



The mapping of the process of illegal migrants return to Serbia



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1. Introduction

Migration, for a few years now, has been one of the strategic priorities in the internal affairs and external relations of the European Union. The European Union is putting migration issues more and more systematically on the political agendas.

Following the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty, the Tampere Programme and the Hague Programme, the main components of a comprehensive migration policies have been put in place. With the political framework in place, concerns related to migration issues, such as economic migration, illegal migration, management of migration flows, return management, asylum and temporary protection, have become an integral part of the EU policies. Within this framework the EU has developed many specialized programs and funded several projects. One of these projects is RETURNET “*Promoting an integrated model for Return*”.

General purpose of this work is to design an integrated voluntary return model that could be tested in the selected EU countries: Italy, Spain and the Slovak Republic.

This study is created as one contribution to the definition of an integrated model of return process which should encompass economic and social dimensions.

1.1 The Purpose of the Research

The purpose of this research is to investigate the current situation regarding return management policies and programs which are adopted and practised in the migrants’ country of origin (Serbia). Also, the focus of the research is on migrants’ socio-demographic characteristics, migratory experience, perspectives and motivations for voluntary return as well as on their reintegration needs. This topic will be presented in the second part of the study.

1.2 Research Methodology

The Research was performed in Serbia in the course of 2008 and in collaboration with *Veneto Lavoro Office* in Italy. The research methodology included desktop analysis and interviews with relevant authorities.

2. Research Project Background

Migratory movements of the Serbian population have been caused by various historical, demographic, economic, political and social factors. Frequent wars, ethnic conflicts and economic under-development have often resulted in massive migrations to other countries.

The migration process itself passed through several phases. The last and the most significant flew happened during the 1990s, when political crisis, ethnic conflicts and disintegration of the country resulted in forced migrations within the former Yugoslav republics, as well as in a new wave of oversee migrations.

The problem of migration and outsourcing in Serbia has not been analysed in depth and, therefore, some important limitations exist to produce a ample insight into the current situation as well as, into the perspectives regarding future trends in the Serbian population movement. The lack of adequate statistical resources imposes a need to use the incomplete data sources of national services, immigration countries and the international organisations. Some difficulties also arise in the effort to classify Yugoslav migrants per republic since the unique records from the past has still been in use. Therefore, any analysis must inevitably refer to incomplete studies and estimates which have many gaps.

This situation have been major obstacle to this research as well, but since the interest in migration issue have increased recently, the same as the special funds for the research on this topic, there is a hope that monitoring of migratory experience from Serbia will be strengthened in the near future.

3. Return Management Policies and Programs /Project in Serbia

In spite of the present difficulties associated with the migration issue in Serbia, several authorities at national level have been created only recently in order to manage and assist migratory policies and programs including the return process. These institutions were established after Serbia had signed Readmission agreement with the most EU countries.

3.1. Description of the Institutional framework for integration of returnees in the Republic of Serbia

In Serbia there are five national institutions involved in the return programs under readmission agreement.

1. EU Integration Office of Serbia
2. Agency for Human and Minority Rights
3. Assembly of the Republic of Serbia (Committee for EU integration)
4. Ministry of Interiors (covering this issue to a certain extent)
5. Ministry of Diaspora (covering this issue to a certain extent)

3.1.1 EU Integration Office

EU integration Office of Serbia together with selected representatives of EU countries established the special Committee in 2007. The mission of the Committee is to manage and control the implementation process of Readmission Agreement in accordance to EU standards. However, this Office doesn't have any particular project regarding return of illegal migrants. Instead, the Office is more dedicated to development of general political framework as regards EU integration process. ¹

3.1.2 Agency for Human and Minority Rights (AHMR)

In the course of 2005 the Agency for Human and Minority Rights was coordinating the work of the state bodies and NGOs in order to construct Draft Strategy for reintegration of returnees based on Readmission

¹ For more information please see the following web site:

<http://www.seio.sr.gov.yu/code/navigate.asp?Id=20>

Agreement. Besides, AHMR have been actively involved in organization of the first Readmission Office in Serbia.

Readmission Office at the Airport “Nikola Tesla” in Belgrade

In 2005 the AHMR established Readmission Office at the Airport “Nikola Tesla” in Belgrade. Even today the Office is being financed by the Agency. The Office is located inside Nikola Tesla Airport premise flanked by the Customs and Passport control, i.e. in the baggage claim area. The Working hours of the Office are every day from 10:00 AM to 22:00 PM.

