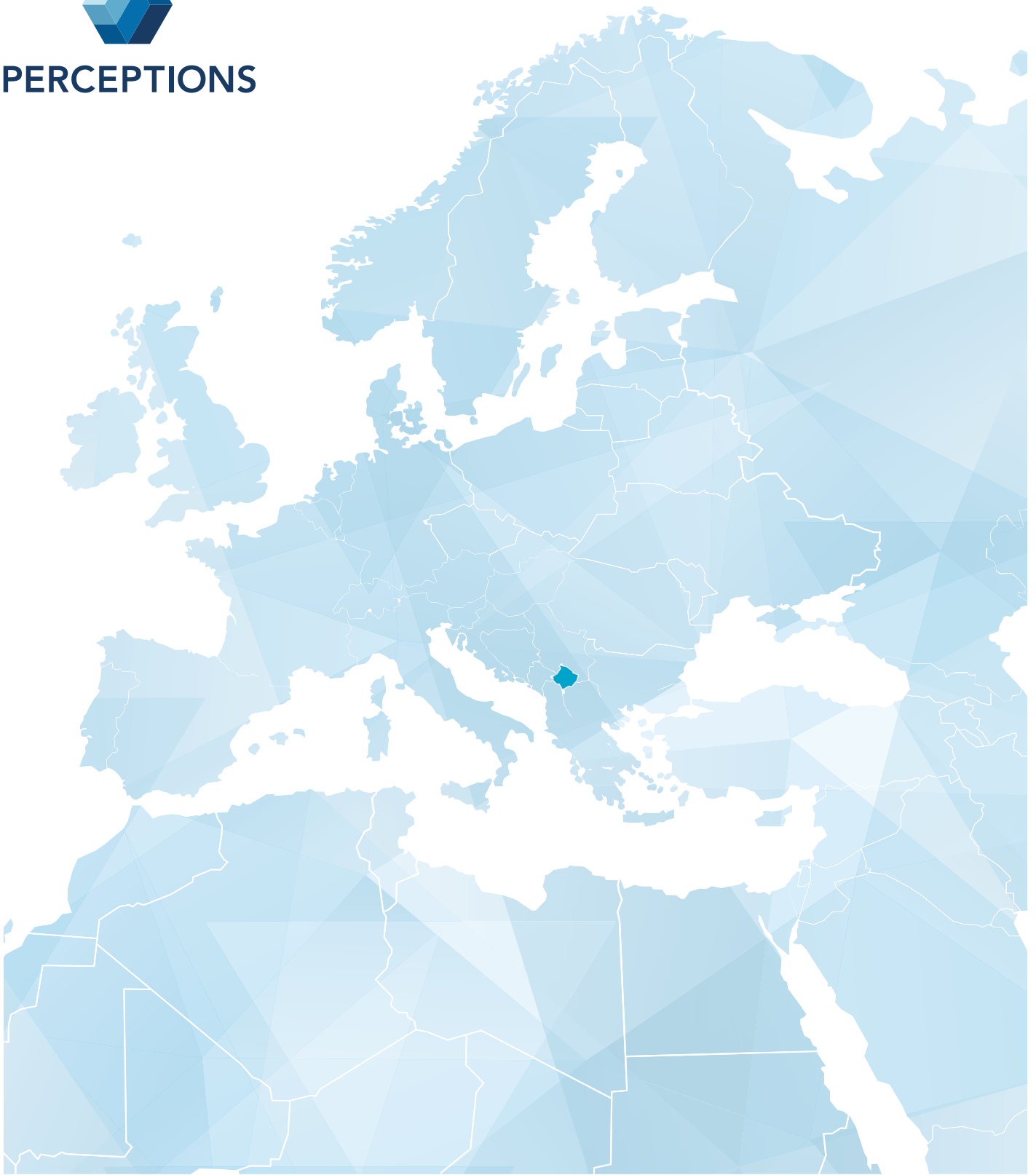




PERCEPTIONS



# Kosovo

PERCEPTIONS  
Country Report

# PERCEPTIONS RESEARCH:

## Literature, studies, projects, stakeholders, solutions, tools and practices

### DISCLAIMER:

Disclaimer: This report is based on desk-research conducted between 2019 and 2022 and covers major development between the period of 2015-2019. For more updated information on the country profile, please check the additional institutional links at the end of the document.



This project has received funding from the European Union's H2020 Research & Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No 833870.

