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Conference Paper

Migration Flows in Bosnia and Herzegovina After 1992

46th Congress of the European Regional Science Association: "Enlargement, Southern Europe and the Mediterranean", August 30th - September 3rd, 2006, Volos, Greece

Provided in Cooperation with:

European Regional Science Association (ERSA)

Suggested Citation: Ibreljic, Izet; Kulenovic, Salih; Kadusic, Alma; Smajic, Sabahudin (2006) : Migration Flows in Bosnia and Herzegovina After 1992, 46th Congress of the European Regional Science Association: "Enlargement, Southern Europe and the Mediterranean", August 30th - September 3rd, 2006, Volos, Greece, European Regional Science Association (ERSA), Louvain-la-Neuve

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46th Congress of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA)
August 30th - September 3rd, Volos, Greece, 2006.

MIGRATION FLOWS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AFTER 1992.

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Abstract

Bosnia and Herzegovina is known as emigrational dynamic state. Causes of the emigrational flows of this geospatial area are mainly political and economical nature. The migrations population intensity from Bosnia and Herzegovina in second half of the 19th and through the whole 20th century was cicely intensifying in a almost regular time intervals and were caused before all with political, and then with economical factors.

In this paper will be examined migration streaming in Bosnia and Herzegovina and outside of her enclave in the last decade of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century. Because it's mainly word about forced migrations of the war opportunities in this state in the period 1992-1995 as well as the after war migrations caused with economical and political reasons in this paper was important to investigate return of the displaced persons to their homes after the war ending. The authors are using domestic and the foreign sources from this field considered the entire series of questions that are alone intruding in the relationship with this problematic. Among them dominated certainly consideration of the consequences the past migration flows and possibilities of their reduction, that is defining vision of this state in a new conditions.

Key words: *Bosnia and Herzegovina, migration, development.*

Introduction

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country known by dynamic demographical development. In the 1990s area of Bosnia and Herzegovina happened to be a place of great demographical changes mainly caused by forced migrations of the people. Emigrations from this area prefer going to Western Europe mainly because of economical factors. This was the case before and after aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, political factors became main reason for these migrations after dramatic happenings in the Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region.

Namely, because of Serbia and Montenegro's aggression on the Bosnia and Herzegovina caused a large territorial population movement inside as well out side of country of Bosnia and Herzegovina. From 1992 to 1995 around 2,2 million inhabitants were banished out of their homes, whereof one million as displaced inside of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and over 1,2 million have been moved to a hundred different countries all around the world. Such unnatural way of territorial inhabitant's movement had caused not only demographical changes in the area of Bosnia and Herzegovina but also numerous of political, social and economical problems. As a consequence of this Bosnia and Herzegovina's natural population growth rate has decreased, the inhabitants ethnic structure have changed, homogenization of some ethnic groups in certain areas etc. To this we should mention a numerous economical problems which are decreasing existential standard, fall of the economical growth rate, unemployment, the poor social program etc.

1. Migrations in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, just like some other areas around the world is known as a place of great migrations of its inhabitants, some forced some voluntary. This movement was especially intensified during XIX and XX century, but culmination of it was reached in the 1990s. During that time "the Balkans", a region in Europe, has paid the high price in the former Yugoslavia conflicts (total of 5 million people were displaced, whereof 3 million of them stayed in the area of former Yugoslavia and 2 million fled to the neighboring countries and Germany)¹.

According to 1992 census, Bosnia and Herzegovina had 4,377,033 inhabitants, whereof 1,902,950 (43.8 %) were Bosniaks, 1,366,104 (31.21 %) Serbs, 760,852 (17.38%) Croats, 242,682 (5.54 %) Yugoslavs and 104,439 (2.39 %) others.² The aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina, in a period 1992-1995, caused "the explosion of migration", in other words a great territorial inhabitants relocation. Significant demographic changes had happened in the area of Bosnia and Herzegovina during this time a, and they were the most expressive in the case of rate population growth, number and disposition of inhabitants considering the ethnic structure and so on.

