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A stylized map of Kosovo is centered on the page. It is overlaid with numerous thin, curved lines in shades of blue and gold, radiating outwards from the map, representing migration flows. The text 'REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO', 'ANNUAL MIGRATION PROFILE', and '2022' is superimposed on the map.

REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO
ANNUAL MIGRATION PROFILE
2022

GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY FOR MONITORING MIGRATION MOVEMENTS

Pristina

December 2023

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Objective of Annual Migration Profile for 2022

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of developments in the field of migration (immigration and emigration) for various local and international institutions, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, the academic/research community, as well as other stakeholders. The document contains statistics-based analysis and evidence and ends with recommendations that can serve the decision-making mechanisms, with the aim of including them in state and sectoral policies that are related to issues of migration and socio-economic development of the country.

The document reflects changes in policies, legislation or institutional developments that occurred during 2022, and the text remains similar in the parts of the document where no developments or changes have taken place.

The analysis of migration trends presented in this document cover the 3-year period from 2020 to 2022, introduced through figures and tables, which also potentially includes previous periods of any significant change in migration trends. The administrative and statistical data used in this document have been sourced from existing information systems of the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, as well as from European and international sources.

The structure of the document includes developments related to policy and legislation, institutional developments, and the analysis of statistical data related to the field of migration.

The Annual Migration Profile 2022 is drafted by experts and officials from the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, who are also members of the Government Authority on Migration.

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ABBREVIATIONS

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
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
CBK	Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo
DMF	Directorate for Migration and Foreigners
DRRPIF	Department for Reintegration of Repatriated Persons and Integration of Foreigners
DCAM	Department of Citizenship, Asylum and Migration
DIOC	Directorate for Investigation of Organized Crime
DITHB	Directorate for Investigation of Trafficking with Human Beings
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of the European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investments
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KIESA	Kosovo Investment and Enterprise Support Agency
NCR	National Commission for Refugees
MESTI	Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
MFLT	Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers
MIET	Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MFAD	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora
MoE	Ministry of Economy
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
KCC	Kosova Chamber of Commerce
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
KP	Kosovo Police
BCP	Border Crossing Point
ERP	Economic Reform Programme
GRK	Government of the Republic of Kosovo
TRCM	Temporary Reception Centre for Migrants
RKS	Republic of Kosovo
NDS	National Development Strategy
USA	United States of America

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 2020-2022 reporting period, the Republic of Kosovo has managed to significantly consolidate the migration management system by strengthening the responsible institutional mechanisms. In this context, undoubtedly, among the main results has been the strengthening of the Government Authority on Migration, as an advisory mechanism which has supported the institutions responsible for managing migration through the development of strategic policies and data-based analytical documents.

In September 2022, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo approved the Decision No. 14/96 amending and supplementing Decision 08/158 for the establishment of GAM, thus consolidating the legal basis for the operation of this mechanism. According to the Government Decision on the definition of responsibilities and tasks and the Work Guidelines of the GAM, in addition to the strategic level and the secretariat, there are also six (6) thematic groups within GAM that address the following issues: 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.

In terms of strategic developments, the Migration Strategy 2021-2025 and the Action Plan 2021-2023 have been drawn up and approved (approved by Government Decision 10/39, dated 13.10.2021). This Strategy contains four strategic objectives as well as concrete measures related to migration management, the prevention of irregular migration, the advancement of the internal migration system, as well as the advancement of migration governance.

The expansion of accommodation capacities according to the Emergency Response Plan, the establishment of the Temporary Reception Centre, the advancement of practices for the registration, profiling and referral of migrants, are some of the other main achievements made during this period.

Undoubtedly, in addition to the results achieved, the Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, influenced by various factors, during the period 2020-2022, have also faced challenges in the management of migration. Among the main influencing factors was the Covid-19 pandemic. The measures taken by various countries, including the closing of the borders, have resulted in a significant number of migrants "trapped" within the territory of the Republic of Kosovo. Responsible

institutions took preventive measures in order to protect migrants from the pandemic, including restriction of movement and quarantine for incoming migrants and applicants for international protection.¹ This has resulted in an overload of the local system of reception and accommodation of migrants and applicants for international protection, where in addition to the use of spaces in the Asylum Centre in Magure, the facility of the Temporary Reception Centre in Vranidoll has also been put into operation.

Also, the situation with the Covid-19 pandemic has affected in the organized return of Kosovo citizens who have been stranded in various countries due to job loss, including the category of students and others who have travelled for business purposes or family visits. The readmission process of Kosovar citizens with illegal stay in the EU countries and the Schengen area was suspended for several months during the border closure and this resulted in a significantly lower number of readmissions in 2020, compared to 2019.

¹ European Commission Report on Kosovo 2020, page 46

1. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNTRY

1.1 Size, population, bordering countries and length of borders

The Republic of Kosovo is the newest country in the Balkan Peninsula with a central geographical position surrounded by the Republic of Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia, the Republic of Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia.

The Republic of Kosovo is a state of law with a parliamentary democracy based on the principle of separation of powers in the legislative, executive and judicial. The Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo exercises legislative power. The Government of the Republic of Kosovo exercises the executive power and is responsible for the implementation of state laws and policies. The third pillar is the judicial power, which is independent, unique and 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 north and east with the Republic of Serbia. The border of the Republic of Kosovo

with neighboring countries mainly stretches through mountains and has a natural character, while the total length of the border is 743,556 km.²

Surface area³: 10,908 km²

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

Population: 1,762,220 (estimated on 31 December 2022).

Population density: 162 inhabitants per 1 km²

Government form: Parliamentary Republic.

Currency: Euro (EUR).

Independence Day: 17 February 2008.

President: Mrs Vjosa Osmani.

² State Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo for Integrated Border Management 2020-2025
<https://mpb.rksgov.net/Uploads/Documents/Pdf/AL/364/Strategjia%202020-2025.pdf>

³ Ibid

2. General migration flows and migration stocks

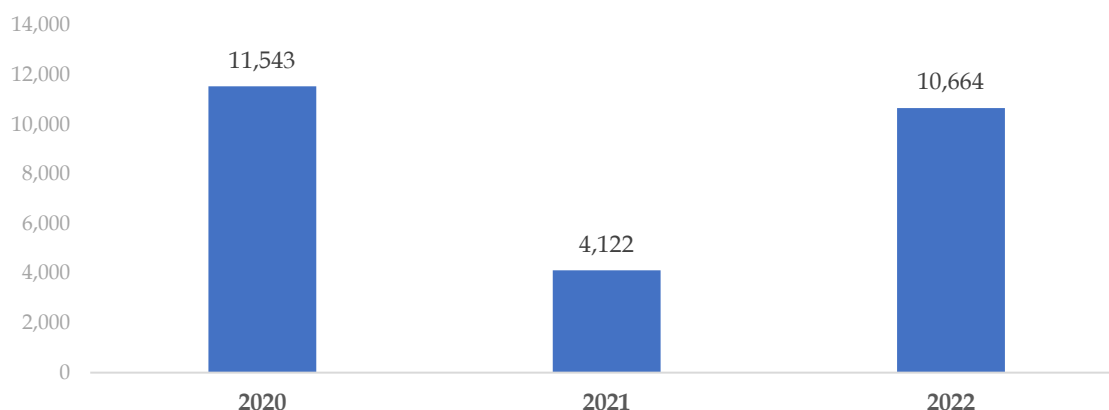
The resident population in Kosovo at the end of 2022 (December 31, 2022) is estimated to be 1,762,220 inhabitants. Every year, the Kosovo Statistics Agency makes an estimate of the number of the population, including data on migration, with the use of standardized methodology in order to include all migration groups.

2.1. Migration flows

2.1.1. Immigration

According to the KAS estimates during 2022 the participation of immigrants in the general resident population was 0.6% or 10,664 people⁴ This figure includes all categories of immigrants (returned/readmitted Kosovar citizens and foreigners) regardless of the reason for immigration.

Figure 1: Immigration to Kosovo by year,



Source: KAS

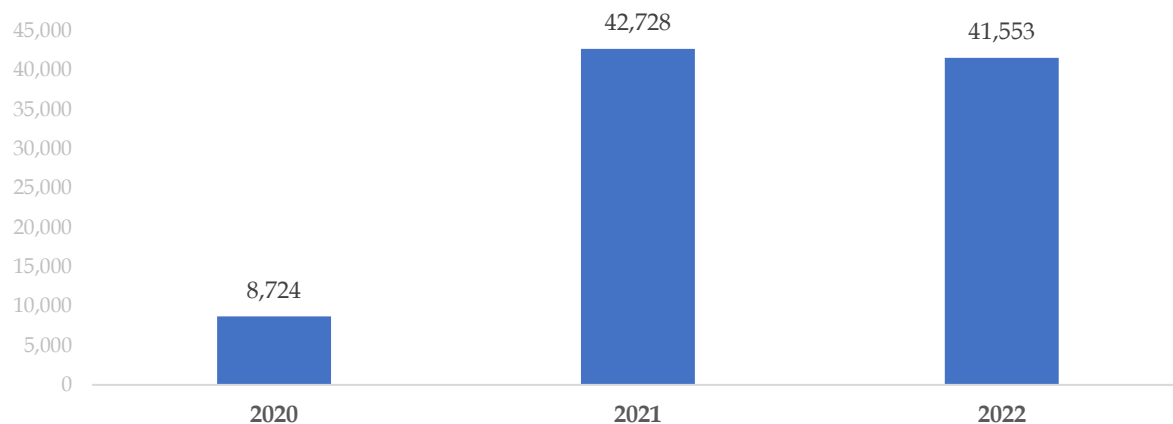
For the period 2020-2022, the data indicate that a significant number of people who immigrated during these years are Kosovar citizens (returned/re-admitted migrants) and foreigners, with an annual average of 8,776 people of the total resident population within the year.

⁴ Source: KAS <https://ask.rks-gov.net/media/6105/vler%C3%ABsimi-i-popullsis%C3%AB-2020.pdf>

2.1.2. Emigration

The number of Kosovar immigrants during 2022, estimated by the Kosovo Agency of Statistics, was a total of 41,553 people⁵ or 2.36% of the resident population. This number includes all emigrants regardless of the reason for migration and their status (regular and irregular).

Figure 2: Emigration from Kosovo estimated by KAS by years



Source: KAS

Data for the period 2020-2022 indicate that Kosovo continues to have a high rate of emigration with an annual average of 31,001 people or 1.78% of the Kosovar population.

2.1.3. Net migration

The balance of international migration (net migration) in Kosovo for 2022 was - 30,889 inhabitants 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 1: Migration flows: immigration, emigration and net migration for years

Years	Immigration	Emigration	Net migration (absolute no.)	Net migration (percentage)
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

⁵ Source:KAS <https://ask.rks-gov.net/media/6105/vler%C3%ABsimi-i-popullsis%C3%AB-2020.pdf>

2.2. Migration stocks

2.2.1. Immigration stocks

For the period 2020-2022, it is estimated that we will have an increase in immigration stocks for 14,786 or about 0.84% of the population.

Table 2: Immigration stocks and immigration flows expressed in absolute and relative numbers

Year	Total population	Immigration stock (absolute numbers)	Stock (percentage)
2020	1,798,186	78,281	4.35
2021	1,773,971	82,403	4.65
2022	1,762,277	93,067	5.28

Source: KAS

2.2.2. Emigration stocks

Table 3: Emigration stocks and emigration flow expressed in absolute and relative numbers

Year	Total population	Emigration stock (absolute numbers)	Stock (percentage)
2020	1,798,188	253,805	14.11
2021	1,773,791	296,533	16.70
2022	1,762,277	338,086	19.2

Source: KAS

2.2.3. Net migration stock

During the period 2020-2022, 26,329 inhabitants immigrated to Kosovo, while more than 93,005 inhabitants emigrated, and the population of Kosovo during this period has decreased by more than 8,776 inhabitants.

