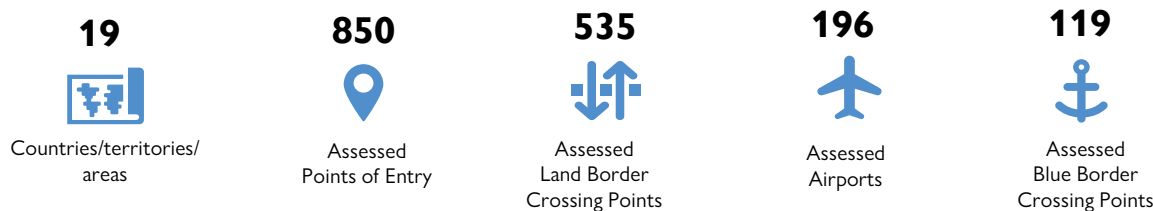


COVID-19 Mobility Tracking Impact – Points of Entry Analysis

December 23, 2020 – IOM Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

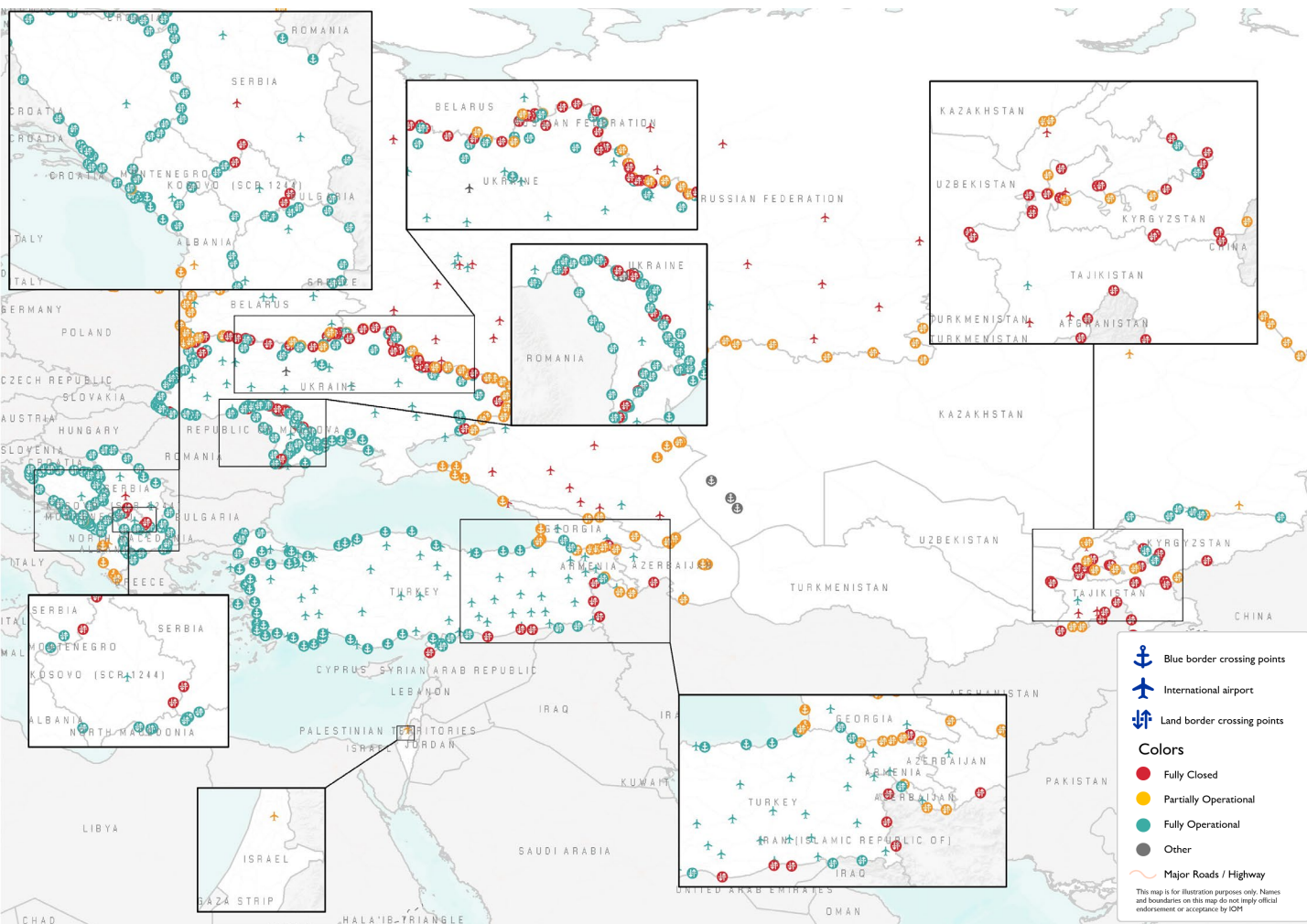
The outbreak of the COVID-19 virus has affected global and regional human mobility in the form of various travel disruptions and restrictions. The total number of COVID-19 cases reached 7,846,404 in the South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia region (SEEECA) as of 30 December 2020 according to the World Health Organization (WHO). To better understand how the pandemic affects the mobility at the Points of Entry (PoEs), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has developed an online tool and database which tracks changes in mobility at PoEs (airports, land and blue border crossing points). This includes preparedness and response measures to prevent, protect against, control and assist in line with the International Health Regulations (IHR). Among the mobility changes tracked by IOM are: 1) Movement restrictions on entry and/or exit, 2) Changes in visa requirements, 3) Restrictions applied to certain nationalities to disembark at this location, 4) Changes in identification documents needed to disembark, 5) Medical measures in place such as Health Staffing/Medical Personnel, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), Infection prevention and control (IPC) and Surveillance and Referral.