Regarding the fact that that was no an official census in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1991 it is very difficult to quantify, precisely, a single demographic change that accrued in this area. Nevertheless, some evaluations³ pointing that more then a half of Bosnia and Herzegovina's inhabitants has moved during the aggression, either escaped outside of country or displaced inside of Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to this research around 1,2 million inhabitants fled Bosnia and Herzegovina and around one million is internally displaced inside of country. The total number of displaced persons and refugees is around 2,2 million which are moved from their earlier residences in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

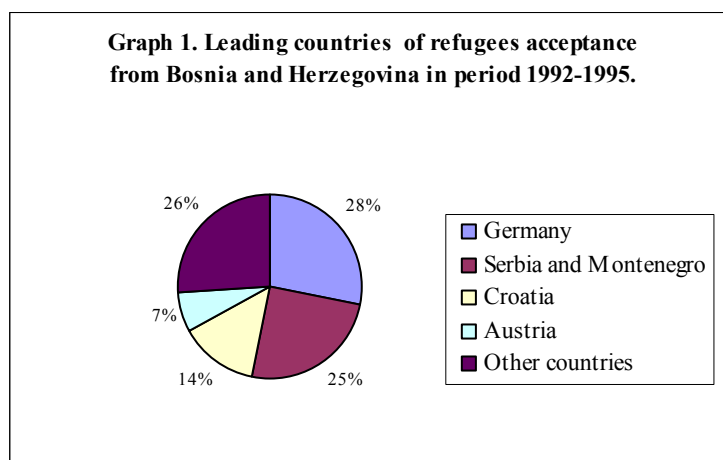
From 1992 to 1995 only in Serbia and Montenegro and Croatia emigrated around 39 % inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These countries with Germany and Austria accepted around 74 % persecuted inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has abandoned their earlier place of living after 1992. Previously mentioned countries have played significant role in accepting persecuted and displaced inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina, mainly Bosniaks, who have found shelters in other countries in Western Europe and around the

¹ *Simon, G.: Les migrations internationales*, Population et societies, N°382, Paris, September 2002, pg. 1

² *Statistical Yearbook of Bosnia and Herzegovina 1992*, State Institute for statistics, Sarajevo, 1992, pg. 301

³ *International Migration Bulletin*, United Nations, Geneva, <http://www.unecce.org/ead/pau/bull9.pdf> (November 1996), pg. 1

world. This group of countries hosted around 26 % Bosnia and Herzegovina's persecuted inhabitants. (Graph 1).⁴



By the end of 1995 USA had 19,413 and in Australia around 20,000 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Year later in the USA number of refugees has increased on 31,656.⁵ According to UN data, after the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, more than 440,000 Bosnia and Herzegovina refugees have been situated in the neighboring countries, mostly in Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia etc. More than 600,000 refugees have temporary asylum in certain European countries such as Germany (320,000), Austria (80,000), Sweden (57,000), Switzerland (24,000), Denmark (19,500) and so on. (Table 1).⁶

Table 1. Number of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina in the countries around Europe during 1996.

Country	Nb. of refugees	Country	Nb. of refugees
Former Yugoslavia	441,938	Italy	10,000
Serbia and Montenegro	253,383	Hungary	8,500
Croatia	171,383	Belgium	6,000
Slovenia	12,172	Albania	5,000
FYR of Macedonia	5,000	Greece	3,000
Outside of former Yug.	600,878	Spain	2,500
Germany	320,000	Turkey	2,500
Austria	80,000	Slovak Republic	1,596
Sweden	57,230	Luxembourg	1,500
Switzerland	24,000	Finland	1,200
Denmark	19,500	Czech Republic	911
Netherlands	16,000	Ireland	600
France	15,000	Liechtenstein	396
United Kingdom	13,000	Bulgaria	250
Norway	11,895	Poland	240

Source: International Migration Bulletin, United Nations, Geneva, <http://www.unece.org/ead/pau/bull9.pdf> (November 1996)

⁴ Report of Bosnia and Herzegovina about legislative and other measures on establishing of the principals consolidated in general convention for national minorities protection, Council of Ministry, Sarajevo, [http://www.coe.int/T/e/human_rights/Minorities/2_FRAMEWORK_CONVENTION_\(MONITORING\)/2_Monitoring_mechanism/3_State_Reports_and_UNMIK_Kosovo_Report/](http://www.coe.int/T/e/human_rights/Minorities/2_FRAMEWORK_CONVENTION_(MONITORING)/2_Monitoring_mechanism/3_State_Reports_and_UNMIK_Kosovo_Report/) (December 2003), pg. 4

