



319
Migrants interviewed



26
Average age



98% Male
2% Female



75%
Single



24%
Married

*One per cent stated "other"



593
Migrants registered

by the Border Police from January 2024
through March 2024

This report, based on a questionnaire administered through a KoBo toolbox, provides insights into the profiles, experiences, needs, routes travelled and intentions of migrants transiting through Montenegro. Data was collected from 1 January to 31 March 2024. IOM surveyed 319 migrants in Reception Centers Božaj and Spuž, and active transit locations such as bus stops or at key entry and exit locations (Rožaje and Pljevlja) throughout the country.

PROFILES

The predominant nationalities transiting through Montenegro in 2024 thus far were nationals of Afghanistan, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Most migrants on the move are single men. Men, who have families but travel alone, often attempt to reach Western Europe first, and then apply for asylum and family reunification. In this sample, 98 per cent were men, and overall, 76 per cent of the respondents were single. Most (76%) of the migrants passing through Montenegro fall between the ages 18 and 29.

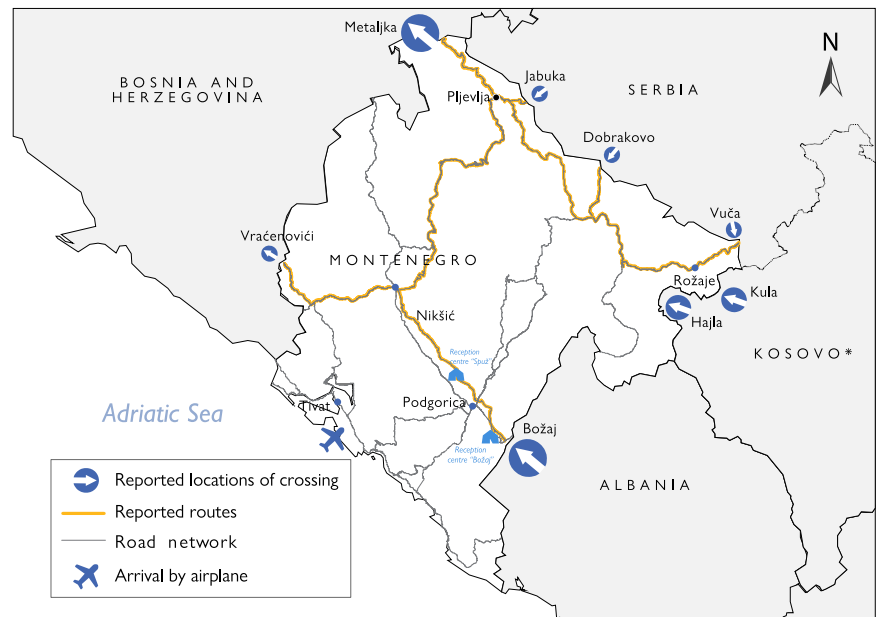
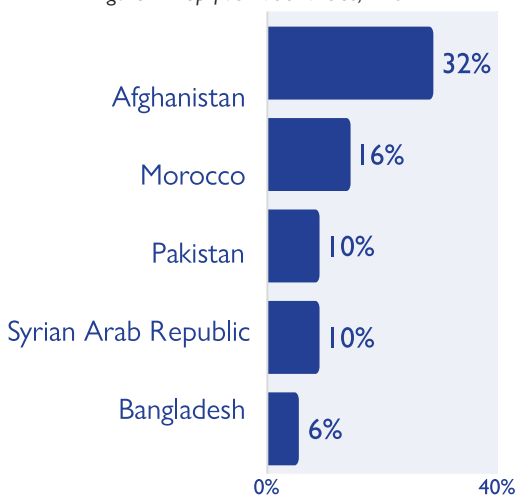


