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A stylized map of Kosovo is centered on the page, overlaid with a series of curved, wavy lines in shades of blue and gold that radiate outwards. The text is superimposed on the map.

REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO
EXTENDED MIGRATION PROFILE
2018 - 2022

GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY ON MIGRATION

Prishtina

December 2023

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SHORTINGS

ABBREVIATION	Description
EARK	Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo
GAM	Government Authority on Migration
KAS	Kosovo Agency of Statistics
TAK	Tax Administration of Kosovo
CRA	Civil Registration Agency
KCA	Kosovo Cadastral Agency
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
CBK	Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo
ECB	European Central Bank
DMF	Directorate for Migration and Foreigners
DRRPIF	Department for Reintegration of Repatriated Persons and Integration of Foreigners
DCAM	Department for Citizenship, Asylum and Migration
DITHB	Directorate for Investigation of Trafficking with Human Beings
DIMAK	German Information Centre on Migration, Vocational Training and Career
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of the European Union
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EU	European Union
EUAA	European Union Agency for Asylum
EE	Energy Efficiency
FRONTEX	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
IT	Information Technology
ITP	Innovation and Training Park
FDI	Foreign Direct Investments
NIPH	National Institute of Public Health
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KIESA	Kosovo Investment and Enterprise Support Agency
NCF	National Commission for Refugees
MTEF	Mid-term Expenditures Framework

MFPT	Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers
MIMAK	“Strengthening Migration Management Authorities in Kosovo” Project
MIET	Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade
MCR	Ministry of Communities and Returns
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MFAD	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora
MH	Ministry of Health
ME	Ministry of Economy
MESTI	Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
SAA	Stabilization and Association Agreement
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
WHO	World Health Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSK	Kosovo Dental Chamber
OIK	Chamber of Nurses of Kosovo
UN	United Nations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
KP	Kosovo Police
BCP	Border Crossing Point
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
EMP	Extended Migration Profile
GRK	Government of the Republic of Kosovo
TRCM	Temporary Reception Centre for Migrants
DCF	Detention Centre for Foreigners
RKS	Republic of Kosovo
NDS	National Development Strategy
USA	United States of America
VIS	Visa Information System
EIMS	Education Information Management System
HIS	Health Information System
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WBIF	Western Balkan Investment Framework

FOREWORD

The Extended Migration Profile 2018 - 2022 reflects key developments in migration, with a focus on the legal, strategic, and institutional framework. This document presents substantive data on migratory trends, as well as an analysis of their impact on socioeconomic, demographic, and sectorial development. This document also includes recommendations for decision-making mechanisms to link sectorial policies with migration as a strong pillar and promoter of development.

The Extended Migration Profile has been developed by the Government Authority on Migration (GAM), as an inter-institutional mechanism established by Decision¹ of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo. The Extended Migration Profile 2018 - 2022 is the third in a series with an analytical and comprehensive approach, following those published for the years 2008-2012 and 2013-2017, and complements the annual Migration Profile Light. In this context, the analysis of migration trends presented in this document covers a 5-year period, from 2018 to 2022, and is presented in the form of figures and tables. The previous periods were also included in the comparative analysis when there was a significant shift in migratory trends. The administrative and statistical data used in this document are derived from the existing information systems of the Republic of Kosovo, Eurostat data, and other international sources.

The structure and methodology used to develop this document adhere to international guidelines for developing of the extended migration profiles, specifically the European Commission's Guide² and the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Guide for the Creation of Migration Profiles³. The document's content includes the main developments over the last five (5) years in the development of strategic policies and legislation, institutional developments, and an analysis of statistical data related to migration and its impact on socioeconomic development, democracy, and other sectorial policies. In this context, this document provides important data and analysis for policymakers and decision makers in developing coherent migration policies and strategies.

¹Decision of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo 14/94, dated September 14, 2022 on the establishment of the Government Authority on Migration.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM%3A2005%3A0390%3AFIN%3AEN%3APDF>

³ https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/migrationprofileguide2012_1oct2012.pdf

The Extended Migration Profile 2018 - 2022 is structured into four chapters: the introduction, conclusions, recommendations and illustrations through tables and figures.

Part A of the document discusses migration trends and migrant characteristics. This chapter presents the main migration trends and characteristics of migrants in terms of immigration and emigration, structured into regular and irregular migration. The data presented are divided into categories based on the methodology used by EUROSTAT, such as citizenship, gender, age group, and so on.

Part B contains, in addition to statistical data, an analytical section on the impact of migration on socioeconomic development, democratic aspects, and the impact on sectoral policies of education and human capital, labour market, health system, environment, and so on.

Part C discusses legal and institutional framework, as well as key policy documents in the field of migration governance. This chapter also discusses regional and international cooperation, bilateral migration agreements, global migration programs and initiatives, and so on.

Part D summarizes the entire document by presenting the main findings concerning migration trends over a 5-year period, migration policies, and the impact of migration. This section also includes specific recommendations on migration governance, the connection of migration with sectoral development policies, and recommendations on improving migration statistics and data-driven policy making.

While the appendix/annex contains tables in expanded format, graphs, or other information related to the content of the EMP 2018 - 2022 text.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the reporting period 2018 - 2022, the Republic of Kosovo has been able to significantly consolidate the migration management system, strengthening the responsible institutional mechanisms. The strengthening of the Government Authority on Migration as an advisory and policy-making mechanism, that has supported the institutions responsible for managing migration through the development of strategic policies and evidence based analytical documents, has been among the main achievements in this context.

In September 2022, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo approved the Decision No. 14/96 on amending the Decision 08/158 on the establishment of the GAM, thereby consolidating the legal basis for its functioning. According to the Government's Decision on the definition of responsibilities and duties, as well as the GAM's Working Procedures, in addition to the strategic level and the secretariat, six (6) thematic groups have been functionalized within the GAM, which address the following areas: regular migration and mobility; irregular migration; internal migration; communication; reintegration of repatriated persons and integration of foreigners as well as data in the field of migration.

Global Compact for Migration, the Global Compact on Refugees, and the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration.⁶

Several strategic policy documents related to migration were also approved during the 2018 - 2022 reporting period, including the Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings 2022-2024, the Strategy for Integrated Border Management 2020-2025, the Strategy against Organized Crime 2018 - 2022, the Strategy for Reintegration of Repatriated Persons 2018 - 2022, the Contingency Plan for the Management of the Potential Flow of Migrants, etc. All strategic documents are presented more in details in Chapter C of this document, under the Migration Governance section.

Another significant development was the signing of the agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania to simplify the procedures and conditions for obtaining a temporary residence permit for citizens of both countries. This agreement has started to be implemented on February 11, 2022.

The expansion of accommodation capacities according to the Contingency Plan for the Management of the Possible Flow of Migrants, the establishment of the Centre for Temporary Reception, the advancement of practices for the registration, profiling and referral of migrants, are some of the other main achievements during this period.

Without a doubt, in addition to the results achieved, the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo faced challenges in the management of migration, which were influenced by a variety of factors, during the period 2018 - 2022. The Covid-19 pandemic was one of the major influencing factors. The various states' actions, including border closures, have resulted in a significant number of migrants being 'strained' within the territory of Republic of Kosovo. To protect migrants from the pandemic, responsible institutions implemented preventive measures such as movement restrictions and quarantine for incoming migrants and applicants for international protection.⁷ This has contributed to the overloading of the local system of reception and accommodation of migrants and applicants for international protection, which has resulted in putting into function the Temporary Reception Centre in Vranidoll, in addition to the Asylum Centre in Magure.

⁶<https://mpb.rksgov.net/Uploads/Documents/Pdf/AL/47/STRATEGJIA%20KOMB%C3%8BTARE%20KUND%C3%8BR%20TRAFIKIMIT%20ME%20NJER%C3%8BZ%20N%C3%8B%20KOSOVO%C3%8B%202015-2019.pdf>

⁷European Commission Report on Kosovo 2020, page 46

Furthermore, the Covid-19 pandemic has hampered the organized return of Kosovo citizens who have been stranded in various countries due to job loss, including students and others who have travelled for business or family visits. The readmission of Kosovar citizens who had overstayed their visas in EU countries and the Schengen area was halted for several months due to the border closure, resulting in a significantly lower number of readmissions in 2020 compared to 2019.

On the other hand, the year 2020 witnessed a decline in diaspora visits (category of tourism from the diaspora) due to movement restrictions imposed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, this situation has led to an upsurge in remittances transmitted via official channels. There has been a subsequent surge in both remittance inflows and revenues generated from diaspora tourism, which will reach its pinnacle in 2022. The observed rise could potentially be attributed to the growing population of Republic of Kosovo citizens who have obtained residence permits in member states of the European Union and the Schengen area which has contributed to an increase in financial contributions from the diaspora and recent emigrants who have emigrated for employment purposes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE COUNTRY

Population, size, neighbouring countries and length of borders

With a central geographical location, the Republic of Kosovo is the youngest country in the Western Balkans. It is bordered with the Republic of Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia, the Republic of Montenegro, and the Republic of Serbia.

The Republic of Kosovo is a parliamentary democracy governed by the rule of law, based on the principle of separation of powers in the legislative, executive and judicial branches. It is the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo that exercises legislative power. The Government of the Republic of Kosovo exercises the executive power and is responsible for the implementation of state policies and laws. The third pillar is the judiciary, an independent and unique power, exercised by the courts. The President of the Republic of Kosovo represents the unity of the people.



Region: Southeast Europe

Kosovo geographic latitude: 41° 51' 21 and 43° 16'

Kosovo geographic longitude: 19° 59' and 21° 47'

Official name: Republic of Kosovo

Capital: Prishtina

Length of borders: 113.551 km in the southwest with the Republic of Albania, 170.772 km in the south with the Republic of North Macedonia, 79.165 km in the northwest with the Republic of Montenegro, 380.068 km in the northeast with the Republic of Serbia. The total borderline length of the Republic of Kosovo is 743.556 km, it stretches over mountains and has a natural character⁸.

Size⁹: 10,908 km².

Neighbouring countries: Republic of Albania, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Montenegro, Republic of Serbia.

Population: 1,762,220 (estimated as of December 31, 2022)

Population density: 162 residents per km²

Form of government: Parliamentary Republic

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Date of independence: 17 February 2008

President: Ms. Vjosa Osmani

⁸National Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo on Integrated Border Management 2020-2025 <https://mpb.rksgov.net/Uploads/Documents/Pdf/AL/364/Strategjia%202020-2025.pdf>

⁹Ibid

A: MIGRATION TRENDS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF MIGRANTS

This section provides an overview of the statistical data, encompassing significant trends and migrant characteristics.

Regular immigration

During the reference period, the number of visas issued to foreign citizens in the Republic of Kosovo increased by 22.5% when compared to the previous period 2013-2017. The increasing number of visas issued is influenced by the issuance of category D visas, whereas there has been a linear trend for those of category C.

During the 2018 - 2022, a total of 24,158 foreign citizens were granted a temporary residence permit in the Republic of Kosovo. In comparison to the period 2013-2017, the number was significantly higher, representing a 33.8% increase. The majority of temporary residence permits were issued for employment reasons (52.4%), family reunification (40.3%), and study/education (5%). While the permanent residence permit increased by about one and a half times during the reporting period compared to the previous period.

In the reference period, the rate of granting Kosovar citizenship nearly doubled to 81.8%, compared to the previous period. In most of cases, Kosovar citizenship were granted citizens of neighbouring countries, while citizens of countries such as Germany, Norway, Switzerland, and Croatia were granted Kosovar citizenship (primarily to those with Kosovo origin) in a smaller percentage (less than 10%).

Irregular immigration

During the reference period, the number of irregular immigrants to the Republic of Kosovo increased. When compared to the previous period, the total number of people refused entry at border crossing points (BCP) increased by about 60%.

The number of irregular immigrants who crossed the border and entered the Republic of Kosovo in irregular manner increased ten (10) times in the period 2018 - 2022 when compared to the previous period.

The number of foreign citizens residing in irregular manner in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo has tripled since the previous period. As a result, voluntary return orders increased by 63%, while forced returns decreased by -10% compared to the previous year. The use of assisted voluntary return and reintegration through the IOM may have affected such a decrease.

Trafficking in human beings

The number of initiated cases of migrant smuggling during the reference period decreased by approximately 65% when compared to the previous period. The highest number of initiated cases of migrant smuggling was recorded in 2022.

During the reference period, 11 THB foreign victims were identified, representing a -173% decrease from the previous period. Sexual exploitation has been the most common form of THB.

Asylum and determination of international protection status

In the Republic of Kosovo, the number of individuals seeking asylum has increased approximately sevenfold since the previous period. During the reference period, the majority of asylum seekers are from Syria, Iraq, and Morocco.

Regular emigration

General requests for Schengen visas by Kosovar citizens in the Diplomatic and Consular Missions of EU member states and the Schengen area accredited in the Republic of Kosovo and the countries of the region increased by approximately 16.2% between 2018 and 2022, compared to the previous period. Of all Schengen visa applications 84% were approved, while 16% were denied.

The number of Kosovar citizens obtaining their first residence permits in EU member states and the Schengen area has steadily risen throughout the reference period. Compared to the previous period, the granting of first residence permits increased by about 38.3%.

During the reference period, the majority of first residence permits issued to Kosovar citizens were for family reunification (46%), followed by employment (36%). Approximately two-thirds of Kosovar citizens with valid first residence permits in EU member states and the Schengen area reside in Germany, Slovenia, and Croatia.

When compared to the reference period, the rate of release from the Republic of Kosovo citizenship has dropped by roughly 13% during this time. Most of the people who were released from Kosovar citizenship accepted German and Austrian citizenship in the same way as in the previous period.

Irregular emigration

The number of Kosovar citizens who were refused entry or detained at the border in EU and Schengen member states increased by about 14% compared to the previous period. On the other hand, there was a downward trend from 2018 to 2022, with a relatively constant number, on average around 5,057 people per year, of Kosovar citizens caught with irregular residence within the territory of EU member states and Schengen area.

Throughout 2018 - 2022, the number of Kosovar citizens ordered to leave EU member states and the Schengen area fluctuated, but it continued to decline. In comparison to the previous period, the number of citizens of the Republic of Kosovo who were removed from EU member states and the Schengen area after a removal order decreased by approximately five times.

Kosovar asylum seekers in the EU states and Schengen Area

Since 2016, there has been a declining trend in the number of requests for international protection from Kosovar citizens in the EU states and the Schengen area until 2020. However, in 2021, there was an increase of approximately 4.1% (1,640 requests) in comparison to the 1,575 requests made in 2020, and this trend continued in 2022 with an increase of 52.1% (2,495 requests) compared to 2021. France, Germany, and Italy received the greatest number of asylum applications from Kosovar citizens.

During the time span from 2018 to 2022, a significant majority of Kosovar citizens' asylum applications in the EU states and Schengen area were deemed unfounded, leading to unfavourable decisions, and 14% of these applications were granted positive decisions.

Readmission and Reintegration

The total number of people readmitted during this period decreased significantly when compared to the previous five-year period. Approximately 73% of those readmitted between 2018 and 2022 did so by force, 5% voluntarily, and 22% with the assistance of IOM.

Approximately 80% of all readmitted persons in the period 2018 - 2022 came from Germany, France, and Switzerland.

Migration and development

During the reference period, migrant remittances increased steadily. Remittances increased by 6.1% in 2022 compared to 2021. Remittances contributed 13.66% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022. During the reference period, total remittances exceeded total foreign direct investments. During this period, the main sources of emigrant remittances continued to be Germany and Switzerland, accounting for approximately 60% of total remittances received in the Republic of Kosovo.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has also increased steadily during this time. Real estate, finance, mining, etc are some of the sectors that have benefited from Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and have influenced investment growth.

Between 2018 and 2022, there was a 63% increase in the number of businesses registered. In addition to businesses with foreign owners, a significant number of owners are from diaspora, and this trend is expected to continue.

Internal Migration

For the first time, data on internal migration are presented within the Migration Profile. The number of citizens who moved from one municipality to another between 2018 and 2022 is 88,508. On the other hand, there were 70,201 citizens who moved within a municipality (from rural to urban areas and vice versa).

Internally and externally displaced persons

During 2018 - 2022, 1,484 displaced persons within the country and abroad have returned. In addition, a total of 432 residential houses were built and renovated, while 216 displaced persons are located in collective centers.

A.1. IMMIGRATION

According to universally applicable international definitions, immigration refers to “the act of moving into a country other than one’s country of nationality or usual residence, so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence”.¹⁰

A.1.1. Regular immigration

Regular immigration refers to foreigners who have a regular status of residence in Kosovo, as defined by national and international law. This category includes: Foreigners with entry visas, residence permits, international agreements, foreigners for whom the visa regime does not apply, persons with International Protection, Temporary Protection, and Stateless Person status based on administrative and statistical data, we have seen a consistent increase in regular immigration from 2018 to 2022, driven by a number of factors that will be discussed further in the following sections.

A.1.2. Visa Regime/Policy

The visa regime policy of the Republic of Kosovo is regulated by the Law No. 04/L-219 amended and supplemented by the Law No. 06/L-036 on Foreigners.¹¹

The countries which are subject to the visa regime are determined by the Government Decision on establishing the Visa Regime for foreigners in the Republic of Kosovo, No. 12/108, dated 14.12.2012. This decision has been amended and supplemented continuously depending on the assessments and recommendations¹² by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs¹². The application for a

¹⁰ <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>

¹¹ **Transit Visa – Type A:** is a transit visa at the airport that gives the foreigner the right to enter and stay in the international traffic area of the airport until the departure of the flight to the country of destination. The validity of this visa is granted in accordance with the time and ticket reservations for the trip(s) in which the applicant intends to transit.

Transit Visa – Type B is issued to a foreigner for the purpose of crossing the territory of the Republic of Kosovo in the form of transit through entry/exit from the Border Crossing Points.

Entry Visa – Type C: is issued for the purpose of entering and staying in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo and gives the right to its holder to enter and stay in the Republic of Kosovo, no longer than 90 days within each period of 180 days.

Entry Visa – Type D: is an entry visa issued to a foreign citizen who intends to enter and stay in the Republic of Kosovo for more than 90 days, and be provided with a short-term residence permit for the purpose of family reunification, employment and study.

¹² Decision No. 15/158, dated 29.11.2013; Decision No. 08/167, dated 22.01.2014; Decision no. 07/21, dt. 28/7/2021. Amendment and Supplementation of the Government Decision no. 15/158, dated. 29.11.2013, for EU countries, the Schengen Area, UK and Northern Ireland, Headquarters of Signs, Principality of Andorra, Monaco, Republic of San Marino, Albania, Montenegro and Serbia.

Kosovo entry visa is filed in the following Diplomatic/Consular Missions: New York, Paris, Tirana, Skopje, Zagreb, Riyadh, Sofia, Vienna, Brussels, London, Istanbul, Canberra, Berlin, Tokyo, Geneva, Budapest, Podgorica, Dhaka, Doha and at the Border Crossing Points (BCPs) of the Republic of Kosovo: BCP Hani i Elezit, BCP Vermica, BCP “Adem Jashari” Airport, BCP Jarinje, as well as at DCAM/MIA.

During 2018 - 2022, there were a total of 6,155 applications for an entry visa to the Republic of Kosovo. Of this number, 86% (5,202) of the applications were approved and 14% (953) rejected.

Table 1: Number of approved and rejected visas by visa type

YEAR	D-visas approved	D-visas denied	C-visas approved	C-visas rejected	B-visas approved	B-visas rejected	A-visas approved	A-visas rejected
2018	88	53	1,114	118	32	1	0	0
2019	269	53	1,129	74	30	2	0	0
2020	63	43	430	97	3	0	0	0
2021	115	38	599	141	4	2	0	0
2022	178	62	1,117	265	30	3	1	1
Total	713	249	4,389	695	99	8	1	1

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Regarding the types of approved visas, the C visa has a linear trend with the exception of 2020 and 2021 where due to restrictions as a result of the pandemic Covid-19, there was a lower number of approvals. On the other hand, however, the data generated by the K-VIS system confirm a growing trend of applications and approvals of D visa type and this comes as a result of the needs/demands of the labour market.

During 2018 - 2022, vast majority of approved visas were from Bosnia and Herzegovina with 1,952 (37.5%), followed by Ukraine 250 (4.8%), China 201 (3.8%) and other countries 2,799 (54%). On the other hand, there is a growing trend regarding visa applications from Asian countries

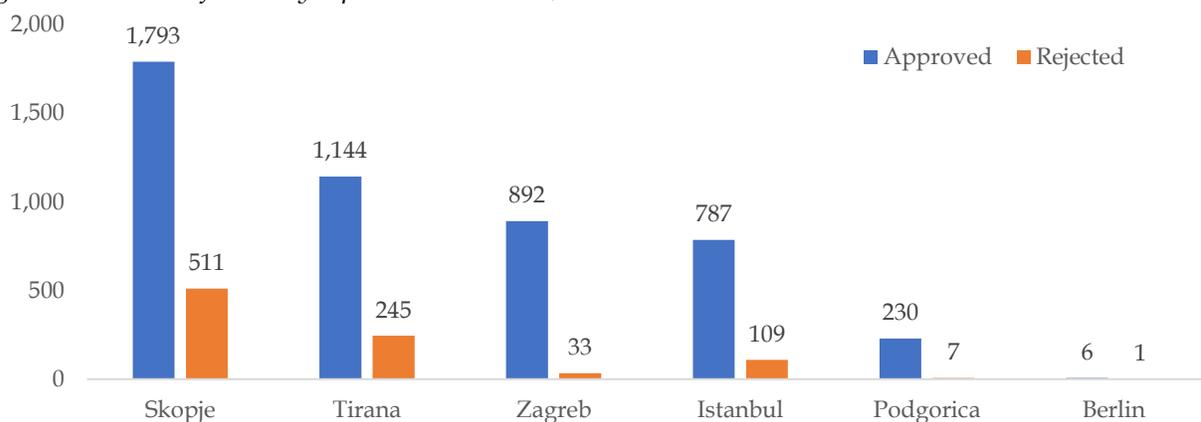
Decision No. 14/67, dt. 09.03.2022. According to point 6 of Government Decision no. 15/158 of dt. 29.11.2013 amended and supplemented by the Government Decision no. 08/167, dated 22.01.2014 and Government Decision no. 14/55, dated 06.07.2018, (for citizens of Ukraine).

Decision no. 10/99, dt. 30.09.2022. The implementation of points 2 and 5, of the decision of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo no. 13/158, dt. 29 November 2013 for citizens of the Russian Federation, is temporarily suspended.

(see table 2 and 3 in the annex regarding the number of visas approved and rejected according to country of origin).

The total number of applications in diplomatic missions is 5,758, of which 4,852 approved and 906 rejected. The largest number of applications is made in Skopje General Consulate with 2,304 applications, followed by Tirana with 1,359 applications, and other consulates shown in the figure 1.

Figure 1. Number of visas by diplomatic missions, 2018 - 2022



Source: MFAD

A.1.3. Foreigners with regular residence in the Republic of Kosovo

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, namely the Division for Foreigners within the Department for Citizenship, Asylum and Migration (DCAM), is the state authority responsible for admission, review and decision-making related to applications for issuance of temporary residence permits (including residence permits for the purpose of employment), and permanent residence permits in the Republic of Kosovo.

In accordance with Law No. 04/L 219 on Foreigners, the Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo/Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers, issues “Short-Term Work Permits to Foreigners”, with a duration of 30, 60 and 90 days, within a period of 180 days per year. Also, the Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo/MFLT is responsible for providing employment and vocational training services to foreigners, who have access to the labour market in the Republic of Kosovo.

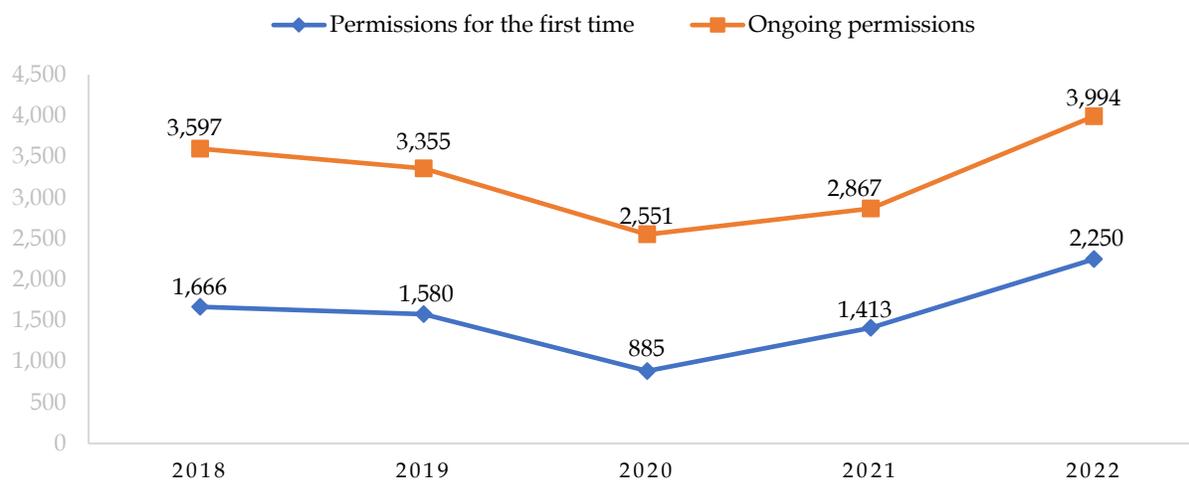
Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers is also responsible for establishing cooperation in the field of employment services and vocational training through bilateral agreements with different countries, mainly European Union countries. As a part of bilateral agreements or memoranda of understanding, the Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo provides services such as: counselling, information, vocational training, (mediation in employment or training) and facilitation of employment for Kosovar job seekers who seek employment abroad.

During 2018 - 2022, the DCAM information system has been upgraded and has started to generate data related to residence permits in two categories: 1) residence permits for the first time, and 2) ongoing residence permits.

Temporary Residence Permits

During 2018 - 2022, a total of 24,158 positive decisions for temporary residence permits were issued. The number of first-time temporary residence permits was 7,794 (32.3%), and ongoing permissions 16,364 (67.7%). The reasons for issuance of temporary residence permits by category are as follows: employment purposes 12,674 (52.4%), family reunification 9,733 (40.3%), study/education purposes 1,329 (5.5%), humanitarian reasons 177 (0.7%), autonomous residence 39 (0.2%), and for other reasons 206 (0.85%).

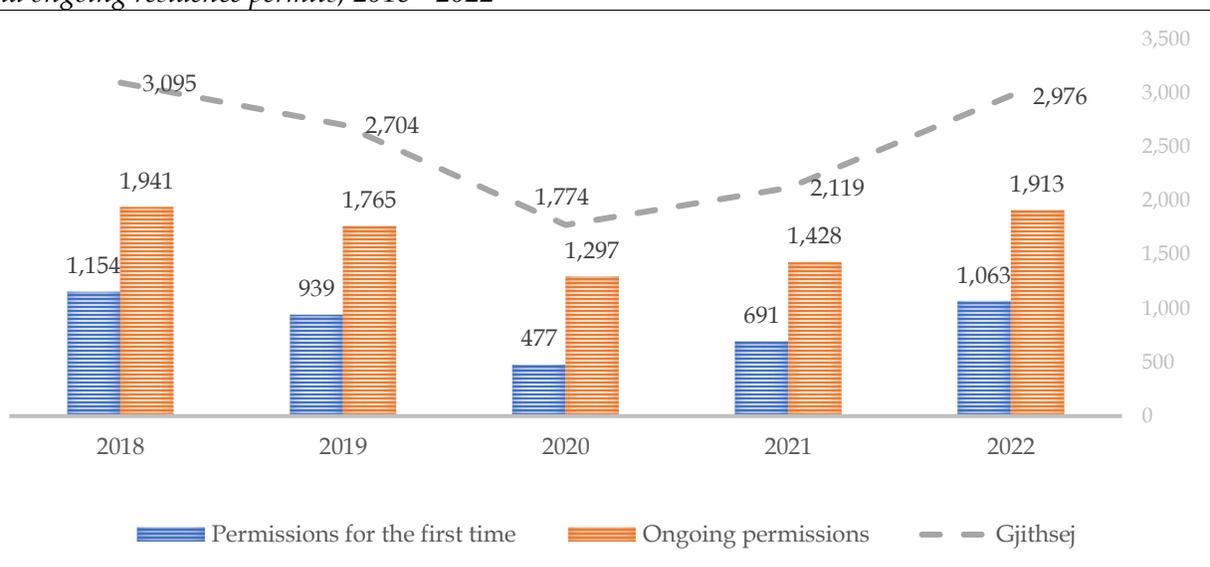
Figure 2. First time and ongoing temporary residence permits 2018 – 2022



Source: MIA/DCAM

The number of temporary residence permits issued by country is as following: Albania 6,591 (27.3%), Turkey 5,260 (22%), Serbia 4,355 (18%), North Macedonia 2,400 (10%), USA 1,121 (4.6%), Montenegro 389 (1.6%), Germany 357 (1.5%) and other countries 3,685 (15.3%). By gender, from the total number of positive decisions for a temporary residence permit, 13,164 (54.5%) are female, while 10,994 (45.5%) are male.

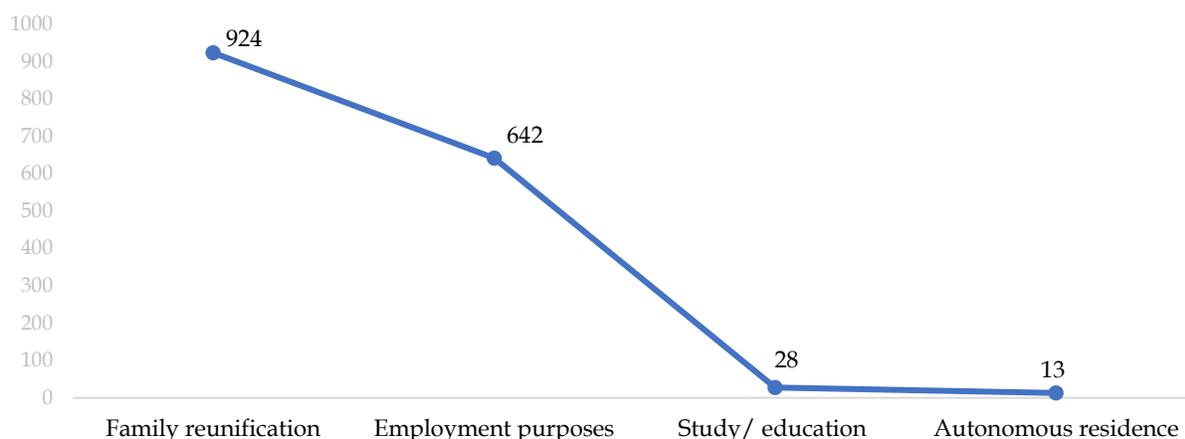
Figure 3. Number of temporary residence permits for the purpose of employment according to first-time and ongoing residence permits, 2018 - 2022



Source: MIA/DCAM

During 2018 - 2022, the number of temporary residence permits for employment purposes according to the countries of origin is as following: Turkey 3,345 (26.4%), Albania 3,157 (24.9%), Serbia 1,528 (12%), North Macedonia 1,138 (9%), USA 838 (6.6%), Montenegro 111 (0.9%), Germany 223 (1.7%) and other countries 2,328 (18.4%).

Figure 4. Number of decisions for Temporary residence permit with Albania according to the Agreement, 2022



Source: MIA/DCAM

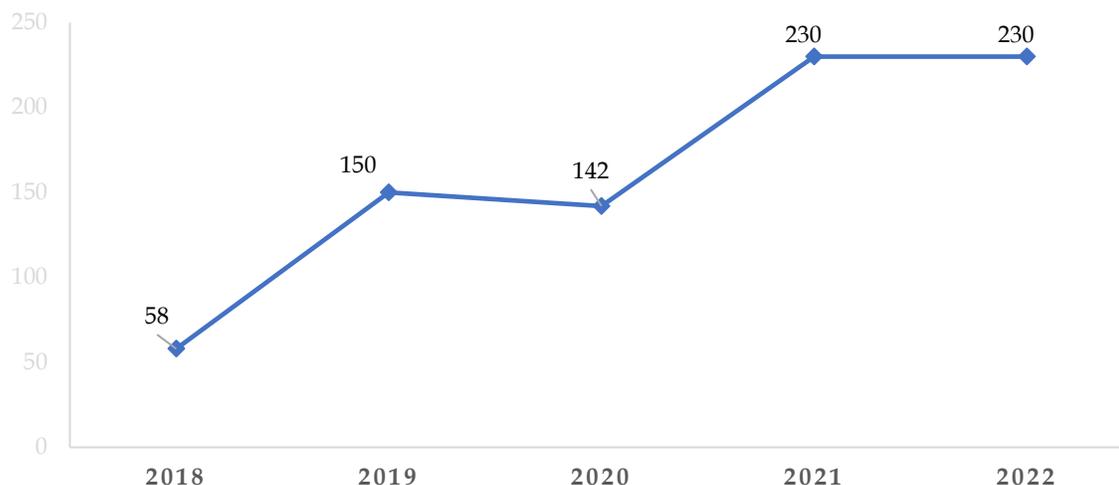
As it can be seen from the data presented in figure 4, the growing of number of residence permits issued, is in line with increasing demand for residence permit and above all, this comes as a result of Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania for the facilitation of procedures and conditions for acquiring a temporary residence permit for citizens of Albania and precisely this agreement has contributed to formalizing their stay in the Republic of Kosovo.

Permanent Residence Permits

During 2018 -2022, a total of 810 positive decisions for permanent residence permits were issued. The reasons for issuing permanent residence permits by category are as following: Employment 307 (38%), Family reunification 214 (26.4%), Renunciation of citizenship 127 (15.7%), Extraordinary circumstances 62 (7.6%) and other reasons 100 (12.3%).

316.

Figure 5. Permanent residence permits by year, 2018 - 2022



Source: MIA/DCAM

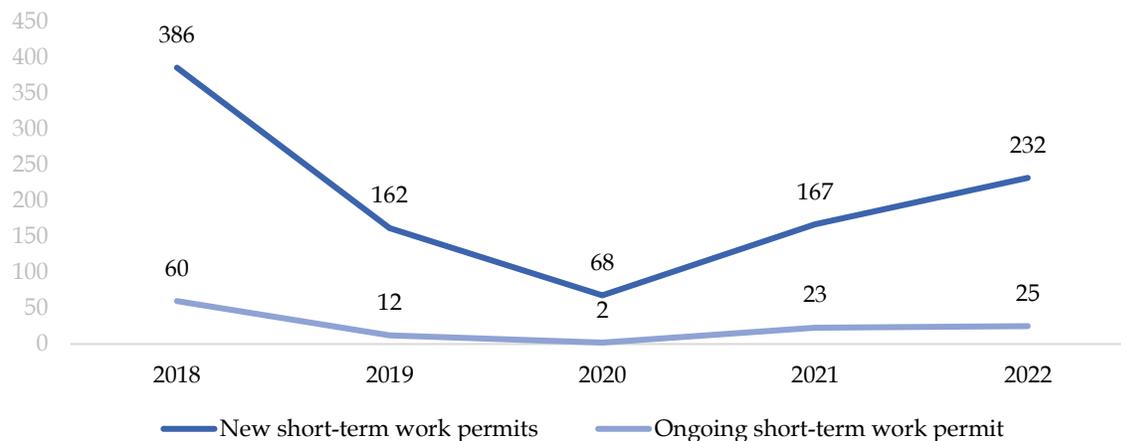
From the total number of positive decisions for permanent residence permits by gender, 455 (56.2%) are male, while 355 (43.8%) are female. Number of permanent residence permits issued by country is as following: Serbia 181 (22.3%), Germany 138 (17%), Albania 136 (16.8%), North Macedonia 90 (11%), Turkey 89 (11%), Austria 39 (4.8 %), USA 17 (2.1%) and other countries with 120 (14.8%). According to these data, the largest stock of the residence permit is for employment purposes as a result of ongoing residence permits which in the past have also been for work purposes. During 2018 - 2022, the most represented countries with the number of permanent residence permits for employment reasons are: North Macedonia 80 (26%), Albania 73 (23.8%), Turkey 53 (17.3%), Serbia 51 (16.6 %), USA 8 (2.6%), China 5 (1.6%), South Korea 4 (1.3%) and other countries 33 (10.7%).

Short Term Work Permit¹³

During 2018 - 2022, in 2020 compared to the previous years, there was a significant decrease in the number of Short-Term Work Permits for Foreigners, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

¹³ Law No. 04/L-219 for Foreigners and Law No. 03/L-036 on Amendment and Supplementation to the Law No. 04/L-219 for Foreigners, Article 22, Short-term work permit up to ninety (90) days within each period of one hundred and eighty (180) days within one (1) year, foreigners can work, <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=8876>

Figure 6. Number of short-term work permits by year, 2018-2022



Source: EARK

Based on the data in figure 6, it can be seen that the largest number of foreigners who have come to the territory of the Republic of Kosovo to work in a short-term period of up to 90 days within the period of 180 days are experts in certain fields who engage based on investment agreements and certain short-term projects, 88% of them are male, and 12% are female.

Migration services for employment matters

From 2018 - 2022, EARK has continued with the implementation of several programs to support Kosovo citizens who decide to immigrate for employment purposes. Also, the EARK in cooperation with GIZ and the German Information Centre for Migration, Vocational Training and Career (DIMAK), has continued the cooperation which includes a series of information services and counselling in the field of migration. In this regard, the memoranda signed in the previous years have continued to be implemented.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Landesverband Bayerischer Bauinnungen and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH Kosovo (GIZ), which aims to improve opportunities for vocational education and training in the field of construction in the Republic of Kosovo. During 2018, young people from the Republic of Kosovo were provided the opportunity of vocational education and training in the 2-year secondary system in Germany, in the field of construction.

- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, the Besa Foundation and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH Kosovo (GIZ), which aims at circular migration and mobility through the improvement of education and training. During 2018, 18 candidates benefited from this program, who became part of the employment and training programs in Germany, and who are monitored by the Agency (EARK).
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare - Business Union and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH Kosovo (GIZ), which aims to improve opportunities for vocational education and training in the field of construction in the Republic of Kosovo. During 2019, young people from the Republic of Kosovo were provided the opportunity of vocational education and training in the 2-year dual system in Germany, in the field of construction and gastronomy.
- In October 2020, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and the Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo have concluded a Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Finance and Economy of the Republic of Albania on Labor Mobility, on matters of employment and vocational skills based on EU guidelines, commitments arising from the Berlin process, cross-border cooperation as a part of the approximation of measures related to mobility for work and common policies. The purpose of this cooperation is to strengthen the relations between the implementing agencies of employment and vocational training policies in order to exchange best practices and the possibility of employing workers from each state in the territory of the other state.

