a new wave of emigration. According to the Croatian Bureau of Statistics: emigration from Croatia in 2009 was 9,940; it jumped to 20,858 in 2014; seemed to peak in 2017 at 47,352; and fell off slightly in 2018 to 39,515. Immigration has been increasing since Croatia joined the EU - from 10,631 in 2014 to 26,629 in 2018 - but not by enough to compensate for the rise in emigration. Net migration in 2018 stood at -13,486, but this was less than the 2017 figure of -31,799. The vast

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140 For relevant acquis and EU policies on these areas, see:
For questions of emigration from Croatia, see:
https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=17999&langId=en;
141 See https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=17999&langId=en.
142 While not dominating current political discourse, it is important to note that two additional issues have been important in the last two decades: a) the diaspora as a result of the 1990s’ war exodus of refugees (mainly, but not exclusively, ethnic Croats); and b) the return of ethnic Serb refugees displaced from Croatia in 1995.
143 See https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=17999&langId=en. It is important to note that Croatia has a large diaspora from before the 1990s.
144 See https://www.dzs.hr/default_e.htm.
145 Ibid.
146 Ibid.
majority (82 per cent) of Croatian citizens emigrating in 2018 left for other EU countries, with Germany being the primary destination (72 per cent). 14 per cent emigrated to other Balkan countries – Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and Serbia predominantly\(^{147}\).

Our national expert argued that the official emigration data are likely to underestimate the scale of emigration since they include only people who officially de-register when leaving the country. This perspective is supported by other commentators, basing their analysis on figures from the statistical offices of key emigration countries\(^{148}\). As Stubbs and Zrinscak (2017) write, “it is clear that true levels of emigration from Croatia are higher than official statistics suggest, perhaps double or even triple. Without a population census, tighter enforcement of a 2012 Law which requires anyone leaving Croatia for a year or more to cancel their residence permit, or representative survey data, any figures used are no more than an informed guess”\(^{149}\).

Political rhetoric around emigration adopts a ‘brain drain’ narrative, based on the fact that emigration is dominated by those of prime working age, with secondary / higher level education, as well as evidence of emigration among key professionals, including those in health care\(^{150}\). Emigration, combined with declining birth rates, is contributing to population decline and demographic ageing. Concerns exist around the sustainability of the labour market and systems of pensions, healthcare and education\(^{151}\). The Government’s programme for 2016-2020, which included ‘demographic renewal’ as a priority, had a commitment to encouraging young people to stay and those who left to return, as well as including the Croatian diaspora in development policies\(^{152}\). In 2018, a special organizing unit of the Central State Office for Croats Abroad was established, called the Welcome Office. This is targeted at Croats wishing to return to their homeland. Also in 2018, a conference was organised in Dubrovnik under the auspices of the European Migration Network, on the topic of harnessing the potential of diaspora for the development of Croatia\(^{153}\).

**Economic migration**

To meet labour market shortages, Croatia has been increasing the number of work permits available to third country nationals. In 2018 it made available 31,000 permits; 21,210 permits for new employment and 9,000 permits for extension of already issued work permits. In 2019, the work permit quota more than doubled to 65,100\(^{154}\). In November 2019, Croatia announced that it would further increase the quota to offset skill shortages in the tourism and construction sectors. For 2020 the quota has been raised to 103,470\(^{155}\). The official migration data indicate that the majority of migrants to Croatia come from neighbouring countries, with BiH nationals being the single largest source, followed by Serbs. A small, but increasing number, are nationals of Asian countries\(^{156}\).

\(^{147}\) See [https://www.dzs.hr/default_e.htm](https://www.dzs.hr/default_e.htm)

\(^{148}\) Ibid.

\(^{149}\) See [https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=17999&langId=en](https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=17999&langId=en)

\(^{150}\) Ibid.

\(^{151}\) Ibid.


\(^{153}\) See [https://www.fes-croatia.org/fileadmin/user_upload/FES_Iseljavanje_web.pdf](https://www.fes-croatia.org/fileadmin/user_upload/FES_Iseljavanje_web.pdf)

\(^{154}\) Ibid.


\(^{156}\) See [https://www.dzs.hr/default_e.htm](https://www.dzs.hr/default_e.htm)
The ‘migrant and refugee crisis’
Croatia lies along the ‘Western Balkan route’ in the context of the so-called ‘migrant and refugee crisis’. As an EU Member State, Croatia occupied a specific position in that ‘crisis’, since it is not part of the Schengen zone, while its neighbours are either both EU and Schengen members (Slovenia and Hungary), or neither members of the EU nor of Schengen (BiH, Montenegro, Serbia). Following Hungary’s closure of its border with Serbia in September 2015, the migration flow was directed towards Croatian borders. Between then and March 2016, just within a period of six months, 658,968 people had passed through Croatia. Thus, Croatia was a transit country, rather than a country of final destination, during the ‘crisis’. The State’s approach in this context was predominantly a humanitarian one. However, since the closure of the Balkan route in March 2016, a securitization approach has come to dominate. According to the 2018 European Migration Network (EMN) report on Croatia, the State began to strengthen its border, reception and asylum capacities in order to ensure an effective control of the longest land border of the European Union, and the possibility of an indiscriminate access to the international protection procedure. Various measures have resulted in the control of the eastern border with Serbia, and progress on bringing the control of the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro to the same level.

Integration
Croatia has also participated in the EU relocation and resettlement scheme. The 2018 EMN report notes “Croatia completely met its resettlement requirements by resettling 152 Syrian nationals. As an additional solidarity measure, the Government of the Republic of Croatia passed a Decision on the resettlement of an additional 100 Syrian refugees from Turkey in October 2017”. In this context, the debate in Croatia has also “shifted towards the development of capacities and the creation of integration policy of migrant populations”. It now has a measure entitled the ‘Croatian Action Plan for the integration of beneficiaries of international protection (2017-2019)’. It mainly comprises provisions on beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and refugees' rights to work, decent accommodation and (language and cultural) education, as well as their obligations to participate in the economic, social and cultural development of Croatia, with the support of relevant authorities. The integration agenda, however, does not extend to the increasing number of labour migrants. Our national expert explained that this is because most of them originate from Bosnia-Herzegovina and are ethnic Croats who:

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159 Ibid.
160 Ibid.
162 Ibid.
...know the language, and it is very easy for them to integrate in the Croatian labour market, to find a place to live and so on. Other foreigners are mostly from Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, again, culturally-linguistically very close [National Expert Interview].

That said, the previous integration Act Plan – ‘Action Plan for the removal of barriers to the realization of individual rights in the field of integration of foreigners (2013-2015)’ applied to all migrants, not just humanitarian migrants\(^\text{165}\). Examination of the website of the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities, which is the body responsible for integration, also reveals however a focus on Roma integration\(^\text{166}\). It should be also added that Croatia has undertaken obligations of accepting returnees from Serbia in order to enable their reintegration into society\(^\text{167}\).

Information about migration governance in Croatia

- **Is there a ministry dealing specifically with migration in the country?**

There is no specific migration ministry, however the Ministry of the Interior(https://mup.gov.hr/en) has two dedicated departments:

- Department for Asylum, Migration and Integration,
- and the Department for Border and Visa Area.

The Ministry of the Interior is the main state institution responsible for migration policy. In addition, there is the Central State Office for Croats Abroad, which was established in 2012 (https://hrvatiizvanrh.gov.hr/). It hosts the Welcome Office (see above), and its aim is to facilitate the return and integration of emigrated Croats and their descendants in Croatia. There is also the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities(https://pravamanjina.gov.hr/). It is the coordination body responsible for integration.

- **Are there any recently established associations with the EU’s migration related agencies?**

Croatia joined the EMN in 2013 after entering the European Union. From 2013 until 2015, the role of the EMN National Contact Point for Croatia was held by the Ministry of the Interior. From 2015 until the end of 2018, the role was held by the Croatian Office of the International Organization for Migration. According to the EMN website, the Croatian EMN NCP is now the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Croatia: https://emn.gov.hr/en.

Croatia also cooperates with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) with the aim of providing adequate international protection. The cooperation takes place by way of national contact points and through education seminars organized by EASO. Likewise, Croatian experts provide assistance to Member States facing a large influx of migrants (Greece, Italy, Cyprus). Assistance to third countries in the region, namely Serbia (Coaching/on-the-job training on the

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\(^{165}\) Ibid.
\(^{166}\) See https://pravamanjina.gov.hr/
\(^{167}\) https://snv.hr/eng/what-we-do/protection-of-rights/return-of-refugees
examination procedure) and North Macedonia (project: The development of SOPs for asylum registration), was also provided, under the organization of EASO.\textsuperscript{168}

During the ‘migration crisis’, Croatia participated in operations organized by Frontex (mainly in Greece and Bulgaria). Airbases in Zadar and Split were put at the disposal of the Frontex aircraft, used for monitoring migration movements on the border with BiH and Montenegro. Co-operation with Frontex continues; for example, in 2018, in the framework of the Frontex operation, Croatia provided support to Greece, Bulgaria, Montenegro and North Macedonia in terms of providing police officers, patrol vehicles and vessels.\textsuperscript{169}

- **Do key international organizations have offices in the country?**

A range of key international organisations maintain a presence in Croatia:

- IOM Croatia: [https://croatia.iom.int/](https://croatia.iom.int/)
- UNHCR: [https://www.unhcr.org/uk/croatia.html](https://www.unhcr.org/uk/croatia.html)
- Croatia is a member of several international organizations: NATO, WTO, Partnership for Peace; the country is preparing to join the Schengen Area.
- Several other international organizations have offices in the country, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and UNICEF.

- **Are there any state agencies, besides the ministry(-ies) dealing with migration?**

See above for discussion of the following: Central State Office for Croats Abroad; Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities; and The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

In addition, there is the Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes (AMEUP) ([https://www.mobilnost.hr/en/content/about-us/](https://www.mobilnost.hr/en/content/about-us/)). This is the National Agency responsible for the implementation of the following Programmes and initiatives in Croatia: Erasmus+ programme; European Solidarity Corps (ESC); and Horizon 2020 programme.

- **Are there any independent authorities dealing specifically with migration related issues or including migration related issues?**

According to our National Expert “there are public institutes which are funded by ministries which are independent in their scientific work. One example is the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies”.


\textsuperscript{169} Ibid.
Do the ministries, general secretariats, state agencies and independent authorities provide statistical data on migration? If so, on what basis (i.e. weekly, monthly, annually...) and on what topics?

- Ministry of Interior – on the website there is a specific tab for Statistics: [https://mup.gov.hr/statistics-121/121](https://mup.gov.hr/statistics-121/121)
  - No statistics specifically on migration, however statistics on migration-related issues are incorporated into general reports and statistics on public safety and crime:
  - Survey of basic safety indicators for the first [number] months of the year (monthly);
  - Survey of basic safety indicators of the year [2006-2018] (yearly) – with data on: Illegal entry, movement and residence in the Republic of Croatia; Deaths and injuries involving foreign nationals; Offences under Act on Identification Card/ Act on Residence and Stay/ Act on Aliens/ State Border Protection Act;
  - Overview of the basic indicators for public safety in the Republic of Croatia for [from 2000 – 2009 to 2009 – 2018] with data on: Trafficking of Human Beings (potentially); Unlawful Entry into, Movement or Residence in the Republic of Croatia; Illegal transfer of persons across the state border; International prostitution; Violation of s duty to guard the state border (potentially); Offences Listed in Other Acts: Act on Identification Card/ Act on Residence and Stay/ Act on Aliens/ State Border Protection Act.

- Croatian Bureau of Statistics: [https://www.dzs.hr/default_e.htm](https://www.dzs.hr/default_e.htm)
  - Is the national statistics office
  - Among others, it collects the Census every 10 years, latest in 2011
  - It publishes data on migration, and has an annual report on migration

- Statistical data on migration and related issues from Croatia can be found on EU and other international bodies’ websites:
    - These reports contain statistical information but focus on migration policy


Do the relevant to migration state institutions and independent authorities publish policy reports on migration issues?

State reporting is focused on the statistical data. Most reports on migration in Croatia seem to have been published by international organizations, at least the English language ones. For example:


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• **Do the relevant to migration state institutions and independent authorities organize policy relevant events on migration issues?**

  ➢ EMN events in Croatia: [https://emn.gov.hr/events/emn-events-in-croatia/319](https://emn.gov.hr/events/emn-events-in-croatia/319)
  ➢ There are regular meetings of the National Migration Network – full information is at [https://emn.gov.hr/events/emn-events-in-croatia/319](https://emn.gov.hr/events/emn-events-in-croatia/319).

• **Do the regional and local administrations (regional councils and municipalities) take part in the management of migration related issues?**

  According to our National Expert: “No. Counties, municipalities, cities as local administrative units do not take part in the management of migration. Maybe exemptions are a few cities but only because they are part of the resettlement programme. But only in that part. But it has to be said that the central state office for reconstruction and housing, they provide housing for refugees in these cities. So local units or regional units do not take part in the management of migration”.

• **Do all migration related state institutions and independent authorities have websites?**

  Yes, see entries across this document.

• **Are there any partnerships and collaborations of the migration related institutions and independent authorities at the national, regional and international level?**

  According to our National Expert, there are collaborations. For example, an academic researcher at the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, a public institute funded by the Ministry of Education and Science, is part of one working group on integration as an expert. There is also a group on demographic revitalization, which consists of experts in demography, migration and so on. In addition, there is a Permanent Commission for Implementation of Integration of Foreigners into Croatian Society, and members are representatives of different ministries, offices, etc. There is the Working Group for the Operative Implementation of the Tasks of the Permanent Commission for Implementation of the Integration of Foreigners into Croatian society, members are experts, representatives of ministries, NGOs, etc.

• **Are there any policy working groups and policy task forces on migration?**

  According to our National Expert, there was a call for demographic revitalization and there is a working group on that, but that is more about demography and return migration, not about refugees or foreigners. The Ministry of the Interior has a contract with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS - [https://jrs.net/en/country/croatia/](https://jrs.net/en/country/croatia/)), they are financing them, while the JRS works in the field and deals with resettlement and so on.
3.3.3. Micro-level: Universities/ Academic departments, Research Centres and Institutes specializing on migration

Information about migration research in Croatia

- **Are there academic departments in state or private universities dealing-according to their title- with migration?**

According to our National Expert, currently there are no specific departments or research centers at universities focusing on migration. While the desk research identified the Center for the Study of Ethnicity, Citizenship and Migration (CEDIM) at the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Zagreb - [https://www.fpzg.unizg.hr/en/science_and_research/centres/cedim](https://www.fpzg.unizg.hr/en/science_and_research/centres/cedim) - our National Expert explained that it has not been active lately. Our National Expert explained that the center developed during the project bEUcitizen ([http://beucitizen.eu/](http://beucitizen.eu/)), but since the end of that project key researchers have left.

- **Are there other academic departments which include migration as a distinct specialization in their curricula?**

According to our National Expert, there are several programmes at universities teaching migration courses, for example at the University of Zagreb, migration is included in the curriculum at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences - Department of Sociology and Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology. In 2019, the Faculty of Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb, founded the Division of Demography and Croatian Diaspora, but their scientific contribution to migration studies is very modest.

In addition, the University of Zagreb provides an English language Joint PhD Degree Programme in Human Rights, Society, and Multi-level Governance - managed by Western Sydney University (Australia), Zagreb University, Faculty of Law (Croatia), Panteion University - Athens (Greece), University of Nicosia (Cyprus), and coordinated by the University of Padova (Italy). One of the 13 research topics listed is Globalization, Migration, Health, and Humanitarian Assistance, [http://www.humanrights-jointphd.org/](http://www.humanrights-jointphd.org/).

- **Do these departments host an academic journal dealing with migration related issues? Provide information on the scope of the journal.**

- Migracijske I etnicke teme (migration and ethnic topics) is a Croatian journal devoted to migration [https://hrcak.srce.hr/met](https://hrcak.srce.hr/met)

- **Provide names of scholars working on migration with links to their websites, profiles, google scholar etc.**

Our National Expert identified the following scholars as the most important migration researchers in Croatia:
  [https://www.pravo.unizg.hr/EJP/nastavnici__faculty/iris_goldner_lang](https://www.pravo.unizg.hr/EJP/nastavnici__faculty/iris_goldner_lang)
- Goranka Lalić Novak, [https://www.pravo.unizg.hr/goranka.lalic_novak](https://www.pravo.unizg.hr/goranka.lalic_novak);
  [https://prvo.academia.edu/gorankalalic](https://prvo.academia.edu/gorankalalic)
- Teo Giljević, [https://www.pravo.unizg.hr/en/teo.giljevic](https://www.pravo.unizg.hr/en/teo.giljevic);
  [https://scholar.google.hr/citations?user=GMhr9f8AAAAJ&hl=en](https://scholar.google.hr/citations?user=GMhr9f8AAAAJ&hl=en)
- Tijana Vukojičić Tomić

- Sonja Podgorelec, [http://www.imin.hr/en/dr.-sc.-sonja-podgorelec](http://www.imin.hr/en/dr.-sc.-sonja-podgorelec)

- Dean Ajduković, [https://hr.linkedin.com/in/dean-ajdukovic-2a11a26](https://hr.linkedin.com/in/dean-ajdukovic-2a11a26)


- Marijeta Rajković Iveta, [https://etno.ffzg.unizg.hr/staff/dr-marijeta-rajkovic-iveta/?lang=en](https://etno.ffzg.unizg.hr/staff/dr-marijeta-rajkovic-iveta/?lang=en)
- Jasnacapo, [https://www.ief.hr/en/researchers/jasna-capo/](https://www.ief.hr/en/researchers/jasna-capo/)

- Senada Šelo Šabić, [https://irmo.hr/djelatnici/senada-selo-sabic-phd/](https://irmo.hr/djelatnici/senada-selo-sabic-phd/);
  [https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Fk6UFSwAAAAJ&hl=en](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Fk6UFSwAAAAJ&hl=en)
Other institutions:

- **Ajana Löw**, Assistant Professor, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences; [https://hr.linkedin.com/in/ajanalow](https://hr.linkedin.com/in/ajanalow)

- **At a general level, are there academic journals dealing with migration related issues? Provide examples**

Migration and Ethnic Themes, [https://ojs.imin.hr/index.php/met](https://ojs.imin.hr/index.php/met) - Open Access journal. In the last 5 years, 70-80% of all articles have been on migration, and not on ethnicity and identity. This is the only journal in Croatia specializing in migration. It is published by the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMIN).

Other journals are also publishing migration-related articles, for example:

- Geoadria
- Croatian Geographical Bulletin
- Croatian International Relations Review
- Etnološkatribina: Journal of Croatian Ethnological Society
- Forum for Security Studies
- Croatian Sociological Review
- Studia ethnologica Croatica

**Hrčak**,[https://hrčak.srce.hr/?lang=en](https://hrčak.srce.hr/?lang=en)

- HRČAK is the central portal of Croatian scientific journals. HRČAK offers access to the journals following the Open Access Initiative

- **Do these academic departments publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize national / international level conferences/events involving external speakers?**

According to our National Expert, there are many conferences, seminars, roundtables organized on the theme of migration. These are almost weekly.

Conferences identified through desk research:


- Do these departments participate in international research programmes and projects as partners with research duties? Have they implemented any EU-funded or other collaborative research project in the last five years?
  - bEUcitizen (http://beucitizen.eu/) funded by the European Commission within the Seventh Framework Program for Research and Technological Development (FP7) – Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb.

- Are these departments part of regional and international academic/ research/ policy related networks dealing with migration? What kind of collaborations and partnerships do they have when it comes to migration related issues at a national, regional and international level?

See academic networks below.

- Are there research centres, think tanks and institutes dealing specifically with migration in the country? Provide the essential info on their scope / thematic interest

The Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMIN) - http://www.imin.hr - is a public scientific institution specializing in multidisciplinary research on migration: internal, external, national minorities of Croatian emigration and illegal migration.
  - Established in 1984, after merging research from a few other research centers from the University of Zagreb.172
  - IMIN publishes the only migration-focused journal in Croatia: Migration and Ethnic Themes: http://www.imin.hr/en/o-metu

- Are there research centres, think tanks and institutes that include migration in their scope even without it being their primary interest?

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172 “It was established by merging of two institutions: the Centre for Migration Studies, heir of the continuous research of external migration which began in 1967 within the Institute for Geography of the University of Zagreb, to which the Centre for Education of the Institute for Social Research of the University of Zagreb was added in 1977, and the Agency for Migration and Nationalities (established in 1965)” – source: http://www.imin.hr/en/povijest-zadaca-i-planovi
Institute for Social Research in Zagreb (IDIZ), http://www.idi.hr/en/. Migration and related issues are not among their ‘fields of research’ listed on the website (these are ‘social structure and stratification, youth, space, education, science and technology, culture, religion, gender’ on main page, a much longer list elsewhere). However, a number of migration-related projects and publications identified when preparing this report are connected to the institute.

Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize national / international level conferences/events involving external speakers on migration?

The Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMIN) publishes the only migration-focused journal in Croatia: Migration and Ethnic Themes. It organizes a large number of events: conferences, roundtables, workshops- http://www.imin.hr/en/znanstveni-skup-slavonija-tradicija-u-suvremenosti.

Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes participate in international research programmes and projects? Have they implemented any EU-funded or other collaborative research project in the last five years?

Integration policies: Who benefits? The development and use of indicators in integration debates (MIPEX 2015). Led by the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) and the Migration Policy Group (MPG) from Brussels. The Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies was the national coordinator for Croatia.

Supporting the integration of third-country nationals who need international protection. Co-funded by Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). Collaboration between the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Psychology and Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies – 2017-2018.

Forced displacement and refugee host community solidarity, FOCUS173. Horizon 2020. 9 partners, University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Psychology – 2019-2021.

Migrant Children and Communities in a Transforming Europe, MiCREATE174. Horizon 2020. 16 partners, Centre for Peace Studies

bEUcitizen, 2013-2017 – FP7-SSH (see above). 26 partners, Center for the Study of Ethnicity, Citizenship and Migration, Faculty of Political Sciences University of Zagreb.


Are these research centres, think tanks and institutes part of regional and international academic/ research/ policy related networks dealing with migration? What kind of collaborations and partnerships do they have when it comes to migration related issues at a national, regional and international level?

IMISCOE - https://www.imiscoe.org/

174See https://cesie.org/en/project/micreate/
3.3.4. Micro-level: NGOs and other institutions from the civil society

This section focuses on non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society groups at the local, regional and national level as well as the national branches of international NGOs active in Croatia. Our National Expert placed emphasis on two particular NGOs which were said to be important in terms of their work in the field of migration:

- the Centre for Peace Studies was seen as the “most important NGO”;
- the Jesuit Refugee Service – supports refugees’ integration since early 1990s.

Information about NGOs working in the field of migration in Croatia

- Is there a registry which includes all or most migration related NGOs

There is no specific registry on NGOs dealing with migration within Croatia. Some international NGO-registries list Croatian NGOs too (see below). However, these do not appear to be NGOs dealing explicitly with migration related issues.

The focus of this documents is on citizens’ initiatives, long-term reception (e.g. during the asylum procedure) and integration (of beneficiaries of international protection and/or other categories of migrants). It does not address the initial front-line humanitarian reception for asylum seekers (e.g. food, clothing, shelter before entering the reception phase).

- Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs (https://udruge.gov.hr/en), was founded by the Regulation on Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs in 1998 with the aim creating conditions for cooperation and partnership with non-governmental and civil...
society organisations, especially with associations in Croatia. There is no database of NGOs however.

- [http://www.balkanalysis.com/croatia/domestic-ngos/](http://www.balkanalysis.com/croatia/domestic-ngos/) - not specifically migration related NGOs only; migration related NGO on this list: Amnesty International (but no office in Croatia)


**Which are the NGOs dealing with migration at the national level?**

- **Centre for Peace Studies (CPS) ([https://www.cms.hr/en](https://www.cms.hr/en)).** Founded in 1996 CPS is a non-governmental and non-profit organization promoting non-violence and social change through education, research and activism. CPS grew out of various forms of direct peace-building in western Slavonia (region in western Croatia). They have sought to expose the illegal practices toward refugees, which resulted in CPS staff being banned from asylum centres but they suggest that their work was key in raising awareness among key international organisations (such as UNHCR for example). CPS operates through three overlapping programmes which combine research, education, public action, work on public policies, advocacy and public campaigns:
  - Asylum, Integration and Human Security,
  - Peace Education and Non-violence Affirmation
  - Combating Inequalities

- Asylum, Integration and Human Security Program: [https://www.cms.hr/en/vise-o-programima/program-azil-integracija-i-ljudska-sigurnost](https://www.cms.hr/en/vise-o-programima/program-azil-integracija-i-ljudska-sigurnost). This area centres on: access to the asylum system; protection of refugees’ human rights; illegal conduct of police; criminalisation of solidarity; integration through employment and education; raising public awareness all these issues. Two initiatives related to integration are highlighted by CPS:
  - Danube Compass ([http://hr.danubecompass.org/](http://hr.danubecompass.org/)) - a web tool of all information regarding the integration of refugees and migrants into Croatian society
  - A non-formal education program for asylum seekers called “Let’s Talk about Society” focusing at introducing participants to the Croatian political and social system, informing them about their rights, and encouraging their active participation in society.

- **Welcome! Initiative/ Welcome: Refugee Support Initiative** ([https://welcome.cms.hr/](https://welcome.cms.hr/)) The Centre for Peace Studies, alongside a number of civic organizations, launched the Welcome! Initiative. This is an advocacy platform, as well as networks to provide information and assistance to refugees and volunteers. The information is provided in Croatian, English, German, and Arabic, and is updated regularly. It is an umbrella platform that gathers together numerous NGOs, non-formal initiatives and individuals in Croatia which have shown interest in helping and supporting incoming refugees. More than 60 civil society organisations and 400 volunteers are involved in working groups on advocacy, activism and media, humanitarian and direct work, and legal sector activities. For example, they provide information to refugees about current residence procedures. The platform’s website publishes news from the ground and useful information for refugees, such as transport timetables or dictionaries.
  - Some of the local NGOs involved: Volunteers Centre Osijek, Youth Peace Group Danube;
- They work in cooperation with the Croatian Red Cross as well as some international NGOs.
- In March 2016, when amendments to the Law on Defence were announced, the Welcome! Initiative, the Centre for Peace, Non-Violence, and Human Rights in Osijek, Miramida, and other organizations protested under the slogan: ‘Stop the wars, not the people fleeing wars.

- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS): https://jrs.net/en/country/croatia/; http://www.jrs.hr/en/. JRS Croatia provides education, legal assistance, and psychosocial support to forced migrants in the Ježovo detention centre. With support from UNICEF, it also runs a Child Friendly Space in the reception centre for asylum seekers in Zagreb, offering children a safe space to stay. Their website states that: ‘In Croatia, JRS has been active since 1993, taking care of the needs and rights of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons who had to flee from their place of residence before war or persecution. Since 2010 we have been specially dedicated to the needs of people coming to Croatia from African or Asian countries as asylum seekers fleeing persecution and war in search of security and protection.’

- Are You Syrious (AYS) was established in the summer of 2015, as the civil initiative of first responders from Croatia who tried to support refugees on the Balkan route. Today it’s a registered NGO with around 200 volunteers in many different countries. In Croatia they provide daily support to refugees and asylum seekers through independent integration programmes aimed at to facilitating access to education, housing and employment. According to The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) ‘In Croatia, Are You Syrious and Centre for Peace Studies (CMS) are the only groups currently documenting violent and illegal pushbacks at the Croatia-Bosnia border, as well as those being coordinated by governments in the region.’ (18 Nov 2019) (https://www.uusc.org/the-syrian-refugee-crisis-showing-up-for-our-partners-in-ways-other-funders-do-not/)

- Croatian Red Cross (lots of work with refugees): https://www.hck.hr/; http://www2.hck.hr/en

- DruštvoAfrikanaca u Hrvatskoj (DAH): https://dah.hr/ The Diaspora of Africans in Croatia is the first Croatian migrant non-profit organization to assist and improve the quality of life of migrants and their families. The association was founded in 2015. The organization is in regional partnership with the Centre for Peace Studies (CMS) and Center for Ethnicity, Citizenship and Migration Research (CEDIM), Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb on the project Racism and Xenophobia: For Refugee and Ethnic Equality (RAX FREE).

- Institute for the Development of Education (IDE), 2019-2022,https://en.iro.hr/about-us/ - contributes to the development of higher education policy, provides expert support to institutions, connects domestic and international experts and enables individuals in Croatia and the region to achieve their educational goals. Migration-related projects include:
  - NEXUS: PromotiNghEneXus of migrants throUgh active citizenship – funded by the European Commission, Erasmus+, KA2 – Strategic Partnerships for higher education
  - Modernity, Education and Human Rights (MEHR), https://mehr.azvo.hr/en/. The aim of the MEHR project is to develop guidelines for ensuring the quality of learning outcomes, with emphasis on human rights issues. It is funded by the European Union funds under the Erasmus + program.
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) – Foundation for Social Democracy, Croatian office, https://www.fes-croatia.org/. The Regional Office of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Zagreb opened in 1996 and is responsible for projects in Croatia and Slovenia. The work of the Foundation focuses on the fundamental ideas and values of social democracy: freedom, justice and solidarity. The Friedrich Ebert School of Social Justice is an educational program for young political and social activists of the Progressive Left in Croatia.

Association "MI", https://www.udruga-mi.hr/english is based in Split and was founded in 1997. Initially MI was connected to the programme for refugees and displaced persons, supported by an international organization International Rescue Committee. Later MI expanded to other needs of the community: care for the elderly, the problem of suicide, poverty, development of volunteering and civil society.

- The goal of INTEGRA is to help the process of long-term integration of third country nationals (TCN) in 5 countries - Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Italy and Slovakia through city-to-city knowledge and experience sharing. Whilst the competence for integration policy lies primarily with the states, cities play an important role to foster cooperation between all relevant actors and create favourable environment.
- funded by the European Union’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

Two further active NGOs were cited by our National Expert:

- Croatian Law Centre, http://www.hpc.hr/azil/: https://www.hpc.hr/ Since 2003, the HPC, as an implementing partner of UNHCR, has continuously implemented the project "Legal Assistance to Asylum Seekers".
- Rehabilitation Centre for Stress and Trauma Zagreb, https://rctzg.hr/-/en/povijest/ Started work in 1993 during the former Yugoslavia conflict helping refugees from Bosnia and internally displaced persons in Croatia. It started as a multidisciplinary programme of psychosocial assistance for BOSWOFAM (Bosnian Women and Families), focused on women – refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina, including a large number of victims of torture and their families. The program was supported by the European Commission (1993-95) and organized by the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) from Copenhagen and was hosted by a professor of psychology at the University of Copenhagen, Libby Tata Arcel.

- **Is there a thematic specialization among NGOs dealing with migration at the national level?**

During the turbulent 1990s, many international NGOs came to Croatia, and many were founded there to support the local population, displaced people, refugees of the Yugoslav wars. There was major NGO involvement in efforts toward post-war reconstruction, peace-building, and inter-ethnic relationships.

The ‘migration and refugee crisis’ of 2015 brought the issue of migration to the forefront. Several international and local NGOs took part in providing support to the refugees travelling through Croatia (see list above). Themes: asylum, integration, human security, human rights. These NGOs provide a spectrum of services, including humanitarian work, service delivery, education, information and awareness raising, advocacy etc. (see list and descriptions above).
• **Do these NGOs participate in regional and international research projects and programmes?**

See the Institute for the Development of Education programmes above.

• **Do these NGOs publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize national or international conferences/ events (at least in the recent past, from 2014-2015 onwards)?**

Events are listed on the pages of Društvo Afrikanaca u Hrvatskoj: [http://dah.hr/category/events/](http://dah.hr/category/events/)

• **Do these NGOs publish reports and papers including any policy oriented material?**

Yes, see links below:

- **Centre for Peace Studies:** [https://www.cms.hr/en/publikacije/](https://www.cms.hr/en/publikacije/)
  - Access to justice for victims of violent crime suffered in pre-trial or immigration detention;
  - Against Hate - Guidebook of good practices in combating hate crimes and hate speech;
  - Formation and Disintegration of the Balkan Refugee Corridor: Camps, Routes and Borders in Croatian Context;
  - The Wages of Fear: Attitudes Towards Refugees and Migrants in Croatian Context;
  - Balkan Refugee Trail – A Pathway for European Solidarity;
  - Alternatives to Immigration Detention

- **Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), [https://www.fes-croatia.org/publications/fes-zagreb-publications/](https://www.fes-croatia.org/publications/fes-zagreb-publications/) -** publications on migration and refugees, however, many in Croatian:

• **Are these NGOs part of regional/ international networks related to migration? Desk research/ country contacts**

Many NGOs operating in Croatia are the local representatives of international organizations (e.g. Croatian Red Cross, Jesuit refugee service). Others were founded with the help of international organizations and receive funding from them. Our National Expert was not aware of any networks of NGOs in Croatia. While they work together in certain asylum centres, regionally, formal networks are less apparent.
• Are there any other civil society institutions (i.e. organizations, funds…) dealing with migration in the country?

All relevant institutions have been listed above.

3.3.5. Analysis

Similarities/Differences with other countries of study

Croatia shares many migration and societal challenges confronting other countries in the Western Balkans:

- a country located along the (Western) Balkan ‘migrant/refugee corridor’
- the reception and integration of migrants and refugees arriving as a result of the ongoing and multiple crises in the Middle East and Africa
- the integration of IDPs
- the integration of Roma populations
- large-scale outward migration composing multiple waves over-time
- demographic ageing
- population decline

As we noted in other reports (e.g. that on BiH), the commonalities in challenges and contexts suggest that there is strong potential for MIGREC to develop collaborative research agendas with Croatia. Unlike BiH for example, it has already joined the EU, and as such changes in policy agendas and infrastructure are more advanced. During the so-called ‘migrant / refugee crisis’, Croatia was a transit country for refugees. Croatia’s unique geo-political location – being a country at the external borders of EU – make it an important area for border and security operations run by Frontex.

These changes are, however, still ongoing. On the one hand, Croatia has been aligning its legislature according to EU laws. For example, it provides data for ‘Managed migration and Asylum’ reports of Eurostat and participated in the EU refugee relocation programme. On the other hand, despite migration having such wide-spread impacts on society (especially emigration), the country does not have currently any migration and integration policies or agendas. Statistics on recent migration – e.g. on the number of issued work permits by nationality – are not easily accessible (this could be language issue).

Recently, the shortages in the labour market has led to increasing of quotas for employment of foreign workers to over 100 thousand. There is a number of relatively new working groups devoted to migration and integration (see page 7 of the report). All this indicates that there will be a lot more policy development in the near future in Croatia in the response to challenges stemming from both emigration and immigration, which could benefit from more collaboration across the Balkan region.

Migration infrastructure (academic and NGOs)

Academic research on migration has a long tradition in Croatia, yet – like in other countries in the region – it seems to suffer from the lack of ongoing institutional support and as a consequence is vulnerable when external funding finishes.

The Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMIN, founded in 1984, continuing work of other research centres since 1960s) is the oldest and most active research centre on migration.
IMIN publishes the only migration-focused journal in Croatia. One other migration research unit which we identified in our research – the Center for the Study of Ethnicity, Citizenship and Migration, Faculty of Political Sciences University of Zagreb – had problems with sustaining its resources, and it has become less active after project-related funds finished. Some potential for more sustainable research and collaborations exists at the University of Zagreb, where migration topics are included across a number of departments and many scholars research migration, and in Institute for Social Research in Zagreb (IDIZ). Additionally, a number of Croatian scholars have participated in EU-funded projects on migration and they seem to be well network with the key Horison2020 projects on migration infrastructures (e.g. COST action on surveys, Cross Migration project).

Academic institutes are developing regional collaborations (e.g. through the Western Balkan Migration Network or more recently via Academic Network for Cooperation in South East Europe (ANCSEE). This raises a question how to develop another academic ‘regional collaboration’ embedded in MIGREC (as a center) not to artificially multiply already existing work/structures.

There is a number of well-established NGOs with a focus on migration and humanitarian help, which also are regionally networked (e.g. Are you Syrious?, Welcome Initiative). Major international migration and humanitarian agencies have their offices in Croatia. Many of them – like the Centre for Peace Studies, Jesuit Refugees Services and Rehabilitation Centre for Stress and Trauma Zagreb – started their work in 1990s in response to the conflict in the former-Yugoslavia region and helping ‘local’ refugees and displaced persons. They continue their work on peace building or education, as well as extend their work to current refugees.

3.3.6. Recommendations

This section presents some initial recommendations based on this report and underpinning research activities. It focuses on the activities that MIGREC – as a research centre – might seek to develop in the future:

1. There is scope for MIGREC to explore the difficulties of sustainability for research centres devoted to migration, or focusing on migration across BiH, Croatia and Serbia. It appears that some promising initiatives have not managed to develop and grow. It is difficult to establish the reasons behind this without delving deeper.

2. MIGREC would benefit from a more systematic appraisal of research capacity and thematic expertise across Croatia with a view to building networks, which also draws in the research activity of NGOs and civil society organisations. However, this needs consideration how to utilise, but not duplicate, the current academic and nongovernmental networks.

3. The various NGO activities related to migration in Croatia do not appear to be well coordinated suggesting scope for a MIGREC network of NGOs in the wider region (i.e. beyond Serbia). This might be built outwards from the most active organisations, such as the Centre for Peace Studies and the Jesuit Refugee Service in the Croatian context. It should also draw upon key academic connections and prominent voices in migration debates like the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, and the migration related work of the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb.
4. The key issues and migration policy priorities in Croatia bear resemblance to those in BiH and Serbia. Notwithstanding the challenging political climate and ethnic divisions, there is potential for cross-national working and learning on issues related to:
- emigration and brain drain,
- economic migration,
- challenges of humanitarian support across the Western Balkan migration route
- migrant and refugee integration.

3.4. Kosovo

3.4.1 Introduction

This report is part of WP1.3, whose purpose is to map migration related research and governance in the Western Balkans. The report provides an overview of the current state of play and infrastructure regarding migration policy, governance, research and civil society activity within The Republic of Kosovo\(^\text{177}\) (henceforth referred to as Kosovo). Data collection was based on desk research and selected consultations with International Organization and NGO representatives, as well as, with a former Deputy Minister in Kosovo. Interviews were conducted during February 2020 in Prishtina, Kosovo, while desk research was undertaken from January to April 2020.

The report is structured as follows:

- Meso-level findings (Part I)
- Micro-level findings (Part II)
- Micro-level findings (Part III)
- Recommendations

3.4.2. Meso-level: State institutions and agencies dealing with migration governance

Kosovo is a case study in migration governance with many particularities, mainly linked to its status as a newly independent state and as a potential EU candidate member, as well as, its geographical position on the so called ‘Balkan Route’. Kosovo formed once part of the Former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (henceforth referred to as Yugoslavia), first acquiring the status of an autonomous region of Serbia in the 1940s and later in the 1960s becoming an autonomous province of Serbia within Yugoslavia under the title Kosovo-Metohija\(^\text{178}\). The status as an autonomous region was evoked in 1989 by the then President of Serbia Slobodan Milošević. This led to a backlash from the ethnically Albanian community, which declared the independence of Kosovo unilaterally in 1991. The decade long unrest and conflict in the region,

\(^{177}\)This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

\(^{178}\)https://www.britannica.com/place/Serbia/Conflict-in-Kosovo
part of the disintegration of Yugoslavia, led to the 1998 war in Kosovo between Yugoslavia, by then reduced to a union between Montenegro and Serbia, and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). After the failure of international attempts to mediate the conflict, a three-month NATO military campaign against the Federal Army in 1999 resulted in its withdrawal from Kosovo. UN Security Council Resolution 1244 placed Kosovo in 1999 under a transitional administration, the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), pending a determination of Kosovo’s future status. In 2008 the country declared its independence and Kosovo acquired the status of a potential EU member in 2008 and since then the presence of the EU in the country is evident through EU LEX Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo and the Special Representative in Kosovo.

**Who makes decisions on migration policies?**

Migration policy in Kosovo is coordinated at the national level, nonetheless the specific circumstances of the country before and after its independence including years of human rights violations and conflicts, has resulted in the very strong presence of international organizations working on migration issues, notably the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

These organizations play a major role in migration governance in the country evident in their activities, as well as, their contribution to the various governmental strategic documents related to migration management.

**What are the current policy priorities of the decision makers?**

Kosovo is a predominantly emigration country with its population migrating for different reasons throughout its history. Current policy priorities are directed at emigration related topics linked to what is defined as *New Migration* and it relates to migration from the 1960s onward. Depending on various trigger factors, it is divided into three stages of emigration: Political Emigration during the years between 1969 and 1989, which included people who were persecuted because of their political beliefs or because of opposing the state; political-economic emigration in the years between 1990 and 1999, which included people who lost their jobs as a consequence of political measures, as well as, thousands of people who fled the war in Kosovo during 1998 and 1999; and socio-economic emigration after 2001, which included people who

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179 https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/kosovo/  
180 https://mei-ks.net/en/kosovo/republic-of-kosovo  
181 https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/countries/detailed-country-information/kosovo_en  
182 https://www.eulex-kosovo.eu/  
183 https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kosovo_en  
184 https://kosovo.iom.int/  
185 https://www.ks.undp.org/  
186 https://www.unhcr.org/see/where-we-work/kosovo  
187 https://www.unicef.org/kosovoprogramme/  
188 https://www.osce.org/mission-in-kosovo  
emigrated for economic reasons. A distinct period during these last 20 years is from 2014 to 2015, when approximately 110,000 persons are estimated to have illegally crossed the EU borders for economic reasons. The main drivers for this specific emigration wave have been set out to be the prolonged international isolation of Kosovo and a lack of visa-free regime in relation to the EU. It is estimated that over 49% of Kosovo population is living abroad191.

The most recent Strategy on Migration and Action Plan was published in 2013 and it covered the period up until 2018192. The Strategy had three objectives: prevention of irregular migration and promotion of legal migration; improvement of legal and circular migration management; and transformation and development of migration into positive economic factor193. Although at the moment there is no updated Strategy on Migration per se, migration related issues are dealt with separately in different strategic documents addressing four main policy priorities, namely diaspora and ‘brain gain’; reintegration of internally displaced persons and returnees; illegal migration; and radicalization, terrorism and extreme violence.

Diaspora and ‘Brain drain’

Diaspora is a main policy focus of Kosovo, especially in the fields of preservation and advancement of Albanian culture abroad, remittances, foreign direct investment and brain gain (see also related research conducted by Kosovar academics and researchers in 3.1). This was particularly evident by the fact that there was an active Ministry of Diaspora between 2011 and 2020. At the present diaspora related issues are dealt with by a number of different ministries, including among others the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (see also related information in 2.3). In the Diaspora Strategy Project (2019-2023) the objectives of the Kosovo government are: preserving and developing the identity of members of the diaspora; promoting and advancing the political and social rights of the diaspora; and developing the role of diaspora in the socio-economic development of Kosovo194.

As a sub-division of diaspora, part of Kosovo’s policy to halt and reverse ‘brain drain’. An example is the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology launching a national ‘brain-gain’ campaign aimed at persuading members of the Diaspora, and professionals from other countries, to take part in the country’s development. The main objectives of this campaign are to improve the socio-economic circumstances and increase the low living standards in the country in order to create pull factors for this group of emigrants195.

Reintegration of repatriated persons in Kosovo:

During the conflict in 1998-1999 and up until its independence, especially during 2004, a large number of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) (Albanians, Serbs and Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians) moved inside Kosovo, as well as, to Serbia and elsewhere in Europe and the United States196 (see also related research in 3.1.).

193 Ibid.
194 http://ambasada-ks.net/at/repository/docs/Projektstrategjia_p%C3%ABr_Diaspor%C3%ABn_2019-2023_dhe_Plan_i_Veprimit_2019-2021.pdf
195 https://www.rks-gov.net/EN/f280/diaspora/brain-gain
Additionally, an estimated number of 110,000 Kosovars crossed illegally to the EU in the period between 2014 and 2015 alone during 2012-2016, a significant number of the population returned to Kosovo with an annual average of 9,614 persons or 0.53% of the population within a year\textsuperscript{197}.

These people had been rejected asylum request or did not have a permanent residence permit. Thus, they were affected by the implementation of regulations for repatriation.

The National Strategy for Sustainable Reintegration of Repatriated Persons in Kosovo (2018-2022)\textsuperscript{198} outlines the Kosovo government’s policies in the field of migration and reintegration of repatriated persons in line with the country’s relationship with EU Member States for the implementation of the Stabilization-Association Agreement (SAA) and accession to the European Union\textsuperscript{199}. The Strategy has five objectives: Advancement of the reintegration system for repatriated persons by applying needs-oriented approach; Sustainable socio-economic reintegration of repatriated persons; Advancement of inclusive cooperation in the field of reintegration; Reinforcement of the capacity to provide a reintegration system integrated approach; Strengthening of monitoring and evaluation of implementation of reintegration policies\textsuperscript{200}. (see also related government structures in 2.3.)

Additionally, the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in Kosovo society (2017-2021)\textsuperscript{201} in line with the EU Framework on National Strategies for Integration of National Roma until 2020\textsuperscript{202}, addresses the sectors of education, health, employment and social welfare and housing. Part of the purpose of this Strategy is the creation of conditions for sustainable return of refugees, returnees, displaced persons, and repatriated persons\textsuperscript{203}.

### Illegal Migration

Illegal migration is an area that the Kosovo government deals with a twofold focus. The first priority is illegal migration of Kosovars to the EU and their return and the second is illegal migration in relation to irregular migrants on the Balkan Route, asylum procedures and readmissions.

With regards to Kosovo, up until now, the issue of illegal migration of its population has been of a higher importance and urgency than irregular migration from the Balkan Route, the numbers of which had been relatively low compared to other countries in the region. Nonetheless, there has been a considerable increase in the crossings of the border of irregular migrants in the last months coming from Albania and other neighboring countries and Kosovo in collaboration with IOM, Frontex, EASO and UNHCR have launched a Regional Platform for non-personal migration data exchange in the six Western Balkan Countries under the IPA II Regional Project “Support to protection-sensitive migration management in the WB and


\textsuperscript{198}Ibid.

\textsuperscript{199}http://kryeministri-ks.net/wp-content/uploads/docs/ANG-STRATEGJIA_P%C3%88R_P%C3%88RFSHIRJEN_E_KOMUNITETEVE_ROM_DHE_ASHKALI_N%C3%8B_SHOQ%C3%88RIN%C3%88_KOSOVARE_2017-2021.pdf


\textsuperscript{201}https://kryeministri-ks.net/wp-content/uploads/docs/ANG-STRATEGJIA_P%C3%88R_P%C3%88RFSHIRJEN_E_KOMUNITETEVE_ROM_DHE_ASHKALI_N%C3%8B_SHOQ%C3%88RIN%C3%88_KOSOVARE_2017-2021.pdf


\textsuperscript{203}https://kryeministri-ks.net/wp-content/uploads/docs/ANG-STRATEGJIA_P%C3%88R_P%C3%88RFSHIRJEN_E_KOMUNITETEVE_ROM_DHE_ASHKALI_N%C3%8B_SHOQ%C3%88RIN%C3%88_KOSOVARE_2017-2021.pdf
Turkey” advancing migration data accuracy, systematization and harmonization in view of EU accession. According to an IOM representative, the numbers of asylum seekers in Kosovo have tripled over the last years, from about 600 applications in 2018, to 2,000 applications in 2019, indicating that the route of irregular migration has changed, although Kosovo still remains a transit country (interview with an IOM representative, 6 February 2020).

On the other hand, there seems to have been two developments with regard to the illegal crossings of Kosovars to the EU. The first one is that labor migration is becoming legal through actions taken by the government of Kosovo and related governments, in this case Germany, Croatia and Slovenia. The second one is the anticipated brain drain and loss of skilled workers in specific sectors, like for example in construction, due to the rise in demand for additional labor in these countries. A milestone in this turn has been the new Labor Immigration Law in Germany in effect since March 2020, that is expected to increase circular labor migration, as well as, brain drain (interview with an IOM representative, 6 February 2020).

Kosovo has adopted the National Strategy of Kosovo on Integrated Border Management (IBM), which is in line with European border management for safeguarding internal security, for preventing illegal migration and other cross-border crime and for ensuring smooth border crossings for legitimate travellers. Its purpose is to ensure efficient, extensive and cost-effective management of borders of the Republic of the country. Kosovo, among other sectors, collaborates with its neighbours in the fields of visas, asylum and migration.

**Radicalization, Terrorism and Extreme Violence in Kosovo**

The issue of radicalization and recruitment of Kosovo nationals as foreign fighters in Syria and their or their families’ subsequent return to Kosovo is another policy focus of the government. The National Strategy against Terrorism and Action Plan (2018 – 2023) is linked to Kosovo’s migration governance through its objective of preventing terrorist attacks by members of terrorist organizations via foreign terrorist fighters, dormant cells or by sympathizers and supporters who may be inspired to commit violent acts; indoctrination and recruitment of youth, mainly using propaganda, for purposes of terrorist organizations; and irregular migration considering the geographic position of the Western Balkan countries, as there is concern of the possibility that foreign terrorist fighters from other countries might exploit the route, intermingling with potential refugees, to travel toward EU countries. The Strategy is aligned with the European Union Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Additionally, the Strategy on Prevention of Violent Extremism and Radicalization leading to Terrorism (2015-2020) has the objective of identifying the push and pull factors that influence the radicalization of the population, with special emphasis on the youth. It aims at: an early identification of causes, factors and target groups; the prevention of violent extremism and radicalization; intervention with the purpose of preventing the threat arising from violent radicalism; and de-radicalization and reintegration of radicalized persons. (see also related publications in 3.1.)

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*Information about migration governance in Kosovo*

- **Is there a ministry dealing specifically with migration in the country? If not, in which ministry (-ies) is the responsibility for migration related issues divided? Which are the general secretariats within the ministry (-ies) dealing with migration?**

Up until February 2020 Kosovo distinguished structurally between migration related to diaspora and other types of migration (e.g. circular Migration, normally related to labour Migration, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), irregular migrants from the post-2014 ‘migrant crisis’). The creation of the Ministry of Diaspora dated back to 2011 with the purpose of engaging with the about 2,000,000 Kosovar Albanians around the world, mostly in the fields of culture, education, sports and strategic investment (interview with Isni Kilaj, former Deputy Ministry of Diaspora, 6 February 2020). The main goals of the Ministry included establishing relations with diaspora after the war in Kosovo, through cultural events promoting language and heritage, support of NGOs abroad related to these activities, and strategic investment. To this end it collaborated internally with various Ministries, namely the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Finance or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs according to the occasion (interview with Isni Kilaj, former Deputy Ministry of Diaspora, 6 February 2020). The Ministry of Diaspora registered members abroad and kept a database. It was active until February 2020.

After the closure of the Ministry of Diaspora, no single Ministry deals with migration. On the contrary different migration related issues are dealt with by various Ministries.

- The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration is the key Ministry that deals with immigration and emigration through the Department of Citizenship, Asylum and Migration (DCAM). Its main competencies lie in the fields of Citizenship, Asylum, Visa and Residence Permit for foreigners and Readmission of Kosovo citizens. DCAM collects and analyses relevant statistics, reviews citizenship and asylum applications, supervises and manages the Asylum Centre for accommodation of asylum seekers, deals with the integration of refugees, reviews applications for entry and residence permits and reviews return and readmission requests. The Department comprises of the following Divisions: Division for Citizenship; Division for Asylum; Division for foreigners, Visa and Residence Permit; Division for Readmission; Centre of Asylum-seekers; and Detention Centre for Foreigners (https://mpb.rks-gov.net/Departments.aspx).

- The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, includes the Division for Migration, which aims to provide information related to employment services in order to facilitate legal circular migration and prevent irregular migration (https://aprk.rks-gov.net/en-US/Mobility?).

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as part of its mandate, aims to strengthen cultural and economic relations between the diaspora and the Republic of Kosovo. This is done mainly through consular services under Diplomatic Missions in third countries. Apart from the cultivation of cultural and economic relations, another basic aim of the Ministry is to generate support for the recognition of the Republic of Kosovo passports and visa liberalization (https://www.rks-gov.net/EN/f283/diaspora/counselor-services).
The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in association with the Government initiated a national ‘brain-drain’ campaign with the purpose of engaging members of the diaspora to take part in Kosovo’s development of academia, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders involved in state building in the country (https://www.rks-gov.net/EN/f279/citizen-services/diaspora).

The Ministry for Communities and Returns, has as its main mission to guide and promote, as well as, implement legislation for the promotion and protection of the rights of members belonging to the various communities that comprise Kosovar society, including the right to return for displaced refugees. (http://mzp-rks.org/en/mission-and-vision.html). Furthermore, part of the Ministry’s mandate is to strengthen the legal framework of the integration of returnees in society, including in sectors such as health and employment and to ensure community stability (https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b4306654.html). The Ministry co-ordinates with an array of other Ministries, Municipalities and other stakeholders involved in the specific topics it deals with.

The Ministry of European Integration which has the mandate to promote and protect human rights, freedoms and minority rights within the framework of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) EU funded financial assistance (http://mei-ks.net/en/ipa-).

The Ministry of Justice, which deals with drafting policies and guidelines in the field of human rights within the ministry and promotes and protects human rights through its Human Rights Office (https://md.rks-gov.net/page.aspx?id=2,64).

The Ministry of Finance, which deals with the engagement of diaspora in the Kosovar economy through remittances, foreign direct investment and other economic activities (https://mf.rks-gov.net/page.aspx?id=2,1).

Are there any state agencies, besides the ministry (-ies) dealing with migration)? Are there any independent authorities dealing specifically with migration related issues or including migration related issues? Do the regional and local administrations (regional councils and municipalities) take part in the management of migration related issues?

Within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration there is also the centre for controlling and supervision of the border, where the DCAM cooperates with the Border Department, which is part of the Kosovo Police. (https://www.kosovopolice.com/en/departments/department-of-border/).

The Office for Community Affairs functions as part of the Office of the Prime Minister. Its main mandate is to contribute to the coordination of the implementation of the national legal framework communities’ rights and ensure that their needs are met (http://www.zck-ks.net/?page=2,101).

Each of the government Ministries include Ministerial Human Rights Units in order to ensure that human rights standards apply to all their policies, legislation and activities (http://www.zck-ks.net/?page=2,46). Migration related issues are included, especially pertaining to communities’ rights.

The Human Rights Coordinator under the Office of the Prime Minister, facilitates and coordinates the work of the Ministerial Human Rights Units and reports to the government (http://www.zck-ks.net/?page=2,46).

The Committee of Communities is a permanent committee of the municipal Assembly responsible for reviewing local government policies, practices and activities linked to the
protection of human rights of the communities. The Committee comprises of Assembly members as well as representatives from all Kosovo communities.

- The Deputy Chairperson for Communities is in charge of facilitating inter-cultural dialogue and serves as the formal focal point for addressing the concerns and interests of non-majority communities in the work and meetings of the Municipal Assembly (http://www.zck-ks.net/?page=2,46).
- The Deputy Mayor for Communities is charged with assisting the Mayor and providing advice and guidance on issues related to non-majority communities (http://www.zck-ks.net/?page=2,46).
- The Ombudsperson Institution is an independent body mandated to address alleged human rights violations or abuses of authority by public institutions in Kosovo. It addresses complaints of discrimination (http://www.zck-ks.net/?page=2,46).
- The Central Bank of Kosovo that deals with diaspora and their role in the development of the Kosovo economy through remittances and investments (https://bqk-kos.org/index.php?m=t&id=104).
- The Kosovo Intelligence Agency that deals with illegal trafficking of people, acts in violation of human rights laws and organized violence against ethnic or religious groups (https://www.aki-rks.org/HTML_ENG/mission.html).

- Are there any recently established associations with the EU’s migration related agencies (i.e. European Migration Network, European Asylum Support Office, Frontex…)?

- Frontex signed in 2016 a Working Arrangement for the establishment of operational cooperation between the Agency and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kosovo on strengthening of the operational cooperation in relation to migration flows and border management in the Western Balkans. The Working Arrangement had the purpose of allowing Frontex and the Kosovo authorities to cooperate more intensively in the field of exchange of information, joint operations, training and research and development. The Border Department of the Kosovo Police plays a key role in the implementation of the working arrangement (https://frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news-release/frontex-signs-working-arrangement-with-kosovo-u1FpiJ).

- Although Kosovo is not a member of the European Migration Network (EMN) there has been instances of collaboration between Kosovo and the EMN in the form of ad-hoc queries. An example would be the 2014 the ‘Ad-Hoc Query on Strengthening Readmission and Sustainable Reintegration in Kosovo’(https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/ad-hoc-queries/return/595_emn_ahq_on_strengthening_readmission_to_kosovo_15september2014_en.pdf).

- The European Asylum Support Office collaborates with the Kosovo government in a variety of forms of migration management including returnees, inclusion and protection of sensitive migration (https://www.easo.europa.eu/search/node/kosovo) inside the framework of the Instrument for Pre-accession Agreements (IPA) that falls under the administration of the Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Kosovo (http://mei-ks.net/en/ipa-).

- Pertaining to visa liberalization dialogue, the EU and Kosovo collaborated extensively on multiple areas such as strengthening the law on readmission and reintegration, migration management and border control, domestic security, control of irregular migration etc. Authorities involved include the EU Office in Kosovo and EULEX (https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/e-
International organizations have a very strong presence in Kosovo with local offices and extensive operations in various fields related to the strengthening of democracy and economic development. International organizations that play a significant role in migration management are the following:

- **The International Organization for Migration (IOM)** has been active in Kosovo since 1999 in the field of migration governance in Kosovo. Its purpose focuses on assisting in the preservation of a durable peace process and in aiding the population in rebuilding their lives through social integration, cohesion and community stabilization. IOM is involved in a large number of projects involving returnees, minorities and displaced persons within Kosovo and the region. Their project portfolio expands to areas such as Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration, Community Stabilization and Resilience, Immigration and Border Management and Migration and Health. IOM has an up-to-date website that includes details about their mission past and current projects (https://kosovo.iom.int/).

- **The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** has been present in Kosovo since 1992. In the pre-conflict period, UNHCR assisted refugees seeking protection and supported displaced persons. In the post-conflict era from 1999 onwards the UNHCR mainly dealt with statelessness and the safe and free return of all refugees and displaced people to Kosovo (https://www.unhcr.org/see/where-we-work/kosovo). UNHCR runs an up to date website with information related to its mission and activities, news and publications.

- **The United Nations Development Program (UNDP)** is active in Kosovo since 1999 and its main developmental goals are to Eradicate Poverty in all its forms and dimensions, to accelerate structural transformations and to build resilience to shocks and crises. Through its projects it addresses issues that include intercultural dialogue, skills development of repatriated populations and building capacity in Government institutions and agencies, like in the case of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for delivery of reintegration services to repatriated Kosovars, or in the case of the Kosovo Agency for Statistics for production of higher quality analysis in the Labour Force Survey. UNDP’s office in Kosovo maintains an up to date website with information about its projects, as well as, reports analysis and risk assessment publications (https://www.ks.undp.org/).

- **The United Nations Children’s Fund programme** deals with the child protection, education, health and inclusion (https://www.unicef.org/kosovoprogramme/).

- **The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)** has been active in Kosovo since 1999 and it is one of its largest field operations. The OSCE Mission in Kosovo’s core mandate focuses on institution- and democracy-building, as well as human rights. It works mainly in the areas of protection and promotion of human and community rights; good governance, gender equality and civic participation; the training of judicial personnel, the Kosovo Police and public administrators, and electoral support. It is also involved in countering terrorism (https://www.osce.org/mission-in-kosovo).

- **USAID** has a presence in Kosovo since 1998. During the first years post-conflict USAID projects focused on humanitarian needs and related infrastructure. In the
following years migration related projects started focusing on Northern Kosovo and the improvement of judicial effectiveness and transparency, the integration of Serb judicial authorities into Kosovo’s government and accessibility of non-majority populations to Kosovo institutions. Finally, USAID runs projects linked to the strengthening of the economy in Northern Kosovo and interethnic cooperation. USAID has an up to date website with reports, analysis and statistics (https://www.usaid.gov/kosovo).

- The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH or GIZ, is very active related to programs linked to economic development, employment and welfare and the rule of law (https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/298.html).
- The International Committee of the Red Cross in Kosovo, deals mainly with missing persons during the war in the country in the late 1990s (https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/europe-central-asia/kosovo).

Do the ministries, general secretariats, state agencies and independent authorities provide statistical data on migration? If so, on what basis. Do the relevant to migration state institutions and independent authorities publish policy reports on migration issues? Do the relevant to migration state institutions and independent authorities organize policy relevant events on migration issues?

Almost none of the migration relevant state institutions and independent authorities publish any statistical data or policy reports relevant to migration. Similarly, there is no mentioning of policy relevant events related to migration issues. Some exceptions can be found below:


Do all migration related state institutions and independent authorities have websites and social media accounts? Are these sites and accounts informative with regular updates and other policy relevant material (i.e. reports, data)?

Most of the government and independent structures related to migration do have websites and social media accounts. These accounts appear to contain regular updates including the publication of data, information as well as the organization of events.

What kind of material do all the migration related institutions and independent authorities produce? Do they publish reports and newsletters? How do they organize the information that they are sharing?
The types of material that are published on official websites are: i) news updates, ii) interviews of officials, iii) legislation, iv) EU reports and data and v) reports. Most of them are available in Albanian, Serbian and English.

- **What kind of partnerships and collaborations do all the migration related institutions and independent authorities have at the national, regional and international level?**

One of the most significant partnerships, particularly at the regional level, is MARRI (“Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative”, website: http://marr-rc.org.mk/). MARRI is a regional initiative/ centre among the countries of the Western Balkans (Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia and Bosnia- Herzegovina). This initiative was formed in 2003 in the context of the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe and each of the countries participates at the government level. From Kosovo, the key partner is the Ministry of the Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. MARRI participates in various regional and international projects.

- **Are there any policy working groups and policy task forces on migration (governmental or mixed state & non-state), Inter-Ministerial or inter-agency commissions, working groups etc, mixed EU-Western Balkan commissions, mixed EU-state commissions, mixed international organization-state commissions etc.?**

None that was identified during desk research.

### 3.4.3. Micro-level: Universities/ Academic departments, Research Centres and Institutes specializing on migration

**Information about migration research in Kosovo**

- **Are there academic departments in state or private universities dealing-according to their title- with migration? Are there other academic departments which include migration as a distinct specialization in their curricula?**

No academic departments dealing specifically- at the level of their title and main specialization- with any type of migration were identified. However, we were able to identify the following departments which may relate to the study of migration:

- The undergraduate program in ‘Political Science’ at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prishtina ‘Hasan Prishtina’ in Prishtina (http://filozofiku.uni-pr.edu/Departamentet/Departamenti03.aspx).
- The undergraduate program in ‘Sociology’ at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prishtina ‘Hasan Prishtina’ in Prishtina (http://filozofiku.uni-pr.edu/Departamentet/Departamenti04.aspx).
- The undergraduate program in ‘Social Work’ at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Prishtina ‘Hasan Prishtina’ in Prishtina (http://filozofiku.uni-pr.edu/Departamentet/Departamenti10.aspx).
The undergraduate program in ‘Law’ at the Faculty of Law, University of Prishtina ‘Hasan Prishtina’ in Prishtina (https://juridiku.uni-pr.edu/Departamentet-(1)/Bacelor.aspx).

The undergraduate program in ‘General Law’ at the Faculty of Law, University of Haxhi Zeka in Peja (http://unhz.eu/course/educational-process-llb-2019-2022/).

The undergraduate program in ‘European and International Law’ at the Faculty of Law, University of Haxhi Zeka in Peja (http://unhz.eu/course/educational-process-llb-2019-2022/).

The postgraduate program in ‘Local Governance and Democratic Society’, at the Faculty of Law, Kadri Zeka University in Gjilan (https://www.uni-gjilan.net/en/faculties/faculty-of-law/about-the-faculty/).


The undergraduate program in ‘Political Science’ in the Department of Political Science, Universum College in Prishtina (https://www.universum-ks.org/shkenca-politike/).

The postgraduate program in ‘Diplomacy’ in the Department of Political Science, Universum College in Prishtina (https://www.universum-ks.org/master-ne-diplomaci/).

The undergraduate program in ‘European Integration’ in the Faculty of Law, AAB College in Prishtina (https://aab-edu.net/fakultetet/juridik/programet-studimore/).

The undergraduate program in ‘Law’ at the Faculty of Law, ILIRIA College in Prishtina (http://www.uiliria.org/en/programs/bachelor/law).

The undergraduate program in ‘International Relations and Diplomacy’ at the Faculty of International Relations and Diplomacy, ILIRIA College in Prishtina (http://www.uiliria.org/en/programs/bachelor/international-relations-and-diplomacy).

The undergraduate program in ‘Law’ in the Faculty of Law, University for Business and Technology in Prishtina (https://www.ubt.uni.net/en/study/study-programs/bachelor/law/).

The postgraduate program in ‘Civil Law and Property Rights’ in the Faculty of Law, University for Business and Technology in Prishtina (https://www.ubt-uni.net/en/study/study-programs/master-programs/civil-law-and-property-rights/)

The undergraduate program in ‘Political Science’ in the Faculty of Political Science, University for Business and Technology in Prishtina (https://www.ubt-uni.net/en/study/study-programs/bachelor-programs/political-science/).

The postgraduate program in ‘Political Science’ in the Faculty of Political Science, University for Business and Technology in Prishtina (https://www.ubt-uni.net/en/study/study-programs/master-programs/political-science/).

The undergraduate program in ‘Peace and Conflict Studies’ at the Rochester Institute for Technology-Kosovo Campus (RIT) in Prishtina (https://kosovo.rit.edu/programs/areas-of-study/concentrations-academic-menu.html#peace-conflict-studies).

The undergraduate program in ‘International Relations’ at the Rochester Institute for Technology-Kosovo Campus (RIT) in Prishtina (https://kosovo.rit.edu/programs/areas-of-study/minors-home.html#public-policy-minor).

Do these departments publish an academic journal dealing with migration related issues? Provide examples of titles of recent publications. Provide names of scholars working on migration with links to their websites, profiles, Google scholar etc. At a general level, are there academic journals dealing with migration related issues?

There are various academic journals per university, but no specialized journal on any topic of migration could be identified. Further research is needed in order to determine whether some of them tend to publish more often on migration related issues.

Publications identified by academic staff in the field of migration since 2009 are the following:

  Google Scholar Profile: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=9b0hkKIAAAAJ&hl=en

  Google Scholar Profile: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=9b0hkKIAAAAJ&hl=en

  University profile: https://ekonomiku.uni-pr.edu/Personeli/Personeli-akademik/Profesor-te-asocuar/Prof-ass-Dr-Ardiana-Gashi.aspx

  University profile: https://ekonomiku.uni-pr.edu/Personeli/Personeli-akademik/Profesor-te-asocuar/Prof-ass-Dr-Ardiana-Gashi.aspx

  University profile: https://ekonomiku.uni-pr.edu/Personeli/Personeli-akademik/Profesor-te-asocuar/Prof-ass-Dr-Ardiana-Gashi.aspx

- Gashi, Ardiana and Adnett, Nick (2016) Kosovo’s biggest challenge: Encouraging Kosovan migrants to move back to their home country. LSE Blogs EUROPP. Available at: http://bit.ly/1S8ONYG
  University profile: https://ekonomiku.uni-pr.edu/Personeli/Personeli-akademik/Profesor-te-asocuar/Prof-ass-Dr-Ardiana-Gashi.aspx

  University profile: https://juridiku.uni-pr.edu/Personeli/Personeli-akademik/Mr-sc-Xhevdet-Halili.aspx

Google Scholar Profile:
University profile: https://juridiku.uni-pr.edu/Personeli/Personeli-akademik/Mr-sc-Xhevdet-Halili.aspx
Google Scholar Profile: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=ibf3p7cAAAAJ&hl=en

University profile: https://ekonomiku.uni-pr.edu/Personeli/Personeli-akademik/Profesor-te-regullt/Prof-Dr-Avdullah-Hoti.aspx
Google Scholar Profile: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=xtoVFkIAAAAJ&hl=en

University profile: https://ekonomiku.uni-pr.edu/Personeli/Personeli-akademik/Profesor-te-asocuar/Prof-Dr-Besnik-Krasniqi.aspx
Google Scholar Profile: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=J80vJIoAAAAJ&hl=en

University profile1: https://aab-edu.net/persons/ylber-prekazi/
Google Scholar Profile1: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=07iVsAIAAAAJ&hl=en
University profile2: https://aab-edu.net/persons/albana-pasjaqa/
Google Scholar Profile2: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=0v3Tb_EAAAAJ&hl=en

University profile: https://ekonomiku.uni-pr.edu/Personeli/Personeli-akademik/Profesor-te-asocuar/Prof-ass-Dr-Ardiana-Gashi.aspx

Do these academic departments publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize conferences/ events and/or seminars on migration (at least in the recent past, from 2014-2015 onwards). Do these departments participate in international research programmes and projects? Have they implemented any EU-funded or other collaborative research project in the last five years? Provide info about these projects. Are these departments part of regional and international academic/ research/ policy related networks dealing with migration? What kind of collaborations and partnerships do they have when it comes to migration related issues at a national, regional and international level?

No number of newsletters on migration related topics could be identified.

The following conferences were identified: 93

Conference: ‘How International Migration is Shaping Contemporary Society’, AAB College in Prishtina, 20 November 2015 (https://aab-edu.net/en/conference/how-the-international-migration-is-shaping-the-contemporary-society/). The conference was co-organized with the Albanian Sociological Association (ALBSA) the Albanian Institute of Sociology (AIS 10th Annual International Conference), with: the International Sociological Association (ISA), The Balkan Sociological Forum (BSF), the Sociological Association of Kosovo (SAK), the University Aleksander Moisiu of Durres (UAMD), the European University of Tirana, Albania (UET) and the University Marin Barleti of Tirana (UMB).


