

Bosnia and Herzegovina



Босна и Херцеговина

Ministry of Security

Министарство безбједности

Immigration Sector

# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA MIGRATION PROFILE

for the year 2019

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

Total length of border: 1,604 km

Total number of border crossings: 83



Sarajevo, March 2020

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## Summary

The Migration Profile of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: the BiH Migration Profile) has been produced for the purpose of creating a mechanism for gathering statistical data on migration and international protection; it is to be a system for processing migration statistics, and 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 be a basis for creation of the BiH Ministry of Security's policies and regulations. It is also to provide international organisations competent for migrations with more comprehensive insight into migration trends of BiH.

By creation of annually updated Migration Profile, another requirement of the European Commission's **Visa Liberalisation Road Map** was fulfilled. 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 establishing of a body responsible for monitoring and provision of data analysis on the migration stocks and flows"*.

Comprehensive achievement of *the Road Map* 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 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 in field of 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 a deadline for the BiH institutions to provide the BiH Ministry of Security with statistics on migration and international protection for preceding year not later than 31<sup>st</sup> January of the current year. In accordance with the Decision, the 2019 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 (Diaspora Sector), the Ministry of Civil Affairs (Sector for Citizenship and Travel Documents), the BiH Labour and Employment Agency, the BiH Ministry of Security (Immigration Sector), the BiH Ministry of Security (Asylum Sector), the

BiH Ministry of Security (Service for Foreigners' Affairs), and the BiH Ministry of Security (BiH Border Police).

Once the data are collected, a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the data is approached. Annual reports of certain institutions and agencies serve as an additional source of qualitative information, which is needed for further understanding of migration statistics and trends. Quantitative and qualitative data processing encompasses general migration flows in the last decade, thus the document covers the 2010 to 2019 period with comparative indicators for migration flows in 2018 and 2019. After having processed and analysed all available data, the 2019 BiH Migration Profile was produced.

The BiH Migration Profile for the year 2019 encompasses the data on: visas, refusal of entry, illegal border crossings, temporary and permanent residence of foreign nationals, illegal migrations and measures imposed on foreign nationals, return of irregular migrants, international protection (asylum), work permits issued to foreigners, acquisition of the BiH citizenship, emigration from BiH, as well as the BiH immigration policy with its legal and institutional framework.

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

### **1. Visas**

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

In 2019, the BiH Diplomatic-Consular Missions issued 47,694 visas, which is an increase by 53% in comparison to 2018 having 31,171 such visa. An annual overview of visas issued since 2010 shows a trend of constant increase, which reached its peak in 2019.

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

In 2019, a total of 19 visas were issued at the BiH border, which is lesser by 44.12% than in 2018 with 34 such visas. With exception of 2015, annual overview of data compiled since 2010 shows a trend of constant decrease in number of visas issued at the BiH border.

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

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

In 2019, the BiH Border Police refused entry to 2,342 foreign nationals, which is an increase by 26.39% in comparison to 2017 with 1,853 refused entries.

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

In 2019, the number of illegal border crossings detected in BiH amounted to 5,859 (921 illegal entry to and 4,938 illegal exits from BiH), which is an increase by 30.52% in comparison to 2018 when 4,489 illegal border crossings were detected.

### **3. Temporary and Permanent Residence**

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

In 2019, 10,133 temporary residences were granted to foreign nationals in BiH, which is a decrease by 5.79% than in 2018 when 10,756 temporary residences were approved. If observing annual trends as of 2010, there is a constant increase in the number of approved temporary residences in BiH until the year of 2015, which was followed by a slight decline started towards 2019.

### **3.2. Permanent Residence**

In 2019, 816 permanent residences were granted to foreign nationals in BiH. The number is almost equal to 2018 when 815 permanent residences were approved.

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

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

In 2019, the number of revoked visa-free or temporary residences amounted to 208, which is an increase by 10.05% in comparison to 2018 when 189 visa-free or temporary residences were revoked. With respect to revocation of permanent residences, the year of 2019 records 20 revocations of permanent residence, which is a decrease by 44.44%, as in the year of 2018 this number was 36.

### **4.2. Expulsion Decisions**

In 2019, there was 1,554 expulsion decisions, which is a slight increase in comparison to 2018 when 1,540 expulsion decisions were issued (1%). In addition to above stated, 2019 is marked by 34 issued decisions on revocation of non-visa or temporary residences with expulsion measures, whereas this number in 2018 was 17.

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

In 2019, 710 foreign nationals were placed under surveillance in the Immigration Centre, which is a decrease by 25.10% in comparison to 2018 having 948 such measures. Nonetheless, milder measures of surveillance at certain area or place were imposed on 358 foreigners.

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

In 2019, 3 expulsion decisions were issued, which is exactly the same number as in 2018.

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

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

In 2019, IOM provided assistance to 190 BiH nationals in their voluntary return to Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the period from 2010 to 2019, this program enabled the return of 1,690 BiH nationals.

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

In the period from 2012 to 2017, IOM did not organize voluntary returns of foreign nationals from BiH through their AVR program owing to lack of financial resources. In 2019, however, IOM organized the return of 434 foreigners to their countries of origin. As of 2010, in such manner from BiH was returned a total of 1,272 foreign nationals.

In 2019, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs conducted voluntarily return of 403 foreigners from Bosnia and Herzegovina, while in 2018 this number was 324. From 2012 to 2019, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs returned from BiH a total of 2,268 foreign nationals.

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

In 2019, a total of 826 BiH nationals were admitted under readmission agreements. Out of this number, approvals for admission of 474 BiH nationals were given in accordance with 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 352 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, 783 third-country nationals were admitted in 2019, which is an increase by 20.09% in comparison to previous year with 652 such foreign nationals.

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

In 2019, 784 persons applied for asylum in BiH, whereas this number in 2018 was 1,568. In the period from 2010 to 2019, a total of 3,166 persons sought asylum in BiH.

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

In 2019, 3,183 work permits were issued to foreign nationals, which is an increase by 12.79% in comparison to 2018 when 2,822 work permits were issued.

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

In 2019, 657 persons were granted BiH citizenship, which represents a decrease by 9.75% in comparison to 2018. Majority of persons granted BiH citizenship were the nationals of Serbia (81%).

#### **9. Emigration from BiH**

Based on available official data of 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 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 producing the BiH Migration Profile as it compiles the migration statistics, processes the data and produces reports for different purposes. It is important to highlight that the Division needs to be further developed in field of: monitoring the migration flows, developing specialized 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 stem from 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 – in the part relating to visas issued by the BiH DCMs; the BiH Border Police – 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 Law on Foreigners and the Law on Asylum in BiH. The tables encompass the data collected throughout the year of 2019 on persons' country of citizenship, birth, gender and age, as well as on other parameters relevant for procedures and decisions relating to the movement and stay of foreigners and asylum in BiH.

Upon receipt of tables filled in by relevant institutions, organisations and agencies, a quantitative and qualitative analysis of submitted data is conducted. Annual reports



produced by individual institutions and organisations are also consulted as additional source of qualitative information, which is required 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 Council of Ministers issued 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 Crossings”, which was concluded on the occasion of the Republic Croatia’s accession to the European Union.

## 2. Availability and Quality of Data

Analysis of provided data resulted with several conclusions relating to availability and quality of data. Majority of institutions, organisations and agencies managed to deliver the 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 Labour and Employment Agency did comply with 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 obtained, under the Decision, from competent entity-level institutions – the Federal Ministry of Interior and the RS Ministry of Administration and Local Self-Governance.

In the absence of a mechanism for gathering the data on BiH Diaspora, this type of data could not be disaggregated by age or gender. The data gathered through the BiH diplomatic and consular missions and the BiH diaspora organisations/associations active abroad 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 insufficiency in terms of completeness of submitted data, their quality was satisfactory. 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’ Diaspora Sector enabled an adequate analysis of migration flows and drafting of the BiH Migration Profile for the year 2019. **This Migration Profile is the twelfth annual Migration Profile of Bosnia and Herzegovina produced until today.**

### **3. Conducted Consultations**

The Draft of the BiH Migration Profile was disseminated to all institutions, organisations and agencies that took part in its creation for the purpose of receiving their opinions, remarks and possible suggestions. Upon receipt of feedbacks, the draft of BiH Migration Profile for the year 2019 was revised, submitted to the Security Minister for his approval and, subsequently, referred to the BiH Council of Ministers for the adoption.

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at its 7<sup>th</sup> session held on 02 June 2020, adopted the BiH Migration Profile for the year 2019.

## II THE BiH MIGRATION PROFILE

### 1. Visas

A visa is a permit for crossing of 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 whose nationals do not require a visa for entry to BiH. Visas are issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through 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.

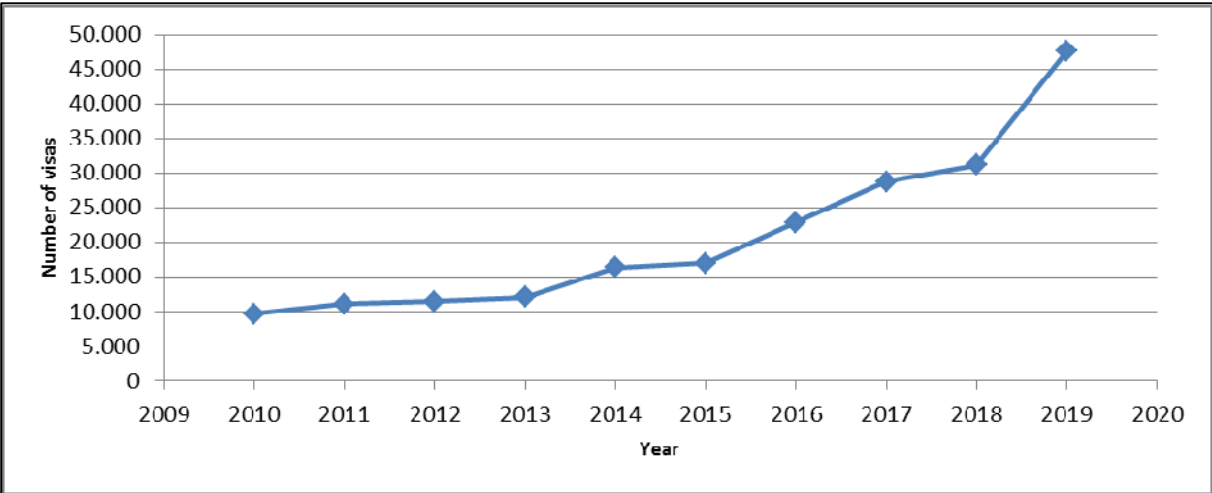
#### 1.1. Visas Issued by the BiH DCMs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided the data presented in the table below with accompanying graph demonstrating the number of visas issued per year, with a brief analysis of observed trends.

**Table 1. Total number of visas issued from 2010 to 2019**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Visas	9,623	11,126	11,482	12,107	16,351	16,970	22,862	28,751	31,171	47,694

**Graphic overview of visas issued from 2010 to 2019**



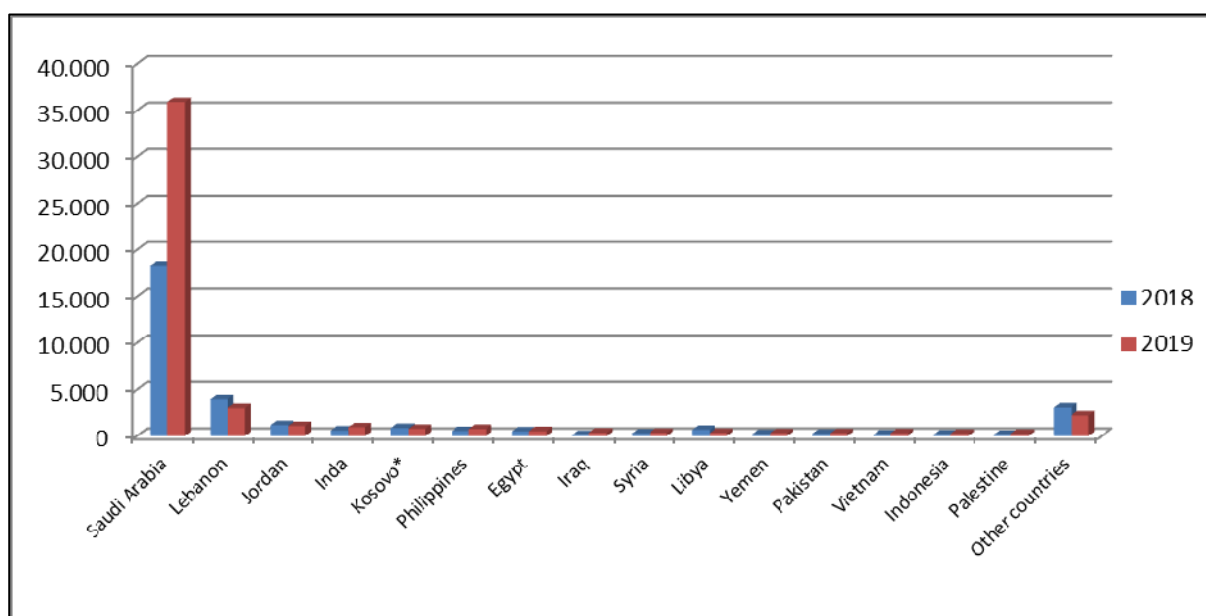
Analysis of data relating to the number of visas issued by the BiH DCMs during presented period revealed a trend of continuous increase from 2010. As for 2019, there was a significant increase in the number of issued visas in comparison to 2018 (53%).

To define ongoing issues pertaining to visas, hereby are presented comparative indicators on the number of visas issued in 2018 and 2019 for the countries whose nationals were granted the largest number of visas for entry to BiH, accompanied with a brief analysis of the observed parameters.

**Table 2. Total number of visas issued in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by countries**

No.	Country	2018	2019	%
1	Saudi Arabia	18,333	35,905	95.85%
2	Lebanon	4,009	2,956	-26.27%
3	Jordan	1,181	1,083	-8.30%
4	India	597	947	58.63%
5	Kosovo* <sup>1</sup>	873	790	-9.51%
6	Philippines	546	764	39.93%
7	Egypt	524	537	2.48%
8	Iraq	124	375	202.42%
9	Syria	287	361	25.78%
10	Libya	684	350	-48.83%
11	Yemen	222	321	44.59%
12	Pakistan	255	320	25.49%
13	Vietnam	166	307	84.94%
14	Indonesia	192	248	29.17%
15	Palestine	162	240	48.15%
16	Other countries	3,016	2,190	-27.39%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>31,171</b>	<b>47,694</b>	<b>53.01%</b>

**Graphic overview of visas issued in 2018 and 2019 disaggregated by countries**



When disaggregated by countries of origin with greatest number of visas for entry to BiH issued by the BiH DCMs, analysis of data on the number of such visas in 2019 showed a lesser number of visas issued to nationals of Lebanon, Libya, Kosovo\* and Jordan than it was the case in 2018.

If compared to 2018, a significant increase in the number of visas issued during 2019 was observed with respect to nationals of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, India, Vietnam, Palestine, Yemen, and Philippines. A large number of visas issued to Saudi Arabian nationals was granted for tourism purposes as well as for increased activities on organisation of business conferences. Also, a large number of visas issued to Lebanese nationals was linked to the great interest of these nationals for religious tourism and visiting of Medjugorje.

<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.

According to the data provided by the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 48,460 visa applications were filed in 2019. Out of this number, 47,697 applications were positively decided (98.42%).

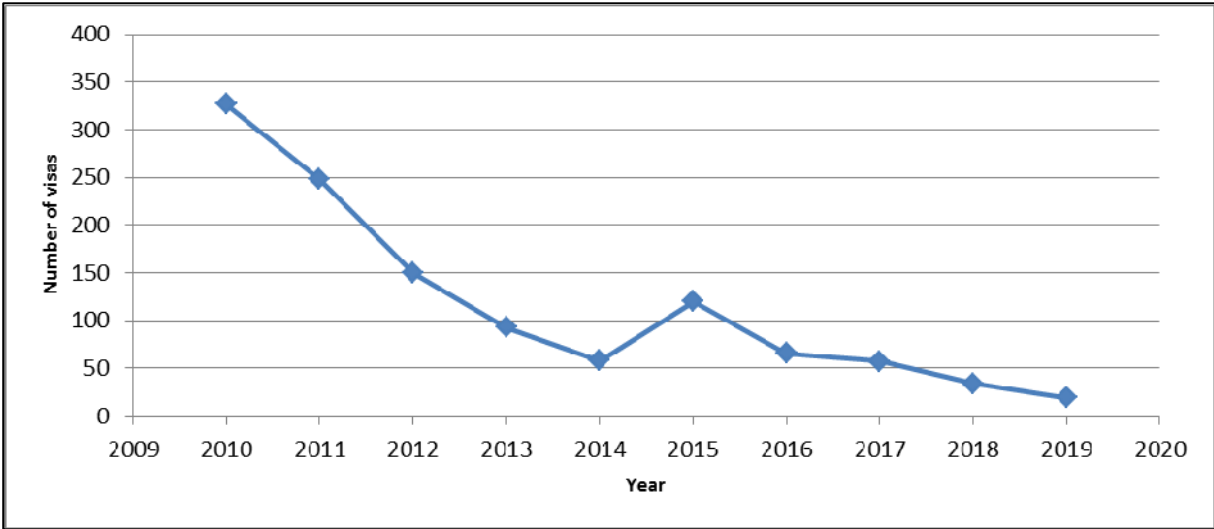
**1.2. Visas Issued at the Border**

The BiH Law on Foreigners provides the BiH Border Police with possibility to issue visas at the border due to 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 2010 to 2019**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Visas	327	248	150	93	58	120	66	57	34	19

**Graphic overview of visas issued at the BiH border from 2010 to 2019**



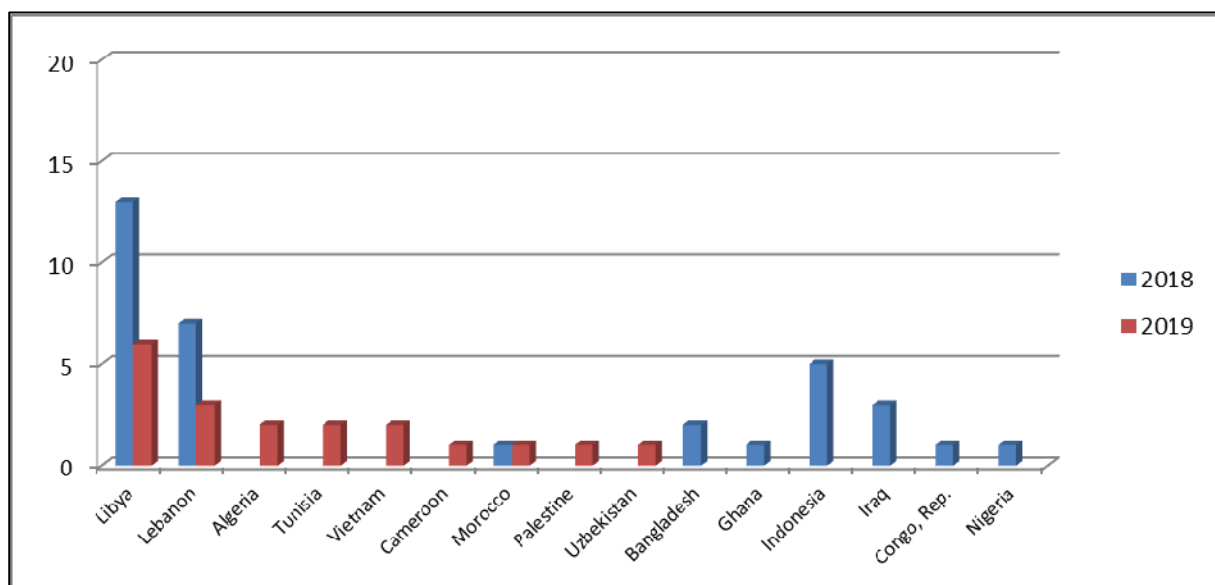
Analysis of the number of visas issued at the border over the reporting period revealed a significant declining trend since 2010. It, therefore, can be concluded that the goal to fulfil one of the EU requirements and reduce the number of visas issued at the border was achieved. These indicators resulted 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 its consistent application 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 2018 and 2019 for the countries whose nationals were granted the largest number of entry visas to BiH, accompanied with a brief analysis of the observed parameters and notes on amendments to the legislation for the purpose of better interpretation of the data.

**Table 4. Total number of visas issue at the border in 2018 and 2019 disaggregated by countries**

No.	Country	2018	2019	%
1	Libya	13	6	-53.85%
2	Lebanon	7	3	-57.14%
3	Algeria	-	2	-
4	Tunisia	-	2	-
5	Vietnam	-	2	-
6	Cameroon	-	1	-
7	Morocco	1	1	0.00%
8	Palestine	-	1	-
9	Uzbekistan	-	1	-
10	Bangladesh	2	-	-100.00%
11	Ghana	1	-	-100.00%
12	Indonesia	5	-	-100.00%
13	Iraq	3	-	-100.00%
14	Congo, Rep.	1	-	-100.00%
15	Nigeria	1	-	-100.00%
<b>Total</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>-44,12%</b>

**Graphic overview of visas issued in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by countries**



When observing the last decade, initial trend of continuous decline started changing in the year of 2014 to increase as of 2015 by 107% (than it was in 2014). 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 the constant reduction in the number of such visas. According to the Annual Report on the Work of the BiH Border Police in 2019<sup>2</sup>, 19 visas were issued at the international border crossings. With respect to visa annulment, the year of 2019 has registered 100 cases of visa annulment (50 to nationals of Iraq, 25 to nationals of Pakistan, 14 to nationals of Bangladesh, 6 to Eritrea, 2 to nationals of each Jordan and Yemen, and one to a national of Nepal). The year of 2018 registered 13 cases of visa annulment (6 to nationals of Pakistan, 3 to nationals of Congo, and one for each national of Comoros, Syria, Bangladesh, and Saudi Arabia), as well as 6 case of visa cancellations (5 to nationals of Pakistan, and one to national of Cameroon).

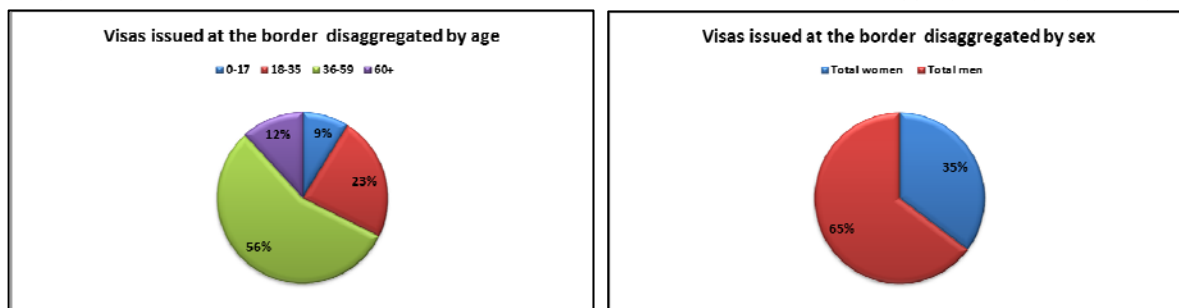
<sup>2</sup> The BiH Border Police "Analysis of the BiH Border Police Activities in 2019" Sarajevo, January 2020, p. 22

In terms of the most frequent countries whose nationals were issued visas at the BiH border, data for 2019 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 the persons between 18 and 35 years of age (63%), as evidenced by the tables and graphs below.

**Table 5. Structure of visas issued at the border in 2018, disaggregated by age, gender and nationality**

	Libya	Lebanon	Indonesia	Iraq	Bangladesh	Other countries (out of a total of 9)	Total
0-17	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
18-35	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
36-59	1	2	0	1	0	1	5
60+	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total woman</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>
0-17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18-35	5	0	1	0	0	0	6
36-59	4	2	2	2	2	2	14
60+	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
<b>Total men</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Total by nationality</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>34</b>

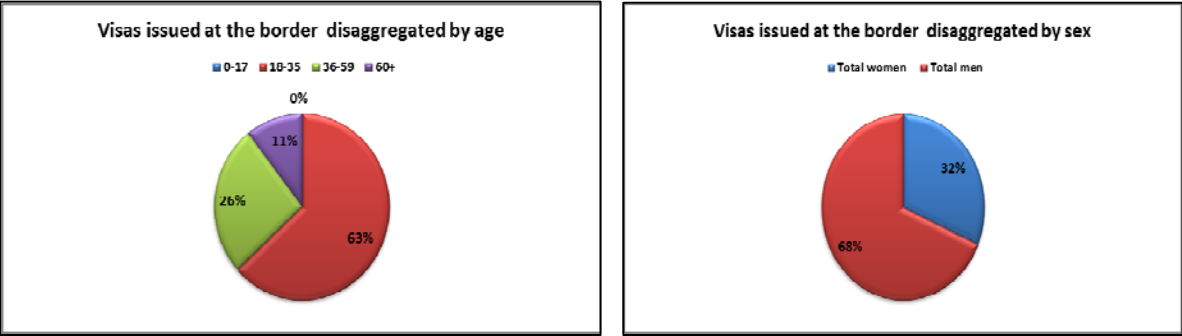
**Graphic overview of the total number of visas issued at the border in 2018, disaggregated by age and gender**



**Table 6. 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
<b>Total woman</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
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
<b>Total men</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Total by nationality</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>

**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 in accordance with provisions of the Law. 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**

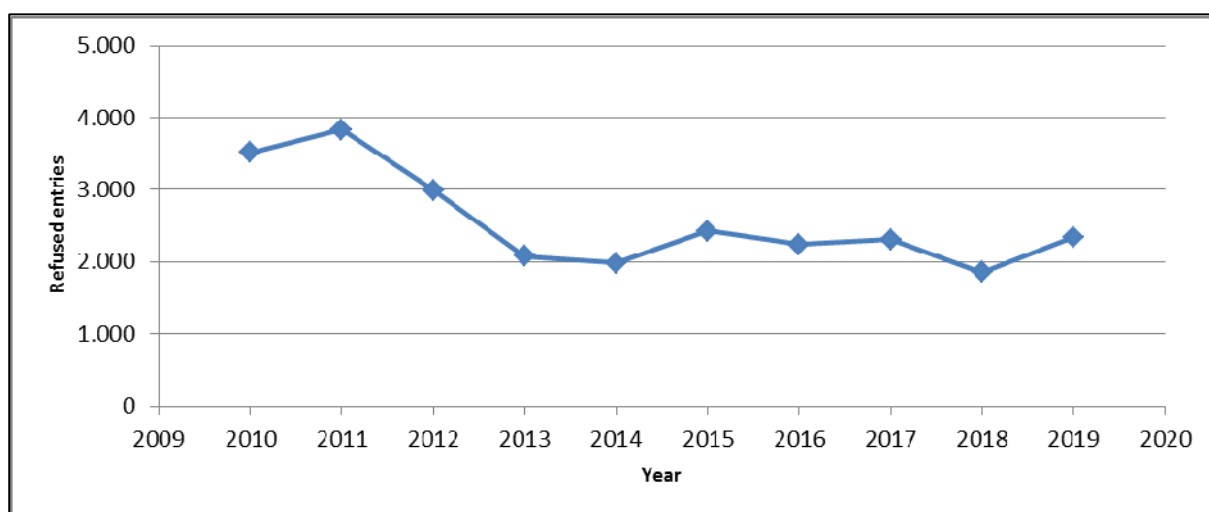
A foreigner who does not meet general requirements for entering Bosnia and Herzegovina under Articles 19 and 20 of the Law on Foreigners, nor is a subject to international treaty or decision on entry under special conditions, may be refused entry to BiH.

**Table 7. Total number of refused entries at the BiH border from 2010 to 2019**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Refusals of entry	3,514	3,830	2,998	2,079	1,987	2,432	2,243	2,313	1,853	2,342



### Graphic overview of refused entries to BiH from 2010 to 2019



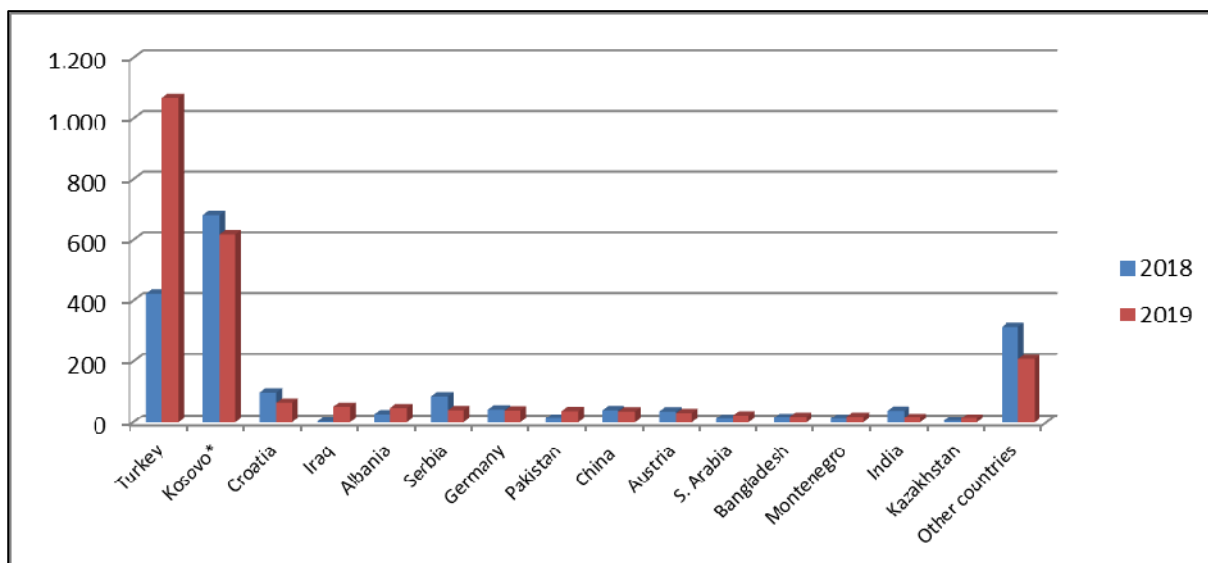
Analysis of data relating to the number of refused entries at the border within relevant timeframe reveals that the period from 2011 to 2014 was marked by a steady reduction in the number of refused entries at the border, while the period from 2014 to 2018 had a fairly uniform number of such refusals. When compared to 2018, the number of refused entries in 2019 increased by 26.39% as it registers 2,342 refused entries.

To define current state of affairs in the field, hereby are presented comparative indicators on the number of refused entries during 2018 and 2019 for 15 countries whose nationals were issued the largest number of decisions on refused entry to BiH, accompanied with a brief analysis of the observed parameters.

