



# FIELD REPORT 2021





**Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA) is an independent, non-profit professional organization which provides legal aid and strategically litigates to protect human rights.**

**MYLA is an organization in North Macedonia that provides free legal aid and represents asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons and other persons of concern in procedures related to asylum, legal residence and other social rights.**

**MYLA field staff is composed of 3 field lawyers and 2 interpreters distributed in TC Tabanovce (1 field lawyer and 1 interpreter) and in TC Vinograd (2 field lawyers and 1 interpreter).**

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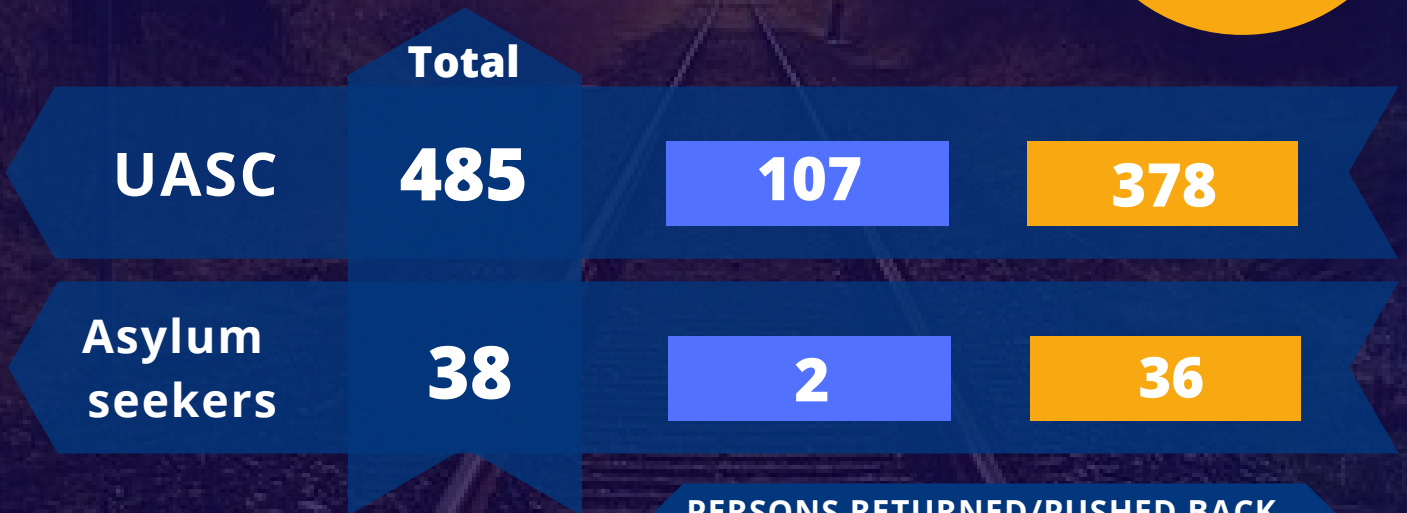
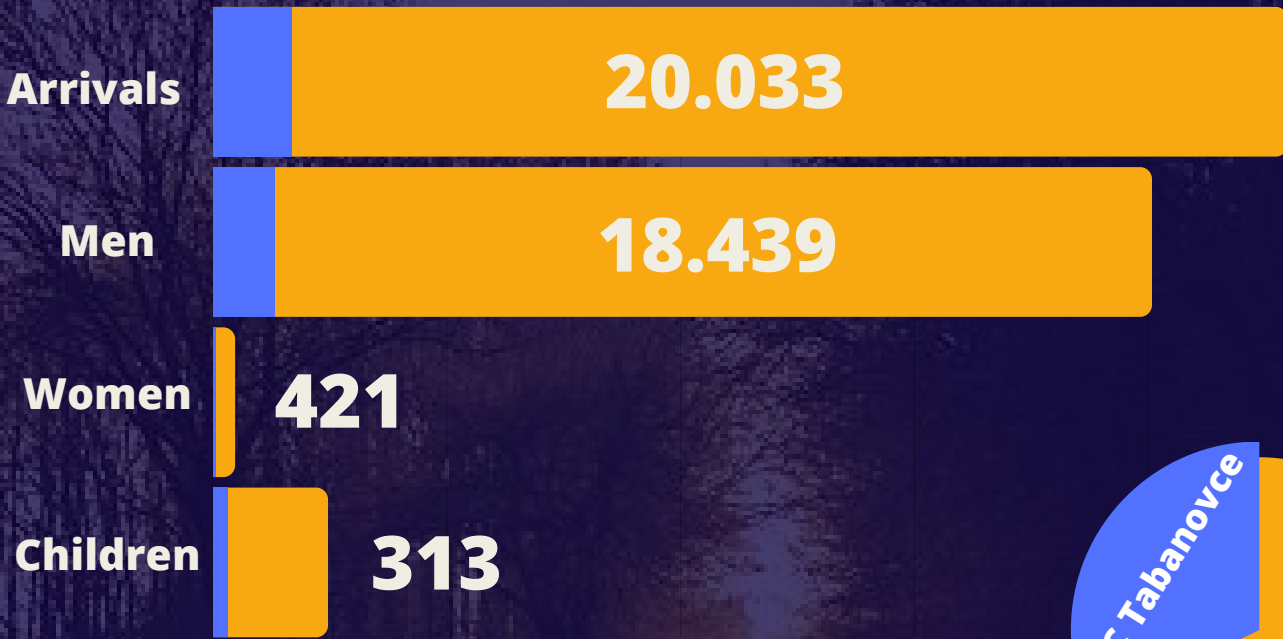
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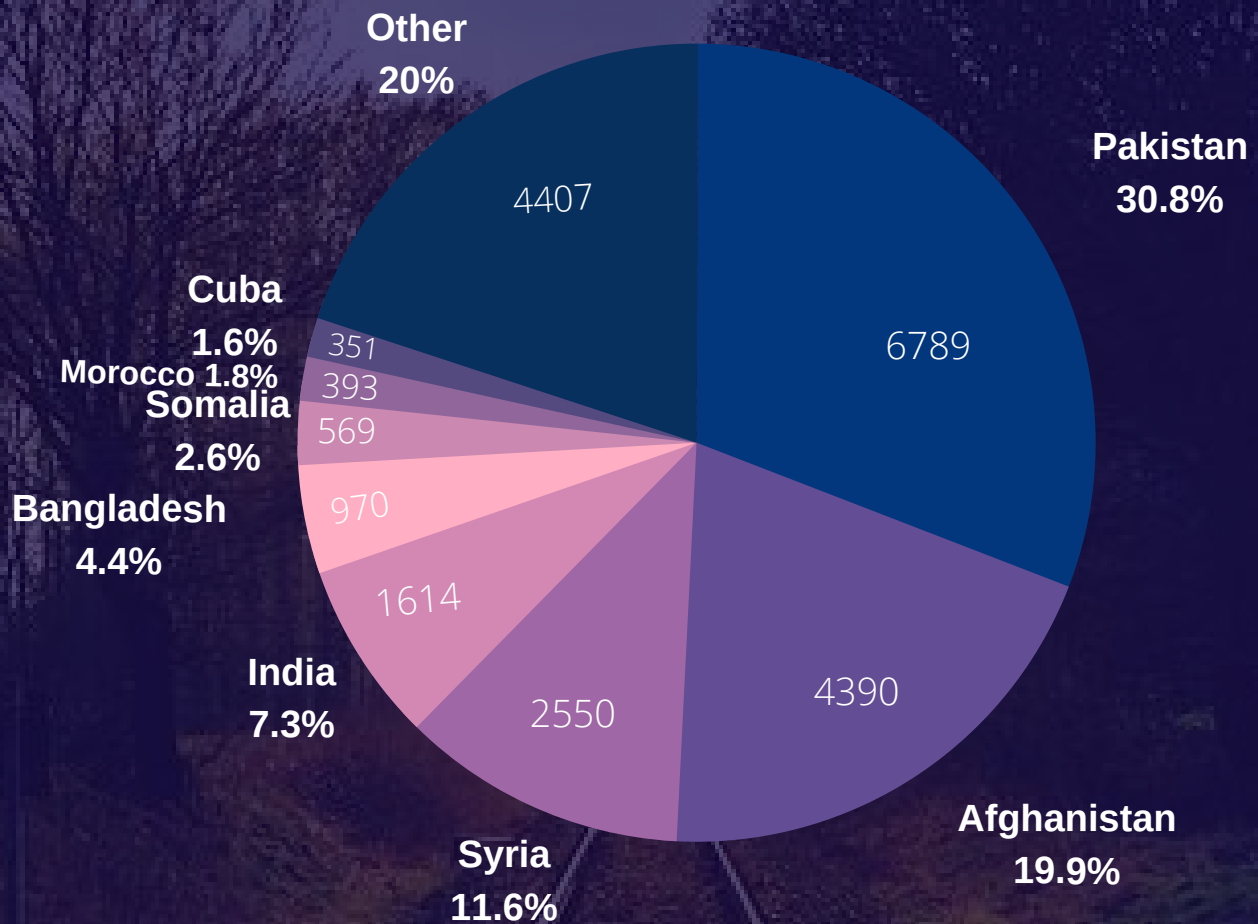
# Total



