



Situation Room – Horizon Series

**** BALKAN MIGRATION HORIZON: MONTENEGRO ****

Period under review: from January 2021 to 10 May 2021.

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

Situation analysis recap:

- According to the latest report, published in March, there are 196 refugees, 210 asylum-seekers, and 135 stateless people in Montenegro, as well as 12,258 other persons of concern, mostly internally displaced people.
- Among the refugees, the top countries of origin are Serbia with 149 people, Bosnia with 12 people, and Croatia with 8 people. 65 asylum-seekers are from Morocco, 37 from Iran, and 32 from Algeria.
- The UN Refugee Agency's activities and advocacy in the area of asylum reform in Montenegro are aimed at facilitating a gradual shift from a country in the midst of a political transition that requires humanitarian aid, towards a country that offers both protection and solutions for asylum-seekers.
- Montenegro is progressing towards meeting the goals of the #IBelong campaign which aims to end statelessness by 2024 through further strengthening birth registration and statelessness determination procedures.
- Montenegro is dealing with a migrant smuggling problem. Smugglers often attempt to transport illegal migrants across the Adriatic Sea to Italy, or through the northern part of the country into Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Until now, Montenegro has seen lower numbers of migrants than other countries on the so-called *Balkan route*, which many migrants use to reach wealthier countries in Western Europe. One of the reasons why most migrants chose a different route are the living conditions in migrant camps in the southern part of Bosnia-Herzegovina, along the Montenegrin border.
- The Montenegrin authorities and the EU border agency Frontex have announced they will be strengthening their cooperation in order to stamp out cross-border crime.

Sources/Further Reading:

Frontex Launches Second Operation in Montenegro to Tackle Cross-Border Crime. (15. October 2021). Schengenvisainfo. Available at <https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/news/frontex-launches-second-operation-in-montenegro-to-tackle-cross-border-crime/>

Kovacevic. D. (15. January 2021). Croatia Returned 7,000 Refugees in 2020, Bosnian Minister Says. Balkan Insight. Available at <https://balkaninsight.com/2021/01/15/croatia-returned-7000-refugees-in-2020-bosnian-minister-says/>

Montenegro Fact Sheet, February 2021. (24. March 2021). ReliefWeb. Available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/montenegro/montenegro-fact-sheet-february-2021>

Refugees stuck in hopeless situation at EU border in Bosnia. (11. January 2021). InfoMigrants. Available at <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/29534/refugees-stuck-in-hopeless-situation-at-eu-border-in-bosnia>

Wallis, E. (19. October 2021). 52 migrants intercepted by Montenegrin authorities en route to Italy. InfoMigrants. Available at <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/27994/52-migrants-intercepted-by-montenegrin-authorities-en-route-to-italy>

Analysis by: **Matjaž J. Leben**

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