**Table 8. Total number of refused entries at the border in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by countries**

No.	Country	2018	2019	%
1	Turkey	422	1,069	153.32%
2	Kosovo*	683	618	-9.52%
3	Croatia	97	65	-32.99%
4	Iraq	3	52	1.633.33%
5	Albania	28	48	71.43%
6	Serbia	85	41	-51.76%
7	Germany	43	40	-6.98%
8	Pakistan	14	38	171.43%
9	China	41	37	-9.76%
10	Austria	37	32	-13.51%
11	S. Arabia	13	24	84.62%
12	Bangladesh	16	20	25.00%
13	Montenegro	13	20	53.85%
14	India	39	16	-58.97%
15	Kazakhstan	6	14	133.33%
16	Other countries	313	208	-33.55%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>2,342</b>	<b>26.39%</b>

Graphic overview of refused entries at the BiH border in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by countries



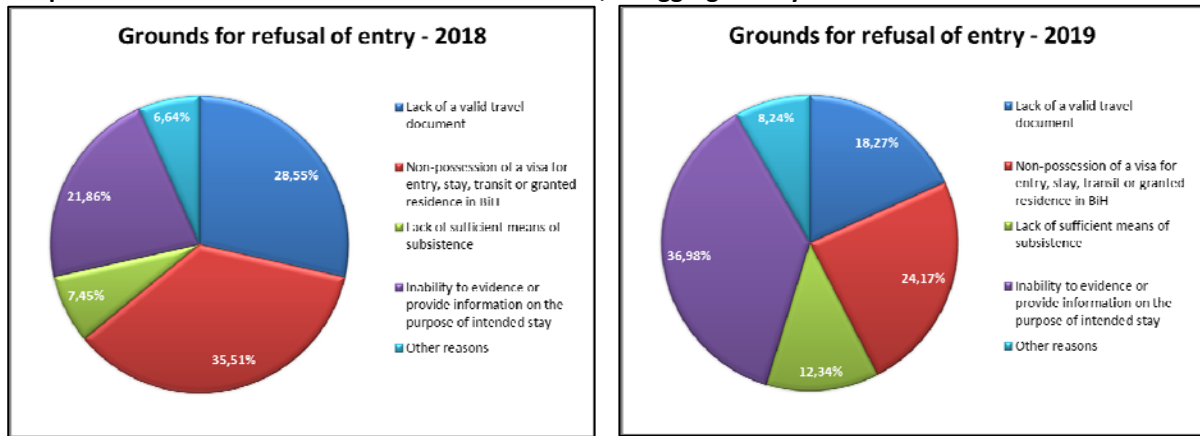
In 2019, the greatest number of refused entries to BiH concerned Turkey (1,069) and Kosovo\* (618) amounting to 72% of the total number of refused entries to BiH. When considering the nationality of persons refused entry to BiH, the Report on Activities of the BiH Border Police reveals that nationals of Turkey were mainly refused entry due to inability to evidence the purpose of intended stay and lack of sufficient means of subsistence, whereas the holders of a travel document bearing indication of Kosovo\* were refused entry due to lack of a valid travel document or non-possession of a visa.

It should be noted that the year of 2019 was marked by decrease in number of refused entries for nationals of Serbia (52%), Croatia (33%), Austria (14%), China (10%), Kosovo\* (10%), and Germany (7%). The same period, however, also marks a significant increase in the number of refused entries for nationals of Turkey, Iraq, Albania, Pakistan and Kazakhstan. In 2019, entry to BiH was refused to 2,342 foreign nationals, out of which 1,715 refusals were pronounced at the BiH land border and 627 refusals at international airports. Refusal of foreign nationals' entry to BiH pertained to: inability to prove or provide information about the purpose of intended stay (36.68%); non-possession of visas for entry, stay, transit over the territory of BiH, or residence permit as stipulated by the Law (24.25%); non-possession of valid travel documents (18.36%); lack of sufficient means of subsistence (12.38%); annulment or ban on entry to BiH territory (4.31%); and other reasons (4.02%).<sup>3</sup>

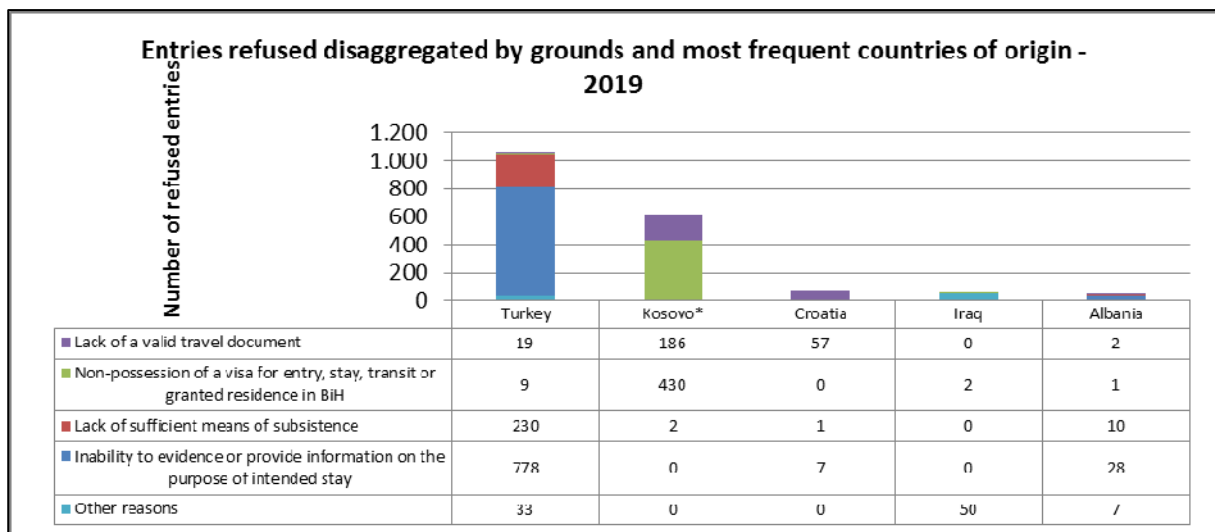
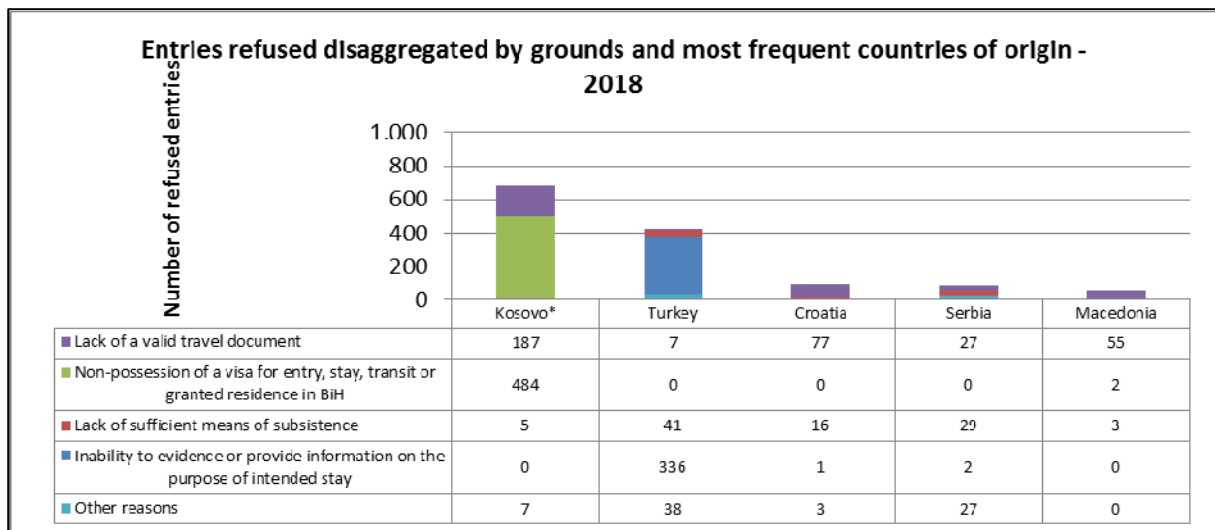
Majority of bans on crossing the state border pronounced at the border crossing points were reasoned by impossibility to prove the purpose of intended stay, lack of a visa for entry, and the lack of a valid travel document.

<sup>3</sup> The BiH Border Police, "Analysis of the BiH Border Police Activities in 2019", Sarajevo, January 2020, p. 13

**Graphic overview of refused entries in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by reason of refusal**



**Graphic overview of the number of refused entries in 2018 and 2019, 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 2018, a total of 4,489 persons were detected in an attempt to illegally cross the BiH border. In 2019, the figures reached 5,859 persons (increase by 30.52%), it being a direct consequence of mass migration movements that took over the country. Namely, the year of 2015 was marked by a significant increase in migrations towards 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 transit countries, primarily Serbia, but also in the other countries on the Western Balkans route, who, along with those migrants who continuously arrived from countries on the outer borders of Europe, were brought into a situation to seek new routes towards the desired destination countries. As a result of the aforementioned migration movements, Bosnia and Herzegovina faced intensified illegal migration movements in the last quarter of 2017 as well as throughout 2018 and 2019.

With respect to 2019, it should also be noted that the BiH Border Police registered 13,251 prevented attempts of illegal entry the BiH territory from the territory of neighbouring countries, to which the person were returned (note: the number, however, also encompasses the persons engaged in multiple attempts of illegal crossing of the border). This measure is envisaged by Article 37 of the Law on Border Control, and is carried by direct engagement of the BiH Border Police officers at immediate border line aimed at prevention of foreign nationals' illegal entry to the BiH territory.<sup>5</sup>

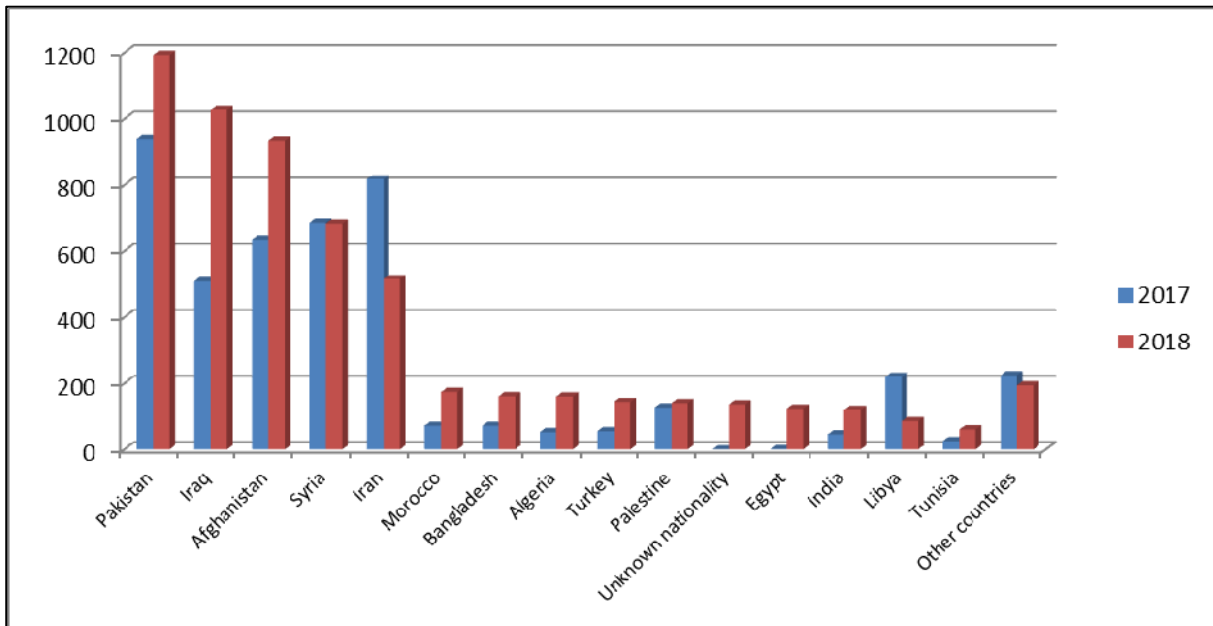
**Table 9. Detected illegal border crossings in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by nationalities**

No.	Country	2018	2019	%
1	Pakistan	941	1,193	26.78%
2	Iraq	509	1,029	102.16%
3	Afghanistan	636	936	47.17%
4	Syria	686	683	-0.44%
5	Iran	818	516	-36.92%
6	Morocco	72	174	141.67%
7	Bangladesh	72	161	123.61%
8	Algeria	53	160	201.89%
9	Turkey	56	144	157.14%
10	Palestine	128	141	10.16%
11	Unknown nationality	-	137	-
12	Egypt	1	124	12,300.00%
13	India	46	120	160.87%
14	Libya	220	86	-60.91%
15	Tunisia	26	61	134.62%
16	Other countries	225	194	-15.98%
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,489</b>	<b>5,859</b>	<b>30.52%</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 2019", Sarajevo, January 2020, p. 6

**Graphic overview of detected illegal border crossings in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by countries**

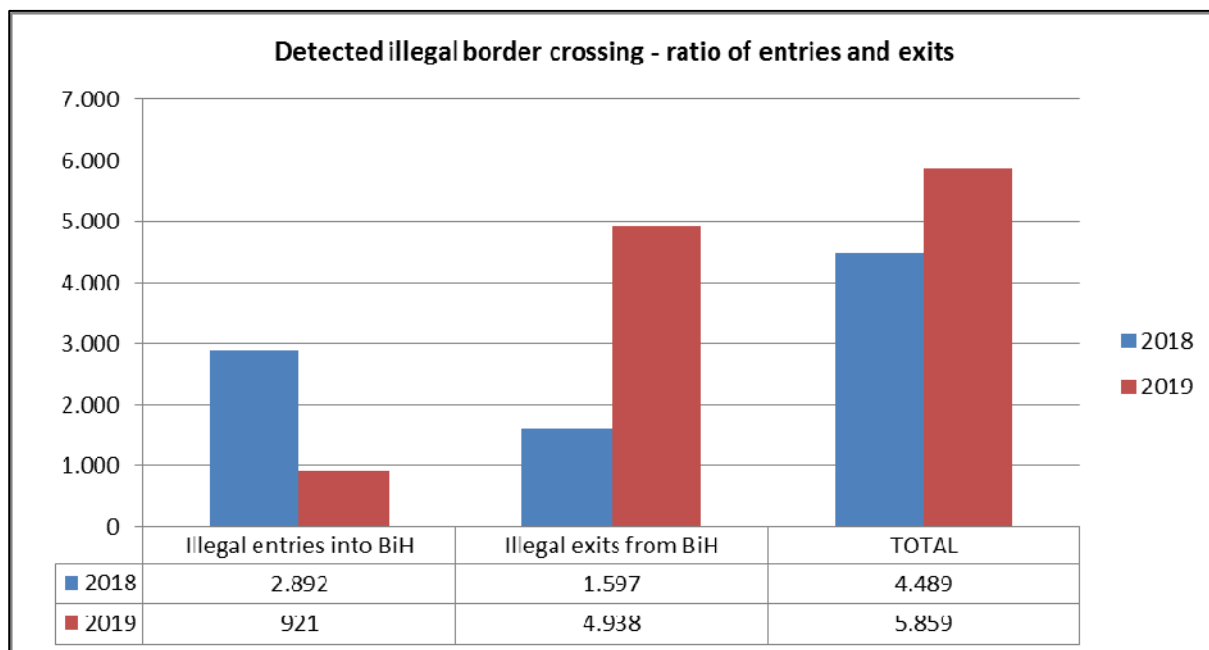


According to available data for 2019, most of detected illegal crossings pertained to nationals of Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and Iran (74% of the total number of illegal crossings). In addition to above stated, a significant increase in the number of detected illegal crossings of the state border related to nationals of Morocco, Bangladesh, Algeria, Turkey, Egypt, India and Tunisia. On the other hand, there has been a noticeable decline in the number of illegal border crossings by nationals of Iran and Libya. According to data from the Report on Work of the BiH Border Police: “in 2019, a total number of persons registered at the border crossing points in illegal crossing of the state border was 440 (129 at the entry + 331 at the exit), whereas 5,419 persons (792 at the entry + 4,627 at exit) were registered outside the border crossing (border zone)”<sup>6</sup>. In 2018, “a total number of persons registered at the border crossing points in illegal crossing of the state border was 617 (232 at the entry + 385 at the exit), whereas 3,872 persons (2,660 at the entry + 1,212 at exit) were registered outside the border crossing (border zone)”<sup>7</sup>. The data indicate a more frequent tendency of illegal border crossings outside the border crossing points themselves.

<sup>6</sup> The BiH Border Police, “Analysis of the BiH Border Police Activities in 2019”, Sarajevo, January 2020, p. 17

<sup>7</sup> The BiH Border Police, “Analysis of the BiH Border Police Activities in 2018”, Sarajevo, January 2019, p. 18

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

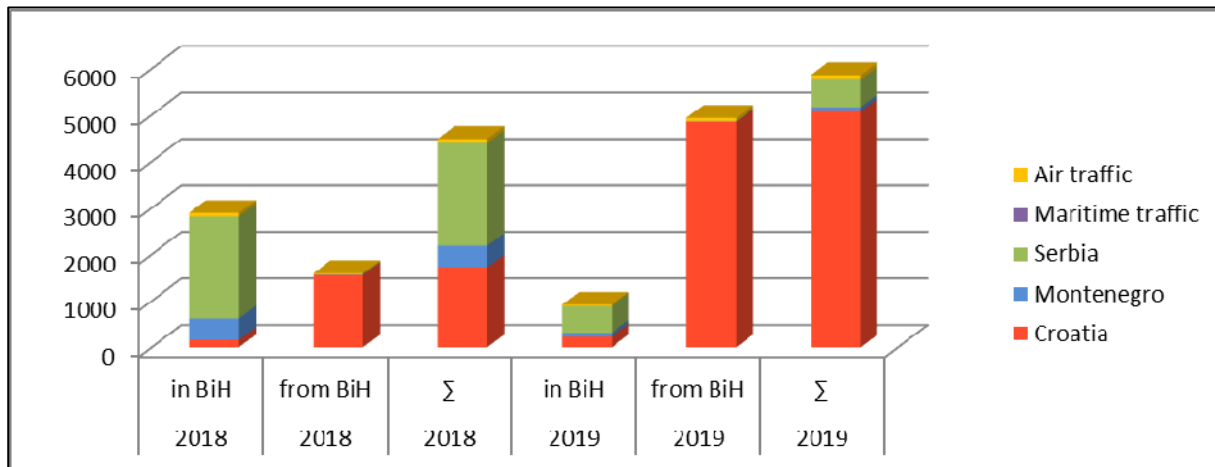


In 2018, illegal exits accounted for 35.57% of the total number of persons detected in the illegal crossing of the state border (4,489), while this percentage in 2019 was 84.28% (5,859 persons). The indicators show that the 2019 percentage of illegal exits from BiH was much higher (84%) than of the entries (16%). As far as the land border is concerned, the BiH Border Police reports that a greater number of illegal crossings (entries and exits) is registered outside the border crossing check points.

**Table 10. Detected illegal border crossings in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by type of border**

Country	2018. into BiH	2018. Out of BiH	2018. Σ	2019. into BiH	2019. Out of BiH	2019. Σ	% into BiH	% Out of BiH	%
Croatia	161	1,558	<b>1,719</b>	231	4,847	<b>5,078</b>	43.48	211.10	<b>195.40</b>
Montenegro	459	5	<b>464</b>	85	7	<b>92</b>	-81.48	40.00	<b>-80.17</b>
Serbia	2,195	19	<b>2,214</b>	580	12	<b>592</b>	-73.58	-36.84	<b>-73.26</b>
Maritime traffic	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>	-	-	-
Air traffic	77	15	<b>92</b>	25	72	<b>97</b>	-67.53	380.00	<b>5.43</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,892</b>	<b>1,597</b>	<b>4,489</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>4,938</b>	<b>5,859</b>	<b>-68.15</b>	<b>209.20</b>	<b>30.52</b>

**Graphic overview of detected illegal border crossings in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by type of border**



Analysis of data relating to illegal crossings in BiH during 2019 per type of border and neighbouring countries showed the number of 5,762 persons being discovered on the land borders, which is a significant increase by 31% in comparison to 2018 when 4,397 irregular crossings were registered at the same type of border. Similarities are also detected in the number of illegal crossings at international airports, where 92 persons were found illegally crossing the border during 2019, while this number in 2018 was 98.

In terms of analysis, it is important to note a significant decrease in the number of illegal crossings of the state border with Serbia (73%) and Montenegro (80%). Out of 592 persons found illegally crossing the state border with Serbia, 98% referred to illegal entries to BiH and only 2% to illegal exits from BiH. Out of 92 persons found in attempt to illegally cross the state border with Montenegro, 92% related to illegal entry to BiH and 8% to illegal exits from BiH. Out of 5,078 persons discovered during the illegal crossing of the state border with Croatia, 5% referred to illegal entries to BiH and 95% to illegal exits from BiH. According to the BiH Border Police data, the majority of illegal exits were recorded at the border with the Republic of Croatia, accounting for 95% 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), or non-visa residence or extended temporary residence (provided that the extension of temporary residence rests on the same grounds), or permanent residence. 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. In case an application is approved, the foreign national is provided with a notification on approved application and granted temporary residence. In case of a temporary residence resting on employment with a work permit or Blue Card, the foreigner is issued a Decision on approved temporary residence thus having his/her temporary residence approved.

**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.

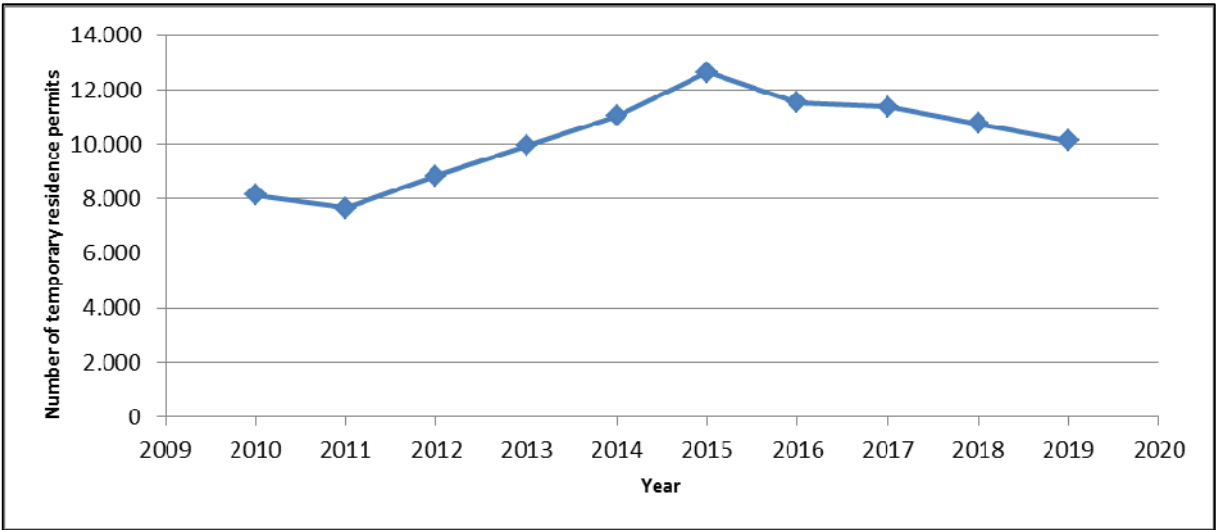
As provided by the Law on Foreigners that came into effect in November 2015, a temporary residence may be issued to a foreigner who intends to reside or is residing in BiH on the grounds of: family reunification, education, humanitarian reasons, employment based on a work permit, employment without a 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 11. Total number of temporary residence permits issued from 2010 to 2019**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Temporary residence	8,131	7,661	8,838	9,953	11,022	12,633	11,519	11,372	10,756	10,133

**Graphic overview of issued temporary residence permits by year from 2010 to 2019**





Proper legal regulations and centralized institutional framework have contributed to better addressing of issues relating to movement and stay of foreigners in BiH. Period from 2011 to 2015 was characterized by a continuous growth of unvarying intensity, which leads us to a conclusion that the area of movement and stay of foreign nationals during this timeframe has been placed under control of competent authorities. In 2016, the number of issued temporary residence permits was reduced by 8.82% compared to the previous year, which is “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 2019 was also marked by a slight decrease in the number of issued temporary residence permits (5.79%). As seen on the graph above, the number of permits/extensions of temporary residence permits issued from 2015 to 2018 was continuously falling, which can be correlated with the decline in the number of issued/extended residence permits to Turkish nationals, who regulated their stay in BiH mainly on the grounds of education.

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

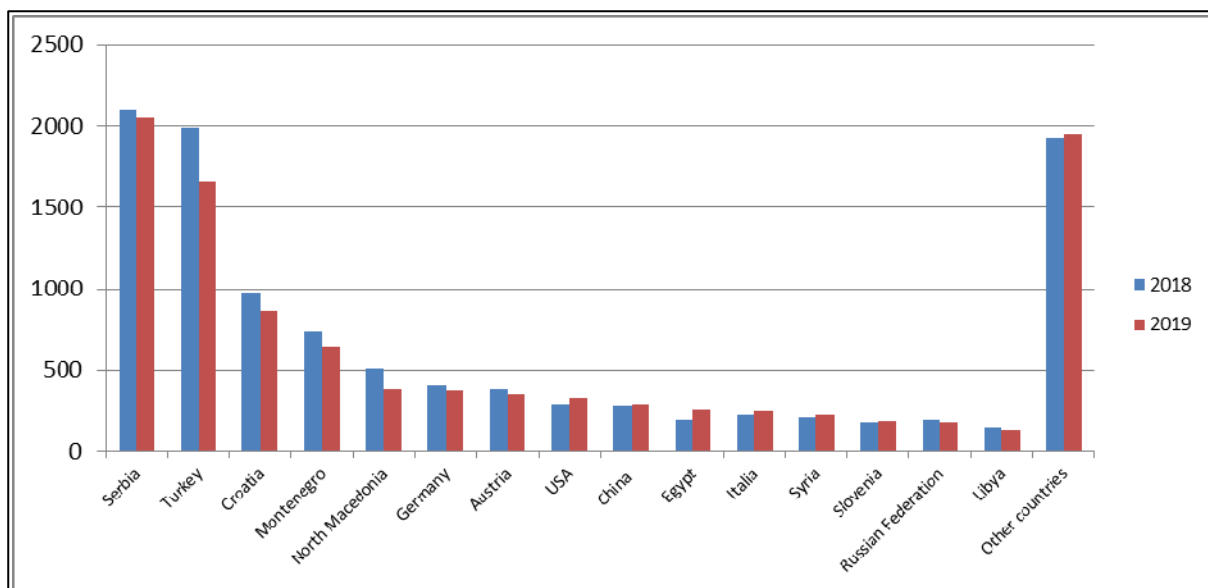
To define current state of affairs pertaining to issuance of temporary residence permits during 2018 and 2019, hereby are presented the indicators of the numbers of residence permits (initial approval or extension of residence permit).

**Table 12. Number of issued temporary residence permits in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by countries**

No.	Country	2018	2019	%
1	Serbia	2,101	2,048	-2.52%
2	Turkey	1,990	1,656	-16.78%
3	Croatia	970	864	-10.93%
4	Montenegro	737	646	-12.35%
5	North Macedonia	511	383	-25.05%
6	Germany	408	374	-8.33%
7	Austria	384	352	-8.33%
8	USA	293	332	13.31%
9	China	281	291	3.56%
10	Egypt	193	260	34.72%
11	Italia	225	257	14.22%
12	Syria	208	226	8.65%
13	Slovenia	181	183	1.10%
14	Russian Federation	192	175	-8.85%
15	Libya	151	135	-10.60%
16	Other countries	1.931	1.951	1.03%
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,756</b>	<b>10,133</b>	<b>-5.79%</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 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by countries**

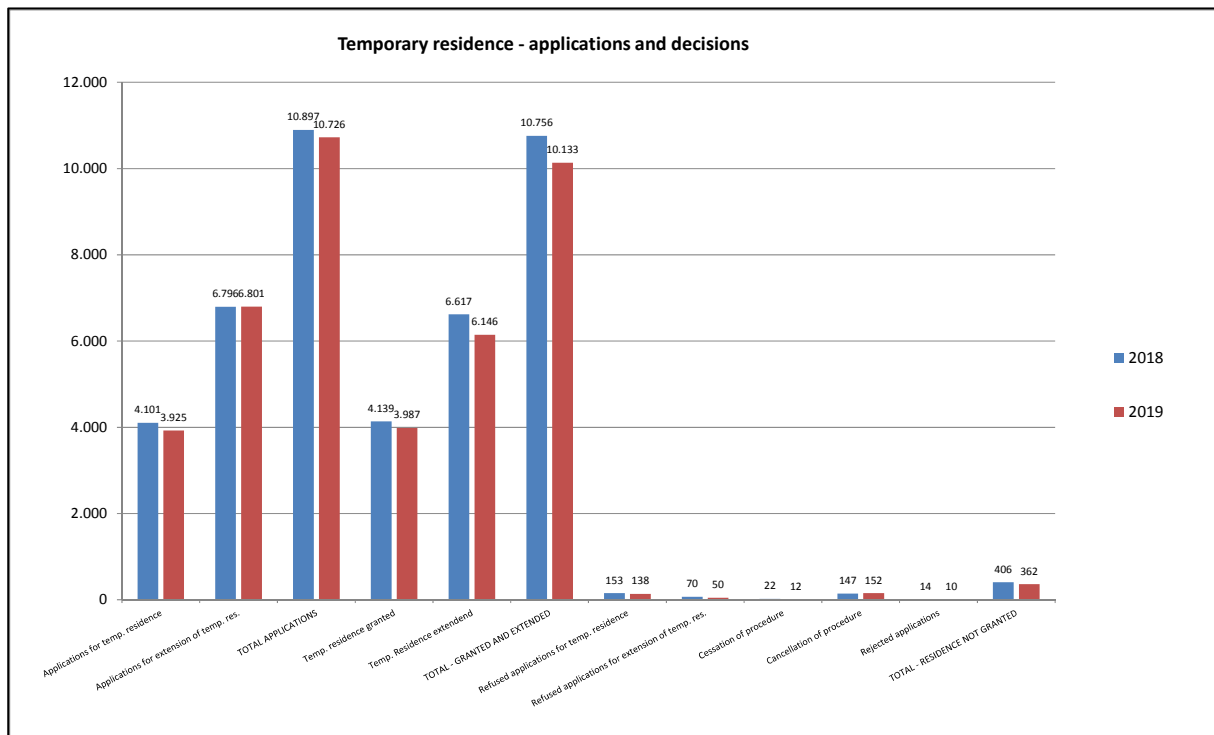


The analysis of comprehensive parameters shows that the year of 2019 had a decrease in number of temporary residence permits by 5.79% as compared to 2018. Of the total number of temporary residence permits issued in 2019, the largest number concerned the nationals of Serbia (2,048), Turkey (1,656), Croatia (864), Montenegro (646) and North Macedonia (383), which accounts for 55% of the total the number of issued permits. Percentual analysis of comparative parameters indicates that there has been a decrease in the number of temporary residences for nationals of the mentioned countries. There was also a decline in the issuance of temporary residence permits for nationals of Germany, Austria and Libya, though the number of issued temporary residence permits increased for nationals of Egypt, Italy and the United States.