**PERSONS RETURNED/PUSHED BACK**  
17.280  
Persons informed about the right to apply for asylum  
564



## Country of origin of migrants



### Asylum seekers

-Total number of 38 asylum seekers for 2021 in Vinojug and Tabanovce

In 2020 the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy made decision that every asylum seeker will be placed in quarantine accommodation in TTC Vinojug during the state of emergency. Even though the state of emergency ended, the authorities continued with this practice also in the first quarter of 2021. However, at the end of March, MYLA received a positive judgment from the Administrative court in North Macedonia in which it ruled that the quarantine accommodation due to the virus COVID-19 for an asylum seeker in the TTC Vinojug was unlawful contrary to the Constitution of North Macedonia, the Law on International and Temporary Protection and the European Convention on Human Rights. With this judgment, the Administrative court quashed the decision for quarantine accommodation issued by the Center for Social Work Gevgelija, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy. After this judgment, the practice of accommodating asylum seekers in quarantine has ceased.

### Smuggling

Most of the interviewed migrants entered the country with the help of smugglers. The border police continued with the practice of bringing migrants in the centers who were apprehended in smuggling incidents in order to be witnesses in criminal proceedings and the rest of the apprehended migrants were returned/pushed back to Greece. Mainly TC Vinojug, but in some cases also TC Tabanovce, served as a place for quarantine accommodation without any legal basis for the apprehended migrants. In total 187 migrants were irregularly detained as witnesses in both centers.

### Remark

During 2021 migrants from India and Cuba who have entered irregularly in RNM, who were apprehended within the territory of the RNM or detained in TTC Vinojug, were afterwards transported to TTC Tabanovce. For the persons, the police issued decisions for expulsion from the country, but they were returned outside of a formal procedure in Serbia or they were left in TTC Tabanovce.