⁵ UNHCR Statistical Yearbook, <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/statistics/opedoc.pdf?tbl=STATISTICS&id=41d2c15c0&page=statistics> (2003), pg. 87

⁶ International Migration Bulletin, United Nations, Geneva, <http://www.unece.org/ead/pau/bull9.pdf> (November, 1996), pg. 3

According to UNHCR estimates in September 1996 in the foreign countries was situated around 1,050 million refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and this is close to ¼ of its total prewar population (cca 4,4 million inhabitants).⁷

The greatest number of Bosniaks, more then 95 %, persecuted from territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was controlled by militaries of Republic Srpska during the war, as well as part controlled by the Croatian Security Council. Around one million Bosniaks were persecuted from their homes by the end of the aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina, either as refugees or displaced persons. Simultaneously, the largest part of Serb inhabitants voluntarily abandoned today's area of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and settled in Republic Srpska.

2. Migration flows in Bosnia and Herzegovina after Dayton Peace Agreement

At the end of 1995 The Dayton Peace Agreement was signed and this was suppose to be guarantee for come back of around 500,000 displaced persons and around 370,000 refugees to their pre war place of living.⁸ However, it has not happened because of a different ways of obstruction returning into Republic of Srpska. Nevertheless, a part of Bosniaks came back to this part of Bosnia and Herzegovina thanks to the effort of International Community and local enthusiasts. The greatest number of returnees was registered in Kozarac, Prijedor, Janja, Doboј and surroundings of Zvornik, which were areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina where the Bosniaks were majority people before the aggression. Returnees had a numerous problems such as devastated housing objects and infrastructure, unemployment, high tensions ethnically based and so on. Because of those and similar problems process of returning always had a slow tempo. In this period they started a numerous programs with purpose of returning and taking care for displaced and refugee inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Invested means in reconstructing Bosnia and Herzegovina (1,9 billion USA \$) have not been sufficient because Bosnia and Herzegovina during the aggression has endured economic declining, more then all of the transition countries of central and eastern Europe. According to World Bank estimates⁹ GDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995 has carried out only a quarter of GDP from 1991. According to official indicators¹⁰ Bosnia and Herzegovina, from the time of signing the Dayton Peace Agreement until today, 1,012,006 citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina have returned to their places of which 442,137 refugees and 569,869 displaced persons. From this number of returnees 626,622 are Bosniaks (280,077 refugees, 346,545 displaced persons), 129,252 are Croats (84,663 refugees and 44,589 displaced persons), 248,081 are Serbs (72,129 refugees, 175,952 displaced persons) and 8,006 are others (5,268 refugees, 2,738 displaced persons). During first two months of 2006 Bosnia and Herzegovina had 346 returnees (Bosniaks 195, Croats 42, Serbs 102, others 7). Out of this number 225 returnees returned in Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina and 121 in Republica Srpska.

They are existing significant spatial differences in a view of displaced and refugee inhabitants returning in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Namely, in period 1996-2006 in the area of Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina has returned 387,430 refugees, where of 256,882 are Bosniaks, 74,998 Croats, 51,111 Serbs and 4,439 others and 347,319 displaced persons, where of 205,363 are Bosniaks, 100,030 Serbs, 39,831 Croats and 2,095 others. At the same

⁷ International Migration Bulletin, United Nations, Geneva, <http://www.unecce.org/ead/pau/bull19.pdf> (November, 1996), pg. 1

⁸ Ibid, pg. 2

⁹ Ibid, pg. 2

¹⁰ Recorded Minority returns in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 01/01/2006 to 31/01/2006, UNHCR, Sarajevo, <http://www.unhcr.ba/return/T3-022066.pdf> (February, 2006)

time Republic of Srpska reiterated return of 52,743 refugees, where of 23,046 are Bosniaks, 21,009 Serbs, 7,859 Croats and 829 others and 203,132 displaced persons, where of 126,186 are Bosniaks, 73,440 Serbs, 2,818 Croats and 688 others (Table 2).¹¹ From presented data's it is visible that the largest exodus is noted down through Bosniak inhabitants. It is also visible that Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has noted a bigger number of returnees, some refugees some displaced persons in the relation to Republic Srpska. Main reasons for this are more favorable political, economical and social (before all safety) opportunities in this part of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

There are few areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially in Republic Srpska, with returned majority of pre war population that makes critical mass which would be necessary to mitigate consequences of ethnical cleaning appeared in a period 1992-1995. By one definition ethnic cleaning represent "intended plan activity with a goal to sweep along out of the specific area population with unwanted features and characteristics, just as are nationality, religion, race, social class, sexual preference".¹² This phenomenon was not being even academically searched in former Yugoslavia.