With respect to origin of foreigners with granted or extended temporary residence in BiH, the following countries are continuously considered as the most frequent countries of origin: Serbia, Turkey, Croatia, Montenegro and North Macedonia. These five countries comprise 57% of all persons granted temporary residence permits in BiH during 2018 and 2019.

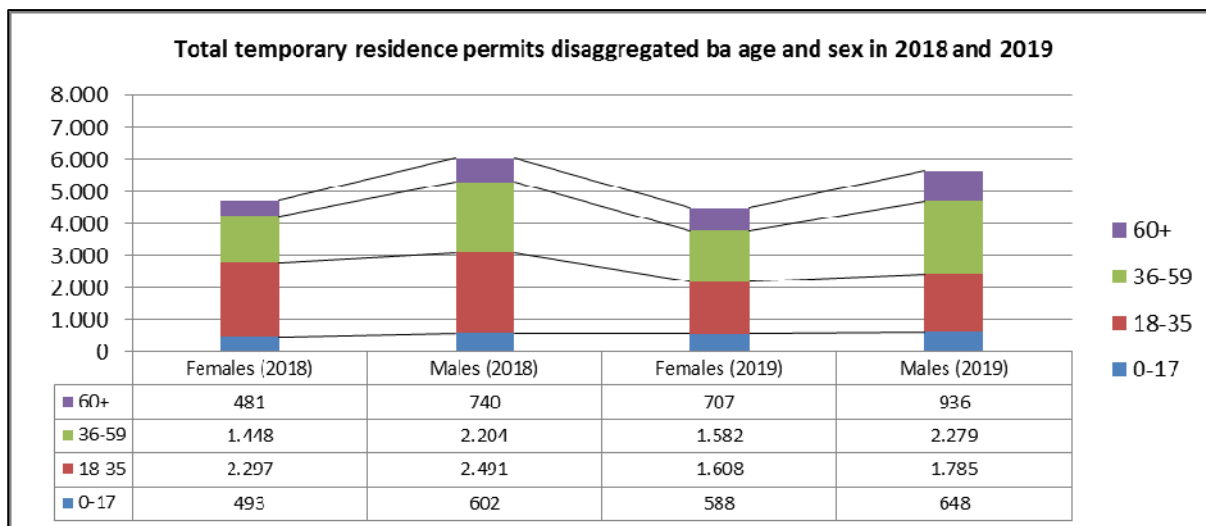
In 2019, there have been 3,925 applications for initial approval of temporary residence and 6,801 application for extension of temporary residence. Its total of 10,726 filed applications illustrates a decrease by 1.57% than in 2018 when the total of 10,897 applications were filed (4,101 application for initial approval of temporary residence and 6,796 applications for extension of temporary residence).

**Graphic overview of applications and positive decisions on temporary residence permits in 2018 and 2019 (initial issuance and extensions)**



With respect to decision-making upon filed applications for approval or extension of temporary residence, the year of 2019 marks a total of 10,133 positive decisions where 3,987 cases concerned initial granting of residence permits and 6,146 cases of extended permits for temporary residence. The numbers show a decrease by 5.79% in comparison to 2018 having a total of 10,756 of granted/extended temporary residences, were 4,139 cases concerned initial granting of permits, and 6,617 cases the extension of temporary residence permits. According to these indicators, the rate of granted/extended temporary residences in 2019 accounted for 94.47% of the submitted applications.

To define the profile of foreign nationals that applied for and were granted temporary residence in BiH in 2019, we hereby present the gender and age structure, which illustrates a prevailing number of men over women in all respective categories: the age group from 0 to 17 (648 men and 588 women); the age group from 18 to 35 (1,785 men and 1,608 women); the age group from 36 to 59 (2,279 men and 1,582 women); and the age group from 60+ (936 men and 707 women). In terms of the total number of issued temporary residences, 5,648 or 55.74% of temporary residences were issued to men, and 4,485 or 44.26% to women.



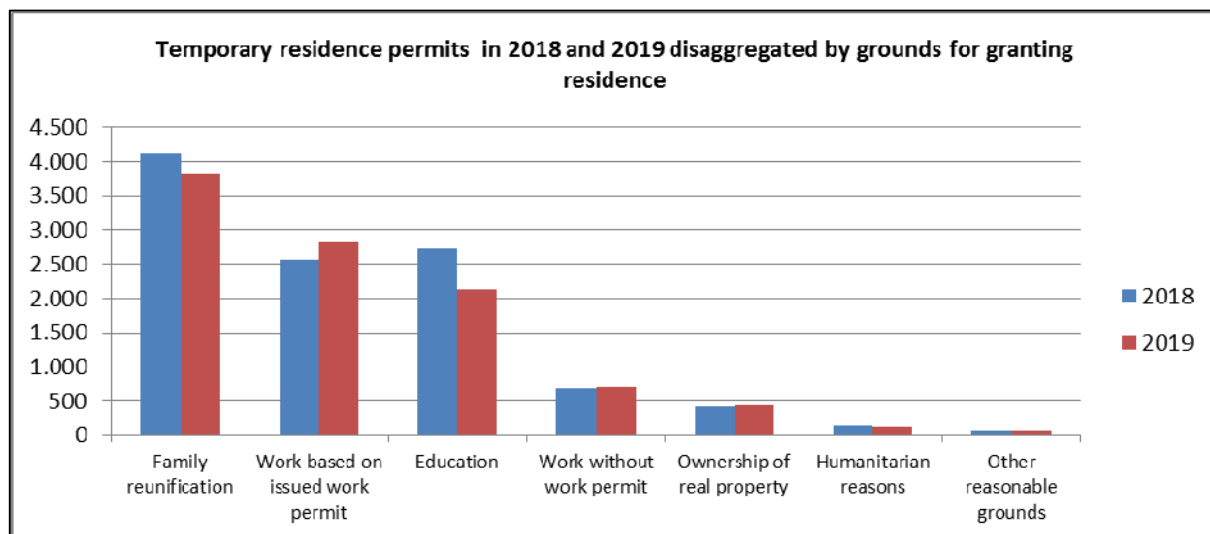
According to the 2019 data of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, the majority of temporary residences in BiH were granted to foreigners on the grounds of: family reunification, encompassing both regular and common-law marriages with BiH nationals (3,827); employment grounded on work permit (2,819); education (2,136); and employment without a work permit (709), which accounted for almost 94% 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 2018 and 2019, with a special focus on the year of 2019. 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 13. Temporary residence in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by grounds for granted residence**

Grounds for residence	2018	% u $\Sigma$ 2018	2019	% u $\Sigma$ 2019	% 2019/2018
Family reunification	4,117	38.28%	3,827	37.77%	-7.04%
Work based on issued work permit	2,569	23.88%	2,819	27.82%	9.73%
Education	2,735	25.43%	2,136	21.08%	-21.90%
Work without work permit	684	6.36%	709	7.00%	3.65%
Ownership of real property	427	3.97%	432	4.26%	1.17%
Humanitarian reasons	157	1.46%	131	1.29%	-16.56%
Other reasonable grounds	67	0.62%	79	0.78%	17.91%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,756</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>10,133</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>-5.79%</b>

When considering other reasons for granting temporary residence during 2019, the foreigners in BiH also settled their stay on following: ownership of immovable property (432); humanitarian reasons encompassing the medical treatment (131); and other justified reasons (79).

**Graphic overview of temporary residences granted in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by grounds for residence**



The year of 2019 was marked by a decrease in the number of temporary residence permits issued on grounds of: family reunification, education, and humanitarian reasons. On the other hand, an increase was marked in the number of temporary residence permits issued on grounds of: work on the basis of issued work permit, work without a work permit, ownership of immovable property, and other justified reasons. The number of temporary residence permits resting on family reunification amounts to 37.77% of all temporary residence permits issued in 2019, which indicates that Bosnia and Herzegovina more frequently becomes the country of foreigners' destination.

Statistical data for 2019 show that nationals of neighbouring countries are granted temporary residence in BiH mostly on the grounds of: family reunification, issued work permits, and education.

**Table 14. Grounds for temporary residence in 2019 disaggregated by countries**

GROUND FOR RESIDENCE	Serbia	Turkey	Croatia	Montenegro	North Macedonia	Other countries	TOTAL
Family reunification	798	286	451	408	272	1,612	<b>3,827</b>
Work based on issued work permit	740	342	170	86	57	1,424	<b>2,819</b>
Education	315	821	142	121	25	712	<b>2,136</b>
Work without work permit	113	196	38	0	16	346	<b>709</b>
Ownership of real property	72	3	36	30	5	286	<b>432</b>
Humanitarian reasons	6	0	21	1	1	102	<b>131</b>
Other reasonable grounds	4	8	6	0	7	54	<b>79</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,048</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>4,536</b>	<b>10,133</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 with issued work permit and family reunification. The family reunification is the most frequent ground for issuance of temporary residence permits to the nationals of Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro and Northern Macedonia.

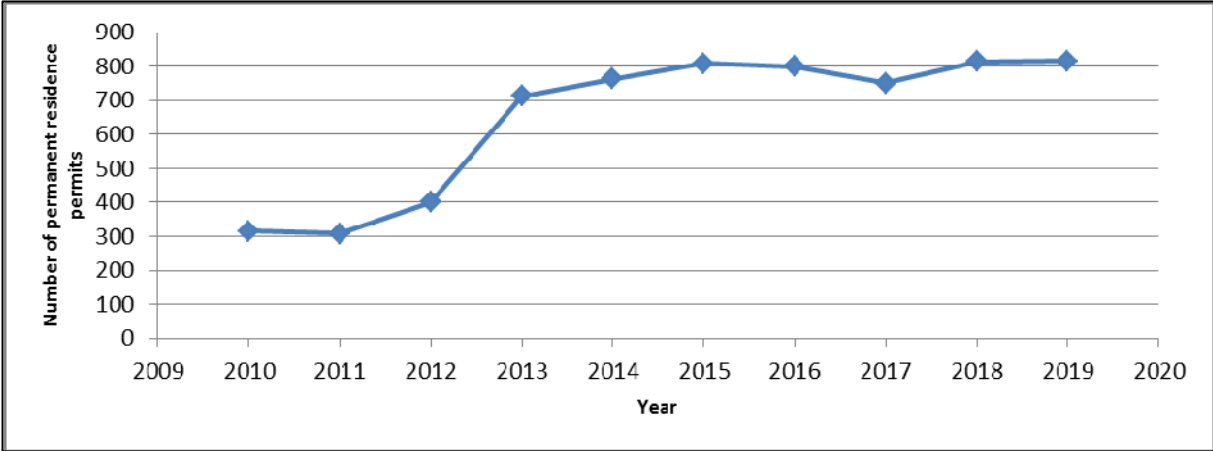
**3.2. Permanent Residence**

Permanent residence may be granted to a foreigner under following conditions: uninterrupted temporary residence on the 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 health insurance.

**Table 15. Number of permanent residence permits issued from 2010 to 2019**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Permanent residence	315	308	401	713	763	808	799	750	815	816

**Annual graphic overview of issued permanent residence permits from 2010 to 2019**



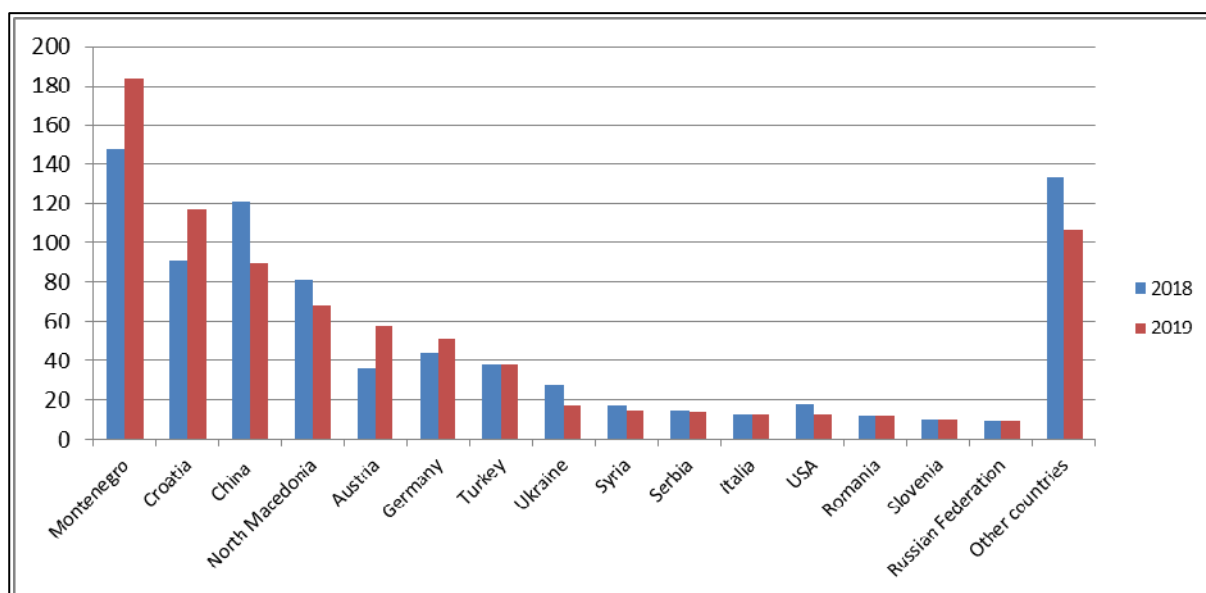
Though evident that the number of permanent residence permits for foreigners in BiH noticeably increased from 2011 to 2015, there was a trend of a mild drop in figures from 2015 until 2017 to increase again in the year 2018 by 8.67% in comparison to previous year. In 2019, the number of issued permanent residence permits almost equalled to preceding year.

To define current situation of permanent residences, hereby are presented indicators on number of permanent residence permits granted during 2018 and 2019. In 2019, 856 applications were submitted for permanent residence, out of which the residence was approved to 816 persons.

**Table 16. Number of permanent residence permits issued in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by countries**

No.	Country	2018	2019	%
1	Montenegro	148	184	24.32%
2	Croatia	91	117	28.57%
3	China	121	90	-25.62%
4	North Macedonia	81	68	-16.05%
5	Austria	36	58	61.11%
6	Germany	44	51	15.91%
7	Turkey	38	38	0.00%
8	Ukraine	28	17	-39.29%
9	Syria	17	15	-11.76%
10	Serbia	15	14	-6.67%
11	Italia	13	13	0.00%
12	USA	18	13	-27.78%
13	Romania	12	12	0.00%
14	Slovenia	10	10	0.00%
15	Russian Federation	9	9	0.00%
16	Other countries	134	107	-20.15%
<b>Total</b>		<b>815</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>0.12%</b>

**Graphic overview of permanent residence permits issued in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by countries**

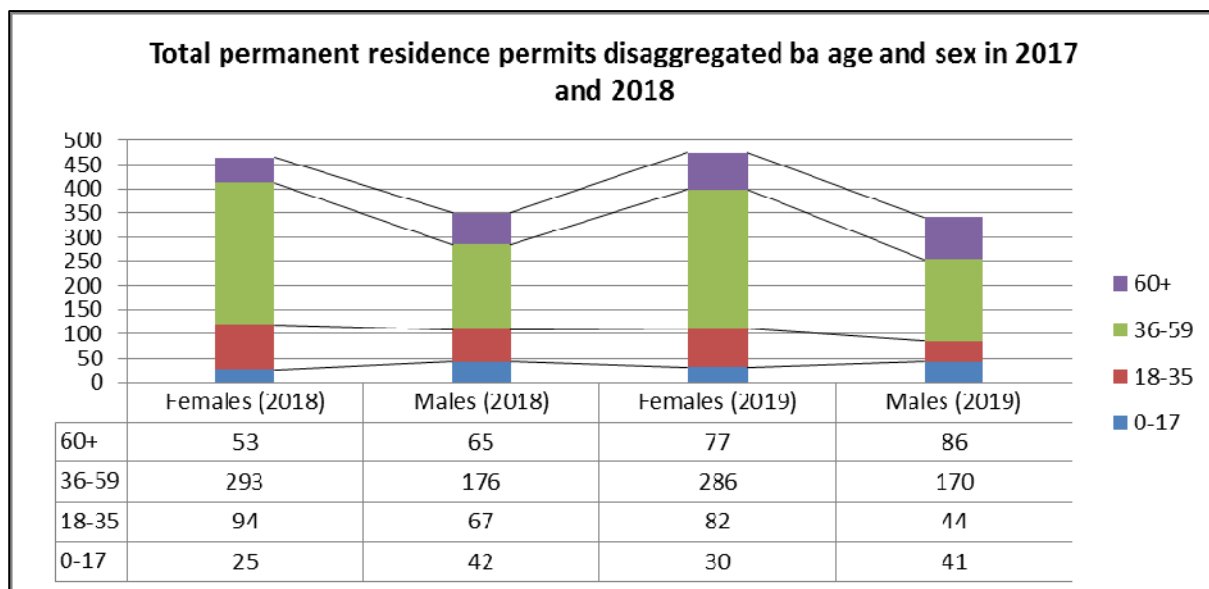


During 2018 and 2019, majority of issued permanent residence permits in BiH pertained to nationals of Montenegro, China, Croatia and North Macedonia.

The analysis of issued permanent residences revealed that a very small percentage of the 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 2019, hereby is illustrated the gender and age structure showing

that there was a prevalent number of women in the in the age group from 18 to 35 (82 women and 44 men), as well as in the age group from 36 to 59 (286 women and 170 men), whereas the age structure was different in the age group from 0 to 17 (30 women and 41 men), as well as in the group 60+ (77 women and 86 men). If considering the total number of permanent residences issued in 2019, 475 or 58% of permanent residences were issued to women, and 341 or 43% 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.

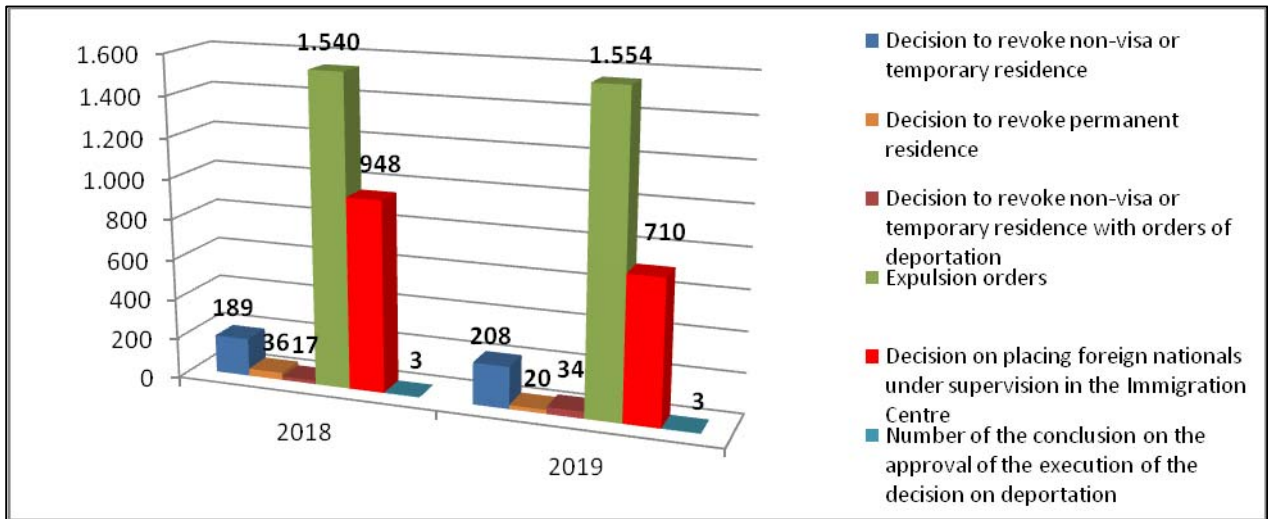
Hereby are presented the comparative data on measures imposed on foreign nationals in BiH during 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by type of imposed measure.

**Table 17. Number of measures undertaken in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by type of imposed measure**

No.	Type of Measure	2018	2019	% (2019/2018)
1	Decision to revoke non-visa or temporary residence	189	208	10.05%
2	Decision to revoke permanent residence	36	20	-44.44%
3	Decision to revoke non-visa or temporary residence with orders of deportation	17	34	100.00%
4	Expulsion orders	1,540	1,554	0.91%
5	Decision on placing aliens under surveillance in the Immigration Centre	948	710	-25.10%
6	Number of Conclusions on approved execution of the Decision on deportation	3	3	0.00%
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,733</b>	<b>2,529</b>	<b>-7.46%</b>



**Graphic overview of measures undertaken in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by type of imposed measures**



The presented data illustrate that the number of measures imposed on foreign nationals in 2019 is lesser by 7.46% than in 2018. The number of revoked residences (non-visa, temporary and permanent) and of revoked residences with expulsion result from well-planned and intensified operational checks and inspection controls, as well as from the planned field activities within competence of inspectors for foreigners. The Service for Foreigner's Affairs recognized these activities as an important segment for monitoring and fighting illegal migrations at the 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 2018 and 2019, there has been a growth in numbers of imposed expulsion measures and placement of foreigners under surveillance in the Immigration Centre due to increased number of the migrants who illegally entered 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 with tendency of further growth in number of illegal migrants from high migration risk countries, who continuously attempt to enter to 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 is a result of the opening of the aforementioned routes where majority of the illegal migrants failed to exit the Republic of Serbia via Hungary, the Republic of Croatia or Romania. Therefore, such categories of migrants sought for alternative routes to reach the EU countries, resulting in the opening of a new migrant route across Albania - Montenegro - BiH - Croatia and further towards the EU countries.

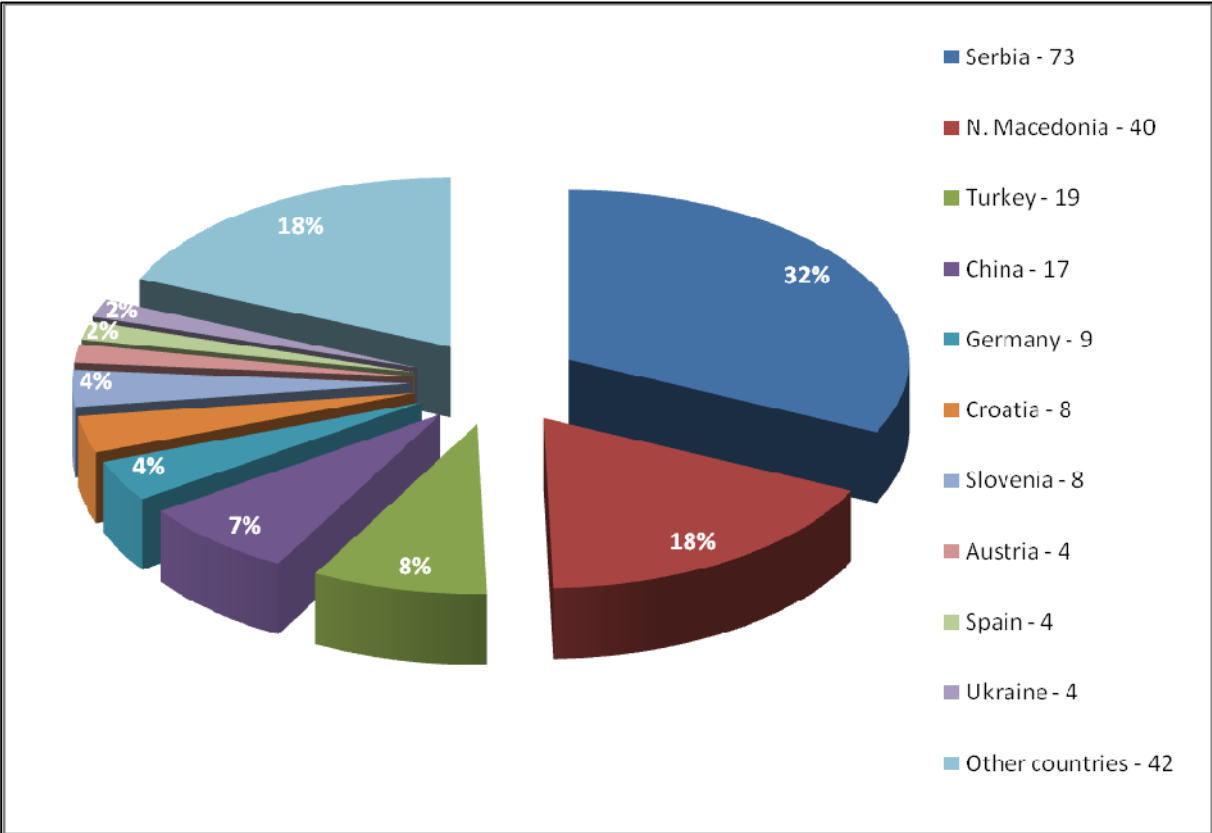
Thus, the 2018 priorities of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs were maintained in the future and included continuous operational activities of the inspectors for foreigners in timely collecting and sharing of the operational information pertaining to the routes of the movement of illegal migrants, organizers of illegal transfers and smugglers in human beings with other law enforcement agencies. The overall goal is to prosecute the perpetrators involved in illegal transfers and smuggling of foreigners. Furthermore, it is important to recall the 2019 Report on the activities of the Service for Foreigner's Affairs 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 conducted with an aim of controlling the legality of the stay of foreign nationals in BiH.

**4.1. Revocation of Residence**

During 2018, there was a total of 225 revoked residences (189 non-visa or temporary residences, and 36 permanent residences). The year of 2019 marks a mild increase of 1.33% in comparison to the previous year and had 228 residences revoked (208 non-visa or temporary residences, and 20 permanent residences), which is.

Below is a graph on the number of decisions on revoked non-visa, temporary and permanent residences in 2019, disaggregated by nationality of foreigners.



Most of decisions for revocation of residence pertained to nationals of Serbia, North Macedonia, Turkey, and China, thus covering 65.35% of the total number of revoked residences. Generally, the most frequent grounds for revocation of non-visa residence concerned either violated public order of BiH or conducted business activities that require a work permit without possessing one. Temporary residences were most frequently cancelled due to changed circumstances that constituted the grounds for granting residence, or because a foreigner’s interrupted stay out of BiH exceeded 180 days during granted residence, or because it was detected that a foreigner’s entry or residence was enabled on grounds of fraudulent, falsified or illegally modified evidences. On the other hand, the permanent residences were mainly cancelled due to a foreigner’ absence from BiH for a

period exceeding one year, as well as for disrespect of public order of BiH or due to change of circumstances being ground for approved permanent residence.<sup>9</sup>

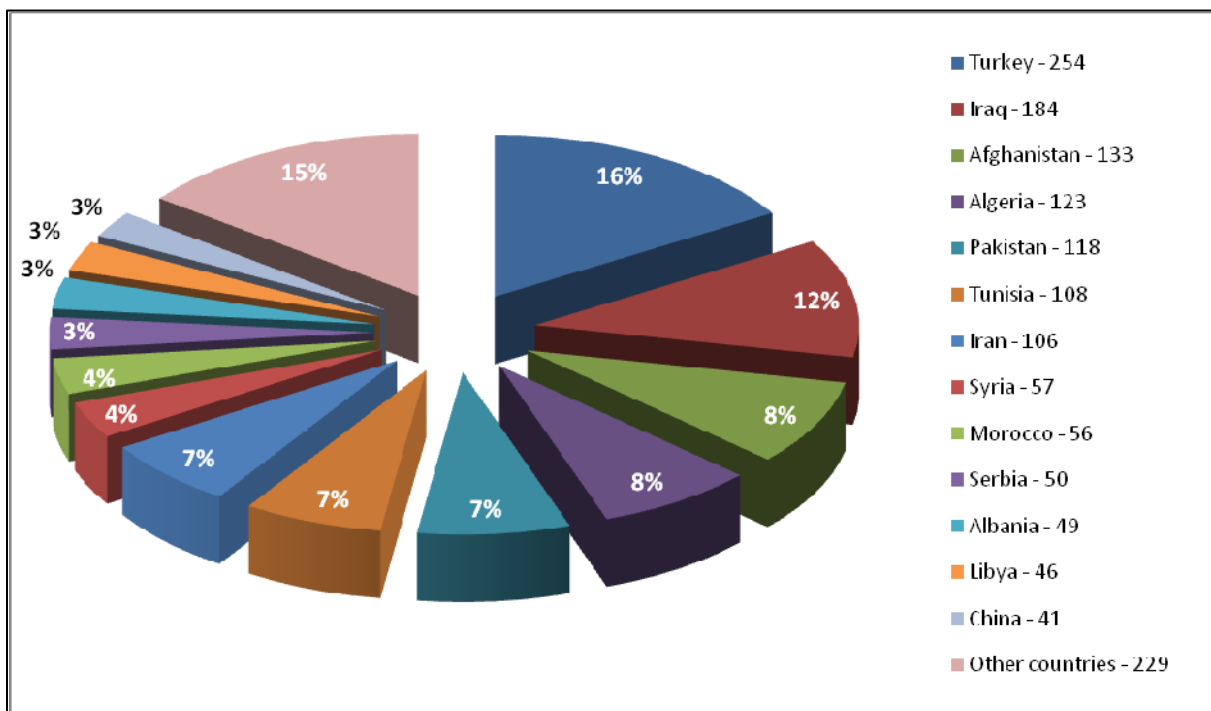
#### 4.2. Expulsion Orders

In 2018, a total of 1.540 expulsion orders was issued, whereas in 2019 this number amounted to 1,554, which represents a negligible increase by 1%.

The year of 2019 also registers 34 issued decisions to revoke non-visa and temporary residence with measure of expulsion, while the number of such measures in 2018 was 17, which represents an increase by 100%.

Expulsion measures were mostly imposed to those foreign nationals who illegally entered BiH, violated regulations on crossing the state border, stayed in BiH after expiration of visa or granted residence, as well as to the persons admitted under readmission agreements, persons convicted of crimes, persons whose residence permits had been revoked yet failed to voluntarily leave the country within the prescribed deadline, as well as for other reasons provided by the law. A measure of expulsion also includes the foreigner’s prohibition of entry to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the period varying from 1 to 5 years.

Below is a graph on number of expulsion orders issued in 2019, disaggregated by nationality of foreigners being imposed such measure.



