



**Republika e Kosovës**  
**Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo**  
*Qeveria - Vlada - Government*

# **REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO**

Extended Migration Profile

2013 – 2017

**GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY FOR MIGRATION**

**Pristina**  
**December 2018**

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*Contact:*  
Government Authority for Migration  
Government of the Republic of Kosovo  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
*Tel:* + 381 (0)38 200 19 545  
[www.mpb.rks-gov.net](http://www.mpb.rks-gov.net)  
*Address:* Luan Haradinaj Street 13  
10000 Pristina, Republic of Kosovo

## FOREWORD

The development of migration profiles by government authorities since 2012 is a result of requirements deriving from the visa liberalization process as well as those pertaining to EU integration. For addressing this requirement, an inter-institutional mechanism, formalized through a Government Decision in 2013 as Government Authority for Migration (GAM), developed 3 extended migration profiles as well as 3 light migration profiles. The Extended Migration Profile 2013-2017 is the fourth of its type, which is updated every five years.

The development of migration profiles is an integral part of GAMs work. Over the years, the drafting of these documents presented a major part of the work and enhanced over time, as did the work of the authority in the collection of data related to migration. It also responds to the need to follow migration trends of the country.

This document was prepared by GAM and its development was coordinated by the National Coordinator for Migration. GAMs member institutions as well as other institutions that contributed to the drafting of this document are as follows:

- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Diaspora and Strategic Investments
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of European Integration
- Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
- Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Ministry of Economic Development
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Local Government Administration
- Ministry of Communities and Return
- Office for Strategic Planning/Office of the Prime Minister
- Kosovo Agency of Statistics
- Central Bank of Kosovo
- Kosovo Police

International organizations supporting the process of drafting this document are the following:

- IOM – International Organization for Migration
- UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- ICMPD – International Centre for Migration Policy Development
- EULEX – EU Mission in Kosovo

## ABSTRACT

The Extended Migration Profile 2013-2017 was drafted by the Government Authority for Migration (GAM) as an inter-institutional mechanism established by Government Decision of the Republic of Kosovo.

This is the fourth profile of its kind with analytical elements and following a comprehensive approach. Its structure and methodology are in line with international guidelines for the drafting of extended migration profiles.

The purpose of this document is to present an analysis of migration trends, as well as its impact on various sectors and on the socio-economic development of the country. The document mainly covers data pertaining to the period of 2013-2017 and provides forecasts for the upcoming years. The document is an important source both for policy and for decision makers for drafting policies and strategies which are related to the area of migration. Profiles of such format are drafted for 5-year periods and contain data and statistics provided by local as well as EU institutions. Almost all international data (mainly related to emigration) used for drafting this profile are generated by EU mechanisms.

The data presented in this document are administrative and annual statistical data collected by official institutions which are directly or indirectly linked to migration issues in the country.

The Extended Migration Profile 2013-2017 is divided in five chapters and illustrated with tables and figures. For comparison purposes, it is structured similarly to the previous profiles, with some small adaptations.

This document will be published in three languages (Albanian, Serbian, and English). In addition to hard copy, it will be available electronically on the official website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>AGNI</b>	Available Gross National Income
<b>BCP</b>	Border Crossing Point
<b>BP</b>	Border Police
<b>CMS</b>	Case Management System
<b>CRA</b>	Civil Registration Agency
<b>DCAM</b>	Department for Citizenship, Asylum and Migration
<b>DIMAK</b>	German Information Center for Migration, Vocational Training and Career
<b>DMF</b>	Directorate for Migration and Foreigners
<b>DPR</b>	Displaced Persons in the Region
<b>DRC</b>	Danish Refugee Council
<b>DRRP</b>	Department for Reintegration of Repatriated Persons
<b>EARK</b>	Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo
<b>ECTS</b>	European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System
<b>EFTA</b>	European Free Trade Area
<b>EMIS</b>	Education Management Information System
<b>ERP</b>	Economic Reform Programme
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EULEX</b>	European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo
<b>EUROSTAT</b>	European Statistics Agency
<b>FDI</b>	Foreign Direct Investment
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GRR</b>	Gross Registration Rate
<b>IBM</b>	Integrated Border Management
<b>ICMPD</b>	International Center for Migration Policy Development
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Persons
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>ISCED</b>	The International Standard Classification of Education
<b>KAS</b>	Kosovo Agency for Statistics
<b>KVIS</b>	Kosovo Visa Information System
<b>LMS</b>	Labour Market Survey
<b>MAFRD</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
<b>MARRI</b>	Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative
<b>MCR</b>	Ministry of Communities and Return
<b>MDSI</b>	Ministry of Diaspora and Strategic Investment
<b>MED</b>	Ministry of Economic Development
<b>MESP</b>	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
<b>MEST</b>	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
<b>MF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MFA</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>MH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MIA</b>	Ministry of Internal Affairs
<b>MLGA</b>	Ministry of Local Government Administration
<b>MLSW</b>	Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare

<b>MTEF</b>	Mid Term Expenditure Framework
<b>MTI</b>	Ministry of Trade and Industry
<b>SEC</b>	Socio-Economic Council
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNHCR</b>	UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>USA</b>	United States of America
<b>VTC</b>	Vocational Training Center

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## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

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



**Region:** Southeast Europe

**Latitude:** 41° 51' 21 and 43° 16'

**Longitude:** 19° 59' and 21° 47'

**Official Name:** Republic of Kosovo

**Capital City:** Pristina

**Borderline Length:** Republic of Albania in the southwest 113.551 km, Republic of Macedonia in the south 170.772 km, Republic of Montenegro to the northwest 79.165 km and the Republic of Serbia to the north and east 380.068 km. The Republic of Kosovo's borderline with neighbouring countries mainly stretches through mountains and has a natural character, with an overall length of the border of 743.556 km<sup>1</sup>.

**Area<sup>2</sup>:** 10,908 km<sup>2</sup>

**Neighbouring Countries:** Republic of Albania, Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Republic of Serbia

**Population:** 1,798,506 (estimated in 2017)

**Population density:** 164 residents per 1 km<sup>2</sup>

**Ethnic Groups:** Albanians 91.1%; others 8.9% (2017)

**Form of Government:** Parliamentary Republic

**Currency:** Euro (EUR)

**Independence Day:** 17 February 2008

**President:** Mr. Hashim Thaçi

<sup>1</sup>National Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo on Integrated Border Management, [http://www.mpb-ks.org/repository/docs/ALB\\_Strategjia\\_Kombetare\\_MIK\\_2013-2018\\_12.07.2013.pdf](http://www.mpb-ks.org/repository/docs/ALB_Strategjia_Kombetare_MIK_2013-2018_12.07.2013.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Idem

# PART A: INTRODUCTION

## A 1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

The European Commission proposed in its Statement on Migration and Development of 2005 that the Migration Profile should aim at collecting data on 'issues that are related to the situation of labor market, unemployment rate, labor demand and supply, current local and potential capacities according to sectors and professions, vocational training needs in the country, migration trends, financial income and outcome related to migration, including remittances, as well as relevant gender aspects and those related to minors'<sup>3</sup>.

In line with the requirements deriving from the visa liberalization process and in line with the EU integration process, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo started as of 2012 drafting on an annual basis migration profiles as part of the inter-institutional work of the Government Authority for Migration.

The Extended Migration Profile 2013-2017 is a comprehensive and an analytical document that contains data and trend analysis in the area of migration (emigration and immigration). The purpose of this document is to serve among others as an analysis of the current situation for drafting the National Migration Strategy 2019-2023 and other policy documents.

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<sup>3</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions: Migration and Development: Some concrete orientations, COM (2005) 390, p. 37, annex 8

## A 2. BRIEF HISTORY OF MIGRATION IN KOSOVO

Despite restrictions on free movement within the Schengen Area (lack of visa liberalization), Kosovos population continues to emigrate, though with a considerable decline in 2017 compared to previous years.

Based on data published by the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS), it is estimated that the number of Kosovo emigrants in 2017 was 11,263 persons, including regular and irregular emigrants.

The majority of emigrants in 2017 were regular emigrants. The reasons for regular emigration were as follows: family reunion, marriage, employment, permanent migration (mainly to the neighboring countries), study, etc. Also, during 2013-2017 a considerable number of people emigrated applying for asylum (*first time applicants*) in the EU, including the EFTA countries. In addition to EU and EFTA countries, a number of Kosovars emigrated to other countries, mainly to the US, Canada and other countries<sup>4</sup>.

The number of the emigrated population of Kosovo and those of Kosovo origin (1969-2011) is estimated at 703,978 persons while in 2017 this number is estimated to be 833,739 persons.

After 2011 those who emigrated were mainly people belonging to the 25-44 age group, which dominated with 43.92% of the emigrant population (*key reproduction age group in terms of fertility and labor force*), while the 21-27 age group made up 27.53%. It is interesting to note that during this period (2011-2017) persons beyond labor age (*over 65*) comprised a considerable number of emigrants with 3.6% while during 1969-2011 this age group made up only 1.3% of Kosovo emigrants. Based on the available data, Kosovo emigrants (2011-2017) mainly emigrated to Germany, and recently to France, Italy and Scandinavian countries.

Despite the considerable emigration, a small number of those who emigrated many years ago had returned to Kosovo.

Based on data provided by the Kosovo Agency of Statistics, a total of 5,832 persons emigrated in 2017.

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<sup>4</sup> The EMP 2013-2017 does not have official data published for USA and Canada.



According to 2011 census data for the 1969-2011 period, and according to the population estimation (2011-2017) there were 180,242 immigrants (returnees) or around 10% of the resident population of Kosovo. Around 98% of the returnees held Kosovo citizenship and thus the majority of immigrants are Kosovars returning to their country of origin.

## PART B: SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT OF MIGRATION

### B 1. KOSOVO POPULATION

The overall resident population<sup>5</sup> of Kosovo was estimated in 2017 at 1,798,506<sup>6</sup> inhabitants. Compared to 2016 there was a growth of the population by 0.83%. This population growth was impacted by the natural growth and the low international net migration.

#### B 1.1. BASIC DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

From the beginning of 2013 until the end of 2017, the population of Kosovo had a natural growth of 108,833 inhabitants, while the emigration trend had a continuous growth until 2016, with a considerable decline of emigration afterwards.

Table 1: Demographic indicators for 2013-2017

Demographic indicators	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Population	1,820,631	1,804,944	1,771,604	1,783,531	1,798,506
Nativity	29,723	32,087	31,116	30,069	30,025
Mortality	8,317	8,165	8,884	9,202	9,619
Natural growth	21,406	23,922	22,232	20,867	20,406
Nativity rate (per mill.)	16.3	17.8	17.6	16.9	16.7
Mortality rate	4.6	4.5	5.0	5.2	5.3
Immigration	3,864	5,724	18,862	13,072	5,832
Emigration	20,246	45,333	74,434	22,012	11,263
Net migration	-16,382	-39,609	-55,572	-8,940	-5,431
Absolute growth	5,024	-15,687	-33,340.0	11,927	14,975
Growth as %	0.3	-0.9	-1.9	0.7	0.8
Urban	38.9	39.0	38.9	38.8	38.3
Rural	61.1	61.1	61.1	61.2	61.7
Average age	30.6	30.8	30.2	30.4	30.2
Life expectancy	76.8	76.8	76.7	76.7	76.7

Source: KAS

<sup>5</sup> 'Resident population' – is considered the population that has resided for an interrupted period of time at their regular residence for more than 12 months, or arrived at that residence during 12 months in order to stay there for more than a year; source: **KOSOVO MIGRATION**, Pristina, April 2014, page 14: <http://ask.rks-gov.net/media/1379/migrimi-kosovar-2014.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Assessment, Kosovo Population 2017, page 9, table 2: Pristina, June 2018: <http://ask.rks-gov.net/media/3385/vleresimi-i-popullise-se-kosoves-2017.pdf>

During 2014 and 2015 there was a concerning emigration trend, reaching a number of over 119,000 emigrants<sup>7</sup>. The emigration during the five-year period between 2013-2017 was 173,288 inhabitants, the immigration reached 47,354 inhabitants, and thus the net migration was 125,934 inhabitants.

The high emigration during the above mentioned years will have an impact on the population structure, on its vitality which will become evident in the coming years as it is estimated that the biggest part of emigration involved young age groups, mainly between 25-44 years old (fertile age), who made up 47.2% of the emigrant population<sup>8</sup>, causing, according to the MICS survey (Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey 2013-2014), a decline of fertility from 3 children per female in 2003 to 2.3 children per female in 2014.

Kosovo is characterized by a very young population structure, with the average age being 30.2 years and an average life expectancy estimated 76.7 years in 2011.

The percentage of population living in rural areas in 2011 was 61.7%, while those living in urban areas made up 38.3%.

## B 1.2. MIGRATION FLOWS AND STOCKS

### B 1.2.1. MIGRATION FLOWS

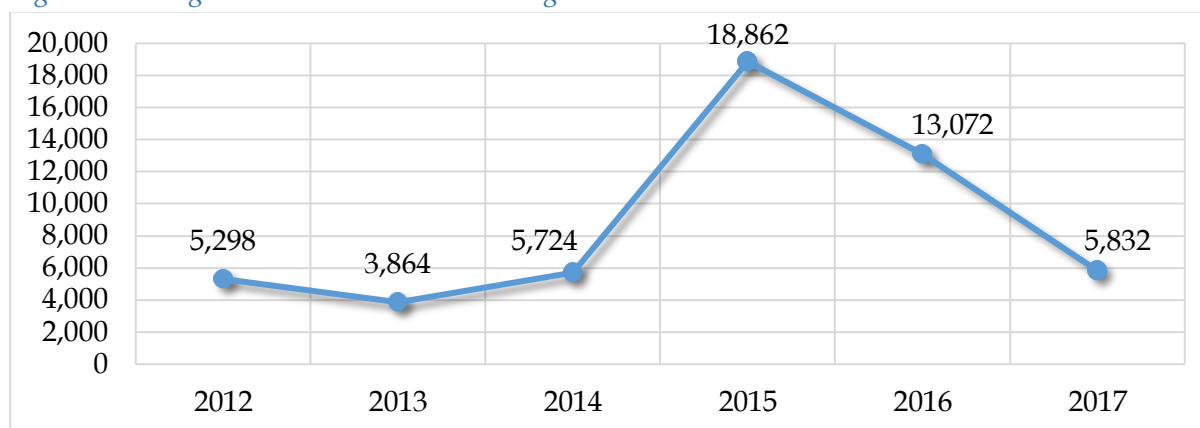
#### **Immigration**

The data pertaining to the 2013-2017 period show that a considerable number of those who immigrated during this period of time were Kosovars with an annual average of 9,471 persons or 0.52% of population within a year.

---

<sup>8</sup> KOSOVO MIGRATION, Pristina, April, 2014, page 23: <http://ask.rks-gov.net/media/1379/migrimi-kosovar-2014.pdf>

Figure 1: Immigration trend in Kosovo during 2013-2017



Source: KAS

The total number of immigrants<sup>9</sup> during 2017 estimated by the Kosovo Agency of Statistics was 5,832 persons<sup>10</sup> or 0.32% of the total resident population. This number covers all immigrants (Kosovars and non-Kosovars) regardless of the reason of immigration to Kosovo. The vast majority of them are returning Kosovo citizens.

### Emigration

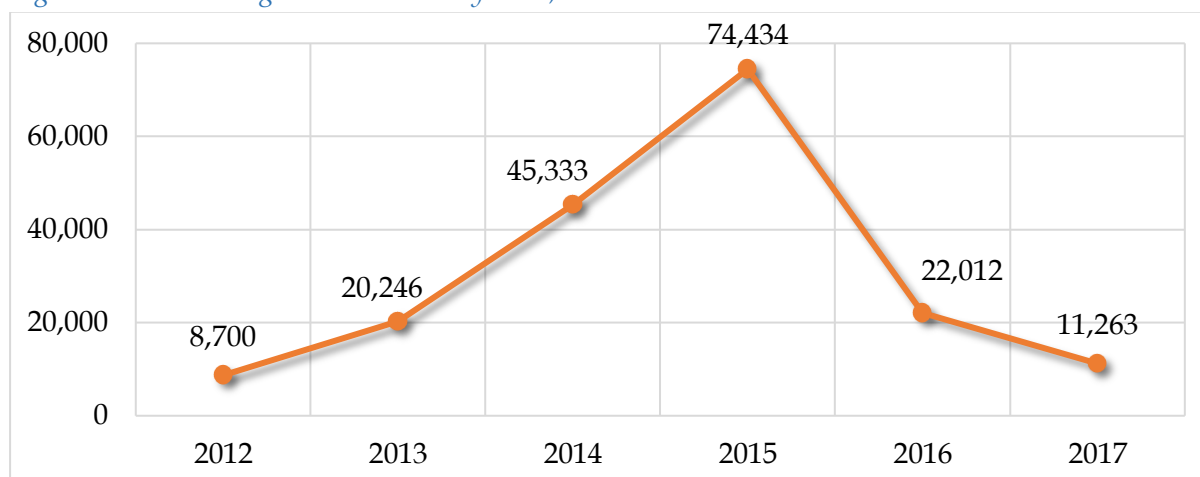
The number of Kosovar emigrants during 2017, as estimated by the Kosovo Agency of Statistics, was 11,263 persons<sup>11</sup> or 0.62% of the total resident population. This number covers all emigrants to the EU, emigrants to EFTA countries as well as a number of Kosovars who emigrated to the USA, Canada and other countries.

<sup>9</sup> This number covers voluntary returnees / readmitted and repatriated persons, the number of asylum seekers of Kosovo who acquired residence permit for more than one year in Kosovo

<sup>10</sup> Assessment, Kosovo Population 2017, page 9, table 2: Pristina, June 2018: <http://ask.rks-gov.net/media/3385/vleresimi-i-popullsisë-se-kosoves-2017.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Assessment, Kosovo Population 2017, page 9, table 2: Pristina, June 2018: <http://ask.rks-gov.net/media/3385/vleresimi-i-popullsisë-se-kosoves-2017.pdf>

Figure 2: Kosovo emigration assessed by KAS, 2013-2017



Source: KAS

The data pertaining to 2013-2017 show that Kosovo continues to feature a high emigration rate with an annual average during this period of 34,658 persons or 1.92% of the Kosovo population.

### B 1.2.2. MIGRATION STOCKS

The baseline (stock) for migration flows is obtained from official data published by the Kosovo Agency of Statistics.

The baseline (stock) for migration flows is obtained from official data published by the Kosovo Agency for Statistics. According to 'Kosovo Migration'<sup>12</sup>, a 2014 publication by this agency, and based on data from 2011 (April 1) over 550,000 Kosovars have emigrated from Kosovo since 1969, while the estimated population of Kosovar origin, including those born outside of Kosovo is, as of April 1, 2011, estimated to be 703,978 persons.

#### Immigration Stocks

It is estimated that over 7.5% of the population or more than 128,000 Kosovo residents at least once stayed abroad for a certain period of time (usually more than one year) from 1969 to April 1, 2011. The biggest portion of migration took place during 1999-2000 when a vast number of Kosovars returned voluntarily to live in Kosovo following its liberation. Also,

<sup>12</sup> KOSOVO MIGRATION, Pristina, April 2014, page 76: <http://ask.rks-gov.net/media/1379/migrimi-kosovar-2014.pdf>

2015 and 2016 were years with the highest number of Kosovo immigrants, which is a result of the vast emigration that took place during 2014 and 2015.

*Table 2: Migration stocks and flows in absolute and relative numbers, 2013-2017*

Year	Total population	Immigration stock (absolute number)	Stock (percentage)
2013	1,820,631	10,410	0.57
2014	1,804,944	16,134	0.89
2015	1,771,604	34,996	1.98
2016	1,783,531	48,068	2.70
2017	1,798,506	53,900	3.00

Source: KAS

### Emigration stocks

It is estimated that during the 5-year period of 2013-2017 over 173,000 people or more than 9% of the population of the Republic of Kosovo emigrated.

*Table 3: Emigration stocks and flows in absolute and relative numbers, 2013-2017*

Year	Total population	Emigration stock (absolute number)	Stock (percentage)
2013	1,820,631	28,946	1.59
2014	1,804,944	74,279	4.12
2015	1,771,604	148,713	8.39
2016	1,783,531	170,725	9.57
2017	1,798,506	181,988	10.10

Source: KAS

### Net immigration stock

During 2013-2017 over 47,000 persons immigrated to Kosovo (mainly Kosovar returnees) while over 173,000 people emigrated, which is why Kosovos population experienced a decline of over 126,000 people during this period.

Table 4: Emigration stocks and migration flows in absolute and relative numbers, 2013-2017

Year	Total population	Immigration flows (absolute numbers)	Emigration flows (absolute numbers)	Net emigration flows in years	Net migration stocks (absolute numbers)	Net stock (in relation to population distribution)
2013	1,820,631	3,864	20,246	-16,382	724,187	39.78%
2014	1,804,944	5,724	45,333	-39,609	763,796	42.32%
2015	1,771,604	18,862	74,434	-55,572	819,368	46.25%
2016	1,783,531	13,072	22,012	-8,940	828,308	46.44%
2017	1,798,506	5,832	11,263	-5,431	833,739	46.36%

Source: KAS

The population of Kosovo origin living abroad (diaspora) in 2017 is estimated to be 833,739 people which equals 46.36% of the population which lives in Kosovo.

It should be noted that Kosovo is recently facing emigration of all population groups, especially emigration of those Kosovars with a higher educational level. Emigration is taking place as a result of better career opportunities and socio-economic conditions in the countries of destination, as is the case for example for doctors emigrating to Germany. In light of this, Kosovo is gradually facing so called 'Brain Drain'.

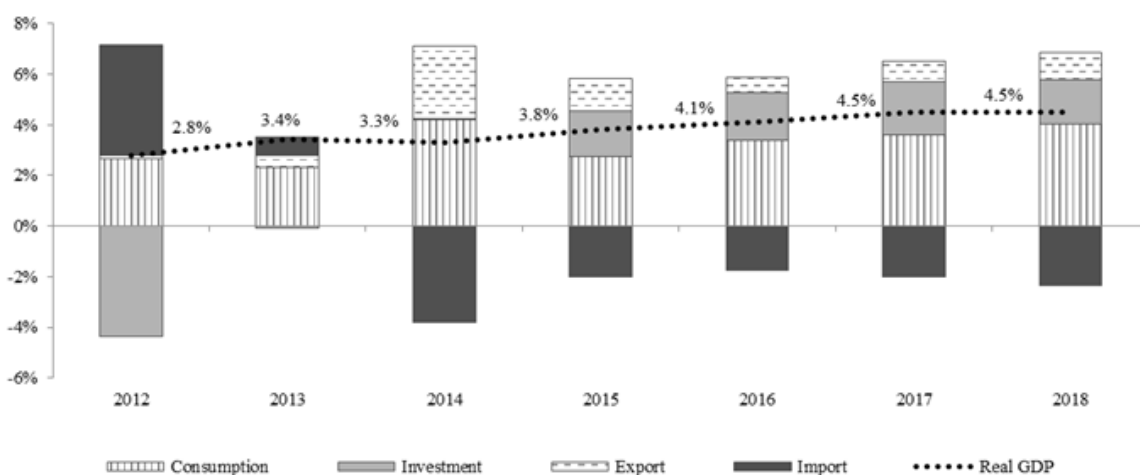
## B 2. RECENT MACROECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo remains committed to fostering a sustainable macroeconomic environment, improvement of economic growth and a better employment perspective. The overall framework of the Economic Reform Program (ERP) is a combination of: (1) fiscal policies based on rules directed towards stability of public finances within the available financial space, supporting economic growth through capital investments, increased financing of priority areas, and tax incentives for local producers; and (2) structural reforms which address the main barriers to economic growth, supporting

the development of competitive economic sectors and ensuring that the economic growth is comprehensive and aims at the enhancement of welfare<sup>13</sup>.

There has been a continuous economic growth during the reporting period – from 2013 when it was 3.4% to 2017, when it reached 4.5% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). During 2014, the biggest contributor to the economic growth was consume. On the other hand, the GDP growth during 2017 came as a result of growth of exports and investments, with the export of services at its core. The nominal values, in millions of euros of the GDP for 2016 respectively 2017 were 6.070 respectively 6.345 (see Table 1 in Annex).

Figure 3: Real GDP growth, forecast and participation per component 2012-2018



Source: KAS and calculations of Macroeconomic Unit, MF

It may be concluded that the growth of consume together with the growth of export of services and investments were the biggest contributors to the growth of the GDP, also getting support from remittances.

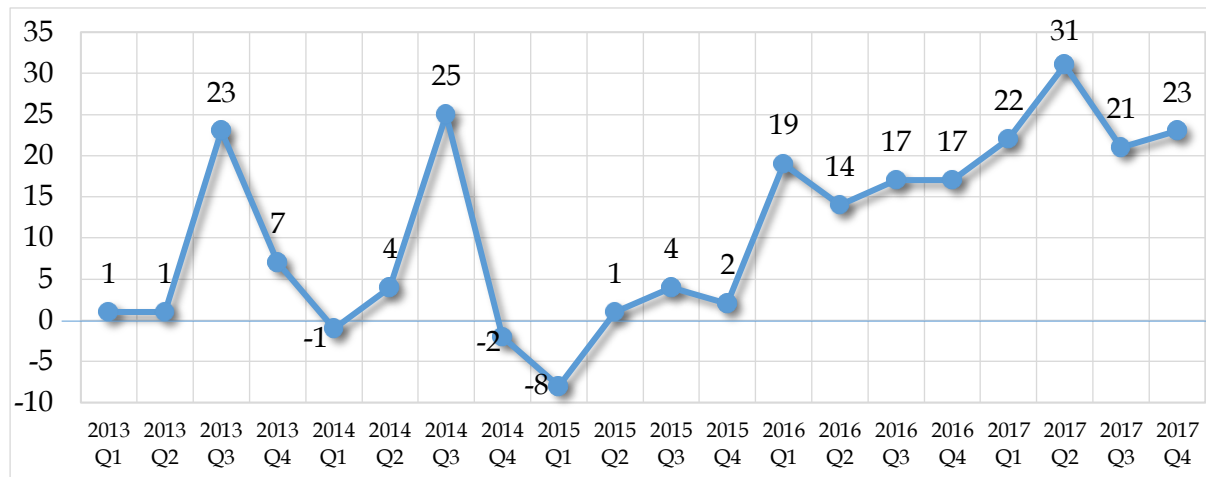
According to a study related to the business climate carried out with businesses from five economic sectors, the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce carried out an assessment of the current economic situation of businesses, as well as their expectations for the near future.

<sup>13</sup> Economic Reforms Program - PRE 2018 in Albanian, link: <https://mf.rks-gov.net/desk/inc/media/3A3F7868-9B7F-4-5C6-9826-189C0629CEDD.pdf>



The main findings of this study are that the general environment of doing business is considered favorable for Kosovo businesses. It is considered that the increased partnership between the business community and the government, respectively between the Kosovo Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Finance and the orientation of the latter in favor of businesses, has created a better and a more favorable environment for doing business in the country.

Figure 4: Business climate indicator (BCI), assessment of current situation: Balance



Source: Kosovo Chamber of Commerce<sup>14</sup>

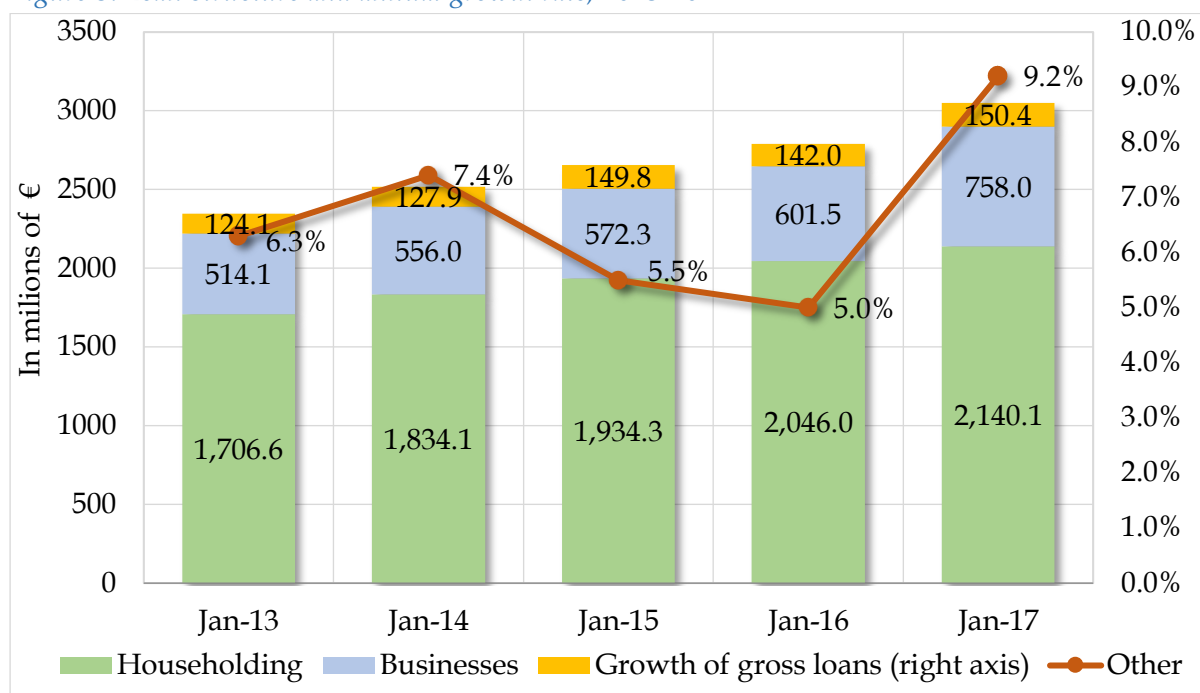
## B 2.1. FINANCIAL SECTOR

The financial sector in Kosovo continued to grow during 2017 as well. The total number of assets in the financial sector had an annual growth of 10.5%, and until September 2017 it reached 5.77 billion euros (around 90% of the GDP). Banks make up 66.1% of the total number of assets in the financial sector, followed by pension funds (27.5%), microfinance institutions and non-bank financial institutions (3.2%), and insurance companies (3%).

Banking sector assets continue to be dominated by foreign banking assets which make up 88.3% of the overall banking sector assets.

<sup>14</sup> Business climate in Kosovo, fourth quarter findings 2017, OEK February, 2018, link [http://www.oek-kcc.org/uploads/files/2018/May/24/Klima\\_e\\_Biznesit\\_n\\_Kosov1527168678.pdf](http://www.oek-kcc.org/uploads/files/2018/May/24/Klima_e_Biznesit_n_Kosov1527168678.pdf)

Figure 5: Loan structure and annual growth rate, 2013-2017



Source: CBK

### Fiscal framework – policy strategy and medium-term objectives

The Government of Kosovo continues following a conservative strategy in its macroeconomic policy, aiming at low level budget deficits that allow for sufficient budget reserves and avoid extensive accumulation of public budget. The aim of this strategy is to preserve a sustainable macro-fiscal environment that favors economic growth incited by the private sector.

The operational guiding principle of this strategy is to preserve and further develop the fiscal framework based on fiscal rules, including those that require: budget revisions which have neutral impact on the deficit, cutback of the budget deficit to 2% of the GDP, ratio of budget reserves of 4.5% of GDP, and keeping public salaries constant in relation to the nominal GDP and a debt ceiling of 40% of the GDP. These rules ensure the preservation of macro-fiscal stability in the process of budget development and budget execution. In addition to rules which limit the expenses and the increase of debt in line with the key economic dynamics of the country, the Government will preserve the flexibility of policies in order to tackle the key shortages of public infrastructure. Exemption of deficit limit in cases of capital projects financed through long-term loans and concessions, of those financed by

asset liquidations of public enterprises, provides enough space to tackle these shortages within a careful and a genuine fiscal framework.

In this strategic context, the medium-term fiscal objectives of the Government are as follows:

- Keep high level of capital investments as part of general expenditures in order to address structural barriers and increase competitiveness by enhancing public infrastructure;
- Rationalize operational expenditures and create space to increase the financing and the effectiveness of justice, health and education institutions;
- Set up concessional financing of foreign debt for strategic capital investment projects;
- Improve the effectiveness of social expenditures and agricultural subsidies by improved targeting and by testing the opportunities within the framework of running costs;
- Mobilize income by expanding the tax basis instead of increasing statutory tax rate;
- Stimulate export and substitute imports by exempting domestic producers from indirect taxes;
- Simplify administrative taxes and reduce regulatory barriers.

### **Macroeconomic medium-term scenario**

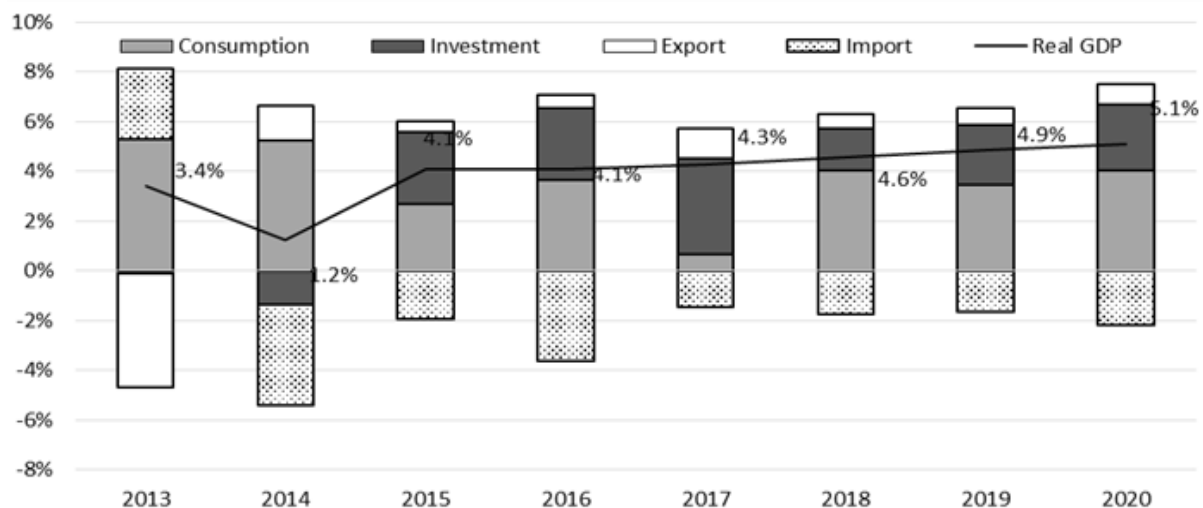
The macroeconomic medium-term scenario 2018-2020 represents a forecast which is mainly in line with the forecast revision for the region, the EU and the global economy in general. The real economic growth for 2018 is expected to be 4.6%. This is based on positive considerations in terms of the growth of export and investments, while the growth of consumption is expected to be the main contributor to this growth.