According to UNHCR data¹³ before the end of February 2006 Bosnia and Herzegovina had returned more then one million of its pre war residences from total of 2 million forcible displaced and refugee persons in a period 1992-1995. From this number around 0,5 million inhabitants returned in to municipalities and momentarily constitute ethnical minority. By beginning of 2006 (end of January) in Bosnia and Herzegovina noted return of all 7 persons in the municipalities in which administration is not the same ethnical affiliation as the returnees and 3 in Federation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 4 in Republic Srpska. At the same time had decreased number of returns of 169 displaced persons in the area of Bosnia and Herzegovina. From that number Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina returned 142, Republic Srpska 42 while in Brčko district had no returnees.

Sales and trades of houses and apartments are taking a place in whole Bosnia and Herzegovina. Evan with this problem there is no official register evaluation estimates that in urban areas more then 75 % of restitute property are for sale. Today in Bosnia and Herzegovina sufficient number of returnees are selling their property or conducting some other kind of trade. This part of population was reiterated as displaced persons or refugees. According to data gathered by research on the terrain, done by the Committee of Helsinki for human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, only a half of the inhabitants of this country have been returned to their pre war places of living and registered as the returnees really staying there.¹⁴ The selling trend of real estates it is significantly smaller in rural areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These areas have a considerable number of renovated houses, which are being used as a weekend houses, because the owners have houses in the other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Because of these and series of similar problems a new demographic picture of Bosnia and Herzegovina with ethnically clean areas become a reality.

¹¹ Returns summary to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 01/01/1996 to 31/01/2006, UNHCR, Sarajevo, <http://www.unhcr.ba/return/index.htm> (February, 2006)

¹² **Mežnarić, S.:** *Contemporary of migration: condition, problems, perspective of paradigm researching, "Migrations and ethnical themes"*, N° 4, December 2003, Zagreb, pg. 331.

¹³ Returns summary to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 01/01/1996 to 31/01/2006, UNHCR, Sarajevo, <http://www.unhcr.ba/return/index.htm> (February, 2006)

¹⁴ Human Rights Watch, <http://hrw.org/bosnian/pdf/bosnia2006wr.pdf> (January, 2006), pg. 2

Table 2. Number of returnees in Bosnia and Herzegovina in period 1996-2006.

