



## Situation Room – Horizon Series

### **\*\* BALKAN MIGRATION HORIZON: CROATIA \*\***

**Period under review: from January 2021 to 24 May 2021.**

[This report is based on publicly available sources to describe a changing situation. Information subject to change.]

#### **Situation analysis recap:**

- Croatia is a transit country and is a part of the so-called Balkan Route, where migrants and refugees come into Croatia from Serbia. The country is also a crossing point for the so-called Southern Route, where people also attempt entry from Bosnia and Hercegovina.
- In the latest report, published in February 2021, 1,932 asylum seekers were registered in Croatia in 2020. 42 people were granted international protection and 378 persons are still pending for asylum applications. Top countries of origin for asylum seekers are Afghanistan with 934 people, Iraq with 435 and Iran with 100. No confirmed numbers of migrants or refugees are as yet available for 2021.
- Croatia is facing numerous allegations regarding illegal pushbacks and inhumane treatment of migrants and refugees. The UN Refugee Agency said it was calling on European states, including EU member Croatia, to investigate and halt illegal pushbacks and violence against refugees and asylum seekers.
- Dozens of migrant families with small children have been sleeping in a village by Bosnia's border with Croatia while looking for a chance to cross and move on towards Western Europe.
- A landmine exploded in the Saborsko region, located in central Croatia, killing one migrant and injuring several others. The forests where the incident happened remain full of explosives left over from the Balkan wars nearly three decades ago.
- Twenty-one police officers from Estonia, Lithuania and Poland have been deployed in Slovenia through Frontex. Their mission is to help authorities strengthen checks at the border with Croatia as part of the fight against undocumented migration.

#### **Sources/Further Reading:**

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