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Sector for Immigration

# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA MIGRATION PROFILE

for the year 2020

**Territory: 51,209 km<sup>2</sup>**

**Total length of border: 1,604 km**

**Total number of border crossings: 83**



Sarajevo, March 2021

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## Summary

Migration Profile of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: The BiH Migration Profile) arose from a need: a) to create a mechanism for gathering statistical data on migration and international protection; b) to have a system for processing migration statistics; and c) to set a system for timely and adequate reporting on migration flows in BiH. This document aims to provide the BiH Council of Ministers with an insight into key migration trends, as well as to serve as a basis for creation of the BiH Ministry of Security's relevant policies and regulations. It is also to provide international organisations competent for migrations with a more comprehensive picture of migration trends in BiH.

Creation of annually updated Migration Profile stems from the European Commission's requirement contained in ***the Roadmap for Visa Liberalisation***. In the part pertaining to "Migration Management", this document, presented to the BiH authorities in June 2008, envisaged *"a setup and application of a mechanism for monitoring of migration flows; definition of a regularly updated migration profile for Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the data on both illegal and legal migration; as well as establishment of a body responsible for monitoring and provision of data analysis on the migration stocks and flows"*.

Comprehensive achievement of *the Roadmap* requirements, including the BiH Migration Profile, resulted with the visa-free regime for **nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina** as of **15<sup>th</sup> December 2010**.

The first BiH Migration Profile was adopted at the BiH Council of Ministers' session held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009. Its development was preceded by "The Analysis of Measures Necessary to Set a Mechanism for Monitoring of Migration Flows and Defining of a Migration Profile of Bosnia and Herzegovina", which encompassed legal, institutional and organisational framework for gathering migration statistics in BiH, as well as an overview of European and international standards and practices pertaining to migration statistics. Aiming to set a mechanism for monitoring of migration flows and annually update the BiH Migration Profile, the instruments for gathering and exchanging of the statistics were formalised through the BiH Council of Ministers' Decision, which obliged relevant institutions and agencies to provide the data within their competence through 34 predefined tables containing parameters necessary for the Migration Profile and monitoring of migration flows in BiH. The Decision defined the type and structure of required statistical data on migration and international protection, as well as set 31<sup>st</sup> January as a deadline for the BiH institutions to provide the BiH Ministry of Security with statistics on migration and international protection for preceding year. In accordance with the Decision, the 2020 Migration Profile embodies a compilation of statistical data submitted by: 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 (Sector for Immigration), the BiH Ministry of Security (Sector for Asylum), the BiH Ministry of Security (Service for Foreigners' Affairs), and the BiH Ministry of Security (BiH Border Police).

Once the data were collected, we approached their qualitative and quantitative analysis. Annual reports of other institutions and agencies were also consulted for additional qualitative information and better understanding of the migration statistics and trends. Quantitative and qualitative analysis encompassed basic migration flows in the last decade - from 2011 to 2020 - though comparative indicators concern all migration movements in 2019 and 2020. After having processed and analysed all available data, the BiH Migration Profile for 2020 was produced.

The BiH Migration Profile for the year 2020 encompasses the data on: visas, refusals of entry, illegal border crossings, temporary and permanent residences issued to foreign nationals, illegal migrations and measures imposed on foreign nationals, return of irregular migrants, international protection (asylum), work permits issued to foreign nationals, acquisition of the BiH citizenship, emigration from BiH, as well as the BiH immigration policy with its accompanying legal and institutional framework.

## **Observed trends of migration flows:**

### **1. Visas**

#### **1.1 Visas issued by the BiH DCMs**

In 2020, the BiH Diplomatic-Consular Missions issued 1,857 visas, which is significantly lesser (by 96%) in comparison to 2019 when 47,694 visas were issued. Even though annual overview of visas issued since 2011 showed a trend of constant increase to peak in 2019, the year of 2020 marked a drastic decrease in the number of issued visas due to the Covid-19, as well as the fact that this new pandemic led the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in situation to modify legal requirements for entering the country on several occasions during 2020. In this regard, the BiH Council of Ministers issued the Decision on Temporary Suspension of Visa Issuance by the BiH DCMs that was applied from March to September 2020.

#### **1.2. Visas Issued at the Border**

In 2020, a total of 3 visas were issued at the BiH border, which is lesser by 84.21% than in 2019 registering 19 such visas. Annual overview of data from 2011 onwards shows a trend of constant decrease in number of visas issued at the BiH border, with exception of 2015.

### **2. Refusal of Entry and Illegal Border Crossings**

#### **2.1. Refusal of Entry to BiH**

In 2020, the BiH Border Police refused entry to 4,525 foreign nationals, which is an increase by 93.21% in comparison to 2019 when 2,342 entries were refused.

#### **2.2. Discovered Illegal Crossings of State Border**

In 2020, the number of illegal border crossings detected in BiH amounted to 11,857 (945 illegal entries to and 10,912 illegal exits from BiH), which is an increase by 102.37% in comparison to 2019 when 5,859 illegal border crossings were detected.

### **3. Temporary and Permanent Residence of Foreign Nationals**

#### **3.1. Temporary Residence**

In 2020, 8,293 temporary residences were granted to foreign nationals in BiH, it being a 18.16% decrease in comparison to 2019 when 10,133 temporary residences were approved. If observing annual trends as of 2011, a constant increase in the number of approved temporary residences in BiH was noted until the year of 2015, which was followed by a declining trend until the year of 2020.

#### **3.2. Permanent Residence**

In 2020, 312 permanent residences were granted to foreign nationals in BiH, which is a decrease by 61.76% in comparison to 2019 when 816 permanent residences were approved.

### **4. Illegal Migrations and Measures Imposed on Foreign Nationals**

#### **4.1. Revocation of Residence**

In 2020, 172 visa-free or temporary residences were revoked, which is a decrease by 17.31% in comparison to 2019 when 208 visa-free or temporary residences were revoked. In segment of revocation of permanent residences, the year of 2020 registers 14 revocations of permanent residence, thus showing a decrease by 30% as this number in the year of 2019 was 20.

#### **4.2. Expulsion Decisions**

The year of 2020 registers 1,209 expulsion decisions, which is a decrease by 22.20% in comparison to 2019 with 1,554 expulsion decisions. In 2020, no decisions on revocation of non-visa or temporary residences with expulsion measures were issued, whereas this number in 2019 was 34.

#### **4.3. Foreign Nationals under Surveillance in the Immigration Centre**

In 2020, 515 foreign nationals were placed under surveillance in the Immigration Centre, which is lesser by 27.46% than in 2019 with 710 such measures. Nonetheless, milder measures of surveillance at restricted area or place were imposed on 357 foreigners.

#### **4.4. Forcible Removal of Foreign Nationals from BiH**

In 2020, no Conclusions on Approved Implementation of the Expulsion Decisions were issued, whereas the year of 2019 registers 3 such conclusions.

### **5. Return of Irregular Migrants**

#### **5.1. Voluntary Return of BiH Nationals to BiH with Assistance of IOM**

In 2020, IOM provided assistance to 50 BiH nationals in their voluntary return to Bosnia and Herzegovina. From 2011 to 2020, this program enabled the return of 1,661 BiH national.

## **5.2. Voluntary Return of Foreigners from BiH to their Countries of Origin with Assistance of IOM and the Service for Foreigners' Affairs**

From 2012 to 2017, IOM did not organize voluntary returns of foreign nationals from BiH owing to lack of financial means. In 2020, however, IOM organized the return of 232 foreigners from BiH to their home countries through its AVR program. As of 2011, in such manner was returned a total of 1,250 foreign nationals.

In 2020, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs conducted voluntarily return of 259 foreigners from Bosnia and Herzegovina, while in 2019 this number was 403. From 2012 to 2020, a total of 2,527 foreign nationals was returned from BiH by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs.

## **5.3. Admission under Readmission Agreements**

In 2020, a total of 414 BiH nationals were admitted under readmission agreements. Out of this number, admission of 310 BiH nationals was approved under the readmission agreements regulating that identity checks and confirmation of BiH nationality are to be conducted by the BiH Ministry of Security's Immigration Sector, or under procedure regulated by Article 6 of the Agreement between BiH and the European Community on Readmission of Persons Residing without Authorisation. Comparative analysis, however, revealed that 104 persons were returned directly to the BiH Border Police without prior notification of the BiH Ministry of Security's Immigration Sector.

Under the Readmission Agreement with the Republic of Croatia, the year of 2020 registers admission of 330 third-country nationals, which is a decrease by 57.85% in comparison to previous year having 783 such foreign nationals.

## **6. International Protection (Asylum)**

In 2020, 244 persons applied for asylum in BiH, whereas this number in 2019 was 784. In the period from 2011 to 2020, a total of 3,346 persons sought asylum in BiH.

## **7. Work Permits Issued to Foreign Nationals**

The year of 2020 registers 2,586 work permits being issued to foreign nationals, which is a decrease by 18.76% in comparison to 2019 having 3,183 work permits.

## **8. Acquisition of the BiH Citizenship**

In 2020, 567 persons were granted the BiH citizenship, which is a decrease by 13.70% in comparison to 2019. Majority of persons granted BiH citizenship were the nationals of Serbia (78%).

## **9. Emigration from BiH**

Based on available official data of both statistical agencies in host countries and of diplomatic and consular missions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina (MHRR) estimates that the total number of emigrants originating from Bosnia and Herzegovina varies between 2 and 2.2 million.

## **I INTRODUCTION**

Drafting of the Migration Profile of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: The BiH Migration Profile) was defined by the Roadmap for Visa Liberalization's chapter "Migration Management" as one of prerequisites for abolition of visa regime for nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The main purpose of creating the Migration Profile was to collect relevant statistics and information necessary for development and implementation of own migration policy.

Division for Analytics, Strategic Planning, Monitoring and Training under the BiH Ministry of Security's Immigration Sector is tasked for drafting of the BiH Migration Profile as it compiles the migration statistics, processes the data and produces reports for a number of purposes. It is important to note that the Division needs to be further developed in segments pertaining to the monitoring of migration flows, developing of expert analyses and reports on immigration, as well as in setting the migration policy in accordance with relevant standards and the needs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **1. Sources and Methodology for Gathering, Classifying and Processing the Data**

Sources and methodology for gathering the data are set by the Decision on Obligatory Submission of Statistical Data on Migration and International Protection to the BiH Ministry of Security ("The BiH Official Gazette", No. 83/09).

Under the Decision, the data is sourced from following relevant institutions, organisations and agencies: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – data on visas issued by the BiH DCMs; the BiH Border Police – data on refusals of entry to BiH, illegal border crossings and visas issued at the border; the Service for Foreigners' Affairs – data on residence permits of foreign nationals in BiH, measures imposed on foreign nationals in BiH, and readmission of foreign and stateless persons; the Ministry of Security's Asylum Sector – data on international protection; the



Ministry of Security's Immigration Sector – data on readmission of BiH nationals and IOM-assisted voluntary returns; the Ministry of Civil Affairs – data on acquired citizenships of BiH; the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees' Diaspora Sector – data on emigration of BiH nationals and the diaspora; and the BiH Labour and Employment Agency – data on work permits issued to foreign nationals in BiH.

The Decision defines methodology for collecting the data through 34 tables designed for institutions and organisations responsible for implementation of the BiH Law on Foreigners and the BiH Law on Asylum. The tables encompass the data on persons' citizenship, birth, gender and age, as well as the other parameters relevant for procedures and decisions relating to the movement and stay of foreigners and asylum in BiH during 2020.

Upon receipt of tables filled in by relevant institutions/organisations/agencies, a quantitative and qualitative analysis of submitted data was conducted. Annual reports of other institutions and organisations were also consulted as additional source of qualitative information, which was needed for interpretation of migration statistics and trends.

The data on the size of Bosnia and Herzegovina and total length of the state border was sourced from "The 2015-2018 Integrated Border Management Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina". Total number of BiH border crossing points was sourced from both "The Decision on Determination of the Border Crossings in BiH" No. 52/12 that the BiH Council of Ministers reached on 3 May 2012 („The BiH Official Gazette", No. 39/12), and "The Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina on Border Crossing Points", concluded on the occasion of the Republic Croatia's accession to the European Union.

## **2. Availability and Quality of Data**

Analysis of provided data led to a few conclusions relating to availability and quality of data. Majority of institutions, organisations and agencies managed to deliver basic data by assigned deadline.

The data submitted to the Immigration Sector by the BiH Border Police, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, the Asylum Sector, and the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs were accorded to the Decision on Obligatory Submission of Statistical Data on Migration and International Protection to the BiH Ministry of Security ("The BiH Official Gazette", No. 83/09).

The Ministry of Civil Affairs also forwarded the data on acquired citizenships that was collected, in accordance with the Decision, from competent entity-level institutions – the F BiH Ministry of Interior and the RS Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Governance.

In the absence of a mechanism for gathering the data on the BiH diaspora, this type of data could not be disaggregated by age or gender. The data gathered through the BiH diplomatic and consular missions as well as the BiH diaspora organisations/associations could only be treated as estimates given that no records on BiH nationals living out of the country are kept by either of them. In part relating to "the BiH emigration", analysis of the BiH Ministry of

Human Rights and Refugees partially rested on these estimates of emigration, as well as on official data on BiH nationals kept by competent institutions of the host countries.

Notwithstanding specific gaps in terms of completeness of submitted data, their quality was on satisfactory level. The data gathered through predefined tables, Annual Reports on the Work of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs and the BiH Border Police, as well as the Analysis of the BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees' Sector for Diaspora enabled an adequate analysis of migration flows and drafting of the BiH Migration Profile for the year 2020. **This Migration Profile is the thirteenth annual Migration Profile of Bosnia and Herzegovina produced until today.**

### **3. Conducted Consultations**

Once finished, the Draft of the BiH Migration Profile was disseminated to all institutions, organisations and agencies that took part in its creation for their additional opinions, remarks and suggestions. Upon receipt of a feedback, the draft of BiH Migration Profile for the year 2020 was reviewed, submitted to the Security Minister for his approval and, subsequently, referred to the BiH Council of Ministers for adoption.

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at its 38<sup>th</sup> session held on 26 May 2021, adopted the BiH Migration Profile for the year 2020.

## II THE BiH MIGRATION PROFILE

### 1. Visas

A visa is a permit for crossing a state border that enables entry and stay in the country during period specified by the visa, as well as the transit across the territory of BiH provided that the holder fulfils relevant requirements. As a general rule, a foreign national is obliged to obtain a visa prior to arriving to a BiH border crossing point, unless he/she is a national of a country not required a visa for BiH. Visas are issued by the BiH Diplomatic and Consular Missions (hereinafter: The BiH DCMs). In exceptional cases stipulated by the Law on Foreigners (hereinafter: The Law), a visa may be issued at the border by the BiH Border Police.

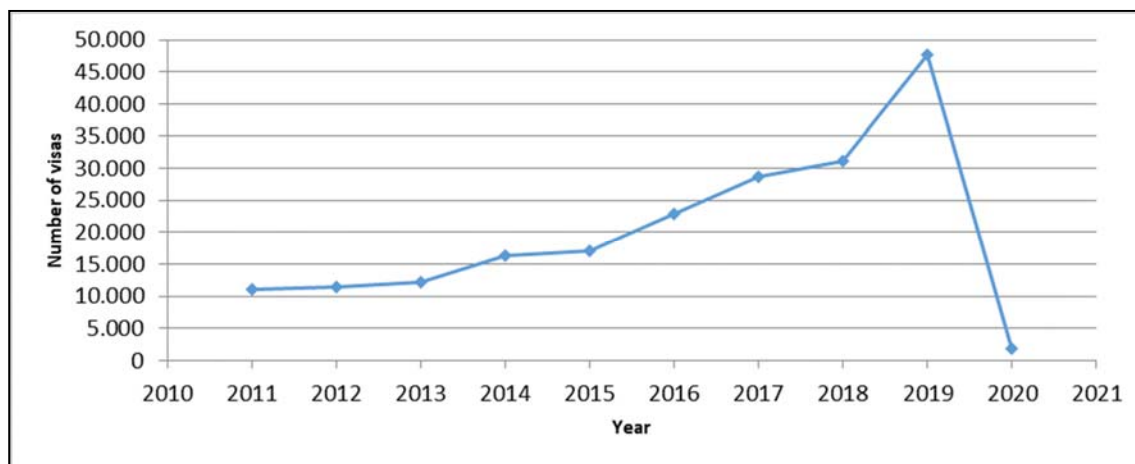
#### 1.1. Visas Issued by the BiH DCMs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided us with the data on annual issuance of visas, which are presented in the table and accompanying graph below, together with a brief analysis of observed trends.

**Table 1. Total number of visas issued from 2011 to 2020**

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Visas	11,126	11,482	12,107	16,351	16,970	22,862	28,751	31,171	47,694	1,857

#### Graphic overview of visas issued from 2011 to 2020



Analysis of data relating to the number of visas issued by the BiH DCMs during presented period revealed a trend of continuous increase from 2011 onwards. As for 2019, a significant increase in the number of issued visas was noted in comparison to 2018 (53%). The year of 2020, however, marks a drastic decrease in number of issued visas due to the Covid-19, as well as the fact that this new pandemic led the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in situation to modify legal requirements for entering the country on several occasions during 2020. In this regard, the BiH Council of Ministers issued the Decision on Temporary Suspension of Visa Issuance by the BiH DCMs that was applied from March to September 2020.

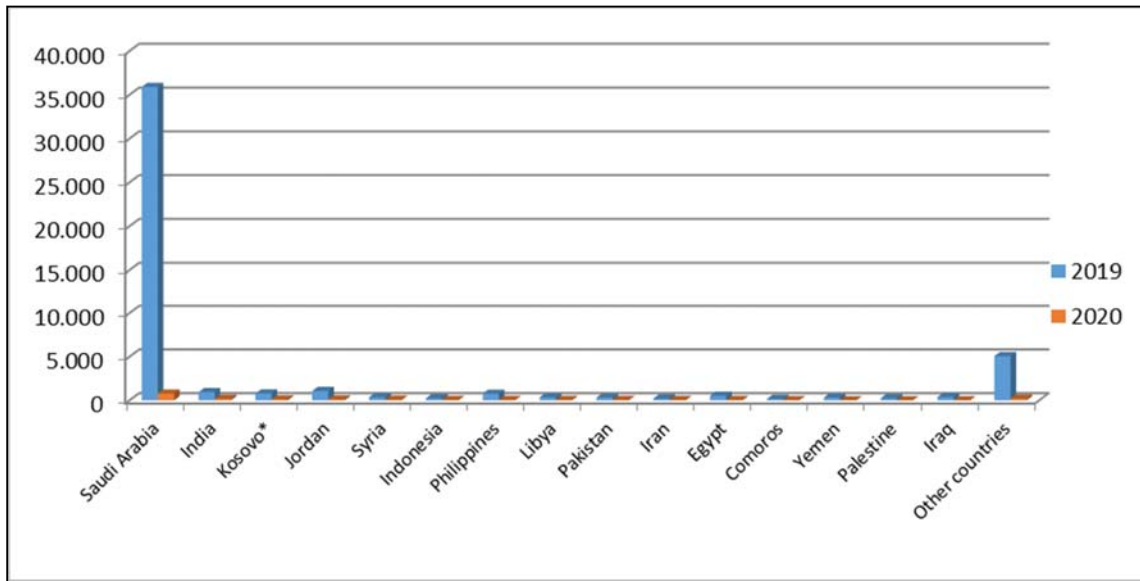
To define ongoing issues pertaining to visas, hereby are presented comparative indicators on the number of visas issued in 2019 and 2020 for the countries whose nationals were granted the largest number of visas for entry to BiH, together with a brief analysis of the observed parameters.

**Table 2. Total number of visas issued in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by countries**

No.	Country	2019	2020	%
1	Saudi Arabia	35,905	783	-97.82%
2	India	947	172	-81.84%
3	Kosovo* <sup>1</sup>	790	109	-86.20%
4	Jordan	1,083	108	-90.03%
5	Syria	361	81	-77.56%
6	Indonesia	248	60	-75.81%
7	Philippines	764	57	-92.54%
8	Libya	350	55	-84.29%
9	Pakistan	320	53	-83.44%
10	Iran	212	49	-76.89%
11	Egypt	537	45	-91.62%
12	Comoros	172	35	-79.65%
13	Yemen	321	25	-92.21%
14	Palestine	240	20	-91.67%
15	Iraq	375	18	-95.20%
16	Other countries	5,069	187	-96.31%
<b>Total</b>		<b>47,694</b>	<b>1,857</b>	<b>-96.11%</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

#### Graphic overview of visas issued in 2019 and 2020 disaggregated by countries



As compared to 2019, the analysis of the 2020 data on countries whose nationals were most frequently issued visas by the BiH DCRs for entry to BiH revealed a decrease in the number of issued visas for all nationals. The largest number of visas in 2020 was issued to nationals of Saudi Arabia, India, Kosovo\* and Jordan, it covering 63 % of total number of issued visas.

According to the data provided by the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2,487 visa applications were filed in 2020. Out of this number, 1,857 applications were positively decided upon (75%).

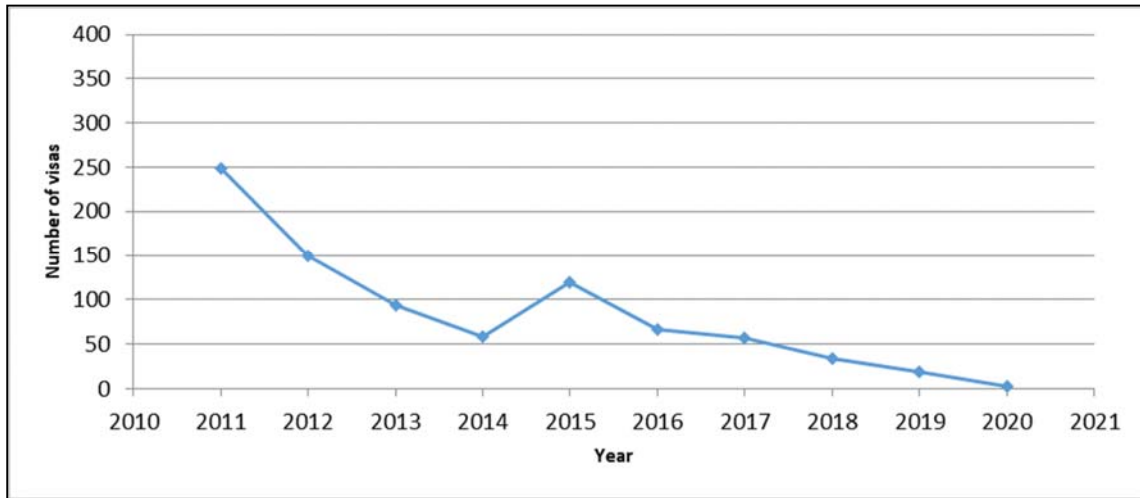
#### 1.2. Visas Issued at the Border

The BiH Law on Foreigners provides the BiH Border Police with possibility to issue visas at the border due to the BiH security, humanitarian, serious professional or personal reasons. Thus, the BiH Border Police may issue either a short-term stay visa (Visa C) for a single entry and stay not exceeding 15 days, or an airport transit visa (Visa A).

**Table 3. Total number of visas issued at the BiH border from 2011 to 2020**

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Visas	248	150	93	58	120	66	57	34	19	3

**Graphic overview of visas issued at the BiH border from 2011 to 2020**



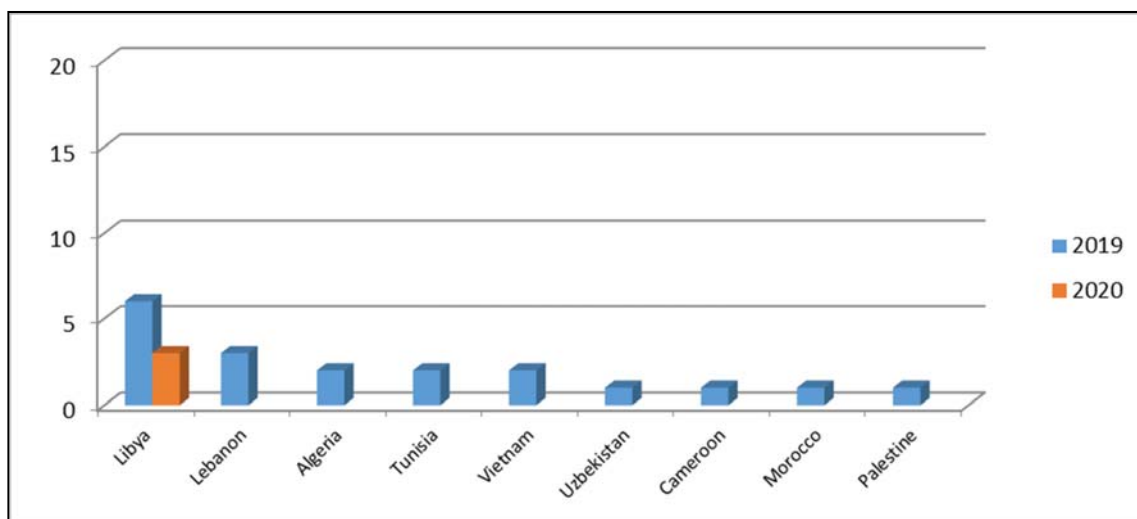
Analysis of the number of visas issued at the border over the reporting period revealed a trend of significant decline as of 2010. It, therefore, can be concluded that the goal to fulfil one of the EU requirements and reduce the number of visas issued at the border was achieved. These indicators result from developments in the DCM network, our legal framework stipulating that the issuance of visas at the border is allowed only in exceptional cases defined by the Law, as well as consistent application of the legislation by the BiH Border Police.

To define current state of affairs pertaining to the visa-issuance at the border, hereby are presented comparative indicators on the number of visas issued during 2019 and 2020 for the countries whose nationals were granted the largest number of entry visas to BiH. For the purpose of better interpretation of the data, the figures are accompanied with a brief analysis of the observed parameters and notes on amendments to the legislation.

**Table 4. Total number of visas issue at the border in 2019 and 2020 disaggregated by countries**

No.	Country	2019	2020	%
1	Libya	6	3	-50.00%
2	Lebanon	3	-	-100.00%
3	Algeria	2	-	-100.00%
4	Tunisia	2	-	-100.00%
5	Vietnam	2	-	-100.00%
6	Uzbekistan	1	-	-100.00%
7	Cameroon	1	-	-100.00%
8	Morocco	1	-	-100.00%
9	Palestine	1	-	-100.00%
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-84.21%</b>

#### Graphic overview of visas issued in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by countries



When observing the last decade, initial trend of continuous decline started changing in the year of 2014 to increase in 2015 by 107% in comparison to previous year. The last four years were marked by another significant drop in number of visas issued at the border, so 19 such visas were recorded in 2019, which was a 44.12% decline in comparison to 2018. With respect to general requirement and principle of reducing the number of visas issued at border crossings, BiH can report on continuous decline in number of such visas. According to the Annual Report on the Work of the BiH Border Police in 2020<sup>2</sup>, only 3 visas were issued at the international border crossings and all concerned the nationals of Libya. With respect to visa annulment, not a single visa was abolished or annulled in the year of 2020 whereas 2019 registers 100 annulments at the border (50 to nationals of Iraq, 25 to nationals of Pakistan, 14 to nationals of Bangladesh, 6 to Eritrea, 2 to nationals of Jordan, 2 to nationals of Yemen, and one to a national of Nepal).

In terms of the most frequent countries whose nationals were issued visas at the BiH border, the 2019 data show that the greatest number of visas was issued to nationals of Libya and Lebanon. As for the gender structure, statistical data for 2019 illustrate that more visas were issued to men (68%) than to women (32%), and that both groups mostly concern persons aged between 18 and 35 years (63%), as evidenced by the tables and graphs below. As for 2020, it should be noted that all 3 Libyan holders of visas were men aged between 36 and 59.

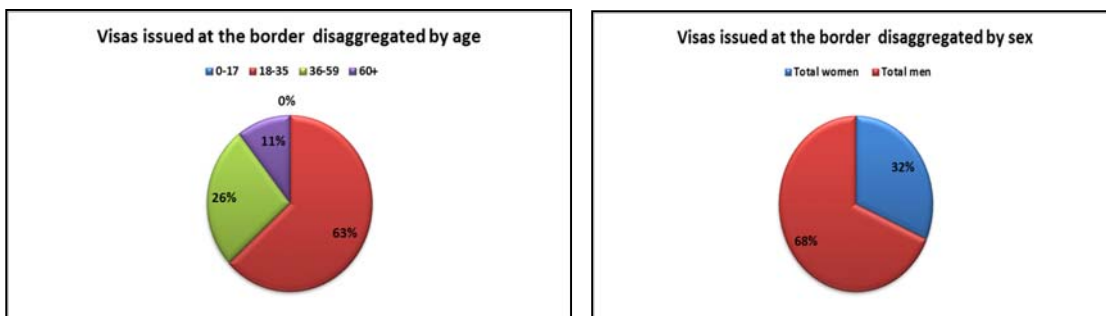
**Table 5. Structure of visas issued at the border in 2019, disaggregated by age, gender and nationality**

	Libya	Lebanon	Algeria	Tunisia	Vietnam	Other countries (out of a total of 9)	Total
0-17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18-35	1	0	1	2	1	0	5
36-59	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
60+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total woman	1	1	1	2	1	0	6

<sup>2</sup> The BiH Border Police "Analysis of the BiH Border Police Activities in 2020" Sarajevo, January 2021, p. 24

0-17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18-35	2	1	0	0	1	3	7
36-59	1	1	1	0	0	1	4
60+	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total men	5	2	1	0	1	4	13
Total by nationality	6	3	2	2	2	4	19

Graphic overview of the total number of visas issued at the border in 2019, disaggregated by age and gender



## 2. Refusal of Entry and Illegal Border Crossings

Refusal of entry is a legal measure imposed by the BiH Border Police on those foreign nationals and stateless persons who are trying to legally cross the state border of BiH or enter BiH without complying with legal requirements for the entry itself. In such scenario, the BiH Border Police refuses the person's entry and issues a Decision on refusal of entry provided by the Law. The foreigner or stateless person in question may appeal against the decision to the BiH Ministry of Security, yet the appeal itself does not allow for his/her entry to the country.

Illegal crossing of the border entails a person discovered in an attempt to illegally cross the BiH state border when entering or leaving BiH. Such a person may be a national of BiH, a foreigner or a stateless person.

### 2.1. Refusal of Entry to BiH

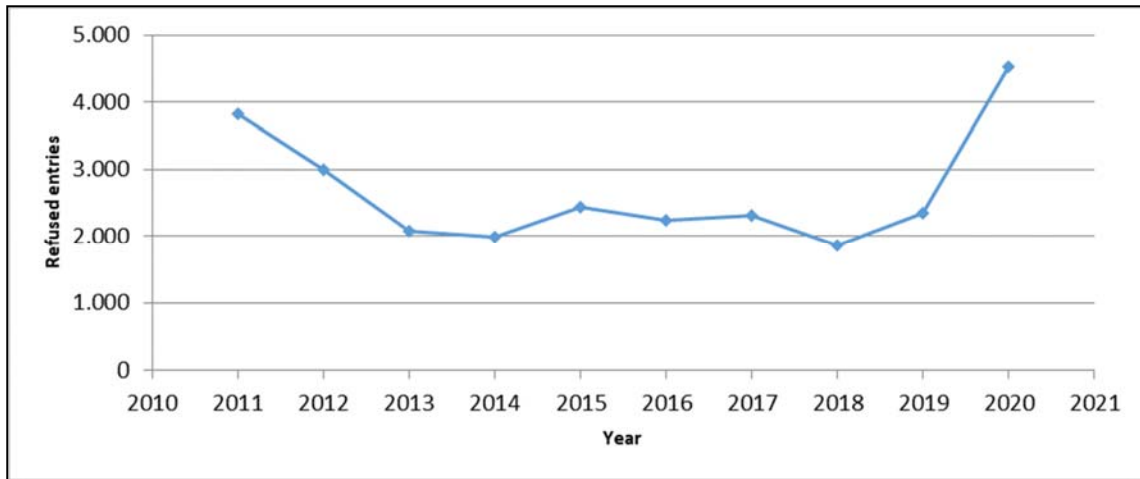
A foreigner who does not meet general requirements for entering Bosnia and Herzegovina under Articles 19 and 20 of the Law on Foreigners, nor is a subject to international treaty or decision on entry under special conditions, may be refused entry to BiH.

**Table 6. Total number of refused entries at the BiH border from 2011 to 2020**

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Refusals of entry	3,830	2,998	2,079	1,987	2,432	2,243	2,313	1,853	2,342	4,525



**Graphic overview of refused entries to BiH from 2011 to 2020**



Analysis of data relating to the number of refused entries at the border within relevant timespan reveals that the period from 2011 to 2014 was marked by a steady reduction in the number of refused entries at the border, while the period from 2014 to 2019 had a fairly uniform number of refusals. When compared to 2019, the number of refused entries in 2020 increased by 93.21% as it registers 4,525 such cases.

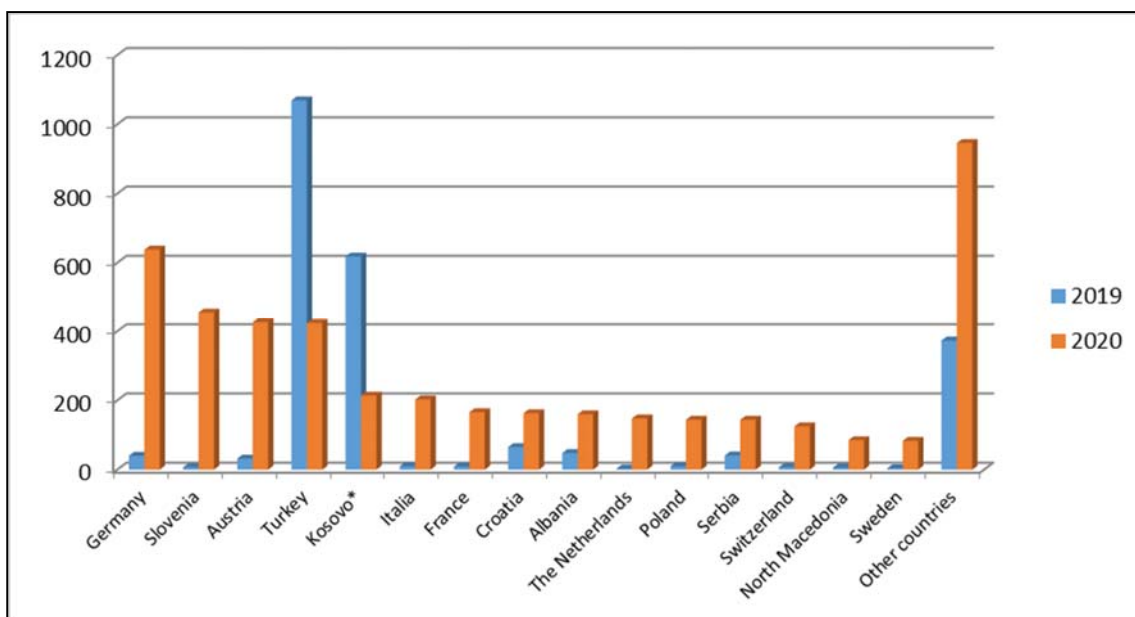
To define current state of affairs in the field, hereby are presented comparative indicators on the number of refused entries during 2019 and 2020 for 15 countries whose nationals were issued the largest number of decisions on refused entry to BiH, together with a brief analysis of the observed parameters.