The most important task of the Office’s staff is to gather forced returnees who are returning by single and charter flights, and to provide them with essential advisory assistance. More precisely, the Office supply returnees with the Information Bulletin containing the information about the required legal procedures, contact and telephone numbers of the most important institutions and organizations that returnees could contact in the country of origin.

More precisely, the activities of the Readmission Office at the airport “Nikola Tesla” are:

- Identification of deported person and those who have returned on voluntary basis;
 - Providing information regarding reintegration process in Serbia to deported persons and to those voluntary returned;
 - Identification of the most common problems which people under readmission are facing;
 - Ensuring the provision of basic legal assistance and advice (regulation of personal status, social and health protection and employment issues);
 - Gathering data on the state of human and minority rights of people under readmission;
 - Gathering other relevant for the process of returnees’ reintegration;
- Informing the Agency for Human and Minority Rights on the state and problems of Returnees;

The Center for Integration of Returnees (CIR)

The Center for Integration of Returnees (CIR) is operating with the Service for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. It is financed in cooperation with the OSCE Mission in Serbia and the European Agency for Reconstruction. The Center for integration of returnees commenced its work in June 2006, based on data received from the Readmission Office within Nikola Tesla Airport - Belgrade, which is operating as a part of the Service for Human and Minority Rights from October 2005.²

Main issues connected to integration of the returnees have been stated in the Draft Strategy for Reintegration of Returnees, published in cooperation with the Regional Initiative MARRI - South-East European Stability Pact.

The Center for Integration of Returnees has been created in order to support sustainable mechanisms for integration in line with the Draft Strategy for Returnees. In particular, the Centre is functioning on two levels - providing direct support to returnees (individual cases) and initiating the process of creating mechanisms for successful integration of returnees, in cooperation with line state bodies and institutions in the Republic of Serbia. The Centre is committed to accomplishment of the following objectives:

- Improving status and conditions for integration of returnees, based on bilateral readmission agreements:
- Coordinating strategies and measures taken in this area:
- Establishing cooperation and network of returnees' associations, citizens, line ministries, local self-governments, embassies, international organizations, regional initiatives, media, non-governmental sector, and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, in order to resolve returnees' issues;
- Providing expert support and dissemination of information

² Note: The web site of this Agency is not formed yet.

One of the most significant results of the Center's work is the creation of Manual for Acting inside Returnees Integration, which has been published in Serbian, English, Hungarian³.

3.1.3 Ministry of Interior (MIO) in Serbia

After initial bilateral readmission agreements had been concluded in 1996 (covering 15 countries out of which 11 are EU members), Ministry of Interior in Serbia took responsibility over citizens' readmission in 2003. However, at that time Serbia with Kosovo and Metohija still had been in the State Union with Montenegro. Following the separation of Montenegro and in the course of 2007 Serbian ex Minister of Interior Mr. Dragan Jovic signed in Brussels the agreements on visa facilitation and readmission between Serbia and the EU, which was planned to come into force on 1 January 2008. By signing this agreement Serbia obtained approval to make use of EU funds in order to facilitate the process of returnees' reintegration.

Nowadays, Ministry of Interior is responsible for the implementation of the readmission agreement.

The procedure which Ministry usually carry out is the following. Once individual legal residence status in some country has been confirmed as invalid, that country sends inquiry to the Ministry of Interior in Serbia in order to identify and escort that person. Ministry of Interiors is checking then the identity of the person and organise its return to the country of origin.⁴

In addition to the procedures related to implementation of Readmission agreement, Ministry of Interior in cooperation with OSCE Mission to Serbia, has also been implementing an Integrated Border Management Strategy at national and regional levels. The Mission assists the Ministry to build up its own capacity in order to perform efficient border control and prevent future possibilities of illegal migration.

³ For more information please see the following web site:<http://www.evropa.sr.gov.yu/Evropa/Documents/EvropaDocuments/ahmr.ppt>

⁴ Stated by Mrs. Zorica Đukić, Head of Readmission Office -MIO Serbia

3.1.4. Ministry of Diaspora

Ministry of Diaspora⁵ has not been directly involved in the readmission process. The prevalent role of Ministry is to improve contacts between mother land and Serbian Diaspora worldwide. In the previous period the ministry established municipal Diaspora offices at local municipal level while in the next period the Ministry plan to set up regional Diaspora centres at Regional chamber of Commerce.

