

This report provides insights into the profiles, experiences and journeys of migrants transiting through the Republic of Serbia. Data was collected from 1 to 31 July 2024 together with the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia (SCRM). The sample consists of 192 interviewed migrants in Asylum Centres (AC) Sjenica, (AC) Tutin, (AC) Krnjaca, and Reception Centres (RC) Bujanovac, (RC) Presevo, and (RC) Pirot.

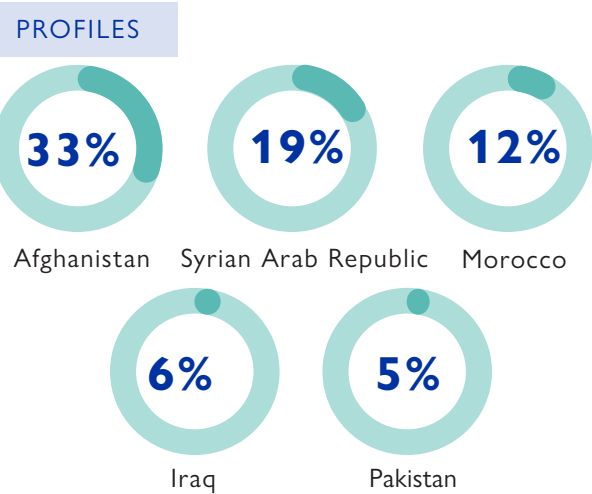
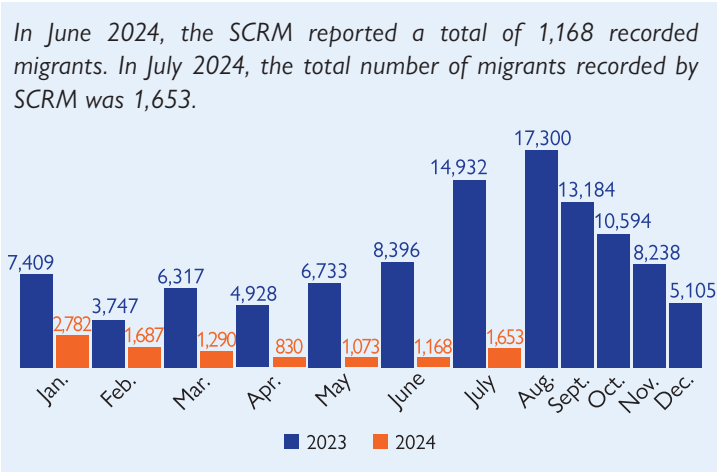


Figure 1: Top five countries of origin (n=192)

**KEY FINDINGS**

- In July 2024, the number of SCRM-recorded migrants increased by 34 per cent, compared to June 2024.
- Compared to June's sample, in July the reported facilitation rate increased by seven per cent, amounting to 51 per cent. Facilitation from Bulgaria increased by 15 per cent, to 66 per cent total.
- In July 2024, the reported use of private vehicles to move is 29 per cent, a 14 per cent increase from June 2024.
- In July 2024, nationals from Iraq and Pakistan made up six per cent and five per cent of the sample size, an increase from June 2024, which recorded one per cent of Iraqi nationals and three per cent of Pakistani nationals.
- Failed border crossings in July 2024 were recorded at 40 per cent, a significant increase from the 9 per cent recorded in June 2024.

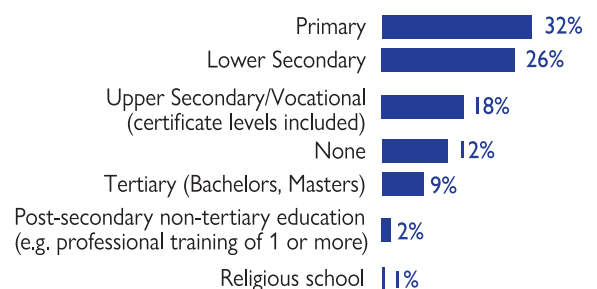


Figure 2: Highest level of educational attainment (n=192)

