Summary of key trends observed

- In January, the number of arrivals in the region has increased by 7% compared to the previous month. This is somehow different to the previous year where the number of arrivals went downwards during January probably linked to seasonal conditions. Unlike the number of arrivals, the reported intentions to apply for asylum decreased by 36% compared to December 2019. At the same time, the overall number of submitted asylum applications in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia) has increased by 33.6% compared to end 2019.

- In comparison to data reported in December 2019, the percentage of submitted intentions that turned into actual asylum applications in January 2020 has increased from 6% to 11% despite of a smaller number of individuals who have expressed interest to seek asylum.

- For this first month of the year, only one first instance decision was reached (compared to two in January 2019) from 1,413 asylum applications. The number of new granted refugee status was only 1, no cases were provided subsidiary protection status while 6 other applications were rejected. 355 cases were closed, because applicants absconded the asylum procedure.

- The total number of pending decisions recorded stands at 1,505 for the month of January. This is an increase of 2.5% compared to December 2019. This is a worrisome trend considering that the total number of asylum decisions on the first instance remains low (only 7 decisions out of the 1,413 asylum applications lodged during January).

- In January 2020, women represent over 8% (170) of the total applications compared to December 2019 (18.8%, 121). In addition, there were 188 children including 10 UASC (13.3%) among applicants compared to 157 (25 UASC) in December 2019.
RBE - Western Balkans - Asylum Statistics - 2020 Trends Analysis

As of 31 January 2020

New Applications Regional Trends

Total New Asylum Applications by Country of Asylum

- Albania: 777
- Kosovo*: 428
- Montenegro: 129
- North Macedonia: 59
- Serbia: 11
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: 9

Total Asylum Intentions by Country of Asylum

- Bosnia and Herzegovina: 54,978
- Montenegro: 15,366
- Serbia: 12,935

Total New Asylum Applications by Month

- January: 1,413

Total New Asylum Intentions by Month

- January: 2,347

New Asylum Applications by Month and Country of Asylum

January:

- Albania: 777
- Kosovo*: 428
- Montenegro: 129
- North Macedonia: 59
- Serbia: 11
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: 9

New Asylum Intentions by Month and Country of Asylum

January:

- Albania: 290
- Kosovo*: 519
- Montenegro: 761

First Instance Decisions Trends

Total Decisions by Country of Asylum

- North Macedonia: 3
- Serbia: 2
- Kosovo*: 1
- Montenegro: 1

First Instance Decisions by Type and Country

- Refugee: 1
- Rejected: 1

Total Otherwise Closed Applications by Country

Montenegro: 202
North Macedonia: 53
Bosnia and Herzegovina: 51
Serbia: 21
Kosovo*: 17
Albania: 11

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 January 2020

Monthly New Applications

- **January 2020**
- **Key figures**
  - **1413** New Applications
  - **125 Women**
  - **188 Children**
  - **10 Unaccompanied or separated child(ren)**

**Monthly New Asylum Applications by Country of Asylum**
- **Albania**: 777
- **Kosovo**: 428
- **Montenegro**: 129
- **North Macedonia**: 59
- **Serbia**: 11
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: 9

**Monthly New Intentions to Seek Asylum by Reporting Country**
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: 761
- **Montenegro**: 519
- **Serbia**: 290

**Monthly First Instance Decisions**

**Monthly Decisions by Type of Decision**
- **Otherwise closed**: 355
- **Rejected**: 6
- **Refugee**: 1

**Monthly Type of Decisions by Nationality**

- **Type of decision**: Refugee, Rejected

**Monthly New Asylum Applications by Country of Origin (Top 10)**
- **Syria**: 580
- **Morocco**: 269
- **Iraq**: 195
- **Algeria**: 193
- **Iran**: 100
- **State of Palestine**: 81
- **Libya**: 70
- **Cuba**: 47
- **Egypt**: 46
- **Montenegro**: 45

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

- **Morocco**: 162
- **Algeria**: 46
- **Iran**: 29
- **Syria**: 27
- **Iraq**: 25
- **Turkey**: 20
- **Afghanistan**: 19
- **Russia**: 8
- **Libya**: 6
- **Egypt**: 5

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

- Between application and decision:
  - **Montenegro**: 45
  - **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: 209

**Monthly Decisions by Country of Asylum and Type of Decision**

- **Montenegro**: 9
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**: 5
- **North Macedonia**: 5
- **Serbia**: 3

**Monthly Decision by Nationality**

- **Refugee**: 641
- **Rejected**: 501
- **Montenegro**: 501
- **Serbia**: 137
- **Kosovo**: 132
- **North Macedonia**: 89
- **Albania**: 5

**Total Pending Asylum Applications by Country of Asylum**

- **Albania**: 641
- **Montenegro**: 501
- **Serbia**: 137
- **Kosovo**: 132
- **North Macedonia**: 89
- **Albania**: 5

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

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Contact details may have to be subject to change. In some cases, data for this factsheet is provided by country level governmental institutions. Additional or updated information may be available.