#### 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

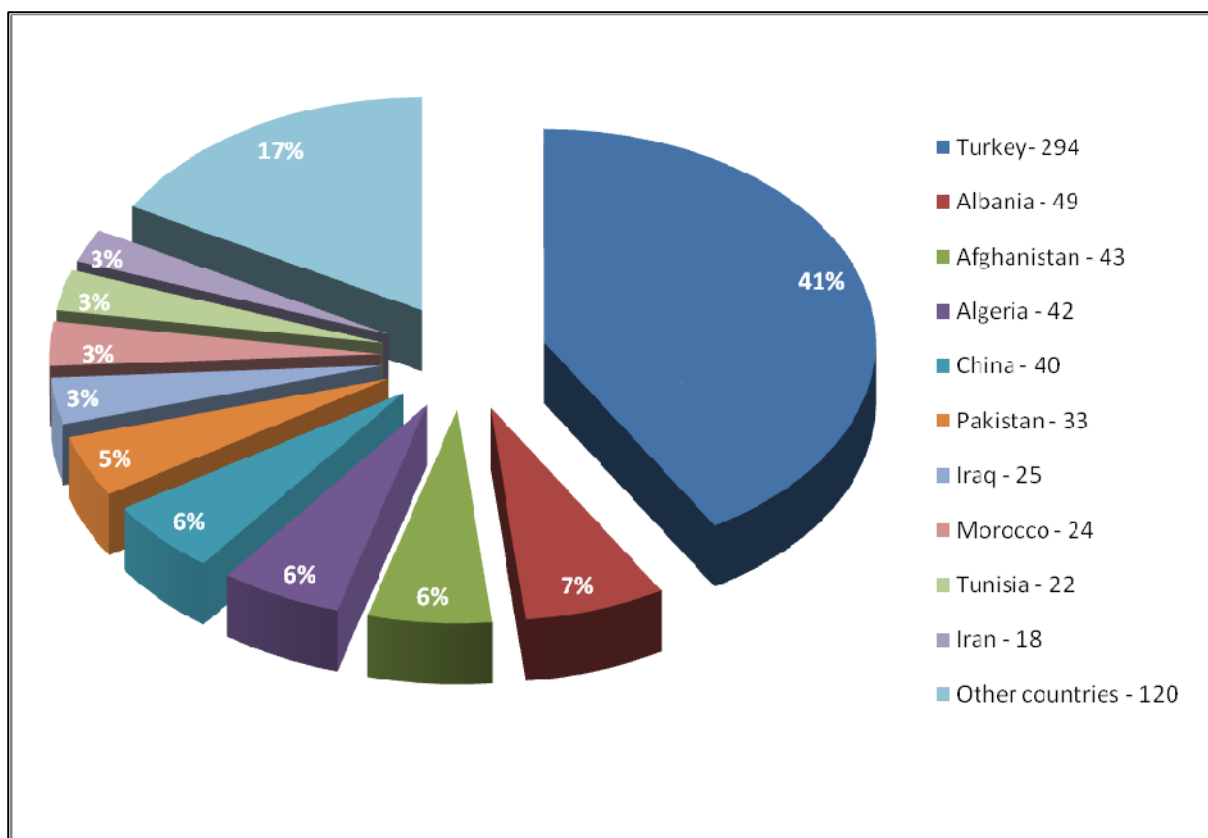
<sup>9</sup> The BiH Service for Foreigners’ Affairs. “Report on the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs Activities in 2019”, Sarajevo, January 2020.

Centre. The Immigration centre, under the Service for Foreigners' Affairs management, became operational on 30 June 2008 and initially availed with 40 beds to enable the implementation of the surveillance measure. It was replaced with a newly built facility of the Immigration Centre on 23 November 2009 having capacity of 80 beds. Following the opening of an additional concrete facility, the accommodation capacity of the Immigration Centre was extended to 120 beds. Its operation set important preconditions for a secure system of deporting foreigners from the country as the Service for Foreigners' Affairs was now provided with a Centre to place under surveillance every foreign national with illegal residence in BiH until their removal from the country in cases when apparent that they would not voluntarily leave the country or they were admitted on the basis of a readmission agreement, or they pose a threat to the public order or national security in BiH.

During 2018, a total of 948 foreigners were placed under surveillance in the Immigration Centre, which represents an increase by 10.23%. The majority of the detained irregular migrants were the nationals of: Turkey, Iran, Albania, Pakistan, Kosovo\*, and Afghanistan. Also, in the year of 2018, 22 additional persons were placed under surveillance in their place of residence or other specialised facilities.

In 2019, a total of 710 foreigners were placed under surveillance in the Immigration Centre, which represents a decrease by 25.10%. The majority of the detained irregular migrants were the nationals of: Turkey, Albania, Afghanistan, Algeria and China. Also, 2019 records additional number of 358 persons placed under surveillance in their place of residence or other specialised facilities.

Below is a graph on number of decisions issued in 2019 to place foreign nationals under surveillance in the Immigration Centre, 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 when a foreigner imposed an executive order to leave BiH fails to abide to the decision within the deadline for voluntary return provided by the order. This measure encompasses a forcible removal of the foreigner from BiH.

The Service for Foreigner's Affairs reported on issuance of 3 conclusions on approved implementation of expulsion decision during 2019, it being the same number of expulsions as in 2018. Such a low number of forcible removals is a consequence of foreigners' decision to leave BiH voluntarily and on own initiative. Presented indicators demonstrate that voluntary return to the country of origin is promoted and conducted as a more humane and effective procedure than it is the case with forcible removal. On the other hand, removal of foreigners is easier and more economically viable if readmission agreements may be used; this implies that BiH has signed a readmission agreement with the country to which the foreigner is being sent and provided that that such agreement came into force.

#### 5. Return of Irregular Migrants

This chapter presents the data and examines the variation of basic parameters in the following areas:

- 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.

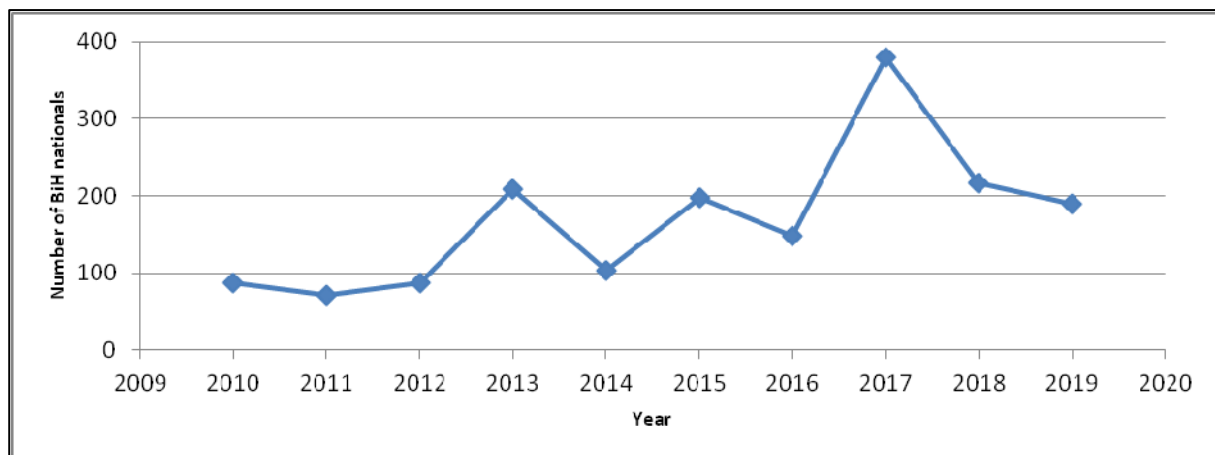
### 5.1. Voluntary Return of BiH Nationals to BiH with the IOM Assistance

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

**Table 18. Total number of BiH nationals returned to BiH from 2010 to 2019 with the IOM assistance**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
Persons	87	71	88	209	104	197	148	379	217	190	<b>1,690</b>

**Graphic overview of the number of returned BiH nationals from 2010 to 2019 with the IOM assistance**



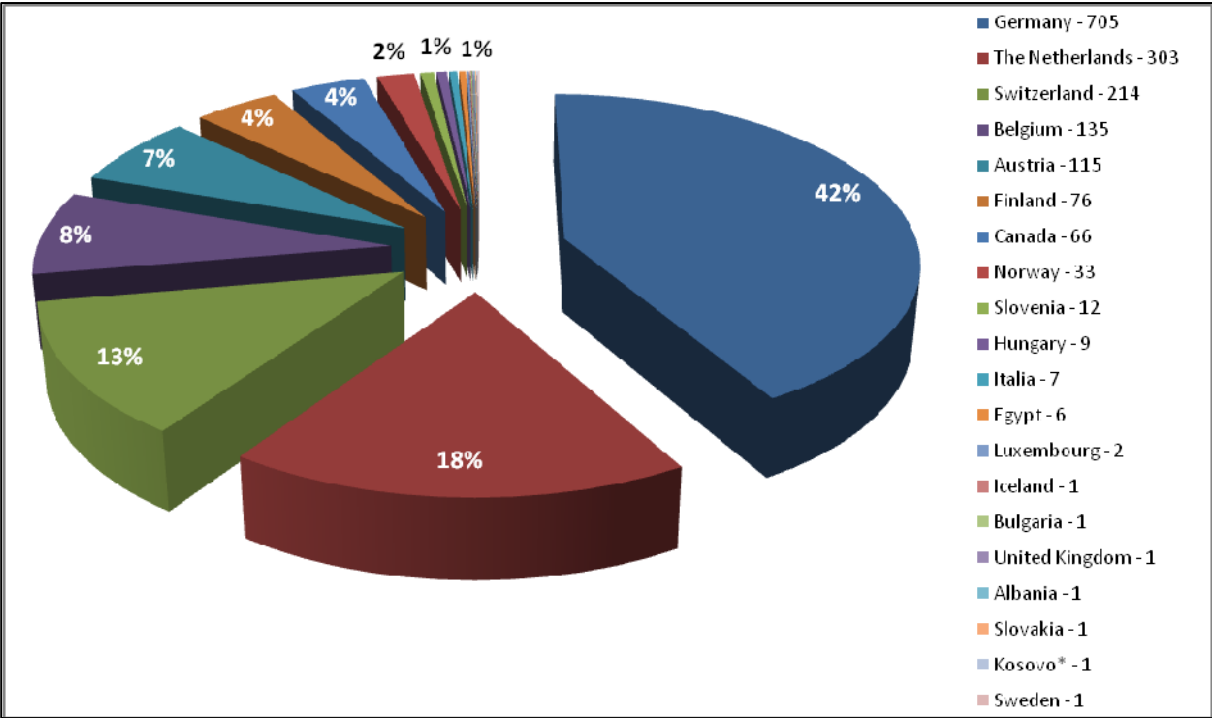
In the period from 2010 to 2019, 1,690 nationals of BiH voluntarily returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina with the IOM assistance programs. As per presented data, period from 2011 to 2013 marks a growing trend of BiH nationals returning to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the aforementioned way, yet the figure for 2014 was halved in comparison to 2013. Also, number of BiH nationals who returned in this manner significantly increased in 2015, showing an increase of 89% as compared to the previous year. Another significant increase was noted in 2017 with 156% and amounted to 379 BiH nationals. In 2019, however, this number declined again by 12%, compared to previous year.

**Table 19. Number of the BiH nationals who voluntarily returned with assistance of IOM**

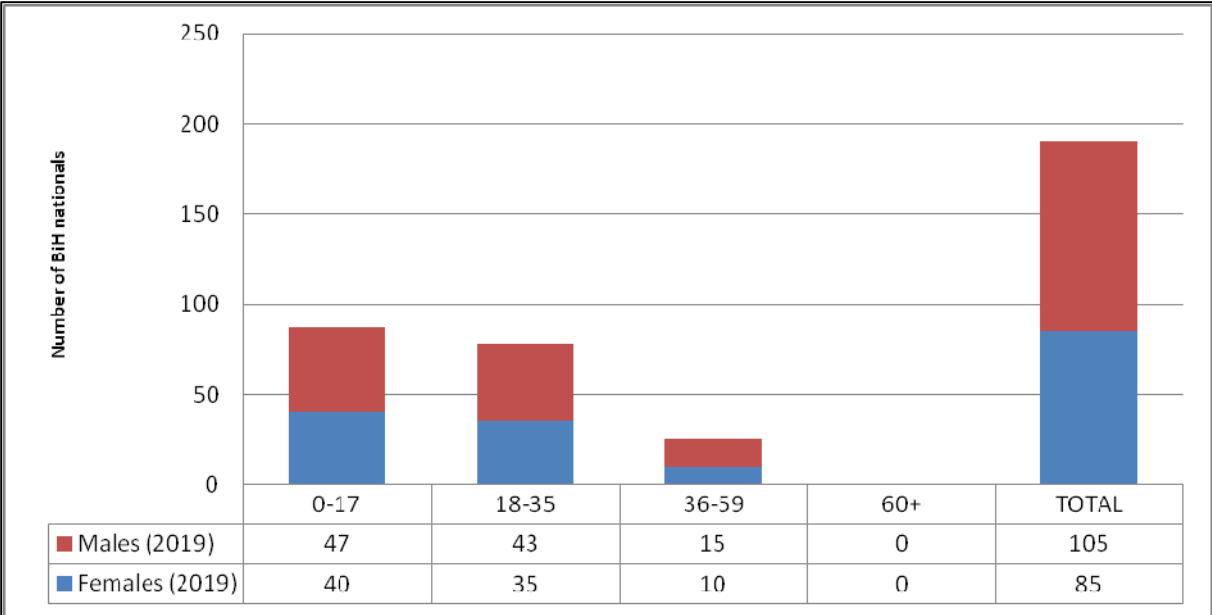
No.	COUNTRY	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
1	Germany	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	346	193	166	<b>705</b>
2	The Netherlands	-	-	16	61	25	59	114	12	2	14	<b>303</b>
3	Switzerland	76	33	28	34	7	11	10	4	7	4	<b>214</b>
4	Belgium	2	20	5	41	29	13	5	10	8	2	<b>135</b>
5	Austria	-	-	1	13	-	101	-	-	-	-	<b>115</b>
6	Finland	4	4	19	25	5	1	16	2	-	-	<b>76</b>
7	Canada	-	-	18	24	24	-	-	-	-	-	<b>66</b>
8	Norway	1	7	-	7	5	10	1	1	-	1	<b>33</b>
9	Slovenia	-	-	-	1	5	1	-	2	1	2	<b>12</b>
10	Hungary	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	<b>9</b>
11	Italia	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	3	-	<b>7</b>
12	Egypt	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>6</b>
13	Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	<b>2</b>
14	Iceland	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>
15	Bulgaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	<b>1</b>
16	United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>
17	Albania	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>
18	Slovakia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	<b>1</b>
19	Kosovo*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	<b>1</b>
20	Sweden	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>87</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>1,690</b>

Analysis of data by 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 2010 to 2019 was conducted from Germany (42%), the Netherlands (18%), and Switzerland (13%), to be followed by Belgium (8%), Austria (7%), Finland (4%), Canada (4%), Norway (2%), while the return from all other countries was 2%. In 2019, the largest number of BiH nationals returned from Germany, and concerned 188 persons (87%).

**Graphic overview of BiH nationals who voluntarily returned in the period from 2010 to 2019, disaggregated by country of return**



**Graphic overview of BiH nationals returning to BiH with the IOM assistance in 2019 disaggregated by age and gender**



In 2019, 190 BiH nationals voluntarily returned to BiH, out of which 105 were men and 85 women. The majority of persons returned under this program concerned population under 35 years of age (87%).



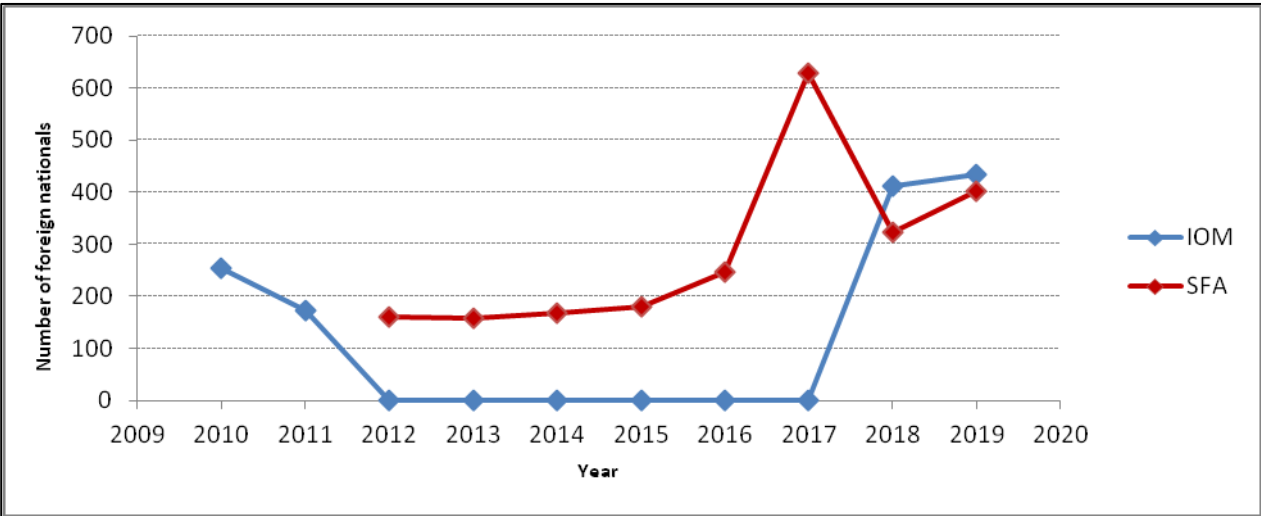
**5.2. Voluntary Return of Foreigners from BiH to their Countries of Origin with Assistance of the IOM and the Service for Foreigner’s Affairs (SFA)**

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 being set for all administrative procedures relating to status of foreigners in BiH. If a foreigner wants to voluntarily leave BiH, but 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 20. Total number of foreigners returned from BiH with the IOM and SFA assistance from 2010 to 2019**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
<b>IOM</b>	254	173	-	-	-	-	-	-	411	434	<b>1,272</b>
<b>SFA</b>	-	-	160	159	169	179	246	628	324	403	<b>2,268</b>

**Graphic overview of the number of foreigners returned from BiH with the IOM and SFA assistance from 2010 to 2019**



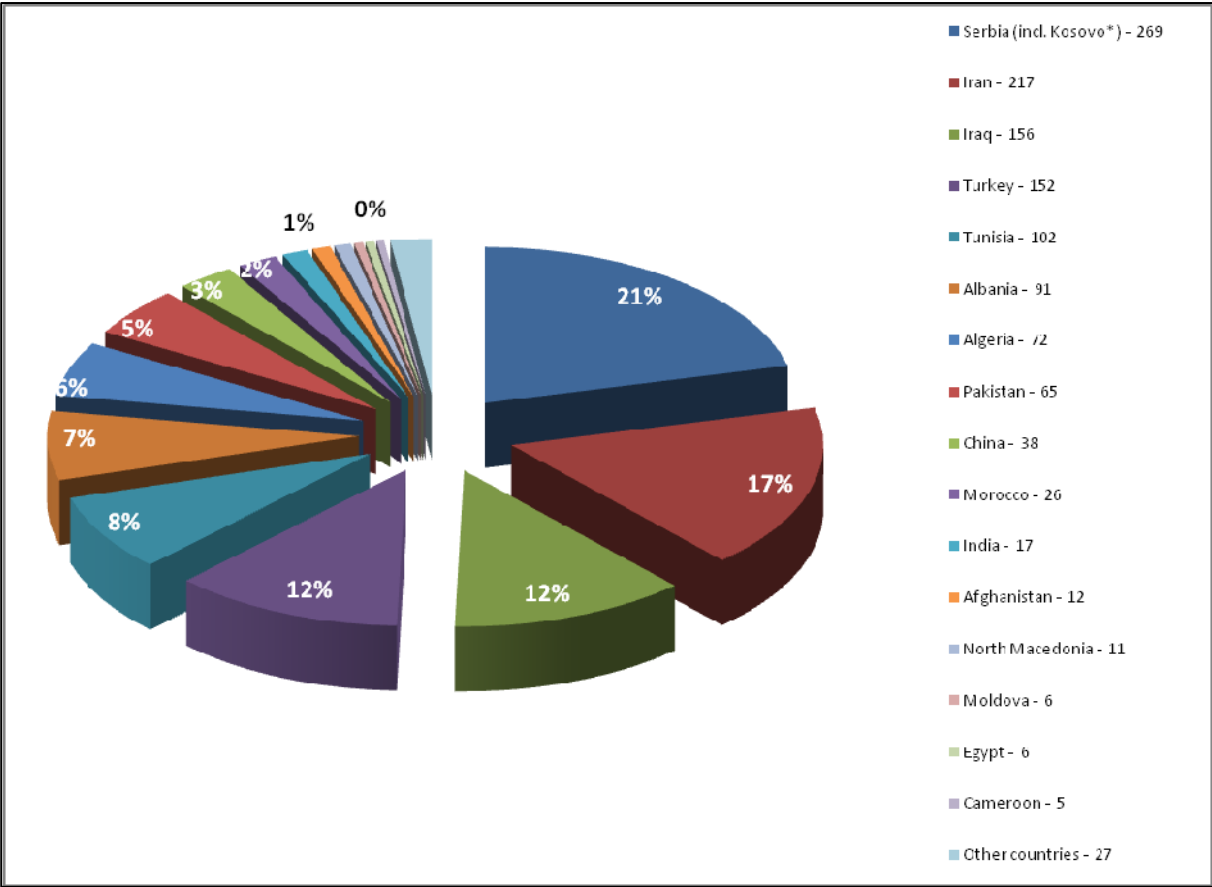
In the period from 2010 to 2019, IOM assisted with voluntary return of 1,272 foreign nationals from BiH to their countries of origin. According to the presented data, this type of return was on the rise in 2010 when 254 foreigners were returned from BiH. In 2011, a decline of some 32% was observed. Following six years, however, IOM has not organized any voluntary returns from BiH through the AVR program due to lack of financial means. In 2018, IOM financed voluntary return from Bosnia and Herzegovina of 411 foreign nationals through their AVR program, whereas this number in 2019 was 434.

When analysing the returns organized by the IOM in 2019, a significant return was noted with respect to nationals of Iraq, Iran, Tunis, Algeria and Pakistan.

**Table 21. Return of foreigners from BiH through the IOM AVR programme, disaggregated by years and country of return**

No.	COUNTRY	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
1	Serbia (including Kosovo*)	132	135	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	269
2	Iran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	140	77	217
3	Iraq	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74	82	156
4	Turkey	14	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	105	10	152
5	Tunisia	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	73	102
6	Albania	84	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	91
7	Algeria	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	56	72
8	Pakistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	52	65
9	China	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	20	38
10	Morocco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	22	26
11	India	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	15	17
12	Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	12
13	North Macedonia	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
14	Moldova	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6
15	Egypt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
16	Cameroon	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	5
17	Jordan	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4
18	Nepal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
19	Azerbaijan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
20	Ukraine	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
21	Bangladesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
22	Lebanon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
23	Russian Federation	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
24	Montenegro	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
25	Ethiopia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
26	Cuba	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
27	Philippines	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
28	Ghana	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
29	Sri Lanka	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
30	Palestine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>254</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>1,272</b>

**Graphic overview of foreigners returned from BiH with the IOM assistance in the period from 2010 to 2019, disaggregated by country of return**



As the IOM did not organise the returns of foreigners from BiH through its AVR program in the period from 2012 to 2017, it should be noted that the Service for Foreigners' Affairs has been in charge for organizing such voluntary returns. 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 2019, a total of 2,268 foreign nationals were returned by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs.

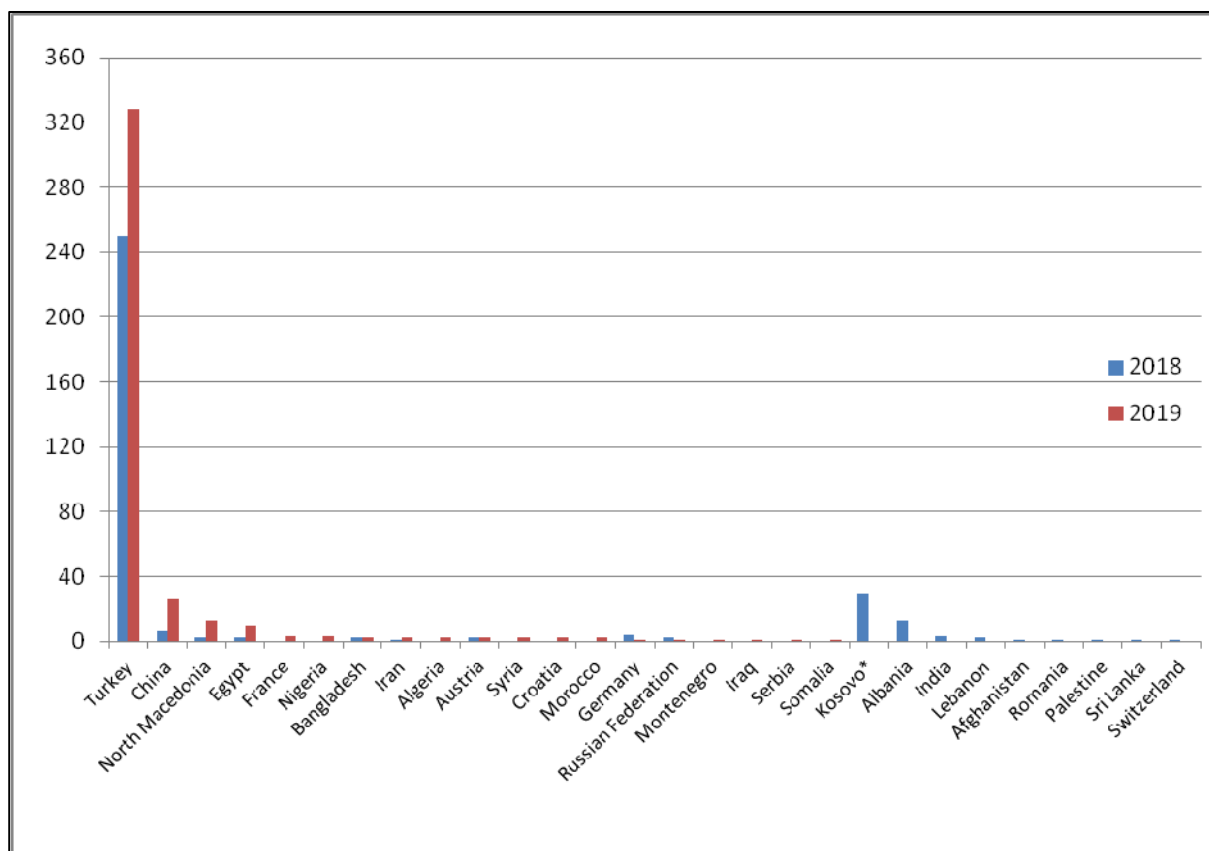
In 2017, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs organized return of 628 foreign nationals, which is 155.28% more than in 2016. Out of these 628 foreigners, 361 were returned through the project financed by the Governments of the Swiss Confederation and Liechtenstein and implemented by the Swiss Development 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 2018, the Service for Foreigner's Affairs had organised and conducted independent voluntary return of 324 persons, whereas this number in 2019 increased by 24,38% and encompassed 403 persons.

**Table 22. Number of voluntary returns from BIH in 2018 and 2019 organised by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, disaggregated by countries**

No.	Country	2018	2019
1	Turkey	250	328
2	China	6	26
3	North Macedonia	2	13
4	Egypt	2	10
5	France	-	3
6	Nigeria	-	3
7	Bangladesh	2	2
8	Iran	1	2
9	Algeria	-	2
10	Austria	2	2
11	Syria	-	2
12	Croatia	-	2
13	Morocco	-	2
14	Germany	4	1
15	Russian Federation	2	1
16	Montenegro	-	1
17	Iraq	-	1
18	Serbia	-	1
19	Somalia	-	1
20	Kosovo*	30	-
21	Albania	13	-
22	India	3	-
23	Lebanon	2	-
24	Afghanistan	1	-
25	Romania	1	-
26	Palestine	1	-
27	Sri Lanka	1	-
28	Switzerland	1	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>403</b>

**Graphic overview of the number of voluntary returns of foreigners from BIH organised in 2018 and 2019 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 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, while the Service for Foreigners' Affairs is responsible for the admission of third country nationals and stateless persons, as well as for their return from BiH.

#### 5.3.1. Admission and Return under Readmission Agreements

In 2019, the Ministry of Security's Immigration Sector, as the authority for implementation of the readmission agreements in the part relating to the BiH nationals, received 655 readmission requests. 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 474 persons who proved to be the nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it being 12.22% lesser than in 2018 when readmission was approved for 540 persons. Out of total number of approved requests for 474 persons, 297 persons were treated under regular readmission requests, while 177 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, 181 readmission request was rejected due to the fact that referred persons were not nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The largest number of readmissions of BiH nationals conducted in 2019 was from FR Germany (47.89%).

**Table 23. Admission of BiH nationals in 2018 and 2019 under readmission requests**

No.	Country	2018	2019
1	Germany	306	227
2	France	102	77
3	Austria	37	62
4	The Netherlands	9	30
5	Switzerland	22	20
6	Sweden	23	18
7	Belgium	12	13
8	Italia	1	13
9	Slovenia	2	4
10	Montenegro	9	3
11	Croatia	4	3
12	Spain	-	2
13	Luxembourg	1	1
14	Norway	-	1
15	Serbia	4	-
16	Moldova	2	-
17	Turkey	2	-
18	Russian Federation	1	-
19	Bulgaria	1	-
20	Hungary	1	-
21	Poland	1	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>474</b>

The analysis of presented data indicates that 474 nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina were admitted under the readmission agreements after verification of their identity and BiH citizenship by the BiH Ministry of Security's Immigration Sector, or in accordance with 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 2019

Analysis of the BiH Border Police Activities<sup>10</sup>, a total of 826 BiH nationals were returned to the country, from those countries which have signed the Readmission Agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina. Comparative analysis of data from available sources shows that 352 persons were returned directly to the BiH Border Police, without prior notice to the Immigration Sector of the Ministry of Security of BiH.

Annual report of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs also illustrates a total number of 783 foreign nationals being admitted in 2019 solely under the Readmission 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 2019, a report of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs shows that a total of 330 foreigners were transferred under the readmission agreements, out of which 193 foreigners on the basis of 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, 136 foreigners on the basis of 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 1 foreigner on the basis of the Agreement between the European Community and Bosnia and Herzegovina 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, obtained from the BiH Border Police and the Service for Foreigner’s Affairs are illustrated in the table below.