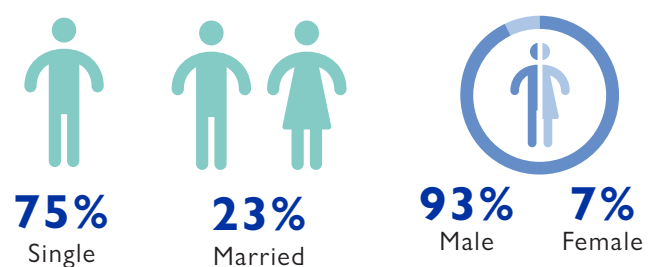


Figure 3: Marital status (n=192)  
*(Divorced and/or widowed made up 2%)*

Figure 4: Disaggregation by sex (n=192)

**JOURNEYS**

Bulgaria and North Macedonia remain the main entry points into Serbia. In this sample, 63 per cent of respondents entered from Bulgaria and 28 per cent from North Macedonia. The remaining nine per cent entered from various neighbouring countries as well as the airport.

Fifty-two per cent of respondents reported that they used facilitation to cross borders during their journey. Sixty-six per cent of respondents who entered from Bulgaria revealed they were facilitated, while thirty per cent reported having used such services to enter from North Macedonia. The majority (82%) of interviewees reported travelling with a group. Out of all who travelled in a group, 15 per cent did so with families. Respondents who confirmed border crossing facilitation and stated its price, paid on average 650 EUR. The reported facilitation cost from Bulgaria (700 EUR) was almost twice as high as from North Macedonia (400 EUR). Increased border patrols can potentially have an impact on the pricing of the facilitation services.

Forty per cent of respondents reported that they had attempted and failed to cross a border at least once. This is a 31 per cent increase in reported attempts to cross into Croatia, which could potentially be due to warmer weather as well as the large number of people arriving to Croatia during the summer season. Out of those, sixteen per cent reported this to have happened under facilitation. Of those respondents who stated that they had attempted and failed to cross a border, 99 per cent were returned by the authorities (1 per cent stated “other”).

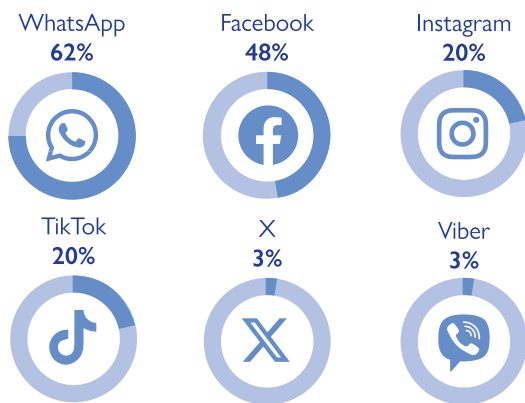


Figure 5: Most frequently cited platforms migrants use to plan their journeys (n=192)  
(Multiple answers possible)

**REASONS FOR LEAVING**

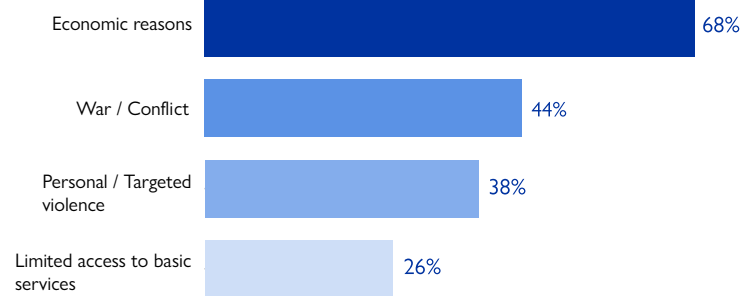


Figure 6: Main reasons for leaving the country of origin (n=192)  
(Multiple answers possible)

**INTENDED DESTINATION COUNTRIES**

Of those surveyed, 47 per cent reported residing in a transit country for longer than a year. Türkiye remained the most frequently cited country (78%), followed by Greece at nine per cent. Sixty per cent stated they had left due to fearing deportation back to their country of origin, 41 per cent mentioned deteriorating economic conditions, and 31 per cent revealed personal targeted violence as the third most common reason for deciding to leave the transit country.

