Geographical coverage of the SEECA Region

*References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
**KEY MIGRATION DATA 2018**

**GENERAL TRENDS**

**International Migrants in the World and SEEECA**

- **World**: 258M
- **SEEECA**: 32M

The proportion of migrants relative to total population within the region is more than twice the world average.

- **SEEECA**: 7.3%
- **World**: 3.4%

**Where do SEEECA migrants move to?**

- **Main destinations from SEEECA countries**
  - Western Asia (3.29%)
  - Northern America (2.33%)
  - Southern Europe (3.37%)
  - Central Asia (4.97%)
  - Other (4.17%)

- **Intraregional migration: main destinations within SEEECA**
  - Eastern Europe (3.5%)
  - Kazakhstan (3.26%)
  - Other (2.53%)
  - Ukraine (4.44%)

**Most SEEECA migrants remain within the geographical region**

*UN DESA defines regions as the following: Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), Eastern Europe (Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Ukraine), and Southern Europe (Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Gibraltar, Greece, Holy See, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain).

**Human Development Index for SEEECA Countries in 2017**

- **Israel**: 0.903
- **Russian Federation**: 0.816
- **Montenegro**: 0.814
- **Belarus**: 0.808
- **Kazakhstan**: 0.800
- **Turkey**: 0.791
- **Serbia**: 0.787
- **Albania**: 0.785
- **Georgia**: 0.780
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: 0.768
- **SEEECA Average**: 0.764
- **Azerbaijan**: 0.757
- **North Macedonia**: 0.757
- **Armenia**: 0.755
- **Ukraine**: 0.751
- **Kosovo**: 0.739
- **World Average**: 0.728
- **Uzbekistan**: 0.710
- **Turkmenistan**: 0.706
- **Republic of Moldova**: 0.700
- **Kyrgyzstan**: 0.672
- **Tajikistan**: 0.650

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a calculation of life expectancy, education, and per capita income indicators, which aims to demonstrate a country’s level of development. The majority of the countries within the SEEECA region demonstrate a high HDI level, with a few in the very high and medium categories. There are four HDI categories:

- **very high (1.000–0.800)**
- **high (0.799–0.700)**
- **medium (0.699–0.555)**
- **low (0.554–0.350)**
The flow rates via traditional routes within the region are decreasing. Poland is increasingly seen as an attractive destination in recent years.

According to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the global number of passengers carried on scheduled services in 2017 grew by 7.2 per cent compared to the previous year, and is predicted to grow by another 7.5 per cent in 2018. The most active part of the world is the Asian/Pacific region, recording 34 per cent of world traffic, followed by Europe (27%) and North America (23%).

Migration corridors, indicating origin and destination countries, are helpful in identifying bilateral trends. Most bilateral migration corridors involve the Russian Federation, in particular to Ukraine, and from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus. At the same time, new corridors are emerging: Belarus – Poland, Republic of Moldova – Poland, and Ukraine – Poland.
ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Unemployment (%) within the region is highly varied

Although some economies experience sizeably large unemployment levels, in 45% of the countries of the region they are lower than the average in the European Union.

Dependency ratio average in the World and SEECA

The dependency ratio indicates the proportion of the population that are of working age, compared to those who are typically dependents – children and retirees. A higher number means that there are more people that are in need of social support (health care, pensions, education, etc.). A lower number is therefore sought after.

Annual GDP Growth in the SEECA Region in 2017

The transitioning economies of Central Asia are experiencing an important growth, which may cause a change in future migration patterns.

Remittances (%GDP) in the region are some of the highest in the world.

Numerous economies within the SEECA region are supported by the monetary transfers of migrants to their families that have remained at home. They present a high potential for the development of the countries of origin, yet remain so far largely unexplored. When compared to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Official Development Aid (ODA), remittances have their own advantages, such as the fact that the monetary flows go directly to the recipient, and can be managed directly by them. Overall, remittances are three times greater than ODA, while in several countries, they are much greater than ODA and FDI combined. For example, in 2017 Ukrainians received USD 12.1bn in remittances, USD 2.4bn in FDI and USD 1.5bn in ODA.

Urbanization is on the rise

18 out of 20 SEECA states are experiencing a growth in urbanization, although it is at a lower rate than the world average. Albania, however, is the most rapidly urbanizing country, at nearly 2.5x the world average rate.

\*Serbia figures include Kosovo, Republic of Moldova includes Transnistria, Georgia includes Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and Azerbaijan includes Nagorno-Karabakh. Data extracted from UN DESA (2018).
IOM considers Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) to be a humane and dignified approach to supporting migrants who are unwilling or unable to stay in a host or transit country and wish to return to their country of origin. It is a core activity that the organization conducts for migrants and IOM Member States across the world. Despite a 42 per cent decrease as compared to 2016, due to the significant overall decrease in AVRR beneficiaries returning from the EEA, South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SEECA) remained the main region to which migrants returned. By contrast, 2017 confirmed an increasing number of AVRR beneficiaries returning from SEECA, a trend already observed in 2016.