**Table 7. Total number of refused entries at the border in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by countries**

No.	Country	2019	2020	%
1	Germany	40	638	1495.00%
2	Slovenia	7	456	6414.29%
3	Austria	32	426	1231.25%
4	Turkey	1,069	424	-60.34%
5	Kosovo*	618	214	-65.37%
6	Italia	10	203	1930.00%
7	France	9	166	1744.44%
8	Croatia	65	163	150.77%

No.	Country	2019	2020	%
9	Albania	48	160	233.33%
10	The Netherlands	3	148	4833.33%
11	Poland	10	144	1340.00%
12	Serbia	41	144	251.22%
13	Switzerland	7	125	1685.71%
14	North Macedonia	6	85	1316.67%
15	Sweden	4	83	1975.00%
16	Other countries	373	946	153.61%
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,342</b>	<b>4,525</b>	<b>93.21%</b>

Graphic overview of refused entries at the BiH border in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by countries

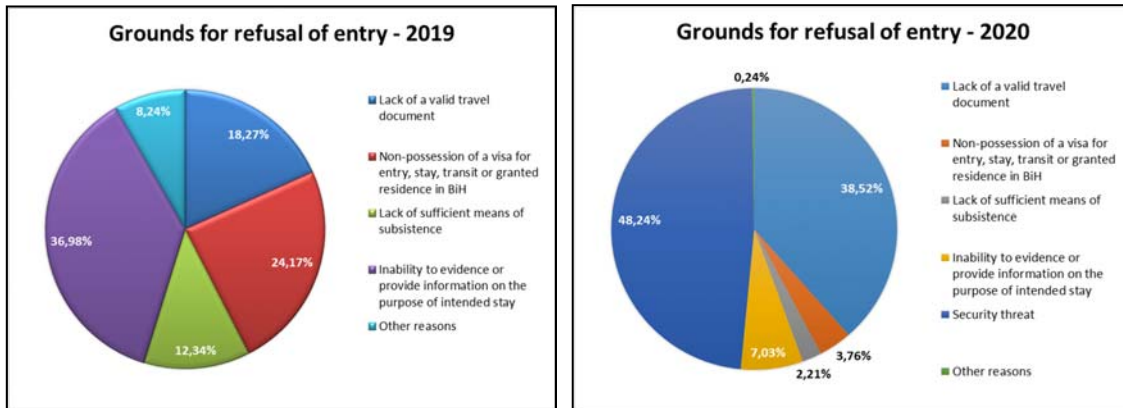


In 2020, the largest number of refused entries to BiH concerned nationals of Germany (638), Slovenia (456), Austria (426), and Turkey (424) amounting to 43% of the total number of refused entries to BiH. It should be noted that the year of 2020 was marked by decrease in number of refused entries with respect to nationals of Turkey (60%), and Kosovo\* (65%). The same period, however, also marks a significant increase in the number of refused entries for all other nationals enlisted in Table 7. In 2020, the entry to BiH was refused to 4,525 foreign nationals, out of which 4,266 refusals were pronounced at the BiH land border, and 259 refusals at international airports. Statistical data indicate that reasons for refusal differed from one part of border/border crossing to another, and were additionally influenced by the Covid-19 situation. Majority of refused entries concerned Article 19 (3) g) of the BiH Law on Foreigners and new decisions of the BiH Council of Ministers containing additional requirements for entry of foreigners to BiH so to prevent and suppress spreading of the virus. Refusal of entry of German nationals mainly pertained to posing a threat to security, peace, order and public health in BiH or international relations, whereas nationals of Slovenia and Austria were refused entry on grounds of non-possession of a valid travel document.<sup>3</sup>

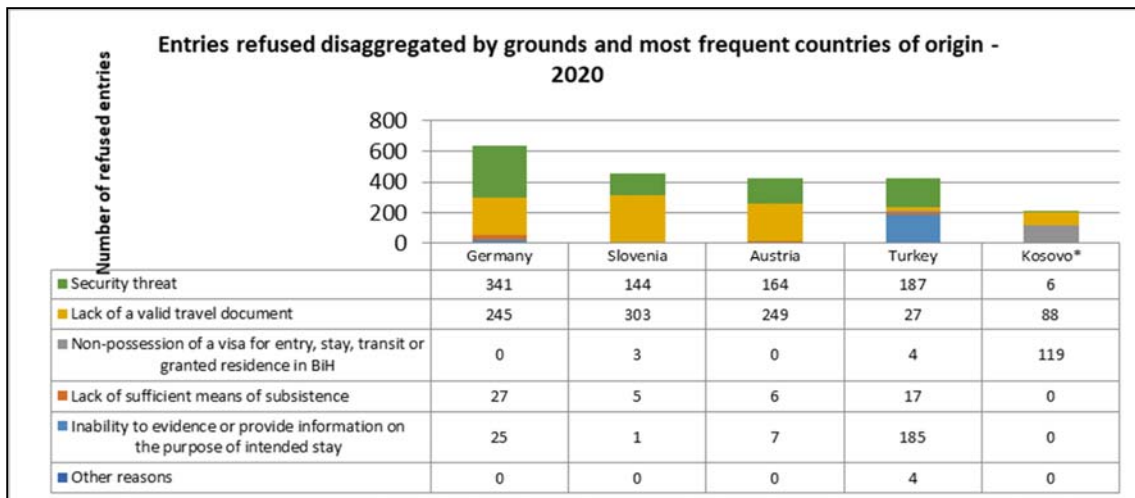
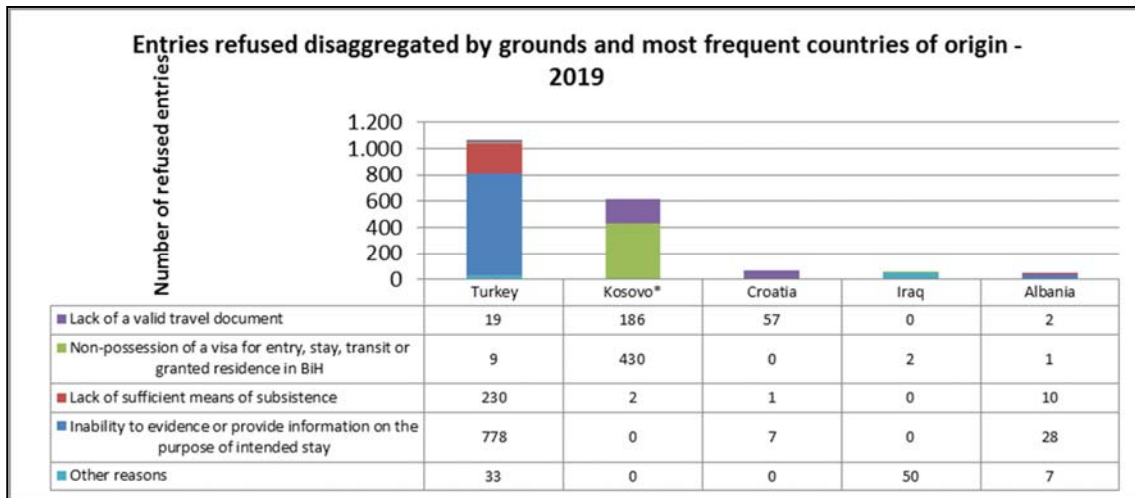
Majority of bans on crossing the state border pronounced at the border crossing points were reasoned by a threat posed on security, peace, order and public health in BiH or international relations, as well as the lack of a valid travel document and inability to evidence the purpose of intended stay.

<sup>3</sup> The BiH Border Police, "Analysis of the BiH Border Police Activities in 2020", Sarajevo, January 2021, p. 15

Graphic overview of refused entries in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by reason of refusal



Graphic overview of the number of refused entries in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by reason and most frequent nationalities



## 2.2. Detected Illegal State Border Crossings

Illegal border crossing entails a person detected in attempt to illegally cross the BiH state border and enter or exit BiH at a border crossing point or elsewhere along the border. Such a person may be a national of BiH, a foreigner or a stateless person.

During 2019, 5,859 persons were detected in an attempt to illegally cross the BiH border. In 2020, the figures reached 11,857 persons, it being an increase by 102.37% and a direct consequence of mass migration movements that took over the country during previous year. Namely, the year of 2015 was marked by a significant increase of migrations in Europe and mass mixed flows on so-called the Western Balkans route. Even though the flows bypassed Bosnia and Herzegovina in second half of 2015, as of March 2016<sup>4</sup> there appeared a large number of migrants who remained in the transit countries, primarily Serbia, but also in the other countries on the Western Balkans route. Together with those migrants who continuously arrived from countries on the external borders of Europe, they were brought into a situation to seek new routes towards desired destination countries. As a result of the aforementioned migration movements, Bosnia and Herzegovina had faced intensified illegal migrations in the last quarter of 2017, as well as throughout the years of 2018, 2019 and 2020.

When concerning 2020 itself, it should be noted that the BiH Border Police registered 11,006 persons prevented in attempts to illegally enter BiH from the territory of neighbouring countries to which they were returned to (NOTE: the stated number also encompasses the persons engaged in multiple attempts of illegal crossing of the border).<sup>5</sup>

**Table 8. Detected illegal border crossings in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by nationalities**

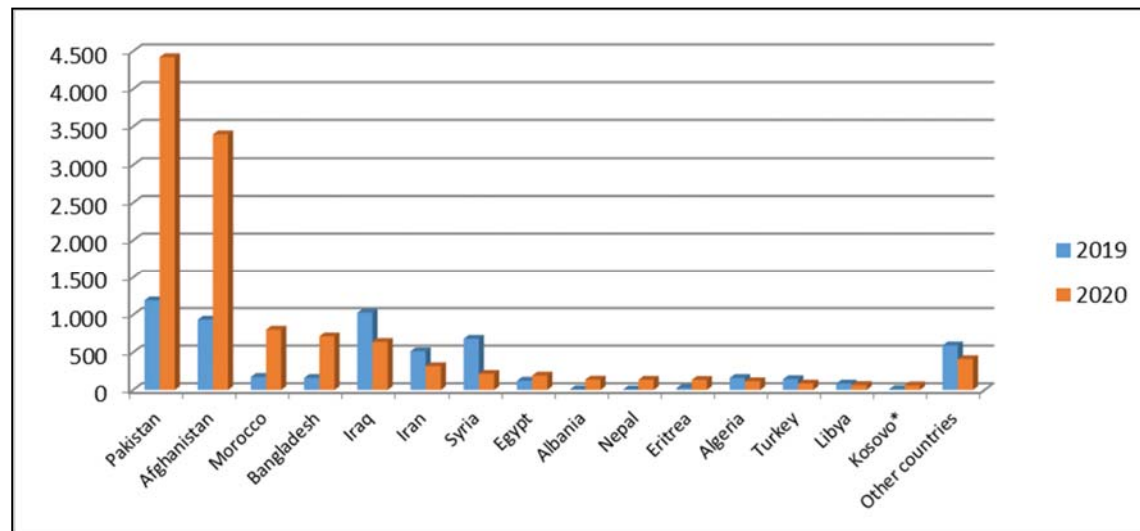
No.	Country	2019	2020	%
1	Pakistan	1,193	4,423	270.75%
2	Afghanistan	936	3,399	263.14%
3	Morocco	174	802	360.92%
4	Bangladesh	161	714	343.48%
5	Iraq	1,029	641	-37.71%
6	Iran	516	318	-38.37%
7	Syria	683	215	-68.52%
8	Egypt	124	192	54.84%

No.	Country	2019	2020	%
9	Albania	10	139	1290.00%
10	Nepal	9	136	1411.11%
11	Eritrea	27	134	396.30%
12	Algeria	160	117	-26.88%
13	Turkey	144	86	-40.28%
14	Libya	86	66	-23.26%
15	Kosovo*	13	63	384.62%
16	Other countries	594	412	-30.64%
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,859</b>	<b>11,857</b>	<b>102.37%</b>

<sup>4</sup> North Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Austria as of March 8, 2016 closed their borders for all migrants not possessing valid travel documents and visas.

<sup>5</sup> The BiH Border Police, "Analysis of the BiH Border Police Activities in 2020", Sarajevo, January 2021, p. 6

**Graphic overview of detected illegal border crossings in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by countries of detected illegal border crossings in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by countries**

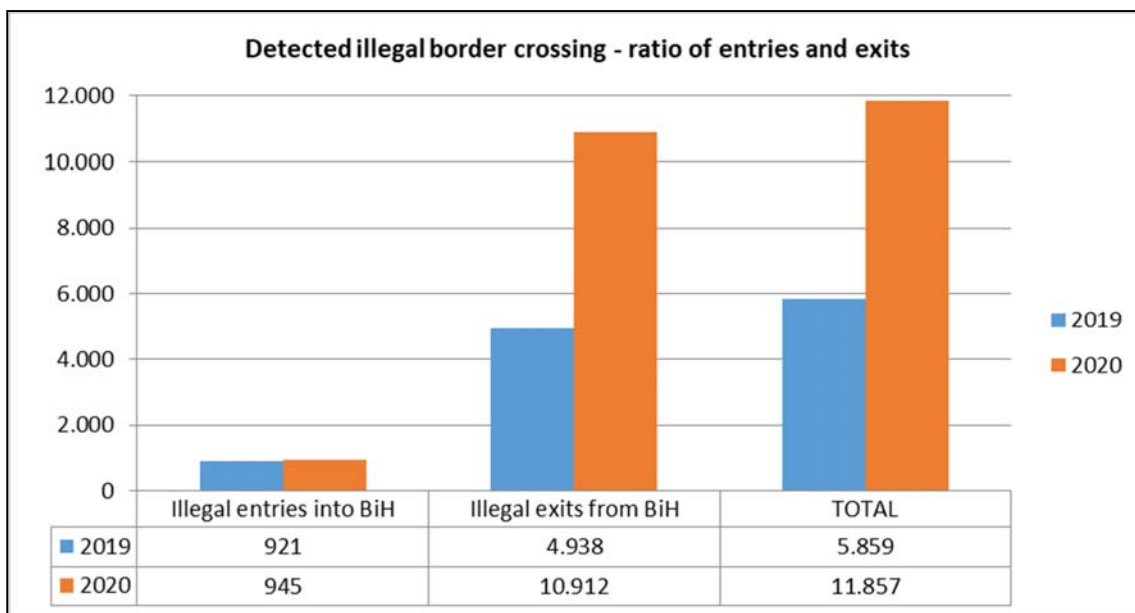


According to available data for 2020, majority of detected illegal crossings pertained to nationals of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Morocco, Bangladesh and Iraq (84% of the total number of illegal crossings). In addition to above stated, a significant increase in the number of detected illegal crossings of the state border pertained to nationals of Egypt, Albania, Nepal, Eritrea, and Kosovo\*. On the other hand, a decline was registered in the number of illegal border crossings by nationals of Syria, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Algeria and Libya. According to data from the Report on Work of the BiH Border Police on the total number of illegal entries and exits: “in 2020, 719 persons were registered at the border crossing points in illegal crossing of the state border, whereas 11,138 persons were registered outside the border crossing (border zone)”<sup>6</sup>. In 2019, “a total number of persons registered at the border crossing points in illegal crossing of the state border (total for entries and exits) was 440 (129 at the entry + 311 at the exit), whereas 5,419 persons (792 at the entry + 4,627 at exit) were registered outside the border crossing (border zone)”<sup>7</sup>. The data indicate a tendency of more frequent illegal crossing of border outside the border crossing points themselves.

<sup>6</sup> The BiH Border Police, “Analysis of the BiH Border Police Activities in 2020”, Sarajevo, January 2021, p. 18

<sup>7</sup> The BiH Border Police, “Analysis of the BiH Border Police Activities in 2019”, Sarajevo, January 2020, p. 17

Graphic overview of illegal state border crossings aimed at entry to and exit from the country

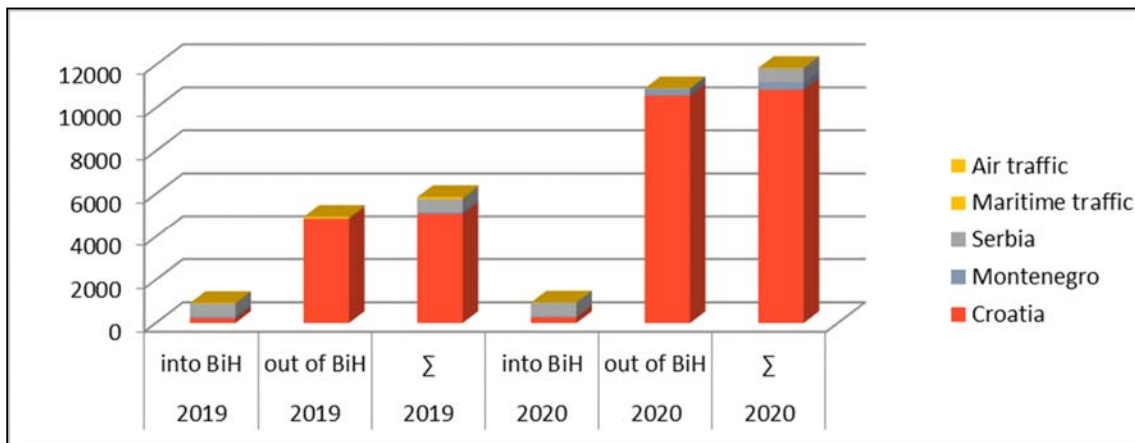


In 2019, illegal exits accounted for 84.28% of the total number of persons detected in the illegal crossing of the state border (5,859), while this percentage in 2020 was 92.03% (11,857 persons). The indicators show that the 2020 percentage of illegal exits from BiH was much higher (92%) than of the entries (8%). As far as the land border is concerned, the BiH Border Police reports on increasing number of illegal crossings (entries and exits) outside the border crossing points.

**Table 9. Detected illegal border crossings in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by type of border**

Country	2019 into BiH	2019 out of BiH	2019 Σ	2020 into BiH	2020 out of BiH	2020 Σ	% into BiH	% out of BiH	%
Croatia	231	4,847	<b>5,078</b>	269	10,580	<b>10,849</b>	16.45	118.28	<b>113.65</b>
Montenegro	85	7	<b>92</b>	32	311	<b>343</b>	-62.35	344.28	<b>272.83</b>
Serbia	580	12	<b>592</b>	639	8	<b>647</b>	10.17	-33.33	<b>9.29</b>
Maritime traffic	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>	-	-	-
Air traffic	25	72	<b>97</b>	5	13	<b>18</b>	-80.00	-81.94	<b>-81.44</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>4,938</b>	<b>5,859</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>10,912</b>	<b>11,857</b>	<b>2.60</b>	<b>120.98</b>	<b>102.37</b>

**Graphic overview of detected illegal border crossings in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by type of border**



Analysis of the 2020 data relating to detection of illegal crossings to BiH per type of border and neighbouring countries showed that 11,839 persons were discovered on the land border, which is an increase by 105% in comparison to 2019 when 5,762 irregular crossings were registered at the same type of border. Similarities are also detected in the number of illegal crossings at international airports, which dropped by 81%, so 18 persons were found while illegally crossing the border during 2020, whereas this number in 2019 was 97.

In terms of analysis, it is important to note a significant increase in number of illegal crossings of the state border with Croatia (113.65%) and Montenegro (272.83%). Out of 10,849 persons detected while illegally crossing state border with Croatia, 97.5% referred to illegal entries to BiH and only 2.5% to illegal exits from BiH. Out of 343 persons found in attempt to illegally cross the state border with Montenegro, 91% related to illegal entry to BiH and 9% to illegal exits from BiH. Out of 647 persons discovered during illegal crossing of the state border with Serbia, 99% referred to illegal entries to BiH and 1% to illegal exits from BiH. According to the BiH Border Police data, majority of illegal exits were recorded at the border with the Republic of Croatia, accounting for 97% of all persons detected during the illegal border crossing, which indicates that illegal migrants opt to leave BiH mainly at this section of the border.

### **3. Temporary and Permanent Residence of Foreign Nationals**

Applications for approval of residence are to be submitted to a BiH DCM or authorised organizational unit of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, in person or by a legal representative if a person is lacking legal capacity, not later than 15 days prior to expiration of a long-term residence visa (D Visa), a non-visa residence, an extended temporary residence permit (where the extension of temporary residence rests on the same grounds), or a permanent residence permit. Additional to an application, a foreign national is obliged to provide his/her biometric data. The application for approval or extension of temporary residence resting on any ground whatsoever is decided upon by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs within 90 days from the day of submission of a valid application via a BiH DCR, or within 60 days from submission of an application directly to the competent organisational unit of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs.

If an application is approved, the foreign national is notified on the subject and granted temporary residence permit. In case of a temporary residence resting on employment with a work permit or a Blue Card, the foreigner is provided with a Decision on Approved Temporary Residence and his/her temporary residence permit.

### 3.1. Temporary Residence

Temporary residence is a permit granted for a period not exceeding one year, provided that the validity of the foreigner's passport extends for at least three months past the granted term of temporary residence.

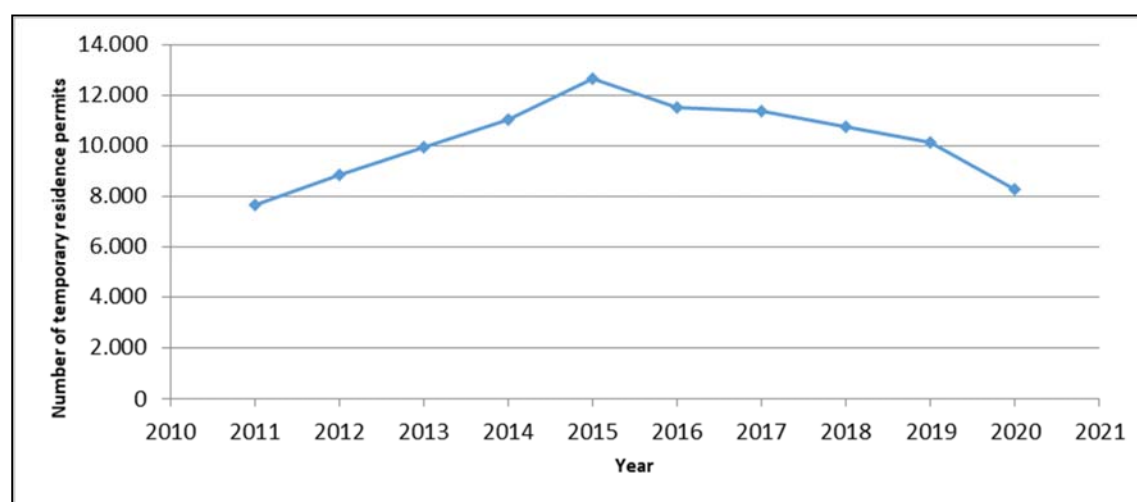
As provided by the Law on Foreigners that came into force in November 2015, temporary residence may be granted to a foreigner who intends to reside or is residing in BiH on the grounds of: family reunification, education, humanitarian reasons, employment based on a work permit, employment without a work permit, or other justified reasons. Approval of temporary residence may exceptionally rest on ownership of immovable property, if established that the foreigner has effective connections with BiH.

Temporary residence on humanitarian grounds for cases stipulated under Article 58 paragraph (2) Indent a) of the Law on Foreigners (Temporary residence on humanitarian grounds) is granted for a period not exceeding six months.

**Table 10. Total number of temporary residence permits issued from 2011 to 2020**

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Temporary residence	7,661	8,838	9,953	11,022	12,633	11,519	11,372	10,756	10,133	8,293

**Graphic overview of issued temporary residence permits by year from 2011 to 2020**



Proper legal regulations and centralized institutional framework led to a better addressing of matters pertaining to movement and stay of foreigners in BiH. Period from 2011 to 2015 was



characterized by a continuous and steady increase in number of issued temporary residence permits, which leads us to a conclusion that the area of movement and stay of foreign nationals during this time span has been placed under control of competent authorities. In 2016, however, this number was lesser by 8.82% than in previous year yet “primarily due to cessation of approvals/extensions of temporary residences of foreigners employed at construction of thermal power station “Stanari” and a highway section between Tarčin and Sarajevo”<sup>8</sup>. The year of 2020 marks additional decrease in the number of issued temporary residence permits by 18.16%. Earlier graph also shows a continuous drop in number of approved/extended temporary residence permits issued from 2015 to 2020.

Until 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006, the matters relating to the status of foreigners were under competence of Units for Foreigners functioning within Cantonal Ministries of Interior, the Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior, and the Brcko District Police, where each authority had different approach in resolving these matters. Following establishment of the BiH Service for Foreigners’ Affairs, as an administrative organisation of the BiH Ministry of Security with operational independence, a significant progress was made in pursuing a more efficient migration management in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This was achieved through both uniform approach of all the Service’s organisational units in treating issues in a manner stipulated by the Law on Foreigners, and especially the use of the Service’s operational capacities in suppressing the illegal migration.

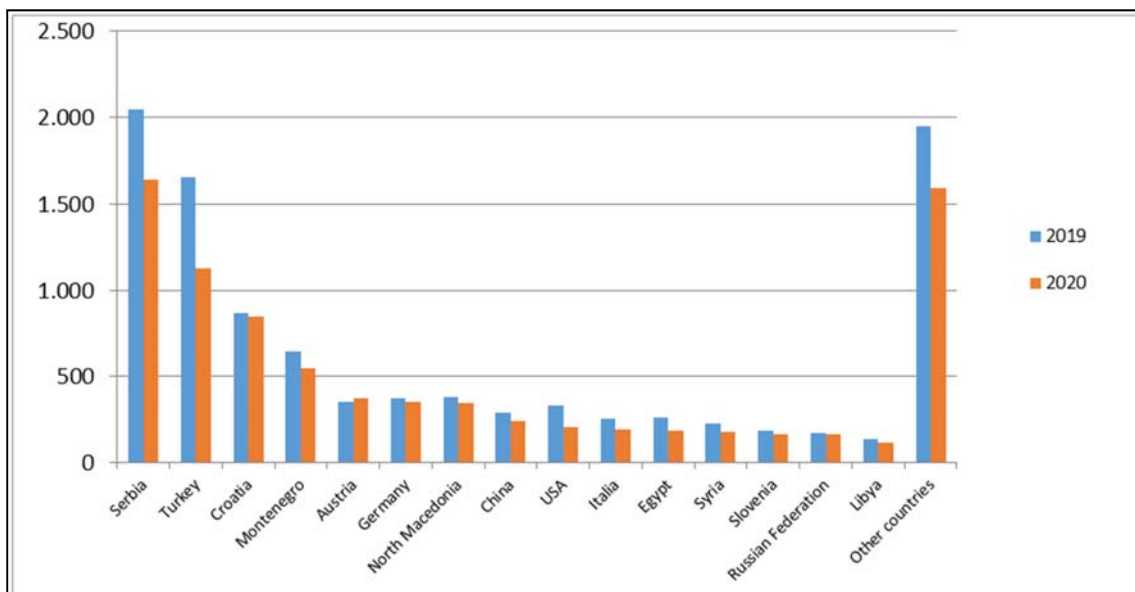
To define current state of affairs pertaining to issuance of temporary residence permits during 2019 and 2020, hereby are presented the indicators on number of residence permits (initial approval or extension of residence permit).

**Table 11. Number of issued temporary residence permits in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by countries**

No.	Country	2019	2020	%	No.	Country	2019	2020	%
1	Serbia	2,048	1,644	-19.73%	9	USA	332	209	-37.05%
2	Turkey	1,656	1,131	-31.70%	10	Italia	257	193	-24.90%
3	Croatia	864	846	-2.08%	11	Egypt	260	189	-27.31%
4	Montenegro	646	546	-15.48%	12	Syria	226	181	-19.91%
5	Austria	352	376	6.82%	13	Slovenia	183	163	-10.93%
6	Germany	374	354	-5.35%	14	Russian Federation	175	162	-7.43%
7	North Macedonia	383	344	-10.18%	15	Libya	135	117	-13.33%
8	China	291	239	-17.87%	16	Other countries	1,951	1,599	-18.04%
					<b>Total</b>		<b>10,133</b>	<b>8,293</b>	<b>-18.16%</b>

<sup>8</sup> The BiH Service for Foreigners’ Affairs, “Report on Work of the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs in 2016”, Sarajevo, January 2017

**Graphic overview of temporary residence permits issued in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by countries**

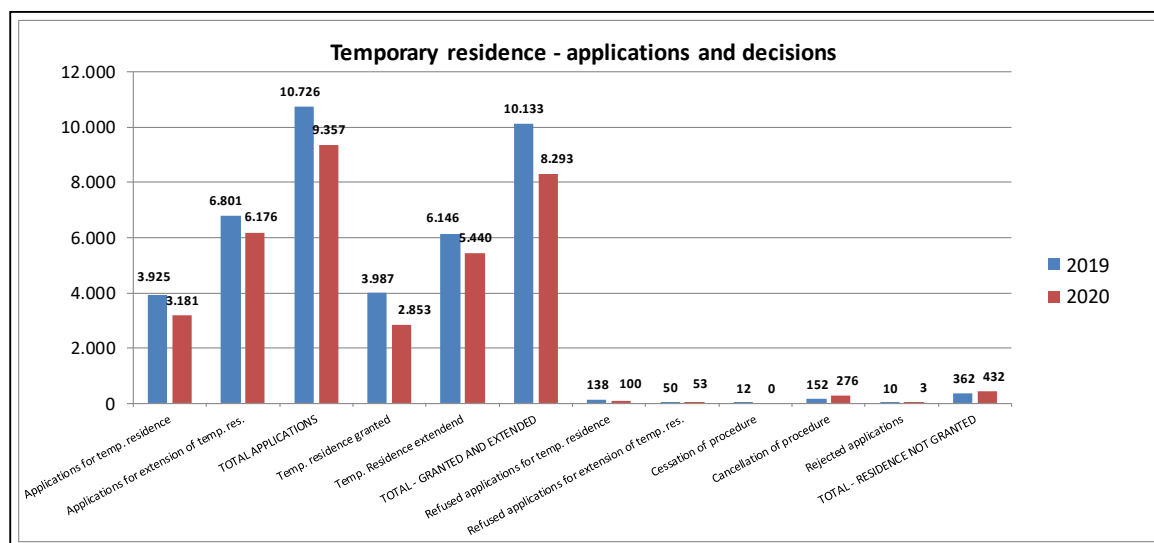


Analysis of collective parameters for 2020 showed a decrease in number of temporary residence permits by 18.16% as compared to 2019. Of the total number of temporary residence permits issued in 2019, the largest number concerns the nationals of Serbia (1,644), Turkey (1,131), Croatia (846), Montenegro (546), Austria (376), Germany (354) and North Macedonia (344), which account for 63% of the total the number of issued permits. With exception of Austria, percentages of comparative parameters indicate a decrease in the number of temporary residences for nationals of the above mentioned countries.

With respect to countries of origin of foreigners granted or extended temporary residence in BiH, the following countries are continuously considered as top 5 countries of origin: Serbia, Turkey, Croatia, Montenegro and Austria. These five countries account for 55% of all persons granted temporary residence permits in BiH during 2019 and 2020.

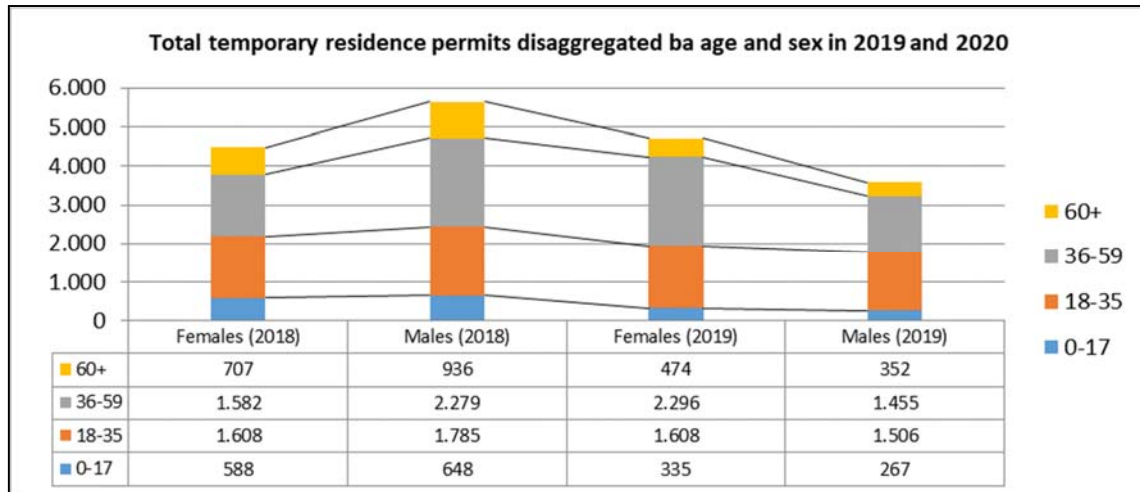
The year of 2020 registers 3,181 application for initial approval of temporary residence, and 6,186 applications for extension of temporary residence. Its total of 9,357 filed applications illustrates a 12.76% decrease in comparison to 2019 with 10,726 such applications (3,925 applications for initial approval of temporary residence, and 6,801 applications for extension of temporary residence).

**Graphic overview of applications and positive decisions on temporary residence permits in 2019 and 2020 (initial issuance and extensions)**



With respect to decision-making upon filed applications for approval or extension of temporary residence, the year of 2020 registers a total of 8,293 positive decisions (2,853 cases concerned initial granting of temporary residence, and 5,440 cases the extension of temporary residence). The numbers show a decrease by 18.16% in comparison to 2019 having a total of 10,133 granted/extended temporary residences (3,987 cases concerned initial granting of residence permits, and 6,146 cases the extension of temporary residence). According to these indicators, the rate of granted/extended temporary residences accounted for 88.62% of all applications submitted in 2020.

To define the profile of foreign nationals that applied for and were granted temporary residence in BiH in 2020, we hereby present the gender and age structure, which illustrate a prevailing number of women over men in all respective categories: the age group from 0 to 17 (335 women and 267 men); the age group from 18 to 35 (1,608 women and 1,506 men); the age group from 36 to 59 (2,296 women and 1,455 men); and the age group from 60+ (474 women and 352 men). In terms of the total number of issued temporary residences, 4,713 or 56.83% of temporary residences were issued to women, and 3,580 or 43.17% to men.



