



# LABOUR MOBILITY FACILITATION :

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## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

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# Overview

Labour mobility specificity in SEE vs. other regions

Challenges of regulating labour mobility in SEE

Common agenda and possible actions in next three years

# 1.1. Regional labour mobility frameworks

## Formality of the process

- Formal agreements (Community of Andean Nations – CAN; EU; CIS)
- Non-binding cooperation processes (Abu Dhabi Dialogue; Colombo Process)

## Link with trade and economic development

- Within trade and economic cooperation (NAFTA)
- Migration specific (bi-lateral agreements)

## Implementation

- Framework setting (CIS)
- Actual implementation (Customs Union and Common Economic Space between Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus)

## 1.2. Labour mobility (LM) regulation in SEE

- Accelerating integration process in line with EU approaches
  - Economy and commerce
  - Labour markets
- Regulative frameworks not necessarily catching up
- Ineffective regulation in the region perceived as a major barrier to integration
- Similarly, lack of interim mechanisms between SEE and EU during the pre-accession period leads to lost opportunities and possible “shock of accession”

## 2. Challenges to effective LM regulation in SEE

### Lack of evidence

to build coherent approaches at national and regional level

### Insufficient coordination and experience sharing

among various stakeholders (migration authorities, but also ministries of labour, employment, trade, economic development, statistical offices – „whole of government“)

### Practical implementation mechanisms

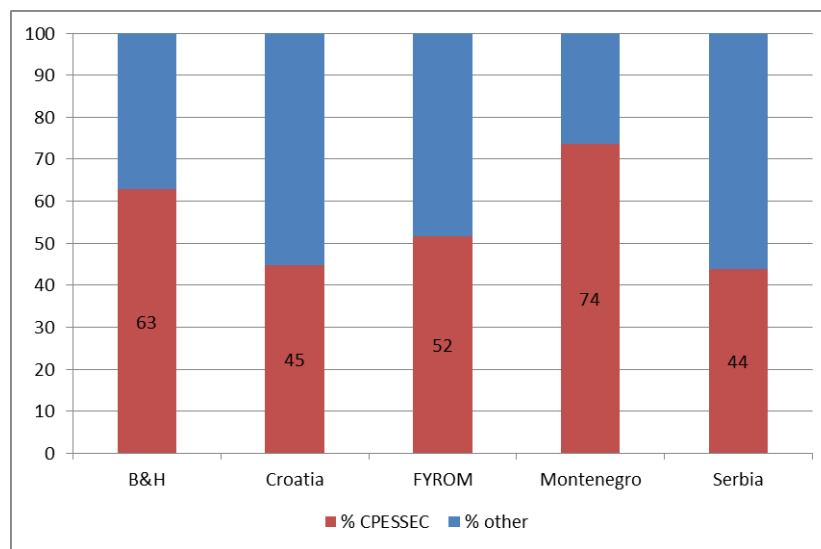
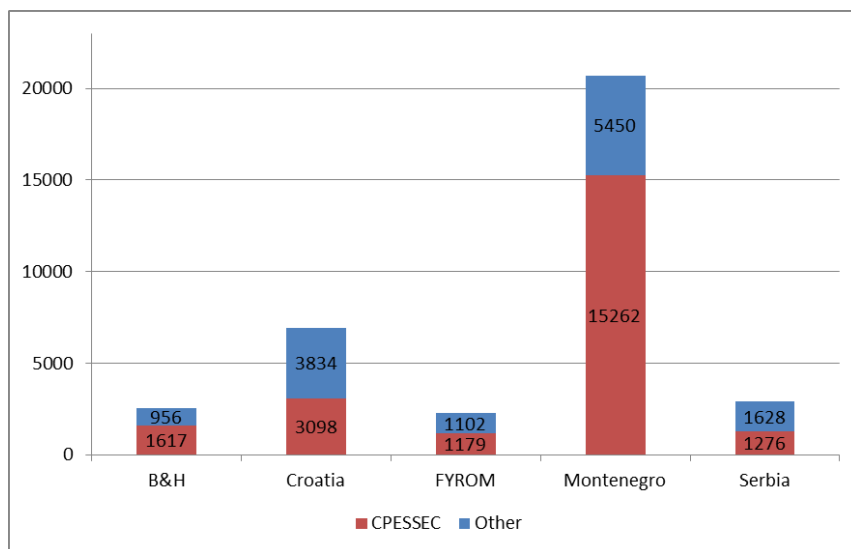
few or insufficiently institutionalized