While consumption, which is mainly led by primary and secondary income, is expected to be the main incentive of growth during the medium-term period, the role of investments as an accelerator of growth is expected to grow until 2020. For the 2018-2020 period, the average real growth is projected at 4.9%, and the growth is expected to exceed 5% in 2020.

The above revision of medium-term projections is stimulated by three key developments: a) high impetus of growth of key macroeconomic variables during 2017, b) a more favorable foreign environment compared to previous projections, which affects the available private

net income of compensation of production factors (foreign workers and capital), as well as through the increased demand for export of goods and services, and c) growth of loans, stimulated by lower interest rates and the improved access to financing, which is expected to be the main internal incentive for private consumption in the medium-term scenario.

Figure 6: Contribution to real GDP growth



Source: KAS and projections of the Macroeconomic Unit, MF

**Export of services** - which made up 18% of the GDP in 2017 is expected to grow with a normal rate of 3.5% in the medium-term period. The more optimistic forecasts of growth in the EU are linked to a growing demand for export of Kosovo services, especially an increased demand for the export of telecommunication services. Another important contribution is related to increased spendings of Kosovo diaspora during vacations.

During the third quarter of 2017, **the net balance of the international investment position (IIP)** reached -77.2 million euros, which is 55% higher compared to the last year's third quarter. The assets structure is dominated by investments in the form of budget which make up 40.6% of assets, followed by the investment portfolio which makes up 36.7% of the assets. On the other hand, foreign direct investments continue to be the biggest category of liabilities.

## **Medium-term budget projections**

In line with the favorable macroeconomic projection as well as a balanced assessment of economic risks, the medium-term fiscal framework is expected to expand in line with the projections of nominal economic growth. Income from taxes is expected to make up about 24% of the GDP, starting from 24.2% in 2018 and then increasing lightly by 0.2 percent points in the consequent years. This reflects a conservative assessment of improved expectations compared to previous trends (*see Table 2 in Annex*).

## **Expenditure projections for budget policy sectors**

For justice, defense and public safety institutions the 2018 budget projects an allocation in the amount of 246 million euros which is 13% higher as compared to the 2017 budget revision. This additional budget allows for additional engagement of judges, prosecutors and professional associates in this sector, in line with reform measures aimed to improve the effectiveness and reduce older cases. Compared to current employment, the 2018 budget has created space for the employment of 690 additional associates in Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils.

**Public safety sector institutions** (Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kosovo Security Forces and the Kosovo Intelligence Agency) have also had an increase of their budget by 13%, creating space for higher effectiveness in this sector.

**Health sector institutions** on the central level (Ministry of Health and University Hospital Services) had their budget increased by 21% compared to the revised budget of 2017. In addition to this increase, the grant for municipal primary healthcare was also increased by 9%. At the same time, additional contingents were planned in order to start the implementation of a health insurance scheme. For the first time in 2018, the overall financing of the health sector exceeds 200 million euros and is expected to have a growing trend in the medium-term period.

**Education sector institutions** (Ministry of Education, Public Universities and Academy of Science) had the budget increased by 22% at the central level. Considering an increase by 4% of municipal grants for education, the total public expenditures for education are planned to reach 260.2 million euros. Other planned expenditures for this sector, in addition to

supporting new initiatives for the enhancement of the quality of education, address considerable shortages of the operational budget of education institutions.

The budget of the institutions responsible for the **improvement of infrastructure and economic competitiveness** in 2018 increased by 32.8% compared to the revised budget of 2017, reaching as much as 374 million euros. This budget sector includes the public infrastructure expenditures. On the other hand, the financial support for agriculture increased by 9%, reaching a total financing portfolio of 60 million euros. This sector also continues to be greatly supported by donor funding. Overall, aiming at supporting economic development programs, the 2018 budget forecasts direct expenditures in the total amount of 434 million euros. However, it should be emphasized that the expenditures in justice, education, healthcare, and good governance have direct impact on the achievement of the economic development objective.

Aiming at improved **governance**, the budget allocation for 2018 increased for the sectors of General Governance, International Cooperation and Public Finance Management. The total amount for these three sectors increased by 10%, reaching a total amount of 149 million euros. The budget of the Anti-Corruption Agency is 10% higher compared to the 2017 revised budget, while the budget of Public Procurement Regulation Commission and the Public Procurement Review Body increased by 9%, respectively 10%. At the same time, the budget was also increased to enable a more efficient functioning of the audit. Also, the budget of Ministry of Foreign Affairs increased in order to support a proper functioning of the country's diplomatic service.

Last but not least, in order to make sure that the economic growth is comprehensive and supports cohesion and social development, the budget was increased for institutions in the **sector of employment and social affairs as well as for culture and sports programs**. For these two sectors, the total planned budget increased by 5%, i.e. from 428 to 450.2 million euros. This additional budget supports a 20% growth of benefits for social welfare, compensations for workers injured at their workplace, temporary pension inheritance, financial support for paraplegic persons and their caretakers, as well as financial support for victims of sexual violence. The adequate support for war veterans is ensured by legal provisions in force, supposing that reforms will be implemented by the end of 2018. At the

same time, the budget for cultural and sport programs increased by 36%, which among other initiatives includes the construction of the Kosovo National Stadium.

## B 2.2. INFORMAL ECONOMY

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo approved its National Strategy for the Prevention and Fight Against Informal Economy, Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes together with its Action Plan 2014-2018 in January 2014. This action plan comprises key performance indicators for various stages of the operational process of the prevention of informal economy and financial crimes. Specific targets are set for the following processes:

- Obligatory collection of payable customs duties and tariffs;
- The process of intelligence/detection related to money laundering, terrorist financing and other economic crimes;
- Investigation related to money laundering, terrorist financing and other economic crimes;
- Criminal prosecution related to money laundering, terrorist financing and other economic crimes.

A number of reports were drafted regarding the Prevention and Fight Against Informal Economy, Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes in Kosovo (2014-2018) for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. The reports were published on the official website of the MF<sup>15</sup>. In 2017, the EU-funded project 'Further Support to Kosovo Institutions in the Fight Against Organized Crime, Corruption and Violent Extremism' conducted an 'Assessment of the Extent of the Informal Economy in Kosovo'. The study had to follow the same methodology as that of 2007 and 2014 in order to make data comparison possible and reach conclusions regarding annual informality trends. The assessment used a more practical and rigorous approach in order to get the information which is found at the legal tax level; the paid tax was divided into:

- income from work
- income from capital gains (rent, interest, profit)
- from consumption

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<sup>15</sup><https://mf.rks-gov.net/desk/inc/media/087DCC4C-8744-458B-8C52-6F23F3CC67A1.pdf>

The assessment drew the following conclusions regarding informal economy:

Informal Economy Assessment 2014 based on statistical data of 2013 (without remittances)		Informal Economy Assessment 2017 based on statistical data of 2017 (including remittances)	
Grey economy in absolute terms	(million €) 1,594	Grey economy in absolute terms	(million €) 1,368.2
Remainder in absolute terms	(million €) 441	Remainder in absolute terms	(million €) 476
Total in absolute terms	(million €) 2,025	Remainder in absolute terms	million €) 1,845
Total % of GDP	32.7	Total % of GDP	31.7

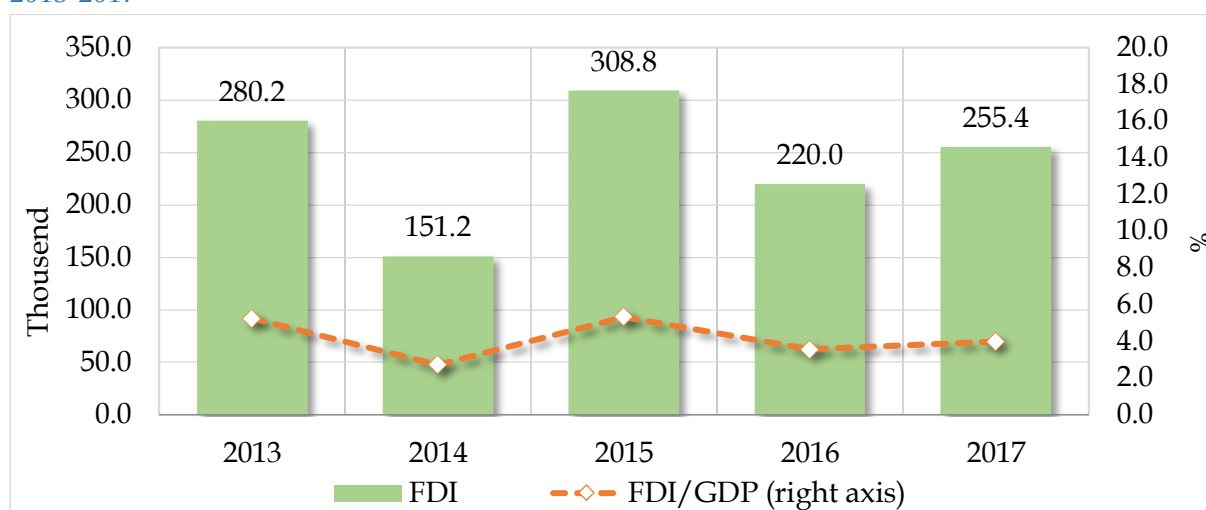
During 2013-2015 there was a decline in the informal economy, both in terms of absolute value of the GDP and in percent, implying a higher efficiency of tax administration practices, both by tax authorities and the customs. The results in this area are visibly better considering the fact that it was decided to include remittances within the grey economy. In contrast to this, the remaining amount of black economy increased in absolute terms by 35 million euros, while in terms of GDP, although with a slight reduction, black economy activities continued to be present while their net effect absorbed the shrinkage of black economy. This speaks of a need to enhance the area of rule of law.

### B 2.3. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS

Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in Kosovo in 2017 were 255.4 million euros, 16% higher compared to the previous year. FDI in Kosovo during 2013-2017 maintained a somewhat constant level of around 5% of the GDP. This is shown in Figure 7. During 2014, FDI were characterized with a declining trend, compared to previous years. This decline is attributed to: the change of ownership of some foreign companies (shares were sold to local entrepreneurs), distribution of shares by some companies and the return of debt by those companies which invested in Kosovo to local companies. The trend of FDI had a growth in 2015 reaching again 5% of the GDP, but with a lateral decline in 2016 and 2017.



Figure 7: Foreign direct investments in Kosovo in millions of euros and as percentage of the GDP, 2013-2017

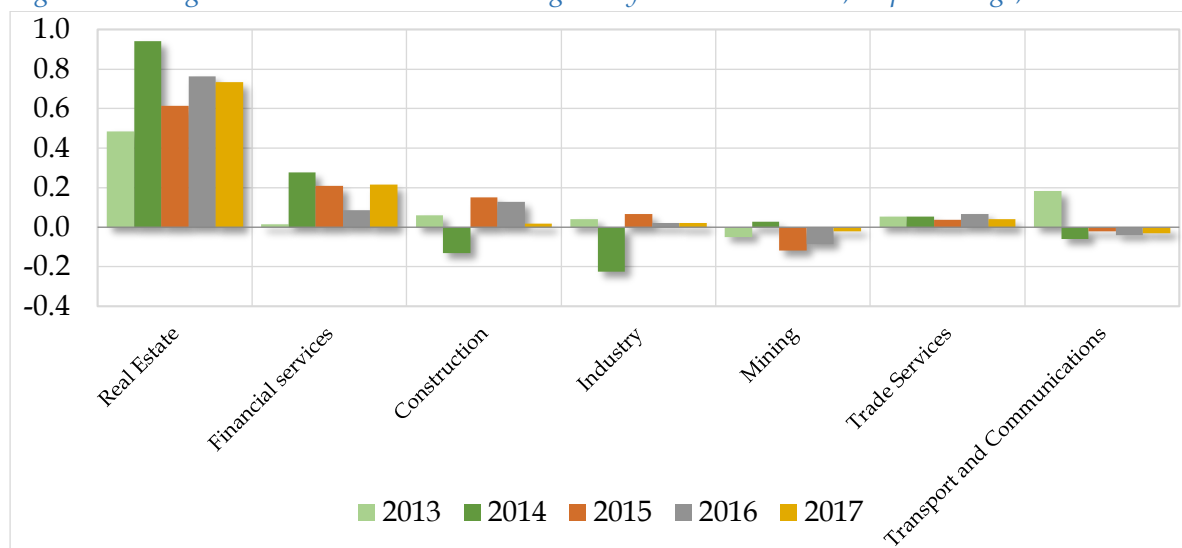


Source: CBK, 2018

During 2017 Foreign Direct Investments in Kosovo were mainly concentrated on sectors such as: immovable property (73.3%), financial services (21.6%), trade services (4%), followed by industry (2.2%).

As shown in Figure 8, 2014 and 2017 were characterized by a higher level of investments in immovable property, covering around 75% of the total amount of FDI. This category mainly comprised investments made by emigrants – around 85% of the total immovable sector. This fact adds to the importance of diaspora in Kosovo's economy and the attention it deserves.

Figure 8: Foreign direct investments according to key economic sectors, in percentage, 2013-2017



Source: CBK, 2018

## B 2.4. TRADE

The Republic of Kosovo signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU, which entered into force on April 1, 2016 and is member of CEFTA since 2006. Kosovo is also the beneficiary of the System of Autonomous Trade Preferences by the USA, Norway, Japan and Switzerland.

**Main trade partners** during 2013-2017 were mainly EU member states, for export and especially for import (22.6% of Kosovo exports and around 43% of its imports). The most important export countries were: Germany, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Austria and Italy, while the import of goods mainly comes from Germany, Italy, Greece, Poland, Slovenia and Croatia. The following table shows the balance of trade during 2013-2017.

Table 5: Balance of trade 2013-2017 (in .000 euros)

Years	Exports	Imports	Balance of trade	Coverage
2013	293,842	2,449,064	-2,155,222	12%
2014	324,554	2,538,232	-2,213,678	12.8%
2015	325,294	2,634,693	-2,309,399	12.3%
2016	309,627	2,789,491	-2,479,864	11.1%
2017	378,010	3,047,205	-2,669,193	12.4%

Source: CBK

**Trade in Services** - The service sector is an important component of a country's economy which provides direct and important contribution to GDP and job creation, and gives important inputs to the rest of the economy, contributing thus to the entire investment climate which is key to economic growth and development. Trade in services in Kosovo marked during 2013-2017 a continuous growth with a positive balance of trade. The following table shows the balance of services during 2013-2017.

Table 5: Trade in services / balance 2013-2017

Year	Export of services million euro	Import of services million euro	Balance million euro
2013	875.1	355.1	520.0
2014	928.6	468.7	459.9
2015	951.5	494.4	457.1
2016	1,130.6	491.8	638.8
2017	1,330.9	526.8	804.2

Source: CBK

The key sectors which contributed to this positive balance of trade during 2013-2017 were: Travel (tourism), followed by government services, ICT services, and other services. Travel and tourism services are mainly attributed to diaspora and foreign workers who are in Kosovo. The following table shows top service sectors during 2013-2017.

*Table 6: Export of services: top sectors 2013-2018*

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	<i>million euro</i>	<i>million euro</i>	<i>million euro</i>	<i>million euro</i>	<i>million euro</i>	<i>million euro (Jan-Jun)</i>
Travel	647.5	665.6	719.7	901.4	1,077.4	292.5
Other business services	44.3	75.0	60.9	62.9	71.9	48.0
ICT services	59.8	77.7	54.8	48.4	64.7	29.3
Government goods and services	39.0	34.7	34.8	35.5	35.8	18.1

Source: CBK

The negative trend of balance of services apparently involves transport and pension services every year. A positive balance of services resulted in lower deficit of trade in goods.

**Doing business 2013-2017** - According to World Banks Doing Business Reports, Kosovo moved with a faced pace among developing countries, from the 96<sup>th</sup> position in 2013 to the 60<sup>th</sup> position in 2017 and the 40<sup>th</sup> position in 2018. Kosovo is among the top 10 attractive countries, with a considerable advancement in business reforms. The following table shows Kosovos ranking during 2013-2017.

*Table 8: Kosovos ranking in doing business*

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Ranking	96	86	75	66	60

Source: CBK

This contributes to the number of registered businesses in Kosovo and the number of businesses with foreign owners. Below are the tables covering the period of 2013-2017.

*Table 9: Total number of registered businesses*

Year	Grand Total
2013	9,485
2014	9,611

2015	10,070
2016	10,553
2017	9,335
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>49,054</b>

Source: CBK

Table 10: Total number of registered businesses with foreign owners

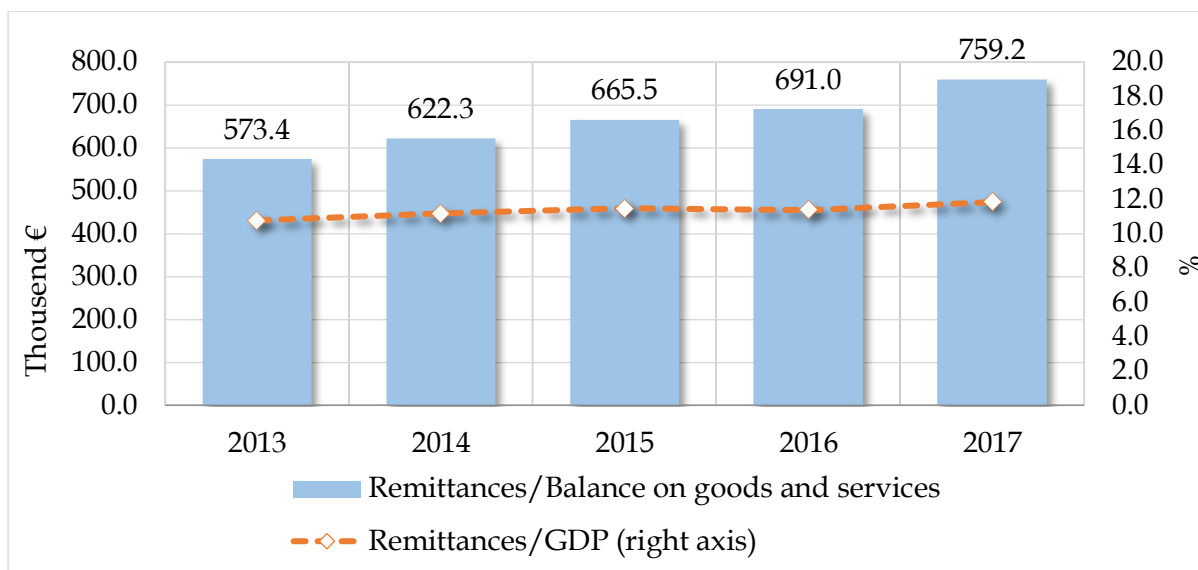
Year	Grand Total
2013	212
2014	150
2015	470
2016	674
2017	767
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,273</b>

Source: CBK

## B 2.5. REMITTANCES

Remittances in general have multiple effects on key aspects of the development of a country. In Kosovo, the revenues from emigrants' remittances over the last five years have been around 660 million euros per year. In 2017, the remittances in Kosovo reached 759 million euros, 10% higher compared to 2016. Emigrants remittances in 2017 made up 12.1% of the GDP.

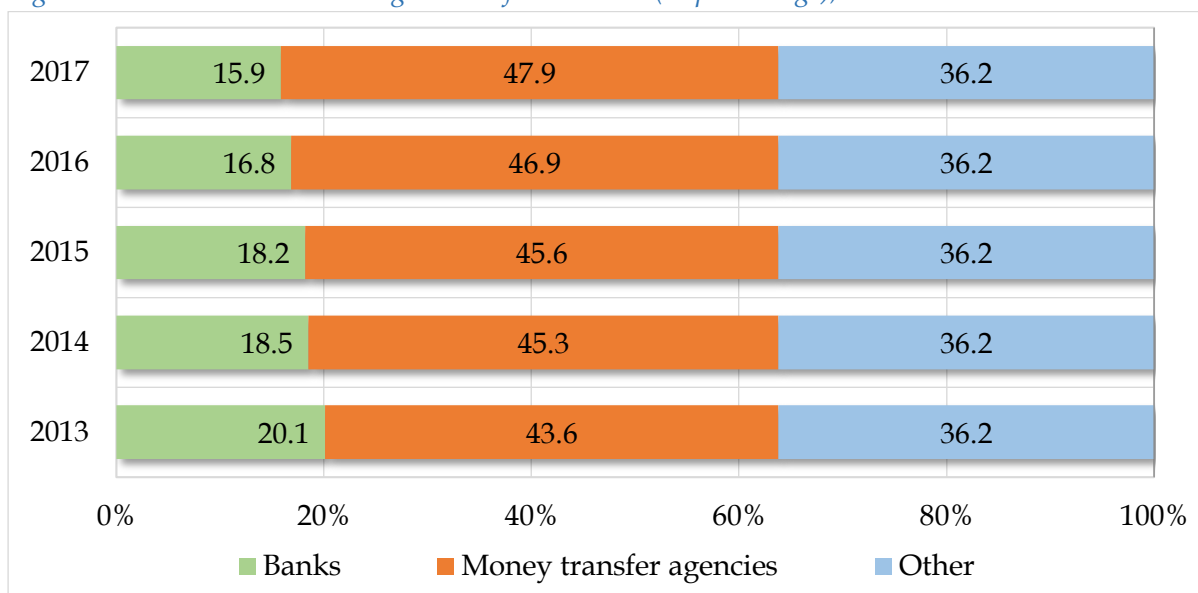
Figure 9: Incoming remittances, trends 2013-2017



Source: CBK

As for money transfer channels, Figure 10 shows that around 63.8% of remittances are transferred using financial systems, while the rest includes remittances in goods as well as using informal channels. The predominant origins of remittances are still Germany and Switzerland, making up 37%, respectively 23% of all remittances in Kosovo. Italy and Austria make up 5%, respectively 4% of all remittances, followed by Belgium (2%), the USA (7%) and Sweden (3%). For more detail, see *Table 3 in the Annex*.

Figure 10: Remittances according to transfer channels (in percentage), 2013-2017

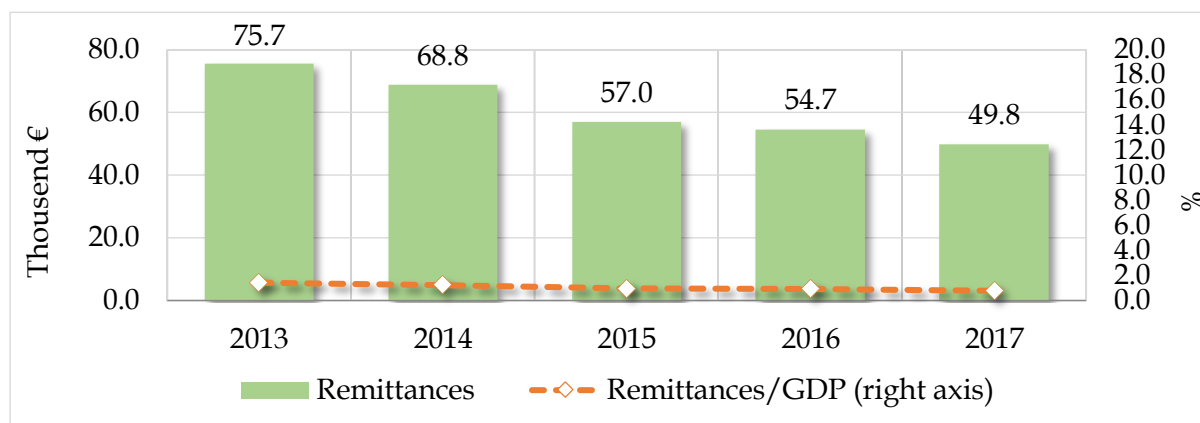


Source: CBK

## Outgoing remittances

The remittances sent from Kosovo have a relatively moderate value which over the last five years had a gradual decline, reaching 50 million euros in 2017 compared to 75 million euros in 2013. This represents an average decline of 10% per year. This decline was mainly due to the reduction of staff working in international organizations in Kosovo.

Figure 11: Outgoing remittances, trends 2013-2017

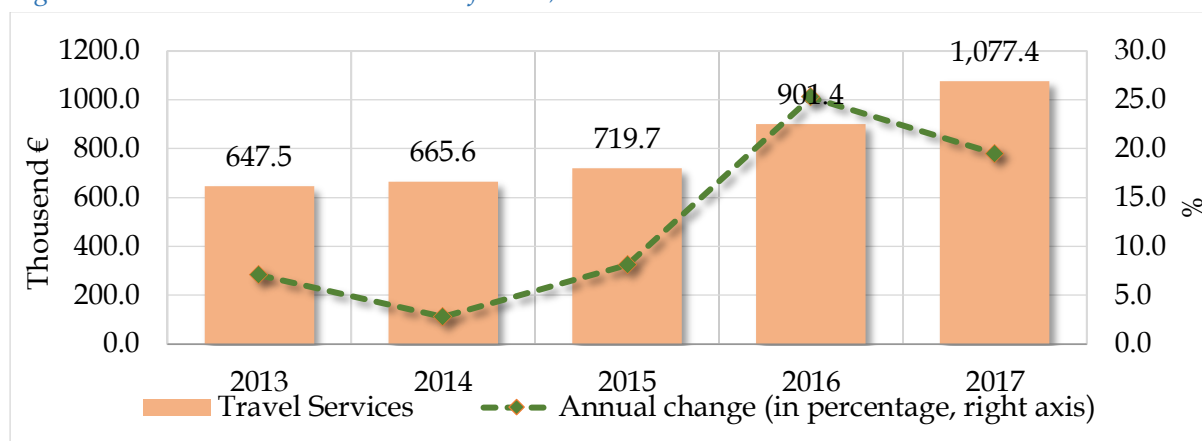


Source: CBK, 2018

## Travel services for Kosovo visits

Kosovo attracts considerable tourism from diaspora, especially during summer and winter holidays. Revenues from travel services for personal reasons have been increasing since 2013 as Figure 12 shows, reaching 1,077.4 million euros in 2017, all this at a time when the number of visits by international agencies dropped (including staff of NGOs, UN, etc.). There are few other visits to Kosovo, thus most revenues of this category, over 90%, can be attributed to the diaspora.

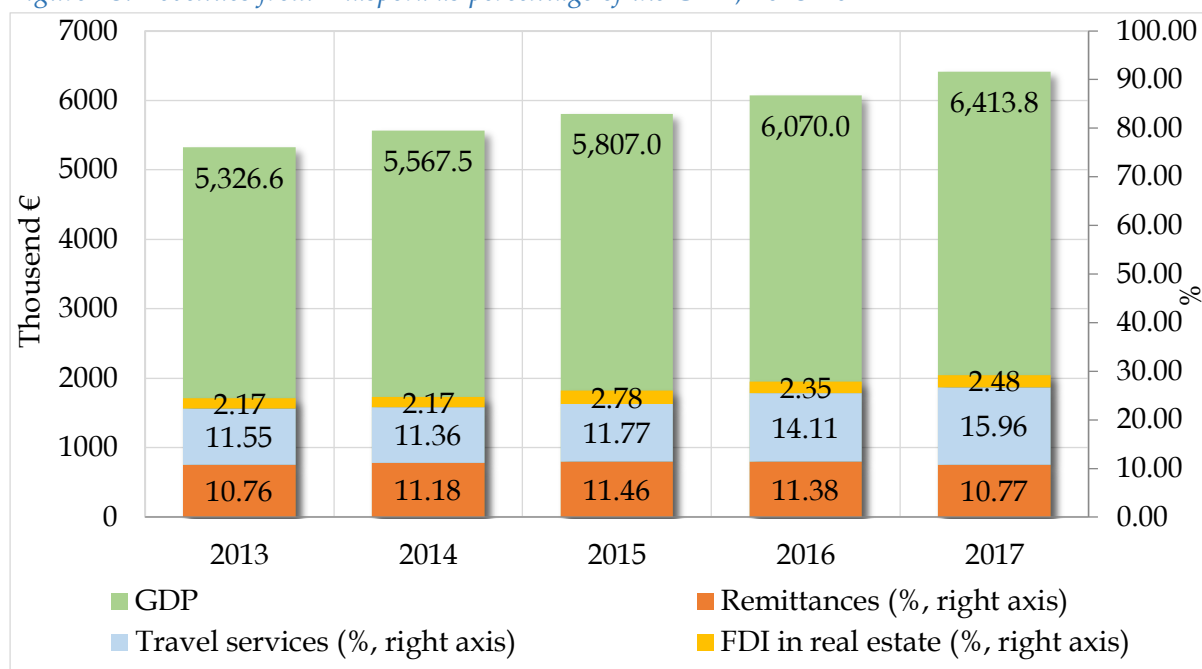
Figure 12: Travel services in millions of euros, 2013-2017



Source: CBK

The importance of the diaspora can also be inferred from the share of remittances in the GDP, which is around 11%, diaspora tourism with 16% and FDI in immovable property with 2.5%, as shown in Figure 13. Considering that the sum of these components makes up around 30% of the GDP, the revenues linked to migration are an important factor enabling the country's domestic consumption (consumption plus investments) and contributing to the growth of the GDP.

Figure 13: Revenues from Diaspora as percentage of the GDP, 2013-2017

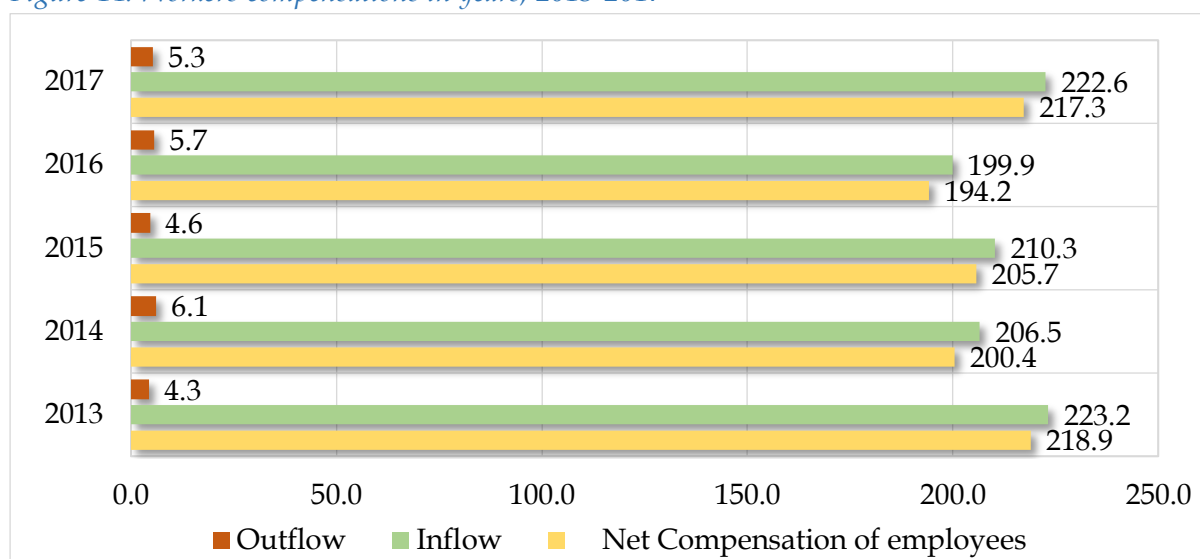


Source: CBK

## Workers compensation

The highest category of revenues continues to be workers compensation, which during 2014 had a balance of 200.4 million euros (218.9 million euros during 2013). During 2015 this was 201.3 million euros. This growth continued also during 2016 and 2017 with 199.9 respectively 222.6 million euros. This category is mainly comprised of workers revenues in parallel structures of Serbia operating in Kosovo. Other contributors are seasonal workers and those working in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Figure 14: Workers compensations in years, 2013-2017



Source: CBK

## B 3. LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS

### B 3.1. KEY LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

The legislation which regulates the area of employment and social policies is in line with EU legislation and the key principles of EU law. The level of legislative approximation, according to the SAA assessment, 'in general can be assessed at initial level, considering that EU legislation in the field of employment and social policies is very broad and voluminous'. The concrete plan for further transposition of the European legislation is specified within the National Program for the Implementation of the SAA.

Institutional structures for employment services and social assistance are consolidated and fully functional. However, these services will be reformed in line with new changes that are



being designed and developed. The insufficient capacity of human and technical resources remains a challenge.

At the central level, employment and social welfare are sectors which depend on the engagement of various institutions and mechanisms, starting from the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) and the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) which develop policies for economic growth and development, employment and social welfare. The main mechanism for dialogue between government institutions, private sector and social partners is the Economic and Social Council (ESC). When it comes to policy development and operational services, issues of labor market are directly tackled by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MLSW). The implementation of this policies in terms of provision of employment services is carried out by the Kosovo Employment Agency (EARK), which is structured in departments and divisions. The provision of services at the local level is carried out by Employment Offices and Professional Training Centers.

