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Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia



PHOTO: SAŠA ĐORĐEVIĆ

The increased influx of migrants in the Republic of Serbia

Employees of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration were engaged in working with migrants during New Year's Eve

As part from the usual public services working over the public holidays and New Year's eves, the employees of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration were also working with and providing assistance to migrants over New Year's Eve.

Since the middle of the year, when the increased influx of migrants began, the employees of the Commissariat have worked in three shifts at the reception-transit centers in order to provide all necessary assistance to migrants passing through Serbia.

Such was the case on the 31st of December 2015 around 11 pm at the Reception-transit center Šid - Station, where they helped migrants to board the train to Slavonski Brod in Croatia.



PHOTO: KIRS



PHOTO: VLADISLAV KOJIĆ



Minister Vulin visited Presevo on New Year's Eve

Minister for Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Issues Aleksandar Vulin conveyed his New Year's greetings, according to the Julian calendar, to all those working with migrants at the Reception center in Presevo. As he pointed out on the occasion in question, their work has helped restore a faith in mankind for hundreds of thousands of people.

"This is an opportunity to wish you all lots of luck, health and prosperity, so that all those who have passed through Serbia have positive memories. But that's not just a wish, it is also necessary to work on it. All this time, we have shown and have proven that we are organized and humane. All these people with whom we are celebrating the New

Year tonight have shown the most beautiful face of Serbia," said Minister Vulin on the 13th of January 2016 during his visit to Presevo.

He thanked the members of all state institutions, volunteers and donors and all those without whom it would not be possible to run the Center in Presevo and without which, as he said, more than 600,000 migrants passing through Serbia, would not have been taken care of.

"By helping these people, we have helped ourselves to become better people and we have helped the whole world see how Serbia is rich in good and honest people and just how much Serbia has to be proud of. We have proven that we make no differentiations on the basis of religion, nationality or skin color. We proved that we are a country and a people who will always help other people in trouble", said Minister.

PHOTO: FONET/NENAD ĐORĐEVIĆ



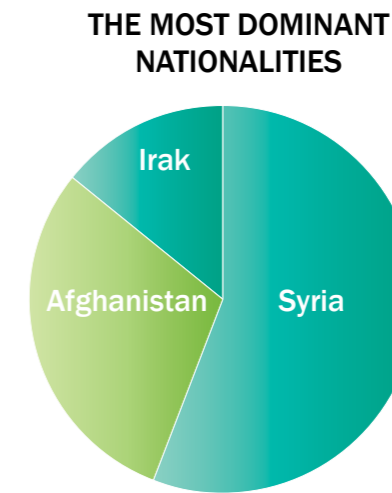
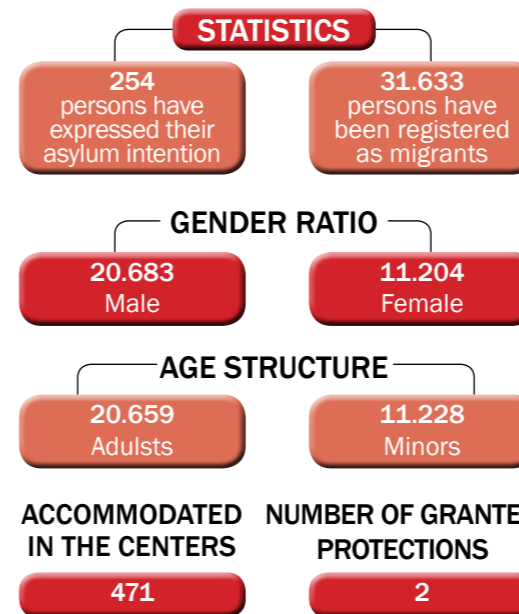
Commissioner Stylianides visited reception centers in the town of Šid

On the 15th of January 2016 the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides, together with the Minister of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs Aleksandar Vulin and the Commissioner for Refugees and Migration Vladimir Cucic, visited the Reception-transit center Adasevci near the town of Šid.

Together with the UNICEF representative Michel Saint-Lot, Commissioner Stylianides inaugurated the extended child-friendly space used by mothers and babies for feeding and changing, as well as for children to play. The child-friendly space was set up in close coordination with the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration. The new extended space now offers even more room for mothers and children to rest and obtain information and advice on nutrition for their children, hygiene and safety.

Commissioner Stylianides also visited the Adasevci aid point and got acquainted with different services offered to migrants and refugees. He reiterated that the European Union, in cooperation with international organizations and NGOs, is providing a number of services for refugees and migrants in Adasevci including helping the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration to cover running and maintenance costs of the centre, providing beds, hygiene products, clothes and food, as well as services such as first aid, psychosocial support, translation and information for migrants.

After the Center "Adasevci", Commissioner Stylianides visited the Reception-transit center "Station" in Sid.



Expanded map with routes and centers



This newsletter is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation within the framework of the project "Support to the national coordination for the reintegration of returnees (Phase 2)". The aim of the project is to improve the overall process of migration management, the establishment of better conditions for the reception of asylum seekers, as well as reducing the risk of social exclusion of returnees.

The views in this publication are those of authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SDC and the Swiss Government.

PEOPLE TESTIMONIALS

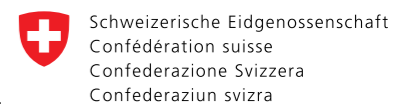
Tanja Kačar:
When we work, we don't mind the time



Tanja Kacar (51), a social worker employed by the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, since the outset of the increased influx of migrants has worked in the reception-transit centers. As she says, when refugees from the Middle East began arriving in the Republic of Serbia en-masse at the beginning of 2015, it was difficult to imagine to what extent the crisis would develop. She found no difficulty in switching herself from working in the office to working outside in the July and August heat and cold winter days. Even as a young girl, she was dreaming about going to Africa and helping those in need.

"After the migrant crisis had begun I worked in the reception-transit center in Presevo, then in Kanjiža. From mid-September 2015 I have worked with migrants on the territory of Šid, where the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration has set up three centers: Principovac, Adaševci and the Reception-transit center at the train station in Šid. Last summer in Principovac we worked under a tent at temperatures which at times exceeded 40 degrees. Because of so much heat we were on the verge of exhaustion, both ourselves and the migrants. We worked around the clock," recalls Tanja. She stresses also that her family members understand her job and the fact that sometimes she spends ten days working in the field. Unfortunately, her cousins had twice been forced to flee during the wars in our region, from Croatia and Kosovo and Metohija. It was also one of the reasons, she says, why she applied for field work at the very beginning of the crisis. Tanja Kacar was chosen as one of the ten super women of "Blic žena", the most popular magazine in the Balkans.

PHOTO: BLIC ŽENA/GORAN SRĐANOVIĆ



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