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WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP)

Subject:	Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP) - presentation
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Delegations will find enclosed the presentation given by the International Organisation for Migration (OIM) during the meeting of the EMWP held on 14 May 2025, Item 4 agenda CM 2348/25.



WESTERN BALKANS

External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP)

14 May 2025



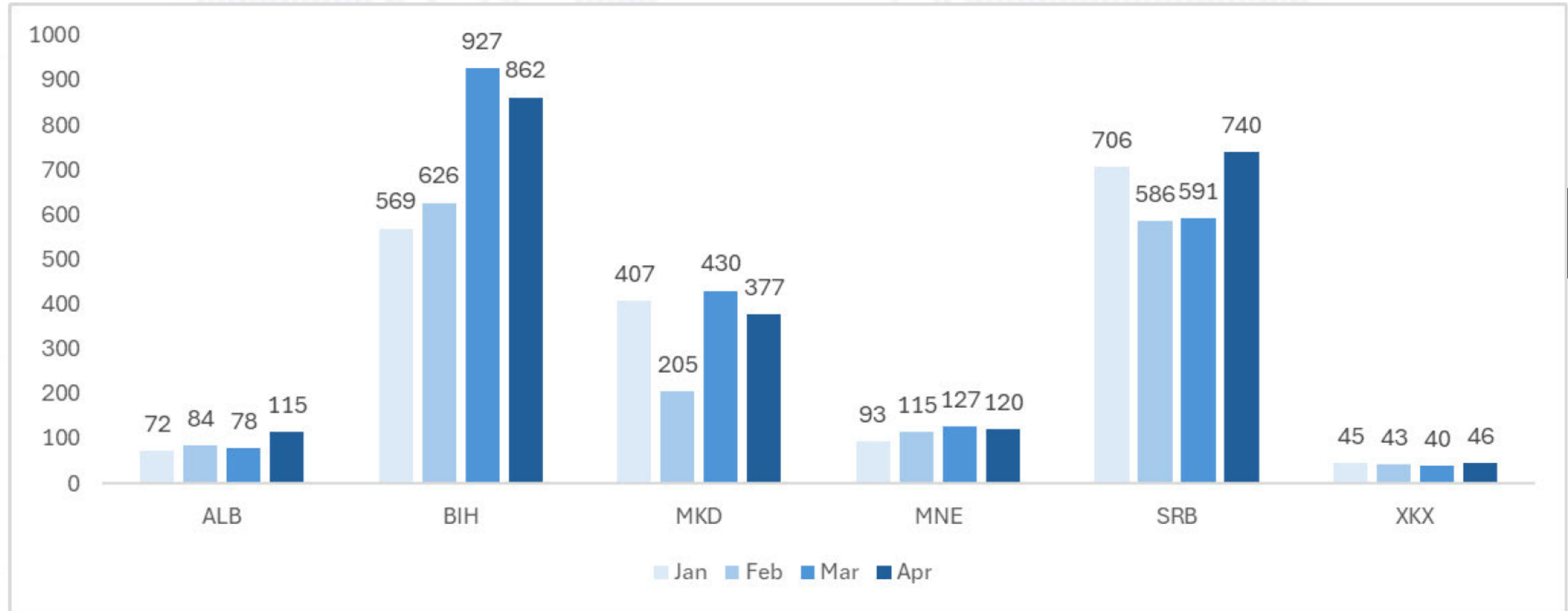
PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

1. Migratory context in the Western Balkans
2. Migration response/Return, readmission and reintegration/Labour migration
– Key achievements
3. Upcoming priorities for the WB region



ARRIVALS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

Registrations on arrival in the Western Balkans 2025



Sources of information: Serbia – the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia; Kosovo* - the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Border Police; in Bosnia and Herzegovina - the Ministry of Security; Albania - the Department of Boarder and Migration (DBM) of the Albanian State Police; North Macedonia – the Ministry of Interior; Montenegro - the Border Police.

* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

** Figures non-final and subject to consolidation

Top 5 nationalities in 2024:

Syrian Arab Republic	35%
Afghanistan	18%
Morocco	9%
Turkiye	8%
Egypt	5%

Experiences of violence, exploitation or abuse: 19% of interviewed migrants

Facilitation rates: 40% of interviewed migrants

Top three countries of destination: Germany (46%), Italy (22%) and France (10%)

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RECEPTION CAPACITIES AND OCCUPANCY

March 2025



MIGRATION RESPONSE IN THE WB



+1,200

Migrants and asylum seekers
accommodated in TRCs

(as of March 2025)

Only **4%** of arrivals
launched an asylum application in
the Western Balkans in 2024

Needs reported

Food and shelter

Information

Health services



Key solutions:

- Sustainability and local ownership
- Protection and access to information
 - Regular pathways
 - Mobile teams
- DTM/Migration data

RETURN, READMISSION AND REINTEGRATION



3,353

Assisted voluntary returns (AVR) since 2016

1,500

Reintegration assistance since 2016

**ADVANCED CAPACITIES ON RETURN,
READMISSION AND REINTEGRATION**

**STRONG PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION
BETWEEN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND WB**



EU Regional Support to Protection-Sensitive Migration Management Systems in the Western Balkans (PSMM)



Individual Measure to Strengthen Return Management Systems in the Western Balkans for 2024

- Emigration and demographic decline: the VVB region increasingly recruiting foreign workers to fill labour shortages in key sectors such as construction, services and tourism.
- Key identified areas of work:
 - Advancing comprehensive policies and partnerships;
 - Streamlining administrative procedures;
 - Enabling evidence-based policy and programming; Upholding human and labour rights;
 - Improving access to information and integration services;
 - Creating the conditions for informed and welcoming communities.
- Conference on Labour Migration, Supporting Economic Growth In the Western Balkans held on 15-16 May, in Montenegro.



<https://bih.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11076/files/documents/2025-02/labour-mobility-strategy-in-the-western-balkans.pdf>

UPCOMING PRIORITIES FOR THE WB REGION

- **Continue alignment with the EU acquis including the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum once it fully enters into force**
- **Migration data for tailored and evidence-based policy response**
- **Advanced labour mobility for economic growth (WB as region of destination)**