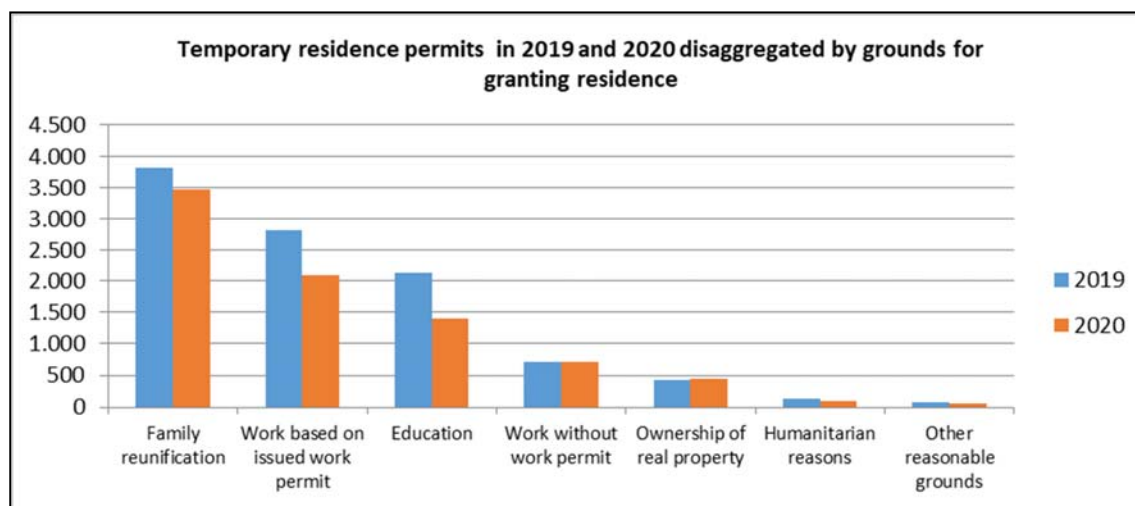
According to the Service for Foreigners' Affairs data for 2020, majority of temporary residences in BiH were granted to foreigners on the grounds of: family reunification, encompassing both regular and common-law marriages with BiH nationals (3,485); employment grounded on work permit (2,101); education (1,400); and employment without a work permit (714), which accounted for almost 93% of all temporary residences. Aiming to define current flows of legal immigration resting on temporary residence permits issued to foreign nationals in BiH, hereby is presented an overview of temporary residences in BiH granted during 2019 and 2020, where a special focus was given to the year of 2020. The table is disaggregated by the grounds for issuance of temporary residence with accompanying percentage of the total number of temporary residence permits issued in BiH.

**Table 12. Temporary residence in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by grounds for granted residence**

Grounds for residence	2019	% u Σ2019	2020	% u Σ2020	% 2020/2019
Family reunification	3,827	37.77%	3,485	42.02%	-8.94%
Work based on issued work permit	2,819	27.82%	2,101	25.33%	-25.47%
Education	2,136	21.08%	1,400	16.88%	-34.46%
Work without work permit	709	7.00%	714	8.61%	0.71%
Ownership of real property	432	4.26%	436	5.26%	0.93%
Humanitarian reasons	131	1.29%	96	1.16%	-26.72%
Other reasonable grounds	79	0.78%	61	0.74%	-22.78%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,133</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>8,293</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>-18.16%</b>

When considering other grounds for temporary residence in 2020, the stay of foreigners in BiH was also settled on basis of: ownership of immovable property (436); humanitarian reasons, including the medical treatment (96); and other justified reasons (61).

Graphic overview of temporary residences granted in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by grounds for residence



The year of 2020 was marked by a decrease in number of temporary residence permits issued on grounds of: family reunification, work on basis of issued work permit, education, humanitarian and other justified reasons. Also, 2020 marks almost identical number of temporary residence permits issued on grounds of: work without a work permit and ownership of immovable property. The number of temporary residence permits resting on family reunification amounts to 42.02% of all temporary residence permits issued in 2020, which indicates that Bosnia and Herzegovina is becoming more of a country of foreigners' destination.

Statistical data for 2020 show that nationals of neighbouring countries mainly opt to settle their temporary residence in BiH on grounds of: family reunification, issued work permits, and education.

**Table 13. Grounds for temporary residence in 2020 disaggregated by countries**

GROUND FOR RESIDENCE	Serbia	Turkey	Croatia	Montenegro	Austria	Other countries	TOTAL
Family reunification	704	230	443	362	143	1,603	<b>3,485</b>
Work based on issued work permit	569	233	128	65	31	1,075	<b>2,101</b>
Education	233	386	106	97	16	562	<b>1,400</b>
Work without work permit	66	268	121	0	4	255	<b>714</b>
Ownership of real property	63	5	33	21	147	167	<b>436</b>
Humanitarian reasons	5	0	14	1	3	73	<b>96</b>
Other reasonable grounds	4	9	1	0	0	47	<b>61</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,644</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>3,782</b>	<b>8,293</b>

Education is a particularly frequent ground for residence of nationals of Turkey and Serbia. For Turkish nationals, education in BiH is the most frequent ground for residence, though a considerable number of residences also rest on employment without a work permit and family reunification. Family reunification is the most frequent ground for issuance of temporary residence permits to the nationals of Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro.

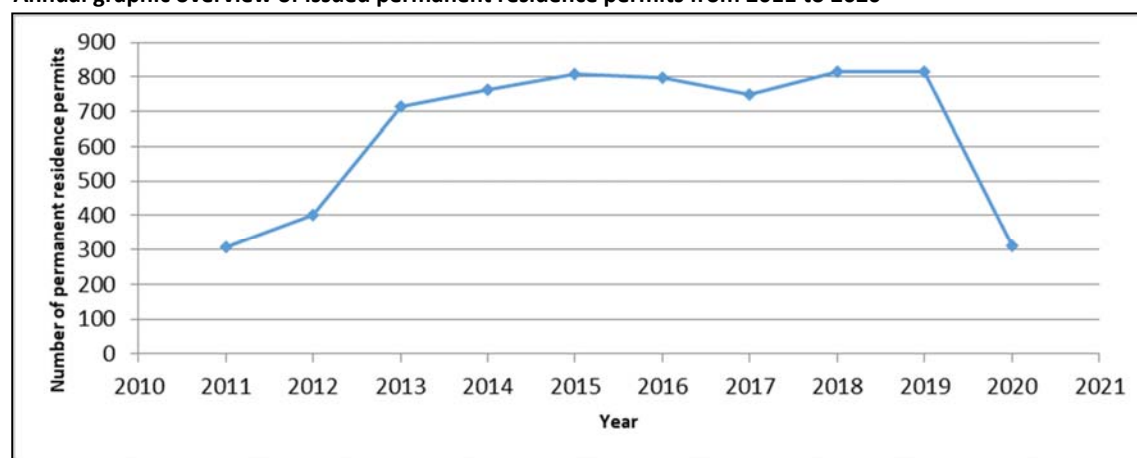
### 3.2. Permanent Residence

Permanent residence may be granted to a foreigner under following conditions: uninterrupted temporary residence on territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina for a period not lesser than five years prior to submitting an application for permanent residence, sufficient and regular means of subsistence, secured adequate accommodation, and settled health insurance.

**Table 14. Number of permanent residence permits issued from 2011 to 2020**

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Permanent residence	308	401	713	763	808	799	750	815	816	312

**Annual graphic overview of issued permanent residence permits from 2011 to 2020**



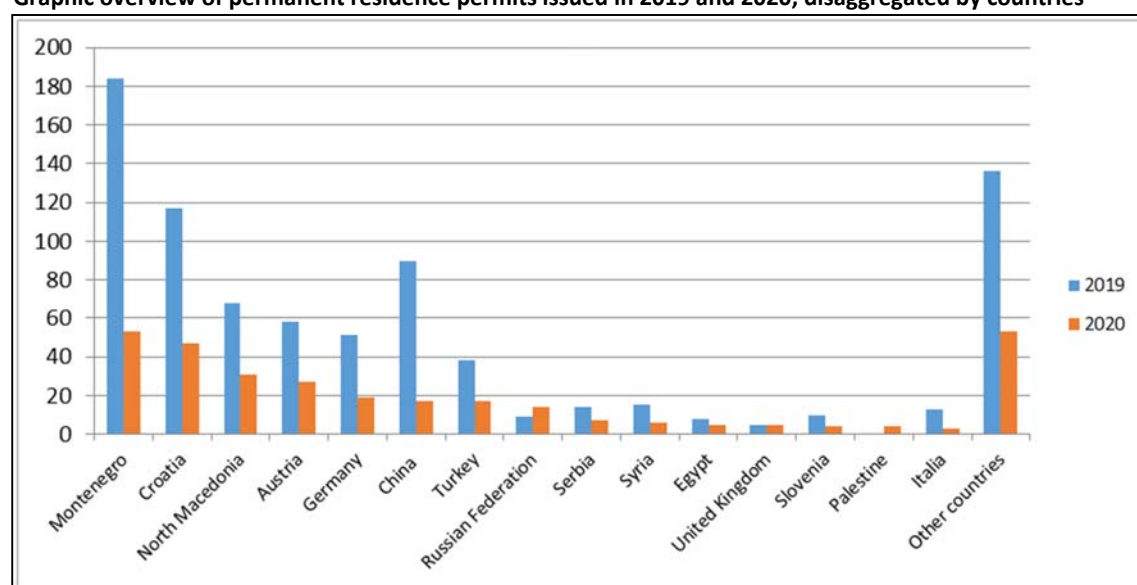
Though evident that the number of permanent residence permits for foreigners in BiH noticeably increased from 2011 to 2015, there was a trend of mild drop in figures from 2015 until 2017 to increase by 8.67% again in the year 2018 as compared to previous year. In 2019, the number of issued permanent residence permits almost equalled to preceding year. The year of 2020, however, marks a considerable drop in figures on temporary residences, which were lesser by 62% and accounted for 312 permits.

To define current situation pertaining to permanent residences, hereby are presented indicators on number of permanent residence permits granted during 2019 and 2020. The year of 2020 registers 318 filed applications for permanent residence, out of which the residence was granted to 312 persons.

**Table 15. Number of permanent residence permits issued in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by countries**

No.	Country	2019	2020	%
1	Montenegro	184	53	-71.20%
2	Croatia	117	47	-59.83%
3	North Macedonia	68	31	-54.41%
4	Austria	58	27	-53.45%
5	Germany	51	19	-62.75%
6	China	90	17	-81.11%
7	Turkey	38	17	-55.26%
8	Russian Federation	9	14	55.56%
9	Serbia	14	7	-50.00%
10	Syria	15	6	-60.00%
11	Egypt	8	5	-37.50%
12	United Kingdom	5	5	0.00%
13	Slovenia	10	4	-60.00%
14	Palestine		4	-
15	Italy	13	3	-76.92%
16	Other countries	136	53	-61.03%
<b>Total</b>		<b>816</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>-61.76%</b>

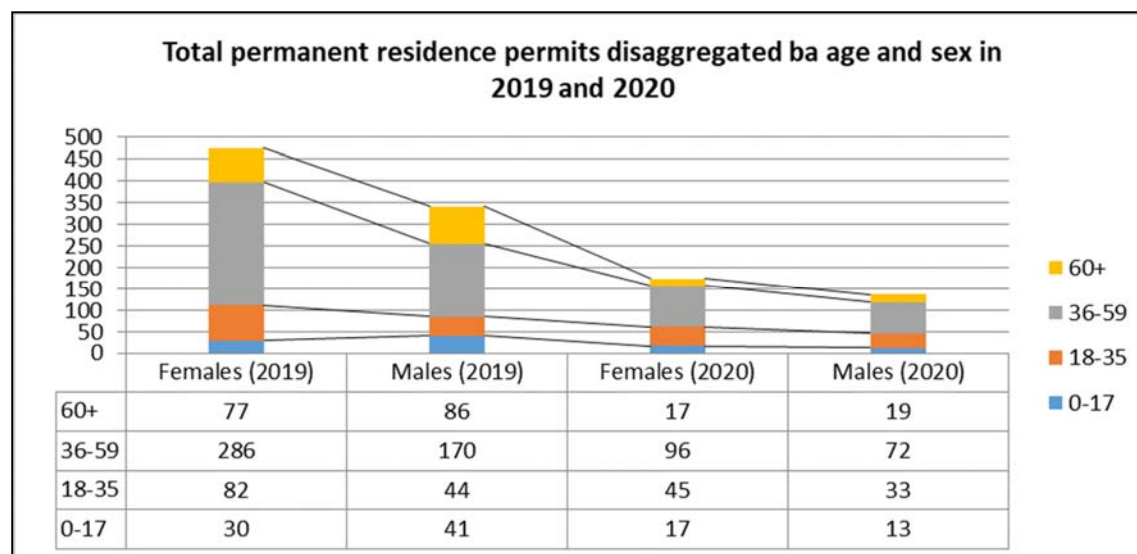
**Graphic overview of permanent residence permits issued in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by countries**



In 2019 and 2020, majority of issued permanent residence permits in BiH pertained to nationals of Montenegro, China, Croatia, North Macedonia, Austria and Germany.

Analysis of issued permanent residences revealed that a very small percentage of permits were granted to nationals of the Republic of Serbia, while they account for the greatest percentage of granted/extended temporary residence permits. This fact, however, is due to the Agreement on Dual Citizenship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Serbia which makes it easier for the nationals of the Republic of Serbia to fulfil the requirements for the BiH citizenship rather than requirements for permanent residence, thus resulting with exceptionally small percentage of permanent residences issued to nationals of the Republic of Serbia.

To define the profile of foreign nationals in BiH who had applied and were granted permanent residence in 2020, hereby is illustrated the gender and age structure showing that there was a prevalent number of women in the in the age group from 0 to 17 (17 women and 13 men), the age group from 18 to 35 (45 women and 33 men), as well as in the age group from 36 to 59 (96 women and 72 men), whereas the age structure was different in the age group 60+ (17 women and 19 men). If considering the total number of permanent residences issued in 2020, 175 or 56% of permanent residences were issued to women, and 137 or 44% to men.



#### 4. Illegal Migration and Measures Imposed on Foreign Nationals

Measures imposed on foreign nationals following a discovery of their illegal stay may include: cancellation of a non-visa or temporary residence, termination of permanent residence, cancellation of a non-visa or temporary residence with expulsion, issuance of the Expulsion Decision, placing foreigners under supervision and forcible removal from BiH on grounds of issued Conclusion on Approved Implementation of the Expulsion Decision.

Hereby are presented the comparative data on measures imposed on foreign nationals in BiH during 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by type of imposed measure.

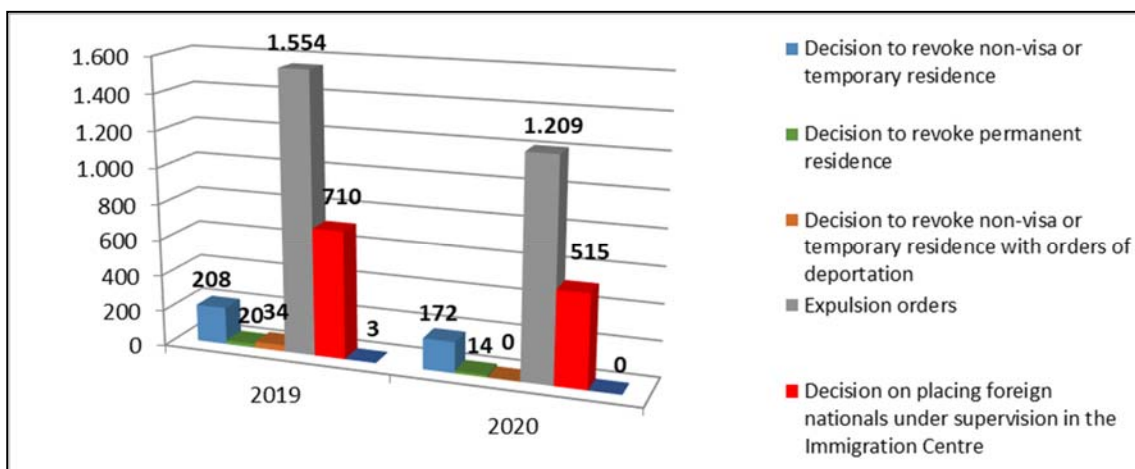
**Table 16. Number of measures undertaken in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by type of imposed measure**

No.	Type of Measure	2019	2020	% (2020/2019)
1	Decision to revoke non-visa or temporary residence	208	172	-17.31%
2	Decision to revoke permanent residence	20	14	-30.00%
3	Decision to revoke non-visa or temporary residence with orders of deportation	34	0	-100.00%
4	Expulsion orders	1,554	1,209	-22.20%
5	Decision on placing aliens under surveillance in the Immigration Centre	710	515	-27.46%



6	Number of Conclusions on approved execution of the Decision on deportation	3	0	-100.00%
<b>Total:</b>		<b>2,529</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>-24.48%</b>

**Graphic overview of measures undertaken in 2019 and 2020, disaggregated by type of imposed measures**



Presented data illustrate that the number of measures imposed on foreign nationals in 2020 is lesser by 24.48% than in 2019. The number of revoked residences (non-visa, temporary and permanent) with or without an expulsion results from well-planned and intensified operational checks and inspection controls, as well as from planned field activities within competence of inspectors for foreigners. The Service for Foreigner's Affairs recognized these activities as an important segment of monitoring and fighting illegal migrations on territory of BiH.

However, despite intensified activities in detecting and preventing irregular migration in Bosnia and Herzegovina that the Service for Foreigner's Affairs had undertaken during past three years, an increase in number of imposed expulsion measures and placement of foreigners under surveillance in the Immigration Centre raised due to increased number of the migrants who illegally enter BiH from the territory of the Republic of Serbia and/or the territory of the Republic of Montenegro. It is to expect that this trend will continue in future with tendency of further increase in number of illegal migrants arriving from high-risk countries, who continuously opt to enter BiH in groups. According to their statements, they are just transiting BiH towards the EU countries. To conclude, the increase in the influx of immigrants and opening of the aforementioned routes seemingly stem from migrants who failed to exit the Republic of Serbia via Hungary, the Republic of Croatia or Romania, so they sought alternative routes towards the EU countries via newly opened migration route over Albania - Montenegro - BiH – Croatia, and further towards the EU.

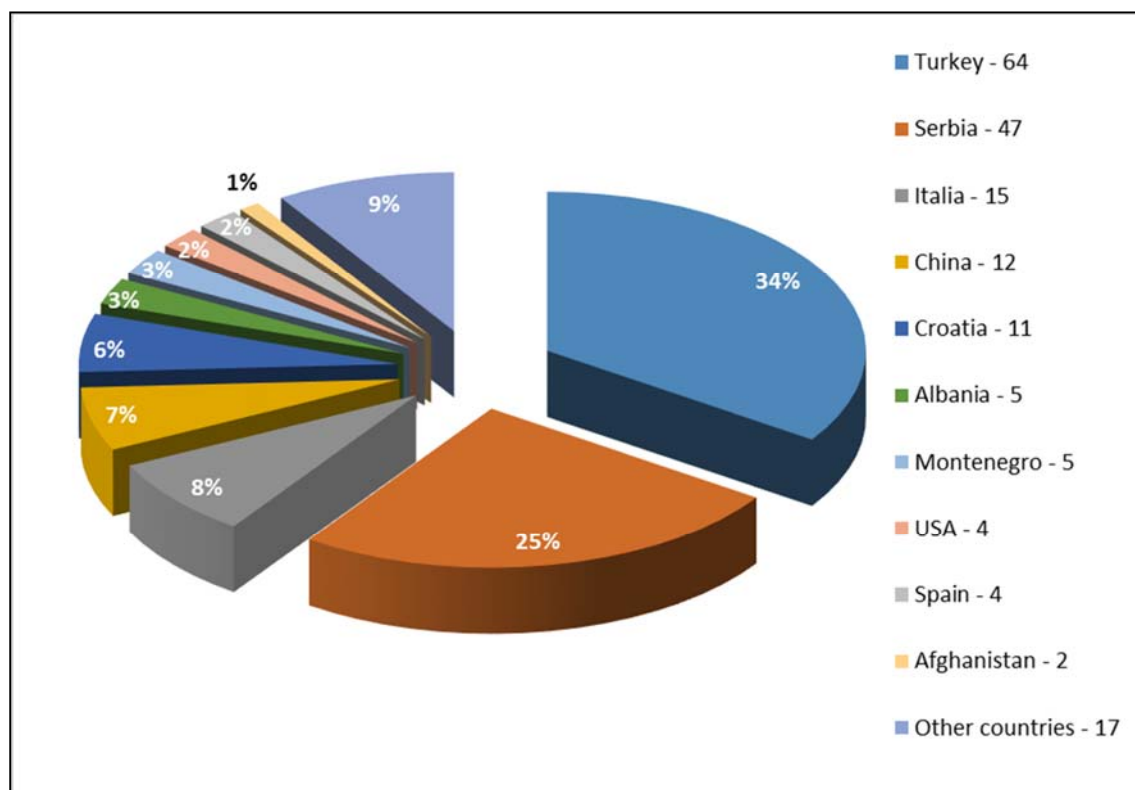
In this regard, the 2020 priorities of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs will be maintained in the future and include continuous operational activities of the inspectors for foreigners in timely collecting and sharing of the operational information with other law enforcement agencies on the routes of movement of illegal migrants, organizers of illegal transfers and smugglers in human beings. The overall goal is to prosecute the perpetrators involved in illegal transfers and smuggling of foreigners. Furthermore, it is important to recall the Report on the

Activities of the Service for Foreigner's Affairs in 2019 and 2020 stating that the Service performs daily on-the-spot operational and inspection checks. Data and operational information collected in such way served as basis for a number of coordinated activities that were conducted with an aim to control the legality of stay of foreign nationals in BiH.

#### 4.1. Revocation of Residence

In 2019, there was a total of 228 revoked residences (208 non-visa or temporary residences, and 20 permanent residences). The year of 2020 marks 186 revoked residences (172 non-visa or temporary residences, and 14 permanent residences), which is an increase by 24.56% in comparison to previous year.

Below is a graph on the number of decisions on revocation of non-visa, temporary and permanent residences in 2020, disaggregated by nationality of foreigners being imposed such measures.



Majority of decisions on revocation of residence pertained to nationals of Turkey, Serbia, Italy, China and Croatia, thus covering 80% of the total number of revoked residences. Generally, the most frequent grounds for revocation of non-visa residence pertained to either non-possession of a work permit for business activities that require one or violated public order of BiH. Temporary residences were most frequently cancelled due to changed circumstances that constituted the grounds for granting residence, or a foreigner's uninterrupted stay out of BiH which exceeded 180 days during granted residence, whereas permanent residences were mainly cancelled due to a foreigner's absence from BiH for a period exceeding one year, as well as for foreigner's absence from BiH lesser than one year where his/her circumstances

undoubtedly led to conclusion that the person has no intention to return and permanently reside in BiH.<sup>9</sup>

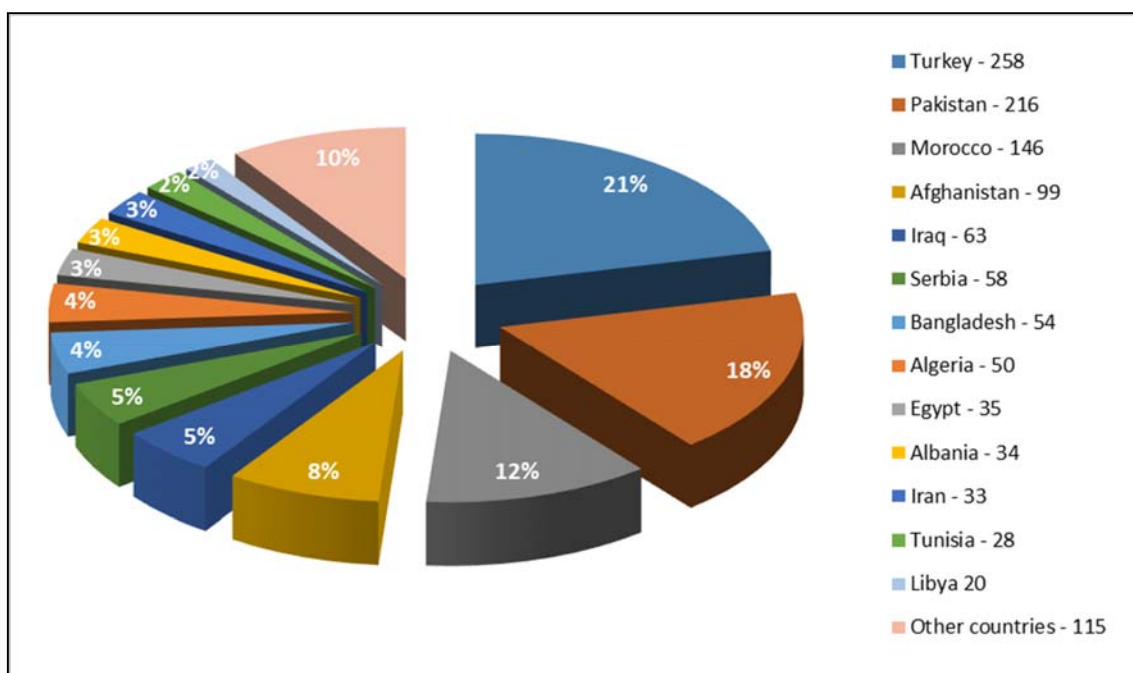
## 4.2. Expulsion Decisions

In 2019, a total of 1,554 decisions on expulsion were issued, whereas the year of 2020 marks a 22% decline with 1,209 such decisions.

The year of 2019 also registers 34 decisions on revocation of non-visa and temporary residence with a measure of expulsion, while no such measures were pronounced during 2020.

The expulsion measures were mostly imposed on those foreign nationals who illegally entered BiH, as well as on the persons admitted under international readmission agreements on illegal stay without being approved a stay in BiH, foreigners whose identity and legality of stay in BiH could not be determined in case he/she tried to breach or has breached legal requirement for crossing state borders, as well as on those residing in BiH after expiry of visa, residence or non-visa residence permit. A measure of expulsion also includes the foreigner's prohibition to enter Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period between 1 and 5 years.

Below is a graph on number of expulsion decisions issued in 2020, disaggregated by nationality of foreigners being imposed such a measure.



<sup>9</sup> The BiH Service for Foreigners' Affairs. "Report on the Service for Foreigners' Affairs Activities in 2020", Sarajevo, January 2021.

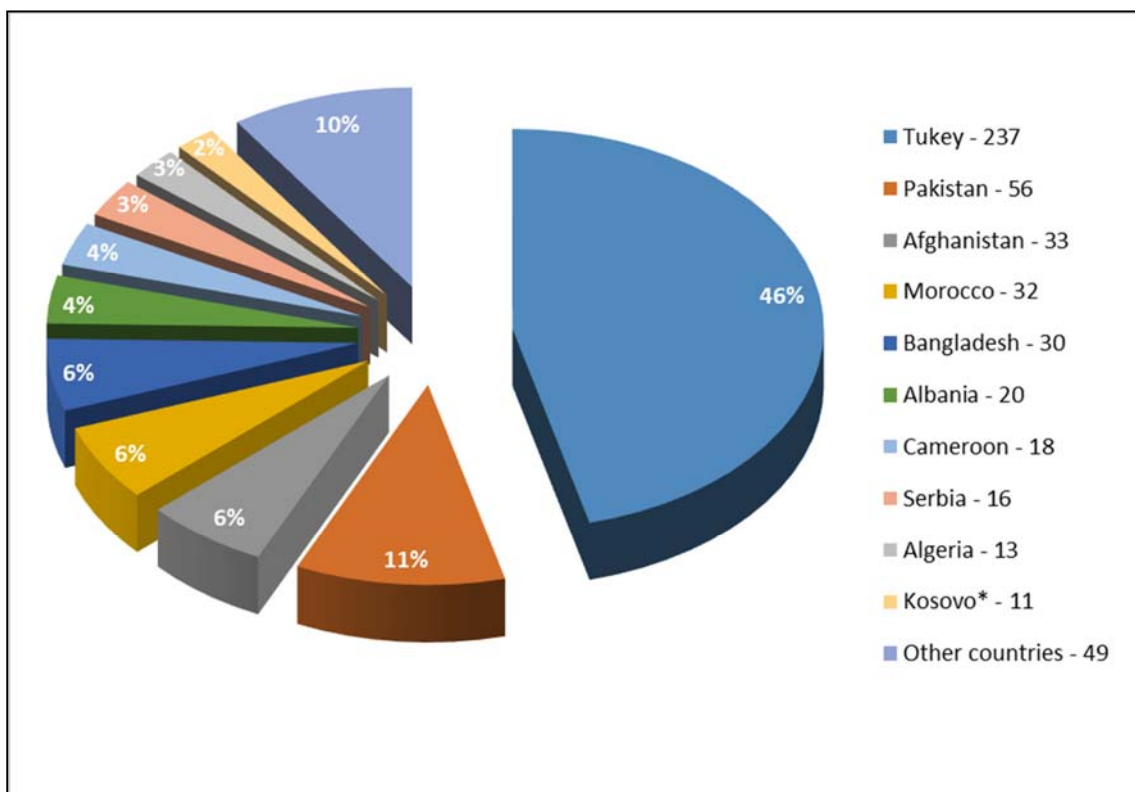
### **4.3. Placing Foreigners under Surveillance**

Placing a foreign national under surveillance is a measure provided by the Law on Foreigners through an issued Decision to place a foreigner under surveillance in the Immigration Centre. Under auspices of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, the Immigration centre became operational on 30 June 2008 and initially availed with 40 beds for implementation of the surveillance measures. As of 23 November 2009, the Immigration Centre was replaced with a newly built facility having capacity of 80 beds. Opening of this solid facility also meant that the accommodation capacity of the Immigration Centre was additionally extended to 120 beds. Its operation created important preconditions for a secure system of deporting foreigners from the country as the Service for Foreigners' Affairs was now provided with a Centre for surveillance of every foreign national with illegal residence in BiH until his/her expulsion from the country if the person: apparently would not leave the country voluntarily; or was admitted under a readmission agreement; or poses a threat to the public order or national security in BiH.

In 2019, a total of 710 foreigners were placed under surveillance in the Immigration Centre. Majority of illegal migrants concerned nationals of Turkey, Albania, Afghanistan, Algeria and China. The year of 2019 also registers an additional number of 358 persons placed under a milder measure of surveillance.

In 2020, a total of 515 foreigners were placed under surveillance in the Immigration Centre, thus showing a decrease by 27.46%. Majority of illegal migrants concerned nationals of Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Morocco and Bangladesh. The year of 2020 also registers 347 persons placed under a milder measure of surveillance.

Below is a graph on number of decisions to place foreign nationals under surveillance in the Immigration Centre issued in 2020, disaggregated by respective nationalities.



#### 4.4. Forcible Removal of Foreigners from BiH

Removal of foreigners from BiH is a measure implemented by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs if a foreigner being imposed an executive order to leave BiH fails to abide to the decision within the deadline for voluntary return specified by the order. This measure encompasses a forcible removal of the foreigner from BiH.

In 2019, the Service for Foreigner's Affairs reported on issuance of 3 conclusions on approved implementation of expulsion decision, whereas no such measures were imposed during 2020. Such a low number of forcible removals stems from foreigners' decision to leave BiH on voluntary and own initiative. Presented indicators demonstrate promotion of voluntary return to the country of origin, it being a more humane and effective procedure than it is the case with forcible return. Removal of foreigners is easier and more economically viable where readmission agreements are applicable, which is conditioned by existence of a readmission agreement between BiH and the particular country to which the foreigner is sent, as well as the entry into force of the agreement itself.

## 5. Return of Irregular Migrants

This chapter presents the data and examines variations of basic parameters in field of:

- Voluntary return of BiH nationals to BiH with the assistance and support of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM),

- Voluntary return of foreigners from BiH to their countries of origin with assistance of the IOM,
- Voluntary return of foreigners from BiH to their countries of origin with assistance of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs,
- Readmission and return based on the readmission agreements,
- Independent voluntary return of foreigners from BiH.

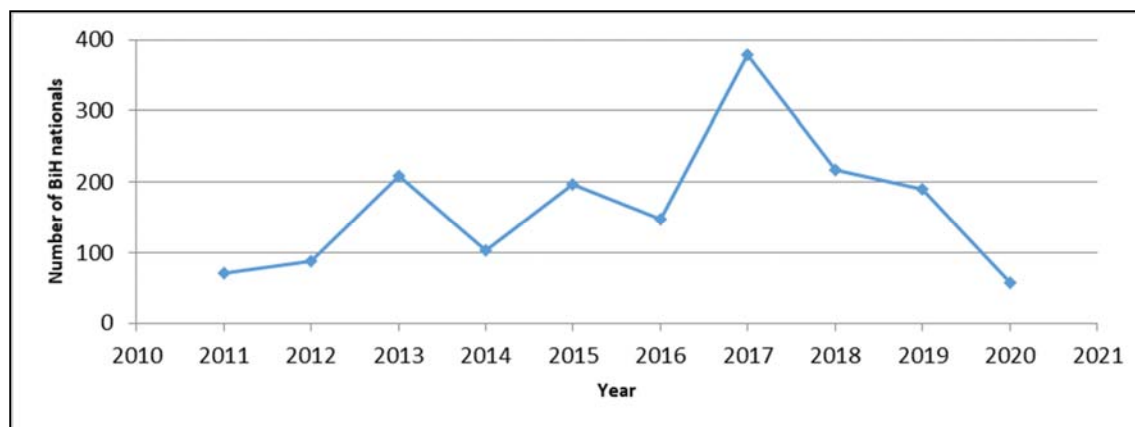
### 5.1. Voluntary Return of BiH Nationals to BiH with the IOM Assistance

Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in programs of voluntary return of the BiH nationals from other countries. The programs of voluntary return were primarily implemented through International Organisation for Migration, thus the relevant data were sourced from the IOM.