The Ministry has recently started to implement the project related to the return of domestic experts from Diaspora with the idea to involve the most educated human resources from Serbia in economic development of Serbia. The project has been implemented in cooperation with the most popular job search internet engine, called *Infostud*. Namely, through this web site, those educated and successful professionals from Serbia living abroad will be offered job positions in foreign companies who are operating in Serbia and who are looking forward highly educated professionals. Connected to this the virtual business network will be established in the next period. This project is just one initiative to prevent brain drain from Serbia that has become one of the most serious problems which Serbia is facing nowadays.

3.2 Other actors involved in return programs

Other actors involved in return programs are local NGOs and different international organizations currently operating in Serbia whether on local or at central level.

Their major role is to facilitate/ implement the readmission agreement i.e. return of illegal migrants currently residing inside EU countries.

⁵ For more information please visit the following web site:<http://www.mzd.sr.gov.yu/>

3.2.1 Local NGOs

Through this research several projects promoted by local NGO's has been recognized.

1. Project title *“Support to Readmission Process through Sustainable Reintegration of Returnees from Western Europe”*

Implementation of the project “Support to Readmission Process through Sustainable Reintegration of Returnees from Western Europe” have started on 1st July 2007.

Project is financed by European Commission and implemented by Local NGO “European Perspective” in cooperation with other local NGO partners such are “Serbian Democratic Forum” and “Group 484”

The project envisages the establishment of 10 reintegration centers throughout Serbia. Specific tasks have been assigned to every partner included in the project.

Centre for development of Civil Society and Social Work “Centre Sveti Sava” has been facilitating project implementation in the municipality of Nis (South-eastern Serbia)

NGO “Group 484” has been assigned the project component related to provision of psychosocial support to returnees (language courses, understanding local community, adaptation to the new living environment, decrease of returning trauma, family violence etc)

NGO “Serbian Democratic Forum” has been implementing the legal assistance component.

Legal assistance has been provided by mobile teams who assist in handling necessary documentation such are residence registration form, health documents and record books. Furthermore legal assistants help in obtaining ID cards, provide acknowledgement of educational diplomas, facilitate property transfer from western Europe, property disputes, right on social and health assurance, etc.

NGO “European Perspective” has been responsible for the provision of economic support through economic integration of returnees into local community and local labour market. This component comprises the following activities; training on job search, starting up own business, provision of business grants, etc.

NGO’s “European Perspective and Serbian Democratic Forum together have been

Implementing project component related to returnees’ rights. This component aims at rising awareness concerning readmission issues through activities as are creation of reliable data base, execution of social researches, situation analysis, organization of round tables, media campaigns, international conferences, development of bulletins and web portals.

2. Project title: “People in Readmission, Strengthening Policy and Practice”⁶
Serbian Refugee Council, and the association of six NGOs, financially supported by EIDHR and European Commission started with implementation of one year project “People in Readmission, Strengthening Policy and Practice” in March 2007. The aim of the project is to build up capacity of government and non government actors associated with provision of assistance to returnees according to Readmission agreement.

3.2.2 International Organizations

There are several international organizations that started with different projects related to reintegration issues.

1. United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Project title: *Communication Strategy for Awareness Raising among Local State Institutions and Concerned Individuals/Returnees to deal with Returnee Issues*

⁶ For more information please visit the following web site: <http://www.ssi.org.yu/content/view/16/51/lang,en>

This project was financed by Dutch Government and implemented by the Agency for Human and Minority Rights together with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Serbia, as the implementing partner.⁷

General objective of the project is to assist returnees' integration to Republic of Serbia through activities of awareness rising at the central and local levels. The activities of awareness rising are connected to the following reintegration aspects, (areas where the access to the rights may be complicated for returnees):

- issuing personal documents
- social protection
- health protection
- education/language

The project's objective is to set up partnership and collaboration between different stakeholders in the above mentioned areas in order to ensure an integrated solution to common problems which returnees are facing upon their arrival.

Human resources employed in the government institutions and organizations, as well in local self-administration have been trained to recognize and resolve the most common problems returnees are facing upon their arrival to Serbia.