A.1.4. Acquisition of Citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo

The Division for Citizenship/DCAM is the main state authority responsible for the implementation of the Law No. 04/L-215¹⁴ on Citizenship of Kosovo. This law determines the ways of acquiring, releasing and re-acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, as well as regulates other issues related to the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo. Article 5 defines the way of acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo: by birth, adoption, naturalization, based on international agreements and based on articles 31 and 32 of this law.

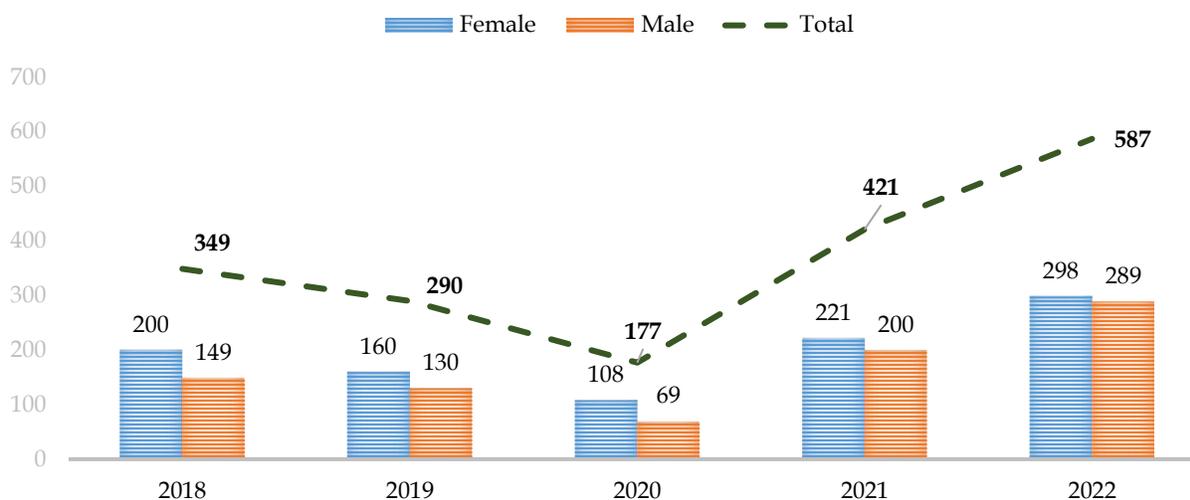
¹⁴The statistical data for the period 2018-2022 originate from Law no. 04/L-215 on the Citizenship of Kosovo.

Regarding the granting of citizenship, a part of the applications is made by persons with origin from Kosovo.

During 2018 - 2022, 1,824 people have acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, while 2,321 people have had their applications rejected due to not fulfilling the legal criteria. Persons who have acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo with the largest number belong to the citizens with the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia 499 (27.3%), the Republic of Albania 256 (14%), the Republic of North Macedonia 183 (10%), the Federal Republic of Germany 154 (8.4%), the Republic of Montenegro 63 (3.5%), Norway 54 (3%), Swiss Confederation 53 (3%), Croatia 48 (2.6%) and other nationalities 514 (28.2%). For more information, see table 4, in the annex.

During the reporting period, persons who have acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo with the largest number belong to the age group 18-34 at 827 (45.3%), followed by the age group 35-64 at 822 (45%), the age group 14-17 at 82 (4.5%), age group +65 at 80 (4.28%), age group 6-13 at 10 (0.5%) and age group 0-5 at 3 (0.2%),

Figure 7. The number of persons who have acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, 2018 - 2022



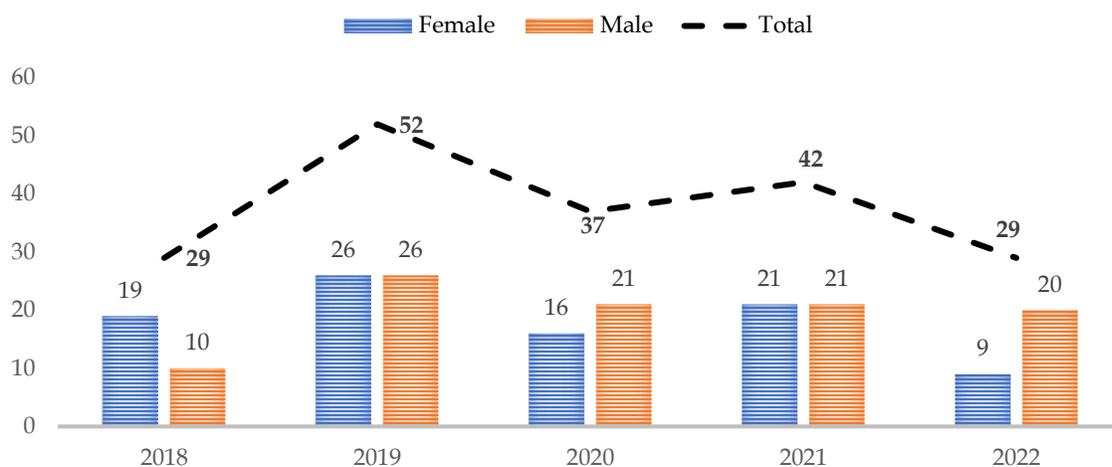
Source: DCAM

During 2018-2019, the trends of acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo are approximate, except during 2020, where due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the trend of acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo had a decline. While during 2021 and 2022, there was an increase in the trend of acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo. This growth trend is

mainly related to the announcements from the German state about the recognition/permission of dual citizenship and the demands of the diaspora for acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo.

Out of the number of 1,824 persons who have acquired citizenship, 987 (54%) of them are female and 837 respectively (46%) are male.

Figure 8. Number of positive decisions to acquire citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo by presidential decree, 2018 - 2022



Source: Office of the Presidency

Internal migration (movement of citizens within the territory)

Internal migration as a social phenomenon refers to the movement of people within the territory of the state, namely from one city to another, from rural areas to urban areas and vice versa. This migratory movement within the territory of the state undoubtedly has an impact on the demographic aspect, as well as on the planning of public policy in the field of economy and public finance, social issues, education, health, culture, youth, sports, etc.

Similar to other forms of international migration, internal migration is influenced by a combination of push and pull factors. Among the push factors are considered: 1) Unemployment and limited economic opportunities - in certain areas of the country which may push individuals to migrate to areas with greater economic potential, mainly in the main urban centres; 2) Inadequate public services, especially in the field of health, education and infrastructure; 3) Environmental factors, especially in areas that are sensitive to natural disasters, air quality, etc. and 4) Political and security tensions in certain areas can affect the

displacement of citizens in certain parts of the country. While the pull factors are mainly related to: 1) Better opportunities for employment and quality of life; 2) More efficient services in the destination municipality/settlement; 3) Better opportunities for quality education; 4) Infrastructure; 5) Cultural diversity; 6) Security and Stability; 7) Family circle, etc.

The aforementioned factors have undoubtedly influenced the internal migratory movements in the Republic of Kosovo. Based on the data presented for the first time in the Extended Migration Profile 2018 - 2022, the fact that a significant number of citizens have moved within the municipalities but also to other municipalities is confirmed. Beyond the official data presented by the Civil Registration Agency, it is believed that the number of citizens who have migrated within the municipality or from one municipality to another is higher, but the same are not included in the data presented due to difficulties which are mainly related to the collection of data as well as the legal obligations of citizens for registering the change of residence.

The main policy-making and law-enforcing authorities in the field of internal migration are:

Governmental Authority on Migration (GAM) - The Thematic Group for Internal Migration operates within the GAM, which functions as a support mechanism in providing professional and thematic expertise through the development of research, analyses and preparation of recommendations for the strategic level of the GAM. Among other things, this Thematic Group, which is chaired by the CRA representative, has the task of monitoring the trend of internal migration (municipality-municipality, rural-urban and vice versa); providing professional support for linking the address system with that of civil status; developing research and analyses on the push and pull factors of internal migration as well as drafting analytical documents related to internal migration.

Civil Registration Agency (CRA)¹⁵- is established by Law No. 04/L-160 on CRA. This Law defines the operation and duties of the CRA as a central mechanism in the field of civil registration responsible for the application, personalization and issuance of documents for citizens of the Republic of Kosovo and foreign citizens, administration and maintenance of the data of the central registry of civil status etc. Within the CRA, operates the Directorate for Civil Status, which is responsible for the creation, updating, completion of the Registry for place of residence

¹⁵ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=8653>

and place of stay for the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo. While the CRA Inspectorate is responsible for monitoring the implementation of legislation in the field of civil status, including place of residence and place of stay.

Civil Status Offices - Civil status offices are services within the municipality that have the task of updating the central registry of civil status. Civil status offices issue the following types of civil status documents, such as birth certificates, extracts from the central registry of civil status, citizenship certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates, residence certificates, marital status certificates, declarations for family unity, minutes for acknowledgment of paternity/maternity, burial permits, death evidence, certificates from the archive, certificates of residence de-notification.

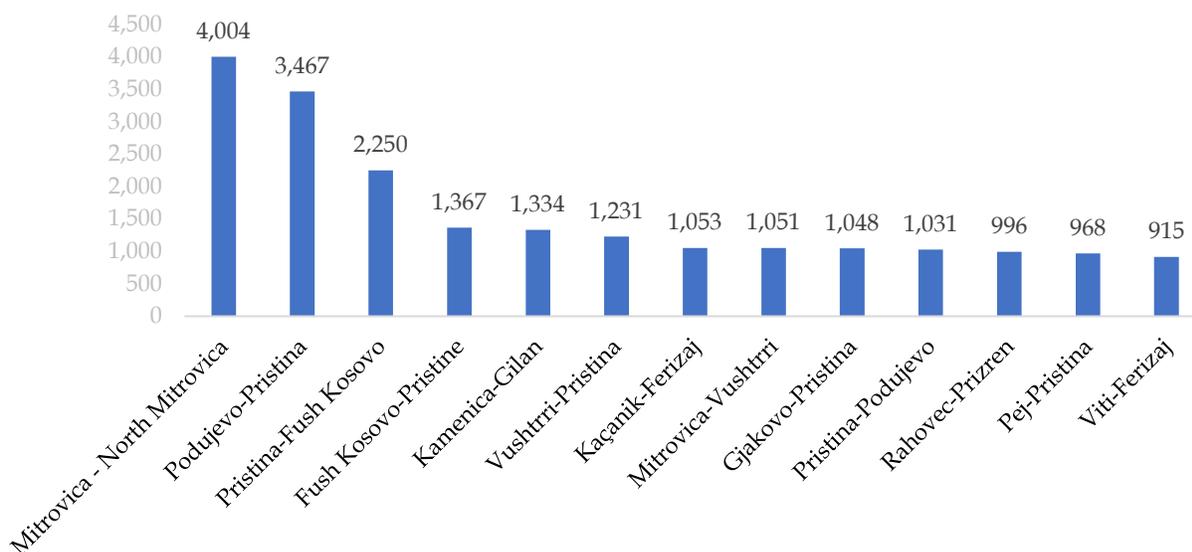
Kosovo Cadastral Agency (KCA) - is the central authority for the administration of the cadastral data system, for the maintenance of property registers, for the unified address system, for the administration of the IT infrastructure, respectively, the first and second data centre. As a central level institution, KCA is responsible for issuing work guidelines and frameworks related to all cadastral activities, provides training and certification of officials in Municipal Cadastral Offices.

Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) - is the main institutional mechanism that produces official statistics in the Republic of Kosovo through the collection, processing and publication of data. KAS has overall responsibility in the production of official statistics according to the Program for official statistics, including the development of statistical methodology, classification and standards for the production of official statistics.

Infrastructure of information technology related to the collection of data in the field of internal migration is mainly based on the Central Registry of Civil Status. This Registry contains the data of citizens, through which acts of birth, death, residence, marital status, etc., are registered. Currently, the system does not allow the registration of the residence of citizens using the data of the Address Registry and the Central Registry of Civil Status because these two systems are not interconnected. In 2022, the Civil Registration Agency, in cooperation with the Cadastral Agency, have launched a pilot project in two Kosovo municipalities (Mitrovica and Istog) with the aim of interconnecting these two systems, through the creation of an intermediate database, Electronic System for Connecting the Citizen with the Address (ESCCA).

The internal migration from one municipality to another, during the 2018 - 2022 period, reaches the number of **88,508**, where in figure 9, we have presented the municipalities with the largest number of citizen movements. As for the movement of citizens from South Mitrovica to North Mitrovica, this high number is the result of the definition of the municipal code and the registration of citizens in accordance with the defined code and not necessarily the result of actual movement.

Figure 9. Number of people moving from one municipality to another, 2018 – 2022



Source: CRA

The internal migration within a municipality, during the 2018 - 2022 period, amounts to 70,201, where in table 5 we have presented the municipalities with the largest number of movements of residents, while regarding the division of movement by city-village, village-city, village-village, the data processed by the central registry of civil status proves that there is a balanced movement, even in some cases the movement of persons from city to village is the result of the registration of the actual state of the address, marriages, the creation of new settlements in the peripheral/rural areas of the city.

Table 2: Number of people who have moved within the municipality, Urban-Rural, Rural-Urban, Rural-Rural, 2018 - 2022

Source: CRA

Year	2018				2019				2020				2021				2022				
	Total	U-R	R-U	R-R	Total	U-R	R-U	R-R	Total	U-R	R-U	R-R	Total	U-R	R-U	R-R	Total	U-R	R-U	R-R	
Municipality																					
Prizren	5,726	1,276	641	343	292	1,215	590	291	334	875	357	271	247	1,187	472	343	372	1,173	468	347	358
Gjilan	5,580	1,140	741	308	91	1,199	747	327	125	883	525	264	94	1,226	719	364	143	1,132	616	375	141
Peja	5,486	1,085	704	188	193	1,242	885	178	179	839	568	114	157	1,228	791	223	214	1,092	665	228	199
Ferizaj	4,683	756	295	242	219	1,094	485	369	240	738	299	256	183	960	393	315	252	1,135	431	442	262
Vushtrri	4,275	579	187	215	177	965	403	341	221	644	234	249	161	994	382	369	243	1,093	432	403	258
Prishtina	4,162	806	317	407	82	875	356	417	102	681	338	264	79	864	340	411	113	936	411	426	99
Lipjan	3,553	625	183	156	286	823	261	262	300	520	153	186	181	790	214	293	283	795	192	328	275
Podujeva	3,328	628	174	160	294	684	171	184	329	519	134	132	253	798	201	210	387	699	178	210	311
Mitrovica	3,075	583	206	290	87	671	254	341	76	464	161	249	54	690	223	363	104	667	227	332	108
Gjakova	2,452	531	106	211	214	532	102	207	223	330	70	122	138	533	125	193	215	526	111	208	207
Viti	2,382	438	165	95	178	473	206	78	189	441	198	83	160	605	278	117	210	425	139	82	204
Klina	2,219	464	148	149	167	423	128	148	147	335	89	125	121	527	193	154	180	470	160	150	160
Malisheva	2,204	421	42	39	340	456	37	29	390	327	28	34	265	499	51	61	387	501	54	46	401

A.1.5. Irregular Immigration

Foreign nationals who have been refused entry at the border

During 2018 - 2022, the total number of persons who were refused entry at border crossing points (BCPs) is 22,824. From the data in the table, it can be noticed that 2021 and 2022 lead with the largest number of refused entries at border crossing points.

Table 3: Number of refused entries at Border Crossing Points, 2018 - 2022

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of persons	2,016	3,029	3,082	7,436	7,261

Source: Unit of Risk Analysis, Intelligence and Data Management, Border Department - Kosovo Police

Of the total number of foreign nationals who have been refused entry at the border during the 2018 - 2022, 88% of them are from the EU member states and the Schengen area, including the states of the region (Western Balkans), 6.1% from the Asian states and 7.4% from other countries. The reasons for refusing entry at the border for citizens of neighbouring countries (Albania, Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro) were the lack of valid documents or prohibitions to enter the Republic of Kosovo, while for citizens of EU member states and of the

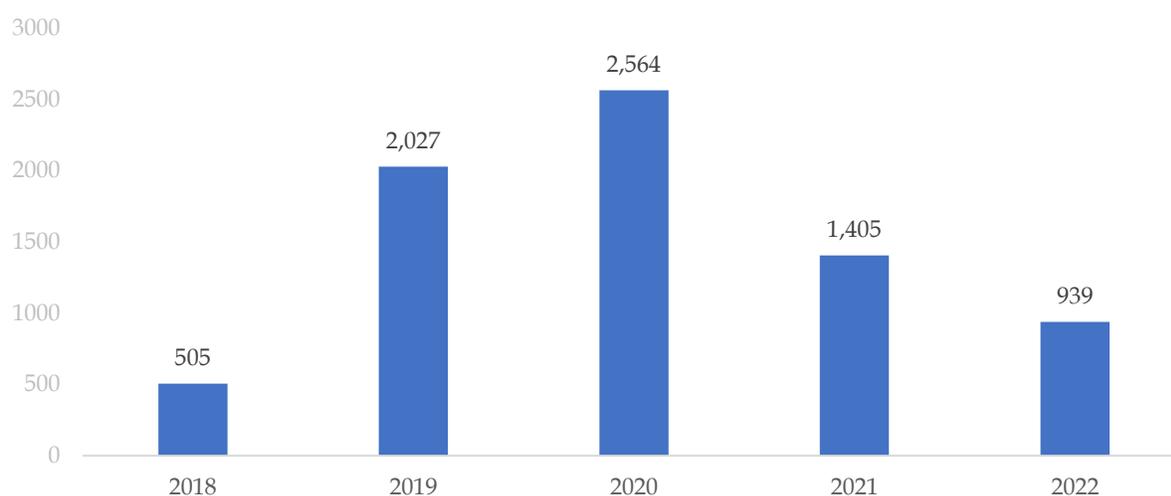
Schengen area was the lack of biometric ID cards or passports. Citizens of Asian and African countries have been refused entry due to the lack of visa, insufficient financial means, lack of justification of purpose and conditions of stay. Unlike other years, in 2020 and 2021, the most frequent reasons for refusal of entry for citizens from European countries were the lack of tests or proof/certificate of the vaccine against Covid.

Unauthorized border crossing

During 2018 - 2022 period, the number of irregular immigrants who crossed the border and entered the territory of the Republic of Kosovo in an unauthorized manner was 7,440. *For more information, see table 7 in the annex.*

In 2022, out of a total of 939 migrants, 602 (64%) entered from Albania, 252 (27%) entered from North Macedonia, 58 (6%) entered from Serbia, 24 (3%) through the Airport and 3 (0.3%) from Montenegro. Of the total number, 40 migrants (16 Turkey, 13 Afghanistan, 5 Ukraine, 3 South Africa, 3 Jordan) entered in a regular manner, 48 (20 Afghanistan, 9 Syria, 5 India, 5 Morocco, 4 Bangladesh, 4 Palestine and 1 Iraq) have been detected attempting to enter clandestinely through the border crossing point and another 851 have entered Kosovo in an unauthorized manner through the green line of the border.

Figure 10. Number of immigrants who entered Kosovo without authorization, 2018 - 2022

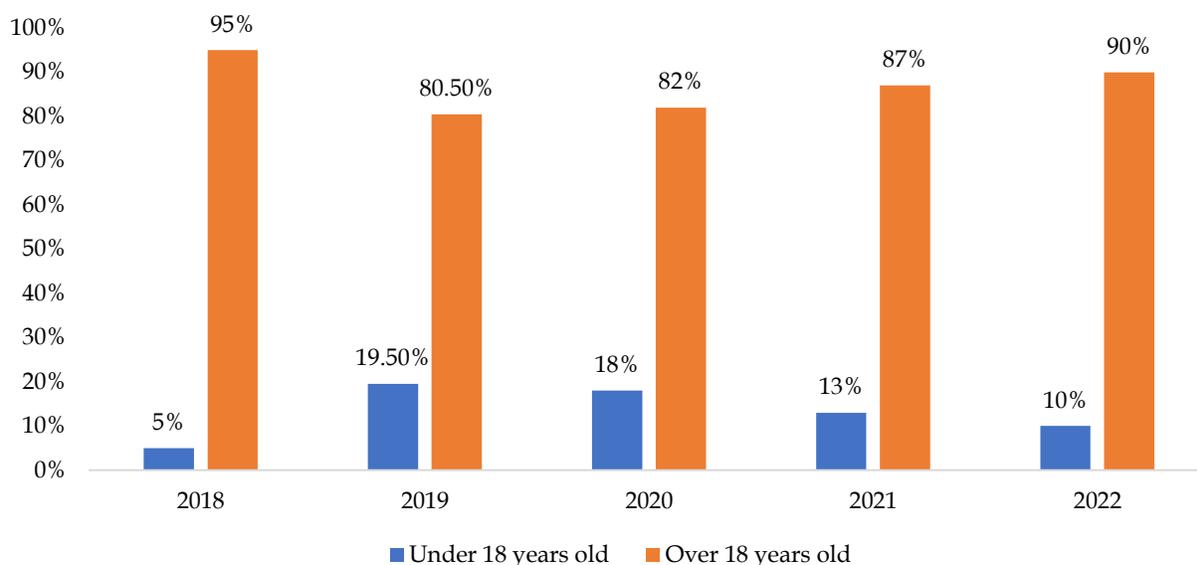


Source: Unit of Risk Analysis, Intelligence and Data Management, Border Department - Kosovo Police

The cases dealt with show that irregular immigrants have moved in small groups. Their journey mainly starts from Turkey through Greece and then, with the help of smugglers who bring

them into the territory of the Republic of Kosovo through the border with Albania and North Macedonia. The Republic of Kosovo is mainly considered as a transit country by irregular immigrants and is not a country of final destination, since their main goal is to migrate to EU countries.

Figure 11. Immigrants who entered Kosovo without authorization by age group, presented in percentage 2018 - 2022



Source: Unit of Risk Analysis, Intelligence and Data Management, Border Department - Kosovo Police.

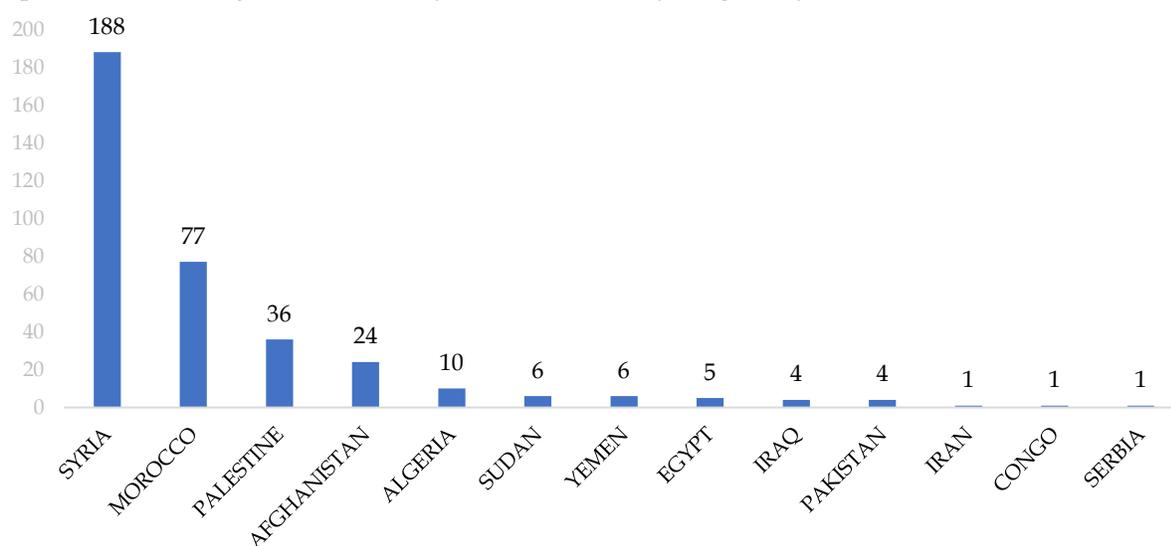
During 2018 - 2022 period, the Border Police recorded and proceeded 885 cases for the criminal offense of unauthorized crossing of the border or border line, while 960 people suspected of committing this criminal offense were arrested. Based on the statistics of the Border Police, the largest number of persons suspected of unauthorized border crossing is from the citizens of Kosovo with a total of 331 persons or 34.5%, then those from Serbia with 325 persons or 33.9%, followed by Albania with 202 persons or 21%, from North Macedonia with 51 persons or 5.3% and from other countries with 51 persons or 5.3%.

Illegally residing foreign nationals ordered to leave voluntarily, including statistics for voluntary assisted return according to the agreement with IOM

The institutions responsible for return are the Department of Citizenship, Asylum and Migration and the Police of the Republic of Kosovo. Return is a process of irregular and unauthorized migration to a country and which is subject to the process of returning to the country of origin. This process has an international character and historically has been developed with inter-state actions but also with the mediation of international organizations. In this context, the Republic of Kosovo faces difficulties in returning migrants to their countries of origin due to the lack of diplomatic relations with states that have not yet recognized the Republic of Kosovo.

Temporary Reception Centre was established by Decision No. 0490/2022 of the Minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, dated 24.06.2022. The reasons for establishing this centre are the need for profiling and referral of irregular migrants. This centre is responsible for receiving, accommodating, identifying and assessing the needs of vulnerable migrants as well as potential victims of human trafficking and unaccompanied minors. During 2022, since the establishment of the Temporary Reception Centre for Migrants, 363 migrants have been received and accommodated.

Figure 12. Number of accommodated persons in the Temporary Reception Centre



Source: TRCM/DCAM

Regarding the countries of origin, the highest number of migrants was from: Syria 188 (52%), Morocco 77 (21.2%), Palestine 36 (10%), Afghanistan 24 (6.6%), Algeria 10 (2.7%) and other countries 28 (8%).

Decisions on voluntary removal - during the 2018 - 2022, 879 decisions on voluntary return from the territory of the Republic of Kosovo were issued. Based on the data presented, it can be observed that 2019 is characterized by the largest number of decisions on voluntary return. The reasons why 2019 marks the largest number of foreign nationals against whom a decision on voluntary return was issued lies in the fact that, at that time, in the cities of Kosovo such as Peja, Ferizaj, etc., citizens of the Republic of Albania had set up informal settlements. The same ones were mainly engaged in begging and collecting iron waste. The same had not started any procedure to regulate the Residence Permit in Kosovo and, as a result, the local authorities issued a decision for their voluntary return and return to their country of origin.

Figure 13 shows the number of decisions on voluntary return during the 2018 - 2022. The highest number of decisions issued based on countries of origin were citizens of Albania (391 decisions), Turkey (136), Bangladesh (68), Serbia (53), North Macedonia (16), India (8), South Africa (5 decisions) and 202 decisions were for citizens of other countries. The reasons for issuing decisions on voluntary return for foreigners with irregular stay in the Republic of Kosovo were the lack of a valid residence permit, cancellation or revocation of the residence permit, or having been caught working in violation of the provisions of the Law on Foreigners or other laws in force.

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration through IOM - during 2018 - 2022, 40 voluntarily assisted persons from the territory of the Republic of Kosovo were returned. Based on the data presented in Figure 13, it can be noted that 2021 and 2022 are characterized by the largest number of voluntary assisted returns. This is a result of the readiness of the institutions to strengthen the mechanism of voluntary return through the agreement signed between MIA and IOM in May 2019, for voluntary assisted return and reintegration.¹⁶

The largest number of decisions on voluntary return, during 2018 - 2022, according to the countries of origin, were for citizens of Nepal with 9 decisions, Jordan 8, Morocco 5, Algeria 3 and for citizens of other countries there were 15 decisions.

¹⁶ The agreement signed between the MIA and IOM, in May 2019

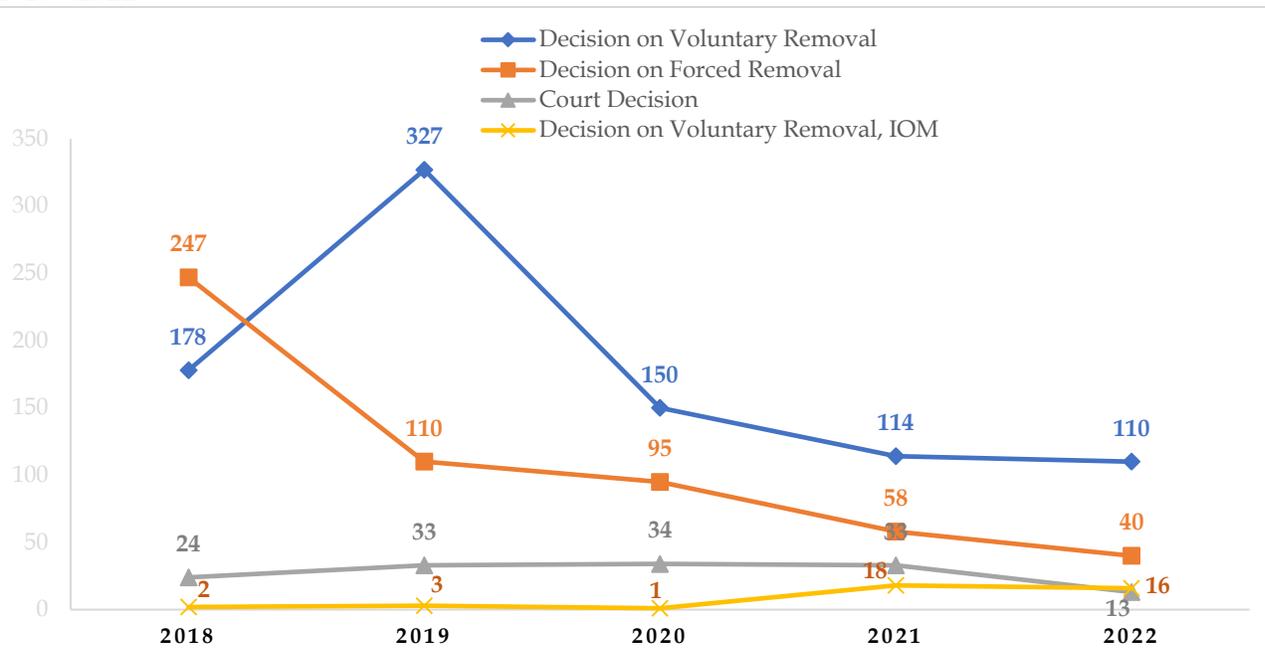
Forced removals - during 2018 - 2022, 550 forced removals from the territory of the Republic of Kosovo were executed. Based on the data presented in Figure 13, it can be noted that 2018 is characterized by the largest number of forced removals. The largest number of forced removals during 2018 - 2022, by citizenship, were as following: 80% of Albania, 9% of Serbia and 11% of other countries.

It is believed that the number of decisions on Forced Removal has decreased from year to year due to increased control of foreigners through joint inspections. Also, the increase in the number of requests to regulate the residence status in Kosovo by foreign citizens has influenced the decrease of decisions on forced removal. All foreigners who intend to reside in Kosovo for a longer period of time apply for a temporary residence permit.

Deportation by Court Decision - The Directorate for Migration and Foreigners, following decisions from Kosovo courts and based on the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo, has deported 137 foreigners from the Republic of Kosovo during 2018 - 2022. Based on data presented in Figure 13, it can be observed that 2022 is characterized by a slight decrease compared to other years. Out of total number of deported foreigners, 64 persons were from Albania, 31 from Serbia, 16 from Turkey, 4 from North Macedonia, 3 from Yemen, 3 from India and 16 from other countries. Deportations by Court Decisions are issued as complementary measures by the local courts themselves, while the DMF only executes these decisions.

Figure 13 shows the number of foreign citizens with irregular stay ordered to leave to their country of origin voluntarily, assisted by IOM, by force and by court decision.

Figure 13. Number of decisions on return, IOM voluntary return, forced removal and by court decision, 2018 - 2022



Source: Unit of Risk Analysis, Intelligence and Data Management, Border Department and Directorate for Investigation of Organized Crime, Kosovo Police

Detention Centre for Foreigners is responsible for irregular foreigners who have been found in Kosovo and who have been placed in this centre until they return to their country of origin. This centre is responsible for the registration of foreigners who meet the conditions for return; it accommodates foreigners; takes care of the conditions and well-being of foreigners according to the legislation in force (which includes housing conditions and hygiene, food packages, medical and psychological services), establishes rules for the behaviour of foreigners within the Centre; coordinates with the Division for Readmission and Return, regarding the return of foreigners to their country of origin; takes care of the safety of foreigners in the Centre, in cooperation with the police; cooperates with the Kosovo Police, the Directorate for Migration and Foreigners for the return of foreigners to their country of origin or to a third country; ensures to inform the foreigners of their rights and duties, ensures the provision of legal aid to the accommodated foreigners, etc. The situation with the Covid-19 pandemic during 2020 in the EU member states and, in the region,¹⁷ has complicated the return process even more since the number of irregular

¹⁷ Migration Conference Vienna, November 16-19, 2020- Schengen, asylum reform and Europe's migration diplomacy: Has COVID-19 changed everything. In this conference, the participants reported on an increased number of irregular migrants who were subject to return.

migrants found in the country, region and beyond has been high and the process of return was prolonged, due to the restrictive measures recommended by the WHO as well as the decisions of the respective governments.

During 2018 - 2022, 144 foreign citizens were accommodated in the Centre for Detention of Foreigners; of them 96 male (66.7%) and 48 female (33.3%). While according to the age group, the largest number of foreigners in this centre belongs to the 18-34 age group with 128 (89%), followed by the 35-64 age group with 8 (5.6%), while the other age groups with a very small number.

The leading country in terms of the number of migrants in this centre is Albania with 26.4%, Turkey with 9.7%, Morocco with 9%, Nepal with 8.3%, Libya with 6.25% and other countries with 40.3%. *For more, see table 8, in the annex.*

Combating migrant smuggling

The Kosovo Police has continued systematic and detailed controls at all border crossing points and along the green line of the border, with the aim of preventing and combating migrant smuggling. Likewise, organized criminal groups within the territory of the Republic of Kosovo, dealing with migrant smuggling, have also been combated.

Table 4: Number of initiated cases of migrant smuggling, 2018 - 2022

Years	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Initiated cases of smuggling	8	24	25	30	37	124

Source: Risk Analysis, Intelligence and Data Administration Unit, Border Department and Directorate for Investigation of Organized Crime, Kosovo Police

In 2018 - 2022, the number of cases initiated by Kosovo Police for the criminal offense of migrant smuggling was 124. According to the data presented in table 9, it can be observed that during 2022, the majority of cases discovered were of this nature with a total of 37 cases. Cases of this nature have been continuously increasing as a result of several factors, primarily the strengthening of international cooperation, the exchange of information, inter-institutional cooperation with other law enforcement agencies, the increase of green line border patrols, etc.

Table 5: Number of people suspected for migrant smuggling, by country, 2018 - 2022

Citizenship	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
KOSOVO	12	24	27	52	49
ALBANIA	5	3	4	1	3
SERBIA	2	1	2	2	0
TURKEY	1	1	1	1	3
N. MACEDONIA	0	3	0	3	3
SYRIA	0	2	0	1	6
IRAQ	0	1	0	1	0
ALGERIA	0	0	0	2	0
PALESTINE	0	0	0	2	0
LEBANON	0	0	0	1	0
JORDAN	0	0	0	1	0
AFGHANISTAN	0	0	0	0	1
Total	20	35	34	67	65

Source: Risk Analysis, Intelligence and Data Administration Unit, Border Department and Directorate for Investigation of Organized Crime, Kosovo Police

The number of persons suspected for migrant smuggling identified and arrested by the law enforcement agencies during 2018 - 2022 is in total 221 persons. Out of a total of 221 persons identified, 164 of them were citizens of the Republic of Kosovo, 25 were citizens of Asian countries, 16 citizens of Albania, 9 citizens of North Macedonia, and 7 of Serbia.

Table 6: Number of recorded victims of migrant smuggling, by nationality 2022¹⁸

STATES	No. of recorded victims
SYRIA	226
AFGHANISTAN	34
KOSOVO	18 ¹⁹
EGYPT	15
BANGLADESH	11

¹⁸ The data for this category started to be generated from 2022.

¹⁹ This number refers to victims of smuggling from Kosovo to European countries

IRAQ	9
YEMEN	6
SUDAN	6
PALESTINE	5
IRAN	4
ALGERIA	2
MOROCCO	2
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	1
Total	339

Source: Risk Analysis, Intelligence and Data Administration Unit, Border Department and Directorate for Investigation of Organized Crime, Kosovo Police

Trafficking in Human Beings

The data show that during 2018 - 2022, 11 victims of (foreign) trafficking were identified. All victims were offered the services as provided in the SOP for Victims of Trafficking.

Table 7: Number of victims of trafficking, by nationality, 2018 - 2022

Victims of Trafficking identified/origin	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ALBANIA	2	1	0	1	1
CZECH REPUBLIC	1	0	0	0	0
MONTENEGRO	0	2	0	0	0
SERBIA	0	2	0	0	1
Total	3	5	0	1	2

Source: Directorate for Investigation of Trafficking with Human Beings, Kosovo Police

A.1.6. International Protection

Division of Asylum/DCAM is the responsible authority for the execution of the asylum procedure. The asylum procedure in Kosovo is regulated by Law No. 04/L-026 on Asylum, which regulates the conditions and procedures for recognition of refugee status, supplementary protection, temporary protection, status, rights and obligations of asylum seekers, persons with

refugee status, as well as persons who have been granted supplementary protection and temporary protection.

