



206

Migrants interviewed



67%

of respondents reported the use of facilitation



85%

Travelled throughout the country by walking



35%

Travelled by bus



48%

Travelled by taxi

(Multiple answers possible)

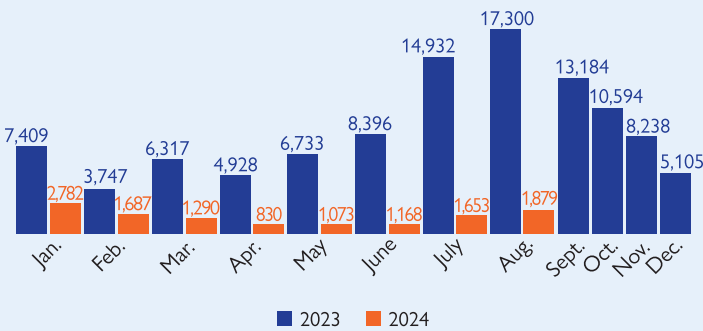


1,879

SCRM recorded in August 2024

This report provides insights into the profiles, experiences and journeys of migrants transiting through the Republic of Serbia. Data was collected from 1 to 31 August 2024 together with the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia (SCRM). The sample consists of 206 interviewed migrants in Asylum Centres (AC) Sjenica, (AC) Krnjaca, (AC) Obrenovac and Reception Centres (RC) Bujanovac, (RC) Presevo.

In August 2024, the SCRM reported a total of 1,879 recorded migrants. In July 2024, the total number of migrants recorded by SCRM was 1,653.



PROFILES

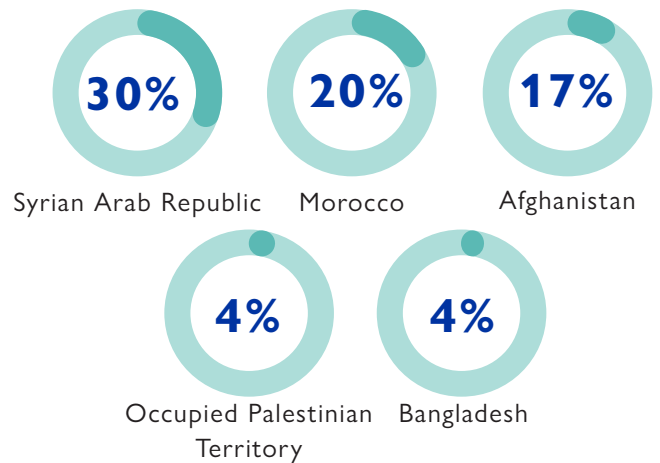


Figure 1: Top five countries of origin (n=206)

KEY FINDINGS

- In August 2024, the number of SCRM-recorded migrants increased by 13 per cent, compared to July 2024. The number of SCRM recorded migrants has been on a steady rise since April 2024.
- In August 2024, 67 per cent of respondents reported being accompanied by a facilitator to cross into Serbia, which is a 15 per cent increase from July 2024.
- Over half of the respondents (53%) who entered Serbia from North Macedonia reported that they were facilitated, which is a 23 per cent increase when compared to July 2024.
- In August 2024, twenty-four per cent of respondents reported that they had attempted and failed a border crossing, which is a 16 per cent decrease compared to the previous month.

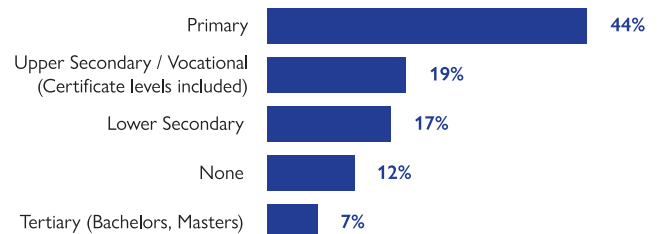


Figure 2: Highest level of educational attainment (n=206)

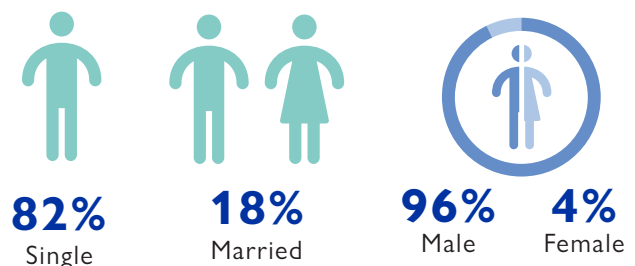


Figure 3: Marital status (n=206)

Figure 4: Disaggregation by sex (n=206)

JOURNEYS

Bulgaria and North Macedonia remain the main entry points into Serbia. In this sample, 60 per cent of respondents entered from Bulgaria and 30 per cent from North Macedonia. The remaining ten per cent entered from various neighbouring countries as well as the airport.