Table 4: Net migration stocks expressed in absolute and relative numbers

Years	Total population	Immigration flows (absolute numbers)	Emigration flows (absolute numbers)	Net emigration flows, by years	Net migration stock (absolute numbers)	Net stock (relative to population distribution)
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 be living abroad), at the end of 2022 it is estimated that over 949,719 inhabitants or 53.89% of the population of Kosovo lived abroad.

3. Legal migration

The management of legal migration is a shared responsibility between the two main institutions in Kosovo for this matter, namely the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare; the first regulating this issue through the legal and institutional framework and the second providing employment services and professional training⁶.

3.1. Policies and legislation

Legal migration (immigration) in the Republic of Kosovo, including immigration for employment purposes is regulated by the Law on Foreigners⁷ and other by-laws.

Law No. 04/L-219 on Foreigners - ⁸ This law regulates the conditions of entry, residence and employment of foreigners in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo. In May 2018, the Basic Law on Foreigners No. 04/L-219 was amended and supplemented by the **Law No. 06/L-036**⁹. Upon adoption of the Law No. 06/L-036 amending and supplementing the Law No. 04/L-219 on Foreigners, the Law on the Granting of Work Permits and Employment to Foreign Nationals in the Republic of Kosovo has been incorporated into it. Likewise, several legal provisions have 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 imposition of fines for foreigners. At the end of 2022, work began on the drafting of the new Law on Foreigners, which at the time of entry into force will abolish the Law No. 04/L-219 and Law No. 06/L-036.

The following bylaws were adopted during 2022:

- 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 procedures and conditions for obtaining

⁶ Regulation (GRK) - No. 02/2021 for the Areas of Administrative Responsibility of the Prime Minister's Office and Ministries (rks-gov.net).

⁷ Law No. 04/L-219 for Foreigners and Law No. 03/L-036 on Amendment and Supplement to Law No. 04/L-219 for Foreigners, <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=16333>

⁸ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=8876>

⁹ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=8876>

a temporary residence permit for citizens of Albania, dated 10.02.2022, has entered into force and its implementation commenced on 11.02.2022.

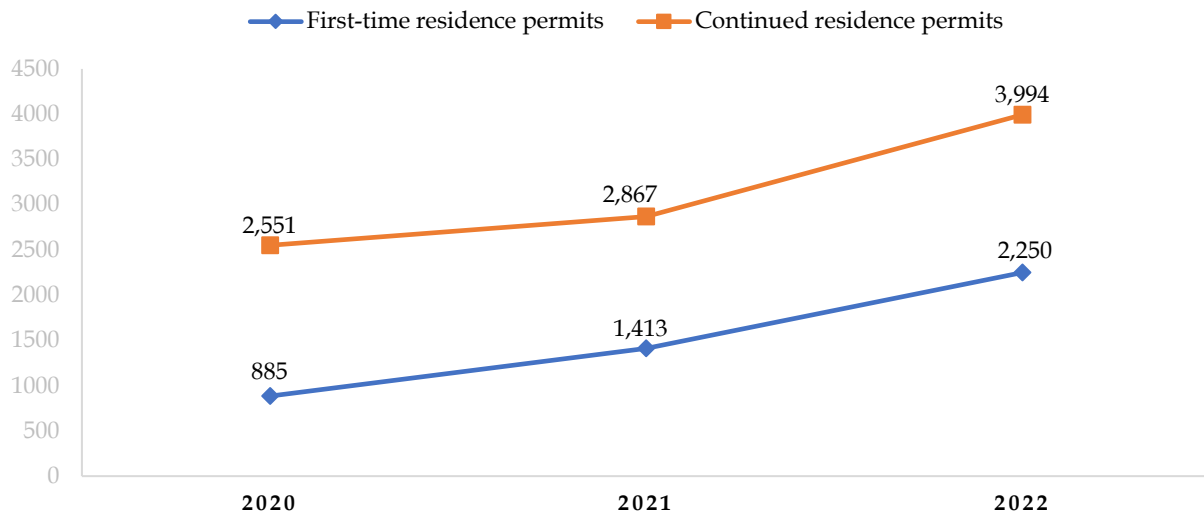
The main legal framework regulating the integration of foreigners in the Republic of Kosovo is Regulation (GRK) No. 09/2019 on the Integration of Foreigners which also regulates the basis of the system of integration of foreigners in the Republic of Kosovo. The Regulation defines the procedures, criteria and institutions responsible for the integration of foreigners in social, economic and cultural life in the Republic of Kosovo.

3.2. Legal immigration

Temporary residence permits

During 2022, a total of 6,245 positive decisions for temporary residence permits were issued, of which 2,250 (33%) first-time residence permits and 3,994 (67%) continued residence permits. From the comparison of 2021 and 2022, it can be seen that in 2022 (6,245) we have a 46% increase in the number of positive residence permits in all categories compared to 2021 (4,281).

Figure 3: Number of temporary residence permits according to first-time and ongoing residence permits



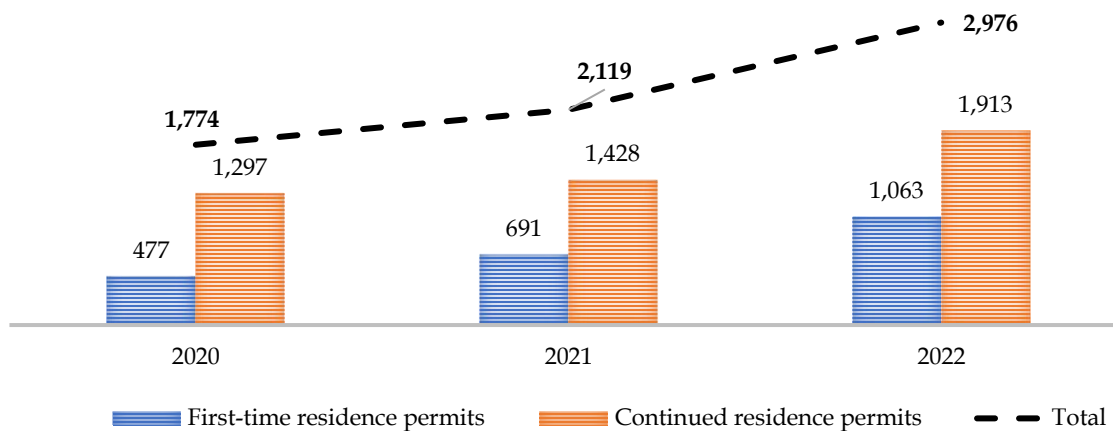
Source: MIA/DCAM

During 2022, for the first time and continued were issued 2,976 (48%) residence permits for employment purposes, for the family reunification category 2,740 (44%), for study/education 400 (6.4%) and for other reasons 128 (2%) temporary residence permit

By the gender, from the total number of 6,244 positive decisions for temporary residence permit, 2,553 (41%) are men and 3,691 (59%) are women.

The most represented countries with the number of temporary residence permits during 2022 are: Albania 1,789 (29%), Serbia 1,297 (21%), Turkey 1,197 (19%), North Macedonia 643 (10%), USA 259 (4%) and other states 1,059 (17%).

Figure 4: The number and trend of temporary residence permits for the purpose of employment according to first-time and continued residence permits



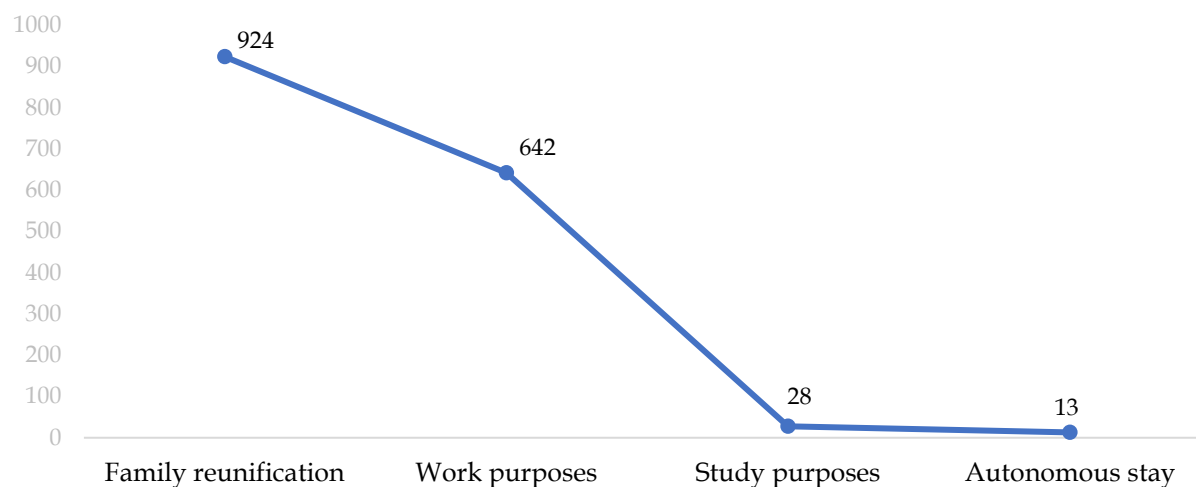
Source: MIA/DCAM

The number of temporary residence permits for the purpose of employment, during the year 2022, had an upward trend of 40% compared to the year 2021. In general, the factors that may have resulted in the increase of employment of foreigners in the Republic of Kosovo for the year 2021 and 2022, compared to the previous year, are related to the economic development of the country and the lack of the annual quota of jobs with the market needs, as defined in article 68 of the Law on Foreigners¹⁰, including the lack of workers in certain professions.

The most represented countries with the number of temporary residence permits for employment reasons during 2022 are: Turkey 742 (25%), Albania 691 (23%), Serbia 469 (16%), North Macedonia 250 (8.4%), USA 192 (6.4%) and other countries with 632 (21.2%).

¹⁰ The Government of the Republic of Kosovo shall adopt a decision which shall set out an annual quota of employment of foreigners at the latest by 31 October for the coming year, for extension of permits issued and new employment. Annual employment quota for foreigners shall be made public. 26 2. The proposal of the annual quota for the employment of foreigners is drawn up by the MLSW based on the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council.

Figure 5: The number of decisions for temporary residence permits with Albania according to the Agreement, 2022



Source: MIA/DCAM

Based on the statistical data, the number of positive decisions issued according to the 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 obtaining a temporary residence permit for the year 2022 for the citizens of Albania was 1,607 positive decisions, which are presented in Fig. 5, from this data according to this Agreement we have an increase in the number of temporary residence permits for all categories for this year, whilst the highest number is for purposes of family reunification and purposes of work, since the criteria for residence permits for citizens of Albania have been eased and precisely this Agreement has influenced to legitimize their stay in the Republic of Kosovo.

Permanent residence permits

During 2022, a total of 230 positive decisions for permanent residence permits were issued.

Out of 230 positive decisions for permanent residence permits, 119 (52%) were issued to men, while 111 (48%) to women.

The reasons for the issuance of permanent residence permits by categories: employment 82 (35.6%), family reunification 62 (27%), renunciation of citizenship 61 (27%) and other reasons 25 (11%).