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<sup>10</sup> The BiH Border Police, “Analysis of the BiH Border Police Activities in 2019”, Sarajevo, January 2020, p. 20

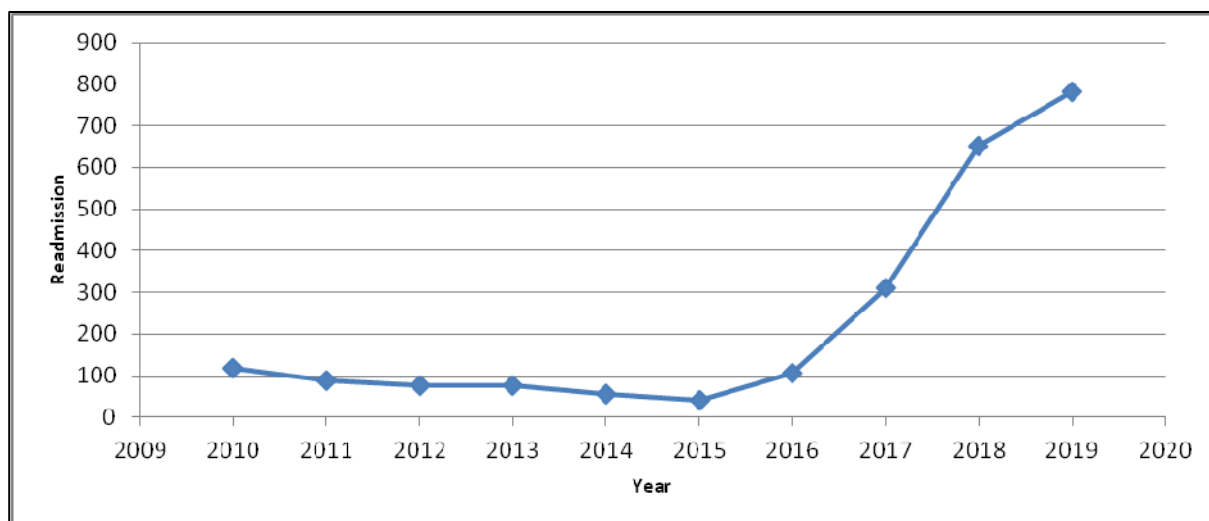
<sup>11</sup> The BiH Service for Foreigners’ Affairs. “Report on the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs Activities in 2019”, Sarajevo, January 2020

<sup>12</sup> The BiH Service for Foreigners’ Affairs. “Report on the Service for Foreigners’ Affairs Activities in 2019”, Sarajevo, January 2020

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

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Admission of persons in BiH	119	88	75	75	55	42	105	311	652	783

**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 2010 to 2015, followed by a constant growing trend. Over the last three years, this number significantly increased as a consequence of the migratory movements in the region.

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, 652 aliens were admitted in 2018, 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 2019, 783 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>

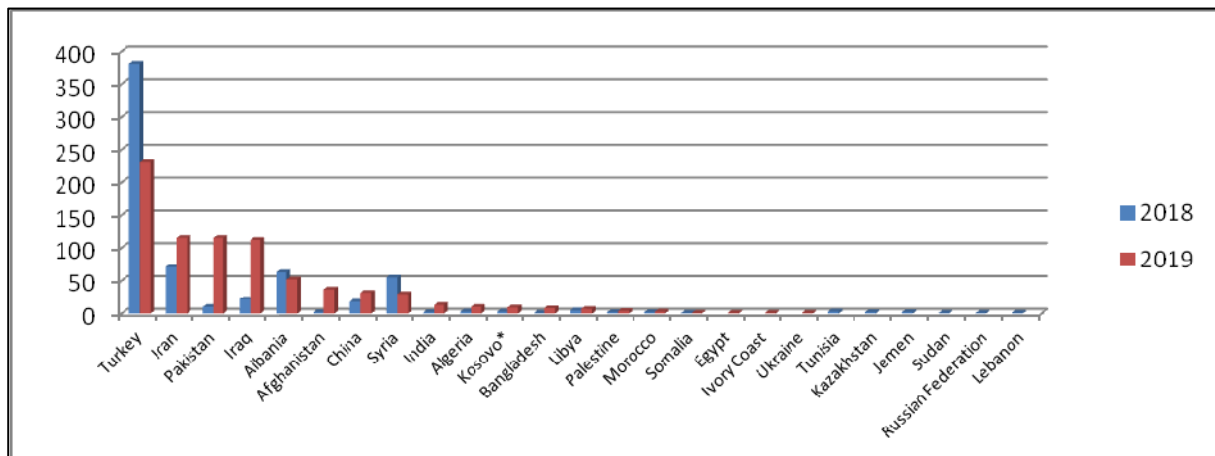
<sup>13</sup> The BiH Service for Foreigners' Affairs. "Activity Report of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs in 2018", Sarajevo, January 2019

<sup>14</sup> The BiH Service for Foreigners' Affairs. "Activity Report of the Service for Foreigners' Affairs Activities in 2019", Sarajevo, January 2020

**Table 25. Admission of third country nationals in 2018 and 2019 under the Readmission Agreement with Republic of Croatia**

No.	Country	2018	2019	%
1	Turkey	382	232	-39.27%
2	Iran	71	115	61.97%
3	Pakistan	10	115	1.050.00%
4	Iraq	22	112	409.09%
5	Albania	63	52	-17.46%
6	Afghanistan	2	37	1.750.00%
7	China	18	32	77.78%
8	Syria	55	30	-45.45%
9	India	2	13	550.00%
10	Algeria	3	10	233.33%
11	Kosovo*	3	9	200.00%
12	Bangladesh	1	8	700.00%
13	Libya	5	7	40.00%
14	Palestine	2	4	100.00%
15	Morocco	2	3	50.00%
16	Somalia	1	1	0.00%
17	Egypt	-	1	-
18	Ivory Coast	-	1	-
19	Ukraine	-	1	-
20	Tunisia	3	-	-100.00%
21	Kazakhstan	2	-	-100.00%
22	Jemen	2	-	-100.00%
23	Sudan	1	-	-100.00%
24	Russian Federation	1	-	-100.00%
25	Lebanon	1	-	-100.00%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>20.09%</b>

**Graphic overview of admissions of third country nationals in BiH under the Agreement with Croatia in 2018 and 2019**



An analysis of the presented data for 2019 shows a significant increase in the admission of nationals of Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and decrease in the number of admissions of nationals of Turkey and Syria 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 Foreigner's 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 1,142 persons in 2018, and 1,207 persons in 2019, representing an increase of 5.69 %.

**Table 26. Number of foreigners who individually left BiH within deadline for voluntary departure in 2017 and 2018**

No.	Country	2018	2019
1	Serbia	213	171
2	Turkey	128	158
3	Iraq	51	72
4	Pakistan	37	69
5	Tunisia	30	67
6	Iran	196	59
7	Algeria	12	56
8	Montenegro	47	38
9	Albania	5	36
10	Kosovo*	36	34
11	Croatia	58	29
12	China	27	28
13	North Macedonia	26	25
14	Morocco	7	25
15	Syria	20	22
16	Afghanistan	31	19
17	India	12	19
18	Germany	14	19
19	USA	15	19
20	Libya	11	18
21	Italia	11	15
22	Malaysia	5	13
23	Saudi Arabia	9	13
24	Palestine	3	12
25	Jemen	1	11
26	Slovenia	12	10
27	Egypt	5	8
28	Philippines	4	8
29	Jordan	11	8
30	Kuwait	5	8
31	Romania	5	8
32	Poland	4	7
33	Ukraine	3	7
34	Bangladesh	-	7
35	Austria	6	6
36	Bulgaria	-	6
37	Russian Federation	6	5
38	Spain	6	5
44	Czech Republic	1	3
45	Hungaria	1	3
46	Argentina	-	3
47	Armenia	-	3
48	Sweden	-	3
49	Australia	1	2
50	Belgium	1	2
51	Brazil	4	2
52	France	2	2
53	The Netherlands	2	2
54	Indonesia	2	2
55	Moldova	4	2
56	Portugal	1	2
57	Equatorial Guinea	-	2
58	Finland	-	2
59	Sri Lanka	-	2
60	Azerbaijan	1	1
61	Greece	1	1
62	Canada	2	1
63	Columbia	1	1
64	Lebanon	4	1
65	Belarus	-	1
66	Ecuador	-	1
67	Norway	-	1
68	Venezuela	-	1
69	Bahrain	2	-
70	Barbados	2	-
71	Ethiopia	1	-
72	Ghana	3	-
73	Honduras	1	-
74	Ireland	2	-
75	South Africa	1	-
76	South Sudan	2	-
77	Cameroon	2	-
78	Cyprus	1	-
79	Comoros	3	-
80	Korea, Republic	2	-
81	Cuba	2	-

39	Switzerland	2	5
40	Israel	5	4
41	United Kingdom	2	4
42	Nepal	-	4
43	Nigeria	-	4

82	Slovakia	2	-
83	United Arab Emirates	1	-
84	Uzbekistan	1	-
85	Vietnam	4	-
86	Cape Verde	1	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,142</b>	<b>1,207</b>

There has been an evident increase in the number of returns of the nationals of Iran and Turkey and decrease in the number of returns of the nationals of Serbia.

## 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 Ministry of Security - Asylum Sector, after having determined that the alien does not fulfil the conditions for granting a refugee status, examines the conditions for the award of subsidiary protection. Subsequently, a subsidiary protection is granted to an alien who does not meet the conditions for approval of refugee status if there are serious reasons to believe that he/she would face a real risk of serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms on return to his/her country of origin or country of habitual residence.

If an alien is not granted refugee status nor subsidiary protection due to the application of the exclusion clauses but the asylum procedure establishes that there is a serious risk that he/she would be subjected to the death penalty or execution, torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, on his/her return or expulsion to another country, the alien is allowed to **remain in BiH** in accordance with the Law on Aliens, regulating the field of movement and residence of aliens.

Upon filed application for asylum, the Ministry of Security – Sector for Asylum, as a first instance authority, may reach one of the following decisions:

- 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.

Aiming to identify the trends of asylum, we present the data on asylum applications submitted in the period from 2010 to 2019. Over that period of time, the BiH Ministry of Security's Asylum Sector was responsible for receiving asylum applications in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

From 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2019, the competent authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina received 1,979 asylum applications. These 1,979 applications involved 3,166 persons who applied for asylum in BiH. During this period, the competent authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Ministry of Security - Asylum Sector) recognised refugee status to 9 individuals, and granted subsidiary protection to 136 persons.

**Table 27. Number of persons who applied for asylum in BiH from 2010 to 2019**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Persons	64	46	53	100	45	46	79	381	1.568	784	3,166

**Table 27a. Number of persons with recognized refugee status from 2010 to 2019**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Persons	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	3	9

In the reporting period, out of the total number of recognized refugees, 4 persons were the nationals of the Syrian Arab Republic, 3 persons were nationals of Iran and 1 from each of these countries: Montenegro and Myanmar.

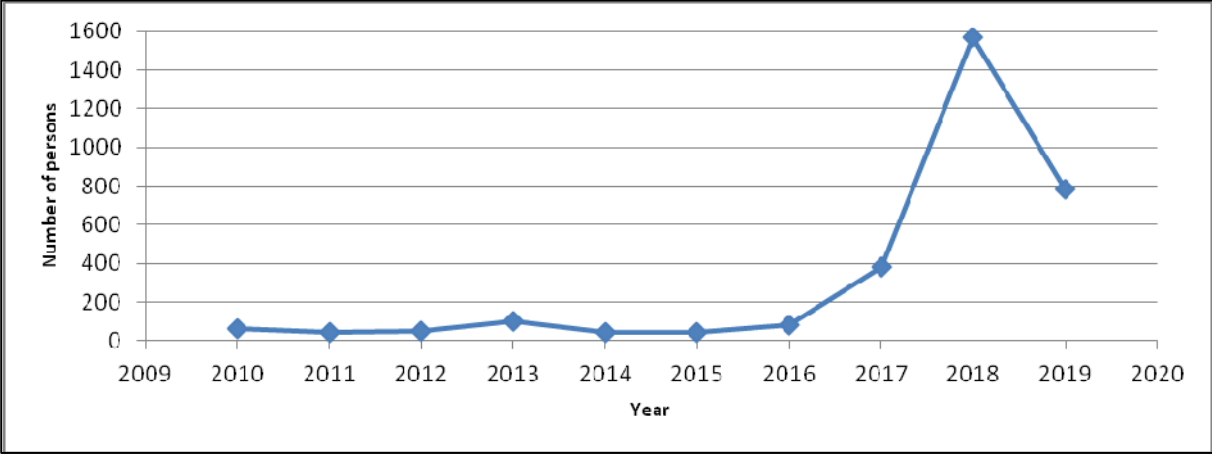
**Table 27b. Number of persons with recognized subsidiary protection in BiH from 2010 to 2019**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Persons	4	-	25	28	8	5	6	8	11	41	136

In the reporting period, out of the total number of persons with recognized subsidiary protection, 79 persons were from the Syrian Arab Republic, 6 from Iraq, 40 from Turkey, 4

from Serbia and 3 from Eritrea, and 1 from each of these countries: Egypt, Palestine, Pakistan and Somalia.

**Graphic overview of the number of persons who applied for asylum in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2010 to 2019**



Analysis of the graph shows that there were an equal number of asylum seekers in BiH from 2010 to 2016.

The number of asylum seekers suddenly increased by 382% in 2017, with the highest number recorded in Algeria, Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan. Given that in 2018, Bosnia and Herzegovina faced multiple increases in the number of persons who expressed their intention to apply for asylum, there was a significant increase in the number of asylum seekers compared to the previous year by 311%. In 2019, the number of asylum seekers decreased by 50% compared to 2018, and included 784 persons.

After entering the BiH, across the border with Serbia and Montenegro, the largest number of migrants are directly approaching the Field Offices of the Service for Foreigner’s Affairs to express their intention to apply for asylum. Out of a total of 29,302 registered aliens, 27,769 expressed their intention to apply for asylum in BiH in 2019.

A person who has expressed the intention to apply for asylum shall be issued a certificate of intent to apply for asylum with a duration of 14 days as the period provided for in the Law on Asylum applicable in situations of a large number of simultaneously stated intentions. Within that deadline, an alien shall apply for asylum to the BiH Ministry of Security Asylum Sector. Expressing intent to apply for asylum in BiH is an instrument that allows the alien to reside on the territory of BiH within its validity.<sup>15</sup>

In 2019, 784 persons applied for asylum, which encompasses about 3% of the total number of expressed intentions for an asylum application. The largest number of asylum applications were filed by Iraqi (327), Iranian (121), Afghan (79), Turkish (74), Pakistani (68), and Syrian (58) nationals representing 93% of the total number of asylum applications.

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

The difference between the number of intentions expressed and actually submitted asylum applications is a direct indicator of abuse of the BiH asylum system. In this manner, the aliens residing illegally in BiH make their stay legal through expressing their intention for asylum for a specified period of time and then use this status for unlawful departure to EU. In 2019, the largest number of asylum applications has been resolved by reaching a conclusion on suspending the asylum procedure.<sup>16</sup>

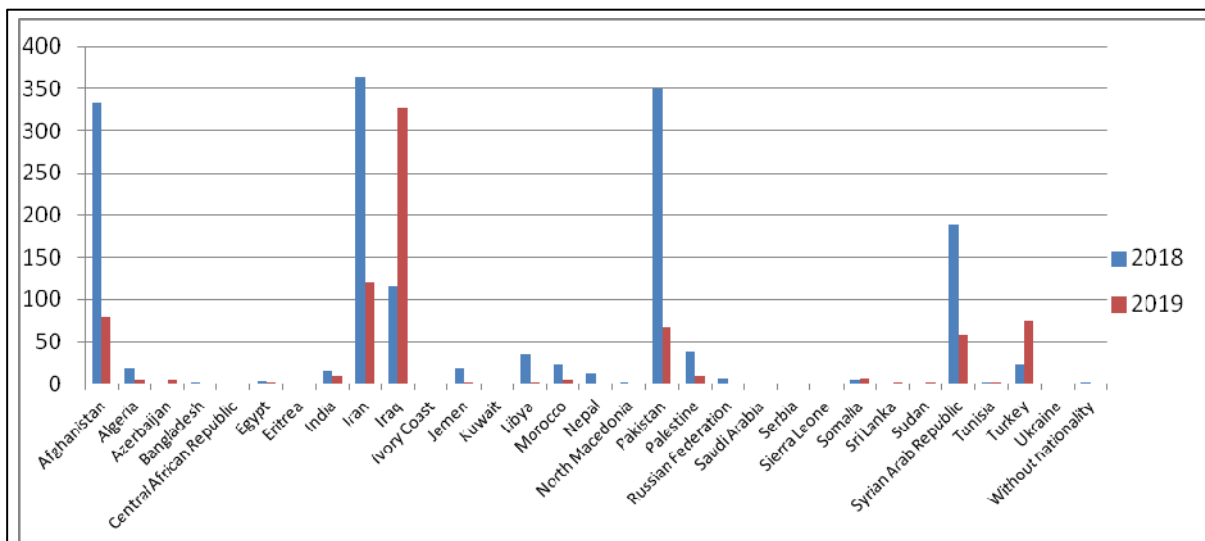
For the purpose of analysis of the current state of play in the asylum field, we present the data on asylum applications filed, along with the number of persons included in these applications, in 2018 and 2019.

**Table 28. Number of applications (persons) for asylum in BiH in 2018 and 2019**

ASYLUM		2018		2019		%	
No.	Country	Applications	Persons	Applications	Persons	Applications	Persons
1	Afghanistan	128	334	38	79	-70.31%	-76.35%
2	Algeria	18	18	5	5	-72.22%	-72.22%
3	Azerbaijan	1	1	1	5	0.00%	400.00%
4	Bangladesh	2	2	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
5	Central African Republic	1	1	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
6	Egypt	4	4	2	2	-50.00%	-50.00%
7	Eritrea	-	-	0	1	-	-
8	India	16	16	4	9	-75.00%	-43.75%
9	Iran	157	364	47	121	-70.06%	-66.76%
10	Iraq	39	116	97	327	148.72%	181.90%
11	Ivory Coast	1	1	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
12	Kuwait	1	1	1	1	0.00%	0.00%
13	Libya	35	35	3	3	-91.43%	-91.43%
14	Morocco	22	22	3	5	-86.36%	-77.27%
15	Nepal	11	13	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
16	North Macedonia	1	2	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
17	Pakistan	344	350	64	68	-81.39%	-80.57%
18	Palestine	31	38	6	9	-80.64%	-76.31%
19	Russian Federation	3	7	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
20	Saudi Arabia	-	-	1	1	-	-
21	Serbia	1	1	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
22	Sierra Leone	1	1	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
23	Somalia	6	6	2	7		
24	Sri Lanka	-	-	1	2	-	-
25	Sudan	-	-	1	2	-	-
26	Syrian Arab Republic	110	189	23	58	-79.09%	-69.31%
27	Tunisia	2	2	2	3	0.00%	50.00%
28	Turkey	11	22	30	74	172.73%	236.36%
29	Ukraine	1	1	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
30	Without nationality	3	3	-	-	-100.00%	-100.00%
31	Yemen	11	18	2	2	-81.82%	-88.89%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>-65.35%</b>	<b>-50.00%</b>

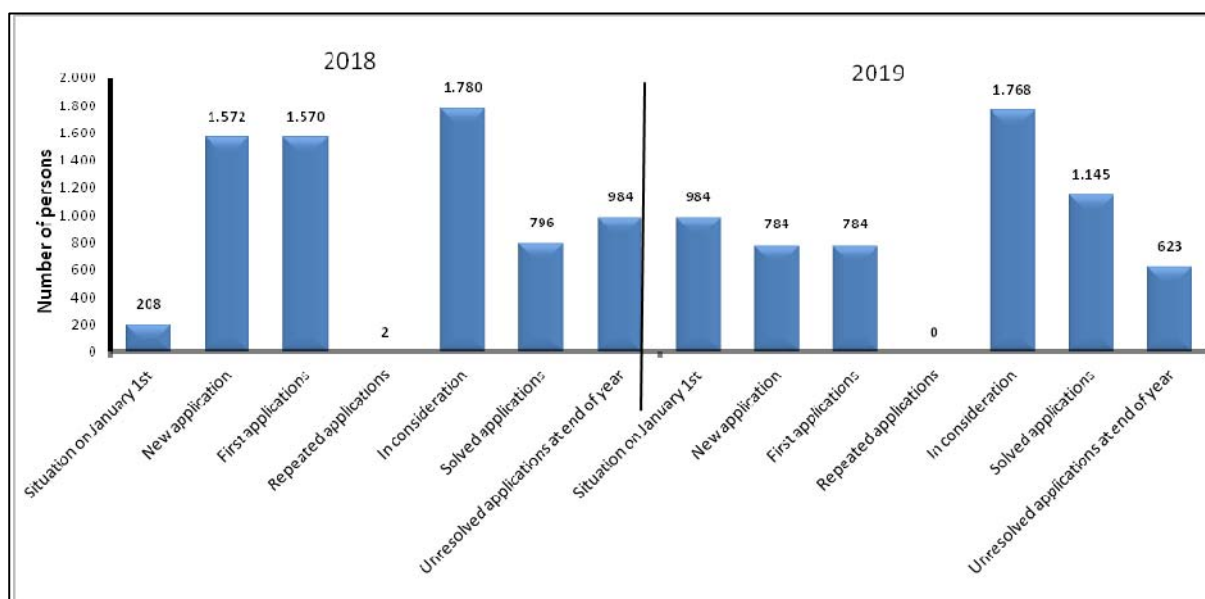
<sup>16</sup> Article 47, Law on Asylum ("BiH Official Gazette" no.11/16 and 16/16)

**Graphic overview of the number of persons who applied for asylum in BiH in 2018 and 2019**



In 2019, most of the asylum seekers in BiH were nationals of Iraq (97 applications for 327 persons), Iran (47 applications for 121 persons), followed by the nationals of Afghanistan (38 applications for 79 persons), Pakistan (64 applications for 68 persons ) and the Syrian Arab Republic (23 applications for 58 persons).

In the 2015 and 2016, there were no asylum applications submitted by unaccompanied minors, while in 2017 there were 2 asylum applications involving two persons from Afghanistan who were under the category of unaccompanied minors. In 2018, there were 8 asylum applications for 8 persons (two from Afghanistan and two from Turkey, and one from each of the following countries: Algeria, Iran, Libya and the Syrian Arab Republic), while In 2019, there were 21 asylum applications for 21 persons (8 from Pakistan, 7 from Afghanistan, 2 from the Syrian Arab Republic and one from each of the following countries: Algeria, Iraq, Iran and Libya).



In 2018, a total of 622 decisions were issued, of which 18 asylum application including 20 persons were withdrawn, while in 2019, a total of 581 decisions issued, of which 14 applications for 29 persons were withdrawn (personal renunciation).

To precisely illustrate current state of affairs in the asylum field, here follows a brief analysis and comparative data on submitted applications and decisions issued in 2018 and 2019, disaggregated by number of persons covered by the applications.

According to data from the Ministry of Security - Asylum Sector, a total of 961 asylum applications covering 1,568 persons, were submitted in BiH in 2018, plus four babies born in 2019, making a total of 1,572 persons. In the same year, 1,152 applications for 1,780 persons were considered, taking into account cases that remained unresolved from previous years (191 applications for 208 persons were transferred). During 2018, the status of subsidiary protection was recognized for 11 persons (9 applications), 36 applications for 46 persons were rejected and the procedure was suspended for 577 applications covering 739 persons. No application was rejected, so that 530 applications covering 984 persons remained unresolved at the end of 2018.

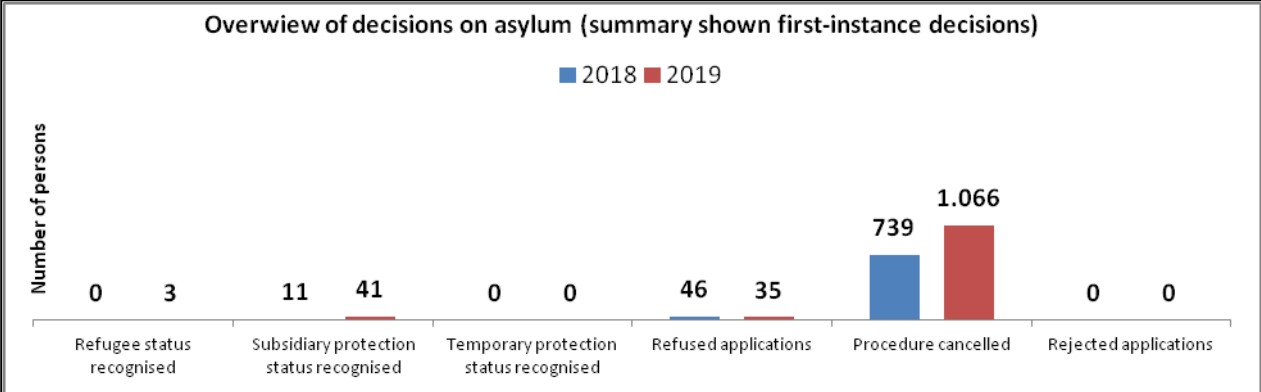
In 2018, the main reason for rejecting the asylum applications (33 applications for 43 persons) is the lack of grounds under Article 44 (1) in conjunction with Articles 19 and 22 of the Law on Asylum, according to which such applications were not founded on reasons that give rise to the recognition of refugee or subsidiary protection status, then the expulsion or extradition measure postponement under Article 45 (1) item d) (2 applications for 2 persons), and the situation when the applicant is reasonably considered to be a danger to the security of BiH under Article 45 (1) item f) (1 application for 1 person).

In 2018, 577 applications for 739 persons were suspended due to the following reasons: the asylum seeker does not reside on the last registered address (559 applications for 719 persons) and the reasons prescribed by the Law on Administrative Procedure (18 applications for 20 persons).

Analysis of the overall applications in 2018, including the ones received during the year as well as those transferred from previous years, illustrate that most asylum applications were filed by nationals of Pakistan (21% of the total number of asylum seekers), and Iran (21% of the total number of asylum seekers). Then follow the nationals of Afghanistan (19%), the Syrian Arab Republic (11% of the total number of asylum seekers) and Iraq (7%). An overview of the gender and age structure of the total number of persons (1,780 persons) who applied for asylum in BiH in 2018 is structured as follows: 451 women (25%) and 1,329 men (75%). The age structure of these individuals shows that the most frequent age group is 18-35 years old (1,028 persons or 58%), then the age group 0-17 years (426 persons or 24%), the age group 36-59 years (300 persons or 17%), and eventually the age group over 60 years (26 persons or 1%).

According to the data from the BiH Ministry of Security - Asylum Sector, a total of 333 asylum applications covering 784 persons were submitted in 2019. However, it has to be taken into account that there were unresolved cases from the previous years (530 applications for 984 persons), and thus the total number of asylum claims considered by Asylum Sector in 2019 amounts to 863 application for 1,768 persons. During the past year, the asylum sector positively resolved 20 applications for 44 persons by granting refugee

status for 1 application including 3 persons, by recognizing a subsidiary protection status for 19 applications including 41 persons, rejected 27 applications for 35 persons, while the procedure was suspended for 534 applications for 1,066 people. Since there was no application rejected, 282 applications covering 623 persons remained unresolved at the end of the year 2019.



The main reason for the refusal of asylum applications (25 applications for 33 persons) is the lack of grounds under Article 44 (1) in conjunction with Article 19 and 22 of the Law on Asylum, according to which the application is not based on the reasons which represent the grounds for the recognition of refugee status or the status of subsidiary protection, then follows the reason indicated as irrelevant information / information of small importance (Article 45 (1) item a) (2 applications for 2 persons).

In 2019, the procedures including 534 applications for 1,066 persons were suspended for the following reasons: asylum seeker does not reside at the last registered address (354 applications for 794 persons), asylum seeker does not cooperate during the procedure (140 applications for 208 persons), the reasons prescribed by the Law on Administrative Procedure (21 applications for 30 persons), failure to respond to the invitation for hearing (12 applications for 25 persons), the applicant left BiH in the course of the procedure (6 applications for 8 persons) and the asylum application filed by a BiH citizen (1 application for 1 person).

Taking into account the unresolved applications from the previous years, as well as the newly filed applications, the total number for consideration in 2019 was 863 applications for 1,768 persons. Most applications were submitted by the nationals of Iran (24% of the total number of asylum seekers), Iraq (22%), Afghanistan (18%), Pakistan (15%), the Syrian Arab Republic (7%), and Turkey (6%).

An overview of the gender and age structure of the total number of persons (1,768 persons) who applied for asylum in BiH in 2019 and the persons whose applications were transferred from the previous year illustrates the following: 636 women (36 %) and 1,132 men (64%). The age structure of these individuals shows that the most common age group is 18-35 years old (763 persons or 43%), age group 0 -17 years (618 persons or 35%), then age group 36-59 years (366 persons or 21%) and finally the age group of over 60 years (21 persons or 1%).

Taking into account only asylum applications received in 2019 (333 applications for 784 persons), the largest number of asylum seekers were from Iraq (327 persons), Iran (121



persons), Afghanistan (79 persons), Turkey (74 persons), Pakistan (68 persons), and the Syrian Arab Republic (58 persons) , which represents 93 % of the total number of asylum applications.

The gender and age structure of newly-filed applications in the last year shows that there were 319 women (41%) and 465 men (59%). The most common age group is 0-17 (320 persons or 40,80%), then age group 18-35 years old (303 persons or 38,75%), age group 36-59 (159 persons or 20,20%), and finally the age group over 60 years (2 persons or 0,25%).