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina										
	<i>Refugees</i>					<i>Displaced persons</i>				
	Bosn.	Croats	Serbs	Others	Total	Bosn.	Croats	Serbs	Others	Total
1996.	76,385	3,144	552	33	80,144	101,266	447	1,179	21	102,913
1997.	74,552	33,495	2,849	754	111,650	38,821	10,163	3,971	205	53,160
1998.	77,310	22,930	4,307	1,453	106,000	9,041	4,040	6,059	300	19,440
1999.	17,359	5,960	4,370	491	28,180	14,320	5,747	9,649	219	29,935
2000.	4,815	3,498	5,164	569	14,046	9,638	6,660	13,811	172	30,281
2001.	1,966	2,285	9,108	542	13,901	9,058	4,890	24,794	343	39,085
2002.	3,341	2,080	18,079	290	23,790	6,791	4,632	21,108	624	33,155
2003.	897	1,183	5,430	230	7,740	9,356	1,858	14,963	145	26,322
2004.	187	310	936	74	1,507	5,669	955	3,277	56	9,957
2005.	70	113	313	3	499	1,320	422	1,177	10	2,929
2006.	-	-	3	-	3	83	17	42	-	142
Total	256,882	74,998	51,111	4,439	387,430	205,363	39,831	100,030	2,095	347,319
Republic Srpska										
	<i>Refugees</i>					<i>Displaced persons</i>				
	Bosn.	Croats	Serbs	Others	Total	Bosn.	Croats	Serbs	Others	Total
1996.	-	-	7,925	-	7,925	136	58	61,613	21	61,828
1997.	204	73	8,287	66	8,630	626	28	4,481	-	5,135
1998.	1,279	257	2,458	6	4,000	6,765	285	3,080	-	10,130
1999.	1,081	339	1,962	88	3,470	10,587	1,013	1,666	184	13,450
2000.	2,818	1,336	139	268	4,561	22,461	456	362	277	23,556
2001.	2,676	1,959	47	110	4,792	34,952	471	611	93	36,127
2002.	9,119	2,107	134	99	11,459	29,511	351	585	106	30,553
2003.	4,343	1,609	50	191	6,193	11,803	123	440	7	12,373
2004.	789	140	6	-	935	7,099	17	602	-	7,718
2005.	735	38	1	-	774	2,220	15	-	-	2,235
2006.	2	1	-	1	4	26	1	-	-	27
Total	23,046	7,859	21,009	829	52,743	126,186	2,818	73,440	688	203,132
Brčko district										
	<i>Refugees</i>					<i>Displaced persons</i>				
	Bosn.	Croats	Serbs	Others	Total	Bosn.	Croats	Serbs	Others	Total
2000.	-	-	-	-	-	4,845	663	2	-	5,510
2001.	-	-	-	-	-	4,032	599	329	-	4,960
2002.	132	1,174	7	-	1,885	5,209	336	1,522	-	7,067
2003.	17	60	2	-	79	702	286	620	-	1,608
2004.	-	-	-	-	-	208	56	9	-	273
2005.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2006.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	149	1,806	9	-	1,964	14,996	1,940	2,489	-	19,418
Total Bosnia and Herzegovina										
	<i>Refugees</i>					<i>Displaced persons</i>				
	Bosn.	Croats	Serbs	Others	Total	Bosn.	Croats	Serbs	Others	Total
1996.	76,385	3,144	8,477	33	88,039	101,402	505	62,792	42	164,741
1997.	74,756	33,568	11,136	820	120,280	39,447	10,191	8,452	205	58,295
1998.	78,589	23,187	6,765	1,459	110,000	15,806	4,325	9,139	300	29,570
1999.	18,440	6,299	6,332	579	31,650	24,907	6,760	11,315	403	43,385
2000.	7,633	4,834	5,303	837	18,607	36,944	7,779	14,175	449	59,347
2001.	4,642	4,244	9,155	652	18,693	48,042	5,960	25,734	436	80,172
2002.	12,592	5,933	18,220	389	37,134	41,511	5,319	23,215	730	70,775
2003.	5,257	2,852	5,482	421	14,012	21,861	2,267	16,023	152	40,303
2004.	976	450	942	74	2,442	12,976	1,028	3,888	56	17,948
2005.	805	151	314	3	1,273	3,540	437	1,177	10	5,164
2006.	2	1	3	1	7	109	18	42	-	169
Total	280,077	84,663	72,129	5,268	442,137	346,545	44,589	175,952	2,738	569,869

Source : Returns summary to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 01/01/1996 to 31/01/2006, UNHCR, Sarajevo, <http://www.unhcr.ba/return/index.htm> (February, 2006)

Although war in Bosnia and Herzegovina ended ten years ago there are many actual asylum requests from the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the countries of European Union as well as other countries around the world. The most interesting countries for asylums

are France, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Data's of UNHCR shows that number of these applications is decreasing and is a result of certain development. Because of difficulty of getting the asylum a large number of Bosnia and Herzegovina refugee inhabitants are being deported back to Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2003 Bosnia and Herzegovina have received twice more persons (3,398 persons) then in previous 2002 (1,716 persons). During the 2004 in Bosnia and Herzegovina receives 2,199 persons. The largest number of deported people Bosnia and Herzegovina received from Sweden (611 inhabitants), Germany (465 inhabitants), Croatia (411 inhabitants) and Denmark (165 inhabitants). Momentarily, Bosnia and Herzegovina is not ready for massive acceptance of refugees especially those there are originally from Republic Srpska.¹⁵

Estimates¹⁶ are saying that today world is founding around 650,000 Bosnia and Herzegovina's citizens and nearly that many are internally displaced inside of borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A large number of Bosnia and Herzegovina inhabitants have resolved their citizens' status in a country of asylum and many of them have intention to try to get that status. In the other hand it's intensified process of moving inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina mainly to USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and some of developed countries of European continent because of political, economical and other reasons. According to data of Committee of Helsinki for human rights¹⁷ around 50,000 inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina is requesting the emigrant visas for across ocean countries. Because of political discrimination and without economical perspective around 40,000 Bosniaks and others requested emigrant visas through the embassy in Vienna and Budapest.

