

6 reception centres in Serbia

- 📍 Kikinda 📍 Bujanovac
- 📍 Preševo 📍 Adasević
- 📍 Principovac 📍 Tutin

 **92**
Moroccans
interviewed



9,830
Moroccans
registered by
Serbian authorities
in 2022

IOM, together with the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (KIRS), carried out this customised survey of Moroccan nationals in Serbia from 8 to 15 December 2022. IOM interviewed 92 Moroccan nationals in six reception facilities across Serbia to better understand their demographic profiles as well as migration drivers and onward intentions.



There has been a significant increase in the number of Moroccans travelling through the Western Balkans in 2022. Authorities in Serbia registered² 487 per cent more in Moroccans in 2022 compared with 2021. Eighty-eight per cent of all arrivals in 2022 arrived between July and December. In this context, IOM launched a survey with Moroccan nationals to better understand these migration drivers.

KEY FINDINGS

- All the people interviewed were men
- Most of them (65%) were under the age of 29
- The majority (79%) were single
- People mostly (77%) travelled in groups of non-family members
- Almost all (95%) left Morocco for economic reasons (lack of jobs and income)
- The majority (90%) travelled visa-free to the Republic of Türkiye using the air route to Istanbul
- Most respondents (75%) arrived in the Republic of Türkiye between August and November 2022
- From the Republic of Türkiye, 63 per cent crossed the border into Bulgaria, while 37 per cent travelled through Greece
- Of those who travelled to Greece, 70 per cent crossed the land border, and the other 30 per cent crossed by boat
- Of those who travelled to Bulgaria, nearly half were accompanied across the border by a facilitator
- The top three intended countries of destination were Italy, France, Spain

1. Data retrieved from the [IOM's Flow Monitoring Portal](#)

2. Maps are for illustration purposes only

Profiles

Consistent with broader migration trends in the region, nearly two-thirds (60.4%) of the survey sample consisted of single, adult men under the age of 29.

Compared to Afghans, Pakistanis and Syrians, Moroccan nationals tend to have higher levels of educational attainment. Over one-fifth (22%) of the sample had completed a bachelor's degree, while over half (50.1%) stated that their highest level of education was secondary school. Nearly 10 per cent of the sample (9.9%) stated that their highest level of education was vocational training and 17.6 per cent for whom primary school was the highest level of completed education.

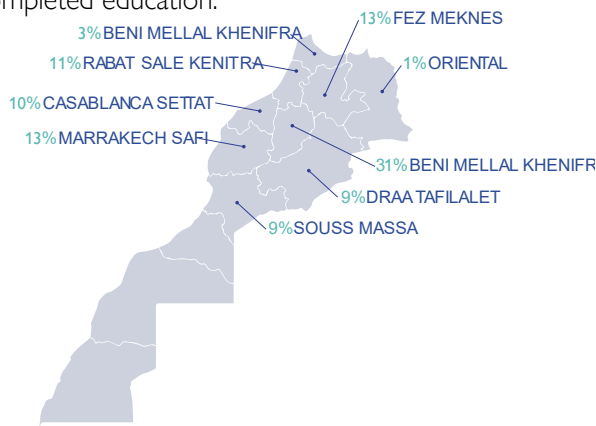


Figure 3: Main provinces of origin in Morocco

The top three regions of origin of the Moroccan nationals in this survey were Beni Mellal Khenifra, Fez Meknes and Marrakech Safi.

When asked why they had decided to leave Morocco, the most frequently cited reason was economic with almost all (94.5%) stating that this is why they had left. Limited access to services (20.9%), and a desire to join family (13.2%) rounded up the top three reasons for leaving Morocco.

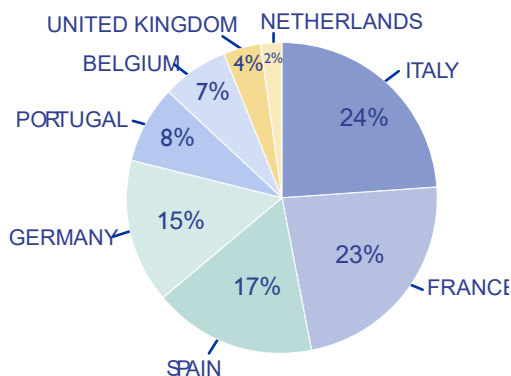


Figure 4: Intended final destinations

The top five intended destination countries were Italy, France, Spain, Germany and Portugal.