As of 23 December 2020, data was collected on 850 PoEs in 19 countries/territories/areas across the SEEECA region. These locations include: 535 land border crossings points, 196 airports, and 119 blue border crossing points (including sea, river and lake ports). This work is based on the information collected by or available to IOM Country Offices in the region. This PoE brief analysis provides an overview of the changes of the operational status and mobility restrictions over time, between April and December 2020. It is important to note that not all data on PoEs have been updated every month, meaning that the trend displayed does not necessarily represent the current situation of all PoEs. In April – May 602 PoEs were assessed, in June – July 625, in August 627, in September 642, in October 709, in November 849, and in December a total of 850 PoEs were assessed.¹



1. The change in the number of assessed PoEs can be due to limited information at any given month, or by assessing a PoE redundant relative to international mobility.

Overview of assessed international airports, land border crossing points and blue border crossing points in the SEEECA region



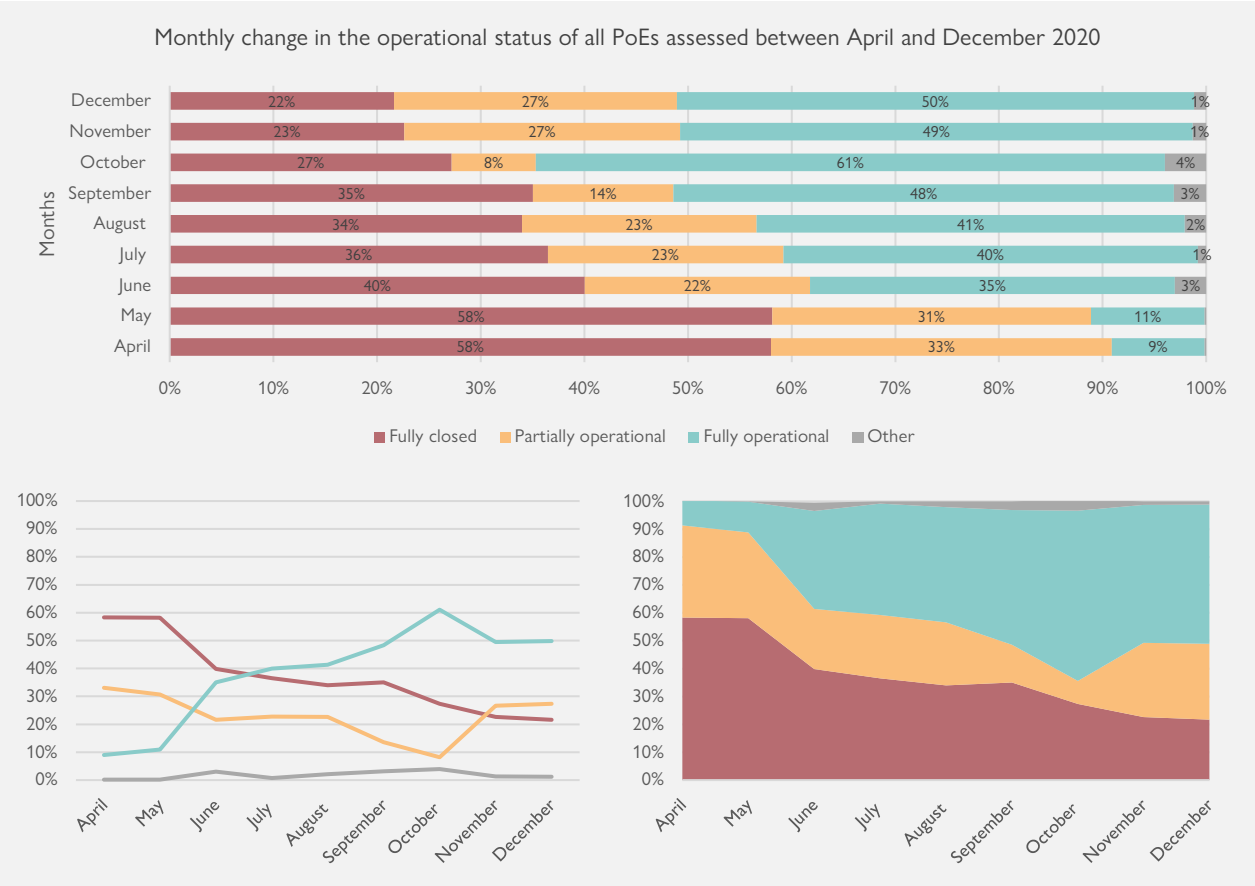
Changes in operational status over time (April – December 2020)