Other international activities include an International Summer Academy which was organized by AAB College in Prishtina titled ‘AAB’s International Summer Academy 2018’ between 13-24 August 2018 (https://iss.aab-edu.net/). The curriculum included courses on Migration and Economic Growth and Minority Rights.

- Are there any research centres, think tanks and institutes dealing specifically with migration in the country? Are there any research centres, think tanks and institutes that include migration in their scope even without it being their primary interest? Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize conferences/ events and/or seminars on migration (at least in the recent past, from 2014-2015 onwards).

No research centres, research institutes or think tanks focusing exclusively on migration have been identified, although in some of them migration is included in their scope of research.

- The Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS) operates since 2008 with its main focus on the development of the security sector in Kosovo and the Western Balkans based on good governance. In the field of migration, they have mainly worked extensively on issues related to violent extremism and foreign fighters. (http://www.qkss.org/en/Home). KCSS produces reports on their migration related analysis, such as, inside the framework of their ‘Countering Violent Terrorism’ program, when they published the ‘Report into inquiring causes and consequences of Kosovo citizens involvement as foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq’. Additionally, they include issues of Migration in their semi-annual newsletter, reports and occasional papers. Finally, they occasionally run seminars and give talks on these topics.

- The Kosovo-Serbia Policy Advocacy Group is a consortium of think tanks and NGOs working on issues of normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia.
Although Migration is not mentioned explicitly as an area of focus, the Group is very active in engaging communities, especially in North Kosovo in dialogue related to democracy, the judiciary and citizenship. Kosovo-Serbia Policy Advocacy Group produces reports, analysis and statistics on related issues.

- The Balkans Policy Research Group (BPRG) is a think tank focusing on issues related to state building and societal harmony in the Western Balkans. Although they do not explicitly deal with Migration, through their research and analysis they do address issues related to promoting democratic dialogue and development mainly in North Kosovo(https://balkansgroup.org/). The BPRG produces infographics, reports and opinion editorials.

- Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes participate in international research programmes and projects? Have they implemented any EU-funded or other collaborative research project in the last five years? Provide info about these projects. Are these research centres, think tanks and institutes part of regional and international academic/research/policy related networks dealing with migration? What kind of collaborations and partnerships do they have when it comes to migration related issues at a national, regional and international level?

BPRG is involved in several projects inked to migration issues, mainly integration of minorities and returnees in North Kosovo. Examples of these projects include, the ‘Kosovo: Local Government and Serb Integration’ project funded by the Swiss Confederation, Represented by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; the ‘Inclusive Policy Making in Kosovo and Serbia: Advance Harmony and Peace Through Dialogue, Integration, and Improvement of Services, Jobs and People’ project funded by the Olaf Palme International Centre; and the ‘Strengthen the State Institutions and Peace in Kosovo’ project funded by the Finnish Embassy (https://balkansgroup.org/projects?page=1).

- Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes publish reports, including any policy-oriented material? Provide examples of titles of recent publications


- United Against Violent Extremism: http://www.qkss.org/repository/docs/Newsletter-7-eng.pdf
BPRG related publications:


Serb Integration in Kosovo after the Brussels Agreement: https://balkansgroup.org/blog/post/publications/serb-integration-kosovo-after-brussels-agreement

Something Completely Different in Northern Kosovo: https://balkansgroup.org/blog/post/publications/something-completely-different-northern-kosovo

3.4.4. Micro-level: NGOs and other institutions from the civil society

This section focuses on non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society groups at the local level active in Kosovo.

Information about NGOs working in the field of migration in Kosovo

- Is there a registry which includes all or most of them as such (i.e. “Registry of NGOs dealing with migration” or “General registry of NGOs”)?

The registry is under the administration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration (https://map.rks-gov.net/page.aspx?id=2,35).

- Which are the NGOs dealing with migration at the national level? Is there a thematic specialization among NGOs dealing with migration at the national level? Mention what type of work the NGOs do: humanitarian work, service delivery, education, information and awareness raising, advocacy etc. Do these NGOs participate in regional and international research projects and programs? Do these NGOs publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize conferences/ events and/or seminars on migration (at least in the recent past, from 2014-2015 onwards)? Are these NGOs part of regional/ international networks related to migration?

At the national level there are very few local NGOs dealing exclusively with migration. Most of them deal with issues related to promotion of democracy, human rights advocacy and economic development. Migration in most cases is included in the already fixed agenda rather than being the central focus of the NGO per se.
The following NGOs were identified:

- **Civil Rights Program Kosovo** was founded by The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in 1999. Since 2004 it has been functioning as an independent NGO. Its main purpose is to provide free legal assistance and counselling for returnees, asylum seekers, displaced persons in Kosovo, persons at risk of statelessness and to persons who are considered to be vulnerable in realization of their civil rights. The Civil Rights Program Kosovo is an implementing partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in implementation of the projects related to free legal assistance in the territory of Kosovo. Donors include UNHCR, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission, Civil Rights Defenders and UNICEF (http://www.crpkosovo.org/en/About-Us). No publications or newsletters were identified.

- **The Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women Organizations in Kosovo (RROGRAEK)** is an NGO that supports, integrates and promotes the rights of women and girls that belong to the aforementioned communities. This goal is achieved through the exchange of experience and information, partnership, networking, research and advocacy. Supporters include the UNDP, the Embassy of Netherlands and Save the Children (http://rrograek.org/).

- **Save the Children** is an NGO that provides children with the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. Part of its activities include humanitarian response for the protection of children, including natural disasters and migration crisis. Their partners from Civil Society include HandiKOS, Syri i Vizionit, Mundesia, Rtrograek (The Network of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Women Organizations of Kosovo), Putovima Sunce, Red Cross of Kosovo, Handikos Peje, Domovik, Down Syndrome Kosovo, AMC (Action for Mothers and Children), OFAP (Organization for Children without Parental Care), GAGA(Gruja Ashkane per Grate Ashkalike), Nevo Koncepti, ATRC (Advocacy Training and Resource Center), Autizmi, and our regional partners – Child Rights Information Center Moldova, Child Rights Center Serbia, Women’s Consortium in Ukraine, First Children's Embassy in the World – Megjashi, International European Center. Additionally, they collaborate with the Ministries of Education and Labour and Social Welfare, as well as with various Municipalities, the University of Prishtina and KFOS. No newsletters have been identified.

- **Democracy for Development (D4D)** (https://d4d-ks.org/en/home-en/). D4D’s mission is to influence the development of public policy in order to accelerate socio-economic development, improve governance, and strengthen democratic culture in Kosovo. In the field of migration they deal with diaspora and the reintegration of Internally Displaced People. D4D is collaborating with the NGO AKTIV through the program “Advancement of Democratic Processes in Kosovo” on issues of diaspora out of country votes and is a member of an inter-ministerial working group composed of the Ministry of Diaspora, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Local Government Administration. D4D is organizing and takes part very often in meetings and public events on the aforementioned topics. No newsletter has been identified.

- **Democracy Plus (D+)** is an independent, non-profit that operates since 2016. Its focus is the development of a democratic society through increasing civic participation in political process, generating greater public accountability and influencing decision-making (https://dplus.org/en/). Migration topics related to D+ activities include the rule of law and protection of human and civil rights of reintegrated people. Partners of D+ include USAID and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. No newsletter is available.
The NGO AKTIV operates in North Kosovo with the mandate of assisting in the political and economic development of the region (https://dplus.org/en/). Its donors include Denmark’s development cooperation, the Embassy of Canada to Croatia and Kosovo, the European Union Office in Kosovo, KFOS, Open Society Foundation, the Slovak Agency for International Development, the Swiss Cooperation Office in Kosovo, the United States Agency for International Development, the United States Embassy in Prishtina, the United Nation Kosovo, the National Centre for State Courts and the National Democratic Institute. No newsletter is available from AKTIV. AKTIV has taken part in many projects. Some indicative ones are the following:

- Easing Access to Identification Documents, funded by GIZ: http://ngoaktiv.org/project/easing-access-to-identification-documents
- Creating Bilingual Kosovo, funded by the Embassy of Norway in Kosovo: http://ngoaktiv.org/project/creating-bilingual-kosovo
- The Stardust Memory Project, funded by the Swiss Embassy in Kosovo: http://ngoaktiv.org/project/the-stardust-memory-project

Do these research centres and institutes publish reports and papers including any policy-oriented material?

**D4D** publishes very often news of its activities and briefings on issues that is concerned with. In the field of migration related issues, i.e. Diaspora and reintegration of returnees, the following published examples are indicative:

- D4D held the conference to launch the paper about out-of-country voting: https://d4d-ks.org/en/activities/d4d-held-conference-launch-paper-country-voting/
- Do the existing mechanisms provide reintegration opportunities for returnees? https://d4d-ks.org/en/salons/existing-mechanisms-provide-reintegration-opportunities-returnees-2/

**AKTIV** publishes news and information about its activities often. With regard to policy related material the following documents is indicative:

- Key Interests of the Serbian Community in Kosovo: http://ngoaktiv.org/publication/key-interests-of-the-serbian-community-in-kosovo
- Minority Rights Status in Kosovo: Challenges and Obstacles:
RROGRAEK does not publish very often. The following indicative reports are linked to its mandate of empowering the communities it deals with:

D+ publishes very often on its activities and analysis. This material that is not directly linked to the migration, the following indicative documents may be linked to the topic of reintegration of returnees:

3.4.5. Analysis

In Kosovo migration related topics mainly refer to diaspora, IDPs, illegal migration and reintegration of returnees, as well as, terrorism related migration and returnee foreign fighters and their families.

- The traditional themes of diaspora and IDPs as a main focus of state migration policy in the past years is evident in the fact that until very recently there was a Ministry of Diaspora, as well as, in the elaborate state structures related to the administration of different communities in Kosovo and their integration in education and the labor market. This process has been in parallel with state building, reinforcement of democratic institutions and the rule of Law in the country.

- In the sphere of migration governance international organizations, are very much involved at every level of migration governance in close collaboration with the state and local governance, as well as, with the various local NGOs.

- At the more local level, the NGO ecosystem, although it consists of a plethora of organizations, evident in the number of officially registered NGOs, there are only a few that are actually active. NGOs in Kosovo, as in many other countries, is donor driven, thus their focus shifts according to the demand that is created by the funders (interview with Gersi Gashi, Democracy for Development, 6 February 2020) and they tend to be topic specific.

- When it comes to migration related topics, most NGOs between 1999-2010 focused on refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. Interest in migration related issues resumed in 2014/2015 when a big number of Kosovars crossed illegally for economic reasons to Germany and were returned to Kosovo. The new topics for migration that arise are linked to promoting migration through legal means, especially after the new Labour Immigration Law in Germany in effect since March 2020, circular labor migration, as well as, brain drain (interview with Selatin Kllokoqi, Democracy Plus, 7 February 2020). These topics will be the ones that will drive funding and thus shape the focus of NGOs in the future.
Kosovo did not share similar issues as other Western Balkan countries with regards to irregular migration coming from the Middle East and Northern Africa. Nonetheless, as of the last couple of years, the issue of irregular migration is becoming increasingly important.

At the same time, Kosovo deals with the specific issue of radicalization and reintegration of returnee foreign fighters in society (Mentor Vrajolli, Kosovo Centre for Security Studies, interview 6 February 2020). This is not necessarily a common feature in other Western Balkan countries.

Research and teaching on the topic of migration at the level of tertiary education has been so far viewed either as a parameter of Human Rights, Demographics or that of the economic impact of remittances and brain drain/brain gain. The absence of Migration Studies from academia attests to the lack of a more integrated approach to migration. Research on the topic is scarce, sporadic and mostly not published in high impact journals. Similarly at the level of the Research Centers, interest in the subject of migration is additional to their main research agenda, rather than being the main focus per se.

Finally, there is a noticeable absence of available data and statistics at all levels.

3.4.6. Recommendations

-Research and policy gaps that could be in the scope of MIGREC are:
  i. research and analysis focused on circular labour migration and a new wave of brain drain
  ii. capacity building in research and policy in the field of Migration Studies through projects and collaborations with academic departments and research centres
  iii. Collection of migration related statistics in the fields where there is lack of.

3.5. Montenegro

3.5.1 Introduction

This report constitutes part of Deliverable 1.3, whose objective is to identify migration related research and governance in the Western Balkans. Towards this direction, the document looks into the research activities in the topic, the relevant state agencies as well as the non-governmental and intergovernmental actors which contribute in shaping migration policies in each one of the countries under investigation. The report will serve as an informative baseline for the development of the research centre for migration studies in the University of Belgrade and the identification of potential synergies in the Balkan region.

The methodological structure of this report is two-pronged. During the desk research phase, information was collected through policy papers, strategic documents, press releases and website information. At the empirical phase, three interviews were conducted with the state authorities dealing with migration, an international organisation with long presence in Montenegro and a
local private agency with continuous research activity in political and social developments of the country. Through the combined employment of two qualitative methods, we managed to yield insights into the situation in Montenegro both at normative and practical level, thus providing a comprehensive image of the national priorities and needs in the area of migration research and governance.

The report is divided in the following sections. The first one provides an overview of the state institutions commissioned to migration management as well as the synergies at regional, community and international level. Second, the focus shifts on the micro-level mapping of scarce relevant academic research, followed by an account of the main NGOs operating in the field of migration in the country. The report culminates in a few tailored recommendations for the advancement of migration governance in Montenegro and the completion of a region-wide image of migration that will inform the development of the research centre in the University of Belgrade.

3.5.2. Meso-level: State institutions and agencies dealing with migration governance

*Who makes decisions on migration policies?*

Migration policy in Montenegro is shaped at national level, permeated by the EU values. In 2007, the Republic of Montenegro and the EU signed a **Readmission Agreement** to regulate migratory flows of persons without authorisations both from and towards the territory of EU Member States.\(^{209}\) Since 2010, the migration governance has been, by and large, defined by the country’s candidacy for EU membership. To achieve compliance with the accession commitments, Montenegro has adopted a substantive body of new legislation and strategic documents addressing migration issues during the latest years. Of utmost importance is the introduction of the amended **Law on International and Temporary Protection of Foreigners** in 2018 (referred to otherwise as “Asylum Law”) and the **Law on Foreigners** (2018), accompanied by the **Rulebook on the Procedure Initiated Upon Request for Stateless Determination** (2018).\(^{210}\)

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\(^{209}\) Available at: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A22007A1219%2802%29](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A22007A1219%2802%29) [accessed 23 March 2020].

\(^{210}\) The legal documents are available in English at: [https://www.refworld.org/country/MNE.html](https://www.refworld.org/country/MNE.html) [accessed 20 March 2020].
**What are the current policy priorities of the decision makers?**

Current migration policies in Montenegro appear to focus on the following key areas:

**Emigration and ‘brain drain’**

Outward trends have been typical in Montenegro, which places among the top emigration-affected countries of the region. Combined with diaspora, the number of Montenegrin nationals around the world is estimated to be equal with the current population of Montenegro.\(^{211}\) For the period 2015-2020, it was estimated that the country has a negative net migration of -0.8migrants/1000 population.\(^{212}\)

The determinant factors of emigration vary from unemployment and high levels of poverty to lack of opportunities and infrastructures for high quality academic research.\(^{213}\) While the European countries continue to provide more incentives to attract highly educated young professionals from the Western Balkans, the state of Montenegro persists in applying the prohibition of dual citizenship, posing barriers to the reintegration of expatriated Montenegrin nationals. Therefore, increasing the cooperation with the diaspora population and coordinate efforts to reverse the brain drain outflows appears to be a top priority in the Montenegrin migration agenda.\(^{214}\)

**Refugee crisis**

Montenegro was not immediately afflicted by the contemporary migration crisis due to the fact that it was not part of the traditional Balkan route. Until 2017, the number of newly arrived displaced persons from the Middle East remained significantly low. The situation significantly changed with the closure of the ‘traditional’ Balkan route through North Macedonia, which stimulated the shift of itinerary to Europe through the so-called ‘coastal route’ or ‘Adriatic route’, which involves crossing through Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.\(^{215}\)

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\(^{211}\) So far, it appears that the most comprehensive study on diaspora in Montenegro was conducted in the context of the Government of Montenegro’s HERIC Project. The report was published in 2014 under the title “Analytical Study of Montenegrin Diaspora”, is available at: [https://wbc-rti.info/object/document/14654](https://wbc-rti.info/object/document/14654) [accessed 25 March 2020].

\(^{212}\) According to IOM statistics, available at: [https://www.iom.int/countries/montenegro](https://www.iom.int/countries/montenegro) [accessed 20 March 2020].

\(^{213}\) Ibid (n.3), p.8.

\(^{214}\) In one of the interview discussions for this report, our interlocutor talked specifically about the emigration of young health and IT professionals towards Germany, which has recently introduced a new law simplifying the procedures for obtainment of visa particularly to these practitioners. In her words, “In our domestic discourse, this was very prominent over the recent period, because allegedly many doctors went to Germany. […] From a domestic perspective, this also occupied a lot of public attention recently”.

In this new reality, Montenegro has emerged as a significant transit country in the migratory journey towards more alluring EU destinations. The number of new arrivals peaked in 2019, dissolving the governmental hopes that Montenegro will not be engaged in the crisis.\footnote{216}{IOM (2019), *Mixed Migration Flows in the Mediterranean.* Available at: \url{https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/dtm/mediterranean_dtm_20190725.pdf} [accessed 20 March 2020]. One of the experts who discussed with us for the purposes of this report stated that: “Somehow our government always hoped that we will not have any migrants in our country.”} During the first 9 months of 2019, 5,431 persons expressed their intention to seek international protection in the country, 24% of whom lodged an official application.\footnote{217}{See \url{https://www.unhcr.org/see/wp-content/uploads/sites/57/2019/10/Operational-Update_Jan-Sept-2019.pdf} [accessed 27 March 2020].} The very low percentage of applications corroborates the fact that Montenegro is primarily envisaged as a country of transit, not destination.\footnote{218}{This was argued during the 12th Meeting of Civil Society Joint Consultative Committee, formed by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and the State of Montenegro. See also the 2019 statement of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, available at: \url{https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25267&LangID=E}.}

Against this backdrop, illegal migration has gained more prominence in the country. The latest figures display an 87% increase on the number of detected irregular migrants in 2019 (8,685 migrants), in comparison with the previous year (4,645 migrants).\footnote{219}{IOM provides these figures in its Western Balkans Overview 2019, available at: \url{https://migration.iom.int/reports/dtm-mediterranean-%E2%80%93-western-balkans-overview-2019} [accessed 25 March 2020].} To a great extent, these newly arrived populations were of Moroccan nationality.\footnote{220}{Ibid.} In its latest report, the IFRC put forward the alarming issue of “invisible” irregular migrants. This definition incorporates registered individuals who wish to remain in the country, but are not aware of the 15-day legal threshold to apply for asylum and thus miss the deadline; persons who untruthfully express their intention to apply for asylum, but do not proceed to do so within the 15-day legal threshold, as they hope that they will be able to move on to EU; and asylum seekers who unsuccessfully attempt to cross the Bosnian borders. The aforementioned categories find themselves in a legal limbo, deprived of any entitlements related to housing, food, or healthcare, and receive support only by RCM.

Overall, there seems to be tangible progress in Montenegro regarding both the creation of solid legal framework and the advancement of the infrastructures to support the new arrivals. Yet, a few legal concerns and operational deficiencies are still to be addressed, such as the lack of
adequate human resources in the accommodation structures and the outdated fingerprint and data collection system in place.\textsuperscript{221}

Integration of Roma and Egyptian populations and refugees from former Yugoslavia

Despite its recent status as a sovereign state, Montenegro has a long history of multi-faceted migration. In the aftermath of the dissolution of Yugoslavia and the armed conflicts that followed, the country was met with consecutive flows of displaced persons from former Yugoslavia and Kosovo*, whose legal status remains largely unresolved. A similar ambiguousness appears to cloud the legal situation of Roma and Egyptian communities from Kosovo*, frequently referred to as “internally displaced persons” or “stateless persons” without a very clear image of what exactly these terms entail.\textsuperscript{222}

The different legal treatment of these populations poses unsurmountable obstacles to the equal enjoyment of fundamental rights. The legal assistance and social inclusion has been a recurrent theme in the state policies and private initiatives in the country and it is expected to remain a top priority of all actors involved in migration related issues during the following years.

Information about migration governance in Montenegro

- \textit{Is there a ministry dealing specifically with migration in the country? Which are the general secretariats within the ministries and other State agencies dealing with migration?}

Since its declaration of independence, Montenegro is a unitary state. The executive power is exercised by the Government, which consists of the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Ministers and 17 Ministers. The Constitution also stipulates an elaborated system of local self-government units, which are (at least to a certain extent) financially independent and perform their duties autonomously.\textsuperscript{223}


\textsuperscript{222} This emerged through the interviews conducted for the purposes for this report, when one of the interviewees who work in the field admitted that: “I never understood the definition, because when this happened, it was within the same country, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. So they were internally displaced people from on part of the country to another. That's the core reason why we use this term still.”

\textsuperscript{223} Article 22 of Montenegrin Constitution. For a detailed list of the Government’s powers, see Article 100 of Montenegrin Constitution, available at
Under this structure, the responsibility for the management of immigration related issues lies primarily with the Ministry of Interior. The Ministry maintains a central website in both English and Montenegrin, where all relevant information is uploaded. It should, however, be noted that not all documents are available in the English language, thus rendering the research and browsing through the website difficult.

The following organizational units under the Ministry of Interior deal specifically with migration:

- **The Division for Foreigners, Migration and Readmission**, which is accorded a more policy-making and law-drafting role in the area of migration. This Division acts as a supervisor and coordinator of the work of local branches and holds the proceedings for the provision of work and residence permits for foreigners.

- **The Division for Asylum** is responsible for all asylum procedures, from the submission of asylum applications and corroborate authenticity of proof of identity documents, to the processing and decision-making on the status of persons seeking international and subsidiary protection, as well as the status of those who are already recognized as refugees or displaced persons. This unit takes also part in law-drafting procedures on asylum and decides upon issues of voluntary repatriation and deportation.

- **The Division for Admission of Foreigners Seeking International Protection** is responsible for the reception, accommodation and provision of humanitarian assistance to persons seeking international protection. With the adoption of the new Law on International and Temporary Protection of Foreigners, the operation of the Center for Asylum Seekers, which opened its doors in 2014, was transferred under its umbrella. The Division remains in close and continuous collaboration with the international organisations which operate in the field of migration and hold offices in the country.

- **The Division for Integration of Foreigners with Approved International Protection and the Reintegration of the Returnees upon Readmission**

- **The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare** has appointed a National Coordinator for the

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224 Most information regarding the institutional structures dealing with migration was derived from the insightful interviews conducted for the purposes of this report.

implementation of one of the most enduring and advantageous joint initiatives in the area of Western Balkans, the Regional Housing Programme.\textsuperscript{226} The RHP provides durable accommodation solutions to displaced persons (refugees and internally displaced) from former Yugoslavia and it is applied in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia. The Programme receives financial support by various donors in the international community, such as the Council of Europe Development Bank, the UNHCR and the OSCE. The EU has launched a separate action to ensure the sustainability of RHP, the Igman Initiative Programme titled CARE - Contribution to Access of Refugees and IDP’s to Rights and Employment Opportunities. In its annual operational and financial reports, the RHP shares information, in a transparent matter, on key achievements, statistical updates, individual success stories and established cooperations at all implementing countries.\textsuperscript{227}

- Diaspora is a dominant aspect of migration in Montenegro and, as such, it is treated as an independent branch that falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Department of Diaspora was established in 2010, as a result of the adoption of the first Cooperation Strategy between Montenegro and Diaspora (2011-2014) and focuses on emigration and brain drain. In 2018, the Law on Montenegro’s Cooperation with Diaspora was amended, raising promises on the effective management of the phenomenon in the country.

- The Ministry of Human and Minority Rights is more involved in the topic of social inclusion of the Roma and Egyptian groups, whose treatment remains uneven to that of the national population.\textsuperscript{228}

- Apart from the competent ministerial administrative units, the Police Directorate, as the main law enforcement entity of the state, is directly involved in migration management especially regarding surveillance and border control. Under the Division for Foreigners, Visas and Combatting Illegal Migration, the police authorities operate a Shelter for Foreigners. Apart from its main role, the Border Police Sector keeps record of the newly arrived foreigners who express their intention to file an application for international protection. In turn, the Division for Asylum shares information about the submitted asylum applications with the Border Police Sector on a daily, two week and monthly basis. In recent

\textsuperscript{226} All information about the RHP and its implementation in Montenegro is available at \url{http://regionalhousingprogramme.org/montenegro/} [accessed 12 March 2020].


\textsuperscript{228} The Ministry’s website is available at: \url{http://www.mmp.gov.me/en/ministry} [accessed 20 March 2020].
years, international cooperation with Interpol and Europol has been strengthened, mostly through joint actions against illegal migration.229

- **Are there any independent authorities dealing specifically with migration related issues or including migration related issues?**

  ➢ The **Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms** (referred to otherwise as the **Ombudsman of Montenegro**) acts as the **National Preventive Mechanism (NPM)** in the country under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture, which was ratified by Montenegro in 2009. In this capacity, the NPM visited one of the accommodation facilities for migrants in 2014 and issued a number of recommendations for the upgrade of the facilities to fulfil international human rights standards, some of which (i.e. regarding persons with disabilities) are yet to be met with. Although its role on the advocacy of migrants’ rights is not very prominent until now, the Ombudsman participated in the **meeting of the South-East Europe NPM Network** members in Belgrade in 2016 to discuss the protection of human rights of refugees and migrants in the area from a preventive approach.

- **Do the regional and local administrations (regional councils and municipalities) take part in the management of migration related issues?**

  ➢ The **Union of Municipalities of Montenegro** is also represented in this group, demonstrating the active involvement of the decentralized administration in migration management and in shaping migration policies in the country.230 The role of the local units gains more prominence in areas that are found on the new migration route towards Europe, such as Pljevlja, where a **Migrant Crisis Monitoring Team** was created in 2018 to foster stronger security measures against illegal migration and oversee the provision of healthcare and social protection. In November 2019, an **Inter-Ministerial working group** was assigned to devise a new **Strategy of Migration and Reintegration (2021-2025)**, to organize the action plans and to oversee its implementation. The group consists of representatives from state institutions, the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro, the UNHCR, the IOM and two local NGOs, Legal Center and Civic Alliance.

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229 Ibid (n 1).
230 The Union of Municipalities of Montenegro has its own domain online, but the website appears to be inactive, as there are no new uploads since 2016. The website is available at: [http://uom.me/en/](http://uom.me/en/) [accessed 20 March 2020].
The National Council for Education introduced an Educational Program for Montenegrin language, history and culture addressed to refugees and individuals granted subsidiary protection. This is considered to be a considerable step forward to the integration of beneficiaries of international protection in the country.\textsuperscript{231}

- \textit{Are there any recently established associations with the EU’s migration related agencies?}

Although Montenegro is not a member of the European Migration Network, its normative and operational framework is, to a great extent, aligned with the European acquis. Under the candidacy status, Montenegro is a beneficiary country of IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance) II Regional Development Programme, which provides great support in the broader field of migration, as stipulated in the Revised Multi-Country Indicative Strategy Paper.\textsuperscript{232} In fact, in its Strategy for 'A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans', the European Commission admitted the reliance of EU effective management of the migration crisis on the reinforcement of its cooperation with the Western Balkans.\textsuperscript{233} This was further sustained by the emergence of the engagement on security and migration as one of the six EU flagship initiatives for the Western Balkan region announced in 2018.\textsuperscript{234}

- In this vein, Montenegro signed an agreement with FRONTEX in 2019\textsuperscript{235}, pursuant to which the latter assumes an active role in border security. This mainly translates into capacity building in the domains of surveillance, fortification of the borders with additional forces and joint operations to combat illegal migration.

- Montenegro also cooperates with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). In 2016, EASO issued a country of origin information report which outlines the migration situation in the area from a demographical viewpoint and provides an overview of the infrastructure and services available to these populations in the country (EASO, 2016).\textsuperscript{236}

\textsuperscript{233}Ibid.
\textsuperscript{236}European Asylum Support Office, 2016. Country of Origin Information Report: Montenegro – Country Focus. Available at:
On a more practical direction, EASO performs several training on migration topics, such as the following:

- EASO Training on interview techniques as part of the implementation of IPA II in Montenegro, with a view to strengthen the interviewing skills of local investigation authorities.

**Do key international organizations have offices in the country?**

At international level, the UN has a determining and manifold presence in Montenegro primarily from an inherent human rights perspective.

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Montenegro has developed an integrated strategy for Montenegro 2017-2021 in the framework of the UN Development Assistance Framework, with a view to guarantee the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) described in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda of the United Nations. In its observations on social inclusion, UNDP commends on the elaboration of the national human rights framework but points out that there is room for better harmonisation with the international standards, especially with regards to the integration of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection. In this light, the UN agency adopts a human rights perspective and sets among its key national priorities the implementation of integration measures for internally displaced persons, the promotion of a more inclusive health and education system and the identification of permanent solutions for refugees from former Yugoslavia.

- The need for more decisive steps towards this direction has also been highlighted in the

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238 Ibid.

239 Ibid.
latest national report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. Under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a reviewing mechanism of the Member States’ compliance with the international human rights regime. During the course of the third cycle of reporting, Montenegro was once more criticised for neglecting to resolve the ambiguous legal status of former Yugoslavian refugees. In general, there seems to be room for improvement on the implementation of the legal instruments and the establishment of a clear procedure for obtaining permanent residence in the country. Finally, it has been noticed that Montenegrin government appears reluctant to invest in the integration of displaced persons in the local societies, opting for their resettlement to other countries instead. This extends beyond the Montenegrin borders to a regional level, particularly with reference to the Roma and Egyptian community.

➢ The UNODC is also present in Montenegro by way of implementing its Regional Programme in South Eastern Europe aiming, among others, at the prevention of irregular migration and human trafficking in human beings. During 2016-2019, UNODC successfully delivered several capacity-building workshops on systematic data collection, employment of tools to record new trends on these forms of criminal behaviour and development of relevant skills for handling trafficking cases, addressed to justice professionals.

➢ The UN Refugee Agency-UNHCR’s first engagement with displacement issues in Montenegro dates back to 1992, as a response to the refugee inflows from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Apart from its monitoring role for the compliance of the state with the international human rights framework, the agency offers an array of facilities, tailored to the needs of the different migrant populations. Indicatively, it promotes inclusion and integration of beneficiaries of international protection, substituting for the state institutions that lack the funds to support such programmes; it offers legal aid to refugees from former Yugoslavia who continue to face obstacles with their legal status; and it

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241 Ibid.


244 One of the interviewees admitted that: “To be honest, our government has limited funds, because we are not a rich country […]. So when it comes to integration, this is why UNCHR steps in”.

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maintains a record for stateless persons who remain “legally invisible” to promote the enjoyment of human rights, especially for the Roma and Egyptian (RE) community in the country. In general, the UNHCR reserves a separate section in its website for its Montenegro mission and follows its regular protocol of frequent operational update reports to communicate its activities. 245

➢ The International Organisation for Migration also has a longstanding presence in Montenegro. In the contemporary refugee context, IOM keeps a thorough record of new arrivals, but its contribution goes far beyond mere data collection; it amplifies the national capacities through educational programmes for officials, activation of mechanisms for accurate statistical representations and comparative regional analyses and the development of coherent plans for the support of the most vulnerable migrant groups.

➢ Finally, the Red Cross of Montenegro (RCM) has taken on a vital role in the effective humanitarian response and advocacy of the migrant rights in the country. Within its mandate, RCM provides assistance in a variety of ways to forcibly displaced persons: psychosocial support at individual and group sessions, restoring family links services, provision of food and hygiene products, facilitation of access to healthcare, language courses, cultural activities within the local communities and others. 246 At the moment, RCM covers for the government's shortage in human resources by being present on a daily basis in the reception and accommodation centres.

➢ In 2018, the national branch commenced its operations under a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) by IFRC and inspired by the priorities embedded in the European Migration 2018. RCM’s work is facilitated through the establishment of official and unofficial collaborations both within the Red Cross family and outside of it, on the broader migration-related community. As a member of a Small European National Societies network of the Red Cross, RCM’s staff attends joint meetings to delineate common policies and take part in international events. 247

➢ The US Department of State monitors human rights practices in Montenegro and releases annual reports on Montenegro’s compliance with international human rights

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245 Visit the UNHCR Montenegro at: https://www.unhcr.org/see/where-we-work/montenegro [accessed 20 March 2020].


247 Ibid, p. 4
standards. The reports are available here: [https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/](https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/). Also, the USAID has provided valuable assistance in Montenegro’s economic development, the promotion of democratic principles, and the adherence to commitments towards its EU accession.\(^248\) USAID published recently its annual insightful report on *Irregular Migration for South-Eastern Europe*, which is structured into country-dedicated chapters.\(^249\)

- **Do the ministries, general secretariats, state agencies and independent authorities provide statistical data on migration?**

According to our expert from the state authorities, foregoing organizational units of the Ministry of the Interior keep records from their areas of responsibility. The Ministry keeps record of:

1) foreigners seeking international protection; 2) asylum seekers; 3) foreigners under subsidiary protection; 4) foreigners under temporary protection; 5) documents of a foreigners seeking international protection; 6) personal and travel documents of asylum seekers; 7) personal and travel documents of foreigners under subsidiary protection; 8) personal document of foreigners under temporary protection; 9) temporary withheld travel and personal documents; 10) taken fingerprints and photographs of the foreigners seeking international protection; 11) taken fingerprints and photographs of the foreigners under temporary protection; 12) issued permits for temporary residence, issued permits for temporary residence and work, issued permits for permanent residence, etc.

- **The Section for Admission of Foreigners Seeking International Protection** keeps records of foreigners seeking international protection who have been admitted to shelter, and provides the statistics to UNHCR in accordance with the Chapter 24 of the Action Plan. Justice, freedom and security – subarea Asylum. This statistical data is shared with UNCHR on a weekly basis, upon explicit consent of the asylum seekers for disclosure of their personal data, in accordance with the Law on International and Temporary Protection of Foreigners.

- **The Police Directorate, Border Police Sector** keeps records of foreigners who intend

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\(^{248}\) More information is available on the website: [https://www.usaid.gov/montenegro](https://www.usaid.gov/montenegro) [accessed 23 March 2020].

to apply for international protection.

➢ The Section for Asylum informs the Border Police Sector about the submitted applications for asylum on a daily, fifteen-day and monthly basis, and on a weekly and monthly basis EU Liaison Officer to Western Balkan.

➢ The Section for Asylum and Section for Foreigners provide statistical data, sorted on multiple grounds, to the Statistical Office of Montenegro – MONSTAT, on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis, in accordance with the Agreement concluded between the Statistical Office of Montenegro – MONSTAT and the Ministry of the Interior.

• Do the relevant to migration state institutions and independent authorities publish policy reports on migration issues?