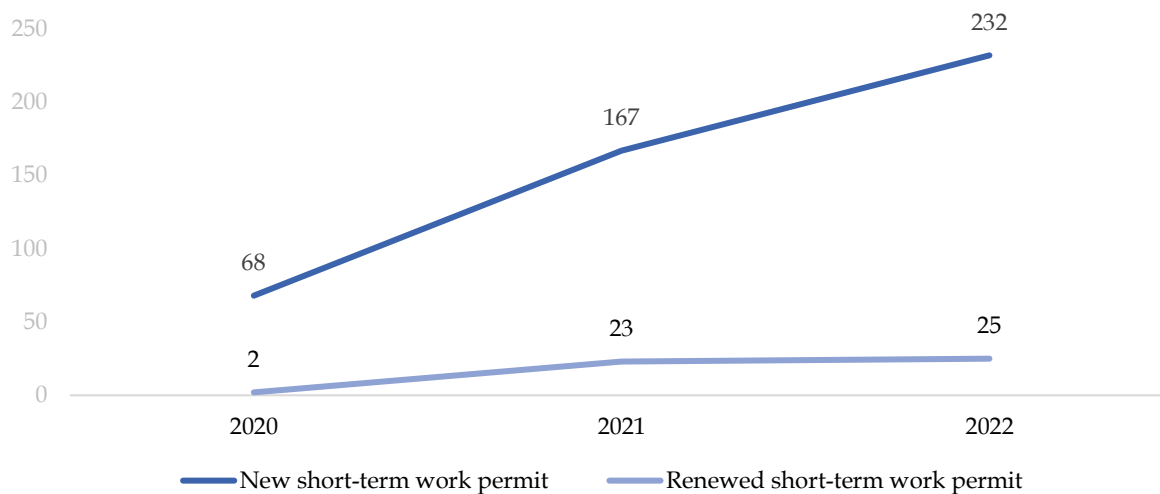
The most represented states with the number of permanent residence permits for employment reasons during 2022 are: North Macedonia 30 (37%), Serbia 15 (18%), Albania 11 (13%), Turkey 10 (12%), and other countries 16 (20%).

Short-Term Work Permit¹¹

Based on the data in *Figure 6*, in 2020, there was a drastic decrease in the number of Short-Term Work Permits for Foreigners, compared to the previous years. This is as the result of the Covid-19 pandemic, movement restrictions in Kosovo and in the world to prevent the spread of Covid-19, as well as the closing of borders.

Based on the data, 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 are hired based on investment agreements and certain short-term projects. 88% of them are men, while only 12% are women.

Figure 6: Number of short-term work permits by year



Source: MFLT/EARK

¹¹ Law No. 04/L-219 on Foreigners and Law No. 03/L-036 on Amendment and Supplementation to Law No. 04/L-219 on Foreigners, Article 22, Short-term work permit - foreigners may work up to ninety (90) days within every period of one-hundred and eighty (180) days within one (1) year, <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=8876>

3.3. Regular Emigration

Citizens of the Republic of Kosovo with valid residence permits in EU member states and Schengen area

During 2020 - 2022, EU member states and the Schengen area countries issued around 71,240 first-time residence permits¹², for the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo.

Number of first-time residence permits issued to citizens of the Republic of Kosovo issued by EU member states and the Schengen area countries had an increasing trend since 2014 to reach the peak in 2019 with 45,670 first-time residence permits and later, there was a decrease of - 55% until 2022 (20,514), compared to 2019¹³ (45,670).

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 purposes. In 2021, first-time residence permits for employment purposes exceed the number of first-time residence permits for family reunification by about 10% (*Figure 7*).

By the end of 2022, around 20,514 valid residence permits of all categories were issued in EU member states and the Schengen area countries for the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo¹⁴. The number of valid residence permits issued, based on Eurostat data, decreased by -9% compared to 2021 (22,746).

During 2022, 43.7% of all residence permits were related to family reunification, 42.6% for education purposes, 2.4% for employment purposes, while residence permits classified for other reasons accounted for 11% of all categories.

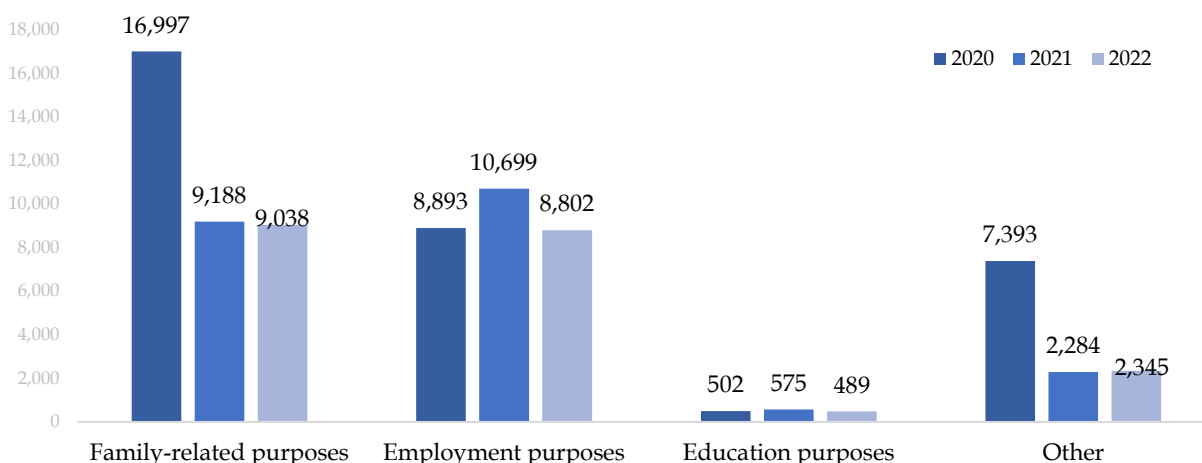
During the 2020-2022 period, the main destinations with valid residence permits of citizens of the Republic of Kosovo included the following states: Slovenia with 18,991 (27%), followed by Germany 15,895 (22.3%), Croatia with 7,763 (11%), Italy 7,094 (10%), France 5,284 (7.4%) while below 10% distribution was in other countries.

¹² **The 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 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 scale (eg: first instance, appeal, etc.) and by all national authorities.

¹³ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databroeser/vieë/MIGR_RESVALID_custom_7494163/default/table?lang=en, Last update: 11/09/2023 23:00

¹⁴ Note: Germany has reported 0 to Eurostat the number of residence permits issued to citizens of the Republic of Kosovo

Figure 7: Kosovar emigrants in EU and the Schengen area countries, according to the reason of their stay



Source: Eurostat¹⁵

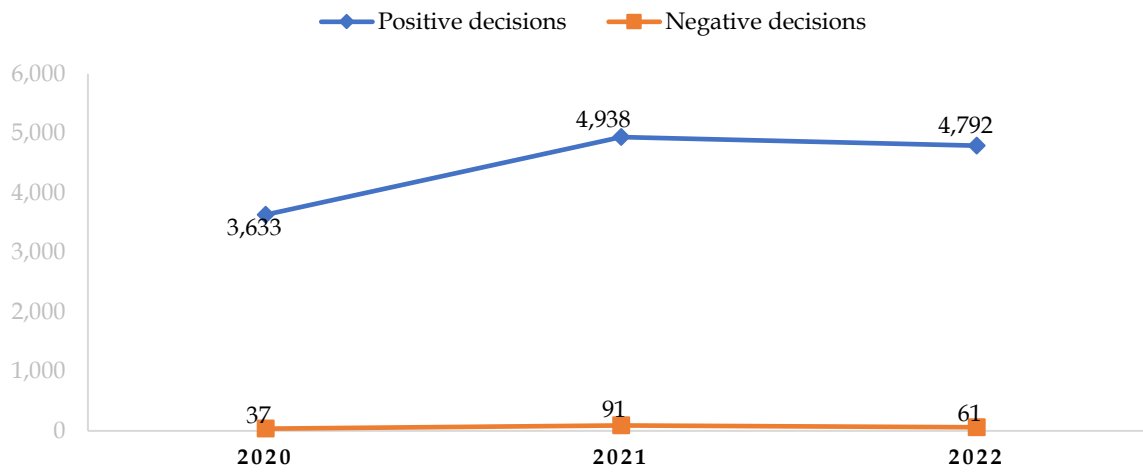
3.4. Renunciation of citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo

In 2022, 4,792 people were renounced of the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, while 62 were rejected for not meeting the legal criteria. According to the data from the chart, we notice that during 2022, there was a decrease of 3% in positive decisions compared to 2021 (4,938), we also have a decrease in the number of negative decisions of 32%.

Of the 4,792 people who were renounced of the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo in 2022, the data show that 4,211 (88%) are from Germany, 419 (8.7%) from Austria, 71 (1.5%) from Slovenia and 91 (1.8%) from other countries.

¹⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/asylum-and-managed-migration/data/database>

Figure 8: Number of persons who have been renounced of the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo



Source: DCAM

During the last three years, the trends of the renunciation of the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo are almost linear. During the 2020-2022 period, 13,363 persons were renounced of the citizenship, men prevail with 6,812 (51%), while 6,551 (49 %) were women.

4. Irregular migration

During 2022, the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo focused on expanding the accommodation capacities for migrants and refugees and built and operationalized the Temporary Reception Center for Migrants. This center was established by Decision of the Minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, No. 0490/2022, dated 24.06.2022. The reasons for establishing this center are the need for profiling and referral of migrants.

4.1. Policies and Legal Framework

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo drafted policies and the legal framework¹⁶ for the prevention of irregular migration, the fight against smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings.

During 2021, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo approved the Contingency Plan for managing eventual influx of migrants, refugees and applicants for international protection.¹⁷ The National Migration Strategy 2021-2025 has foreseen the measures related to the prevention of irregular migration, the fight against migrant smuggling, as well as the fight against human trafficking among migrants.¹⁸

4.2. Irregular Immigration

Refusal of Entry

During 2020 - 2022, a total number of persons refused entry at border crossing points (BCPs) is 17,779. Data from the table shows that 2021 and 2022 lead with the highest number of refused entries at the border crossing points.

¹⁶ Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo; Code No. 06/L-074 Criminal Code of Kosovo, (CC); Code No. 04/L-123 of the Criminal Procedure of Kosovo (CPK); Code No. 06/L-006 of Juvenile Justice; Law No. 04/L-076 for the Police of the Republic of Kosovo; Law No. 04/L-218 on Prevention and Combating Human Trafficking and Protection of Trafficking Victims; Law No. 04/L-219 for Foreigners and Law No. 03/L-036 on Amendment and Supplement to Law No. 04/L-219 for Foreigners; Law No. 05/L-036 on Compensation of Crime Victims; Law No. 04/L-125 on Health; National Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings and Action Plan 2015-2019; The work strategy of IDHT and the Annual Action Plan; Other normative acts of the KP, Administrative Instruction (MIA) No. 04/2020 for Refusal of Entry into the Republic of Kosovo, (Administrative Instructions, Principles, Standard Operating Procedures and decisions); Standard Action Procedures for Trafficking Victims; Minimum standards for the care of victims of trafficking; Long-term strategy for the reintegration of victims of trafficking.

¹⁷ Decision No. 14/15 of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, dated 23.12.2021.

¹⁸ Decision No. 10/39 of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, dated 13.10.2021.

Table 5: Refusal of entries at Border Crossing Points

Year	2020	2021	2022
Number of Persons	3,082	7,436	7,261

Source: Risk Analysis, Intelligence and Data Administration Unit, Border Department, Kosovo Police.

Of the total number of people refused entry at the border in 2022, 84% were from the countries of the region (West Balkans), EU member states and the Schengen area, 2.8% from Asia, 5.5% from other countries, 7.7% foreigners were refused entry. Amongst the reasons for entry refusals for the citizens of the neighboring countries (Albania, Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro), were the lack of valid documents or entry bans for entering the Republic of Kosovo, while for the citizens of the EU member states and the Schengen area was the failure to provide biometric IDs and passports. The citizens of Asian and African countries were refused entry due to absence of visas, sufficient financial means and failure to justify the purpose and conditions of their stay.