As of 23 December 2020, while travel restrictions remain in place, there have been changes in the number of travel restrictions worldwide being reflected in the operational status of the PoEs and restriction measures in place at the assessed locations. The information on the operational status of each PoE is collected according to the following classification: (1) closed for entry and exit, (2) closed for entry (3) closed for exit (4) open for commercial traffic only (5) open only to returning nationals and residents (6) open for entry and exit (7) other and (8) unknown. All types of measures were considered for airports, land and blue border crossing points.

In the region, the operational status of border crossing points is characterized by the implementation of several restriction measures to curb the spread of COVID-19. Significant changes in operational status of the PoEs was observed between April and December.

Overall, over half (58%) of assessed PoEs were fully closed in April and May, respectively, while 40 per cent of them were fully closed in June, 36 per cent in July, 34 per cent in August, 35 per cent in September, 27 per cent in October, 23 per cent in November, and 22 per cent in December. Furthermore, one third (33%) of the assessed PoEs were partially operational in April, while the share of partially operational PoEs was 31 per cent in May, 22 per cent in June, 23 per cent in July and August, 14 per cent in September, 8 per cent in October, and 27 per cent in November and December, respectively. Finally, in April, 9 per cent of the assessed PoEs were fully operational, while the share of fully operational PoEs among those assessed was 11 per cent in May, 35 per cent in June, 40 per cent in July, 41 per cent in August, 48 per cent in September, 61 per cent in October, 49 per cent in November, and 50 per cent in December. The number of fully operational PoEs decreased by 11 per cent in December (50% PoEs were fully operational), when compared with October (61% PoEs was fully operational).

The drop in numbers of fully operational PoEs may be explained by the increasing numbers of partially operating PoEs observed in November and December. The number of partially operational PoEs increased significantly by 19 per cent in November and December, when compared with October (8% of the assessed PoEs were partially operational).