**Table 17. Total number of BiH nationals returned to BiH from 2011 to 2020 with the IOM assistance**

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
Persons	71	88	209	104	197	148	379	217	190	58	<b>1,661</b>

Graphic overview of the number of returned BiH nationals from 2011 to 2020 with the IOM assistance



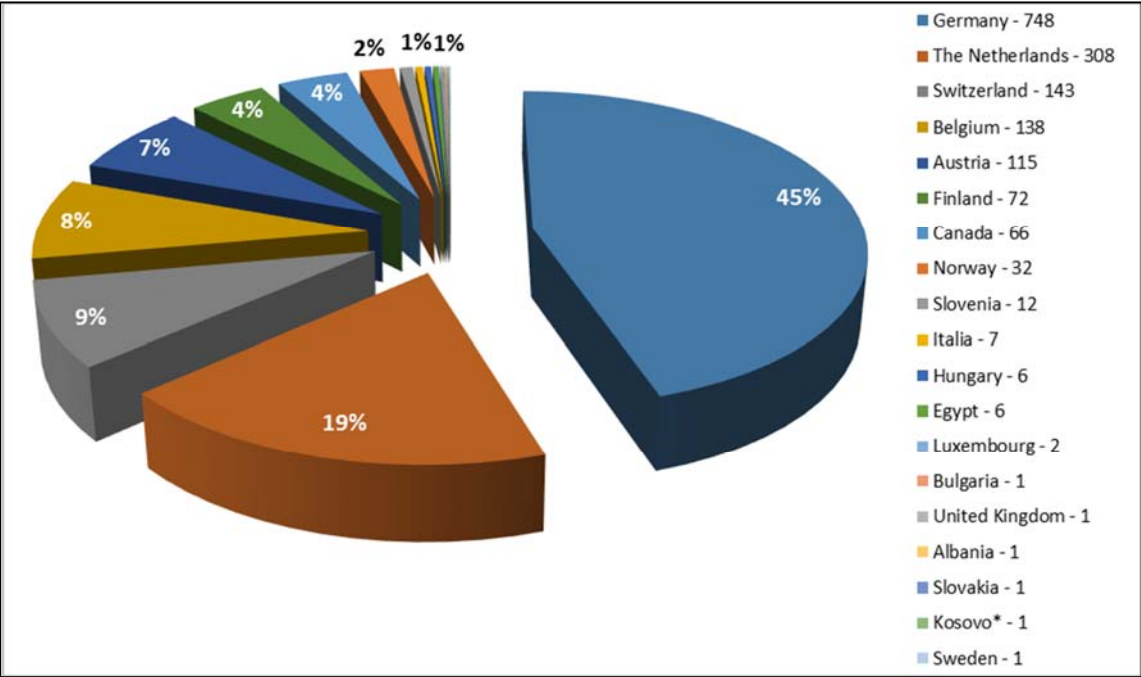
In the period from 2011 to 2020, 1,661 BiH national returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina voluntarily within the IOM assistance programs. As per presented data, period from 2011 to 2013 was marked by a growing trend of BiH nationals returning to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the aforementioned way, yet the figure for 2014 was halved in comparison to 2013. The year of 2015, however, marks a significant increase in the number of BiH nationals who returned in this manner (89% increase as compared to the previous year). Another significant increase was noted in 2017 (by 156%) and accounted for 379 BiH nationals. This was followed by a steady decline in numbers so the year of 2020 registers a drop by 69% in comparison to previous year.

**Table 18. Number of the BiH nationals who voluntarily returned with assistance of IOM**

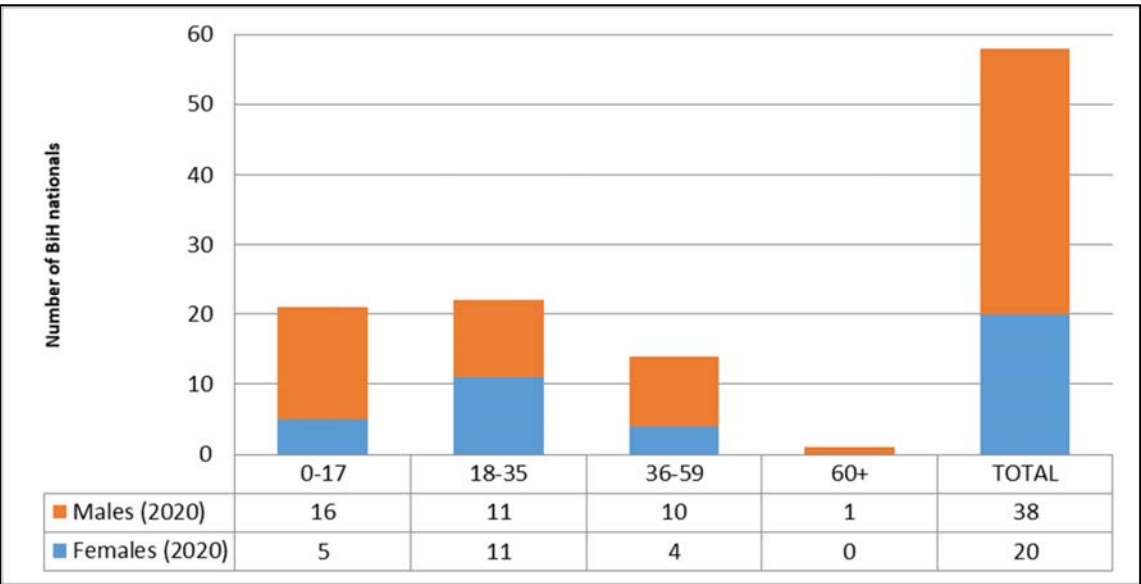
No.	Country	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
1	Germany	-	-	-	-	-	-	346	193	166	43	748
2	The Netherlands	-	16	61	25	59	114	12	2	14	5	308
3	Switzerland	33	28	34	7	11	10	4	7	4	5	143
4	Belgium	20	5	41	29	13	5	10	8	2	5	138
5	Austria	-	1	13	-	101	-	-	-	-	-	115
6	Finland	4	19	25	5	1	16	2	-	-	-	72
7	Canada	-	18	24	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	66
8	Norway	7	-	7	5	10	1	1	-	1	-	32
9	Slovenia	-	-	1	5	1	-	2	1	2	-	12
10	Italia	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	7
11	Hungary	1	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	6
12	Egypt	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
13	Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
14	Bulgaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
15	United Kingdom	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
16	Albania	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
17	Slovakia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
18	Kosovo*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
19	Sweden	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1,661</b>

Analysis of the data on countries from which the BiH nationals voluntarily returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina with the IOM assistance showed that the largest number of returns in the period from 2011 to 2020 was conducted from Germany (45%), the Netherlands (19%), and Switzerland (9%) to be followed by Belgium (8%) and Austria (7%), whereas the return from all other countries accounted for 12%. In 2020, the largest number of BiH nationals returned from Germany, and concerned 43 persons (74%).

Graphic overview of BiH nationals who voluntarily returned in the period from 2011 to 2020, disaggregated by country of return



Graphic overview of BiH nationals returning to BiH with the IOM assistance in 2020 disaggregated by age and gender





In 2020, 58 nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina voluntarily returned to BiH (38 men and 20 women.) Majority of persons returned under this program concerned the population under 35 years of age (74%).

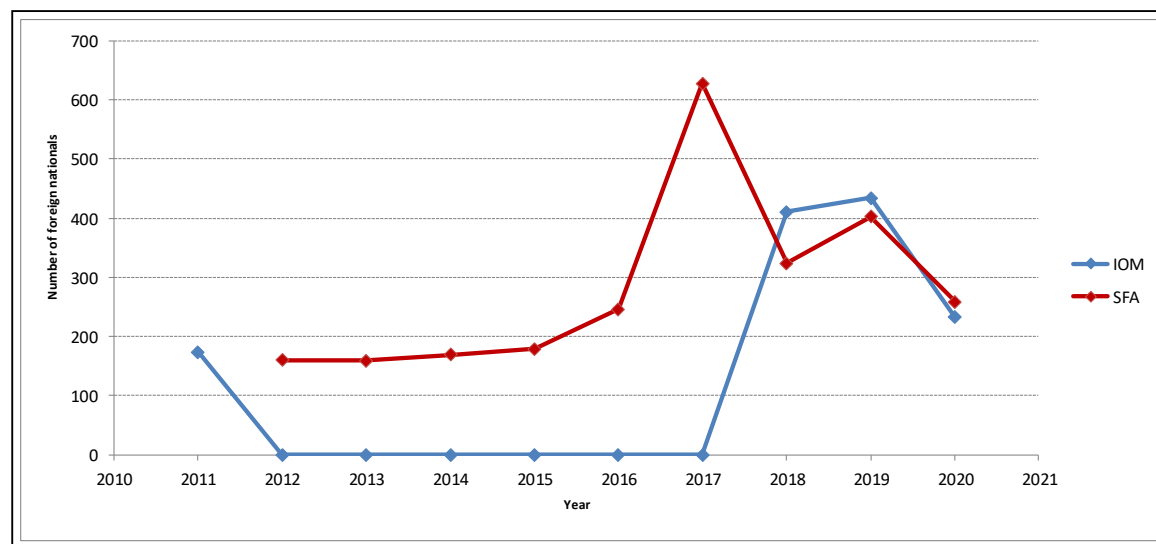
## 5.2. Voluntary Return of Foreigners from BiH to their Countries of Origin with Assistance of the IOM and the Service for Foreigner's Affairs (SFA)

In case a foreign national is supposed to leave Bosnia and Herzegovina, the BiH legislation on immigration and asylum provides a deadline for voluntary execution of the decision, it being set for all administrative procedures relating to status of foreigners in BiH. If a foreigner wants to voluntarily leave BiH, yet lacks the means to do so, he/she may use the IOM assistance for the return under IOM implemented Programme "Assisted Voluntary Return of Irregular Migrants" (hereinafter: AVR).

**Table 19. Total number of foreigners returned from BiH with the IOM and SFA assistance from 2011 to 2020**

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
<b>IOM</b>	173	-	-	-	-	-	-	411	434	232	<b>1,250</b>
<b>SFA</b>	-	160	159	169	179	246	628	324	403	259	<b>2,527</b>

**Graphic overview of the number of foreigners returned from BiH with the IOM and SFA assistance from 2011 to 2020**



In the period from 2011 to 2020, IOM assisted in voluntary return of 1,250 foreign nationals from BiH to their countries of origin. As per presented data, the year of 2011 registers the return of 173 foreigners from BiH. In following six years, however, IOM did not organize voluntary returns from BiH through the AVR program due to lack of financial means. This changed in 2018, as IOM financed voluntary return of 411 foreign nationals from Bosnia and

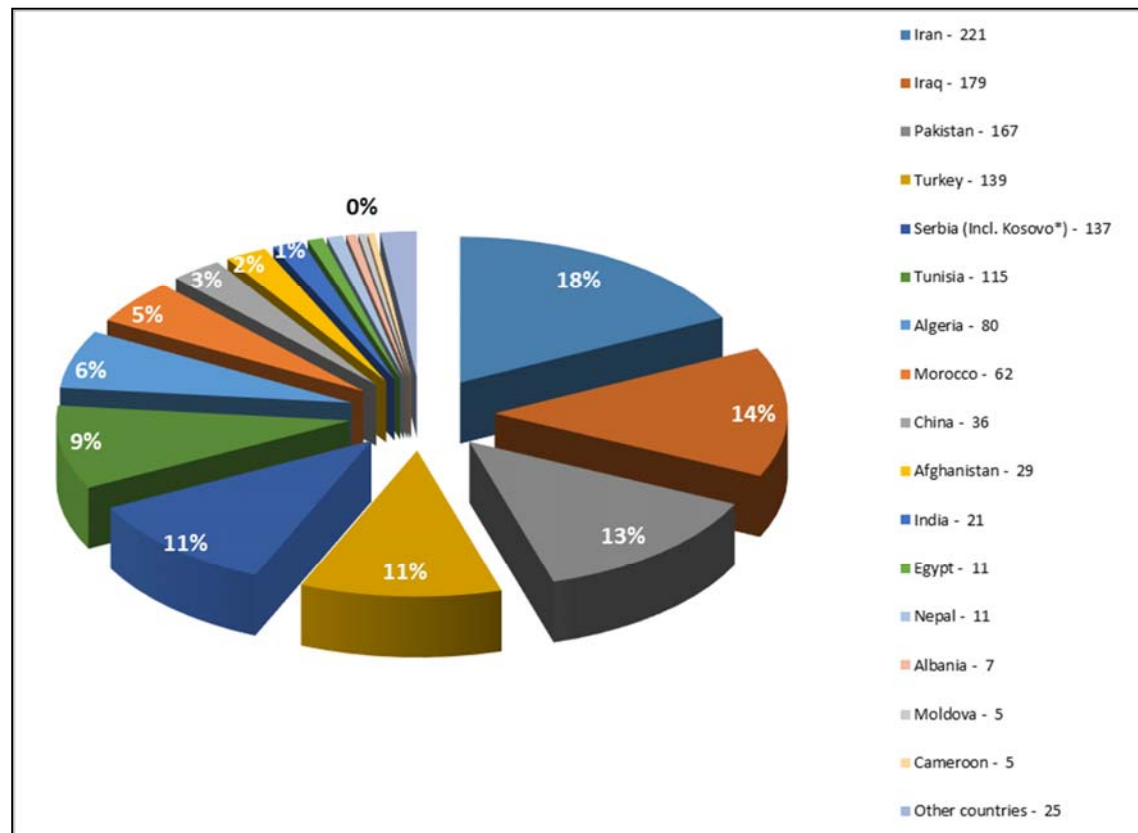
Herzegovina. In 2019, the AVR program covered the return of 434, and in 2020 – 232 foreign nationals.

When analysing the returns organized by the IOM in 2020, a significant return was noted of the nationals of Pakistan, Morocco, Iraq, Afghanistan Tunis and Algeria.

**Table 20. Return of foreigners from BiH through the IOM AVR programme, disaggregated by years and country of return**

No.	COUNTRY	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
1	Iran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	140	77	4	221
2	Iraq	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74	82	23	179
3	Pakistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	52	102	167
4	Turkey	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	105	10	1	139
5	Serbia (including Kosovo*)	135	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	137
6	Tunisia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	73	15	115
7	Algeria	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	56	10	80
8	Morocco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	22	36	62
9	China	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	20	-	36
10	Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	17	29
11	India	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	15	4	21
12	Egypt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	11
13	Nepal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	11
14	Albania	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	7
15	Moldova	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	5
16	Cameroon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	5
17	Jordan	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	5
18	Azerbaijan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	3
19	Bangladesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
20	Lebanon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
21	Ethiopia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
22	Ukraine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
23	Russian Federation	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
24	Montenegro	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
25	Cuba	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
26	Philippines	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
27	Ghana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
28	Guinea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
29	Poland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
30	Comoros	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
31	Palestine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>1,250</b>

**Graphic overview of foreigners returned from BiH with the IOM assistance in the period from 2011 to 2020, disaggregated by country of return**



As no returns of foreigners through AVR program were organised by IOM in the period from 2012 to 2017, it should be noted that the Service for Foreigners' Affairs has been in charge for organizing voluntary returns from BiH. From the year 2012 to 2017, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs started to organise and conduct the voluntary returns through project "Prevention of illegal migrations in BiH and region, and voluntary return of illegal migrants", financed by the Government of the Swiss Confederation and the Government of Liechtenstein through the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (SDC).

From 2012 to 2020, a total of 2,527 foreign nationals were returned by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs.

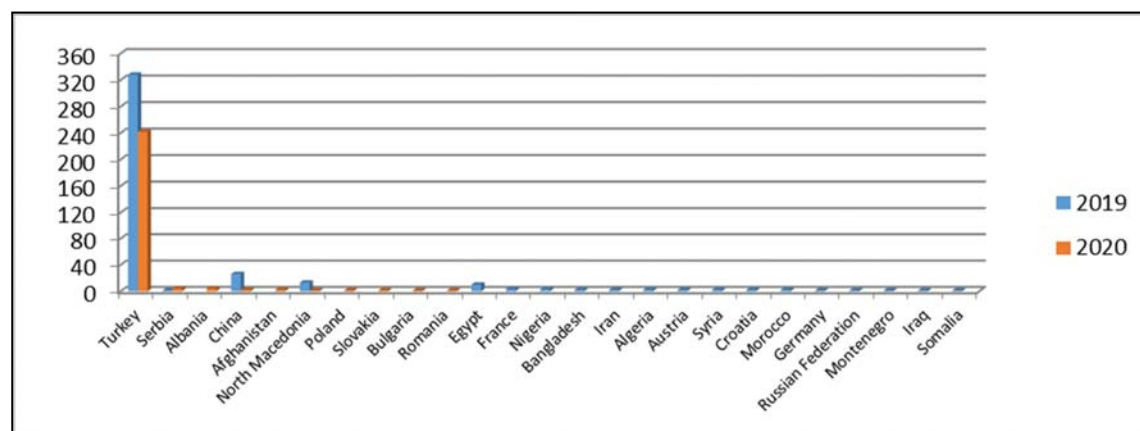
In 2017, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs organized return of 628 foreign nationals, which is 155.28% more than in 2016. Out of these 628 foreigners, 361 were returned through the project financed by the Governments of the Swiss Confederation and Liechtenstein and implemented by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (SDC), while 267 foreigners have been returned through the independent assistance of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs. The issuance of expulsion decisions accounts for the main reason for foreigners' leaving Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In 2019, the Service for Foreigner's Affairs had organised and conducted independent voluntary return of 403 persons, whereas this number in 2020 dropped by 35,73% and accounted for 259 persons.

**Table 21. Number of voluntary returns from BiH in 2019 and 2020 organised by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, disaggregated by countries**

No.	Country	2019	2020
1	Turkey	328	242
2	Serbia	1	4
3	Albania	-	4
4	China	26	2
5	Afghanistan	-	2
6	North Macedonia	13	1
7	Poland	-	1
8	Slovakia	-	1
9	Bulgaria	-	1
10	Romania	-	1
11	Egypt	10	-
12	France	3	-
13	Nigeria	3	-
14	Bangladesh	2	-
15	Iran	2	-
16	Algeria	2	-
17	Austria	2	-
18	Syria	2	-
19	Croatia	2	-
20	Morocco	2	-
21	Germany	1	-
22	Russian Federation	1	-
23	Montenegro	1	-
24	Iraq	1	-
25	Somalia	1	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>403</b>	<b>259</b>

**Graphic overview of the number of voluntary returns of foreigners from BiH organised in 2019 and 2020 by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs**



### 5.3. Return under Readmission Agreements

Readmission agreements facilitate and expedite the return of nationals having illegal stay in one of the countries signatories to the readmission agreement. This also applies to the return of third country nationals or stateless persons who illegally left the territory of one signatory to directly enter to the territory of the other signatory.

The BiH Ministry of Security's Immigration Sector is responsible for admission of BiH nationals under readmission agreements in the segment of verification of their identity and citizenship,

whereas the Service for Foreigners' Affairs is tasked for admission of the third country nationals/stateless persons and their return from BiH.

### 5.3.1. Admission and Return under Readmission Agreements

The BiH Ministry of Security's Immigration Sector, being the authority for implementation of readmission agreements in the part pertaining to the BiH nationals, covered readmission of 541 people during 2020. Following either the procedure of verification of identity and nationality or the procedures under Article 6 of the Agreement between the European Community and Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Readmission of Persons Residing without Authorization, the readmission was allowed for 310 persons who proved to be the nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it being 34.60% lesser than in 2019 when readmission was approved for 474 persons. Out of total number of approved requests for 310 persons, 231 people was treated under regular readmission requests, while 79 remaining persons were readmitted under Article 6 of the Agreement between the European Community and Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Readmission of Persons Residing without Authorization. Furthermore, requests relating to 231 people were rejected due to the fact that the persons in question were not nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The largest number of admissions of BiH nationals in 2020 were conducted with FR Germany (56.13%).

**Table 22. Admission of BiH nationals in 2019 and 2020 under readmission requests**

No.	Country	2019	2020
1	Germany	227	174
2	France	77	43
3	Austria	62	42
4	The Netherlands	30	10
5	Switzerland	20	10
6	Belgium	13	8
7	Italia	13	8
8	Slovenia	4	4

No.	Country	2019	2020
9	Sweden	18	3
10	Montenegro	3	3
11	Croatia	3	2
12	Luxembourg	1	2
13	Serbia	-	1
14	Spain	2	-
15	Norway	1	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>474</b>	<b>310</b>

Analysis of presented data indicates that 310 nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina were admitted under readmission agreements, which followed either verification of their identity and BiH citizenship by the BiH Ministry of Security's Immigration Sector, or the procedures of Article 6 of the Agreement between the European Community and Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Readmission of Persons Residing without Authorization. According to data from the 2020 Analysis of the BiH Border Police Activities<sup>10</sup>, a total of 414 BiH nationals were returned to BiH from those countries which have signed the Readmission Agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina. Comparative analysis of data from available sources also showed that 104 persons were returned directly to the BiH Border Police, without a prior notification of the Immigration Sector of the BiH Ministry of Security.

The Annual Report on Activities of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs also illustrates a total of 330 foreign nationals being admitted in 2020, each conducted under the Readmission

<sup>10</sup> The BiH Border Police, "Analysis of the BiH Border Police Activities in 2020", Sarajevo, January 2021, p. 22

Agreement between the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Croatian Government on the Return and Readmission of Persons with Illegal Entry or Stay.<sup>11</sup>

If considering further transfers of foreign nationals conducted in 2020, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs' data show a total of 190 foreigners being transferred under the readmission agreements, out of which 139 foreigners were transferred under the Agreement between the BiH Council of Ministers and the Government of the Republic of Serbia on the Return and Readmission of Persons with Illegal Entry and Stay, 53 foreigners under the Agreement between the BiH Council of Ministers and the Government of the Republic of Montenegro on the Return and Readmission of Persons with Illegal Entry or Stay, and 3 foreigners under the Agreement between the BiH Council of Ministers and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the Readmission of Persons with Illegal Entry or Stay.<sup>12</sup>

### **5.3.2. Admission under Readmission Agreement with the Republic of Croatia**

Readmission agreement through which Bosnia and Herzegovina continuously admits the greatest number of persons is the Agreement with the Republic of Croatia, both when concerning the BiH nationals who reside without residence permits in the Republic of Croatia and those returned to the Republic of Croatia from other countries "on the same grounds". This also applies to third-country nationals or stateless persons who left the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina to illegally enter the Republic of Croatia.

The readmission agreement with the Republic of Croatia was one of the parameters used to monitor illegal migration, primarily in the area of admission of third-country nationals who illegally reached the Republic of Croatia and countries of Western Europe through the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, regardless if they had come to BiH legally or illegally. The abovementioned parameters and the data on the admission of third country nationals to BiH under the Readmission Agreement with the Republic of Croatia.

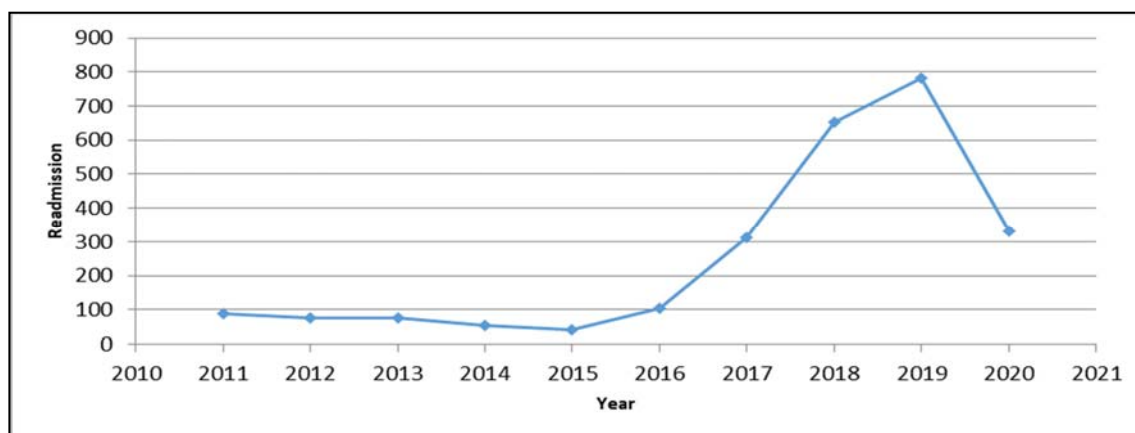
**Table 23. Admission of third country nationals under the Readmission Agreement with Republic of Croatia**

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Admission of persons in BiH	88	75	75	55	42	105	311	652	783	330

<sup>11</sup> The BiH Service for Foreigners' Affairs. "Report on the Service for Foreigners' Affairs Activities in 2020", Sarajevo, January 2021

<sup>12</sup> The BiH Service for Foreigners' Affairs. "Report on the Service for Foreigners' Affairs Activities in 2020", Sarajevo, January 2021

#### Graphic overview of admissions of third country nationals to BiH under the Agreement with Croatia



Analysis of trend in admitting the third countries nationals under the Readmission Agreement with the Republic of Croatia illustrates a constant declining trend from 2011 to 2015, followed by a constant growing trend. In the period from 2016 to 2019, this number increased significantly as a result of migrant movements in the region, and in 2020 there was a change in the situation with a significant decline of 58%.

Reports of the BiH Border Police were used for this type of data until 2015, while the Service for Foreigners' Affairs was a data source for the past four years.

According to the data of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, 783 aliens were admitted in 2019, all of them under the Readmission Agreement between the BiH Council of Ministers and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the Return and Readmission of Persons Whose Entry and Stay are Illegal.<sup>13</sup>

According to the data of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs for 2020, 330 aliens were admitted, all of them under the Readmission Agreement between the BiH Council of Ministers and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the Return and Readmission of Persons Whose Entry and Stay are Illegal.<sup>14</sup>

**Table 24. Admission of third country nationals in 2019 and 2020 under the Readmission Agreement with Republic of Croatia**

No.	Country	2019	2020	%
1	Turkey	232	132	-43.10%
2	Bangladesh	8	36	350.00%
3	Pakistan	115	34	-70.43%
4	Iraq	112	24	-78.57%
5	Afghanistan	37	22	-40.54%
6	Morocco	3	22	633.33%
7	Albania	52	18	-68.38%
8	Egypt	1	17	1.600.00%

No.	Country	2019	2020	%
12	China	32	2	-93.75%
13	Syria	30	2	-93.33%
14	Libya	7	2	-71.43%
15	Tunisia	-	1	-
16	Yemen	-	1	-
17	Ukraine	1	1	-
18	India	13	-	-100.00%
19	Palestine	4	-	-100.00%

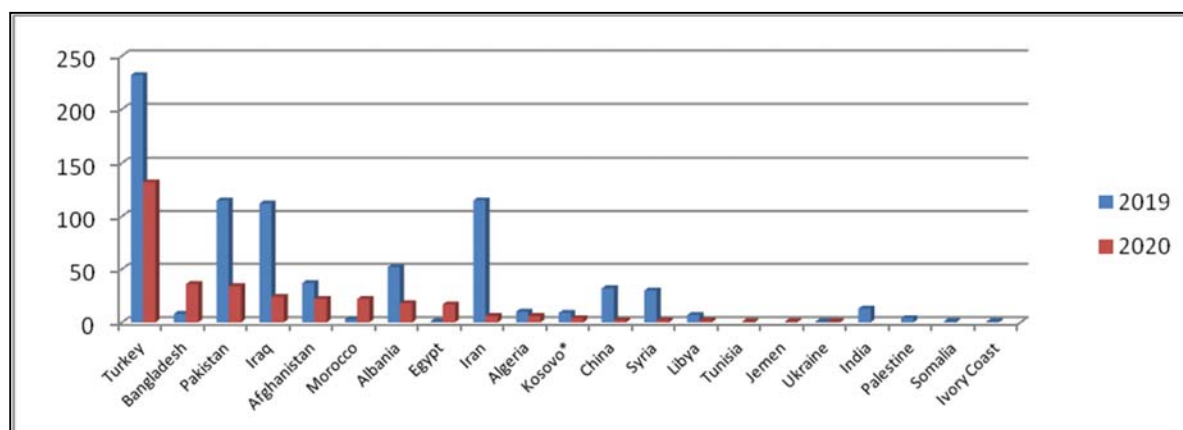
<sup>13</sup> The BiH Service for Foreigners' Affairs. "Activity Report of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs in 2019", Sarajevo, January 2020

<sup>14</sup> The BiH Service for Foreigners' Affairs. "Activity Report of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs Activities in 2020", Sarajevo, January 2021

9	Iran	115	6	-94.78%
10	Algeria	10	6	-40.00%
11	Kosovo*	9	4	-55.55%

20	Somalia	1	-	-100.00%
21	Ivory Coast	1	-	-100.00%
<b>Total</b>		<b>783</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>-57.85%</b>

**Graphic overview of admissions of third country nationals in BiH under the Agreement with Croatia in 2019 and 2020**



An analysis of the presented data for 2020 shows a significant increase in the admission of nationals of Bangladesh, Morocco and Egypt, to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and decrease in the number of admissions of nationals of Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey, Albania and Afghanistan under the Readmission Agreement with the Republic of Croatia. The presented statistical data on readmission and transfer of aliens indicate that BiH is still a transit area for persons arriving from the territory of Serbia and Montenegro towards the Republic of Croatia.

#### **5.4. Independent Voluntary Return of Foreign Nationals from BiH**

Independent voluntary returns of foreign nationals from Bosnia and Herzegovina in the past period of time, are presented in accordance with data kept by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs under category of "aliens who individually left Bosnia and Herzegovina within deadline for voluntary departure", which contain the data on all foreigners who were ordered by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs to leave the BiH territory based on issued decision and/or given deadline for voluntary departure from the territory of BiH, as well as on those who returned to their countries of origin within fixed deadline.

According to the data of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, the number of foreigners who individually left BiH within the deadline for departure involved 1,207 persons in 2019, and 1,192 persons in 2020, representing a decrease of 1.24 %.



**Table 25. Number of foreigners who individually left BiH within deadline for voluntary departure in 2019 and 2020**

No.	Country	2019	2020
1	Turkey	158	298
2	Pakistan	69	161
3	Serbia	171	130
4	Morocco	25	71
5	Afghanistan	19	56
6	Iraq	72	35
7	Croatia	29	28
8	Albania	36	25
9	Montenegro	38	24
10	Bangladesh	7	24
11	Tunisia	67	21
12	Algeria	56	18
13	China	28	18
14	Italia	15	18
15	Iran	59	17
16	Egypt	8	17
17	USA	19	16
18	Kuwait	8	16
19	Germany	19	13
20	North Macedonia	25	12
21	Syria	22	11
22	Nepal	4	10
23	Malaysia	13	9
24	Austria	6	9
25	Slovenia	10	8
26	Jordan	8	8
27	Spain	5	8
28	Libya	18	7
29	India	19	6
30	United Kingdom	4	6
31	The Netherlands	2	6
32	Saudi Arabia	13	5
33	Yemen	11	5
34	Poland	7	5
35	UA Emirates	-	5
36	Palestine	12	4
37	Romania	8	4
38	Kosovo*	34	3
39	Philippines	8	3
40	Bulgaria	6	3
41	Russian Federation	5	3
42	Hungary	3	3
43	France	2	3
44	Ghana	-	3
45	Slovakia	-	3
46	Ukraine	7	2
47	Israel	4	2
48	Nigeria	4	2
49	Czech Republic	3	2
50	Sweden	3	2
51	Brazil	2	2
52	Indonesia	2	2
53	Lebanon	1	2
54	Qatar	-	2
55	Tanzania	-	2
56	Argentina	3	1
57	Belgium	2	1
58	Moldova	2	1
59	Canada	1	1
60	Venezuela	1	1
61	Antigua and Barbuda	-	1
62	Chile	-	1
63	Eritrea	-	1
64	Ethiopia	-	1
65	Guinea	-	1
66	Korea, Republic	-	1
67	Comoros	-	1
68	New Zealand	-	1
69	Tajikistan	-	1
70	Switzerland	5	-
71	Armenia	3	-
72	Australia	2	-
73	Equatorial Guinea	2	-
74	Finland	2	-
75	Portugal	2	-
76	Sri Lanka	2	-
77	Azerbaijan	1	-
78	Belarus	1	-
79	Ecuador	1	-
80	Greece	1	-
81	Columbia	1	-
82	Norway	1	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,207</b>	<b>1,192</b>

There is an increase in the number of returns of citizens of Turkey, Pakistan, Morocco and Afghanistan and a decrease in the number of returns of citizens of Serbia, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria and Iran.

## 6. International Protection (Asylum)

Until 30 June 2004, UNHCR had a mandate to receive and decide upon the asylum applications filed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The mandate for this procedure was transferred to the BiH authorities on 1 July 2004. Since then, the international protection (asylum) has been governed by the BiH institutions in accordance with the national legislation and procedures.

According to the current Law on Asylum ("The Official Gazette of BiH", number 11/16 and 16/16) the BiH Ministry of Security-Asylum Sector is the first instance authority in charge of deciding on the submitted applications. The Court of BiH is the authority deciding on appeals filed against the first-instance decision in this proceeding. According to the Law on Asylum, the aliens are protected against return to the country where there is a real risk that they will be subjected to the death penalty or execution, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, by the principle of "**non-refoulement**". The asylum procedure primarily concerns evaluation if there are grounded reasons for granting **a refugee status** in BiH to the applicant for whom there are serious reasons to believe that he/she would face a real risk of the death penalty or execution, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group on return to his/her country of origin or country of habitual residence. Furthermore, in the asylum procedure a special attention is devoted to the principle of "**non-refoulement**" in the context of granting supplementary protection, **subsidiary protection**. The conditions for granting subsidiary protection to an alien are examined by the Ministry of Security - Asylum Sector in the asylum procedure, after it is determined that the alien does not meet the conditions for granting refugee status. In this regard, subsidiary protection is granted to an alien who does not qualify for refugee status if there are serious grounds for believing that returning to the country of origin or country of habitual residence will present a real risk of serious violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

If an alien is not granted refugee status or subsidiary protection due to the application of exclusion clauses but the asylum procedure establishes that there is a serious risk that by returning or forcibly removed to another country he/she will be subjected to death or execution, torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the alien is allowed to stay in BiH in accordance with the Law on Aliens, which regulates the area of movement and residence of aliens.

Decisions on the asylum application made by the Ministry of Security - Asylum Sector, as a first instance body, may be as follows:

- a) The application is approved, and refugee status is recognised;
- b) The application is approved, and status of subsidiary protection is recognized;
- c) The application is rejected and the applicant is given a deadline for voluntary departure from Bosnia and Herzegovina;

- d) The application is rejected but the applicant cannot be removed from BiH for the reasons of *non-refoulement* principle, as laid down in Article 6 (2) of the Law on Asylum;
- e) The asylum procedure is suspended and the applicant is given a deadline for voluntary departure from Bosnia and Herzegovina; or
- f) The application for asylum is rejected and the applicant is given a deadline for voluntary departure from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In order to define the trend in the field of asylum, we present data on submitted asylum applications in the period from 2011 to 2020. In the observed period, asylum applications in BiH were submitted to the Ministry of Security - Asylum Sector.

The BiH competent authorities received 2,079 asylum applications in the period from January 1, 2011 until December 31, 2020. On the grounds of 2,079 applications, 3,346 persons applied for asylum in BiH. In the mentioned period, the Ministry of Security of BiH - Asylum Sector approved refugee status for 11 persons, while subsidiary protection was approved for 162 persons.