## 2.1. SEE internal mobility:

### Challenge one – lack of data

#### - Labour mobility within SEE: Work permit data, 2012.

Source: CPESSEC, Statistical bulletin N 4, 2013



#### - Labour force surveys

Following EU methodology, but do not capture mobility data

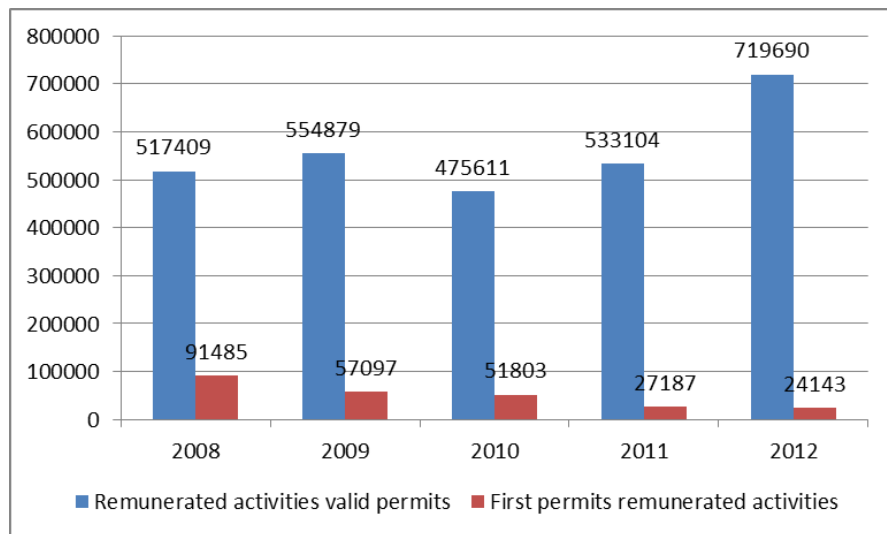
- Demand statistics (e.g. employer surveys) insufficiently developed
- Insufficient regional sharing (CPESSEC bulletins)

# 2.1. SEE external mobility:

## Challenge one – lack of data

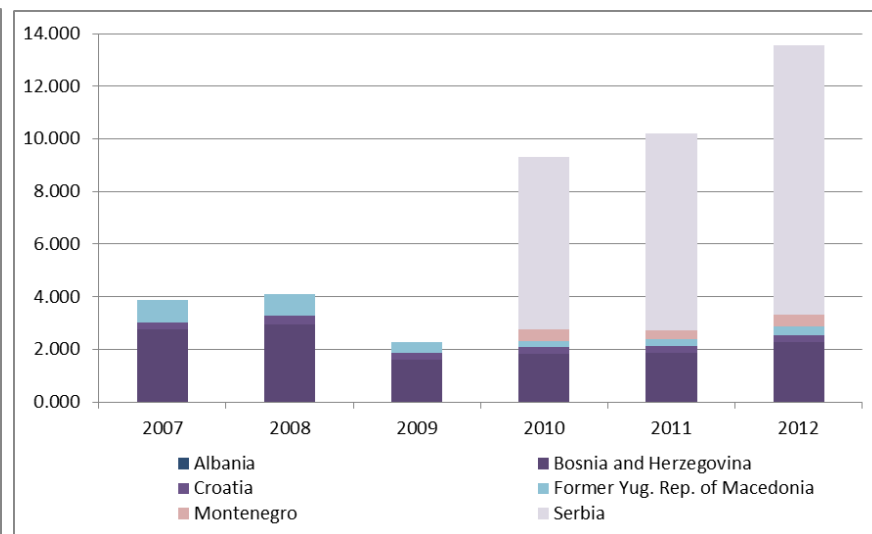
### Labour mobility towards EU: Residence permit data.

Source: Eurostat



### Labour mobility towards Russia: Work permit data.

Source: O. Chudinovskikh, 2013. OECD  
Sopemi Russia Report.



## 2.2. Institutions and cooperation processes

### Challenge two – cross-cutting issue

- Labour mobility portfolio spread across many national stakeholders
  - Migration authorities and law enforcement
  - Ministries of labour
  - Ministries of education, trade, economy...
- Labour mobility not yet a key focus of regional structures
  - MARRI
  - CPESSEC
  - RCC
  - CEFTA
  - Danube region cooperation



## 2.3. Practical mechanisms and capacities

Challenge three – lack of ownership and institutionalization

- **Migration profiles** as a tool of evidence development
- **Migrant service centres** as a tool of information dissemination and counselling
- **Migration modules** in labour forces surveys
- **Partnership with employers** in VET
- **Recognition of qualifications** dialogue
- **One stop shop** approach towards residence and work registration

### 3. Common agenda and way forward



#### Regional Observatory

- Lack of evidence



#### Regional Consultative Platform

- Insufficient coordination



#### Skill Matching Network

- Lack of practice institutionalization



# 3.1. Regional initiative approach

- Unique methodology
  - Sustainability
  - Ownership
  - Institutionalization
  - Upscaling of successful practices
- Partnership through complementarity
  - Vesting into existing regional structures (RCC, CEFTA, in partnership with ERISEE, ETF and with support of international organizations)
  - Linking to focal points in national agencies

## 3.2. Regional initiative timeframe

- Baseline report on labour mobility
  - RCC – socio-economic context
  - IOM – legal context
  - Joint publication – autumn 2014
- Draft regional fiche
  - Endorsement with the governments (May 2014)
  - Fundraising with EC and other donors (towards 2015)
  - Implementation (2015 – 2017)

# Thank you!

## Questions?

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