Figure 7 below provides a percentage breakdown of the top five intended countries of destination:

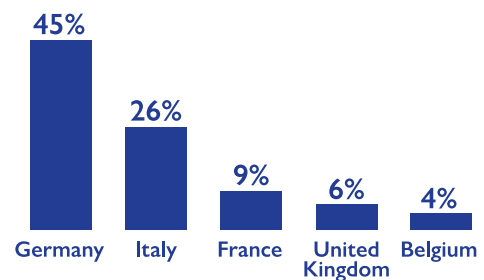


Figure 7: Top five countries of destination (n=192)

Respondents reported multiple reasons based on which they have chosen their countries of destination, with the top three reasons shown in figure 8.

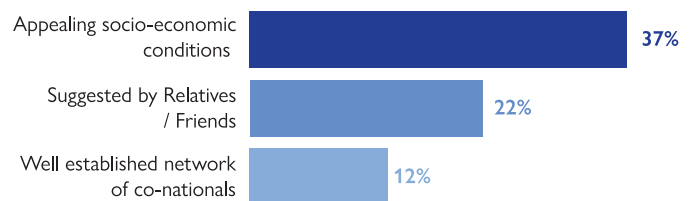


Figure 8: Main reasons for choosing stated destination country (n=192)

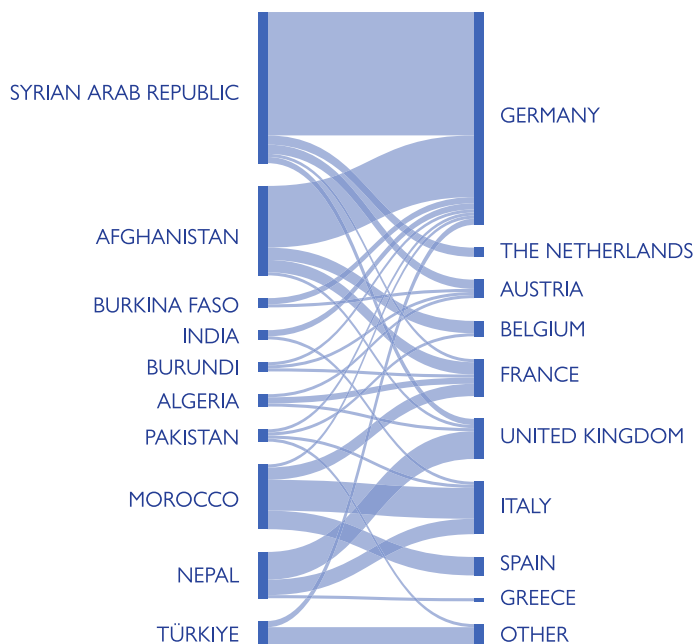


Figure 9: Intended country of destination by nationality (top 10) (n=167)



IOM and SCRM staff in AC Krnjaca. © IOM Serbia 2024

## METHODOLOGY

This report uses a multi-source and multi-method approach with the aim of providing insights into the profiles, experiences, needs, movement patterns and intentions of migrants transiting through Serbia.

Some information which serves as context or explanation for particular concepts or trends are repetitive in each report, as it is important for new readers to be able to understand the information.

### Survey interviews with migrants

The questionnaire is administered via Kobo Toolbox and collects information on the age, sex and nationalities of respondents, information about their journeys to Serbia, recorded numbers information and movement modalities within the country. The survey is anonymized, voluntary and respondents do not receive compensation for participation. Respondents can choose not to answer any question and can withdraw their consent at any moment.

Data was collected from 1 to 31 July 2024 in RCs/ACs (AC Sjenica, AC Tutin, AC Krnjaca, AC Obrenovac, RC Bujanovac, RC Presevo, RC Pirot).

### Key informant interviews

Key informants can help provide information on the modus operandi of migrant mobility. The purpose of the key informant interviews is to contextualize the quantitative data gathered through the survey.

## LIMITATIONS

The data collection is conducted in the context of the following limitations:

1. The data is based on a convenience sample of migrants in the survey locations during the time frame indicated and can therefore not be generalized to the broader population of migrants in Serbia, or anywhere else.
2. The data collection is limited to the RCs/ACs; therefore, no data collection occurs outside of the setting of a centre. Entry points, bus stations, and railroads are known locations of migrant movements, however, in Serbia IOM and SCRM did not collect data at such locations.