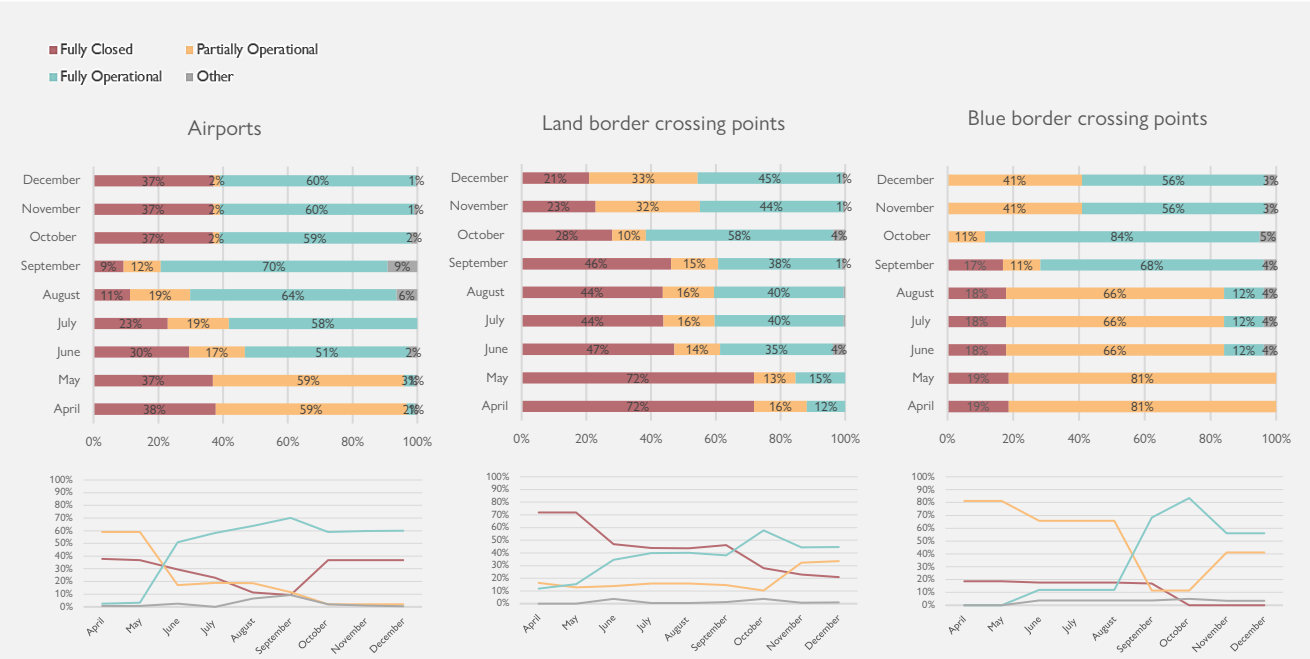
The accelerating increase of COVID-19 cases continues to impact on mobility globally and in the region. However, during the past nine months (April – December 2020), it is observed that an increasing number of the assessed PoEs in the SEECA region changed from being fully closed to being fully operational or partially operational. By April over half (58%) of the assessed PoEs in the region was closed, marking a significant decrease of 36 per cent when compared with December (22 per cent of the assessed PoEs were closed). At the same time, increasing numbers of the assessed PoEs are operating partially according to the most recent trends observed in November and December.

Airports:² 38 per cent of the assessed international airports were fully closed in April, while the share of fully closed airports among those assessed was 37 per cent in May, 30 per cent in June, 23 per cent in July, 11 per cent in August, 9 per cent in September, 37 per cent in October, November, and December, marking a significant change. The number of fully closed international airports increased by 28 per cent in October, November, and December, compared with September, where only 9 per cent of the assessed international airports were fully closed. Furthermore, over half (59%) of assessed airports was partially operational in April and May, while the share of partially operational airports was 17 per cent in June, 19 per cent in July and August, 12 per cent in September, and only 2 per cent in October, November, and December. While increasing numbers of airports started to operate regularly again in June, July, August, and September, an increasing number of airports closing was observed in October, November and December. Only two per cent of the assessed airports were fully operational in April, while the share of fully operational airports was 3 per cent in May, 51 per cent in June, 58 per cent in July, 64 per cent in August, 70 per cent in September, 59 per cent in October, 60 per cent in November, and 60 per cent in December. The number of operational airports increased significantly by 68 per cent between April (38%) and September (9%), while it decreased significantly again in October, November, and December to 37 per cent, comparable to the level of May (37%).

Land border crossing points:³ 72 per cent of the assessed land border crossing points (LBCPs) were completely closed both in April and May, while the share of those fully closed was 47 per cent in June, 44 per cent in July and August, 46 per cent in September, 28 per cent in October, 23 per cent in November, and 21 per cent in December. Moreover, 16 per cent of the assessed LBCPs were partially operational in April, while the share of partially operational LBCPs was 13 per cent in May, 14 per cent in June, 16 per cent in July and August, respectively, 15 per cent in September, 10 per cent in October, 32 per cent in November, and 33 per cent in December. Twelve per cent of the assessed LBCPs were fully operational in April, while the share of fully operational LBCPs was 15 per cent in May, 35 per cent in June, 40 per cent in July and August, 38 per cent in September, 58 per cent in October, 44 per cent in November, and 45 per cent in December. The number of operational LBCPs increased significantly by 46 per cent between April and October, while it decreased by 13 per cent between October and December alone, thus, indicating a downward trend of the operational LBCPs at the end of the year. It is, however, important to note that more LBCPs were assessed in December (103 additional LBCPs), which may partially explain the change from previous months.