When it comes to employment policies, the MLSW shares the responsibility with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) in their joint efforts to develop professional capacities through education and professional training, as well as by harmonizing market supply and demand. On the other hand, MEST is concentrated on general formal professional training, MLSW/EARK<sup>16</sup> provides professional training for adults, mainly for job seekers. The difference lies in their approach, duration of training/education, and the purpose they serve. The former is implemented in secondary and higher education (ISCED 3), where the training and education last 3 years, while the latter comprises training oriented towards workplace (ISCED 1-3) and does not last more than 3 months.

In addition to being a political priority in Kosovos strategic documents, employment and social welfare are also the priority of donors and development agencies. The EU framework document for Assistance to Kosovo<sup>17</sup> stipulates the support for employment as one of the main pillars of the program. This program aims *'to increase cohesion between training and education programs and labor market needs, increase the inclusiveness of education sector and labor*

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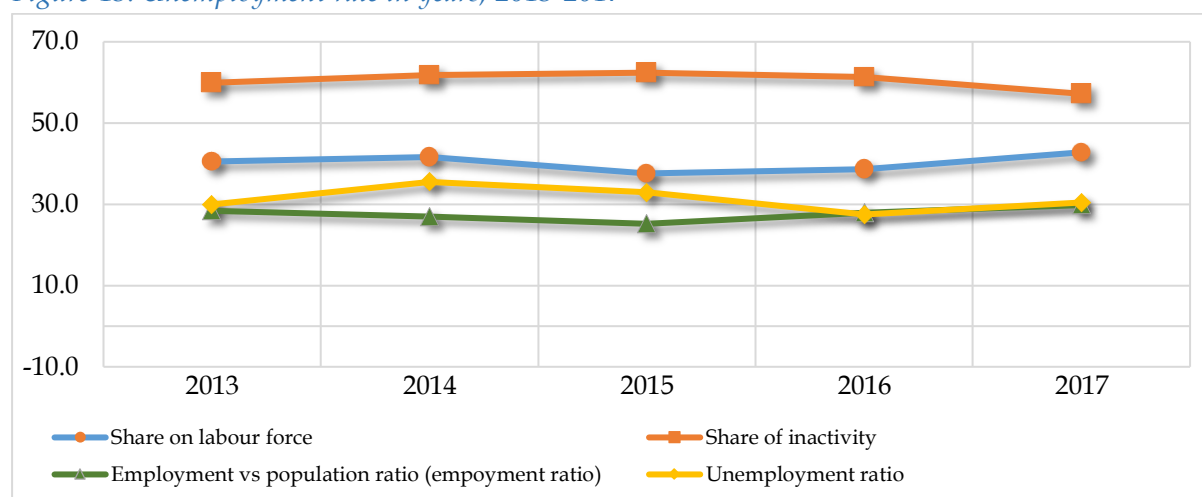
<sup>16</sup> EARK–Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo

<sup>17</sup> Indicative Strategy Paper 2014-2020

market, and increase the inclusiveness of marginalized groups such as long-term unemployed, marginalized communities, youth and women'. Also, one of the 8 objectives of the World Bank framework document for support to Kosovo<sup>18</sup> for 2017-2022 is 'to increase employment opportunities for women, minorities and youth'. Employment and social welfare are also strategic priorities of other development partners.

**Labor market in years** - The level of unemployment in Kosovo is still high. Labor Force Survey (LFS) data from 2017 indicate that around 30.5% of the labor force (or around 156,500 people) were unemployed (113,000 man and 43,000 women), which is around 2.5% lower than in 2015. Most of these unemployed (72%) had no job for more than one year.

Figure 15: Unemployment rate in years, 2013-2017



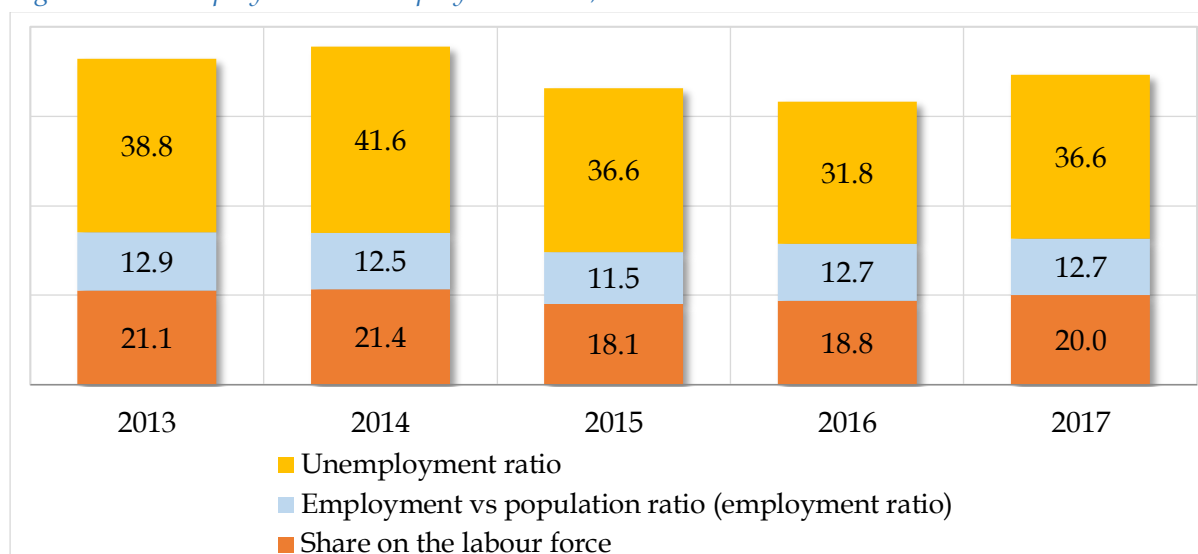
Source: KAS/Labor Force Survey

Based on the Labor Force Survey unemployment and employment trends during 2013-2017 are presented below.

**Unemployment of women** - The level of unemployment of women continues to be considerably high. Only in 2017 it was 36.6%. When compared to 2016, the unemployment rate had an increase of 4.8%. When compared to 2015, the value remains constant and if we compare it to 2014 and 2013, we have a drop of these values (see Figure 16). Kosovo is facing one of the lowest levels of participation of women in the labor force (20% in 2017 according to LFS).

<sup>18</sup> Country Partnership Framework

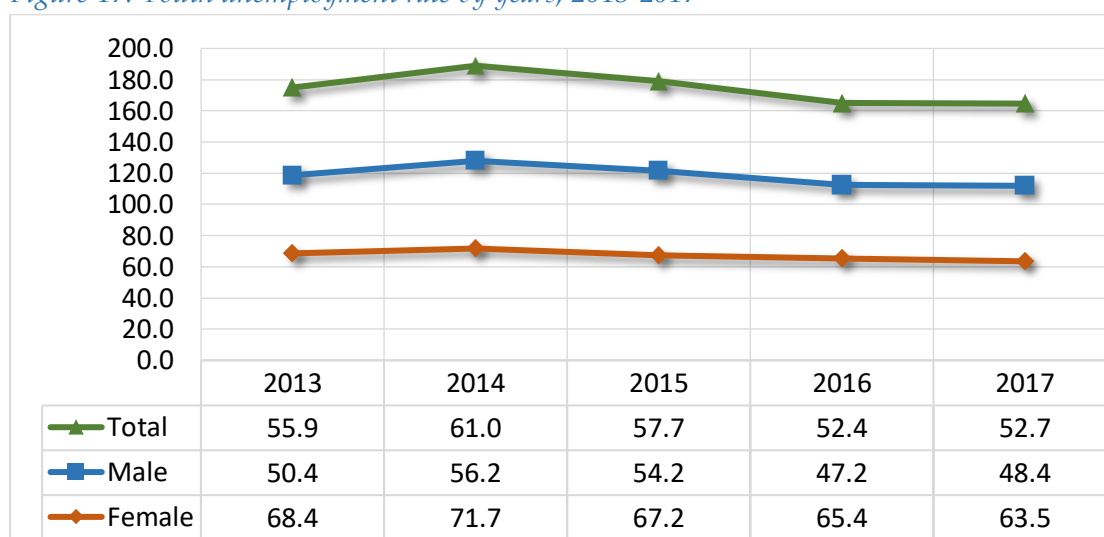
Figure 16: Unemployment and employment rates, 2013-2017



Source: KAS/Labor Force Survey

**Youth unemployment** – Young Kosovars have half the chances to get a job as compared to others. The youth unemployment rate was 27.4% in 2017. The level of inactivity and unemployment remains very high among young people. In 2016 the youth unemployment rate was 52.4%<sup>19</sup>. One part of the categories of inactive youth, those that is neither employed nor getting education/training (NEET), has been shrinking in recent years (30.1% in 2016, from 35.3 in 2013).

Figure 17: Youth unemployment rate by years, 2013-2017



Source: KAS/Labor Force Survey

<sup>19</sup> Kosovo Agency of Statistics, LFS results 2016 in Kosovo, 2017.

Based on the 2017 LFS, 27.6% of unemployed in Kosovo were young people between 15-24 years old, with 9.3 points difference between male and female. A considerable part of the young population is unemployed (52.7%) and the level of unemployment among young women is even higher (63.5%) as compared to men (48.4%).

In 2017, young people had twice the chances to be without a job compared to other adults, and the figures for both men and women are similar.

**Employment services** – address limitations related to mediation or connection between supply (employee) and demand (employer) at the labor market. Employment services are mediation services for job vacancies, employment counseling<sup>20</sup> and career counseling<sup>21</sup>. However, not all mediations go to labor market institutions. Many vacancies are filled through networking or family ties. According to a World Bank report, around 17% of private vacancies are filled through labor market institutions (EARK and private providers), while others are filled through networking and family ties. Employment through informal channels reduces the number of available candidates to be recruited by companies and is disadvantageous for those, who do not have personal or family ties.

**Migration Services** - Law No. 04/L-20512 clearly sets out the responsibilities of the Employment Agency to provide various services related to employment of foreigners. Through its respective division, EARK provides information and counseling for foreigners who immigrate for employment reasons and provides services for Kosovo employees who look for a job abroad. Employment Offices and Professional Training Centers also provide migration services for employment and professional training.

The Law on the Registration and Provision of Services for Unemployed, Jobseekers and Employers regulates the services to be provided to Kosovo jobseekers that look for a job abroad.

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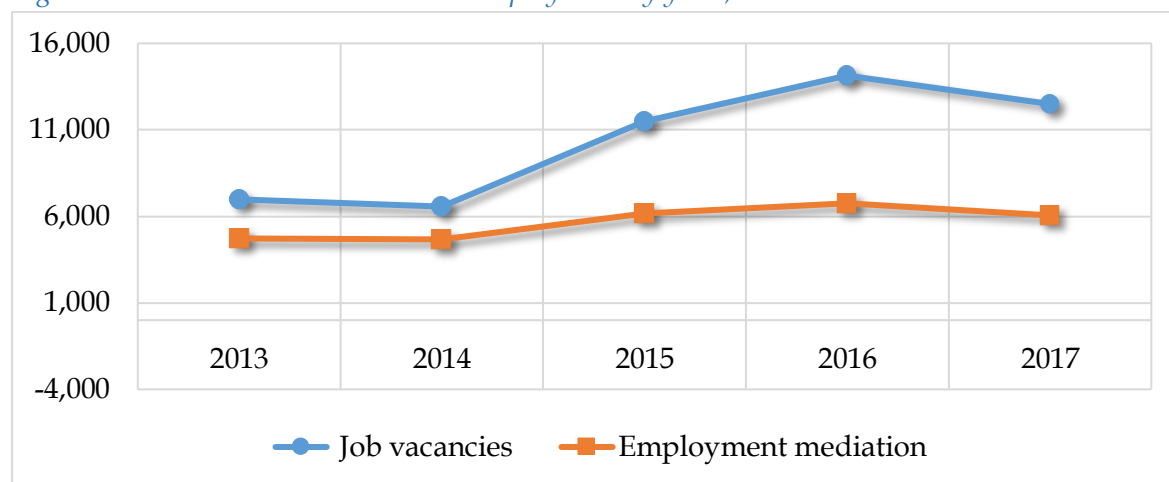
<sup>20</sup> Includes registration, profiling and provision of assistance to unemployed in order to look for a job as well as information on labor market and training to motivate the clients in the process of seeking a job.

<sup>21</sup> Career counseling includes a series of services and activities designed to help individuals manage their careers, make decisions for education, training and vocations so that those are in place before they enter labor market (Cedefop, 2008).

During 2017, EARK started the implementation of various programs to support Kosovars who decide to emigrate for employment purposes. Also, MLSW/EARK in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH Kosovo (GIZ) and the German Information Center for Migration, Professional Training and Career (DIMAK) continued cooperation which involved a series of information and counseling services in the area of migration. To this end, the following MoUs were signed: MoU between the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Landesverband Bayerischer Bauinnungen and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH Kosovo (GIZ), reached on February 24, 2017 (MPMS No. 54 of 24.02.2017), which aims to improve education and professional training services in the construction sector in Kosovo. At the same time some young people from Kosovo will be given the opportunity to start a process of *'education and professional training within a dual, 2-year system'* in Germany, in the field of construction; and a MoU between the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Besa Foundation and GIZ, reached on May 18, 2017 which aims to improve the chances of circular migration by advancing education and training. In later stages, experience and savings gained might contribute to higher investments/development of Kosovo.

**Performance of the Public Employment Service 2013-2017** - Mediation in employment is the most important indicator of performance of the public employment service, as its key objective is the integration of clients in the labor market. The trend of registration of vacancies increased since 2014 onwards, except for 2017. The same applies for mediation in employment (see Figure 18).

Figure 18: Vacancies and mediation in employment by years, 2013-2017



Source: Kosovo Employment Agency

**Expansion of employment services** – Another responsibility of the Migration Service Division is to inform interested citizens about the modalities of legal migration abroad. The ‘one stop shop’ service – where the same employment service officer provides all services – will be expanded to include all types of services and information and improve their quality and put special emphasis on career counseling and orientation and migration for work purposes.

### B 3.2. EMPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In addition to low demand for work and demographics (high number of young people annually entering the working age), poor employment results among youth are also a consequence of various factors such as: (i) poor quality of education at all levels and discrepancy between curricula and market needs, (ii) lack of practical work in schools and in enterprises, which is especially important in the case of professional education, (iii) limited information on labor market demand, (iv) lack of career counseling and orientation<sup>22</sup>, and (v) lack of job experience and contacts (networking) with potential employers, which is also related to the lack of practical work mentioned above, making this school-work transition even more difficult<sup>23</sup>. Additionally, more than half of the employed young people (54.8%) work without contracts.

### B 3.3. NUMEROUS NEEDS FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

The social protection system in Kosovo includes money transfers in the form of targeted social assistance, money transfers for certain groups, and social and family services. Money transfer schemes include pensions, pensions for war veterans and other categories, social assistance scheme, support for persons with special needs, and a housing scheme for children without parental care. Social and family services include protection and provision of services for the following categories: children with various social needs, family violence victims, human trafficking victims, sexual crime victims, elderly without family care and persons with special needs of all age groups.

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<sup>22</sup> These challenges regarding education system are also reflected in the Strategic Plan for Education 2017-2021 and the Strategy of Education and Career Orientation 2015-2019 of MEST.

<sup>23</sup> GIZ, Promoting youth employment in Kosovo: Guideline for practitioners, 2017.

The pension scheme in Kosovo is organized in three pillars. The first scheme includes basic age pension, contributing pension until 01.01.1999, early and special pensions for categories which did not contribute to pension fund. This pillar is funded by the state budget. The second pillar includes mandatory pension savings on individual accounts of the Kosovo Pension Fund where employer and employee each contribute with 5% of the salary. This pillar is administered by the Kosovo Pension Trust. The third pillar includes additional voluntary savings, which are administered in private funds in Kosovo (currently only one).

**Bilateral Agreements** - As part of social security agreements, Kosovo signed a social security agreement with Belgium. Furthermore, a request for authorization from the President to sign an agreement between MLSW and Switzerland was submitted to the Government.

**Social Dialogue** - Social dialogue is regulated by the Law No. 03/L-212 on Labor. This law sets conditions, criteria and procedures related to collective agreements with social partners.

**Three-party and two-party social dialogue** - The three-party dialogue includes all types of negotiations and consultations between government representatives, employers and employees on issues of common interest such as policies aimed to increase employment, reduce unemployment, competitiveness, labor productivity, prices, wages and minimum wages, review and assessment of social policies and measures for social sustainability. The three-party social dialogue is structured and regulated by the Law No. 04/L-008 on the Social Economic Council approved in 2011. This law regulates and sets out the organization, scope, work and general functioning of the Social Economic Council as well as conditions and criteria for social partner representation in this three-party body.

The minimum wage in Kosovo set by the Social Economic Council is 170 euros and 130 euros for those younger than 35 years old.

## B 4. HUMAN CAPITAL

### B 4.1. EDUCATION LEVEL

In order to design education policies based on statistical data, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology created an 'Education Management Information System' (EMIS), which generates data on the overall number of students enrolled at all levels of pre-university education, starting from level 0 (preschool), primary level (1-5 grade), lower secondary level (6-9 grade) and higher secondary level (10-12 grade; 2013/14 was the last year with a 13<sup>th</sup> grade in place in Kosovos education system). EMIS also collects and generates data for pre-university students enrolled in all public and private education institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, according to gender and age (*see Table 4<sup>24</sup> in the Annex: Students in public and private education according to levels and years, 2012/13-2016/17*). EMIS also provides data on the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) on education levels (*see Table 5 in Annex: Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in primary, lower secondary and higher secondary level, 2012/13-2016/17*).

### B 4.2. POSSIBILITIES TO ENTER THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

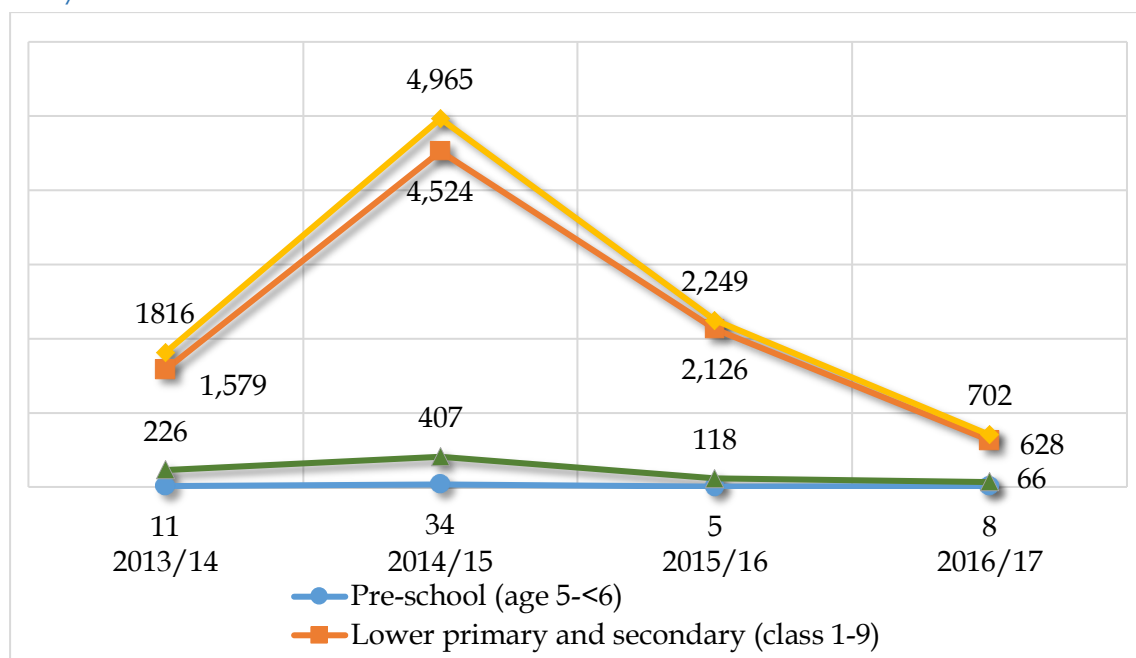
The education system in Kosovo provides equal opportunities to all students regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity etc. Primary and lower secondary education (1-9 grade) is mandatory for all students in the Republic of Kosovo, and pre-university education (1-12 grade) in public institutions is provided for free to all students. EMIS generates data on the enrolment of pre-university students, including school drop-outs due to emigration, and is processing these data according to the level of education, age and gender (*see Table 6 in Annex*).

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<sup>24</sup> No data available on education in Serbian language schools



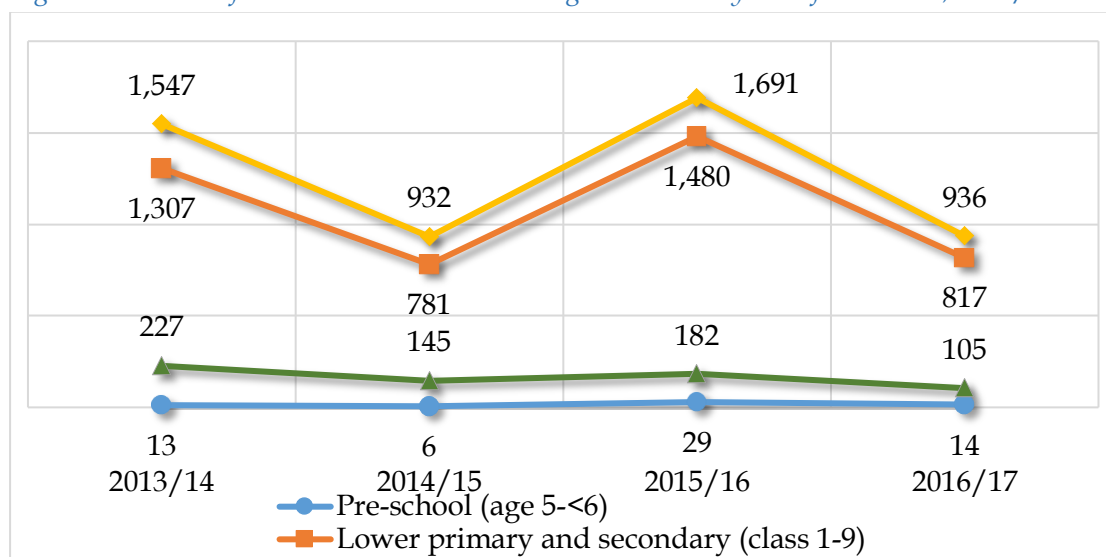
Figure 19: Trend of students who left the country according to level and years of education, 2013/14-2016/17



Source: MEST/EMIS

The issue of students returning to Kosovo pushed the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to tackle this as one of its priorities in order to reintegrate these students in the education system and to provide free education at all levels of pre-university education. Related to this, this ministry issued Administrative Instruction No. 19/2015, which regulates the issue of readmitted students. In order to follow and manage returning students, EMIS generates data on the number of readmitted students, based on age, gender and level of education (see Table 7 in Annex).

Figure 20: Trend of returned students according to level and years of education, 2013/14-2016/17

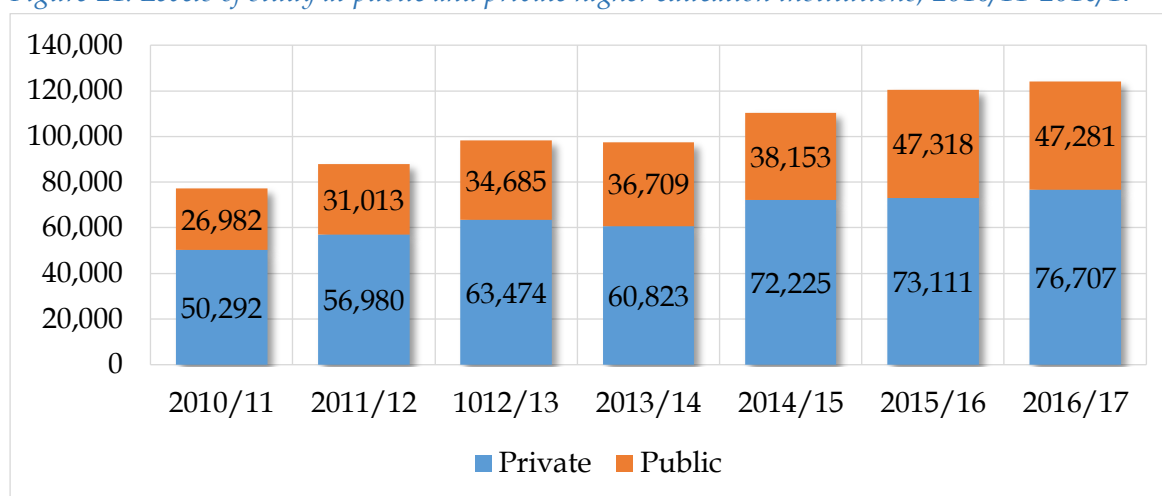


Source: MEST/EMIS

#### B 4.3. ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education in Kosovo is provided by public as well as private higher education institutions. All these institutions voluntarily apply the Bologna System and credits (ECTS), although Kosovo is not yet part of Bologna. Public higher education institutions provide three levels of study: undergraduate, 3 years of study, with 180 ECTS, respectively 4 years of study with 240 ECTS, post-graduate, 1 year of study with 60 ECTS, respectively 2 years of study with 120 ECTS, and PhD level studies. On the other hand, private higher education institutions provide only first and second level studies (Figure 21).

Figure 21: Levels of study at public and private higher education institutions, 2010/11-2016/17



Source: MEST/EMIS

# PART C: ANALYSIS OF THE MIGRATION SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

## C 1. IMMIGRATION

### C 1.1. VISA REGIME

Kosovo has introduced a visa regime for foreign nationals entering Kosovo with Government Decision no. 12/108 of 14.12.2012. This decision was amended with Decision no. 15/158, of 29.11.2013 and Decision no. 08/167 of 22.01.2014.

The application of the visa regime started on July 1, 2013, initially for 87 countries, and after the amendments to the decision this number reached 88 countries. During the second half of 2013, the process started its implementation only in two units: the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Istanbul and at the airport, and in the following years more units have been added. Several categories from certain countries do not need an entry visa for Kosovo, such as:

- Foreign nationals who have a valid biometric residence permit, issued by one of the Schengen Area countries.
- Holders of multiple entry Schengen visas do not need an entry or transit visa to Kosovo and their duration of stay is limited to **15 days**.
- EU nationals, Schengen Area nationals, Vatican City nationals, Andorra nationals, Monaco nationals, San Marino nationals, Albania, Montenegro and Serbia nationals are permitted entrance, transit and stay of up to **90 days**, for a six (6) months period, with a valid biometric ID.
- Holders of diplomatic and official passports issued by the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, Egypt, Indonesia, Ukraine are permitted entrance, transit and stay of up to **15 days**.
- Holders of valid travel documents issued by administrations of special regions of the People's Republic of China: Hong Kong and Macao, do not need a visa to enter Kosovo.
- Holders of travel documents issued by Taiwan do not need a visa but should notify a Kosovo Diplomatic Mission beforehand.
- When travel documents issued according to The Refugee Convention (1951) and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954), as well as other valid

documents for foreigners, are issued by EU and Schengen Area countries, and by the United States of America, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the holders do not need a visa to enter, transit and stay in Kosovo for up to 15 days.

- Holder of travel documents (*Laissez-Passer*) issued by UN, NATO, OSCE, Council of Europe and European Union do not need a visa regardless of their citizenship.

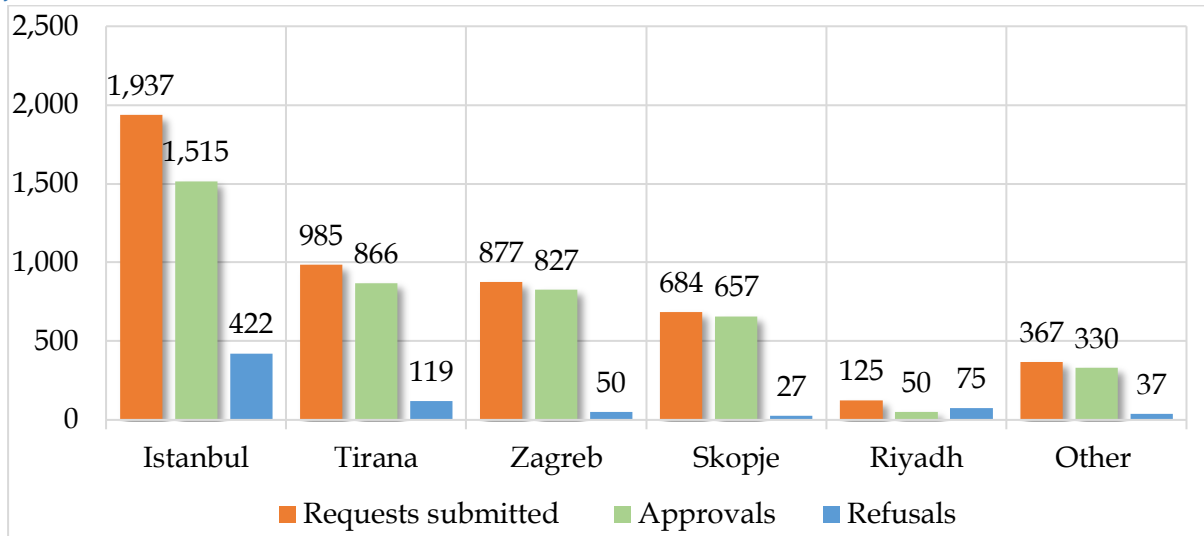
During 2014 the visa system became functional in additional 16 Diplomatic Missions of the Republic of Kosovo and was considerably expanded compared to 2013, when this regime was only applied as a pilot project implemented by the Embassy in Istanbul.

Visa applications can be submitted at the following Diplomatic/Consular Missions and Border Checkpoints of the Republic of Kosovo: New York, Paris, Tirana, Skopje, Zagreb, Riyadh, Sofia, Vienna, Brussels, London, Istanbul, Canberra, Berlin, Budapest, Tokyo, Geneva, and at the border crossing points Hani i Elezit/Đeneral Janković, Vërmicë/Vrbnica and Jarinje and at the border crossing point at the 'Adem Jashari' Airport and at the Department for Citizenship, Asylum and Migration/DCAM (for applications for visa extension).

The total number of applications in Diplomatic/Consular Missions for entry visas for Kosovo was 5,148, out of which the highest number of application was submitted at the Embassy in Istanbul (1,937), followed by the Embassy in Tirana (985), and the Embassy in Skopje (684).

During 2013-2017, a total of 4,975 visa applications were submitted only in Diplomatic/Consular Missions, out of which 85% (or 4,245 visas) were granted and 15% (730) were rejected.

Figure 22: Visa applications, approvals and rejections in Diplomatic/Consular Missions for the first five countries, 2013-2017



Source: MFA

The highest number of rejections are related to nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with 124 rejected applications, followed by Syria (121), India (53), Iraq (51) and Pakistan (47).

The reason for the high number of rejections for nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Syria and India is due to the fact that applicants failed to provide reasons and purpose of travel to Kosovo.

In addition to applications submitted at Diplomatic/Consular Missions of Kosovo, applications were also made at border crossing points with 146 approved requests. The highest number of applications were submitted at the 'Adem Jashari' International Airport.

## C 1.2. FOREIGNERS RESIDING IN KOSOVO AND TYPE OF IMMIGRANTS

Regular immigration of foreign nationals in the Republic of Kosovo is regulated by Law no. 04/L-219 on Foreigners, which entered into force on September 5, 2013. This law regulates the conditions of entrance, movement, stay and employment of foreigners in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo. The law was amended during 2017 with the purpose of harmonizing it with European legislation, and it is expected to be approved during 2018.

## Residence permits issued for foreigners based on nationality, types of residence permits and their duration

Based on the Law on Foreigners, there are two types of residence permits: temporary residence permit (which is issued for a one-year period with the possibility of extension) and permanent residence permit (which is issued for a five-year period with the possibility of extension). Another category of regular immigration in the Republic of Kosovo is the acquisition of citizenship, which is regulated by the Law on Citizenship, approved in 2013. The third category of immigrants are foreigners who acquired a status foreseen by the Law on Asylum and who resided for a period longer than 12 months in the country.

### Temporary residence permits in the Republic of Kosovo

A total of 18,042 decisions for temporary residence permits have been issued from 2013 to 2017. 9,095 (50.4%) of permits issued were for males and 8,947 (49.6%) for females. In terms of category, the residence permits issued during this period of time were related to: family reunion 7,231 (40.1%), employment 8,494 (47.1%), studies 957 (5.3%) and other reasons 1,360 (7.5%). According to statistics for the last five years, the number of foreigners with temporary residence permits reflects a growing trend from one year to the next, as shown in Table 11.