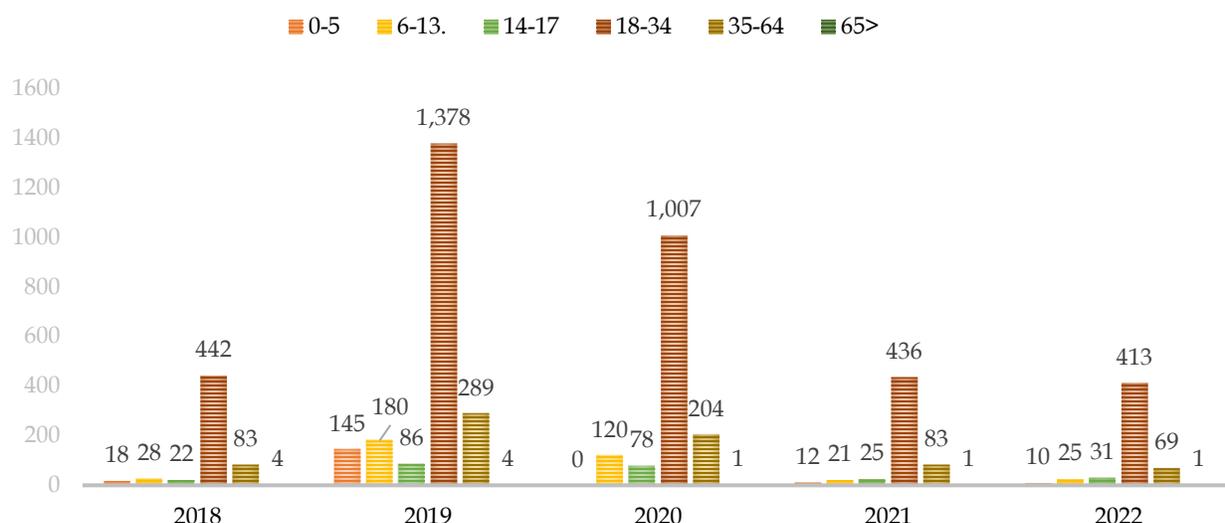
The National Commission for Refugees (NCR) has the competence to review appeals in the second instance against decisions of the first instance. The Border Police is responsible for the initial procedure, which includes the submission of applications, the initial interview, obtaining fingerprints and photographs and transferring applicants to the Asylum Centre. The Asylum Centre is responsible for: receiving, registering, accommodating and providing applicants with personal documents throughout the asylum-seeking procedure.

In the Republic of Kosovo, during 2018 - 2022 period, 5,216 applicants for international protection were registered, most of them from the countries of the Middle East and countries of North Africa. Male gender leads with 4,545 (87%) while females are represented by 671 (13%).

The most represented age group among applicants for international protection was 18-34 with 3,676 (70.4%) persons, age group of 35-64 with 728 (14%) persons, age group of 6-13 with 374 (7.2%) persons, age group of 14 -17 with 242 (4.6%) persons, age group of 0-5 with 185 (3.5%) and age group of 65+ with 11 (0.2%) persons. There is a significant increase in the number of applicants for international protection in the 0-13 age group, with 559 children, which draws the conclusion that this age group moves with their families to leave conflict and unsafe areas (such as Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc). Of the total number of this category, 133 (2.5%) were unaccompanied minors.

The main countries of origin of asylum seekers are: Syria 2,153 (41.2%), Iraq 742 (14.2%), Morocco 704 (13.4%), Palestine 322 (6.2%), Algeria 319 (6.1%), while other countries are represented by 976 (18.7%) asylum seekers. *For more information related to all states, see the corresponding table 13 in the annex.*

Figure 14. Asylum seekers in the Republic of Kosovo by age group, 2018 - 2022



Source: DCAM/MIA

The trends show that the movements of migrants towards Western countries and their journey from their countries of origin through the 'Balkan Route' has changed, which is reflected in the number of asylum seekers in the Republic of Kosovo, which is significantly smaller in 2021 and 2022 compared to the previous two years.

The following table shows the number of decisions according to the type of status and, based on the data, it appears that the largest stock of requests for international protection results in the termination of the procedure, because the applicants for international protection leave the territory of the Republic of Kosovo while their application for international protection is still in the revision procedure. According to past practice, Kosovo is still used as a transit country for asylum seekers, as well as for traffickers as an opportunity to pass from Asian countries to Western European countries.

Table 8: Number of decisions by status 2018 - 2022

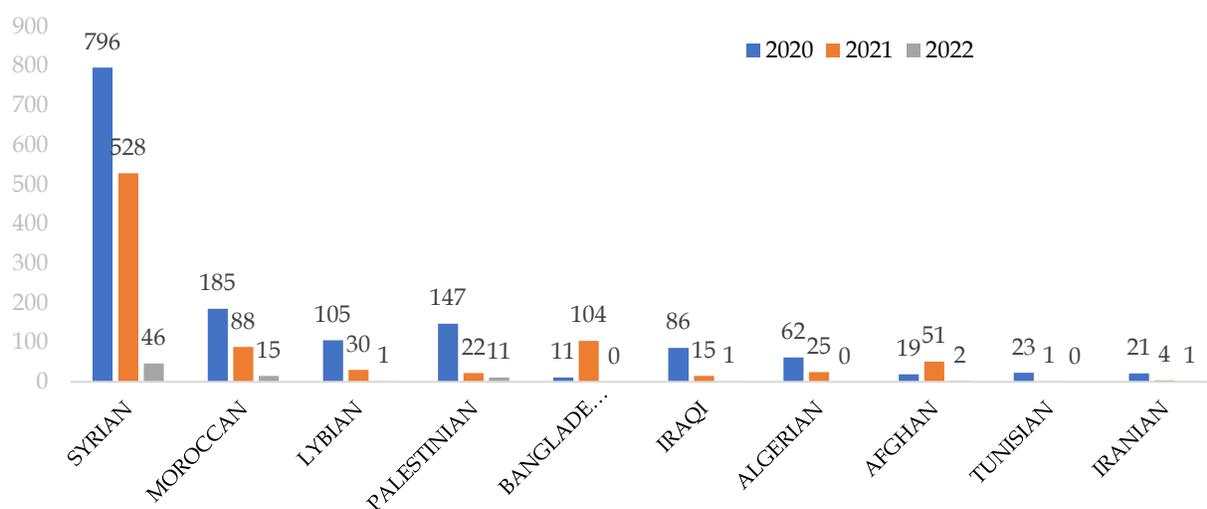
Type of decisions	No.	%
Termination of the procedure	4,726	91.5
Voluntary termination	189	3.6
Refugee status	121	2.3
Revocation of refugee status	1	0.01
Supplementary protection	25	0.4
Temporary protection	14	0.3

Rejection of request	38	0.7
Rejection under the accelerated procedure	22	0.4
Negative decision	8	0.1
Pending decision	19	0.4
Total	5,163	100

Source: DCAM/MIA

The data presented in Figure 15 show that the largest number of foreigners who have expressed their intention for international protection in 2020 are Syrian citizens, followed by Moroccans, Libyans, etc. During this year, the Decision²⁰ for the 72 hours also entered into force, while since the opening of the Temporary Reception Centre for Migrants, this decision is not applied. In the annex, a table is presented including all the states regarding the 72 hours. For more info, see table 15 in the annex.

Figure 15. Foreigners who have expressed their intention to apply for international protection (72 hours) 2020-2022



Source: DCAM/MIA

A.2. EMIGRATION

Emigration means the movement of the population from the country of origin to other countries for the purposes of work, family reunification, studies, etc. This movement of the population takes place in regular and irregular form. Referring to the reporting period, we have a growing trend of regular emigration, in particular for work purposes, as a result of the change in

²⁰ Decision No. 031/2020, dated 29.01.2020.

migration policies in European countries, especially for citizens of Western Balkan countries. The highest stock of labour migrants is in Germany ^[1] which, through national policies and legislation, has changed the map of regular emigration.

A.2.1. Visa applications from citizens of the Republic of Kosovo

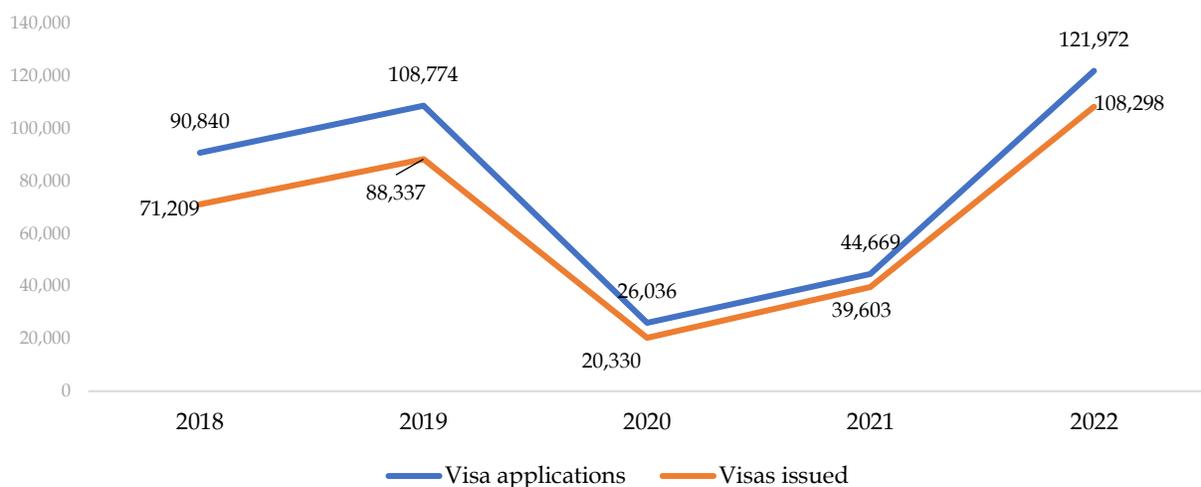
Even throughout the reference period 2018 - 2022, the Republic of Kosovo has continued to remain the only country in the Western Balkan region for which the visa regime in the Schengen area is applied. As a result of this fact, the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo throughout this period applied for Schengen visas in the Diplomatic/Consular Missions of the respective EU and Schengen zone countries accredited in the Republic of Kosovo and countries of the region. During 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic had a tangible impact in terms of reducing mobility by Kosovar citizens towards EU countries and the Schengen zone, which can also be seen in figure 16.

During the reference period, a total of 392,291 applications for Schengen visas from Kosovar citizens were registered in the Diplomatic and Consular Missions of the EU member states and in the Schengen zone accredited in the Republic of Kosovo and the countries of the region. Compared to the previous period, an increase of about 16.2% was registered. Of the total number of Schengen visa applications, issued were 84% (327,777), while rejected were 16% (64,514).²¹

^[1] https://www.institutigap.org/documents/82484_emigrimi_gjermani_.pdf

²¹ <https://statistics.schengenvisainfo.com/>, 16.10.2023

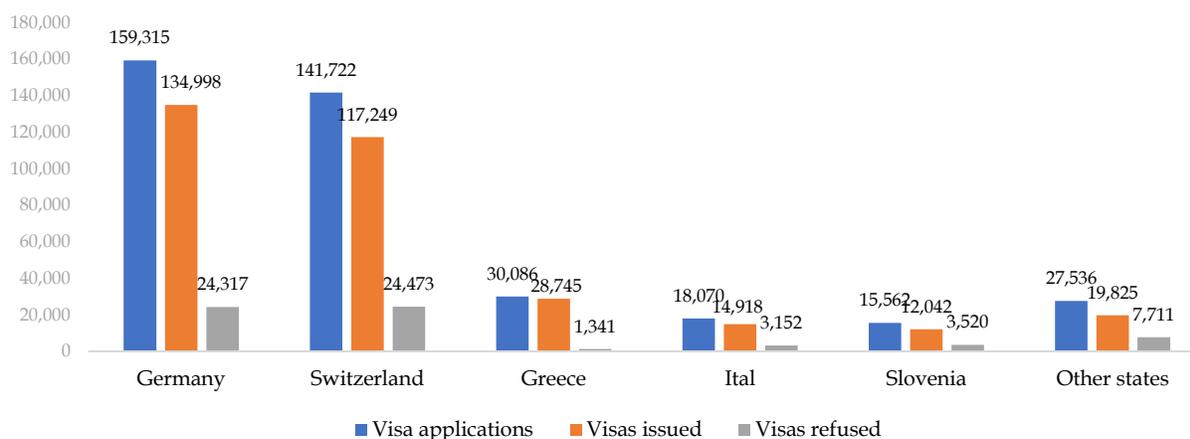
Figure 16. Applications and Schengen visas issued to Kosovar citizens, 2018 – 2022



Source: Schengen visa statistics

During this period, we can single out two more prominent years of the decrease in the number of Schengen visa applications from Kosovar citizens, in 2020, the number of Schengen visa applications decreased by three times, compared to 2019, while in 2021, there was a decrease of about -143%, compared to the same year. This refers to the COVID-19 pandemic and international travel restrictions. The countries that Kosovar citizens have visited most often during 2018 - 2022 were Germany and Switzerland which accounted for 77% of all visas issued, while other countries, such as Greece had 9% of visas issued, Italy and Slovenia each had 4% etc.

Figure 17. Number of applications, visas issued and rejected by country, 2018 - 2022



Source: Schengen visas statistics

A.2.2. Residence permits issued to citizens of the Republic of Kosovo

The analysis of the regular emigration of citizens of the Republic of Kosovo to the EU member states and the Schengen zone is mainly focused on the summary of the data on the status of the first-time residence permit during 2018 - 2022 period. Various aspects have been analysed, such as the reasons for granting permits, the duration of permits and the countries of destination. Data from 2020 excludes information for the United Kingdom.

During the 2018 - 2022 period, the member states of the EU and the Schengen zone have issued 158,546 first-time residence permits²² to Kosovar citizens. This represents an increase of 38.3% (114,597) compared to the previous five-year period. *For more information, see table 16, in the annex.*

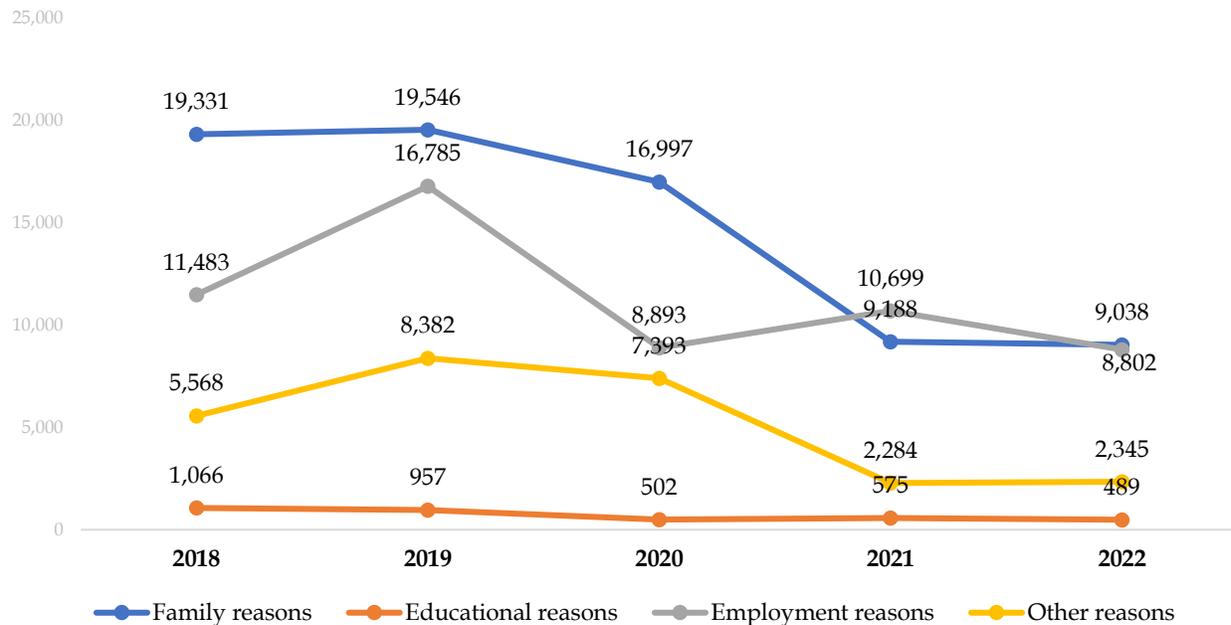
The number of first-time residence permits issued to Kosovar citizens by the authorities of the EU member states and in the Schengen zone has had an upward trend since 2014, to reach the peak in 2019 with about 45,670 first-time residence permits and then a decline by -55% by 2022 (20,514), compared to 2019²³.

The increase in the number of first-time residence permits issued to Kosovar citizens comes as a result of the increase in the number of first-time residence permits for employment reasons, which almost tripled compared to the previous five-year period. Thus, for the first time since 2009, in 2021, first-time residence permits for employment purposes exceed by about 10% the number of first-time residence permits for family reunification (Figure 18). The reduction in the number of residence permits issued after 2019 may have come as a result of the pandemic situation with COVID-19 (travel restrictions and other administrative forms imposed by the governments of EU member states and Schengen zone).

²² A **residence permit** is any authorization valid for at least 3 months issued by the authorities of an EU member state that allows a national of a third country to stay legally in its territory. The **first-time residence permit** is a permit issued to a person for the first time. The residence permit is considered a **first-time permit** even if the time interval between the expiration of the old permit and the beginning of the validity of the first permit is at least 6 months, regardless of the year of issue of the permit. The new permit convention relates to permits issued at all levels of the administrative/judicial instance (e.g.: first instance, appeal, etc.) and by all national authorities.

²³ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databroeser/viee/MIGR_RESVALID_custom_7494163/default/table?lang=en, Last update: 11/09/2023 23:00

Figure 18. Number of first-time residence permits issued to Kosovar citizens and their distribution by reason in EU member states and the Schengen zone, 2018 - 2022

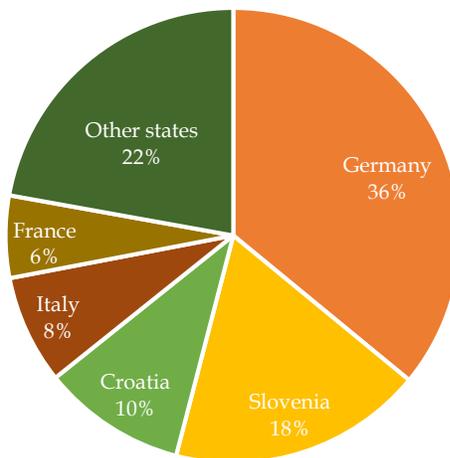


Source: Eurostat

Most of the first-time residence permits issued to Kosovar citizens during the reference period were related to family reunification 46% and employment purposes 36%, while first-time residence permits classified as “other reasons” (16%) and educational reasons (2%) followed the emigration flows with moderate oscillations, rises and falls over the years.

From the total number of first-time residence permits issued by duration for the reference period, it is evident that more than half, or about 64%, were issued for a period of 12 months or more, 29% for a period of 6 to 11 months and 7% for a period of 3 to 5 months. About two-thirds of Kosovar citizens who have a valid first-time residence permit in EU member states and the Schengen zone stay in Germany, Slovenia and Croatia.

Figure 19. Percentage distribution of first-time residence permits issued by authorities of EU member states and the Schengen zone, by top five countries, 2018 – 2022



Source: Eurostat

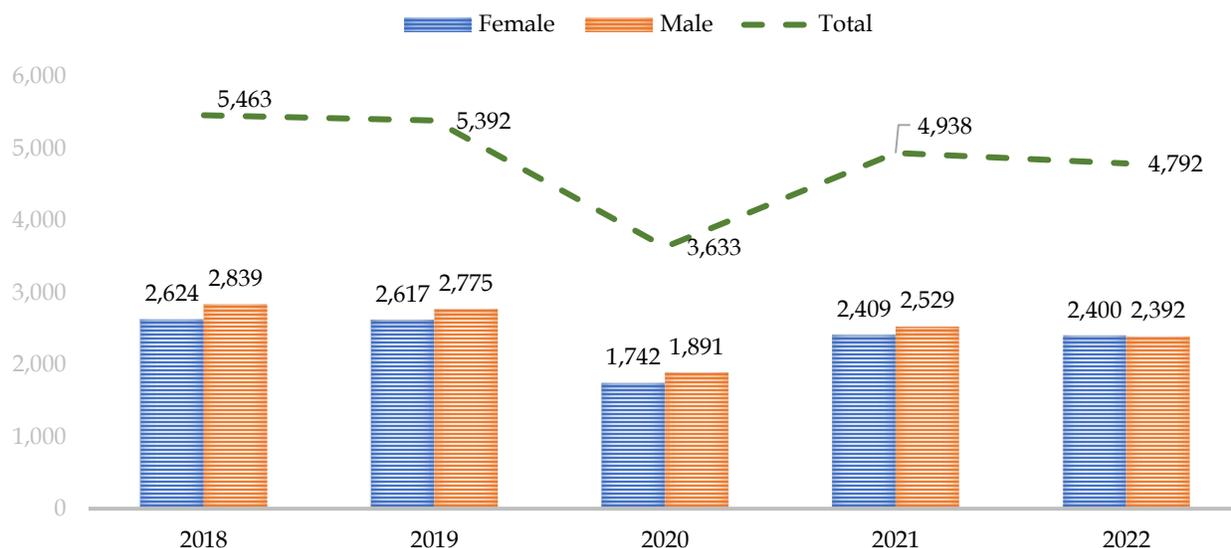
The majority of Kosovar citizens who have residence permits issued for employment purposes for the reference period reside in Slovenia 36%, Croatia 27% and Germany 19%, while holders of residence permits for the purpose of family reunification reside in Germany 42.4%, Switzerland 11.5 %, and Italy 11%. Regarding educational purposes - most Kosovar citizens study in Germany 25%, Austria 12% and Hungary 10%.

A.2.3. Renunciation of Citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo

During 2018 - 2022, 24,218 people were renounced of the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, while 368 were rejected for not meeting the legal criteria. During the 2018 - 2022 period, the persons who have been renounced of the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, as per countries, are from Germany 20,915 (86.4%), from Austria 2,342 (9.67%), from Slovenia 366 (1.5%), from Croatia 155 (0.6%), from Montenegro 126 (0.5%) and 314 (1.3%) from other states. For more information, see table 18 in the annex.

As for the age group, the largest number of those renounced belong to the age group of 18-34 with 12,646 (52.2%), 35-64 age group with 6,706 (27.7%), 14-17 age group with 2,618 (10.8%), 6-13 age group with 1,424 (5.87%), 0-5 age group with 766 (3.16%), over 65 years old with 58 (0.23%).

Figure 20. Number of persons who have been renounced from the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, 2018 - 2022



Source: DCAM

During the 2018 - 2022 period, the trends of the renouncement of the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo are almost linear, excluding 2020, where due to the pandemic, the trend of the renouncement of the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo also decreased. Out of 24,218 persons renounces of citizenship, male prevail with 12,426 (51.3%) while 11,792 (48.7%) were females.

A.2.4. Irregular Emigration

Irregular emigration refers to the movement of individuals or groups that leave their country to settle in another country, contrary to the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries.²⁴ Irregular emigration is a complex issue that poses challenges for both migrants, countries of origin and countries of destination. These challenges are mainly related to border security, public order, labour market dynamics, social cohesion and the protection of migrants' rights.

This part provides data and statistics for Kosovar citizens: who have been denied entry to the borders of EU member states and the Schengen zone; who were found with irregular stay within the territory of EU member states and the Schengen zone; ordered to leave EU and

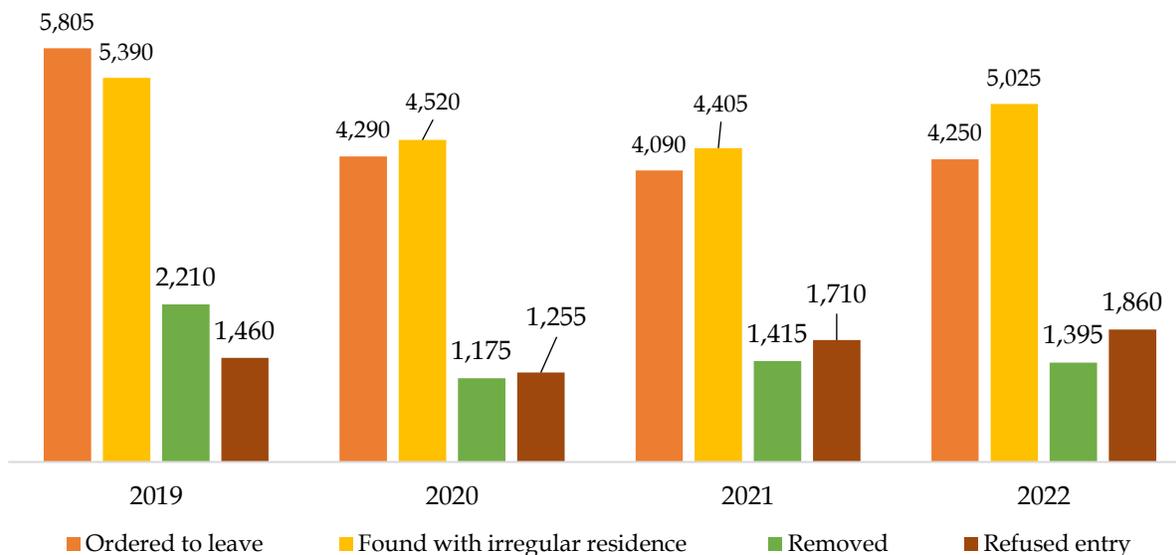
²⁴ International Migration Law, Glossary of Migration Terminology, p. 38 (IOM)

Schengen zone member states and removed from EU and Schengen zone member states on the basis of a removal order.

In the 2018 – 2022 period, about 7,820 Kosovar citizens were denied entry to the borders of EU member states and the Schengen zone; about 25,285 Kosovar citizens were found with irregular stay within the territory of EU member states and the Schengen zone; about 24,305 citizens of the Republic of Kosovo were ordered to leave EU member states and the Schengen zone, and about 9,310 Kosovar citizens left the territories of EU member states and the Schengen zone, following an order to leave.

Figure 21 provides an overview based on the reported data on the irregular emigration of Kosovar citizens who were subject to immigration law enforcement authorities in EU member states and the Schengen zone.

Figure 21. Kosovar citizens, subject to immigration law enforcement authorities in EU member states and the Schengen zone, 2018 – 2022



Source: Eurostat

Kosovar citizens who have been denied entry at the border or detained at the border of member states of the EU and the Schengen zone

The data recorded for the 2018 - 2022 period show that around 7,820 Kosovar citizens were denied entry²⁵ at the borders of EU member states and the Schengen zone²⁶. For Kosovar citizens who were denied entry at the borders of the EU member states and the Schengen zone, during the 2018 - 2022 period, we can single out the last two years as the most pronounced with a growth trend, the year 2022 (increase of about 8.8 %, compared to 2021) and 2021 (increase of about 36.2%, compared to 2020). The reason for the increase in 2021 can be related to the restrictive travel measures at the borders of EU member states and the Schengen zone (due to the pandemic situation with Covid-19).

More than half of the total number of denials were registered in two EU countries, Croatia 2,585 (33%) and Slovenia 1,600 (20%), while the rest of the countries were Hungary 1,240 (16%), France 745 (10%), Germany 400 (5%), and other countries 1,250 (16%). *For more information, see table 19, in the annex.*

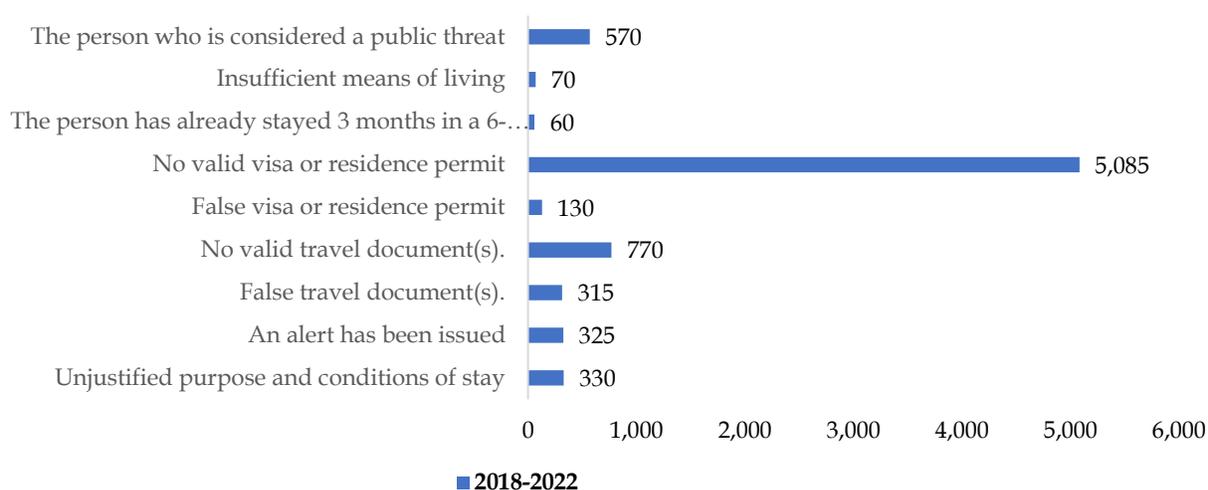
Slovenia had the largest increase in denials of entry by about twofold (173%), compared to the previous period. Denials of entry of Kosovar citizens at the borders of the EU member states and the Schengen zone were mainly at the land borders which accounted for 81% of the total number, while at the air borders it was 16%, while only a small part 3% of denials were at maritime borders. Comparing the two periods for entry denials at the borders of the EU member states and the Schengen zone, the data were similar.

Compared to the previous period, the data from Figure 22 show that denials due to the lack of a valid visa or residence permit increased by 22%, the reason for the lack of a valid travel document decreased by -25%.

²⁵ Each person is counted only once within the reference period, regardless of the number of denials given to the same person.

²⁶ Persons who are denied entry to the external border of the EU because they do not meet all the entry conditions set out in Article 6 (1) of the Schengen Borders Code and do not belong to any of the categories of people mentioned in Article 6 (5.) of this Regulation

Figure 22. Refusal of entry to the external borders of the EU Member States and the Schengen zone, of Kosovar citizens, by reason, comparison of the period 2018 - 2022 with the previous period



Source: Eurostat

Compared to the previous period, during the reference period at the EU external borders, the number of Kosovar citizens who were considered a public threat increased significantly. The most pronounced increases for this category (in persons) were in 2020 (305) and 2021 (215) to then fall to (30) in 2022. The reason for this increase in denials of entry at the EU external borders was the effect of travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Other reasons for refusing the entry of Kosovar citizens at the EU borders and the Schengen zone compared to the previous period were: the purpose and conditions of unjustified stay increased by 22.2%, while the cases where an alert was issued decreased by -1.5%. Kosovar citizens presenting false travel document(s) to the border authorities doubled by 215%; for those with a false visa or residence permit there was a decrease of -16.1%; for people who already stayed 3 months in a 6-month period, there was an increase of 33.3% and for Kosovar citizens who did not have sufficient means of living, there was a decrease of -22.2%.

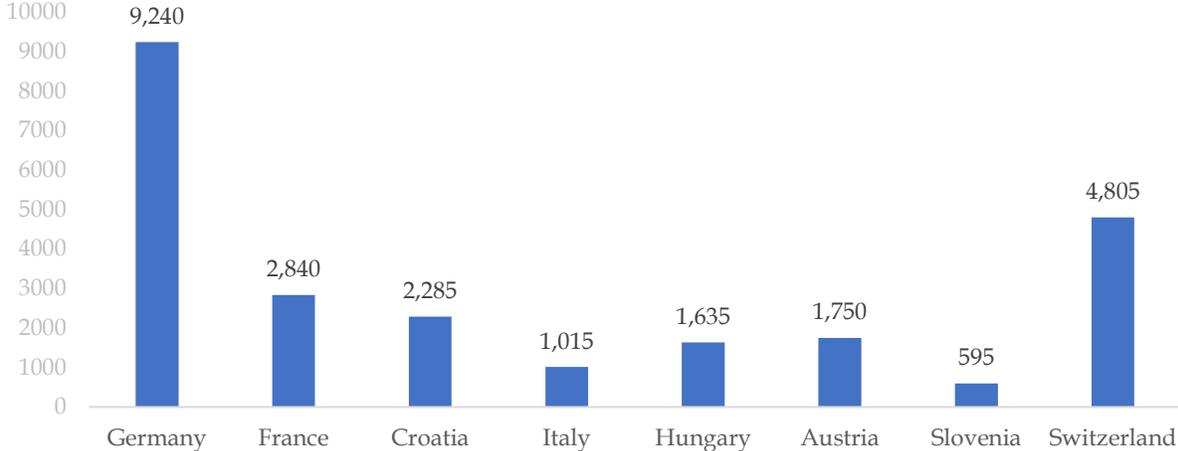
Kosovar citizens who have been caught with irregular stay within the territory of EU member states and the Schengen zone

According to the data in the period 2018 - 2022, about 25,285 people with Kosovar citizenship were caught with irregular stay within the territory of EU member states and the Schengen zone²⁷. It should be underlined the fact that in the past period, around 123,370 Kosovar citizens were caught with irregular stay, as a result of the phenomenon of irregular emigration during 2014 and 2015. There was a downward trend throughout the entire period 2018 - 2022, with a relatively constant number, on average about 5,057 people per year. During this period, we can highlight the year 2021 (4,405) with the lowest number and the year 2018 (5,945) with the highest number of Kosovar citizens, who were caught irregularly staying, while in the last year 2022, there was a slight increase of about 14%, compared to 2021.

The data registered by country for the period 2018 - 2022 show that more than half, 57% (14,365), of Kosovar citizens with irregular stay were found in three countries: Germany 37% (9,240), France 11% (2,840), Croatia 8% (2,285) and other countries 43% (10,825). For more information, see table 20 in the Annex.

The data on the number of Kosovar citizens who were caught irregularly staying according to the EU countries and the Schengen zone (Figure 23), show that the countries: Hungary, Sweden, Germany, Austria, France and Switzerland had a significant decrease, while the countries: Slovenia, Italy and Croatia had a slight increase.

Figure 23. Kosovar citizens caught with irregular stay, by country, 2018 – 2022



Source: Eurostat

²⁷ This category relates to people who are caught to have entered illegally (for example by avoiding immigration checks or using a fraudulent document) and those who may have entered legally but then overstayed illegally (for example, overstaying their permit or taking unauthorized work). Only persons who have been caught or otherwise brought to the attention of the authorities of immigration states are recorded in these statistics

During the reference period, data disaggregated by gender, show that mostly men made up about 87.2% of those who were caught with irregular stay within the territory of the EU member states and the Schengen zone, compared to women which made up 12.8%. During this period, there were faster downward trends in the number of women who were caught to be irregularly staying within the territory of EU member states and the Schengen zone, compared to the number of men. Thus, the rate of decline for the women in the period 2018 - 2022 compared to the previous period 2013-2017 is 88% against 79% for the men. One of the reasons that can be related to this change in trend is related to the strengthening of the control of the external borders of the countries of the Schengen zone and changes in the routes of irregular migration.

Table 9: Distribution by age and gender of Kosovar citizens who have been caught with irregular stay within the territory of EU member states and the Schengen zone, 2018 - 2022

Gender	F	%	M	%
	No.	%	No.	%
Total	4,345	100	22,045	100
Under 14 years old	230	5.3	265	1.2
14 to 17 years	150	3.4	530	2.5
Under 18 years old	390	9	805	3.7
18 to 34 years old	1,515	34.9	12,715	57.6
35 years and older	2,040	47	7,150	32.4
Unknown	20	0.4	580	2.6

Source: Eurostat

The structure according to the age groups of Kosovar citizens who were caught with irregular stay within the territory of the EU member states and the Schengen zone shows a representation trend for 18 - 34 year olds of 54%, those aged 35 and over were represented at 34%, under 18 at 5%, 14 - 17 at 3%, under 14 at 2% and unknown at 2%, (see table 21).

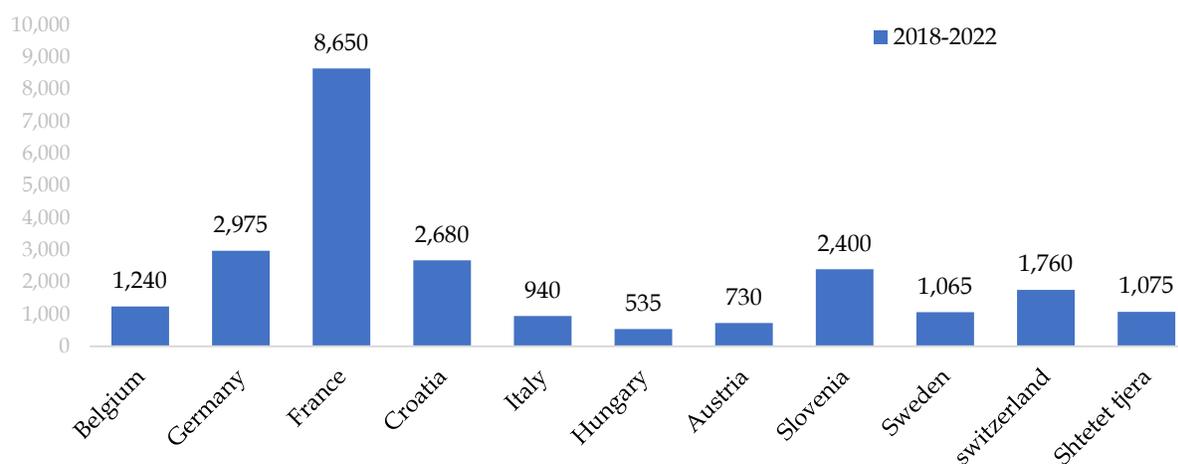
Half of the Kosovar citizens, about 50%, were found to have entered the territory of the EU member states and the Schengen zone in an irregular manner, 19% of them were due to overstaying and 31% had another reasons. In the last two years, Croatia reported the largest number of Kosovar citizens who entered irregularly at 27%, followed by Switzerland at 26%, Italy 13%, Slovenia 12%, Germany 12% and other countries at 10%

Kosovar citizens ordered to leave²⁸ from the EU member states and the Schengen zone

Statistical data show that the number of Kosovar citizens ordered to leave EU member states and the Schengen zone during 2018 - 2022 has changed constantly but has been decreasing. According to the data for the reference period, about 24,305 citizens of the Republic of Kosovo were ordered to leave the member states of the EU and the Schengen zone. During this period, we can single out only the year 2022, which had a slight increase of 2.6%, compared to the year 2021.