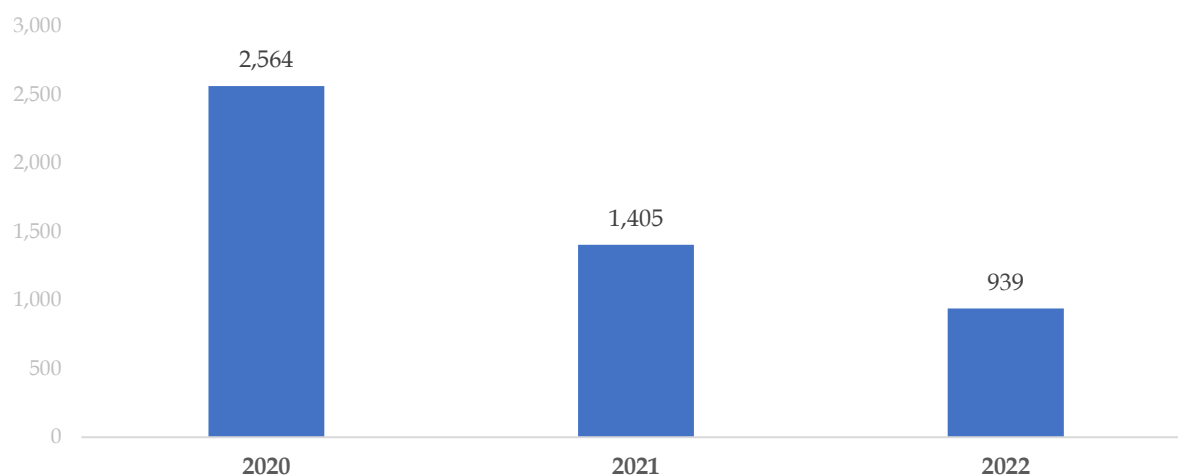
Unauthorized border crossing

During 2022, 939 irregular immigrants crossed the border and entered the territory of the Republic of Kosovo in an unauthorized manner. Compared to 2021 (1,405), there is a decrease of -33%, compared to 2020 (2,564) there is a decrease of - 63%, and compared to 2019 (2,027) there is a decrease of -54%

Of 939 migrants, 602 (64%) entered from Albania, 252 (27%) from North Macedonia, 58 (6%) from Serbia, 24 (3%) via Airport and 3 (0.3%) from Montenegro.

Of the total number, 40 migrants (16 Turkish, 13 Afghan, 5 Ukrainians, 3 South Africans, 3 Jordanians) entered the country regularly, 48 (20 Afghans, 9 Syrians, 5 Indians, 5 Moroccans, 4 Bangladeshi, 4 Palestinians and 1 Iraqi) 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 9: Number of immigrants entering Kosovo in unauthorized manner



Source: Risk Analysis, Intelligence and Data Administration Unit, Border Department, Kosovo Police

During 2022, the Border Police recorded and proceeded 157 cases for the criminal offense of unauthorized crossing of the border or the border line.

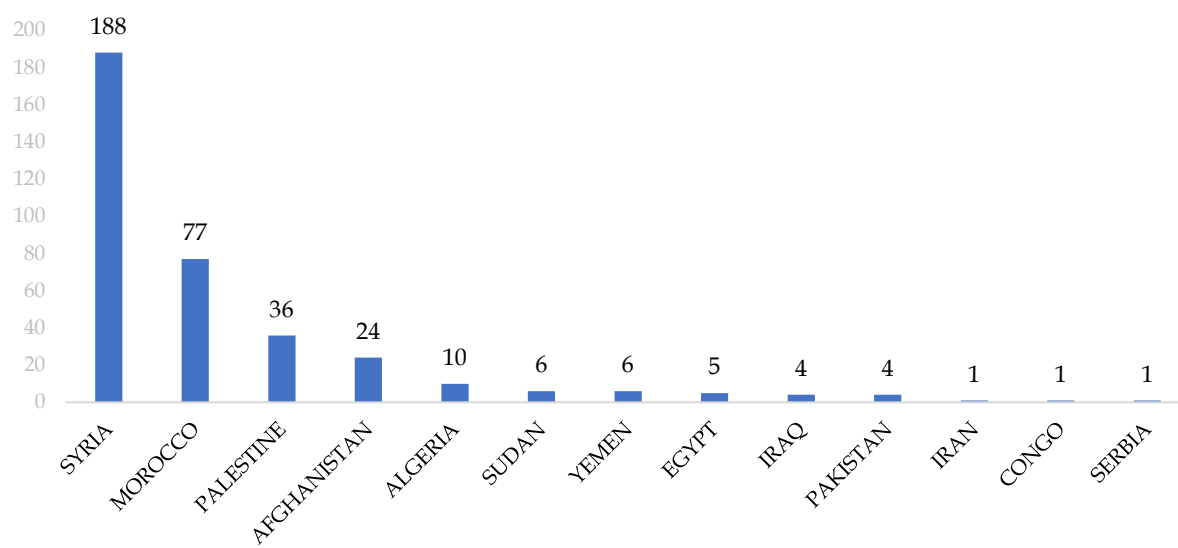
In most cases, the suspects were from neighboring countries, Albania, Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro, and the reasons for irregular border crossing were the lack of documents necessary for regular border crossing, or persons for whom a warning has been issued to ban their entry to Kosovo.

Illegally residing foreign nationals ordered to leave voluntarily, including statistics for assisted voluntary return under Agreement with IOM

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 center are the need for profiling and referral of irregular migrants from persons with International Protection. This center is responsible for receiving, accommodating, identifying and assessing the needs of vulnerable migrants as well as potential victims of human trafficking and unaccompanied minors, information and emergency services package for irregular migrants accommodated in the Temporary Reception Center for Migrants. The package of emergency services for irregular migrants includes: food, clothing as needed, hygiene packages, provision of free legal aid, care for the provision of medical aid, psychological sessions.

During 2022, since the establishment of the Temporary Reception Centre for Migrants, 363 migrants have been received and accommodated, 99% men and 1% women.

Figure 10: Number of accommodated persons in the Temporary Reception Centre



Source: TRCM/DCAM

The highest number of migrants came from the following countries: 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 2022, 110 decisions on voluntary removal from the territory of the Republic of Kosovo were issued, marking a decrease of 4% (114) compared to 2021 and 27% (150) compared to 2020.

The highest number of decisions on voluntary removal by countries were for the citizens of Turkey with 29 (26.4%), Albania with 12 (11%), Serbia with 6 (5.5%), B&H with 4 (3.6%), Pakistan with 4 (3.6%), whereas 55 (50%) decisions were for citizens of other countries. From the total number of decisions for voluntary removal, 62% decisions were issued for women and 38.2% decisions for men. The reasons for issuing decisions on voluntary removal 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.

The assisted voluntary return through IOM - during the 2020-2022, 35 voluntarily assisted persons have been returned from the territory of the Republic of Kosovo. Based on the data indicated in Figure 11, we note that 2021 and 2022 are characterized by the largest number of

assisted voluntary returns. This comes as a result of the readiness of the institutions to strengthen the voluntary return mechanism through the agreement signed between the MIA and the IOM ¹⁹, for assisted voluntary return and reintegration.

The largest number of decisions on voluntary removal, during 2022, by countries, were for citizens of Morocco 5, Jordan 4, Philippines 2, Bulgaria 2, Austria 1, Bosnia and Herzegovina 1 and Algeria 1 decision.

Decisions for forced removals - during 2022, 40 forced removal decisions from the territory of the Republic of Kosovo have been issued, marking a decrease of 31% (58) compared to 2021 and 58% (95) compared to 2020.

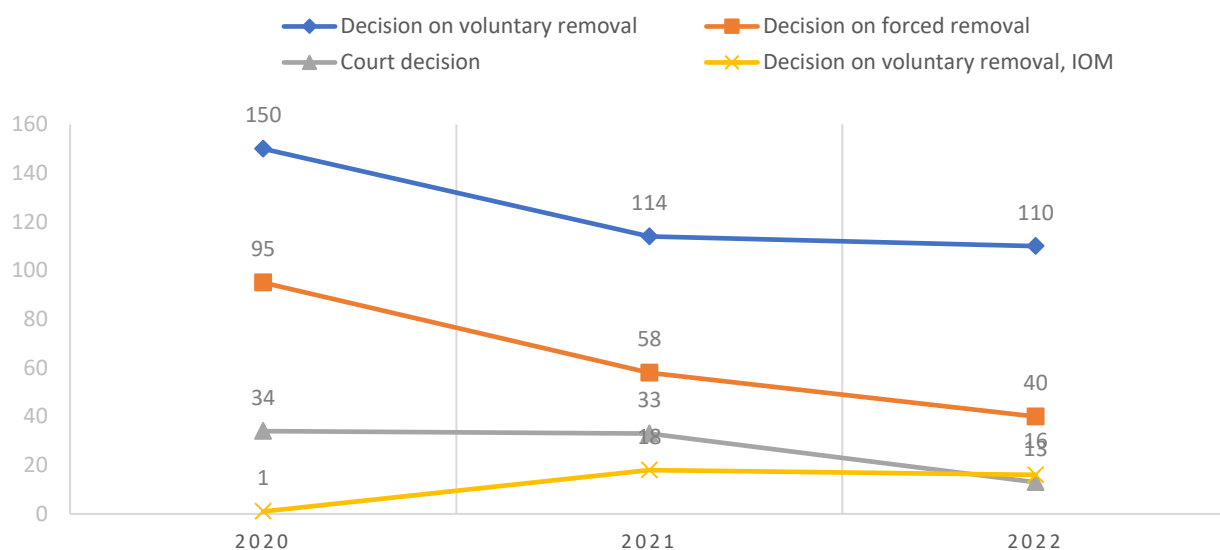
During this period, 67.5% of them were citizens of Albania, 10% citizens of Serbia and 22.5% to citizens of other countries. Even during this year, the largest number of decisions was issued against the women with 62.5% and 37.5% for men.

Deportation by Court Decision - The Directorate for Migration and Foreigners, by decision of the courts of Kosovo and based on the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kosovo, has deported 13 people from the Republic of Kosovo during 2022. Compared to 2021, a small decrease of 61% (33 deportations) can be observed. Of these deportations, 4 persons were from North Macedonia, 3 from Turkey, 2 from Jordan and 1 from each of the following countries: Italy, Morocco, Tunisia and Albania.

Figure 11 shows the number of foreign citizens with illegal residence ordered to leave to their country of origin voluntarily, assisted by IOM, by force and by court decision.

¹⁹ The agreement signed between the MIA and IOM, in May 2019

Figure 11: Number of decisions on voluntary removal, IOM voluntary removal, forced removal and by court decision

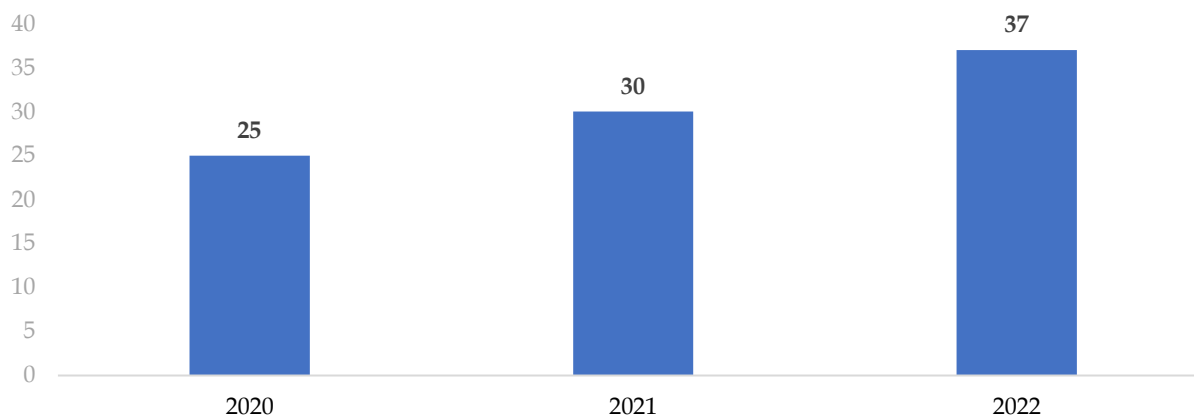


Source: Risk Analysis, Intelligence and Data Administration Unit, Border Department and Directorate for Investigation of Organized Crime, Kosovo Police.

Fight against smuggling of migrants

The Kosovo Police continued with the systematic and detailed controls of all border crossing points and the green border line, with the aim of preventing and fighting smuggling of migrants. Likewise, organized criminal groups involved in smuggling of migrants within the territory of the Republic of Kosovo have been fought.

