Summary of key trends observed

- In March the number of arrivals in the region has decreased by 46% compared to the previous month. This trend is due to COVID-19 situation and to some complete closure of borders between countries. The reported intentions to apply for asylum decreased by 16.6% compared to February. At the same time, the overall number of submitted asylum applications in the Western Balkans has decreased by 57% compared to February.

- In comparison to data reported in January 2020, the percentage of submitted intentions that turned into actual asylum applications in February 2020 is stable with a rate of 8% of them.

- For this third month of the year, no first instance decision was reached (compared to 6 in February 2020) from the total of 3,361 asylum applications in 2020. The total number of new granted refugee status in 2020 is still 6 cases, in addition 6 cases were provided subsidiary protection status while 33 other applications were rejected. Since January, 1101 cases were closed, because applicants absconded the asylum procedure.

- The total number of pending decisions recorded stands at 1,326 for the month of March. This is an increase of 28.6% compared to February. This is a worrisome trend considering that the total number of asylum decisions on the first instance remains low compared to the remaining pending cases.

- In March 2020, women represent over 16.4% (96) of the monthly new applications. Compared to February (14%, 194), it’s an increasing rate even if the absolute number has been divided by more than 2. In addition, there were 157 children including 19 UASC (12.1%) among applicants compared to 332 (56 UASC) in February 2020.
New Applications Regional Trends

Total New Asylum Applications by Country of Asylum
- Albania: 2050
- Kosovo*: 655
- Montenegro: 384
- North Macedonia: 153
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: 78
- Serbia: 41

Total Asylum Intentions by Country of Asylum
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: 4117
- Montenegro: 1200
- Serbia: 839

Total New Asylum Applications by Month
- January: 1413
- February: 1364
- March: 584

Total New Asylum Intentions by Month
- January: 2347
- February: 3707
- March: 2152

New Asylum Applications by Month and Country of Asylum
- January:
  - Albania: 777
  - Kosovo*: 519
  - Montenegro: 290
- February:
  - Albania: 428
  - Kosovo*: 470
  - Montenegro: 400
- March:
  - Albania: 334
  - Kosovo*: 1458

New Asylum Intentions by Month and Country of Asylum
- January:
  - Albania: 761
  - Kosovo*: 1898
  - Montenegro: 470
- February:
  - Albania: 519
  - Kosovo*: 400
  - Montenegro: 334
- March:
  - Albania: 290
  - Kosovo*: 1458

First Instance Decisions Trends

Total Asylum Applications and Asylum Intentions by Country of Asylum
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: 16
- North Macedonia: 11
- Serbia: 11
- Kosovo*: 4
- Montenegro: 3
- Albania: 1

First instance Decisions by Type and Country
- Refugee: 14
- Rejected: 10
- Subsidiary Protection: 7

Total Otherwise Closed Applications by Country
- Montenegro: 237
- Kosovo*: 228
- North Macedonia: 104
- Serbia: 55
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: 16

Key figures
- 3361 New Applications
  - 85 New Applications of which Unaccompanied or separated children*
  - 7 Recognized Refugees
  - 33 Subsidiary Protection
  - 1101 Closed cases

*disaggregated figures by age/gender are not always available

Kosovo*: Designations of Kosovo* are without prejudice to positions on status, and are in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

Data source: SEE Regional Asylum Statistics and UNHCR data available at https://popstats.unhcr.org. For further information or any questions concerning this factsheet please contact: Gabriel Mathieu, mathieu@unhcr.org

In most cases, data for this factsheet is provided by country level governmental institutions. Retroactive changes in data may occur.
As of 31 March 2020

### Monthly New Asylum Applications

#### Monthly New Asylum Applications by Country of Asylum

- **Albania**: 334
- **Montenegro**: 100
- **Kosovo***: 88
- **North Macedonia**: 27
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: 23
- **Serbia**: 12

#### Monthly New Intentsions to Seek Asylum by Reporting Country

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: 1458
- **Montenegro**: 211
- **Serbia**: 149

### Monthly First Instance Decisions

#### Monthly Decisions by Type of Decision

- **Otherwise closed**: 174
- **rejected**: 5
- **Subsidiary Protection**: 1

#### Monthly Type of Decisions by Nationality

- **Iran**: 1
- **Iraq**: 1
- **Pakistan**: 1
- **Turkey**: 2

### Monthly Interviews by Country of Asylum

- **Serbia**: 9
- **Albania**: 6
- **Montenegro**: 2
- **Morocco**: 2
- **North Macedonia**: 1

### Monthly Otherwise Closed Applications by Nationality (Top 10)

- **Morocco**: 54
- **Algeria**: 33
- **Afghanistan**: 24
- **Pakistan**: 14
- **Iran**: 9
- **Turkey**: 8
- **Bangladesh**: 7
- **Syria**: 6
- **Cuba**: 3
- **Palestine**: 3

### Average Length of Procedure (days) by Country

- **Montenegro**: 33
- **Kosovo***: 92
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: 216

### Total Pending Asylum Applications by Country of Asylum

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: 486
- **Montenegro**: 367
- **Kosovo***: 205
- **Serbia**: 143
- **North Macedonia**: 124
- **Albania**: 1

*Disaggregated figures by age/gender are not
albeit*