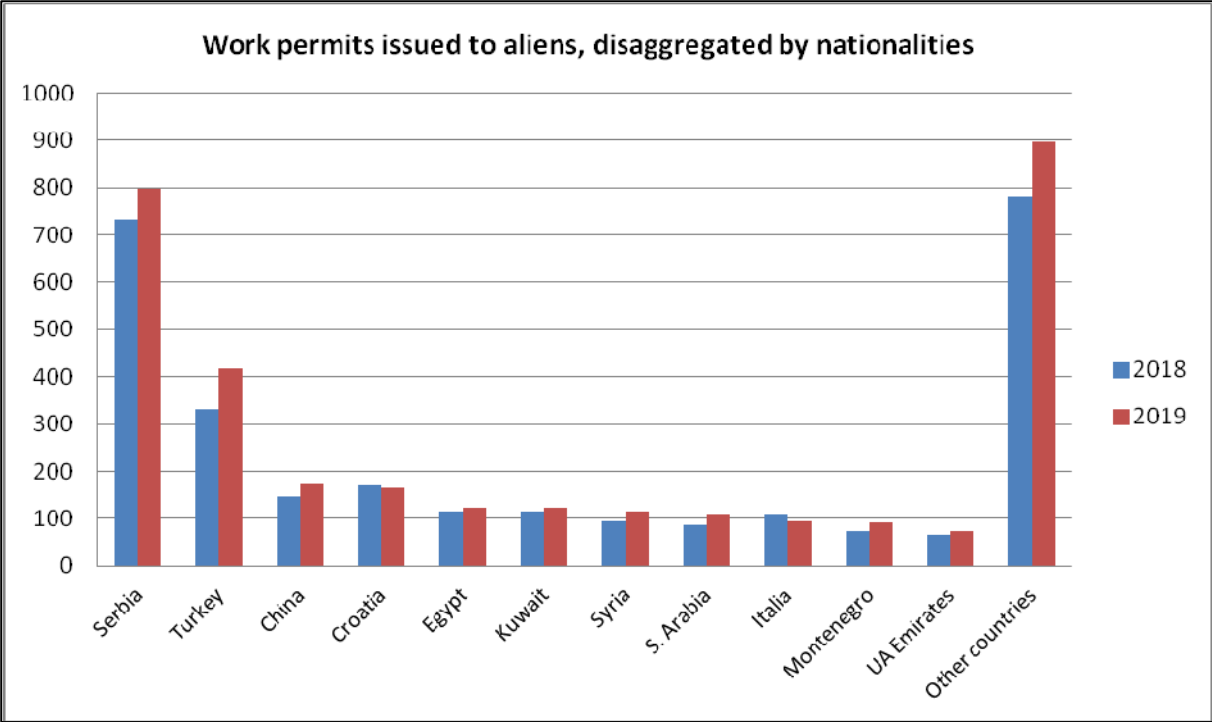
## 7. Work Permits Issued to Aliens

According to data obtained from the Labour and Employment Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and on the basis of data received from the relevant entity employment services and the Employment Service of Brčko District, a total of 2,822 work permits were issued to aliens in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018, while 3,183 such permits were issued in 2019, thus representing an increase of 12.79%. The data on work permits issued to foreign nationals, disaggregated by nationality and qualification structure of foreigners is demonstrated below.

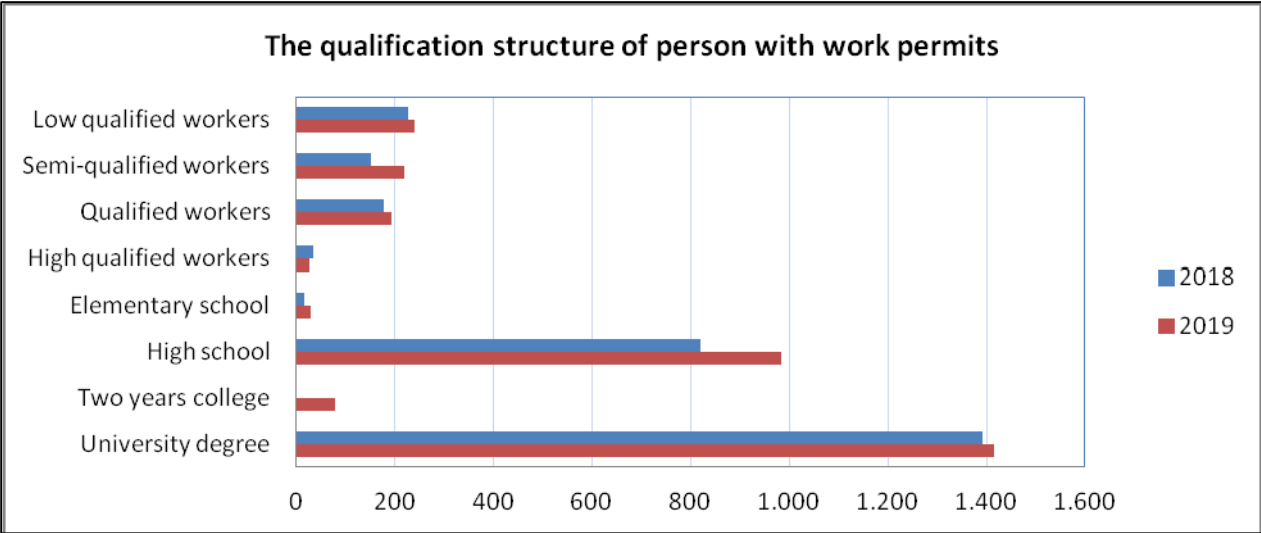
**Table 29. Work permits issued to aliens in 2018 and 2019 disaggregated by nationality**

No.	Nationality	2018	2019	%	No.	Nationality	2018	2019	%
1	Serbia	733	798	8.87%	7	Syria	94	114	21.28%
2	Turkey	331	418	26.28%	8	S. Arabia	87	110	26.44%
3	China	147	176	19.73%	9	Italia	110	95	-13.64%
4	Croatia	170	166	-2.35%	10	Montenegro	73	92	26.03%
5	Egypt	116	123	6.03%	11	UA Emirates	66	73	10.61%
6	Kuwait	114	122	7.02%	12	Other countries	781	896	14.72%
						<b>Total</b>	<b>2,822</b>	<b>3,183</b>	<b>12.79%</b>

The majority of foreigners with work permits in Bosnia and Herzegovina in last year are nationals of Serbia (25.07%). They are followed by the nationals of Turkey (13.13%), China (5.53%) and Croatia (5.21%). In 2019, the increasing trend of issued work permits in BiH is observed for most of the countries represented compared to 2018, with the exception of nationals of Italy and Croatia.



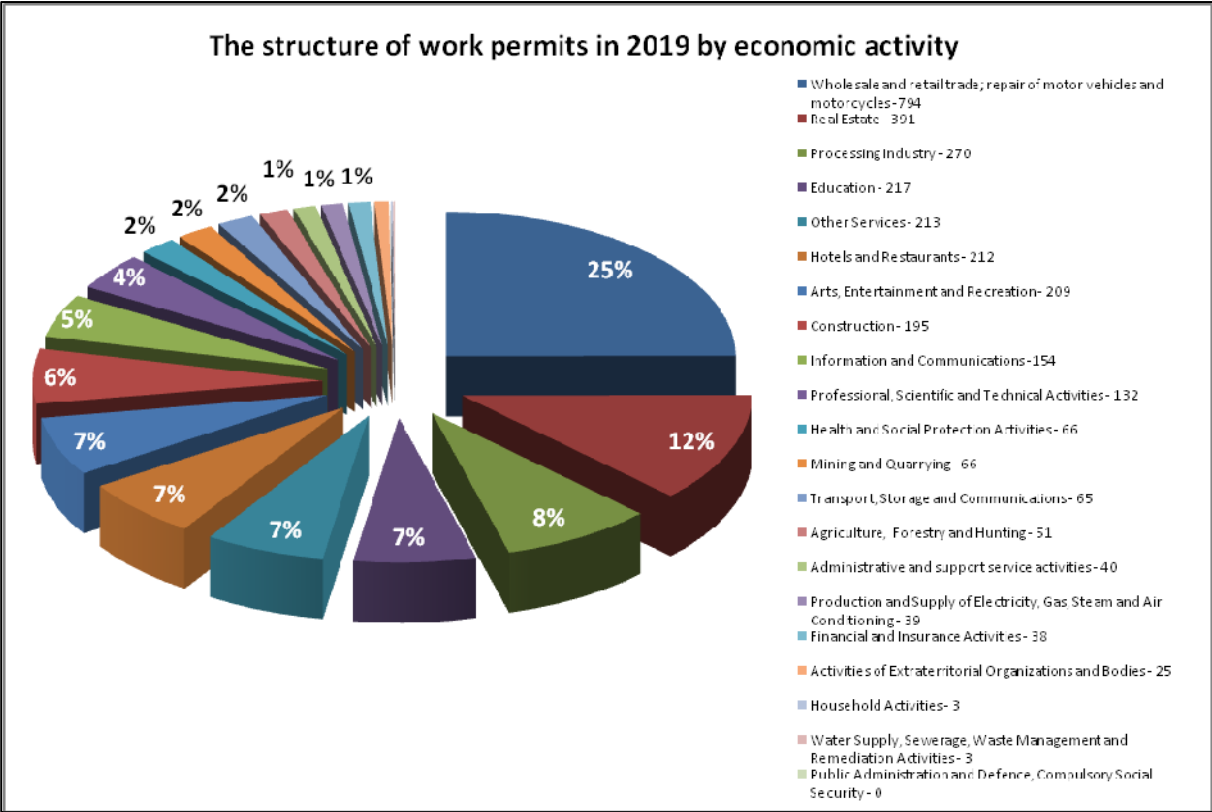
The data regarding the qualification structure of aliens who were issued work permits in 2019 indicate that the majority of them have a university degree (44%), followed by those with secondary education (31%), and non-qualified and semi-qualified workers (14%), which is almost the same case as in previous years when it comes to university and secondary education.



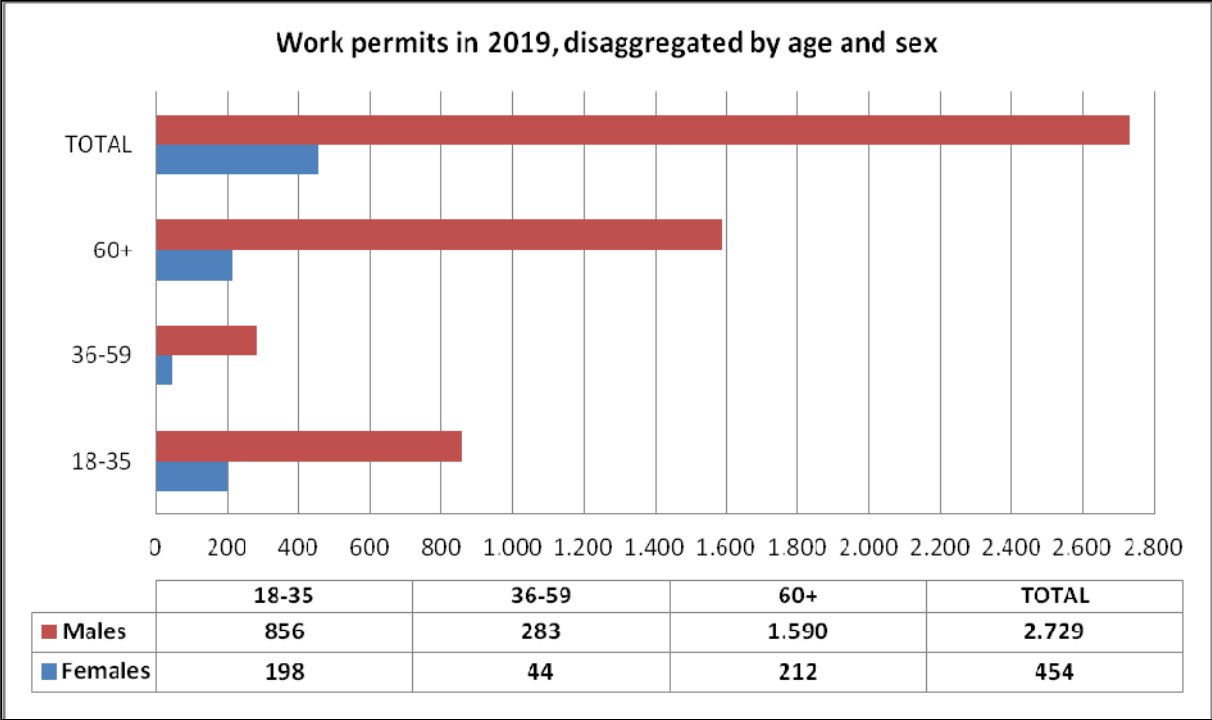
In 2019, the largest number of work permits were issued for the following professional activities: trade 794 (25%), real estate 391 (12%), processing industry 270 (8%), education 217 (7%), other service activities 213 (7%), hotel and catering (212) (7%), which represents 66% of the total number of work permits issued.

**Table 30. Structure of work permits in 2019 disaggregated by economic activity**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>2019</b>
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	794
Real Estate	391
Processing Industry	270
Education	217
Other Services	213
Hotels and Restaurants	212
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	209
Construction	195
Information and Communications	154
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	132
Health and Social Protection Activities	66
Mining and Quarrying	66
Transport, Storage and Communications	65
Agriculture, Forestry and Hunting	51
Administrative and support service activities	40
Production and Supply of Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning	39
Financial and Insurance Activities	38
Activities of Extraterritorial Organizations and Bodies	25
Household Activities	3
Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	3
Public Administration and Defence, Compulsory Social Security	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,183</b>



Of all work permits issued in 2019, 454 (14%) were issued to women and 2,729 (86%) to men, which is a ratio approximate to the past four years. The largest number of work permits issued in 2019, a total of 1,590 (50%), were issued to men in the age group 60+. This percentage was approximately the same in 2018.

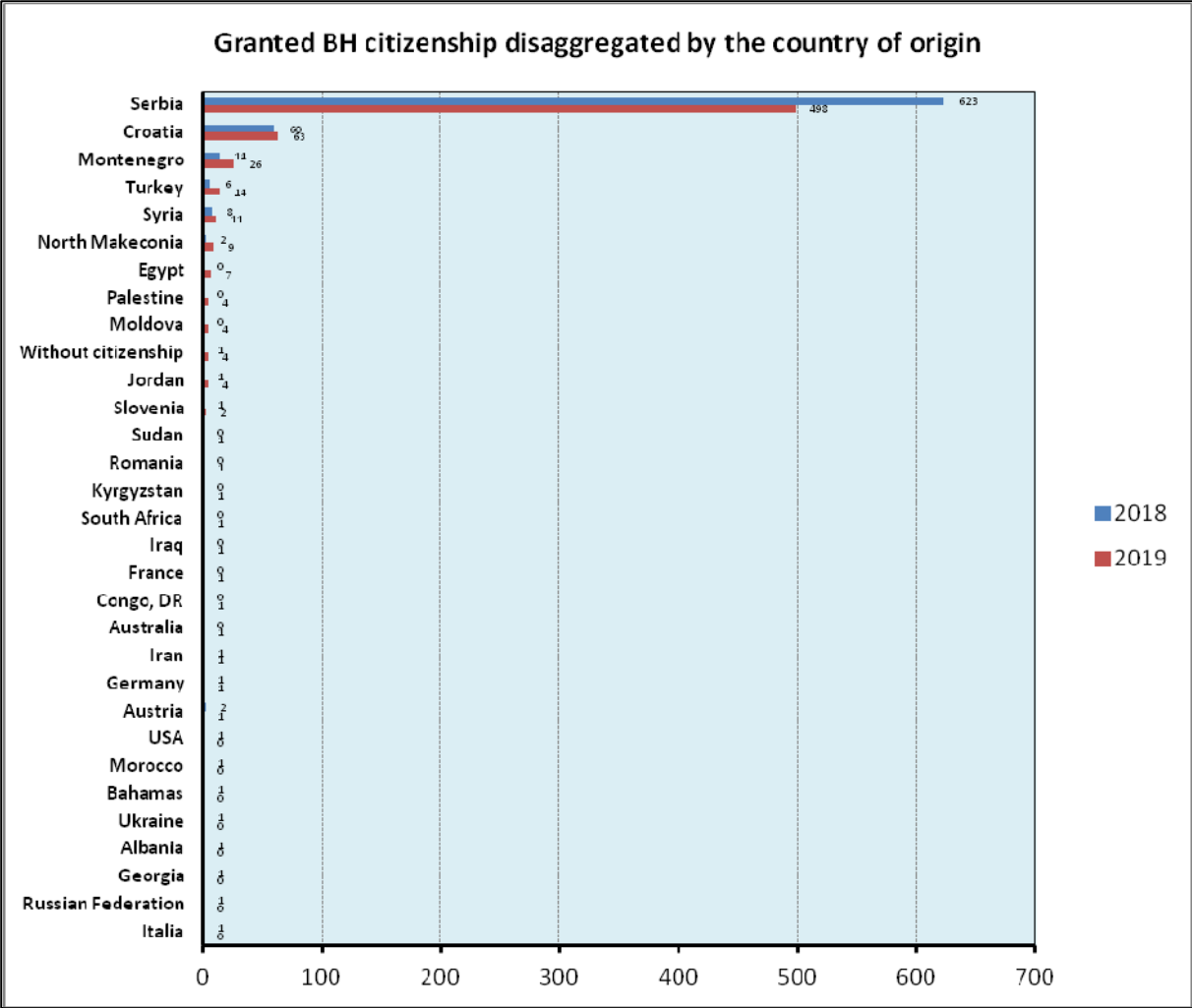


## 8. Acquiring BiH Citizenship

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 31. Number of persons granted BiH citizenship in 2018 and 2019 disaggregated by country of origin**

No.	Previous citizenship	2018	2019
1	Serbia	623	498
2	Croatia	60	63
3	Montenegro	14	26
4	Turkey	6	14
5	Syria	8	11
6	North Macedonia	2	9
7	Egypt	-	7
8	Jordan	1	4
9	Without citizenship	1	4
10	Moldova	-	4
11	Palestine	-	4
12	Slovenia	1	2
13	Austria	2	1
14	Germany	1	1
15	Iran	1	1
16	Australia	-	1
17	Congo, DR	-	1
18	France	-	1
19	Iraq	-	1
20	South Africa	-	1
21	Kyrgyzstan	-	1
22	Romania	-	1
23	Sudan	-	1
24	Italia	1	-
25	Russian Federation	1	-
26	Georgia	1	-
27	Albania	1	-
28	Ukraine	1	-
29	Bahamas	1	-
30	Morocco	1	-
31	USA	1	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>657</b>



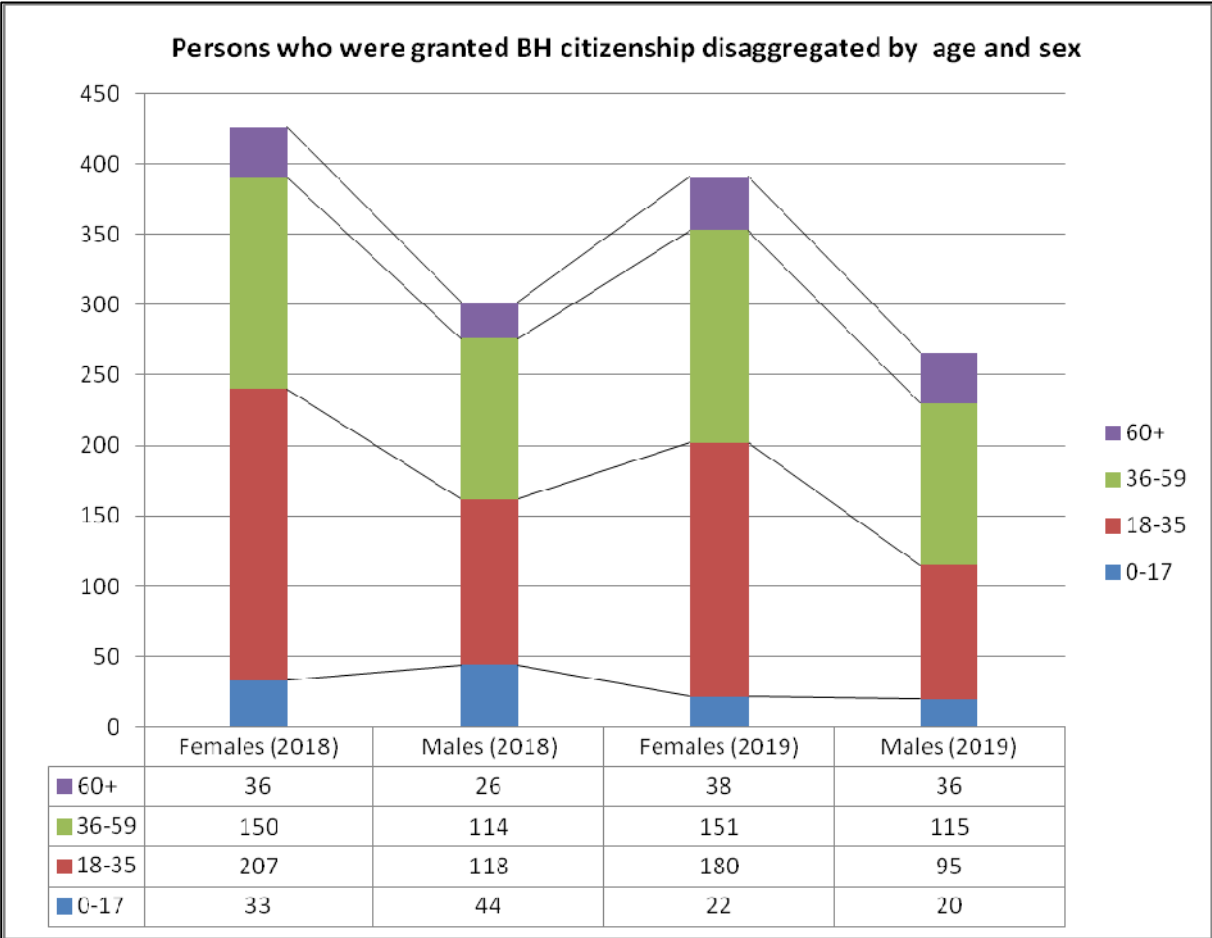
The majority of persons who were granted BiH citizenship in the past two years were the nationals of Serbia (81%).

The total number of foreigners who acquired BiH citizenship in 2018 was 728, representing an increase of 9.15% compared to 2017. Of this number, 613 persons acquired BiH citizenship based on Agreement on Dual Citizenship. In 2018, the citizenship of BiH and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina acquired 440 persons, of which 17 persons on the basis of the decision of the Council of Ministers of BiH on the admission to citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina for special benefit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, 45 persons by naturalization, 334 persons based on Agreement on Dual Citizenship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, 23 persons pursuant to the Agreement on Dual Citizenship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, and pursuant to Article 11 (a) and Article 38 of the Law on Citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina 21 persons, while in 2018 the citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska acquired 288 persons, of which 5 persons on the basis of the Decision of the Council of Ministers of BiH on the admission to citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina for persons of particular benefit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and pursuant to the Agreement on dual citizenship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia 251 persons, based on the Agreement on dual citizenship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia 5 persons, and 27 persons by naturalization.

The total number of foreigners who acquired BiH citizenship in 2019 amounted to 657, which is 9.75% lower than in 2018. Out of that number, 521 persons were granted citizenship based on Agreement on Dual Citizenship.

In 2019, 402 persons acquired the BiH and the BiH Federation citizenship, out of which 15 persons upon the Decision of the BiH Council of Ministers on admission to BiH citizenship for persons of particular benefit to BiH, and 84 persons through naturalization; 265 persons upon the Agreement on dual citizenship between BiH and Serbia, and 19 persons upon the Agreement on dual citizenship between BiH and Croatia, 19 persons pursuant to Article 11(a) and Article 38 of the Law on Citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2019, 255 persons acquired the BiH and the Republika Srpska citizenship, out of which 3 persons upon the Decision of the BiH Council of Ministers on admission to BiH citizenship for persons of particular benefit to BiH; 209 persons upon the Agreement on dual citizenship between BiH and Serbia; 28 persons upon the Agreement on dual citizenship between BiH and Croatia, and 15 persons through naturalization.

Analysis of the overall data on persons who were granted BiH citizenship in 2019, disaggregated by the age and gender indicates that 42% of persons who were granted BiH citizenship are in the 18 to 35 age group and 40% of persons who were granted BiH citizenship are in the 36 to 59 age group. Also, more women (60%) than men (40%) were granted citizenship, which is almost the same case as in the past 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.

World Bank figures are slightly smaller as they relate only to the first generation of BiH emigrants and position Bosnia and Herzegovina at 16th place in the world in terms of emigration rate compared to total population in the country (out of a total of 214 countries and territories covered in the *Migration and Remittances Factbook 2016*).

As for the number of persons emigrating from BiH on an annual basis, the only data that can be used as emigration statistics by years are the data on the number of persons who have been deregistered from the Register of Permanent and Temporary Residence of Bosnia and Herzegovina to immigrate to other countries, kept by the Agency for Identification Documents, Records and Data Exchange of Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to these statistics, it was found that in 2019, **4,044 persons** deregistered their place of residence in Bosnia and Herzegovina.<sup>17</sup>

**Table 32. Number of persons who cancelled their residence in BiH in 2019 for eight leading host countries**

HOST COUNTRY	NUMBER OF PERSONS IN 2019
Germany	1,181
Austria	919
Croatia	805
Slovenia	632
Serbia	389
Montenegro	38
The Netherlands	26
Liechtenstein	11
Other countries	43
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>4,044</b>

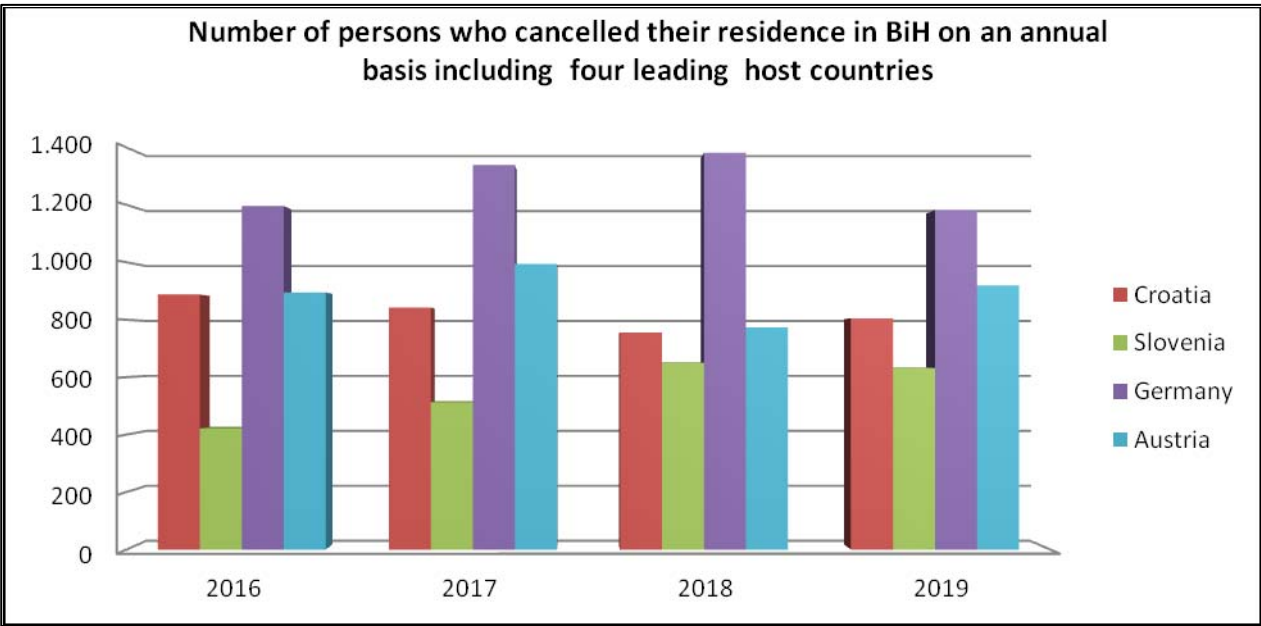
<sup>17</sup> Source: Letter of the Agency for Identification Documents, Registers and Data Exchange of Bosnia and Herzegovina, No:15-03-07-10-17924-2/19, from January 7, 2020



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 Croatia and Slovenia.

**Table 33. Number of persons who cancelled their residence in BiH on an annual basis including four leading host countries**

HOST COUNTRY	2016	2017	2018	2019
Croatia	888	843	755	805
Slovenia	421	512	650	632
Germany	1,196	1,339	1,381	1,181
Austria	895	994	773	919
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>4,288</b>	<b>3,688</b>	<b>3,559</b>	<b>3,537</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, 14,581 BiH nationals were employed in the Republic of Slovenia, 683 BiH nationals were employed in the Federal Republic of Germany (applies only to medical professionals in FR Germany), which amounts to a total of 15,264 persons. In the last three years, there has been a perceptible increase in the number of BiH nationals who are employed through the BiH Labour and Employment Agency. In 2016, 5,857 BiH nationals

<sup>18</sup> Letter of the BiH Labour and Employment Agency no.: 03-43-498-2/19, from January 31, 2020

were employed in this way, in 2017 a total of 9,930 persons, while 14,198 persons were employed in 2018, in this way.

## 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.

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 52 countries around the world amounts to 1,807,602 out of which 60% of the BiH emigrants live in 30 countries of Europe (Switzerland, Norway and EU-28).

**Table 34. Number of emigrants born in BiH in 52 leading host countries**

No.	HOST COUNTRY	NUMBER	SOURCE OF DATA/REFERENCE YEAR
1	Croatia	<b>373,838</b>	UN <sup>19</sup> , 2019
2	Serbia	<b>341,347</b>	UN, 2019
3	Germany	<b>289,000</b>	Federal. Stat. Office Germany <sup>20</sup> , 2019
4	Austria	<b>183,169</b>	UN, 2019
5	USA	<b>137,688</b>	UN, 2019
6	Slovenia	<b>107,677</b>	Statistics Office Slovenia <sup>21</sup> , 2018
7	Sweden	<b>59,939</b>	UN, 2019
8	Switzerland	<b>57,373</b>	UN, 2019
9	Canada	<b>38,479</b>	UN, 2019
10	Australia	<b>37,802</b>	UN, 2019
11	Montenegro	<b>32,080</b>	UN, 2019
12	Italia	<b>29,624</b>	OECD <sup>22</sup> , 2018
13	Albania	<b>29,077</b>	UN, 2013
14	Denmark	<b>18,196</b>	UN, 2019
15	Norway	<b>14,762</b>	UN, 2019
16	France	<b>15,347</b>	UN, 2019
17	United Kingdom	<b>10,296</b>	UN, 2019
18	North Macedonia	<b>8,742</b>	UN, 2019
27	New Zeland	<b>626</b>	UN, 2015
28	Belgium	<b>615</b>	UN, 2019
29	Russian Federation	<b>514</b>	UN, 2019
30	Slovakia	<b>438</b>	UN, 2019
31	Greece	<b>428</b>	UN, 2019
32	Malta	<b>366</b>	UN, 2019
33	South Africa	<b>351</b>	UN, 2019
34	Libya	<b>349</b>	UN, 2019
35	Liechtenstein	<b>307</b>	UN, 2019
36	Hungary	<b>293</b>	UN, 2019
37	Iceland	<b>200</b>	UN, 2019
38	Bulgaria	<b>140</b>	UN, 2019
39	Romania	<b>110</b>	UN, 2019
40	Brazil	<b>92</b>	UN, 2019
41	Cyprus	<b>69</b>	UN, 2019
42	Jordan	<b>62</b>	UN, 2019
43	Egypt	<b>61</b>	UN, 2019
44	Israel	<b>53</b>	UN, 2015

<sup>19</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Population Division (2019). International Migrant Stock 2019 (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2019)., accessed on January 17, 2020

<sup>20</sup> Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis), 2019, www.destatis.de

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.stat.si/StaWeb>

<sup>22</sup> <https://stats.oecd.org/>

19	Poland	<b>3,681</b>	UN , 2019
20	Turkey	<b>3,212</b>	UN , 2019
21	Czech Republic	<b>2,772</b>	UN , 2019
22	Luxembourg	<b>2,732</b>	UN , 2019
23	Spain	<b>2,195</b>	UN , 2019
24	Ireland	<b>1,407</b>	Central Stat. Office Ireland <sup>23</sup> , 2016
25	Finland	<b>995</b>	UN , 2019
26	The Netherlands	<b>966</b>	UN , 2019

45	Chile	<b>44</b>	UN , 2019
46	Portugal	<b>42</b>	UN , 2019
47	Venezuela	<b>23</b>	UN , 2019
48	Bolivia	<b>10</b>	UN , 2019
49	Dominican Republic	<b>5</b>	UN , 2019
50	Latvia	<b>5</b>	UN , 2019
51	Estonia	<b>2</b>	UN , 2019
52	Guinea	<b>1</b>	UN , 2019
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>1,807,602</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.