Figure 12: Cases initiated against smuggling of migrants



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

During 2022, the number of cases initiated by Kosovo Police for the criminal offense of smuggling of migrants was 37, compared to 2021 (30 cases), compared to 2020 (25 cases).

Table 6: Number of suspects on smuggling of migrants per citizenship

Citizenship	2020	2021	2022
KOSOVO	27	52	49
ALBANIA	4	1	3
SERBIA	2	2	0
TURKEY	1	1	3
N. MACEDONIA	0	3	3
SYRIA	0	1	6
IRAQ	0	1	0
ALGERIA	0	2	0
PALESTINE	0	2	0
LEBANON	0	1	0
JORDAN	0	1	0
AFGHANISTAN	0	0	1
Total	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 of smuggling of migrants during 2022 was 65, compared to 2021 with 67, compared to 2020 with 34 suspects. Out of 65 persons suspected of smuggling of migrants, 49 of them were citizens of the Republic of Kosovo, 10 were citizens of Asian countries, 3 citizens of North Macedonia, 3 of Albania. Out of 65 suspected persons, the Investigations Unit has managed to arrest 61 of them.

Table 7: Number of recorded victims of smuggling of migrants, by citizenship 2022²⁰

STATES	No. of recorded victims
SYRIA	226
AFGHANISTAN	34
KOSOVO	18 ²¹
EGYPT	15
BANGLADESH	11
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

Data show that during the period 2020-2022, 3 (foreign) victims of trafficking were identified. All victims have been provided with services as provided for under the SOP on Victims of Trafficking.

Table 8: Number of victims of trafficking by citizenship

Identified victims of trafficking /origin	2020	2021	2022	Total
ALBANIA	0	1	1	2
SERBIA	0	0	1	1
Total	0	1	2	3

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

²⁰ The data for this category started to be generated from 2022

²¹ This number refers to victims of smuggling from Kosovo to the European countries

Table 9: Number of inspections, Operational Plans, Police Operations carried out over the years

Year	Operational Plans	Police Operations	Premises inspected/controlled
2020	14	46	77
2021	38	88	168
2022	41	96	194

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

4.3. Irregular emigration

This part provides data and statistics for Kosovo citizens: who have been denied entry to the borders of the EU member states and the Schengen area, who were found to be illegally staying within the territory of the EU member states and the Schengen area, ordered to leave EU and Schengen area member states and removed from EU and Schengen area member states on the basis of a removal order.

In the period 2020 - 2022, about 4,825 Kosovo citizens were denied entry to the borders of EU member states and the Schengen area, about 13,950 Kosovo citizens were found irregularly staying within the territory of EU member states and the Schengen area, about 12,635 citizens of the Republic of Kosovo were ordered to leave EU member states and the Schengen area, and about 3,985 Kosovo citizens left the territories of EU member states and the Schengen area, following a removal order.

Kosovo citizens who have been denied entry or detained at the border in EU member states and the Schengen area

The total number of citizens of the Republic of Kosovo who were rejected²² or caught at the external borders of EU member states and the Schengen Area²³ in 2022 was about 1,860 people, compared to 2021 (1,710) there was an increase of 9% .

During 2022, from the total number of denials registered for Kosovar citizens, similar to the previous year, persons who have been denied entry to the borders of Croatia were 715 (38.4%), Slovenia 405 (29%), Hungary 230 (12.4%), Germany 140 (7.5%) and other countries with 370 (20%).

²² Each person is counted only once within the reference period, regardless of the number of denials given to the same person.

²³ 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.

The main reasons for denied entry at the external borders of the EU and the Schengen area were because that they could not justify the reason for a valid visa or stay, and the person was considered a public threat, they had counterfeit travel documents, had no valid documents, had a falsified visa or residence permit, insufficient funds for living, and the person has already stayed 3 months in a 6-month period.

The vast majority of 84% of the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo, who were denied entry to EU member states and the Schengen area, were detained at the external land borders, the percentage of denials at the air borders was 14%, while only 2% of denials were at maritime borders (mainly at borders with Italy).

Kosovo citizens caught residing illegally within the territory of EU Member States and the Schengen area

The number of Kosovo citizens who crossed the border illegally and who did not have the right to stay in the territory of EU member states and the Schengen area²⁴, for 2022, was a total of 5,025²⁵ people, compared to the year 2021 (4,405), marking an increase of 14%.

The EU Member States and the Schengen area, which reported the largest number of Kosovo citizens irregularly staying in 2022, were: Germany 1,660 (33%), followed by Switzerland 1,035 (21%), Croatia 540 (11 %), France 425 (8.5%), Austria 340 (7%), Italy 305 (6%), Hungary 280 (5.6%), Slovenia 250 (5%) and other countries 190 (3.8%). More than half of the 2,695 (54%) of Kosovo citizens were caught residing illegally in the two EU member states (Germany and Switzerland).

Half of the Kosovo citizens, about 50%, were found to have entered the territory of EU member states and the Schengen area in an irregular (illegal) manner, 19% were overstaying and 31% for other reasons. In the last two years, Croatia reported the highest number of Kosovo citizens entering irregularly at 27%, followed by Switzerland at 26%, Italy 13%, Slovenia 12%, Germany 12% and other countries at 10%.

²⁴ This category relates to people who are found 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

²⁵ https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_eipre&lang=en, last update on,11.05.2023

Kosovar citizens caught residing illegally in the EU member states and the Schengen area issued a removal order²⁶

In 2022, the total number of Kosovar citizens ordered to leave EU and Schengen area member states was 4,255. The total number of this category continues to decline continuously since 2015, but in 2022 there was a slight increase of about 2.6%, compared to 2021 (4,090).

The total number of removal orders of Kosovar citizens from EU member states and the Schengen area in 2022 by countries were registered in: France 1,175 (27.6%), Slovenia 935 (22%), Croatia 560 (13.2%), Switzerland 290 (6.8%), Italy 270 (6.3%), and other countries 1,025 (24.1%).

Kosovar citizens expelled from the EU member states and the Schengen area on the basis of an expulsion order

In 2022, the total number of persons returned as Kosovar citizens, who left on the basis of a removal order from EU member states and the Schengen area, was 1,395. This number compared to 2021 which was 1,415, marks a small decrease of about 1%.

From the total number of Kosovar citizens expelled from the EU member states and the Schengen area on the basis of the removal order in 2022, 445 (32%) were from Croatia, 260 (19%) from Germany, 205 (15%) from Sweden, 140 (10%) from France, 130 (9.3%) from Austria and 215 (15.4%) from other countries.

Figure 13: Kosovar citizens who have been denied entry to the border, caught residing illegally, have been ordered to leave and left the EU and Schengen area member states

²⁶ This category includes third-country nationals residing illegally 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.



Source: Eurostat

5. Readmission and reintegration

This chapter includes a summary of the process, the return of citizens of the Republic of Kosovo, as well as the reintegration and integration of foreign nationals into society.

5.1. Policies and legal framework/readmission

Law on Readmission defines the rules and procedures for the readmission of a person who is a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo or a foreign national, who does not meet the conditions for entry or residence in the territory of the requesting state. The implementation of readmission legislation has priority in terms of cooperation on readmission with countries with which Kosovo has not yet signed a bilateral agreement on readmission.

During 2022, the implementation of Law No. 03/1 - 208 on Readmission, as well as readmission agreements, continued.

Until 2021, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo has signed readmission agreements with 24 countries²⁷, 20 of which are EU member countries and Schengen countries.

Statistics

In 2022, about 613 people²⁸ were readmitted, 536 (87%)²⁹ by force, 13 (2%) volunteers and 64 (10%)³⁰ IOM-assisted volunteers, so we have a decrease of 28% compared to 2021, which had about 848 people readmitted, 710 (84 %) by force, 45 (5%) volunteers and 93 (11%) volunteers assisted by the IOM of citizens of the Republic of Kosovo.

Based on annual data, according to gender structure and age, of the Kosovar citizens forcibly readmitted during 2022, 470 (87.6%) are male, while 66 (12.3%) are female. 6 (46%) of volunteers readmitted during 2022 are male while 7 (53%) are female.

While according to data from the IOM, 41 (64%) of voluntary readmissions in 2022 are male and 23 (36%) are female.

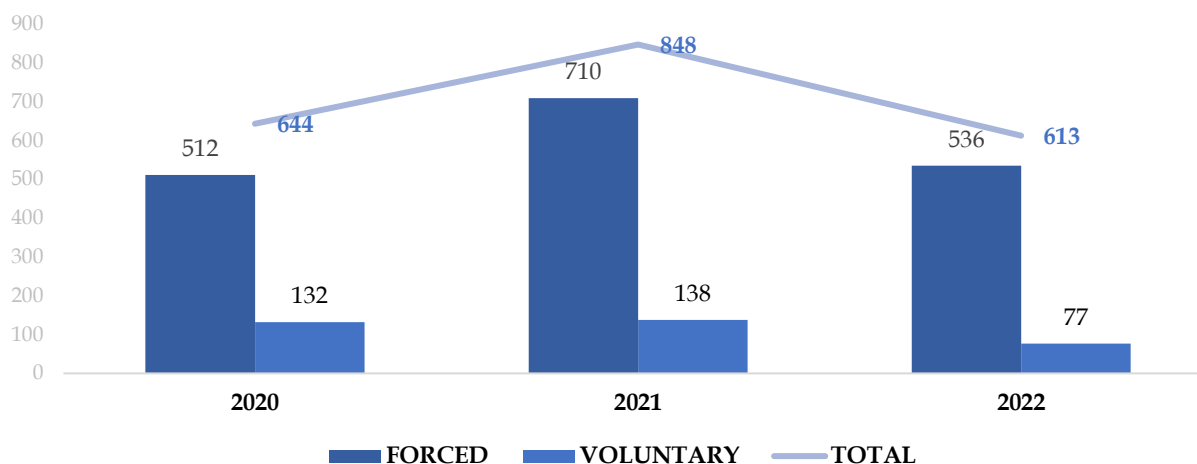
²⁷ Law No. 03/L-208 on Readmission, 2009 Republic of Albania, 2009 Republic of France, 2010 Swiss Federal Council, 2010 Federal Republic of Germany, 2010 Kingdom of Denmark, 2010 Republic of Austria, 2010 Kingdom of Norway, 2011 Republic of Slovenia, 2011 Benelux (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg), 2011 Czech Republic, 2011 Montenegro, 2011 Kingdom of Sweden, 2011 Republic of Finland, 2012 Republic of Hungary, 2012 Republic of Bulgaria, 2012 Republic of Malta, 2013 Republic of Estonia, 2013 Principality of Liechtenstein, 2013 Republic of Croatia, 2014 Republic of Italy, 2015 Republic of Turkey and 2017 Republic of North Macedonia.

²⁸ The number of forced and voluntary readmissions was calculated on the basis of forced readmissions according to DCAM data, while on the basis of data of voluntary readmissions assisted by IOM for 2022.

²⁹Source: MIA

³⁰Source: IOM

Figure 14: Voluntary and forced readmission



Source: DCAM, IOM

Based on the data in figure 14, both readmitted by force and volunteers by IOM, it is observed that the age groups 35-64 (266 or 43.4%) and 18-34 (242 or 39.5%) have the largest number of readmitted, while other age groups with 105 or 17%. Based on the school age (6-17) years old, the number of readmitted students of this age for 2022 is 94 or 15.3%.

According to the annual data for 2022 (613), the largest number of readmissions (by force, voluntary and assisted volunteers) are from Germany 304 (50%), Switzerland 112 (18.3%), Sweden 54 (9%), France 32 (5.2%), Austria 26 (4.2%) and other countries with 85 (14%). While for 2021 (848), the largest number of readmitted (by force, volunteers and assisted volunteers) are from Germany 450 (53%), Switzerland 140 (17%), France 72 (8%) and 186 (22%) from other countries.