Table 11: Temporary residence permits, based on categories, 2013-2017

Year	Family reunion		Employment		Studies		Other		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
2013	962	46.30%	679	32.70%	128	6.20%	309	14.90%	2,078
2014	1,103	41.70%	1,089	41.20%	134	5.10%	317	12.00%	2,643
2015	1,435	41.70%	1,565	45.40%	187	5.40%	257	7.50%	3,444
2016	1,807	39.30%	2,296	50.00%	227	4.90%	264	5.70%	4,594
2017	1,924	36.40%	2,865	54.20%	281	5.30%	213	4.00%	5,283
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,231</b>	<b>40.10%</b>	<b>8,494</b>	<b>47.10%</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>5.30%</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>7.50%</b>	<b>18,042</b>

Source: DCAM

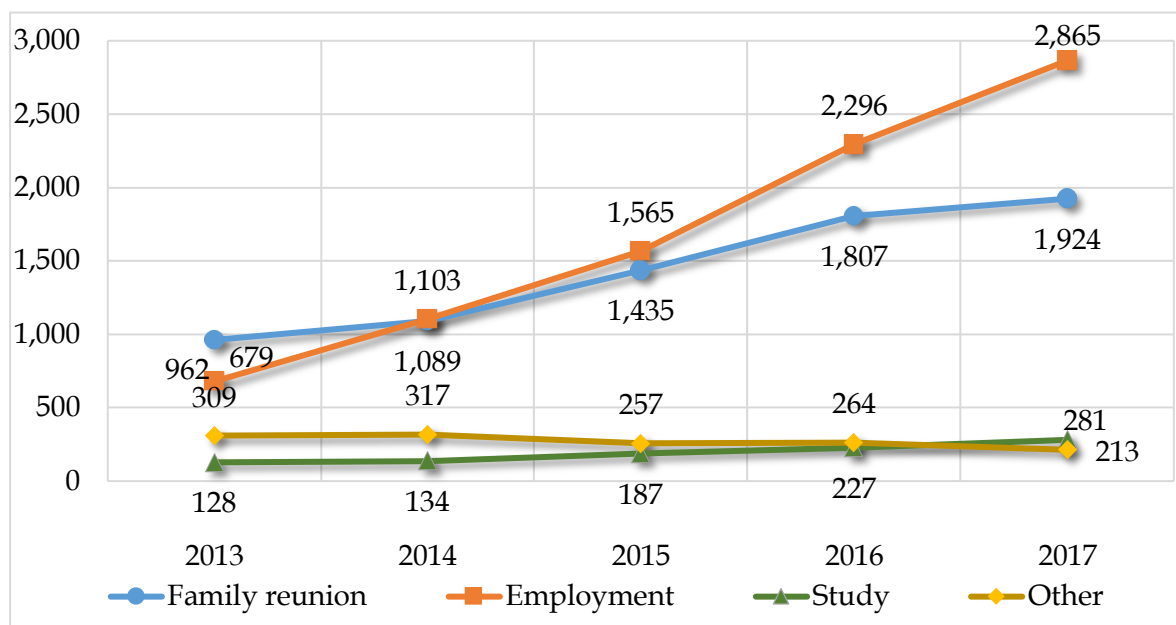
The number of temporary residence permits was constantly growing (with an arithmetic average of 24.2% per year) during this period.

Analysis of this period show that in both main groups, 'Family reunion' and 'Employment', noticeable change is evident, as presented in Figure 23.

In 2013 the category 'Family reunion' leads for requesting residence permits with a difference of 42%, as compared to the 'Employment' group while in 2014 their representation is equal, followed by a constant increase of the category 'Employment' until 2017, as compared to the category 'Family reunion'. In 2017 the comparative ratio between these two groups is 48.9% in favor of the 'Employment' group.

Based on the analysis above it can be assumed that Kosovo has taken necessary steps to become more attractive for opening new businesses or for finding employment.

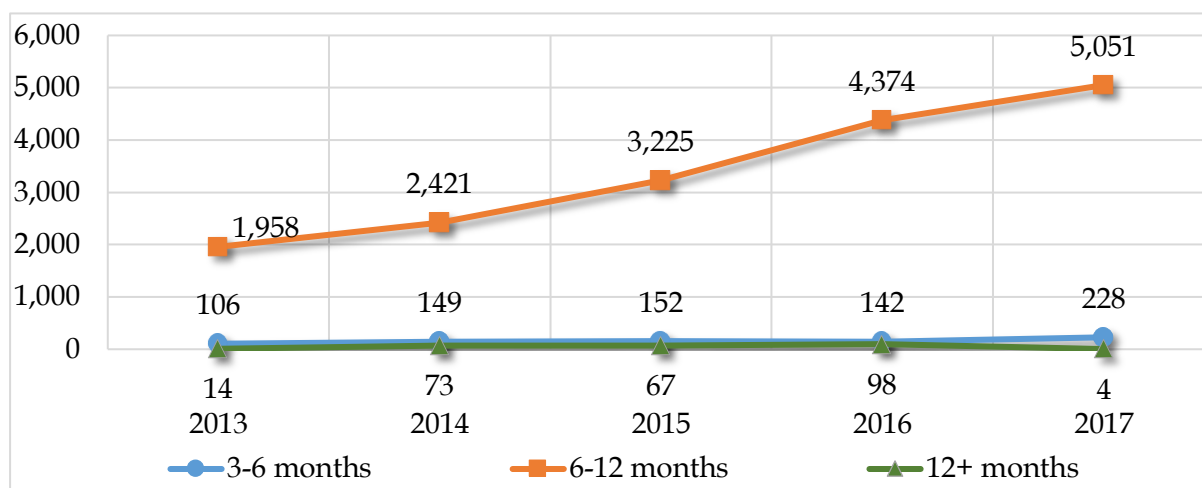
Figure 23: Trend of temporary residence permits - a comparison between the categories of 'Family reunion'/'Employment' (2013-2017)



Source: MIA/DCAM

The most represented states in the number of temporary residence permits issued during this period are as follows: Turkey 5,355 (29.7%), Albania 3,971 (22%), Serbia 2,149 (11.9%), Macedonia 1,620 (9%), USA 1,136 (6.3%) and other states 3,811 (21.1%).

Figure 24: Temporary residence permits in terms of duration, 2013-2017



Source: MIA/DCAM

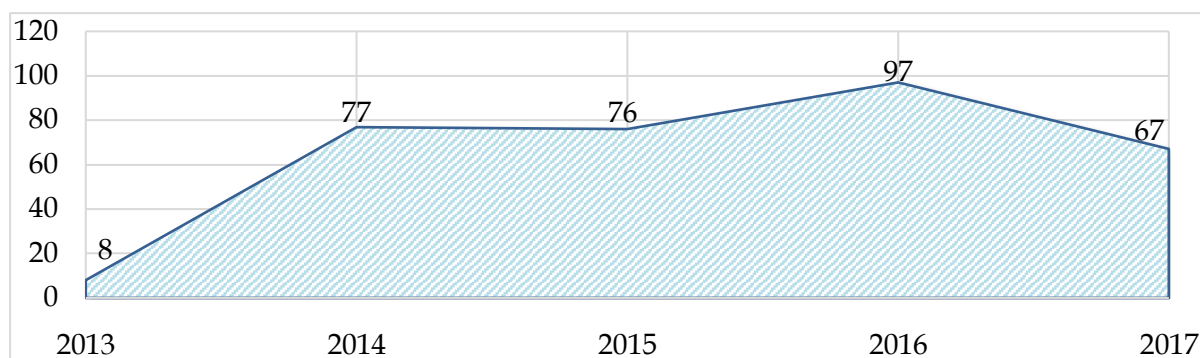
Figure 24 above shows that 95% of the temporary residence permits are issued for a duration of 6-12 months. Among nationals having the highest percentage of temporary residence permits valid for 6-12 months, 1,733 (34.3%) are from Turkey, Albania with 1,177 (23.3%), Serbia with 572 (11.3%), Macedonia with 465 (9.2%), USA with 272 (5.4%), and other countries with 832 (16.5%) persons.

### Permanent residence permits

The overall number of permanent residence permits issued during 2013-2017 was 316. The number of permanent residence permits during issued is without big oscillations, except for 2013 for which the data is not fully complete.



Figure 25: Permanent residence permits issued during 2013-2017



Source: MIA/DCAM

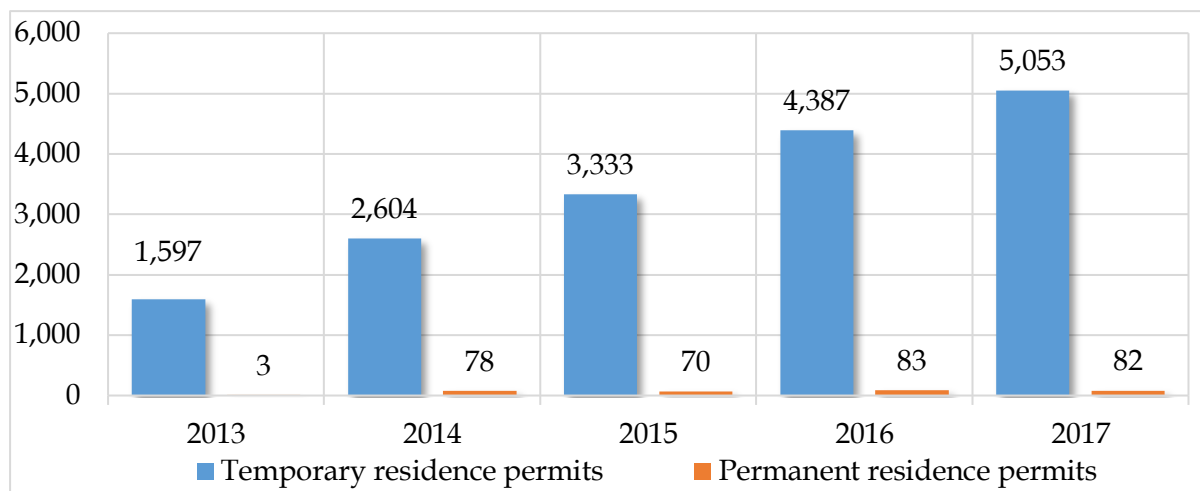
The reasons for issuing permanent residence permits are: family reunion with 48 permits (15.2%), employment with 108 (34.2%), studies with 19 (6%) and other reasons 144 (45.6%).

The most represented countries in the number of granted permanent residence permits are: Serbia with 68 permits (21.5%), Turkey with 55 (17.4%), Germany with 36 (11.4%), Albania with 31 (9.8%), Macedonia with 22 (7%), and other countries with 104 permits (32.9%).

#### **Issuance of residence permit cards for foreigners**

During 2013-2017, the Civil Registry Agency (CRA) has as an obligation deriving from the Law no. 04/L-219 on Foreigners and released a new design of residence permits, which was adopted at the end of 2013. The new design has replaced the Temporary Identity Cards with the Temporary Residence Permits and Permanent Residence Permits. In addition to the changes in denomination and design, residence permits also contain a 'MR zone' (Machine-Readable Zone - MRZ), and can also be electronically identified, i.e. they are equipped with chips of the latest technology of a very high security.

Figure 26: Production of temporary and permanent residence permits during 2013-2017



Source: MIA/CRA

From the figure above it is seen that the number of requests for the production of temporary residence permits has been continuously growing, unlike the production of permanent residence permits with no considerable difference from one year to the other.

### C 1.3. FOREIGNERS WHO HAVE ACQUIRED AND HAVE BEEN DENIED CITIZENSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

The Department for Citizenship, Asylum and Migration, respectively the Division of Citizenship within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, is the main state authority responsible for the implementation of Law no. 04/L-215<sup>25</sup> on the Citizenship of Kosovo. It defines the modalities for acquiring, losing and reacquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, and also regulates other issues related to the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo. Article 5 defines the modalities for acquiring Kosovo citizenship: by birth, adoption, naturalization, based on international treaties and based on Articles 31 and 32 of this law. In regard to granting the citizenship, it is noteworthy, that a part of the requests is submitted by persons whose origin is from Kosovo. The Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo that regulates the conditions for acquiring, losing or regaining the citizenship, has been amended in 2011 and 2013. These changes have thus facilitated the granting of citizenship to persons

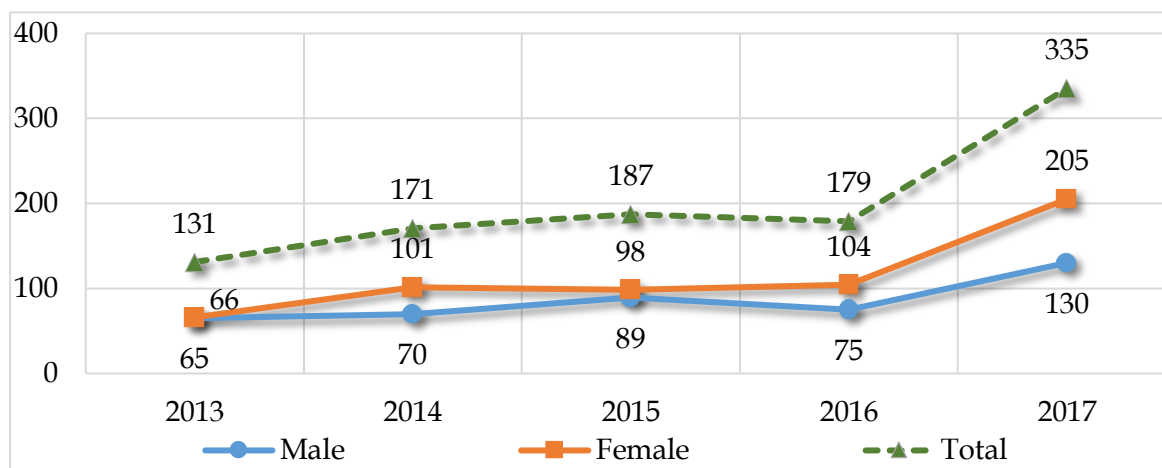
<sup>25</sup> The statistical data for 2013-2017 derives from Law no. 04/L-215 on the Citizenship of Kosovo.

whose origin is from Kosovo. The law also includes provisions which allow persons without citizenship to acquire Kosovo citizenship by following legal procedures.

**Application procedures for acquiring the citizenship** – The submission of the request for acquiring the citizenship is done by the applicant personally at the Municipal Civil Registry Office where the applicant had his/her last residence. The request for acquiring the citizenship can be also submitted to Diplomatic/Consular Missions<sup>26</sup>. Other supporting documents should be attached to the request as required by the instruction, depending on the acquisition modalities of the submitted request. After application, the Civil Registry Office of the respective municipality and Diplomatic/Consular Missions sends the files to MIA, respectively to the Division of Citizenship.

During 2013-2017 in total 1,003 persons have acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo . From the total number of those who have acquired Kosovo citizenship, females lead with 57% (574) in comparison to males with 43% (429). In terms of age group the age-group 18-34 is represented with 49% (494), the age-group 35-64 with 37% (375) and other age-groups with 13.4% (134).. From 1,003 persons who have acquired Kosovo citizenship during 2013-2017, 75.8% (760) are Albanians, 6.5% (65) Serbs, 2.2% (22) Turks and 13.7% (137) other nationalities.

Figure 27: Number of persons who have acquired the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, 2013-2017



Source: MIA/DCAM

<sup>26</sup> Diplomatic/consular missions: Germany (Berlin, Frankfurt, Stuttgart), Austria, Sweden, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Turkey (Ankara and Istanbul), Switzerland, Slovenia, USA and Croatia.

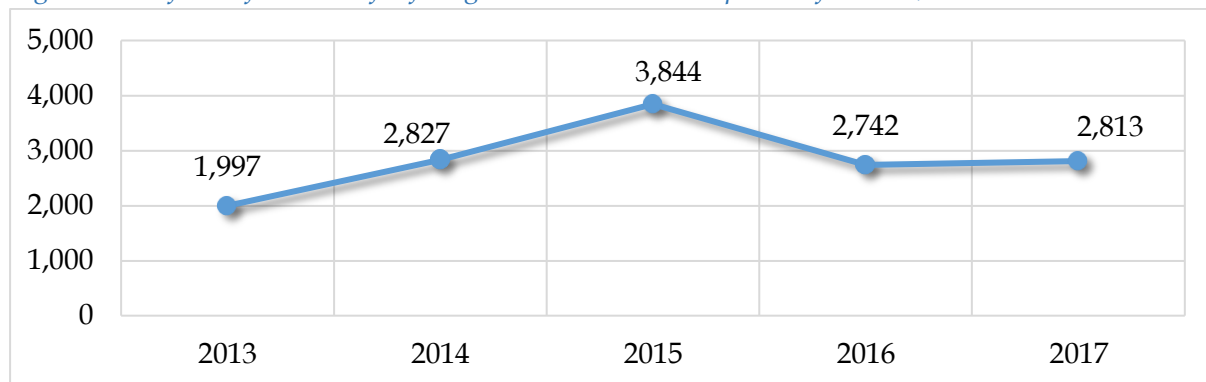
As the figure shows, the trend during the last five years for acquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo has been proportional year after year, although in 2017 there was an increase of 87% compared to previous years. The reason for this increase is meeting of criteria regarding the time limits for residence, as stipulated by the laws in force.

#### C 1.4. IRREGULAR IMMIGRATION

##### Foreign nationals who have been refused entry at the borders

During 2017 there has been a total of 2,813 denials of entrance for persons registered at all Border Crossing Points (BCP). This is an increase of 2.5% in comparison to 2016, and 40% in comparison to 2013, but a decrease of 26% in comparison to 2015 and 0.4% in comparison to 2014, as shown in Figure 28.

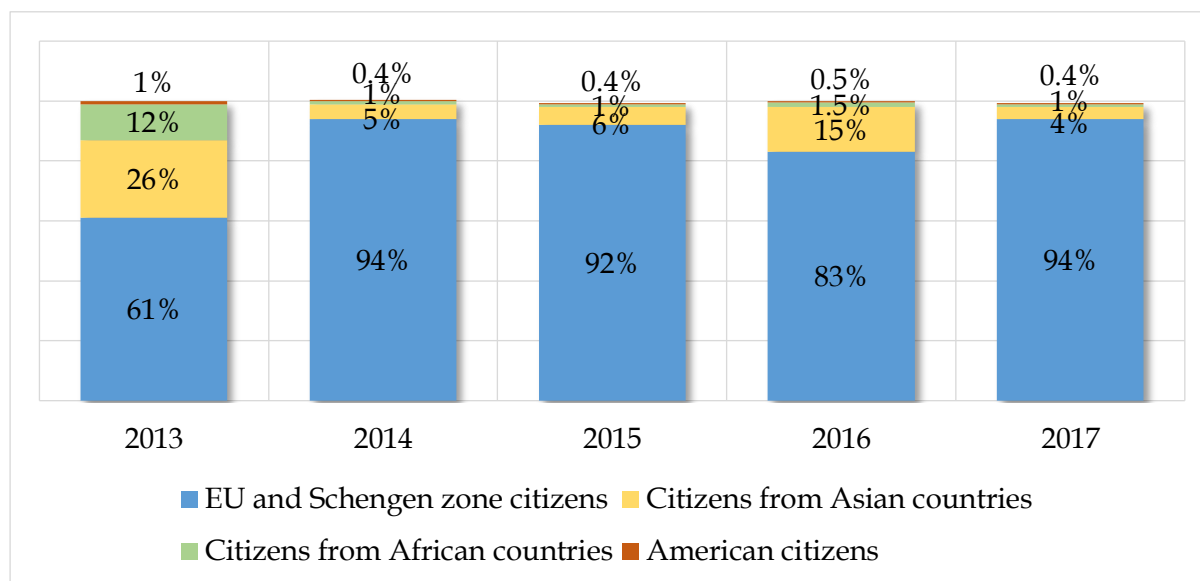
Figure 28: Refusal of entrance for foreign nationals in the Republic of Kosovo, 2013-2017



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

The increase in the number refusals of entrance in the Republic of Kosovo began with the Government Decision for changing entry conditions entering into force and the Decision no. 15/158 on the Visa Regime for Foreigners dated 29.11.2013, as seen in Figure 28. The decision had an impact on the increase of entrance denials for nationals of EU and Schengen Area states and on the decrease of entrance denials for Asian and African nationals, as seen in Figure 29.

Figure 29: Refusals of entrance for foreign nationals in the Republic of Kosovo according to continents, 2013-2017

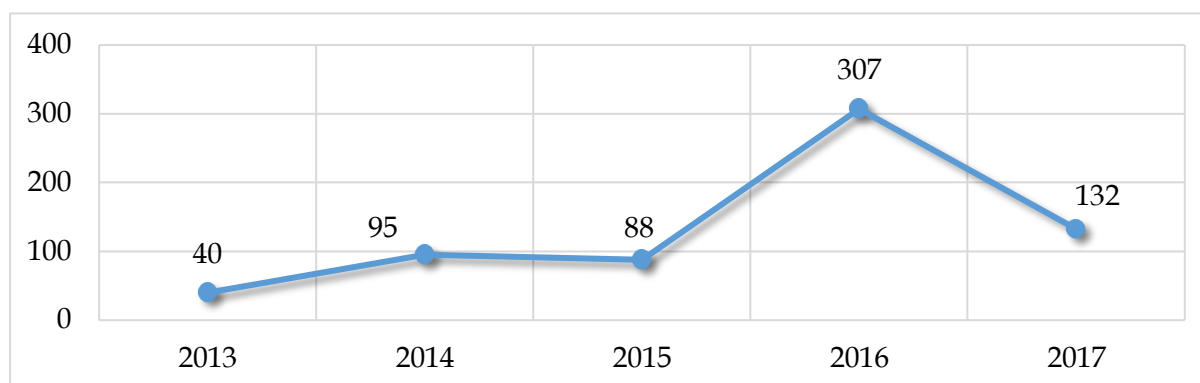


Source: Risk Analysis, Intelligence and Data Administration Unit, Border Department/Kosovo Police

The reasons for denials are various. Citizens of neighboring countries such as Albania, Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro have been denied entrance because they lacked valid documents or as a result of different prohibitions, while citizens of EU and Schengen Area have been denied entrance because they lacked passports or biometric identity cards. Citizens of Asian or African states have been denied entrance because they did not have visa to enter Kosovo, or they did not have enough means for living and could not justify the purpose and conditions of their stay.

**Unauthorized border crossing** - During 2017, 132 irregular immigrants have crossed the border of and entered the territory of the Republic of Kosovo, which constituted a decrease of 56% compared to 2016. According to data, the 2013-2015 period had oscillations with a considerable increase in 2014 as compared to 2013.

Figure 30: Number of immigrants who entered Kosovo without authorization, 2013-2017



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

The increase in the number of irregular immigrants who crossed the border without authorization during 2016, was a result of irregular immigration movements in the region (the 'Balkan Route') as well as the use of alternative routes, including through Kosovo.

As we can see in Table 8 of the Annex, out of a total of 683 irregular immigrants during 2013-2017, 40% were nationals of Afghanistan, 37% of Syria, 4% of Libya, 4% of Algeria, 4% of Pakistan, 3% of Iraq, 3% of Iran and 5% of other states. In terms of gender, Table 12 shows that males dominate this group. From 2014, the number of female irregular immigrants marked an increase, because irregular immigrants have started to move together with their families, including their children.

Table 12: Foreigners who entered Kosovo irregularly based on gender (in percentage), 2013-2017

Gender/Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Male	95%	89%	77%	66%	80%
Female	5%	11%	23%	34%	20%

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

The cases analyzed show that irregular immigrants moved in small groups, assisted by smugglers, and they mainly entered the territory of the Republic of Kosovo during the first hours of the morning along the green border line with Albania and Macedonia. A small

number of irregular immigrants also entered the territory of the Republic of Kosovo through border crossing points with Macedonia as clandestine.

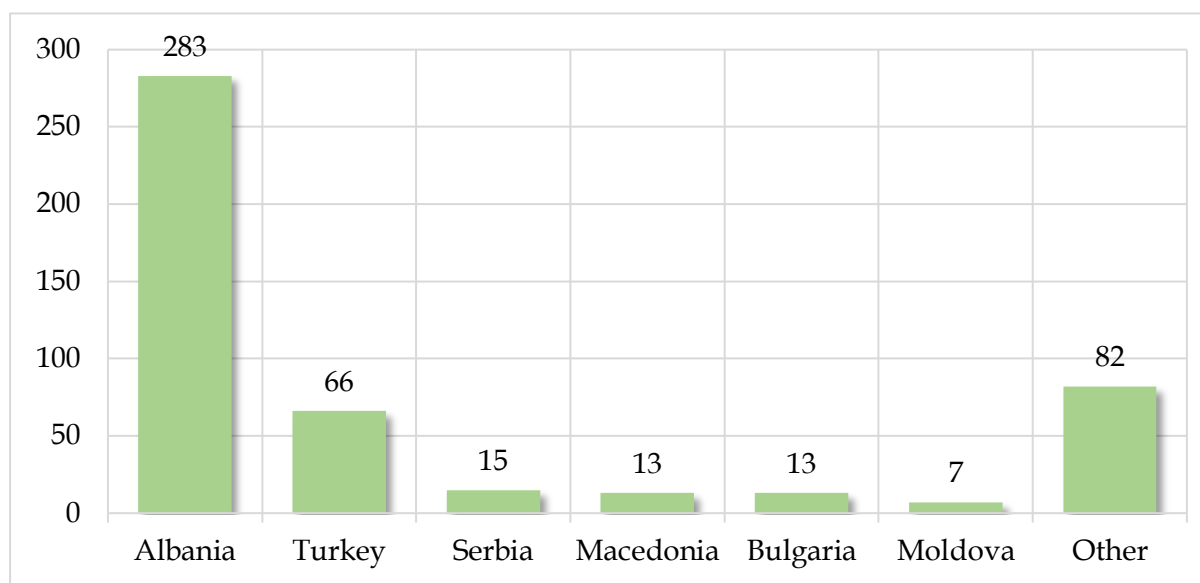
A considerable number of unauthorized routes for border crossing – either close to border crossing points or along the green border line with Albania and Macedonia at the entrance, and with Serbia and Montenegro at the exit, and especially in those parts of the green border where villages are near the border line – the convenient mountainous landscape are physical factors that favor the phenomenon of irregular immigration with the above-mentioned countries.

It has to be emphasized that irregular immigration did not affect the internal security of Kosovo as only small numbers of irregular immigrants arrived, who usually used Kosovo as a transit state to reach EU and the Schengen Area. However, with the increase of irregular immigration, there is also an increase in the number of criminal groups or persons who deal with immigrant smuggling, and this contributes to the growing suspicions for possible radical elements among the immigrants, who might try to put the internal security of Kosovo or EU at risk.

#### **Foreign nationals who have been caught illegally residing inside the territory**

The number of foreign nationals who have been caught staying illegally inside the territory of Kosovo during 2013-2017 was 479 persons. During 2013-2014, the number of cases of irregular stay has been higher compared to 2015-2017. This decrease comes as a result of informing foreigners about legal requirements for entering and staying in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo by distributing flyers and information materials. These information materials have been distributed at all border crossing points and have resulted in a decrease of this number.

Figure 31: Foreigners with irregular stay, based on citizenship, 2013-2017



Source: DMF – Border Department/Kosovo Police

As seen in Figure 31, this category is dominated by citizens of Albania and Turkey, having stayed illegally in the Republic of Kosovo (for more information, see Table 9 of the Annex). 59% of them are citizens of Albania, 14% of Turkey, 3% of Serbia, 3% of Macedonia, 3% of Bulgaria, 1% of Moldova and 17% of other states. In terms of gender, 81% are females while 19% are males.

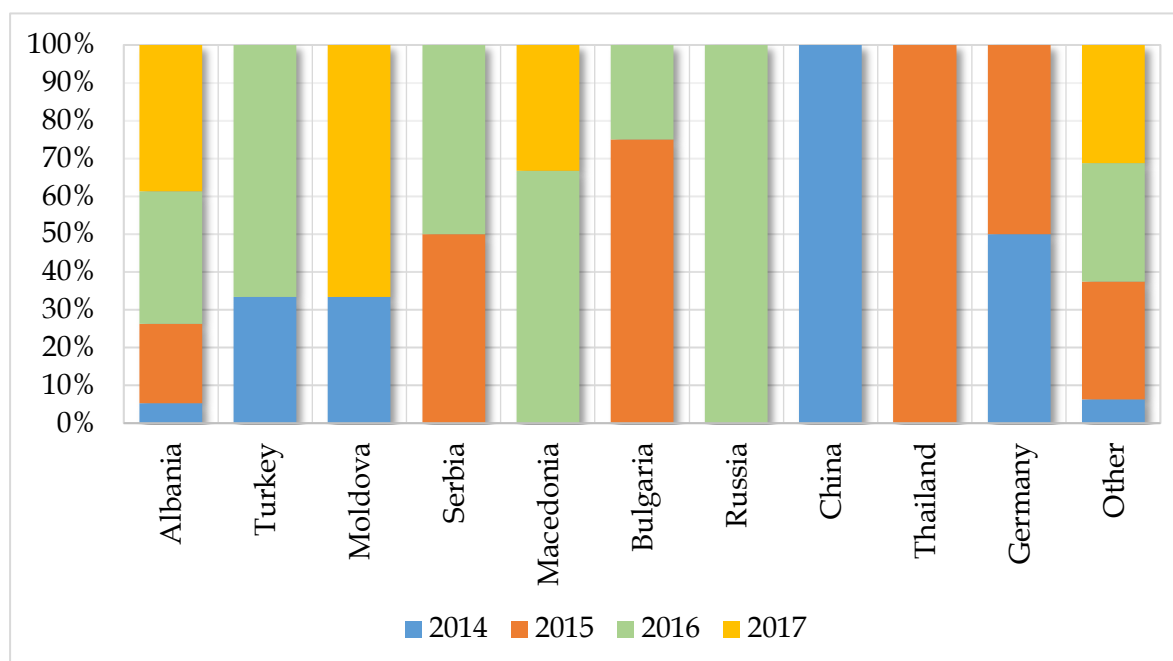
Those citizens who have been caught staying illegally in Kosovo, against which mitigation measures and instances have been applied in line with the Law for Foreigners, have been mainly sanctioned with fines, according to articles on misdemeanor of the said law.

#### **Foreign nationals with illegal residence ordered to return voluntarily**

According to the data for 2014-2017, 536 foreign citizens have been ordered to leave the territory of the Republic of Kosovo. Figure 32 shows data regarding the citizenship of persons that were ordered to leave.



Figure 32: Foreigners ordered to leave the territory of the Republic of Kosovo, 2014-2017



Source: MIA/DCAM

Orders for leaving were mainly directed to citizens of Albania with 58% (311), Turkey with 2.2% (12), Moldova with 1.9% (10), Serbia with 1.3% (7), Macedonia with 1.1% (6), and 156 from other states.

### Foreign nationals who left through forced return orders

The Border Department – Kosovo Police / Directorate for Migration and Foreigners (DMF), issues and executes the Order for Forced Return. The Order for Forced Return is accompanied by a denial of entrance in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo in the duration from one (1) month up to five (5) years. This form of return began to be implemented in the beginning of 2014. Orders for Forced Return have been issued against foreign citizens who have not respected the order for voluntary return, against foreign citizens who have entered and stayed illegally in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo, and in other cases foreseen by the Law on Foreigners. During 2014-2017, the Directorate for Migration and Foreigners has imposed a total of 676 orders for forced return, which have been immediately executed by deporting irregular immigrants. During 2013, a total of 95 foreign citizens have been deported or returned based on court decisions.

Table 13: Foreign citizens returned by orders for forced return by citizenship, 2013-2017

Nationality	Total	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Albania	664	75	33	44	306	206
Macedonia	22	2	2	3	8	7
Bulgaria	14	6	2	4	2	0
Turkey	9	4	0	0	3	2
India	6	0	0	6	0	0
France	5	0	0	0	5	0
Other states	51	8	3	3	15	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>237</b>

Source: DMF - Border Department/Kosovo Police

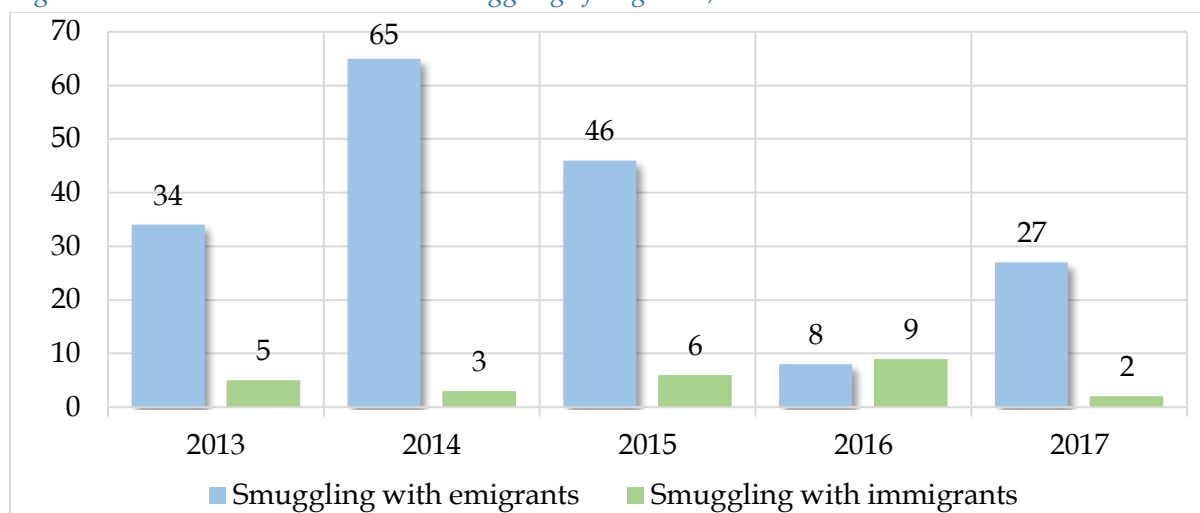
In order to enable the execution of return orders, it is necessary to possess the relevant documentation for crossing the border, and since 95% of citizens who have been returned by force were equipped with travel documents, there have been no difficulties in the execution of forced return orders, while other 5% had to be sent to the Detention Centre for Foreigners until the requirements for their return to the country of origin were met.

The majority of those returned are irregular immigrants from Albania (90%), followed by other countries with a smaller number with a total of 10%. Regarding the citizenship of persons receiving forced return orders during 2013-2017, 86% has Albanian citizenship, followed by citizens of Macedonia with 3%, Bulgaria with 2%, Turkey with 1%, India with 1%, France with 1% and other states with 6%. The percentage in terms of gender is 56% for females and 44% for males. In terms of age, 60% belong to the 20-34 age group, and 40% to the 35-75 age group.