During the reference period, three EU member states together accounted for 59% of all Kosovar citizens ordered to leave EU member states and the Schengen zone. France reported the largest number of Kosovar citizens ordered to leave, 8,650 (36%), followed by Germany, 2,975 (12%) and Croatia, 2,680 (11%). For more information, see table 22 in the Annex. Compared to the previous period, the number of Kosovar citizens ordered to leave the EU member states and the Schengen zone in all countries shows a significant decrease, increasing trends are presented in three EU countries, as seen in the figure 24.

Figure 24. Kosovar citizens ordered to leave the first ten EU countries, comparison of the period 2018 - 2022



Source: Eurostat

²⁸ This category includes illegally staying third-country citizens who are subject to an administrative or judicial decision or act declaring their stay to be illegal and imposing an obligation to leave the territory of the Member State. These statistics do not include persons who are transferred from one member state to another according to the mechanism established by the Dublin Regulation, but are collected by Eurostat according to the Dublin statistics. Each person is counted only once within the reference period, regardless of the number of notices given to the same person.

The recorded data shows that out of the total number of Kosovar citizens ordered to leave EU member states and the Schengen zone, men lead (88%), followed by women (9%), while 3% were unknown.

During the period 2018 - 2022, 90% of Kosovar citizens ordered to leave were of working age. Young people in the age group of 18-34 years constituted almost more than half, respectively 62% of all Kosovar citizens ordered to leave the EU member states and the Schengen zone, followed by the age group of 35 years and older with 28% and less than 18 years with 7%, while 3% were unknown.

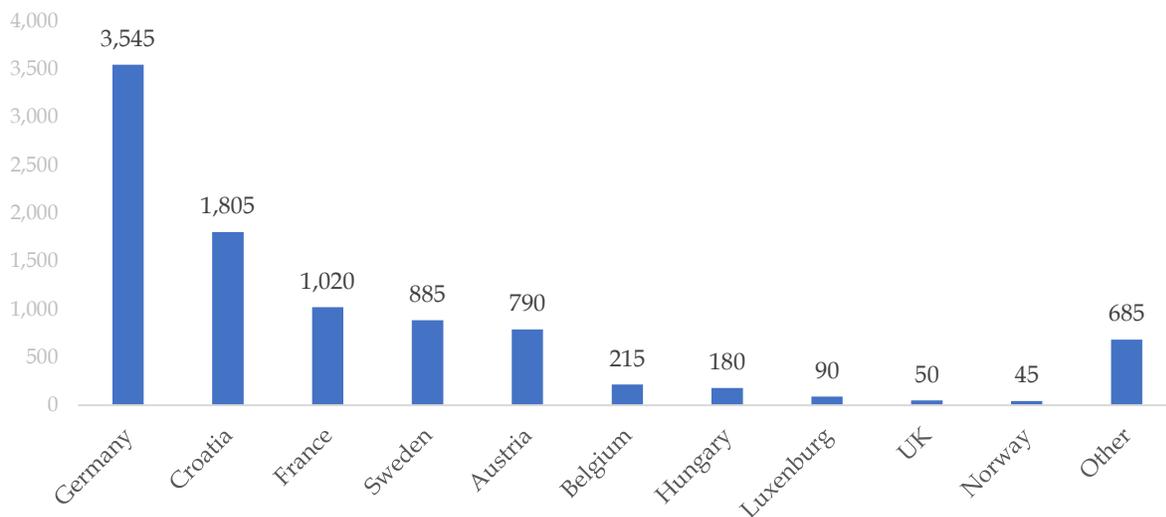
Citizens of the Republic of Kosovo removed from the EU member states and the Schengen zone on the basis of the removal order

EU Member States and the Schengen zone reported in total 9,310²⁹ Kosovar citizens removed³⁰ from their territories during the period 2018 - 2022. Unlike previous years, during the reference period 2018 - 2022, there was a lower number of departures for Kosovar citizens. In this context, the year 2020 (due to restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic) is characterized by the lowest number of departures for Kosovar citizens since the time when the Republic of Kosovo appeared in EUROSTAT data. From the total number in the period 2018 - 2022, 3,475 (38%) Kosovar citizens left Germany, 1,805 (19%) left Croatia, 1,020 (11%) left France, 885 (10%) left Sweden, 790 (8%) left Austria and 1,265 (14%) left other countries. For more info, see table 23 in the Annex.

²⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databroeser/view/MIGR_EIRTN/default/table?lang=en, last update, 11/05/2023 23:00

³⁰ This category includes third country nationals who have left the territory of the Member State after receiving an order to leave either to another EU+EFTA country or to a third country.

Figure 25. Kosovar citizens removed from EU member states and the Schengen zone based on the removal order, by country, 2018 - 2022



Source: Eurostat

Data by gender show that men accounted for more than 3/4 or 85% of Kosovar citizens removed from EU member states and the Schengen zone, compared to women which constituted 14%, while 1% were unknown. The age group of 18 to 35 years made up about 90% of those who were removed (18 to 34 years with 55% and the age group of 35 years and older with 34%).

A.2.5. Kosovar asylum seekers in the EU and Schengen Zone States

Application for asylum means a request for international protection as defined in the Article. 2 (h) of Directive 2011/95/EU, which includes applications for refugee status or subsidiary protection status, regardless of whether the application was submitted upon arrival at the border point, or from within the country and regardless of whether the person entered the territory regularly (eg. as a tourist) or irregularly.

The number of requests from Kosovar citizens for international protection in EU countries and the Shcengen zone has decreased by about eight times during the last five years compared to

the previous period. During the reference period, about 12,055³¹ Kosovar citizens were applicants for the first time³² while in general there were 17,120 applications for asylum³³.

To more accurately reflect the number of asylum applications in EU and Schengen zone member states, the analysis includes first-time applicants for international protection, while excluding repeated applicants.

The data show that in 2020, the number of Kosovar asylum seekers for the first time decreased to 1,575 people, also the lowest number since 2009 (Figure 26). The downward trend was maintained in the following years until 2021, where first-time asylum applications increased by about 4.1% compared to 2020 and 52.1% in 2022 (2,495), compared to 2021 (1,640) .

The following figure shows the number of Kosovar citizens who applied for asylum in EU countries and the Schengen zone. These figures include asylum applicants, first-time applicants and, from 2021, subsequent applicants. According to the data for the last two years 2021 and 2022, a total of 1,415 Kosovar citizens have made a subsequent application³⁴for asylum.

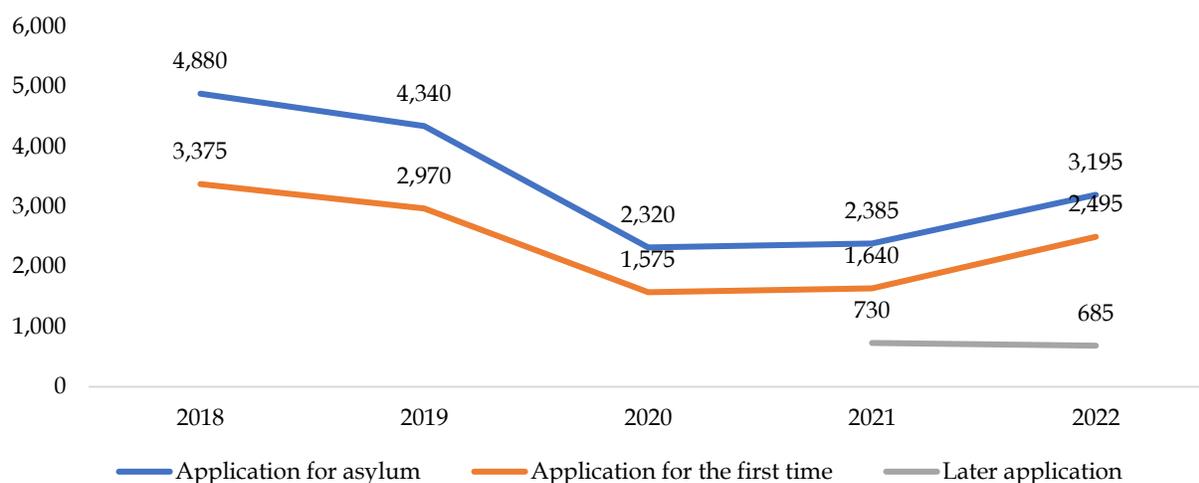
³¹ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/MIGR_ASYAPPCTZA/default/table?lang=en, last update, 02/06/2023 23:00

³²A **first-time applicant** for international protection (as defined by Article 2(h) and 2(i) of the Qualification Directive 2011/95/EU) is a person who has submitted an application for asylum for the FIRST TIME in a specific Member State. The expression "first time" implies no time limitation and therefore person can be recorded as first-time applicant only if he or she had never applied for international protection in the reporting country in the past, irrespective of the fact that he is found to have applied in another Member State of the European Union.

³³**Asylum applicant** refers to a third-country national or stateless person who has made an application for international protection or who is included in such an application as a family member in respect of which a final decision has not yet been taken during reference period.

³⁴**Subsequent application** - means a further application for international protection made after a final decision has been taken on a previous application, including cases where the applicant has explicitly withdrawn his or her application and cases where the determining authority has rejected an application following its implicit withdrawal in accordance with Article 2, q) and Article 28 (1) of DIRECTIVE 2013/32/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection.

Figure 26. Number of asylum applications from Kosovar citizens in EU countries and the Schengen zone, 2018 - 2022



Source: Eurostat

Based on registered data, during 2018 - 2022, for Kosovar asylum seekers for the first time, the main destinations were France 7,295 (60%) and Germany 1,685 (14%), which together received about 74% of the applications for asylum from the Republic of Kosovo. The next destination for Kosovar asylum seekers was Italy 950 (8%), Belgium 465 (4%), Sweden 435 (4%), Switzerland 330 (3%) and other countries 895 (7%). For more info, see table 24 in the Annex.

More than a third of the first-time asylum seekers, Kosovar citizens, were in the age-group of 18 to 34 years, which constituted 41%, the age-group under 18 years was represented by 35%, the age-group 35 to 64 years by 23%, the age-group over 65 years old was represented below 1%. This age distribution was almost common in both periods, with the majority of first-time asylum seekers being young people under 35, who accounted for almost 76% of the total.

Data by gender for first-time asylum seekers, Kosovar citizens, show a slight dominance of the male (41%, compared to 39% of the female). This trend was the same in all periods since 2008.

As for Kosovar asylum seekers who are considered unaccompanied minors³⁵, in the period 2018 - 2022, there were a total of 85 applications in EU member states and the Schengen zone. During

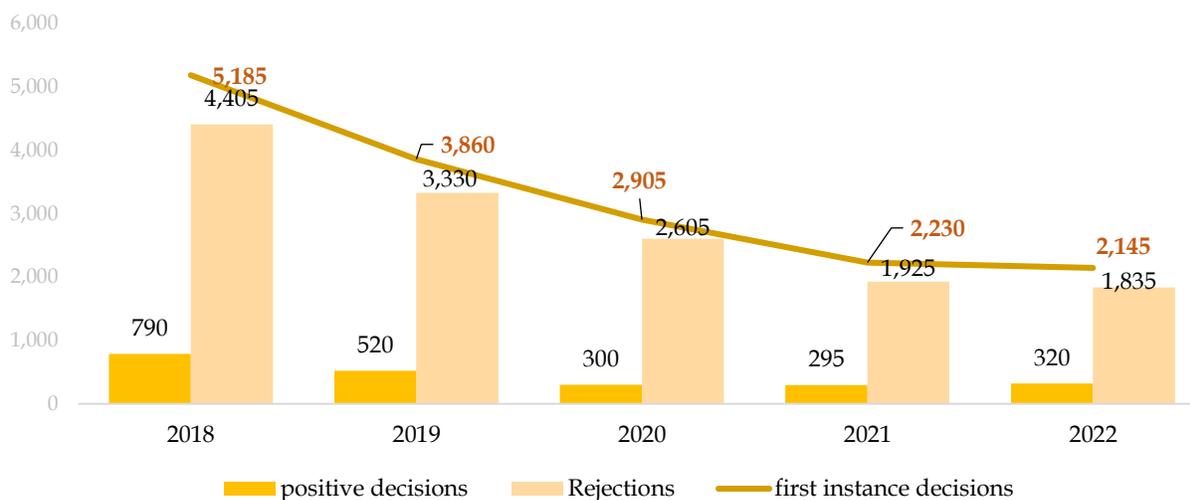
³⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/MIGR_ASYUNAA/default/table?lang=en, last update, 16/05/2023 23:00

this period, the largest number of asylum applications from unaccompanied minors³⁶ was recorded in 2021 (30) and in 2022 (20). The men predominated with 89% compared to the women 11%. EU member states that registered the largest number of applications from unaccompanied Kosovar minors were: Slovenia 53%, Sweden 23% and other countries with 6%.

Data on decisions on asylum applications are available for two stages of the process: first-instance decisions (initial decisions) and final decisions taken after appeal or review. The member states of the EU and the Schengen zone for the period 2018 - 2022 have issued a total of 16,325 first instance decisions (Figure 27) and 10,095 final decisions taken after appeal or review (Figure 28), for Kosovar citizens.

First instance decisions are decisions delivered by the relevant authority acting as the first instance of the administrative/judicial asylum procedure in the host country. The decisions delivered in the first instance for Kosovar asylum seekers have resulted 2,225 (14%) positive and 14,100 (86%) rejected. From the total number of positive decisions for Kosovar citizens, Geneva Convention status was granted to 870 persons (39%), Supplementary Protection Status to 745 persons (34%) and Humanitarian Status to 605 persons (27%).

Figure 27. Number of first instance decisions, positive decisions, rejections for Kosovar asylum seekers, 2018 - 2022



Source: Eurostat

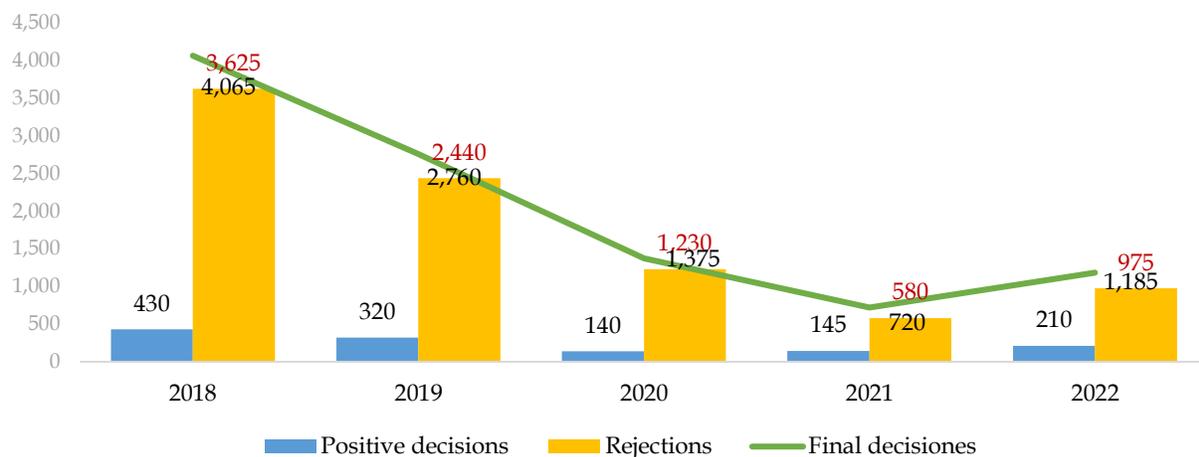
³⁶An unaccompanied minor is a person under the age of 18 who arrives on the territory of an EU Member State, and is unaccompanied by an adult responsible for the minor or a minor who remains unaccompanied after having entered the territory of an EU member state.

During the reference period, the highest annual rate of positive decisions of the first instance was recorded in 2018 (790), then there was a downward trend until 2021, to increase again slightly in 2022 of 8.4%, compared to 2021. The largest number of first instance decisions was given in France 9,495 (58%), followed by Germany 3,405 (21%), Italy 1,110 (7%) and other countries 2,305 (14%).

Final decisions on appeal or review refer to decisions given at the final stage of the administrative/judicial asylum procedure and resulting from an appeal submitted by an asylum seeker rejected at the previous stage.

During the reference period, 1,240 (12%) Kosovar asylum seekers were given a positive final decision after appeal or review, while 8,850 (88%) were rejected. Of the total number of final decisions taken on appeal or review, Geneva Convention status was granted to 400 persons (33%), Supplementary Protection Status to 340 persons (28%) and Humanitarian Status to 475 persons (39%).

Figure 28. Number of final decisions after appeal or review, positive decisions, rejections for Kosovar asylum seekers, 2013 - 2022



Source: Eurostat

The highest annual rate of positive final decisions after appeal or review was recorded in 2018 (430), then there was a downward trend until 2020, to increase again slightly in 2021 of 3.5% and in 2022 of 44.8% compared to the previous year.

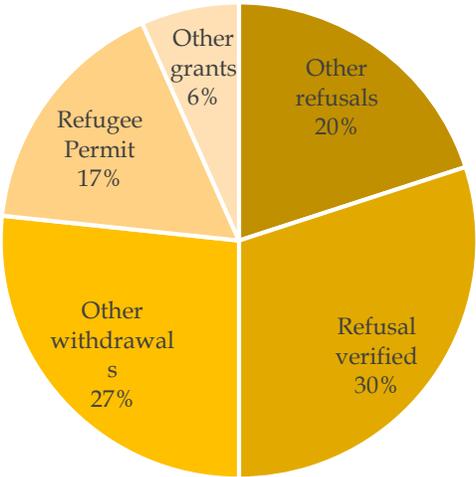
Among the EU member states that recorded the highest rate of issuing positive final decisions after appeal or review were: France 4,780 (47%), followed by Germany 3,650 (36%), Sweden 475 (7%) and other countries 1,200 (12%).

Applications for asylum in the United Kingdom

Data on the number of asylum seekers in the United Kingdom³⁷ since 2020, are not published in the EUROSTAT databases. The number of Kosovars who applied for asylum in the United Kingdom, during 2020 - 2022, were in total 82 people. By gender, the data show that mostly men made up about 83% of those who applied for asylum in comparison with the women who constituted 13%. By age, the 30-49 age group led with 49%, 18-29 years old with 45%, under 18 years old with 4% and 50-69 years old with 2%.

Figure 29 shows the number of initial decisions for Kosovar asylum seekers in the United Kingdom in percentage terms. During the reference period for Kosovar asylum seekers in the United Kingdom, 30 initial asylum decisions were issued. Half of the requests for Kosovar asylum seekers, 50%, were rejected, 23% received a positive response, while 27% were withdrawals of applications.

Figure 29. Initial decisions for Kosovar asylum seekers in the United Kingdom (%), 2020 - 2022



Source: Home Office Immigration System Statistics

³⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>

Division according to the status of the initial decision of Kosovar asylum seekers (in persons): refugee status³⁸ 5, other grants 2, verified refusal³⁹ 9, other rejections⁴⁰ 6 and other withdrawals⁴¹ 8.

A.3. READMISSION AND REINTEGRATION OF READMITTED PERSONS

A.3.1 Forced and Voluntary Readmission

Division for Readmission and Return/DCAM, is the main state authority responsible for the implementation of Law No. 03/L-208 on Readmission as well as the implementation of bilateral readmission agreements. Until 2022, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo has signed readmission agreements with 24 countries⁴², 20 of which are EU member states and Schengen countries.

DCAM applies the procedures for readmission of a person who is a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo or a foreigner, who does not comply or does not meet anymore, the conditions in force for entering or staying in the territory of the requesting state.

The readmission/repatriation process begins on the basis of an administrative order/decision or a judicial decision issued by the requesting state or the receiving state, which denies the person or family regular and legal residence in that state. The readmitted returnees at the border crossing points belong to the categories of forced returnees, volunteers and volunteers assisted by IOM.

The data show that the number of readmissions (forced and voluntary) during the last five years is 6,262 people. Also, based on the data, it is confirmed that the readmission of repatriated

³⁸ Refugee status (formerly known as 'asylum') is granted to applicants for asylum, under paragraph 334, Part 11 of the Immigration Regulations, to recognize that they have a well-founded fear of persecution in their country of origin or place of former habitual residence, for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

³⁹An asylum application is validated when the claim is "clearly unfounded". This means that the asylum seeker cannot, in any legitimate way, qualify for refugee status, Humanitarian Protection, Discretionary Leave or leave to remain under family or private life rules.

⁴⁰Rejections of claims when the asylum seeker does not meet the conditions for refugee status, humanitarian protection, discretionary leave or leave to remain under family or private life rules.

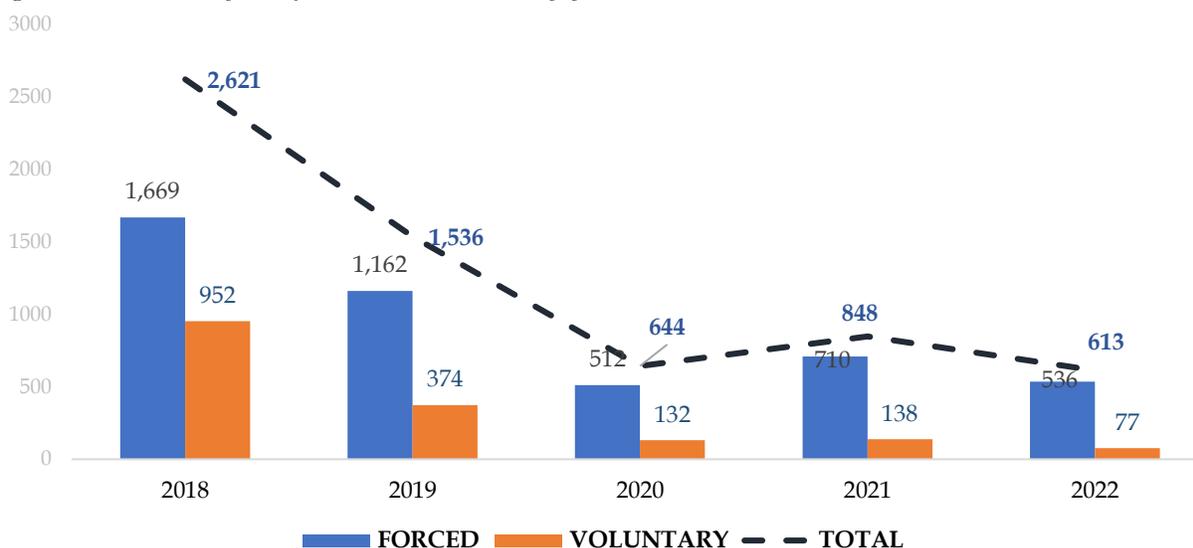
⁴¹An asylum application can be withdrawn explicitly (ie if the applicant signs an application withdrawal form), or can be withdrawn if the applicant leaves the UK before a decision.

⁴². Arrangements for repair are found in section C.4. Regional and international cooperation

persons in 98% of cases is done with countries with which Kosovo has readmission agreements, while in 2% of cases it is done by applying the Law on Readmission.

From the total number of readmitted 6,262 during the period 2018 – 2022, according to the method of return, there are: by force 4,589 (73.3%)⁴³, volunteers 302 (4.8%) and IOM-assisted volunteers 1,371 (22%)⁴⁴. According to this data, there is a 64% increase in forcibly readmitted compared to voluntary ones.

Figure 30. Voluntary and forced readmissions by year, 2018–2022



Source: DCAM, KP, IOM

Data by gender on the number of forcibly readmitted Kosovar citizens show that the number of readmitted is mainly dominated by men with 76.5% (3,510), while the women is represented by 23.5% (1,079). Also according to the data of readmitted voluntarily and Volunteers assisted by IOM, from the total number (1,673) men is represented by 803 (48%), while the women by 870 (52%).

Based on data during these five years, the largest number of forced and voluntary readmissions is observed in the age group 18-34 (2,539 or 40.5%) and 35-64 (2,199 or 35%). Also, the age group 6-13 (595 or 9.5%) and the age group 0-5 (589 or 9.4%) have a large number of readmitted and thus it can be underlined that during this period the number of returned families was high. As

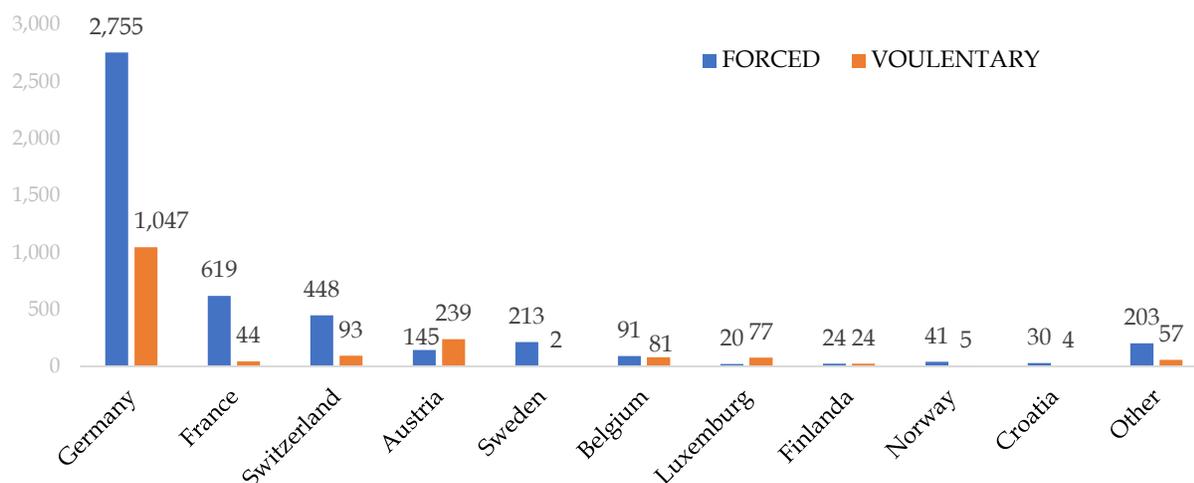
⁴³ Source: KP/MIA

⁴⁴ Source: IOM

can be seen from the data on the age group, the active age group for work (18-34 years) mainly dominates.

Figure 31 presents the data related to forced and voluntary readmission by country. As can be seen, Germany leads with 3,802 (60.7%), France with 663 (10.6%), Switzerland with 541 (8.6%), Austria with 384 (6.1%), Sweden with 215 (4%) and other countries with 657 (10.5%). For more see table 25 in the Annex.

Figure 31. Forced and Volunteer readmissions by country, 2018–2022



Source: DCAM/KP/IOM

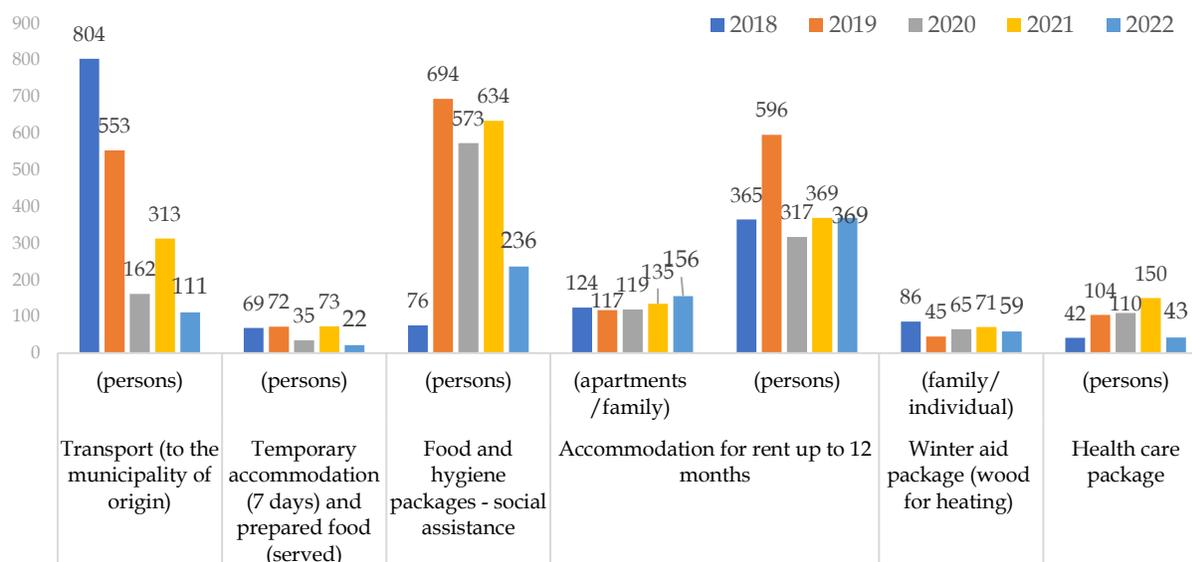
The readmission trend during the period 2018 - 2022 has moved with an average of 1,000 - 2,000 people per year, the years 2018 and 2019 have marked the largest number of readmissions, while the other years have suffered a continuous decline and this is as a result of the decline of irregular emigration. The facilities that have been created by the German state to obtain visas for work purposes⁴⁵ has significantly changed the trend of people who have migrated irregularly. This fact has influenced the change of trend from irregular emigration to regular emigration and this change has a major socio-economic impact which is assessed in part B of this document.

⁴⁵ <https://www.albinfo.ch/rruget-legale-per-te-gjetur-pune-ne-gjermani/>

A.3.2 Reintegration of repatriated persons

The Department for Reintegration of Repatriated Persons and Integration of Foreigners (DRRPIF) within the Ministry of Internal Affairs is the authority responsible for managing and supporting the reintegration of repatriated persons. During 2018 - 2022, within the framework of various emergency schemes, repatriated persons were supported according to the following statistics:

Figure 32. Assistance immediately after arrival and emergency repatriation assistance for the period 2018 – 2022



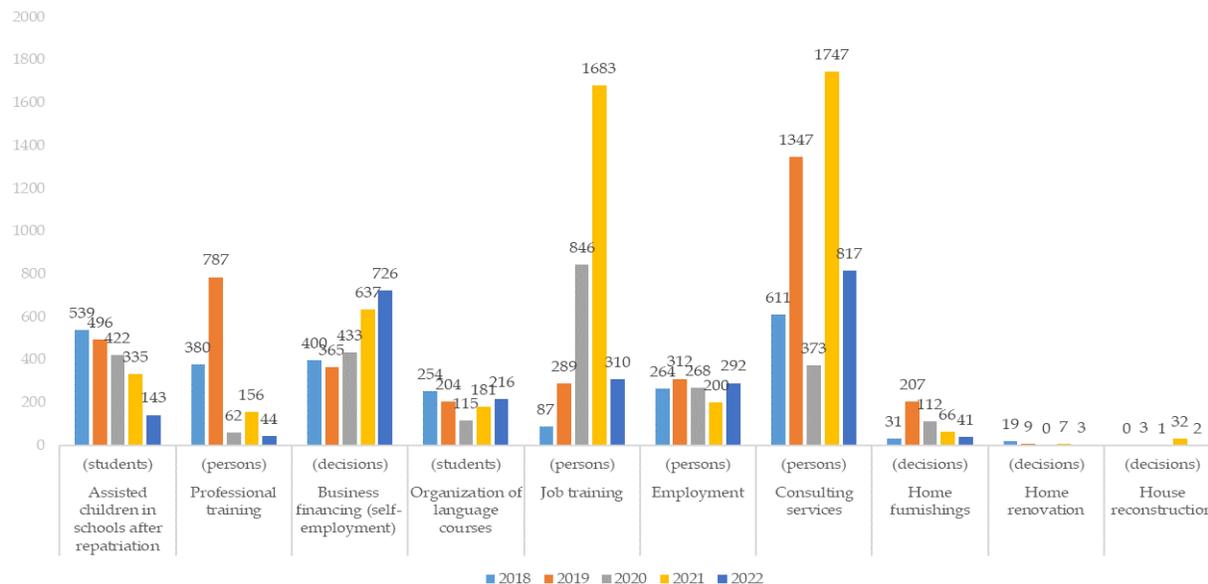
The source: DRRPIF

According to figure 32, from the Reintegration schemes, during the period 2018 - 2022⁴⁶, it is observed that the largest number of repatriated persons have benefited from the transport scheme (to the municipality of origin) respectively in 2018 and then a decrease in the number of beneficiaries is observed in the following years. Also, it is observed that the number of repatriated beneficiaries with individual composition is higher than the family composition

⁴⁶ The number of beneficiaries of reintegration schemes cannot be compared with the number of persons readmitted within a year. Repatriated persons have a legal deadline for submitting requests of up to six months (which means that for some schemes they can submit a request in the following year) For some measures that are offered on the basis of open calls (repatriated persons can benefit up to five years after readmission). Similarly, repatriated persons can be beneficiaries of one or more reintegration schemes. Beneficiaries from international organizations and local institutions are based on their support programs (criteria), within these beneficiaries there are repatriated persons in the reporting year and previous years

who have benefited from the rental accommodation scheme up to 12 months, while during this period from the food and hygiene package scheme and social assistance we have a significant increase in the number of repatriated beneficiaries in 2019, 2020, 2021.

Figure 33. Assistance for sustainable reintegration, 2018 - 2022



The source: DRRPIE/Local Institutions and International Organizations

Within the framework of some schemes for sustainable reintegration (Figure 33), 2018 - 2022, an increase of 82% is observed in the business financing scheme, also an increase from year to year is also observed in job training and consultancy services, and this as a result of increased cooperation and the signing of agreements with international organizations that support the reintegration process.

A.3.3 Integration of Foreigners

The integration of foreigners into Kosovar society is regulated through the legal framework, namely the Law on Foreigners, the Law on Asylum, the Law on Citizenship, as well as through Regulation (GRK) No. 09/2019 on the Integration of Foreigners, which defines the basis of the system of integration of foreigners in the Republic of Kosovo. MIA/DRRPIF is responsible for the management and coordination of integration policies in close cooperation with the relevant central and local institutions.

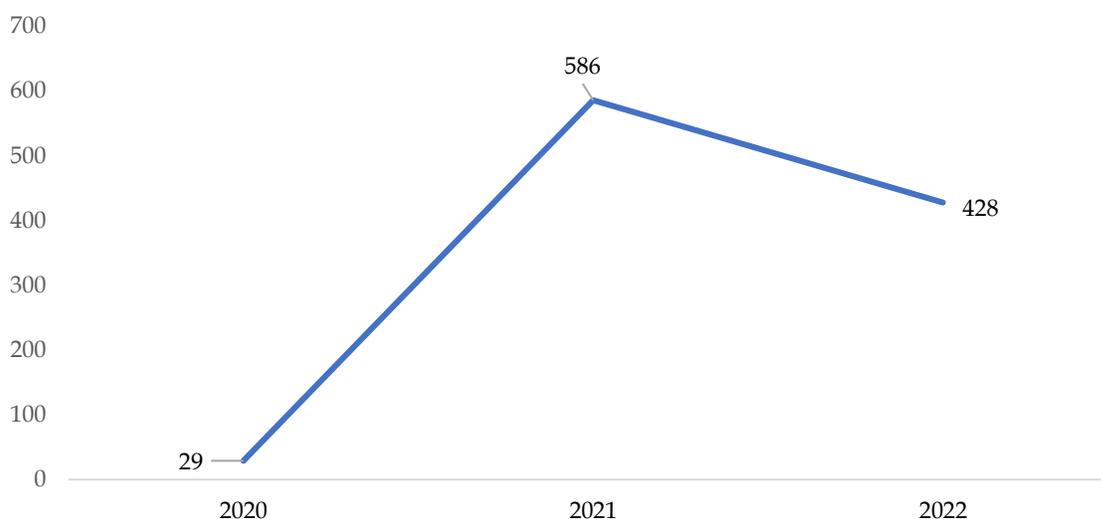
The Government of the Republic of Kosovo according to Government Decisions No. 10/68 and No. 9/94, journalists from Ukraine, is financing the program “Journalists in Residence - Kosovo” within which, during 2022, has sheltered 13 Journalists from Ukraine.

DRRPIF has supported these persons with emergency measures (organization of their arrival and transport to the place of destination). Also, the same have benefited from food and hygiene packages on a monthly basis, the language course, the integration course supported by international organizations in coordination with the DRRPIF, etc.

For the Integration of Foreigners, foreign persons are supported through specific integration measures, with a focus on: Needs assessment, Albanian Language Courses, Integration Courses and Rental Accommodation. In the period 2019-2022, Albanian language courses were delivered to 28 foreigners, Integration courses were delivered to 21 foreigners, and rental accommodation was delivered to 45 foreigners.

During 2020-2022⁴⁷, within the various integration schemes, foreign persons have been supported, the number of whom is shown in the chart below.

Figure 34. The number of people who have benefited from the integration schemes



Source: DRPRIH/MIA

⁴⁷ The statistics reflect the time period 2020-2022, when the provision of services by DRRPIF began

A.3.4 Internally and externally displaced persons = (IEDPs)

This category includes persons who have been displaced within Kosovo or the Region.

Voluntary returns

Ministry for Communities and Return, according to its mandate in accordance with the strategic priorities of the Government of Kosovo, aims to achieve the sustainable return of displaced persons inside and outside the country as well as the integration and stabilization of all communities living in Kosovo. The table below presents the returns of displaced persons in Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia as well as internally displaced persons for the years 2018 - 2022

Table 10: Number of voluntary returnees inside and outside the country, 2018 - 2022

Ethnicities	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	%
Albanian	43	1	16	21	6	87	5.86
Ashkali/Egyptian	96	53	76	31	25	281	18.94
Bosnian	10	0	3	0	1	14	0.94
Roma	35	14	61	47	17	174	11.73
Serbian	133	123	238	269	155	918	61.86
Other	10	0	0	0	0	10	0.67
Total	327	191	394	368	204	1,484	100

Source: UNHCR

Among the Displaced Persons, some of the problems related to the return process are: long decision-making period, selection processes, lack of infrastructure, support of institutions (in the socio-economic field). Also, depending on the location of return, issues of security and the rule of law were also highlighted, with special emphasis on the communities living in the north of Kosovo.

Older ages of Displaced Persons have expressed their willingness to stay in Kosovo. Willingness to stay in Kosovo varies among different age groups and communities, however, some common points of reference can be presented below:

- Employment prospects play a very important role (especially for the younger generations);

- Solving the housing issue mainly for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian families who are ready to return and stay, but the issues related to the allocation of plots/land by the respective municipalities have stalled.
- Infrastructure investments in areas inhabited by minority communities (street lighting, sewage systems, water supply). Members of the local community who have not left the country have expressed themselves to be happy with the fact that they live in their homes.
- Visits by municipal officials and other interested parties have played a very important role in the return. Food and non-food items provided as assistance by various parties have been welcomed.