### 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, at the end of 2019, a total of 16,845 persons from Bosnia and Herzegovina with refugee status were registered all over the world. The largest number of registered refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina are currently staying in Serbia (49%), followed by France, Switzerland and Germany.

According to data available to fourteen host countries, a number of BiH nationals, with a permanent or temporary residence, amounts to 470,945, as presented in Table 35. This number represents BiH nationals who hold only BiH citizenship and who have not acquired citizenship of the host country nor have dual citizenship.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.cso.ie/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://stats.oecd.org/>

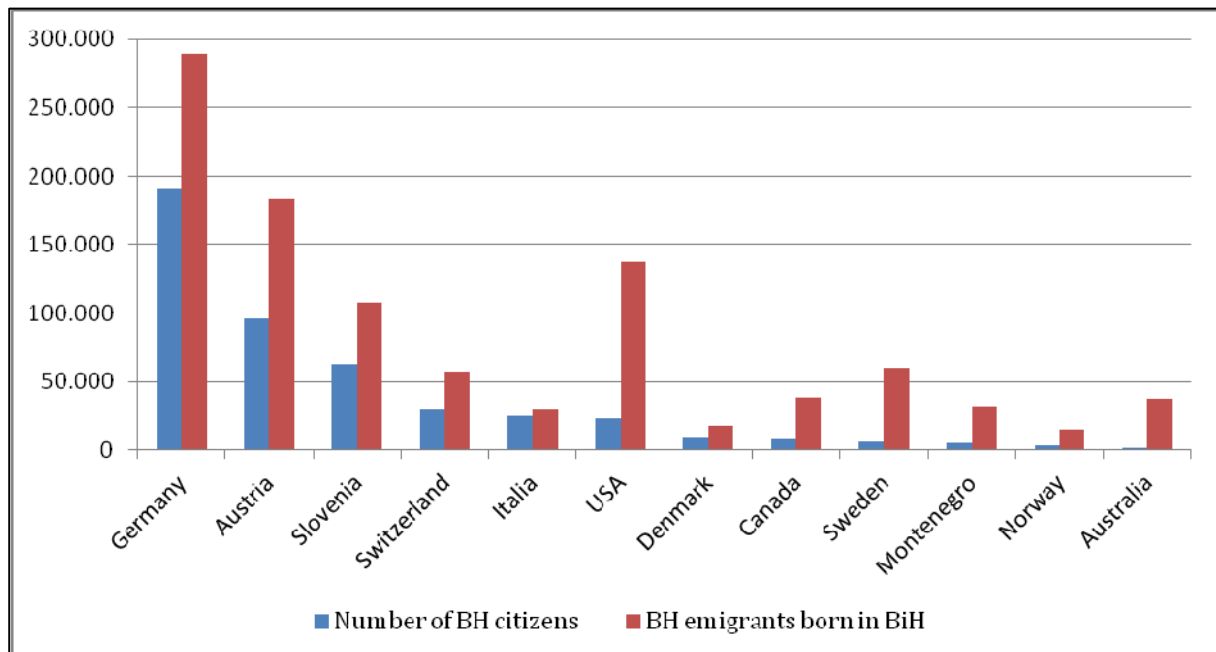
**Table 35. Number of BiH citizens in 14 host countries (not included persons who in addition to the citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina have the citizenship of another country)**

<b>HOST COUNTRY</b>	<b>NUMBER OF BIH CITIZENS</b>	<b>REFERENCE YEAR</b>
Germany	190,495	2019
Austria	95,839	2018
Slovenia	62,946	2019
Switzerland	29,975	2018
Italia	25,034	2018
USA	23,383	2017
Denmark	9,923	2019
Canada	7,760	2016
Croatia	6,733	2011
Sweden	6,473	2018
Montenegro	5,209	2011
Norway	3,661	2018
The Netherlands	2,114	2018
Australia	1,400	2011
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>470,945</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 percentage of naturalization of BiH emigrants in respective host country can be clearly seen in correlation between the number of persons who have the BiH citizenship and the number of persons who were born in BiH. In most countries the number of BiH nationals is much smaller than the number of those who were born in BiH. The biggest difference in correlation between these two figures is in Australia, Canada and Sweden. In all of three of these countries, over 90% of BiH emigrants are naturalized, i.e. resolved their status through the acquisition of the nationality of the host country.

The largest number of BiH emigrants who have acquired citizenship of the host country still hold the BiH citizenship as a dual citizenship because the host country provides for such possibility or in accordance with 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 4,117 persons renounced the citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2019. 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 (1,917), Austria (1,232), Slovenia (644) and Croatia (220). It is important to highlight the phenomenon of renouncing BiH citizenship in order to acquire Croatian citizenship (a total of 220 persons in 2019), although Bosnia and Herzegovina signed a Dual Citizenship Agreement with Croatia.

It is important to emphasize that Germany and Austria require a waiver of previous citizenship in the process of naturalization or the acquisition of their citizenship. The nationals of BiH rarely renounce BiH citizenship, resulting in a large number of our nationals

<sup>25</sup> Letter of the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs no. 06-30-2-1884/19 from January 27, 2020

in these two host countries, although most of them have fulfilled the conditions for acquiring the citizenship of the host country long time ago.

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. Estimates of remittances from abroad for all four quarters in 2018 amounts to BAM 2,671 million. However, the estimate of total transfers from abroad including foreign pensions for 2018, amounts to BAM 3,911 million.

**Table 36. Transfers from abroad for 2019<sup>26</sup>**

In million BAM	2019 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	2019 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	2019 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	2019 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter (estimate)	2019 Total (estimate)
<b>Personnel transfers (Remittances from abroad)</b>	<b>618.8</b>	<b>698.0</b>	<b>760.2</b>	<b>669.5</b>	<b>2,746.5</b>
<b>Other current transfers (primarily pensions)</b>	<b>281.9</b>	<b>335.6</b>	<b>338.6</b>	<b>321.5</b>	<b>1,277.6</b>
<i>Out of which: Social benefits (according to old methodology pensions from abroad)</i>	269.6	320.0	325.1	304.9	1,219.6
<b>Total current transfers (Other sectors)</b>	<b>900.7</b>	<b>1,033.6</b>	<b>1,098.8</b>	<b>991.0</b>	<b>4,024.1</b>

According to the estimates of the World Bank<sup>27</sup>, the remittances from abroad to Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2019 amounted to BAM 703 million.<sup>28</sup>

According to the World Bank data for 2019, the share of remittances in GDP of Bosnia and Herzegovina is 10.5% which places Bosnia and Herzegovina in 5th place in Europe in terms of remittances in GDP.

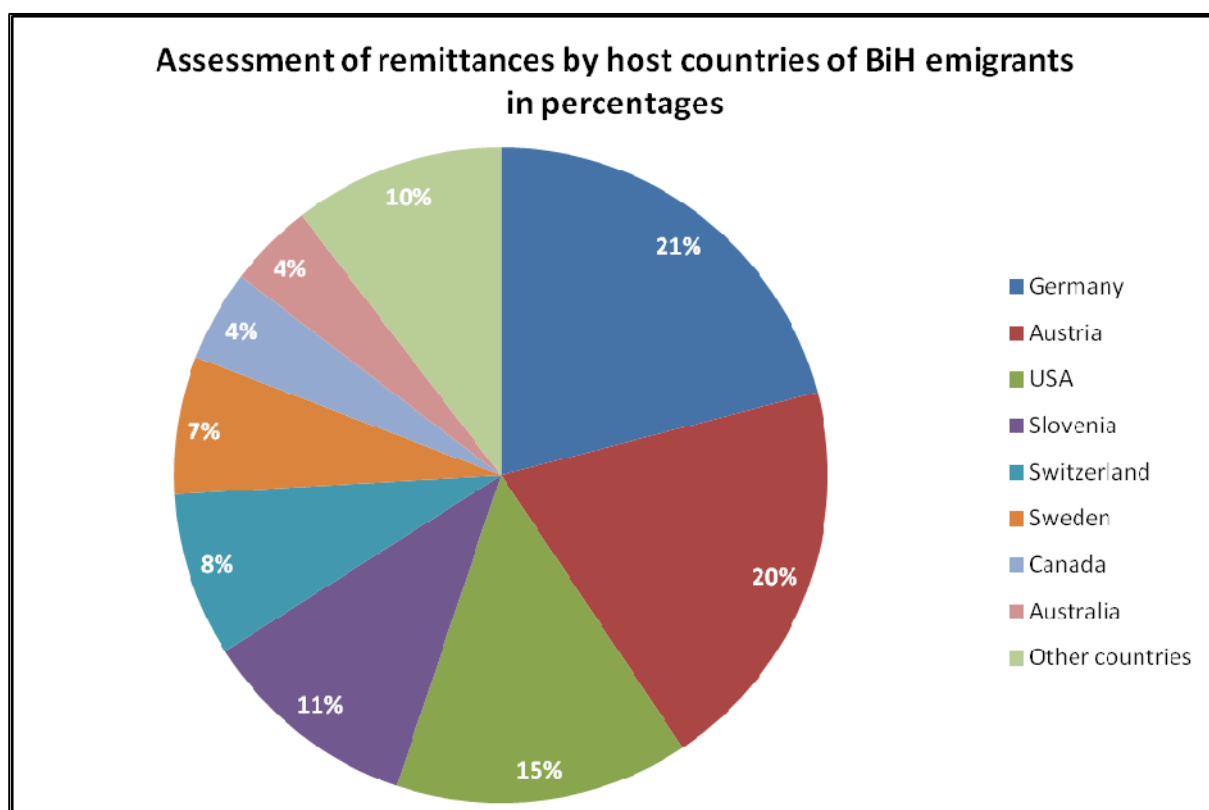
<sup>26</sup> Source: BiH Central Bank, Letter from December 30, 2020 - Transfers\_Q1 2007-Q3\_2019 and estimation for Q4 2019 based on the inflow of cash remittances for the previous three years.

<sup>27</sup> Migration and Remittances Data, December 2018, World Bank

<sup>28</sup> 2,110 US Million Dollars – converted into BAM according to the exchange rate from January 16, 2020

**Table 37. Assessment of remittances by host countries of BiH Emigrants for the 2018<sup>29</sup>**

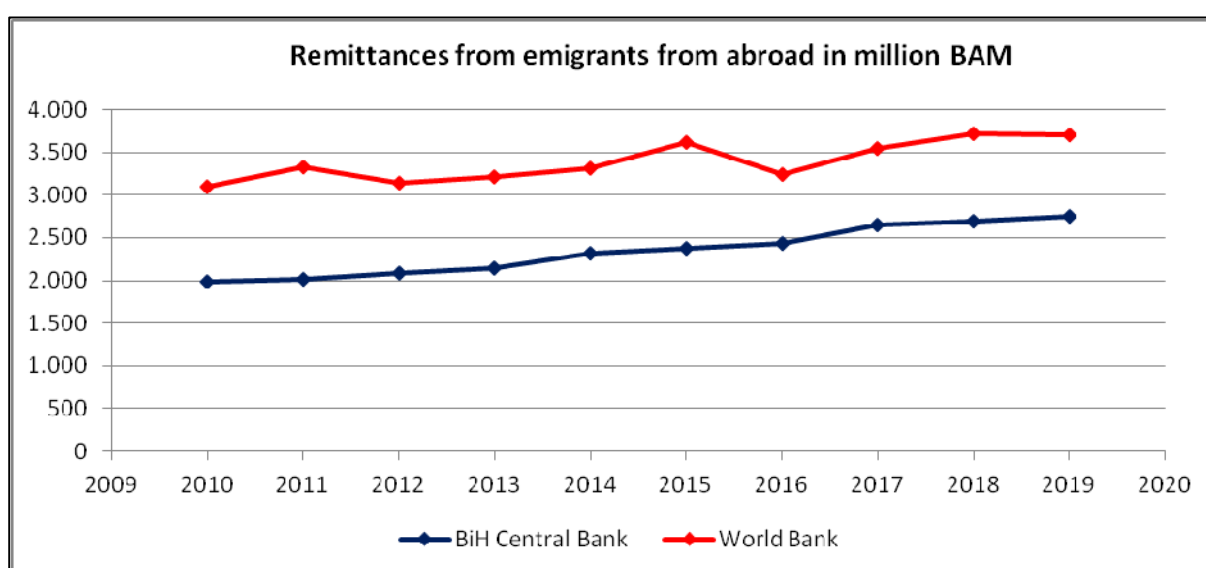
<b>HOST COUNTRY</b>	<b>Amount of remittances sent in millions BAM</b>	<b>Amount of sent remittances %</b>
Germany	781	20.9%
Austria	736	19.7%
USA	539	14.5%
Slovenia	403	10.8%
Switzerland	300	8.1%
Sweden	255	6.8%
Canada	167	4.5%
Australia	158	4.2%
Other countries	389	10.4%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,728</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



<sup>29</sup> Assessment of remittances by host countries of BiH Emigrants for the 2018, World Bank

**Table 38. Remittances from emigration from 2010 to 2019<sup>30</sup>**

Emigration remittances		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 <sup>31</sup> (estimate)
<b>BiH Central Bank</b>	KM in mill.	1,984	2,008	2,093	2,145	2,311	2,378	2,439	2,645	2,699	2,746
	EUR in mill.	1,014	1,026	1,070	1,096	1,181	1,215	1,235	1,352	1,380	1,404
<b>World Bank</b>	KM in mill.	3,097	3,328	3,134	3,218	3,313	3,617	3,338	2,997	3,717	3,703
	EUR in mill.	1,583	1,701	1,843	1,645	1,693	1,849	1,706	1,517	1,900	1,893



It should be noted that the continuous trend of increase in remittances since 2010 continued this year, as shown in the Table 39.

The presented data for the period 2014 – 2019 show that remittances represent a stable source of income to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Noticeable difference in the data of the Central Bank and the World Bank is due to the fact that Central Bank data include only "personal transfers", while according to the World Bank definition, remittances represent the sum of "personal transfers" and "compensation of employees".

<sup>30</sup> Remittances for 2018 are updated in relation to the estimate in the Migration Profile for 2018, in accordance with the current data on remittances for that period of the BiH Central Bank.

<sup>31</sup> The value of remittances for 2019 is estimated.



## 10. Migration and refugee crisis in BiH during 2018 and 2019

Migration and refugee crisis, i.e. the mixed mass migration flows across the Western Balkan Route, began in the second half of 2015 and lasted until 08.03.2016 when this Route was closed. The Western Balkans Route, which was an organized and controlled transit of migrants was closed, however space for illegal migration and criminal networks' operations, with particular focus on smuggling and trafficking was opened.

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

Because of these migration trends, Bosnia and Herzegovina encountered massive illegal entry of migrants into its territory in the fourth quarter of 2017. The trend of illegal entry increased in 2018 and 2019. During this period, the competent migration authorities in BiH identified the following routes as most commonly used by illegal migrants to pass through the territory of 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.

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

In the past period, it has been noted that, despite the functioning of the Operational Headquarters for Migration Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which includes the representatives of the Headquarters from the level of Entities and Brčko District of BiH, there is a lack of effective coordination and cooperation between relevant institutions at different levels of government in BiH, as well as between BiH institutions and donors, and international organizations implementing projects related to the migration crisis. This jeopardizes the adequate response of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the emerging challenges of illegal migration, so significant part of the burden falls on local communities, primarily in Una Sana and Sarajevo Cantons, as well as local communities where the temporary reception centres have been established.

It is therefore noted that the management of illegal mass migration requires effective cooperation and coordination of all relevant state authorities in BiH. Thus, the new draft plan also contains two additional priorities related to:

- Support to the local communities in which temporary reception centres are established, and
- Strengthening the capacity of the BiH Coordinating Body for Migration Issues - BiH Operational Headquarters for Migration Issues.

Within IPA technical assistance of and in order to improve coordination and cooperation on migration issues, a technical expert has been hired to support the work of the BiH Coordinating Body - Operational Headquarters for Migration Issues.

## **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 2018 and 2019 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 2018 and 2019**

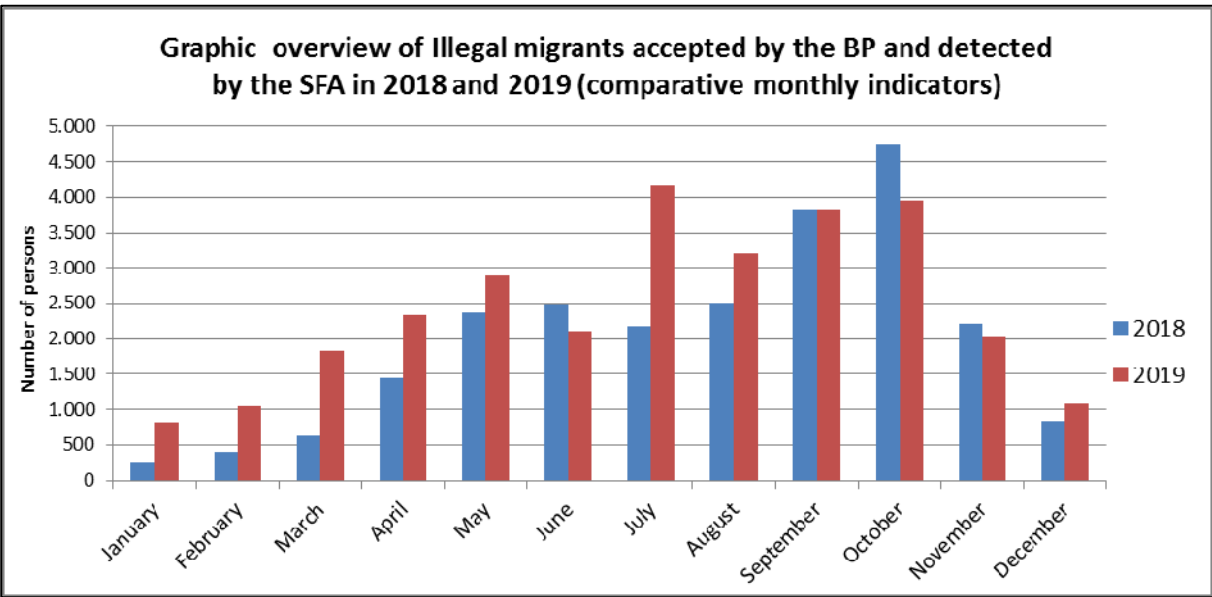
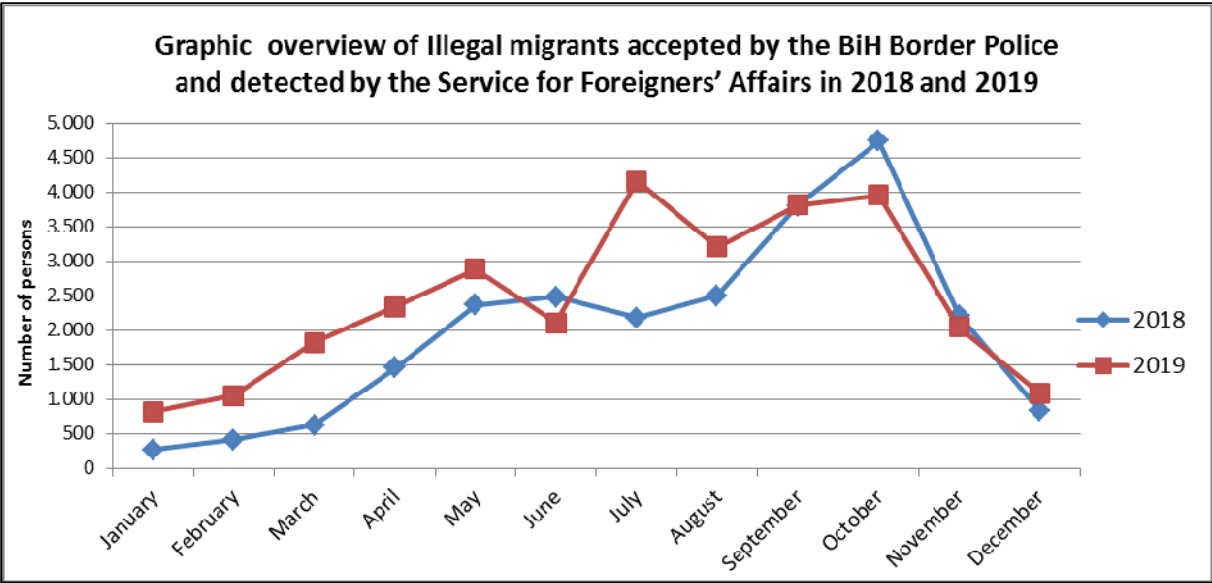
MONTH	2018	2019	%
January	268	821	206.34%
February	411	1,054	156.45%
March	629	1,822	189.67%
April	1,454	2,337	60.73%
May	2,368	2,884	21.79%
June	2,481	2,109	-14.99%
July	2,183	4,166	90.84%
August	2,505	3,206	27.98%
September	3,807	3,812	0.13%
Oktober	4,740	3,958	-16.50%
November	2,212	2,044	-7.59%
December	844	1,089	29.03%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>23,902</b>	<b>29,302</b>	<b>22.59%</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.



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 2018 and 2019, 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	2018	2019	2018	2019
Pakistan	7,770	9,806	7,630	9,699	350	68
Afghanistan	2,780	4,111	2,685	3,987	334	79
Iraq	2,184	2,470	2,122	2,322	116	327
Morocco	271	2,221	253	2,165	22	5
Syria	3,017	2,134	2,931	2,075	189	58
Bangladesh	452	2,125	429	2,115	2	
Algeria	477	1,601	434	1,490	18	5
Iran	3,663	1,176	3,415	1,105	363	121
Egypt	36	817	29	801	4	2
India	416	461	392	439	16	9
Turkey	189	406	57	132	22	74
Palestine	752	361	704	331	38	9
Libya	879	354	808	300	35	3
Eritrea	112	246	112	246		1
Tunisia	104	224	68	142	2	3
Nepal	59	122	59	119	13	-
Somalia	82	108	78	106	6	7
Serbia	94	89	1	-	1	-
Yemen	106	76	105	66	18	2
Albania	22	36	-	2	-	-
Other nationality	437	358	187	127	18	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,902</b>	<b>29,302</b>	<b>22,499</b>	<b>27,769</b>	<b>1,567</b>	<b>784</b>

The analysis of the data for the last two years reveals that the largest number of illegal migrants is from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Morocco, Syria, Bangladesh, Algeria and Iran and represents 87% of the total number of illegal migrants in 2018 and 2019. There is also significant increase in the number of nationals of Egypt, Morocco, Bangladesh, Algeria, Eritrea, Tunisia, Turkey, Nepal, Albania, Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as a decline in the number of nationals of Iran, Libya, Palestine, Syria and Yemen, in 2019. This indicates that the majority of persons illegally entering the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina are mainly economic migrants, and that the trend of economic migration is increasing.

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

At the end of 2019, Bosnia and Herzegovina had the following accommodation capacities:

- **Immigration Detention Centre**, managed by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, has a capacity of 120 places. On 31.12.2019, there were 65 persons in the centre.

- **Asylum Centre**, which is designed to house about 150 people, is managed by the Asylum Sector of the BiH Ministry of Security. On 31.12.2019, there were 26 people in the centre.
- **Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees** provides accommodation for 200 persons who have expressed intention to seek asylum or are asylum seekers in BiH. On 31.12.2019, there were 111 people in the centre.
- The former military barracks **“Ušivak”**, located in Hadžići Municipality, was opened in October 2018. Ušivak facility has 726 places with separate space for families, women and unaccompanied minors. On 31.12.2019, there were 1,316 people in this facility. In December 2019, most migrants from the Vučijak site near Bihać were placed in this temporary reception centre.
- A second temporary reception centre for the accommodation of migrants was established in Sarajevo Canton, in the former **“Blažuj”** Barracks, located in Ilidža Municipality. On 31.12.2019, there were 427 people in this centre.
- **“Sedra”** in Cazin was opened in July 2018. The facility offers 420 places with separate space for families and unaccompanied minors. On 31.12.2019, there were 338 persons in this centre.
- **“Bira”** in the city of Bihać opened in October 2018. The facility has 1,500 places available with separate space for families and unaccompanied minors. On 31.12.2019, there were 2,242 people in this centre.
- **“Miral”** in Velika Kladuša was opened in November 2018. There are 700 places available for migrant accommodation with separate space for unaccompanied minors. On 31.12.2019, there were 817 persons in this centre.
- **“Borići”** in the city of Bihać opened in January 2019. There are 580 places available to accommodate migrants. A separate space is provided for the families. On 31.12.2019, there were 295 people accommodated in this centre.

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

Although a number of activities have been undertaken to prevent illegal entry into the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina so far, the available data indicates that the migrants continue to enter the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina illegally in an extremely large number, while the number of illegal entries increased significantly in 2019. Further efforts are needed to address the key challenges and to make progress on ongoing activities. When considering the challenges of migration management, the difficult economic situation in BiH should still be taken into account, as outlined in the Council of Europe Report 2018.<sup>32</sup> The key challenges of managing the various aspects of migration, identified in BiH in 2019, are indicated below:

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<sup>32</sup> Decision on the Establishment of the Coordinating Bodies for Migration Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina (“BiH Official Gazette” No. 10/23, 64/13, 1/14, 20/16, and 83/17)

- Difficulties in implementing measures and activities undertaken to engage additional capacities of other institutions and agencies in order to prevent illegal entry of migrants from Serbia and Montenegro to BiH.
- Lack of financial resources, as well as human and technical capacities in all institutions and agencies responsible for managing migration and asylum, remains a major challenge in managing migration in BiH.
- Abuse of the asylum system in the sense of expressing an intention to apply for asylum with the aim of legalizing an illegal entry into a lawful stay on the territory of BiH for a period of 14 days.
- Non-availability of facilities and / or locations for the establishment of temporary reception centres for migrants.
- Establishing identity of illegal migrants is a constant challenge for all actors involved in the migration management process. Since the majority of migrants do not have any documents, the Service for Foreigners' Affairs registers them and, in most cases, issues a certificate of intention to apply for asylum based on a declared identity, which impedes the possibility of return and affects security risks.
- Inconsistent practices of the courts and Prosecutors' Offices in BiH in terms of processing migrants who are perpetrators of minor offences or criminal acts, due to the fact that they do not have the identification documents. It is therefore not possible to determine their true identity. Some courts do not even accept the identity which was accepted by the Service for Foreigners' Affairs, based on the migrant's statement when applying for asylum.
- Consistent implementation of the readmission agreements between BiH and neighbouring countries represents challenge for the authority responsible for the return and reception of migrants in accordance with these agreements. A particular challenge is the application of the shortened procedure.
- Lack of translators for certain languages.
- Security and humanitarian challenges in local communities with large number of migrants, especially in Una-Sana Canton, Sarajevo Canton and Tuzla Canton.

In addition to the identified security and humanitarian challenges, the increased influx of migrants into local communities also causes the additional costs of operations for the organizations and bodies of administration in these communities, primarily the work of institutions in the fields of health, interior affairs, social protection, and the communal economy. The work of institutions in these areas is further hampered by lack of human resources. Therefore, they cannot adequately respond to migration challenges.

## **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 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 ("Official Gazette" No. 5/19),
- 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. BiH Council of Ministers**

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. BiH Ministry of Security**

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.