# Table of Content:

- a) Geographical map .....4
- b) Short summary .....5
- c) Facts and figures .....5
- d) Full document.....6



## a) Geographical map

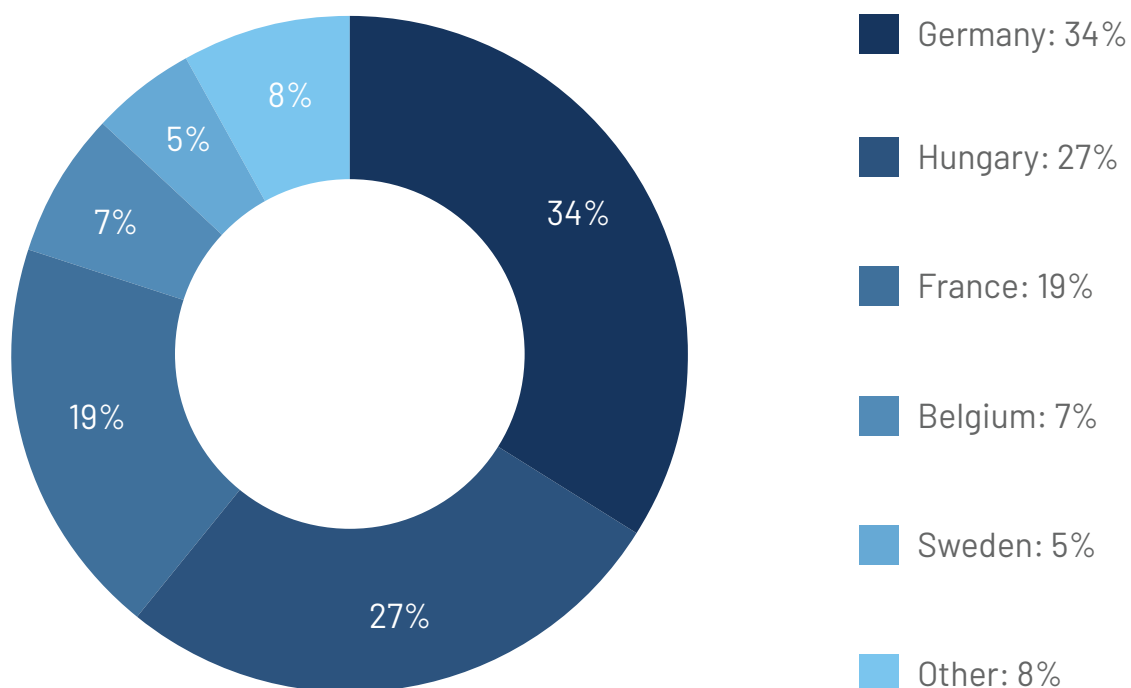


## b) Short summary

In Kosovo, the Department of Citizenship, Asylum and Migration, which operates within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration of the Republic of Kosovo, is the key for implementing the State Strategy on Migration and Action Plan (2013-2018)<sup>6</sup>, laws and policies dealing with migration. Kosovo citizens continue to seek asylum abroad, mainly in EU-member states. Data show that the number of asylum seekers from Kosovo nearly doubled between 2012 and 2013, increasing from 10,205 to 20,215 (Avdiu, 2015). The number of Kosovar asylum seekers furthermore continued to increase in the following years. Kosovo is not only a country of origin of people migrating and seeking asylum in EU and beyond, but has also come to be considered a gateway to the European Union for migrants who arrive from other parts of the world. Indeed, regarding arrivals of migrants, Kosovo received a great number of migrants from 2016 until now however the country was not their final destination. In January 2020 there are 300 others registered as asylum seekers in Kosovo. Asylum seekers mostly come from Syria, Iraq, Algeria, Morocco, Palestine and other countries.

## c) Facts & figures

Kosovar Asylum seekers abroad (2008-2018)



## c) Full document

### Institutional setting

In Kosovo, the Department of Citizenship, Asylum and Migration, which operates within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration of the Republic of Kosovo, is the key for implementing the State Strategy on Migration and Action Plan (2013-2018)<sup>6</sup>, laws and policies dealing with migration. This department is responsible for coordinating the migration process and for the development of migration policies, for regulating and controlling the migration of foreigners residing in Kosovo and accompanying foreigners who are subject to deportation or expelling to the state border.

According to Kosovo's secondary legislation, the applicant shall apply for international protection at the Kosovo Police, at a border crossing point, at a police station or the Centre for Asylum. While, in cases when the applicant is objectively unable to appear to the aforementioned bodies, then the Directorate for Migration and Foreigners (which operates within the Kosovo Police) will develop the initial procedure at the location where the applicant is situated.