Blue border crossing points:⁴ 19 per cent of the blue border crossing points (BBCPs) were completely closed in April and May, respectively, while the share of those fully closed was 18 per cent in June, July, and August, 17 per cent in September, while none of the assessed blue border crossing points were closed in October, November, and December. At the same time, 81 per cent of the assessed BBCPs were partially operational in April and May, while the share of partially operational BBCPs among those assessed was 66 per cent in June, July and August, respectively, 11 per cent in September, and October, and 41 per cent in November, and December. In April and May, none of the assessed BBCPs was reported as operational (75 out of 75 assessed points), while this number changed slightly in June, July and August, where 12 per cent of the assessed BBCPs were operational and changed more in September, October, November, and December when 68, 84, 56 and 56 per cent of the points respectively were reported to be operational. A significant decrease of operational BBCPs was observed between October, November, and December. The number of operational BBCPs decreased by 28 per cent within a month, which can be explained by the upward trend in the numbers of partially operational BBCPs observed in the same reporting period (see page 4, for further information). Also, some 40 additional BBCPs were assessed since November, compared to previous months.

Monthly change in operational status by type of location (PoE) assessed between April and December 2020

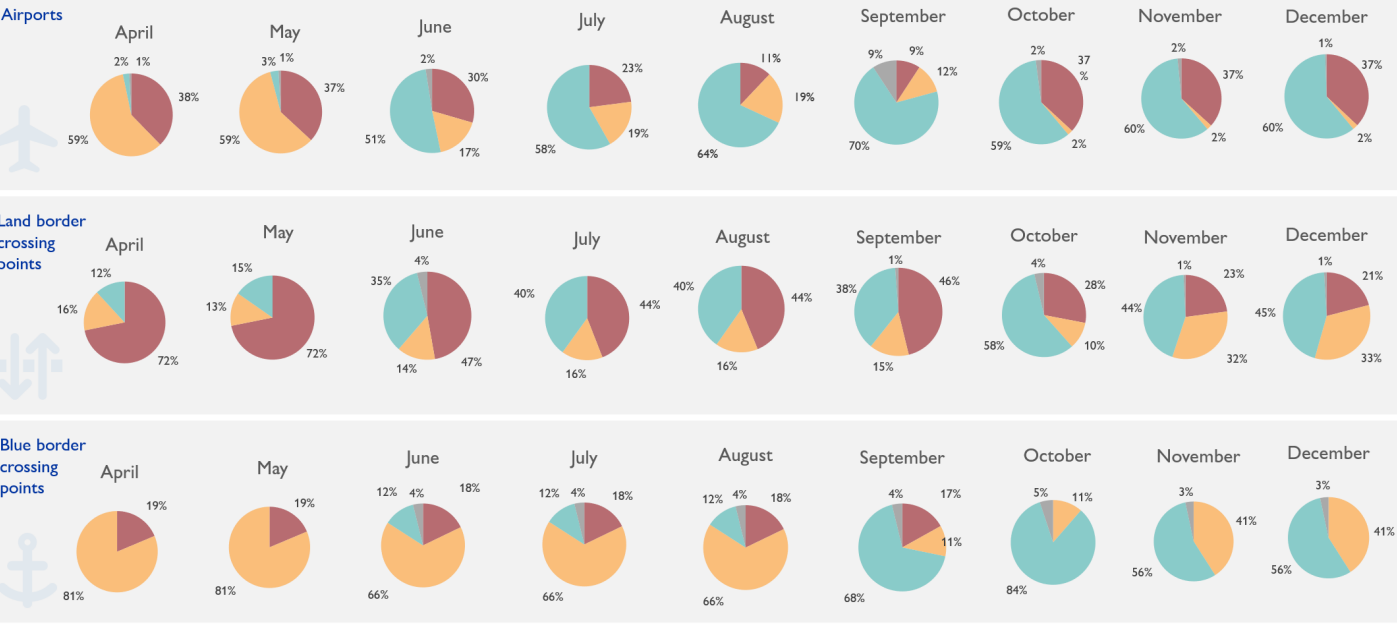


Note: "Type of location" refers to the type of PoEs assessed, which are airports, land and blue border crossing points.

