



Quick Facts	
Immigration detainees (2019)	Not Available
Detained asylum seekers (2016)	12
Detained minors (2017)	Not Available
International migrants (2019)	820,312
New asylum applications (2019)	2,316
Number of immigration detainees on a given day (2020)	6,852

NOTES ON USING THIS PROFILE

- Sources for the data provided in this report are available online at: <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/europe/serbia>
- "Observation Dates" indicate the timeframe statistical data correspond to or other data were last validated. More than one statistical entry for a year indicates contrasting reports.

STATISTICS

Detention, expulsion, and incarceration statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Total number of immigration detainees by year	Not Available	2019	Number of immigration detainees on a given day	6,852	2020
Number of detained asylum seekers	12	2016	Total number of detained minors	Not Available	2017
Criminal prison population	10,065	2016	Percentage of foreign prisoners	3.5	2015
Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	142	2016			

Demographics and immigration-related statistics

		Observation Date			Observation Date
Population	8,700,000	2020	International migrants	820,312	2019
Total number of new asylum applications	2,316	2019			

DOMESTIC LAW

LEGAL TRADITION

Legal tradition	Name	Observation Date
	Civil law	2017

COVID-19 UPDATES

	Update Status	Observation Date
<p>Latest Update</p>	<p>Since March, all transit and asylum centres have been in lock-down. Raids of squats and informal accommodation have increased since then, with migrants and asylum seekers apprehended and transferred to camps across the country. According to the Border Violence Monitoring Network (BVMN), the government temporarily opened several “camps,” which have been quickly filled with new arrivals. These sites are in Morović, Subotica, and Miratovac. Reportedly, the facility in Morović has been used to confine overflow from other sites and “troublemakers” from facilities elsewhere. Some of these, including the tented facility in Morović - had originally been intended to be used for quarantining Serbian nationals returning home. Despite Serbia lifting its state of emergency on 6 May, on 16 May the government announced that it would be deploying troops to “secure” and “protect” three migrant reception centres located on the country’s border with Croatia. Reportedly these three facilities - Principovac, Sid-Stanica, and Adasevci - currently confine 1,500 migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, most of whom are from Syria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. President Vučić reportedly told a local media outlet that the deployment was also to protect locals in the area. Since the country had begun to lift lockdown, he claimed, “the migrants started venturing outside the camps, committing petty crimes and illegal entries into houses.” Pushbacks from Serbia into North Macedonia have continued during the crisis. In one case documented by the BVMN in early April, a group of 15 adult men and one minor in Tutin camp were informed that they were being transferred to a site in Prescevo. Crammed into a police van, they were driven for nine hours before being forced outside and, with guns pointed at them, ordered to cross into North Macedonia. The group attempted to re-enter Serbia four times, but on each occasion they were pushed back across the border. As the GDP reported on 23 April, anti-migrant sentiment has been growing in Serbia. Since March, one of the fastest growing Facebook groups in the country is called “Stop Migrant Settlement.” Some of the group’s members have voiced their belief that authorities introduced curfews not to stem the virus’s spread, but so that they could quietly settle migrants across the country. In early May, a car was driven into a migrant centre in Obrenovac, with the driver live-streaming the attack on his Facebook page.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>NGOs report that 6,852 migrants and asylum seekers are currently confined in the country’s 13 closed reception centres. Many had tried to cross into Croatia and Hungary - with some being forcibly pushed back by Hungarian and Croatian border police. In recent months, anti-migrant sentiment has grown in the country: a rally in Belgrade in early March called for the return of all migrants passing through Serbia and warned that participants would set up street patrols to intercept foreigners. After the eruption of the Covid-19 crisis, Serbian authorities quickly moved to lock-down reception centres, imposing a state of quarantine on 17 March. Article 3, paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Decree on Emergency Measures provides that migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers may be deprived of their liberty on the grounds of preventing “uncontrolled movement” and the potential spread of the virus. With armed soldiers reportedly stationed outside the reception centres, migrants and asylum seekers have not been allowed out of the facilities unless they receive special permission, and rights organisations have been prevented from entering - thus denying detainees psychological, legal, or other forms of assistance. However, with no confirmed cases amongst the non-citizen population, and with no such restrictions in place for Serbian citizens living in private accommodation, rights observers argue that this amounts to “discrimination on the basis of legal status, origin and place of residence.” The human rights NGO A11 says that the government’s quarantine of reception facilities is additionally problematic given that the collective deprivation of liberty of non-citizens has produced inhuman and degrading conditions in certain facilities due to severe overcrowding - reportedly, capacity at Sombor Transit Centre has reached 450 percent.</p>	<p>2020</p>

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Relevant international treaties and date of ratification		
International treaties	Name	Ratification Year
	ICERD, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	2001
	VCCR, Vienna Convention on Consular Relations	2001
	ICESCR, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	2001
	ICCPR, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	2001
	CEDAW, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	2001
	CAT, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	2001
	CRC, Convention on the Rights of the Child	2001
	ICPED, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	2011
	CRSR, Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees	2001
	CRSSP, Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons	2001
	CTOCTP, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	2001
	CTOCSP, Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	2001
	OPCAT, Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	2006
Ratio of relevant international treaties ratified	13/19	
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification		
Individual complaints procedure	Name	Acceptance Year
	ICERD, declaration under article 14 of the Convention	2001
	ICCPR, First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966	2001
	CEDAW, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1999	2003
	CAT, declaration under article 22 of the Convention	2001
	CRPD, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2009
	ICPED, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, declaration under article 31	2011
Relevant international treaties and date of ratification		
Ratio of complaints procedures accepted	Number	Observation Date
	6/7	2017

Regional treaties, regulations, and directives

Regional legal instruments	Name	Year of Ratification (Treaty) / Transposed (Directive) / Adoption (Regulation)
	CPCSE, Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse	2010
	ECPT, European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment	2004
	CATHB, Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings	2009
	ECHR1, Protocol 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11)	2004
	ECHR7, Protocol 7 to the European Convention on Human Rights (amended by protocol 11)	2004
	ECHR12, Protocol 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights	2004
	ECHR, Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (commonly known as the European Convention on Human Rights)	2004

Bilateral/Multilateral agreements linked to readmissions

Bilateral/multilateral agreements linked to readmission	Name	Year in Force	Observation Date
	Germany	2003	2017
	Germany	2011	2017
	Austria	2004	2017
	Austria	2011	2017
	Bulgaria	2010	2017
	Croatia	2004	2017
	Denmark	2003	2017
	Italy	1998	2017
	Malta	2010	2017
	Slovakia	2003	2017
	Slovakia	2009	2017
	Slovenia	2009	2017
	Spain	2011	2017
	Sweden	2003	2017
	Norway	2009	2017
	Switzerland	2010	2017
	Russian Federation	2015	2017
	EU	2008	2017

Non treaty-based international human rights mechanisms

Relevant recommendations of the UN Universal Periodic Review	Recomendation Issued	Year Issued	Observation Date
	No	2009	2017
	No	2013	2017

INSTITUTIONAL INDICATORS

More information about immigration detention in Serbia is available at the website of the Global Detention Project (www.globaldetentionproject.org)