Houses built and inhabited during the period 2018 - 2022

MCR reports show that during 2018 - 2022 214 houses were built and 9 existing houses were renovated (financed by the MCR), while 164 houses were built with funds from the European Union in the “RRK V” project, and 69 small renovations (financed by external actors, mainly the European Union office in Kosovo, the British Embassy and the American Embassy in Belgrade).

Table 11: Number of buildings built/renovated by MCR and External Actors, 2018 - 2022

Houses built/renovations	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
MCR	94	90	6	24	36	250
EU/IOM	0	30	100	34	0	164
British Amb. /DRC-renovations	10	4	4	0	0	18
Total	104	124	110	58	36	432

Source: MCR

Collective centres

According to DRC reports, there are still 216 IEDPs placed in collective centers.

Table 12: Number of Collective Centres in Kosovo

		Collective Centres	
Regions	Municipalities	Total	
		FAM	IND
Mitrovica	Leposavic	40	93
	Zubin Potok	25	69
	Zvecan	7	28
Prishtina	Gracanica	17	26
Total		89	216

Source: DRC

The collective centre in the Municipality of Shterpce was closed during 2020, where 76 flats and two houses were built. 78 families have benefited with a total of 131 members. Collective centre in Graçanice known as “Bergen,, is closed in 2021, in which case are renovated 21 housing units, for 21 families with a total of 26 members.

The project of building two buildings in the Municipality of Graçanica for 17 families located in the Collective Centre in this Municipality is currently under implementation. The European Union has allocated funds for this project, while the implementation is done by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and it is expected to be completed in 2023.

PART B: THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY, DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS AND SECTORAL POLICIES

B.1. THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON THE DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECT

B.1.1. Basic demographic indicators

The resident population in Kosovo at the end of 2022 (31 December 2022) is estimated to be 1,762,220 inhabitants. Kosovo Agency of Statistics every year estimates the number of the population, including data on migration, using a standardized methodology with the aim of including all migration groups.

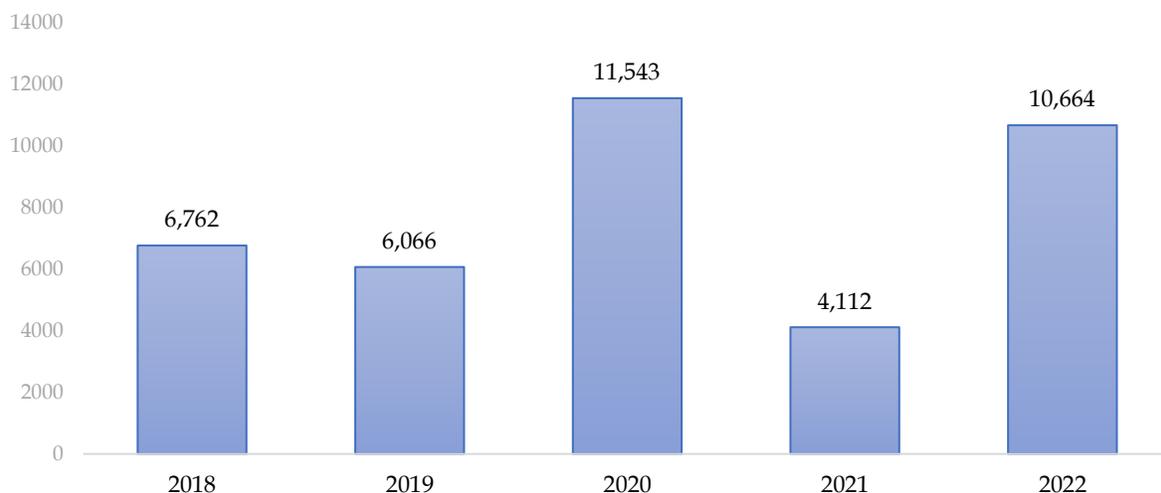
B.1.2. Migration flows and stocks

Immigration

According to the KAS assessment during 2022, the participation of immigrants in the general resident population was 0.6% or 10,664 people⁴⁸. This figure includes all categories of immigrants (returned/readmitted Kosovar citizens and foreigners) regardless of the reason for immigration.

⁴⁸ Source: KAS <https://ask.rks-gov.net/media/6105/vler%C3%ABsimi-i-popullis%C3%AB-2020.pdf>

Figure 35. Immigration to Kosovo by years, 2018 - 2022



Source: KAS

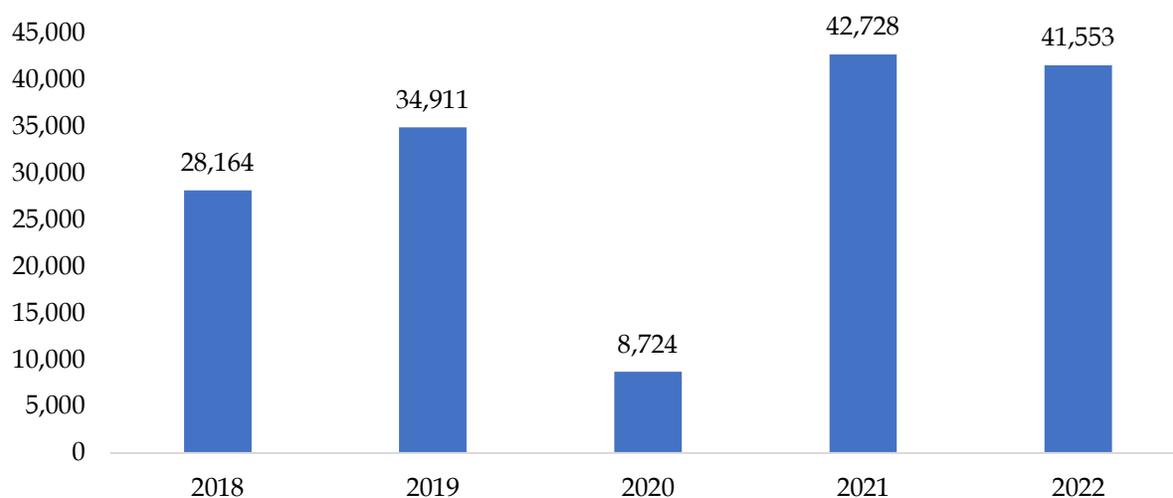
For the period 2018 - 2022, the data show that a significant number of people who immigrated during these years are Kosovar citizens (returned/readmitted migrants) and foreigners, with an annual average of 7,831 people or 0.44% of the total resident population within the year.

Emigration

The Kosovo Agency of Statistics estimates that the number of Kosovar emigrants during 2022, was in total of 41,553 people⁴⁹ or 2.36% of the resident population. This number includes all emigrants regardless of the reason for migration and their status (regular and irregular).

⁴⁹ Source: KAS <https://ask.rks-gov.net/media/6105/vler%C3%ABsimi-i-popullis%C3%AB-2020.pdf>

Figure 36. Emigration from Kosovo estimated by KAS, by years, 2018 - 2022



Source: KAS

The data for the period 2018 - 2022 show that Kosovo continues to have a high rate of emigration with an annual average of 31,216 people or 1.78% of the Kosovar population.

Net migration

The international migration balance (net migration) in Kosovo for the year 2022 was -30,889 residents or 1.75% of the resident population. For the period 2018 - 2022, it is estimated that 156,080 residents left Kosovo, or about 8.85% of the country's population.

Table 13: Migration flows: immigration, emigration and net migration for the years 2018 - 2022

Years	Immigration	Emigration	Net migration (absolute no.)	Net migration (percentage)
2018	6,762	28,164	-21,402	-1.19
2019	6,066	34,911	-28,845	-1.62
2020	11,543	8,724	2,819	0.16
2021	4,122	42,728	-38,606	-2.18
2022	10,664	41,553	-30,889	-1.75

Source: KAS

B.1.2.1. MIGRATION STOCKS

Immigration stocks

For the period 2018 - 2022, it is estimated that there will be an increase in immigration stocks for 32,395 or about 1.8% of the population.

Table 14: Immigration stocks and immigration flows expressed in absolute and relative numbers, 2018 - 2022

Year	Total population	Immigration stock (absolute numbers)	Stock (percentage)
2018	1,795,666	60,672	3.38
2019	1,782,115	66,738	3.74
2020	1,798,186	78,281	4.35
2021	1,773,971	82,403	4.65
2022	1762277	93,067	5.28

Source: KAS

Emigration stocks

Table 15: Emigration stocks and emigration flow expressed in absolute and relative numbers, 2018 - 2022

Year	Total population	The emigration stock (absolute number)	Stock (percentage)
2018	1,795,666	210,170	11.70
2019	1,782,115	245,081	13.75
2020	1,798,188	253,805	14.11
2021	1,773,791	296,533	16.70
2022	1762277	338 086	19.2

Source: KAS

Net migration stock

During the period 2018 - 2022, 39,157 inhabitants immigrated to Kosovo, while over 156,080 inhabitants emigrated, and the population of Kosovo during this period has decreased by more than 78,317 inhabitants, or 4.4% of the population.

Table 16: Net migration stocks expressed in absolute and relative numbers, 2018 - 2022

Years	Total population	Immigration Flows (absolute numbers)	Emigration flows (absolute numbers)	Net emigration flows, by years	Net migration stock (absolute numbers)	Net stock (in relation to population distribution)
2018	1,795,666	6,762	28,164	-21,402	854,198	47.57
2019	1,782,115	6,066	34,911	-28,845	883,043	49.55
2020	1,798,188	11,543	8,724	2,819	880,224	48.95
2021	1,773,971	4,122	42,728	-38,606	918,830	51.8
2022	1,762,220	10,664	41,553	-30,889	949,719	53.89

Source: KAS

If the population living abroad on 1 April 2011 is taken as a basis (703,978 inhabitants are estimated to have lived abroad), at the end of 2022 it is estimated that over 949,719 inhabitants or 53.89% of the population of Kosovo lived abroad.

B.2. THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY

This chapter reflects the development policies and strategies of the Republic of Kosovo that are related to migration and development. The focus is on presenting the ways in which the potential of migration can be used for development purposes, remittances and investments from the diaspora.

Due to the fact that the Republic of Kosovo has a significant diaspora, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora (MFAD) has a leading role in this field. In addition, the Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers, the Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade, the Ministry of Economy, and the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, in their scope include the drafting of policies and strategies which directly or indirectly regulate

issues related to migration and development. The common goal of these institutions is to create a favorable climate for attracting investments in general and investments from the diaspora in particular.

The Ministry of Economy (ME) is committed to ensure access to energy services, which is one of the key sectors in the country's economic development. For this purpose, the ME has drafted the 2022-2031 Energy Strategy, which aims to increase the generating capacity of affordable and clean energy as a prerequisite for economic development and the well-being of citizens.⁵⁰

Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade through the Kosovo Investment and Enterprise Support Agency (KIESA) has given special importance to the support of businesses and the business environment, including the networks of diaspora businesses. During the period 2018 - 2022, KIESA has organized a total of 13 information sessions with diaspora business networks, in cooperation with the MFAD, Kosovo Customs and Tax Administration of Kosovo (TAK). In the framework of development policies with the aim of improving the business climate, the number of business registrations with the Kosovo Customs and the has been unified. Through its program 'Aftercare' (after the investment), dedicated to foreign investors and from the Diaspora, the list of investors has been updated and about 300 foreign investors have been visited.

In the period 2018 - 2022, a total of 50,929 businesses were registered, of which 3,716 are businesses with foreign owners, including the diaspora. Also, it is worth mentioning that there are 29 business registration centres (one-stop shops) in the municipalities of Kosovo, in which the online business registration module has been developed, where from 2019 until now we have a total of: 17,952 businesses registered online.

⁵⁰ [Untitled \(rks-gov.net\)](#)

Table 17: Number of registered businesses with foreign owners, 2018 - 2022

Year	Number of businesses
2018	746
2019	694
2020	587
2021	812
2022	877
Total	3,716

Source: KBRA

B.2.1. FINANCIAL SYSTEM

Investment climate (fiscal and monetary policies)

In order to build a stable public finance system in accordance with the highest international standards, which ensure economic growth and development and better welfare for all citizens, the Government of Kosovo has continued with the redesign of fiscal policies, advancement in the management of public finances and the financial system that ensures accountability.

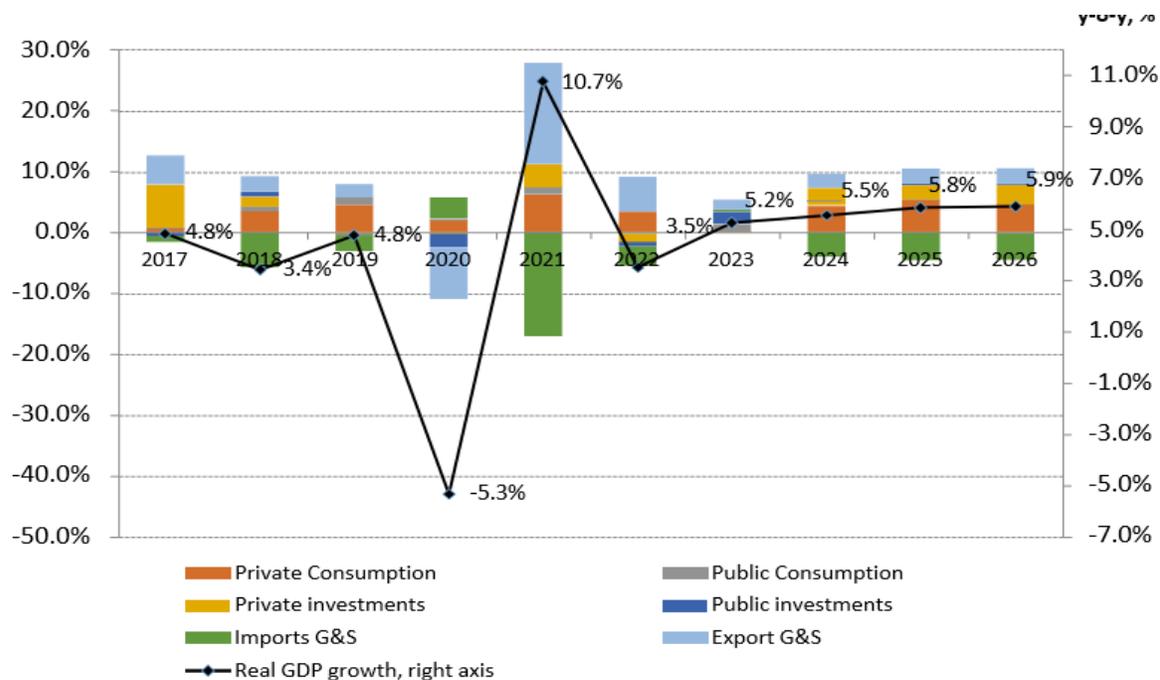
Medium-term macroeconomic scenario

After a slowdown in economic growth in 2022 compared to 2021, Kosovo's economy is expected to record a more accelerated economic growth in the medium term. The Government's objectives remain the provision of stable fiscal discipline, through which the following objectives are aimed:

- Strengthening macro fiscal projections by aligning them with fiscal risk assessments;
- Strengthening revenue collection and measuring the tax gap;
- Sound tax expenditures;
- Gender Budgeting in central and local institutions.

In the medium term (2024-2026), Kosovo's economy is expected to record real growth that is above the pre-pandemic historical average, fluctuating on average around 5.8% in real terms.

Figure 37. GDP growth according to the expenditure method

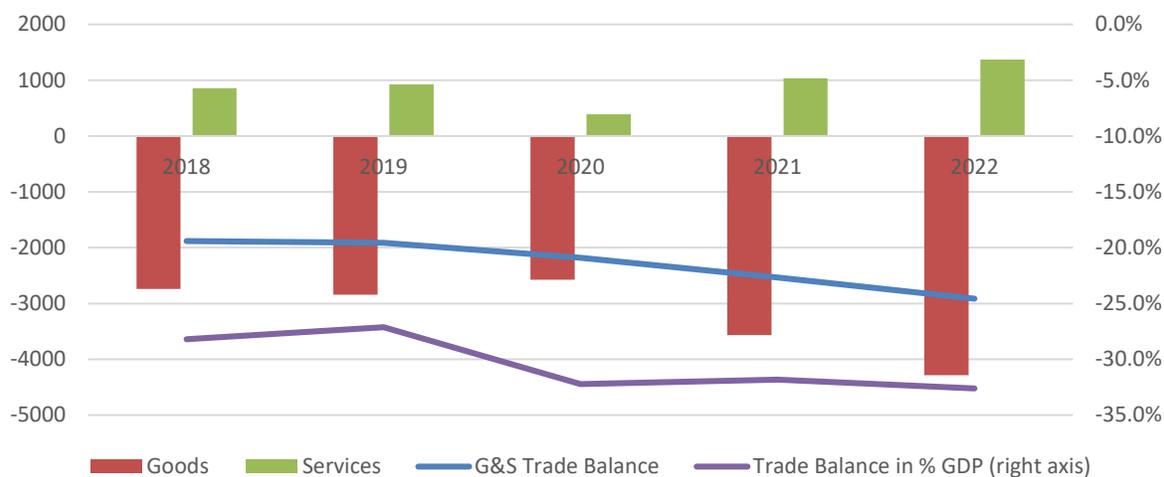


Source: MF

B.2.2. TRADE

During the period 2018 - 2022, the trade balance has been characterized by an increase in the negative balance of goods. Meanwhile, the balance of services is in a positive trend, but not sufficient to compensate for the negative balance of goods. The measures taken by the Government of Kosovo to promote production and investments in the private sector are expected to have a positive effect on the export of goods and, consequently, on narrowing the negative trade balance of goods.

Figure 38. Trade balance in goods and services and as a percentage of GDP, 2018 - 2022



Source: MFLT

Import of goods and services

The import of goods during 2018 - 2022 has marked a significant increase with an average of 14.7%. The import of goods during this period increased by an average of 14%, while the import of services increased by an average of 18.8%.

Export of goods and services

The export of goods during the period 2018 - 2022 has marked a significant increase with an average of 20.0%. The export of goods during this period increased by an average of 21.4%, while the export of services increased by an average of 20.9%.

Table 18: Imports and exports expressed in millions, 2018 - 2022

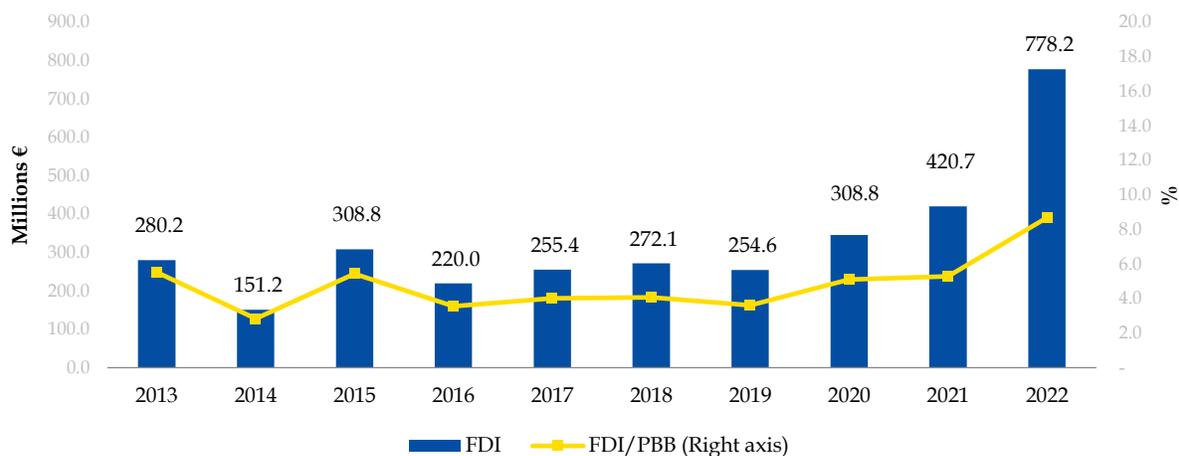
Year	Total imports	Imports of goods	Imports of services	Total exports	Exports of goods	Exports of services
2018	3,820.2	3,114.5	705.8	1,938.3	376.7	1,561.6
2019	3,982.6	3,233.5	749.1	2,068.3	393.2	1,675.1
2020	3,651.6	3,048.3	603.3	1,470.0	475.1	994.9
2021	5,190.9	4,319.7	871.1	2,658.7	752.7	1,906.0
2022	6,350.3	5,218.7	1,131.6	3,436.0	931.5	2,504.5

Source: MFLT

B.2.3. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS

Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in Kosovo, for 2022, reach the value of 778.2 million euros, or 85% more than in the previous year. The chart below shows the trend of FDI in Kosovo during 2018 - 2022.

Figure 39. Foreign direct investments in Kosovo expressed in millions of euros and as a percentage of GDP, 2018 - 2022



Source: CBK

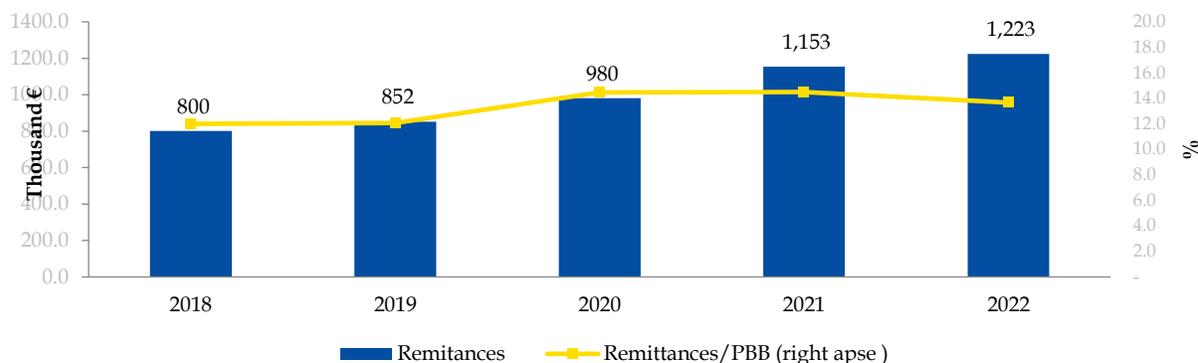
The sectors that have had a positive trend compared to the previous year and have influenced the growth of investments during 2022 are the real estate sectors, the financial sector, the mining sector, the electricity supply sector, steam gas and air conditioning supply sector and that of construction. The share of real estate in total direct investments in Kosovo, for 2022, was 67.3%, (523.7 million euros), financial activities with 6.9% (53.9 million euros), mining with 6.7% (52.4 million euros), the electricity supply sector, steam gas and air conditioning supply by 5.8% (44.9 million euros) and that of construction by 3.4% (26.7 million euros).

B.2.4. REMITTANCES

Remittances by channels, countries from which remittances come.

Remittances in general have a multiple impact on the main aspects of development in Kosovo. Income from migrant remittances is increasing as a result of the increasing trend of regular emigration for employment purposes. In 2022, remittances to Kosovo reached the amount of 1,223.8 billion euros, compared to 2021, where remittances reached the value of 1,153.4 billion. In 2022, remittances had a share of 13.66% in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Figure 40. Income from remittances, 2018 - 2022



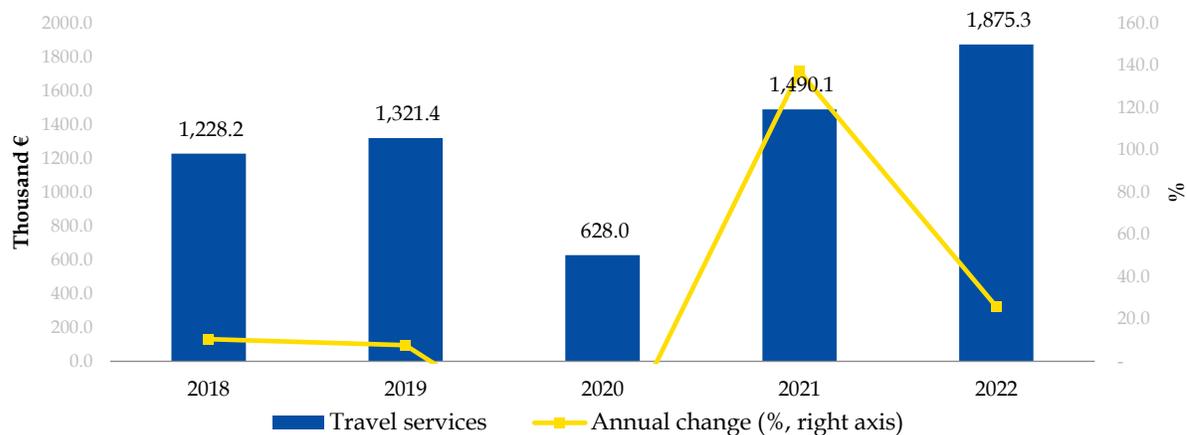
Source: CBK

About 74.2% of remittances, during 2022, were transferred through the financial system, while the rest includes remittances in goods and other means that are transferred through informal channels. The main sources of remittances continue to be from Germany with 38.5% and Switzerland with 19.8% of the total remittances received in Kosovo, followed by the USA with 8.6%, Austria with 5.5%, Italy with 4.9%, and France with 4.0%.

Visitor Travel Services – Diaspora Tourism

Kosovo receives a significant number of tourists from diaspora, especially during the summer and winter seasonal holidays. Revenues from travel services have increased continuously since 2010, reaching 1,875.3 million euros in 2022. During 2020, due to the pandemic and the total closure for several months, the value of tourism has decreased by 52.5%, marking the value of 628.0 million euros. While after the removal of pandemic restrictions in 2021, the value of tourism had a significant increase of 137.3%. In 2022, it reached the amount of 1,875.3 billion euros, which represents an increase of 25.8% compared to the previous year. The dominant part of the income of this category, about 95%, is attributed to the diaspora.

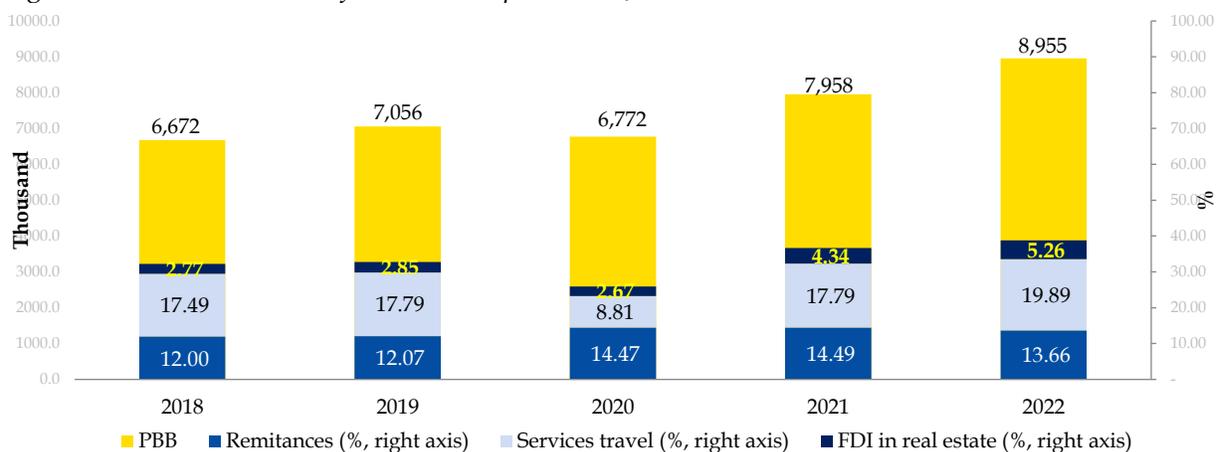
Figure 41. Visitor travel services, 2018 - 2022



Source: CBK

The importance of the diaspora can also be seen from the percentage of participation in the gross domestic product where remittances make up about 13.7% of GDP, travel services of the diaspora make up 19.9% and from the percentage of FDI share in real estate with 5.3%, as is presented in Figure 42. Given that the sum of these three components constitutes about 39% of the gross domestic product, incomes from migration are an important factor to enable the country's internal consumption (consumption plus investments) and to help in raising local production.

Figure 42. General revenues from the Diaspora, 2018/2022



Source: CBK,

B.3. IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN CAPITAL

MESTI promotes a non-discriminatory system of education, whereby the rights to education are respected both for the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo and foreign citizens, and it also offers equal opportunities to quality education. Throughout the 2018 - 2022 reporting period, MESTI continued the implementation of legislation related to the diaspora and repatriated students.⁵¹ In this regard, two textbooks were drafted, i.e.: Book for repatriated students and Teacher's book. These textbooks help teachers to deliver supplementary lessons with repatriated students.

Table 19: Number of students migrated abroad, 2018/2022

Level	2017/18			2018/19			2019/20			2020/21			2021/22		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Pre-primary (ages 5-<6)	3	6	9	6	14	20	9	6	15	12	3	15	2	4	6
Primary and lower secondary (grades 1 - 9)	269	215	484	432	363	795	338	249	587	330	281	611	301	273	574
Upper secondary (grades 10 - 12)	28	14	42	109	33	142	65	38	103	111	60	171	110	38	148
total	300	235	535	547	410	957	412	293	705	453	344	797	413	315	728

Source: MESTI/IMS

The table above shows an increase in the number of students who have emigrated from 2018 onwards. The reasons for this trend of emigration can be mainly for reasons of family reunion, given that the number of citizens of the Republic of Kosovo emigrating for employment reasons in European countries is also increasing.

While the trends of irregular emigration are in sharp decline, this trend is also reflected in repatriated persons and the registration of repatriated students in the pre-university education system in the Republic of Kosovo. The statistics of these trends are presented in the following table.

⁵¹AI for equivalence and recognition of pre-university education documents earned outside the Republic of Kosovo; AI for the organization of supplementary learning for repatriated students

Table 20: Number of students repatriated and registered in the education system, 2018 - 2022

Level	2017/18			2018/19			2019/20			2020/21			2021/22		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Pre-primary (ages 5-<6)	6	5	11	2	5	7	19	12	31	1	10	11	9	20	29
Primary and lower secondary (grades 1 - 9)	233	188	421	196	129	325	183	133	316	160	137	297	110	89	199
Upper secondary (grades 10 - 12)	64	33	97	32	23	55	30	17	47	22	10	32	34	18	52
Total	303	226	529	230	157	387	232	162	394	183	157	340	153	127	280

Source: MESTI/IMS

B.4. THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON EMPLOYMENT AND THE LABOR MARKET

In the 2018 - 2022 period, Kosovo's employment policy was guided by the principles defined by the Sector Strategy of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, now the Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers, which focused on: (i) employment (reducing inactivity, increasing employment, developing skills in accordance with the needs of the labor market, reducing informality and improving working conditions); (ii) social welfare (reducing poverty, increasing the coverage of vulnerable groups in social schemes and providing integrated social services and employment) and (iii) the pension system (developing a sustainable pension system, increasing management capacities and promoting equality). The implementation of the aforementioned strategy had slow progress in achieving the objectives, especially in the implementation of legislative measures, such as: legislation on social assistance and social protection, the Labor Code, legislation on the Employment Agency, etc.

Until 2022, Kosovo invested in employment services and active labor market programs for about 0.1 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, five times less than the average found in neighboring countries. As of 2022, the investment increased to 0.4 percent of GDP (20 million euros).

In the framework of policies for the management of the labor market, the measures that were undertaken and are related to migration are as follows:

- Vocational training;
- On-the-job training;
- Internship;
- Wage subsidy;
- Public work;
- Short-term work permits;
- Residence permits for employment purposes.

In the framework of the sustainable reintegration policies of repatriated persons, EARK has also provided support for repatriated persons within the framework of active labor market measures and related instruments. For more information, refer to the following Table for detailed statistics for each service.

Table 21: Number of Repatriated beneficiaries in Active Labor Market Measures (ALMM), 2018 - 2022

Activity	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
On-the-job training	87	63	40	24	25	239
Wage Subsidy	132	88	56	14	4	294
Self-Employment Program	340	206	167	100	242	1,055
Entrepreneurship and self-employment training	0	0	0	0	493	493
Vocational training	380	439	59	108	31	1,017
Total	939	796	322	246	795	3,098

Based on Eurostat data, there is a growing trend of Kosovo citizens immigrating to EU countries for employment reasons. This growth has affected the local labor market by increasing the gap of labor force requirements which responds to the needs of the private sector, in different industries. This gap is intended to be addressed by attracting qualified foreign workers to the local labor market. The data for 2022 show an increase in the trend of employment of foreigners. Moreover, the Table below presents the statistics and the trend of the employment of foreigners in the local labor market.

Table 22: Statistics related to the number of Work Permits and Short-Term Work Permits for Foreigners, 2018 - 2022

Activity	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Short-term work permit for the first time	386	162	68	167	232	1,015
Short-term work permit continued	60	12	2	23	25	122
Temporary residence permits for employment purposes for the first time	3,596	3,555	2,551	2,865	3,997	16,564
Temporary residence permits for continued employment purposes	1,666	1,580	885	1,413	2,251	7,795

Source: EARK , DCAM

B.5. THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON THE INCREASE OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Department of Pensions within the Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers administers 12 pension schemes (basic old-age pension, contribution-paying old-age pension, partial contribution-paying old-age pension, permanent disability pension, early retirement pension, occupational disability pension, family pension, pensions for KPC members, pensions for KSF members, material compensation for blind persons, compensation for paraplegic and tetraplegic persons and compensation for education staff for years 1990/99.

The Department of Pensions also develops the procedures for benefiting pensions abroad, including old-age pension, family pension, occupational disability pension and the return of contributions according to bilateral agreements. Republic of Kosovo currently has Social Security Agreements with Switzerland, Belgium, Albania and continues the implementation of the inherited agreements from the former Yugoslavia, with Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, France, Italy, etc.

The data for pensioners who benefit from the Social Security Agreements have been generated only for 2022 and they are as follows:

- **Switzerland:** 1,094 old-age pensions, 1,044 family pensions, 458 disability pensions.
Total: 2,596 pensions worth 29,560,275.00 CHF
- **Germany:** 4,499 old-age pensions, 4,589 family pensions, 165 disability pensions. Total: 9,253, pensions worth 24,297,000.00 Euro.

B.6. IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON THE HEALTH SYSTEM

The health sector in the Republic of Kosovo has gone through various stages of institutional reforms in terms of providing services to citizens of the Republic of Kosovo as well as to foreigners. Despite the progress achieved, the health system continues to face challenges which are related, among others, to the malfunctioning of the Health Information System (HIS). According to a study by NIPHK, funded by the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Millennium Foundation Kosovo, it was emphasized that the lack of data is a consequence of the complete malfunctioning of the HIS, the non-coding of diagnoses, the coding of causes of death, the lack of data reporting from private health institutions. These are just some of the factors that affect the actual non-functioning of the health system in Kosovo.

On the other hand, unfavorable socio-economic factors (poverty and unemployment), environmental factors (high prevalence of respiratory diseases) as well as the high rate of traffic disasters and accidents have caused specific difficulties in terms of increasing life expectancy in Kosovo, which was also the goal of HSS 2017-2021.

One of the important goals of HSS 2017-2021 was to reduce perinatal mortality below 10%. Data provided show that there is a trend of the decline of the main perinatal data in Kosovo for the period 2000 - 2021⁵², while the mortality data show that there is a trend of mortality increase in Kosovo for the period 2002-2020⁵³. The mortality rate is 5.3 deaths per 1000 inhabitants for 2019⁵⁴. Compared to the countries of the region and the countries of the European Union, this number is the lowest⁵⁵

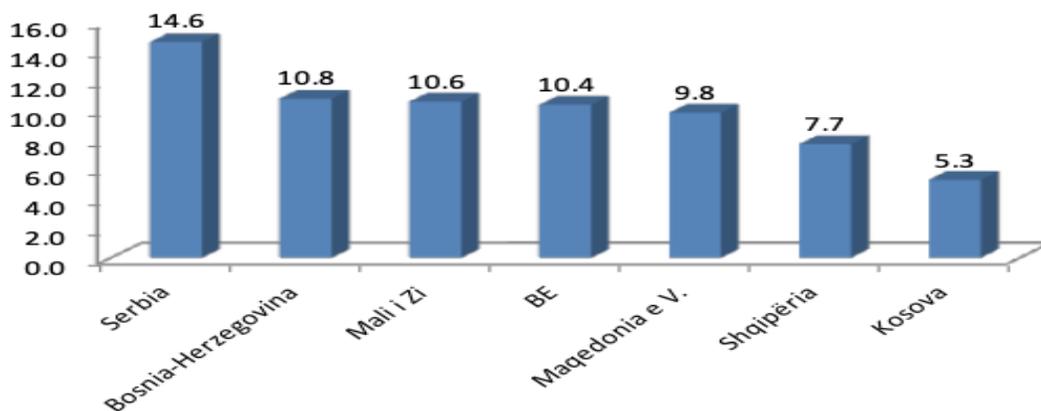
⁵² Perinatal Status Report 2010; KAS: Statistics of births and deaths, 2011-2021; Birth statistics, Department of Health Statistics - NIPHK

⁵³ Kosovo Statistics Agency, and KAS DATA, accessed 2.11.2022

⁵⁴ KAS, Death statistics, 2019

⁵⁵ Institute National D Etudes Demographiques, https://www.ined.fr/en/everything_about_population/data/europe-developed-countries/population-births-deaths

Figure 43. The mortality rate in 1000 inhabitants in the region in EU, 2019



Source: Institute National D Etudes Demographiques

As far as the goal of increasing the rate of regular vaccination for ages 0-12 months is concerned, Kosovo stands very well and reached the level of 95% vaccination of children of this age, despite the difficulties encountered in vaccinating the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians communities that were encountered as a result of changing their residences. In order to preserve high level of immunization and of course its increase, the Ministry of Health drafted and approved the Strategic Immunization Plan 2019-2021.

