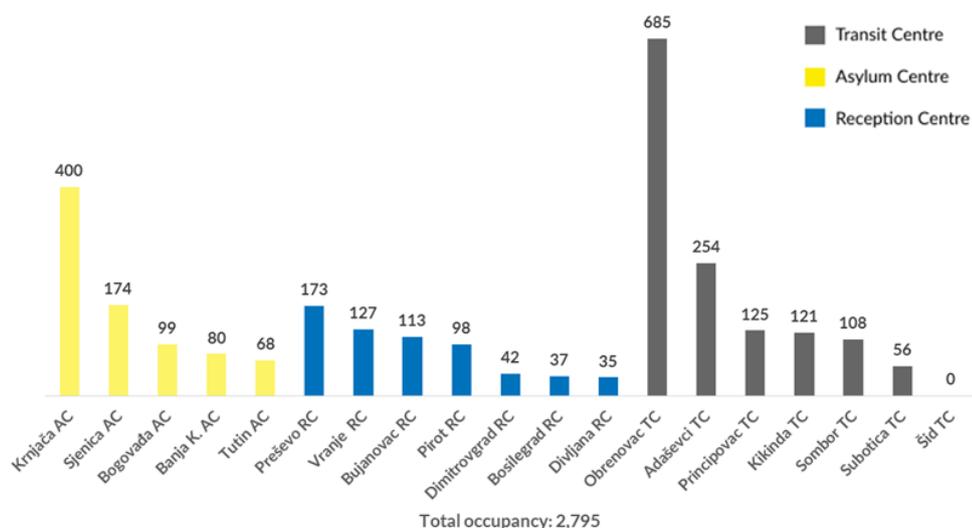


UNHCR SERBIA UPDATE

- **3,199** new refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia on 13 May. **2,795** (i.e. 87%) were accommodated in 18 governmental centres. Around **400** were still observed outside of centres: around 200 in Belgrade City and some 200 camping close to borders with Croatia or Hungary.
- **The number of new arrivals assisted by UNHCR and partners continued growing to 230** (compared to 208 the preceding two weeks). 55% arrived from FYR Macedonia, 15% from Bulgaria and 30% by air and/or other destinations. 59% of all arrivals were men, 11% women and 30% were children. 25% were nationals of Afghanistan, 23% of Pakistan, 16% of Iran, followed by 10% Iraqi, 9% Syrian and 17% nationals of other countries.
- UNHCR and partners continued to receive **high** numbers of reports of **collective expulsions: 264** asylum-seekers from Croatia (compared to 320 the preceding two weeks), **43** from Hungary (compared to **124** the preceding 2 weeks), **22** from Romania (compared to **23** the preceding weeks) and **33** (previous two weeks **22**) persons returned from Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Hungary admitted **19** asylum-seekers into its so-called “transit-zones (compared to 23 during the preceding two weeks)
- **On 11 May, UNHCR organised a Conference “10 Years of the National Asylum System in Serbia and the Way Forward” in Belgrade.** Asylum expert panellists included relevant government counterparts and civil society. In their opening statements, Minister of Labour Zoran Djordjevic expressed satisfaction with cooperation with UNHCR, adding that the Ministry will continue to insist on access for refugee/migrant children to education and better protection of UASC, and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior Biljana Ivković-Popović stated that Serbia is working on the draft Irregular Migration Management Strategy, while highlighting the importance of regional and international cooperation.
- In April 2018, **642** foreigners registered **intentions to seek asylum in Serbia**. 62% were registered by adult men, 10% by adult women and 28% for children. Most applications were filed by citizens of Pakistan (28%) and Afghanistan (28%), followed by Iran (26%), Iraq (6%), Libya (4%), Syria (2%) and Somalia (2%), etc. Five asylum applications received positive decision in April (4 refugee status and 1 subsidiary protection), thus bringing the number of positive decisions by the Asylum Office so far in 2018 to 10 in total.





Hans F. Schodder, Representative, UNHCR Serbia, opening the conference "10 Years of the National Asylum System in Serbia and the Way Forward", together with Zoran Đorđević, Minister of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Biljana Popović-Ivković, State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, Svetlana Velimirović, Deputy Commissioner, Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration and Paul-Henri Passet, Head of Information, Communication and Press, The Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade (Serbia), ©UNHCR, 11 May 2018

- On 8 May, speaking at the conference "New research and prosecution mechanisms in cases of human smuggling" organized by the Southeast European Prosecutors Advisory Group (SEEPAG), Serbia's Minister of Justice Nela Kuburović stated that "...Serbia, despite all the challenges it faces relating to the migrant crisis, and despite the increased number of human smuggling cases, ... will not close its borders."
- Following UNHCR and Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs signing a MoU in the last week of April on jointly ensuring a safer, more appropriate accommodation for UASC, the first four UASC were relocated from Krnjača AC to "Zmaj" and "Vodovodska" specialized state facilities for unaccompanied minors in Belgrade.
- Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration published two Public Calls for housing solutions under the RHP Sub-project 8. The Call for 30 pre-fabricated houses is country-wide. The Call for 100 building material packages targets over 70 municipalities that have not implemented the building material component so far.



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