**Table 26. Number of persons who applied for asylum in BiH from 2011 to 2020**

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Persons	46	53	100	45	46	79	381	1,568	784	244	<b>3,346</b>

**Table 26a. Number of persons with recognized refugee status from 2011 to 2020**

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Persons	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	3	1	<b>11</b>

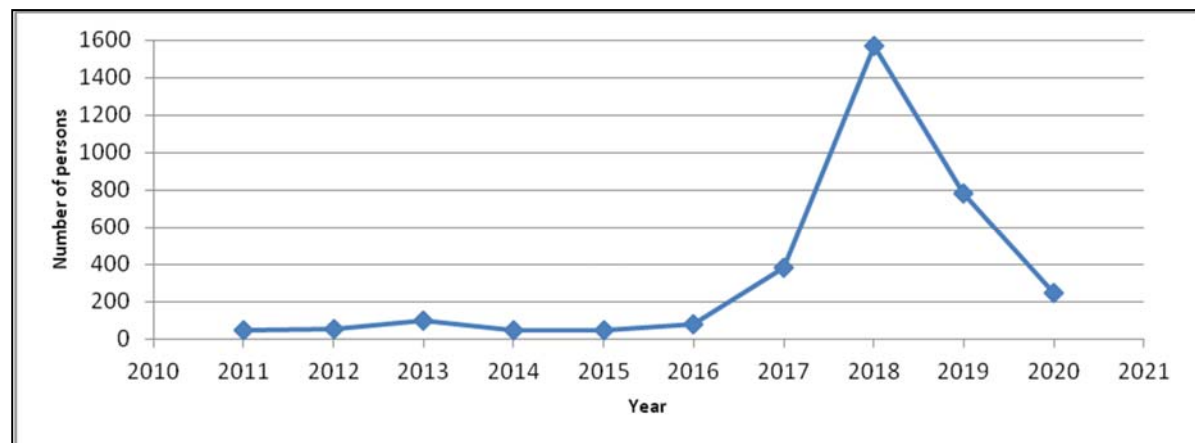
In the observed period, out of the total number of recognized refugees, 4 persons are from the Syrian Arab Republic, 3 from Iran and one person each from Cameroon, Pakistan, Montenegro and Myanmar.

**Table 26b. Number of persons with recognized subsidiary protection in BiH from 2011 to 2020**

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Persons	-	25	28	8	5	6	8	11	41	30	<b>162</b>

In the observed period, out of the total number of persons with recognized subsidiary protection, 82 persons are from the Syrian Arab Republic, 57 from Turkey, 6 from Iraq, 6 from Yemen, 4 from Azerbaijan, 3 from Eritrea, and one each from Egypt, Palestine, Pakistan and Somalia.

**Graphic overview of the number of persons who applied for asylum in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2011 to 2020**



The analysis of the graphic presentation shows that from 2011 to 2016 there was a uniform number of persons who sought asylum in BiH.

Given that Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018 faced a multiple increase in the number of persons who expressed an intention to apply for asylum, there was a significant increase in the number of asylum seekers compared to the previous year of 311%. In 2020, the number of asylum seekers decreased by 69% compared to 2019, and that number was 244 people.

After entering BiH, across the border with Serbia and Montenegro, the largest number of migrants appear directly in the field centres of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs to express their intention to apply for asylum in BiH. Out of a total of 16,190 registered foreigners, 15,170 persons expressed their intention to apply for asylum in BiH in 2020.

A person who has expressed an intention to apply for asylum is issued a certificate of expressed intention to apply for asylum with a term of 14 days, as the deadline provided by the Law on Asylum, which applies in situations of a large number of simultaneously expressed intentions. Within the specified period, the alien must submit an asylum application to the Asylum Sector of the Ministry of Security of BiH. Expressing the intention to apply for asylum in BiH is an instrument that enables the right to stay on the territory of BiH during its validity<sup>15</sup>.

In 2020, 244 persons applied for asylum in BiH, which is 1.61% of the total number of expressed intentions to apply for asylum. The largest number of asylum applications was submitted by citizens of Iraq (72), Turkey (39) and Afghanistan (31), which represents 58.20% of the total number of asylum applications. The difference between the number of expressed intentions to apply for asylum and the actual submitted asylum applications is a direct indicator of the abuse of the asylum system in BiH by legalizing illegal stay in BiH by expressing intent to seek asylum in BiH for a certain period and then use it for illegal departure towards

<sup>15</sup> Article 32, Law on Asylum ("BiH Official Gazette" no.11/16 and 16/16)

EU countries. In 2020, as in the previous year, the largest number of asylum applications was resolved by reaching conclusions on the suspension of the procedure.<sup>16</sup>

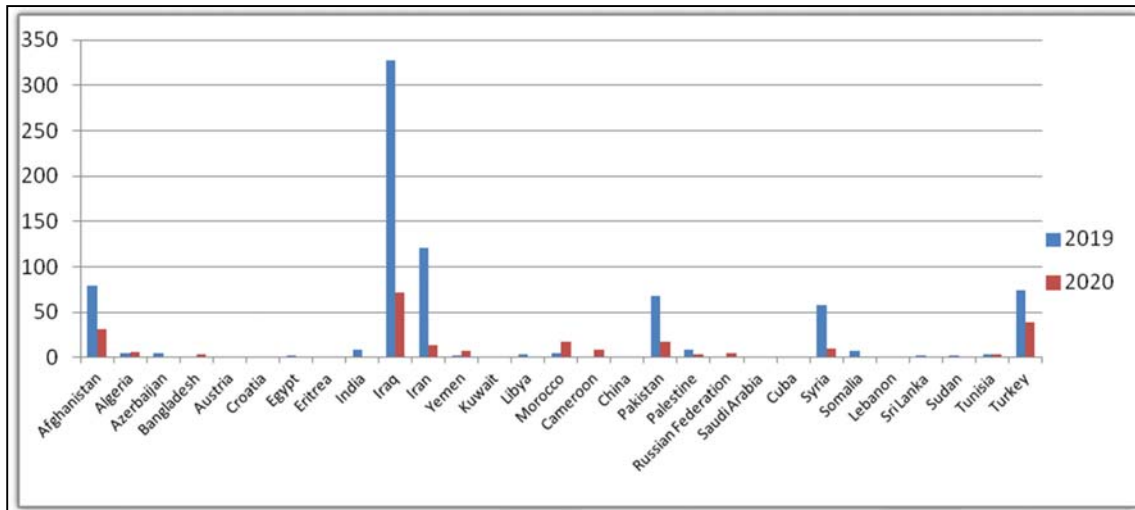
In order to analyse the current situation in the field of asylum, we present data related to the submitted applications for asylum and the number of persons covered by these applications in 2019 and 2020.

**Table 27. Number of applications (persons) for asylum in BiH in 2019 and 2020**

AZIL		2019		2020		%	
No.	Country	Applications	Persons	Applications	Persons	Applications	Persons
1	Afghanistan	38	79	20	31	-47.37%	-60.76%
2	Algeria	5	5	6	6	20.00%	20.00%
3	Azerbaijan	1	5	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
4	Bangladesh	-	-	1	4	-	-
5	Austria	-	-	1	1	-	-
6	Croatia	-	-	1	1	-	-
7	Egypt	2	2	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
8	Eritrea	0	1	1	1	-	0.00%
9	India	4	9	1	1	-75.00%	-88.89%
10	Iraq	97	327	18	72	-81.44%	-77.98%
11	Iran	47	121	8	13	-82.98%	-89.26%
12	Yemen	2	2	3	7	50.00%	250.00%
13	Kuwait	1	1	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
14	Libya	3	3	1	1	-66.67%	-66.67%
15	Morocco	3	5	17	17	466.67%	240.00%
16	Cameroon	-	-	8	8	-	-
17	China	-	-	1	1	-	-
18	Pakistan	64	68	17	17	-73.44%	-75.00
19	Palestine	6	9	2	4	-66.67%	-55.55
20	Russian Federation	-	-	1	5	-	-
21	Saudi Arabia	1	1	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
22	Cuba	-	-	1	1	-	-
23	Syria	23	58	8	10	-65.22%	-82.76%
24	Somalia	2	7	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
25	Lebanon	-	-	1	1	-	-
26	Sri Lanka	1	2	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
27	Sudan	1	2	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
28	Tunisia	2	3	2	3	0.00%	0.00%
29	Turkey	30	74	19	39	-36.67%	-47.30%
<b>Total</b>		<b>333</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>-58.56%</b>	<b>-68.88%</b>

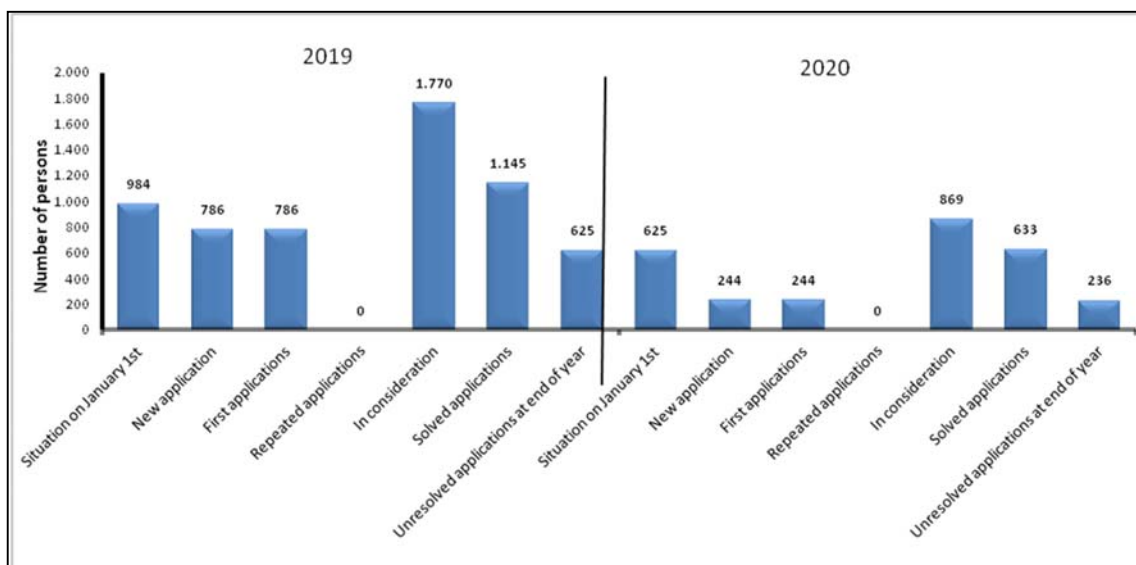
<sup>16</sup> Article 47, Law on Asylum ("BiH Official Gazette" no.11/16 and 16/16)

Graphic overview of the number of persons who applied for asylum in BiH in 2019 and 2020



The largest number of asylum seekers in BiH in 2020 were citizens of Iraq (18 applications for 72 persons), Turkey (19 applications for 39 persons) and Afghanistan (20 applications for 31 persons).

In 2015 and 2016, there were no asylum applications submitted by unaccompanied minors, while in 2017, 2 asylum applications were submitted for 2 persons from Afghanistan, relating to the category of unaccompanied minors, and in 2018, 8 asylum applications were submitted for 8 persons (two from Afghanistan and two from Turkey, and one each from Algeria, Iran, Libya and the Syrian Arab Republic. In 2019, 21 applications were submitted for 21 persons (8 from Pakistan, 7 from Afghanistan, 2 from the Syrian Arab Republic and one each from Algeria, Iraq, Iran and Libya), while in 2020, 19 applications were submitted for 19 people (12 from Afghanistan, 4 from Pakistan, 2 from Iran and one from Morocco).



In 2019, a total of 581 decisions were made, of which in 14 applications for 29 persons the asylum application was withdrawn, while in 2020 out of 270 decisions, in 8 applications for 22 persons the application was withdrawn (personal withdrawal).

In order to precisely define the current situation in the field of asylum, we present, with a brief analysis, comparative data on the submitted applications and decisions made in 2019 and 2020, expressed in the number of persons covered by the applications.

According to the data of the Ministry of Security - Asylum Sector, in 2019, a total of 333 asylum applications were submitted in BiH for 784 people, increased by one new-born baby in 2020, so that there were a total of 785 people. Also, the number of unresolved applications at the end of the year increased by one person (one application) who received subsidiary protection in 2017, which is shown in the statistics for 2017, and the revision of the procedure in 2020 granted her refugee status. In the same year, 863 requests for 1,770 persons were considered, taking into account the cases that remained unresolved from previous years (530 requests for 984 persons were transferred). During 2019, 1 application for 3 persons was resolved by granting refugee status, then the status of subsidiary protection was recognized for 41 persons (19 applications), 27 applications for 35 persons were rejected, while the procedure was suspended in 534 applications for 1,066 persons. No request was rejected, so that at the end of 2019, 282 requests for 625 people remained unresolved.

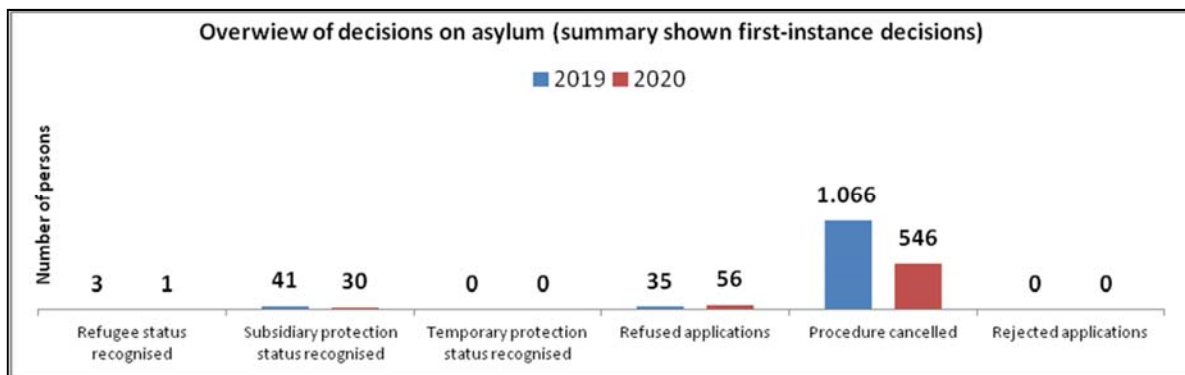
In 2019, the main reason for rejecting an asylum application (25 applications for 33 persons) is unfoundedness under Article 44 (1) and in connection with Art. 19 and 22 of the Law on Asylum, according to which the request is not based on the reasons that represent the basis for recognition of refugee status or subsidiary protection status, followed by a reason marked as insignificant information/minimally significant (Article 45 (1) item a) (2 requests for 2 people).

In 2019, the proceedings on 534 requests for 1,066 persons were suspended for the following reasons: he/she does not reside at the last registered address (354 requests for 794 persons), the applicant does not cooperate during the procedure (140 requests for 208 persons) (21 requests for 30 persons), non-response to the summons for hearing (12 requests for 25

persons), the applicant left BiH during the procedure (6 requests for 8 persons) and the request was submitted by a BiH citizen (1 request for 1 person).

Overall, looking at and analysing all applications in 2019, both those received in that year and those carried over from previous years, it can be said that most asylum applications were from Iranian citizens (24% of the total number of asylum seekers) and Iraq (22% of the total number of asylum seekers). They are followed by citizens of Afghanistan (18%), Pakistan (15%), the Syrian Arab Republic (7% of the total number of asylum seekers) and Turkey (6%). An overview of the gender and age structure of the total number of persons (1,770 persons) who sought asylum in BiH in 2019 and persons whose applications were transferred from previous years would look like this: 636 women (36%) and 1,134 men (64%). The age structure of these persons shows that the most represented age group is 18 to 35 years (763 persons or 43%), followed by the age group 0 to 17 years (620 persons or 35%), the age group 36 to 59 years (366 persons or 21%), and finally the age group over 60 years (21 persons or 1%).

According to the data of the Ministry of Security - Asylum Sector in 2020, a total of 138 asylum applications were submitted in BiH for 244 persons. However, in addition to the requests that remained unresolved from previous years (283 requests for 625 persons), it can be seen that in 2020 the Asylum Sector had a total of 421 requests for consideration for 869 persons. Last year, the Asylum Sector positively resolved 13 applications for 31 persons, 1 application for 1 person, by granting refugee status and 12 applications for 30 persons, recognizing the status of subsidiary protection, rejected 40 applications for 56 persons, while the procedure was suspended in 217 requests for 546 persons. No request was rejected, so that at the end of 2020, 151 requests for 236 people remained unresolved.



The main reason for rejecting the asylum application (38 applications for 54 persons) is unfoundedness under Article 44 (1) and in connection with Art. 19 and 22 of the Law on Asylum, according to which the request is not based on the reasons that represent the basis for recognizing refugee status or subsidiary protection status, then follows the reason marked as insignificant information/minimally significant (Article 45 (1) item a) (1 request for 1 person) and postponement of the measure of expulsion or extradition (Art. 45 (1) item d) (1 request for 1 person).



In 2020, the procedures for 217 requests for 546 persons were suspended for the following reasons: the applicant does not cooperate during the procedure (140 requests for 334 persons), does not stay at the last registered address (55 requests for 162 persons), reasons prescribed by the Law on the Administrative Procedure (8 requests for 22 persons), failure to respond to the summons for hearing (11 requests for 14 persons) and the applicant left BiH during the proceedings (3 requests for 14 persons).

Taking into account the transferred and unresolved requests from previous years, as well as the newly received requests, the total for consideration in 2020 was 421 requests for 869 persons. Most applications were submitted by citizens of Iraq (28% of the total number of asylum seekers), Afghanistan (16%), Iran (14%), Pakistan (12%) and Turkey (10%).

The gender and age structure of the total number of persons (869 persons) who applied for asylum in BiH in 2020 and persons whose applications were transferred from the previous year would look like this: 313 women (36%) and 556 men (64%). The age structure of these persons shows that the most represented age group is from 0 to 17 years (347 persons or 40%), then the age group from 18 to 35 years (326 persons or 38%), then the age group from 36 to 59 years (187 persons) or 21% and finally the age group over 60 years (9 persons or 1%).

If we take into account only the received asylum applications in 2020 (138 applications for 244 persons) it can be seen that most asylum seekers were from Iraq (72 persons), Turkey (39 persons), Afghanistan (31 persons), Morocco (17 persons), Pakistan (17 persons), Iran (13 persons) and the Syrian Arab Republic (10 persons) which represents 82% of the total number of asylum applications.

The gender and age structure of newly received applications last year shows that there were 76 women (31%) and 168 men (69%). The most represented age group is from 18 to 35 years (96 persons or 39.34%), then the age group from 0 to 17 years (95 persons or 38.93%), the age group from 36 to 59 years (51 persons or 20.91%), and finally the age group over 60 years (2 persons or 0.82%).

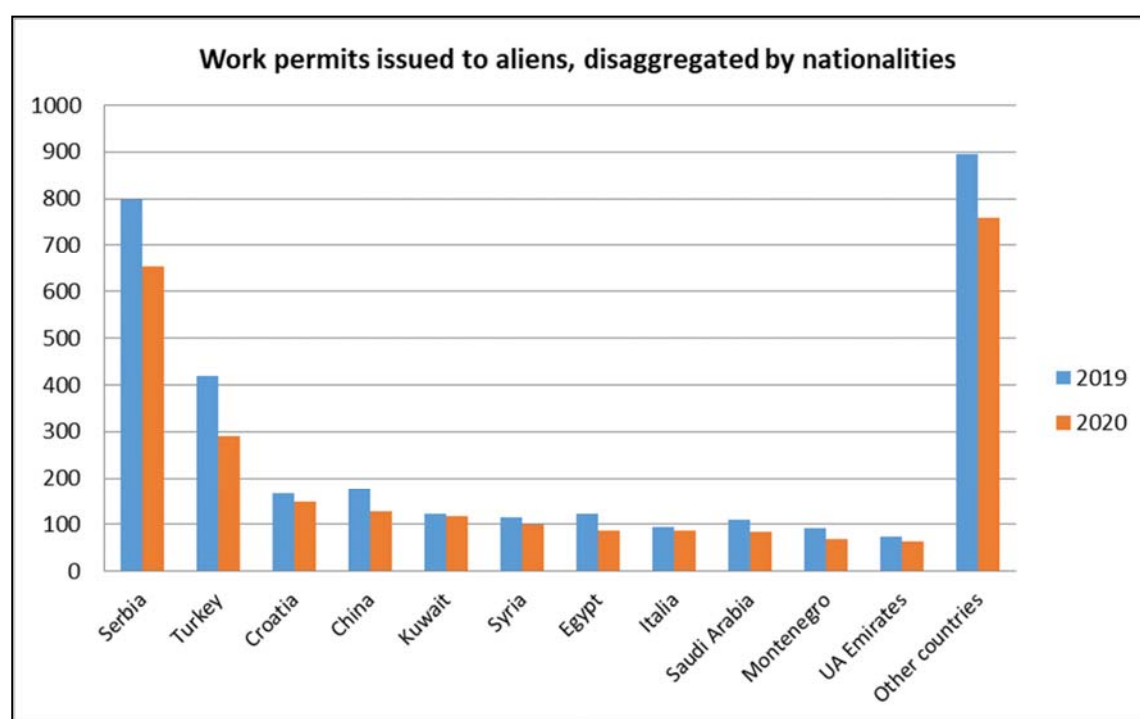
## **7. Work Permits Issued to Aliens**

According to the data from the Labour and Employment Agency of BiH, and based on data received from the Entity Employment Bureaus and the Employment Bureau of the Brčko District of BiH, the total number of work permits issued to aliens in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2019 was 3,183, and in 2020 2,586 work permits, which is a decrease of 18.76%. We present data on issued work permits to aliens, classified by their citizenship/nationality and qualification structure.

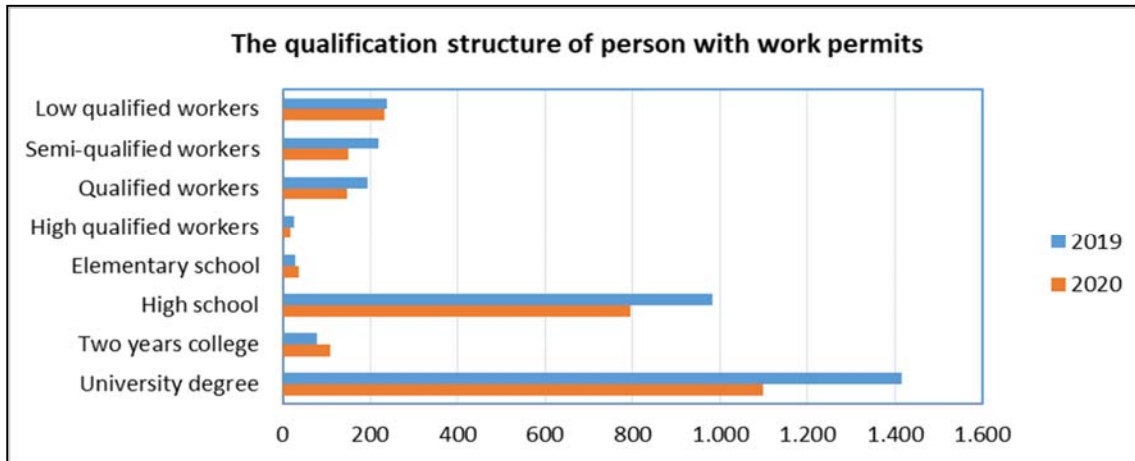
**Table 28. Work permits issued to aliens in 2019 and 2020 disaggregated by nationality**

No.	Nationality	2019	2020	%
1	Serbia	798	653	-18.17%
2	Turkey	418	289	-30.86%
3	Croatia	166	149	-10.24%
4	China	176	129	-26.70%
5	Kuwait	122	119	-2.46%
6	Syria	114	99	-13.16%
7	Egypt	123	87	-29.27%
8	Italia	95	86	-9.47%
9	Saudi Arabia	110	84	-23.64%
10	Montenegro	92	70	-23.91%
11	UA Emirates	73	63	-13.70%
12	Other countries	896	758	-15.40%
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,183</b>	<b>2,586</b>	<b>-18.76%</b>

The largest number of aliens who have work permits in BiH last year are citizens of Serbia (25.25%), followed by citizens of Turkey (11.18%), Croatia (5.76%), China (4.99%) and Kuwait (4.60%). In 2020, for most of the presented countries, there is a downward trend in work permits issued in BiH compared to 2019.



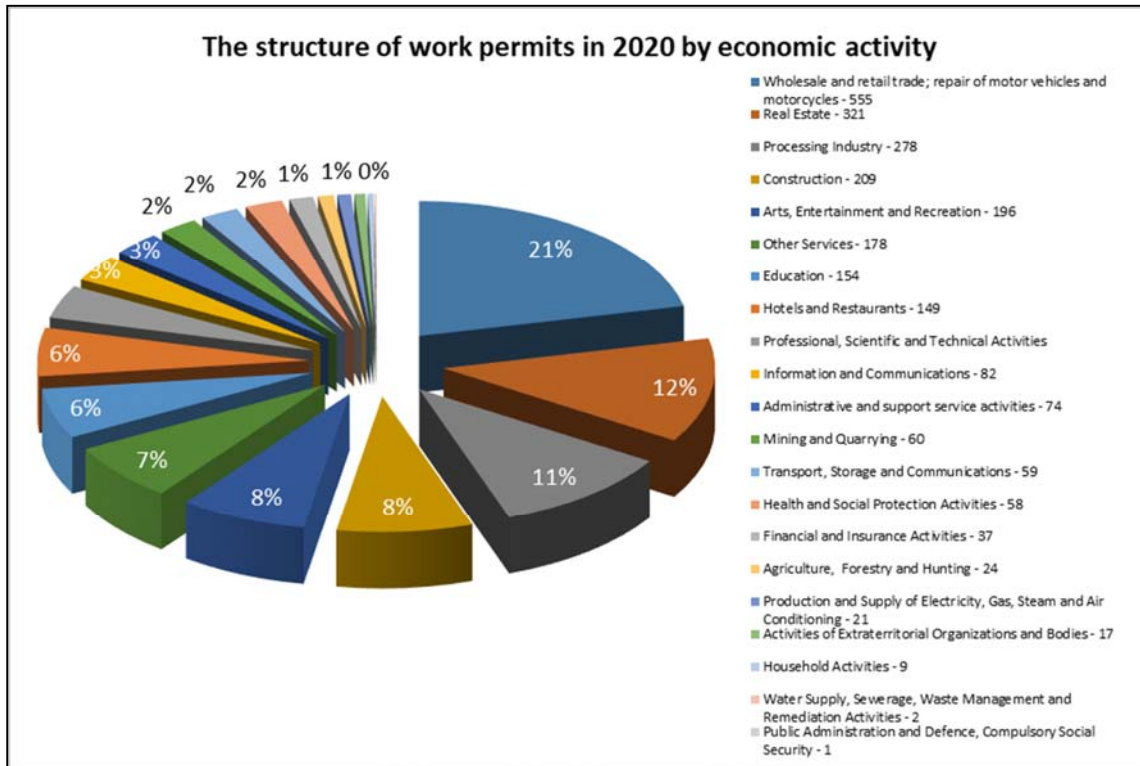
The qualification structure of aliens who were issued work permits in 2020 indicates that the largest number have a university degree (42%), followed by those with a high school diploma (31%), and unskilled and semi-skilled workers (15%), which is almost the same case in previous years when it comes to higher and secondary education.



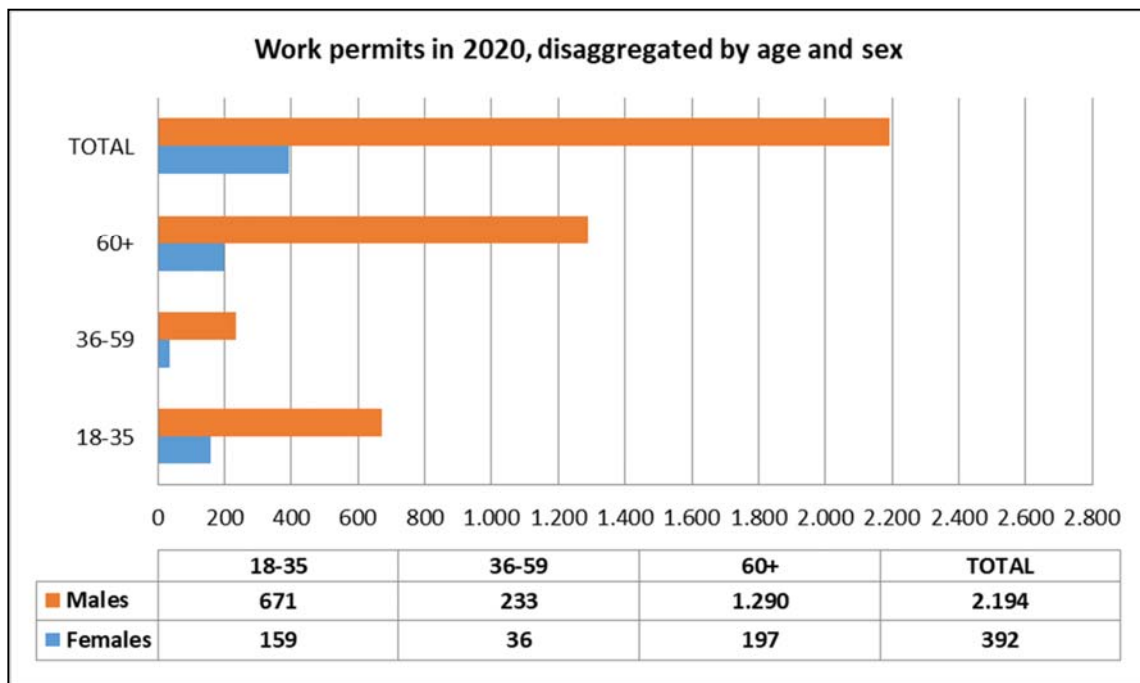
The largest number of work permits in 2020 was issued in the following activities: trade 555 (21%), real estate 321 (12%), manufacturing 278 (11%), construction 209 (8%), art 196 (8%), other service activities 178 (7%), education 154 (6%) and hotel and catering 149 (6%), which represents 79% of the total number of issued work permits.

**Table 29. Structure of work permits in 2020 disaggregated by economic activity**

ACTIVITY	2020
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	555
Real Estate	321
Processing Industry	278
Construction	209
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	196
Other Services	178
Education	154
Hotels and Restaurants	149
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	102
Information and Communications	82
Administrative and support service activities	74
Mining and Quarrying	60
Transport, Storage and Communications	59
Health and Social Protection Activities	58
Financial and Insurance Activities	37
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	24
Production and Supply of Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning	21
Activities of Extraterritorial Organizations and Bodies	17
Household Activities	9
Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	2
Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2,586</b>



Of the total number in 2020, women received 392 (15%) and men 2,194 (85%) work permits, which is approximately the same ratio as in the previous four years. The largest number of work permits in 2020, a total of 1,290 (50%) were issued to men over 60 years of age. This percentage was approximately the same in previous years.



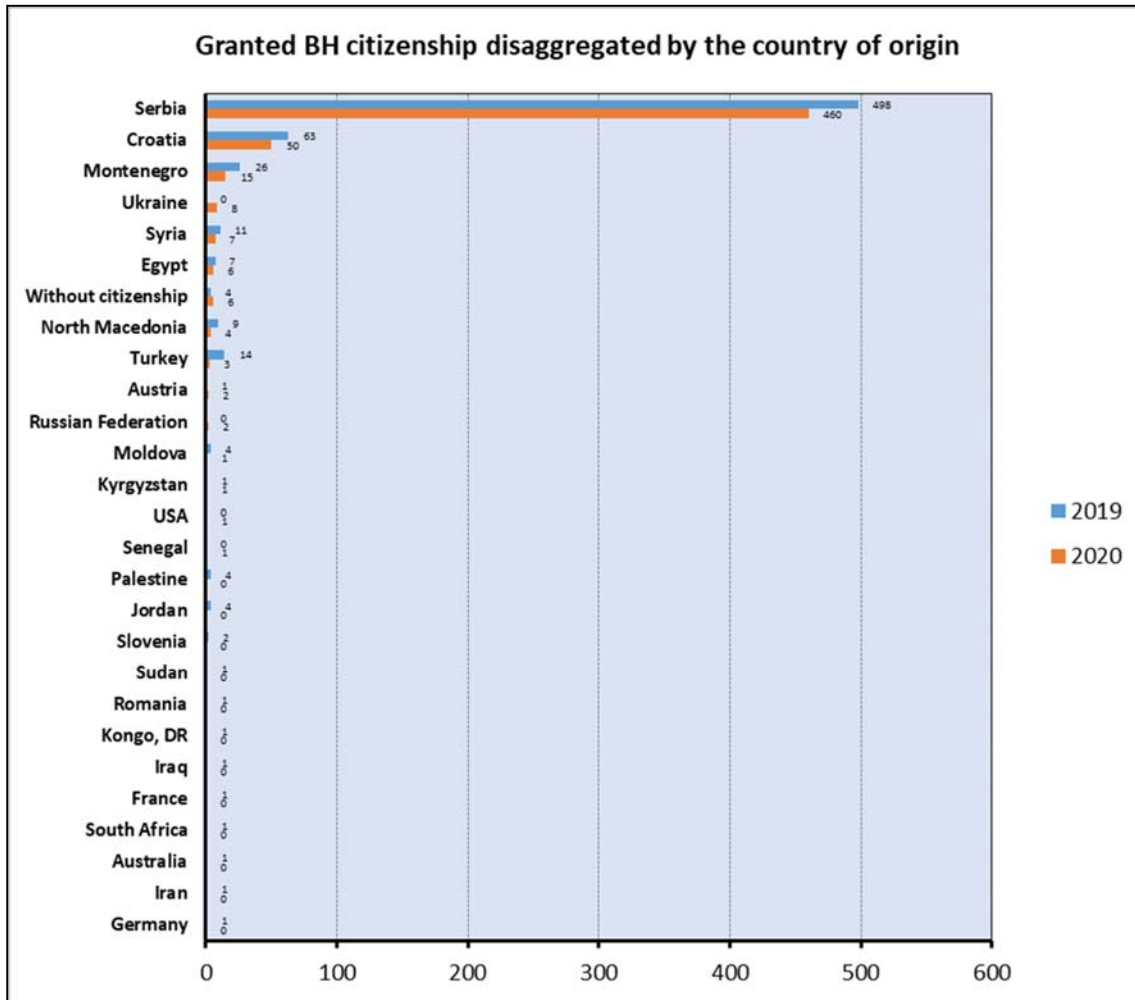
## 8. Acquiring BiH Citizenship

The Ministry of Civil Affairs, in charge of granting BiH citizenship, requested the competent entity level ministries to submit statistics on the number of people who were granted BiH citizenship through naturalisation or implementation of international treaties on dual citizenship. The FBiH Ministry of Interior and the RS Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Governance submitted the requested data, disaggregated by country of origin, gender and age of the persons who acquired BiH citizenship in 2018 and 2019. The submitted data were analysed and disaggregated by year. Also, the BiH Council of Ministers is responsible for adoption of Decisions on admission to BiH citizenship for persons of particular benefit to Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with Article 13 of the Law on Citizenship of BiH. For these persons, the BiH and Entity citizenship is registered in accordance with their place of residence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Table 30. Number of persons granted BiH citizenship in 2019 and 2020 disaggregated by country of origin**

No.	Previous citizenship	2019	2020
1	Serbia	498	460
2	Croatia	63	50
3	Montenegro	26	15
4	Ukraine	-	8
5	Syria	11	7
6	Egypt	7	6
7	Without citizenship	4	6
8	North Macedonia	9	4
9	Turkey	14	3
10	Austria	1	2
11	Russian Federation	-	2
12	Moldova	4	1
13	Kyrgyzstan	1	1
14	Senegal	-	1

No.	Previous citizenship	2019	2020
15	USA	-	1
16	Jordan	4	-
17	Palestine	4	-
18	Slovenia	2	-
19	Germany	1	-
20	Iran	1	-
21	Australia	1	-
22	South Africa	1	-
23	France	1	-
24	Iraq	1	-
25	Congo, DR	1	-
26	Romania	1	-
27	Sudan	1	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>567</b>



Most BiH citizenships have been acquired by Serbian citizens in the past two years (78%). The total number of foreigners who acquired BiH citizenship in 2019 was 657 and is lower by 9.75% compared to 2018. Of that number, 521 people fall under the Dual Citizenship Agreement.