HEALTH AND MIGRATION

The demand for health workers will likely double in the next decades

The WHO defines Demand as the number of health workers that the health system can support in terms of funded positions.

The increase in demand for health workers throughout the world is likely to translate into an increase in health workers that choose to migrate. The emigration of health professionals may put some strain on the community they leave, limiting health service provision therein. The issue of brain drain - the emigration of highly skilled citizens - is a common issue within the region, meaning that the state is inefficient at retaining its professionals after training them.

SEEECA fares relatively well, with nearly twice as many doctors per 10,000 than the world average.
FORCED MIGRATION

3.8 million refugees and other migrants are living in Turkey

Number of arrivals in Europe by sea and land in 2017 – a 52 per cent decrease compared to 387,739 reported in 2016

Number of migrants and asylum seekers accommodated in the Western Balkans and South-Eastern Europe

Total IDPs due to Natural Disasters, Conflicts, and Violence (2008 – 2017) - 2.42 Million

The UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement defines internally displaced persons (IDPs) as persons who have been forced to leave their homes as a result of the effects of generalized violence, or natural disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.

In 2017, natural hazards such as floods, wildfires, and landslides displaced 7,100 in Kazakhstan, 5,900 in the Russian Federation, 4,700 in Tajikistan, 3,500 in Albania, and 3,300 in Kyrgyzstan.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), over two million people remain in mostly protracted situations of displacement in SEECA.

MIGRATION AND LAW

International Conventions related to Migration and the current status of ratification within the SEECA region

Ratified

Not ratified

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<td>2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air</td>
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<td>2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
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<td>2007 International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</td>
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Message from the Regional Director

Our region is home to a highly diverse group of citizens, 32 million of which decided to cross international borders and generously contributed to the global economy. In fact, the 258 million migrants, or 3.4 per cent of the world population, have contributed to 6.7 trillion USD - 9.4 per cent of the total GDP in 2015. Most international migrants remain within the region, with Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan being the most popular destinations. However, we see new migration trends in Eastern Europe forming of late. A high level of migration occurs within their own countries too - urbanisation is on the rise across most of the region, as more opportunities are being created in larger cities. Simultaneously, over 2.4 million people within the region are finding themselves forced to move within their home country, to escape natural or human-made disasters.

Health practitioners are the backbone of society, by keeping it productive and safe. Many of them are migrants - nearly one in four doctors in OECD countries were born in a foreign country! Our region is lucky to host a relatively high density of doctors per 10,000 citizens. However, the demand for doctors is perpetually increasing, leading many to migrate.

As new corridors emerge, such as from Ukraine to Poland, we continue to actively support governments in managing migration flows, based on almost seven decades of experience. The tremendous increase in air passengers over the past decade is also taken into account in our projects, particularly with the development and application of Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) across the region.

Our region includes a variety of migrants: with varying skills, ambitions, and drivers, including asylum-seekers who want to reach safe haven in the European Union. Our programmes throughout the region, assist countless lives, including those who are in new and protracted displacement, irrespective of the reason.

Moreover, our region is growing economically at a peak rate, with living and working standards increasing across the board. Part of the high economic growth can be attributed to the large remittances sent by international migrants. These private funds aid the home community overcome obstacles, and fuel the local economy for the future generation.

Finally, IOM is determined to ensure the advancement of the commitments adopted by our member states all of who recognize the developmental aspects of migration, as established through the GCM and enshrined in the Agenda 2030. Accordingly, all IOM projects, programmes and initiatives make certain that our interventions serve the advancement of national and regional priorities, as well as the GCM objectives and the targets set in the 2030 Agenda.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

IOM enjoys cooperation with a plethora of agencies, organizations, and institutions, and Academies, several of which are Vienna-based. The Regional Office in Vienna is privileged to be the designated Liaison Office for a number of them.

Notes on data sources:
International migrant stock data sourced from UN DESA (2018), unemployment levels, remittances and GDP data from World Bank, (September 2018), refugee data from UNHCR Global Trends (September 2018), internal displacement data from IDMC Global Internal Displacement Database (September 2018), HDI data from UNDP (September 2018), health migration data from WHO (September 2018), aviation data from ICAO (September 2018).

Updated in 2018
Data as of 31.12.2017

The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the factsheet do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the International Organization for Migration concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or its authorities, concerning its frontiers and boundaries.