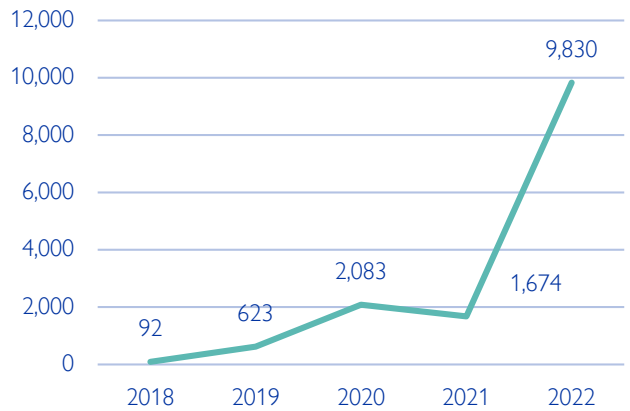


Figure 1: Increase in the registration of Moroccan nationals in Serbia, 2018 – 2022

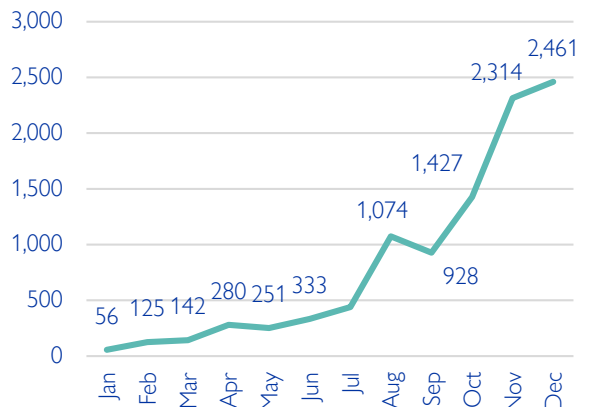


Figure 2: Monthly registrations of Moroccan nationals in Serbia in 2022



Journeys

The majority of the population sample were recent arrivals in Serbia with half of the respondents having left Morocco after September 2022.

On average, people spent 57 days in Türkiye, prior to their departure.

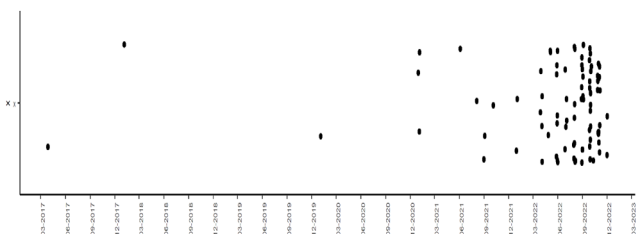


Figure 5: Date when respondent left Morocco

Consistent with broader trends in the region, over three-fourths of the survey respondents were traveling in non-family groups during their journey from Morocco.

Almost three-fourths, had paid between 1,000 USD and 5,000 USD for their journeys to Serbia from Morocco.

All of the respondents had crossed the border into Serbia irregularly. However, most people (64.8%) said that they were not facilitated across the border. One-fourth of the respondents reported being facilitated while 10 per cent did not answer. All of those who were facilitated, said that they had to make a cash payment. Almost all (95.6%) crossed the border on foot, while a minority (4.4%) crossed the border in a vehicle.



Figure 6: Routes travelled by Moroccans

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Norwegian Ministry
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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METHODOLOGY

The survey

This customized survey is a part of the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) activities in the Mediterranean region. DTM activities in the Western Balkans started in October 2015 and were conducted within the framework of the IOM's research on populations on the move through the Mediterranean and Western Balkan (WB) routes to Europe. The analysis provides information on profiles, transit routes and needs.

The survey gathers information about migrants' profiles, including age, sex, gender, and areas of origin, levels of education before migration, key transit points on their route, cost of the journey, reasons for moving, intentions and needs.

Methodology

The data presented in this report is based on a customized survey and was collected from 8 December to 15 December 2022 in six reception facilities in Serbia. The reference population consisted of nationals of the Morocco resident in one of these six reception facilities in Serbia, who intend to travel onwards to Western and Northern Europe.

IOM collected data together with the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (SCRM) in Kikinda, Preševo, Principovac, Bujanovac, Adasevci and Tutin reception centres.

Limitations

The data is based on a convenience sample of individual Moroccans interviewed in these locations during the timeframe indicated and should therefore not be generalized to the population of Moroccan migrants in Serbia. Limitations and constraints are that results cannot be generalized. Due to the high mobility of the migrants, it was not possible to obtain a representative sample of this overall population.