From these data we can see that the readmission trend during the last three years (2020-2022) is decreasing. During the period 2009-2022, the total number of readmitted (by force, volunteers and IOM assisted volunteers) is 70,796, of them 41,562 (58.7%) were returned by force, 9,717 (13.7%) volunteers and 19,517 (27.6%) IOM assisted volunteers.

About 94% of readmission cases were processed on the basis of bilateral readmission agreements with EU member states, 5% of readmission cases were based on bilateral readmission agreements with non-EU member states, while less than 1% of readmission cases were processed in accordance with the Law on Readmission.

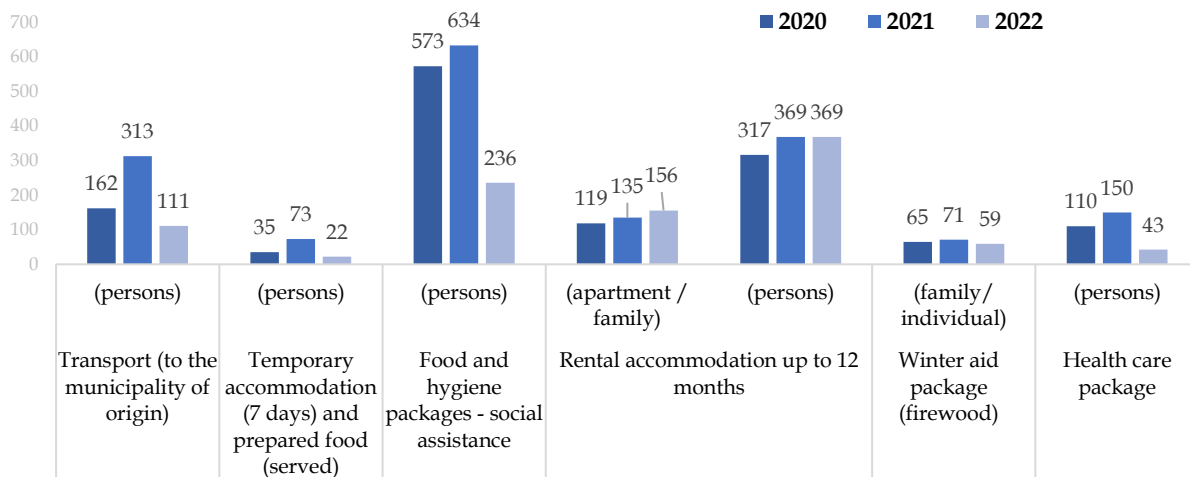
5.2. Policies and legal framework/reintegration

The policies of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo in the area of migration and reintegration of repatriated persons are defined by the State Strategy for Sustainable Reintegration of Repatriated Persons in Kosovo 2018-2022, the State Strategy for Migration 2021-2025 and the Action Plan 2021-2023, as well as GRK Regulation No. 22/2020 on the Reintegration of Repatriated Persons.³¹

Statistics

During the period 2020-2022, within the framework of various emergency schemes, repatriated persons were supported according to the following statistics:

Figure 15: Assistance provided immediately after the arrival and emergency assistance within 12 months upon repatriation

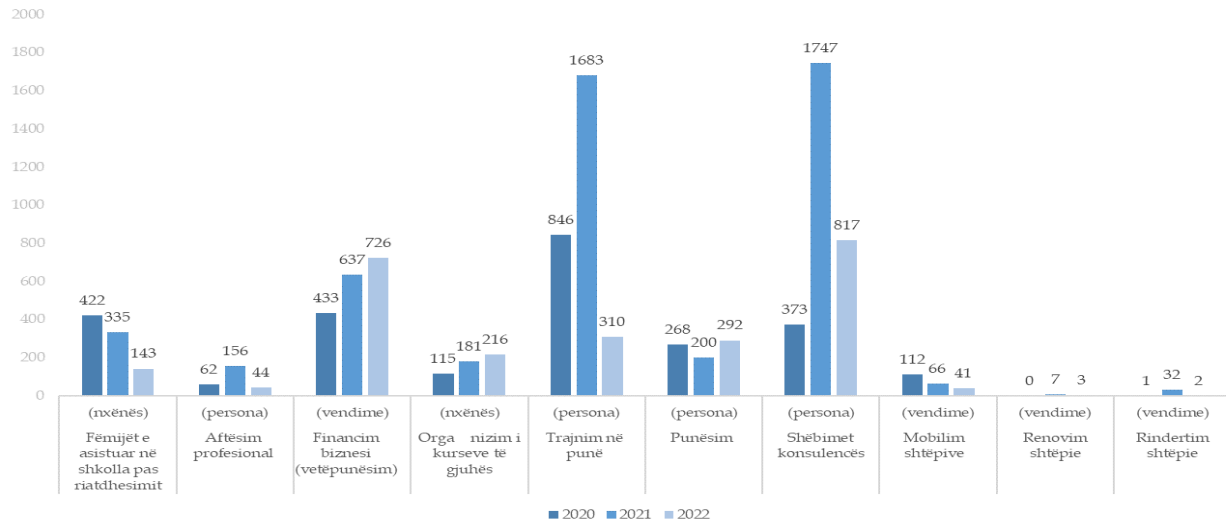


Source: DRRPIF/MIA/ Local institutions and international organizations

In figure 15, from the schemes for Reintegration throughout the year 2022, it is observed that the scheme in which the largest number of repatriated persons have benefited is the scheme of rental accommodation for up to 12 months. It is also observed that there is a considerable number of repatriated beneficiaries who have benefited from the scheme Food and Hygiene Packages/Social Assistance scheme, we have a, comparing it with other schemes.

³¹ <https://konsultimet.rks-gov.net/viewConsult.php?ConsultationID=40273>
<https://konsultimet.rks-gov.net/viewConsult.php?ConsultationID=41097>

Figure 16: Assistance for sustainable reintegration



Source: DRRPIF/MIA/ Local institutions and international organizations

Within the schemes for sustainable reintegration, during the period of 2022 it is observed that the highest number of repatriated persons have benefited from the *consultancy services scheme*. Likewise, an increase in repatriated beneficiaries in the *business financing scheme (self-employment)* is observed.

6. Integration of foreigners

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

6.1. Policies and legal framework

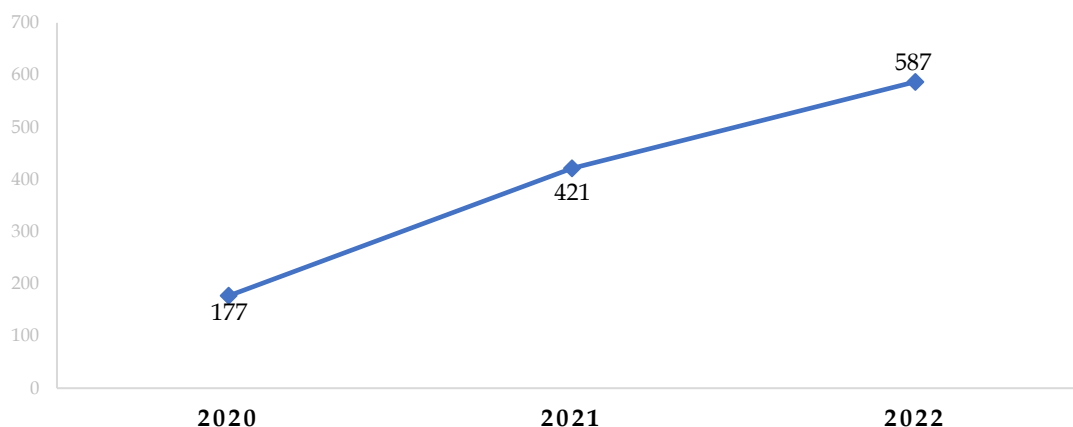
The main legal framework that regulates the integration of foreigners in the Republic of Kosovo is Regulation (GRK) No. 09/2019 on the Integration of Foreigners, which defines the basis of building the system of integration of foreigners in the Republic of Kosovo.

Acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo

Division for Citizenship, within the DCAM, in 2022 received 1,059 requests for acquiring citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, while 587 people acquired citizenship, as well as 538 were rejected for failing to meet the legal criteria. Comparing the data of the years 2021/2022 shows that in 2022, there is an increase in positive decisions of 39%, while negative decisions are on a linear line.

Of the 587 people who have acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo in 2022, 165 (28%) are citizens of Serbia, 56 (9.5%) of North Macedonia, 44 (7.5%) of Albania and 322 (55%) with other citizenships.

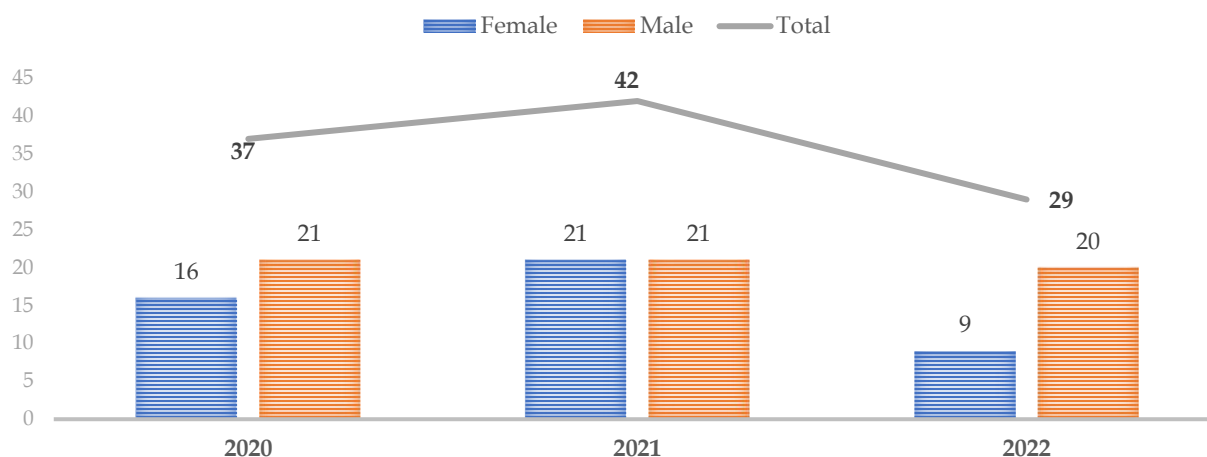
Figure 17: Number of people who have acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo



Source: DCAM

During the last three years, the trends of acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo show an increase. During the period 2020-2022, 1,185 people have acquired citizenship, the majority of whom 627 (53%) are females compared to 558 (47%) males.

Figure 18: Number of positive decisions for acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo by presidential decree



Source: Office of the President

Figure 18 shows the data of acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo by presidential decree. From these data, we note that out of 29 decisions by presidential decree, there is a decrease in the decisions regarding the female gender 9 (31%) during this period compared to the male gender 20 (69%).

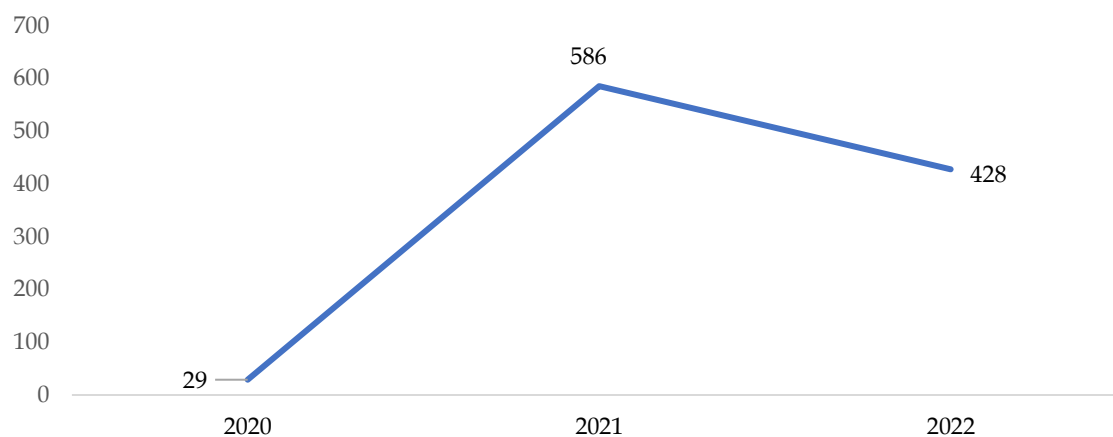
Integration of foreigners' scheme

During 2022, 24 asylum seekers received international protection status, 4 persons received refugee status, while 4 persons received supplementary protection status and 16 persons received temporary protection.

