



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

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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

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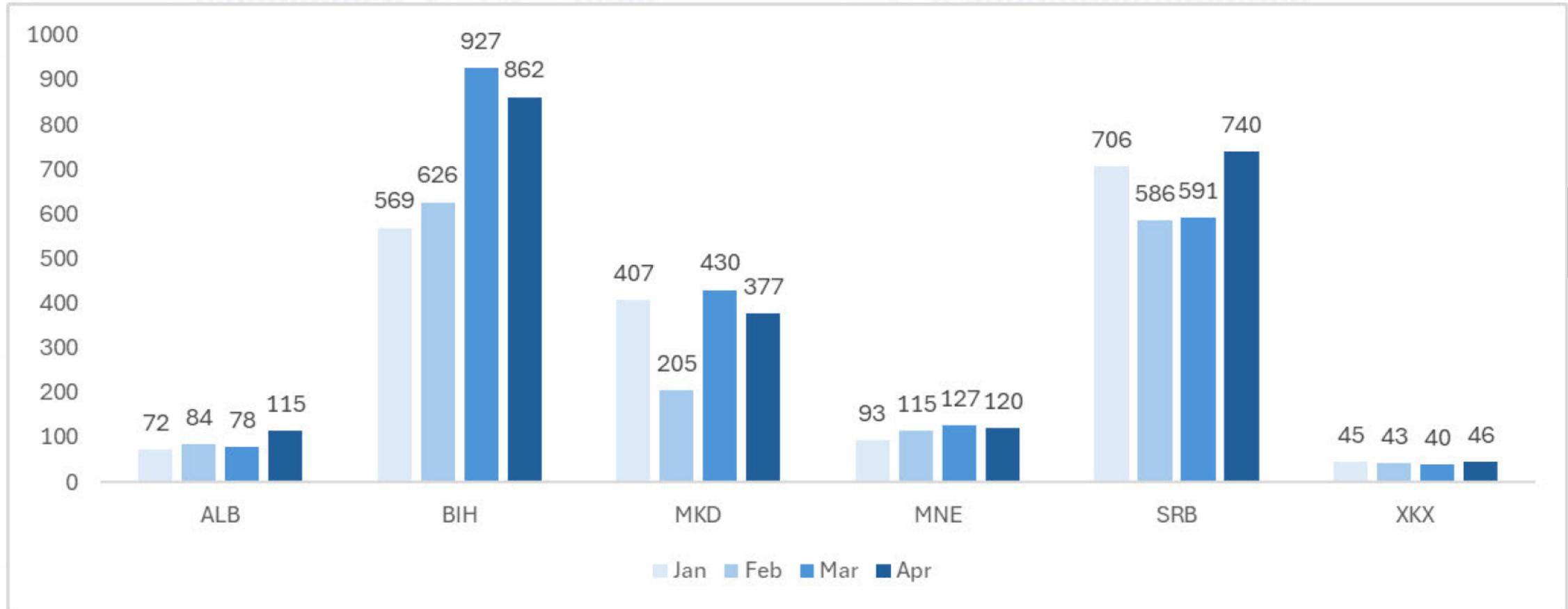
## PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

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:

<b>Syrian Arab Republic</b>	35%
<b>Afghanistan</b>	18%
<b>Morocco</b>	9%
<b>Turkiye</b>	8%
<b>Egypt</b>	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%)**

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

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# RECEPTION CAPACITIES AND OCCUPANCY

March 2025



**+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





**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 WB 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.

## LABOUR MOBILITY IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

A Strategy to contribute to the growth  
and development of the Western Balkan  
economies and communities



<https://bih.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1076/files/documents/2025-02/labour-mobility-strategy-in-the-western-balkans.pdf>

- **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)**