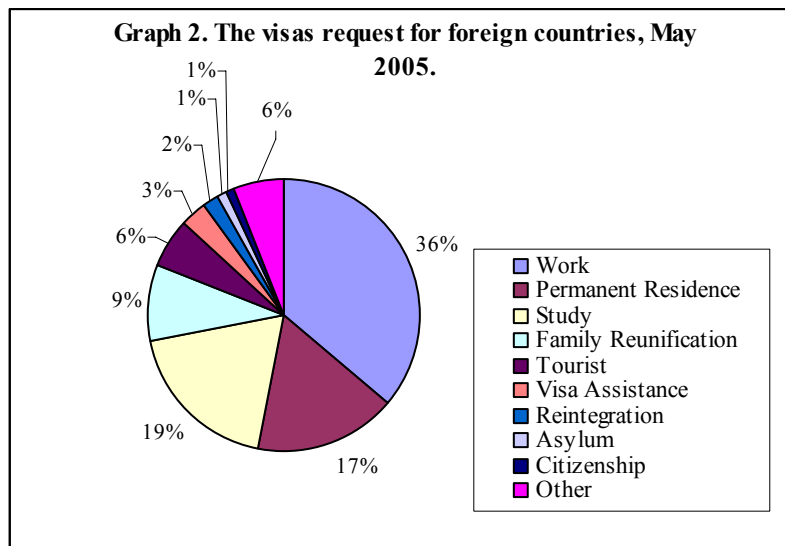
Since the Dayton Peace Agreement was signed until today around 110,000 Bosnia and Herzegovina citizens have emigrated from Bosnia and Herzegovina, mostly young people. For example only Oslo has 1,700 students from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Most of this people don't think about coming back to the country where you have a budget for education and researching extricate at 0.3 % of national incomes. This is one of the main reasons why is age structure of returnees sixty and older. According to official data from 2003 additional problem for Bosnia and Herzegovina society is 17,458 requests for permanent change of citizenship, mostly done by the young people.¹⁸ Based on IOM research from May 2005 main reason for emigration of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina is jobs opportunities (36 %), then studying (19 %) etc. (Graph 2).

¹⁵ Returns summary to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 01/01/1996 to 31/01/2006, UNHCR, Sarajevo, <http://www.unhcr.ba/return/index.htm> (February, 2006)

¹⁶ Report of human rights state in Bosnia and Herzegovina (January - December 1999.), Helsinki Committee for human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, <http://www.bh-hchr.org/printizvjestaji/pizvj1999.htm> (December, 1999), pg. 3

¹⁷ Ibid, pg. 3

¹⁸ Report of human rights state in Bosnia and Herzegovina (January - December 1999.), Helsinki Committee for human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, <http://www.bh-hchr.org/printizvjestaji/pizvjHK2003.htm> (03.01.2004), pg. 7



Source: Migrant Service Centre, IOM Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, <http://www.iom.ba>, (February 2006)

3. Consequences of migratory movements in Bosnia and Herzegovina after 1992.

During the aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina this place became a place of massive movements of inhabitants (around 2,2 million), more than 250,000 killed and around 30,000 are considered as a missing persons. Largest number of population that suffered the most was Bosniak nationality. More than 150,000 Bosniaks were killed and around 0,5 million were persecuted.¹⁹

Migrations of Bosnia and Herzegovina inhabitants caused significant demographic changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is presented in a number of movements of population, changes in population structure towards ethnic affiliation, population growth rate, spatial redistribution of inhabitants etc. (Table 3).

Table 3. Demographic changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina in period 1991-2001.