Figure 1: Top five nationalities, n=319



Source: DTM Montenegro, Jan-Mar 2024, n=319

JOURNEYS

Fifty per cent of the respondents reported entering from Serbia. Montenegro has observed a rise in entries from Serbia, correlating with increased border patrols in Serbia and newly deployed strategies by the Serbian authorities which pose a challenge to migrants as their usual routes are inaccessible, prompting migrants to modify their travel paths. The other entry points were Kosovo* (26%) and Albania (23%), with one per cent of respondents also stating they entered from Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The main known points of entry into Montenegro are the border crossing Božaj (from Albania), border crossing Kula and Hajla mountain area (from Kosovo*), border crossing Dobrakovo as well as reported crossing in the areas of Vuča and Jabuka (from Serbia). The main exit point, and entry into BiH, is the border crossing Metaljka alongside seldom reported crossing through Vračenovići.

 **15%**
of migrants being facilitated

 **39%**
of entries from Albania reported being facilitated

 **460€**
Average cost of facilitated entry

Fifteen per cent of the respondents reported being facilitated across borders; 39 per cent of the facilitated respondents stated being facilitated from Albania. The reported average cost per entry cost is 460 EUR per person. Most migrants (40%) interviewed at exit locations reported remaining in Montenegro for an average of one day before continuing their journey to BiH.

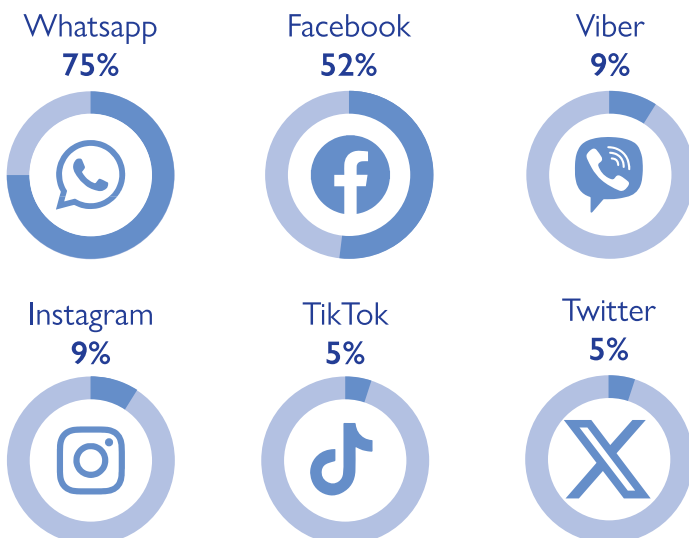
97% by bus


77% by foot


21% by taxi


Migrants use mixed forms of transportation, with bus being the highest reported (97%), walking followed with 77 per cent, and taxi with 21 per cent.¹ Migrants reported using social media applications to communicate with facilitators and their family or people on the move.

Figure 2: Main means of communication on the journey

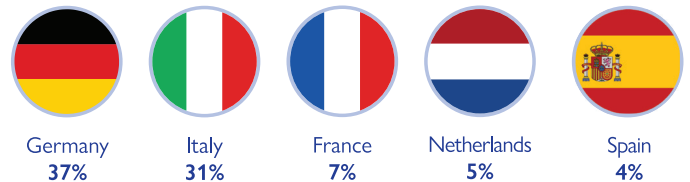


Source: DTM Montenegro, Jan-Mar 2024, n=319.

INTENDED DESTINATION

The top five destinations respondents were on the journey to reach were, Germany, Italy, France, Netherlands, and Spain.