During the period 2020-2022³², within the framework of various schemes for integration, foreign persons were supported, whose number is presented in the following chart.

³² The statistics reflect the time period 2020-2022, when the provision of services by DRRPIF began

Figure 19: Number of persons who have benefited from integration schemes



Source: DRRPIF/MIA

Likewise, during this year, integration assessment tests were organized for 227 foreigners, of whom 30 persons applied for permanent residence permits, as well as 197 persons applied for citizenship in the Republic of Kosovo.

7. Migration and Development

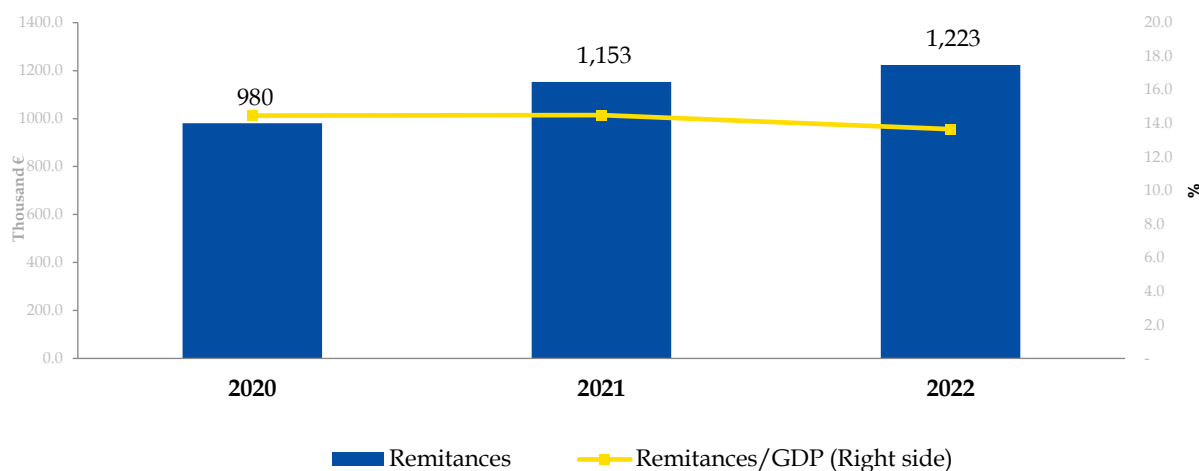
This chapter reflects the development policies and strategies of the Republic of Kosovo related to migration and development. The focus is on introducing ways in which the potential for migration could be used for development purposes, remittances and investments from the diaspora, as well as on policies for the return of experts from the diaspora (brain gain).

Statistics

7.1. Emigrants' remittances

Remittances in general have a multiple impact on the main aspects of development in Kosovo. Income from Emigrants' 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. Emigrants' remittances in 2022 had a share of 13.66% in the gross domestic product (GDP).

Figure 20: Income from remittances



Source: CBK, 2022

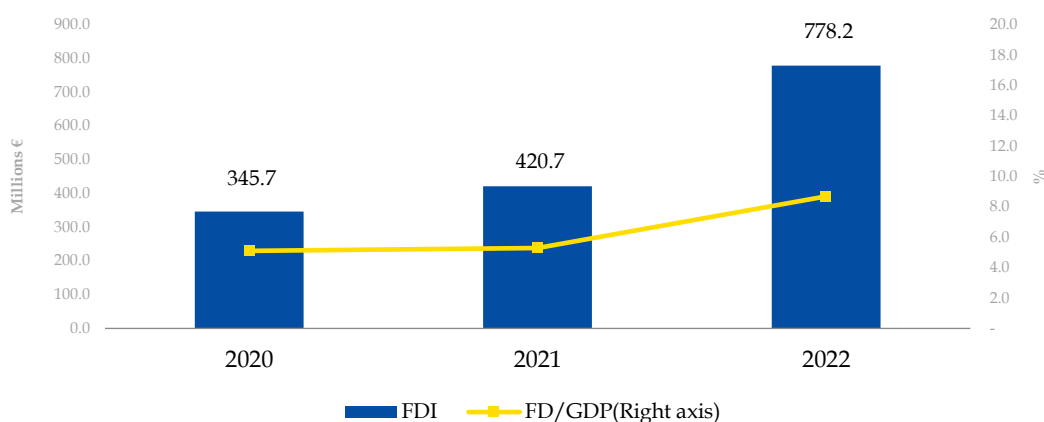
About 74.2% of emigrants' remittances during 2022 were transferred through the financial system, while the rest includes emigrants' remittances in goods and other means that are transferred through informal channels. The main sources of emigrants' remittances continue to be from Germany with 38.5% and Switzerland with 19.8% of the total remittances received in

Kosovo, followed by the USA with 8.6%, Austria with 5.5% and Italy with 4.9%, and France with 4.0%.

7.2. Foreign Direct investments

Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in Kosovo in 2022 amounted to 778.2 million euros, or 85% more than in the previous year. The graph below shows the trend of FDI in Kosovo during the period 2020-2022.

Figure 21: Foreign direct investments in Kosovo in millions of euros and as GDP percentage



Source: CBK,

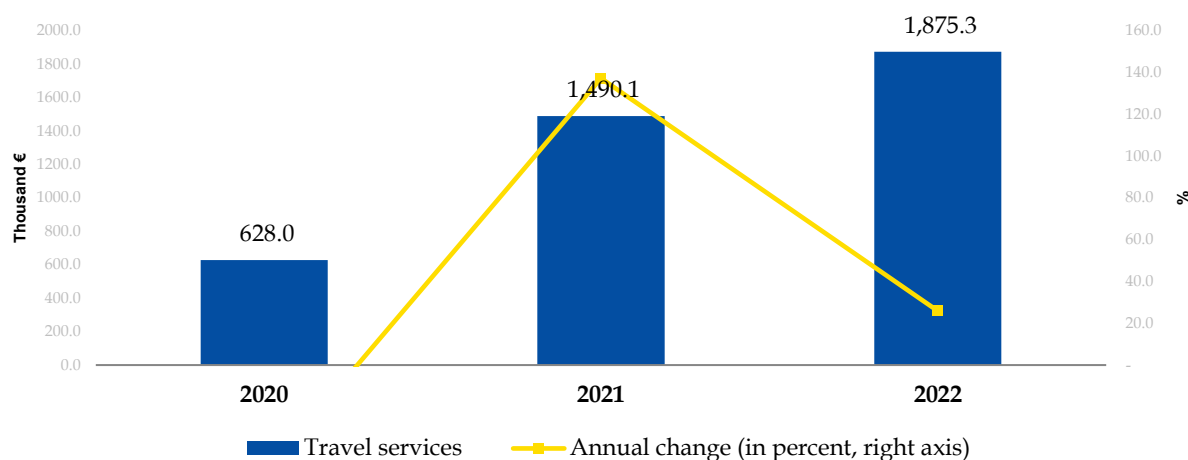
The sectors that have shown a positive trend compared to the previous year and affected the investment growth during 2022 are the real estate, financial, mining, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply sectors including that of construction. In 2022, the share of real estate in total direct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

7.3. Travel services for visitors in Kosovo / Diaspora tourism in Kosovo

Kosovo enjoys a considerable diaspora tourism, especially during the summer and winter holidays. Revenues from travel services have increased steadily since 2010, reaching 1,875.3 million euros in 2022. During 2020 due to the pandemic and the total lockdown for several

months, the value of tourism has decreased by 52.5%, marking the value 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 amounted to 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.

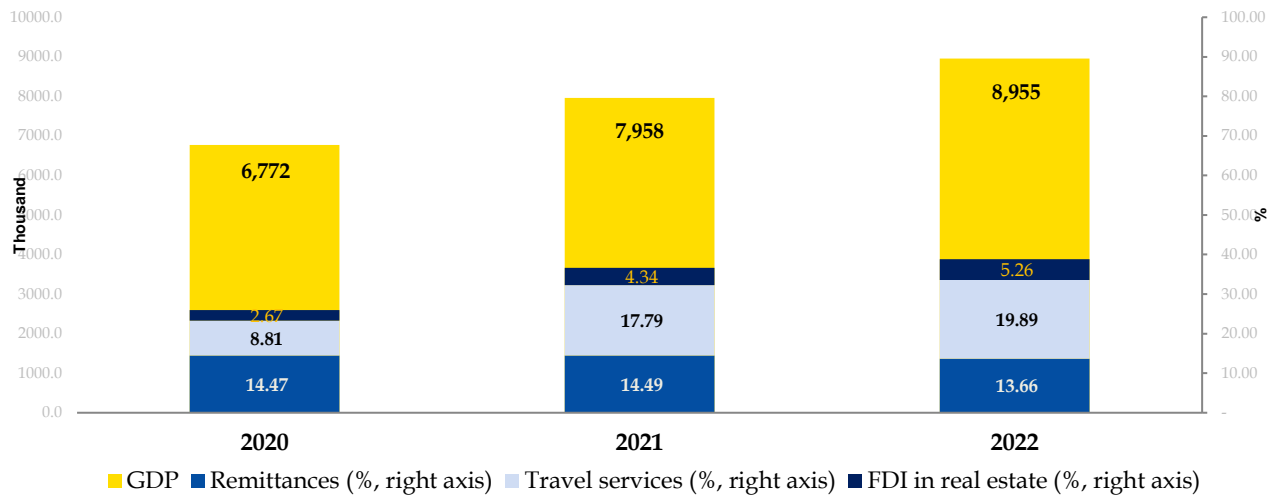
Figure 22: Travel services for visitors



Source: CBK,

The importance of the diaspora can also be seen from the percentage of participation in the gross domestic product where remittances comprise 13.7% of GDP, diaspora travel services comprise 19.9% and percentage of FDI participation on real estate amounts to 5.3%, as presented in Figure 23. Given that the amount of these three components constitute about 39% of the gross domestic product, migration revenues are a significant factor to enable the country's domestic consumption (consumption plus investments) and help the local production grow.

Figure 23: General revenues from the Diaspora



Source:

CBK,

8. International Protection

Department for Asylum /DCAM, is the responsible authority for the development of the asylum procedures. Asylum procedure in Kosovo is regulated by law No. 06/L-026 on Asylum, which regulates the conditions and procedures for granting the status of refugee, subsidiary protection, temporary protection, the status, as well as the rights and obligations of asylum seekers, the persons with refugee status and persons who are granted subsidiary protection and temporary protection.

8.1. Policies and legislation

During 2022, by-laws and guiding documents in the area of asylum were drafted, as follows:

- The Ex-post Evaluation of Law No. 06/L-026 on Asylum was adopted;
- The Guidelines for the Prevention of, Risk Mitigation and Response to Gender Based Violence in the mixed migration context in Kosovo was adopted.

8.2 Asylum seekers in Kosovo / Statistics

In 2022, there were 550 applicants for international protection in the Republic of Kosovo, 504 (91.6%) of them were males and 46 (8.3%) females.