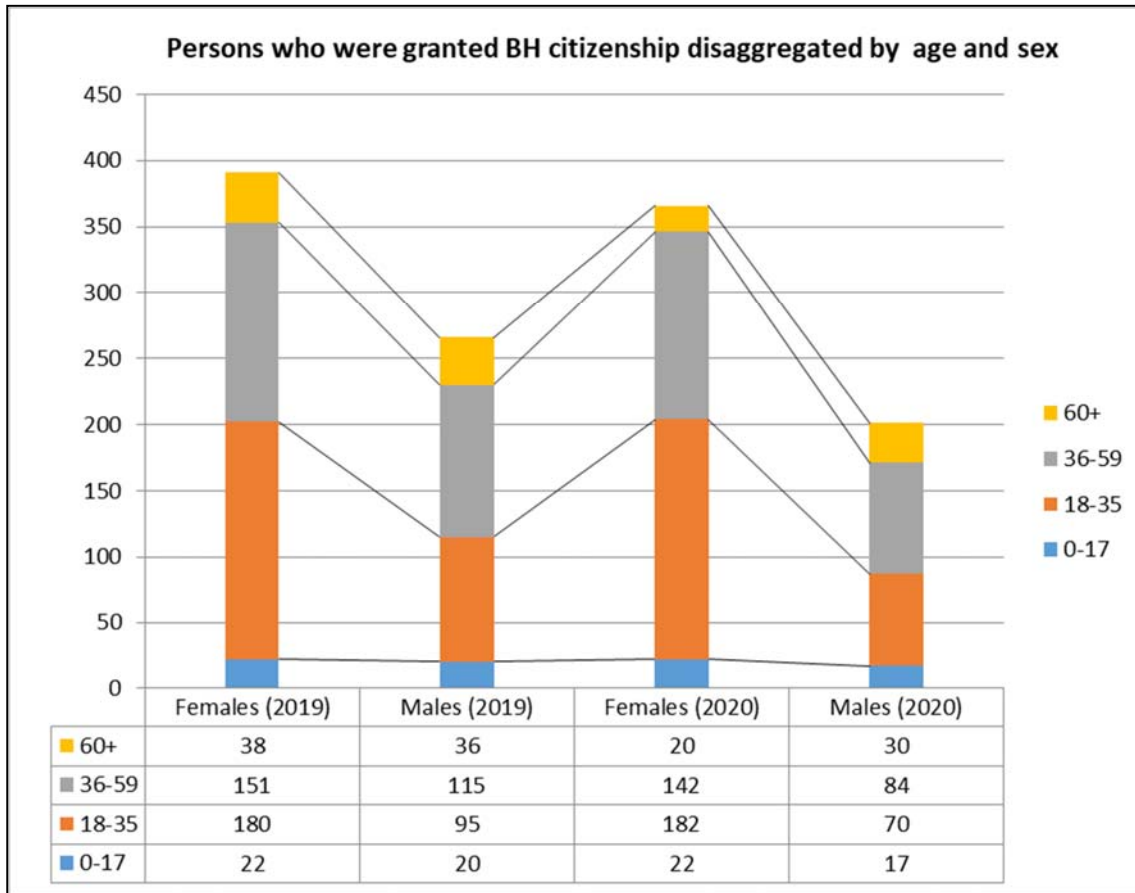
In 2019, 402 persons acquired the citizenship of BiH and the Federation of BiH, of which 15 persons on the basis of the Decision of the Council of Ministers of BiH on admission to the citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina for persons of special benefit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and on the basis of naturalization 84 persons, on the basis of the Agreement on Dual Citizenship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia 265 persons, on the basis of the Agreement on Dual Citizenship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia 19 persons, and on the basis of Article 11 (a) and Article 38 of the Law on Citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina 19 persons, while 255 persons acquired the citizenship of BiH and Republika Srpska in 2019, of which 3 persons based on the Decision of the Council of Ministers of BiH on admission to citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina for persons of special benefit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and based on the Agreement on Dual Citizenship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia 209 persons, on the basis of the Agreement on Dual Citizenship

between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia 28 persons, and on the basis of naturalization 15 persons.

The total number of foreigners who acquired BiH citizenship in 2020 was 567 and is lower by 13.70% compared to 2019. Of that number, 488 people fall under the Agreement on Dual Citizenship.

In 2020, 289 persons acquired the citizenship of BiH and the Federation of BiH, of which 12 persons on the basis of the Decision of the Council of Ministers of BiH on admission to the citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina for persons of special benefit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and on the basis of naturalization 40 persons. Agreement on Dual Citizenship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia 209 persons, on the basis of the Agreement on Dual Citizenship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia 12 persons, and on the basis of Article 11 (a) and Article 38 of the Law on Citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina 16 persons, while 278 persons acquired the citizenship of BiH and Republika Srpska in 2019, of which 3 persons on the basis of the Decision of the Council of Ministers of BiH on admission to citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina for persons of special benefit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and on the basis of the Agreement on Dual Citizenship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia 241 persons, on the basis of the Agreement on Dual Citizenship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia 26 persons, and on the basis of naturalization 8 persons.

The analysis of the total data on persons who acquired BiH citizenship in 2020 by age and sex indicates that 44% of persons who acquired BiH citizenship between the ages of 18 and 35 and 40% of persons who acquired BiH citizenship at the age of 36 up to 59 years of age, and that more women (65%) than men (35%) acquired BiH citizenship, which is almost the same case as in previous years.



## 9. Emigration from Bosnia and Herzegovina

The BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees is not responsible for emigration policy from Bosnia and Herzegovina, or for departures from Bosnia and Herzegovina on an annual basis. In order to prepare the state of play of emigration from Bosnia and Herzegovina for the purpose of drafting the BiH Migration Profile, the Ministry uses the data from the statistical agencies of the host countries on the total number of BiH emigrants who have been staying in the host countries for more than 12 months.

### 9.1. Migration flows

According to the available official data of the statistical agencies of the host countries and diplomatic and consular representations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, an estimate of the total number of persons in Diaspora originating from Bosnia and Herzegovina is between 2 and 2.2 million.



According to World Bank estimates, this percentage is slightly lower and amounts to 44.5%, which positions Bosnia and Herzegovina in 16th place in the world in terms of emigration rate in relation to the population in the country (out of a total of 214 countries and territories covered in Migration and Remittances Fact book 2016). It is important to note that the World Bank data refer only to the first generation of BiH emigrants, and hence the difference in the total number and rate of emigration in relation to the total population in the country.

When we consider emigration from Bosnia and Herzegovina on an annual basis, the only data in Bosnia and Herzegovina that can be used as statistics of emigration by year are data kept by the Agency for Identification Documents, Records and Data Exchange of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the number of deregistered persons from the records on the residence and stay of citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the purpose of emigration to other states. According to their data, in 2020, 3,489 people deregistered their stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina.<sup>17</sup> When looking at the gender structure, the number of men and women who deregister their stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina is equal (1,748 men and 1,740 women), and when looking at the age structure, it is important to emphasize that 46% of people who deregistered in 2020 are below 35 years of age (1,645 persons).

**Table 31. Number of persons who cancelled their residence in BiH in 2020 by disaggregated by host countries**

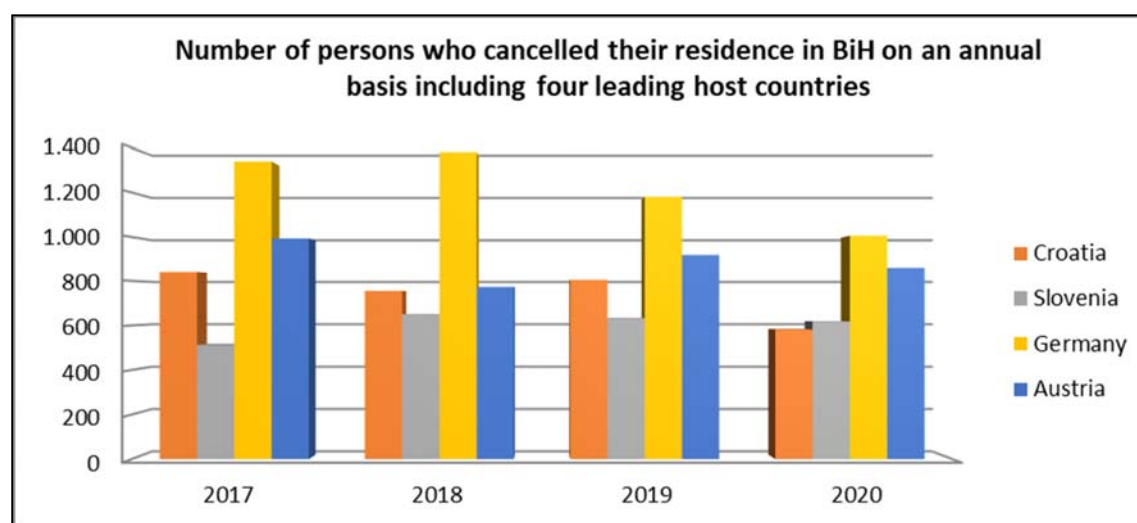
HOST COUNTRY	NUMBER OF PERSONS IN 2020
Germany	1,006
Austria	861
Slovenia	617
Croatia	581
Serbia	351
Montenegro	23
The Netherlands	19
Other countries	31
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,489</b>

These data cannot be indicators of the emigration trend from Bosnia and Herzegovina because they do not represent overall data on emigration from BiH, but indicate that the most common destination countries of migrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina are EU countries, primarily Germany and Austria, and then Slovenia and Croatia.

<sup>17</sup> Source: Letter of the Agency for Identification Documents, Registers and Data Exchange of Bosnia and Herzegovina, No:15-03-07-10-307-3/21, from January 20, 2021

**Table 32. Number of persons who cancelled their residence in BiH on an annual basis including four leading host countries**

HOST COUNTRY	2017	2018	2019	2020
Croatia	843	755	805	581
Slovenia	512	650	632	617
Germany	1,339	1,381	1,181	1,006
Austria	994	773	919	861
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,688</b>	<b>3,559</b>	<b>3,537</b>	<b>3,065</b>



Upon the bilateral employment agreements that Bosnia and Herzegovina concluded with Slovenia and Germany, a large number of workers are employed in these countries through the BiH Labour and Employment Agency, but many of them leave the country independently. Thus, according to data provided by the BiH Labour and Employment Agency<sup>18</sup> on the number of BiH nationals employed in the countries which have signed the Employment Agreement with BiH, as of November 2020, 6,618 BiH citizens were employed in the Republic of Slovenia, and 533 BiH citizens in the Federal Republic of Germany (refers only to medical workers in FR Germany), which is a total of 7,151 persons. There is a noticeable decrease in the number of BiH citizens employed this year through the BiH Labour and Employment Agency, given that in 2019 this number was 15,264, which can be attributed to measures introduced by many countries in the world due to the situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

## 9.2. Number of emigrants

BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees Diaspora Sector has collected statistical data on the emigrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina integrated in the host countries. These data are collected by the Statistical agencies of the immigrants and their descendants host countries.

<sup>18</sup> Letter of the BiH Labour and Employment Agency no.: 03-43-10-2/21, from January 21, 2021

According to the records and censuses of the host countries, the data pertaining to the Bosnia and Herzegovina Diaspora may be classified into three basic groups: nationals of BiH, persons born in BiH and persons with the BiH origin, including their descendants.

The accurate statistics on the total number of emigrants born in Bosnia and Herzegovina, regardless of their current citizenship in 53 countries around the world amounts to 1,804,991 out of which 95% of BiH emigrants live in the countries of Europe and North America.

**Table 33. Number of emigrants born in BiH in 53 leading host countries**

No.	HOST COUNTRY	NUMBER	SOURCE OF DATA/REFERENCE YEAR	No.	HOST COUNTRY	NUMBER	SOURCE OF DATA/REFERENCE YEAR
1	Croatia	381,100	UN <sup>19</sup> , 2020	28	New Zealand	626	UN , 2015
2	Serbia	342,526	UN , 2020	29	Russian Federation	513	UN , 2020
3	Germany	304,000	Federal.Stat.Germ any <sup>20</sup> , 2020	30	Malta	494	UN , 2020
4	Austria	168,798	UN , 2020	31	Slovakia	463	UN , 2020
5	Slovenia	122,235	UN , 2020	32	Greece	446	UN , 2020
6	USA	104,136	UN , 2020	33	Hungary	438	UN , 2020
7	Sweden	60,912	UN , 2020	34	Libya	351	UN , 2020
8	Switzerland	57,678	UN , 2020	35	Liechtenstein	299	UN , 2020
9	Canada	38,906	UN , 2020	36	Iceland	273	UN , 2020
10	Australia	38,485	UN , 2020	37	South Africa	243	UN , 2020
11	Montenegro	32,126	UN , 2020	38	Bulgaria	164	UN , 2020
12	Italia	29,487	UN , 2020	39	Romania	160	UN , 2020
13	Albania	29,077	UN , 2013	40	Brazil	86	UN , 2020
14	Norway	18,542	Stat.Office Norway <sup>21</sup> 2020	41	Cyprus	65	UN , 2020
15	Denmark	17,182	UN , 2020	42	Egypt	61	UN , 2020
16	France	15,944	UN , 2020	43	Jordan	59	UN , 2020
17	United Kingdom	9,576	UN , 2020	44	Israel	53	UN , 2015
18	North Macedonia	8,750	UN , 2020	45	Portugal	46	UN , 2020
19	Poland	4,584	UN , 2020	46	Chile	44	UN , 2019
20	Turkey	3,253	UN , 2020	47	Venezuela	22	UN , 2020
21	Czech Republic	3,178	UN , 2020	48	Bolivia	10	UN , 2020
22	Spain	2,858	UN , 2020	49	Latvia	9	UN , 2020
23	Luxembourg	2,732	UN , 2020	50	Dominican Republic	5	UN , 2020
24	Ireland	1,407	Central Stat. Office Ireland <sup>22</sup> , 2016	51	Lithuania	2	UN , 2020

<sup>19</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020).

International Migrant Stock <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/international-migrant-stock> , accessed on January 30, 2021

<sup>20</sup> Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis), 2020, [www.destatis.de](http://www.destatis.de)

<sup>21</sup> Statistics Norway, 2020, [www.ssb.no](http://www.ssb.no)

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.cso.ie/>

25	The Netherlands	1,059	UN , 2020
26	Finland	811	UN , 2020
27	Belgium	714	UN , 2020
52	Estonia	2	UN , 2020
53	Guinea	1	UN , 2019
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,804,991</b>	

However, it is estimated that between 2 and 2.2 million people originating from BiH currently reside all over the world. This number includes persons born in BiH who have left their homeland and the estimated number of their descendants born in the host countries, regardless of their nationality. It does not include the so-called *Old Emigration*. The Ministry has only partial data on the number of descendants. Estimates of the number of persons originating from BiH that live all over the world are made on the basis of these data and the data and estimates from BiH Diplomatic and Consular Missions of and Statistical Agencies and Censuses Institutes of the host countries.

Observing the increase in the total number of persons of BiH origin in the period from 1990 to 2020 for certain receiving countries (18 countries) specific trends are noticeable which indicate which countries the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina most often choose as their destination. In addition to the already established trends of departure to Germany, Austria and Slovenia, it is noticeable that BiH emigrants also decide to go to the countries of Scandinavia - Sweden, Norway and Finland, which have a continuous increase in the number of people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. origin, i.e. born in Bosnia and Herzegovina. When we look at the rest of the European Union, it is certainly necessary to point out that a certain number of BiH citizens choose the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland as the countries of their destination, given that these countries were not traditionally the destination of emigrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina in the pre-war period.

Of the overseas countries, it is necessary to point out Canada and Australia, where in the last 30 years there has been a continuous growth in the number of people originally from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Table 34. Number of emigrants born in BiH in 18 host countries in the period from 1990 to 2020**

No.	HOST COUNTRY <sup>23</sup>	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
1	Australia	22,312	-	28,650	38,394	39,730	36,750	38,485
2	Austria	92,349	104,186	116,023	123,348	132,222	152,759	168,798
3	Belgium	308	306	295	215	367	521	714
4	Finland	-	100	200	404	557	652	811
5	France	8,357	8,628	8,898	11,323	13,089	14,506	15,944
6	Ireland	123	342	748	749	627	640	732
7	Iceland	9	14	18	83	144	150	273
8	Italia	4,034	15,437	26,839	18,972	10,348	11,317	29,487

<sup>23</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020).

International Migrant Stock <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/international-migrant-stock> accessed on January 30, 2021

9	Canada	25,135	-	25,945	29,787	35-885	35,908	38,906
10	Malta	25	30	77	122	134	227	494
11	Norway	3	9,401	11,573	12,486	12,952	13,201	13,946
12	Germany	108,349	129,718	151,087	157,145	160,948	165,187	221,720
13	Slovenia	68,549	68,327	77,361	79,262	102,915	100,880	122,235
14	Serbia	42,141	266,909	380,524	351,671	343,743	335,992	342,526
15	Spain	643	867	1,466	1,888	2,162	2,119	2,858
16	Sweden	40,488	48,046	51,526	54,222	55,914	54,799	60,912
17	Switzerland	41,166	-	38,666	43,388	51,023	54,673	57,678
18	United Kingdom	1,816	4,108	6,470	6,717	7,090	8,486	9,576

### 9.3. Status of emigrants

Status of BiH emigrants is largely resolved through the acquisition of the citizenship of the host country, or permanent or temporary work permits.

For a number of years, in most countries there are no registered persons from Bosnia and Herzegovina with refugee status. Most of them have integrated into the host countries. According to latest UNHCR<sup>24</sup> data, in June 2020, a total of 18,763 persons from Bosnia and Herzegovina with refugee status were registered all over the world.

The number of citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with permanent or temporary residence, according to available data for fourteen receiving countries, is 482,425, and as it is presented in Table 35. This number represents BiH. citizens who have only the citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina and who have not acquired the citizenship of the receiving state, nor do they have dual citizenship.

**Table 35. Number of BiH citizens in 14 host countries (not included persons who in addition to the citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina have the citizenship of another country)**

HOST COUNTRY	NUMBER OF BIH CITIZENS	REFERENCE YEAR
Germany	197,146	2020
Austria	96,583	2019
Slovenia	73,179	2020
Italia	24,399	2019
USA	23,383	2020
Switzerland	20,350	2019
Sweden	10,423	2019
Denmark	9,923	2019
Canada	7,760	2016
Croatia	6,733	2011

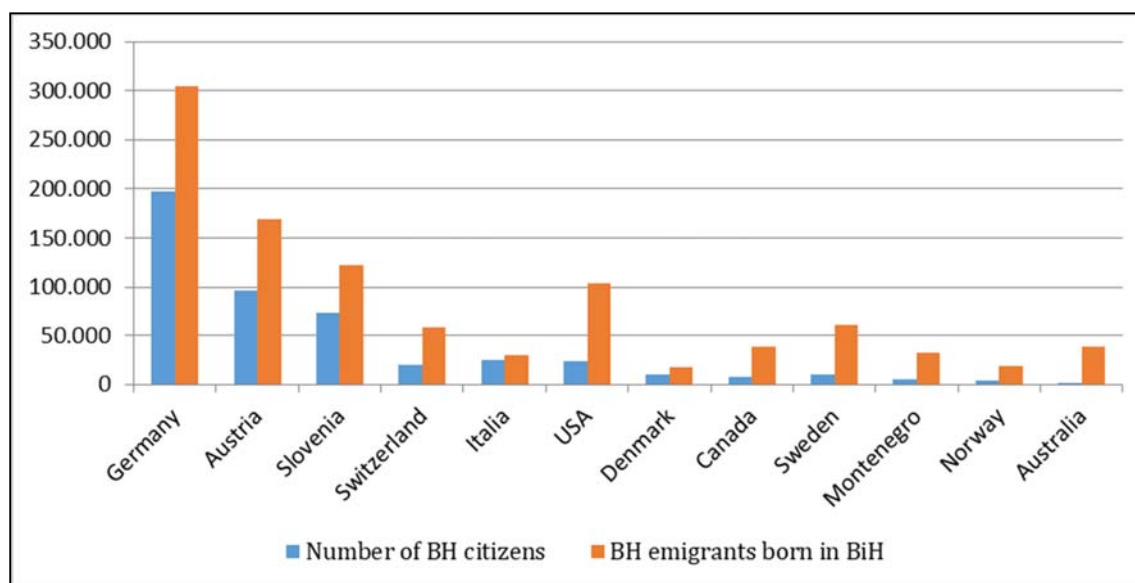
<sup>24</sup> Source: UNHCR Statistics, 2020 <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=vmp5Pt>

Montenegro	5,209	2011
Norway	3,772	2019
The Netherlands	2,165	2019
Australia	1,400	2011
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>482,425</b>	

It is important to note that data on the number of BiH nationals who hold a dual citizenship under the Dual Citizenship Agreement with Croatia, Serbia and Sweden are not available, due to the fact that none of these countries keeps records on the dual citizenships, i.e. when the nationals of BiH are granted the citizenship of the host country they are no longer registered as the BiH nationals in the statistical records of the host countries.

Data on BiH nationals in Croatia and Sweden listed in Table 35 refer only to those BiH nationals who have not acquired the citizenship of the host country, while this type of data on BiH nationals is not available in Serbia.

#### **Comparative overview of the number of emigrants born in BiH and the number of the BiH citizens in the same host country**



The naturalization rate of BiH emigrants in a particular receiving country is clearly seen in the relationship between the number of persons who have BiH citizenship and the number of persons born in BiH. In most countries, the number of BiH citizens is much lower than the number of those born in BiH.

The largest number of emigrants from BiH who have acquired the citizenship of the receiving country still have the citizenship of BiH as dual citizenship, because the receiving state

provides such a possibility with its legislation or it is regulated by the agreement on dual citizenship concluded with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

According to data of the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs,<sup>25</sup> a total of 3,138 persons renounced the citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2020. According to data of the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, a majority of BiH nationals renounced the BiH citizenship for acquiring the citizenship in Germany (1,294), Austria (951), Slovenia (661) and Croatia (147). Here it is necessary to point out the data on the age structure of persons who renounced Bosnia and Herzegovina citizenship, i.e. that out of the total number 59% are persons up to 35 years of age (1,853).

Data on the number of naturalized BiH emigrants are extremely important when it comes to the degree of integration of BiH emigrants in the host countries, but at the same time indicate the character of migration, or the fact that they are a long-term migrant.

#### 9.4. Remittances

Data on remittances from abroad are kept by the Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Data for remittances from abroad for all four quarters of 2020 amount to 2 billion and 517 million BAM. However, the estimate of total transfers from abroad, which include foreign pensions, for 2020 is 3 billion and 879 million BAM.

**Table 36. Transfers from abroad for 2020<sup>26</sup>**

In million BAM	2020 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	2020 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	2020 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	2020 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	2020 Total
<b>Personnel transfers (Remittances from abroad)</b>	<b>663.9</b>	<b>577.7</b>	<b>627.4</b>	<b>648.8</b>	<b>2,517.8</b>
<b>Other current transfers (primarily pensions)</b>	<b>297.5</b>	<b>350.6</b>	<b>351.3</b>	<b>362.1</b>	<b>1,361.5</b>
<i>Out of which: Social benefits (according to old methodology pensions from abroad)</i>	279.6	324.8	319.4	326.5	1,250.3
<b>Total current transfers (Other sectors)</b>	<b>961.4</b>	<b>928.3</b>	<b>978.7</b>	<b>1,010.9</b>	<b>3,879.3</b>

According to the estimates of the World Bank<sup>27</sup>, the remittances from abroad to Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2020 amounted to 2 billion and 610 million BAM.

According to the World Bank data for 2020, the share of remittances in GDP of Bosnia and Herzegovina is 8.5% which places Bosnia and Herzegovina in 7th place in Europe in terms of the share of remittances in GDP.

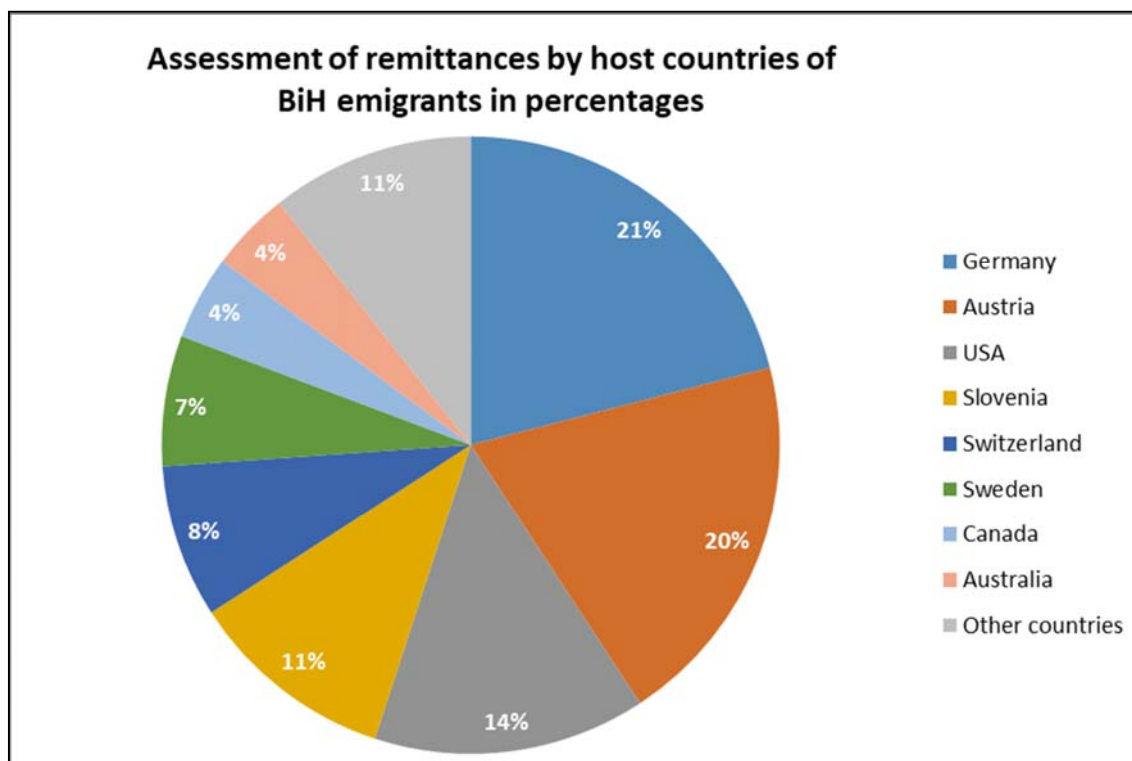
<sup>25</sup> Letter of the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs no. 06-30-2-24/21 from January 18, 2021

<sup>26</sup> Source: CBBiH from March 19, 2021 Transfers Q12007 – Q42020

<sup>27</sup> Migration and Remittances Data, World Bank

**Table 37. Assessment of remittances by host countries of BiH Emigrants for the 2019<sup>28</sup>**

HOST COUNTRY	Amount of remittances sent in millions BAM	Amount of sent remittances %
Germany	724	20.9%
Austria	681	19.7%
USA	490	14.2%
Slovenia	373	10.8%
Switzerland	278	8.0%
Sweden	236	6.8%
Canada	155	4.4%
Australia	147	4.2%
Other countries	369	10.6%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,453</b>	<b>100%</b>

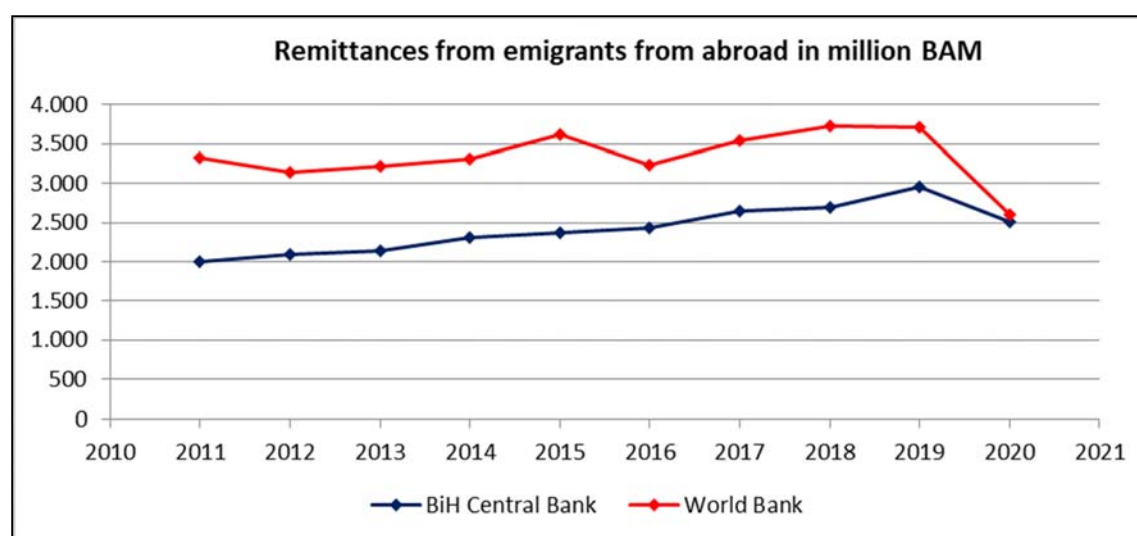


<sup>28</sup> Assessment of remittances by host countries of BiH Emigrants for the 2019, World Bank



**Table 38. Remittances from emigration from 2011 to 2020<sup>29</sup>**

Emigration remittances		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>BiH Central Bank</b>	KM in mill.	2,008	2,093	2,145	2,311	2,378	2,439	2,645	2,699	2,952	2,517
	EUR in mill.	1,026	1,070	1,096	1,181	1,215	1,235	1,352	1,380	1,509	1,285
<b>World Bank</b>	KM in mill.	3,328	3,134	3,218	3,313	3,617	3,240	3,540	3,717	3,703	2,610
	EUR in mill.	1,701	1,843	1,645	1,693	1,849	1,656	1,809	1,900	1,893	1,334



Presented data for the period 2011-2020 show that remittances are a stable source of income for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The noticeable difference in the data of the Central Bank of BiH and the World Bank is because the data of the Central Bank of BiH include only "personal transfers", while according to the definition of the World Bank remittances represent the sum of "personal transfers" and "employee compensation".

<sup>29</sup> Remittances for 2019 are updated in relation to the estimate in the Migration Profile for 2019, in accordance with the current data on remittances for that period of the BiH Central Bank.

## 10. Migration and refugee crisis in BiH in the period from 2018 to 2020

The migration-refugee crisis, that is, mass mixed migration flows through the Western Balkan route, started in the second half of 2015 and lasted until March 8, 2016 when the specified route was closed. The Western Balkan route for organized and controlled passage of migrants is being closed, but space is open for illegal migration, as well as for the operation of criminal networks with a special emphasis on smuggling and even human trafficking.

### 10.1 Migration flows and priorities set in the field of migration and asylum

As a result of the mentioned migration movements, in the fourth quarter of 2017, Bosnia and Herzegovina encountered mass illegal entry of migrants into its territory, and the trend of illegal entry intensified in 2018, 2019 and 2020. During this period, the competent authorities for migration in BiH identified the following routes that illegal migrants use most often to pass through BiH.:

- Greece - Albania - Montenegro - BiH - Croatia and further towards other EU countries;
- Greece - Macedonia - Serbia - BiH - Croatia and further towards other EU countries;
- Greece - Bulgaria - Serbia - BiH - Croatia and further towards other EU countries;

In order to combat as successfully as possible against illegal migration, and not to become a kind of *"hot spot"* for illegal migrants, which could lead to major humanitarian and security problems, BiH Ministry of Security has prepared the *Information containing Action Plan of Urgent Measures* to be taken with focus on illegal migrants and the permeability of the border, primarily with the eastern neighbours of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This document was adopted by Council of Ministers on 15 May 2018. The Action Plan of Urgent Measures from the aforementioned Information contains five priorities, 17 measures and 73 activities. The priorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of migration and asylum, are:

- 1) Strengthening of the Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to better control the border  
and to prevent illegal entry into the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- 2) Strengthening the capacity of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs and Immigration Sector of the Ministry of Security to improve efficiency in combating illegal migration in BiH;
- 3) Implementation of readmission agreements and strengthening of readmission capacities;
- 4) Capacity building in the field of asylum;
- 5) Intensifying the fight against smuggling of migrants.

Coordination of activities among institutions is carried out by the Coordinating Body for Migration Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Operational Headquarters for Migration Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Coordinating Body is composed of appointed representatives of the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Service for Foreigners' Affairs, Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the State Investigation and Protection Agency. In the event of an emergency or anticipation of an extraordinary crisis in the field of migration, the Coordinating Body shall also act as Operational Headquarters for Migration Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina. When the Coordinating Body also acts as the Operational Headquarters for Migration Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it includes as well the representatives of the Headquarters from the level of Entities and Brčko District of BiH.<sup>30</sup>

As of December 31, 2020, 70 activities were carried out of a total of 73 activities from the Action Plan of Emergency Measures, with 63 activities were fully implemented, while 7 activities were partially implemented. The other 3 activities were not carried out. Out of a total of 73 planned activities, 29 were implemented continuously.