### **Fight against smuggling of migrants**

During 2013-2017, systematic and detailed control by Kosovo Police has continued at all border crossing points and along the green border line, with the purpose of preventing and fighting migrant smuggling. Organized criminal groups inside the territory, which have been dealing with smuggling of migrants, have also been fought.

Figure 33: Cases initiated related to smuggling of migrants, 2013-2017



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

The number of initiated cases during 2014 and 2015 (65 and 46) related to smuggling of migrants was higher than in all other years for the 2013-2017 period. This increase can be related to the flow of irregular emigration of Kosovar citizens to the EU and Schengen Area (2014 and 2015), which resulted in an increase of migrant smuggling during these two years as shown in Figure 33.

As regards irregular emigration, this phenomenon influenced Kosovo the most during 2015 and 2016, and thus the number of cases initiated for smuggling with emigrants is higher than in other years. Smuggling with emigrants and immigrants continues to be present in the country, but not to the extent as in previous years.

As seen in Table 14, the number of persons suspected for migrant smuggling is higher in 2013, 2014 and 2015, as compared to 2016 and 2017. From a total of 293 persons suspected for migrant smuggling, 86% are citizens of Kosovo, 5% citizens of Albania, 4% citizens of Turkey, 4% citizens of Serbia, and 1% citizens of Macedonia.

Table 14: Citizenship of persons suspected for migrant smuggling, 2013-2017

Citizenship/Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Kosovo	66	82	63	15	27	253
Albania	4	0	0	8	1	13
Turkey	6	1	3	0	1	11
Serbia	2	4	1	3	1	11
Macedonia	0	3		0	1	4
India	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>293</b>

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

### Human trafficking<sup>27</sup>

The Directorate for the Investigation of Human Trafficking is a specialized directorate of the Kosovo Police, responsible for the investigation of human trafficking cases and other acts related to trafficking. This Directorate is structured under the Division against Organized Crime within the Department for Investigation of the Kosovo Police and has the mandate to perform investigations and operations against trafficking in the entire territory of the Republic of Kosovo.

**Identification of victims** – Most victims of trafficking continue to be found/localized and identified in night clubs, bars, restaurants, but the phenomenon of identifying victims in private houses and apartments has also appeared.

**The use of trafficking victims in Kosovo** – based on the investigated cases, statistics show that the main form is the exploitation for forced prostitution (sexual services), while other forms of victim exploitation such as forced begging, forced work and services are less present.

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<sup>27</sup> For purposes of this Migration Profile only foreign victims of trafficking in Kosovo and Kosovar victims outside Kosovo are considered.

During 2013-2017, the Directorate for the Investigation of Human Trafficking has treated 30 victims of human trafficking that are related to immigration.

Table 15: Victims of trafficking identified based on country of origin/citizenship 2013-2017

Year	Albania	Serbia	Romania	Philippines	Moldova	Total
2013	7	1	0	0	0	8
2014	4	1	1	0	0	6
2015	4	1	0	0	0	5
2016	4	0	0	0	0	4
2017	5	0	0	1	1	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>

Source: Directorate for Investigation of Human Trafficking/Kosovo Police

As seen in Table 15, there is almost the same trend of this phenomenon for the period of 2013-2017. All victims are females and adults, and the dominating age is 20-30 years.

Among trafficking victims, citizens of Albania lead with 80%, followed by those of Serbia with 10%, Romania with 4%, while 3% are from the Philippines and Moldova.

Trafficking victims from Albania, Serbia, Romania and the Philippines have been voluntarily repatriated to their countries of origin after receiving services foreseen by law and according to the standard procedure of action (protection, security, shelter, medical care), while one victim from Moldova was equipped with a temporary residence permit of the Republic of Kosovo in accordance with the Law on Foreigners, and has been offered shelter and other services provided according to the standard procedure of action for trafficked humans.

Human trafficking is a complicated criminal phenomenon and this crime is usually accompanied by other criminal acts, while smugglers and criminal groups continuously try to find different forms and manners for conducting criminal acts by changing their *modus operandi*.

**Trafficking trends in Kosovo** – the trends of this criminal phenomenon are currently moving towards organizing flexible networks of criminal groups (small groups without proper organization).

**The nature of human trafficking crime** – it is believed that the nature of this crime is conspiratorial/hidden, and that most victims are threatened, blackmailed, frightened and deceived by being systematically used by smugglers, thus the victims do not self-declare (i.e. they do not report the cases to the police themselves), and also do not have the courage to talk about the condition they are in, even when other implementers of law are in contact and communicate with them.

**Internal factors**, that had an impact in changing the trends of trafficking are considered to be: the implementation of new laws, the law on prevention and fight against human trafficking, the law on foreigners and the application of visa regime by Kosovo for 87 states of the world.

All these laws made it more difficult for smugglers to recruit victims from other states, and to transport and bring them to Kosovo.

**External factors** – these factors might have had an impact on this issue as well, i.e. the membership of Romania and Bulgaria in the European Union, or visa liberalization by the EU for Western Balkans states and for countries such as Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia. According to data for this period, the Republic of Kosovo is not a preferred country of destination because potential victims from these countries can now move freely to western countries.

## C 1.5. ASYLUM AND DEFINITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION STATUS

### **Asylum seekers in Kosovo**

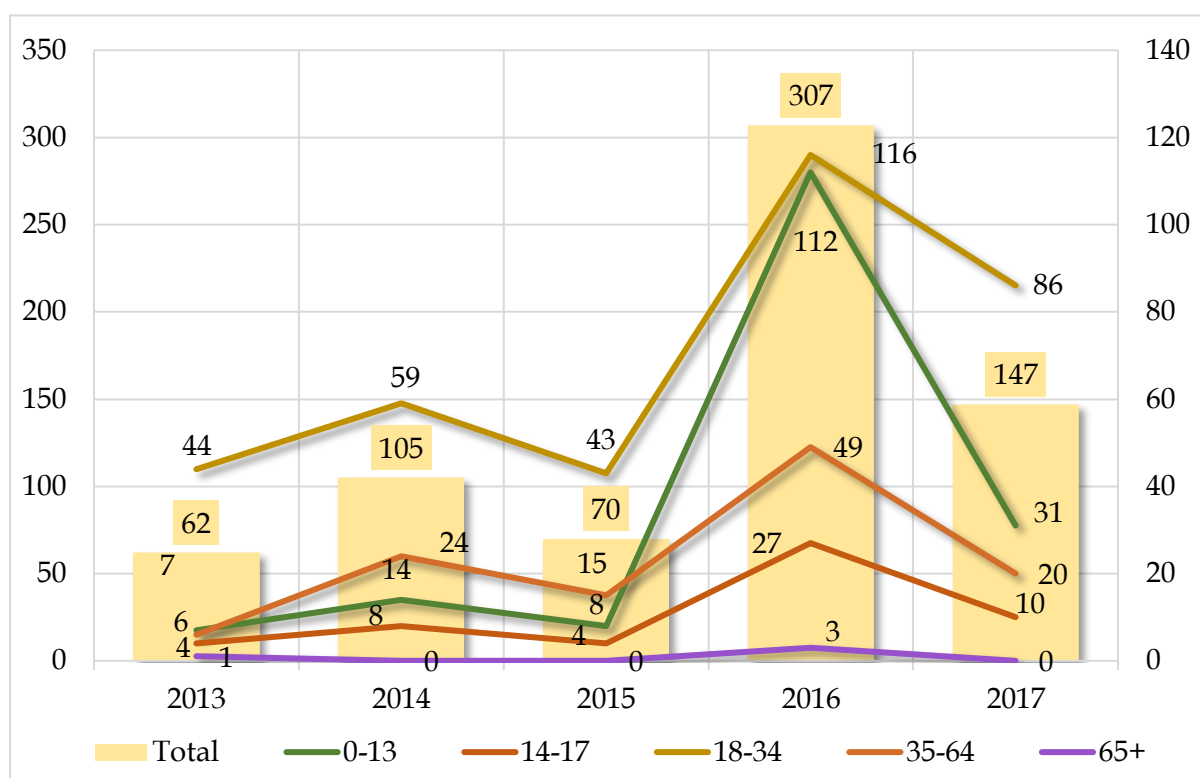
The asylum procedure in Kosovo is regulated by Law no. 04/L-217 on Asylum, which regulates the conditions and procedures for the recognition of refugee status, complementary protection, temporary protection, status, rights and obligations of asylum-seekers, persons with refugee status, and persons who have been granted subsidiary protection and temporary protection.

During 2013-2017 a total of 691 asylum-seekers have been registered in the Republic of Kosovo, most of them coming from the Middle East and North Africa. Males are represented with 75.7% (523) and females with 24.3% (168).

In terms of age groups, the 18-34 age group is the most represented with 50.2%, followed by the age group 0-13 with 24.9%, the 35-64 age group with 16.5%, and the 14-17 age group is represented with 7.7%. A considerable increase in the number of asylum-seekers who belong to the 0-13 age group can be noticed, which shows that this group moves with their families to leave conflict zones (such as Syria and Afghanistan). From the overall number of this category, 5.06% were unaccompanied minors.

The main countries of origin of asylum-seekers are: Afghanistan 272 (39.4%), Syria 242 (35%), Libya 25 (3.6%), Algeria 25 (3.6%), Pakistan 25 (3.6%), while other states are represented by 102 (14.8%) asylum-seekers (*see Table 10 of the Annex*).

Figure 34: Asylum seekers in the Republic of Kosovo by age groups, 2013-2017



Source: MIA/DCAM

During 2013-2017, 2% (14) of the overall number of asylum requests were granted the status of complementary protection, for 87.3% (603) procedures were suspended, 3.18% (22) procedures were voluntary suspended, 1.9% (13) had a denial of the request, 1.9% (13) denial based on accelerated procedure, and 3.7% (26) include other categories.

Asylum seekers have been provided free medical services of different nature, legal and administrative aid, social and psychological assistance, daily meals, clothes, hygienic packages and other forms of physical aid. They have been provided Albanian language courses twice a week. The duration of their stay in Kosovo during 2017 increased (26 days) as compared to 2016 (13-14 days).

Trends show that the movements of migrants towards western states and their journey from their countries of origin through the so called 'Balkan Route' has changed, which is reflected in the number of asylum seekers in the Republic of Kosovo which was significantly lower in 2017 (for 109%) as compared to 2016.



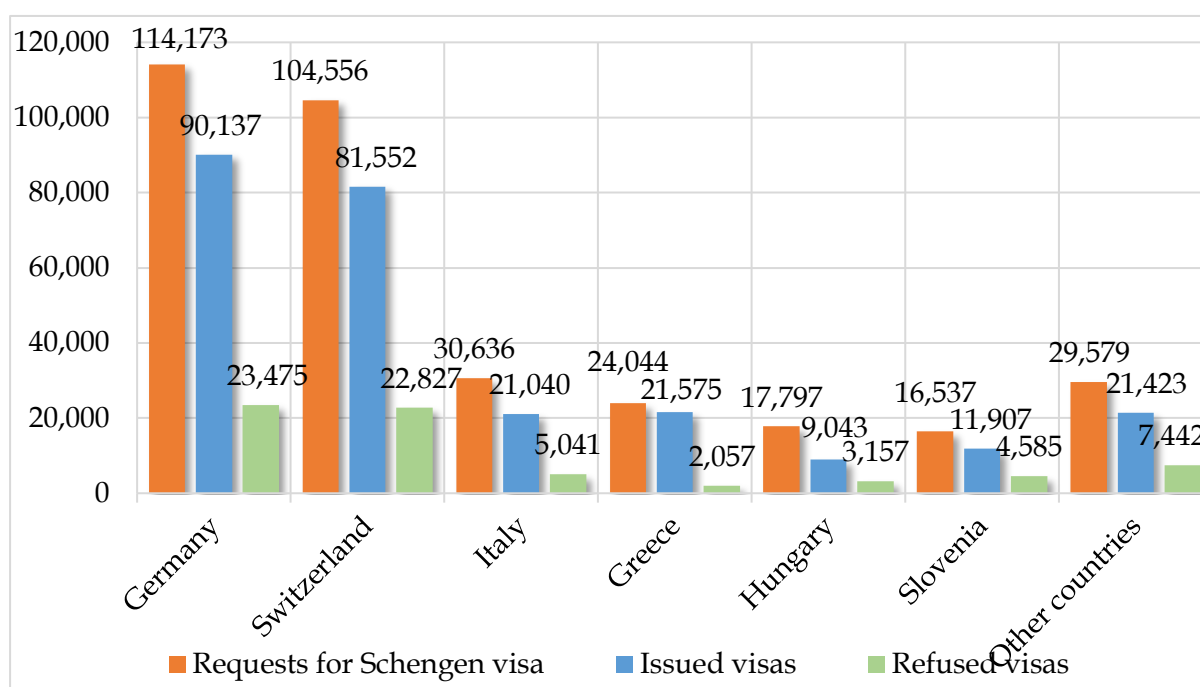
## C 2. EMIGRATION

### C 2.1. VISA REQUESTS

During 2013-2017, Kosovo continued to be the only country in the Western Balkans region for which a visa regime is applied for the Schengen Area. As a result, citizens of the Republic of Kosovo have to apply for Schengen visa at the respective Diplomatic/Consular Missions of EU and Schengen Area states accredited in Kosovo and in countries in the region.

According to data published by the information system for Schengen Visa<sup>28</sup>, during this period a total of 337,322 general requests for visa have been registered, except for 2014 for which data is lacking. Germany leads with 34% of requests (114,173), followed by Switzerland with 31% (104,556), Italy with 9% (30,636), Greece with 7% (24,044), Hungary with 5% (17,797), Slovenia with 5% (16,537) and other states with 9% (29,579).

Figure 35: Number of requests, approved and denied visas per states, 2013-2017<sup>29</sup>



Source: Schengen visa statistics

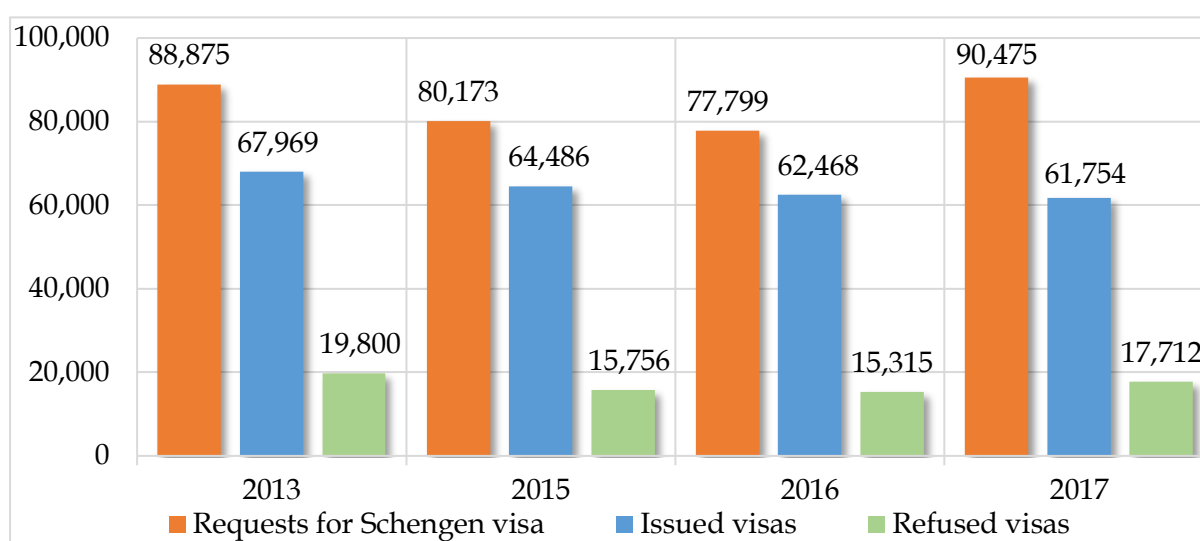
<sup>28</sup> www. Schengenvisainfo.com, accessed on 21.11.2018.

<sup>29</sup> Data for 2014 is missing.

Of the overall number of applications for Schengen visas during 2013-2017 (except for 2014), the decisions for around 80% (256,667) are positive or granted. Conversely, around 20% (68,583) of the overall number of requests for Schengen visa are denied.

During this period, the number of requests for Schengen visa was almost linear while increasing for 2% if 2017 (90,475) is compared to 2013 (88,875). Positive decisions during these years were also almost linear with an average of 65,000 granted visas. The figures below show that although in 2017 there were more requests for Schengen visas, the percentage of denial was lower (-11%) as compared to 2013.

Figure 36: Number of requests, approved and denied visas by years, 2013-2017



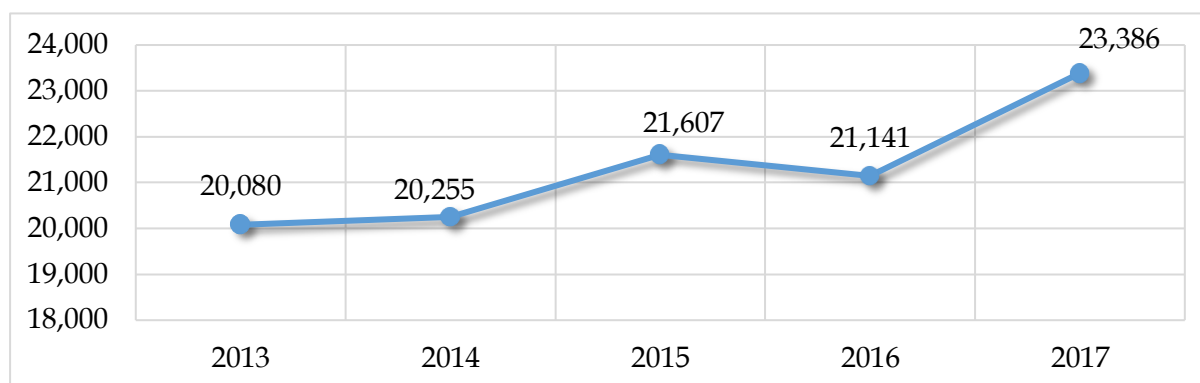
Source: Schengen visa statistics

## C 2.2. CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO WITH VALID RESIDENCE PERMITS IN MEMBER STATES OF THE EU AND SCHENGEN AREA

According to the annual data of Eurostat<sup>30</sup>, the overall number of Kosovar citizens with valid residence permits in the EU and Schengen Area states for 2013-2017 was 106,469 persons. Since 2013 there has been a gradual increase, except for 2016 where there was a decrease of 2.2% compared to 2015. During 2013-2017 the number of Kosovar citizens with valid residence permits in the EU and Schengen Area grew by 16.5%.

<sup>30</sup> [http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr\\_resfirst&lang=en](http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_resfirst&lang=en), 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 2018.

Figure 37: Valid residence permits of Kosovars in EU countries, 2013-2017

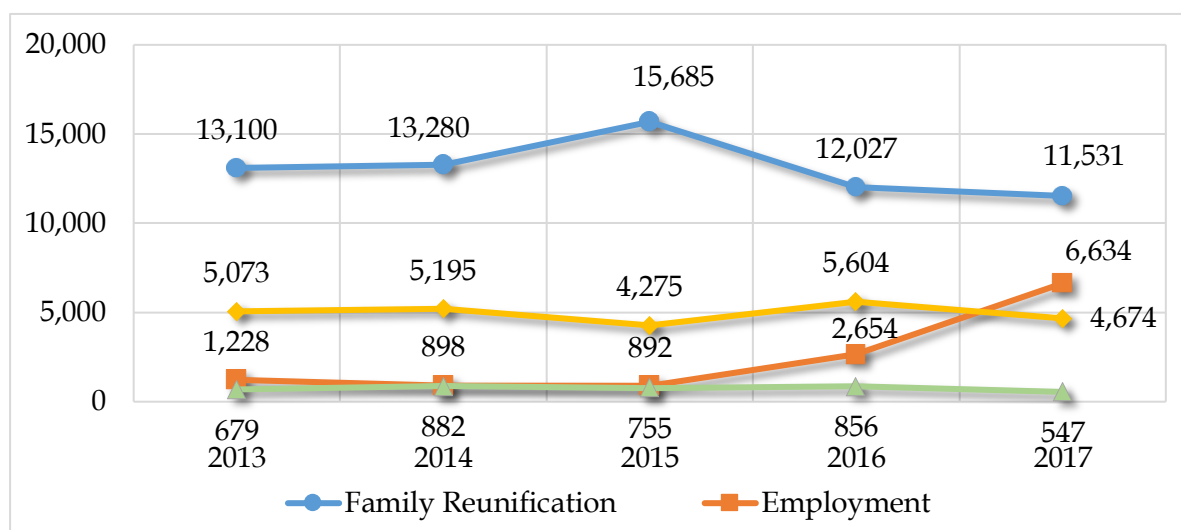


Source: Eurostat

The reasons for Kosovar citizens acquiring residence permits in the EU and Schengen Area are as follows: family reunion 61.6% (65,623), employment 11.6% (12,306), education 3.5% (3,719), and other categories 23.3% (24,821).

From the general number of persons with regular residence permits in the EU and Schengen Area, Germany leads with 45.9% (48,866), Italy with 11.6% (12,393), France with 8.2% (8,760), and other states (for more information, see Table 11 of the Annex).

Figure 38: Kosovar citizens with valid residence permits in the EU and Schengen Area by reason of stay, 2013-2017



Source: Eurostat

As regards the emigration of the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo with valid residence permits in EU and Schengen Area states, during the last five years a linear trend from one

year to the other can be noticed, except for the category of 'Family Reunion' and 'Employment'. Regarding this, Figure 38 shows that since 2015 there is a change in the ratio of these two categories.

During 2015-2017 the trend for the category of 'Employment' is on the rise. During 2017 there was an increase of 150% as compared to 2016, while in 2016 there was an almost double increase compared to 2015. This significant increase in the category of 'Employment' was nearly six times if 2017 is compared with 2015, whereas the category of 'Family Reunion' marks a decrease of 23.3% during 2016 compared to 2015, while in 2017 there was a decrease of 4.2% if compared to 2016. On the other hand, from 2015 to 2017 there was a decrease of 26.5% in the category 'Family Reunion'.

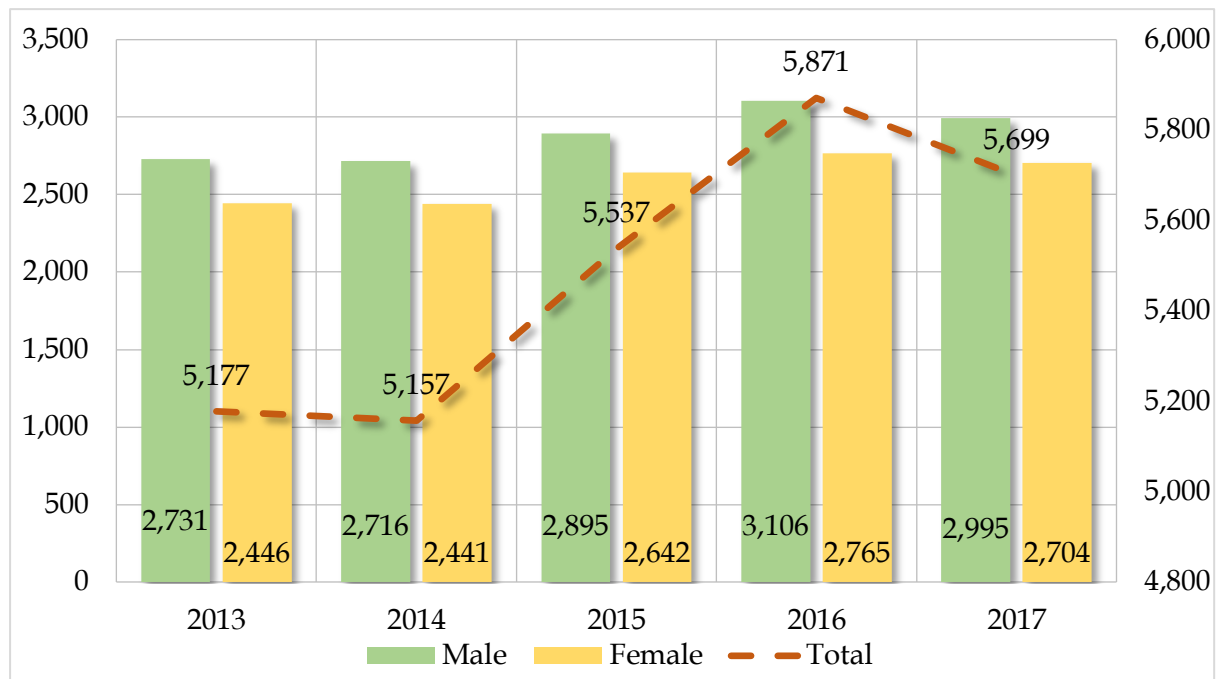
### C 2.3. RELEASE FROM CITIZENSHIP

According to the Law on Citizenship no. 04/L-215, the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo is lost by release from citizenship, by deprivation of citizenship and based on international agreements. The procedures regarding the acquisition and loss of the citizenship of Republic of Kosovo and other issues related to citizenship are defined by Law no. 03/L-034 on the Citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo.

During 2013-2017, a total of 28,125 persons have been released from the Kosovo citizenship.

From the overall number of releases from the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo by gender, males lead with 53% (14,443) followed by females with 47% (12,998), whereas per age groups, the age group 21-34 leads with 50% (14,443), followed by the age group 35-64 with 25% (6,818) and other age groups with 25% (7,027). Furthermore, related to the country (where the person that has been released from citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo has been granted new citizenship), Germany leads with 85% (23,251), Austria with 9% (2,415), the Netherlands with 2% (527), and other countries with 5% (1,248).

Figure 39: Overall number of persons released from the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo by gender, 2013-2017



Source: MIA/DCAM

The reason for giving up the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo comes as a result of acquiring the citizenship of another country, mainly countries of the European Union, which do not allow dual citizenship for citizens of countries which are not members of the European Union.

As shown in Figure 39, during the last five years the trends of the release from citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo have been proportional year by year, while only in 2016 there was an increase of 21.4% compared to previous years.

#### C 2.4. IRREGULAR EMIGRANTS

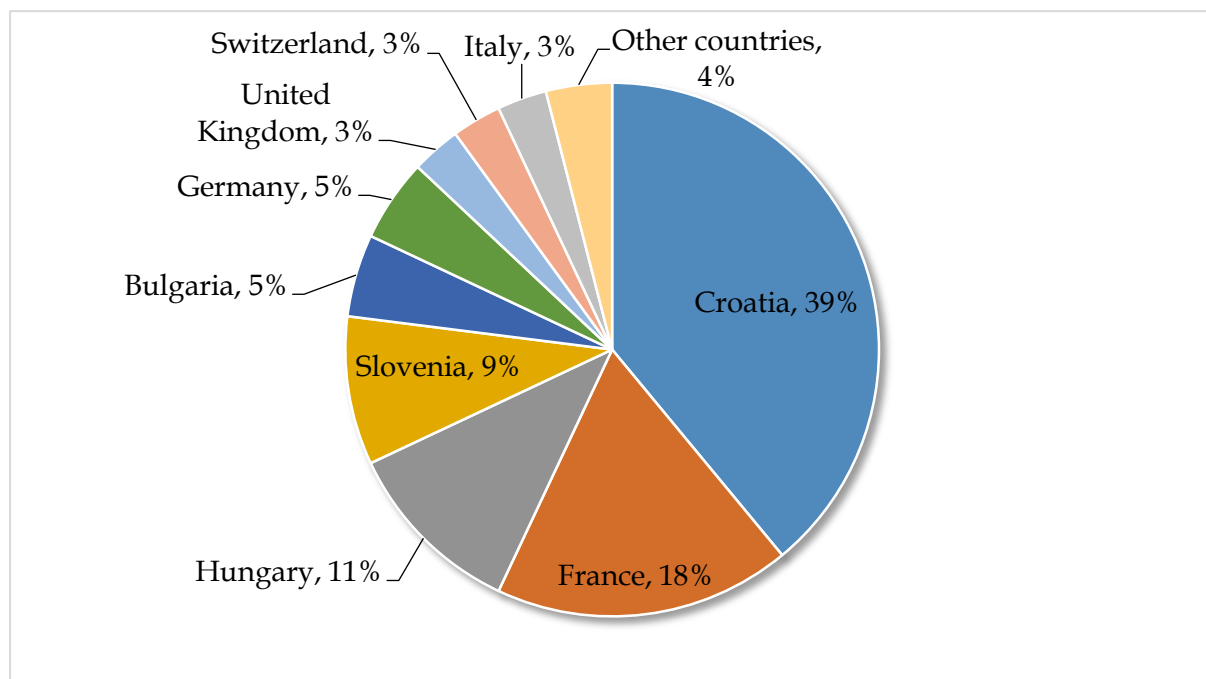
This part aims to provide an analysis of irregular emigration of citizens of the Republic of Kosovo to the EU and Schengen Area countries for a five year period (2013-2017) based on: denial of entrance at the border or captured at the border, irregular stay, order for return and returns, based on data and sources published by Eurostat and updated on 23.05.2018<sup>31</sup>.

<sup>31</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/asylum-and-managed-migration/data/database>

## Kosovo citizens who have been refused entry at the border or captured at the border of the EU and Schengen Area

During 2013-2017, around 6,865 citizens of the Republic of Kosovo were denied or captured at the external borders of the EU and Schengen Area member states. From the overall number of registered refusals, Croatia (2,695) had the highest number, followed by France (1,200) and Hungary (775), and these three member states of the EU altogether constituted almost three quarters (68%) of the overall number.

Figure 40: Kosovo citizens who were refused entry at the border or were captured at the border of EU and Schengen Area, based on states, 2013-2017



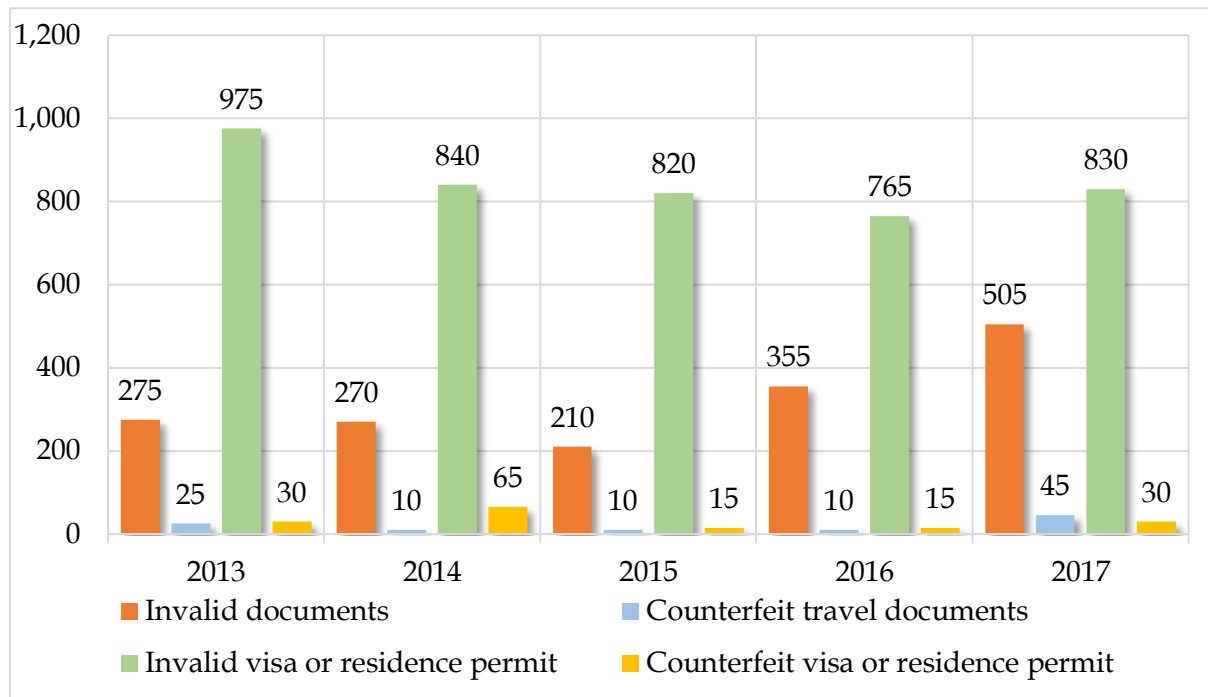
Source: Eurostat

The number of Kosovo citizens who were denied entrance in the EU and Schengen Area marked a decrease of 19% from 2013 (1,465) compared to 2015 (1,185), before increasing for another two consecutive years 2016 (1,300) and 2017 (1,600). The denials were mainly realized on land routes with 81% (5,056), followed by naval ones with 4% (286), and air routes with 15% (1,035) (for more see Table 12 of the Annex).

The main reasons for the refusal of entry at the external border of the EU and Schengen Area were, that Kosovo citizens were not able to justify the purpose and conditions of their stay and did not possess a valid visa or residence permit. For the above-mentioned period, from

the overall number, 69% (4,230) were denied entry in the EU and Schengen Area because of visa or invalid stay.

Figure 41: Kosovo citizens who have been refused entry at the border based on the reason for refusal, 2013-2017



Source: Eurostat

Other reasons for denying the entry of Kosovo citizens at the borders of the EU and Schengen Area were: invalid documents 26% (1,615), falsified visa or residence permit 3% (155) and falsified travel documents 2% (100).