- **BiH Border Police**

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. BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees**

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. BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

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. BiH Ministry of Justice**

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. BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs**

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 BiH**

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. BiH Constitutional Court**

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 (Mols) 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 Mol. Currently, the responsibility for enforcing in-country migration management has shifted from the cantonal/regional level of each Mol 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**

- ANNEX 1      SUMMARY OF MIGRATION TRENDS**
- ANNEX 2      VISAS ISSUED BY BiH DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS IN 2018 AND 2019**
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## SUMMARY OF MIGRATION TRENDS

ANNEX 1

INDICATOR / YEAR	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Visas issued by DCMs	9,623	11,126	11,482	12,107	16,351	16,970	22,862	28,751	31,171	47,694
Visas issued at the border	327	248	150	93	58	120	66	57	34	19
Refusals of entry into BiH	3,514	3,830	2,998	2,079	1,987	2,432	2,243	2,313	1,853	2,342
Illegal crossing of the state border	322	324	389	228	189	179	218	766	4,489	5,859
Entries	180	203	283	164	116	133	141	607	2,892	921
Exits	142	121	106	64	73	46	77	159	1,597	4,938
Temporary residence permits	8,131	7,661	8,838	9,953	11,022	12,633	11,519	11,372	10,756	10,133
Permanent residence permits	315	308	401	713	763	808	799	750	815	816
Revoked non-visa or temporary residence	397	364	947	430	817	670	508	282	189	208
Revoked non-visa or temporary residence and deportation	73	104	182	123	59	52	31	38	17	34
Revoked permanent residence	106	191	54	57	83	63	52	66	36	20
Expulsion orders	410	309	562	279	380	294	418	927	1,540	1,554
Foreign nationals placed under supervision	354	266	520	274	251	210	313	897	970	1,068
Immigration Centre	312	218	453	236	218	193	311	860	948	710
Certain area or place	42	48	67	38	33	17	2	37	22	358
Number of the conclusion on the approval of the execution of the decision on deportation	19	8	14	1	5	5	18	1	3	3
Foreign nationals returned from BiH based on readmission agreements	101	81	292	117	57	29	156	358	670	330
Voluntary return with the Service for Foreigners' Affairs assistance			160	159	169	179	246	628	324	403
Voluntary returns of irregular migrants (with IOM assistance)	341	244	88	209	104	197	148	379	628	616
BiH nationals	87	71	88	209	104	197	148	379	217	190
Foreign nationals from BiH	254	173	0	0	0	0	0	0	411	434
Readmission of foreign nationals based on Readmission Agreement with the Republic of Croatia	119	88	75	75	55	42	105	311	652	783
Persons seeking asylum in BiH	64	46	53	100	45	46	79	381	1,568	784
Work permits issued to foreign nationals during the year	2,325	2,607	2,573	2,563	2,197	2,465	2,628	2,593	2,822	3,183
Foreign nationals granted BiH citizenship	827	718	817	649	676	641	682	667	728	657
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	

**VISAS ISSUED BY BiH DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS IN 2018 AND 2019** ANNEX 2

No.	COUNTRY	2018	2019	+/- (%) (2019/2018)
1	Afghanistan	9	17	88.89%
2	Algeria	31	17	-45.16%
3	Angola	1	1	0.00%
4	Antigua and Barbuda	1		-100.00%
5	Armenia	55	110	100.00%
6	Bangladesh	80	79	-1.25%
7	Belarus	16	24	50.00%
8	Benin		1	-
9	Bolivia	1		-100.00%
10	Botswana	4	2	-50.00%
11	Brazil	15	14	-6.67%
12	Burundi		3	-
13	Cambodia		5	-
14	Cameroon	16	37	131.25%
15	Cape Verde	1		-100.00%
16	Central African Republic	1		-100.00%
17	Chad	5	3	-40.00%
18	Chile	1		-100.00%
19	China	1,022	136	-86.69%
20	Comoros	286	172	-39.86%
21	Congo Democratic Republic	18	4	-77.78%
22	Congo Republic	1		-100.00%
23	Cuba	10	15	50.00%
24	Djibouti	1	2	100.00%
25	Dominican Republic	7	2	-71.43%
26	Ecuador	5	3	-40.00%
27	Egypt	524	537	2.48%
28	Equatorial Guinea	1		-100.00%
29	Eritrea	8	14	75.00%
30	Ethiopia	92	136	47.83%
31	Gambia	2	5	150.00%
32	Ghana	33	7	-78.79%
33	Guinea	1	3	200.00%
34	Guinea Bissau	1	1	0.00%
35	Haiti	3		-100.00%
36	India	597	947	58.63%
37	Indonesia	192	248	29.17%
38	Iran	298	212	-28.86%
39	Iraq	124	375	202.42%
40	Israel	7		-100.00%
41	Ivory Coast	9	5	-44.44%
42	Jamaica	1	2	100.00%
43	Jordan	1,181	1,083	-8.30%
44	Kazakhstan	91	104	14.29%
45	Kenya	15	31	106.67%
46	Korea, DPR	1		-100.00%
47	Kosovo*	873	790	-9.51%
48	Kuwait	1		-100.00%
49	Kyrgyzstan	35	33	-5.71%
50	Laos	3	3	0.00%
51	Lebanon	4,009	2,956	-26.27%
52	Liberia		2	-
53	Libya	684	350	-48.83%
54	Madagascar	4	4	0.00%
55	Malawi	4		-100.00%

**VISAS ISSUED BY BiH DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS IN 2018 AND 2019** ANNEX 2

No.	COUNTRY	2018	2019	+/- (%) (2019/2018)
56	Malaysia	5	5	0.00%
57	Maldives		2	-
58	Mali	5	4	-20.00%
59	Mauritania	16	10	-37.50%
60	Moldova		1	-
61	Mongolia	21	1	-95.24%
62	Morocco	45	48	6.67%
63	Mozambique	1	2	100.00%
64	Myanmar	1	5	400.00%
65	Namibia	6	10	66.67%
66	Nepal	48	41	-14.58%
67	Niger		1	-
68	Nigeria	7	18	157.14%
69	Pakistan	255	320	25.49%
70	Palestine	162	240	48.15%
71	Philippines	546	764	39.93%
72	Qatar	5		-100.00%
73	Russian Federation	81	97	19.75%
74	Rwanda	3	2	-33.33%
75	Saint Helena	8		-100.00%
76	Saudi Arabia	18,333	35,905	95.85%
77	Senegal	6	9	50.00%
78	Sierra Leone	1	1	0.00%
79	Somalia	13	4	-69.23%
80	South Africa	39	51	30.77%
81	Sri Lanka	82	83	1.22%
82	Sudan	55	75	36.36%
83	Syrian Arab Republic	287	361	25.78%
84	Tajikistan	9	22	144.44%
85	Tanzania	10	10	0.00%
86	Thailand	52	135	159.62%
87	Togo	1	1	0.00%
88	Tunisia	31	27	-12.90%
89	Turkmenistan	41	7	-82.93%
90	Uganda	21	28	33.33%
91	Ukraine	24	29	20.83%
92	Unknown nationality	160	226	41.25%
93	Uzbekistan	17	21	23.53%
94	Venezuela	1		-100.00%
95	Vietnam	166	307	84.94%
96	Yemen	222	321	44.59%
97	Zambia	2	1	-50.00%
98	Zimbabwe	2	4	100.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>31,171</b>	<b>47,694</b>	<b>53.01%</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 2018 AND 2019**

ANNEX 3

<b>No.</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>+/- (%) (2019/2018)</b>
1	Algeria		2	-
2	Bangladesh	2		-100.00%
3	Cameroon		1	-
4	Congo, DR	1		-100.00%
5	Ghana	1		-100.00%
6	Indonesia	5		-100.00%
7	Iraq	3		-100.00%
8	Lebanon	7	3	-57.14%
9	Libya	13	6	-53.85%
10	Morocco	1	1	0.00%
11	Nigeria	1		-100.00%
12	Palestine		1	-
13	Tunisia		2	-
14	Uzbekistan		1	-
15	Vietnam		2	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>-44.12%</b>

## REFUSALS OF ENTRY AT THE BiH BORDER IN 2018 AND 2019

ANNEX 4

No.	COUNTRY	2018	2019	+/- (%) (2019/2018)
1	Afghanistan	10	3	-70.00%
2	Albania	28	48	71.43%
3	Algeria	3	2	-33.33%
4	Armenia	3	2	-33.33%
5	Australia	1	1	0.00%
6	Austria	37	32	-13.51%
7	Azerbaijan	5	2	-60.00%
8	Bahamas		1	-
9	Bangladesh	16	20	25.00%
10	Belarus	14	13	-7.14%
11	Belgium		2	-
12	Benin		2	-
13	Bolivia	4		-100.00%
14	Bulgaria	1		-100.00%
15	Cameroon	1		-100.00%
16	Canada	1		-100.00%
17	China	41	37	-9.76%
18	Columbia		1	-
19	Congo, DR	3		-100.00%
20	Croatia	97	65	-32.99%
21	Cuba	2	3	50.00%
22	Czech Republic	2	4	100.00%
23	Denmark	1	2	100.00%
24	East Timor	9		-100.00%
25	Ecuador	1	2	100.00%
26	Egypt	3	2	-33.33%
27	Eritrea		6	-
28	Estonia		2	-
29	France	9	9	0.00%
30	Germany	43	40	-6.98%
31	Guinea		2	-
32	Hungary	6	4	-33.33%
33	India	39	16	-58.97%
34	Indonesia	2		-100.00%
35	Iran	34	5	-85.29%
36	Iraq	3	52	1633.33%
37	Ireland	1		-100.00%
38	Italia	14	10	-28.57%
39	Jordan	4	7	75.00%
40	Kazakhstan	6	14	133.33%
41	Kenya	1	1	0.00%
42	Korea, Republic	1		-100.00%
43	Kosovo*	683	618	-9.52%
44	Kuwait	1		-100.00%
45	Kyrgyzstan		1	-
46	Lebanon	1	1	0.00%
47	Libya	6	2	-66.67%
48	Lithuania		1	-

## REFUSALS OF ENTRY AT THE BiH BORDER IN 2018 AND 2019

ANNEX 4

No.	COUNTRY	2018	2019	+/- (%) (2019/2018)
49	Malaysia	3	2	-33.33%
50	Malta	1		-100.00%
51	Mongolia		2	-
52	Montenegro	13	20	53.85%
53	Nepal		2	-
54	North Macedonia	60	6	-90.00%
55	Oman		1	-
56	Pakistan	14	38	171.43%
57	Palestine	4	1	-75.00%
58	Peru		1	-
59	Philippines	7	6	-14.29%
60	Poland	8	10	25.00%
61	Portugal	1	1	0.00%
62	Romania	3	3	0.00%
63	Russian Federation	11	9	-18.18%
64	Saudi Arabia	13	24	84.62%
65	Serbia	85	41	-51.76%
66	Slovakia	2		-100.00%
67	Slovenia	8	7	-12.50%
68	South Africa		1	
69	Spain	7	9	28.57%
70	Sudan	1		-100.00%
71	Sweden	2	4	100.00%
72	Switzerland	5	7	40.00%
73	Syrian Arab Republic	6	5	-16.67%
74	Tanzania	1		-100.00%
75	Thailand		11	-
76	The Netherlands	6	3	-50.00%
77	Tunisia	21	10	-52.38%
78	Turkey	422	1,069	153.32%
79	Turkmenistan	1		
80	Ukraine		1	-
81	United Arab Emirates	1		-100.00%
82	United Kingdom	2		-100.00%
83	United States of America	1	3	200.00%
84	Unknown nationality	3	3	0.00%
85	Vietnam	4	4	0.00%
86	Yemen		3	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>1,853</b>	<b>2,342</b>	<b>26.39%</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	2018	2019	+/- (%) (2019/2018)
1	Afghanistan	636	936	47.17%
2	Albania	8	10	25.00%
3	Algeria	53	160	201.89%
4	Bangladesh	72	161	123.61%
5	Bosnaa and Herzegovina	23	2	-91.30%
6	Cameroon	1	3	200.00%
7	Central African Republic	1		-100.00%
8	China	20	6	-70.00%
9	Comoros	1		-100.00%
10	Croatia	16		-100.00%
11	Cuba	5		-100.00%
12	Denmark	1		-100.00%
13	East Timor	9		-100.00%
14	Egypt	1	124	12300.00%
15	Eritrea		27	-
16	Ethiopia		1	-
17	Georgia		1	-
18	Germany	1	2	100.00%
19	India	46	120	160.87%
20	Iran	818	516	-36.92%
21	Iraq	509	1,029	102.16%
22	Italia	5	1	-80.00%
23	Jordan	1		-100.00%
24	Kosovo*	52	13	-75.00%
25	Kuwait	2		-100.00%
26	Lebanon	4	7	75.00%
27	Libya	220	86	-60.91%
28	Malaysia	1		-100.00%
29	Mali		2	-
30	Mauritania		1	-
31	Moldova		1	-
32	Montenegro	6	2	-66.67%
33	Morocco	72	174	141.67%
34	Myanmar	1		-100.00%
35	Nepal	2	9	350.00%
36	Nigeria	2	2	0.00%
37	North Macedonia		3	-
38	North Sahara	1		-100.00%
39	Pakistan	941	1,193	26.78%
40	Palestine	128	141	10.16%
41	Panama		1	-
42	Russian Federation	1		-100.00%
43	Saudi Arabia		4	-
44	Serbia	10	4	-60.00%
45	Slovenia		1	-
46	Somalia	5	31	520.00%
47	Sri Lanka	26	9	-65.38%



No.	COUNTRY	2018	2019	+/- (%) (2019/2018)
48	Sudan		3	-
49	Syrian Arab Republic	686	683	-0.44%
50	Tajikistan		1	-
51	The Netherlands	1		-100.00%
52	Tunisia	26	61	134.62%
53	Turkey	56	144	157.14%
54	United Arab Emirates	1		-100.00%
55	United States of America		3	-
56	Unknown nationality		137	-
57	Vietnam	8	4	-50.00%
58	Yemen	10	40	300.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>4,489</b>	<b>5,859</b>	<b>30.52%</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.

TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS ISSUED IN BiH IN 2018 AND 2019

ANNEX 6

No.	COUNTRY	2018	2019	+/- (%) (2019/2018)
1	Afghanistan	2	2	0.00%
2	Albania	40	70	75.00%
3	Algeria	12	15	25.00%
4	Argentina	6	6	0.00%
5	Armenia	6	4	-33.33%
6	Australia	20	20	0.00%
7	Austria	384	352	-8.33%
8	Azerbaijan	3	8	166.67%
9	Bahrain	23	24	4.35%
10	Bangladesh	10	19	90.00%
11	Belarus	14	13	-7.14%
12	Belgium	9	9	0.00%
13	Bolivia	2	1	-50.00%
14	Brazil	24	23	-4.17%
15	Bulgaria	29	24	-17.24%
16	Burkina Faso		1	-
17	Canada	35	40	14.29%
18	Central African Republic	1	2	100.00%
19	Chad	2	3	50.00%
20	Chile	3	2	-33.33%
21	China	281	291	3.56%
22	Columbia	7	7	0.00%
23	Comoros	1		-100.00%
24	Congo Democratic Republic	5	1	-80.00%
25	Costa Rica		2	-
26	Croatia	970	864	-10.93%
27	Cuba	2	1	-50.00%
28	Cyprus	2	6	200.00%
29	Czech Republic	21	28	33.33%
30	Denmark	17	16	-5.88%
31	Dominican Republic	1	2	100.00%
32	Ecuador	1		-100.00%
33	Egypt	193	260	34.72%
34	Equatorial Guinea	1		-100.00%
35	Estonia	3	1	-66.67%
36	Ethiopia	4	3	-25.00%
37	Finland	13	17	30.77%
38	France	65	66	1.54%
39	Georgia	5	5	0.00%
40	Germany	408	374	-8.33%
41	Ghana	9	6	-33.33%
42	Greece	33	26	-21.21%
43	Guatemala	1	1	0.00%
44	Guinea		1	-
45	Haiti	2	1	-50.00%
46	Honduras	1	1	0.00%
47	Hungary	9	8	-11.11%
48	Iceland	1		-100.00%
49	India	32	45	40.63%
50	Indonesia	18	13	-27.78%
51	Iran	36	31	-13.89%
52	Iraq	20	26	30.00%
53	Ireland	7	8	14.29%
54	Israel	17	15	-11.76%
55	Italia	225	257	14.22%
56	Jamaica		1	-

**TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS ISSUED IN BiH IN 2018 AND 2019**

ANNEX 6

No.	COUNTRY	2018	2019	+/- (%) (2019/2018)
57	Japan	10	13	30.00%
58	Jordan	101	123	21.78%
59	Kazakhstan	1	1	0.00%
60	Kenya	5	2	-60.00%
61	Korea Democratic Republic	1		-100.00%
62	Korea, Republic	7	2	-71.43%
63	Kuwait	130	109	-16.15%
64	Kyrgyzstan	1		-100.00%
65	Latvia	5	1	-80.00%
66	Lebanon	21	21	0.00%
67	Liberia	2		-100.00%
68	Libya	151	135	-10.60%
69	Lithuania	8	5	-37.50%
70	Luxembourg	2	2	0.00%
71	Macau	1		-100.00%
72	Madagascar	1	1	0.00%
73	Malaysia	12	9	-25.00%
74	Maldives		1	-
75	Mali	10	9	-10.00%
76	Mauritania	4	3	-25.00%
77	Mauritius	1	1	0.00%
78	Mexico	12	13	8.33%
79	Micronesia	2		-100.00%
80	Moldova	25	28	12.00%
81	Montenegro	737	646	-12.35%
82	Morocco	22	19	-13.64%
83	Myanmar	1	1	0.00%
84	Namibia	1	4	300.00%
85	Nepal	5	8	60.00%
86	New Zealand	4	5	25.00%
87	Nicaragua	1	2	100.00%
88	Niger	1	1	0.00%
89	Nigeria	2	4	100.00%
90	North Macedonia	511	383	-25.05%
91	Northern Mariana Islands		1	-
92	Norway	15	19	26.67%
93	Oman	16	12	-25.00%
94	Pakistan	29	52	79.31%
95	Palestine	32	33	3.13%
96	Paraguay	1	1	0.00%
97	Peru	5	4	-20.00%
98	Philippines	21	25	19.05%
99	Poland	57	49	-14.04%
100	Portugal	11	5	-54.55%
101	Qatar	43	41	-4.65%
102	Romania	62	29	-53.23%
103	Russian Federation	192	175	-8.85%
104	Rwanda	1		-100.00%
105	Saudi Arabia	86	104	20.93%
106	Senegal		2	-
107	Serbia	2,101	2,048	-2.52%
108	Sierra Leone	1	1	0.00%
109	Slovakia	33	28	-15.15%
110	Slovenia	181	183	1.10%
111	Somalia	4	9	125.00%
112	South Africa	10	11	10.00%

TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS ISSUED IN BiH IN 2018 AND 2019

ANNEX 6

No.	COUNTRY	2018	2019	+/- (%) (2019/2018)
113	Spain	49	23	-53.06%
114	Sri Lanka	4	8	100.00%
115	Sudan	19	21	10.53%
116	Swaziland	2	1	-50.00%
117	Sweden	29	20	-31.03%
118	Switzerland	54	56	3.70%
119	Syrian Arab Republic	208	226	8.65%
120	Tajikistan	4	5	25.00%
121	Tanzania	4	2	-50.00%
122	Thailand	1	1	0.00%
123	The Netherlands	64	51	-20.31%
124	Togo	1	1	0.00%
125	Trinidad and Tobago		1	-
126	Tunisia	14	18	28.57%
127	Turkey	1,990	1,656	-16.78%
128	Uganda	4	4	0.00%
129	Ukraine	65	55	-15.38%
130	United Arab Emirates	64	64	0.00%
131	United Kingdom	104	110	5.77%
132	United States of America	293	332	13.31%
133	Unknown nationality	2	6	200.00%
134	Uzbekistan	3	2	-33.33%
135	Venezuela	4	5	25.00%
136	Vietnam		1	-
137	Virgin Islands	1		-100.00%
138	Yemen	36	57	58.33%
139	Zambia	2	1	-50.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>10,756</b>	<b>10,133</b>	<b>-5.79%</b>

PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMITS ISSUED IN BiH IN 2018 AND 2019

ANNEX 7

No.	COUNTRY	2018	2019	+/- (%) (2019/2018)
1	Albania	2		-100.00%
2	Algeria		2	-
3	Argentina	1		-100.00%
4	Australia	3	2	-33.33%
5	Austria	36	58	61.11%
6	Azerbaijan		1	-
7	Belarus	3	3	0.00%
8	Belgium	1		-100.00%
9	Brazil		4	-
10	Bulgaria	3	5	66.67%
11	China	121	90	-25.62%
12	Croatia	91	117	28.57%
13	Czech Republic	3	1	-66.67%
14	Denmark	2	3	50.00%
15	Egypt	6	8	33.33%
16	Eritrea		1	-
17	Estonia		1	-
18	Ethiopia	1		-100.00%
19	France	2	3	50.00%
20	Georgia	1	1	0.00%
21	Germany	44	51	15.91%
22	Greece	1	1	0.00%
23	Hungary	2		-100.00%
24	India	4	1	-75.00%
25	Indonesia		2	-
26	Iran	6	8	33.33%
27	Iraq		2	-
28	Ireland	1		-100.00%
29	Italia	13	13	0.00%
30	Japan		1	-
31	Jordan	11	7	-36.36%
32	Korea, Republic	1	1	0.00%
33	Kuwait		1	-
34	Latvia	1		-100.00%
35	Lebanon	1		-100.00%
36	Libya	5		-100.00%
37	Malaysia	1		-100.00%
38	Mexico	1		-100.00%
39	Moldova	15	6	-60.00%
40	Montenegro	148	184	24.32%
41	Morocco	1	4	300.00%
42	Nepal	1		-100.00%
43	North Macedonia	81	68	-16.05%
44	Pakistan	3	3	0.00%
45	Palestine	5		-100.00%
46	Philippines	3		-100.00%
47	Poland	5	4	-20.00%
48	Romania	12	12	0.00%
49	Russian Federation	9	9	0.00%
50	Saudi Arabia		1	-
51	Serbia	15	14	-6.67%
52	Slovakia	3	3	0.00%
53	Slovenia	10	10	0.00%
54	Somalia		1	-
55	South Africa	1	1	0.00%
56	Sudan	6	3	-50.00%
57	Sweden	2	2	0.00%

**PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMITS ISSUED IN BiH IN 2018 AND 2019**

ANNEX 7

<b>No.</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>+/- (%) (2019/2018)</b>
58	Switzerland	9	5	-44.44%
59	Syrian Arab Republic	17	15	-11.76%
60	Tajikistan	1	1	0.00%
61	Thailand	1	1	0.00%
62	The Netherlands	2	4	100.00%
63	Tunisia	2	4	100.00%
64	Turkey	38	38	0.00%
65	Ukraine	28	17	-39.29%
66	United Kingdom	8	5	-37.50%
67	United States of America	18	13	-27.78%
68	Uzbekistan	1		-100.00%
69	Yemen	2		-100.00%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>815</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>0.12%</b>

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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			3	133	43
2	Albaniaa	2	1	1	49	49
3	Algeria		1	4	123	42
4	Armenia				1	
5	Austria	4			2	2
6	Azerbaijan				1	
7	Bangladesh			2	12	8
8	Belgium	1				
9	Brazil	1				
10	Bulgaria	2			3	
11	Cameroon				3	3
12	Canada	1				
13	China	7	10	1	41	40
14	Croatia	7	1		8	2
15	Czech Republic				1	
16	Ecuador				1	
17	Egypt	3		1	10	11
18	Equatorial Guinea	1				
19	Finland	1				
20	France	1				2
21	Gabon				1	
22	Germany	8	1	2	2	1
23	Greece	1				
24	Guinea	1			1	
25	Hungary	2				
26	India	2		1	34	4
27	Indonesia				2	
28	Iran			1	106	18
29	Iraq			4	184	25
30	Israel	3				
31	Italia	3			4	
32	Ivory Coast				1	
33	Jordan				7	1
34	Korea, Republic	1				
35	Kosovo*				29	12
36	Kuwait				2	
37	Lebanon				1	
38	Libya				46	16
39	Moldova	1				2
40	Montenegro	3			4	4
41	Morocco	2		1	56	24
42	Nepal				4	
43	Nigeria				4	3
44	North Mecedonia	38	2		9	5

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			
45	Pakistan				118	33
46	Palestine				33	12
47	Philippines				5	
48	Poland				2	1
49	Portugal			1	1	
50	Romania				2	
51	Russian Federation	1			5	1
52	Saudi Arabia				13	
53	Serbia	73		5	50	10
54	Slovenia	8		1	1	
55	Somalia				1	1
56	Spain	4				
57	Sudan				1	
58	Sweden	2				
59	Switzerland	2		1	1	
60	Syrian Arab Republic	1		2	57	17
61	The Netherlands	1			1	
62	Tunisia			1	108	22
63	Turkey	15	4	2	254	294
64	Ukraine	4			1	1
65	United States of America	1			6	
66	Unknown nationality				1	
67	Western Sahara				1	
68	Yemen				7	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>208</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1,554</b>	<b>710</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 2010 TO 2019**

ANNEX 9

No.	COUNTRY	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		TOTAL		
		Applicator	Persons	Applicator	Persons	Applicator	Persons	Applicator	Persons	Applicator	Persons	Applicator	Persons	Applicator	Persons	Applicator	Persons	Applicator	Persons	Applicator	Persons	Applicator	Persons	
1	Afghanistan	11	11	2	2			6	6	10	10	6	6	3	3	37	41	128	334	38	79	241	492	
2	Algeria	1	1	10	10	2	2	8	8	3	3					77	77	18	18	5	5	124	124	
3	Armenia							1	1	3	3	2	5									6	9	
4	Azerbaijan															3	3	1	1	1	5	5	9	
5	Bangladesh							6	6	2	2	1	1			2	2	2	2			13	13	
6	Cameroon	1	2	1	2					1	1	4	4	2	2							9	11	
7	Central African Republic									1	1											1	1	
8	China	1	1																			1	1	
9	Congo DR									1	1	1	1			1	1					3	3	
10	Congo, Republic											1	1									1	1	
11	Croatia											1	1	1	1							2	2	
12	Cuba											1	1			2	2					3	3	
13	Egypt			1	1					1	1			1	1			4	4	2	2	9	9	
14	Eritrea					3	3														1	3	4	
15	Ethiopia	3	3	1	1					1	1					1	1					5	5	
16	Gambia															1	1					1	1	
17	Germany	1	1																			1	1	
18	Haiti	1	1																			1	1	
19	Hungary							1	1													1	1	
20	India																	16	16	4	9	20	25	
21	Iran	1	3	2	3	1	1	2	2	1	1					9	10	157	364	47	121	220	505	
22	Iraq	2	2					1	1	4	4	4	4	4	6	8	8	39	116	97	327	159	468	
23	Ivory Coast																	1	1			1	1	
24	Jordan													2	3	1	1					3	4	
25	Kazakhstan	1	1																			1	1	
26	Kenya													2	2							2	2	
27	Kuwait															1	3	1	1	1	1	3	5	
28	Lebanon															3	3					3	3	
29	Libya					2	2									21	21	35	35	3	3	61	61	
30	Mali											1	1									1	1	
31	Mauritania															1	1					1	1	
32	Mijanmar					1	1															1	1	
33	Moldova					1	1															1	1	
34	Montenegro											1	1					1	1			2	2	
35	Morocco			5	6	2	2			2	2			2	2	26	26	22	22	3	5	62	65	
36	Nepal															3	3	11	13			14	16	
37	Nigeria			1	1			1	1							1	2					3	4	
38	North Macedonia															1	1	1	2			2	3	
39	Pakistan	1	1	4	4			2	2					11	12	65	65	344	350	64	68	491	502	
40	Palestine			4	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	6	6	31	38	6	9	55	65	
41	Philippines													1	1	1	1					2	2	
42	Poland															1	1					1	1	
43	Romania	1	1																			1	1	
44	Russian Federation															7	15	3	7			10	22	
45	Saudi Arabia																				1	1	1	1
46	Serbia	12	35	7	9	3	3	4	8	1	1	3	3	6	8	4	4	1	1			41	72	
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	1	1			22	35	36	59	4	4	5	5	17	18	31	47	110	189	23	58	249	416	
53	Tajikistan															1	1					1	1	
54	Tunisia			2	2	1	1									3	3	2	2	2	3	10	11	
55	Turkey							1	1			2	3	13	19	20	29	11	22	30	74	77	148	
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	13	20	
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>1,979</b>	<b>3,166</b>	

**NUMBER OF ISSUED WORK PERMITS TO FOREIGN NATIONALS** ANNEX 10  
**IN BiH IN 2018 AND 2019**

No.	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	2018	2019	+/- (%) (2019/2018)
1	Albania	9	36	300.00%
2	Algeria	1	1	0.00%
3	Antigua and Barbuda	2		-100.00%
4	Argentina	3	3	0.00%
5	Australia	2	5	150.00%
6	Austria	44	30	-31.82%
7	Azerbaijan	1	2	100.00%
8	Bahrain	16	16	0.00%
9	Bangladesh	1	9	800.00%
10	Belarus	2	6	200.00%
11	Belgium	2	1	-50.00%
12	Bolivia	1	1	0.00%
13	Brazil	12	9	-25.00%
14	Bulgaria	6	7	16.67%
15	Canada	8	11	37.50%
16	China	147	176	19.73%
17	Comoros	2		-100.00%
18	Croatia	170	166	-2.35%
19	Cuba	1	1	0.00%
20	Cyprus	3	1	-66.67%
21	Czech Republic	11	11	0.00%
22	Denmark	3	2	-33.33%
23	Egypt	116	123	6.03%
24	Estonia		1	-
25	Ethiopia	2	2	0.00%
26	Finland		1	-
27	France	8	11	37.50%
28	Georgia		2	-
29	Germany	54	55	1.85%
30	Ghana	4		-100.00%
31	Greece	7	7	0.00%
32	Guinea	1	1	0.00%
33	Haiti	1		-100.00%
34	Hungary	6	4	-33.33%
35	India	15	28	86.67%
36	Iran	10	16	60.00%
37	Iraq	16	19	18.75%
38	Israel	6	5	-16.67%
39	Italia	110	95	-13.64%
40	Japan	2	4	100.00%
41	Jordan	32	43	34.38%
42	Kazakhstan	1		-100.00%
43	Kenya	1		-100.00%
44	Korea, Republic	3	3	0.00%
45	Kuwait	114	122	7.02%
46	Latvia	1	1	0.00%
47	Lebanon	8	6	-25.00%

IN BiH IN 2018 AND 2019

No.	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	2018	2019	+/- (%) (2019/2018)
48	Libya	30	30	0.00%
49	Lithuania		3	-
50	Malaysia	2	12	500.00%
51	Mali	2	1	-50.00%
52	Mauritania		1	-
53	Moldova	1	2	100.00%
54	Montenegro	73	92	26.03%
55	Morocco	2		-100.00%
56	Namibia		2	-
57	Nepal	2	3	50.00%
58	Nigeria	1	3	200.00%
59	North Macedonia	58	64	10.34%
60	Norway	1		-100.00%
61	Oman	12	12	0.00%
62	Pakistan	19	44	131.58%
63	Palestine	6	13	116.67%
64	Philippines	1	5	400.00%
65	Poland	6	7	16.67%
66	Portugal	1		-100.00%
67	Qatar	38	38	0.00%
68	Romania	14	8	-42.86%
69	Russian Federation	45	47	4.44%
70	Saudi Arabia	87	110	26.44%
71	Senegal		1	-
72	Serbia	733	798	8.87%
73	Slovakia	11	12	9.09%
74	Slovenia	73	72	-1.37%
75	South Africa	4	2	-50.00%
76	Spain	8	6	-25.00%
77	Sri Lanka		1	-
78	Sudan	3	3	0.00%
79	Sweden	7	5	-28.57%
80	Switzerland	6	5	-16.67%
81	Syrian Arab Republic	94	114	21.28%
82	Tajikistan	1		-100.00%
83	Tanzania	1		-100.00%
84	The Netherlands	18	21	16.67%
85	Tunisia	1	3	200.00%
86	Turkey	331	418	26.28%
87	Turkmenistan	1	1	0.00%
88	Uganda	1		-100.00%
89	Ukraine	11	9	-18.18%
90	United Arab Emirates	66	73	10.61%
91	United Kingdom	19	18	-5.26%
92	United States of America	42	48	14.29%
93	Uzbekistan	1	1	0.00%
94	Venezuela		1	-

**NUMBER OF ISSUED WORK PERMITS TO FOREIGN NATIONALS**    ANNEX 10  
**IN BiH IN 2018 AND 2019**

No.	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	2018	2019	+/- (%) (2019/2018)
95	Yemen	24	31	29.17%
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>2,822</b>	<b>3,183</b>	<b>12.79%</b>