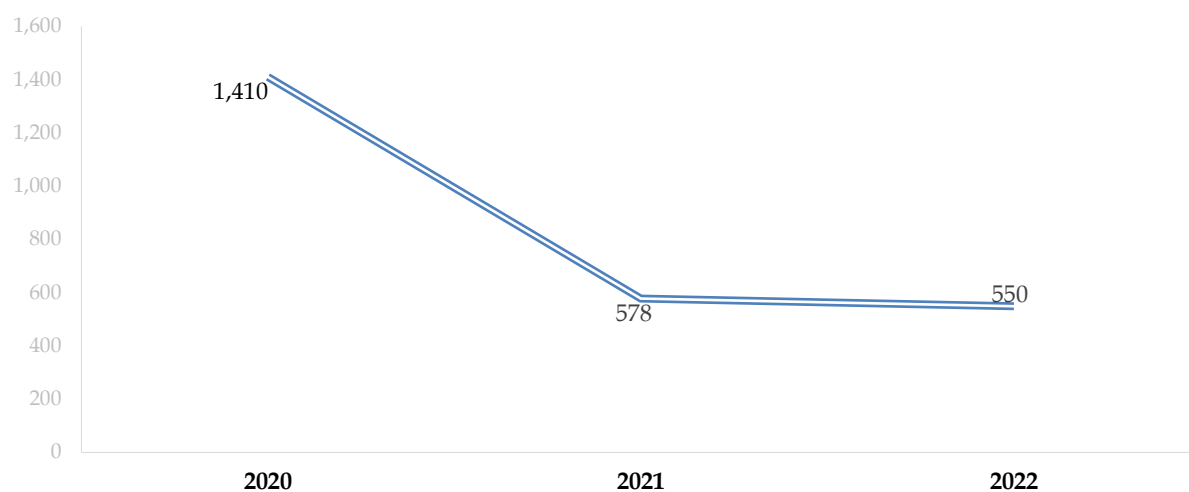
The leading country in terms of the number of applicants is Morocco with 186 (34%), followed by Syria with 175 (32%), Afghanistan with 46 (8.3%), Algeria with 23 (4.1%), Turkey with 22 (4.2%), Egypt with 20 (3.6%), Palestine with 16 (3%) and other countries³³ with 62 (11.2%).

The high number of applications for asylum from the state of Morocco, according to a brief analysis, is the result of the unstable economic situation and this is confirmed by the statements of the applicants, since in the applications they emphasized the economic reason that affected leaving of the country of origin.

Likewise, the most represented age group is 18-34 with 413 (75%) persons, age group 35-64 with 69 (12.5%), age group 0-13 with 36 (6.5%), age group 14-17 with 31 (5.6%) and age group 65+ with 1 person.

³³ [Rap.i shkurtër vjetor 2022 ALB..pdf \(rks-gov.net\)](#)

Figure 24: Number of asylum seekers by years



Source: DCAM/MIA

From the total number of applicants for international protection for 2022, there were 485 (88.1%) adults, 42 (7.6%) children and 23 (4.2%) unaccompanied children.

By gender, males dominate with 501 (91%), while females are represented by 48 (8.7%).

Table 10: Number of decisions by status for 2022

ACCORDING TO DECISION STATUS	NO. OF DECISIONS
Termination of the procedure	459
Termination of the voluntary procedure	24
Temporary protection	16
Decision: Rejection	11
Refugee status	4
Subsidiary protection	4
Rejection under the accelerated procedure	3
Total	521

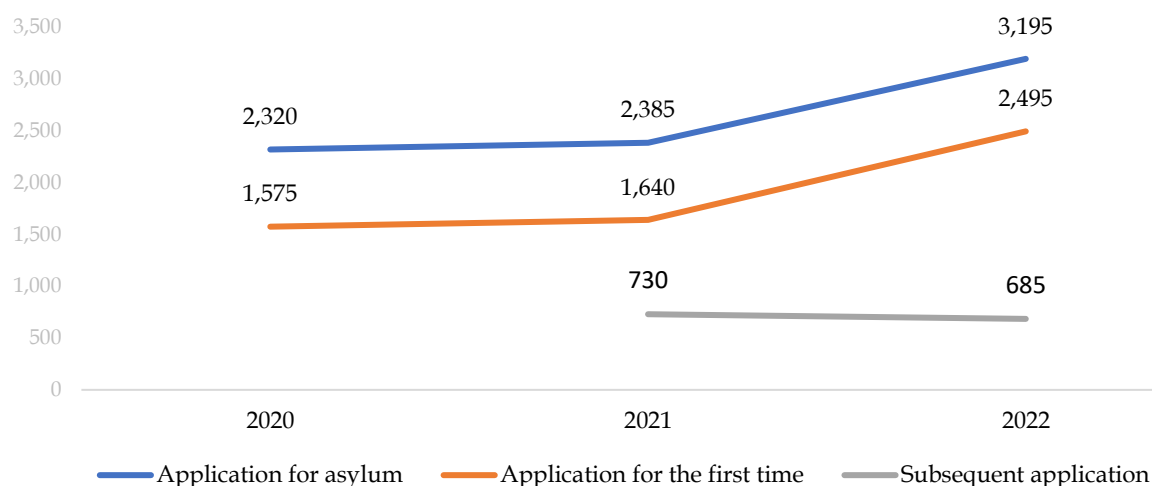
Source: DCAM/MIA

According to these data, the largest stock of asylum applications is in the termination of the procedure for reasons unknown to the decision-making authorities for this status. According to past experience, 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.

8.3 Kosovo asylum seekers in the EU member states and the Schengen area

In 2021, the number of Kosovar applicants for the first time³⁴ for asylum, in the EU member states and the Schengen area, was 2,495³⁵ persons. Compared to the total number of asylum applicants³⁶, 3,195, it was 700 or 28% lower. Data for the number of first-time applicants in 2022 (2,495), show that there was an increase of about 52%, compared with the year 2021 (1,640 persons). According to the data for the last two years, 2021 and 2022, a total of 1,415 Kosovar citizens have made a subsequent application for asylum.

Figure 25: Kosovar asylum seekers in EU and Schengen area countries



Source: Eurostat

In the period 2020-2022, there was a total of 85 applications in EU member states and the Schengen area by Kosovar asylum seekers who are considered unaccompanied minors³⁷.

³⁴A **first-time applicant** for international protection (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 certain Member State. The term "first time" does not imply time limits and therefore a person can be registered as a first time applicant only if he or she has never applied for international protection in the reporting state in the past, regardless of the fact that he or she has applied in another Member State of the European Union.

³⁵https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databroeser/vieë/MIGR_ASYAPPCTZA/default/table?lang=en, last update, 02/06/2023 23:00

³⁶**Applicant for asylum** refers to a third-country national or stateless person who has submitted an application for international protection or who is included in such an application as a family member in relation to which a final decision has not yet been taken during reference period.

³⁷https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databroeser/vieë/MIGR_ASYUNAA/default/table?lang=en, last update, 16/05/2023 23:00

During this period, the largest number of asylum applications from unaccompanied minors³⁸ was recorded in 2021 (30) and in 2022 (20). The males predominated with 89% compared to the females with 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%.

The destination of Kosovar first-time applicants during 2022, was France with 1,415 (57%), registered applicants, a country that remains the main destination even in previous years. The next destination was Italy 530 (21.2%), Germany 230 (9.2%), Belgium 85 (3.4%), Switzerland 45 (1.8%) and other countries with 165 (6.6%).

Subsequent application

Starting in 2021, Eurostat for the first time collects statistics on subsequent applicants (persons who reapplied for asylum after a decision on a previous application was made)³⁹.

According to the data for the last two years, 2021 and 2022, a total of 1,415 Kosovar citizens have made a subsequent application for asylum.

Asylum applications in the United Kingdom

Since 2020, data on the number of asylum seekers in the United Kingdom⁴⁰ are not published in the EUROSTAT databases.

The number of Kosovars who applied for asylum in the the United Kingdom, during the years 2020 - 2022, was in total 82 persons. By gender, the data show that mainly males consisted about 83% of those who applied for asylum in comparison with the females which constituted 13%. By age, the 30-49 age group led with 49%, 18-29 years with 45%, under 18 years with 4% and 50-69 years with 2%.

Figure 26 shows the number of initial decisions for Kosovar asylum seekers to the United Kingdom in percentage. During the reference period for Kosovar asylum seekers in the United Kingdom, 30 initial asylum decisions were issued. Half of the requests or 50%, for Kosovar

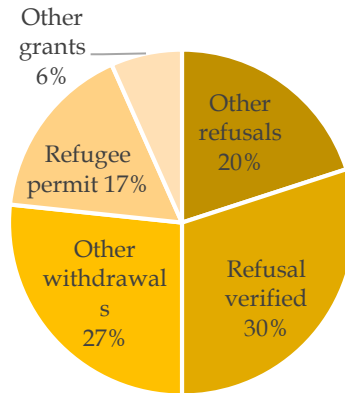
³⁸An unaccompanied minor is a person under the age of 18 who arrives on the territory of an EU Member State, and is unaccompanied by an adult responsible for the minor or a minor who was left unaccompanied after having entered the territory of an EU Member State.

³⁹**Subsequent application** - means a subsequent 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 refused a request after its implied withdrawal in accordance with Article 2, q) and Article 28 (1) of DIRECTIVE 2013/32/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL dated 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection.

⁴⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>,

asylum seekers were rejected, 23% received a positive response, while other withdrawals of requests were 27%.

Figure 26: Initial decisions for Kosovar asylum seekers in the United Kingdom (%)



Source: Home Office Immigration System Statistics

Division according to the status of the initial decision of Kosovar asylum seekers (in persons): 5 refugee status⁴¹, 2 other grants, 9 certified refusals⁴², 6 other rejections⁴³ and 8 other withdrawals⁴⁴.

⁴¹Refugee 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.

⁴²An asylum application is validated when the request is "clearly unfounded". This means that the asylum seeker cannot, in any legitimate way, qualify for refugee status, Humanitarian Protection, Discretionary Leave or permit to remain under family or private life rules.

⁴³Rejections of claims when the asylum seeker does not meet the conditions for refugee status, humanitarian protection, discretionary leave or permit to remain under family or private life rules.

⁴⁴An asylum application can be withdrawn explicitly (ie if the applicant signs an application withdrawal form), or withdrawn if the applicant leaves the UK before a decision.

9. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1. Conclusions

During 2022, the statistics published by KAS confirm a large number of our citizens who have emigrated, mainly to EU countries, where compared to 2021, there is a decrease of 3%. This trend of emigration of the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo on a regular basis also results in a significant decrease in irregular emigration, where this is attributed to the demand for labour force, especially among migrants.

The irregular immigration of foreigners in the Republic of Kosovo marked a downward trend even during 2022. Even in spite of this downward trend, the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo have continued with the expansion of the reception and accommodation capacities for irregular immigrants, as well as the Temporary Reception Centre for Migrants has been operationalized.

Meanwhile, during this year we notice a growing trend in regular immigration and this is due to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania on the Facilitation of Procedures and Conditions for Obtaining Temporary Residence Permits, for 2022 for the citizens of Albania.

The diaspora's contribution to the socio-economic development of the country remains irreplaceable, and 2022 marks a record increase in remittances, the diaspora tourism category, as well as FDI, most of which is estimated to be invested by our diaspora members. This growing trend of the contribution of the diaspora also reflects the need to develop policies aimed at strengthening the connecting bridges between the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, the community in general and the various mechanisms representing the diaspora and their interests.

9.2. Recommendations

1. Advance the systems that contain migration data and statistics and update their exchange in order to analyse the prevention of abuse of the visa liberalization process.
2. Capacity building for responsible officials in topics related to migration, demography and analysis development.
3. Create a module in BMS that enables the registration of the diaspora during visits to Kosovo (for statistical purposes).
4. It is recommended that the Government draft policies aimed at promoting investments from the diaspora (Strategic Investments Law, New Diaspora Strategy, etc.) - shifting the consumption of remittances in the interest of investments in new businesses.
5. It is recommended to explore the options of establishing the Unemployment Fund.
6. It is recommended to generate statistics related to businesses with registered foreign owners (by sector).
7. It is recommended to carry out a local labour market needs assessment for the purpose of the annual quota.