At a policy level, the Ministry frequently issues strategies, reports, action plans and other informative documents on the topic of migration. Indicatively, the following are of interest:

➢ Strategy for Integrated Migration Management in Montenegro (2017-2020): complemented by Actions Plans for its implementation, the Strategy’s main objectives are to achieve legislative harmonization with the European standards; to promote equal enjoyment of human rights for migrants; to guarantee adequate training of professionals dealing with migration management, especially with regards to illegal migration; and to upgrade the technical equipment of institutions, according to their operational needs.250

➢ Strategy for the Reintegration of Persons returned based on the Readmission Agreement (2016-2020): the Strategy aspires to compile and provide an analysis of all the legal and institutional structures and create a mechanism for the supervision of the lawful and effective implementation of the Readmission Agreement with the EU.251

➢ The Strategy for social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro (2016-2020)252

➢ Rulebook on rules of stay and house rules at the Shelter for foreigners

250 The authors were informed of this document by the state officer who was interviewed for the purposes of this report. Although we were unable to obtain an English version of it, the interview stated that this report, along with other documents published by the Ministry of Interior, are available at: http://www.mup.gov.me/ministarstvo [accessed 10 March 2020].

251 Ibid.

➢ Rulebook on rules of stay and house rules at the Reception Center

➢ The Government of Montenegro has also established a Research Center of the Parliamentary Institute, which issues research papers and statistical reports on a variety of topics of state interest and works in close cooperation with the European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD). In the context of the post-2015 migration waves in the European continent, the Center published an analysis on the Effects of the migrant crisis in Montenegro (2016) which incorporates the Government’s elaborated proposed scheme for a concerted response of the Ministries in the event of migration influx in the country.253

➢ As part of the accession negotiation procedures, EU Commission issues annual reports which entail an assessment of the state’s progress in the various Chapters under negotiations, including the Rule of Law Chapters 23 and 24, which bear relevance to migration.254

Do the relevant to migration state institutions and independent authorities organize policy relevant events on migration issues?

The Ministry of the Interior, through its organizational units, organizes meetings for the purpose of continuous cooperation with international organizations and relevant authorities in the field of migration.255 Our state expert informed us of the following policy events on migration:

➢ Upcoming regional conference in Montenegro on migration management, due to take place by the end of 2020.

➢ Regional conferences for the purpose of experience and information exchange in the context of migrations and creating joint cross-border activities with the Red Cross of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia.

254 Asylum and migration constitute two separate sub-areas within the broader area of Justice, Freedom and Security of Chapter 24.
255 All this information was shared with us by the state Centre for Asylum Seekers officer who was interviewed for the purposes of this report.
The organization of a two-day seminar for the representatives of the state institutions and civil society on challenges in migration management and process of integration of persons granted international protection in Montenegro.

The organization of a two-day seminar for the purpose of raising awareness about the basics of the migration process and asylum issues, in order to be ready to actively participate in volunteering activities of giving assistance to asylum seekers in the field, as well as contributing to the development of tolerant and open society and combating xenophobia.

Meetings of Joint Committees for monitoring the implementation of the Readmission Agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Albania and Kosovo.

In 2019, the UN agency held in conjunction with the Ministry of Interior, two Coordination Meetings on Asylum.

IOM held a Joint UNHCR-IOM Workshop on mixed-migration, which was attended by numerous state bodies and offered the opportunity for productive discussion of forthcoming challenges and sustainable solutions on asylum and border control issues.²⁵⁶

Do all migration related state institutions and independent authorities have websites and social media accounts?

Most of the government and independent structures related to migration do have websites and social media accounts. The social media accounts appear to contain regular updates including the publication of data, information as well as the organization of events. Although the government websites have English as a working language too, it is not easy to navigate or use specific search terms in English.

What kind of partnerships and collaborations do all the migration related institutions and independent authorities have at the national, regional and international level? Are there any policy working groups and policy task forces on migration (governmental or mixed state & non-state), Inter-Ministerial or inter-agency commissions, working groups etc, mixed EU-Western Balkan commissions, mixed EU-state commissions, mixed international organization-state commissions etc.?²⁵⁶

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe – OSCE has undertaken a mission to strengthen Montenegro’s capacities to respect its European and international obligations. With regards to migration, OSCE’s main contribution is under its authority to supervise and participate in the Steering Committee for the Regional Housing Programme (RHP). In a broader sense, OSCE demonstrates its commitment to support, either at theoretical or practical level, the promotion of equality and non-discrimination, as well as regional police cooperation for the enhancement of border control.

Of particular note in the Western Balkans is the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI), which was formed in 2003 and established a solid network for the dialogue, collaboration and quality response of the Western Balkan countries to migration related issues. In its renewed Strategy for the period 2018-2020, which is consistent with the national policies of the Member States, as well as the supranational and international regimes, MARRI announced its strategic priorities to address existing challenges in migration. These mainly relate to the reinforcement of border management and asylum proceedings; the increased protection of human rights of individuals seeking international protection and the most vulnerable groups of migrants; the enhancement for circular interregional labour; and the furtherance of the actions towards the EU accession. MARRI participates in various projects within its mandate, such as the IPA II funded “Regional Support of Protection Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey” project and the “SFF-Strengthening regional migration governance” project which is jointly implemented with the German International Cooperation (GIZ). The Center shares information about its vision, documents, projects and events in its regularly updated website, which is an important hub for the promotion of knowledge and discussion on migration in the Western Balkans.

From a security viewpoint, of elevated importance to the area is the work of the

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257 By way of example, at the International Human Rights Day event that took place on 10th December 2015, the Head of the Mission highlighted the need to adopt a human rights approach when providing services to migrants and refugees. The press release on the event is available at: https://www.osce.org/montenegro/209181 [accessed 20 March 2020].

258 The agency holds regular meetings for border police officers in the region, such as the one discussed here: https://www.osce.org/mission-to-montenegro/362486 [accessed 20 March 2020].


260 Ibid.

261 The website can be browsed at http://marri-rc.org.mk/ [accessed 25 March 2020].
Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC). The Center is a synergy of the police authorities of 11 countries in the region, which act in concert against trans-border crime in the region through frequent joint investigations and operations. In 2000, a special Task Force Mirage on Countering Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration was empowered to closely monitor and report relevant developments to the SELEC Operational Directorate. According to the observations embedded in the report on Smuggling of Migrants in Southeast Europe, which was issued in 2018, the intensified efforts for border management in the region have been very successful, forcing a shift in the smuggling trends to bypass strict control activities.

- Since 2008, the Regional Cooperation Council - RCC, consisting of delegations from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the participating states, operates towards the goal of an enhanced cooperation in the South East European region. The RCC’s work intersects with migration mainly in the area of security cooperation (combating illegal migration remains a national concern) and in the framework of the Balkan public Barometer, which yields interesting annual findings on the attitudes of the public towards education, employment, living conditions, security threats, emigration and immigration consequences to economy. In general, one can observe a rather positive stance of the population on equal access of displaced persons (internally and externally) to education and employment in the public sector. The integration of Roma populations appears, once again, to be one of the top priorities for the State, as it is deemed to be a crucial step towards EU accession. On the other hand, a more neutral stance is adopted regarding the impact of labour immigration for the country’s economy and a rather negative one on the financial consequences of refugee inflows to the country.

- Last, the Union of Municipalities is also part of the Network of Association of Local Authorities in South East Europe – NALAS. The strategic agenda of NALAS for 2018-2022 embraces a more development-oriented approach to migration, as it calls for rapid integration of newly arrived immigrants but, most importantly, incites the member

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262 More information on the Task Force and the joint operations against criminal activities in the area can be found at https://www.selec.org/task-forces/ [accessed 12 March 2020].


264 More information on RCC is available at https://www.rcc.int/ [accessed 15 March 2020].

265 The indicators and comparative annual results can be found and is available for download at https://www.rcc.int/seeds/results/2/balkan-public-barometer [accessed 18 March 2020].

266 Ibid.

267 Ibid.
states to provide incentives for investments by the diaspora communities. NALAS keeps a digest and a newsletter on all pressing issues, including migration.

3.5.3. Micro-level: Universities/ Academic departments, Research Centres and Institutes specializing on migration

Information about migration research in Montenegro

- Are there academic departments in state or private universities dealing according to their title with migration? Are there other academic departments which include migration as a distinct specialization in their curricula?

To the best of our knowledge, no Montenegrin academic institution has a research track or implements a program related to the field. In a recent analytical study on the diaspora of Montenegro, it was observed that there are only a few visiting professors who engage in migration discourse. Serbian academics were able to pinpoint the following departments that tackle issues of migration as part of its research agenda, without further information:

- The Department of Geography, University of Montenegro
- Faculty of Philosophy, University of Montenegro
- Nikšić Faculty of International Economics, Finance and Business, Donja Gorica

- Provide examples of titles of recent publications. Provide names of scholars working on migration with links to their websites, profiles, Google scholar etc.

Taking into account the language limitations, we were able to identify the following publications in the English language during the last decade:


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268 Nalas Strategic Plan 2018-2022 can be found at http://www.nalas.eu/AboutUs#key_nalas_documents [accessed 18 March 2020].
269 The website can be visited at: http://www.nalas.eu/ [accessed 19 March 2020].
270 Ibid (n 3), p. 16.


- Kaludjerovic, J. and Radojevic, G., Impact of migration ON LABOUR MARKET AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN MONTENEGRO. Entrepreneurial Economy, p.86.


In the absence of academic focus on migration, it appears that there are no noteworthy collaborations on partnerships at institutional level. Nevertheless, some scholars participate
individually in regional or European networks, such as academics from the University of DonjaGorica who are also members of the Western Balkans Migration Network.\textsuperscript{271}

- **Do these academic departments publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize conferences/events and/or seminars on migration (at least in the recent past, from 2014-2015 onwards)?**

  No number of newsletters on migration related topics could be identified.

  The UNHCR in cooperation the University of Montenegro created a two-month Legal Clinic for 28 students of the Law Faculty. The Clinic focused on international refugee law and statelessness and included a moot court simulation and field visits to the Asylum Centre and the Community Centre in Spuž.\textsuperscript{272}

- **Are these departments part of regional and international academic/research/policy related networks dealing with migration? What kind of collaborations and partnerships do they have when it comes to migration related issues at a national, regional and international level?**

  As one of the interviewees recalled, the University of Montenegro, in tandem with the Faculty of Political Sciences, held a conference on diaspora issues in the end of 2019, but no account of it was found electronically.

- **Are there any research centres, think tanks and institutes dealing specifically with migration in the country? Are there any research centres, think tanks and institutes that include migration in their scope even without it being their primary interest?**

  Outside the academic ecosystem, there are a few think tanks that deal, at least to some extent, with migration related research.

  - Probably the most well-established one is the **Center for Democracy and Human Rights (CEDEM)**, which was founded in 1997 and has been inextricably linked to the development of human rights, social inclusion and rule of law policies in the country.\textsuperscript{273}
  
  This was affirmed by two of the interviewees, one of whom commented on the fact that CEDEM receives substantial funding from European sources for the implementation of

\textsuperscript{271} This information was found on the researcher’s page in Research Gate, available at: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Vojin_Golubovic](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Vojin_Golubovic) [accessed 15 March 2020].


\textsuperscript{273} CEDEM’s website is available at: [https://www.cedem.me/en/](https://www.cedem.me/en/) [accessed 27 March 2020].
research-oriented projects in migration. Nevertheless, CEDEM’s scope of action is not limited to research, but also entails public awareness campaigns, a variety of dissemination and training activities, as well as promoting cooperation with the international organizations who operate in the field of migration in the country.

➢ The **Institut Alternativa**, although not directly addressing migration issues, is one of the leading think tanks in the areas of good governance and rule of law. The Institute is closely monitoring the EU accession progress of the country, particularly the Rule of Law Chapters 23 and 24, which entail the discourse on migration. On addressing the harmonization of asylum legislation with EU standards as one of the benchmarks of EU accession, the Institute made a valid argument on the difficulties arising in the monitoring of the implementation of this legislation. The think tank’s website functions in the Montenegrin and English and most of the reports are available in both languages.²⁷⁴

- **Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize conferences/ events and/or seminars on migration? Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes participate in international research programmes and projects? Have they implemented any EU-funded or other collaborative research project in the last five years?**

➢ “Building Capacities for strengthening Asylum and Migration System in Montenegro”, implemented by CEDEM with the support of the MATRA program of the Netherlands Embassy in Belgrade. The objective of the project is to assist the state’s work on the reform of the asylum and migration management system in accordance with EU standards.

➢ “To social, through economic security and equality of all!”, implemented by CEDEM in order to enhance the socio-economic standing of the Roma and Egyptian communities.²⁷⁵ The project is funded by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro.

➢ “Promotion and protection of human rights of Roma, Egyptians and other vulnerable groups”, funded by the European Union.²⁷⁶ The project is implemented by a number of partners: CEDEM, RCM, Help Montenegro, Roma Education fund and the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights. It aims to facilitate access to social, economic and cultural

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Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes publish reports, including any policy-oriented material?

- CEDEM (2013), *Key challenges in the area of migrations and asylum in Montenegro: Overview of standards, legislation and practice.*

Are these research centres, think tanks and institutes part of regional and international academic/research/policy related networks dealing with migration? What kind of collaborations and partnerships do they have when it comes to migration related issues at a national, regional and international level?

The **Western Balkans Migration Network** is regional network of think tanks from the member countries, created in 2016 to contribute in cooperation in the field of migration. The WB-MIGNET has developed an online communication platform for policy makers, researchers and donors and participates. More information on the network’s activities can be found on its website, available at: [https://wb-mignet.org/](https://wb-mignet.org/).

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277 More information on the project is available at: [http://phirenamenca.me/?content=project&mod=2019&tip=single&id=232](http://phirenamenca.me/?content=project&mod=2019&tip=single&id=232) [accessed 15 March 2020].

3.5.4. Micro-level: NGOs and other institutions from the civil society

*Information about NGOs working in the field of migration in Montenegro*

- **Is there a registry which includes all or most of them as such (i.e. “Registry of NGOs dealing with migration” or “General registry of NGOs”)?**

Unlike the international presence in the country, there is not a large number of local NGOs focusing on migration issues. For the ones that do exist, there is no central agency to coordinate and supervise their activities. Devoid of any official structures, non-state actors have developed an internal network for communication of activities and continuous cooperation.

- **Which are the NGOs dealing with migration at the national level? Is there a thematic specialization among NGOs dealing with migration at the national level?**

  - [Civic Alliance](https://gamn.org/?lang=en) and [Legal Centre](https://gamn.org/?lang=en), are both offering free legal aid to forcibly displaced individuals and stateless persons. To avoid overlapping in the provision of services to the migrant population, the two NGOs have unofficially divided their field of works with migrants.\(^{279}\) The organisations ensure accurate translation for Arabic and Farsi speakers, which compensates for the absence of translators within the national legal aid mechanism.\(^{280}\) Both actors endorse a human rights approach and have developed partnerships with UNHCR for carrying out projects on the topics of interest. Civic Alliance frequently uploads news on the field of migration on its website and publishes brochures on migrant rights.\(^{281}\) On an interesting twist in the traditional social awareness media campaigns, the NGO released a documentary titled “Asylum in a Land of Persecuted” in 2017, which displays vividly the everyday lives of individuals who are seeking or have been granted international protection as members of the LGBTQ+ community. The documentary was a product of the project “*Together for greater protection of asylum seekers, migrants and victims of trafficking*”, led by CEDEM and funded by the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation.

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\(^{279}\) This information was revealed in the course of the consultation interviews conducted for the purposes of this report.

\(^{280}\) As pinpointed by one of the interviewees for this report.

\(^{281}\) Visit Civic Alliance website here: [https://gamn.org/?lang=en](https://gamn.org/?lang=en) [accessed 15 March 2020].
Legal Centre appears to be focusing its efforts on non-nationals such as beneficiaries of international protection, refugees and asylum seekers, and the Roma and Egyptian community of internally displaced. It issues several brochures and guidebooks to facilitate access of vulnerable groups to social services.282

Bona Fide is a local, small-scale NGO that mainly operates in Pljevlja, the northern border municipality of Montenegro and one of the areas most afflicted by the recent inflows of migrants.283 The NGO runs a shelter for refugees and migrants which offers accommodation for a limited number of persons, but broader access to food, healthcare, clothing and hygiene amenities.

The non-governmental relief organisation HELP commenced its activities in Montenegro in 1999, at the outbreak of the war in Kosovo. Its focus lies primarily with humanitarian assistance, but is not limited to that. Numerous workshops are held to provide capacity buildings to competent organisations and institutions, especially those who tackle issues of social inclusion of the Roma and Egyptians populations. HELP regularly updates its website, maintaining a ‘news’ section with valuable information on the developments and challenges faced by marginalised and vulnerable groups in Montenegro.284

The Roma youth organization "Let’s Walk Together - Phirenamenca" was established to promote integration and inclusion of the Roma and Egyptian communities into the local society in Montenegro. The NGO is committed to capacity building for both the beneficiaries of its services and the state institutions who are involved in their integration. The NGO’s website is frequently updated with new information on its scope of action, publications and activities.285

Outside the national borders, other bodies also pledge to assist in Western Balkans development and road to democracy. In 2018, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) launched the Western Balkans Democracy Initiative (WBDI) with mission in eight Balkan countries, including Montenegro.286 Focusing on the topic of emigration, WFD conducted a study on the Cost of Youth Emigration, which concluded that Montenegro ranks high among the most emigrated countries in the region, with most

282 All the brochures are available at: http://pravnicentar.co.me/en/brochures/ [accessed 16 March 2020].
283 Unfortunately, Bona Fide’s website appears to be available only in Montenegrin: http://bona-fide.me/ [accessed 28 March 2020].
284 Available at: http://help-montenegro.org/ [accessed 20 March 2020].
285 Available at: http://phirenamenca.me/ [accessed 24 March 2020].
286 The mission on Montenegro can be browsed at: https://www.wfd.org/network/montenegro/ [accessed 20 March 2020]
outflows placing Germany as the country of destination. The report is of particular interest, as it provides a holistic analysis of the economical dimension of the phenomenon, discussing both advantages and disadvantages of such outward movements.287

- **Do these NGOs participate in regional and international research projects and programs?**

  - “MNE-149 Migration prevention through support to employment of marginalised groups and improvement of housing conditions 2019-2021”, funded by Aktion Deutschland Hilft, a grouping of German Aid agencies for Humanitarian Aid, and implemented by HELP Montenegro.288

  - “MNE-146 Boosting employability – creating sustainable solutions for RE population in the Northern region of Montenegro (2019-2020)”, funded by the Ministry of Finance of Montenegro to increase access to employment for RE communities, and implemented by HELP Montenegro.289

  - “SOE-3 Support to socio-economic stability in the Western Balkans region 2019-2020”, co-funded by the German Government, the Federal Foreign Office, ministries and local self-governments in Montenegro, aiming to upgrade the treatment programmes in correctional facilities and decrease the number of impoverished individuals, including migrant populations. It is implemented by HELP Montenegro.290

  - IMPACT- “Inclusion matters! Using performing arts towards cohesion and tolerance”, implemented by the Local Democracy Agency Montenegro and supported by Bona Fide. The workshop showcased the need for more artistic and everyday activities addressed to migrant and refugee populations in the region.291

  - “Integrated support to displaced persons and refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia”, funded by the USA Government and CRS, which consisted in

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providing free legal aid to the Regional Housing Programme in Podgorica, Nikšić and Berane. The NGO Legal Center participated in the project.²⁹²

- **Do these NGOs publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize conferences/events and/or seminars on migration?**

  ➢ In October 2019, Bone Fide co-organised a creative workshop for local refugee communities, in the framework of the Erasmus+ project IMPACT- “Inclusion matters! Using performing arts towards cohesion and tolerance”, implemented by the Local Democracy Agency Montenegro.

- **Do these research centres and institutes publish reports and papers including any policy-oriented material? Are these NGOs part of regional/international networks related to migration?**

  All the aforementioned NGOs publish regularly reports and have established collaborations, either at official or unofficial level, with the international organizations who have offices in Montenegro. Examples of such reports would be:


  ➢ Civic Alliance’s annual reports and strategic documents.²⁹³

3.5.5. **Analysis**

In an overview of the situation in Montenegro, the following points of interests regarding migration governance and research in Montenegro arise:

- Emigration has been and will continue to be a major priority not only for the country, but for the entire Western Balkan region.

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²⁹² The Legal Center’s participation to projects is further described at: [http://pravnicentar.co.me/en/projects/](http://pravnicentar.co.me/en/projects/) [accessed 15 March 2020].

- Forced displacement has been on the spotlight after the increase of mixed flows in 2018, re-emerging as a theme in migration research.

- The resolution of the legal problems faced by previous generation of refugees from former Yugoslavia, and especially internally displaced persons of Roma and Egyptian ethnicity, is a national priority and an EU prerequisite for the accession.

- There is room for further clarifications on the legal distinction among different types of migrants.

- There is a lack of training for professionals and awareness raising programmes for the public.

- There is a dire need for quality research in the area of migration.

- Future policies should focus on the prevention of further brain drain and reverse of the outflows.

- Creation of solid diaspora networks and provision of incentives to increase brain-gain with the reintegration of high skilled Montenegrin expatriated.

3.6. North Macedonia

3.6.1 Introduction

The Republic of North Macedonia\(^{294}\) is one of the successor states of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1945-1991). It proclaimed its independence from the former socialist federation in 1991. Its exit from this federation was certainly less dramatic and turbulent than that experienced in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo\(^{295}\), however, the country did go through a limited armed conflict in 2001 opposing the government forces and Albanian irregular forces. The conflict was settled with the “Ohrid Framework Agreement” (August 2001).

North Macedonia has been a candidate country for EU accession since 2005. It was given the green light, along with Albania, to begin accession negotiations in 2020 following a decision of the EU Council in late March 2020. This development was hailed by the EU Commission as a

\(^{294}\) In the context of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1945-1991), the Republic of North Macedonia was one of the six republics that formed the socialist federation. Its constitutional designation was “Republic of Macedonia”. It proclaimed its independence from the socialist federation following a referendum in 1991. Greece immediately objected to the use of the name “Macedonia” in the official designation of its northern neighbor and thus the country was recognized by the UN and other international organizations as “Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In June 2018, the two countries managed to arrive at a landmark agreement, the “Prespa Agreement” (ratified by both countries by February 2019), which gave the name “North Macedonia” as the new official and constitutional name of the former Yugoslav Republic.

\(^{295}\) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.
landmark confirming the EU’s commitment to the European perspective of not only the two countries but the entire Western Balkan region296 awaiting the determination of the date for the beginning of accession negotiations. In a very recent EU Commission report (March 2, 2020), the Commission takes note of the progress made by both Albania and North Macedonia and states that it will propose the long-awaited opening of accession negotiations for both countries in the EU- Western Balkans Summit (6-7 May, 2020)297. North Macedonia has officially join NATO 2020 (29 out of the 29 member states have ratified by late March 2020 the Protocol298). Particularly in the case of its accession to NATO, the favorable conditions were further enhanced by the landmark “Prespa Agreement” which ended the almost 30-year long name dispute with Greece.

North Macedonia is a landlocked country at the centre of the Balkan Peninsula sharing borders with Greece to the South, Bulgaria to the East, Serbia and Kosovo to the North and Albania to the West. According to estimations by MAKSTAT, the official State Statistical Office, the population of the country rises currently at 2,077,132 inhabitants299. According to the 2002 census, the last officially conducted in the country, its population was 2,022,547 inhabitants300. In terms of ethnic composition, the 2002 census indicated that 64% of the population was Macedonian and 25% Albanian301. The country's GDP (ppp and nominal) has been constantly growing since 1991. Currently is stands at $33.822 billion (PPP) and $12.383 billion (nominal)302. According to MAKSTAT, the unemployment rate currently stands at 17%303.

North Macedonia and the question of migration

Like most parts of the world, the history of North Macedonia is marked by numerous episodes of migration or in more general terms the movements of populations. If one focuses on its modern history (20th century), it is possible to single out the following episodes in a chronological order304:

- Interwar period (between the First and Second World War): populations emigrating from North Macedonia and other Balkan countries to the USA, Canada and Australia,
- Post-Second World War period: particularly in the 1960’s important numbers of people from North Macedonia emigrated not only to the known destinations but also to European countries such as Switzerland, Germany and Italy,
➢ the 1990's, a period marked by the wars in former Yugoslavia and its consequences: 1) Around 35,000 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina sought refuge in North Macedonia, which sheltered them in reception centers until their return in 2000, 2) the conflicts in Kosovo (1998-1999): one of the results of these conflicts was the arrival of about 360,000 ethnic Albanians from Kosovo to North Macedonia, 3) the conflict of 2001 in North Macedonia: it resulted to the displacement of nearly 170,000 persons and ultimately to the rise in the number of citizens of North Macedonia that emigrated to Western countries. In the same period of the 1990's one could also include the approximately 1000 Albanians who sought refuge in North Macedonia in 1991 and 1992 due to the political and economic turmoil in Albania following the collapse of communism.

➢ Between 2015 and 2016, North Macedonia was an important part of the so-called “Balkan route” or “Balkan corridor”, chosen by numerous populations from the Middle East (Syria in particular) and Central Asia in their attempt to reach countries of Western Europe. It is estimated that around 1 million persons traveled through North Macedonia in late 2015 and 2016 before they reached Western parts of Europe and Germany in particular. In this context, North Macedonia has been and still is regarded by such populations as a transit and not a destination country.

This report will present the basic elements and the state of play when it comes to 3 distinct fields of interest related to migration: I) the meso-level referring to the structures of migration governance, II) the micro-level referring to the academic departments, research centres and think tanks that deal with migration and III) the micro-level referring to the NGOs that relate to migration. These three parts are followed by sections dedicated to analysis and recommendations and lastly by the Appendices.

The information and the data presented in this report were assembled by: a) desk research and b) meetings and consultations with relevant stakeholders and experts from all three levels, to the extent that it was possible. In particular, these meetings were made possible in the context of a field trip in Skopje, North Macedonia between 20 and 22 February 2020. The following meetings were conducted:

➢ Meso-level (migration governance):
   1) Mr. Zlatko Nikolovski (Ph.D), who is an Associate Professor in the Euro College of Kumanovo, North Macedonia.
   2) Mr. Atans Minov, who serves as Participant Representative of the Republic of North Macedonia at MARRI (Migration, Asylum, Refugees, Regional Initiative).

➢ Micro-level (academic departments/ research centers and think tanks):
   1) Merita Zulfiu, who is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Contemporary Social Sciences in the South East European University at Tetovo, North Macedonia.
   2) Aleksandar Krzalovski, who is executive director at the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), an independent and not-for-profit organization and think tank.

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305 A more detailed presentation of the experts contacted can be found in the Appendix, p.
3) Ismail Kamberi, who is a researcher at the European Policy Institute (EPI), a not-for-profit organization and think tank.

4) Ivan Stevanovski, executive director of EUROTHINK and Ljupcho Petkovski, former executive director and senior researcher at EUROTHINK, a not-for-profit organization and think tank.

- Micro-level: NGOs
  1) Jasmin Redzepi, who is the head of the NGO Legis, a humanitarian not-for-profit organization that provides necessary humanitarian aid and assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, irregular and detained migrants and people in need.

Two more meetings took place with officials of international organizations and NGOs dealing with migration related issues in North Macedonia:

- Tihomir Nikolovski, who is a legal officer at the UNHCR in Skopje, North Macedonia.
- Suzanna Tuneva Paunovska, who is the secretary of Skopje City Branch of the Red Cross in North Macedonia.

3.6.2. Meso-level: State institutions and agencies dealing with migration governance

Who makes decisions on migration policies?

If one takes into account the evolution of North Macedonia as an independent state, it is remarkable that the country had to manage many forms of migration, both inwards and outward, including the caring for refugees of war (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo), internally displaced populations (conflict of 2001), emigration as well as the important flows of mixed migration (refugees of war and economic migrants) in the context of the so-called “migrant crisis” of 2015-2016. A key element that needs to be taken into consideration is the absence of a government body (i.e. ministry) dealing specifically with migration policies. As Zlatko Nikolovski notes, the Republic of North Macedonia “does not yet possess a specialized Migration Management Agency, therefore different migration issues are covered by different ministries. In such a situation, it seems inevitable that managing migration policy needs the good cooperation and coordination of all institutions related to the issue of migration”306.

Indeed, currently the only independent agency set up by the government of North Macedonia in relation to migration is the “Agency for Emigration” (Агенција за иселеништво на Република Македонија) which deals mostly with citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia who have emigrated and also those who wish to return and also its Diaspora around the world. A 2007 analysis of the Migration Policy Institute on the issue of migration policies in North Macedonia also noted that despite the country's important position in the transit routes, the emphasis in terms of migration policies is given to the issue of emigration and Diaspora: “Macedonia stands on what has been a significant transit route for migrants seeking to enter the European Union, although the route has become less traveled. Measures are in place to deal with immigration and asylum, if not yet really implemented, and the quality of border police and other control measures has been improved. Although transit migration and trafficking are still

306 Zlatko Nikolovski (2018), op. cit. p. 128
major issues, the number of these cases seems to be decreasing. In sum, the migration issues are not a high priority for politicians in Macedonia. The main area of activity and concern is visa facilitation and liberalization. The government is also seeking greater economic involvement from the Diaspora. Although not well known, this might be the biggest story related to migration in Macedonia."307

From many aspects, there seem to be essentially two frameworks that shape migration governance in North Macedonia. The first relates to the EU integration process of the country and the second to the specific national policies. In the case of the EU framework, a turning point was the granting of the candidate statuses to the country in 2005 following the signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) in 2004. The effort to adapt to the EU legal framework has had its impacts on migration policies since that period since North Macedonia “had to cooperate in the field of visa, border control, asylum and migration. It also had to cooperate in the prevention and control of illegal migration and readmission”308. However, as a candidate country for EU accession, North Macedonia is not part of the European Migration Network (EMN), the framework that coordinates EU member states when it comes to migration policies, though in the past years the country has had intensive cooperation with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), FRONTEX and the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRANET). At the national level, the VMRO-led government set a National Strategy for Migration for the period 2015-2020 in an effort to apply basic principles and recommendations of the international organizations, especially those of the IOM309. In particular, it set the following aims: abiding to the international standards, human rights and protection, the respect and protection of the migrants' human rights according to the international law as well as the vulnerable categories of migrants, the fight against xenophobia, racism and discrimination, the promotion of gender equality in migration policy and the application of migration policies on the basis of cooperation of all relevant stakeholders”310. Most of the stakeholders that we contacted acknowledged that this strategy did yield certain positive results (i.e. legislation) but that it fell rather short at many level, especially when it comes to its implementation. Therefore, there was a common perception that a new strategy is needed.

When it comes to specific institutional capacities and responsibilities for migration policy in North Macedonia, there are essentially 3 pillars:

- The Ministry of the Interior with many competences: border control, international policy cooperation, prevention of illegal migration and trafficking, caring for victims of illegal trafficking, asylum procedures.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs with many competences particularly at the level of international cooperation: international agreements related to migration (i.e. border cooperation), visa policy, and cooperation with the Diaspora. The relations with the Diaspora are also the responsibility of a Minister without Portfolio on Diaspora.
- The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy with competences concerning the social rights of migrants as well as their accommodation. The ministry disposes its own Department on Asylum, Migrations and Humanitarian Aid (established in 2005) which aims at the improvement of the status and the rights of refugees and foreigners in North Macedonia. This department also proposes and monitors all relevant legislation.

308 Zlatko Nikolovski (2018, op. Cit. p. 78
309 Ibid, p. 81
310 Ibid, p. 81
What are the current policy priorities of the decision makers?

On the basis of our desk research and the interviews with the relevant stakeholders we can identify the following:

- the management of the migrant and refugee crisis and an eventual rise in the numbers of people transiting through the country or seeking asylum
- Outward migration, emigration, 'brain drain'/ ‘labor drain'
- Relations with Diaspora

The management of the migrant and refugee crisis

There appears to be a common perception among the stakeholders contacted for the preparation of this report that the refugee and migrant crisis of 2015-2016 was a severe test for the country's authorities and the society in general. It seems that in its height, this crisis made visible all the structural deficiencies of migration governance in the country (dispersion of responsibilities, lack of coordination, insufficient cooperation with the civil society, lack of structure supervising all migration policy aspects). On the other hand, there also appears to exist a common perception that the crisis did help the government (both the previous and the current one) to introduce new legislation and obtain more systematic and effective approaches to migration.

According to Ismail Kamberi from EPI:

“The crisis was a wake up-call for the government. It activated the government at many levels: to propose new legislation, to cooperate and coordinate with the civil society, to raise public awareness on migration and do more for the social aspects of migration policies like social rights and integration. You have to take into account that the crisis occurred in a very tense political climate. In general, the government responded well. Taking into account that North Macedonia was and will be a transit country, more need to be done in order to secure safe travel, to reform the re-admission procedures and comply to EU directives”

(Interview with Ismail Kamberi, Skopje, 21 February 2020)

From the perspective of an NGO that was very active in providing humanitarian assistance to the population arriving, Jasmin Redzepi of LEGIS noted:

“The awareness that more migrants were arriving in the country occurred in 2014. But it was a very tense period with political protests taking place regularly. By June 2015 there were 400 persons entering on a daily basis from Greece. By then, it was obvious that the migration related government structures could not coordinate the one with the other and the government could not coordinate with us, the NGOs that were ready to provide and care for the growing numbers. By that time, the country was relying on the Gazi Baba detention center which was receiving a very important number of migrants and refugees who of course did not want to stay but transit through the country. In June 2015, the government, after pressure from many fronts and particularly the civil society and NGOs like ours, introduced a new legislation for asylum that protected the asylum seekers from refoulement. After that, the government’s coordination with the civil society sector was much more effective and regular. Two new facilities for transit purposes were created, one in Gevgelija and one in Tabanovce. (...) In my opinion, in the eventuality of more populations arriving and staying in North Macedonia, integration will be difficult due to deficiencies when it comes to health care, education and labor opportunities. There must be an emphasis on the humanitarian aspect, the effective caring for such populations and also constant fight against xenophobia, racism and discrimination”.
From the perspective of the government, Zlatko Nikolovksi, provides a more reassuring aspect particularly in relation for the preparedness of the country for the future:

“No one can claim that there were not problematic aspects in our managements of the situation. However, there is now better cooperation among government agencies and a much more effective cooperation with neighbors like Greece. We have a new procedure for the collection of data at the borders. We have two new facilities for transit purposes (Gevgelija- Vinojug and Tabanovce). We are cooperating with the Visegrad countries in the field of police matters when it comes to controlling and patrolling the borders and also with FRONTEX. Also, even in more social aspects, like education and social welfare for migrants, I think that the situation has improved”.

(I Interview with Zlatko Nikolovski, Skopje, 22 February 2020)

Thus, there seems to be a consensus that the crisis was an opportunity for the governments to better prepare the country for future occasions, albeit any existing deficiency particularly at the level of social policy and integration. A similar view is held by international organizations such as the UNHCR and the Red Cross who were very active in providing humanitarian assistance during the crisis. Both of them indicated to us that since the crisis they focus more on social policies towards vulnerable populations like irregular migrants as well as campaigns against racism and xenophobia.