2. By April and May a total of 122 airports were assessed. In September, 198 airports were assessed, and in November and December a total of 196 airports were assessed.
3. By April and May a total of 405 land border crossing points were assessed. In August, 433 land border crossing points were assessed, in October 432, in November 534, and in December a total of 535 land border crossing points were assessed.
4. By April and May a total of 75 blue border crossing points were assessed. In June, 79 blue border crossing points were assessed, and in November and December a total of 119 blue border crossing points were assessed.

Operational Status – Comparison: April – December 2020

Fully Closed Partially Operational
Fully Operational Other



Operational Status breakdown by country/territory/area in the SEECA region



* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

- Notes:
- The totals in the pie charts are relative to the assessed Points of Entry each month
 - Under the category "Partially Operational" IOM includes "closed for entry", "closed for exit", "open only to returning nationals and residents" and "open for commercial traffic only".

Changes in mobility restrictions over time (April – December 2020)

Slight changes in the type of mobility restrictions at the border crossing points were observed between April and December. Mobility restrictions refer to restrictions of movements imposed both by entrance at PoEs and by exit through the PoEs, and medical measures.

In April and May, 43 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on entering through particular PoEs at the international airports, respectively, while in June 36 per cent, in July 35 per cent, and in August, September, October, November, and December, 34 per cent, respectively. At the same time, in April and May, 41 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on exiting through particular PoEs at the international airports, respectively, while 33 per cent in June and July, respectively, and 32 per cent from August to December. The number of medical measures including mandatory quarantine measures increased in June and July when compared with April and May: in April and May, 16 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed on the specific PoEs, while the share of medical measures out of all restrictions was 31 per cent in June, 32 per cent in July, 34 per cent in August, September, and October, respectively, and 35 per cent in November and December. The share of medical measures increased by 19 per cent in November and December, when compared with April and May (16%, respectively).

Regarding the LBCPs, 41 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on entering through particular PoEs in April, May, and June, while these were 39 per cent of the total in July, August, September, October, November, and December. Furthermore, in April 39 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on exiting through particular PoEs, while 40 per cent in May, 38 per cent in June, and 37 cent from July until December. Similarly, the share of medical measures on the total had increased slightly by July when compared with April, May and June: in April and May, 20 per cent of the restrictions were medical measures imposed on particular PoEs, while medical measures were 21 per cent of the total in June and 24 per cent from July until December.

With regards to the blue border crossing points, in April and May 36 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on entering through particular PoEs, respectively, while the share was 35 per cent in June, and 34 per cent from July to December. Moreover, both in April and May 33 per cent of the restrictions were imposed on exiting through particular PoEs, while the share was 32 per cent in June, and 33 per cent in July, August, September, October, November and December. Only a slight increase of imposed medical measures was observed in June and July when compared with April and May: 31 per cent of the restrictions in April and May were medical measures imposed on particular PoEs, while the share of medical measures was 33 per cent in June, July, August, September, October, November and December, respectively.

Most of all imposed restrictions concern the entry through the PoEs (airports, land and blue border crossing points in the SEECA region), and to a lesser extent the exit through or medical restrictions imposed at those PoEs. The highest number of restrictions to enter through the PoEs was recorded in April and May: 43 per cent at the assessed airports, 41 per cent at the assessed land border crossing points, and 36 per cent at the assessed blue border crossing points. The lowest number of restrictions to enter through the PoEs was recorded in August (status remained the same in September, October, November, and December): 34 per cent at the assessed airports, 39 per cent at the assessed land border crossing points, and 34 per cent at the assessed blue border crossing points.

Mobility Restrictions – Comparison: April – December 2020

Location type	Mobility Restriction	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Airports	→ Ⓜ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	43%	43%	36%	35%	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%
	Ⓜ ← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	41%	41%	33%	33%	32%	32%	32%	32%	32%
	🏠 Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	16%	16%	31%	32%	34%	34%	34%	35%	35%
Land border crossing points	→ Ⓜ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	41%	41%	41%	39%	39%	39%	39%	39%	39%
	Ⓜ ← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	39%	40%	38%	37%	37%	37%	37%	37%	37%
	🏠 Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	20%	20%	21%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%
Blue border crossing points	→ Ⓜ Restrictions to enter through this PoE	36%	36%	35%	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%
	Ⓜ ← Restrictions to exit through this PoE	33%	33%	32%	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%
	🏠 Medical measures including mandatory quarantine	31%	31%	33%	33%	33%	32%	33%	33%	33%

Mobility Restrictions – Comparison: April – December 2020 (%)