This included creation of Information Bulletin for Returnees in the Process of Readmission, which was published in Roma, Serbian, Dutch, English and German language, and which contains the basic information and contacts that are supposed to help returnees immediately upon their arrival.⁸

2. International Organization for Migration- IOM

IOM in Serbia works closely with government counterparts, international donor and civil society in order to develop adequate responses to key migration challenges: return of irregular migrants and rejected asylum seekers, and human beings trafficking. Furthermore, IOM continuously works on strengthening migration management capacity within the country. This

⁷ For more information please visit the following web site:
http://www.undp.org.yu/tareas/reports/reports_dl.cfm?id=122

⁸ For more information please visit the following web site:

<http://www.undp.org.rs/?event=public.publicationsDetails&id=122&navPage=2>

organization has been largely involved in development of projects as are: a) German Government-Assisted Repatriation Programme REAG/GARP b) Assistance to Voluntary Return for vulnerable migrants currently residing in Switzerland to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia (including Kosovo), and Montenegro. c) Psychosocial and Trauma Response in Serbia (PTR) d) Programme for the Protection, Return and Reintegration of Trafficked Persons in Serbia⁹

3. Red Cross Serbia and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

International Federation supports development through long-term programs to increase the capacity of the Local Red Cross in Serbia.

Within the migration programme, The Red Cross in Serbia also provides assistance to rejected asylum seekers returning from Western Europe through the readmission Procedure. This program started in 2007 and continued during 2008.

The Red Cross of Serbia regularly cooperated with the Agency for Minorities and Human Rights to assist returning families, and links has been established between the agency and local Red Cross branches. Furthermore the National Society participated in a round-table discussion on readmission and return experiences and initiated a bilateral cooperation with the Swedish Red Cross on assistance to vulnerable returnees. As well, IFRC and Serbian Red Cross cooperated with the German Red Cross to establish an assistance programme for the most vulnerable returnee families This program continues as a majority of returnees come from Germany.

From the above mapping of relevant institutions and NGOs one could conclude that a variety of projects and programs regarding readmission and return are going on in Serbia at the present time. However, dilemma is whether these programs are enough ample and coordinated in between to assist growing

⁹ For more information please visit the following web site: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/pid/700>

number of returnees in resolving variety of problems they are facing upon the return, or they are rather partial and still inadequately synchronized.

3.3 Readmission Agreements

The Readmission agreement between Serbia and Slovak Republic

Concerning that one of tasks of this study was to investigate current climate regarding return of illegal migrants from Slovakia to Serbia, readmission agreement between two states has been stated at this place.

The Agreement between the Federal Government of Yugoslavia¹⁰ and the Government of the Slovak Republic Concerning the Return and Readmission of Persons who Do Not Meet Conditions for the Entry into and Stay in the Territory of the Other State, was signed on 30 August 2001 and ratified on 16 January, 2002. and had come into force on 27 February 2002. The agreement was published in Official Gazette of the FRY-MU No.1.

The agreement includes the following statement:

“THE FRY HAS SHOWN THE READINESS TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT ON READMISSION WITH ALL INTERESTED STATES. THE SIGNING OF THIS AGREEMENT WITH SLOVAKIA IS A CONCRETE CONTRIBUTION OF THE FRY TO THE PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL MIGRATIONS IN EUROPE AND TO THE PROMOTION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THIS FIELD.”¹¹

United Readmission Agreement with EU

As it has been mentioned earlier, in the previous period, Serbia signed bilateral agreements with majority of old and some of the new EU member states (For example, Serbia and Montenegro signed an agreement on the readmission of its citizens from Germany on September 16, 2002).

United readmission agreement signed by the European Union and Serbia, entered into force on 1 January 2008.

¹⁰ Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at that time covered just Serbia and Montenegro. Afterwards the name was changed into State Union Serbia and Montenegro.

¹¹ For more information please visit the following web site:

http://www.mfa.gov.yu/Policy/Bilateral/Slovakia/agreements_e.html

This document sets out the conditions for forced repatriation to Serbia of individuals who are either from Serbia or who have transited via Serbia to the EU.

Although it is quite difficult to estimate precise number of Serbian illegal migrants residing in EU countries, (since they could be registered only if they have entered into the evidence of immigration offices) according to rough estimates, the agreement will affect between 50,000 to 100,000 people from Serbia illegally residing in the EU. This estimation includes rejected asylum seekers and refugees, most of whom are Roma.