Sixty-seven per cent of respondents reported that they used facilitation to cross borders during their journey. Seventy-eight per cent of respondents who entered from Bulgaria revealed they were facilitated, compared to the 66 per cent from July.

The overall facilitation rate reported by the whole sample is 67 per cent in August 2024. In July, the rate of reported facilitations from North Macedonia increased from 30 per cent to 53 per cent in August 2024. The majority (86%) of the overall sample reported travelling with a group out of which more than half (55%) did so with facilitators.

Respondents who confirmed that they were facilitated to cross the border into Serbia, paid on average 625 EUR. The reported facilitation cost from Bulgaria was 800 EUR, a 100 EUR increase from July, however, the average cost of entry from North Macedonia remained consistent with the previous month at 500 EUR. Key informant interviews revealed that increased border patrols may potentially have had an impact on the price of facilitation services.

Twenty-four per cent of respondents reported that they had attempted and failed to cross a border at least once. This is a 16 per cent decrease in reported attempts to cross borders to leave Serbia. The majority (94%) of the respondents reported being returned by the authorities as the reason for their return.

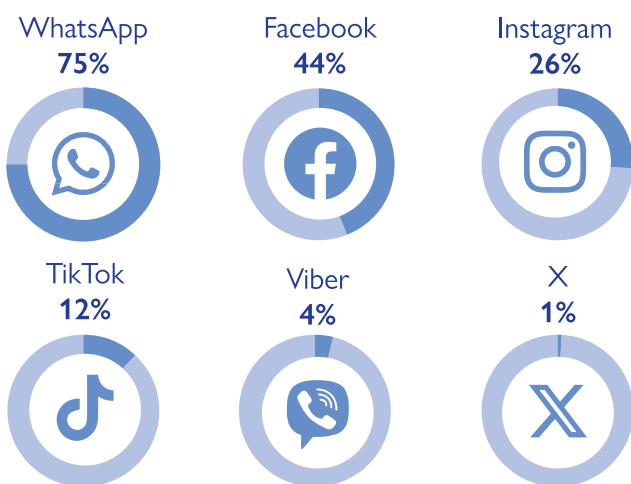


Figure 5: Most frequently cited platforms migrants use to plan their journeys (n=206)
(Multiple answers possible)

REASONS FOR LEAVING

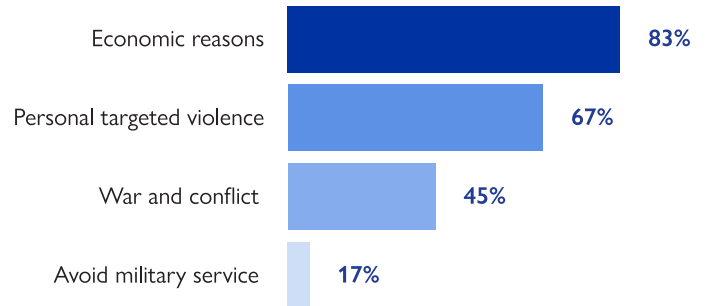


Figure 6: Main reasons for leaving the country of origin (n=206)

(Multiple answers possible)

INTENDED DESTINATION COUNTRIES

Of those surveyed, 62 per cent reported residing in a transit country for longer than a year. Türkiye remained the most frequently cited country (86%). Eighty per cent stated they had left the transit country due to fearing deportation back to their country of origin. Fifty-eight per cent mentioned deteriorating economic conditions, and fifty-three per cent revealed personal targeted violence as the third most common reason for deciding to leave the transit country.

Figure 7 below provides a percentage breakdown of the top five intended countries of destination:

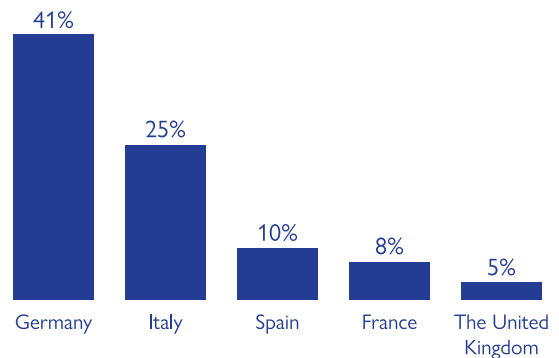


Figure 7: Top five countries of destination (n=206)

Figure 8 shows the three most frequently cited reasons for choosing the intended destination countries.