Regarding migrant integration, the Kosovo Government's Regulation No. 09/2019 for the Integration of Foreigners states that the following benefiting categories from the integration are: applicants for international protection, persons with the refugee status, persons with subsidiary protection, persons with temporary protection, persons with stateless status, persons with temporary residence, persons with permanent residence, and family members of the beneficiaries of the abovementioned categories in case of the family reunion. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and its bodies ensure that in the shortest time possible will equip foreigners with a residence permit and travel documents as a requisite for their access to the integration process.

Based on the Law No. 04/L-072 on State Border Control and Surveillance, border control is in the competence of Kosovo's Ministry of Internal Affairs and the border police within the Kosovo Police perform duties dealing with border control. Furthermore, the Law No. 06/L-013 on Amending

and Supplementing the Law No. 04/L-072 on State Border Control and Surveillance, Amended and Supplemented with the Law No. 04/L-214, states that this law applies to all persons who cross the state border of the Republic of Kosovo, without violating the rights of refugees and persons seeking international protection, by respecting the principle of non-refoulment. Moreover, during the implementation of this law, state bodies act in full compliance with basic human rights and freedom defined in the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, European Convention for Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and the international law that is binding to the Republic of Kosovo, including the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees, dated 28 July 1951, and obligations related to obtaining international protection along with the principle of non-refoulment. In accordance with the general principles of domestic legislation, the decisions, according to this law, shall be taken on an individual basis.

### Short migration overview

No accurate and holistic evidenced-based studies have been undertaken in Kosovo to analyse, deconstruct and explain the country's recent immigration/emigration history. Thus, information and data can be gathered mostly from reports published by state institutions that indicate the number of Kosovo citizens emigrating abroad, mostly to Europe, the United States and other countries. Accordingly, based on data released by Kosovo Agency of Statistics (2014), it is estimated that between 1969 and 2011 the Kosovo population (including ethnic minorities) who emigrated abroad is considered 550,000 residents. The main reasons for Kosovo's population emigration during this period were socio-economic reasons, and before 1999 political reasons due to war in Kosovo caused by Serbia.

In addition, more recently, Kosovo citizens continue to seek asylum abroad, mainly in EU-member states. Data show that the number of asylum seekers from Kosovo nearly doubled between

2012 and 2013, increasing from 10,205 to 20,215 (Avdiu, 2015). The number of Kosovar asylum seekers furthermore continued to increase in the following years. A study of the European Policy Institute of Kosovo indicates that between 2008-2018 a total of 203,330 Kosovo citizens applied for asylum in an EU-member state with the main countries of destination being Germany (69,060), Hungary (54,860), France (38,400), Belgium (13,540) and Sweden (10,630) (EPIK, 2019). Moreover, in that same period of time, another 141,330 Kosovo citizens were found to be living in an irregular situation across different EU-member states, mainly in Germany (46,600) and Hungary (63,070) and to a lesser extent Austria (9,195) and France (8,760) (EPIK, 2019).

### Key development since 2015

Kosovo is not only a country of origin of people migrating and seeking asylum in EU and beyond, but has also come to be considered a gateway to the European Union for migrants who arrive from other parts of the world. Indeed, regarding arrivals of migrants, Kosovo received a great number of migrants from 2016 until now however the country was not their final destination. Therefore they used Kosovo as a transit country to move towards other countries (most probably EU member states). It is estimated that asylum seekers were staying in Kosovo for an average of 26 days.

Since the majority of migrants that arrive in Kosovo do not apply for asylum in Kosovo, the number of asylum seekers that have been registered in Kosovo have been rather low: 70 asylum seekers in 2015, 307 asylum seekers in 2016, and 147 asylum seekers in 2017. It is important to note that the decline in the number of asylum seekers in 2015 is related to measures that were undertaken to prevent the movement of people from the countries in regions affected by emigration. Another reason is the assumption that Kosovo did not coincide with the corridors of movement and easier penetration of asylum seekers to the Western countries. In 2018, however, Kosovo saw a significant increase in the number of asylum seekers, which rose to 600 in total. With 2,100 persons seeking for asylum in Kosovo in 2019, the country saw another sharp increase in the number of asylum seekers, and in

January 2020 there are 300 others registered as asylum seekers in Kosovo. Asylum seekers mostly come from Syria, Iraq, Algeria, Morocco, Palestine and other countries.

#### For more information, see:

IOM Migration Kosovo:

<https://kosovo.iom.int/>

Foreign Affairs Kosovo:

<https://mfa-ks.net/en/>

Interior affairs Kosovo:

<https://mpb.rks-gov.net/>





# PERCEPTIONS



This project has received funding from the European Union's H2020 Research & Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No 833870.