3.4 Strategic documents and legislative framework

Strategic documents:

Draft Strategy for Integration of Returnees

Draft Strategy for Integration and Empowerment of the Roma

Draft Action Plan for Returnees in the Roma Decade

Poverty Reduction Strategy

Plan for Implementation of European Partnership Priorities

Republic of Serbia's Strategy for EU

Legislative framework:

Law on Healthcare

Law on Health Insurance

Law on Social Care and Securing Social Safety of Citizens

Law on Republic and Administrative Taxes

Law on Local Self-Government

Law on Education

Law on IDPs

3.5 Facing the problem-Limited capacity of recipient country

The Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly has repeatedly dealt with the issue of forced returns to Serbia. In its last recommendations from 27 June

2007, the Assembly expresses particular concern at the situation of displaced Roma in Serbia and points out to the fact that the readmission agreements do not set out clear conditions for the reception of returnees.

The problem of limited reception capacities of Serbia has been set out during two day conference on sustainable solutions for Roma refugees, IDPs and returnees held in Belgrade on 29 and 30 October 2007, hosted by the Serbian Parliament and co-organized by the Serbian Assembly, the State Agency for Human and Minority Rights, and the Council of Europe Directorate for Social Cohesion.

In their conclusions, the participants of the conference asked for the process of readmission to be gradual and coordinated between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the governments of the countries the returnees are coming from, taking into account limited reception capacities in Serbia.¹²

4. Socio-demographic characteristics of migrants

Concerning that the greatest number of illegal migrants soon are expected to return in Serbia, the issues about who are these people, where to settle them, how to feed employ and educate them when Serbia still have been passing through difficult socio economic situation become more and more important.

Estimates which take into account statistical data from immigration countries show that the scope of migration from FRY during the 1990s was about 400 000 people. The greatest number of migrants went to Germany (34%), Switzerland (12%) and Italy (6%). Other European countries accepted about 21% of migrants while other migrants went to Canada (7%), the USA (6%) and Australia (5%). However the accessible structure of asylum seekers indicates that most of them are Albanians from Kosovo and Metohija and Roma people.

As it has been mentioned before, almost 100 000 people from EU countries have to be returned to Serbia in the next period. It is possible that this number is even bigger concerning that data obtained from the Government of Germany point out that this country has almost 100.000 illegal citizens from

¹² For more information please visit the following web site: <http://kosovoroma.wordpress.com/refugee-protection/readmission-agreements/>

Serbia and Montenegro. Beside Germany great number of Serbian citizens who illegally reside in Switzerland, Austria, Holland, Italia, and Luxemburg. The precise number of Serbian citizens illegal residing outside Europe (mostly in Australia, Canada, New Zeeland and America) has not been available.

Concerning the structure of returnees under readmission agreement the number of persons under readmission per country is presented in the following table.

Table No.1

Number of returnees by country of temporary residence	
Germany	419
Switzerland	40
Denmark	8
Netherlands	9
Belgium	5
Austria	2
Italy	1

Source: Data of the office at the Belgrade airport, March 2006.

The table No.2 indicates that the greatest number of returnees is coming from Germany, while the smallest numbers of them returns form Italy.

Concerning the region in Serbia where returnees coming from, they mostly originate from Central Serbia (61%) then from Kosovo and Metohija (21 %) and finally from Vojvodina (18%).

Regarding their gender, 71% are male and 21% are female.

Related to the structure of returnees, the president of Roma party Mr. Srđan Šajin stated that almost half of the potential returnees (50.000) of them are Roma people.

According to the research executed by NGO Group 484 the typical returnee is of Roma nationality between 30 and 40 years old, with unfinished elementary school. He had been passed abroad 10 years in average. He is married and lives in the family consisting of many members; he is unemployed and doesn't receive any kind of medical and health assistance.

The following table illustrate different nationality of Individual returnees.

Table No.2

Nationality of individual returnees	
Roma	59%
Albanian	13%
Serbian	13%
Bosniak/Muslim	9%
Egyptian	6%

Source: Data of the office at the Belgrade airport, March 2006.

Emigrants to EU countries other than Roma, went out of the country during the political and economic crises in the 1990s, and majority of them already obtained legal residence. This particularly refers to better educated individuals and experts who had found regular job or get married to foreign citizens soon upon arrival to foreign country. Similar situation is present in Italy. The greatest number of illegal citizens coming from Serbia is actually of Roma nationality. Other citizen whether Serbian or Montenegrin has been integrated for the most part.