Although the competent institutions and agencies continuously, in accordance with their competencies and capabilities, carry out defined activities, and the Operational Headquarters for Migration in Bosnia and Herzegovina monitors and coordinates the implementation of these activities, the situation on the ground is constantly complicated by humanitarian and security challenges.

In the past period, it was noticed that, in addition to the functioning of the Operational Headquarters for Migration in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which includes representatives of the staff from the entity level and the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is a lack of effective coordination and cooperation between relevant institutions. Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as between BiH institutions and donors and international organizations implementing projects related to the migration crisis, which jeopardizes the adequate response of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the challenges related to illegal migration, so that a significant part of the burden falls on local communities of the Una-Sana Canton and Sarajevo Canton, i.e. local communities in which temporary reception centres have been established.

The new *Information with the Plan of Measures and Activities for Effective Management of the Migrant Crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina* was, at the proposal of the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted at the 22nd session of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina held on December 16, 2020 and it is the second document in a row prepared in order to manage the migration situation in BiH conditioned by multiple increased migration pressure. It contains seven priorities, 24 measures and 127 activities.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's new priorities in the field of migration and asylum relate to the following:

- 1) Strengthening the BiH Border Police in order to better control the border, and in order to prevent illegal entry into the territory of BiH;
- 2) Strengthening the capacity for more efficient management of illegal migration on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the functioning of existing and the establishment and functioning of new temporary reception centres for the accommodation of migrants;
- 3) Implementation of readmission agreements and strengthening of readmission capacities;
- 4) Capacity building in the field of asylum;
- 5) Intensify the fight against smuggling of migrants;

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<sup>30</sup> Decision on the Establishment of the Coordination Body for Migration Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of BiH", No. 10/13, 64/13, 1/14, 20/16, 83/17 and 39/20)

- 6) Support to local communities in which temporary reception centres have been established;
- 7) Strengthening the capacity of the Coordination Body for Migration Issues in BiH - Operational Headquarters for Migration Issues in BiH.

## 10.2. Review of statistics on migration and asylum in BiH

Migration and asylum statistics show the growth of key indicators for monitoring the flow of illegal migration, as well as the interaction between immigration and asylum systems. In order to define a clear situation in the field of illegal immigration, statistics for 2019 and 2020 based on the following indicators are presented below:

- Illegal migrants detected in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, registered by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs,
- number of persons who have expressed the intention to seek asylum in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and
- Number of persons who have submitted asylum applications to the Ministry of Security - Asylum Sector.

The following data represent a clear indicator of the extent of illegal migration flows in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the mentioned periods, abuse of the asylum system, but also an indicator of the need to take all possible measures to suppress and prevent illegal migration in BiH.

**Table 39. Illegal migrants accepted by the BiH Border Police and detected by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs in the period from 2018 to 2020**

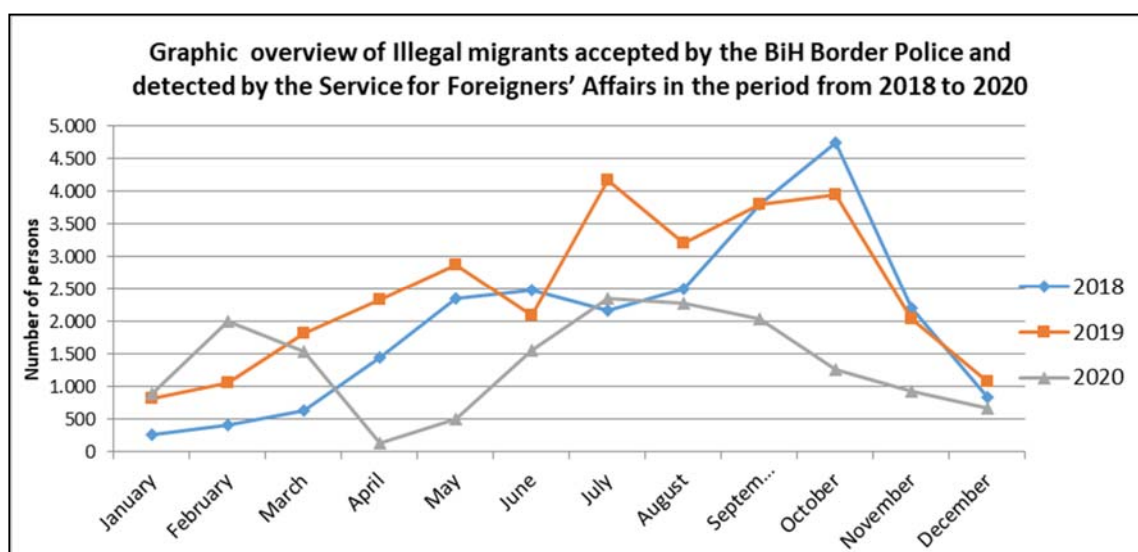
MONTH	2018	2019	+/- (%) 2019/2018	2020	+/- (%) 2020/2019
January	268	821	206.34%	902	9.87%
February	411	1,054	156.45%	2,002	89.94%
March	629	1,822	189.67%	1,540	-15.48%
April	1,454	2,337	60.73%	128	-94.52%
May	2,368	2,884	21.79%	514	-82.18
June	2,481	2,109	-14.99%	1,555	-26.27%
July	2,183	4,166	90.84%	2,361	-43.33%
August	2,505	3,206	27.98%	2,290	-28.57%
September	3,807	3,812	0.13%	2,041	-46.46%
October	4,740	3,958	-16.50%	1,263	-68.09%
November	2,212	2,044	-7.59%	924	-54.79%
December	844	1,089	29.03%	670	-38.57%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>23,902</b>	<b>29,302</b>	<b>22.59%</b>	<b>16,190</b>	<b>-44.75%</b>

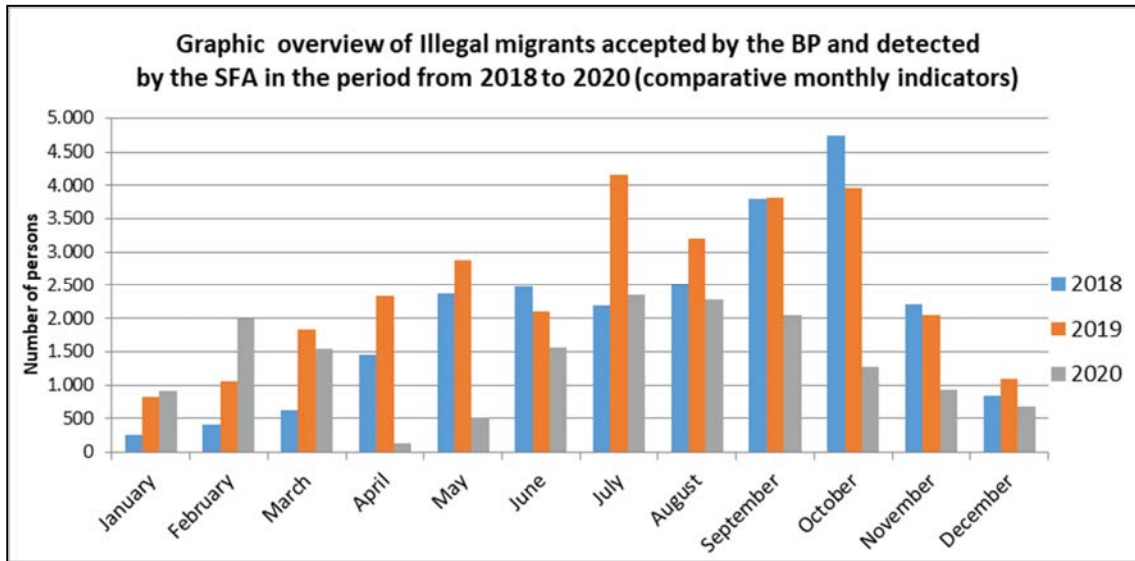
In 2018, a total of 23,902 illegal migrants were reported to the Service for Foreigners' Affairs. Out of the total of 23,902 reported illegal migrants, 22,499 persons expressed the intention

to apply for asylum in BiH, in 2018. asylum applications were submitted by 1,567 persons, or 7% of the total number of expressed intentions to apply for asylum in 2018.

In 2019, a total of 29,302 illegal migrants were reported to the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, which is an increase of 22.59% compared to 2018. It is also evident that the largest number of illegal migrants was recorded in the period April - October because the weather conditions for movement were the most favourable during this period. Out of the total of 29,302 reported illegal migrants, 27,769 persons expressed the intention to apply for asylum in BiH in 2019. The asylum applications were submitted by 784 persons or 3% of the total number of expressed intentions to apply for asylum in 2019. It is also evident that the largest number of illegal migrants was recorded in the period April - October, because in that period the most favourable weather conditions for movement.

In 2020, a total of 16,190 illegal migrants were reported to the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, which is a decrease compared to 2019 by 44.75%. Out of a total of 16,190 registered illegal migrants, 15,170 persons expressed their intention to apply for asylum in BiH in 2020. Asylum applications were submitted by 244 persons or 1.61% of the total number of expressed intentions to apply for asylum in 2020. It is also evident that in the first two months of 2020 the number of illegal migrants is higher than in the same period last year, and then there is a steady decline in the number of illegal migrants compared to the same period last year caused mainly by the Covid-19 pandemic.





When defining measures and activities for the effective management of the migrant crisis, it is necessary to have data on the assumed citizenship of migrants who illegally enter the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Citizenship data are taken on the basis of a statement of migrants who have illegally entered the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, since in most cases they do not have travel or any other identification documents.

**Table 40. Overview of data on detected illegal migrants in BiH, persons who have expressed intention for asylum in BiH and persons who applied for asylum in BiH in the period from 2018 to 2020, disaggregated by declared citizenship**

CITIZENSHIP	ILLEGAL MIGRANTS REPORTED TO THE SERVICE FOR FOREIGNERS' AFFAIRS			Expressed intention for asylum (Number of persons)			Applied for asylum (Number of persons)		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Pakistan	7,770	9,806	3,879	7,630	9,699	3,736	350	68	17
Afghanistan	2,780	4,111	4,553	2,685	3,987	4,477	334	79	31
Iran	3,663	1,176	625	3,415	1,105	594	363	121	13
Syria	3,017	2,134	220	2,931	2,075	206	189	58	10
Iraq	2,184	2,470	675	2,122	2,322	636	116	327	72
Bangladesh	452	2,125	2,740	429	2,115	2,724	2	-	4
Morocco	271	2,221	1,460	253	2,165	1,345	22	5	17
Algeria	477	1,601	369	434	1,490	321	18	5	6
Libya	879	354	153	808	300	141	35	3	1
Palestine	752	361	80	704	331	77	38	9	4
Egypt	36	817	332	29	801	321	4	2	0
India	416	461	121	392	439	111	16	9	1
Turkey	189	406	255	57	132	32	22	74	39
Eritrea	112	246	119	112	246	118	-	1	1
Tunisia	104	224	59	68	142	44	2	3	-
Serbia	94	89	100	1	-	7	1	-	-

Nepal	59	122	101	59	119	94	13	-	-
Yemen	106	76	49	105	66	49	18	2	-
Sudan	21	21	25	19	20	24	-	2	-
Cameroon	16	5	24	11	1	6	-	-	8
Other nationality	504	476	251	185	241	107	24	16	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,902</b>	<b>29,302</b>	<b>16,190</b>	<b>22,499</b>	<b>27,769</b>	<b>15,170</b>	<b>1,567</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>244</b>

The analysis of data for the last three years shows that by far the largest number of illegal migrants is from Pakistan and Afghanistan (a total of 32,899 people) thus representing 47% of the total number of illegal migrants in this period (69,393 people).

It is also evident that the largest number of illegal migrants are from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Iraq, Bangladesh, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Palestine and Egypt and make up 93% of the total number of illegal migrants in 2018, 2019 and 2020. In 2019, compared to 2018, there is a significant increase in the number of citizens of Egypt, Morocco, Bangladesh, Algeria, Eritrea, Tunisia, Turkey, Nepal, Albania, Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as a decrease in the number of citizens of Iran, Libya, Palestine, Syria and Yemen. This indicates that the majority of persons entering the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina illegally are mostly economic migrants, and that the trend of economic migration is increasing. In 2020, compared to 2019, there is an increase in illegal migrants coming from Afghanistan and Bangladesh, while a decrease in the number of citizens of Pakistan, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Algeria, as well as most other citizens, was recorded.

### 10.3. Accommodation capacities of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Regarding the accommodation capacities that Bosnia and Herzegovina had at its disposal at the end of 2020, we can state the following:

- The capacity of the **Immigration Centre** managed by the Service for Foreigners is 120 seats. An average of 52 people stayed at the Immigration Centre per month. On December 31, 2020, 53 people stayed in the centre.
- The **Asylum Centre**, which is intended to accommodate about 150 people, is managed by the Asylum Sector of the Ministry of Security of BiH. An average of 34 people stayed in the Asylum Centre per month. On December 31, 2020, 31 people stayed in the facility.
- Accommodation in the facilities of the **Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH** provides accommodation for 200 persons who have expressed an intention to seek asylum or are asylum seekers in BiH. The capacities of the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH housed an average of 59 people per month. On December 31, 2020, 11 people stayed in the facility.
- The former **military barracks "Ušivak"**, located in the municipality of Hadžići, was opened in October 2018. The capacity of the "Ušivak" facility is 800 seats with a separate space for

families, women and unaccompanied minors. An average of 780 people stayed per month. 813 people were registered to stay in the barracks on December 31, 2020.

- A second temporary reception centre for the accommodation of migrants was established in Sarajevo Canton, in the former "**Blažuj**" Barracks, located in Ilidža Municipality. The capacity of the facility is 2,000 seats. An average of 1,895 people stayed per month. On December 31, 2020, 3,389 people stayed in the facility.
- "**Sedra**" in Cazin (Una-Sana Canton) was opened in July 2018. The facility offers 420 places with separate space for families and unaccompanied minors. An average of 322 people stayed per month. On December 31, 2020, 343 people stayed in the centre.
- "**Bira**" in Bihać (Una-Sana Canton) was opened in October 2018. There are 1,500 places available in the facility with designated space for unaccompanied families and minors. From September 30, 2020, when the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Una-Sana Canton relocated migrants from this centre, there is no accommodation of migrants in this facility. Until the closure of this reception facility, an average of 1,056 people stayed there per month.
- "**Miral**" in Velika Kladuša (Una-Sana Canton) was opened in November 2018. 700 places with secured space for unaccompanied minors are available to accommodate migrants. An average of 836 people stayed per month. On December 31, 2020, 1,032 people stayed in the centre.
- "**Borići**" in Bihać (Una-Sana Canton) were opened in January 2019. 580 places are available for accommodation of migrants. A certain space is provided for families. An average of 303 people stayed per month. 329 people were registered to stay in this facility on December 31, 2020.
- Tent camp "**Lipa**" (Una-Sana Canton) was opened in April 2020 after a meeting of representatives of the Government of Una-Sana Canton, the European Commission and the IOM, which was held in March 2020. The total capacity of the camp is 900 people and it is intended for accommodation of men. According to the information of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the camp was formed in order to accommodate migrants who were staying in abandoned and dilapidated buildings in the area of the city of Bihać due to the emergency situation caused by the COVID-19 crisis. On average, 1,032 people stayed in the Lipa camp every month. At its 137th extraordinary session held on December 21, 2020, the Council of Ministers of BiH passed a Decision on the establishment of a temporary reception centre for the accommodation of migrants at the location "Lipa", which will be a prefabricated facility of the container type with a capacity of 1,500 people.

#### **10.4. Challenges in migration management in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Although a number of activities have been undertaken so far to prevent illegal entry into the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, available data indicate that migrants continue to enter the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina in extremely large numbers and that the number of illegal entries is significantly increasing. Further efforts are needed to address key challenges and make progress on ongoing activities. We present the **key challenges** for managing various aspects of migration in Bosnia and Herzegovina identified in 2020:



- **Lack of the necessary political consensus** on the issue of managing illegal migration in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- **The problem in the system of coordination of different levels of governmental authorities** in the management of mass illegal migration in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- **Insufficient strengthening of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina** in order for the state to take over the management of migration flows in both security and humanitarian aspects;
- **Long-term lack of financial, personnel and technical capacities** in all institutions and agencies whose competencies are in the field of migration and asylum.

**Operational challenges for migration management** in Bosnia and Herzegovina are also evident, namely:

- **Prevent the illegal entry of migrants** in the parts of the border where the greatest migratory pressure was recorded, with special emphasis on **strengthening the human resources and material-technical capacities of the Border Police**;
- **Ensure sufficient financial resources and human and technical capacities** for efficient work of all **agencies and sectors responsible for migration and asylum issues** in order to ensure conditions for coordinated and controlled movement and stay of migrants on the territory of BiH;
- Further **strengthen the staffing and logistical capacities of all security agencies** in order to more successfully combat the smuggling of migrants, but also to reduce security risks in local communities where there is a larger number of migrants;
- **Establish the identity of illegal migrants.** Most migrants do not have any documents. The Service for Foreigners' Affairs registers migrants and in a large percentage issues a certificate of intent to apply for asylum on the basis of declared identity, which makes it difficult for illegal migrants to be returned to their countries of origin as well as persons whose asylum application has been denied, which poses a security risk;
- **Abuse of the asylum system** in terms of expressing intent to seek asylum in order to legalize illegal entry into legal residence on the territory of BiH for a period of 14 days;
- **Efficient implementation** of existing readmission agreements and **conclusion of readmission agreements** with all countries of origin from which migrants come to BiH;
- **Prosecution of migrants** who are perpetrators of misdemeanours and criminal offenses by the competent judicial authorities, i.e., to establish a uniform practice of courts and prosecutor's offices in BiH in order to prosecute migrants;
- **Improve cooperation with the countries on the Western Balkan route** in order to prevent and suppress illegal migration on the Western Balkan route as well as to prevent and suppress the activities of smuggling of migrants so that BiH does not cope with migration challenges on its own;

- **Strengthen bilateral cooperation** of institutions and agencies dealing with migration and security issues between BiH and EU countries, as well as cooperation with international and EU agencies mandated to deal with migration and security issues;
- As Bosnia and Herzegovina is on the transit route of illegal migration from the EU state (Greece) to other EU countries, it is necessary **to seek greater and coordinated assistance in the EU in solving both humanitarian and much greater assistance of the European Union in solving security challenges**, especially by strengthening the capacity of the already mentioned competent institutions;
- **Security, humanitarian, health-epidemiological, financial and other challenges** in local communities where there are a large number of migrants, and especially in local communities where there are temporary reception centres;
- **Managing migration during the COVID - 19 epidemic** is an additional challenge.

## 11. Immigration policy, legal and institutional framework of BiH

Pursuant to Article III, Paragraph (1), Indent f) of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, policy development and regulation of immigration, refugees, and asylum issues are under the competence of state-level institutions.

### 11.1. Immigration Policy

Data from the year 2000 pertaining to illegal migration of foreign nationals attempting to reach the Western European countries via Bosnia and Herzegovina, indicate that Bosnia and Herzegovina have become a transit centre for well-organised international crime involving the smuggling of human beings.

- Information on state of play in the field of immigration and asylum was completed in the first quarter of 2001. It presented a factual state in this field, identified the types of illegal migration, the causes that led to the existing condition and proposed measures to remedy the situation. The BiH Council of Ministers adopted this Information on May 10, 2001. The adoption of this Information provided a solid foundation for further activities aimed at controlling illegal migration. This was also the first document to define the goals and basis for immigration policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The second document that defined Bosnia and Herzegovina's policy and developed its immigration and asylum system was the Action Plan in the Field of Migration and Asylum, as adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers on 6 April 2004. This document

defined the issues of visas, borders, immigration and asylum and elaborated each of them with clearly set goals, tasks and stakeholders responsible for their implementation.

- Since 2008, a policy in the field of immigration and asylum is defined by the Strategy in the Fields of Migration and Asylum and the 2008-2011 Action Plan, as adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers on 13 November 2008. This document outlines the development of immigration and asylum system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the current state of play, defines the goals, activities, deadlines, and parties responsible for activities in the following fields: visas, borders, migration, asylum and protection of foreign victims of trafficking in human beings. The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at its session held on 19 March 2009, adopted the Decision on Appointing the Coordination Body for Monitoring the Implementation of the Strategy in the Fields of Immigration and Asylum and the 2008-2011 Action Plan ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 32/09).
- On 12 June 2012, the BiH Council of Ministers also adopted the next Strategy in the Field of Migration and Asylum and the 2012-2015 Action Plan. The strategy is the result of the need to continue the already established practice of comprehensive planning of activities and developing of documents, representing the framework for both in the context of continuation of positive trends in migration and asylum management and in terms of current efforts towards rapid integration of our country into the European Union membership. At its session held on 23 January 2013, the BiH Council of Ministers issued a Decision on the Establishment of the Coordination Body for Migration Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina ("BiH Official Gazette " No. 10/13, 64/13 and 1/14).
- A new Strategy in the Field of Migration and Asylum and the 2016-2020 Action Plan were developed in 2016. The Strategy and the Action Plan were discussed and adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers, at its 50th session, held on 30 March 2016.

### 11.2. Legal Framework

Between 2000 and 2016, five laws regulating the area of immigration and asylum in BiH were adopted.

- The first regulation governing immigration and asylum issues at the state level was the **Law on Immigration and Asylum of Bosnia and Herzegovina**, which entered into force in late 1999 ("BiH Official Gazette " No. 23/99).
- Significant progress, in terms of improving the legal framework regulating issues of movement and stay of aliens in Bosnia and Herzegovina, was made with the adoption of the **Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum** in late 2003 ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 29/03, 4/04, and 53/07).
- The development of the *EU acquis communautaire* also imposed the need for changes or amendments to be made to a significant number of provisions of the Law adopted in 2003. In an effort to harmonise BiH immigration and asylum legislation with the *EU acquis communautaire* and the Schengen Agreement, and in order to address shortcomings that became evident with the application of the law that was implemented at the time, the new **Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum** was adopted. This law entered into force in May 2008 ("BiH Official Gazette" No.

36/08). This Law was amended in November 2012 by adoption of the **Law on Amendments of the Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum** ("BiH Official Gazette No. 87/12").

- Also, the procedure for producing of the two new laws began in 2014: The Law on Aliens and Law on Asylum. **Law on Aliens** was adopted on 10 November 2015 and entered into force on 25 November 2015 ("BiH Official Gazette" No.88/15), and **Law on Asylum** was adopted on 9 February 2016 and entered into force on 27 February 2016 ("BiH Official Gazette", No. 11/16).

Pursuant to the provisions of the Law on Aliens ("BiH Official Gazette" number 88/15) and the Law on Asylum ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 11/16), the following by-laws were passed:

- Rulebook on the Entry and Stay of Aliens ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 25/16),
- Rulebook on the Supervision and Removal of Aliens from Bosnia and Herzegovina ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 28/16),
- Rulebook on the Protection of Aliens Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 79/16),
- Rulebook on the Standards of Functioning and Other Issues Important for the Work of the Immigration Centre ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 55/16),
- Rulebook on the Content, Method of Keeping and Use of Official Records on Aliens ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 51/16),
- Rulebook on Registration of Biometric Characteristics of Aliens ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 55/16),
- Rulebook on Asylum ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 69/16),
- Rulebook on Form and Contents of the Application for Issuance of Travel Documents for Refugees ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 64/16),
- Rulebook on Form and Contents of the Travel Documents for Stateless Persons and Laissez-Passer for Aliens ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 41/16),
- Rulebook on Laissez-Passer for Aliens ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 65/16),
- Rulebook on Travel Documents for Stateless Persons ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 65/16),
- Rulebook on Travel Documents for Refugees ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 65/16),

- Decision on Determining the Annual Quota of Work Permits for Aliens in BiH for 2019 ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 92/18),
- Decision on the Minimum Amount of Means of Subsistence Needed to Support an Alien during the Intended Stay in BiH ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 16/20),
- Decision on the Determination of International Border Crossings in Bosnia and Herzegovina for Issuing Visas (Official Gazette of BiH No. 66/16 and 15/17).
- Decision on Visas ("Official Gazette of BiH" No. 3/15, 47/17 and 73/17),
- Rulebook on the Central Database of Aliens ("Official Gazette of BiH" No. 19/17),
- Rulebook on the manner of obtaining health insurance for persons with the recognized international protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of BiH" No. 16/17),
- Rulebook on the accommodation, mode of operation, functioning and home rules at the Salakovac Refugee and Shelter Centre ("Official Gazette of BiH" No. 29/17),
- Rulebook on the manner of exercising the right to education of persons with the recognized international protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of BiH", No. 42/17),
- Rulebook on the manner of exercising the right to social assistance of persons with the recognized international protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of BiH", No. 43/17),
- Rulebook on the manner of exercising the right to work of persons with the recognized international protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina ("Official Gazette of BiH", No. 52/17).
- Rulebook on obligations of transporters carrying the aliens to BiH Border Crossings ("Official Gazette of BiH", No 23/18).

Pursuant to the provisions of the Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum ("BiH Official Gazette" No. 36/08 and 87/12), the following bylaws are in force:

- Rulebook on Coverage of the Costs of Return and Placement of an Alien under Supervision ("BiH Official Gazette" no. 2/09),
- Rulebook on Standards of Functioning and Other Issues Important for the Work of the Asylum Centre ("BiH Official Gazette " No. 86/09),
- Rulebook on Issuance of Long-stay Visas (D VISA) and Procedure for issuing such Visas ("BiH Official Gazette" no. 104/08),

- Rulebook on Issuance of Short-stay Visas (C Visa) and Airport Transit Visa (Visa "A") in Diplomatic and Consular Missions of BiH ("BiH Official Gazette "No. 69/13).

The aforementioned regulations shall apply until the adoption of new by-laws, in accordance with the Law on Aliens and the Law on Asylum, if they are not contrary to the said laws.

### **11.3. Institutional Framework**

#### **A. State-level Bodies**

##### **A1. Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Comprised of three members with a rotating chair, the Presidency has the responsibility to conduct the foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the ratification or suspension of treaties with the consent of the Parliamentary Assembly and representation and attainment of membership within international and European organisations and institutions.

##### **A2. Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina is an executive body. It is comprised of the Chairman and nine national ministries and it operates at the state-level as the central government of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its duties include the adoption of decisions, conclusions and resolutions, proposals and draft laws, reports, strategic documents, programmes, agreements, protocols and other acts. Each Minister has a Deputy from a different constituent ethnic group.

Below is presented a list of ministries, administrative organisations and other bodies with responsibilities directly related to migration management.

##### **A2.1. Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The Ministry of Security was established in 2003 and is responsible for: protection of international borders; internal border crossings and regulation of traffic at border crossings of Bosnia and Herzegovina; prevention and tracing of perpetrators of criminal offences of terrorism, illicit drug trade, counterfeiting of domestic and international currencies, and trafficking in human beings, and other crimes of international or inter-entity nature; international cooperation in all fields that fall within the responsibilities of the Ministry; collection and use of data important for the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina; organisation and harmonisation of activities of the entity ministries of interior and the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the goal of performing security tasks in the interest of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Ministry of Security is responsible for the creation, maintenance and implementation of immigration and asylum policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina; it also regulates procedures and structure of the service related to the movement and stay of aliens in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Ministry of Security issues first-instance decisions on applications for international protection filed by foreigners in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is responsible for second instance decisions regarding appeals against first instance decisions made by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs and the BiH Border Police in accordance with the Law on Aliens.

- **Border Police of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Established in 2000, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Border Police (originally the State Border Service) is the police body responsible for: the surveillance and control of the cross border movement of goods and persons; the protection of state borders; the protection of the lives and health of people; the prevention of criminal acts and tracking of criminals; the prevention of illegal cross-border migration and prevention and tracking of other threats to public security, legal system and national security. Since the establishment of the Ministry of Security in 2003, the BiH Border Police has been its comprising element.

The BiH Border Police enforces immigration laws by: controlling the movement of aliens across the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, pursuant to the Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum; denying the entry of aliens to Bosnia and Herzegovina when they do not meet the requirements for entry; and issues decisions on refusal of entry under certain circumstances, on refusal of entry; issuing visas at border crossings in exceptional circumstances as defined by the Law; revoking visas or shortening their duration. An alien can express to the Border Police his/her intention to submit an application for asylum in Bosnia and Herzegovina; keeping records and exchanging data in this field.

- **Service for Foreigners' Affairs**

The Service for Foreigners' Affairs is an administrative organisation within the Ministry of Security. It has operational independency to perform duties and solve issues within its competence. The Service was established to: perform administrative and inspection activities related to the movement and stay of aliens in Bosnia and Herzegovina; issue decisions on administrative matters related to applications submitted by aliens; and to perform other duties pursuant to the Law on Movement and Stay of Aliens and Asylum, and other laws and regulations related to the movement and stay of aliens. The Service for Foreigners' Affairs was established under the Law on Service for Foreigners' Affairs in 2005, and it commenced its operations on 1 October 2006.

- **State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA)**

The State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) is an administrative organisation within the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with operational independence in its work. SIPA was established to perform police duties. Its responsibilities, as defined by the relevant Law, include preventing, tracing and investigating criminal acts that fall under the competence of the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In particular, SIPA deals with acts of organised crime, terrorism, war crimes, trafficking in humans, and other crimes against humanity and values protected by international law. In its present capacity, SIPA began operations in 2004, replacing the "State Information and Protection Agency."

### **A.2.2. Intelligence and Security Agency (OSA)**

In terms of immigration legislation, the Intelligence and Security Agency is responsible for security checks of foreigners to determine potential risks to the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **A.2.3. Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees is responsible for: monitoring and implementing international conventions and other documents that relate to human rights and fundamental freedoms; creating and implementing activities fulfilling the obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina for accession to the European Union, with particular concern for the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Protocols; monitoring and compiling information on human rights standards and activities; taking care of the rights and concerns of refugees in Bosnia and Herzegovina once their status as refugees has been determined; admission and accommodation for BiH nationals who are returning to Bosnia and Herzegovina on the basis of the Agreement on readmission for a period of 30 days, creating and implementing the policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina with regard to emigration and the return of refugees and displaced persons to Bosnia and Herzegovina, including reconstruction projects and the provision of other conditions for sustainable return, and creating the BiH Diaspora policy.

#### **A.2.4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for the: implementation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's foreign policy; development of international relations; representation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in diplomatic relations; cooperation with international organisations; proposals to the Presidency related to the country's participation in the work of international organisations; preparation of bilateral and multilateral agreements; performance of duties related to the residence and protection of the rights of BiH nationals with temporary or permanent residence abroad and of legal persons from BiH abroad; and, for the incitement, development and coordination of cooperation with emigrants from Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the field of implementation of immigration legislation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prepares for the Council of Ministers proposals of decisions on states whose citizens do not need visas for entering Bosnia and Herzegovina; proposals of decisions on countries whose citizens can enter Bosnia and Herzegovina with a document other than a passport; and proposals of decisions on exempting holders of certain types of travel documents from visa requirements. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs implements migration policy by issuing visas through DCMs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### **A.2.5. Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for administrative functions related to state level judicial bodies and international and inter-entity judicial cooperation. It ensures that the legislation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its implementation are in line with the obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina under international treaties. The Ministry of Justice cooperates with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and entities in drafting international bilateral and multilateral agreements. It acts as a central coordinating body for harmonising legislation and standards of the judicial system between entities; extradition; administrative inspection of the implementation of laws; and for issues relating to associations of citizens, and keeping records of association of citizens and NGOs that operate in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Ministry of Justice inspects administrative procedures of all ministries and other civil bodies, including those responsible for migration management and asylum.

#### **A.2.6. Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina**



The Ministry of Civil Affairs is responsible for activities related to citizenship, registration and records of citizens, protection of personal data, registration of domicile and residence, identification and travel documents, and other activities prescribed by law.

In terms of its migration duties, the Ministry of Civil Affairs is responsible for defining travel documents for foreigners.

#### **A.2.7. Directorate for European Integration**

The Directorate for European Integration was formed in 2002 under the BiH Council of Ministers Law with the task of coordinating the process of integration of BiH into the EU. The Directorate assumed the responsibilities of the former Ministry for European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Directorate for European Integration coordinates the harmonisation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's legal system with the EU (*acquis communautaire*).

#### **A.2.8. Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The Court of BiH has jurisdiction over criminal acts relating to violations of state laws and can also act in inter-entity disputes over the legal meaning and implementation of state laws. The Court of BiH can also adjudicate on cases involving international treaties, and international or national criminal law.

Within its responsibilities related to crime, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina has jurisdiction over crimes defined by the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina and other laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Within its administrative responsibilities, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina has jurisdiction over appeals against final administrative decisions. Within its appellate responsibilities, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina hears appeals of, and decides on legal remedies, for decisions delivered by the Criminal or Administrative Sector of the Court. However, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina does not hear appeal requests to reopen proceedings.

In terms of its immigration duties, the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a body of second instance and decides on appeals related to international protection decisions by the Ministry of Security. This function stems from the fact that all immigration decisions adopted by the Ministry of Security are subject to judicial review.

#### **A.2.9. Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The BiH Constitutional Court acts at the state level. It has exclusive jurisdiction to decide any dispute that arises under the Constitution between the Entities, Bosnia and Herzegovina and an Entity or Entities, or between the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Constitutional Court may decide whether a provision of an Entity's constitution or law is consistent with the Constitution. The appellate jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court is established by the Constitutional provision, which states that the Court "has appellate jurisdiction over issues under this Constitution arising out of a judgment of any court in Bosnia and Herzegovina." The Constitutional Court has jurisdiction to establish whether a law is compatible with the BiH Constitution, with the European Convention for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Protocols, or with the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It may also decide the existence or scope of a general rule of public international law.

### **B. Entity-level Bodies**

The increasing responsibility of state bodies over migration management directly impacts the role of entity-level authorities. Prior to the establishment of the BiH Border Police (former State Border Service in 2000), Ministries of Interior (MoIs) at the entity level had wide authority in migration management. This authority included border control and the operation of a 'Department for Foreigners' within each MoI. Currently, the responsibility for enforcing in-country migration management has shifted from the cantonal/regional level of each MoI to the recently established Service for Foreigners' Affairs within the Ministry of Security. The Service was established to reform an under-funded and decentralised system under which Inspectors for Foreigners operated and who were highly ineffective as their authority was limited to their canton or entity. In addition, the Inspectors' powers varied according to cantonal/entity legislation. Poor communication between Inspectors and entity and state bodies resulted in a lack of harmonised activities and centralisation of data.

## **B1. Republika Srpska**

### **B1.1. RS Ministry of Interior**

The competences of the Republika Srpska Ministry of Internal Affairs include, among other things, civilian and security investigative responsibilities, support to the state authorities responsible for migration management, and primarily to the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, in the procedures for registering and deregistering of foreign nationals' residence, and on request of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs supports the forcible removal of foreigners from Bosnia and Herzegovina. It also carries out identity and nationality checks concerning requests for the return of BiH nationals under readmission agreements.