Figure 41 above shows that the number of invalid visa or stay in 2013, as compared to 2015 had a decrease of 16%, whereas during 2016 and 2017 there was a slight increase of 8%, while the refusal due to lack of valid documents in 2017 had an increase of 42% compared to 2016. Furthermore, previous years show a linear trend in detecting falsified travel documents, falsified visa or residence permit, except for 2017 which marks a slight increase.

### **Kosovar citizens who have been caught staying irregularly inside the territory of the EU and Schengen Area**

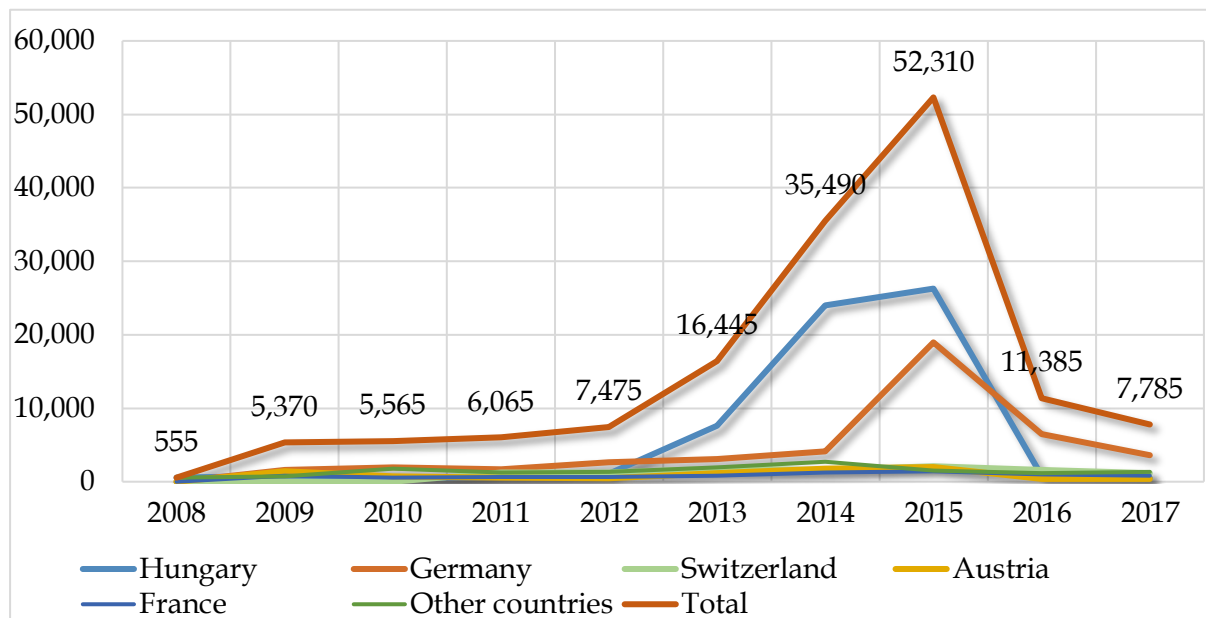
The total number of Kosovo citizens who have been caught staying irregularly inside the territory of the EU and Schengen Area during 2013-2017 was 123,415 persons. According to

the annual data for this period, the majority of Kosovo citizens who have been caught staying irregularly was in Hungary (59,155), Germany 29% (36,240), Switzerland 7% (8,245), Austria 5% (5,705), France 4% (5,340), and other countries with 7% (8,730).

From the overall number of citizens of the Republic of Kosovo caught staying irregularly in the EU and Schengen Area 77% (93,760) were males while 23% (28,670) were females.

More than half of the overall number (62%) were aged 18-34, followed by the 35 age group and older with 19%, and the under 18 age group (14% the age group of less than 14 years old and 5% the age group of 14-17 years old).

*Figure 42: Kosovo citizens who have been caught staying irregularly inside the territory of the EU and Schengen Area, according to five main states, 2008-2017*



Source: Eurostat

Figure 42 above gives an overview of the trends as per available data for Kosovo citizens who were subject of irregular stay inside the territory of the EU and Schengen Area. Based on these data, the trend of Kosovo citizens who were subject of irregular stay inside the territory of EU and Schengen Area during 2013-2015 was doubled until the end of February 2015, when it reached the highest figure registered since 2008, before it started to drop continuously from March 2015 and during the two consecutive years of 2016 and 2017, for around six times of the general number (52,310). This increase during the aforementioned

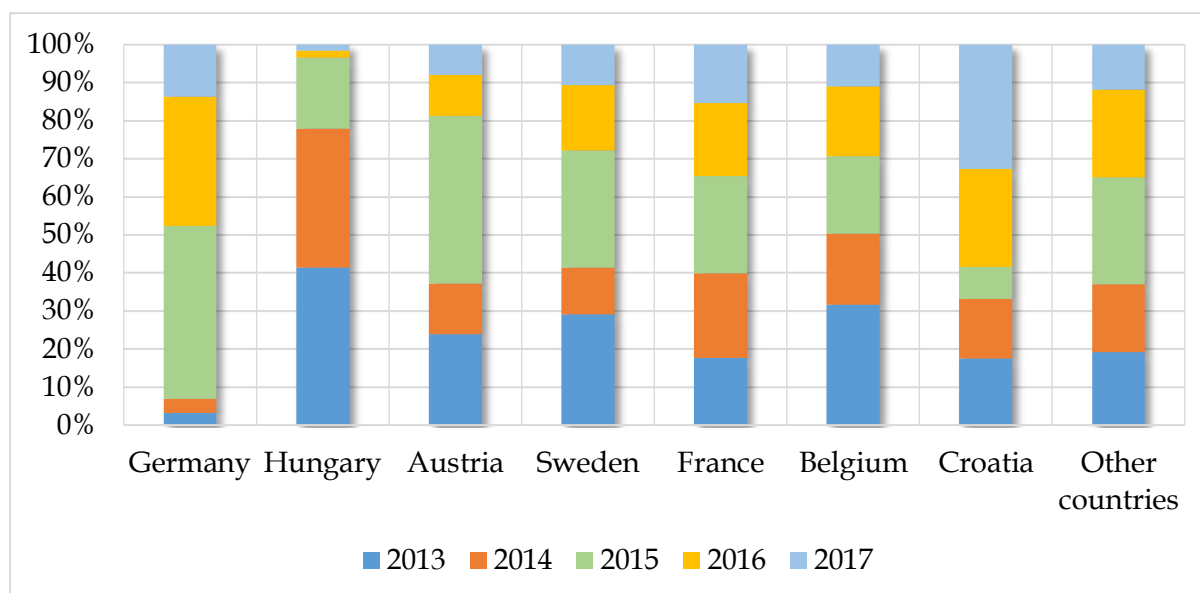


period was a result of irregular emigration of Kosovo towards the EU and Schengen Area during 2014 and 2015.

### Kosovo citizens ordered to leave EU and Schengen Area

According to data pertaining to 2013-2017 period, 64,280 citizens of the Republic of Kosovo were ordered to leave the EU and Schengen Area. Figure 43 shows information related to Kosovo citizens ordered to leave the EU and Schengen Area (2013-2017). Orders to return were mainly issued by Germany 33% (20,970), France 19% (12,315), Hungary 9% (5,680), Austria 9% (5,670), Belgium 8% (5,205), Sweden 6% (4,025), Switzerland 4% (2,425) and other countries 7% (7,990).

Figure 43: Kosovo citizens ordered to leave EU and Schengen Area, 2013-2017



Source: Eurostat

The number of return orders from Germany has dropped by four times between 2015 (10,625) and 2017 (2,160), while from Hungary for around three times (from 1,075 in 2015 to 285 in 2017). The decrease of twice the number of orders for return for Kosovo citizens continued in all EU and Schengen Area in 2017 (7,570) as compared to 2015 (10,675).

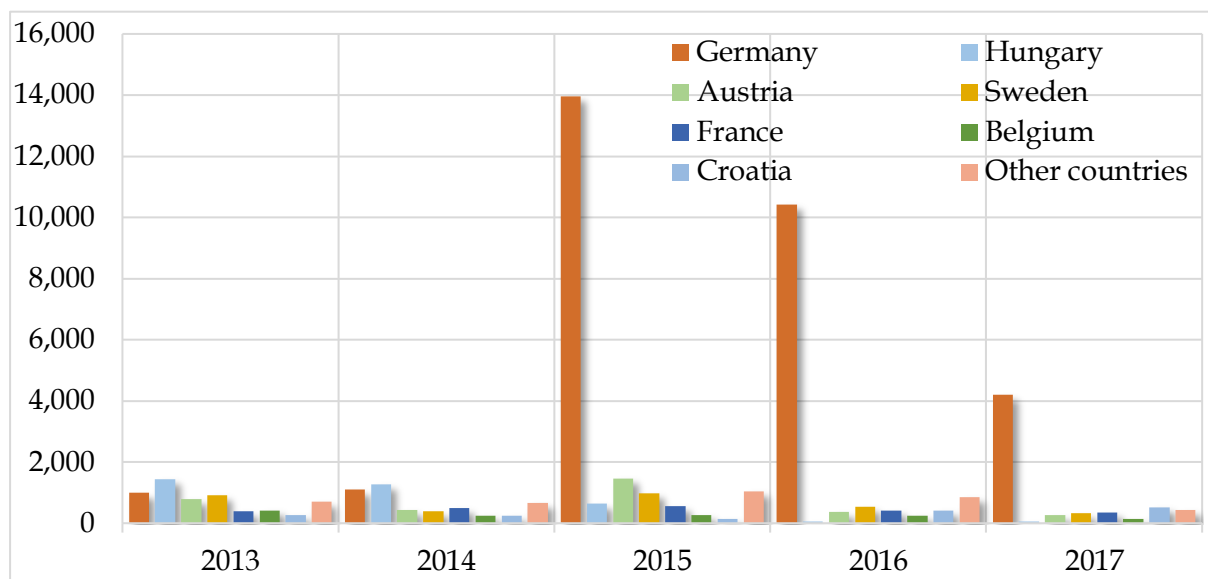
### Kosovo citizens who returned from the EU and Schengen Area based on expulsion orders

The data for citizens of the Republic of Kosovo returned from EU and Schengen Area following an expulsion order show that during 2013-2017 the number of returnees was

49,410 persons, which compared to the 2008-2012 period (17,785) constitutes an increase of 178%.

From the overall number of citizens of the Republic of Kosovo expelled from the EU and Schengen Area during 2013-2017, 62% (30,685) were ordered to leave Germany, 7% (3,475) Hungary, 7% (3,305) Austria, 6% (3,165) Sweden, 5% (2,205) France, 3% (1,330) Belgium, 3% (1,565) Croatia and 7% (3,680) other countries.

Figure 44: Kosovo citizens expelled from the EU and Schengen Area based on an expulsion order, by countries and years, 2013-2017



Source: Eurostat

Citizens of the Republic of Kosovo expelled from the EU and Schengen Area with an expulsion order had more than tripled in the number from 2013 (5,954) compared to 2015 (19,045), followed by a consecutive double decrease during the next two years during 2016 (13,295) and 2017 (6,285) as compared to 2015. The noticeable increase during 2015 was a consequence of the irregular emigration of citizens of the Republic of Kosovo towards the EU and Schengen Area (for more information, see Table 15 of the Annex).

## C 2.5. KOSOVAR ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN THE EU AND SCHENGEN AREA

During 2013-2017, the number of requests for international protection for the first time<sup>32</sup> by Kosovar citizens in the EU and Schengen Area was 134,550 persons, which was, compared to the overall number of asylum<sup>33</sup> requests of Kosovars (152,170), for 18,000 or 13.1% lower.

In terms of gender, the data for the number of requests for international protection for the first time by Kosovo citizens shows that requests for international protection for the first time are mainly made by men with 63% (88,010), while females are represented by 37% (52,405).

In terms of age, the majority of requests for international protection for the first time belonged to the 18-34 age group with 48% (63,950), less than 14 years old (children) with 28% (38,140), the 35-64 age group with 18% (23,915) while other groups were less represented, such as the 14-17 age group with 6% (8,080). The age group of persons younger than 14 years represented by 28% in this period shows that the flow of emigration also included a considerable number of Kosovar families who submitted a request for international protection for the first time.

During 2013-2017, the structure of requests for international protection for the first time by Kosovo citizens towards the EU and Schengen area member states was: Hungary 38% (50,800), Germany 37% (50,005), France 12% (16,480), Sweden 3% (4,410), Austria 3% (4,315), and other states with 7% (8,530).

Statistical data show that the number of requests for international protection for the first time marked a considerable decrease until the end of 2017 if compared to 2015. The related analysis is based on the information received by international databases (Eurostat)<sup>34</sup>.

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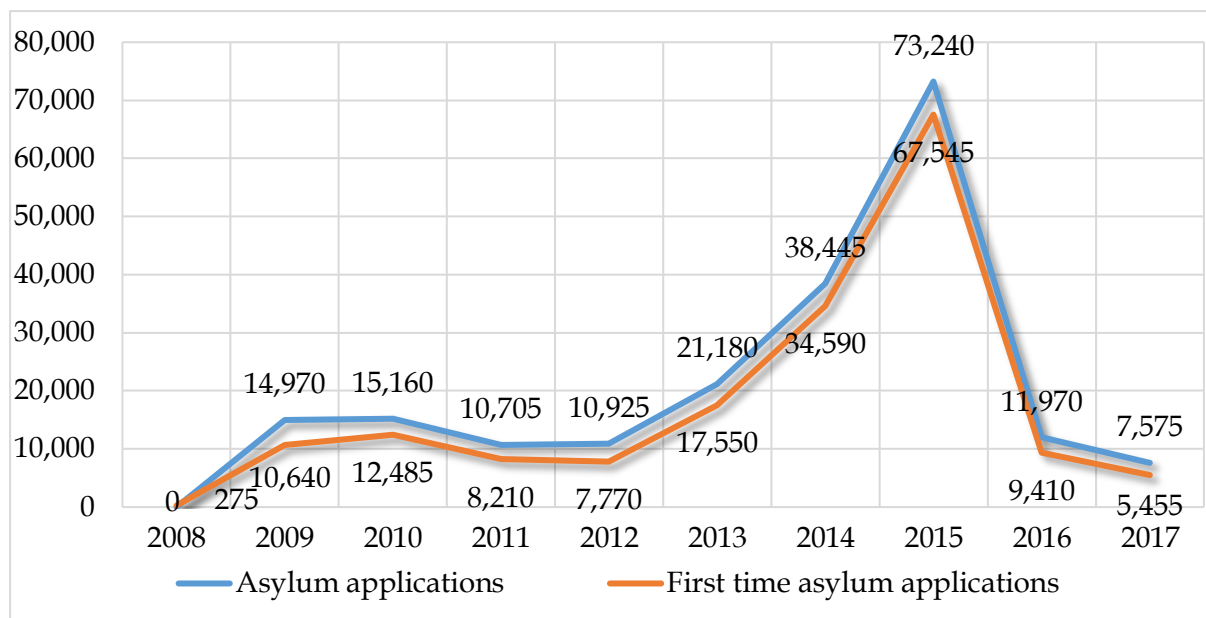
<sup>32</sup> An applicant for international protection for the first time (defined by Article 2(h) and 2(i) of the Directive of Qualification 2011/95/EU) is a person who has deposited an asylum application for THE FIRST TIME in a certain Member State. The term 'first time' does not refer to time limits, and thus a person can be registered as a first time applicant only if he or she has never applied for international protection in the reporting country in the past, regardless of the fact that he/she results to have applied in another member state of the European Union.

<sup>33</sup> Applicant for asylum is a term referred to a citizen of a third country or a person without citizenship who has submitted an application for international protection or who has been included in such an application as a family member, regarding which a final decision has not yet been taken during the reference procedure.

<sup>34</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/asylum-and-managed-migration/data/database> (Eurostat), updated on 24.08.2018

According to these data, requests for international protection for the first time from Kosovo in the EU and Schengen Area during 2013-2015 were quadrupled until the end of February 2015, to reach the highest figure registered since 2008. This increase during the aforementioned period was a consequence of the phenomenon of irregular emigration of Kosovars towards EU and Schengen Area during 2014 and 2015, which was mainly caused by economic and social reasons in the country, but also by other attractive factors such as the amendment of the legislation on asylum in Hungary during 2013, the withdrawal of Kosovo from the list of secure countries by France, and other reasons which are related to a relatively easy and less costly passage through the territory of Serbia to Hungary.

*Figure 45: Asylum requests and requests for international protection for the first time by Kosovo citizens towards EU and Schengen Area, 2013-2017*



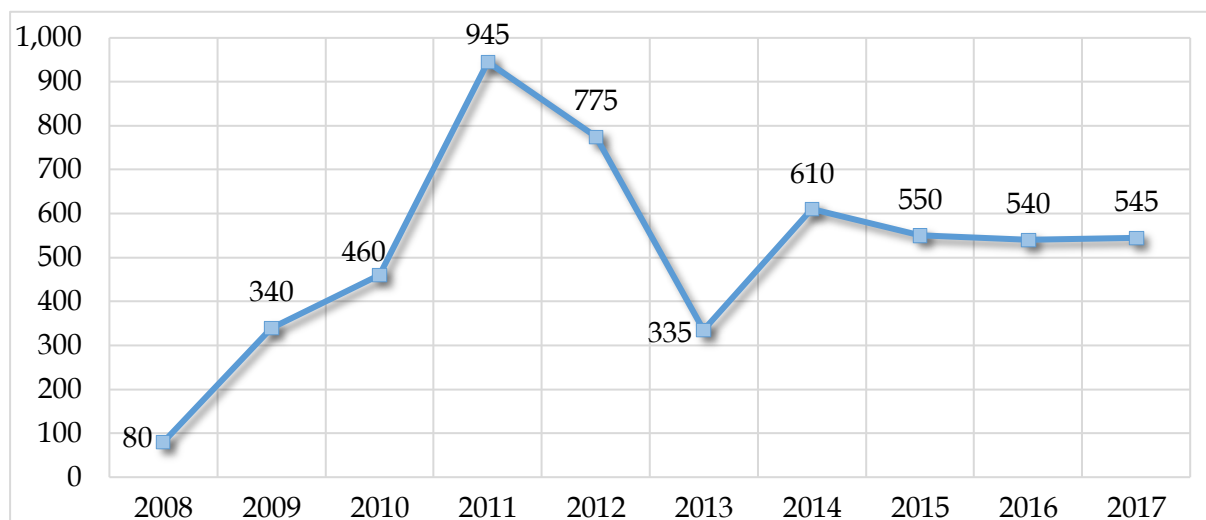
Source: Eurostat

Since March 2015, the requests for international protection for the first time by Kosovo in the EU and Schengen Area started to drop continuously. In this way, during two consecutive years (2016 and 2017), requests for international protection for the first time marked a considerable decrease of around twelve times (5,455 in 2017), compared to the overall number (67,470) in 2015. This considerable decrease in the number of Kosovo asylum-seekers during this period came as a result of preventive measures taken by local authorities, such as increased control at border crossing points, investigation and prosecution of criminal groups who deal with migrant smuggling, sensibilization and

informative campaigns regarding risks and consequences of irregular migration, regional cooperation, effective implementation of readmission and reintegration policies, government reforms regarding socio-economic development and social welfare. The decrease was also a result of preventive measures taken by the EU and Schengen Area countries, such as: amendment of asylum policies in EU member states (shortening the length of asylum procedure) and unification of lists of secure countries by EU member states.

The data on positive final decisions based on requests for international protection by Kosovo citizens for 2013-2017 period show a total of 2,570 decisions, which compared to the previous five-year period had a slight decrease of 1.5% (2,160).

*Figure 46: Trend of positive final decisions on asylum for Kosovo citizens, 2013-2017*



Source: Eurostat

The majority of positive final decisions for Kosovo citizens was registered in France with 61% (1,575), which constitutes more than half of the overall number of decisions issued, Germany with 20% (515), Sweden with 7% (190) and 12% by other countries.

Based on these data, during 2013-2015 the trend of positive final decisions had a linear flow for the last three years.

### C 3. DIASPORA AND MIGRATION

The role of diaspora in various stages of the history of the Republic of Kosovo is of high importance. The importance of diaspora in various processes of state consolidation remains irreplaceable. The Ministry of Diaspora and Strategic Investments (MDSI) has cooperated with all local and international mechanisms in order to achieve its objectives to support diaspora, focusing on the preservation of national, cultural and educational identity, for which the Cultural Centers of Diaspora and Migration have been established, as well as the institutionalization of complementary learning, but also the creation of other mechanisms for an organized involvement of diaspora in the socio-economic development.

In order to promote the involvement of diaspora in the socio-economic development, MDSI has initiated the establishment of diaspora business networks, and until the end of 2017, 22 business networks have been established in the countries where the Kosovo diaspora lives, which, based on the Diaspora and Migration Strategy 2013-2018, could help in attracting investments in Kosovo and coordinating diaspora businesses with those that operate in Kosovo. In this way it is expected that investors are more informed regarding investment possibilities in Kosovo.

The process of registering diaspora, family economies and associations as one of the governments priority projects began in 2014, and in the framework of this process, a total of 342,800 members of diaspora have been registered until June 2017. The project of registering the diaspora has provided a more accurate demographic image of the diaspora in the world. Through the data deriving from this register, information has been taken regarding reasons for migration, the age and gender of migrants, their level of education, their jobs and professions, the integration level of diaspora in the societies of the countries they live in and their economic situation. Through data and findings of this register, MDSI and other institutions can in the future draft policies that aim at the promotion of Kosovo diaspora, the promotion and advancement of their political and social rights and the promotion of diasporas involvement in Kosovo's socio-economic development.

The results of the Diaspora Registry show that more than 55% of the population, which is not present in the Republic of Kosovo, is between 20 and 50 years old, and only 14% are older than 50 years. This means that most of Kosovo's diaspora is composed of an active

labor population and has an impact on increasing the remittances sent to Kosovo, as confirmed by CBK data.

**Diasporas socio-economic potential in the development of Kosovo** – The influence of the diaspora in the economic development of the Republic of Kosovo is undeniable, although not direct. As mentioned above, the remittances sent by the diaspora each year have an increasing trend according to CBK data (in 2013 they reached 573.4 million €, while in 2017 they reached 759.2 million €) and impact in increasing consumption, thus mitigating Kosovo's trade deficit. For this reason, and following an initiative of MDSI in cooperation with UNDP, a study has been conducted regarding the orientation of remittances to economic development. The research related to channeling the remittances from consumption to possible investment projects, has found that sectors with higher development potential for the orientation of remittances are ICT and agriculture. A related program is expected to be carried out in the future.

As a result of the activities for creating an international network of businesses in diaspora and the initiative for the establishment of a mutual investment fund, according to data so far around 5,550 diaspora businesses have been created in 22 different countries.

Besides the economic and financial potential that the Republic of Kosovo has received from its diaspora for years – which has helped in rebuilding the country and advancing family economies – the diaspora continues to have human and intellectual potential which is not used yet. By using the project for the registration of diaspora, Kosovo will possess more information regarding their professions and educational profiles, by providing or enabling their orientation in fields which require their expertise.

From the registration of diaspora other projects of digital nature are expected to emerge, such as the creation of a database with profiles of professionals where diaspora members from all over the world can register and have online access. In this database an exchange of experiences is planned to take place, whereas the needs and possibilities for the contribution of experts in different fields will be identified, thus aiming at stimulating 'brain gain' by engaging diaspora in important issues for the development of the country and their professional advancement.

## C 4. READMISSION AND REINTEGRATION OF KOSOVO CITIZENS RETURNED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

### C 4.1. VOLUNTARY AND FORCED READMISSION

The Department for Citizenship, Asylum and Migration (DCAM), respectively the Division for Readmission and Return within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, is the main state authority responsible for the implementation of Law no. 03/1-208 on Readmission and bilateral agreements for readmission. DCAM executes the procedures for readmission of a person who is Kosovo citizen or a foreigner who does not fulfill the requirements in force for the entrance or residence in the territory of the requesting state.

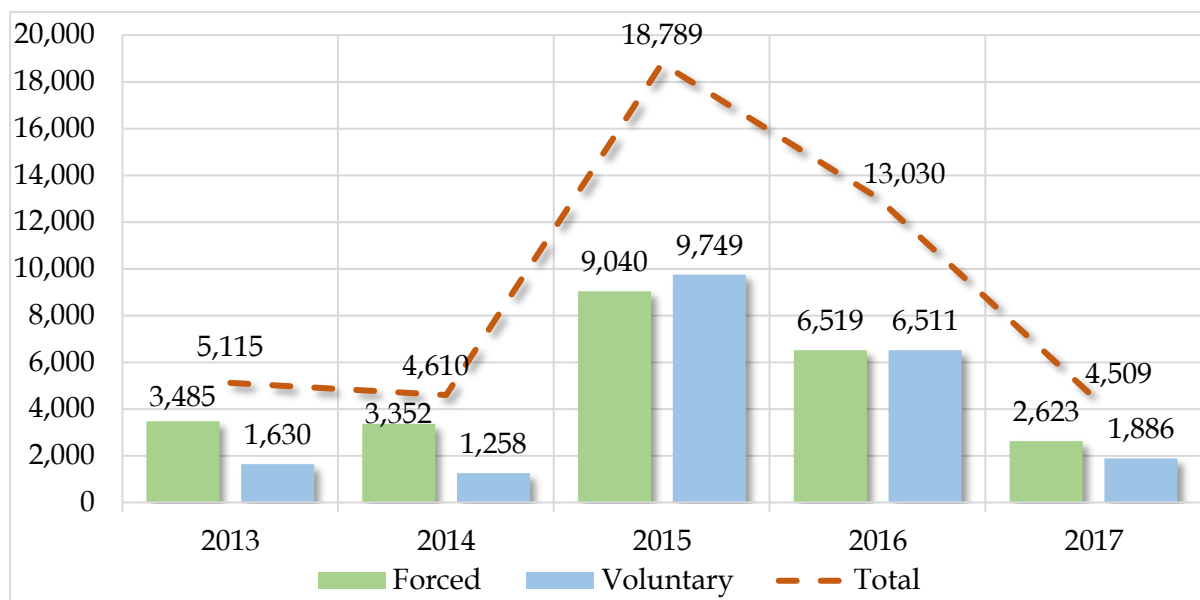
The process of readmission/repatriation begins after an official order or a court order from a host country, which denies a person or family the legal status in that country, is issued. After this decision, the requesting country submits a request for readmission to the competent authorities for verifying whether or not the person concerned is a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo or a foreigner who fulfills the requirements for readmission based on the agreements for readmission, or based on the Law for Readmission. After the verification of the request and confirmation for readmission by the competent authority, the person can return to the country. At his/her arrival at the airport, and depending on their field of responsibility, the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo have to accept that person, provide the necessary medical, social or other kind of aid as required by the requesting country when the request for readmission is submitted. The readmitted persons who return at border crossing points belong to the categories of voluntary and forced returnees.

Data shows that the number of readmitted persons (voluntary and forced) during the last five years is 46,053 persons. From this number, persons readmitted from EU member states (only in relation to states with no bilateral agreement in force) are 0.8%, while the number of readmitted persons from third states (only in relation to states with no bilateral agreement for readmission) is 0.6%. While 91% have been readmitted from EU member states (based on bilateral agreements), 8.1% have been readmitted from third states based on bilateral agreements. Data shows that the readmission of repatriated persons is in 98% of the cases carried out by countries with which Kosovo has readmission agreements, while in 2% of the cases the readmission is carried out by implementing the Law on Readmission.



Of the overall number of persons readmitted during 2013-2017, 54.3% (25,019)<sup>35</sup> were returned by force and 45.7% (21,034)<sup>36</sup> under voluntary assisted return programs, supported by IOM. According to these data there is an increase of 16% in the number of persons readmitted by force compared to those returning voluntarily.

Figure 47: Voluntary and forced readmissions in years, 2013-2017



Source: MIA (KP), IOM

The data on the gender of forcibly readmitted Kosovo citizens shows that the number of readmitted persons is dominated by males with 72% (18,064), while females are represented with 28% (6,955). Furthermore, according to IOM data, of the general number of voluntary readmitted persons (21,034) males dominate with 67% (14,042), while females account for 33% (6,992).

Based on the data for these five years, the majority of forced and voluntary readmitted persons belongs to the 18-34 age group (21,569 or 47%) and 35-64 (12,029 or 26%), as well as the 6-13 age group (5,971 or 13%) with a high number of readmitted persons, which is why it can be concluded that during this period the number of returned families was also high. As shown in the data related to age groups, the age group of those who are active for work

<sup>35</sup> Source: KP/MPB

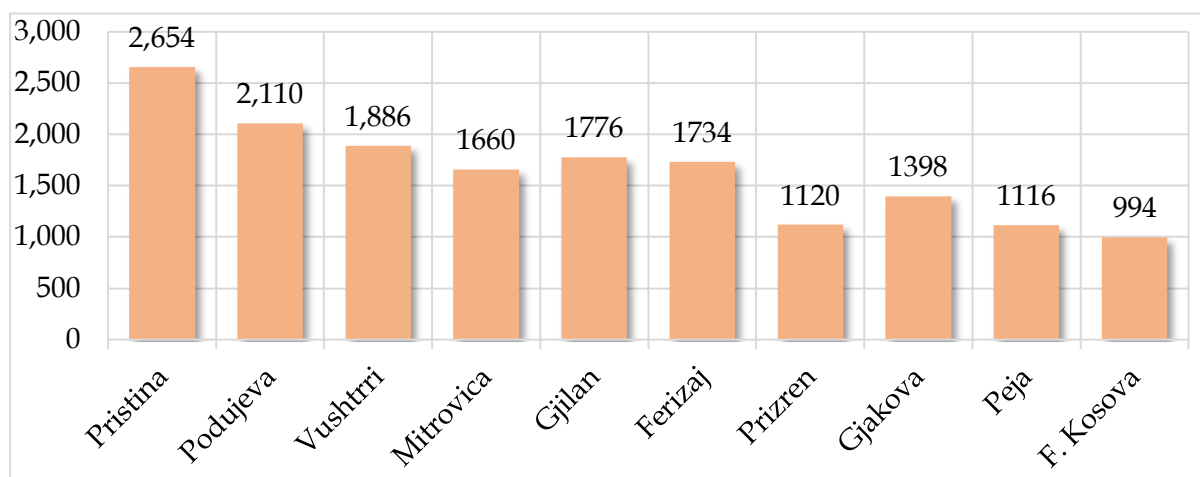
<sup>36</sup> Source: IOM

dominates (18-34 age group), which derives from the irregular emigration of 2014 and 2015, mainly caused due to socio-economic reasons.

*Table 17 of the Annex*, related to voluntary and forced readmission based on countries, shows that during 2013-2017 Germany leads with 63% (29,249 persons), followed by Switzerland with 6% (3,071), France with 6% (2,889), Austria with 6% (2,848), Hungary with 4% (1,895) and other countries with 13% (6,194).

Figure 48 shows municipalities according to the number of forcibly readmitted persons during 2013-2017, with Pristina with 11%, Podujeva with 8%, Gjilan with 7%, Mitrovica with 7%, Ferizaj with 7%, and other municipalities with 60%.

Figure 48: Forced readmission based on municipalities, 2013-2017



Source: KP

The readmission trend during 2013-2017 (see Figure 47) has been at an average of around 9,000 persons per year. However, 2015 and 2016 marked the highest number of readmitted persons since 2008, which is a result of the vast irregular emigration during 2014 and 2015. Since 2016 the trend of readmitted persons is decreasing continuously as a result of the decline in irregular emigration.

#### C 4.2. REINTEGRATION OF REPATRIATED PERSONS

The Ministry of Internal Affairs, Department for the Reintegration of Repatriated Persons (DRRP), is responsible for managing the reintegration of repatriated persons, including drafting of policies, legislation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of reintegration policies.

Institutions included in the coordination of the reintegration process are: MLSW, MESP, MH, MEST, MLGA, MAFRD, which, based on their respective mandates, have the responsibility to reflect the reintegration policies within their sectorial policies and provide municipal authorities with adequate technical and financial support for the inclusion of repatriated persons in the mechanisms of social and economic protection within their mandate. DRRP coordinates the process of reintegration for repatriated persons on the local level through regional coordinators, who in cooperation with Municipal Offices for Communities and Return, align the process with other municipal directorates for support; this is organized as part of municipal services and other local public services, in close

cooperation and coordination among local authorities of social welfare, health, employment, education, shelter and other service providers, in line with the competences set out by the Law on Local Self Government.

During 2013-2017, the Department for the Reintegration of Repatriated Persons (DRRP) has supported 18,344 repatriated persons within various emergency and sustainable reintegration schemes. Since 2015 (2,912 persons) the number of beneficiaries of the program for reintegration has marked a considerable increase during 2016-2017 (10,773 persons), resulting from the irregular emigration of Kosovars during 2014 and 2015, the amendment of the Regulation on Reintegration, and as a result of decentralization of services within the Reintegration Program.