5. Migratory experience, perspectives and motivations for voluntary return and reintegration needs

In the last three years almost 10.500 persons have been returned in Serbia under readmission agreement out of which 4.800 persons have been escorted by the police or medical staff.

According to the evidence of Red Cross in Serbia The number of rejected asylum seekers returning to Serbia amounts merely 20 people in average return per month. Moreover, most of the persons returning have opted for voluntary return, which implies financial support from the country they return from. The greatest number of them are Roma who are principally uneducated and without relevant documents. Their children were born abroad and they speak neither Roma nor Serbian language. In addition, they don't have any property, documents or shelter.

Return experience seems to be very difficult, as these people had been living in developed EU countries for years and nowadays they become forced on the return to turbulent country of unstable socio economic and political situation. As well, very often strong confrontation toward returnees has been present inside local communities. So called "returning trauma" is illustrated by the case of 22 years old Ramiz Adžaj, who had been living in Mannheim for 13 years before he was deported from Germany to Serbia as the government of this country refused to approve him asylum¹³. He stated that police took him to the airport where he was taken away certain amount of money as punishment for exceeding the period of permitted residence.

He also admitted that he would have returned to Germany if he'd had such possibility. Bekim Beriša, 22 years old man also returned from Germany and for almost five months he has had severe problems to adapt. After he had found the job he felt better.

Returnees to Serbia under readmission agreement are officially recognised as vulnerable group. Nonetheless, the fact that by signing readmission agreement with UN Serbia obtained the permission to use the EU funds to facilitate deportation and reintegration of its citizens to the country of origin, excepting the rights to obtain temporary documents and food in public kitchens, deported people are neither provided with shelter nor guaranteed employment.

Furthermore, the problem to continue children's education is also evident. The majority of children don't know Serbian language thus they have

13 18. Source B92, Tanjug, Beta, DW. September 2007.

difficulties to follow up the regular school classes. In the most severe cases, children are not allowed to participate at school classes as they don't have relevant documentation.

Also, the problem is that people don't have enough money to translate all necessary documents and school certificates and their motivation to work in Serbia is generally low¹⁴.

Therefore, returnees' migratory experience is very hard as they had suffered a lot when they finally decided to leave the country in the search for the better life. Coming back to Serbia means confrontation with many stressful situations and new needs (documentation, language, housing, employment social environment) which are not often recognised and confronted by the relevant institutions on the comprehensive way.

6 Conclusion

Emigration, or more precisely population flee out of their mother land is the phenomenon which Serbia has been facing for a long time.

The last and the most grave wave of external emigrations happened during the 1990s when political crisis, ethnic conflicts and disintegration of the country resulted in amplified flee from the country.

In the situation of entire confusion in the country, regarding socio economic and political transition the issue of migration management appears to be neglected. As the result, the national statistics doesn't provide precise estimations about number and structure of people who left the country. The situation becomes even more complicated regarding statistic evidence of illegal migrants who reside in EU countries.

Since the state has been changing official name several times, so as its citizens have been classified as Yugoslavian, then Serb- Montenegrin and finally Serbian, it is even more complex to find illegal migrants of Serbian origin.

Concerning Italy and the Republic of Slovakia as the countries of Special interest for this study, Serbia already concluded readmission whether on

¹⁴ Daily Press Vesti, D. Vukotić 08.03.2008

bilateral basis or through unified EU readmission agreement. However, the structure of potential illegal migrants from these countries to Serbia is almost equivalent. The greatest number of those who returned under readmission agreement are Roma people poorly educated without documentation and unemployed. Other, more educated Serbian people majority of whom fled during turbulent 1990's have mostly regulated their civil status and therefore obtained the necessary citizenship until now.

From the available statistic data we could conclude that Italy and especially Slovakia haven't been the countries of major interest for the Serbian population. Namely, the countries such are Germany Switzerland, Austria, Australia, New Zealand, and America are the countries where numerous Serbian Diaspora is present.

Concerning that Serbia on its route to EU membership had signed the Readmission agreement with EU, and therefore obtained access to EU funds as support to reintegration process, several project programs have been created only recently. However, active integration of returnees implies efficient state policy, the aim of which is to integrate returnees into society in an efficient, effective, comprehensive and sustainable manner, with full respect to their rights.

Social environment in which the issue of returnees is to be resolved in Serbia is still inadequate. The country is faced with difficulties in fulfilling needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized parts of population.

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