

245
Migrants interviewed

96% Male
4% Female

687
Migrants registered
by the Border Police from July 2024
through September 2024

Top **5** countries of origin of respondents

Morocco **17%** Pakistan **12%** Afghanistan **11%**
Islamic Republic of Iran **11%** Egypt **10%**

75% Single
24% Married
*One per cent stated "other"

27
Average age

This report, based on a questionnaire administered through KoBo, provides insights into the profiles, experiences, needs, routes travelled and intentions of migrants transiting through Montenegro. Data was collected from 1 July to 30 September 2024. IOM surveyed 245 migrants at the Reception Center Božaj, and active transit locations such as bus stops or at key entry and exit locations (Rožaje and Pljevlja) throughout the country.



Map 1: Most prevalent routes travelled by migrants within Montenegro. Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

MAP

The map above shows the routes travelled, including entry and exit points by migrants interviewed in this sample. 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 and entry points reported by the respondents into Bosnia and Herzegovina, is the border crossing Metaljka alongside seldom reported crossing through Vračnovići.

JOURNEYS

In quarter 2 an increase in entries from Serbia was observed. Key informants revealed that it coincided with heightened border patrols within Serbia. However, during the current quarter, the number of reported entries from Serbia has significantly decreased. Four per cent of interviewees reported entering from Serbia in the third quarter of the year, reflecting a 46 per cent decline compared to the second quarter of 2024.

The other entry points were Kosovo* (37%) and Albania (58%), with one per cent of respondents also stating they entered via airport. Relative to the sample and decline of entries from Serbia, the entries from both Kosovo* and Albania increased. Reported entries from Kosovo increased by 11 per cent and from Albania by 35 per cent in this quarter.



Figure 1: Rates and costs of facilitation

Twenty-five per cent of the respondents reported being facilitated across borders, which is an increase of 10 per cent compared to the previous quarter. The reported average entry cost was 420 EUR per person, which is a 36 per cent decline from quarter 2 when the average entry cost was 660 EUR per person. On average, the respondents reported remaining in Montenegro for two days before continuing their journey, mostly to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Figure 2: Main means of movement during the journey
 More than 1 answer possible.

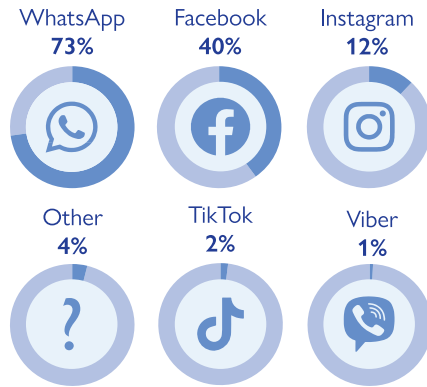


Figure 3: Main means of communication on the journey
 More than 1 answer possible.

INTENDED DESTINATION

The top five destinations reported were Italy, Germany, Spain, France, and the Netherlands. Compared to the previous quarter, reports of Germany as the intended destination decreased by 17 per cent. This could be explained by the change in the top nationalities interviewed. In this sample, the top two nationalities were nationals of Morocco and Pakistan who according to the broader DTM Western Balkans data³ tend to report Italy as their intended destination.

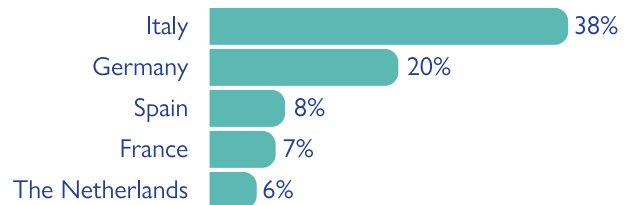


Figure 4: Main intended destinations

Migrants primarily choose destination countries for their favourable socioeconomic conditions and the presence of family, friends, or co-nationals who share their religion, culture, and language. Asylum procedures and safety are also among the top factors respondents report playing a role in their decision making.

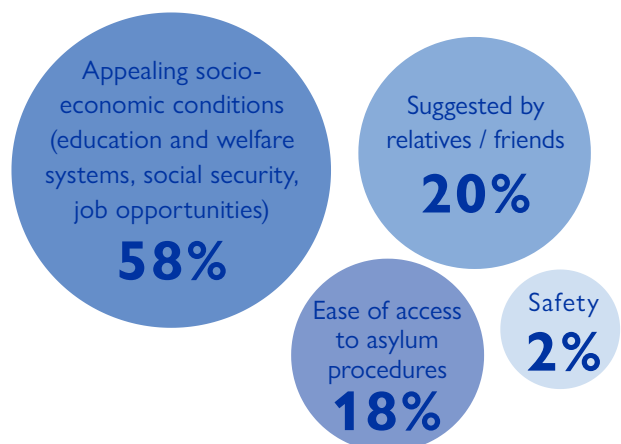


Figure 5: Reasons for choosing the intended destination

³ Western Balkans Monthly Migrant Mobility Situation Report available at IOM Bosnia and Herzegovina website under [Data and Resources](#).

Eighty-three per cent of Egyptian nationals, 61 per cent of Moroccan nationals, and 79 per cent of Pakistani nationals chose Italy as their destination. Germany was the preferred country of destination for 63 per cent of Syrian nationals, 41 per cent of Afghan nationals, and 33 per cent of nationals of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Thirty-three per cent of Moroccan nationals and 8 per cent of nationals from the Occupied Palestinian Territory favoured Spain. Fifty per cent of Algerian nationals and 57 percent of Somali nationals preferred France. The Netherlands was chosen by 25 percent of Syrian nationals and 15 percent of Iranian nationals. These preferences highlight diverse trends in migrant destinations across Europe.

Migrants may face substantial hardships during their journeys. Consequently, they have diverse needs, including access to food, accommodation, and medical assistance. In the previous quarter, migrants identified shelter, non-food items like clothing, and provisions of food and water as their primary needs in Montenegro. However, in this quarter, the main needs reported were food and water, money, and washing facilities.



Figure 6: Main reported needs
 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 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 anonymous, 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 were collected from 1 July to 30 September 2024 in RC Božaj and at transit locations such as Rožaje and Pljevlja.

LIMITATIONS

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

1. Collected data are 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. DTM focal points and enumerators are based in the reception center Božaj, as well as at exit locations in Pljevlja, and 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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