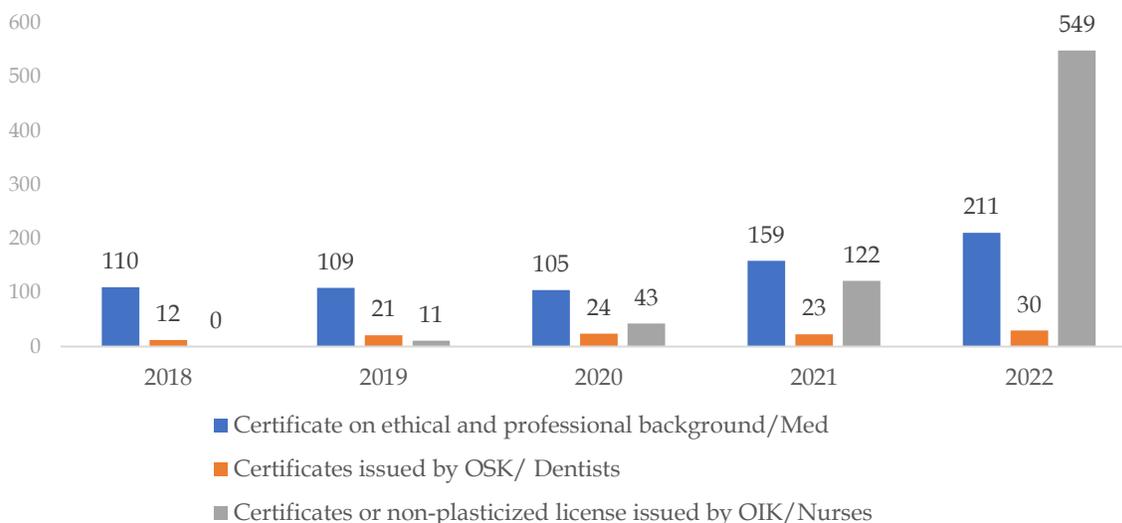
During 2020-2022, the Covid-19 pandemic affected the health sector, and as a result, many planned policies could not be developed and drafted according to the projected schedule. Nevertheless, despite these difficulties, the MoH managed to provide enough vaccines for its citizens, including doses for children in record time.

Emigration trend of medical staff

The Ministry of Health does not have any relevant mechanism to measure the emigration of medical staff. However, the data provided below are summarized by the relevant authorities that issue certificates, respectively certificates for health professionals, which are required for emigration. In fact, this number does not give us the certainty to state that all the professionals who applied for these certifications have emigrated, therefore one of the recommendations from the Expanded Migration Profile 2018 - 2022 is related to the creation of a proper mechanism where it will be possible collect accurate data on the number of health

professionals and associates who have emigrated. The figure below presents the summarized data based on the extraction of documents:

Figure 44. Number of Certificates and certifications issued, 2018/2022



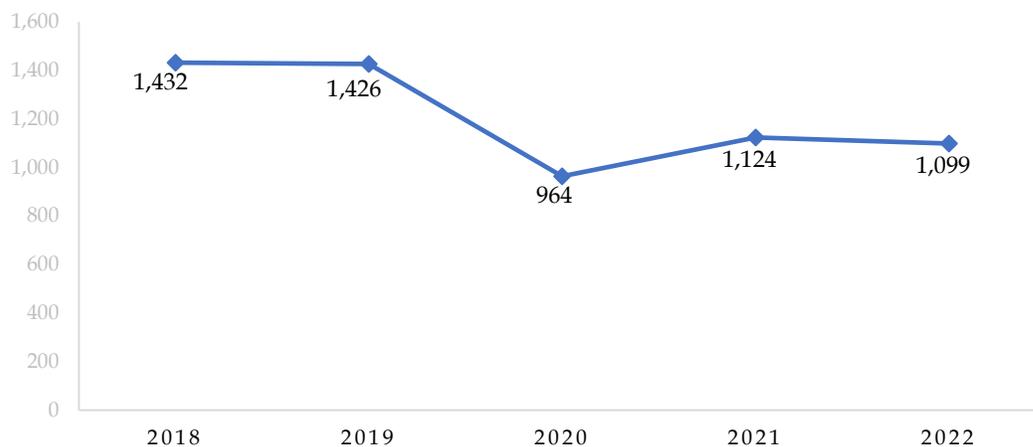
Source; MoH

So, the total number of the three health professional categories is 1,529. As it can be seen in the data above, over the years there has been an increase in the emigration of doctors, and especially the emigration of nurses is observed with a high percentage.

The number of medical services offered to the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo abroad

The number of medical services offered to citizens of the Republic of Kosovo abroad was derived from the total number of applications in the Program for Treatment outside public health institutions, where the total number of applications for treatment abroad during 2018 - 2022 was 6,045. Based on the data presented in the chart, it is observed that the highest trend of applications was in 2018 and 2019, compared to 2020, which had a decrease of about - 32% and this is as a result of Covid-19. However, the increase of applications trend continued in 2021 and 2022.

Figure 45. Number of applications for treatment abroad, 2018/2022



Source; MoH

B.7. THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON ENVIRONMENT

As for the impact of migration on the environment, there are no measurement indicators nor data that would support any analysis, assessment or finding. It is worth noting that the increasing emigration of Kosovo citizens, including internal migration, especially the movement from the village to the city, affects the depopulation of certain areas and, as a result, may have an impact on the environment. Overpopulation of large urban areas as a result of private investments in the construction sector, without proper urban planning, affects the development of appropriate environmental policies and consequently affects air quality and the environment in general.

On the other hand, the degradation of rivers has increased the risk and threat from floods and other natural disasters which have been increasing in recent years and which directly affect the possible displacement of the population from one area to another, including outside national borders.

PART C: THE GOVERNANCE OF MIGRATION

Based on the data, the governance of migration through institutional mechanisms and the development of strategic policies is among the main priorities of the Republic of Kosovo. The legal, strategic and institutional framework built and developed over the years in accordance with the standards of the European Union and other global initiatives in the field of migration. Likewise, in order to efficiently manage migration, over the last 5 years, the information technology infrastructure has been significantly consolidated in order to collect, administer and analyze data in the field of migration.

Similarly, in the field of international cooperation, progress is achieved, especially with the signing of bilateral agreements for readmission, EU specialized agencies such as FRONTEX, EUAA, as well as those with a regional character within the Berlin Process. In the field of international cooperation, the main challenges are related to the international position of the Republic of Kosovo, especially in relation to specialized agencies within the UN, or even some countries of origin of migrants that have not recognized the Republic of Kosovo yet.

C.1. POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Republic of Kosovo has adopted a framework of strategic policies in the field of migration management. These policy documents reflect the strategic priorities of the Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo in the field of migration, always taking into consideration the changes in the trends and flow of migration and the connection with development policies. The main policy documents are summarized below:

Migration Strategy (2021-2025)⁵⁶ - is the main strategic document in the field of migration. The Migration Strategy 2021-2025 reflects the priorities of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo in the management of migration and the implementation of the obligations arising from the Stabilization and Association Agreement between the Republic of Kosovo and the European Union, as well as the commitments derived from the objectives of the Global Pact for Migration⁵⁷. The strategy is structured in 4 strategic objectives, 15 specific objectives and 91

⁵⁶ [Migration-Strategy-2021-2025.pdf \(rks-gov.net\)](#)

⁵⁷ https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180713_agreed_outcome_global_compact_for_migration.pdf

implementing measures which aim to strengthen the state institutions responsible for the governance of migration, in particular the Governmental Authority for Migration (GAM); the advancement of the internal migration management system; strengthening the system for international protection, guaranteeing safe and regular migration; deepening of regional cooperation and with specialized international organizations, etc. Above all, the Migration Strategy 2021-2025 aims to strengthen migration management as an important pillar of the socio-economic development of the country, thus reflecting synergy and coherence with the strategic objectives of the National Development Strategy 2030.

State Strategy for Sustainable Reintegration of Repatriated Persons (2018 - 2022)⁵⁸ - determines the objectives and goals of the Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo to consolidate the reintegration system of repatriated persons through the advancement of measures for sustainable socio-economic reintegration, applying a comprehensive approach based on needs, with special focus on vulnerable groups. In 2021, as a result of the review of the strategic planning process within the MIA, it has been decided that this Strategy will be merged within the Migration Strategy 2021-2025.

State Strategy for Integrated Border Management (2020-2025)⁵⁹ - determines the policy of the Republic of Kosovo for border management, control and security. The main objective of this Strategy is to ensure the coordination and cooperation of the relevant border authorities involved in border control and security, in order to create an effective system for border management, which guarantees an open but controlled and safe border, through an integrated approach of cooperation within border authorities, cooperation between border authorities and international cooperation.

National Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings (2022-2026)⁶⁰ - is the main document of the state's strategic policies against trafficking in human beings. The Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings foresees concrete actions and measures with the aim of preventing and effectively combating trafficking, focusing on the advancement of responsible institutional mechanisms, prevention and awareness of the consequences of trafficking,

⁵⁸ [STATE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION OF RETURNED PERSONS IN KOSOVO 2018-2022.pdf \(rks-gov.net\)](#)

⁵⁹ <https://mpb.rks-gov.net/Uploads/Documents/Pdf/AL/364/Strategjia%202020-2025.pdf>

⁶⁰ [TINHNB Strategy 2022-2026.pdf \(rks-gov.net\)](#)

strengthening the system from victim identification to long-term re-integration, increasing efficiency in the criminal prosecution of perpetrators of the crime of trafficking in human beings, as well as strengthening regional and international cooperation.

State Strategy against Organized Crime (2018 - 2022)⁶¹ - determines the objectives and activities aimed at strengthening institutional mechanisms in the field of preventing and fighting all forms of organized crime, including trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling.

The Health Sector Strategy 2017-2021 (HSS 2017-2021), had clear objectives to realize its goals in the 5-year period. The frequent changes of Governments, but especially the Covid-19 Pandemic were harmful factors in the realization of strategic goals in the health sector.

Contingency Plan for managing eventual influx of migrants, refugees and applicants for international protection (2021)⁶² - The purpose of this plan is to manage the flow of migrants, refugees and applicants for international protection, defining preparatory and contingency actions in a coordinated manner by the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo. This plan defines the competent authorities, organizations and their responsibilities in case of the influx of migrants, refugees and applicants for international protection, as well as the measures and activities to be undertaken and the resources necessary for its implementation. The plan foresees five possible scenarios, contingency measures for each scenario, timelines, as well as the cost for the implementation of each activity.

Visa regime policy - as mentioned in part A of this document, the visa policy in the Republic of Kosovo is regulated based on the Law on Foreigners and the Government Decision which define the countries that are subject to the visa regime. The Visa Information System (K-VIS) is extended in 19 diplomatic and consular missions of the Republic of Kosovo, where the application is made and visas are issued for the citizens of these countries. In exceptional cases, Visas can also be issued at any of the Border Crossing Points of the Republic of Kosovo, namely at BCP Han i Elezit, Vermicë, PIA and Jarinje.

⁶¹<https://mpb.rksgov.net/Uploads/Documents/Pdf/AL/48/STATE STRATEGY 20ACTIONS%202018%20%E2%80%93%202022.pdf>

⁶²<https://mpb.rksgov.net/Uploads/Documents/Pdf/AL/376/Plani%20i%20Reagimit%20p%C3%ABr%20Manxhimin%20e%20F luxit%20t%C3%AB%20Mundsh%C3%ABm%20T%C3%AB%20Migrant%C3%ABve.pdf>

C.2. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Republic of Kosovo has managed to further consolidate the legal framework in the field of migration, developed in the context of the Stabilization and Association Process and Visa Liberalization with the EU. Throughout 2020, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, with the support of GIZ, undertook a comprehensive analysis regarding the level of harmonization of local legislation with Chapter 24 of the EU *Acquis* (Justice, Freedom and Security), respectively the sub-chapter related to the field of migration.

This assessment has established a high degree of harmonization of national legislation with the *EU Acquis* in the field of migration. This assessment underlines that almost 100% of the local legislation on regular migration is considered to be in full or advanced harmonization with the *EU Acquis* on regular migration, respectively about 33% of the national legislation is fully harmonized with the *EU Acquis* - whereas 77% has advanced harmonization with the *EU Acquis*. As for irregular migration, the assessment found that the Republic of Kosovo achieved considerable progress in harmonizing national legislation with the *EU Acquis*. The assessment underlines that almost 80% of the local legislation on irregular migration is considered to be in full or advanced harmonization with the *EU Acquis*, while 20% is partially harmonized with the *EU Acquis* on irregular migration.

The basic legislation in the field of migration in the Republic of Kosovo consists of the following legal acts:

Law No. 04/L-219 on Foreigners - ⁶³ This law regulates the conditions of entry, stay and employment of foreigners in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo. In May 2018, basic Law on Foreigners No. 04/L-219 was supplemented and amended by Law No. 06/L-036⁶⁴. With the approval of Law No. 06/L-036 on amending and supplementing the Law No. 04/L-219 on Foreigners, the incorporation of the Law on Granting Permit for Work and Employment to Foreign Citizens in the Republic of Kosovo was made. Several legal provisions have also been incorporated in order to facilitate the procedure for issuing work permits to foreigners, the procedures for ordering voluntary departure and ordering forced departure, as well as the

⁶³ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=8876>

⁶⁴ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=8876>

imposition of fines to foreigners. At the end of 2022, work has begun for drafting the new Law on Foreigners, which at the time of entry into force will repeal the Law No. 04/L-219 and the Law No. 06/L-036.

During 2018 - 2022, the following legal acts were approved:

- Regulation (MIA) No. 04/2018 on Operation of the Detention Center for Foreigners
- Administrative Instruction (MIA) No. 03 2019 for returning of foreigners with illegal resident in the Republic of Kosovo;
- Administrative Instruction (MIA) No. 09/2019 on the Procedure and Criteria for Issuing Residence Permits for Foreigners;
- Administrative instruction (MIA) No. 04/2020 on Refusal of Entry into the Republic of Kosovo;
- Administrative Instruction (MIA) No. 10/2020 on Conditions and Procedures for the Issuance of the Visas at the Border Crossing Point;
- Administrative instruction (MIA) No. 09/2020 on the Conditions and Procedures of the Visa Extension;
- Administrative Instruction (GRK) No. 05/2022 on the Appeals Commission on Foreigners;
- The agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania to facilitate the procedures and conditions for obtaining a temporary residence permit for citizens of Albania, dated 10.02.2022, effective from 11.02.2022, the implementation of this Agreement has begun.

The main legal framework regulating the integration of foreigners in the Republic of Kosovo is Regulation (GRK) No. 09/2019 on the Integration of Foreigners which also regulates the basis of the system for integration of foreigners in the Republic of Kosovo. The regulation defines the procedures, criteria and institutions responsible for the integration of foreigners in social, economic and cultural life in the Republic of Kosovo. In the framework of the implementation of Regulation (GRK) No. 09/2019 for the Integration of Foreigners⁶⁵, during 2019-2022, the following were drafted and are being implemented:

⁶⁵ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=21006>

- Guidelines for the implementation of Regulation (GRK) No. 09/2019 for the Integration of Foreigners in the RKS;
- Guidelines for the Standard Operation Procedures for the Integration of foreigners in the RKS;
- Informative leaflets in 8 languages on the rights and obligations of foreigners with international protection status, which have been distributed to relevant actors and persons who have acquired international protection status in the RKS;
- State Curriculum for Foreigner Integration Training;
- Guidelines to Foreigners' Access to Vocational Training and Employment.

Law No. 06/L-026 on Asylum⁶⁶ - This Law regulates the conditions and procedures for recognition of refugee status, supplementary protection, temporary protection, status, rights and obligations of applicants, persons with refugee status as well as persons who were granted supplementary protection and temporary protection. During 2018 - 2022, the following legal acts were approved:

- The Ex-post Evaluation of Law No. 06/L-026 on Asylum was approved;
- Regulation (GRK) no. 29/2018 of work of the national commission for refugees;
- Regulation (mpb) no. 03/2018 on the functioning of asylum center;
- Guidelines on Prevention, Risk Management and Response to Gender-Based Violence in the Context of Mixed Migration;
- Contingency Plan for managing the potential influx of migrants, refugees and applicants for international protection;
- Administrative Instruction (MIA) no. 01/2019 on procedures and standards of reception and initial treatment of applicant for international protection;
- Administrative Instruction (MIA) no. 02/2019 on procedures and standards of review and ruling on application for international protection.

In the framework of the advancement of reintegration policies, during 2018 - 2022, the following documents were drafted:

- Mental Wellbeing Guide for Sustainable Reintegration of Repatriated Persons in RKS;

⁶⁶ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=16389>

- Manual on “Needs Assessment and Provision of Psychosocial Support to Repatriated Persons in the Republic of Kosovo”;

Law No. 04/L-215 on Kosovo Citizenship⁶⁷ - Defines ways of gaining, losing and regaining the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo. During 2018 - 2022, the following by-laws were approved:

- Administrative Instruction (MIA) no. 06/2019 on the procedure of loss of Kosovo citizenship by release and deprivation;
- Administrative Instruction (MIA) no. 03/2020 on establishing and defining of working rules for the commission for appeals for citizenship;
- Administrative Instruction (MIA) no. 06/2020 on the procedure and criteria of determining the status of a stateless person, the manner of acquisition of the citizenship by the stateless person and the person with refugee status;
- Administrative instruction (MIA) no. 05/2020 on criteria and procedures for acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo.

Law No. 03/L-208 on Readmission⁶⁸ - This law defines the rules and procedures for the readmission of a person who is a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo or a foreigner, who does not meet or no longer meet the conditions in force for entering or staying in the territory of the requesting state. The implementation of readmission legislation is applied in terms of readmission cooperation with countries with which Kosovo has not yet signed bilateral readmission agreements.

Law No. 04/L-072 on State Border Control and Surveillance⁶⁹ - This law regulates the border control, the powers of the police within the state as well as the cooperation between the state bodies that have powers in border management. In September 2013, the Law **No. 04/L-214**⁷⁰ supplemented-amended the Basic Law No. 04/L-072. The amendments made are mainly related to the naming of the law and definitions in order to harmonize with the EU Acquis.

⁶⁷ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=8873>

⁶⁸ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2687>

⁶⁹ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2801>

⁷⁰ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2801>

Whereas in April 2018, the Law **No. 06/L-013**⁷¹ supplemented-amended the Basic Law No. 04/L-072. This supplementation and amendment was made in order to transpose Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code) .

During 2018 - 2022, the following was approved:

- Administrative Instruction (MIA) no. 01/2021 on measures and procedures for API and PNR data reception and use;

Law No. 04/L-216 on Cooperation between Authorities Involved in Integrated Border Management⁷² - Regulates the cooperation between all the authorities that are involved in the Integrated Border Management (Police, Customs, Food and Veterinary Agency) in the implementation of the joint plans of these authorities, related to the prevention, detection and investigation of the activities of illegal criminal activities, border control and management as well as international cooperation.

Law No. 04/L-218 on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Protecting Victims of Trafficking⁷³ - It defines the legal provisions by which the competent authorities are vested with responsibility in: preventing and fighting trafficking in human beings in all its forms; protecting victims of trafficking, including the provision of rights, such as legal aid, medical aid, psycho-social support, provision of compensation and other rights; As well as national and international cooperation with the aim of preventing and combating human trafficking, and providing assistance and protection to victims of trafficking.

Law No. 04/L-076 on Police⁷⁴ - This law regulates the authorizations and duties of the Police of the Republic of Kosovo, its organization and other issues related to the activities and actions of the Police of the Republic of Kosovo. During 2018 - 2022, the following legal acts were approved:

- Administrative Instruction (MIA) no. 02/2021 for the management and expense of police special funds;

⁷¹ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2801>

⁷² <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=8868>

⁷³ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=8875>

⁷⁴ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2806>

- Regulation (GRK) no. 06/2022 on international police cooperation and service of police liaison officers.

Law No. 04/L-003 on Civil Status⁷⁵ - This law regulates the meaning and components of the civil status of citizens of Kosovo, foreign citizens and stateless persons, with temporary or permanent residence in the Republic of Kosovo, the determination of the rules for their creation, maintenance and amendment, as well as the organization and operation of the civil status service in the Republic of Kosovo.

Law No. 02/L-121 on Dwelling and Emplacement⁷⁶ - This law regulates in unique manner registration and de-registration of the dwelling and emplacement of residents, change of residential address, change of address of the dwelling, competency and manner of keeping of appropriate evidence.

Internal migration, namely the registration of the movement of citizens from one place of residence to another, is regulated by the following legal acts:

Law No. 02/L-121 on Dwelling and Emplacement, adopted in 2008, defines several legal positions which are related to the registration and de-registration of the dwelling and place of residence of citizens, registration and de-registration of guests, change of address of the dwelling, competency and manner of keeping the appropriate evidence. Similarly, this Law defines the obligations of the citizens for the notification of the change of address of residence, as well as administrative punitive measures for non-compliance with the obligations defined by the Law. On the other hand, the Law also defines the responsibilities of the competent body at the local level regarding the Offices of Civil Status and the Ministry of Internal Affairs at the country level for keeping relevant evidence.

However, during the implementation of this Law in practice, some structural deficiencies have been identified which have made it impossible to create a complete, accurate and updated register of residence and place of residence. For this purpose, the Ministry of Internal

⁷⁵ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2743>

⁷⁶ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2589>

Affairs, in 2022, has finalized the Concept Document on dwelling and emplacement⁷⁷ recommending the supplementation-amendment of this Law, through which the Registry of Residence will be consolidated within the Central Registry of Civil Status and the interconnection of this system with

Law No. 04/L-003 on Civil Status - This Law regulates the meaning and civil status components of the Kosovo citizens, foreign nationals and stateless persons with temporary or permanent residence in the Republic of Kosovo, defines the rules for their creation, maintenance and amendment, as well as the organization and functioning of the civil status service in the Republic of Kosovo.

Law No. 04/L-071 on Address System⁷⁸ - The purpose of this Law is to determine and regulate the manner of establishing and administering of the Address System, to set out the criteria and identification of each building, object and every free cadastral parcel in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo.

Law No. 04/L-013 on Cadastre⁷⁹ - Regulates the cadastre of immovable property, national and cadastral surveys, geodetic and cadastral works as well as the acquisition, registration, keeping, maintenance and use of cadastral data.

Law No. 04/L-036 on Official Statistics of Republic of Kosovo⁸⁰ - The purpose of the Law on official statistics is to determine the fundamental principles and to establish a legal framework for the organization, production and publication of official statistics of Kosovo. The purpose of official statistics is the collection, processing and dissemination of data for statistical purposes to economic activities, social and general conditions in Kosovo, as well as to ensure Kosovo's fulfillment of international obligations in producing and publishing official statistics. In Article 27, this Law establishes that the Kosovo Statistics Agency is responsible for creating, storing and keeping the following statistical registers, such as the register of population, the register of households, the register of flats and buildings, the register of

⁷⁷ [CONCEPT DOCUMENT FOR RESIDENCE AND RESIDENCE \(rks-gov.net\)](https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2792)

⁷⁸ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2792>

⁷⁹ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2757>

⁸⁰ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDocumentDetail.aspx?ActID=2782>

businesses, the register of spatial units, the register of agricultural holdings and other registers in compliance with plans and decisions.

Law No. 03/L-040 on Local Self-Government ⁸¹ - This law defines the legal status of municipalities, their powers and general principles of municipal finances, organization and functioning of municipal bodies, intra-municipal arrangements and the inter-municipal cooperation, including cross-border cooperation and the relationships between municipalities and central government.

Administrative Instruction (MIA) no. 03/2015 on Procedures for Registration and Deregistration of Dwelling or Emplacement ⁸² - determines the procedures registration and deregistration of dwelling or emplacement of citizens and foreigners.

Strategy on Migration 2021-2025 - Throughout the research and the conducting of various analyses, the Government Authority on Migration has identified the lack of a structural approach in relation to internal migration, especially in relation to the movement of citizens from one city to another or from rural⁸³ to urban dwellings, causing difficulties in the adequate budget planning of the municipalities in Kosovo. In order to offer a more structural approach in addressing this issue, it was recommended to include a strategic objective related to internal migration within the Strategy on Migration 2021-2025. In this context, the Strategy on Migration 2021-2025 is the first strategic document at the country level which addresses the issue of internal migration. In the framework of this strategic document, measures were foreseen which initially aimed to identify the legal, institutional and capacity gaps in the management of internal movements to be followed by concrete actions which focus on amendments and supplementations to the legal framework (Law on dwelling and emplacement 02/L-121), the advancement of the database on internal migration as well as concrete activities in the direction of informing citizens about the necessity of registering the change of dwelling and emplacement.

⁸¹ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDocumentDetail.aspx?ActID=2530>

⁸² <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=10645>

⁸³ <https://mpb.rks-gov.net/Uploads/Documents/Pdf/AL/378/Strategjia-e-Migrimit-2021-2025.pdf>

Law No. 05/L-077 on Registration and Provision of Services to Unemployed, Jobseekers and Employers⁸⁴ - The aim of this law is to regulate the conditions and procedures for the registration of the unemployed and jobseekers, the provision of services and measures for employment by the Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo. During 2018 - 2022, the following is approved:

- Regulation no. 01/2018 for active labor market measures

Law No. 04/L-095 on Diaspora and Migration⁸⁵ - aims to preserve and cultivate the national identity, language, culture and education of Diaspora members and migration, and their relations with the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo. This law, also, aims to help in organization of the Diaspora in various countries where they live, and help, encourage and develop intercultural relations between the Republic of Kosovo and countries in which the Diaspora is present.

Law No. 03/L-125 on Consular Service of Diplomatic and Consular Missions of the Republic of Kosovo⁸⁶ - Regulates consular activity, supports cooperation between the Republic of Kosovo and the receiving state in the field of consular services, and promotes the enforcement of the friendly relations between the Republic of Kosovo and the receiving states.

Decision No. 14/96⁸⁷ for the establishment of the Government Authority on Migration, approved at the 96th consecutive meeting of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, held on 14 September 2022.

Decision No. 12/108⁸⁸ for establishing the Visa Regime for foreigners in the Republic of Kosovo, dated 14.12.2012. This decision has been supplemented and amended continuously depending on the evaluations and recommendations of the MFAD

⁸⁴ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=12743>

⁸⁵ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2831>

⁸⁶ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=2618>

⁸⁷ <https://kryeministri.rks-gov.net/ep-content/uploads/2022/09/Vendimet-e-Mbledhjes-se-96-te-te-Oeverise.pdf>

⁸⁸ Decision No. 15/158, dated 29.11.2013; Decision No. 08/167, dated 22.01.2014; Decision no. 07/21, dt. 28/7/2021. Amendment and supplementation of Government Decision no. 15/158, dt. 29.11.2013, for EU countries, the Schengen Area, UK and Northern Ireland, The Holy See, Principalities of Andorra, Monaco, Republic of San Marino, Albania, Montenegro and Serbia. Decision no. 14/67, dt. 09.03.2022. According to point 6 of Government Decision no. 15/158 of dt. 29.11.2013 amended and supplemented by Government Decision no. 08/167, dated 22.01.2014 and Government Decision no. 14/55, dated 06.07.2018, (for citizens of Ukraine).

Decision no. 10/99, dt. 30.09.2022. The implementation of points 2 and 5, of the decision of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo no. 13/158, dated 29 November 2013 for citizens of the Russian Federation, is temporarily suspended.

C.3. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The system for the management of migration in Kosovo is regulated through the legal and institutional framework which is described in Chapter c Migration Governance. Migration as a horizontal field includes a significant number of public institutions whose mandate is planning, drafting, implementing and monitoring policies and legislation in the field of migration. The main institutional mechanisms in the field of migration are:

National Coordinator on Migration (NCM) - Coordinates, monitors and reports on the implementation of policies, activities and actions foreseen in the field of migration. Initiates and coordinates the drafting of state policies regarding migration; Addresses the recommendations proposed by the Government Authority on Migration of the relevant institutions; Monitors the work and operation of the Government Authority on Migration; Represents the state in various regional and international initiatives in the field of migration.

Government Authority on Migration (GAM) - was established by Government Decision 08-158 dated 29.11.2013, supplemented and amended by Decision No. 14 -96 dated 14.09.2022. It functions as an advisory mechanism in the field of migration, through the drafting of policies and analyses based on data. **GAM** is also responsible for monitoring migratory movements and functions as an inter-institutional mechanism involving all relevant actors in the field of migration. **GAM** is responsible for drafting migration profiles and gives recommendations to state authorities in the field of migration, as well as proposes strategic policies and recommendations to the Government in the field of migration management, according to the Government's Decision on defining responsibilities and duties and the Guidelines of the **GAM**'s work. In addition to the strategic level and the secretariat, six (6) thematic groups operate within the **GAM**, which address the following issues: regular migration and mobility; irregular migration; internal migration; communication; reintegration of repatriated persons and integration of foreigners and data in the field of migration.

Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) - as a key institution in this field, it is responsible for migration policies, including the conclusion of bilateral agreements for re-admission, mainly through DCAM, a department which, among other things, decides on the requirements for citizenship, residence permit, asylum, international protection, re-admission, and supervises

the Detention Center for Foreigners, the Temporary Reception Center and the Asylum Seekers Center. Another important aspect that the MIA deals with in this field is the re-integration of repatriated persons, through re-integration programs which are drafted, implemented and monitored by the Department for the Re-integration of Repatriated Persons and the Integration of Foreigners and the Center for the Temporary Accommodation of Repatriated Persons, in cooperation with the relevant line institutions as well as the coordination of policies for the integration of foreigners with legal residence in the Republic of Kosovo.

Kosovo Police (KP) - is responsible for the control and supervision of migratory movements at border crossing points and within the territory; monitoring of foreigners with illegal residence, investigation and prosecution of persons suspected of smuggling migrants and trafficking in human beings, etc.

Ministry of health - The Law No. 04/L-125 – on health is the basic law on health, which has been in force since May 2013. From this law originate other legal and sublegal acts that regulate the field of health.

One of the most important laws approved in the Assembly of Kosovo is Law No. 04/L -249 on Health Insurance, but which has not been implemented yet. This policy plays a major role in the citizens' well-being and health.

Other laws in force on health sector: Law No. 05/L-024 for Emergency Medical Service; Law No. 04/L-156 on Tobacco Control; Law No. 03/L-110 for Termination of Pregnancy; Law No. 06/L-042 for Blood and Blood Components; Law No. 04/L-192 on Transplantation of Tissues and Cells; Law No. 05/L- 023 on the Protection of Breastfeeding; Law No. 04/L-190 on Medical Products and Medical Devices; Law No. 02/L-38 on Health Inspectorate; Law No. 02/L-78 on Public Health; Law No. 02/L-76 on Reproductive Health; Law No. 2004/38 on the Rights and Responsibilities of Kosovo Residents in the Healthcare; Law No. 2003/22 on the Sanitary Inspectorate of Kosovo; Draft Law on Amending and Supplementing of Law No. 02/L-109 for Preventing and Combating Infectious Diseases and Law No. 08-L-220 on Medicinal Products Pricing⁸⁹.

⁸⁹ (Official Gazette, RKS)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora (MFAD) - drafts and coordinates policies in foreign affairs, expressing and protecting the interests of Kosovo in relation to other countries and international organizations, in full coordination with other ministries, while the activity of this institution in the field of migration includes, linking migration and development through the inclusion of the Diaspora, signing agreements within this field (e.g. bilateral readmission agreements), issuing instructions for the Kosovo Visa Information System (K-VIS), instructions for visa issuance procedures at diplomatic/consular missions and border points, the form and the content of the Visa Stamp as well as the decision on the issuance of visas, through the Diplomatic/Consular Missions of the Republic of Kosovo, for the citizens of the countries for which Kosovo applies the visa regime.

Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers (MFLT) - The Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers is the competent authority that makes assessments on the financial implications of migration policies and their implementation. Similarly, MFLT is responsible for drafting employment and professional training policies, while **Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo (EARK)** organizes and coordinates the annual planning of activities and initiatives for the implementation of the annual employment and professional training policies drafted by the MFLT. The Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo issues short-term permits for foreign nationals, up to 90 days within 180 days based on Law No. 06/L-036 on amending and supplementing Law No. 04/L-219 on Foreigners.

Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) - the activities of this ministry that are directly related to the field of migration are the provision of services for the re-integration of repatriated persons in the school system. MESTI is also responsible for the registration of foreigners in the education system of Kosovo, as well as the implementation of programs for the mobility of Kosovar students.

Ministry of Economy (MoE) - generally drafts and implements policies that directly or indirectly affect migration trends in the country, bearing in mind that economic development is treated as one of the most important elements of migratory movements.

Ministry of Industry, Trade and Entrepreneurship (MINT) - through the Agency for the Support of Investments and Enterprises (KIESA), implements programs aimed at the special

treatment of investors from the Diaspora as well as the promotion of investments, export and tourism with a focus on the countries where the Kosovar Diaspora is concentrated.

Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) - collects, analyzes and provides statistics related to migratory movements, including internal migration.

Civil Registration Agency (CRA) - regulates the establishment, organization, structuring, duties, responsibilities and financing of the Civil Registration Agency. It is also responsible for all processes related to the application, personalization and issuance of documents for citizens of the Republic of Kosovo and foreign citizens;

Central Bank of Kosovo (CBK) - collects, analyzes and provides relevant statistics in the field of migration, namely data related to remittances, foreign direct investments, Diaspora travel services (visitors from the Diaspora).

C.4. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

C.4.1. Bilateral and multilateral international agreements

One of the main instruments through which the Republic of Kosovo has managed to strengthen international cooperation in the field of migration is by signing the bilateral agreements:

- In the field of readmission, the Republic of Kosovo signed agreements with the following countries: Albania, France, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Austria, Norway, Slovenia, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Montenegro, Sweden, Finland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Malta, Estonia, Principality of Liechtenstein, Croatia, Italy, Turkey and North Macedonia;
- In October 2020, the Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers and the Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo reached a Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Finance and Economy of the Republic of Albania for Job Mobility, on issues of employment and professional skills based on EU orientations, commitments arising from the Berlin process, cross-border cooperation within the framework of the approximation of measures related to job mobility and common policies;

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the field of migration management, namely “Voluntary assisted return”, signed on 27.05.2019;
- The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania for the facilitation of the procedures and conditions for obtaining a temporary residence permit for the citizens of Albania, entered into force on 10.02.2022, and implementation of this Agreement begun on 11.02.2022;
- Tripartite Financial Agreement between the European Union, Kosovo and Albania, on the Cross Border Cooperation Program IPA II, ratified by presidential decree DMN-026-2018, dated 20.12.2018;
- Tripartite Financial Agreement between the European Union, Kosovo and Montenegro, on the Cross Border Cooperation Program IPA II, ratified by presidential decree DMN-025-2018, dated 20.12.2018;
- Tripartite Financial Agreement between the European Union, Kosovo and Macedonia, on the Cross Border Cooperation Program IPA II, ratified by presidential decree DMN-024-2018, dated 20.12.2018;
- Tripartite Financial Agreement between the European Union, Kosovo and the Republic of Albania for 2018, on the Cross Border Cooperation Program IPA II, ratified by presidential decree DMN-281-2019, dated 31.12.2019;
- Tripartite Financial Agreement between the European Union, Kosovo and Montenegro for 2018, on the Cross Border Cooperation Program IPA II, ratified by presidential decree DMN-280/2019, dated 31.12.2019;
- Tripartite Financial Agreement between the European Union, Kosovo and North Macedonia for 2018, on the Cross Border Cooperation Program IPA II, ratified by presidential decree DMN-257/2019, dated 19.12.2019;
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia on the Mutual Recognition of Driving Licenses, ratified by the presidential decree DMN-85/2019, dated 29.03.2019;

- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on the Mutual Recognition of Driving Licenses, ratified by presidential decree 45-2019, dated 21.01.2019;
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on the Establishment of Joint Border Crossing Points between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Albania and Performing Joint Border Control Activities, ratified by presidential decree 46/2019, dated 31.01.2019;
- Tripartite Financial Agreement between the European Union, Kosovo and Albania for 2019, on the IPA II Cross Border Cooperation Programme between Kosovo and Albania, ratified by presidential decree 174/2020, dated 14.12.2020;
- Agreement on the amendment of the Agreement between Government of the Republic of Kosovo and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on Opening a Joint Border Crossing Point Krusheve (Dragash) – Shishtavec (Kukes) between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Albania, ratified by presidential decree 184/2021, dated 07.12.2021;
- Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Albania about rules on local border traffic regime, ratified by presidential decree 182/2021, dated 07.12.2021;
- Tripartite Financial Agreement between the European Union, Kosovo and North Macedonia for 2020, on the IPA II Cross Border Cooperation Programme, between Kosovo and North Macedonia, ratified by presidential decree 105/2021, dated 13.07.2021;
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the Government of the Italian Republic on Police Cooperation, ratified by presidential decree 31/2021, dated 29.01.2021.
- Roadmap for Cooperation between the EU Asylum Agency (EUAA) and Kosovo ‘Strengthening the asylum and reception systems in line with the Common European Asylum System and EU standards’ (2022).

C.4.2. Regional and international initiatives in the field of migration

The institutions of the Republic of Kosovo have developed various forms of cooperation with special international and regional organizations and initiatives in the field of migration. Kosovo has also established bilateral cooperation in the field of migration with a considerable number of countries that are considered to be of interest. In terms of cooperation and participation in international and regional initiatives in the field of migration, during this period, the Republic of Kosovo has continuously participated in activities within the framework of the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative - MARRI, the Prague Process, both in meetings of senior officials and trainings.

Similarly, in order to increase the capacities of the Government Authority on Migration and to support the National Coordinator for Migration, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has been supported by the Global Program of GIZ and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, within the framework of the Migration Partnership Agreement between Kosovo and Switzerland, whose project activities have included various thematic trainings, conduct of research on migration, as well as the organization of a campaign to inform citizens on the rules of visa-free movement in the Schengen Area.

Also, within the Berlin Process, on 3 November 2022, the Republic of Kosovo has signed the agreement on free movement with identity cards for the citizens of the six countries of the Western Balkans.

C.4.3. INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS/PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION

During the 2018 - 2022 reference period, the Republic of Kosovo has continued cooperation with regional and international organizations in the field of migration. In this context, the Republic of Kosovo has benefited from support through programs and projects financed or implemented by the following organizations:

- International Organization for Migration (IOM);
- German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ);
- Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC);

- United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Kosovo;
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- International Center for Migration Policy Preparation (ICMPD);
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF);
- European Union Office in Kosovo (EUO);
- Migration, Asylum and Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI);
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC);
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission in Kosovo;
- CARITAS Switzerland.
- European Agency for Asylum – EUAA

PART D: KEY FINDINGS, PUBLIC/SECTOR POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

D.1. Key findings related to current migration trends, migration policies and the impact of migration

The migration trends in the 5 years reported in this document are characterized by an increase in the emigration of citizens of the Republic of Kosovo as well as an increase in the immigration of foreigners to the Republic of Kosovo. The trends of emigration and immigration for employment purposes are increasing, especially in the last two years (2021-2022). This affects the demographic changes and labour market requirements, affecting the private sector and the business community and increasing the demand for labour force from abroad as well as improving working conditions for both citizens of the Republic of Kosovo and foreigners who are employed in the local labour market.