It is very indicative that we were given various estimations about the figures of asylum seekers or the people that have transited through the country. For most of our contacts, the number of asylum seekers or that of refugees and irregular migrants is very low (60-70 persons). However, the Red Cross provided us with its most recent numbers from its monthly reports (January-December 2019 and January 2020). These reports clearly indicate a rise in the number of all categories. In particular, the aggregate numbers for refugees/ irregular migrants during 2019 in the various places and facilities are the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Places/ Location</th>
<th>Number of refugees/ irregular migrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reception- transit center Vinojug, Gevgelija</td>
<td>449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit center Tabanovce, Kumanovo</td>
<td>2267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile team Lojane, Vaksince, Lipkovo</td>
<td>14030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile team Gevgelija (irregular migrants)</td>
<td>20580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception center for foreigners- Gazi Babab- Skopje</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Asylum Seekers- Vizbegovo, Skopje</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

311 “Support and help to migrants/ refugees in the Republic of North Macedonia,” International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 2019 and “Support and help to migrants/ refugees in the Republic of North Macedonia,” International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 2020
The corresponding figures for January 2020 clearly indicate a rise in those numbers if one projects them to an annual basis. With regard to the origins of these populations, the same data from the Red Cross demonstrate that, in the case of irregular migration at the borders of North Macedonia, the most common origin was that of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran, while there were much less person with origin from Iraq, Algeria, Libya and Syria. With regard to the origins of persons that were accommodated in the transit centers of Tabanovce (Kumanovo) and Vinogug (Gevjelija), the most common origin was that of Iran, followed by Pakistan, Algeria and Afghanistan, while there were much less persons coming from Iraq, Bangladesh and Palestine.

Outward migration, emigration, 'brain drain'/ 'labor drain'

When asked about policy priorities or gaps in the migration policies of North Macedonia, most of the stakeholders contacted for this report referred to emigration, the departure of many young people/ citizens of North Macedonia to Western parts of Europe in a quest for a better life, primarily from an economic point of view. This phenomenon was also linked to the effect of 'brain drain', the fact that most of the young people or even middle aged people that leave the country are highly skilled, something that could potentially have a negative impact on the country's development. Furthermore, many of the stakeholders also referred to the phenomenon of a shortage of labor that has been affecting the country, which refers to a probable lack of workers that usually perform basic labor duties in agriculture and the secondary sector. Before presenting some very indicative views, one must refer to the absence of a census in recent period, even though MAKSTAT, the State Statistical Office does provide estimations on the population (slightly above 2 million). Evidently, a reliable census could provide solid data for social and political scientists in their effort to interpret and signal various phenomena linked to emigration. There appears to exist a certain amount of uncertainty when it comes to such data due to the absence of a census. In our meetings, we were provided with 2 different figures when it comes to the general population (1,7 million and 2 million inhabitants).

From many aspects, it seems that emigration and of its key impacts, “brain drain”, has been severely affecting the Western Balkan region. As Vukasin Zivkovic notes, “In a recently published study on brain drain by Gallup, countries of the Western Balkans ranked worst in Europe. The study, which was conducted between 2015 and 2017 on the sample of half million people in 152 countries, shows that 42% of Kosovo citizens want to emigrate from the country, which is the worst rank in Europe and third in the world. In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania, there are 32% citizens who want to leave and these countries are followed by Macedonia with 30% and Serbia with 25%. Surprisingly, Montenegro has a “positive” score, with a possibility of receiving 25% of young and educated work force from other countries.”\(^{312}\) For many analysts, the recent (2019) “Law on Foreigners” introduced by the government in North Macedonia also aims, through specific measures, at making the attraction of labor force from abroad much easier, something which will benefit big investments in the country\(^{313}\).


\(^{313}\) For the integral text of this law see: https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/44b2668a4.pdf
Ljupcho Petkovski of EUROTHINK had the following understanding of the issue:

“In our view, emigration is a top priority when it comes to migration policies in North Macedonia. But, we don't adhere to simplified views on the matter. While it is true that many people have left, many of those who left in previous periods seem to be coming back to the country. Furthermore, many difficult structural reform have been made in the economy and led to a more flexible labor market that will potentially attract foreign investments”

(Interview with Ljupcho Petkovski and Ivan Stevanovski, Skopje, 21 February 2020)

Ismail Kamberi of EPI emphasized the regional character of brain drain:

“It is not only brain drain that needs particular attention. Many companies need qualified workers and I think that this is a similar context in the Western Balkans. This is a top priority for the social welfare system of North Macedonia. Also, a very problematic aspect is the absence of official data from a census, in order to obtain a systematic view on demographics”.

(Interview with Ismail Kamberi, Skopje, 21 February 2020)

Relations with Diaspora

At the government level, the importance attributed to the Diaspora of North Macedonia is attested by the existence of a Minister without Portfolio on Diaspora Affairs. However, most of the stakeholders that we contacted were of the opinion that this is a position with important symbolisms but uncertain policy implications. For Zlatko Nikolovski, the cultivation of relations with the Diaspora is of capital importance for the country: “The Diaspora possesses a rich quantum of significance and potential to importantly contribute to the development and peace in the Republic of Macedonia, defined both as social and economic development as well as democratic and political development. This viewpoint is also confirmed by certain indicators (…) relating to the capital disposed of by the Diaspora, their trade and the forecasts and expectations for their development: the motivations, the aspirations and the readiness to invest private capital or to lobby to other business centers, the donations and investments, the experiences and their views concerning the business possibilities in the Republic of Macedonia (…)314. Mr. Nikolovski is very active when it comes to maintaining contacts with the Diaspora of North Macedonia around the world. For many years, he travels around the world (Europe, USA, Canada and Australia) to give lectures on issues that could be interesting for the Diaspora.

Information about migration governance in North Macedonia

- **Is there a ministry dealing specifically with migration in the country?**

The structure of the government of the Republic of North Macedonia is organized around 16 ministries. In total, there are 23 ministers and 43 government bodies (https://vlada.mk/organi-vossostav). There is no ministry that deals specifically with migration matters (source: https://vlada.mk/ministerstva?ln=en-gb). However, there are other ministries that cover this field, namely the following:

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314 Zlatko Nikolovski, The Macedonian Diaspora: key to the development of the Republic of Macedonia, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, Skopje, 2013, p. 16
➢ The Ministry of Interior (МИНИСТЕРСТВО ЗА ВНАТРЕШНИ РАБОТИ, website: www.mvr.gov.mk). According to information provided in the website of the government of North Macedonia, the ministry deals with the following areas: “international police cooperation”, “reporting of residence and temporary residence”, “citizenship and passports for border crossing”, “movement and stay in border area”, “control when crossing national border”, “stay and movement of foreigners” (https://vlada.mk/node/17967?ln=en-gb)

➢ The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (Министерството за труд и социјална политика, website: http://www.mtsp.gov.mk/). The ministry deals with issues such as “demographic policies”, “humane population policy for the purpose of harmonization of economic and social development”, “protection of the rights of migrant populations”, “advancement of gender equality”, “protection of children and minors”, “protection of youth and women” and “protection of civil disabled people from wars” (https://vlada.mk/node/17976?ln=en-gb). As it was already mentioned, the ministry disposes its own Department on Asylum, Migrations and Humanitarian Aid.

➢ The ministry of Foreign Affairs (Министерство за надворешни работи, website: https://www.mfa.gov.mk/). The ministry deals with visa policy, international cooperation and agreements and relations with the Diaspora.

➢ The Minister without portfolio on Diaspora Affairs and Relations (министер без ресор во Владата на Република Македонија задолжен за дијаспора, website: https://www.diaspora.gov.mk/?q=mk/node/4). This position was created in 2017. When it comes to its policies, there appears to be an emphasis on assisting persons who wish to return to Macedonia and more generally on promoting opportunities for investment.

In the government of the Republic of North Macedonia there are, in total, 43 government bodies in the various ministries (https://vlada.mk/node/18902?ln=en-gb). None of them deals with migration related issues.

The government disposes of 4 General Secretariats, none of which deals directly with migration. Nevertheless, special attention must be given to

➢ the Secretariat for European Affairs (Секретаријатот за европски прашања. Website: http://www.sep.gov.mk/) which was created in 2005 and has the mission to support and coordinate the government and its various instances in the context of the preparations of the country for membership in the EU.

The government of the Republic of North Macedonia also includes the position of “national coordinators” in charge of several coordinating bodies (https://vlada.mk/node/18866?ln=en-gb). In total, there are 10 coordinators. One of them deals with migration relevant issues

➢ the “National coordinator for border management” (КООРДИНАТОР НА НАЦИОНАЛЕН КООРДИНАТИВЕН ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ГРАНИЧНО УПРАВУВАЊЕ, website: http://www.igu.gov.mk/).

When it comes to independent bodies or agencies, the following have an important degree of relevance to migration issues:
The Agency for Emigration (Агенција за иселеништво на Република СЕВЕРНА Македонија, website: https://www.minisel.gov.mk/). According to information provided in the agency’s website its tasks are related to “the status and rights of the emigrants from the Republic of Macedonia, the assistance for their cultural development and the improvement of their relation with various organizations (…) and also the creation of conditions for the return of emigrants to the Republic of North Macedonia and the creation of conditions for the inclusion of the emigrants in the public and economic life of North Macedonia” (https://www.minisel.gov.mk/za-nas/).

MAKSTAT - The State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia (Државен завод за статистика, website: http://www.stat.gov.mk/Default.aspx) which was created in 1945. The statistical agency provides data on a series of areas including the following: “labour market” and “population”.

The Ombudsman of North Macedonia (http://ombudsman.mk/en). The institution deals with the protections of the citizens’ rights and has the competence to undertake actions and measures against discrimination and in favor of fundamental issues (i.e. equitable representation of the citizens in state and administrative bodies)

- Are there any recently established associations with the EU's migration related agencies?

When it comes to recently established associations with the EU’s migration related agencies, our research indicated that North Macedonia is not officially associated with the European Migration Network 315. On the other hand, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) has been rather active in the country since at least 2018 with various forms of cooperation:
  - organization of workshops and training seminars destined to various migration related agencies of North Macedonia 316
  - upgrading of the country’s capacity on “SOPs” (Standard Operative Procedures for asylum registration and examination for international protection.

When it comes to FRONTEX, North Macedonia is a beneficiary country (along with Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey) participating in the

- “Regional Support to Protection- Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey (IPA II), Phase II” (https://frontex.europa.eu/partners/non-eu-countries/). Therefore, one might say that North Macedonia, though not a member of the European Migration Network, is indirectly connected to it via the European Asylum Support Office and FRONTEX. North Macedonia has signed an operational agreement with EUROPOL.
With regard to the broader issue of the relations between North Macedonia and the EU, one may find more information in the website of the EU delegation to the Republic of North Macedonia. Moreover, it should be noted that one of the three General Secretariats within the government of the Republic of North Macedonia is dedicated to “European Affairs” (Секретаријат за европски прашања (СЕП), website: http://www.sep.gov.mk/content/?id=1#.XiXKif4zbs) and it is headed by Bujar Osmani (Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs). Our research was unable to identify data or information on the cooperation or the association between the EU and North Macedonia on cooperation.

Lastly, there is another association with the FRA (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights) and in particular with FRANET, the Agency's multidisciplinary research network. It is composed of contractors in each EU member State, the UK and in countries which have Observer status who, upon request, provide relevant data to FRA on fundamental rights issues to facilitate the Agency's comparative analyses.

Do key international organizations have offices in the country?

- IOM- country website: https://www.iom.int/countries/north-macedonia

Both websites contain basic data, facts and figures for the country. The UNHCR website provides access to more detailed updates related to migration as well as reports and official notes with regard to issues such as the migration governance and legislation in North Macedonia (UNHCR website with updates: https://www.refworld.org/country,,UNHCR,,MKD,,,0.html#SRTop21).

- United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It has been active with various projects in North Macedonia since 1993. According to information provided by USAID itself, in the past few years the agency is also implementing projects dealing with migration related issues (https://www.usaid.gov/macedonia/fact-sheets/migrant-and-refugee-human-rights-protection-project)

Do the ministries, general secretariats, state agencies and independent authorities provide statistical data on migration? If so, on what basis?

Our research in the websites of all government and independent agencies related to migration (directly or indirectly) did not yield any results when it comes to published statistical data and
policy reports relevant to migration. The same counts when it comes to the organization of policy related events.

A special attention must be given to the Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia since it appears- at least in the course of 2019- to publish data on a monthly basis on various categories. Also, the Statistical Office recently organized a workshop destined to the preparations of a population census in the country (http://www.stat.gov.mk/Aktivnosti_en.aspx).

According to Zlatko Nikolovski, there are the following databases with regard to migration in North Macedonia\(^\text{319}\):

- The National Bureau of Statistic carries out regular research on migrations (internal migration and external migration including the entry and exit of Macedonian nationals and foreigners).
- The Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labor have access to the data provided by the National Bureau of Statistic.
- The International Labor Migration supported by the International Labor Organization (ILO) possesses data related to migration for many countries\(^\text{320}\).
- The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) possesses an important number of tables including data on migration for its member states.
- The Statistic Department of the UN (UNSD) also possesses data relating to migration.

- **Do the relevant to migration state institutions and independent authorities publish policy reports on migration issues?**

  - The Ombudsman of North Macedonia is an independent authority that publishes several forms of material on a yearly basis (i.e. annual reports, special reports, opinions and proposals, newsletters)\(^\text{321}\).

- **Do the regional and local administrations (regional councils and municipalities) take part in the management of migration related issues?**

  In the course of this research, no data or information gathered did indicate that the regional and local administrations in North Macedonia take part in the management of migration related issues.

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• **Do all migration related state institutions and independent authorities have websites and social media accounts? Are these sites and accounts informative with regular updates and other policy relevant material (i.e. reports, data)?**

Most of the government and independent structures related to migration do have websites and social media accounts. These accounts appear to contain regular updates including the publication of data, information as well as the organization of events. Further research is required in order to determine which among these may have any connection to migration governance since the most frequent languages are Macedonian and Albanian.

• **What kinds of material do all the migration related institutions and independent authorities produce? Do they publish reports and newsletters? How do they organize the information that they are sharing?**

The types of material that we were able to identify are the following: i) statistical data, ii) news updates, iii) interviews of officials, iv) legislation, v) EU reports and data and vi) reports. In our research we were not able to identify any of the above types in relation to migration governance.

• **What kind of partnerships and collaborations do all the migration related institutions and independent authorities have at the national, regional and international level?**

One of the most significant partnerships, particularly at the regional level, is

- **MARRI** ("Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative", website: [http://marri-rc.org.mk/](http://marri-rc.org.mk/)). MARRI is a regional initiative/centre among the countries of the Western Balkans (Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina). This initiative was established in 2003 in the context of the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe and each of the countries participates at the government level. From North Macedonia, the key partner is the Ministry of the Interior. MARRI participates in various regional and international projects. MARRI was established in 2004 under the auspices of the Stability Pact for South-East Europe. Its purpose is to strengthen regional cooperation and migration management in the Western Balkans.

• **Are there any policy working groups and policy task forces on migration (governmental or mixed state & non-state), Inter-Ministerial or inter-agency commissions, working groups etc, mixed EU-Western Balkan commissions, mixed EU-state commissions, mixed international organization-state commissions etc.? Provide info about these**

One notable example of regional task forces dealing with migration issues at the regional level can be found in the context of

- **SELEC** (Southeast European Law Enforcement Center, website: [https://www.selec.org/task-forces/](https://www.selec.org/task-forces/)). In particular, we are referring to SELEC’s Task Force on Countering Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration which is composed by the ministries and state agencies of the SELEC countries that relate to migration governance. In the case of North Macedonia, it is the Ministry of Interior that participates in the task force.
3.6.3. Micro-level: Universities/ Academic departments, Research Centres and Institutes specializing on migration

According to our desk research and the contacts with stakeholders from the field of academia, research centers and think tanks, until recently there was no academic department or school dedicated specifically to migration. However, in the recent times there seem to be important developments that alter this state of affairs.

- The “Center for refugee law and migrations” has very recently been established under the auspices of the Faculty of Law “Iustinianus Primus” of the University Ss. Cyril and Methodious in Skopje. The information was provided to us by Prof. Irena Rajchinovska Pandeva, who is the Vice Dean for Science and International Cooperation at the Faculty of Law and also manager of the project Refugee Law Clinic. Professor Rajchinovska Pandeva also indicated to us that the Center will organize in September 2020 a Summer School on migrations. ([http://www.tepsa.eu/about/tepsa-board/](http://www.tepsa.eu/about/tepsa-board/))

- According to information provided by Merita Zulfiu, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Contemporary Social Sciences of the South East European University at Tetovo, a MA on migration studies will be shortly created by this Faculty and this will be the first such programme in the country.

Merita Zulfiu provided us with her understanding of the research capacity on migration at the level of academic departments and research centers. In her view, the lack of departments and specific curricula (i.e. MA on migration) has been a major obstacle for doing migration research in the country:

“The South East European University aims at creating capacity for migration research with the creation of a MA programme on migration. To do so we cooperated with University of Belgrade, with IMISCOE and other institutions from Slovenia and Bulgaria. Also, in the summer we will organize our first Summer School on migration in June. In my view, the absence of academic departments, MA and research centers that deal specifically with migration is a major factor that does not permit this field to be sufficiently covered by scholars. Perhaps, this is not a priority for the government. Unfortunately, migration related research depends on funds given for projects and it is not systematic. It is driven by projects. However, due to the limited experience of various researchers, there is also limited capacity for successful applications for international research projects”.

(Interview with Merita Zulfiu, 21 February 2020, Skopje)

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Information about migration research in North Macedonia

- Are there academic departments in state or private universities dealing according to their title with migration?

In our desk research, we were unable to identify academic departments dealing specifically at the level of their title with migration. However, we were able to identify the following departments which may relate to the migration studies:

- The “Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research” that is part of the Ss Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje. The Institute offers second cycle studies on sociology, social change, political science and human rights (http://www.isppi.ukim.edu.mk/index.php?lang=en)
- The “Institute of Geography” at the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje provides courses on migration. (https://www.igeografija.mk/English/demography.htm)

- Provide names of scholars working on migration with links to their websites, profiles, google scholar etc.

  - **Trpe Stojanovski:** Professor at the Faculty of Security in Skopje, director of MARRI for 8 years (2007-2015). He has published extensively on migration related issues and particularly on the defense of the rights of migrants and refugees (https://mk.linkedin.com/in/trpe-stojanovski-92942815)
  - **Zlatko Nikolovski:** Associate Professor in the Euro College of Kumanovo, North Macedonia. He has published extensively on migration related issues and authored books on migration, security and the Diaspora of North Macedonia.
  - **Merita Zulfiu:** Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Contemporary Social Sciences at the South East European University at Tetovo. She has published extensively on migration related issues and she represents North Macedonia along with the South-East European University in WB-Mignet a very important regional research network on migration. (https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Merita_Zulfiu_Alili, https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=u_xYFgAAAAJ&hl=en, https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=u_xYFgAAAAJ&hl=en).
  - **Mirjana Madzevic:** Professor at the Institute of Geography at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. She specializes in Social-economic geography, demography and geography of settlements. (https://www.igeografija.mk/English/staff.htm)
In Appendix, there is a comprehensive list of several academic publications on migration by researchers in North Macedonia, including the above mentioned.

- *Do these departments participate in international research programmes and projects? Have they implemented any EU-funded or other collaborative research project in the last five years? Provide info about these projects*

In our desk research we were not able to identify any newsletter published by academic departments in relation to migration. When it comes to conferences, we were able to identify the following:

- “The Migration Conference 2020”, an international conference that will take place in 2020 in Tetovo, North Macedonia and which will be organized by the South East European University (website: https://www.facebook.com/MigrationConference/eid=ARDwmtCoQu3pNrkNNqTCh1A28EGvKmqGvBVZHz31a4dhtbdGem9wdzDiBAcGkmovghtQ_AV-Z3fY)


When it comes to participation in migration related programmes/ projects, we were able to identify the following:

- The Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje has participated in the “MIGRATE” project (Jean Monnet Network, Erasmus+, project website: http://www.migrate-project.com/institution/ss-cyril-and-methodius-university/)

- The South East European University at Tetovo has participated in the following Erasmus + project: Inclusion of Roma and Migrants in Schools: Trainings, Open Discussions and Youth Volunteering Activities (RoMigSc). Coordinator - International School for Social and Business Studies, Celje, Slovenia (South East European University website: https://www.seeu.edu.mk/en/research/projects)

- *Are these departments part of regional and international academic/ research/ policy related networks dealing with migration? What kind of collaborations and partnerships do they have when it comes to migration related issues at a national, regional and international level?*

Our research was able to identify the following examples:

- the South East European University at Tetovo is part of “WB- MIGNET”, a network related to migration in the Western Balkans (https://wb-mignet.org/about-us/executive-board/)
• Are there research centres, think tanks and institutes dealing specifically with migration in the country? Provide the essential info on their scope / thematic interest

➢ The “Center for refugee law and migrations” has very recently been established under the auspices of the Faculty of Law “Iustinianus Primus” of the University Ss. Cyril and Methodious in Skopje.

• Are there research centres, think tanks and institutes that include migration in their scope even without it being their primary interest?

➢ The Centre for Research and Policy Making (CRPM was founded in 2004 and is based in Skopje) has a wide range of activities (Research, training, analysis, advocacy). From a thematic standpoint its scope includes: Prevention of violent extremism, Macedonian politics and EU integration, good governance, education, labor market, gender and sustainable development. In all this fields, the CRPM has implemented various projects and published policy relevant material. When it comes to migration, it has published reports on the issues of brain drain, cross-border cooperation in the Western Balkans for migration management and youth mobility (website: http://www.crpm.org.mk/migrations-publications/)

➢ The European Policy Institute (EPI was founded in 2011 and is based in Skopje) has a wide range of activities. Though migration is not referred to explicitly in the thematic scope of its interests, EPI is part of regional think tank networks (i.e. TEN) and has participated and published reports and other policy relevant material which relate to migration (EPI website: https://epi.org.mk/publications?lang=en). EPI is the institution that has been chosen by FRANET (EU's Agency for Fundamental Rights for cooperation in this field)

➢ The Institute for Democracy “Societas Civilis” (IDCS was founded in 1999 and is based in Skopje) has also a similar thematic scope with the other major think tanks in North Macedonia. Though migration is not referred to explicitly in this scope, the think tank has published a wide variety of material related to migration (website: https://idscs.org.mk/en/publications/, policy briefs, bulletins, reports).

➢ The Institute for Social Sciences and Humanities (ISSHS was founded in 2013 and is based in Skopje) is also an institution that should be considered in the regional synergies spectrum. ISSHS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to research and publications. The topic of migration does not figure explicitly in its thematic scope, nor have we been able to identify relevant publication. However, many of the institute researchers specialize in migration studies.

➢ The Analytica think tank (Analytica was founded in 2005 and is based in Skopje). Analytica has also a wide range of areas of interest, whilst it is very active when it comes to various kinds of publications and public events. Migration is explicitly included as a distinct area of interest (Analytica website: https://www.analyticamk.org/mission-vision).
• **Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize conferences/ events and/or seminars on migration (at least in the recent past, from 2014-2015 onwards)**

With the exception of the Institute for Social Sciences and Humanities, all the other institutions do have a record involving such activities.

• **Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes participate in international research programmes and projects? Have they implemented any EU-funded or other collaborative research project in the last five years?**

  - **Analytica:** ‘RRPP: Impact of migration on women empowerment in Western Balkan countries’, with partners from the Western Balkans and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

• **Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes publish reports, including any policy oriented material?**

    - “Transforming brain gain from a concept to a real gain” (2011, policy paper)
    - “Developing brain gain policies in Macedonia: pitfalls and challenges” (2010, policy paper)
    - “Strengthening cross-border cooperation in the Western Balkan regarding migration management” (2008, policy study)
    - “Brain Gain policies and practices in the Western Balkans” (Policy report, published by Group 484 centre for migration)

    - “Roma in the Visa-free regime” (2017, Policy paper)
    - “Combating barriers for exit: Macedonian Roma at the borders” (2017, policy brief)

    - “Emigration and demographic change in southeastern Europe” (2019, policy report)
    - “Enhanced cooperation to tackle migration- Western Balkans and the Berlin Process” (2018, policy brief)
“Migratory flows and tackling organized crime in Southeast Europe: Enhancing a future European Union- Western Balkans” (2019, policy paper)

Analytica (https://www.analyticamk.org/policy-reports)

“Impact of migration on child growth in Albania and Macedonia” (2013, policy report)

“Education outcomes from migration and remittances in Albania and Macedonia”, 2013, policy report)

“Migration and Women empowerment in the Western Balkan countries” (policy brief, 2015)

Are these research centres, think tanks and institutes part of regional and international academic/ research/ policy related networks dealing with migration? What kind of collaborations and partnerships do they have when it comes to migration related issues at a national, regional and international level?

The Centre for Research and Policy Making

- Network of European Foundations (http://www.nef-europe.org/)
- Visegrad Fund > http://visegradfund.org/home/
- Regional Research Promotional Program

The European Policy Institute

- Network 23 (http://www.merc.org.mk/)
- Think for Europe Network (https://ten.europeanpolicy.org/)
- FRANET (EU agency for fundamental rights:
- European Equality Law Network (https://www.equalitylaw.eu/)

The Institute for Democracy

- European fund for the Balkans (https://www.balkanfund.org/)
- Open Society Foundations (https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/)
3.6.4. Micro-level: NGOs and other institutions from the civil society

- **Which NGOs operate in the field of migration at the national level, what issues are they working on and what kind of policy gaps are they filing in?**

  Jasmin Redzepi, the head of LEGIS provided us with valuable insights as to the general characteristics of the NGOs working on migration at the national level. He advanced the idea that the so called “migrant and refugee” crisis was indeed an opportunity for the NGOs dealing with migration to become much more effective and impactful both when it comes to their operations in the field and also when it comes to the policy level and the public sphere. According to Jasmin Redzepi, these NGOs proved to be extremely important for the management of the crisis. They also managed to push for legislative reforms needed in order to defuse the tension. Jasmin Redzepi is of the opinion that currently NGOs in the field of migration must focus on issues such as the fight against xenophobia, racism and discrimination and also to monitor the implementation of all migration relevant legislations and particularly those who concern the social aspects (i.e. labor market, education, social welfare and integration in general). On the other side, he believes that one of the main difficulties that face these NGOs is their limited capacity when it comes to participate in international projects that could improve their sustainability.

**Information about NGOs working in the field of migration in North Macedonia**

- **Is there a registry which includes all or most of them as such (i.e. “Registry of NGOs dealing with migration” or “General registry of NGOs”)?**

  Our desk research did not yield any such information

- **Which are the NGOs dealing with migration at the national level?**

  Our research was able to identify the following NGOs:
  
  - **Center for Civic Initiative** (founded in 1997: [http://www.cgimk.org.mk/english/about_us.html](http://www.cgimk.org.mk/english/about_us.html))
  - **Civic Association Bitola**- Youth Cultural Center (human rights and youth: [https://mkcbt.org.mk/en](https://mkcbt.org.mk/en))
  - **MYLA**- Macedonian Young Lawyers Association ([http://myla.org.mk/](http://myla.org.mk/))
• **Is there a thematic specialization among NGOs dealing with migration at the national level?**
  Mention what type of work the NGOs do: humanitarian work, service delivery, education, information and awareness raising, advocacy etc.

  - Legis: humanitarian protection, irregular migration, food aid, non-food items distribution, water, sanitation distribution, legal assistance, psycho-social support, medical assistance.
  - SUMNAL: education, combat social exclusion, illiteracy and exclusion from education with a particular focus on the Roma community in North Macedonia.
  - CCI: human rights, education, democracy, law, conflicts (stress, trauma)
  - Open Gate: combating human trafficking ad inequalities, combating poverty, prejudice and discrimination, defense of equal opportunities for socio-economic independence.
  - Civic Association Bitola: Unite and develop the creative potential of young people and encourage civic activism.
  - ADI: promoting inclusion, equality and non discrimination, human rights and integration, participation in democratic processes.
  - MYLA: Legal assistance and aid, advocacy, defense of human rights

• **Do these NGOs participate in regional and international research projects and programmes?**

  - Legis: “Start up factory” (Erasmus +), IRIS NETWORKing - CSOs for protection sensitive migration management, "Aware And Active" (Erasmus +)
  - AMBRELA: “say yes to change” (Erasmus +), “Strategic Partnership for change”
  - Open Gate: “Balkans ACT now” (EU), IRIS- Networking.
  - ADI: USAID, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland

• **Do these NGOs publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize conferences/ events and/or seminars on migration (at least in the recent past, from 2014-2015 onwards)? Do these research centres and institutes publish reports and papers including any policy oriented material?**

  - LEGIS: Publishes regular articles and news briefs on migration related issues and organizes events on migration.
    Report titles (indicative):
    “Humanitarian and legal assistance to refugees and migrants in irregular transit”
    “The voice of the voiceless”
  - SUMNAL- Development Association of the Roma community in Macedonia: organizes workshops and publishes regularly news briefs.
  - Open Gate: Maintains a Blog with updates and publishes news briefs, organizes events.
Report titles (indicative)

“Monitoring and evaluation of anti-trafficking laws and policies and their implementation in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2014 and 2015”

“Safe and adequate return, fair treatment and early identification of victims from third countries outside the EU”

“Children and Adolescents engaged in street work in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Mobilities, Vulnerabilities and Resiliencies”

“Human trafficking in context of migration and refugee crisis”

Civic Association Bitola- Youth Cultural Center: organizes events and publishes news briefs
Report titles (indicative)

“The non-formal education in the Republic of Macedonia”

- Are these NGOs part of regional/international networks related to migration?

- LEGIS (founded in 2009 and based in Skopje: http://www.legis.mk/)
  Foundation Open Society Macedonia, www.fosm.mk
  Caritas Austria, www.caritas.at
  Médecins Sans Frontières, www.msf.org
  European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM), www.epim.info
  Asylum Protection Center, www.apc-cza.org
  Human Appeal, www.humanappeal.org.uk
  Help Refugees, www.helprefugees.org.uk
  Equal, www.equalsweden.org

- Open Gate (http://lastrada.org.mk/about-us/?lang=en)
  Iris network Western Balkans (https://iris-see.eu/networking/#toggle-id-2)

- Civic Association Bitola- Youth Cultural Center (human rights and youth: https://mkcbt.org.mk/en)
  South East European Youth Network (SEEYN)
  “Kooperativa” – regional platform for cultural cooperation
  SCI SAVA group
  Network of European debate centers “Time to talk”.

- MYLA
  Foundation Open Society Macedonia, www.fosm.mk
The Balkan Refugee and Migration Council (BRMC) is an informal coalition of five civil society organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Kosovo* and Serbia. The members of the coalition are prominent CSOs with specific competences demonstrated through long-standing work in the asylum and migration policy area, both at the national and regional level. These are Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, Civil Rights Program Kosovo*, Group 484, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, Vaša prava BiH. The coalition was established in December 2017 as a joint and carefully considered initiative of five organizations which had already cooperated on many occasions, also as members of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and its working group for the WB. The establishment of the BRMC was strongly supported by ECRE and the Dutch Council for Refugees (DCR), as they advised the BRMC’s initial strategic planning process, while DCR also secured the funds for those first steps of the initiative (http://azil.rs/en/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/FV-Borders_and_Returns_BRMC.pdf)

3.6.5. Analysis

Our desk research and the contacts with relevant stakeholders has indicated that North Macedonia seems to face common challenges when it comes to migration related issues, both in terms of priorities and policy gaps. From many aspects, the refugee and migrant crisis mobilized and led to the upgrading of many migration relevant structures and capacities (governance, research and civil society). From this point of view, it seems that today the country is better prepared to deal with an increase of the numbers that will arrive as part of the route leading from the Middle East and Central Asia to Europe. On the other hand, much need to be done when it comes to the social aspects of caring for this population and also integration (education, integration to labor market and social welfare). Most of the stakeholders contacted were of the opinion that emigration, the ageing population, brain drain and even shortage of labor are much more urgent questions that need to be addressed. We could sum up in the following way the challenges that affect the country:

- Providing more effective humanitarian assistance to the refugees and migrants from the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa
- Develop more effective structures (legislation and implementation) for the integration of such populations
- Declining, decreasing/ ageing population
- Emigration, “brain drain” and 'shortage of labor”

It is certain that the status of North Macedonia as a candidate country has been a decisive factor for adopting a legislation that follows EU guidelines. From this point of view, the opening of accession negotiations could only speed up and improve this process. This is a key priority since North Macedonia has a very important geopolitical position. It is an EU candidate country,
it is neighbor to EU member states, it is positioned at the centre of the Balkan route and in general it is an integral part of all Western Balkan and Central Eastern European as well as other European and international networks and initiatives.

At a general level, it seems that research on migration in North Macedonia adjusted, quite understandably, to the refugee and migrant crisis 2015-2016. The data we collected on publications on migration since the early 2000's, indicate that prior to this crisis, the emphasis of research was on Diaspora, emigration and the economic and cultural relations between populations that have emigrated and North Macedonia (i.e. remittances, cultural networks). With the advent of the crisis and until today, the focus has shifted to some extent to issues such as security, irregular migration and asylum management, integration, migration legislation and institutional capacities. According to information through our contacts, there is urgency to produce and conduct research once more on emigration and outward migration. It is unclear whether emigration has affected this field of research (scholars working on migration). One could make the hypothesis that the absence of research center and academic departments or faculties dedicated to all aspects of migration is the basic reason for a less systematic research and academic interest on migration. As it was mentioned, there are trends that shift its paradigm (creation of a research center in the biggest public university and also creation of MA programme in one of the biggest private universities which is also part of WB- Mignet). MIGREC should seek actively partnerships with such initiatives, since they might function as hubs that will eventually build and strengthen the research networks within the country but also link it to other regional and international research networks.

3.6.6. Recommendations

MIGREC has every interest to cultivate and develop relations with institutions at all levels (migration governance, research and civil society). The information gathered in the context of this report as well as future contacts and networking activities will enable MIGREC to contribute something that is perhaps lacking at a regional level: a comprehensive view on the specificities and similarities among Western Balkan countries when it comes to migration and the consideration of such elements for a formation not simply of MIGREC’s agenda for regional synergies and cooperation with regard to migration but an effectively regional agenda and strategy that could also attract the interest of international and regional organizations. On the basis of the information gathered for North Macedonia, it seems that MIGREC should think of a research strategy that includes two major pillars: I) inward migration and ii) outward migration and more importantly ideas on how these two are correlated and what does this mean for the countries of the Western Balkans. In that respect, it seems logical that MIGREC should prioritize its partnership with stakeholders that have this comprehensive view and approach. In particular, MIGREC should:

- Consider a partnership with the WB- MIGNET
- Follow up very closely and consider a partnership with the newly established Research Center on Refugee Law and Migration at the Faculty of Law at the Cyril and Methodius University
- Explore the possibility of partnerships with NGO's that have been very active in the recent years with regard to the refugee and migrant crisis (i.e. MYLA- Macedonian Young Lawyers Association, Open Gate and Legis)
Follow up very closely the work of regional organizations such as MARRI that offer updates on legislation and other initiatives of the governments of the Western Balkans

Follow up very closely the work of scholars that have multiple research interests on migration (inward and outward, Diaspora, emigration)

4. Report on the international and regional organizations dealing with migration in the Western Balkans

4.1 Introduction

This part of the report contains information with regard to the international and regional organizations dealing with migration in the Western Balkans. Its main objective is to provide MIGREC with a mapping of these organizations and other relevant initiatives with a view to assisting in the formulation of its strategy when it comes to the potential for regional synergies and collaborations, something which will, ultimately, strengthen the Centre’s regional appeal and impact in relation to migration policies and priorities from a regional and international perspective. In this regard, the information gathered offers MIGREC an up-to-date overview of the relevant organizations and their involvement in the Western Balkans as well as their thematic scope and particular interests when it comes to policy priorities related to migration in the region.