### **B1.2. Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Governance**

The Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Governance performs administrative tasks relating to citizenship, registries, personal names, personal identification numbers, and other duties pursuant to the laws and regulations of Republika Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## **B2. Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

### **B2.1. FBiH Ministry of Interior**

The FBiH Ministry of Interior is responsible for : prevention and detection of international crime, terrorism, drug trafficking and organised crime: detection and apprehension of perpetrators, announcing and publishing of INTERPOL's international, federal and inter-cantonal notices and for cooperation with Prosecutors' Offices concerning the processing of criminal cases, the Federation citizenship-related affairs, the protection of human rights and civil liberties in the field of internal affairs, and for other matters within its jurisdiction.

In terms of immigration legislation, the Ministry is responsible to provide support, upon request, to the Service for Foreigners' Affairs in the forcible removal of foreigners from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it also carries out identity and nationality checks regarding requests for the return of BIH nationals under readmission agreements.

### **B2.2. Cantonal Ministries of Interior**

The Cantonal Ministries of Interior are responsible to support the Service for Foreigners' Affairs in immigration matters by assisting in registering the arrival or departure of aliens and

forcible removal of aliens from Bosnia and Herzegovina on request by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, and it also carries out identity and nationality checks regarding requests for the return of BIH nationals under readmission agreements.

### **B3. Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina**

In terms of immigration legislation, **police of the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina** is responsible to provide support to the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, when requested, to assist in the forcible removal of foreigners from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and also to carry out identity and nationality checks regarding requests for the return of BIH nationals under readmission agreements.

## **A N N E X E S**

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## SUMMARY OF MIGRATION TRENDS

ANNEX 1

INDICATOR / YEAR	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Visas issued by DCMs	11,126	11,482	12,107	16,351	16,970	22,862	28,751	31,171	47,694	1,857
Visas issued at the border	248	150	93	58	120	66	57	34	19	3
Refusals of entry into BiH	3,830	2,998	2,079	1,987	2,432	2,243	2,313	1,853	2,342	4,525
Illegal crossing of the state border	324	389	228	189	179	218	766	4,489	5,859	11,857
Entries	203	283	164	116	133	141	607	2,892	921	945
Exits	121	106	64	73	46	77	159	1,597	4,938	10,912
Temporary residence permits	7,661	8,838	9,953	11,022	12,633	11,519	11,372	10,756	10,133	8,293
Permanent residence permits	308	401	713	763	808	799	750	815	816	312
Revoked non-visa or temporary residence	364	947	430	817	670	508	282	189	208	172
Revoked non-visa or temporary residence and deportation	104	182	123	59	52	31	38	17	34	0
Revoked permanent residence	191	54	57	83	63	52	66	36	20	14
Expulsion orders	309	562	279	380	294	418	927	1,540	1,554	1,209
Foreign nationals placed under supervision	266	520	274	251	210	313	897	970	1,068	872
Immigration Centre	218	453	236	218	193	311	860	948	710	515
Certain area or place	48	67	38	33	17	2	37	22	358	357
Number of the conclusion on the approval of the execution of the decision on deportation	8	14	1	5	5	18	1	3	3	0
Foreign nationals returned from BiH based on readmission agreements	81	292	117	57	29	156	358	670	330	195
Voluntary return with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs assistance		160	159	169	179	246	628	324	403	259
Voluntary returns of irregular migrants (with IOM assistance)	244	88	209	104	197	148	379	628	624	290
BiH nationals	71	88	209	104	197	148	379	217	190	58
Foreign nationals from BiH	173	0	0	0	0	0	0	411	434	232
Readmission of foreign nationals based on Readmission Agreement with the Republic of Croatia	88	75	75	55	42	105	311	652	783	330
Persons seeking asylum in BiH	46	53	100	45	46	79	381	1,568	784	244
Work permits issued to foreign nationals during the year	2,607	2,573	2,563	2,197	2,465	2,628	2,593	2,822	3,183	2,586
Foreign nationals granted BiH citizenship	718	817	649	676	641	682	667	728	657	567
Number of emigrants originating from the BiH including progeny of emigrants who were born in the receiving state (estimate of the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees in BiH)								2.000.000 - 2.200.000		
BiH Population (Bosnia and Herzegovina in numbers 2016, Agency for Statistics BiH, 2016; "BiH Official Gazette" No. 60/16)								3,531,159		

No.	COUNTRY	2019	2020	+/- (%) (2020/2019)
1	Afghanistan	17	2	-88.24%
2	Algeria	17	3	-82.35%
3	Angola	1		-100.00%
4	Armenia	110	4	-96.36%
5	Bangladesh	79	9	-88.61%
6	Belarus	24	13	-45.83%
7	Benin	1		-100.00%
8	Botswana	2		-100.00%
9	Brazil	14	3	-78.57%
10	Burundi	3		-100.00%
11	Cambodia	5		-100.00%
12	Chad	3		-100.00%
13	China	136	8	-94.12%
14	Comoros	172	35	-79.65%
15	Congo Democratic Republic	4		-100.00%
16	Cuba	15	1	-93.33%
17	Djibouti	2	2	0.00%
18	Dominican Republic	2	1	-50.00%
19	Ecuador	3		-100.00%
20	Egypt	537	45	-91.62%
21	El Salvador		1	-
22	Eritrea	14	3	-78.57%
23	Ethiopia	136	13	-90.44%
24	Gambia	5		-100.00%
25	Ghana	7	3	-57.14%
26	Guinea	3		-100.00%
27	Guinea Bissau	1		-100.00%
28	India	947	172	-81.84%
29	Indonesia	248	60	-75.81%
30	Iran	212	49	-76.89%
31	Iraq	375	18	-95.20%
32	Ivory Coast	5	1	-80.00%
33	Jamaica	2		-100.00%
34	Jordan	1,083	108	-90.03%
35	Kameroon	37	1	-97.30%
36	Kazakhstan	104	5	-95.19%
37	Kenya	31	9	-70.97%
38	Kosovo*	790	109	-86.20%
39	Kyrgyzstan	33	3	-90.91%
40	Laos	3		-100.00%
41	Lebanon	2,956	16	-99.46%
42	Liberia	2		-100.00%
43	Libya	350	55	-84.29%
44	Madagascar	4		-100.00%
45	Malaysia	5	2	-60.00%
46	Maldives	2		-100.00%
47	Mali	4		-100.00%
48	Mauritania	10	3	-70.00%
49	Moldova	1		-100.00%
50	Mongolia	1		-100.00%
51	Morocco	48	11	-77.08%
52	Mozambique	2		-100.00%
53	Myanmar	5		-100.00%
54	Namibia	10		-100.00%
55	Nepal	41		-100.00%

No.	COUNTRY	2019	2020	+/- (%) (2020/2019)
56	Niger	1		-100.00%
57	Nigeria	18	2	-88.89%
58	Pakistan	320	53	-83.44%
59	Palestine	240	20	-91.67%
60	Philippines	764	57	-92.54%
61	Russian Federation	97	17	-82.47%
62	Rwanda	2		-100.00%
63	Saudi Arabia	35,905	783	-97.82%
64	Senegal	9		-100.00%
65	Sierra Leone	1		-100.00%
66	Somalia	4	1	-75.00%
67	South Africa	51	8	-84.31%
68	Sri Lanka	83	1	-98.80%
69	Sudan	75	11	-85.33%
70	Syrian Arab Republic	361	81	-77.56%
71	Tajikistan	22	3	-86.36%
72	Tanzania	10		-100.00%
73	Thailand	135	1	-99.26%
74	Togo	1		-100.00%
75	Tunisia	27	3	-88.89%
76	Turkmenistan	7	7	0.00%
77	Uganda	28	4	-85.71%
78	Ukraine	29	2	-93.10%
79	Unknown nationality	226	3	-98.67%
80	Uzbekistan	21	7	-66.67%
81	Vietnam	307		-100.00%
82	Yemen	321	25	-92.21%
83	Zambia	1		-100.00%
84	Zimbabwe	4		-100.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>47,694</b>	<b>1,857</b>	<b>-96.11%</b>

\* 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.

# VISSAS ISSUED AT THE BiH BORDER IN 2019 AND 2020

ANNEX 3

No.	COUNTRY	2019	2020	+/- (%) (2020/2019)
1	Algeria	2		-100.00%
2	Cameroon	1		-100.00%
3	Lebanon	3		-100.00%
4	Libya	6	3	-50.00%
5	Morocco	1		-100.00%
6	Palestine	1		-100.00%
7	Tunisia	2		-100.00%
8	Uzbekistan	1		-100.00%
9	Vietnam	2		-100.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-84.21%</b>



# REFUSALS OF ENTRY AT THE BiH BORDER IN 2019 AND 2020

ANNEX 4

No.	COUNTRY	2019	2020	+/- (%) (2020/2019)
1	Afghanistan	3	6	100.00%
2	Albania	48	160	233.33%
3	Algeria	2	4	100.00%
4	Argentina		4	-
5	Armenia	2	1	-50.00%
6	Australia	1	3	200.00%
7	Austria	32	426	1231.25%
8	Azerbaijan	2	7	250.00%
9	Bahamas	1		-100.00%
10	Bahrain		2	-
11	Bangladesh	20	2	-90.00%
12	Belarus	13	9	-30.77%
13	Belgium	2	52	2500.00%
14	Benin	2		-100.00%
15	Brazil		6	-
16	Bulgaria		47	-
17	Canada		11	-
18	Chile		3	-
19	China	37	48	29.73%
20	Columbia	1	3	200.00%
21	Congo DR		1	-
22	Croatia	65	163	150.77%
23	Cuba	3	2	-33.33%
24	Czech Republic	4	39	875.00%
25	Denmark	2	39	1850.00%
26	Dominican Republic		1	-
27	Ecuador	2	1	-50.00%
28	Egypt	2	1	-50.00%
29	El Salvador		1	-
30	Eritrea	6		-100.00%
31	Estonia	2	4	100.00%
32	Finland		4	-
33	France	9	166	1744.44%
34	Germany	40	638	1495.00%
35	Greece		24	-
36	Guatemala		1	-
37	Guinea	2		-100.00%
38	Hungary	4	42	950.00%
39	Iceland		3	-
40	India	16	5	-68.75%
41	Iran	5	3	-40.00%
42	Iraq	52	7	-86.54%
43	Ireland		36	-
44	Israel		5	-
45	Italia	10	203	1930.00%
46	Japan		1	-
47	Jordan	7		-100.00%
48	Kazakhstan	14	10	-28.57%
49	Kenya	1		-100.00%
50	Korea, Republic		2	-
51	Kosovo*	618	214	-65.37%
52	Kuwait		4	-
53	Kyrgyzstan	1		-100.00%
54	Lebanon	1	2	100.00%

# REFUSALS OF ENTRY AT THE BiH BORDER IN 2019 AND 2020

ANNEX 4

No.	COUNTRY	2019	2020	+/- (%) (2020/2019)
55	Libya	2	2	0.00%
56	Lithuania	1	1	0.00%
57	Luxembourg		7	-
58	Malaysia	2	9	350.00%
59	Moldova		6	-
60	Mongolia	2		-100.00%
61	Montenegro	20	27	35.00%
62	Morocco		7	-
63	Nepal	2		-100.00%
64	New Zealand		1	-
65	Nigeria		4	-
66	North Macedonia	6	85	1316.67%
67	Norway		26	-
68	Oman	1		-100.00%
69	Pakistan	38	17	-55.26%
70	Palestine	1	1	0.00%
71	Peru	1		-100.00%
72	Philippines	6		-100.00%
73	Poland	10	144	1340.00%
74	Portugal	1	9	800.00%
75	Romania	3	66	2100.00%
76	Russian Federation	9	53	488.89%
77	Saudi Arabia	24	2	-91.67%
78	Serbia	41	144	251.22%
79	Slovakia		28	-
80	Slovenia	7	456	6414.29%
81	South Africa	1	2	100.00%
82	Spain	9	23	155.56%
83	Sweden	4	83	1975.00%
84	Switzerland	7	125	1685.71%
85	Syrian Arab Republic	5	7	40.00%
86	Taiwan		11	-
87	Thailand	11	1	-90.91%
88	The Netherlands	3	148	4833.33%
89	Tunisia	10	5	-50.00%
90	Turkey	1,069	424	-60.34%
91	Uganda		1	-
92	Ukraine	1	29	2800.00%
93	United Arab Emirates		8	-
94	United Kingdom		71	-
95	United States of America	3	59	1866.67%
96	Unknown nationality	3	16	433.33%
97	Vietnam	4		-100.00%
98	Yemen	3	1	-66.67%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>2,342</b>	<b>4,525</b>	<b>93.21%</b>

\* 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.

No.	COUNTRY	2019	2020	+/- (%) (2020/2019)
1	Afghanistan	936	3,399	263.14%
2	Albania	10	139	1290.00%
3	Algeria	160	117	-26.88%
4	Armenia		2	-
5	Austria		7	-
6	Bangladesh	161	714	343.48%
7	Belarus		1	-
8	Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	30	1400.00%
9	Bulgaria		2	-
10	Cameroon	3	12	300.00%
11	China	6	4	-33.33%
12	Congo		3	-
13	Croatia		3	-
14	Cuba		7	-
15	Czech Republic		5	-
16	Egypt	124	192	54.84%
17	Eritrea	27	134	396.30%
18	Ethiopia	1		-100.00%
19	Finland		3	-
20	France		9	-
21	Georgia	1		-100.00%
22	Ghana		3	-
23	Greece		4	-
24	Guinea		1	-
25	India	120	41	-65.83%
26	Iran	516	318	-38.37%
27	Iraq	1,029	641	-37.71%
28	Ireland		1	-
29	Italia	1	20	1900.00%
30	Ivory Coast		1	-
31	Kosovo*	13	63	384.62%
32	Latvia		1	-
33	Lebanon	7		-100.00%
34	Libya	86	66	-23.26%
35	Luxembourg		2	-
36	Mali	2		-100.00%
37	Mauritania	1		-100.00%
38	Mexico		1	-
39	Moldova	1		-100.00%
40	Montenegro	2	2	0.00%
41	Morocco	174	802	360.92%
42	Myanmar		4	-
43	Nepal	9	136	1411.11%
44	New Zealand		1	-
45	Nigeria	2		-100.00%
46	North Macedonia	3	2	-33.33%
47	Njemačka	2	21	950.00%

No.	COUNTRY	2019	2020	+/- (%) (2020/2019)
48	Pakistan	1,193	4,423	270.75%
49	Palestine	141	32	-77.30%
50	Panama	1		-100.00%
51	Poland		6	-
52	Portugal		2	-
53	Romania		9	-
54	Russian Federation		2	-
55	Saudi Arabia	4		-100.00%
56	Serbia	4	16	300.00%
57	Slovenia	1		-100.00%
58	Somalia	31	12	-61.29%
59	Spain		6	-
60	Sri Lanka	9		-100.00%
61	Sudan	3		-100.00%
62	Sweden		1	-
63	Switzerland		1	-
64	Syrian Arab Republic	683	215	-68.52%
65	Tajikistan	1		-100.00%
66	Thailand		1	-
67	The Netherlands		7	-
68	Tunisia	61	30	-50.82%
69	Turkey	144	86	-40.28%
70	Ukraine		4	-
71	United Kingdom		17	-
72	United States of America	3	3	0.00%
73	Unknown nationality	137	63	-54.01%
74	Vietnam	4		-100.00%
75	Western Sahara		1	-
76	Yemen	40	6	-85.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>5,859</b>	<b>11,857</b>	<b>102.37%</b>

\* 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.

No.	COUNTRY	2019	2020	+/- (%) (2020/2019)
1	Afghanistan	2	2	0.00%
2	Albania	70	62	-11.43%
3	Algeria	15	14	-6.67%
4	Argentina	6	8	33.33%
5	Armenia	4	4	0.00%
6	Australia	20	9	-55.00%
7	Austria	352	376	6.82%
8	Azerbaijan	8	4	-50.00%
9	Bahrain	24	17	-29.17%
10	Bangladesh	19	15	-21.05%
11	Belarus	13	6	-53.85%
12	Belgium	9	6	-33.33%
13	Bolivia	1	1	0.00%
14	Brazil	23	19	-17.39%
15	Bulgaria	24	26	8.33%
16	Burkina Faso	1		-100.00%
17	Cameroon		1	-
18	Canada	40	37	-7.50%
19	Central African Republic	2	1	-50.00%
20	Chad	3	1	-66.67%
21	Chile	2	3	50.00%
22	China	291	239	-17.87%
23	Columbia	7	6	-14.29%
24	Congo, DR	1		-100.00%
25	Costa Rica	2	3	50.00%
26	Croatia	864	846	-2.08%
27	Cuba	1		-100.00%
28	Cyprus	6	10	66.67%
29	Czech Republic	28	22	-21.43%
30	Denmark	16	13	-18.75%
31	Dominican Republic	2	1	-50.00%
32	Egypt	260	189	-27.31%
33	Estonia	1		-100.00%
34	Ethiopia	3	2	-33.33%
35	Finland	17	12	-29.41%
36	France	66	62	-6.06%
37	Georgia	5	2	-60.00%
38	Germany	374	354	-5.35%
39	Ghana	6	6	0.00%
40	Greece	26	30	15.38%
41	Guatemala	1	2	100.00%
42	Guinea	1		-100.00%
43	Haiti	1		-100.00%
44	Honduras	1	2	100.00%
45	Hungary	8	6	-25.00%
46	Iceland		1	-
47	India	45	35	-22.22%
48	Indonesia	13	16	23.08%
49	Iran	31	19	-38.71%
50	Iraq	26	26	0.00%
51	Ireland	8	6	-25.00%
52	Israel	15	10	-33.33%
53	Itallia	257	193	-24.90%
54	Jamaica	1	2	100.00%
55	Japan	13	5	-61.54%
56	Jordan	123	88	-28.46%

# TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS ISSUED IN BiH IN 2019 AND 2020

ANNEX 6

No.	COUNTRY	2019	2020	+/- (%) (2020/2019)
57	Kazakhstan	1	1	0.00%
58	Kenya	2	4	100.00%
59	Korea, Republic	2	2	0.00%
60	Kuwait	109	84	-22.94%
61	Kyrgyzstan		4	-
62	Latvia	1	2	100.00%
63	Lebanon	21	24	14.29%
64	Libya	135	117	-13.33%
65	Litvania	5	8	60.00%
66	Luxembourg	2		-100.00%
67	Macau		1	-
68	Madagascar	1		-100.00%
69	Malaysia	9	8	-11.11%
70	Maldives	1	1	0.00%
71	Mali	9	8	-11.11%
72	Malta		1	-
73	Mauritania	3		-100.00%
74	Mauritius	1		-100.00%
75	Mexico	13	11	-15.38%
76	Moldova	28	19	-32.14%
77	Montenegro	646	546	-15.48%
78	Morocco	19	16	-15.79%
79	Myanmar	1	2	100.00%
80	Namibia	4	2	-50.00%
81	Nepal	8	3	-62.50%
82	New Zealand	5	4	-20.00%
83	Nicaragua	2	3	50.00%
84	Niger	1	1	0.00%
85	Nigeria	4	6	50.00%
86	North Macedonia	383	344	-10.18%
87	Northern Mariana Islands	1		-100.00%
88	Norway	19	11	-42.11%
89	Oman	12	11	-8.33%
90	Pakistan	52	29	-44.23%
91	Palestine	33	25	-24.24%
92	Paraguay	1		-100.00%
93	Peru	4	6	50.00%
94	Philippines	25	26	4.00%
95	Poland	49	39	-20.41%
96	Portugal	5	6	20.00%
97	Qatar	41	24	-41.46%
98	Romania	29	32	10.34%
99	Russian Federation	175	162	-7.43%
100	Rwanda		1	-
101	Saudi Arabia	104	70	-32.69%
102	Senegal	2	2	0.00%
103	Serbia	2,048	1,644	-19.73%
104	Sierra Leone	1		-100.00%
105	Slovakia	28	25	-10.71%
106	Slovenia	183	163	-10.93%
107	Somalia	9	3	-66.67%
108	South Africa	11	14	27.27%
109	Spain	23	24	4.35%
110	Sri Lanka	8	3	-62.50%
111	Sudan	21	8	-61.90%
112	Swaziland	1		-100.00%

No.	COUNTRY	2019	2020	+/- (%) (2020/2019)
113	Sweden	20	19	-5.00%
114	Switzerland	56	50	-10.71%
115	Syrian Arab Republic	226	181	-19.91%
116	Tajikistan	5	4	-20.00%
117	Tanzania	2	4	100.00%
118	Thailand	1	1	0.00%
119	The Netherlands	51	60	17.65%
120	Togo	1		-100.00%
121	Trinidad and Tobago	1	1	0.00%
122	Tunisia	18	19	5.56%
123	Turkey	1,656	1,131	-31.70%
124	Uganda	4	3	-25.00%
125	Ukraine	55	43	-21.82%
126	United Arab Emirates	64	61	-4.69%
127	United Kingdom	110	95	-13.64%
128	United States of America	332	209	-37.05%
129	Unknown nationality	6	1	-83.33%
130	Uruguay		1	-
131	Uzbekistan	2	1	-50.00%
132	Venezuela	5	6	20.00%
133	Vietnam	1	1	0.00%
134	YJemen	57	32	-43.86%
135	Zambia	1		-100.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>10,133</b>	<b>8,293</b>	<b>-18.16%</b>

PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMITS ISSUED IN BiH IN 2019 AND 2020

ANNEX 7

No.	COUNTRY	2019	2020	+/- (%) (2020/2019)
1	Albania		3	-
2	Algeria	2	1	-50.00%
3	Argentina		1	-
4	Armenia		1	-
5	Australia	2	1	-50.00%
6	Austria	58	27	-53.45%
7	Azerbaijan	1		-100.00%
8	Belarus	3	1	-66.67%
9	Brazil	4	1	-75.00%
10	Bulgaria	5		-100.00%
11	Canada		1	-
12	China	90	17	-81.11%
13	Croatia	117	47	-59.83%
14	Czech Republic	1	1	0.00%
15	Denmark	3		-100.00%
16	Dominican Republic		1	-
17	Egypt	8	5	-37.50%
18	Eritrea	1		-100.00%
19	Estonia	1		-100.00%
20	Ethiopia		1	-
21	France	3	3	0.00%
22	Georgia	1		-100.00%
23	Germany	51	19	-62.75%
24	Greece	1	2	100.00%
25	India	1	2	100.00%
26	Indonesia	2	1	-50.00%
27	Iran	8	2	-75.00%
28	Iraq	2		-100.00%
29	Italia	13	3	-76.92%
30	Japan	1		-100.00%
31	Jordan	7	1	-85.71%
32	Korea, Republic	1		-100.00%
33	Kuwait	1	1	0.00%
34	Libya		1	-
35	Malaysia		1	-
36	Moldova	6	2	-66.67%
37	Montenegro	184	53	-71.20%
38	Morocco	4	1	-75.00%
39	North Macedonia	68	31	-54.41%
40	Norway		1	-
41	Pakistan	3	1	-66.67%
42	Palestine		4	-
43	Philippines		2	-
44	Poland	4	1	-75.00%
45	Romania	12		-100.00%
46	Russian Federation	9	14	55.56%
47	Saudi Arabia	1	1	0.00%
48	Serbia	14	7	-50.00%
49	Slovakia	3	1	-66.67%
50	Slovenia	10	4	-60.00%
51	Somalia	1		-100.00%
52	South Africa	1		-100.00%
53	Spain		2	-
54	Sudan	3	3	0.00%
55	Sweden	2	1	-50.00%
56	Switzerland	5	2	-60.00%
57	Syrian Arab Republic	15	6	-60.00%



**PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMITS ISSUED IN BiH IN 2019 AND 2020**

ANNEX 7

No.	COUNTRY	2019	2020	+/- (%) (2020/2019)
58	Tajikistan	1		-100.00%
59	Thailand	1		-100.00%
60	The Netherlands	4	3	-25.00%
61	Tunisia	4	1	-75.00%
62	Turkey	38	17	-55.26%
63	Ukraine	17	2	-88.24%
64	United Kingdom	5	5	0.00%
65	United States of America	13	2	-84.62%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>816</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>-61.76%</b>

# MEASURES IMPOSED ON FOREIGN NATIONALS IN 2020

ANNEX 8

No.	COUNTRY	Residence revoked		Revoked non-visa or temporary residence and expulsion	Expulsion	Placed under supervision at the Immigration Centre
		Non-visa and Temporary residence	Permanent residence			
1	Afghanistan	2			99	33
2	Albania	5			34	20
3	Algeria				50	13
4	Argentina	1				
5	Austria	1				
6	Bangladesh				54	30
7	Belgium	1				
8	Brazil	1				
9	Bulgaria				1	1
10	Cameroon				14	18
11	Canada				1	
12	China	6	6		2	2
13	Comoros				1	
14	Croatia	10	1		2	
15	Cuba				3	2
16	Egypt				35	1
17	Eritrea				1	1
18	Ethiopia				1	
19	Germany	1			1	
20	Guinea				1	1
21	Hungary	2				
22	India				11	5
23	Iran				33	5
24	Iraq				63	9
25	Italia	15			4	
26	Jordan				1	
27	Kosovo*				6	11
28	Kuwait				2	
29	Libya				20	4
30	Malaysia				1	
31	Montenegro	5			5	5
32	Morocco				146	32
33	Namibia	2				
34	Nepal				8	
35	North Macedonia	2			2	1
36	Pakistan	1			216	56
37	Palestine				3	
38	Philippines				3	
39	Romania	1				1
40	Russian Federation	1			2	
41	Saudi Arabia				1	
42	Serbia	47			58	16
43	Slovakia	1			2	1

No.	COUNTRY	Residence revoked		Revoked non-visa or temporary residence and expulsion	Expulsion	Placed under supervision at the Immigration Centre
		Non-visa and Temporary residence	Permanent residence			
44	Slovenia	1			2	
45	Spain	4			4	
46	Sudan				1	
47	Switzerland				1	
48	Syrian Arab Republic				17	2
49	Tunisia				28	6
50	Turkey	57	7		258	237
51	Ukraine				2	1
52	United States of America	4			2	
53	Unknown nationality				2	
54	Venezuela	1				
55	Western Sahara				4	1
56	Yemen				1	
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>172</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,209</b>	<b>515</b>

\* 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.

**APPLICATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (ASYLUM) SUBMITTED  
TO RELEVANT STATE BODIES FROM 2011 TO 2020**

ANNEX 9

No.	COUNTRY	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		TOTAL	
		Application	Persons	Application	Persons	Application	Persons	Application	Persons	Application	Persons	Application	Persons	Application	Persons	Application	Persons	Application	Persons	Application	Persons	Application	Persons
1	Afghanistan	2	2			6	6	10	10	6	6	3	3	37	41	128	334	38	79	20	31	250	512
2	Algeria	10	10	2	2	8	8	3	3					77	77	18	18	5	5	6	6	129	129
3	Armenia					1	1	3	3	2	5											6	9
4	Austria																			1	1	1	1
5	Azerbaijan													3	3	1	1	1	5			5	9
6	Bangladesh					6	6	2	2	1	1			2	2	2	2			1	4	14	17
7	Cameroon	1	2					1	1	4	4	2	2							8	8	16	17
8	Central African Republic							1	1													1	1
9	China																			1	1	1	1
10	Congo DR							1	1	1	1			1	1							3	3
11	Congo, Republic									1	1											1	1
12	Croatia									1	1	1	1							1	1	3	3
13	Cuba									1	1									1	1	4	4
15	Egypt	1	1					1	1			1	1			4	4	2	2			9	9
16	Eritrea			3	3													1	1	1	1	4	5
17	Ethiopia	1	1					1	1													2	2
18	Gambia													1	1							1	1
19	Hungary					1	1															1	1
20	India															16	16	4	9	1	1	21	26
21	Iran	2	3	1	1	2	2	1	1					9	10	157	364	47	121	8	13	227	515
22	Iraq					1	1	4	4	4	4	4	6	8	8	39	116	97	327	18	72	175	538
23	Ivory Coast															1	1					1	1
24	Jordan											2	3	1	1							3	4
25	Kenya											2	2									2	2
26	Kuwait													1	3	1	1	1	1			3	5
27	Lebanon													3	3					1	1	4	4
28	Libya			2	2									21	21	35	35	3	3	1	1	62	62
29	Mali									1	1											1	1
30	Mauritania													1	1							1	1
31	Moldova			1	1																	1	1
32	Montenegro									1	1					1	1					2	2
33	Morocco	5	6	2	2			2	2			2	2	26	26	22	22	3	5	17	17	79	82
34	Myanmar			1	1																	1	1
35	Nepal													3	3	11	13					14	16
36	Nigeria	1	1			1	1							1	2							3	4
37	North Macedonia													1	1	1	2					2	3
38	Pakistan	4	4			2	2					11	12	65	65	344	350	64	68	17	17	507	518
40	Palestine	4	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	6	6	31	38	6	9	2	4	57	69
41	Philippines											1	1	1	1							2	2
42	Poland													1	1							1	1
43	Russian Federation													7	15	3	7			1	5	11	27
45	Saudi Arabia																	1	1			1	1
46	Serbia	7	9	3	3	4	8	1	1	3	3	6	8	4	4	1	1					29	37
47	Sierra Leone									5	5					1	1					6	6
48	Slovenia													1	1							1	1
49	Somalia	1	1			1	1	2	2							6	6	2	7			12	17
50	Sri Lanka					1	1	1	1					2	2			1	2			5	6
51	Sudan							4	4									1	2			5	6
52	Syrian Arab Republic			22	35	36	59	4	4	5	5	17	18	31	47	110	189	23	58	8	10	256	425
53	Tajikistan													1	1							1	1
54	Tunisia	2	2	1	1									3	3	2	2	2	3	2	3	12	14
55	Turkey					1	1			2	3	13	19	20	29	11	22	30	74	19	39	96	187
56	Ukraine							1	1	1	1					1	1					3	3
57	USA							1	1													1	1
58	Without nationality					1	1									3	3					4	4
59	Yemen															11	18	2	2	3	7	16	27
TOTAL:		41	46	40	53	73	100	45	45	42	46	66	79	340	381	961	1,568	333	784	138	244	2,079	3,346

**NUMBER OF ISSUED WORK PERMITS TO FOREIGN NATIONALS  
IN BiH IN 2019 AND 2020**

ANNEX 10

No.	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	2019	2020	+/- (%) (2020/2019)
1	Albania	36	47	30.56%
2	Algeria	1	2	100.00%
3	Argentina	3	4	33.33%
4	Australia	5	5	0.00%
5	Austria	30	39	30.00%
6	Azerbaijan	2	2	0.00%
7	Bahrain	16	14	-12.50%
8	Bangladesh	9	1	-88.89%
9	Belarus	6	2	-66.67%
10	Belgium	1	2	100.00%
11	Bolivia	1	1	0.00%
12	Brazil	9	6	-33.33%
13	Bulgaria	7	6	-14.29%
14	Canada	11	10	-9.09%
15	China	176	129	-26.70%
16	Columbia		1	-
17	Comoros		1	-
18	Cook Islands		1	-
19	Croatia	166	149	-10.24%
20	Cuba	1		-100.00%
21	Cyprus	1		-100.00%
22	Czech Republic	11	11	0.00%
23	Denmark	2	3	50.00%
24	Egypt	123	87	-29.27%
25	Estonia	1		-100.00%
26	Ethiopia	2	1	-50.00%
27	Finland	1	2	100.00%
28	France	11	8	-27.27%
29	Georgia	2		-100.00%
30	Germany	55	47	-14.55%
31	Ghana		6	-
32	Greece	7	6	-14.29%
33	Guinea	1		-100.00%
34	Hungary	4	1	-75.00%
35	India	28	15	-46.43%
36	Indonesia		1	-
37	Iran	16	12	-25.00%
38	Iraq	19	15	-21.05%
39	Ireland		1	-
40	Israel	5	7	40.00%
41	Italia	95	86	-9.47%
42	Japan	4	2	-50.00%
43	Jordan	43	38	-11.63%
44	Kazakhstan		1	-
45	Korea, Republic	3	1	-66.67%
46	Kuwait	122	119	-2.46%
47	Kyrgyzstan		1	-

**NUMBER OF ISSUED WORK PERMITS TO FOREIGN NATIONALS  
IN BiH IN 2019 AND 2020**

ANNEX 10

No.	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	2019	2020	+/- (%) (2020/2019)
48	Latvia	1		-100.00%
49	Lebanon	6	6	0.00%
50	Libya	30	17	-43.33%
51	Lithuania	3	2	-33.33%
52	Malaysia	12	7	-41.67%
53	Mali	1		-100.00%
54	Mauritania	1	1	0.00%
55	Moldova	2	3	50.00%
56	Montenegro	92	70	-23.91%
57	Morocco		2	-
58	Namibia	2		-100.00%
59	Nepal	3	1	-66.67%
60	Netherlands Antilles		1	-
61	Nigeria	3	2	-33.33%
62	North Macedonia	64	60	-6.25%
63	Oman	12	8	-33.33%
64	Pakistan	44	25	-43.18%
65	Palestine	13	11	-15.38%
66	Paraguay		1	-
67	Peru		2	-
68	Philippines	5	5	0.00%
69	Poland	7	7	0.00%
70	Portugal		1	-
71	Qatar	38	29	-23.68%
72	Romania	8	8	0.00%
73	Russian Federation	47	48	2.13%
74	Saint Lucia		1	-
75	Saudi Arabia	110	84	-23.64%
76	Senegal	1	2	100.00%
77	Serbia	798	653	-18.17%
78	Slovakia	12	11	-8.33%
79	Slovenia	72	51	-29.17%
80	South Africa	2	1	-50.00%
81	Spain	6	3	-50.00%
82	Sri Lanka	1	1	0.00%
83	Sudan	3	6	100.00%
84	Sweden	5	3	-40.00%
85	Switzerland	5		-100.00%
86	Syrian Arab Republic	114	99	-13.16%
87	Tanzania		1	-
88	The Netherlands	21	15	-28.57%
89	Tunisia	3	2	-33.33%
90	Turkey	418	289	-30.86%
91	Turkmenistan	1	3	200.00%
92	Ukraine	9	10	11.11%
93	United Arab Emirates	73	63	-13.70%
94	United Kingdom	18	16	-11.11%

**NUMBER OF ISSUED WORK PERMITS TO FOREIGN NATIONALS  
IN BiH IN 2019 AND 2020**

ANNEX 10

No.	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	2019	2020	+/- (%) (2020/2019)
95	United States of America	48	36	-25.00%
96	Uzbekistan	1		-100.00%
97	Venezuela	1	2	100.00%
98	Yemen	31	24	-22.58%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>3,183</b>	<b>2,586</b>	<b>-18.76%</b>