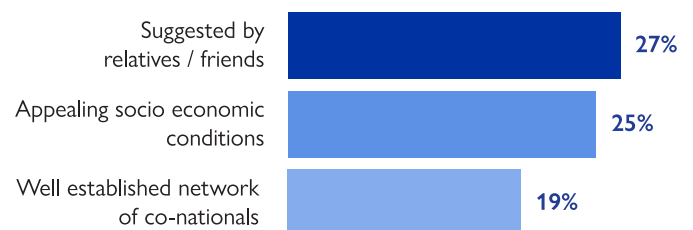


Figure 8: Main reasons for choosing stated destination country (n=206)

INTENDED DESTINATION BY NATIONALITY

Figure 9 below shows the top 10 nationalities and their intended destinations. Interviewees from the Occupied Palestinian Territory were mostly (44%) travelling to Spain, France (22%), Italy (11%), and Germany (11%). Nationals of the Syrian Arab Republic mainly (84%) intended to go to Germany, while the nationals of Morocco stated Italy (54%).

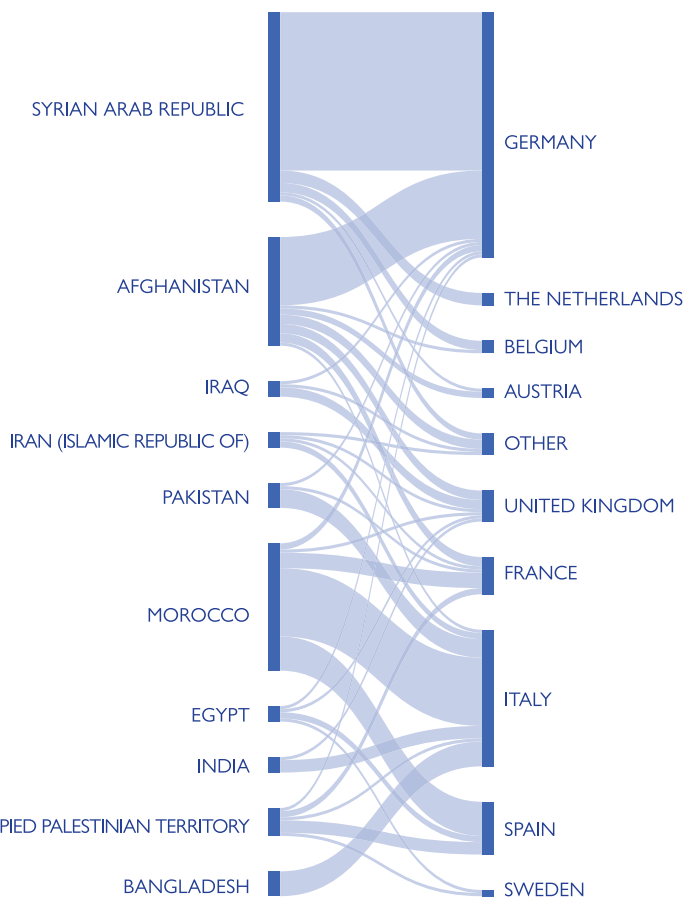


Figure 9: Intended country of destination by nationality (top 10)
(n=182)

METHODOLOGY

This report uses a multi-source and multi-method approach with the aim of providing insights into the profiles, experiences, needs, movement patterns and intentions of migrants transiting through Serbia.

Some information which serves as context or explanation for particular concepts or trends are repetitive in each report, as it is important for new readers to be able to understand the information.

Survey interviews with migrants

The questionnaire is administered via Kobo Toolbox and collects information on the age, sex and nationalities of respondents, information about their journeys to Serbia, recorded numbers information and movement modalities within the country. The survey is anonymized, voluntary and respondents do not receive compensation for participation. Respondents can choose not to answer any question and can withdraw their consent at any moment.

Data was collected from 1 to 31 August 2024 in RCs/ACs (AC Sjenica, AC Krnjaca, AC Obrenovac, RC Bujanovac, RC Presevo).

Key informant interviews

Key informants can help provide information on the modus operandi of migrant mobility. The purpose of the key informant interviews is to contextualize the quantitative data gathered through the survey.

LIMITATIONS

The data collection is conducted in the context of the following limitations:

1. The data is based on a convenience sample of migrants in the survey locations during the time frame indicated and can therefore not be generalized to the broader population of migrants in Serbia, or anywhere else.
2. The data collection is limited to the RCs/ACs. Entry points, bus stations, and railroads are known locations of migrant movements, however, in Serbia IOM and SCRM did not collect data at such locations.