The information compiled is mainly the result of extensive research on the material presented in the websites of these organizations. When it comes to the structure of this report and its contents, the first part is devoted to the international organizations, the second part to the agencies of the EU that deal with migration, the third part to the regional organizations, the fourth part to the regional academic and research networks and the fifth part is dedicated to some of the most relevant initiatives that have been developed by specific countries and which include migration in their scope. The following part provides a summary and an analysis of the key findings and the last part advances a series of recommendations that will facilitate MIGREC in the formulation of its research strategy and agenda as well its networking activities in the near future.

4.2. International organizations dealing with migration in the Western Balkans

4.2.1 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

Short description/presentation:

The International Organization for Migration – IOM is the most prominent international organization dealing with migration issues on an international level. Established in 1951, IOM is consisting of 173 member – states, whereas 8 states have an observatory status. The IOM with offices in over than 100 countries works closely with governmental, intergovernmental, and other non–governmental organizations. According to its mission, the IOM ‘works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced
people\textsuperscript{323}. The IOM constitution recognizes a strong link between economic, social and cultural development, as well as the right of freedom of movement.

**IOM’s involvement in the countries of the Western Balkans:**

The Western Balkans region is among the regions where IOM is particularly active, since the early 1990s. The IOM responded to the immense migration and displacement challenges as a result of the Yugoslav wars. Nevertheless, the organization continues to be active in the region after the end of the wars, supporting and providing the local governments with frameworks and practical mechanisms for migration management at national and multilateral levels, and ensuring protection and assistance to migrants in need.

Particularly, the IOM Regional Office – RO, established in Vienna in 2011 is dealing with the Western Balkans region. The office ‘supports further improvement in quality and diversification of programmatic activities at the country level, promotes regional initiatives, and facilitates better support to interstate dialogue and cooperation. RO Vienna is responsible for project review and endorsement, policy development, and for formulating regional migration strategies\textsuperscript{324}. IOM’s involvement can be characterized as multilayered, since it is addressed to both governance institutions in the Western Balkan countries (assistance to the governments when it comes to the development of institutional/ legislative frameworks for migration governance as well as the formulation of national strategies for migration) and civil society institutions and initiatives (funding of programmes and publications by think tanks and research centres, assistance to NGOs)\textsuperscript{325}.

**Albania:**

IOM is present in Albania since 1992, offering a knowledge and support to the Albanian government in its continuous effort to deal with migration issues. IOM is also present in Albania through its participation to the UN Country Team in Albania, actively assisting the implementation of the Government of Albania- United Nations Programme of Cooperation 2012-2016, which aligns the support, funds and programmes of 19 UN agencies including IOM, to Albania’s development priorities\textsuperscript{326}.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

As a result of the 1990s Yugoslav Wars and its position between Eastern and Western Europe, Bosnia and Herzegovina lays in the epicenter of IOM’s interests. The return of displaced persons and a rise in illegal migration, such as human trafficking and smuggling, are just some of the challenges that the country is facing. Following the end of the war, IOM expanded its activities to the return of refugees from abroad and to assist BiH nationals resettling in third countries. Today, IOM’s programmes aim to prevent irregular migration, stop the trafficking of human beings, contribute to national development, and assist the BiH Government to manage migration activities\textsuperscript{327}.

**Montenegro:**

IOM has a strong supportive and advisory role to the government of Montenegro. The main fields of cooperation between IOM and the local government are: improvements to border controls, strengthening counter-trafficking efforts by enhancing government capacities to

\textsuperscript{323} See: https://www.iom.int/about-iom
\textsuperscript{324} See: https://rovienna.iom.int/about-iom-austria-regional-office
\textsuperscript{325} See: https://www.iom.int/regional-offices
\textsuperscript{326} See: https://rovienna.iom.int/where-we-work/albania
\textsuperscript{327} See: https://rovienna.iom.int/where-we-work/bosnia-and-herzegovina
identify smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, building technical and human capacity for cross-border cooperation and data exchange, building government’s capacities to ensure identification, referrals, assistance and protection of vulnerable migrants, including unaccompanied and separated migrant children, victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants.\(^{328}\)

**Serbia:**

The IOM mission in Serbia was firstly established in the turbulent years of the Yugoslav Wars in 1992. The country became a full member of the IOM only in 2001. Serbia, as a country tortured by many years of wars has experienced every form of migration, such as: external and internal, forced and voluntary, regular and irregular, migration of highly qualified and unqualified workers, immigration and emigration.\(^{329}\) Accordingly, the IOM’s presence and activities in the country have broadened, including post-emergency humanitarian assistance programmes, psychosocial support, transition and recovery support, counter-trafficking, assisted voluntary return, compensation programmes, durable solutions for refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), capacity building in migration management, labour migration, and migration and development. IOM has a multi-level presence in Serbia spanning from providing knowledge and support to the government, to extensive field presence, cooperating with locally elected governments as well as with national and local non-governmental organizations.\(^{330}\)

**North Macedonia:**

The IOM mission in North Macedonia was established in 1999, with the purpose to assist the country in the implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement, focusing mainly on migration management. Gradually the IOM activities in the country have expanded in order to meet the contemporary and continuous challenges, such as trafficking in human beings, technical cooperation and institutional capacity building in the field of migration, Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programmes, Economic stabilization programmes etc.\(^{331}\)

**Kosovo:**

IOM established its local office in Kosovo right after the end of the 1999 war, strengthening the presence and the support of the international community. The activities of IOM in the country have always been in line with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo – UNMIK strategy and have developed gradually from short-term reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts, to supporting longer-term development of Kosovo.

Today IOM Kosovo is implementing several programmes to the benefit of Kosovars. Besides its core duties as providing immigration and return assistance, IOM Kosovo has taken a strong grip on migration push factors by implementing projects intended to create job opportunities, support small and medium enterprises and secure more pleasant living environment.\(^{332}\)

**Publications (reports, data, briefs):**


\(^{328}\) See: [https://rovienna.iom.int/where-we-work/montenegro](https://rovienna.iom.int/where-we-work/montenegro)

\(^{329}\) See: [https://rovienna.iom.int/where-we-work/serbia](https://rovienna.iom.int/where-we-work/serbia)

\(^{330}\) Ibid.

\(^{331}\) See: [https://rovienna.iom.int/regional-presence/north-macedonia](https://rovienna.iom.int/regional-presence/north-macedonia)

\(^{332}\) See: [https://rovienna.iom.int/where-we-work/unsc-resolution-1244-administered-kosovo](https://rovienna.iom.int/where-we-work/unsc-resolution-1244-administered-kosovo)


Strengthening the Fight against Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling in the Western Balkans (https://rovienna.iom.int/publications/strengthening-fight-against-trafficking-persons-and-migrant-smuggling-western-balkans)

Addressing Migration of Unaccompanied Minors from and through the Western Balkans (https://rovienna.iom.int/publications/addressing-migration-unaccompanied-minors-and-through-western-balkans)


Labour Migration Patterns, Policies and Migration Propensity in the Western Balkans (https://rovienna.iom.int/publications/labour-migration-patterns-policies-and-migration-propensity-western-balkans)


The IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance on Victims of Trafficking in English (https://albania.iom.int/sites/default/files/publication/22.%20The%20IOM%20Handbook%20on%20Direct%20Assistance%20on%20Victims%20of%20Trafficking%20in%20English.pdf)


Establishing effective labour migration policies in Countries of Origin and Destination (https://albania.iom.int/sites/default/files/publication/18.%20Establishing%20effective%20Labour%20migration%20policies%20in%20Countries%20of%20Origin%20and%20Destination.pdf)


Return Migration and Reintegration in Albania 2013 (https://albania.iom.int/sites/default/files/publication/15.%20Return%20Migration%20and%20Reintegration%20in%20Albania%202013.pdf)

Regional Guidelines Irregular Migration and Data Protection Tirana 15_05_05 (https://albania.iom.int/sites/default/files/publication/14.%20Regional%20Guidelines%20Irregular%20Migration%20and%20Data%20Protection%20in%20Tirana%2015_05_05.pdf)

Profile of the situation of unaccompanied minors and efforts for social inclusion (https://albania.iom.int/sites/default/files/publication/11.%20Profile%20of%20the%20situation%20of%20unaccompanied%20minors%20and%20efforts%20for%20social%20inclusion.pdf)


Feasibility Study on a system for Registration of Albanian Emigrants (https://albania.iom.int/sites/default/files/publication/9.%20Feasibility%20study%20for%20RAE%20AS%20IS%202030-6-05%20v1-140705.pdf)

Feasibility Study on a system for Registration of Albanian Emigrants (https://albania.iom.int/sites/default/files/publication/8.%20Feasibility%20study%20for%20RAE%20AS%20IS%202030-6-05%20v1-140705.pdf)

Report on the contribution of the NCATS to the identification and assistance for victims of trafficking (https://albania.iom.int/sites/default/files/publication/7.%20Report%20on%20the%20contribution%20of%20the%20NCATS%20to%20the%20identification%20and%20assistance%20for%20victims%20of%20trafficking.pdf)

Changing patterns and trends of trafficking in persons in the Balkan Region (https://albania.iom.int/sites/default/files/publication/5.%20Changing%20patterns%20and%20trends%20of%20trafficking%20in%20persons%20in%20the%20Balkan%20Region.pdf)


Life Through the Camera Lens of Migrants in Serbia (https://serbia.iom.int/sites/default/files/publications/images/Life%20Through%20the%20Camera%20Lens%20of%20Migrants%20in%20Serbia_PubCover.jpg)

Memories Left Behind (https://serbia.iom.int/node/349)

Handbook on Migration and Local Development (https://serbia.iom.int/node/232)

Migration and Development in Serbia (https://serbia.iom.int/node/157)

Humanitarian Border Management (https://serbia.iom.int/node/152)

Migration profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2014 (https://serbia.iom.int/node/139)

Impact of education in minority languages on the internal and external migrations of national minorities (https://serbia.iom.int/node/134)

Labour Migration and its Effects on the Demography and Labour Market of Serbia (https://serbia.iom.int/node/132)

Migration studies in Serbian universities curricula (https://serbia.iom.int/node/130)

Study on external and internal migration of Serbia's citizens with particular focus on Youth (https://serbia.iom.int/node/128)

Migration Profile of the Republic of Serbia for 2010 (https://serbia.iom.int/publications/migration-profile-republic-serbia-2010)

A framework for assisted voluntary return and reintegration; (https://eea.iom.int/publications/framework-assisted-voluntary-return-and-reintegration)


Croatia Health Situation at EU’s Southern Borders - Assessment Report; (https://eea.iom.int/publications/croatia-health-situation-eus-southern-borders-assessment-report)


4.2.2 UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

Short description/presentation:

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees – UNHCR was established in 1950, during the aftermaths of WWII. Its HQ is located in Geneva and its personnel is working in 134 countries around the world. The UNHCR is member of the United Nations – UN development group and so far has two Nobel Piece Prizes, the first in 1954 and the second in 1981.

For over half a century, UNHCR has helped millions of people to restart their lives, including refugees, returnees, stateless people, the internally displaced and asylum-seekers. UNHCR advocates for fair and effective asylum systems across Europe to ensure that asylum-seekers are able to access asylum and effective protection. Additionally, UNHCR advocates with governments to enhance opportunities and support for local integration of refugees. In the absence of fully functioning asylum systems in some European countries, UNHCR assists States in establishing fair and efficient asylum procedures.333

UNHCR’s Regional Bureau for Europe covers 49 countries. It works with a great range of organizations and partners, including the EU agencies and institutions, the Council of Europe, 333 See: https://www.unhcr.org/europe
the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, other UN agencies, civil society and NGOs. The Bureau also engages with supranational legal institutions, including the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union

**UNHCR’s involvement in countries of the Western Balkans**

Countries in the Western Balkans region continue to struggle with the consequences of the massive forced population movements within the region of the early 1990s. But in recent years increasing numbers of people, including refugees, have been coming through the region from Asia, Africa and the Middle East en route to Western Europe. Some have remained in the area. The nascent legislation, asylum systems and migration policies in Western Balkans countries are not sufficiently equipped to deal with this development.

UNHCR, in cooperation with IOM, supports governments in developing an initiative on refugee protection and international migration that helps governments in the region to develop and implement comprehensive migration and asylum management systems. It is guided by a 10-Point Plan issued by UNHCR in 2006 to assist states in developing comprehensive and protection-sensitive asylum and migration strategies.

In the Western Balkans, it will strengthen the capacity of governments to address these mixed migration movements in a more predictable, efficient and protection-sensitive manner, while also fostering national and regional dialogue and practical cooperation.

One of the initiative’s priority areas is the establishment of protection-sensitive entry systems. This involves mechanisms to differentiate among various groups of people on the move, identify those in need of international protection, and provide adequate assistance and solutions to other groups with specific needs, such as victims of people trafficking, unaccompanied children or women at risk of violence.

**Albania:**

The UNHCR has been particularly active at various levels and areas with a main focus on the provision of assistance to refugees and asylum seekers when it comes to their reception in the country as well as the development of a framework for their integration. At the government level, the organization is in a very close cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of Albania and other migration relevant structures as well as with independent authorities such as the Ombudsman’s Office. It is also in a very close cooperation with other organizations, such as the EU, UNICEF, the Council of Europe and OSCE with a view to assist Albania’s effort to develop policies that will be adjusted to international norms and standards regarding migration. It also seeks active collaboration with NGOs and think tanks at the level of the civil society (i.e. “Refugee and Migrant Services in Albania, Caritas Albania, Tirana Legal Aid Society”).

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334 Ibid.
335 See: https://www.unhcr.org/mixed-migration-western-balkans.html
336 See: https://www.unhcr.org/see/where-we-work/albania/objectives-and-targets
337 See: https://www.unhcr.org/see/where-we-work/albania/working-with-partners
Bosnia and Herzegovina:

In the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the main focus of UNHCR has been to assist the country’s authorities in addressing issues with regard to the refugees and asylum seekers. It has also been very active when it comes to issues of internally displaced persons and returnees with regard to the formulation of frameworks for addressing their needs. The UNHCR has been collaborating with many stakeholders at all levels including the government (State and local level), independent bodies such as the Human Rights Ombudsman as well as other international organizations including the EU. At the level of the civil society it has been actively supporting various initiatives and NGOs (i.e. Bosnia and Herzegovina Women’s Initiative, Vasa Prava BiH, the Danish Refugee Council)³³⁸.

Kosovo:

In Kosovo, the UNHCR has been focusing on the development of an effective asylum system (procedures, safe access to territory, and assistance to vulnerable groups). It works closely with government authorities providing technical support and also through advocacy aimed at raising awareness in the public sphere. It also contributes through its initiatives to other levels and fields such re-integration.

At the government level, UNHCR works closely with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, along with all the relevant subordinate structures), providing training and technical support. It is also very active at the level of the civil society and developed numerous synergies with NGOs, research centres and think tanks. In more recent time (2018 onwards) the organization has been focusing more intensely on attaining durable solutions and a more normative framework when it comes to internally displaced persons and the various forms of aid addressed to them³³⁹.

Montenegro:

In the case of Montenegro, the UNHCR has been assisting in the development of an efficient asylum system. It has also supported policies addressing the needs of displaced populations in former Yugoslavia as well as the needs of other vulnerable groups including the issue of statelessness. At the government level, it has been collaborating with the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. At the level of the civil society, it has also supported numerous initiatives and NGO³⁴⁰s.

North Macedonia:

In the case of North Macedonia, the UNHCR has been engaged at various levels with a particular focus on the issue of asylum. It has been collaborating intensively with government institutions as well as organization and initiatives at the level of the civil society with a view to improve procedures for dealing with asylum seekers and refugees, for assisting vulnerable populations and also for developing comprehensive legal and institutional frameworks for addressing these issues. In more recent times, the organization has been also active when it comes to advocacy and raising public awareness with regard to the issue of integration of such populations³⁴¹.

³³⁸ See: https://www.unhcr.org/see/where-we-work/bosnia-and-herzegovina/working-with-partners
³³⁹ See: https://www.unhcr.org/see/where-we-work/kosovo/achievements-and-impact
³⁴⁰ See: https://www.unhcr.org/see/where-we-work/montenegro/working-with-partners
³⁴¹ See: https://www.unhcr.org/see/where-we-work/north-macedonia
Serbia:

In the case of Serbia, where the organization has been present since 1976 (in the context of former Yugoslavia), UNHCR has also focused on the development of an efficient asylum system and of comprehensive frameworks for addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. The organization has also been very active when it comes to assisting Serbia in its effort to respond to the needs of displaced populations following the dissolution of former Yugoslavia. At the government level, the organization has had intense collaboration with all migration related authorities (i.e. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy, of Internal Affairs). It has also collaborated with local authorities including the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration. At the level of the civil society, it has supported numerous initiatives and organizations including the Belgrade Center for Human Rights, the Humanitarian Center for Integration and Tolerance, Praxis and Sigma Plus among others.


Publications (reports, data, briefs):

Europe Monthly Report: November 2019;
Western Balkans - Refugees, asylum-seekers and other mixed movements as of end December 2019;
RBE - Western Balkans - Asylum Statistics - Summary of key trends observed as of 31 December 2019;

See: https://www.unhcr.org/see/where-we-work/serbia/working-with-partners


4.2.3 UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

Short description/presentation:

UNDP is an international programme, within the context of the UN, dealing particularly with the issue of development at a global level. It was created in 1965 and since that period it has been particularly active at various levels and fields with regard to issues such as the development of policies, leadership skills, formation of partnerships and international networks and the support for institutional capacities and frameworks related to sustainable development and prosperity that will be as inclusive as possible from a social standpoint particularly for the most vulnerable populations and social groups at an international level.

When it comes to migration, the organization has a long tradition of collaboration and synergies with other international bodies (i.e. IOM, UNHCR, EU) with a view to developing more effective frameworks for dealing with migration challenges (i.e. refugees, displaced populations, development, disaster management). It has supported governments and civil society institutions around the world (170 countries) in their effort to develop frameworks for migration governance, address the root causes of migration and also create an adjusted environment for (re-) integration.

UNDP’s involvement in countries of the Western Balkans

UNDP has been present in Albania since 1991. It has been constantly collaborating with the government and other institutions and initiatives at the level of the civil society. In more recent times (2017 onwards), it has been implementing an ambitious programme with 4 main priorities: democratic governance and rule of law, promotion of social inclusion and the rights of vulnerable groups, promotion of more equitable gender relations and development of policies dealing with environment and climate change.

343 See: https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/about-us.html
345 See: https://www.al.undp.org/
In the case of **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, UNDP has also been active at many levels with a particular focus, in more recent times, on helping to develop policies that will address the difficulties and challenges affecting young people in the country\(^{346}\).

In the case of **Kosovo**, the organization has been actively engaged in recent initiatives dealing with the provision of assistance to vulnerable groups (i.e. children), the protection of cultural heritage and the assistance for the development of small-scale businesses\(^{347}\).

In the case of **Montenegro**, more recent initiatives of the organization regard the delivery of medical aid and other forms of assistance (in the context of the 2020 corona-virus pandemic), initiatives to boost local and small businesses, gender equality as well as to raise awareness on environmental challenges\(^{348}\).

Similar initiatives have been recently supported also in the case of **North Macedonia**, with a particular emphasis to business innovation, environmental challenges and gender equality\(^{349}\).

Finally, in the case of **Serbia**, the organization has been implementing, since 2016, a comprehensive programme on the basis of several priorities such as governance and rule of law, social and human resources development, growth and employment, environment, climate change and resilient communities and culture and development\(^{350}\).

**Publications (reports, data, briefs):**

“Guidelines on media reporting on violence against women”, 2019, [https://www.undp.org/content/dam/serbia/Publications%20and%20reports/Novinarke_protiv_nasilja_EN.pdf](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/serbia/Publications%20and%20reports/Novinarke_protiv_nasilja_EN.pdf)

“Parliament’s role in implementing the sustainable development goals”, 2017, [https://www.undp.org/content/dam/serbia/Publications%20and%20reports/English/DobraUprava/UNDP_SRB_Parliaments%20role%20in%20implementing%20the%20SDGs.pdf](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/serbia/Publications%20and%20reports/English/DobraUprava/UNDP_SRB_Parliaments%20role%20in%20implementing%20the%20SDGs.pdf)


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\(^{346}\) See: [https://www.ba.undp.org/](https://www.ba.undp.org/)

\(^{347}\) See: [https://www.ks.undp.org/](https://www.ks.undp.org/)

\(^{348}\) See: [https://www.me.undp.org/](https://www.me.undp.org/)

\(^{349}\) See: [https://www.mk.undp.org/](https://www.mk.undp.org/)

\(^{350}\) See: [https://www.rs.undp.org/](https://www.rs.undp.org/)
4.3 EU agencies dealing with migration in the Western Balkans

4.3.1 EUROPEAN ASYLUM SUPPORT OFFICE (EASO)

Short description/presentation:
EASO is the main EU institutions supporting the implementation of a Common European Asylum System. The aim is to ensure that individual asylum cases are dealt with in a coherent way by all Member States.

EASO provide a multi – dimensional support, more precisely:

- **permanent support**: supporting and stimulating the common quality of the asylum process through common training, common asylum training material, common quality and common Country of Origin Information (COI);
- **special support**: tailor-made assistance, capacity building, relocation, specific support and special quality control tools;
- **emergency support**: organising solidarity for Member States subject to particular pressures by providing temporary support and assistance to repair or rebuild asylum and reception systems;
- **information and analysis support**: sharing and merging information and data, analyses and assessments at EU level, including EU-wide trend analyses and assessments;
- **third-country (i.e. non-member country) support**: supporting the external dimension of the Common European Asylum System, supporting partnerships with third countries to reach common solutions, including by capacity building and regional protection programmes, and coordinating Member States’ actions on resettlement.

EASO’S involvement in the countries of the Western Balkans:

Cooperation between EASO and the Western Balkans has been ongoing since 2014. EASO’s support in the Western Balkans has contributed to the region’s further harmonisation with the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) in light of the EU accession context as well as to the strengthening of the national asylum and reception systems, exchange and introduction of best practices and cooperation at regional level.

EASO supports the Western Balkans by organising capacity building, meetings, training activities, study visits, on-the-job coaching sessions, and thematic workshops aimed at strengthening the asylum and reception systems. EASO “train-the-trainer” sessions also facilitate the transfer of knowledge and contribute to the multiplier effect in view of building a sustainable pool of trainers in the Western Balkans. The target group for this support is mostly asylum caseworkers but also social workers, reception officers, policy makers, first contact officials of the Western Balkans administrations and members of second and final instance of courts and tribunals of the Western Balkans. Support addresses a wide range of topics related to the CEAS, from access to the asylum procedure and reception, to identification of persons with special needs, contingency planning, registration and examination procedures of applications for international protection, and country of origin information. Finally, EASO also translated a

\[\text{\footnotesize 351 See: https://www.easo.europa.eu/about-us/what-we-do}\]
number of its practical tools into local languages for national use; these will be made available on EASO’s website.

Since 2016, cooperation between EASO and the Western Balkans has intensified, including through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) II funded regional project “Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey” (Phase I: September 2016-June 2019; Phase II: July 2019-June 2021). EASO is implementing, together with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the introduced project that is targeting the Western Balkans and Turkey (the latter for relevant regional activities only).

EASO’s activities under the IPA funded project focus on providing support in the establishment of improved identification of mixed migration flows – and the most vulnerable groups among them – as well as in the delivery of capacity-building activities in order to strengthen asylum and reception systems, including through the support to regional practitioners’ networks and support to the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI).

Civil society organisations play an important role in the debate on and implementation of asylum policy. Their specific expertise and knowledge is synergetic to the Agency’s work and can be of added-value. EASO is committed to establishing a real and genuine dialogue with civil society as we strongly believe that the exchange of ideas can be of mutual benefit to both parties.

Cooperation with civil society is mainstreamed throughout all EASO’s activities ranging from EASO’s work on training and quality, information and analysis, operational activities as well as those related to the external dimension.

Publications (reports, data, briefs):

4.3.2 EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (FRA):

Short description/presentation:
The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) is the independent centre of reference and excellence for promoting and protecting human rights in the EU. It helps make Europe a better place to live and work and also defends the fundamental rights of all people living in the EU.

To help safeguard the rights, values and freedoms enshrined in the EU’s Charter of Fundamental Rights, the FRA:

- Collects and analyses law and data
- Provide independent, evidence-based advice on rights
- Identifies trends by collecting and analysing comparable data
- Helps better law making and implementation

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See: https://www.easo.europa.eu/operational-support/external-dimension
Ibid.
See: https://www.easo.europa.eu/civil-society
• Supports rights-compliant policy responses
• Strengthens cooperation and ties between fundamental rights actors\textsuperscript{356}

\textit{The FRA’s involvement in the Western Balkans region:}

The agency is very active, in more recent times, in collaboration with the countries of the Western Balkans particularly at the level of the civil society (NGOs, think tanks, research centres) particularly in the context of FRANET, which is the Agency’s multidisciplinary research network. The countries of the Western Balkans participate with an observer status. The purpose of this network is the collaboration with civil society and other organizations dedicated to research in the Western Balkan countries with a view to providing data and information to FRANET on issues such as fundamental rights\textsuperscript{357}. According to the information provided by FRANET, in the countries of the Western Balkans, the network has a contractual relation with the European Policy Institute (EPI) in North Macedonia and the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights in Serbia\textsuperscript{358}.

\textbf{Publications (reports, data, briefs):}


\textbf{4.3.3 FRONTEX}

\textit{Short description/presentation:}

Frontex is the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, which promotes, coordinates and develops European border management in line with the EU fundamental rights charter and the concept of Integrated Border Management.

The mission of Frontex is to ensure safe and well-functioning external borders providing security\textsuperscript{359}.

\textit{FRONTEX’s involvement in the countries of the Western Balkans}

To help identify migratory patterns as well as trends in cross-border criminal activities, Frontex analyses data related to the situation at and beyond EU’s external borders. It monitors

\textsuperscript{356} See: \url{https://fra.europa.eu/en/about-fra/what-we-do}
\textsuperscript{357} See: \url{https://fra.europa.eu/en/cooperation/franet}
\textsuperscript{358} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{359} See: \url{https://frontex.europa.eu/about-frontex/vision-mission-values/}
the situation at the borders and helps border authorities to share information with Member States. The agency also carries out vulnerability assessments to evaluate the capacity and readiness of each Member State to face challenges at its external borders, including migratory pressure.

Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard, supports Member States with screening, debriefing, identification and fingerprinting of migrants. Officers deployed by the agency refer and provide initial information to people who need, or wish to apply for, international protection, cooperating with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and national authorities. It is the national authorities, not Frontex, who decide which person is entitled to international protection\(^{360}\).

**Examples:**

**Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey (IPA II), Phase II**
Beneficiary countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey
Timeframe: 01/07/2019 – 30/06/2021
Project Partners: EASO, IOM, UNHCR
EU Grant: 3,4 million Euros (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance/DG NEAR)
Project goals:
- to introduce and share EU standards and best practices on protection-sensitive migration management;
- to support the beneficiaries in developing a protection-sensitive response to mixed migration flows by strengthening their identification, registration, referral, asylum systems and return mechanisms

**EU4Border Security**
Beneficiary countries: Southern Neighbourhood countries
Timeframe: mid-2018-mid-2021 (tentative)
EU Grant: 4 million Euros (European Neighbourhood Instrument/DG NEAR)
Project goals:
- to familiarise the countries of the Southern Neighbourhood region with the mandate and work of Frontex
- to provide comprehensive capacity building for selected target groups (national authorities responsible for border management).
- to increase the capacity of the Southern Neighbourhood countries to undertake risk, strategic and operational analysis with a view of strengthening border security in the region
- to support inter-regional information sharing, utilizing tools provided by Frontex\(^{361}\).

**Publications (reports, data, briefs...):**

\(^{360}\) See: [https://frontex.europa.eu/about-frontex/origin-tasks/](https://frontex.europa.eu/about-frontex/origin-tasks/)

\(^{361}\) See: [https://frontex.europa.eu/partners/non-eu-countries/](https://frontex.europa.eu/partners/non-eu-countries/)
4.4 Regional organizations and political initiatives dealing with migration in the Western Balkans

4.4.1 Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI)

**Short description/presentation:**

MARRI is a regional, Western Balkan structure created in 2004 and consisting of six participant countries: Albania, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo. Its mandate is “to promote closer regional cooperation and common, comprehensive and harmonized approach in the areas of migration, asylum, border control, trafficking in human beings, visa regime and the integration and return of refugees”. MARRI aims at functioning as a link that will enable Western Balkan countries to “reach international and European standards” in the areas of its interest with regard to migration.

Each country participates and is represented by at least one ministry, which most commonly is the one that deals mostly with migration governance in the respective country. Thus for Albania, North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo are represented by their Ministries of Interior while Bosnia and Herzegovina is represented by its Ministry of Security. From an organizational standpoint, MARRI consists of three structures: 1) the Forum of Ministers, 2) the Committee and 3) the Regional Center which is based in Skopje, North Macedonia.

**MARRI's involvement in the Western Balkans region:**

In many respects, MARRI is the strongest example when it comes to regional cooperation on migration issues in the Western Balkan region, both with regard to cooperation through networks within the region but also with respect to cooperation with all the major regional and international organizations, structures and initiatives that either deal directly with migration or include it in their scope of activity (i.e. IOM, UNHCR, IMCDP, SEPCA, RCC). It has been supported financially by the EU and IPA II Funds, SDC, GIZ, CEI, the UK and Italy. Technical support has been provided by the EU, EASO, FRONTEX, IOM and UNHCR.

MARRI is committed to facilitate the adjustment of migration policies and governance to international and particularly EU norms and standards with a view to advancing the EU integration process of the Western Balkan countries. From that respect, the annual declarations constitute a valuable source that sums up the activities, initiatives and various ongoing frameworks of cooperation of MARRI including the implementation of projects and events (i.e. workshops).

MARRI is very active on many levels (i.e. organization of events/workshops, consultation with major international organizations dealing with migration, implementation of projects funded by its numerous partners and also field trips in migration related structures in the Western Balkan region). One of its key priorities is to assist the governments of the participant

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countries when it comes to the development and implementation of comprehensive institutional and legal frameworks regarding migration governance. In effect, its website contains a database with legal documents pertaining to each country separately and referring to the following domains: constitutions, laws, regulations, migration profile and migration resolution and national strategies. This is a very valuable database since it provides a quick access not only to documents of a general scope (i.e. strategies) but also to migration related data with references to migration related sources and authorities in the respective countries.

MARRRI is also very active when it comes to the implementation of projects. On its website there is a detailed presentation of ongoing and implemented projects. The following are examples from the most recent period:

“PaCT: Preventing and Combating trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans” (funded by GIZ), 2019

“Regional support of protection sensitive migration management in the Western Balkans and Turkey” (funded by IPA II), 2016-2019

“SFF- Strengthening regional migration governance”, (Funded by GIZ and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development- BMZ)

“MIGRALONA- Strengthening collaboration between the local and national tiers in the management of migrations”, (funded by the Central European Initiative- CED), 2018

“SAFERR- Women and Girls (Shelter and Access for Empowerment and risk reduction), (with support from the Catholic Relief Services- CRS), 2017

“BORADIRPOL II- Support of cooperation among border police in Southeast Europe” (funded by the Swiss State Secretariat on Migration), 2016

Publications (reports, data, briefs):

With regard to publications, we have been able to identify at least two which are extremely relevant when it comes to the assessment and the analysis of migration policies and governance in the Western Balkan countries from a general standpoint. These are the two following:

“MARRI Migration Paper”, 2012,

“MARRI Migration Paper”, 2007,

4.4.2 REGIONAL COOPERATION COUNCIL (RCC)

Short description/presentation:

The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) is an all-inclusive, regionally owned and led cooperation framework. This framework engages RCC participants from the South East Europe (SEE), members of the international community and donors on subjects which are important and of interest to the SEE, with a view to promoting and advancing the European and Euro-Atlantic integration of the region.
Within the framework of the general political guidelines set by the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP), the RCC works to develop and maintain a political climate of dialogue, reconciliation, tolerance and openness towards cooperation, with a view to enabling the implementation of regional programmes aimed at economic and social development to the benefit of the people in the region\footnote{See: \url{https://www.rcc.int/pages/2/about-us}}.

**RCC’s involvement in the countries of the Western Balkans:**

RCC helps prosperity and growth through regional action in SEE, while advancing European and Euro-Atlantic integration. It sees the region as a prosperous place of dialogue, freedom and mobility, rich in cultural heritage, where each person feels safe and protected by the rule of law. In time, RCC agenda has shifted to a more focused and result-oriented interventions in a restricted number of areas. Over the next three years RCC is committed to continue to work to reduce – and where possible remove – the obstacles to increased mobility, enhanced connectivity and improved competitiveness in SEE, while also contributing to better governance, improved functioning of the rule of law and enhanced security in the region\footnote{See: \url{https://www.rcc.int/pages/2/about-us}}.

The RCC is working towards a better connected Western Balkans, integrated in the EU transport, energy and digital networks and markets. It also works to deepen regional economic integration of the South East Europe, by creating a joint regional market that will be more competitive on the global business scene, and generate more revenues and jobs. The ultimate goal is a safe and stable South East Europe, supporting European and Euro-Atlantic integration process of the region.

The RCC works closely with the: Austrian Development Agency (ADA); German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ); Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO); State Secretariat for Migration (SEM); Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)\footnote{See: \url{https://www.rcc.int/seedad/reports}}.

With regard to migration the organization has developed several initiatives. For instance, in its strategy and work programme for 2014-2016, the organization assisted governments in South East Europe “to fulfill the accession conditions through the regional cooperation in the area of Migration management and asylum, it being of the key challenges for the region in the field of Justice and Home Affairs”\footnote{See: \url{https://www.rcc.int/pages/64/migration-management-and-asylum}}. The organization has been also mandated by the EU to provide analysis and assessment when it comes to the prospects of coordination of the migration policies and capacities of South East European countries\footnote{See: \url{https://bih.iom.int/regional-cooperation}}.
4.4.3 INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR MIGRATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT (ICMPD)

Short description/presentation:

The International Center for Migration Policy Development – ICMPD, established in 1993 as a Swiss – Austrian initiative, consisted of 17 member – states, is active in more than 90 countries worldwide. The organization’s HQ are located in Vienna, has a mission in Brussels, a regional office in Malta and is present with project offices in several countries. ICMPD holds also a UN observer status and works together with more than 700 partners, including EU agencies and institutions.