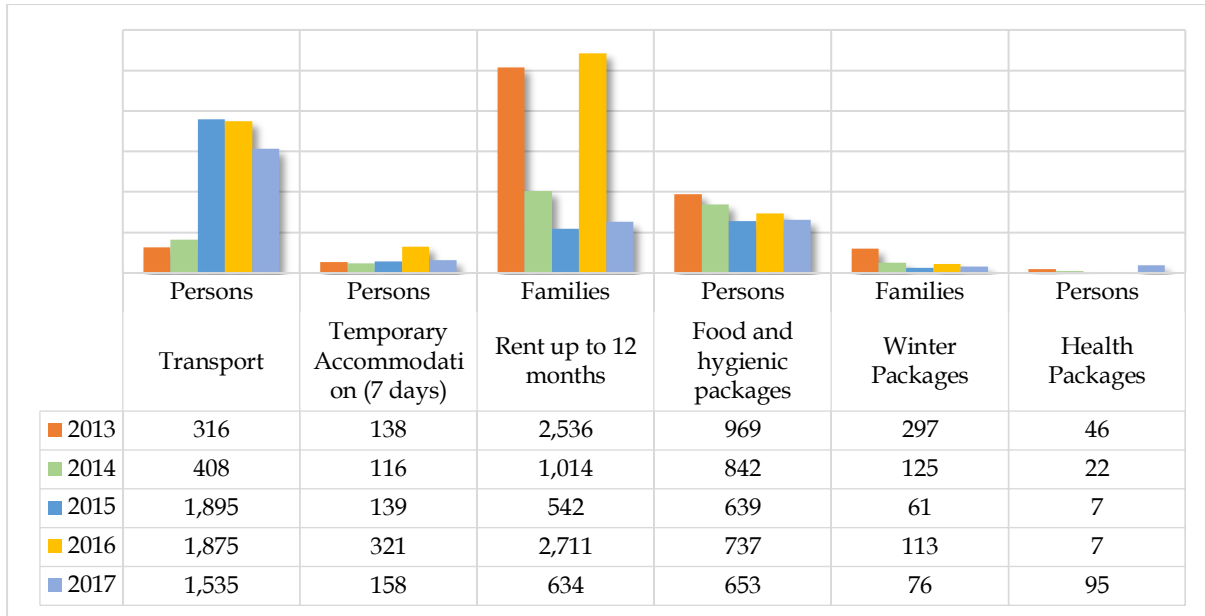
In terms of ethnicity, the majority of beneficiaries during this period come from the Albanian community with 58.5% (9,337), followed by the Roma community with 18.4% (2,934), the Ashkali community with 13.3% (2,132), Egyptian 3.3% (526) and other communities.

Related to their municipalities of origin, the majority of beneficiaries are from the Municipality of Pristina with 7.8 % (1,244), Mitrovica with 7.5% (1,205), Gjakova with 7.1% (1,145), Fushë Kosova with 7% (1,130), Ferizaj with 6.7% (1,072), Podujeva with 6% (982) and Gjilane with 6% (970).

The majority of those who have benefited from reintegration schemes are repatriated persons from Germany with 67% (10,734), Sweden with 5% (881), France with 5% (872), Belgium with 5% (740), Switzerland with 4.5% (718), Austria with 3% (502), and Luxembourg with 1.3% (204).

In these reintegration schemes, special care is taken for children and vulnerable groups as more sensitive categories, and during 2013-2017 more than 600 repatriated persons assessed as more sensitive categories have been supported.

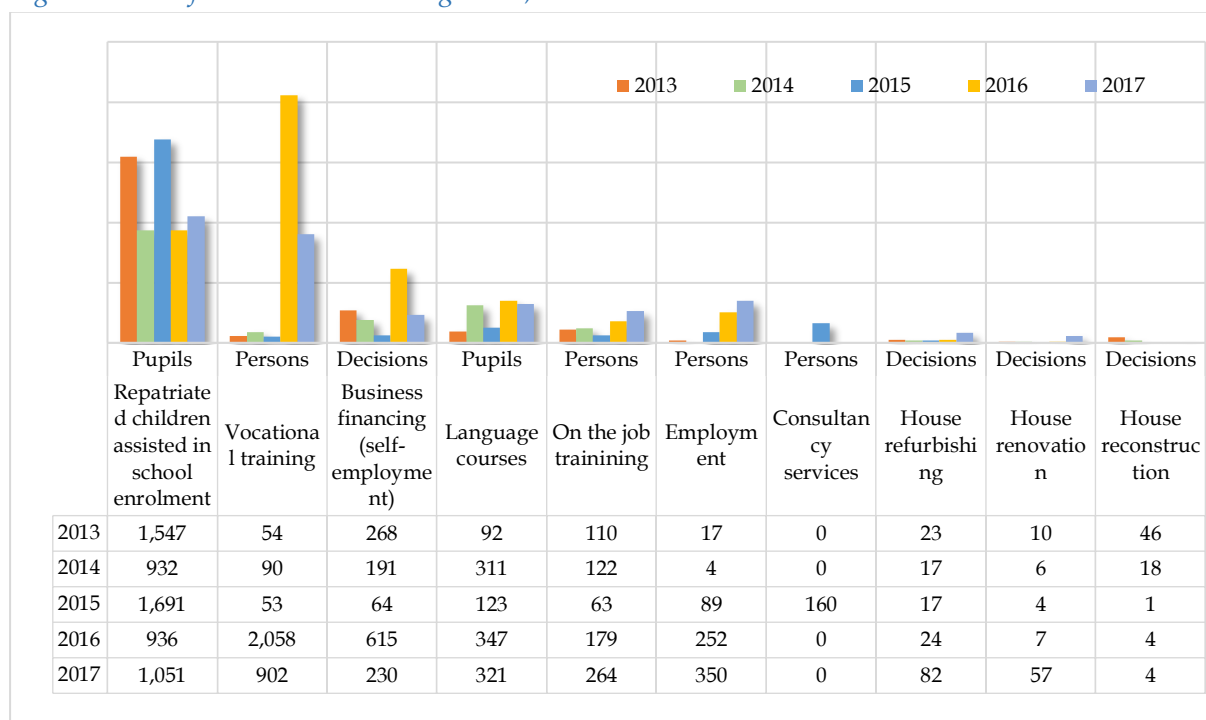
*Figure 49: Aid provided immediately upon arrival and emergency aid delivered within 12 months after repatriation, 2013-2017*



Source: MIA/DRRP

In terms of emergency aid within the reintegration schemes, from 2015 to 2017 a considerable increase in the number of beneficiaries is noticed, especially in the transport scheme in 2015 with 83% (1,895 beneficiaries) compared to 2013 (316 beneficiaries). A continuous increase was also noticed in the support scheme for the provision of temporary accommodation, as well as in the one for winter aid packages, all resulting from the irregular emigration during 2014 and 2015.

Figure 50: Aid for sustainable reintegration, 2013-2017



Source: MIA/DRRP

Within the sustainable reintegration schemes, during 2016 moreover a considerable increase of 89.6% (615) in the number of beneficiaries of a scheme financing the establishment of businesses was noticed, as compared to 2015 (64 beneficiaries), while the employment scheme marked an increase of 98.8% (350 beneficiaries) in 2017 as compared to 2014 (4 beneficiaries). An increase was also noticed in the vocational training scheme, trainings for jobs, and other services (see Figure 50).

## C 5. DISPLACED PERSONS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY

### Voluntary returns

Based on its mandate and in line with the strategic priorities of the Kosovo Government, the Ministry for Communities and Return (MCR) aims to support the sustainable return of Kosovars displaced within Kosovo or outside the country, as well as to facilitate the integration and stabilization of all communities living in Kosovo.

The table below shows assistance provided during 2013-2017 to the voluntary return of persons displaced in Montenegro, Serbia, and Macedonia, as well as persons displaced internally inside Kosovo.

*Table 16: Voluntary returnees reported by UNHCR, 2013-2017*

Ethnicities	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total	%
Albanian	103	50	20	39	11	223	6.71
Ashkali/Egyptian	202	151	221	159	159	892	26.85
Bosniac	40	9	18	11	2	80	2.41
Goran	2	21	23	0	1	47	1.42
Roma	132	55	85	66	171	509	15.32
Serbian	345	398	429	299	148	1,549	46.63
Others	1	1	6	8	6	22	0.66
<b>Total</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>3,322</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: UNHCR*

Some of the problems related to the return process of displaced persons are: long period taken for decision-making, selection processes, lack of infrastructure and institutional support related to the socio-economic reintegration. Furthermore, depending on the location of return, issues with security and rule of law have to be emphasized, with a special emphasis on communities that live in the north of Kosovo.

In addition to this, the readiness for return is conditioned to: employment possibilities, occupation of property, use of language and security issues. As an alternative to the return to the place of origin, displaced persons have emphasized their readiness to return to other places (i.e. places with a higher concentration of a certain community). Also the age of the displaced person and the level of integration of potential/future returnees in the country of displacement are all important factors that impact the readiness to return.

It is important to note that the criteria for approval and prioritization of aid are, according to the rules and regulation of the Ministry for Communities and Return (MCR), among other factors, based on the status of displacement, vulnerability and possession of property. For

example, one of the criteria for approval/prioritization for return support is the possession of property in the country of displacement, which for example concerns 33% of displaced persons (all displaced in Serbia), who possess residential property in the country of displacement. As a consequence, of the 1,278 displaced families who want to return and sought assistance, 465 families own properties in the country of displacement, and will thus not be a priority for housing assistance.

Displaced persons of older age have expressed a stronger willingness to return and stay in Kosovo, while younger generations do not see a future in Kosovo. The willingness to return and stay in Kosovo varies, depending on age and communities.

The following points of recommendations can be presented:

- The perspective of employment has a significant role (especially for younger generations);
- A solution needs to be found to provide housing especially for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian families, who are ready to return and stay, but face issues related to the allocation of land by respective municipalities, which has hampered their return;
- Infrastructural investments (street lighting, sewage systems, water supply) in areas inhabited by minority communities are required. Local community members that have not left the country have expressed their happiness with the fact that they live in their houses;
- Visits by municipal officials and other interested parties played a very important role in the return process. Food and other items provided as aid from various parties were welcomed.

### **Houses built for voluntary minority returnees during 2013-2017**

MCR reports show that during 2013-2017, a total of 235 houses and 75 apartments have been built (financed by MCR), while the reconstruction of 281 houses and the renovation of 69 residential units have been funded by external actors (mainly by the EU Office in Kosovo, the British Embassy and the American Embassy in Belgrade).



Table 17: Houses built by MCR and external actors, 2013-2017

Houses reconstructed	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
MCR	127	66	10	76	31	310
EU/IOM	30	0	118	49	7	204
EU/UNHCR	0	30	31	0	0	61
British Embassy /DRC	0	7	12	17	8	44
American Embassy in Belgrade/ DRC	19	8	7	0	7	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>660</b>

Source: UNHCR

### Collective centers

Based on UNHCR reports, at the end of 2017, there were still 464 IDPs and refugees living in 28 collective centers in Kosovo. *Table 18 of the Annex* presents the collective centers in Kosovo.

A project for constructing residential buildings in the municipality of Shtërpçë/Štrpce for all persons who are placed at the Collective Centers in this municipality is being implemented. The European Union has allocated funds for this project, while the implementation is carried out by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and is expected to be finished in 2018.

# PART D: MIGRATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN MANAGING MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

## D 1. FRAMEWORK OF POLICIES AND LAWS IN THE AREA OF MIGRATION IN KOSOVO

During 2013-2017, Kosovo has undertaken a range of reforms which aimed at advancing the mechanisms for the management of migration and the prevention and decrease of negative effects deriving from irregular migration, as well as the promotion of migration with the purpose of improving the country's economic development. In this aspect, Kosovo has undertaken a series of actions by drafting and adopting a number of laws and by-laws, strategic documents and other documents related to this field.

Among these policies, there is the Law on Asylum, the Law for Foreigners, the Law on Border Control, the Law on Citizenship, the Law on Readmission, the Law on the Prevention and Fight against Human Trafficking and the Protection of Trafficking Victims, the Law on Cooperation between Involved Authorities in the Integrated Management of the Border, as well as bylaws that derive from the above-mentioned laws. Furthermore, the following strategies for the 2013-2018 period have been drafted and adopted: Strategy for Migration, Strategy for Integrated Border Management, Strategy for Fighting Human Trafficking, Strategy for the Reintegration of Repatriated Persons, Strategy for Diaspora and Migration.

It should be noted that during 2017, the amendment procedure for the following laws has started: Law on Asylum, Law on Foreigners, Law on Border Control, with the purpose of harmonizing them with the EU *acquis*, as a number of EU normative acts have been amended from 2014 to 2017.

### D 1.1. FRAMEWORK OF POLICIES

Kosovo has developed policies and strategic documents in the field of migration, including those that address integrated border management, prevention of irregular migration, development aspects related to migration, role of diaspora, readmission, reintegration of

repatriated persons, as well as fight and prevention of human trafficking, with documents listed below:

**State Strategy for Migration and its Action Plan 2013-2018**<sup>37</sup> - this is the main national document related to policies in the field of migration. The general aim of this strategy is to advance a transparent and effective system for the management of regular migration, as well as to prevent all forms of irregular migration. The strategy and action plan foresee specific measures for the creation of administrative capacities and structures responsible for the prevention of irregular migration, promotion of regular and circular migration and transformation of migration in a factor for economic development.

**Strategy for Diaspora and Migration and its Action Plan 2013-2018**<sup>38</sup> - the first strategic document which aims to ensure the advancement of political and social rights of diaspora, the protection of diasporas linguistic and cultural identity, the prevention of assimilation, aid for their integration in the countries the diaspora lives in, and facilitate legal and administrative requirements/procedures for those who want to help in Kosovo's economic development.

**National Strategy against Human Trafficking and its Action Plan 2015-2019** - key national document of policies for the prevention and fight of human trafficking. The strategy aims to advance coordination and harmonization of inter-institutional actions, intensify legal prosecution and punishment of those who violate the law, as well as to ensure improvement of the quality of services for victims of human trafficking.

**National Strategy for Integrated Border Management and its Action Plan 2013-2018**<sup>39</sup> - key national document of policies for the management and control of the state border. Its aim is the effective control and supervision of the state border, national and international cooperation between all competent authorities involved in border control, facilitation of free movement of people and goods, as well as the establishment of an effective and efficient system for integrated border management to achieve the joint aim of open and secure borders.

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<sup>37</sup> [https://www.mpb-ks.org/repository/docs/Strategjia\\_per\\_Migrim\\_SHQ.pdf](https://www.mpb-ks.org/repository/docs/Strategjia_per_Migrim_SHQ.pdf)

<sup>38</sup> [http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Strategjia\\_per\\_Diasporen\\_dhe\\_plani\\_i\\_veprimit\\_2013-2018.pdf](http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Strategjia_per_Diasporen_dhe_plani_i_veprimit_2013-2018.pdf)

<sup>39</sup> [http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Strategjia\\_Kombetare\\_per\\_MIK\\_2013-2018.pdf](http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Strategjia_Kombetare_per_MIK_2013-2018.pdf)

**National Strategy for the Reintegration of Repatriated Persons in Kosovo and its Action Plan 2013-2017**<sup>40</sup> - key national document of policies for the integration of repatriated persons. Its aim is the reintegration of repatriated citizens of Kosovo, by creating more suitable conditions for their sustainable reintegration in the society.

**Visa regime policies** - Kosovo has introduced a visa regime with 88 countries, mainly from Asia and Africa. Furthermore, the system of KVIS has been extended to 16 diplomatic and consular missions of Kosovo, which issue visas for the citizens of these countries.

## D 1.2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION

The legal framework in the field of migration has been drafted in accordance with the EU *acquis* as part of the EU integration process and also based on the requirements for the visa liberalization with the EU. The field of migration in Kosovo is regulated by the following legislation:

**Law no. 04/1-069 on Foreigners** regulates conditions of entrance, movement and residence of foreigners in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo. This law was repealed in September 2013 by Law no. 04/L-219 on Foreigners, the purpose of which was the harmonization with the EU *acquis*. Except for the above-mentioned conditions, the new law also regulates the issue of the employment of foreigners in the territory of the Republic of Kosovo. With the adoption of the new Law on Foreigners, the Law on Granting Permit for Work and Employment of Foreign Citizens in the Republic of Kosovo has been incorporated within the new Law on Foreigners, with a range of other changes aiming at facilitating the procedure of granting work permits for foreigners, defining procedures for voluntary and forced orders for return, and the issuance of fines for foreigners, as well as regulating the issue of trafficking of foreigners in the Republic of Kosovo.

**Law no. 04/L-073 on Asylum** regulates the granting of asylum and recognition of refugee status, the granting of subsidiary or temporary protection status for people in need, as well as their return to the country of origin or to a third country. In September 2013 the Law on Asylum was repealed by Law no. 04/L-217 on Asylum, with the purpose of harmonizing it

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<sup>40</sup> [http://www.kryeministris.net/repository/docs/Strategjia\\_Kombetare\\_per\\_Riintegrimin\\_e\\_Personave\\_te\\_Riatdhesuar](http://www.kryeministris.net/repository/docs/Strategjia_Kombetare_per_Riintegrimin_e_Personave_te_Riatdhesuar)

with the EU *acquis* and determining all rights and obligations of asylum seekers according to EU directives. The new law regulates the conditions and procedures for the recognition of refugee status, subsidiary protection, temporary protection, status, rights and obligations of asylum seekers, persons with refugee status as well as persons who have been allowed complementary or temporary protection. This law is undergoing amendment procedures and is expected to be adopted during the first part of 2018.

**Law no. 04/L-215 on Kosovo citizenship** determines the modalities of acquiring, losing and reacquiring the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo, and regulates other issues related to the citizenship of the Republic of Kosovo. This law regulates the naturalization of persons with a refugee status, as well as the naturalization of a naturalized person's spouse.

**Law no. 04/L-072 on the Control and Supervision of the State Border** regulates border control, competences of police inside the state, cooperation between state authorities with competences in border management and the responsibilities of three IBM agencies (Kosovo Police, Kosovo Customs, and the Agency for Food and Veterinary). In September 2013, the law was amended by Law no. 04/L-214 for the Amendment of Law no. 04/L-072 on the Control and Supervision of the State Border, with the purpose of harmonizing it with the EU *acquis*. The key amendments in the new law mainly relate to definitions and designation of the law.

**Law no. 04/L-216 on Cooperation Between the Authorities Involved in the Integrated Border Management** regulates the cooperation between all authorities involved in Integrated Border Management and the implementation of mutual strategies of these authorities in order to properly, effectively and efficiently fulfill the tasks foreseen for these authorities and individual measures that deal with the prevention, discovery and investigation of illegal criminal activities, control, monitoring and respective international cooperation.

**Law no. 04/L-218 on the Prevention and Fight against Human Trafficking and Protection of Trafficking Victims** aims to prevent and fight human trafficking in all its forms. Moreover, this law provides measures for the protection of victims of trafficking, including the assurance of rights, such as legal aid, medical aid, psycho-social support, compensation and other rights for all persons who are supposed to be or who are identified as trafficked

victims, regardless of gender, age, marital status, language, physic or mental incapability, sexual orientation, national and international cooperation with the purpose of preventing and fighting human trafficking and of ensuring aid and protection for trafficked victims.

**Law no. 04/L-076 on Police** regulates the authorizations and duties of the Kosovo Police, its organization and other matters related to its activities and actions.

**Law no. 03/L-208 on Readmission** determines rules and procedures for the readmission of a citizen of the Republic of Kosovo or a foreigner who does not fulfill the requirements in force for the entrance or stay in the territory of the requesting state. The implementation of the legislation on readmission has priority relating to the cooperation on readmission with countries with which Kosovo has not signed any bilateral agreements for readmission.

**Law no. 04/L-003 on Civil Status** regulates the meaning and components of civil status of Kosovo citizens, foreign citizens and persons without citizenship, with temporary or permanent residence in the Republic of Kosovo, sets out the rules for their creation, maintenance and change, as well as the organization and functioning of the civil status service in the Republic of Kosovo.

**Law no. 04/L-095 on Diaspora and Migration** aims to preserve and cultivate the national, linguistic, cultural and educational identity of the diaspora and migrants, and their link to the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo. It also aims to facilitate the organization of migrants in different countries where diaspora members live, as well as to help, encourage and develop inter-cultural relations between the Republic of Kosovo and the countries where the migrants live.

**Law no. 02/L-121 on Settlement and Residence** regulates the registration and deregistration of the residence of citizens, the registration and deregistration of guests, the change of residential addresses, competencies and manner of maintaining the relevant evidences.

### D 1.3. INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION

In addition to general international documents for human rights, which are directly implemented in the Republic of Kosovo, as foreseen in Article 22 of the Constitution, the main documents of international law in the field of migration are the United Nations

Conventions for Migrants Rights and their Family Members, as well as the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees of 1951.

## **D 2. A REFLECTION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND PARTNERS IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION**

### **D 2.1. LOCAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION**

Migration as a field is quite comprehensive and implicates the engagement of a considerable number of institutions, depending on their scope of action within this sector, both by development and by implementation of relevant legislation and policies. The key authorities responsible for drafting, implementing and supervising migration policies in the Republic of Kosovo are:

- **Government Authority for Migration (GAM)** - an inter-institutional mechanism, which includes all relevant institutions and agencies working in the field of migration, responsible for drafting and supervising the implementation of migration policies, including the Light and Extended Migration Profiles, to provide expertise and capacities in the field of migration, develop the required research and analysis in this field, as well as to cooperate with international and regional institutions and organizations in the field of migration.
- **Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)** - as a key institution in this area is responsible for migration policies, including the conclusion of bilateral agreements on readmission, mainly through DCAM, a department which among others decides on requests for citizenship, residence permits, asylum, international protection and readmission, and supervises the Detention Center for Foreigners and the Center for Asylum Seekers. Another important aspect of MIA in this field is the reintegration of repatriated persons, through reintegration programs which are developed, implemented and monitored by the Department for Reintegration of Repatriated Persons in coordination with relevant line institutions.
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)** - develops and coordinates policies regarding external affairs by presenting and protecting Kosovo's interests in relation to other

countries and international organizations, in full coordination with other ministries. The activity of this institution in the field of migration includes the signing of agreements (for example bilateral agreements for readmission), the issuance of instructions for the Kosovo Visa Information System (KVIS), instructions regarding procedures for the issuance of visas in Diplomatic/Consular Missions and at border crossing points, the form and content of Visa Placard as well as decisions for the issuance of visas through Diplomatic/Consular Missions of the Republic of Kosovo to citizens of countries towards which Kosovo applies a visa regime.

- **Ministry of Diaspora and Strategic Investments (MDSI)** – serves as a bridge between Kosovo institutions and the diaspora in foreign countries, among others, through the establishment of a diaspora network of businesses, institutionalizing complementary learning of the language, as well as through establishing cultural centers.
- **Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MLSW)** – the activities of this ministry in the field of migration include review and granting of work permits for foreign citizens, as well as active engagement for the employment of seasonal workers from Kosovo in foreign countries. In addition to these, MLSW offers services of mediation in employment and professional training for repatriated persons within the program for the reintegration of repatriated persons.
- **Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST)** – the activities of this ministry directly related to the field of migration are the provision of services for the reintegration of repatriated persons in the school system, as well as organizing complementary language classes for these pupils, besides others, through the program for the reintegration of repatriated persons.
- **Ministry of Communities and Return (MCR)** – develops and implements policies to create suitable conditions for the return of displaced persons, including IDPs.
- **Ministry of Economic Development (MED)** – in general develops and implements policies that directly or indirectly impact migration trends in the country, bearing in mind that economic development is seen as one of the main elements of migratory movements.



- **Ministry of European Integration (MEI)** – offers its expertise and contribution by ensuring that the measures undertaken in this field reflect and are linked to the requests coming from EU integration mechanisms and the process of visa liberalization.
- **Ministry of Finances (MF)** – is the authority which conducts evaluations and brings decisions regarding financial implications of migration policies and their implementation.
- **Kosovo Agency for Statistics (KAS)** – collects analyses and provides statistics regarding migratory movements, including internal migration.
- **Central Bank of Kosovo (CBK)** – mainly provides official statistics related to remittances coming from official channels.

## D 2.2. CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTORS IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION

A number of local civil society organizations are actively involved in supporting the implementation of legislation and policies related to migration through various projects and activities. Main civil society actors involved in this field are:

- Civil Rights Program in Kosovo (CRP-K);
- Kosovo Center for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims;
- Advocacy and Trainings Resource Center (ATRC);
- Kosovo Agency for Advocacy and Development (KAAD).

## D 3. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF MIGRATION

During 2013-2017, the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo have developed various forms of cooperation with regional and international organizations and special initiatives in the area of migration. Kosovo has also established bilateral cooperation with a number of countries.

### D 3.1. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTORS IN THE AREA OF MIGRATION

The main actors involved in the area of migration are:

- International Organization for Migration (IOM);
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Kosovo;
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD);
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);
- European Union Office in Kosovo (EUOK);
- Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI);
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC);
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Mission in Kosovo;
- CARITAS.

Related to cooperation and participation in regional and international initiatives in the area of migration, Kosovo has during this period continuously participated in activities of the Prague Process, both by meeting high officials and participating in trainings.

Furthermore, and with the purpose of building capacities of the Government Authority for Migration and to support the National Coordinator for Migration, MIA has been supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation within the Partnership Agreement on Migration between Kosovo and Switzerland, with activities including trainings on various topics, development of a migration survey, as well as organizing campaigns to inform the citizens about the rules of visa-free travel to the Schengen Area and the consequences of irregular migration.

### D 3.2. BILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF MIGRATION

Kosovo has so far signed 22 agreements with 24 states in the field of readmission, including with 6 countries during 2013-2017, such as: Estonia in 2013, Liechtenstein in 2013, Croatia in 2013, Italy in 2014, Turkey in 2015 and Macedonia in 2017.

During this period also regular meetings have been organized with migration attachés in Diplomatic and Consular Missions accredited in Kosovo, with the purpose of exchanging data and discussing about challenges in the area of migration and asylum.

## **PART E: ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION AND MIGRATION POLICIES ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **E 1. IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY**

The potential impact of migration on the socio-economic development in Kosovo varies and is usually negative or positive. In line with statistics and trends addressed in other sections of this profile, specific aspects of the socio-economic impact of migration are addressed in this chapter:

- The role of migration in shaping demography and the population profile in rural areas;
- The effect of migration and remittances on welfare and inequality of households;
- The effect of migration on family functioning and family norms;
- The role of migration in stimulating the development of trade and private sector;
- Impact of migration on the labor market;
- Profiles of physical and mental health of the migrant population and their consequences for the health system.

### **E 2. ROLE OF MIGRATION IN SHAPING DEMOGRAPHY**

Emigration or movement of the population from the country of origin to the country of destination occurs for many reasons. In a territorial-administrative aspect, these movements are divided in:

- National/international emigration, and
- National/international immigration.

International foreign emigration refers to persons emigrating, leaving to outside the borders of the state, while national emigration has to do with population movement from one to another area within the state. These movements lead to demographic changes at settlement, municipal and state level and relate to changes in the number of population in terms of gender, age, ethnic structure, educational level, etc. In the longer term, emigration has a negative impact on the demographic situation in Kosovo. It will affect the vitality of the

population as it is estimated that the vast majority of migratory movements are related to younger reproductive groups, which will affect fertility and the workforce.

Internal and external migration can have an impact on the demographic characteristics of the local community.

Although internal migration has not been treated as a separate section in this migration profile, there are several indicators generated by KAS that domestic rural-urban migration within Kosovo can contribute to the depopulation of rural areas. As most domestic migrants are relatively young people looking for jobs in urban areas, individuals remaining in the rural areas of origin are older people, which is why migration can contribute to higher levels of dependency in rural areas. Taking into account the concentration of agricultural production in rural areas, the potential 'brain loss' among the young population capable of working in rural areas can contribute to a decline in rural agricultural production.

Kosovo's population still has strong family ties, which also impacts migration patterns, e.g. related to family reunification and employment: the head of the family mainly emigrates for employment and supports the family through remittances.

International emigration can affect Kosovo's future in terms of:

- Decreased fertility rate;
- Decline of the Kosovo population.

### E 3. EFFECTS OF REMITTANCES ON WELFARE AND INEQUALITY OF HOUSEHOLDS

Given the level of emigration from Kosovo and a high level of remittances transferred to recipients in Kosovo - estimated refer to over 759 million Euros in 2017 - international emigration and remittances are likely to affect family welfare and their vulnerability to poverty. Remittances are an important source of income. Information from the household budget survey 2016/17 show that remittances are an important contributor to the household income. In 2016 remittances accounted for 7% of the average individual income and in 2017 this share has reached 8%. In addition to remittances sent from abroad, foreign pensions have also contributed to individual income - about 4% in 2016 and 3% in 2017. While the contribution from foreign pensions seems low, it is important to note that those are average shares and calculated for the entire Kosovo population. If the share of remittances and

pensions from abroad would be calculated only for recipients of such transfers, the share of revenues from these resources would be much higher<sup>41</sup>.

An analysis of the effects of remittances, based on data from 2014<sup>42</sup>, found that remittances did not have any impact on the population living in extreme poverty and also did not contribute to an improvement of about 40% of migrant households to cross above the poverty line. At the same time, remittances have been found to deepen income inequality in households, increasing the gap between poor and not poor households.

In terms of the country's economic development, diaspora's capital is of particular importance since, in addition to remittances and diaspora investments being important factors that can affect the development of the country, they are also an important factor for directing capital and investments to various economic sectors that increase productivity, affect job creation and have an impact on export growth, as well as on the concentration of intellectual capital in socio-economic deficit sectors in the Republic of Kosovo.

#### E 4. IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON THE LABOR MARKET

The impact of migration on the labor market should be looked at in the context of economic development of the country, for instance related to immigration; Kosovo needs skilled labor force with specific profiles for many economic sectors that are not to be found in the country. In this regard, the benefits for the country include the introduction of professional skills that can be acquired by young people.

Repatriation as a process can bring its own benefits to returnees given that this category has gained professional experience that can be transferred to Kosovo and may have some effect on the country's economic development by starting up businesses and new jobs.

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<sup>41</sup> Source: KAS

<sup>42</sup> See Möllers and Meyer (2014). "The effects of migration on poverty and inequality in rural Kosovo." *IZA Journal of Labour & Development*, 3(16): 1-18.

## E 5. ROLE OF MIGRATION IN STIMULATING TRADE AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

The effects of trade policies during 2013-2017 mentioned in section B have had relatively good indirect impact on migration issues in general. The Republic of Kosovo currently provides more investment opportunities, promotes investments and exports mainly to diaspora (Germany, Austria and Switzerland) through fairs, trade missions and international and national conferences; the total number of registered businesses is growing especially for businesses owned by foreign nationals. Kosovo gets also closer to EU integration after signing of the SAA, which is expected to have indirect and multiple impact on migration.

## E 6. THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON THE POLITICAL SPHERE IN THE COUNTRY

The impact of migration on the political sphere in the Republic of Kosovo is closely related to the promotion and advancement of political and social rights of diaspora, and this is reflected in the priorities of government policies such as the Diaspora Strategy 2013-2018. In this regard, as a result of repeated demands from the diaspora, the Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs added a component on diaspora, i.e. this Commission is now called the Parliamentary Commission for Foreign Affairs, Diaspora and Strategic Investment. Although this Commission does not directly represent the interests of diaspora members, it addresses all issues related to diaspora in relation to the legislation. It should be emphasized that the political representation of diaspora in decision and policy-making is due to a lack of political will not at an adequate level. It should be stressed that adequate mechanisms to enable the realization of the right to vote and to represent the diaspora in decision-making institutions are still a challenge for Kosovo's institutions. Additionally, due to lack of financial resources, a General Diaspora Assembly was not established. This body would serve as a representation mechanism for members of diaspora who are constantly seeking to address their needs.

## PART F: CONCLUSIONS

### F 1. KEY MIGRATION RESULTS (FINDINGS) IN RELATION TO POTENTIAL FUTURE MIGRATION TRENDS

#### **Regular Immigration**

Annual data show that during 2013-2017 there was a growing trend of issuing residence permits to foreigners in Kosovo. The annual non-rhythmic average growth over these years was 24.2%, and this proves that Kosovo is becoming a destination for regular immigration.

Based on the categories of temporary residence permits issued to foreigners, in 2013 the category of 'family reunification' dominated, while the category of residence permits for 'employment purposes' dominates since 2014 and this trend is increasing, culminating in 2017. These trends indicate that Kosovo is becoming a destination for foreigners for employment purposes, particularly for citizens from Turkey and the countries of the region.

The trend in the acquisitions of Kosovo citizenship marks a significant increase in 2017 as compared to 2016, as a higher number of persons, who previously obtained temporary and permanent residence permits, fulfilled criteria, e.g. related to the length of stay in Kosovo, and were thus entitled to citizenship and made use of this right. A main reason might also be the increasing number of family reunification during the past years, which gives the right to obtain citizenship as foreseen by the Law on Citizenship. Most of the people who have acquired Kosovo citizenship are from Albania.

#### **Irregular Immigration**

It may be concluded that the number of refusals of entry for foreign nationals in the Republic of Kosovo increased after the 'Decision of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo on changing the conditions of entry and the visa regime for foreigners in the Republic of Kosovo No. 15/158' of 29.11.2013 entered into force. This Decision led to increased rejections of entries for EU and Schengen Area nationals and a decline of the number of refusals for Asian and African nationals. Citizens of neighboring states, Albania, Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro, have been denied access due to lack of valid documents as well as due to various prohibitions, while EU and Schengen Area nationals were denied



entry due to lack of passports and biometric identity cards. The citizens of African and Asian origin were denied entry for having no visa to enter Kosovo or insufficient financial means or for not being able to justify the purpose and residence conditions.

The increased trend of irregular immigrants who have illegally crossed the border during the last five years is a result of increased irregular immigration in the region (along the so called Balkan Route) and the use of alternative routes, including through Kosovo.

So far, irregular immigration has not had an impact on Kosovo's internal security due to a small number of irregular immigrants and because they have used Kosovo mainly as a transit country to go to EU countries.

During 2013-2017 the dominating immigrants were citizens of Albania and Turkey who have stayed irregularly in the Republic of Kosovo. In terms of gender, female immigrants dominate. In 2013 and 2014, the number of irregular residents has been higher compared to 2015, 2016 and 2017, when this number declined. The reasons for this decline are related to information and awareness of foreigners on the necessary conditions to enter and stay in the Republic of Kosovo.