These migratory movements are influenced by various push and pull factors, in particular the mitigation of immigration policies and procedures from different countries and especially from the EU states. On the other hand, the various businesses in the production and service sectors will be faced with a lack of qualified workforce for those specific sectors that will require the development of policies aimed at responding to the demands of the business community for the provision of this category of workforce.

On the other hand, as a result of the increase in emigration of Kosovo citizens for employment purposes, the contribution of the diaspora has also increased through remittances, tourism visits of the diaspora and investments from the diaspora, contributing approximately 40% of GDP in 2022.

The data presented in this document prove that the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on migratory trends, significantly reducing migratory movements inside and outside the country. In this context, during the interpretation and analysis of the data for the 5-year period, the outbreak of the pandemic in 2020 must be taken into account, as well as the implications it has brought, both in terms of the movement and in terms of socio-economic related with migration.

D.2. Recommendations regarding the governance of migration framework

In the field of governance of migration, encouraging results have been achieved during the reference period, especially with the consolidation of the legal basis for the operation of the Government Authority on Migration as an advisory mechanism in the field of migration. On the other hand, challenge remains the generation, processing and analysis of data as a basis for developing strategic policies based on data/evidence. In this regard, some of the recommendations from the 2018 - 2022 Migration Profile are presented below:

- To consolidate the legal basis in the field of governance of migration through the inclusion of the GAM in the framework of the new Draft Law on Foreigners.
- To strengthen the capacities of the GAM through experience exchange programs and specialized training in the field of migration, with special emphasis on: generating statistics in the field of migration based on the Eurostat methodology; raising specific analytical capacities; the impact of migration on socio-economic, demographic, sector policies; specialized training in the field of regular migration and mobility with a focus on the development of skills to cover the needs of the local labour market as well as the return of skills/knowledge from the diaspora; migration and gender issues etc.
- To provide support for the work and functioning of the GAM and Thematic Groups, including working conditions and financial compensation for the additional commitment of the GAM members, according to the legislation in force.
- To strengthen the capacities of KAS related to topics regarding migration and demography.

D.3. Recommendations related to the connection of migration with strategic development documents (e.g., the National Development Strategy).

The data presented in this document confirm the ever-increasing contribution of the diaspora to the country's development, either through remittances, investments or tourism services. In

order to link migration with strategic policies aimed at socio-economic development of the country, the following measures are recommended:

- The government should draft policies aimed at promoting investments from the diaspora (Law on Strategic Investments, the new Diaspora Strategy, etc.), including the connection with the National Development Strategy.
- It is recommended to examine the possibilities and modalities of the establishment of the Unemployment Fund.
- Draft and adopt the National Employment Strategy, integrating migration as a horizontal policy in the implementation of employment measures and labour market requirements.
- Develop programs for increasing skills that address the demands of the private sector for qualified workforce.
- Develop employment policies aimed at addressing the deficiencies in the local labour market and the demands of the private sector for qualified workforce.
- It is recommended to make a needs assessment of the local labour market as a result of changing migration trends and to include the eventual recommendations in the new Law on Foreigners.
- Initiate labour mobility agreements and programs, including increasing skills/qualifications and returning these skills to the local labour market and economic development in general.
- Consolidate the infrastructure related to the system of data collection and analysis and impact in the field of social protection in the Republic of Kosovo, in particular with regard to data from the implementation of bilateral agreements in the field of pensions and social schemes, since these data reflect the contribution of these schemes to the social welfare of the beneficiaries as well as the economic aspect of the country.
- It is recommended to conduct a study related to the medical services/treatments of Kosovo citizens abroad, either through programs financed by the Kosovo budget or by self-financing.
- An analysis should be conducted regarding the possibilities of creating a fund for regional development or social cohesion.

D.4. Recommendations related to the data-based improvement of statistics in the field of migration as well as policy-making

Through the identification of deficiencies in the collection, processing, and use of data in the field of migration, the following measures are recommended which would strengthen data-based policymaking, including the further structuring of the migration profiling process:

- Update the data system in DCAM and KP (BMS) regarding the generation of statistics for the cases of: 1) Issuance of voluntary removal orders; 2) Voluntary removal orders converted into forced removal orders, and 3) Forced removal orders.
- During the system upgrading and digitizing process for data collection by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Kosovo Police, the interconnection of these systems should be foreseen and the agreements for free movement such as the one between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Albania should be included.
- Upgrade the mechanism for identification of trafficking victims of Kosovo citizens abroad.
- Intensify the cooperation between KAS and the national statistical institutes of the EU countries, through the formalization of bilateral interstate agreements.
- Advance the cooperation between KAS and central and local institutions related to migration issues (data, statistics).
- Create a module in the Border Management System (BMS) that enables registration of the diaspora during visits to Kosovo (for statistical purposes).
- Operationalize the Information System for the Management of Higher Education.
- Operationalize the Health Information System (HIS), including the private health sector.
- Provide specific data on diaspora investments (registered businesses with diaspora owners).
- It is recommended to generate statistics related to businesses with registered foreign owners (by sector).
- Create a system for collecting and reporting data on outgoing remittances.
- Upgrade the Information System of Kosovo Visas, including the connection with the DCAM database, respectively the module for foreigners regarding the D-type visa.

- Application of electronic visa (e-visa).
- Upgrading the databases of DCAM and EARK that enable the sharing of the professional profile and the sectors in which foreign citizens who are provided with a permit work.
- Enable the interconnection of the SIMP/EARK system with the DCAM system.
- Review the modalities for the creation of a system within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the registration of the diaspora.

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

From the analyses made in this document regarding various areas related to migration, it is recommended to:

- Continue the reforms in the field of migration within the framework of the implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement between Kosovo and the European Union, namely Articles 85, 86, 87 and 88 of this Agreement.
- Advance the migration governance through the strengthening of the GAM and the consolidation of the system for collecting, processing and analysing data.
- Functional review of the strategic framework in the field of migration, with the aim of creating a sector and horizontal approach to migration policies based on data.
- Promote regular and safe migration and the conclusion of bilateral agreements in the field of mobility for work
- Evaluate the implementation of migration at the local level and the consolidation of the internal migration system.
- Develop innovative programs to guide remittances from the support for family consumption in terms of capital investments resulting in the opening of new jobs and increased export as a result of production/service.
- Develop strategic policies aimed at creating the conditions for investments of the Kosovar diaspora. Diaspora investments should be oriented in terms of the

country's economic development.

- Manage the post-liberalization process of visas, through raising the capacities of the authorities for the management of the post-liberalization process of visas, as well as the continuous informing of citizens regarding the rights and obligations of free movement without visas.
- Strengthen cross-border cooperation between the countries of the region as well as cooperation with the countries of origin, transit and destination.

ANNEX A

IMMIGRATION

Table 23: Number of approved visas by country of origin, 2018/2022

States/Visas approved	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	538	514	166	219	515	1,952
UKRAINE	103	75	20	42	10	250
LIBYA	64	33	7	17	13	134
GEORGIA	67	34	7	11	45	164
MOLDOVA	54	5	2	20	19	100
PAKISTAN	17	95	7	16	38	173
INDIA	30	59	25	11	61	186
CHINA	17	69	31	52	32	201
PHILIPPINES	21	32	9	44	71	177
KAZAKHSTAN	27	10	3	10	12	62
BANGLADESH	2	119	2	7	33	163
OTHERS	288	402	216	258	476	1,640
Total	1,228	1,447	495	707	1,325	5,202

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Table 24: Number of visas rejected by country of origin, 2018/2022

States/Visas refused	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
PAKISTAN	40	19	22	0	43	124
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	19	10	48	17	21	115
BANGLADESH	26	37	13	5	26	107
INDIA	17	5	13	10	17	62
EGYPT	0	2	1	6	33	42
SYRIA	21	4	4	0	5	34
AFGHANISTAN	0	0	2	4	21	27
RUSSIA	4	3	4	0	14	25
TUNISIA	0	1	0	0	20	21
SOMALI	0	0	0	0	12	12
OTHERS	38	41	35	139	131	384
Total	165	122	142	181	343	953

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Table 25: Acquisition citizenship by country of origin 2018 - 2022

Years	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
SERBIAN	95	74	53	112	165	499
ALBANIAN	53	51	42	66	44	256
MACEDONIAN	37	29	16	45	56	183
GERMAN	31	18	5	38	62	154
MONTENEGRIN	6	13	6	8	30	63
NORWEGIAN	2	2	4	13	33	54
SWISS	5	3	2	9	34	53
CROATIAN	6	9	2	20	11	48
SWEDISH	5	7	2	5	13	32
SLOVENIAN	4	3	2	10	12	31
TURKISH	11	1	5	6	8	31
BELGIAN	3	4	2	3	15	27
AUSTRIAN	3	2	3	6	7	21
BOSNIAN	4	3	4	5	2	18
ENGLISH	0	1	0	4	7	12
BRITISH	0	2	0	1	4	7
CZECH	1	0	0	1	4	6
FINNISH	0	0	0	0	6	6
AMERICAN	1	0	0	0	4	5
DUTCH	0	4	0	0	1	5
MALAYSIAN	0	0	0	2	1	3
FRENCH	1	0	0	1	0	2
BULGARIAN	0	0	0	1	0	1
SLOVAK	0	0	0	0	1	1
BELARUSIAN	1	0	0	0	0	1
SYRIAN	0	0	0	0	1	1
POLISH	0	0	0	0	1	1
PORTUGUESE	0	0	0	0	1	1
ITALIAN	0	0	0	1	0	1
RUSSIAN	0	0	1	0	0	1
EGYPTIAN	0	0	1	0	0	1
TUNISIAN	0	0	0	0	1	1
UKRAINIAN	1	0	0	0	0	1
JORDANIAN	0	1	0	0	0	1
ISRAELI	0	1	0	0	0	1
MOLDOVAN	0	1	0	0	0	1
ROMANIAN	1	0	0	0	0	1
OTHER	78	61	27	64	63	293
Total	349	290	177	421	587	1,824

Source: DCAM

IRREGULAR IMMIGRATION

Table 26: Irregular migrants by country of origin, 2018 - 2022

Citizenship	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
SYRIA	239	908	1330	708	381	3,566
MOROCCO	36	151	310	214	251	962
AFGHANISTAN	7			81	73	161
PALESTINE	70	93	229	32	50	474
ALGERIA	41	119	107	86	34	387
EGYPT	0	0	0	0	25	25
TURKEY	0	0	0	0	20	20
IRAQ	33	560	197	36	16	842
BANGLADESH	0	0	0	114	14	128
LIBYA	34	0	139	59	11	243
PAKISTAN	19	0	0	0	11	30
OTHER COUNTRIES	26	196	252	75	53	602
Total	505	2027	2564	1405	939	7,440

Source; KP

Table 27: Number of persons accommodated in the DCF 2018 - 2022

State	0-5	6-13	14-17	18-34	35-64	65	MALE	FEMALE	Total
NEPAL	1	0	0	10	1	0	6	6	12
LIBYA	0	0	0	9	0	0	9	0	9
MOROCCO	0	1	0	12	0	0	13	0	13
TURKEY	1	0	0	12	1	0	14	0	14
INDIA	0	0	0	4	0	0	3	1	4
PALESTINE	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	3
YEMEN	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	3
ALBANIA	2	3		31	2	0	9	29	38
SERBIA	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	4	5
CROATIA	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	1	3
JORDAN	0	0	0	6	1	0	6	1	7
ALGERIA	0	0	0	8	0	0	8	0	8
FRANCE	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	2
GERMANY	0	0	0	3	1	0	3	1	4
SYRIA	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	3
CHINA	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	2
SOMALIA	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
IRAQ	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	2
ENGLAND	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
MONTENEGRO	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	2
AUSTRIA	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1

TUNISIA	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	3
UKRAINE	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
BANGLADESH	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Total	4	4	0	128	8	0	96	48	144

Source: DCAM/DCF

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Table 28: Asylum seekers in the Republic of Kosovo by country, 2018/2022

State	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Total	597	2082	1410	578	549	5216
SYRIA	238	911	649	179	176	2153
IRAQ	31	559	119	23	10	742
MOROCCO	36	152	183	147	186	704
PALESTINE	79	89	121	20	14	323
ALGERIA	41	120	69	66	23	319
LIBYA	31	48	89	37	10	215
AFGHANISTAN	7	53	61	34	49	204
TURKEY	76	48	28	22	21	195
EGYPT	0	7	23	7	20	57
IRAN	20	9	24	1	1	55
BANGLADESH	0	4	2	10	14	30
TUNISIA	2	8	12	13	7	42
PAKISTAN	19	12	0	4	0	35
YEMEN	0	24	8	2	0	34
LEBANON	1	13	9	0	0	23
JORDAN	0	0	8	1	2	11
UKRAINE	0	2	0	0	6	8
SERBIA	3	1	1	1	2	8
SOMALIA	0	4	1	0	1	6
SOUTH AFRICA	1	1	0	0	3	5
INDIA	0	1	0	3	1	5
TOWEL	0	5	0	0	0	5
CONGO	0	2	0	1	1	4
ALBANIA	2	2	0	0	0	4
NORTH MACEDONIA	2	0	0	1	0	3
TURKMENISTAN	0	3	0	0	0	3
TOGO	0	0	0	3	0	3
GERMANY	2	0	0	0	0	2
SUDAN	0	1	0	1	0	2
NIGERIA	0	0	2	0	0	2
ZIMBABWE	0	0	0	0	1	1
MONACO	1	0	0	0	0	1

SOUTH AFRICA	1	0	0	0	0	1
ERITREA	1	0	0	0	0	1
MONTENEGRO	0	1	0	0	0	1
MALAWI	0	1	0	0	0	1
CHINA	0	0	1	0	0	1
BAHAMAS	0	0	0	1	0	1
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	0	0	0	1	0	1
OTHER	3	1	0	0	1	5

Table 29: Foreigners who have expressed their intention to apply for international protection (72 hours) 2018 - 2022

Citizenship	2020	2021	2022
SYRIAN	796	528	46
MOROCCAN	185	88	15
LIBYAN	105	30	1
PALESTINIAN	147	22	11
BANGLADESH	11	104	0
IRAQI	86	15	1
ALGERIAN	62	25	0
AFGHAN	19	51	2
TUNISIAN	23	1	0
IRANIAN	21	4	1
YEMENI	16	3	0
SOMALI	13	5	0
LEBANESE	11	4	0
JORDANIAN	9	0	1
PAKISTANI	7	7	8
EGYPTIAN	7	8	0
SOUTH AFRICA	3	0	0
NIGERIAN	2	0	0
SUDANESE	2	0	0
TURKMENISTAN	1	0	0
SRI LANKAN	1	0	0
CHADIAN	1	0	0
CAMEROONIAN	1	0	3
MEXICAN	1	0	0
SINGAPOREAN	1	0	0
SENEGALESE	1	0	0
Total	1,532	895	89

Source: DCAM

MIGRATION

Table 30: Number of residence permits issued for the first time to Kosovar citizens by the authorities of EU member states and in the Schengen area, 2018 – 2022

State/year	Total	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BELGIUM	2,599	496	446	525	555	577
BULGARIA	265	45	41	61	71	47
CZECH REPUBLIC	944	205	377	109	108	145
DENMARK	210	59	42	25	32	52
GERMANY	57,009	18,986	22,128	15,895	0	0
ESTONIA	13	4	1	0	4	4
IRELAND	190	27	50	2	63	48
GREECE	159	42	40	12	20	45
FRANCE	9,257	2,002	1,971	1,709	1,833	1,742
CROATIA	16,197	2,065	6,369	4,488	3,275	:
ITALY	12,265	2,842	2,329	1,628	2,356	3,110
CYPRUS	2	0	0	0	1	1
LATVIA	2	1	0	1	0	0
LITHUANIA	10	3	1	5	0	1
LUXEMBOURG	435	100	114	50	84	87
HUNGARY	2,879	526	639	577	603	534
MALTA	15	2	3	4	1	5
NETHERLANDS	502	98	116	88	112	88
AUSTRIA	5,820	1,293	1,096	981	1,218	1,232
POLAND	1,549	251	235	303	760	:
PORTUGAL	17	7	1	4	3	2
SLOVENIA	28,672	3,819	5,862	3,904	7,058	8,029
SLOVAKIA	100	7	26	4	14	49
FINLAND	4,221	376	671	513	1,163	1,498
SWEDEN	5,722	1,335	1,148	1,138	1,065	1,036
ICELAND	38	15	23	:	:	:
LIECHTENSTEIN	155	25	28	33	38	31
NORWAY	571	191	135	109	136	:
SWITZERLAND	8,592	2,490	1,778	:	2,173	2,151
UNITED KINGDOM	136	136	:	:	:	:

Source: Eurostat

Table 31: Employment rate

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Unemployment	95,890	70,790	168,980	82,042	80,775
Vacancies	14,847	15,647	11,160	10,747	12,291
Employment	6,764	8,771	6,961	6,252	6,472
Regular mediations	3,764	4,160	1,330	2,955	4,460
Employment agencies from MATP	3,000	4,611	5,631	3,297	2,012
SHPVL	46%	56%	62%	58%	53%
Employment Rate	7.05%	12.39%	4.12%	7.62%	8.01%

Table 32: Exemption from citizenship by country 2018 - 2022

Years	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
GERMANY	4,718	4,602	3044	4,338	4,213	20,915
AUSTRIA	508	562	422	431	419	2342
SLOVENIA	75	70	71	79	71	366
CROATIA	22	47	28	29	29	155
NETHERLANDS	29	25	27	14	22	117
MONTENEGRO	37	36	15	20	18	126
LIECHTENSTEIN	19	12	10	6	2	49
NORWAY	29	13	1	0	1	44
SWITZERLAND	10	13	3	9	5	40
NORTH MACEDONIA	2	2	3	1	3	11
GEORGIA	0	0	3	4	2	9
SWEDEN	4	0	1	1	2	8
FRANCE	4	1	0	0	0	5
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	1	1	1	1	0	4
ITALY	0	3	0	0	0	3
AUSTRALIA	0	1	1	0	0	2
TURKEY	0	0	0	0	2	2
LIBYA	1	1	0	0	0	2
SYRIA	0	0	0	1	1	2
SLOVAKIA	1	1	0	0	0	2
PORTUGAL	0	1	0	0	0	1
POLAND	0	0	1	0	0	1
LUXEMBOURG	1	0	0	0	0	1
SERBIA	0	1	0	0	0	1
BELGIUM	0	0	1	0	0	1
KOREA	1	0	0	0	0	1
GREAT BRITAIN	0	0	0	1	0	1
USA	0	0	0	1	0	1
BULGARIA	0	0	0	1	0	1

SPAIN	0	0	0	1	0	1
DENMARK	0	0	1	0	0	1
FINLAND	1	0	0	0	0	1
HUNGARY	0	0	0	0	1	1
ESTONIA	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	5,463	5,392	3,633	4,938	4,792	24,218

Source: DCAM

IRREGULAR IMMIGRATION

Table 33: Refusal of entry to Kosovar citizens at the external borders of EU Member States and the Schengen area, by country, 2018 – 2022

Year/States	Total	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
CROATIA	2,585	430	555	355	530	715
SLOVENIA	1,600	175	300	310	410	405
HUNGARY	1,240	175	250	260	325	230
FRANCE	745	505	25	60	85	70
GERMANY	400	60	65	40	95	140
BULGARIA	280	30	50	60	80	60
SWITZERLAND	210	40	50	25	40	55
ITALY	205	15	20	85	35	50
UNITED KINGDOM	115	50	65	:	:	:
GREECE	95	10	25	10	25	25
AUSTRIA	70	10	5	10	5	40
SWEDEN	70	5	15	20	10	20
BELGIUM	55	10	5	5	15	20
ROMANIA	35	5	5	10	10	5
FINLAND	30	5	0	0	15	10
NORWAY	30	5	5	0	10	10
IRELAND	15	5	10	0	0	0
NETHERLANDS	15	0	0	5	10	0
POLAND	15	0	0	0	10	5
CYPRUS	5	0	5	0	0	0
SLOVAKIA	5	0	5	0	0	0
Total	7,820	1535	1460	1255	1710	1860

Source: Eurostat

Table 34: Kosovar citizens were found to be present with irregular stay in the Member States of the EU and the Schengen area, 2018 – 2022

Year/States	Total	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BELGIUM	255	70	80	25	40	40
BULGARIA	25	5	0	0	15	5
CZECH REPUBLIC	70	20	15	10	15	10
DENMARK	35	20	5	5	0	5
GERMANY	9,240	2,460	2,165	1,690	1,265	1,660
ESTONIA	5	5	0	0	0	0
GREECE	110	55	25	5	15	10
SPAIN	0	0	0	0	0	0
FRANCE	2,840	770	620	545	480	425
CROATIA	2,285	390	465	375	515	540
ITALY	1,015	195	215	145	155	305
LUXEMBOURG	35	5	5	15	5	5
HUNGARY	1,635	285	330	325	415	280
NETHERLANDS	65	10	10	5	20	20
AUSTRIA	1,750	335	280	460	335	340
POLAND	25	5	5	5	5	5
SLOVENIA	595	40	40	25	240	250
FINLAND	45	5	10	10	10	10
SWEDEN	160	55	0	35	20	50
LIECHTENSTEIN	10	0	0	10	0	0
NORWAY	145	50	35	15	15	30
SWITZERLAND	4,805	1,095	1,020	815	840	1,035

Source: Eurostat

Table 35: Kosovar citizens ordered to leave EU Member States and the Schengen area, 2018 – 2022

Year/States/Countries	Total	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BELGIUM	1,240	365	280	225	195	175
BULGARIA	30	5	5	5	10	5
CZECH REPUBLIC	60	15	15	10	10	10
DENMARK	95	40	15	10	15	15
GERMANY	2,975	890	765	585	510	225
ESTONIA	5	5	0	0	0	0

IRELAND	15	0	5	5	0	5
GREECE	155	70	30	10	25	20
FRANCE	8,650	2,325	2,255	1,540	1,355	1,175
CROATIA	2,680	460	575	485	600	560
ITALY	940	195	215	145	115	270
LUXEMBOURG	105	45	15	20	10	15
HUNGARY	535	280	65	60	75	55
NETHERLANDS	255	60	70	65	35	25
AUSTRIA	730	145	135	175	155	120
POLAND	15	0	5	5	0	5
SLOVENIA	2,400	150	540	340	435	935
FINLAND	310	40	85	55	55	75
SWEDEN	1,065	270	215	195	145	240
NORWAY	165	:	:	45	85	35
SWITZERLAND	1,760	450	450	310	260	290
UNITED KINGDOM	120	55	65	:	:	:

Source: Eurostat

Table 36: Kosovar citizens removed from EU member states and the Schengen area on the basis of the removal order, 2018 – 2022

Year/States	Total	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BELGIUM	215	75	50	30	30	30
BULGARIA	25	5	5	5	10	0
CZECH REPUBLIC	5	0	0	0	5	0
DENMARK	45	15	5	5	10	10
GERMANY	3,545	1,700	865	340	380	260
IRELAND	5	0	0	5	0	0
GREECE	70	25	25	5	5	10
FRANCE	1,020	300	290	100	190	140
CROATIA	1,805	300	400	275	385	445
ITALY	190	50	65	30	10	35
LUXEMBOURG	90	40	15	5	20	10
HUNGARY	180	60	20	35	35	30
NETHERLANDS	75	25	20	10	15	5
AUSTRIA	790	190	210	125	135	130

POLAND	5	0	0	5	0	0
SLOVENIA	140	20	30	20	25	45
FINLAND	125	25	30	20	25	25
SWEDEN	885	260	155	145	120	205
NORWAY	45	:	:	15	15	15
UNITED KINGDOM	50	25	25	:	:	:

Source: Eurostat

Table 37: Number of Kosovar citizens, asylum seekers registered for the first time in EU countries and the Schengen area, 2018 - 2022

Year/States	Total	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BELGIUM	465	150	115	45	70	85
CZECH REPUBLIC	20	10	5	5	0	0
DENMARK	35	15	5	5	5	5
GREECE	10	5	5	0	0	0
GERMANY	1,685	565	415	260	215	230
IRELAND	75	10	20	15	5	25
FRANCE	7,295	2,160	2,000	865	855	1,415
CROATIA	20	5	5	5	0	5
ITALY	950	0	0	140	280	530
LUXEMBOURG	105	65	20	0	5	15
NETHERLANDS	160	35	55	40	20	10
AUSTRIA	185	50	40	25	40	30
SLOVENIA	155	25	5	20	65	40
FINLAND	30	10	10	0	10	0
SWEDEN	435	150	120	85	25	55
ICELAND	10	5	5	0	0	0
LIECHTENSTEIN	10	0	10	0	0	0
NORWAY	35	5	15	5	5	5
SWITZERLAND	330	90	95	60	40	45
UNITED KINGDOM	45	20	25	:	:	:

Source: Eurostat

READMISSION AND REINTEGRATION OF READMITTED PERSONS

Table 38: Number of persons readmitted by Force, Volunteers and Volunteers assisted by IOM, 2018/2022

States	BY FORCE	VOLUNTEERS	IOM VOLUNTEERS	Total
GERMANY	2,755	166	881	3,802
FRANCE	619	44	0	663
SWITZERLAND	448	29	64	541
AUSTRIA	145	14	225	384
SWEDEN	213	2	0	215
BELGIUM	91	10	71	172
LUXEMBOURG	20	11	66	97
FINLAND	24	3	21	48
NORWAY	41	1	4	46
CROATIA	30	0	4	34
USA	30	2	0	32
GREECE	26	0	4	30
NETHERLANDS	5	6	18	29
ITALY	23	0	2	25
SLOVENIA	16	2	0	18
HUNGARY	14	0	4	18
MONTENEGRO	17	0	0	17
BRITAIN	11	2	0	13
DENMARK	10	0	0	10
NORTH MACEDONIA	9	0	0	9
ROMANIA	6	0	2	8
ICELAND	6	1	0	7
AUSTRALIA	6	0	0	6
CANADA	5	1	0	6
NN	6	0	0	6
BIH	5	0	1	6
IRELAND	0	0	4	4
ALBANIA	1	3	0	4
SPAIN	3	0	0	3
BULGARIA	0	3	0	3
CZECH REPUBLIC	2	0	0	2
TURKEY	1	0	0	1
AZERBAIJAN	0	1	0	1
ARUBA	1	0	0	1
CONGO	0	1	0	1
Total	4,589	302	1,371	6,262

Source: DCAM

ANNEX B - EMIGRATION OF CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO TO THE USA, 2008 - 2021

ABSTRACT

Emigration throughout history has been a continuous phenomenon for the Albanian people, especially after the Kosovo War at the end of the nineties. The reasons for emigration were of an economic, political-economic, war and socio-economic nature. After the war in Kosovo (1998-1999), emigration has mostly occurred for socio-economic reasons, mainly towards EU countries and a part to countries outside our continent, but a number went to the USA. During the drafting of the migration profiles (extended and easy), the subject of the migration of Kosovars to the USA was never addressed.

The purpose of this analysis is to present an overview of data and statistics on the emigration of Kosovar citizens to the USA. The emigration of Kosovar citizens to the United States of America has been mainly through regular routes, including: family basis, employment basis, diversity visa lottery, refugee and asylum status, temporary non-immigrant visas and through special programs.

Despite regular migration routes, a number of Kosovar citizens have been subject to U.S. immigration law enforcement and have been involved in unauthorized land border crossings, deemed inadmissible at the border, and deported.

The analysis is based on data and sources published by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics (see reference).

Keywords: migration, immigration, emigration, temporary admission, non-immigrant admissions, permanent residence permit, naturalization, irregular immigration, asylum seekers.

GLOSSARY

COVID-19 - CO for corona, VI for virus, D for disease and 19 for the year the outbreak was first recognized, late 2019

LPR - Lawful permanent resident

INA - Immigration and Nationality Act

BCP - border crossing points

USA - United States of America

USCIS - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

1. REGULAR EMIGRATION OF CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO TO THE USA, 2008 – 2020

Regular emigration of Kosovar citizens to the United States refers to non-immigrant admission or temporary admission, the process of obtaining permanent residence or citizenship in the United States for individuals who wish to live and work permanently in the United States. The U.S. government offers several pathways to regular immigration, including family-based immigration, employment-based immigration, and diversity lottery visas.

Family-based immigration allows U.S. citizens and permanent residents to sponsor immediate family members, including spouses, children, parents, and siblings, to obtain permanent residence in the United States. The process usually involves submitting a petition and supporting documentation, participating in an interview, and meeting certain eligibility requirements.

Employment-based immigration allows U.S. employers to sponsor foreign workers for permanent residency or temporary work visas, depending on their skills and qualifications. The process usually involves obtaining labour certification from the U.S. Department of Labour, filing a petition with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and meeting other eligibility requirements.

The Diversity Immigrant Visa Program, also known as the green card lottery, offers a limited number of visas each year to individuals from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. The program is administered by the U.S. Department of State and requires applicants to meet certain eligibility requirements and undergo a random selection process.

The regular process of immigration can be complex and time-consuming, and can involve significant fees and waiting times. Once individuals receive permanent residency, they can live and work permanently in the United States and may be eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship after a certain period of time.

In general, regular immigration is an important part of the history and identity of the United States, having welcomed millions of emigrants from around the world who have contributed to the social, cultural, and economic diversity of the country.

1.1. Temporary admission of citizens of the Republic of Kosovo in the USA

Non-immigrant admissions⁹⁰ to the U.S. refers to the process of allowing foreign citizens to enter the United States on a temporary basis for a specific purpose such as: tourism, business, education, or work. Non-immigrant admissions are governed by U.S. immigration laws and policies and are granted by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

To qualify for non-immigrant admission, foreign citizens generally must meet certain requirements, including a valid passport, visa (if required), and an approved purpose for their visit. Specific requirements may vary depending on the type of non-immigrant visa category. There are many different categories of non-immigrant visas, including:

B-1/B-2 Visitor Visas: for temporary business or tourist trips.

(E1 to E3) Visas - for traders and treaty investors - are designed to facilitate and improve economic interaction between the United States and other treaty countries.

F-1 student visa: for academic studies at an accredited U.S. institution

H-1B specialty occupation visas: for skilled workers in specialized occupations

J-1 exchange visitor visas: for individuals participating in exchange programs, such as research, teaching, or training programs

L-1 Intra-Company Transfer Visa: for employees of multinational companies relocating to work in the USA.

The process of obtaining a non-immigrant visa can be complex and time-consuming. It usually involves submitting an application, providing supporting documentation, and attending an interview at a U.S. embassy or consulate abroad.

Upon arrival in the USA, non-immigrant visa holders must comply with the conditions of their admission, including the length of their stay, the purpose of their visit, and any other restrictions or conditions imposed by U.S. immigration laws and policies.

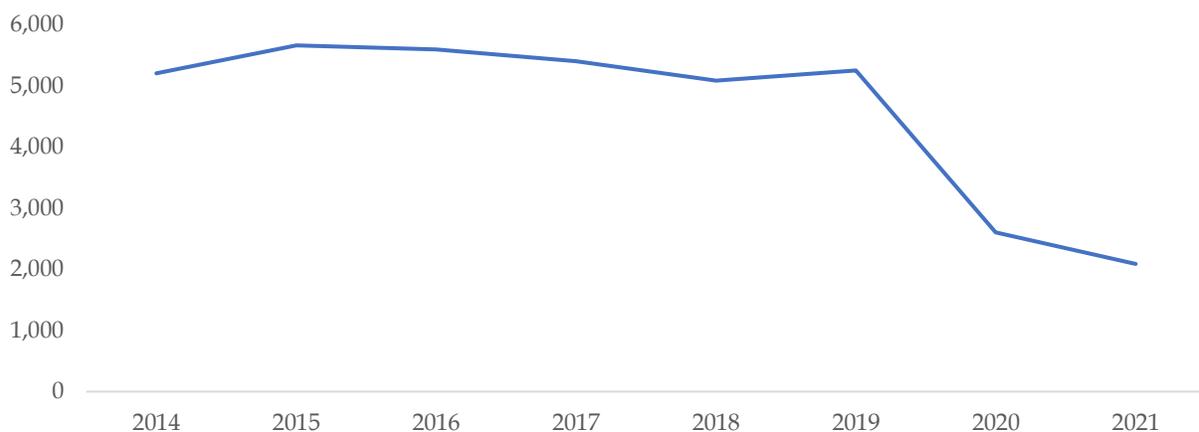
⁹⁰Any person in the United States who is not a citizen or national of the United States, who is temporarily admitted to the United States for a specific purpose under a non-immigrant category as defined by section 101(a)(15) of the National Immigration Act (INA).

In general, admissions of non-immigrants to the USA play a critical role in facilitating travel and trade between the United States and other countries, while also protecting U.S. national security and interests.

1.2. Number of Kosovar citizens with temporary admission in the USA, 2014 - 2021

Data on Kosovar citizens with temporary admission to the US are available since 2014. During the mentioned period by country of citizenship, about **36,894** Kosovars were granted temporary admission or were admitted as non-immigrants with an annual average of 4,600, persons per year. In the period 2014 - 2019, the average temporary admission of Kosovar citizens, was 5,367 persons, while during the last 2 years it was halved or decreased by 101%(see Fig. 1). The reason for the decline was the worldwide situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, creating difficulties such as travel restrictions, measures taken in terms of health conditions and other factors.

Figure 1: Temporary admission of Kosovar citizens, by years, 2014 - 2021



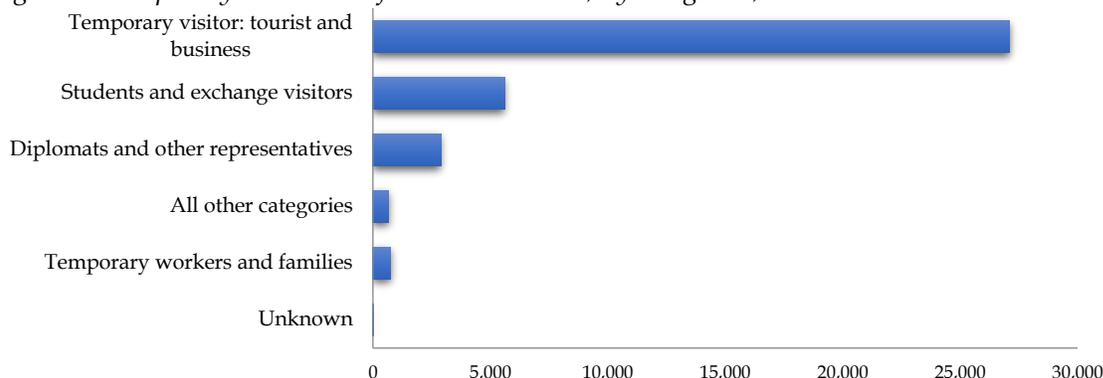
Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics.

1.3 Categories of temporary admission of Kosovar citizens in the USA

The most represented category of temporary admissions of Kosovar citizens during the period 2014 - 2021, were **temporary visitors** (tourists) who represented about two thirds or 64% of temporary admissions and **business visitors** accounted for 8%. Both of these temporary

admission categories belong to the visa (B1 and B2)⁹¹ and represented 72% of all temporary admissions. **Students and exchange of visitors**⁹² accounted for 15% of temporary admissions. **Diplomats and other representatives** represented 8% of admissions, while **temporary workers and their family members** represented only 3.5%, while all **other categories** accounted for 1.5% of admissions.

Figure 2: Temporary admission of Kosovar citizens, by categories, 2014 – 2021



Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics.

1.4 Temporary workers and their families

Admissions of temporary non-immigrant workers refers to the entry of foreign workers into a country on a temporary basis for employment purposes. These workers typically hold non-immigrant visas that are specific to their employment category. The US offers several visa categories for temporary workers, each with its own specific requirements and restrictions. US temporary worker visas usually have specific validity periods and extensions or renewals may be possible depending on the visa category. It is important to note that temporary workers must adhere to the conditions and restrictions of their specific visa category, including maintaining employment and valid status during their stay.

From the category of temporary workers and their families of Kosovar origin, during the period 2014 - 2021, according to the percentage, there were: **workers with specialized**

⁹¹ Visitor visas are nonimmigrant visas for people who want to enter the United States temporarily (B-1 visa category), for tourism (B-2 visa category), or for a combination of both purposes (B-1/B-2)

⁹² Student and Exchange of Visitors - are foreigners who are temporarily admitted to the US through the Exchange Visitor Program to participate in programs designated by the Department of State. The J-1 exchange visitor visa is for educational and cultural exchange programs designated by the Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Examples of exchange visitors are: trainers, professors or various researchers as well as students.

professions⁹³ represented 27%, **athletes, artists and entertainers** accounted for 26%, **intra-company transferees** 7%, **workers with exceptional skills/accomplishments** 6%, **treaty traders or investors** 4% and the most represented were **others** which constituted about 30% of the whole temporary workers and their families.

2. PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMITS ISSUED TO KOSOVO CITIZENS IN THE USA

Permanent residence permit issued by the **US authorities** or **LPR** (lawful permanent resident) (hereinafter permanent resident permit or LPR) refers to a foreign national who has been granted the right to stay and work permanently in the United States of America. LPR status is also known as a “green card” holder, as a physical green card is proof of a person’s permanent resident status.

To obtain LPR status, an individual must usually qualify under one of the immigration categories recognized by US law, such as family-based immigration, employment-based immigration, or refugee or asylum status. The application process for obtaining LPR status can be complex and involves extensive documentation, background checks, and interviews with US immigration authorities. Once an individual obtains LPR status, they have the right to stay and work in the United States permanently and can travel domestically and abroad as long as they maintain their immigration status of permanent residence. LPR holders are also eligible to apply for certain federal benefits, such as Social Security and Medicare, and can sponsor family members for immigration to the United States. While LPR holders have most of the same rights as US citizens, there are some restrictions on their rights, such as the inability to vote in federal elections and the possibility of deportation for certain criminal convictions or other violations of US immigration laws.