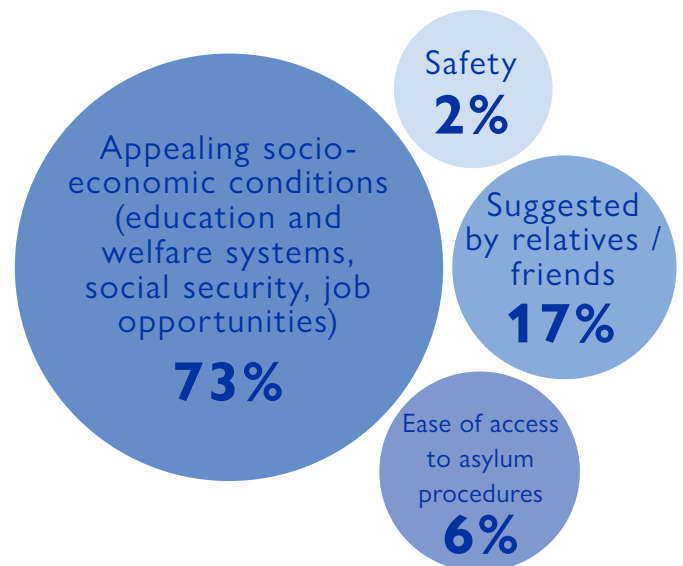
Figure 3: Main intended destinations



Source: DTM Montenegro, Jan-Mar 2024, n=319.

Destination countries are predominately chosen based on the appealing socio-economic conditions the country offers, as well as networks of family, friends, and co-nationals who share the same religion, culture, and language. Asylum procedures and safety, are also important factors migrants consider.

Figure 4: Reasons for choosing the intended destination



Source: DTM Montenegro, Jan-Mar 2024, n=319.

Germany was the preferred destination for 60 per cent of Afghan nationals, 58 per cent of Syrian nationals, and 56 per cent of Iranian nationals. Italy was the choice for 83 per cent of Egyptian nationals, 69 per cent of Moroccan nationals, and 63 per cent of Pakistani nationals.

¹ Multiple answers possible, thereby percentages amounting over 100%.

France was favored by 67 per cent of Algerian nationals, and 11 per cent of Iranians and Afghans each also chose France. The Netherlands was a choice for 31 per cent of nationals of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 17 per cent of Egyptians, and eleven per cent of Iranians. Spain was favored by the rest of Algerian nationals (33%) and Moroccan nationals (20%). These preferences reflect varying trends in migrant destinations across Europe.

Migrants constitute significant populations facing considerable vulnerability and enduring substantial stress and hardship. Consequently, they have diverse needs, including access to food, accommodation, and medical assistance. In Montenegro, migrants have identified shelter, non-food items like clothing, and provisions of food and water as their primary requirements, among others outlined below.

MAIN NEEDS



Source: DTM Montenegro, Jan-Mar 2024, n=319.
More than 1 answer possible.

METHODOLOGY

This report uses a multi-source and multi-method approach with the aim of providing insights into the profiles, experiences, needs, movement patterns and intentions of migrants transiting through Montenegro.

Survey interviews with migrants

The questionnaire is administered via Kobo Toolbox and collects information on the age, sex and nationalities of respondents, information about their journeys to Montenegro, registration information and movement modalities within the country. The survey is anonymized, voluntary and respondents do not receive compensation for participation. Respondents can choose not to answer any question and can withdraw their consent at any moment.

Data was collected from 1 January to 31 March 2024 in RC Božaj and AC Spuž as well as at transit locations such as Rožaje and Pljevlja.

LIMITATIONS

The data collection is conducted in the context of the following limitations:

1. This data is based on a convenience sample of migrants in the survey locations during the time frame indicated and can therefore not be generalized to the broader population of migrants in Montenegro, or anywhere else.
2. The data is collected by a DTM focal point based in reception center Božaj, one enumerator in Pljevlja, and one in Rožaje. The DTM focal point regularly visits all the key locations and monitors trends. Enumerators work four hours per day covering the main out of camp locations, such as bus stations.
3. The data collection is limited to the areas migrants are known to enter transit and exit Montenegro. IOM continually monitors these locations with the support of local partners.

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International Organization for Migration (IOM), April 2024. DTM Montenegro – Quarterly Report Q1 (January-March 2024). IOM, Montenegro.

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