ICMPD adopts a three –pillar approach to migration management: structurally linking research, migration dialogues and capacity building. The mission of ICMPD is to make migration and mobility of people orderly, safe and regular, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. The priority goal of the Member States is the development and implementation of long-term strategies to cope with the migration phenomenon. Such strategies aim at facilitating early warning, combating root causes, harmonising entry control measures and coordinating alien, asylum and refugee policies.372

ICMPD’s involvement in the countries of the Western Balkans

Since its creation, ICMPD has had a longstanding presence in the Balkans and Turkey. In 2017, a regional office was founded in Turkey as the centre of the activities in Western Balkans and Turkey.

Western Balkans remains as a priority area for both strategic and operational reasons. ICMPD remains committed to further supporting the already improved work of the respective institutions in the Western Balkan countries to support the development and implementation of necessary proactive measures in order to facilitate sustainable migration management throughout the region.373

ICMPD is particularly active in the field of border management, participating in bi – lateral and EU level initiatives. ICMPD is involved in the Integrated Border Management – IBM, a policy initiated by the EU. IBM started with support to the EC in the development of the 'Guidelines for Integrated Border Management in the Western Balkans', endorsed by the Directorates-General of External Relations, Justice, Freedom and Security, Taxation and Customs Union, Health and Consumers Protection and EuropeAid. The Guidelines were first released by the EC in October 2004 and an updated version of the Guidelines was released in January 2007. Later in the spring of 2007, it was published as a Commission Staff Working Paper. Two years later, in 2009, EuropeAid decided to develop a set of guidelines with global applicability that is without a specific geographic focus and, with the support of ICMPD, 'Guidelines for Integrated Border Management in EC External Cooperation' was published in November 2010.

Over the years, ICMPD's Border Management Programme has implemented border management projects and activities in many regions of the world, including the European Union, Western Balkans, South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Central Asia, Africa, South America and South East Asia.374

372 See: https://www.icmpd.org/about-us/
One of the core competences of ICMPD is combating human trafficking. ICMPD provides assistance to countries at the national and regional level by supporting the development of comprehensive anti-trafficking responses in accordance with international and European standards. The Anti-Trafficking Programme, which started its activities in South-Eastern Europe and in the EU, has gradually expanded to other areas of the world including the Mediterranean and Middle East, Silk Routes countries, West Africa (ECOWAS) and Brazil. The Anti-Trafficking Programme focuses on the following fields of expertise:

1. Policy and Research
2. Capacity Building
3. Dialogues and Partnership

The ICMPD is involved and participated in many projects/programmes together with national governments of the Western Balkans region countries. The most prominent of them are:

- Multi stage programmes
- Enhancing Transnational Cooperation on Trafficking Cases in South – Eastern Europe (TRM II)
- Programme for the Enhancement of Anti – Trafficking Responses in South – Eastern Europe: Data Collection and Information Management (DCIM) – Phase 2: Data Processing, Maintenance and Analysis
- Study on Trafficking Resilience and Vulnerability en route to Europe (STRIVE)
- Strengthening Migration Management Authorities in Kosovo (MIMAK II)
- Link up! Serbia - Feasibility Study. Facilitating Diaspora Investments
- Serbia IBM Twinning
- EU Support to Law Enforcement in BiH
- Informant – Management: Training and Organization for the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina (INFORMATOR)
- Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Organized Crime – PHASE 2 (THB/IFS/2)
- Towards a Pan – European Monitoring System of Trafficking in Human Beings (Pan – EU MoSy)
- Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings – PHASE 1 (THB/IFS/1)
- Trafficking Along Migration Routes (TRAM): Identification and Integration of Victims of Trafficking among Vulnerable Groups and Unaccompanied Children
- Expert Support Facility FWC 2010, Lot 6 - Fight Against Trafficking on the Heroine Route (in North Macedonia)

Publications (reports, data, briefs):

Impact of Public Attitudes to migration on the political environment in the Euro-Mediterranean Region; (https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/ICMPD_Website/Impact_of_Public_Attitudes_to_migration_on_the_political_environment_in.....pdf)


A study on smuggling of migrants: Characteristics, responses and cooperation with third countries; (https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/ICMPD_Website/ICMPD_General/Publications/2015/MigrantSmugglingStudyFULL.pdf)

An Effective Asylum Responsibility-Sharing Mechanism; (https://www.icmpd.org/fileadmin/ICMPD_Website/ICMPD_General/Publications/2014/ICMPD_TP_Responsibility_Sharing_October_FINAL.pdf)


4.4.4 THE BERLIN PROCESS

Short description/presentation:

The Berlin Process is an initiative aimed at stepping up regional cooperation in the Western Balkans and aiding the integration of these countries into the European Union. It was launched on August 28, 2014, by the German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The Process is taking place with support of the European Commission, international financial institutions and the Member States involved in the Process – Austria, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and the United Kingdom. It is supplementary to the individual countries’ institutional EU integration process, based on the adoption of the acquis communautaire.

Alongside the meetings of the highest governmental officials (Western Balkan Summit Series), the Berlin Process encompasses the meetings of the representatives of regional civil
society organizations (Civil Society Forum of the Western Balkan Summit Series), youth organizations (Youth Forum) and business associations (Business Forum)\textsuperscript{376}.

**The Berlin Process’ involvement in the Western Balkans region:**

The Process’s connectivity agenda refers to linking the people (social dimension), economies (economic dimension) and states (political dimension) of the region. Within this agenda, the Process has thus far yielded initiatives and projects in the fields of transport and infrastructure, economic connectivity, youth cooperation and cooperation among businesses and among the civil societies of the Western Balkans. It also inspired intergovernmental cooperation through entities set up during its course: the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), the Western Balkans Chambers Investment Forum (WBCIF) and the Western Balkans Fund (WBF)\textsuperscript{377}.

With regard to migration, the Berlin Process has been concentrated in providing analysis and an assessment on the cooperation among the countries of the region with a view to responding to migration challenges\textsuperscript{378}.

### 4.4.5 Balkan Fund

**Short description/presentation:**

The European Fund for the Balkans is a joint initiative of European foundations that envisions, runs and supports initiatives aimed at strengthening democracy, fostering European integration and affirming the role of the Western Balkans in addressing Europe’s emerging challenges.

The up-to-date programme strategy based on three overarching areas – Capacity Development, Policy Development and Regional Cooperation – is channelled via flagship programmes and selected projects, complemented with a set of actions arising from EFB’s regional identity as a relevant player in its fields of focus.

Their synergetic effects are focussed on continuous “Europeanisation” of the policies and practices of the Western Balkans countries on their way to EU accession, through merging of the region’s social capacity building with policy platform development, and a culture of regional cooperation\textsuperscript{379}.

**The Balkan Fund’s involvement in the Western Balkans region:**

The new European Fund for the Balkans programme strategy which was adopted in the course of 2015 is organised around three programme areas – Capacity Development, Policy Development and Regional Cooperation – based on three theories of change.

The combined implementation of these programmes will contribute to democratic development of the Western Balkans countries on their way to EU accession and hence contribute to the fulfilment of the mission of the EFB. The fact that the Fund’s target groups include stakeholders from all Western Balkans candidate and potential candidate countries, mainly in a mixed setting, means that the EFB programmes also contribute to the development

\textsuperscript{376} See: [https://berlinprocess.info/about/](https://berlinprocess.info/about/)

\textsuperscript{377} See: [https://berlinprocess.info/about/](https://berlinprocess.info/about/)


\textsuperscript{379} See: [https://www.balkanfund.org/about-us/](https://www.balkanfund.org/about-us/)
of cross-border, cross-ethnic and cross-religious relationships throughout the region. These relationships are an important asset for lasting peace and stability in the region.

The mission of the European Fund for the Balkans aims at strengthening democracy, fostering European integration and affirming the role of the Western Balkans in addressing Europe’s emerging challenges.

The Strategic Objectives of the Balkan Fund are:

- To develop the Western Balkans social capacity focused on the regions democratisation and EU accession process;
- To develop a policy platform that improve policy making while strengthening democratic institutions and civil societies in the Western Balkans and supporting EU integration;
- To develop a culture of regional cooperation with a set of norms taken at the societal level\textsuperscript{380}.

With regard to migration, the Balkan Fund has been cooperating actively with various research centres and think tanks with a view to assessing common challenges and effective policies in the field of migration and within the Western Balkan region\textsuperscript{381}.

Publications (reports, data, briefs):

4.4.6 WESTERN BALKANS INTEGRATIVE INTERNAL SECURITY GOVERNANCE (IISG)

Short description/presentation:

The Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG) is a new approach to internal security governance capacity-building and reform introduced in the Western Balkans.

The concept enables a coordinated, aligned and sustainable effort in the major fields of internal security governance reform on part of the EU and all relevant international donors of external assistance.

The IISG function and operation is based on a three-pillar structure, coordinated by a supporting mechanism (IISG Support Group) hosted by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) – Office Ljubljana.

The IISG was endorsed by the Council of the EU in late 2016, and officially launched by the ministers of interior/security of the Western Balkan countries in September 2017\textsuperscript{382}.

IISG’S General info on their involvement in the Western Balkans region:

Each IISG pillar has a different function and role in the Western Balkans region countries, more precisely:

\textsuperscript{380} See: https://www.balkanfund.org/about-us/
\textsuperscript{382} See: https://wb-iisg.com/about-iisg/
• **WBCTi**: The Western Balkan Counter-Terrorism initiative (WBCTi) is an EU-supported effort to respond to the developments related to Terrorism, Violent Extremism and Radicalisation phenomena in the Western Balkans by maximizing the potential of Regional Cooperation policy and by merging the efforts of all relevant security actors in this area of policy development in an efficient and sustainable manner.

• **WBCSCi**: The Western Balkan Counter-Serious Crime initiative (WBCSCi) is the second pillar of the IISG (Integrative Internal Security Governance) in the Western Balkans; an effort to respond to the threats of Serious and Organized Crime in the Western Balkan region by merging the efforts of all relevant security actors, EU and international donors of external assistance in this area of policy in an efficient and sustainable manner.

• **WBBSi**: The Western Balkan Border Security initiative (WBBSi) is the third pillar of the IISG (Integrative Internal Security Governance) in the Western Balkans; an effort to respond to the threats to border integrity of the Western Balkan region by merging the efforts of all relevant security actors, EU and international donors of external assistance in this area of policy in an efficient and sustainable manner.

The IISG is closely working together with: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. More precisely:

• **Albania**: Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, State Intelligence Service, Albanian National Security Authority

• **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Intelligence-Security Agency (OSA), State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), The Prosecutor’s Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Task Force for Fight Against Terrorism And Strengthening Capacities For Fight Against Terrorism, The Republic of Srpska: Ministry of the Interior, The Republic of Srpska: Administration for Countering Terrorism and Extremism, Special Anti-Terrorist Unit of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Srpska

• **Kosovo**: Ministry of Internal Affairs, Security Council Secretariat, Kosovo Police, Kosovo Intelligence Agency, Financial Intelligence Unit of Kosovo, Kosovo Judicial Council, Kosovo Prosecutor’s Office, Office of Strategic Planning (OSP) in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Governmental Working Group for the Prevention of Violent Extremism

• **Montenegro**: Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defence, National Security Agency, Administration for Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing

• **North Macedonia**: Ministry of Interior, National Committee for Counter-Terrorism/Countering Violent Extremism, The Intelligence Agency of the Republic of North Macedonia, Administration for Security and Counterintelligence (UBK)


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383 Ibid.
384 See: [https://wb-iisg.com/blog/countries/albania/](https://wb-iisg.com/blog/countries/albania/)
385 See: [https://wb-iisg.com/blog/countries/bosnia-and-herzegovina/](https://wb-iisg.com/blog/countries/bosnia-and-herzegovina/)
386 See: [https://wb-iisg.com/blog/countries/kosovo/](https://wb-iisg.com/blog/countries/kosovo/)
387 See: [https://wb-iisg.com/blog/countries/montenegro/](https://wb-iisg.com/blog/countries/montenegro/)
388 See: [https://wb-iisg.com/blog/countries/the-former-yugoslav-republic-of-macedonia/](https://wb-iisg.com/blog/countries/the-former-yugoslav-republic-of-macedonia/)
In the Western Balkans region, the IISG is working together with: George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Kosovar Centre for Security Studies, The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), CEELI Institute, Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance as well as the European Prison Education Association.

Publications (reports, data, briefs):
Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions;
Integrative Plan of Action:

4.4.7 SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRITY (SELDI)

Short description/presentation:
Southeast Europe Leadership for Development and Integrity (SELDI) is an anti-corruption and good governance coalition created in November 2012 by 17 likeminded CSOs in Southeast Europe, involving partners from nine countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey). By 2016, it encompasses 29 members from eleven countries (including Moldova and Romania). The Network is operating on the basis of joint strategy and agreed action agenda.

SELDI's involvement in the Western Balkans region:

The objective of the regional initiative is to contribute to a dynamic civil society in the region, capable of participating in public debate and influencing policy and decision-making process in the area of anti-corruption and good governance. The initiative is a continuation of the Southeast European Legal Development Initiative (SELDI), created in 1999 by leading not-for-profit organizations, representatives of government institutions and experts from the countries of Southeast Europe aimed at public-private coalition building for legal development in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey. SELDI organizes and participates in a series of events regarding the Western Balkans region.

The SELDI initiative aims to implement the following activities: (i) Coalition building for the development and endorsement of a regional CSO strategy and action agenda; (ii) Good governance monitoring (including CSOs trainings, production of comparative studies,

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390 See: https://wb-iisg.com/blog/countries/serbia/
391 See: https://wb-iisg.com/partners/
392 Ibid.
393 See: https://seldi.net/about-us/objectives/
394 See: https://seldi.net/events-and-news/seldi-events-and-news/
Country Specific and Regional Anti-Corruption Reports); (iii) Public awareness and outreach (including Regional Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Policy Forums, media outreach)\textsuperscript{394}.

It also works closely together with the: Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and the Coordination of the Fight Against Corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonian State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, Agency for prevention of corruption in Montenegro, Anti-Corruption Agency in Kosovo and the Anti-Corruption Agency in Serbia.\textsuperscript{395}

Furthermore, SELDI cooperates with a significant number of research centers and think tanks, namely: Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), Republic of North Macedonia; Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria; Albanian Center for Economic Research (ACER), Albania; Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM), Albania; Centers for Civic Initiatives (CCI), BiH; Zasto Ne, BiH; Partnership for Social Development (PSD), Croatia; INSTITUTI RIINVEST, Kosovo; Institute for Democracy ‘Societas Civilis’ Skopje Republic of North Macedonia; Center for Democratic Transition, Montenegro; Institute Alternative, Montenegro; Centre for Contemporary Politics, Serbia.\textsuperscript{396}

Publications (reports, data, briefs):
Practices and Forms of Cooperation between Customs and Border Guards in the European Union; (https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/132577/PB30.pdf)

4.5 Academic/research networks dealing with migration in the Western Balkans

4.5.1 Western Balkans Migration Network (WB-MIGNET)

Short description/presentation:
WB- Mignet was created in 2016 by several think tanks from 7 Western Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia) in the form of a “community of practice in the field of migration focused regionally on the Western Balkans”\textsuperscript{397}. According to information provided on the network’s website its vision entails “producing evidence to contribute to improved understanding and better policies for migration in the Western Balkans”\textsuperscript{398}. The network also states its commitment to “contributing to improved evidence- based policy making on migration relevant for the Western Balkans region by producing high quality interdisciplinary research, capacity building, and development of resources and dissemination of evidence”\textsuperscript{399}.

The member organizations of the network are the following: Bosnia and Herzegovina: CREDI- Centre for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research, Albania: CESS- Center for Economic and Social Studies, Croatia: IMIN- Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, Kosovo: RIINVEST- Institute for Development Research, North Macedonia- South East European University at Tetovo, Montenegro: ISSP- Institute for Strategic studies and

\textsuperscript{394} See: https://seldi.net/about-us/objectives/
\textsuperscript{395} See: https://seldi.net/about-us/partners/
\textsuperscript{396} See: https://seldi.net/about-us/partners/
\textsuperscript{397} See: https://wb-mignet.org/about-us/
\textsuperscript{398} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{399} Ibid.
Prognoses and Serbia: Faculty of Geography at the University of Belgrade.\footnote{400} When it comes to the implementation of projects, it is very important to refer to an ongoing project of WB-Mignet which focuses on the creation of a “Western Balkans Migration Observatory” whose purpose will be to “give new information for the migration processes of the Western Balkan countries and to promote the new policy approaches that will help to maximize the potential benefits of migration, whilst minimizing its negative consequences.”\footnote{401} The website of the network provides regular information on the migration related publications of its members. It also provides a comprehensive list of publications regarding the region of the Western Balkans from various scholars from the region and around the world.\footnote{402} According to information provided by the network, it is also currently working on “a systematic review of research in the field of migration in the Western Balkans.”\footnote{403} With regard to the organization of events, WB-Mignet has recently organized the “First Regional Winter School on Diaspora for Local Development”, which took place in Belgrade in December 2019.\footnote{404}

4.5.2 Academic Network for Cooperation in South East Europe (ANCSEE)

**Short description/presentation:**

Established in 2019 by PERFORM (a unit supporting social sciences in Serbia and Albania), ANCSEE was set up to foster research of multiculturalism and ethnicity by researchers the Institute for Ethnic Studies in Ljubljana, the Centre for International and Security Studies at the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb, and the Centre for Ethnicity Research in Belgrade.\footnote{405} The members include also: Institute for Social and Human Research, Euro-Balkan University of Skopje, Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo, and Faculty of Political Sciences – University of Montenegro.\footnote{406}

4.5.3 IMISCOE-INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION INTEGRATION AND SOCIAL COHESION IN EUROPE

Short description/presentation:

The research and academic network of IMISCOE was established in 2004. It is constituted from an important number of research institutions and universities (close to 450 researchers from several European research institutes). IMISCOE is a research and academic network that has been very active when it comes to research, publications and also the organization of various events and particularly conferences (i.e. the Annual IMISCOE Conference).

From the Western Balkan region, it is important to note that CESS- Center for Economic and Social Studies, based in Tirana Albania, has been a member of the network for many years, while according to information provided by the network, Albania is the only country in South-eastern Europe (excluding Turkey) that is affiliated, through a research centre, in the IMISCOE network.  

4.6 Notable country initiatives/ agencies at the international and regional level

4.6.1 SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

Short description/presentation:

As the Swiss Government's centre of competence for international cooperation, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC is responsible for development cooperation with the South and East, multilateral cooperation as well as for Switzerland's humanitarian aid.

The agency's involvement in the countries of the Western Balkans:

- The SCD aiming at using its funds most efficiently and taking into account the needs of the Eastern Europe countries focuses on certain topics and priorities. In the area of transition cooperation the SDC has set the following priorities:
  - Democratisation, decentralisation, and local governance
  - Health sector reform
  - Rural development (including agrarian supply chains)
  - Market-orientated vocational education and training

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• More efficient and equitable regional water-supply systems

The need to refer to the activities of the organization relates to the fact that it has been actively supporting the implementation of numerous projects, with many of them relating to migration.

**Albania:**

Switzerland is supporting Albania’s EU integration through the establishment of a democratic society and a developed and functioning economy. Switzerland is particularly focused on local governance, economic development and healthcare as well as urban infrastructure and energy.

Since the end of the communist dictatorship, Albania has made considerable progress towards democracy and a competitive market economy. A series of promising reforms have been launched and implemented. The goal of joining the EU is a strong driving force behind these reforms. In view of these positive developments, Albania was given the status of EU accession candidate in 2014, and in 2016 the EU Commission recommended initiating negotiations on membership. Albania is still confronting major challenges in fighting corruption and organized crime, and there are other hurdles to reducing poverty and unemployment, which are especially affecting rural regions, disadvantaged groups and young people.

Switzerland is providing targeted support to several sectors, more particularly at:

• Economic development: Switzerland is supporting sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Albania. Specifically, it is helping to strengthen the management of public finances, monetary policy and the supervision of the financial sector, thus contributing directly to stabilising the macroeconomic situation in the country. Switzerland is also helping to create jobs through targeted measures to improve the overall legal framework for private companies and in this way facilitate access to markets.

• Urban infrastructures and energy: By combining measures to strengthen institutions while increasing investment at the local level, Switzerland is encouraging the provision of good-quality public services in Albania. In this context, Switzerland is active in improving urban infrastructure and increasing energy efficiency specifically in the areas of drinking water supply, disposal of waste water and collection of waste. The Albanian authorities are also receiving support in diversifying their sources of energy in order to ensure efficient and reliable energy supply throughout the country.

• Health: On the basis of the Albania’s national health strategy for 2017–2020, Switzerland is supporting efforts to strengthen basic health services for the people of Albania. It is supporting national reforms, helping to improve management, equip medical facilities and support continuous training for health personnel. Furthermore, Switzerland is supporting preventive measures to reduce the prevalence of non-communicable diseases and efforts to raise awareness of health issues among the population, and to hold healthcare providers to account.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

Switzerland is also providing support and assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina, facilitating its transition towards a democratic society and a functioning market economy. More precisely the focus is on:

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411 Ibid.
Democratic governance, municipal services and justice: In its cooperation with BiH, Switzerland is helping to develop accountable institutions tailored to citizens’ needs by improving access to public services and making them easier to use. The inclusion of marginalised groups is a key concern. Furthermore, Switzerland is working to increase decentralisation in politics, the tax system and administrative matters by encouraging better cooperation between the different levels of government. It is also supporting reforms in the justice system to rebuild citizens’ confidence in their institutions and society as a whole.

Healthcare: The aim in this sector is to guarantee universal access to good-quality primary healthcare and equip people with knowledge to help them to make better choices and adopt more healthy lifestyles. Switzerland’s efforts to set up primary healthcare services focus on the development of nursing services, on community mental healthcare and on preventing chronic diseases, which will reduce sector costs in the long term.

Economy and Employment: Switzerland’s efforts in BiH encourage a business-friendly environment and new job opportunities. The two countries are working at the regional level to increase the transparency and efficiency of public finance mechanisms, while efforts to improve economic framework conditions envisage private sector growth and access to foreign markets for Bosnian businesses. Alongside these efforts, Switzerland is helping to fight unemployment among young people. It is assisting in the development of vocational education and training courses geared to market demand. It is also supporting government employment agencies in efforts to reintegrate unemployed people in the job market, with particular focus on disadvantaged groups including women.

Migration: In 2009, Switzerland and Bosnia and Herzegovina signed a migration partnership to deal with the challenges and exploit the positive economic and social potential of migration. In the event of a continuation of the mass migration movements from the Middle East, which have particularly affected the Balkans region, Bosnia and Herzegovina needs to be prepared.

Kosovo:
Kosovo is also supported to facilitate its European and regional integration. The main areas of cooperation relate to the promotion of democracy and economic development and improvements to infrastructure. More particularly:

Democratic governance and human security: Political and administrative decentralisation is a key to peaceful co-existence in Kosovo. Switzerland supports the development of local administrations that provide high-quality services, regarding transparency, reliability and efficiency. It also encourages active citizen and civil society engagement in the policy-making processes. At the national level, the focus is on inclusive institutions as key enablers of social cohesion, especially in relation to dealing with the past and the dialogue with Serbia.

Economy and employment: Switzerland’s main cooperation objectives in Kosovo include a dynamic private sector that can offer realistic career prospects and good working conditions. This entails developing work skills and entrepreneurship, particularly among young people. To help achieve this, Switzerland invests in vocational training that is geared to the labour market. Career guidance and job placement programmes also increase the likelihood of jobseekers finding work and of companies finding the staff they need. Furthermore, Switzerland supports Kosovo in improving its

business regulations and investment framework in order to foster a more attractive investment climate. Switzerland is currently considering additional support aimed at reducing the amount of non-performing loans in Kosovo’s banking system, with the view to free blocked assets and allow their reassignment to more productive use and thus contribute to job creation.

- Water and climate change: The main objective is to ensure access to high-quality and affordable water and sanitation services that improve the living conditions. Switzerland works towards this by fostering policy dialogue, by strengthening the institutions managing and governing the water sector, and by investing in drinking water networks, sanitation systems and wastewater treatment facilities. It also raises general awareness about responsible water usage. In addition, public services are encouraged to participate in efforts to protect the environment and mitigate the impact of climate change.

- Health: Switzerland contributes to modernising Kosovo’s health services by supporting the introduction of a mandatory basic healthcare insurance scheme. At the local level, the programme aims to improve healthcare by fostering capacity building among medical staff and encouraging citizens to access the services available. Particular attention is placed on the needs of disadvantaged or excluded groups. Other focus areas are the prevention of non-communicable diseases and awareness of healthy lifestyle behaviours among the population.

- Migration: Switzerland has had a migration partnership with Kosovo since 2010. The programme aims to build capacities among Kosovo’s migration authorities with a set of targeted measures in migration policy and management. It also seeks to counter migratory flows by improving the social inclusion of marginalised groups, who are among those more inclined to migrate. Meanwhile, Kosovo’s Diaspora contributes to the country’s social and economic development.

North Macedonia:

Switzerland’s assistance in North Macedonia is based on mutual interests in attaining socio-economic development, stability, security and European integration. Significant progress has been made since the Republic of North Macedonia gained independence in 1991, but the country still lags in some areas of reform, such as decentralisation, rule of law, economic development and public services.

Swiss assistance is mainly targeted to the areas of:

- Democratic governance: The programme seeks to strengthen democratic governance through measures to increase social inclusion, public accountability and parliamentary control over the executive. Swiss cooperation also fosters citizen participation in local and regional decision-making as well as civil society involvement in representing the population’s needs and concerns.

- Economic development: Switzerland’s support to the economic sector is aimed at improving employment prospects and achieving sustainable economic growth. It also helps job seekers to access the labour market through vocational education and training programmes that are geared to the needs of the market. At the same time, it promotes private sector development, particularly start-ups, by encouraging employers to offer decent work opportunities. Switzerland is also actively involved in efforts to improve employment conditions, promote trade and institute better business practices.

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• Infrastructure and environment: The country’s water resources and wealth of biodiversity are considered a major factor in its development. With Switzerland’s support, the institutions and organisations in selected municipalities can better protect the environment and mitigate the impact of climate change. By investing in infrastructure and capacity building in public services, Switzerland is helping to raise the quality of service in water supply and in waste and wastewater management.\(^{414}\)

**Serbia:**

Switzerland is assisting Serbia along the path to regional and European integration by facilitating Serbia’s transition to efficient and effective democratic institutions and processes and by promoting sustainable economic growth for all. Swiss cooperation with Serbia focuses on supporting local government, economic development, job creation, as well as sustainable energy management and urban development. Swiss assistant focuses on:

- **Democratic governance:** Switzerland is supporting Serbia in the process of decentralisation. It is helping to make local administrations and governments transparent and efficient to enable them to provide high-quality services in line with the needs of the population as a whole and those of the private sector. Citizens, municipalities and civil society organisations are being helped to ensure that the interests and needs of all are taken into account at both local and national levels and that government is made accountable.

- **Economic development and employment:** Switzerland is working in Serbia to promote sustainable economic growth. To achieve this, the framework conditions for Serbian companies are being improved to give them easier access to foreign markets and financing opportunities. In addition, Switzerland is promoting increased innovation and entrepreneurship to increase their competitiveness. It is facilitating the development of an efficient and effective finance administration that is both transparent and accountable. In order to reduce the high level of unemployment, market-oriented vocational training is being expanded, especially for young people and disadvantaged groups.

- **Sustainable energy management and urban development:** Improved energy efficiency and greater use of renewable energy sources not only contribute to lower CO\(_2\) emissions but also help meet the conditions for EU membership. Switzerland is supporting Serbia with innovative projects to further promote renewable energies, such as biomass and geothermal sources, thus reducing CO\(_2\) emissions. More efficient energy use is being achieved through rehabilitating district heating systems and renovating public buildings. Long-term energy planning and improvements to the administration of urban infrastructure is also expected to enable cities and municipalities to be better prepared for possible threats.

- **Migration:** Switzerland and Serbia concluded a migration partnership in 2009 to address together the challenges of migration and exploit the economic and social potential to their mutual advantage. Various measures to achieve this are being supported, such as the reintegration of returnees and the prevention of irregular migration.\(^{415}\)

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Publications (reports, data, briefs):
The impact of the emigration of Albanian migrants on their home region of Tetovo: A Qualitative Exploratory Research Study in the Region of Tetovo, Macedonia;
Swiss Cooperation Strategy Albania 2018-2021;
Swiss Cooperation Strategy North Macedonia 2017-2020;

4.6.2 USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development)

Short description/presentation
USAID was created in the beginning of the 1960’s and it has been very active very since around the world when it comes to the support for political and economic reforms with a view to strengthening democracy and the rule of law. In Europe, the agency is focused on efforts to tackle corruption, political stagnation, poverty and other factors that hold back a more effective democracy.

USAID’s involvement in the Western Balkans region
Though migration is not the agency’s primary field of activities, it has provided support for the implementation of programmes that include migration in their scope throughout the region of the Western Balkans.

In the case of Albania, the agency has been providing assistance and support since the early 1990’s. In recent times, it focuses on programmes that aim at strengthening the rule of law, at increasing the ability of local governments to raise revenue and provide more effective services to the citizens and at improving business competitiveness on the basis of economic development and financial security. When it comes to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the agency has concentrated its efforts in helping the country to achieve stability, to progress with its Euro-Atlantic integration and establish a functioning governance system at all levels with an emphasis on the respect of human rights, parameters that will facilitate the country’s EU accession. In the case of Kosovo, the agency has been very active in several fields with an emphasis on community-based programmes, the growth of the private sector in the country and lastly the strengthening of the rule-of-law and democracy. Similar activities have been implemented in Montenegro with a focus on government transparency, the progress of EU accession, the reforms on the judicial system and the banking sector. In the case of North Macedonia, the activities of the agency are also multilayered and according to the more recent information provided by USAID they will be much more focused on the progress of the country’s EU accession process.

Finally, in the case of Serbia, the agency will be focusing on assisting the country in reforms in

416 See: https://www.usaid.gov/where-we-work
417 See: https://www.usaid.gov/bosnia
418 See: https://www.usaid.gov/kosovo
419 See: https://www.usaid.gov/north-macedonia
the judiciary system, in the efforts to fight against corruption and build a competitive market economy with a view to advancing more swiftly in the context of its EU integration process.420

Publications (reports, data, briefs...):


Bosnia and Herzegovina fact sheets: https://www.usaid.gov/bosnia/newsroom/key-documents

Albania fact sheets: https://www.usaid.gov/albania/newsroom/key-documents


4.6.3 GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit- GmbH

Short description/presentation

GIZ (German Corporation for International Cooperation) is a German agency that focuses on providing services in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development and international education work.421 The corporation commonly implements programmes of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It has a very strong international presence in over 120 countries around the world in which it pursues and financially supports the implementation of projects that relate to its scope of activities.

GIZ has been very active in the field of migration and has, also, developed a comprehensive strategy and plan of activities in an effort to respond to the various parameters of the phenomenon at an international level. In particular, it “combines short-term assistance with medium and long-term projects. It supports refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the host countries. It provides advice on legal opportunities for migration as well as local work and training opportunities in the home country. In the long term, it helps improve the prospects of many migrants in their countries of origin”422.

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420 See: https://www.usaid.gov/serbia
421 See: https://www.giz.de/en/aboutgiz/profile.html
422 See: https://www.giz.de/en/ourservices/54734.html
The corporation’s involvement in the countries of the Western Balkans:

GIZ has been intensively committed in assisting the Western Balkan countries in their effort to integrate the EU. It has been present in the region since the late 1980’s and is present every country of the region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia). Indeed, many of the projects that it has developed and is in the process of developing cover key areas (i.e. rule of law, governance and democracy, strengthening of local administration, legal and judicial reform, energy, climate change and economic development. These general priorities apply to all Western Balkans and guide GIZ’s involvement and cooperation with them. When it comes to migration we were able to identify a number of important and long-term projects (duration of 2-3 years) that involve all Western Balkan countries at different levels. These were the following:

- “Preventing human trafficking in the Western Balkan and supporting victims” (with MARRI)
- “Respect for human rights of vulnerable groups” (with NALAS- Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe)
- “Social rights for vulnerable groups” (with the Ministries of labour and social affairs in the countries of the Western Balkans)
- “Countering Serious crime in the Western Balkans” (with the Regional Cooperation Council). According to the information provided in GIZ’s website, one of the major objectives of the project is to combat illegal migrant smuggling and to recover illegal financial gains obtained through diverse criminal acts.423

4.7 Analysis

The information gathered and presented in this report aimed at providing MIGREC with a comprehensive view on several types of involvement in migration related issues in the Western Balkans region, both at the regional as well as the international level. In particular, it referred to international organizations that deal specifically with migration (i.e. IOM and UNHCR) and many other that include migration, to a larger or a lesser extent, in the scope of their activities. When it comes to the European level it should be noted that the countries of the Western Balkans (with the exception of Croatia) are not part of the European Migration Network. Nevertheless, they have recently established forms of cooperation with EU agencies such as EASO, FRONTEX and FRA. Other international organizations presented in this report (i.e. USAID, UNDP) do not deal exclusively with migration but are very active in the region and they have a long record of initiatives that relate to migration in direct or less direct manners (i.e. return migration, youth and emigration, assistance to vulnerable groups and gender relations).

From many aspects, the fact that Western Balkan countries are not yet members of the European Migration Network is an element that merits special attention, particularly if one combines it with the prospects of EU accession, which in most cases appear to be rather long. There is a great deal of discussion, at least since the mid-2000’s, on whether there is a sufficient and effective international migration governance framework. According to Alexander Betts, in the field of migration there is an evident gap when it comes to the application of a more

423 See: https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/76737.html
normative and top-down international (or multilateral) governance framework, contrary to other fields (i.e. economy, tourism)\textsuperscript{424}. As Alexander Betts notes: “This is not to say that there is no global migration governance. Despite the absence of a top-down multilateral framework, there is a rapidly emerging bottom-up global migration governance framework. In the absence of coherent multilateral institutions, states are creating ad hoc forms of multi-level migration governance. An increasingly complex array of bilateral, regional, and inter-regional institutions is emerging, enabling states to selectively engage in different forms of informal cooperation with different partner states”\textsuperscript{425}.

In the light of such an assumption, the information presented in this report can help not only in the mapping of the international and regional organizations (at the level of policy and research) but to advance a series of concluding remarks as well as recommendations that will help MIGREC to formulate a strategy in its regional and international partnerships, networking as well as research agenda.

A first concluding remark, regards the importance of migration related organizations (IOM and UNHCR) when it comes to the assistance provided to the Western Balkan countries not only from a technical, operational and procedural standpoint but also when it comes to determining long-term migration strategies, policies and frameworks (i.e. legislation). As it was mentioned, this assistance is explicitly destined to help Western Balkan countries to adjust to international and EU standards. It is also an element which, eventually, attests to the more complex regional and international migration governance framework in which the Western Balkan countries have operated and are still operating. Evidently, this framework will become much more consistent and normative depending on the progress of their EU accession process. In this regard, it is very promising that the Western Balkan countries have intensified their cooperation with EU agencies (i.e. EASO and FRONTEX).