For example, the US authorities in the time period 2012 - 2021, have issued about **10 million** permanent residence permits (LPR). 65% received LPR status as family-sponsored immigrants and 15% under employment-based preferences. Immediate family members of a US citizen during the period in question constituted the largest category of LPRs, accounting for 46% of

⁹³ The H-1B program allows companies and other employers in the United States to temporarily hire foreign workers in occupations that require the theoretical and practical application of a highly specialized body of knowledge and a bachelor's degree or higher in the specific specialty, or its equivalent.

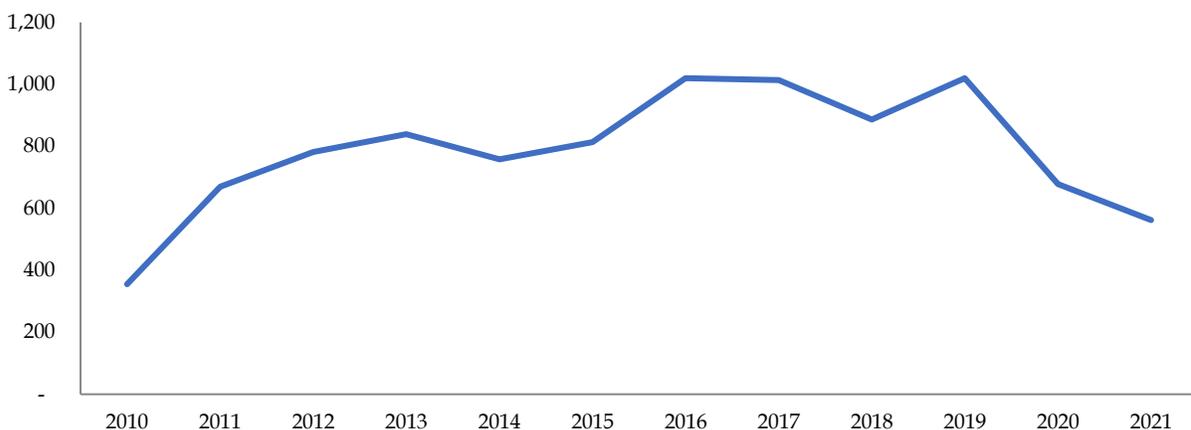
the total number of LPRs. The highest number of new LPR issuances for this period were for Mexican nationals (14.5%), Chinese (6.8%), and Indian nationals from India (6.6%).

2.1 Permanent residence permit “Legal permanent resident”

The data recorded for the period 2010 - 2021 show that a total of **9,398** permanent residence permits have been issued to Kosovar citizens by the US authorities, that allowed them to reside permanently in the United States of America. The number of permanent residence permits throughout this period, it continued with decline and increase (Fig 3).

During this period, we can single out three more prominent years of the number of permanent residence permits for Kosovar citizens, in 2016 (an increase of about 20.2%, compared to 2015), 2017 and 2019, while there was a decrease in the last two years, of about -45%, compared to 2021 and 2019.

Figure 3: Permanent residence permits issued to Kosovar citizens, by year, 2010 - 2021

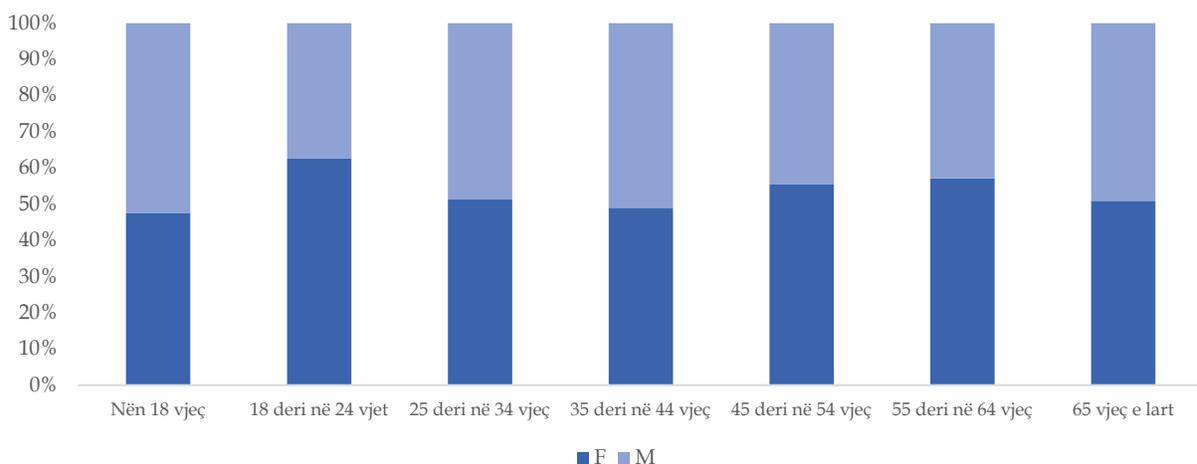


Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics.

2.2 Structure by age, gender and marital status of Kosovar citizens with permanent residence permit

Data by age, gender and marital status are available from 2014. The distribution by gender during the period 2014 - 2021 shows a slight predominance of the women (53%, compared to 47% of the men), (Fig.4).

Figure 4: Distribution by age and gender of permanent residence permits issued to Kosovar citizens, 2014 - 2021



Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics.

More than half of permanent residence permits for Kosovar citizens were issued for the age group of 18 to 34 years which comprised 54.3%, the age group under 18 years was represented by 13%, the age group 35 to 44 years by 12% , age group over 45 to 65 years were represented below 8%. Young people between the ages of 25 and 44 who made up 45% (the main reproductive age in terms of fertility and labour force) immigrated, while the 25 to 34 age group dominated with 32.9%. (Table 1)

Table 1: Distribution by age and gender of permanent residence permits issued to Kosovar citizens, 2014 - 2021

Gender/No. The percentage	F		M	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total	3,626	100	3,124	100
Under 18 years	432	11.9	476	15.2
18 to 24 years	902	24.9	537	17.2
25 to 34 years	1,139	31.4	1,081	34.6
35 to 44 years	400	11	416	13.3
45 to 54 years	281	7.7	226	7.3
55 to 64 years	312	8.6	234	7.4
65 years and older	160	4.5	154	5

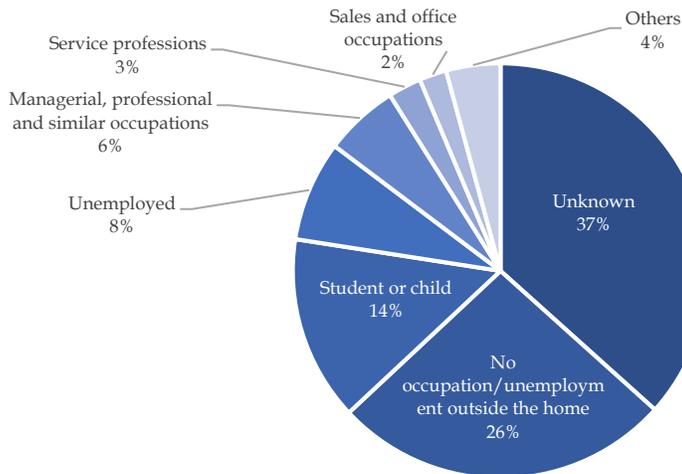
Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics

According to marital status, about two-thirds or 64% of all permanent residence permits for Kosovar citizens were issued for married, 31% for singles, 4% includes persons who are divorced or for various reasons have remained without one partner, while 1% are unknown.

2.3 Structure by profession

According to the data recorded from 2014 to 2021, permanent residence permits for Kosovar citizens according to profession were issued for unknown professions in 37%, no profession/does not work outside the home⁹⁴ in 26%, students or children 14%, unemployed 8%, managerial, professional and similar professions 6%, service professions 3%, sales and professions related to work in offices 2% as well as others with 4%, (Fig.5).

Figure 5: Distribution by profession of permanent residence permits issued to Kosovar citizens, 2014 - 2021



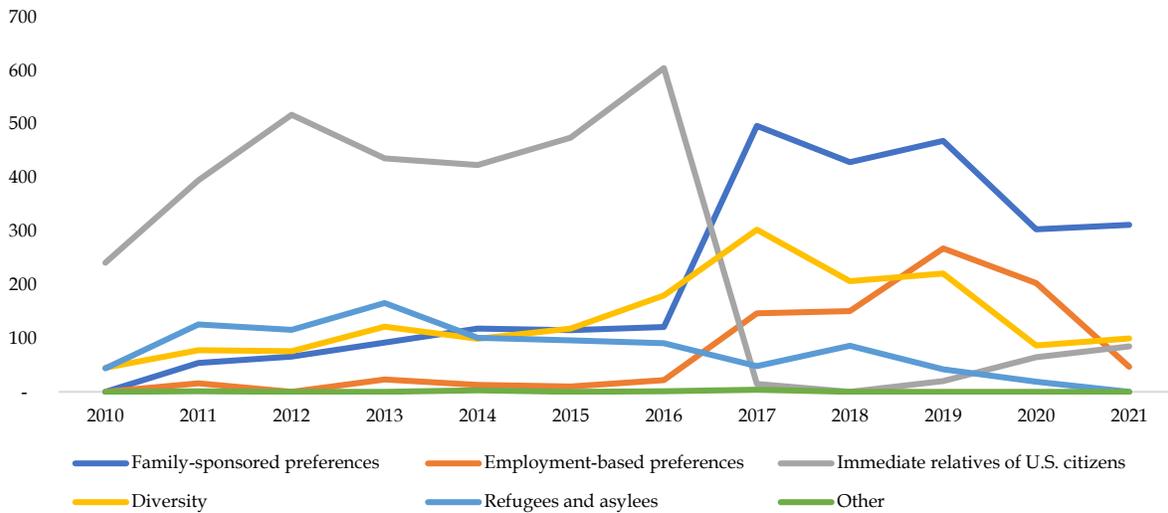
Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics.

2.4 Permanent residence permit issued by the reason

The data on permanent residence permits issued to Kosovar citizens presented in (Fig.6), shows the main reason why a permanent residence permit was granted. Classification by reason consists of six main categories: **family-sponsored preferences, employment-based preferences, immediate family members of a US citizen, diversity, refugees and asylees, other.**

⁹⁴Occupation refers to the type of work performed during the reference period by the employed person (or the type of work previously performed, if the person is unemployed), regardless of the employment status in which the person is to be classified. Occupation is defined in terms of jobs or positions.

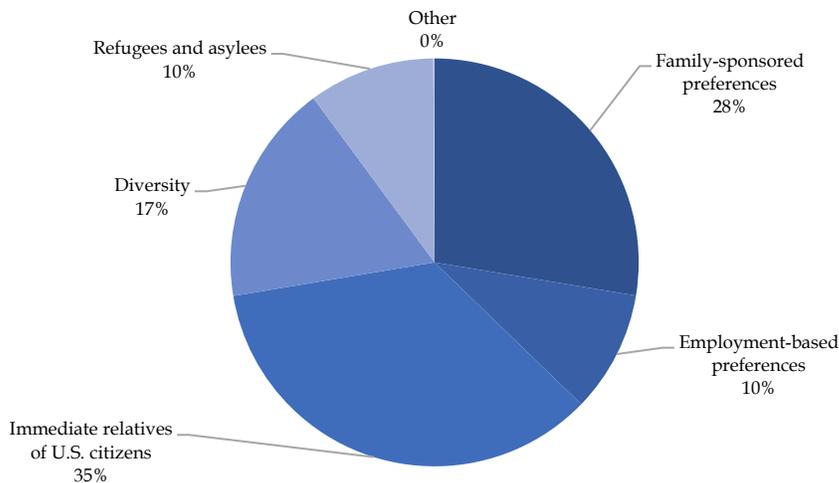
Figure 6: Permanent residence permit issued to Kosovar citizens, by the reason, 2010 - 2021



Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics.

Figure 7 shows the percentage of permanent residence permits issued to Kosovar citizens by reason. Almost two-thirds or 68% of LPRs were related to family-based (immediate family members of US citizens and family preference immigrants). According to the 17% diversity reason, Kosovar citizens were granted permanent residence permit. Preferences based on employment and asylum seekers represented 20%.

Fig. 7. Percentage of permanent residence permits issued to Kosovar citizens in the United States, by reason, 2010 - 2021



Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics

2.5 Family Sponsored Preferences

The term preference is used in National Immigration Law (US) to designate numerically limited family and employment priority categories for permanent resident permit (LPR) status. The National Immigration Law (INA - Immigration and Nationality Act) specifies the worldwide level of preferential immigration in the following groups.

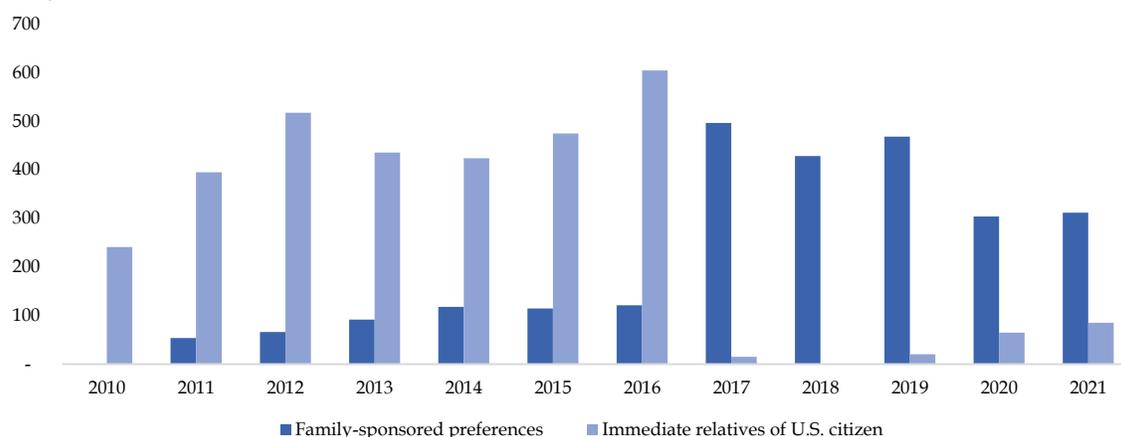
US National Immigration Law on Family Sponsorship **allows United States citizens and persons with permanent residence permit** sponsor certain relatives for permanent residence in the United States. Relatives who are designated as eligible for family-sponsored permanent residency are grouped into different classifications⁹⁵. The annual cap for family-sponsored preferences depends on the previous year's immigration levels and is set at a minimum of 226,000 people.

In the period 2010 - 2021, they issues in total **2 577** permanent resident permit (LPR), with family-sponsored preferences for Kosovar citizens that allowed them to stay legally in the US. The period 2017 - 2021 was affected by high growth rates compared to the period 2010 - 2016, where rates with growth trends were numerically almost double digits. The highest growth rate was recorded in 2017, where LPR - with family-sponsored preferences increased by about four times (310.7 %), compared to the previous year (Fig. 8). The year 2019 marked the second highest growth, but below the level of 2017.

⁹⁵Family-sponsored preferences consist of four categories of relatives:

- First preference (F-1), unmarried sons and daughters of a US citizen (age 21 or older) and their children;
- Second preference, spouse and children of an LPR (F-2A) permanent resident, or such person's unmarried sons and daughters (age 21 or older) and their children (F-2B);
- Third preference (F-3), married sons and daughters of a US citizen and their spouses and children;
- Fourth preference (F-4), siblings of a US citizen (if the citizen is 21 or older) and their spouses and children.

Fig. 8. Permanent residence permit issued to Kosovar citizens in the USA, according to two ways of earning, 2010 - 2021



Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics

2.6 Employment-Based Preferences

In 1990, the US Congress established a priority system for granting permanent residency to foreigners based on employment skills. Each year, 140,000 immigrant visas are available to foreigners who qualify under five employment-based preference (EB) categories.⁹⁶

According to employment-based preferences for Kosovar citizens, the total number of permanent residence permits (LPR), during the mentioned period was a total of 900 people. The recorded data can be divided into two periods of granting permanent residence permits. The period 2010 - 2016 was affected by a significantly smaller number, which accounted for 9%, of all permanent residence permits with employment-based preferences, compared to the period 2017 - 2021, which had a significantly larger number and comprised 91%. The fastest increases were recorded from 2017 - 2019, where permanent residence permits (LPR) - with employment-based preferences increased by about eight times, compared to the period 2010 - 2016, (Fig. 7).

2.7 Close family members of a US citizen

The most represented permanent resident (LPR) category in the US consists of immediate family members of US citizens. An immediate family member of a U.S. citizen under the

⁹⁶ E1 - Priority workers; E2 - Professionals with Advanced Diplomas and Persons with Extraordinary Skills; E3 - Skilled workers, professionals and unskilled workers (other workers).

National Immigration Law (INA) is considered a foreigner who is the spouse or child of a United States citizen or a parent of a U.S. citizen who is at least 21 years of age.

Immediate family members of US citizens are not subject to numerical limitations and typically account for over 40% of new LPRs per year.

During the period mentioned above, American authorities granted the status of permanent residence permit (LPR), for close family reasons of American citizens, to 3,279 persons with Kosovar citizenship, this accounted for about 35% or the majority of all permanent residence permit (LPR) or “Lawful permanent resident”. The period 2010 - 2016, was affected by a significant number which represented 94% of all permanent residence permits for immediate family reasons of American citizens , compared to the period 2017 - 2021, which had a significantly smaller number and comprised 9%. The year 2016 marked the highest increase, of 605 permanent residence permits (LPR), for close family reasons of American citizens (see Fig 7).

2.8 Diversity

The Diversity Immigrant Visa Program offers individuals from different countries the opportunity to apply for a visa and permanent residence (earning a green card) in the US. In the US, about 55,000 diversity visas are issued each year.

Under the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program, from 2010 to the end of 2021, a total of 1,636 Kosovar citizens received permanent residence status or a green card. During this period, the highest number of obtaining permanent residence status based on diversity was in 2017 (303), in 2013 (166), in 2011 (126) and in 2012 (116).(Fig. 7).

2.9 Refugees and asylum seekers

This part is filed under “Kosovar asylum seekers in the USA, 2009 - 2021” and represents the number of Kosovar asylum seekers in the United States of America, all those who have been

confirmed to be granted affirmative asylum and who have been granted protective asylum⁹⁷. Data on refugees⁹⁸ originating from the Republic of Kosovo have not been found.

2.10 Others

US Immigration Law provides for a number of other categories of aliens who are eligible to obtain a visa to enter the United States legally for a limited period of time. These visa holders are classified as non-immigrants and may be: vacationers, students, classified temporary workers and a number of specialized categories, victims of trafficking, undocumented foreigners. Some of these foreigners may take certain actions to obtain LPR status under immigration law.

Based on this category, during the period 2010 - 2021, a total of 9 Kosovar citizens received the status of permanent residence,(Fig. 7).

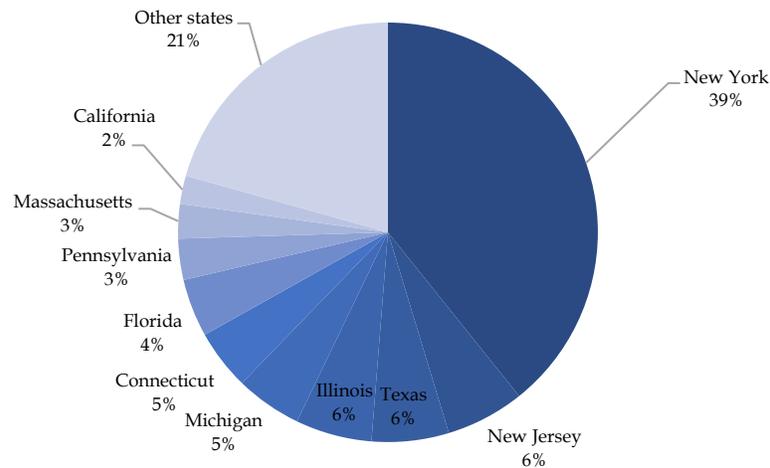
2.11 Permanent Resident Permits Issued by US States

Among the ten US states that recorded the highest number of issuance of permanent residence permits were: New York - 3,606, New Jersey - 556, Texas - 546, Illinois - 540, Michigan - 469, Connecticut - 426, Florida - 411, Pennsylvania - 291, Massachusetts - 244, California - 200, Other States - 1,897.

⁹⁷ A protective asylum claim is made for not leaving the United States. For the asylum application process to be protective, the person must be in removal proceedings in immigration court with the Immigration Executive Office.

⁹⁸ Refugees are individuals who have been forced to leave their countries due to persecution, war or violence because of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular country, social group, or political opinion and have been granted the status of the refugee by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). They then have the right to apply for resettlement to another country, where they can live and work as legal residents.

Fig. 9. Percentage of permanent residence permits issued to Kosovar citizens, by country, 2010 - 2021



Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics.

Generally, a foreigner must spend at least 5 years as a lawful permanent resident to qualify for naturalization, while the spouse of a US citizen must spend at least 3 years as a lawful permanent resident³. Naturalized persons generally in the 2008-2021 time period spend an average of seven years in LPR status before becoming US citizens.

3. NATURALIZATION OF KOSOVAR CITIZENS IN THE USA

US naturalization is the process by which a foreign national becomes a citizen of the United States of America. With naturalization, foreign nationals enjoy the same rights and privileges as US-born citizens, including the right to vote and the ability to travel with a US passport.

To be eligible for naturalization in the US, an individual must meet several requirements, including:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Have a permanent residence permit (green card holder) for at least 5 years (or 3 years if married to a US citizen)
- Be physically present in the United States for at least half of the required period of stay
- Demonstration of good moral character
- Passing the English language and citizenship test

- The naturalization process involves completing an application, submitting supporting documentation, participating in an interview, and taking an oath of allegiance to the United States.

Naturalization in the US is an important process that allows foreign nationals to fully integrate into American society and participate in the country’s democratic institutions. The number of naturalized persons in the USA, on average for each year during the period 2008 - 2020, was about 800,000.00.

3.1 Number of Kosovar citizens naturalized in the USA, 2008 - 2020

During the period 2008 - 2021, in total **6,569** persons of Kosovar origin got the citizenship of United States of America. During this period, the highest number of US citizenship acquisitions were recorded in 2021 (622), 2019 (597) and 2010 (590),(Fig. 10). Annual average number of naturalized persons of Kosovar origin was 469.2 people.

Fig. 10. Naturalized persons of Kosovar origin, by years, 2008 - 2021



Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics

3.2 Structure according to age, gender and marital status

The structure of naturalized Kosovar citizens may vary in terms of age, gender and marital status. The 25 to 44 age group was the most represented as they seek to strengthen their ties to the country and enjoy the benefits and rights of citizenship, such as voting and qualifying for some government programs. A number of seniors in the age group of 55 and older are

individuals who have resided in the US for a significant period of time and wish to secure their status as citizens. The gender of naturalized Kosovar citizens was relatively balanced, with men and women. Regarding marital status in some cases, one spouse may already be a citizen, while the other spouse chooses to become a naturalized citizen to strengthen their legal status or for personal reasons.

Age

In the time period 2008 - 2021, data by age (for both sexes) show that about 42% of persons of Kosovar origin who acquired US citizenship were aged 25 to 34, about 26% were 35 to 44 years old, about 11% between the ages 18 up to 24 years old, about 10% between the ages of 45 and 54, about 6% between the ages of 55 and 64, and about 5% between the ages of 65 and over.

Tab. 2. Number of naturalized persons of Kosovar origin by gender and age: 2008-2021

Gender/No. The percentage	F		M	
	Number	%	Number	%
in total	3,249	100	3,303	100
18 to 24 years	392	12.1	347	10.5
25 to 34 years old	1,389	42.7	1,364	41.3
35 to 44 years old	795	24.5	897	27.2
45 to 54 years old	289	8.8	345	10.4
55 to 64 years old	230	7.1	194	5.8
65 years and older	154	4.8	156	4.8

Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics.

Gender

By gender, naturalization of persons with *Kosovar origin* in the US, it shows a slight predominance of the women (52%, compared to 48% of the men), especially for the age groups 25-34 (41% men) and 25-34 (42% women). This dominance of the women has been carried forward in all years since 2008, except in 2013 when males had a slight increase of 3.8% and in 2018, where males dominated with an increase of 6.6% compared to the women.

Marital status

According to marital status, more than half (57% or 3,395) of naturalized persons were married, while unmarried (single) were (41% or 2532) and 5% others (Tab 3).

Tab. 3. Number of naturalized persons of Kosovar origin, according to marital status, 2019-2021

Marital status	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
in total	397	590	465	510	487	392	547	530	410	410	451	597	482	622
Married	120	177	130	122	107	89	426	399	322	322	351	450	380	467
Single	263	381	317	358	361	282	95	102	68	68	62	105	70	98
Others	13	29	17	29	19	21	26	29	19	19	36	37	31	51
Unknown	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	5	1	6

Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics.

3.3 Structure by profession

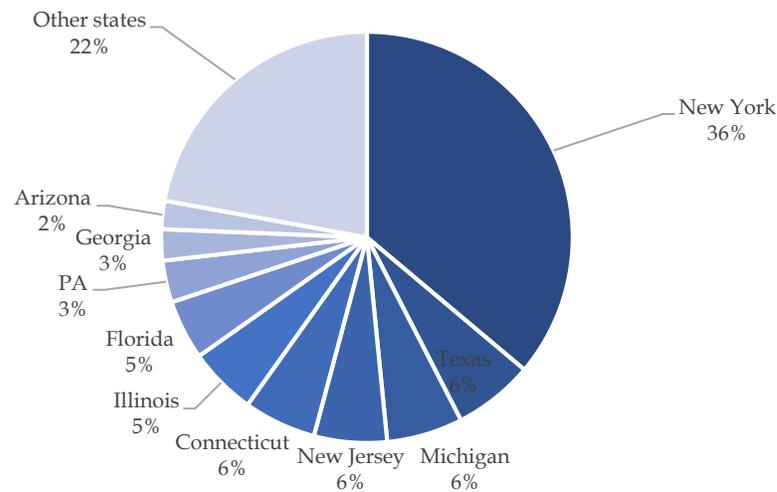
Of the total number of all naturalized persons of Kosovar origin, 27% had no profession and did not work outside the home (work in a factory, restaurant, office building, etc.), 17% had service professions which are present in all sectors of the economy (work that involves providing a service to a person or company), 13% had manufacturing, transportation and material handling occupations⁹⁹, 11% were unemployed, 9% had managerial, professional and similar occupations, 23% were other.

3.4 Naturalization for Kosovar citizens, by US states

Of the total number of all naturalized persons originating from the Republic of Kosovo, more than half (3,677 or 54%) resided in four US states: New York -2,453, Texas - 429, Michigan - 406, Illinois - 348, New Jersey - 389, while (3 113 or 46%) in other US states.

⁹⁹Material handling occupations include conveyor operators, industrial truck and tractor operators, and logistics-related occupations. These workers are employed in a wide variety of industries. They play an integral role in the distribution of materials or supplies to manufacturers or retail markets. Their work can be classified as operators or workers. Operators are involved in handling and maneuvering specific machines. Workers, on the other hand, help in the manual transportation of cleaning materials or equipment.

Fig. 11. Percentage of Citizenship Acquisitions, by US States, 2010 - 2021



Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics

4. IRREGULAR IMMIGRATION OF CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO TO THE USA, 2009 - 2021

Irregular immigration in this analysis refers to the migration of persons entering the US without proper authorization or overstaying their visas.

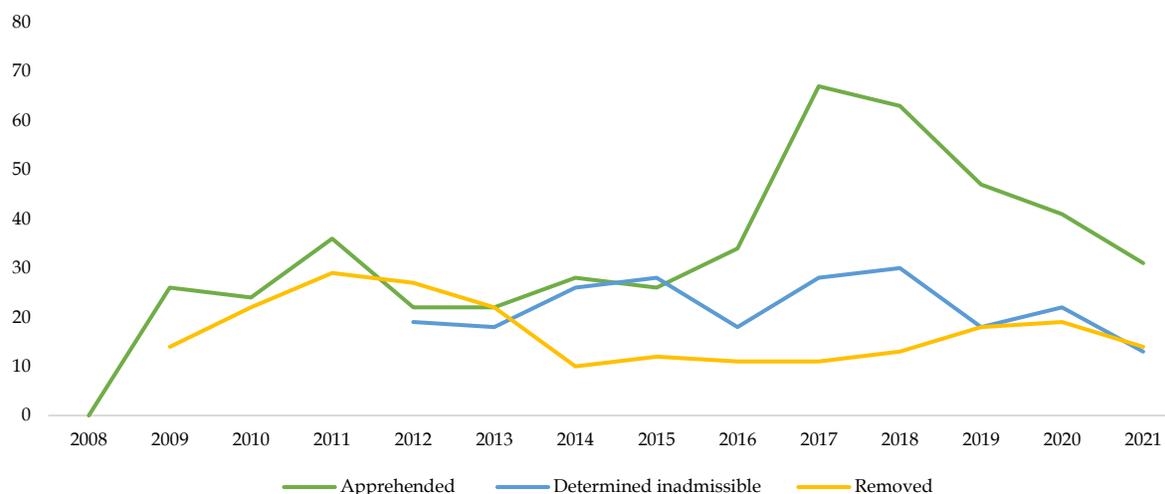
Irregular migration to the United States presents complex challenges. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach that takes into account economic, social, political and security factors.

One of the main challenges of irregular migration is the lack of legal status, which makes it difficult for migrants to access basic services such as health care and education. This can lead to exploitation by employers and limited access to social services, contributing to poverty and marginalization. Irregular immigration also raises national security and public safety concerns. Critics argue that allowing undocumented migrants to enter the country without proper vetting poses a national security risk.

4.1 The number of Kosovar citizens subject to the enforcement of the immigration law in the USA

The recorded data show that during the period 2009 - 2021, a total of 467 - Kosovar citizens were caught at the US border, during the period 2012 - 2021, a total of 220 - Kosovar citizens were considered inadmissible at the US border and during 2009 - 2021, a total of 222 Kosovar citizens left the USA.

Fig. 12. Kosovar citizens who have been subject to the enforcement of the immigration law, 2009 - 2021



Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics.

Figure 12 provides a summary of available data on Kosovar citizens who have been subject to enforcement of the US immigration law over the years: Kosovar citizens who have been caught at the border, deemed inadmissible at the border, or have left the US .

4.2 Kosovar citizens who have been caught at the US border

During the period 2009 - 2021, the percentage of Kosovar citizens who were caught¹⁰⁰ because they could not justify the legal entry to the borders of the United States or within the country as well as to certain countries outside the United States, in the period 2009 - 2021, it accounted for more than half or 51% of Kosovar citizens who have been subject to US immigration enforcement.

¹⁰⁰ US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) defines apprehension as “the physical search or temporary detention of a person who is not lawfully in the US and which may or may not result in an arrest” see [https:// www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics).

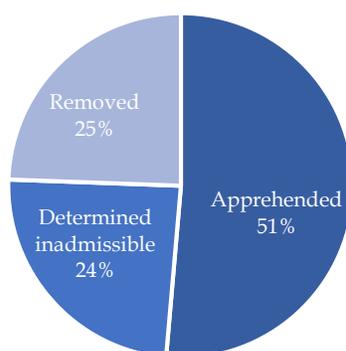
In this time period, the maximum number caught occurred in 2017 (67) before decreasing progressively in 2018 (63), 2019 (47) and 2020 (41). The number was lower than the average (35.7 people) during all the other years.

4.3 Kosovar citizens who have been considered inadmissible at the US border

A person is inadmissible when he is unable to justify entry, admission, or regular status in the U.S. because of an illegal act or a prior misdemeanour. Individuals subject to the inadmissibility rules include foreigners who: entered the country irregularly, individuals released on US parole, or foreign nationals who have arrived at the border or port of entry and are seeking entry.

Some of the grounds for inadmissibility include: threat to public health, criminal and similar grounds, threat to public safety, labour/employment certification violations, illegal entries and immigration violations, documentation violations, and other categories of individuals such as polygamists, international child kidnappers, etc.

Fig. 13. Percentage of Kosovar citizens who have been subject to the implementation of the immigration law, 2009 - 2021



Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics.

For Kosovar citizens who were considered inadmissible at the US border, the available data are from 2012. Kosovar citizens who were considered inadmissible at the US border during this period accounted for 24% of to all Kosovar citizens who have been subject to the implementation of the immigration law in the USA, (Fig. 13).

The reported number of Kosovar citizens who were deemed inadmissible at the US border increased in 2014 (26), 2015 (28) and 2017 (28) to reach a peak in 2018 (30) and more then fell sharply in 2019 and continued to decline in 2021 (13). Any foreign national who is found inadmissible or classified for deportation under the grounds set forth in the National Immigration Law (INA) may be ordered to leave. The law in question defines the procedures for removal or non-removal.

4.4 Kosovar citizens who have left the USA

The National Immigration Law (INA) allows the removal of foreign nationals from the United States who entered irregularly, falsified documents, or aliens who entered regularly but overstayed their temporary visas as and other actions not permitted by US law.

After an order of removal, an alien is inadmissible for at least five years after the date of removal and is not eligible to return to the United States during that period.

Kosovar citizens who have left the US accounted for 25% of all Kosovar citizens who have been subject to immigration enforcement in the US. Fifty-three percent of the departures of this category during the period (Fig. 12), were with previous criminal convictions, compared to forty-seven percent of the departures which did not have any criminal background.

More than half of all departures (51%) took place in the period 2009 - 2013, (the largest number of departures was in 2011 (29) and in 2012 (27)). After this period, the number of those who left suffered a decline, then rose to above the average (17.07), in 2020 (19).

5. KOSOVO ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE USA, 2009 -2021

Granting the right of asylum in the USA enables certain categories of persons to seek international protection. Usually, this option extends to people who have left their countries of origin and seek protection in another country, but have not yet been granted refugee or asylum status. They may be people fleeing war, violence in their home countries or

persecution because of their ethnicity, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, nationality, race or religion¹⁰¹.

Asylum seekers often present themselves at the BCP or apply for asylum after entering a country. The process of seeking asylum can be complex and lengthy, and there can be considerable variation in the procedures and requirements of different countries. Some countries have strict eligibility criteria and may reject applications from individuals who do not meet specific legal requirements.

In general, asylum seekers are entitled to protection under international law and should be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of the outcome of their asylum application.

5.1 The number of Kosovar asylum seekers in the USA, 2009-2021

In the US, there are two general options for qualifying for asylum – affirmative asylum and protective asylum. **Affirmative asylum**, is the process by which an alien who is physically present in the United States and is not currently in removal proceedings applies for asylum through the Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). This applies only to those persons who have not yet been deported from the country.

Protective asylum, is the process by which an alien in removal proceedings applies for asylum to an immigration judge in immigration court as a defence against removal from the United States. This refers to persons who will need to be protected from removal from the US, such persons must be protected in immigration court at the US Executive Office for Immigration.

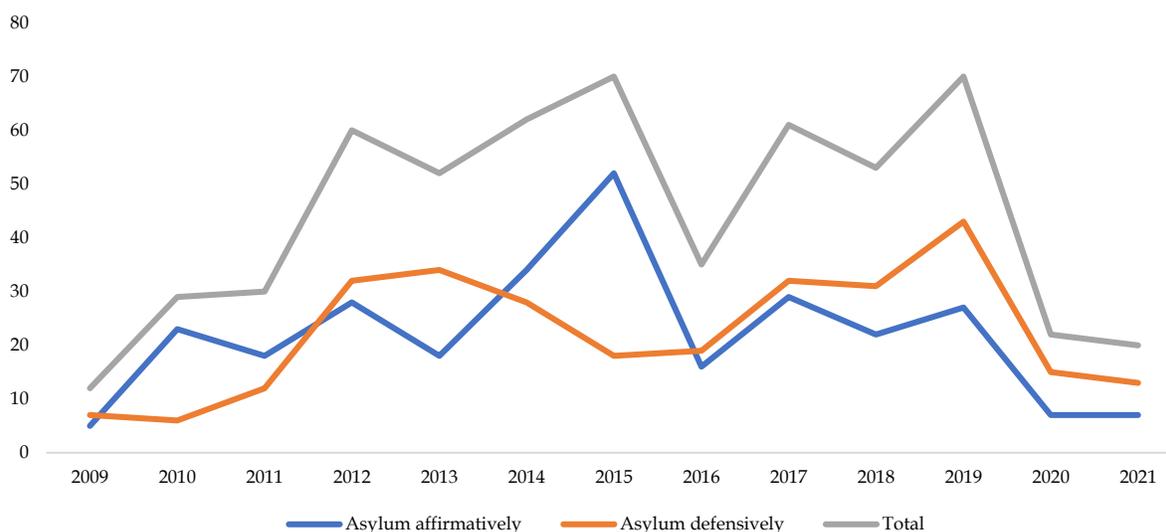
The United States provides protection to certain persons who have been persecuted or have a well-founded fear of persecution through two programs: a refugee program for persons outside the United States and their relatives, and an asylum program for persons physically present or arriving in the United States and their relatives.

¹⁰¹ An asylum seeker is a person who meets the definition of a refugee and is already present in the United States or is seeking admission at a port of entry. Refugees are required to apply for lawful permanent resident status (“green card”) one year after admission, while asylees can apply for green card status one year after being granted asylum.

During the period 2009 - 2021, the total number of Kosovar citizens who were granted asylum for both categories (affirmative asylum and protective asylum) in the United States was a total of 576.

The highest rate of persons granted asylum for both categories was recorded in 2015 (70) and 2019 (70), while the lowest rate was recorded in 2009 (12) and in 2021, (Fig 14). In 2021 (20), there was a significant decrease of 74.4% of these persons compared to 2019 (70).

Fig. 14. The total number of persons with Kosovar citizenship who were granted asylum (affirmative and protective), 2009 - 2021.



Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics.

The total number of persons with Kosovar citizenship who were granted affirmative asylum was 286 persons, while protective asylum was granted to 290 persons. Protective asylum was 1.39% higher than that of persons who were granted affirmative asylum. The highest rate of persons who were granted protective asylum was recorded in 2019 (43), while for persons who were granted affirmative asylum in 2015 (52).

Age, gender and marital status

The data published by the Department of Homeland Security/Office of Immigration Statistics do not specifically provide for individual countries age, gender and marital status, but in the form of aggregates. Based on these data for the last three years, 61% who were granted affirmative asylum and protective asylum were in the age group 18-48 years old, with an

average age of 29 years. According to gender, 52% were men and 48% were women. According to the marriage statute, 58% of adults were married.

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