During 2014-2017, the Directorate for Migration and Foreigners issued a total of 676 forced removal orders, which were executed immediately by expelling irregular immigrants. The Forced Removal Order is accompanied by an entry ban for the territory of the Republic of Kosovo for a period from one (1) month to five (5) years. Irregular immigrants from Albania made up the highest number of forcibly removed persons with 90%, followed by nationals of other countries with 10% of the total number. The percentage by gender is 56% to 44% in favor of females.

Smuggling of emigrants and immigrants continues to be present in Kosovo, although with lower intensity.

During 2013-2017, systematic and detailed controls were carried out by the Kosovo Police at all border crossing points and along the green borderline in order to prevent and combat smuggling of emigrants. The Kosovo Police also identified organized criminal groups involved in smuggling of migrants.

During 2014 and 2015 irregular emigration increased significantly and as a result, the number of cases initiated on smuggling of emigrants during these two years is higher than compared to other years.

As far as irregular immigration is concerned, Kosovo has been mostly affected during 2015 and 2016, and thus the number of cases initiated for smuggling of immigrants is higher than compared to other years.

The trend for Trafficking in Human Beings during 2013-2017 is similar. All victims are females and adults, with the predominant age being between 20 and 30 years old. 80% of trafficked victims are from Albania.

### **Emigration**

2016 and 2017 were characterized by a slight increase of regular emigration of Kosovars to EU countries and the Schengen Area, particularly relating to migration to Germany for employment purposes. On the other hand, during 2014 and 2015 there was a significant increase in irregular migration, followed by numbers dropping significantly in 2016 and 2017.

### **Regular emigration**

Based on EUROSTAT data for citizens of the Republic of Kosovo with a valid residence permit in the EU and the Schengen Area, regular emigration remained at a similar level with a slight increase in 2017 as compared to 2016. However, trends show that family reunification as a category of regular emigration is slightly declining in the last 3 years, while emigration for 'employment purposes' marked a significant increase in 2017 as compared to 2016, and is about six fold as compared to 2015, with Germany being the main destination for labour migrants.

### **Irregular emigration**

2014 and 2015 were characterized by a significant increase of irregular emigration towards the EU and the Schengen Area. This phenomenon began to increase in September 2014 and continued until the end of February 2015. Frontex reports emphasize the shifting of irregular migration routes to the EU, dominated by the one through Western Balkans countries, and

particularly along the Serbia-Hungary border, with a significant increase in irregular migration with over 25,000 reported migrants using this route in the last quarter of 2014. A considerable number of these irregular migrants originated from Kosovo.

The vast increase of irregular emigration of 2014 and 2015 is reflected in all categories of irregular emigrants and includes a significant increase of Kosovo citizens with irregular residence in EU Member States and the Schengen Area, Kosovo citizens ordered to leave EU Member States and the Schengen Area and Kosovo nationals expelled from the EU and Schengen Area. The exception is the category of refusal of entry at the border or being caught at the border of the Schengen Area, which marked a mostly linear trend with reasons for the refusal being mainly related to invalid travel documents and invalid visa or residence permits. The trends of 2016 and 2017 showed a significant decline of irregular emigration, and this trend is expected to continue in the upcoming period, particularly after a potential visa liberalization.

### **Asylum seekers in Kosovo**

The trends over the past five years show that Kosovo has had a low and stable number of asylum seekers, except in 2016, when the number of asylum seekers was 307. This shows that the 'refugee crisis' of 2015 that affected the Balkan countries with moving along the so called 'Balkan Route' to get to EU countries, has not affected Kosovo. However, the change of the Balkan Route and setting obstacles to migrant and refugee movements by countries in the region can affect Kosovo and increase the number of asylum seekers or migrants to a greater extent, which might require reactions from state institutions to respond to such potential developments.

### **Kosovo asylum seekers in EU countries**

According to data, a significant growth in the number of Kosovar asylum seekers in the EU and the Schengen Area was observed during 2013-2017, especially until February 2015. From March 2015 requests for international protection from Kosovo to EU and the Schengen Area started to decline. In the two following years, 2016 and 2017, the requests for international protection for the first time dropped considerably by about twelve times (5,455 in 2017) of the total number of 2015 (67,470). This declining trend is expected to continue in the future

in case of visa liberalization, while at the same time an increasing trend of regular emigration for employment purposes is expected.

## **F 2. IMPROVING MIGRATION DATA**

### **Identification of gaps and problems encountered in data collection**

The development of the Extended Migration Profile 2013-2017 encountered difficulties in collecting data which are necessary to compile this document in a timely manner. These difficulties related to the lack of data or delays in obtaining/publishing these data. Experts within GAM have identified some gaps regarding data collection during this period and the shortcomings are as follows:

- Due to the variety of institutions/sectors interlinked with migration (some directly, others indirectly), the data collection in a standardized and timely manner has faced difficulties (lack of standardized data, delays in submitting data, lack of coordination, etc.).
- Lack of a standardized data system for migration causes difficulties in managing these data.
- International external sources, especially pertaining to emigration data, may not be published on time.
- Collection of data for readmission in the BMS (Border Management System) has encountered difficulties in the second part of 2016 and 2017.
- Difficulties in implementing policies related to the return of foreigners to their country of origin as a result of lack of co-operation with their countries of origin.
- Lack of data regarding the profile of foreigners and the employment sector of foreigners with work permits.
- Lack of interconnection of the Case Management System (CMS) with MEST, MESP, MH, MAFRD and other institutions involved in the reintegration process.
- Lack of data on higher education as well as for Kosovar students studying abroad (including nostrification of diploma).
- Technical difficulties in the proper functioning and regular maintenance of the Kosovo Visa Information System (KVIS).

- Lack of information and data related to internal migration (municipality-municipality and rural-urban movements).

### **Recommended actions for improving migration data**

- Create a harmonized data collection system for all institutions represented in GAM.
- Interlink migration related databases with KAS.
- Further strengthen capacities of GAM and provide international expertise in the enhancement of data analyses in the field of migration management.
- Participate in various regional and international initiatives related to migration data.
- Improve data collection on readmission after interconnecting the BMS system and the DCAM database.
- Ensure the interconnection of the Case Management System (CMS) for reintegration with other institutions such as MH, MEST, MLGA, MESP, MAFRD, etc., working in the field of reintegration.
- Expand the platform within EMIS for data collection on issues related to migration.
- Assess the needs for establishing a system on internal migration in Kosovo (migration from municipality to municipality, rural-urban migration).

### **Suggestions for updating migration profiles**

To ensure that future migration profiles are updated regularly, it is suggested to:

- Draft and approve rules and procedures that regulate functioning, scope of work, and responsibilities of GAM members.
- Advance analytical capacities of GAM members and further enhance their knowledge of specific migration-related areas.
- Operationalize an electronic platform for standardized and real time data collection in the field of migration.
- Continue updating the Migration Profile Light on an annual basis.
- Gather and provide data/information from institutions and organizations contributing to drafting migration profiles on a regular basis.
- Continue drafting the Extended Migration Profile for five years' periods.
- Increase the visibility of GAM and the results produced.

- Promote GAM and provide institutional support to ensure progress and efficiency of GAM's work.

### **F 3. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO MIGRATION MANAGEMENT**

#### **Identification and strengthening of effective institutional mechanisms that contribute or have an impact on migration**

- Improve legislation, where needed, in order to harmonize national with international legislation, including signing of international agreements in the field of migration.
- Enhance mechanisms enabling the identification, profiling and referral of persons in need of international protection, irregular migrants, victims of trafficking, smuggled migrants and vulnerable groups.
- Strengthen mechanisms to enable the identification and evaluation of countries of origin of persons seeking international protection.
- Enhance and strengthen inter-institutional cooperation for the verification of identity and for the return of foreign nationals that do not need international protection to their place of origin.
- Raise awareness of civil society and other institutions for identifying, referring and alerting potential victims of trafficking.
- Profiling of social workers and prosecutors dealing with cases of human trafficking for improving their support to victims.
- Advance inter-institutional cooperation as well as cooperation among national and international organizations for managing migration flows.

#### **Strengthening regional and international cooperation**

Aiming at further advancement in policy development, international and regional cooperation, as well as in building institutional capacities related to migration, the following recommendations should be taken into consideration:

- Continue negotiations and signing of bilateral and multilateral agreements in the field of migration.

- Advance cooperation and membership in regional, European and international initiatives in the field of migration.
- Continue and intensify awareness-raising activities to prevent irregular migration and promote regular migration.
- Enable the functioning of other Diplomatic/Consular Missions of the Republic of Kosovo and expand the network to issue visa and upgrade the civil status system to issue civil status documents for Kosovo diaspora.
- Sign and implement a Memorandum of Understanding with IOM on assisted and voluntary return of foreign nationals with irregular residence in the Republic of Kosovo.
- Establish and advance formal strategic partnerships with European agencies and international organizations related to migration management, such as European Asylum Support Office (EASO), EUROPOL, INTERPOL, Budapest Process, Prague Process, Brdo Process, ICMPD, etc.
- Continue negotiations on readmission agreements, in particular with countries of origin of irregular migrants.
- Negotiate and sign partnership agreements in the field of migration, especially for circular migration, with EU and the Schengen Area countries.

#### **Strengthen capacities for overall migration management**

- Provide modern technologies and operational equipment to carry out controls for the identification of irregular migrants.
- Create and connect a decentralized system (database) to issue work permits for foreigners in order to exchange information on the profile of foreigners.
- Improve the quality of higher education and vocational schools in order to meet the needs of the labor market.
- Design various study programs supporting the mobility of Kosovo students.

## STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

Based on the analysis carried out in this document pertaining to various areas of migration, it is recommended to:

1. Carry on the reforms in the field of migration in the framework of the implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement between Kosovo and the European Union, respectively Articles 85, 86, 87 and 88 of this Agreement.
2. Carry out a functional review of the strategic framework aimed at facilitating a sectorial and horizontal approach to develop migration policies.
3. Apply a migration system for employment purposes, which includes counseling, information and employment services at central and local levels, as well as coordination with public employment agencies of various countries of destination.
4. Assess the implementation of migration policies at the local level and develop a system for managing internal migration.
5. Develop policies for encouraging shifting remittance contributions from household consumption to investments, aimed at job creation and export growth.
6. Develop policies aimed at creating conditions for Kosovo diaspora investments. Diaspora investments should be oriented towards economic development of the country.
7. Manage the potential post-visa liberalization process through enhancing capacities of authorities to manage the post-visa liberalization process and continue informing Kosovo citizens on their rights and obligation on visa free travel.
8. Enhance cross-border cooperation among countries in the region, as well as with countries of origin, transit and destination. Facilitate the exchange of experience and information among institutions, coordination and law enforcement mechanisms in the area of migration management which contributes to efficient management of migratory movement in line with universal principles on human rights.



## ANNEXES

### I. SOURCES AND VARIABLES USED FOR DATA COLLECTION

- KAS statistics system;
- Central Bank of Kosovo statistics;
- Database of the Department of Citizenship, Asylum and Migration of MIA;
- Education Management Information System (EMIS);
- Case Management System / DRRP;
- Statistics system of the Directorate for Migration and Foreigners, Border Police;
- IOM Kosovo statistics system;
- UNHCR Kosovo statistics system;
- Eurostat database.

## II. ANNEX TABLES

TABLE 1: MACROECONOMIC AGGREGATES ACCORDING TO YEARS 2013-2017 AND PROJECTIONS 2018-2021

Main aggregates/years	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 Proj.	2019 Proj.	2020 Proj.	2021 Proj.
<b>Description</b>									
GDP	3.40%	1.20%	4.10%	4.10%	4.20%	4.30%	4.70%	4.20%	4.80%
GDP per capita		3.00%	6.10%	2.80%	4.70%	3.90%	4.30%	3.90%	4.50%
Consumption	5.70%	7.70%	4.60%	4.70%	1.50%	5.90%	3.90%	3.80%	3.80%
Investments	-0.30%	-5.00%	11.30%	7.50%	5.60%	7.10%	7.70%	4.00%	4.50%
Export	-19.70%	-7.40%	-10.70%	2.40%	16.80%	11.00%	6.50%	4.70%	5.60%
Import	-4.30%	7.00%	2.20%	6.40%	5.40%	12.20%	5.70%	3.50%	3.30%
<b>Changes in prices (in percentage)</b>									
ICK	1.80%	0.40%	-0.50%	0.30%	1.50%	1.00%	1.30%	1.30%	1.30%
Deflator	1.90%	3.30%	0.20%	0.50%	1.40%	1.10%	0.70%	1.40%	0.90%
Import Prices	0.20%	-0.60%	-1.00%	-1.60%	3.90%	2.40%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>Government budget (in percentage of GDP)</b>									
Income	24.90%	23.90%	25.10%	26.30%	26.20%	26.10%	27.20%	27.00%	26.90%
<i>from which:</i>	20.70%								
Tax revenue		20.90%	21.80%	23.40%	23.30%	23.30%	24.10%	24.10%	24.10%
Non-tax revenue		3.10%	3.20%	2.90%	2.90%	2.80%	3.00%	2.80%	2.70%

Expenditure	27.80%	26.40%	26.70%	27.30%	27.20%	28.80%	32.60%	31.60%	30.50%
<i>from which:</i>									
Current expenditure		19.00%	19.80%	20.10%	20.40%	20.90%	21.70%	21.30%	20.90%
Capital expenditure and net borrowings	9.90%	7.40%	6.90%	7.20%	7.10%	7.90%	10.90%	10.30%	9.60%
Interest payments		0.20%	0.30%	0.30%	0.30%	0.30%	0.40%	0.40%	0.40%
Overall balance		-2.70%	-1.90%	-1.30%	-1.20%	-3.10%	-5.80%	-4.90%	-3.90%
Overall balance (according to the fiscal rule)	-3.10%	-2.30%	-1.90%	-0.90%	-0.80%	-0.50%	-2.00%	-1.30%	-1.40%
<b>Balance of Savings/Investments (in % of GDP)</b>									
Net primary income from abroad	2.30%	2.10%	1.60%	1.20%	1.30%	2.10%	1.90%	2.30%	2.40%
Net secondary income from abroad		19.80%	18.30%	18.10%	18.10%	18.30%	18.10%	17.80%	17.60%
<i>from which: remittances</i>	10.80%	11.20%	11.50%	11.40%	11.80%	11.80%	11.80%	11.70%	11.60%
Investment	27.60%	25.80%	27.60%	27.20%	28.40%	29.10%	30.10%	30.00%	30.00%
Balance of current account	-3.40%	-6.90%	-8.60%	-8.30%	-6.80%	-8.10%	-9.60%	-8.90%	-8.90%
Trade balance	-37.50%	-37.00%	-36.30%	-37.70%	-38.40%	-42.60%	-43.90%	-43.90%	-43.90%
Gross national savings		18.90%	19.00%	19.20%	21.90%	20.90%	20.50%	21.00%	21.20%
Private savings		14.60%	14.60%	13.10%	15.30%	15.20%	14.50%	14.80%	14.60%
<b>Main aggregates (in millions of euros)</b>									
GDP	5,326.70	5,567.10	5,807.50	6,070.10	6,413.90	6,760.70	7,123.10	7,529.00	7,960.90
AGNI	6,623.20	6,781.90	6,962.50	7,240.20	7,660.70	8,138.70	8,544.00	9,048.80	9,549.40
GDP per capita (in euro)	2,899.70	3,084.40	3,278.10	3,386.40	3,596.20	3,775.10	3,962.90	4,174.20	4,399.60

AGNI per capita (in euro)	3,277.90	3,492.50	3,706.00	3,813.40	4,069.40	4,298.30	4,502.70	4,759.50	5,013.20
Workers' remittances	573.4	622.3	665.5	691	759.2	797.1	837	878.9	922.8
Population (in thousands)	1,837.00	1,804.90	1,771.60	1,792.50	1,783.50	1,790.80	1,797.40	1,803.70	1,809.50

Source: MF AND KAS

TABLE 2: MID-TERM BUDGETARY FORECASTS 2018-2020, IN MILLIONS OF EUROS

Description	Revised budget				Previous	Budget	Projection	Projection 4
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total income	1,345	1,470	1,608	1,725	1,689	1,829	1,939	2,069
Tax revenue, net	1,162	1,269	1,421	1,512	1,495	1,607	1,719	1,847
Non-tax revenue	171	188	175	201	185	202	203	204
Other	12	13	12	12	9	19	17	17
Total expenditure	1,480	1,564	1,672	1,811	1,748	2,092	2,183	2,297
Operational expenses	1,058	1,149	1,221	1,309	1,281	1,386	1,420	1,458
Capital expenses	411	404	444	501	468	694	751	827
Other	11	11	8	0	0	12	12	12
Primary balance	-135	-94	-64	-86	-59	-264	-245	-228
Balance of the general budget	-148	-111	-83	-109	-78	-287	-268	-249
Balance of the budget - fiscal rule	-128	-78	-54	-96	-43	-122	-109	-70

Source: MF AND KAS

TABLE 3: MIGRANT REMITTANCES ACCORDING TO STATES (IN PERCENTAGE)

Description	Total	Germany	Switzerland	Italy	Austria	Belgium	USA	Sweden	France	Norway	Canada	Great Britain	Other states
2013	100	34	24	8	6	2	4	3	4	3	1	2	9
2014	100	36	23	5	4	3	6	3	3	3	1	3	10
2015	100	37	22	5	4	2	8	3	3	3	2	3	8
2016	100	37	23	5	4	2	7	3	4	2	2	3	9
2017	100	39	22	4	4	3	7	3	4	2	2	3	7

Source: CBK

TABLE 4: PUPILS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATION BY LEVELS AND SCHOOL YEARS, 2012/13-2016/17

Level of education	2012/13			2013/14			2014/15			2015/16			2016/17		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Pre-school education (0-<5 years old)	2,909	2,556	5,465	2,827	2,571	5,398	2,790	2,580	5,370	2,505	2,287	4,792	3,192	2,700	5,892
Pre-primary education (age 5-<6)	10,422	9,943	20,365	10,319	9,620	19,939	10,739	10,136	20,875	11,483	10,649	22,132	11,901	11,193	23,094
Primary/ lower secondary	150,470	139,833	290,303	145,488	135,108	280,596	142,460	133,427	275,887	134,842	126,265	261,107	129,697	121,234	250,931
High school	57,879	49,072	106,951	54,785	47,428	102,213	45,796	40,423	86,219	45,366	41,010	86,376	46,449	42,943	89,392
Total	221,680	201,404	423,084	213,419	194,727	408,146	201,785	186,566	388,351	194,196	180,211	374,407	191,239	178,070	369,309

Source: MEST

TABLE 5: GROSS REGISTRATION RATE (GRR) PRIMARY, LOWER SECONDARY AND HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL LEVELS, 2012/13-2016/17

Gross rate C14:M18	2012/2013			2013/2014			2014/2015			2015/2016			2016/2017		
	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F
GRR in primary education	98.60 %	98.70 %	98.50 %	96.40 %	96.80 %	96.00 %	96.40 %	96.20 %	96.50 %	94.70 %	94.50 %	94.80 %	96.20 %	96.10 %	96.40 %
GRR in lower secondary education	98.60 %	99.10 %	98.10 %	98.00 %	98.30 %	97.80 %	99.50 %	99.40 %	99.60 %	96.00 %	95.80 %	96.10 %	93.30 %	93.20 %	93.30 %
GRR in high school education	88.70 %	91.90 %	85.30 %	87.00 %	89.40 %	84.40 %	84.50 %	86.90 %	81.90 %	84.90 %	86.30 %	83.40 %	88.10 %	88.60 %	87.50 %

Source: MEST/EMIS

TABLE 6: PUPILS THAT LEFT THE COUNTRY BY LEVEL AND SCHOOL YEAR, 2013/14-2016/17

Level	2013/14			2014/15			2015/16			2016/17		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Pre-primary (age of 5-<6)	7	4	11	15	19	34	3	2	5	6	2	8
Primary and lower secondary (grade 1 - 9)	859	720	1,579	2,496	2,028	4,524	1,169	957	2,126	337	291	628
High school (grade 10 - 13)	161	65	226	262	145	407	71	47	118	53	13	66
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>1,816</b>	<b>2,773</b>	<b>2,192</b>	<b>4,965</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>2,249</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>702</b>

Source: MEST/EMIS

TABLE 7: PUPILS THAT CAME FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY BY LEVEL AND SCHOOL YEAR, 2013/14-2016/17

Level	2013/14			2014/15			2015/16			2016/17		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Pre-primary (age of 5-<6)	5	8	13	5	1	6	10	19	29	3	11	14
Primary and lower secondary (grade 1 - 9)	717	590	1,307	419	362	781	799	681	1,480	460	357	817
High school (grade 10 - 13)	158	69	227	86	59	145	116	66	182	70	35	105
<b>Total</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>1547</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>1,691</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>936</b>

Source: MEST/EMIS

TABLE 8: NUMBER AND CITIZENSHIP OF IMMIGRANTS THAT ENTERED KOSOVO IN AN UNAUTHORIZED MANNER, 2013-2017

Country/year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Afghanistan	0	0	0	228	43	271
Syria	24	79	66	55	26	250
Libya	0	0	0	5	24	29
Algeria	7	3	1	0	15	26
Pakistan	12	1	0	0	11	24
Iraq	0	7	7	3	3	20
Iran	0	2	2	9	4	17
Nigeria	8	0	0	0	0	8

Palestine	0	1	2	3	2	8
India	0	0	6	0	0	6
Senegal	5	0	0	0	0	5
Morocco	2	0	1	2	0	5
Other	4	2	3	1	4	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>683</b>

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

TABLE 9: NUMBER AND CITIZENSHIP OF PERSONS STAYING IRREGULARLY DURING 2013-2017

Citizenship	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Albania	283	106	108	16	21	32
Turkey	66	46	2	6	1	11
Serbia	15	15	0	0	0	0
Macedonia	13	11	1	0	0	1
Bulgaria	13	8	2	1	1	1
Moldova	7	0	3	0	0	4
Other	82	26	18	12	13	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>62</b>

Source: DMF - Border Department/Kosovo Police



TABLE 10: ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO BY GENDER AND AGE GROUP, 2013-2017

Country/Age group	Total	Total (m)	Total (f)	0-13	14-17	18-34	35-64	65+	Unknown
<b>Total</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
Afghanistan	272	160	112	113	26	89	42	2	0
Syria	242	209	33	37	18	144	42	1	0
Algeria	25	25	0	0	0	22	3	0	0
Libya	25	25	0	0	2	20	3	0	0
Pakistan	25	25	0	0	0	22	2	0	0
Iraq	16	11	5	3	1	7	5	0	0
Albania	11	8	3	5	2	1	2	1	0
Iran	10	9	1	3	1	5	1	0	0
Nigeria	8	3	5	5	0	0	2	0	0
Palestine	6	6	0	0	0	5	1	0	0
Other states	51	42	9	6	3	32	11	0	0

Source: MIA/DCAM

TABLE 11: KOSOVO CITIZENS WITH REGULAR RESIDENCE PERMITS IN THE EU AND SCHENGEN AREA, 2013-2017

Year	Total 2013-2017		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
Germany	48,866	45.90%	7,846	39.10%	8,260	40.80%	8,260	38.20%	10,020	47.40%	14,480	61.90%
Italy	12,393	11.60%	2,461	12.30%	2,078	10.30%	2,786	12.90%	2,599	12.30%	2,469	10.60%
France	8,760	8.20%	1,528	7.60%	1,576	7.80%	1,676	7.80%	2,029	9.60%	1,951	8.30%
Slovenia	7,825	7.30%	1,246	6.20%	1,555	7.70%	1,612	7.50%	1,397	6.60%	2,015	8.60%
Austria	7,197	6.80%	1,713	8.50%	1,763	8.70%	1,877	8.70%	1,844	8.70%	:	:
Sweden	4,034	3.80%	1,016	5.10%	986	4.90%	1,018	4.70%	1,014	4.80%	:	:
Switzerland	7,127	6.70%	2,619	13.00%	2,020	10.00%	2,199	10.20%	:	:	289	1.20%
Belgium	2,005	1.90%	402	2.00%	392	1.90%	459	2.10%	361	1.70%	391	1.70%
England	1,249	1.20%	210	1.00%	348	1.70%	312	1.40%	379	1.80%	:	:
Finland	1,800	1.70%	336	1.70%	372	1.80%	326	1.50%	352	1.70%	414	1.80%
Other	5,213	4.90%	703	3.50%	905	4.50%	1,082	5.00%	1,146	5.40%	1,377	5.90%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>106,469</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>20,080</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>20,255</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>21,607</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>21,141</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>23,386</b>	<b>%</b>

Source: Eurostat

TABLE 12: KOSOVO CITIZENS DENIED ENTRANCE IN THE EU AND SCHENGEN AREA, BY STATES, 2013-2017

Country/Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,465</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>1,185</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,600</b>
Croatia	720	560	520	395	500
France	110	65	120	395	510
Hungary	140	150	135	150	200
Slovenia	150	115	115	95	110
Bulgaria	60	160	75	40	30
Germany	90	55	60	70	45
United Kingdom	40	55	55	30	45
Switzerland	45	45	45	40	30
Italy	50	35	20	30	55
Greece	15	40	10	10	35
Belgium	25	15	10	5	5
Romania	0	5	10	10	10
Ireland	10	5	5	5	5
Sweden	0	5	0	20	5
Austria	5	5	5	5	5
Spain	0	0	0	0	5
Liechtenstein	5	0	0	0	0

Norway	0	0	0	0	5
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Source: Eurostat

TABLE 13: KOSOVO CITIZENS CAUGHT STAYING IRREGULARLY INSIDE THE TERRITORY OF THE EU AND SCHENGEN AREA, BY COUNTRIES, 2013-2017

Country/Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,445</b>	<b>35,490</b>	<b>52,310</b>	<b>11,385</b>	<b>7,785</b>
Hungary	7,580	24,000	26,280	810	485
Germany	3,070	4,110	18,965	6,480	3,615
Switzerland	1,790	1,615	2,105	1,575	1,160
Austria	1,175	1,780	1,995	380	375
France	845	1,270	1,415	975	835
Sweden	725	1,370	45	45	60
Belgium	290	295	260	155	125
Croatia	275	230	150	410	645
Italy	180	130	150	155	130
United Kingdom	100	90	115	100	100
Czech Republic	45	185	265	25	20
Norway	65	90	150	100	45
Finland	40	40	70	15	10
Slovenia	100	100	100	55	45

Greece	60	35	10	15	30
Luxembourg	25	35	10	5	20
Netherlands	45	20	55	25	20
Slovakia	15	75	105	5	0
Ireland	5	0	20	15	0
Denmark	0	10	20	30	30
Poland	10	5	10	5	25
Bulgaria	5	5	10	0	5
Liechtenstein	0	0	5	5	5

Source: Eurostat

TABLE 14: KOSOVO CITIZENS ORDERED TO LEAVE FROM THE EU AND SCHENGEN AREA, BY COUNTRIES, 2013-2017

Country/Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,675</b>	<b>9,645</b>	<b>22,220</b>	<b>14,170</b>	<b>7,570</b>
Germany	1,275	1,505	10,625	5,405	2,160
France	2,205	2,700	2,900	2,540	1,970
Hungary	1,785	1,910	1,075	625	285
Austria	720	0	2,560	2,195	195
Belgium	2,070	1,035	860	640	600
Sweden	665	755	1,595	615	395
Switzerland	450	520	585	450	420

Croatia	285	270	170	480	675
Netherlands	105	125	510	305	130
Norway	305	265	315	185	100
Italy	180	130	150	155	130
Luxembourg	200	85	120	130	75
Slovenia	100	100	105	155	150
United Kingdom	100	90	115	100	100
Finland	90	:	180	105	55
Denmark	100	50	120	60	45
Czech Republic	10	30	105	10	15
Greece	0	35	25	0	55
Slovakia	0	20	90	5	0
Ireland	20	5	5	5	0
Bulgaria	5	5	10	0	5
Poland	5	5	0	5	10
Liechtenstein	0	5	0	0	:

Source: Eurostat

TABLE 15: KOSOVO CITIZENS RETURNED FROM THE EU AND SCHENGEN AREA BASED ON AN ORDER FOR RETURN, BY COUNTRIES AND YEARS, 2013-2017

Country/Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,945</b>	<b>4,835</b>	<b>19,045</b>	<b>13,295</b>	<b>6,285</b>
Germany	1,005	1,095	13,965	10,415	4,205
Hungary	1,440	1,270	650	60	55
Austria	790	440	1,455	360	260
Sweden	920	390	975	545	335
France	390	490	565	420	340
Belgium	420	250	270	245	145
Croatia	275	245	130	405	510
United Kingdom	100	95	110	70	80
Norway	145	125	175	130	60
Luxembourg	100	170	120	125	100
Netherlands	45	35	220	285	45
Finland	80	:	90	95	30
Denmark	75	70	60	40	25
Slovenia	90	90	90	55	35
Italy	50	35	35	35	40
Czech Republic	5	10	60	5	5
Slovakia	0	15	70	0	5

Bulgaria	5	5	5	0	5
Greece	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	5	5	0	5	5
Ireland	5	0	0	0	0

Source: Eurostat

TABLE 16: NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION FOR THE FIRST TIME OF KOSOVO CITIZENS IN THE EU AND SCHENGEN AREA, 2013-2017

Country/Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Hungary	6,090	20,910	23,690	105	5
Germany	3,395	6,910	33,425	4,975	1,300
France	5,205	2,420	3,825	2,350	2,680
Sweden	1,055	1,320	1,605	225	205
Austria	:	1,745	2,305	155	110
Switzerland	625	340	495	200	105
Belgium	420	315	470	200	185
Italy	95	100	325	340	585
Netherlands	50	60	685	465	35
Luxembourg	145	105	190	195	65
Norway	235	135	155	30	10
Finland	65	95	160	40	20



Denmark	80	80	110	50	40
United Kingdom	30	30	30	35	35
Slovenia	30	15	25	20	45
Czech Republic	10	10	10	5	0
Croatia	5	5	10	10	5
Ireland	5	5	15	0	5
Island	:	:	10	5	15
Portugal	0	0	5	0	0

Source: Eurostat

TABLE 17: FORCED AND VOLUNTARY READMISSION BY COUNTRIES, 2013-2017

State/Year	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Forced	Voluntary	Forced	Voluntary	Forced	Voluntary	Forced	Voluntary	Forced	Voluntary
Germany	655	268	684	305	6,545	8,029	4,952	5,943	1,774	1
Switzerland	673	306	584	160	524	62	451	52	259	0
France	271	92	296	139	256	0	175	0	110	1,550
Austria	280	276	201	194	371	1,036	164	203	62	61
Hungary	396	145	633	185	348	114	67	5	2	0
Sweden	553	39	277	11	418	0	285	0	130	0
Belgium	255	215	184	88	139	118	91	66	59	0
Norway	68	134	117	13	123	29	86	9	27	0

Luxembourg	20	45	39	98	44	105	16	113	18	0
Croatia	37	6	79	0	17	0	48	0	69	82
Netherlands	18	6	22	11	17	102	28	74	17	8
Finland	64	15	30	19	32	39	31	40	14	0
Denmark	67	14	76	5	58	0	38	0	8	3
Britain	12	4	22	13	22	0	8	1	11	143
Slovenia	14	4	23	5	18	1	26	0	16	2
Italy	29	6	11	4	20	0	23	3	12	0
Canada	17	3	27	5	19	0	14	0	5	0
Czech Republic	6	0	7	1	15	56	0	0	4	0
USA	11	5	15	0	9	0	7	0	5	28
BiH	22	5	14	0	30	0	0	0	0	2
Other states	17	42	11	2	15	58	9	2	21	6

Source: KP, IOM

TABLE 18: COLLECTIVE CENTERS IN KOSOVO

Region	Municipality	Refugee		Serb IDPs		Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian IDPs		Albanians IDPs		TOTAL	
		Fam	Ind	Fam	Ind	Fam	Ind	Fam	Ind	Fam	Ind
Mitrovica/a	North Mitrovica	0	0	17	23	0	0	0	0	17	23
	Leposavic	13	21	25	51	2	18	0	0	40	90
	Zubin Potok	9	22	7	17	0	0	0	0	16	39
	Zvecan	0	0	8	20	2	11	0	0	10	31
	South Mitrovica	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	13	4	13
Gjilan/Gnjilane	Shterpce/Strpce	2	5	100	242	0	0	0	0	102	247
Pristina	Gracanica	0	0	15	21	0	0	0	0	15	21
<b>Total 28 Collective Centers</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>464</b>

Source: UNHCR

### III. REFERENCES

- National Strategy for Migration and Action Plan 2013 – 2018;
- Strategy for Diaspora and Action Plan 2013 – 2018;
- National Strategy against Trafficking of Human Beings and Action Plan 2013 – 2019;
- National Strategy for Integrated Border Management and Action Plan 2013 – 2018;
- National Strategy for Reintegration of Repatriated Persons and Action Plan 2013 – 2017;
- Visa Regime policies;
- Law No. 04/L-219 on Foreigners;
- Law No. 04/L-217 on Asylum;
- Law No. 04/L-215 on Kosovo Citizenship;
- Law No. 04/L-072 on State Border Control and Surveillance;
- Law No. 04/L214 on Changing and Amending the Law No. 04/L214 on State Border Control and Surveillance;
- Law No. 04/L-216 on Cooperation between Authorities involved in Integrated Border Management;
- Law No. 04/L-218 on Prevention and Fight against Human Trafficking and Protection of Trafficked Victims;
- Law No. 04/L-076 on Police;
- Law No. 03/L-208 on Readmission;
- Law No. 04/L-003 on Civil Status;
- Law No. 04/L-095 on Diaspora and Migration;
- Law No. 02/L-121 on Dwelling and Emplacement.