A second concluding remark remarks the regional organizations dealing with migration. In this respect, this report has to stress the importance of MARRI, since it exemplifies the political will of the Western Balkan countries to commit themselves, in the long run, to intense cooperation when it comes to migration governance. This is another indicator attesting to the more bottom-up governance framework in the absence of more normative one (EU, European Migration Network). It is also interesting to note the absence of other regional organizations and initiatives dealing specifically with migration.

Lastly, a third remark regards the absence of academic/research networks dealing with migration in the Western Balkans. In this regard, the existence of the recently established WM-Mignet is certainly a very positive development since it already functions as a point of reference which can certainly help to more systematic approaches on migration related issues in the Western Balkan region.

Thus, in the bigger picture, it can be argued that despite the absence of a normative top-down framework, the Western Balkan region certainly presents an important degree of integration and coordination, which can eventually become more intense, depending on the progress of EU accession. It is clear that these elements (regional integration and EU integration) are complementing and strengthening one another.

\textsuperscript{424} Alexander Betts (ed.), Global Migration Governance, Oxford University Press, 2012, pp 1-5
\textsuperscript{425} Ibid.
4.8 Recommendations

On the basis of the information gathered as well as the analysis, this report can advance a number of recommendations. MIGREC should:

- Observe very closely the activities of international organizations such as IOM and UNHCR, given their important relevance when it comes to policy design with regard to migration in the region.
- Observe very closely the activities of other organizations (i.e. UNDP, Berlin Process) in order to be informed on their policy priorities with regard to the region.
- Observe very closely the evolution of MARRI. Regardless of the EU accession process, MARRI, from institutional point of view, is the most consistent effort of Western Balkan countries to coordinate and integrate their migration policies and governance structures.
- Create and inform databases (i.e. these reports can become the basis for this type of data) and registers with all migration relevant stakeholders at the international and regional level, policy and research oriented. This will prove helpful when it comes to establishing synergies and assessing the migration profile of the Western Balkans.
- Assess the research (evolution of themes and topics, research interests and methodologies) conducted in the context of WB-Mignet, which is the most important academic network on migration in the region. A similar assessment may be conducted in the context of IMISCOE’s record of research. This task will help MIGREC in its effort to propose an up-to-date research agenda that will be as policy relevant as possible.
- Work intensively on producing an assessment of the Western Balkans migration governance as well as research profile. As it was mentioned, WB-Mignet is already working on such a project. On the basis of the information gathered by this report as well as the country reports of task 1.3 on regional synergies, MIGREC disposes of ready-to-use database in order to obtain such an insight. This may take place at a later stage. From the standpoint of the reports of task 1.3 this will be important for the Centre’s regional appeal. MIGREC should and can present itself as a centre that is, inherently, preoccupied with migration in the Western Balkans.

5. Recommendations on the basis of the 6 country reports and the reports on the international and regional organizations dealing with migration in the Western Balkans

Context: Comparative analysis and contextual factors for MIGREC’s strategy planning:

Despite the turbulent recent past and the persisting political problems and disputes the entire Western Balkans (even if including Croatia) remain a relatively small and homogenous space that is not too diverse for developing a regional research work agenda. There are several countries in a small geographic space, but with rather limited total population (equal to a mid-sized EU country); limited research capacity that could thrive only through complementarity; shared political, economic and social trends.
One more element of unity is the fact that all Western Balkans (and including Croatia) can be considered to share policy priorities when it comes to population movement and migration. Back in 1990s and 2000s, the countries that engaged in the Yugoslav wars had a major policy concern issues of refugee/IDP return and/or reintegration and sustainable development; other countries, like primarily Albania and secondarily North Macedonia had more the concern of outward migration and the financing of economic regeneration at home. Old and newer diasporas continue to be policy concerns for all Western Balkans. But presently, the biggest policy challenge for all the countries of the region is rather the new waves of outward migration (a problem in fact shared with many relatively recent entrants to the EU). Therefore, this regional policy affinity creates a favourable locus for regional research agendas.

Thus, all the countries of the Western Balkans encounter social and economic phenomena that pertain to migration and pose serious policy challenges: outward migration, brain drain and lack of skilled labour, migration of professionals from key sectors (e.g. health), demographic ageing and population decline. Aggravating the problem, the Western Balkans are geographically adjacent to wealthy and vibrant economies requiring steady flow of highly skilled workforce and they are in the process of joining the EU and its single market where all barriers for labour movement are to be removed.

Moreover, all the countries of the Western Balkans also share the same set of geopolitical challenges: great power competition for influence; European perspective and accession process (foreign policy alignment, security and border control, conditionality etc.); part of the Balkan corridor of mixed migration flows to the Western Europe.

Last but not least, while inward migration may not such a major issue for the Western Balkan polities, which worry for their own co-nationalist migrating, it still remains a top priority for the key EU member states and the Union as a whole. Thus, inward migration returns to the Western Balkans as a secondary, but still important policy challenge prompted by the influence of the EU and the European integration/access process.

**Recommendations and explanation**

**Aim for a regional strategy for MIGREC’s research and policy engagement:**

The political, economic and societal trends outlined above and identified in the report point to an opportunity for MIGREC to ‘think’ regionally in its strategic planning. MIGREC should aim for a regional migration governance research profile and strategy in view of developing effective collaboration with research and policy stakeholders.
Strategies for the design of elaborate forms of policy engagement, at both the national and regional level:

It is more than evident from the study conducted that migration research in the Western Balkans should consciously aim not only for academic excellence, but also for policy relevance. Given that the latter is not adequately done in any of the Western Balkan states, MIGREC should develop innovative tools for systematically engaging with policy makers and stakeholders in every phase of the research process as well as translating the academic findings to relevant and useful advice and input for the policy process and to the use of decision makers and the state administration. The forms and frameworks that this multivalent policy engagement at both the national and regional level may take should constitute a core undertaking of the strategic planning of MIGREC.

Develop a migration research agenda that ‘speaks’ to the current needs of the Western Balkans by focusing on outward migration and related issues:

As it has become evident in the study, all Western Balkan states share the societal concern and policy challenge of dealing with emigration, brain and labour drain, permanent or circular migration and various related issues. While these concerns are not necessarily a priority of some EU states, which often benefit from the massive movement of skilled Western Balkan professional, they nevertheless form core societal and policy anxieties in both the Western Balkan and peripheral EU states. For MIGREC to develop such a timely and effective research agenda, during the strategic planning phase it would have to have extensive consultations with both policy and civil society stakeholders.

Expand regionally the comparative framework for migration studies:

The study has shown that there is ample space for designing research programmes that are regional in scope and consider the same themes in their comparative perspective, whether at the national or sub-national level, or comparing Southeast Europe (or the Western Balkans) with other regions. As we have seen above, probably for the first time since the end of the Communism, the countries of the Western Balkans have similar policy priorities when it comes to mobility and migration and face similar social, political and economic challenges from these. But policy responses to these challenges remain largely national in character since regional cooperation and regional measures remain limited. Moreover, the countries of the Western Balkans seem to differ in their capacities to design and develop policy responses or in their ability to implement effectively planned policies. Differences in the design, implementation and effectiveness of migration strategies are a case in point. More comparative research maybe be

426 See: https://repozitorij.fpzg.unizg.hr/islandora/object/fpzd%3A356/datastream/PDF/view
pursued for comparatively considering the various dimensions of migration strategies (needs assessment; design; feasibility; sustainability; implementation challenges, risks and opportunities; funding; foreign involvement and support; developmental, social and foreign policy implications etc). MIGREC may actively pursue a research agenda that prioritizes the regional comparative perspective in various key aspects of migration policy research as a response to the above-outlined conditions.

**Develop capacity and synergies with related disciplinary fields, such as European Studies, International Relations and Security Studies:**

The study has revealed growing policy, and by implication scholarly, interest in areas that are related to, but not always directly included, in migration studies. Policy challenges include, among others, the public policy consequences from Europeanisation and EU accession conditionality, the effects of European integration for migration policies, the securitisation of the migration issues, border control, the international politics and economics of outward and inward migration, violent extremism and the challenge of radicalised citizens returning from battlefronts. The study has, for example, shown the growing interest in the presence and operation of EU agencies, such as FRONTEX, FRA and EASO, the consequences of growing political and economic integration of the Western Balkans to the EU and the economic and social repercussions stemming from it, the increasing demands cum accession conditionality of the EU pertaining to border control and the stemming of migration flows, the domestic and regional consequences from the spread of Islamist radicalism and the phenomenon of volunteer fighters in Syria. These and many other topics may be examined at the national or regional comparative level. MIGREC may consider an expanded research agenda that will allow for synergies between ‘traditional’ migration experts and Western Balkans-based scholars in the fields of European Studies, International Relations and Security Studies. MIGREC may also develop collaborative research programmes suitable for ‘regional’ funding on the basis of such synergies.

**Develop capacity and synergies with institutions and individual scholars in political economy, development and labour and economics, health policy and other related fields:**

As a subsequent recommendation from the above-mentioned need to focus on outward migration, it is recommended that MIGREC develops own capacity and effective synergies with scholars and institutions that can offer academic expertise on crucial aspects of the phenomenon. This can be achieved by identifying scientific excellence in the region and beyond and top scholars who study emigration trends and consequences from the Balkans as well as high caliber knowledge and best practices from other regions. Such knowledge will complement MIGREC’s expertise in view of developing a research strategy that that will respond to the policy needs of the Western Balkan region.
Understand the challenges to sustainability and develop cooperative ideas that will connect MIGREC with institutions and individuals regionally and will avoid overlaps and duplication of efforts:

The regional academic market is thin and of weak capacity. Western Balkan research organisations cannot afford serious overlaps and duplication of efforts. At the same time, it’s important for MIGREC to examine the past failed or moderately-successful attempts at developing migration research in the region. The Croatian case study in this report has indicated past failures that may function as lessons learned for MIGREC. Similarly, the example of the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies and its Strategy for Development for 2015-2020 may be examined to identify implementation challenges and and progress achieved, limitations as well as potential for synergies and cooperation. Part of the strategic planning of MIGREC should be to understand such cases and the lessons they offer about its own future sustainability. Moreover, the strategic planning of MIGREC should aim to develop collaborative platforms and initiatives that will make the most of the regional dimension of academic human resources and institutional capacity.

Formalise the regional perspective on MIGREC’s research agenda by setting up new cross-border institutions:

The forms of cooperation that may be developed with regional academic partners should aim to include also formal initiatives that will offer a more sustainable and long term perspective to the idea. Such formal initiative may include the creation of the regional interdisciplinary MA programme of migration studies that could attract EU funding. MIGREC could also explore the possibility of creating new regional networks; but the fact that such initiatives already exist (WB-MIGNET, ANCSEE) and the University of Belgrade is member or may join argue against the creation of new networks. It would be better for MIGREC to study the existing networks and devise a strategy for inclusion and effective collaboration in them, including clarifying overlaps, exploring synergies and division of labour where needed.

Devise forms of engagement and collaboration with migration scholars originating from the Balkans and working abroad:

The weak academic capacity of the Western Balkans is also due to the massive emigration of young academic talent and established scholars from the Balkans since the early 1990s. Many scholars originating from the Balkans have created brilliant academic careers and are involved in cutting edge research, including on migration themes. MIGREC may develop creative forms of formal and informal engagement and collaboration with Balkan scholars of migration or related

fields who excel in Western European and beyond. The strategic planning of MIGREC should reflect on this aim and brainstorm with all stakeholders involved so that these forms of collaboration may be developed in the near future.

**Highlight MIGREC’s EU affinity and connection when planning and promoting regionally:**

Given the legacy of conflicts and the persisting political disputes and problems in the Western Balkans, MIGREC would rather highlight its inception in the context of an EU-funded project as well as the affinity and strong connection to EU countries and partners. This ‘European profile’ will help MIGREC overcome potential lack of trust and help it build strong links with the rest of the Western Balkans.

**Aim to develop resources of regional research and policy significance:**

As part of its regional agenda, MIGREC may consider pushing the agenda for the development of more comprehensive migration-related resources for use of academic research, policy analysis and policy decision making. Such resources may be regional databases or connectivity of existing databases, regional statistics, regional polling data (e.g. adjusting/adapting the RCC regional polls for migration analysis and policy making). Regional statistics may also be collected in coordination with EU institutions or in line with EU requirements and conditionality. MIGREC may team up with other institutions from the region in order to promote this agenda.

**Additional research themes that were highlighted in case studies:**

In addition to the above themes, different stakeholders and sources from our individual case studies highlighted the following important research themes:

- Illegal migration and asylum seeking from the Western Balkans to EU countries
- Legal problems of refugees and Roma; integration and rights of vulnerable groups, especially in the context of EU integration process
- Development of comprehensive frameworks for the integration (socio-economic) of migrant populations that arrive in the Western Balkan countries from regions outside Europe. Despite the fact that Western Balkan countries are all transit countries, many stakeholders stress out the need for developing such frameworks as a necessary operational and institutional capacity.
Seek major European private funding:

Coordinate with Western Balkan partners and key European partners for the submission of a core application to major European private donors (e.g. OSF, Mercator, Bertelsmann etc.) aiming to win funding for a comprehensive regional approach on the migrating agenda (scientific study, policy tools and recommendations, policy engagement platforms and initiatives).

Develop multilevel relations with regional organisations and policy initiatives:

MIGREC’s policy engagement should develop both at the national and regional level. For the latter, apart from relations with other national governments, MIGREC should design a framework of cooperation with regional organisations, such as the RCC, and policy initiatives, such as MARRI and the Berlin Process. The types, intension and objectives of these cooperations should be part of the planning strategy of MIGREC. One path may be to observe the policy activity of organisations and initiatives. Another more advanced path may be to engage with the organisations in types of collaboration, such as drafting of reports and coordinate generation of data. Yet another path may be a conscious effort, likely with governmental and/or non-governmental partners, to influence the agenda of regional organisations, especially of the RCC and the Berlin Process as more impactful policy fora. As part of the above paths, MIGREC could also lobby regional fora for establishing financing tools for comprehensive academic research and policy analysis on the newly-highlighted migration themes.

Consider partnership building with NGOs across the region:

In addition to academic and policy institutions, MIGREC should consider potential synergies and partnership building with the NGO community of the region. In the context of the migrant crisis of 2015-2016, this sector was considerably expanded with many organizations being created and others informing their vision, mission and agendas. Many of these NGOs, albeit their significant contribution, do face sustainability issues due to their dependency on external funding. This report provides MIGREC with a very comprehensive group of NGOs according to their thematic specialization. In addition to potential partnerships, MIGREC will have every interest and reason to explore sustainability schemes from other regions of the world in order to be able to contribute in the understanding of the NGOs’ involvement and significance for migration policies. Many of the stakeholders contacted in the context of this report, referred to the NGOs as an important component for the upgrading of the operational capacities (delivery of services, link between the state and society) at the country level and also when it comes to advocacy and popularization of key topics (i.e. integration) in the agenda of migration policies.
Lobby IOs and regional organisations for de jure or de facto consultative status:

MIGREC, possibly together with regional partners, may lobby international organisations active in the Balkans, or, more plausibly, regional Balkan organisations for achieving a formal or informal consultative status. This may be easier to achieve after MIGREC has implemented part of its ambitious research and policy engagement regional agenda.

6. Appendices

A Guidelines questions used for the collection of data and information

*Part I Meso-level: State institutions and agencies dealing with migration governance- Questions that facilitate the research on the targeted data and information*

Q.I.1. Is there a ministry dealing specifically with migration in the country? **Desk research**

Q.I.2. If not, in which ministry (-ies) is the responsibility for migration related issues divided? **Desk research**

Q.I.3. Are there any recently established associations with the EU’s migration related agencies (i.e. European Migration Network, European Asylum Support Office, Frontex…)? **Desk research/country contacts**

Q.I.4. Do key international organizations (i.e. IOM, UNHCR) have offices in the country? **Desk research**

Q.I.5. Which are the general secretariats within the ministry (-ies) dealing with migration? **Desk research**

Q.I.6. Are there any state agencies, besides the ministry (-ies) dealing with migration? **Desk research/country contacts**

Q.I.7. Are there any independent authorities dealing specifically with migration related issues or including migration related issues? **Desk research/country contacts**

Q.I.8. Do the ministries, general secretariats, state agencies and independent authorities provide statistical data on migration? If so, on what basis (i.e. weekly, monthly, annually…) **Desk research**
Q.I.9. Do the relevant to migration state institutions and independent authorities publish policy reports on migration issues? Provide examples of titles of recent publications. **Desk research**

Q.I.10. Do the relevant to migration state institutions and independent authorities organize policy relevant events on migration issues? **Desk research**

Q. I.11. Do the regional and local administrations (regional councils and municipalities) take part in the management of migration related issues? **Desk research/country contacts**

Q.I.12. Do all migration related state institutions and independent authorities have websites and social media accounts? Are these sites and accounts informative with regular updates and other policy relevant material (i.e. reports, data)? **Desk research**

Q.I.13. What kind of material do all the migration related institutions and independent authorities produce? Do they publish reports and newsletters? How do they organize the information that they are sharing? **Desk research**

Q.I.14. What kind of partnerships and collaborations do all the migration related institutions and independent authorities have at the national, regional and international level? **Desk research/country contacts**

Q.I.15. Are there any policy working groups and policy task forces on migration (governmental or mixed state & non-state), Inter-Ministerial or inter-agency commissions, working groups etc, mixed EU-Western Balkan commissions, mixed EU-state commissions, mixed international organisation-state commissions etc.? Provide info about these. **Desk research/country contacts**

**Part II Micro-level: Universities/ Academic Departments, Research Centres and Institutes specializing on migration -Questions that facilitate the research on the targeted data and information**

Q.II.1 Are there academic departments in state or private universities dealing-according to their title- with migration? **Desk research**

Q.II.2 Are there other academic departments which include migration as a distinct specialization in their curricula? **Desk research/country contacts**

Q.II.3 Do these departments publish an academic journal dealing with migration related issues? Provide examples of titles of recent publications. Provide names of scholars working on migration with links to their websites, profiles, google scholar etc **Desk research/country contacts**
Q.II.4 At a general level, are there academic journals dealing with migration related issues? Provide examples of titles of recent publications Desk research/ country contacts

Q.II.5 Do these academic departments publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize conferences/ events and/or seminars on migration (at least in the recent past, from 2014-2015 onwards) Desk research

Q.II.6 Do these departments participate in international research programmes and projects? Have they implemented any EU-funded or other collaborative research project in the last five years? Provide info about these projects Desk research/ country contacts

Q.II.7 Are these departments part of regional and international academic/ research/ policy related networks dealing with migration? What kind of collaborations and partnerships do they have when it comes to migration related issues at a national, regional and international level? Desk research/ country contacts

Q.II.8 Are there research centres, think tanks and institutes dealing specifically with migration in the country? Desk research Q.II.9 Are there research centres, think tanks and institutes that include migration in their scope even without it being their primary interest? Desk research/ country contacts

Q.II.10 Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize conferences/ events and/or seminars on migration (at least in the recent past, from 2014-2015 onwards) Desk research

Q.II.11 Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes participate in international research programmes and projects? Have they implemented any EU-funded or other collaborative research project in the last five years? Provide info about these projects Desk research/ country contacts

Q.II.12 Do these research centres, think tanks and institutes publish reports, including any policy oriented material? Provide examples of titles of recent publications Desk research/ country contacts

Q.II.13 Are these research centres, think tanks and institutes part of regional and international academic/ research/ policy related networks dealing with migration? What kind of collaborations and partnerships do they have when it comes to migration related issues at a national, regional and international level? Desk research/ country contacts

Q.II.14 Do all the departments, research centres, think tanks and institutes are active on social media with regular updates on their activities? Desk research
Part III Micro-level: NGOs and other institutions from the civil society - Questions that facilitate the research on the targeted data and information

Q.III.1 How many NGOs (rough estimation if the exact number is difficult to establish) specialize in migration related issues in the country? **Desk research**

Q.III.2 Is there a registry which includes all or most of them as such (i.e. “Registry of NGOs dealing with migration” or “General registry of NGOs”)? **Desk research**

Q.III.3 Which are the NGOs dealing with migration at the national level? **Desk research/ country contacts**

Q.III.4 Is there a thematic specialization among NGOs dealing with migration at the national level? Mention what type of work the NGOs do: humanitarian work, service delivery, education, information and awareness raising, advocacy etc. **Desk research/ country contacts**

Q.III.5 Do these NGOs participate in regional and international research projects and programmes? **Desk research/ country contacts**

Q.III.6 Do these NGOs publish newsletters on migration? Do they organize conferences/ events and/or seminars on migration (at least in the recent past, from 2014-2015 onwards)? **Desk research/ country contacts**

Q.III.7 Do these research centres and institutes publish reports and papers including any policy oriented material? Provide examples of titles of recent publications **Desk research/ country contacts**

Q.III.8 Are these NGOs part of regional/ international networks related to migration? **Desk research/ country contacts**

Q.III.9 Are these NGOs active on social media with regular updates on their activities? **Desk research**

Q.III.10 Are there any other civil society institutions (i.e. organizations, funds…) dealing with migration in the country? **Desk research**

Q.III.11 Do these organizations participate in regional and international research projects and programmes? **Desk research/ country contacts**

Q.III.12 Do these organizations publish newsletters or statistical data on migration? Do they organize conferences/ events and/or seminars on migration (at least in the recent past, from 2014-2015 onwards)? **Desk research/ country contacts**
Q.III.13 Do these organizations publish reports and papers including any policy oriented material? Provide examples of titles of recent publications **Desk research/ country contacts**

Q.III.14 Are these organizations part of regional/ international networks related to migration? **Desk research/ country contacts**

B. Appendix for the country report of Albania

**I) A comprehensive list of publications by Albanian scholars who have been working on migration**

1) Matilda LIKAJ SHAQIRI, MIGRATION, SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND SOCIAL CAPITAL: ALBANIAN SOCIETY CASE, in Social Studies 2013, 3 (7): 17-24


14) Bezhani, E., & Berberi, D. L. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS OF RURAL MIGRATION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT. THE CASE OF ALBANIA.


19) Mitre, T. Migration and Welfare in Albania, Economic integration into EU, challenges, and opportunities.


27) Xhaferri, M. Internal Migration in Albania After90 Years, a Key Factor of Economic, Social and Cultural Problems. In *EUROPEAN CONGRESS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES* (p. 112).


II) Comprehensive presentation of the experts contacted for the collection of information pertaining to Albania

I) Meso-level (migration governance):

1) An Albanian official who has been involved in various frameworks of cooperation, at the governmental level, between Albania and other countries of the Western Balkans.

II) Micro-level (academic departments/ research centers and think tanks):

1) Dr. Islam Jusufi, who is a Lecturer and Head of the Department of Political Sciences and International Relations at the Epoka University in Tirana, Albania. Mr. Jusufi has published in academic journals on migration in connection to Albania. The meeting with Mr. Jusufi took place in Tirana on 26 February 2020.

2) Dr. Eda Gemi, who is a Visiting Researcher at the ISR- Institute for Urban and Regional Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. She is also a Senior Lecturer of Sociology at the New York University in Tirana. Among other positions held, she has been a Research Fellow at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) between 2012-2016 heading the Migration Research Team. She has published extensively on migration related issues (academic articles, books, policy reports and briefs as well as media op-eds). The meeting with Dr. Gemi took place in Tirana on 27 February 2020.

3) Dr. Ledion Krisafi, who is a Senior Researcher and Project Manager at the Albanian Institute for International Studies (AIIS) a non-governmental, non-profit and policy institute. Mr. Krisafi has participated in migration related projects and has also authored several publications related to issues of migration The meeting with Mr. Krisafi took place in Tirana on 27 February 2020.

4) Mr. Ardian Hackaj, who is the Director of ShtetiWeb.org, the public policy platform for the Cooperation and Development Institute in Tirana (CDI). He is the coordinator of Tirana Conference on Berlin Process, and has authored many research works on

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428 The official provided written answers to our questions and expressed to wish to remain anonymous.
connectivity, youth and migration. Mr. Hackaj has held management positions at the College of Europe- Bruges, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) the United Nations and the EU Commission. The meeting with Mr. Hackaj took place at the premises of CDI in Tirana on 26 February 2020.

One more meeting took place with a representative from UNHCR in Albania:

1) Mr Artur Marku, who is an Associate Protection Officer & PR at the UNHCR in Tirana Albania. The meeting with Mr. Marku took place at the premises of the UNHCR on 27 February 2020.

C Appendix for the country report of Bosnia and Herzegovina

I) Profiles of scholars studying migration in BiH

Nermin Oruc
Founder and director of the Centre for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research, Sarajevo.

Research interests: migration, remittances, poverty and inequality, and labour market analysis – mostly Diaspora and development, labour mobility.

Personal websites:

- https://ba.linkedin.com/in/nerminoruc
- https://afsee.atlanticfellows.org/nermin-oruc
- https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Nermin_Oruc

Selected publications:

- Book: Remittances and Development in the Western Balkans: the Cases of Macedonia, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Linking Rural Entrepreneurs and Diaspora in Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina: Are Forced Migrants More Skilled?

Research projects since 2015:

- Current work with LAs to improve their labour market information system, including mobility and migration trends.
A project from the EU commission from last year: Maximising development impact of labour migration in the Western Balkans

Mapping diaspora within the Diaspora for Development project, 2017

He led the team on BiH: Roma return to Western Balkans: Supporting the Effective Reintegration of Roma Returnees in the Western Balkans (English)

Adnan S. Efendic
Professor of Economics, Head of the Department of Economic Theory and Policy and Editor-in-chief of the South East European Journal of Economics and Business and member of editorial board of the Post-communist Economies journal; University of Sarajevo, School of Economics and Business.

Research interests: economic impacts of diaspora, internal and external migration

Personal websites:
https://unsa-ba.academia.edu/AdnanEfendic;
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Adnan_Efendic2;
http://www.efs.unsa.ba/~adnan.efendic/

Selected publications:
- Internal displacement and external migration in a post-conflict economy: Perceptions of institutions among migrant entrepreneurs;
- Emigration intentions in a post-conflict environment: evidence from Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Social Capital, Migration, Ethnic Diversity and Economic Performance – Multidisciplinary Evidence from Southeast Europe;
- Diaspora and Development – Bosnia and Herzegovina

Nina Bosankić, Adjunct Instructor, International University of Sarajevo, Dep of Psychology

Research interests: social identity formation, forced migration, organisational behaviour, religious behaviour and gender.

Projects: “Engendering Forced Migration, Socio-political Transition and Mental Health in BiH, Serbia and Kossovo Regional Research Promotion Program (RRRP) project (2014-2016)

Selected publications:

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II) List of migration related NGOs

- **Pomozi.ba** – https://www.facebook.com/pomozi.ba/ (pomozi means help, according to google translate)
- **Catholic Relief Services**, https://www.crs.org/our-work-overseas/where-we-work/bosnia-and-herzegovina
- **Collective Aid**, https://www.collectiveaidngo.org/our-mission
- **VašaPrava** (UNHCR’s free legal aid partner), https://vasaprava.org/?lang=en
- **Women’s Power Bosnia**
- **SOS Team Kladuša/S.O.S Team LjutaKrajina**: https://www.facebook.com/SOSTeamKladusa/?__tn__=K-R&eid=ARAsc2hcK3ukrWBfBpevMDUm60DhF5heQ9CgxsH1-9hivuQOUp4LM-7Qwc4LMhc-LNj-6smFe4HTaw&fref=mentions
- **No Name Kitchen (NKK)**: https://www.nonamekitchen.org/en/
- **Are You Syrious?**: https://www.facebook.com/areyousyrious/
- **Humanitarian Organization (HO) ‘’Merhamet’’ Muslim charity**
- **Humanity First Bosnia**, https://www.alhakam.org/humanity-first-in-bosnia/
- **Help Refugees-** https://helprefugees.org/volunteer/greece-bosnia-serbia-2/
- **Post-Conflict Research Center (PCRC), Sarajevo**, https://p-crc.org/
- **WARM Foundation**, http://www.warmfoundation.org/
The NGOs above are mostly working with transit migrants. Many of them have been established in BiH after or during the Bosnian War to help war-time refugees and internally displaced people. There are other NGOs too that focus on other aspects of migration:

Diaspora investors:
- Naša Perspektiva (NP) [Our Perspective], http://nasaperspektiva.ba/?lang=en
- Restart, https://restart.ba/project/diaspora-business-embassy/

Victims of human trafficking:

Reintegration of Roma (and other) returnees:
Association Vaša Prava (Your Rights); Local Democracy Foundation; Bosnia and Herzegovina Women’s Network; Association of Citizens for Promotion of Roma Education—Otaharin; Kali Sara-Roma Information Centre; RomalenKakanj; LIR Civil Society. http://lircd.org/

D Appendix for the country report of Kosovo

Interviews


IOM representative, Interview 6 February 2020, Prishtina, Kosovo.

Isni Kilaj, former Deputy Ministry of Diaspora, Kosovo Interview 6 February 2020, Prishtina, Kosovo.

Selatin Kllokoqi, Democracy Plus, Interview 7 February 2020, Prishtina, Kosovo.

Mentor Vrajolli, Kosovo Centre for Security Studies, Interview 6 February 2020, Prishtina Kosovo.

E Appendix for the country report of Montenegro

Interviews

Milanka Baković, Centre for Asylum Seekers, Interview of 20 February 2020 (answers to questions provided in a written form).
Milena Šćekić, Migration Focal Point and National Coordinator of RFL, Red Cross of Montenegro, Interview of 3 March 2020 (via Skype).

Milena Milosević, InstitutAlternativa, Interview of 5 March 2020 (via Skype).

F Appendix for the country report of North Macedonia

I) Publications on migration from scholars from North Macedonia

2. Ilievski, Zoran, Runcheva Tasev Hristina. The Balkan Refugee and Migrant Corridor and the Case of North Macedonia”, 2019, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
3. Marjan Petreski Exploring Diaspora Contribution to North Macedonia’s Development. In Southeastern Europe, 2019
5. Nena Nenovska Gjorgjievska, An Analysis of the Management of the Migration Processes in Macedonia before and during the Migration Crisis of 2015 in Rethinking Migration, Economic growth and solidarity in Europe, University American College Skopje, 2018
6. Biljana Apostolovska Toševska, Mirjanka Madjevikj, Marija Ljakoska, Svemir Gorin, Igor Radevski, Olgica Dimitrovskas, Republic of Macedonia – A Timeless Migration Mosaic, Institut za migracije i narodnosti, 2018
8. Ivo BOSILKOV and Dimitra DRAKAKI, Victims or Intruders? Framing the Migrant Crisis in Greece and Macedonia, in Journal of Identity and Migration Studies Volume 12, number 1, 2018


16. Lazarova, Iva, Razor-wired: stranded migrants in Macedonia, Published Thesis, European Regional Master’s Programme in Democracy and Human Rights in South-East Europe, University of Sarajevo and University of Bologna.


23. Svetlana Trbojevik, Natasha Bogoevska, Migration, Social Exclusion and Identity Issues of Macedonian Roma


29. Petreski, Marjan and Jovanovic, Branimir (2013): Do Remittances Reduce Poverty and Inequality in the Western Balkans? Evidence from Macedonia, MPRA_paper


31. Karolina Bielenin-Lenczowska, From pechalbari to iselenici: Migration history of Macedonians, University of Warsaw

32. KAROLINA BIELENIN-LENCZOWSKA, TRANSNATIONAL TIES AMONG MIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES The case of labour migrants (pechalbari) from the republic of Macedonia to Italy


II) Comprehensive presentation of the experts contacted for the collection of information pertaining to Albania

- Meso-level (migration governance):
  1) Mr. Zlatko Nikolovski (Ph.D), who is an Associate Professor in the Euro College of Kumanovo, North Macedonia. Mr. Nikolovski served for many years as Head of the Inspectorate of foreigners at the Secretariat of Internal Affairs and as Head of the Department of foreigners at the Central Police services. He currently serves as counselor on foreign citizens at the Sector of Border Affairs and Migrations at the National Coordinating Center for Border Management. Mr. Nikolovski is the author of two books that deal with migration (1. “Migrations and Security” (2018) and 2. “The Macedonian Diaspora: key to the development of the Republic of Macedonia” (2019). The meeting with Mr. Nikolovski took place on Saturday the 22nd of February in Skopje.

  2) Mr. Atans Minov, who serves as Participant Representative of the Republic of North Macedonia at MARRI (Migration, Asylum, Refugees, Regional Initiative), a regional center for migration established by the countries of the Western Balkans and in particular by the ministries that are most relevant to migration governance (i.e. ministries of Interior). The meeting with Mr. Minov took place on Thursday the 20th of February at the MARRI premises in Skopje.

- Micro-level (academic departments/ research centers and think tanks):
  1) Merita Zulfiu, who is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Contemporary Social Sciences in the South East European University at Tetovo, North Macedonia. Merita Zulfiu and the South East European University are part of WB-Mignet a regional, Western Balkan, network of research centers and institutions that focus on migration. Merita Zulfiu has published several academic articles on migration. The meeting with Mrs. Zulfiu took place on Friday, the 21st of February in Skopje.

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2) Aleksandar Krzalovski, who is executive director at the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), an independent and not-for-profit organization and think tank that has been very active in the implementation of various projects at the national and regional level in various fields such as education, campaigns against discrimination, good governance, dialogue between cultures and the development of civil society in North Macedonia. The meeting with Mr. Krzalovski took place in Skopje on Thursday the 20th of February.

3) Ismail Kamberi, who is a researcher at the European Policy Institute (EPI), a not-for-profit organization and think tank that has been very active in the implementation of numerous projects at the national and regional level in the fields of EU accession and integration, democracy and the rule of law including community relations (i.e. the integration of the Roma communities in North Macedonia). The meeting with Mr. Kamberi took place on Friday the 21st of February in Skopje.

4) Ivan Stevanovski, executive director of EUROTHINK and Ljupcho Petkovski, former executive director and senior researcher at EUROTHINK, a not-for-profit organization and think tank that has been very active in the implementation of numerous projects at the national and regional level in many fields including EU integration and enlargement, the rule of law and regional cooperation. The meeting with Mr. Stevanovski and Mr. Petkovski took place in Skopje on Friday the 21st of February.

- Micro-level: NGOs
  - Jasmin Redzepi, who is the head of the NGO Legis, a humanitarian not-for-profit organization that provides necessary humanitarian aid and assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, irregular and detained migrants and people in need. The meeting with Mr. Redzepi took place at the premises of Legis on Thursday the 20th of February in Skopje.

Two more meetings took place with officials of international organizations dealing with migration related issues in North Macedonia:

- Tihomir Nikolovski, who is a legal officer at the UNHCR in Skopje, North Macedonia. The meeting with Mr. Nikolovski took place on Friday the 21st of February at the premises of UNHCR in Skopje.

Suzanna Tuneva Paunovska, who is the secretary of Skopje City Branch of the Red Cross in North Macedonia. The meeting with Mrs. Tuneva Paunovska took place in the premises of the Skopje City Branch of the Red Cross on Friday the 21st of February.