	Bosnia and Herzegovina	F B&H	RS	Bosniaks	Serbs	Croats	others
Population number 1991.	4,377,033	2,783,711	1,593,322	2,012,718	1,447,384	805,892	111,000
Rate population growth	144,202	117,910	26,292	96,538	26,765	20,307	592
Return of refugees	373,400	346,140	27,260	261,960	37,200	70,970	3,270
Killed, missing person	269,810	149,860	119,950	157,313	73,921	31,831	6,745
Refugees from B&H	1,168,000	735,000	433,000	539,000	264,000	333,000	32,000
Post-Dayton emigration	92,000	64,400	27,600	48,060	30,480	12,860	600
Population number 2001.	3,364,825	2,298,501	1,066,324	1,626,843	1,142,948	519,478	75,556
<u>1991.</u>	100	63.6	36.4	46.0	33.1	18.4	2.4
<u>2001.</u>	100	68.3	31.7	48.3	34.0	15.4	2.3

Source: (10, 6).

¹⁹ Report of Bosnia and Herzegovina about legislative and other measures on establishing of the principals consolidated in general convention for national minorities protection, Council of Ministry, Sarajevo, [http://www.coe.int/T/e/human_rights/Minorities/2_FRAMEWORK_CONVENTION_\(MONITORING\)/2_Monitoring_mechanism/3_State_Reports_and_UNMIK_Kosovo_Report/](http://www.coe.int/T/e/human_rights/Minorities/2_FRAMEWORK_CONVENTION_(MONITORING)/2_Monitoring_mechanism/3_State_Reports_and_UNMIK_Kosovo_Report/) (December, 2003), pg. 4

Because of deaths, persecution and migration inhabitants, invalidity and other biological reproduction of inhabitants is importantly devastated. During the aggression on Bosnia and Herzegovina it is registered a negative population growth rate and this trend is present even today in certain areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Because of the movements of a large number of inhabitants ethnic structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been dramatically changed in a compare to pre war statistics. Certain areas remain as places of homogenization for the certain ethnicity. In addition to that an inferior political condition, intolerance between certain ethnical groups and weak economical conditions explains very weak returning process for non-Serbian inhabitants in Republic Srpska.

One of the more obvious examples of ethnic cleansing and area of homogenization of Bosnia and Herzegovina can be seen on the example of Srebrenica, located in eastern part of Republic Srpska. Namely, before the war Srebrenica had 36,666 inhabitants from whom 27,572 were Bosniaks (that is 75 % from total before war number of Srebrenica population) and 8,315 Serbs.²⁰ In period 1992-1995 on area of Srebrenica municipality Serbian forces brutally killed 8,036 inhabitants of Bosniak nationality, around 20,000 inhabitants were persecuted and the rest of them considered as a missing. That means from area of Srebrenica municipality is persecuted all Bosniak population.²¹

According to "Ministry for reconstruction, development and return of Canton Tuzla" data in Srebrenica municipality have returned around 680 and in period 1996-2004 3,275 inhabitants.²² Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a less homogenized area with consideration of three ethnic groups populated (Bosniaks, Croats and smaller number of Serbs) but nevertheless process of homogenization it's not neglected if we analyze this from municipality to municipality.

Especially large problem that has to be mentioned is a slow returning process, mainly caused by political climate, which is often aspirated to conservative consequences of genocide, ethnic cleansing and "human movements". In this context is also a safety aspect. Generally speaking its increased freedom of movements and general safety, enemy hostile in the direction of returnees in certain areas of Republic Srpska are expressing from verbal to terrorist act. Essential problem has a legal character because of apartment's usurpation, houses, land and business premise of refugees and displaced citizens on area of a whole state. Economy is very important aspect of returning process. Namely, intensity of a returning process of refugees and displaced Bosnia and Herzegovina inhabitants economically depends from help from side of International Community with consideration that economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina is poor. Because of a State law about refugees and displaced persons that established a Fund for returnees didn't give any adequate results with consideration that this Fund didn't even become operative because of not securing financial maintaining.

Based on available data it is obvious insufficient financial investments of a State and International Organizations in this process. Especially actual problem is unemployment of returnees. There is no unique strategic program that could provide coordinated and effective action on a massive returning. Because of this problem a large number of displaced persons instead of coming back to their pre war homes and on their properties they are selling or trading apartments, houses and possessions. The fact is that a great number of Bosnia and Herzegovina's citizens decided to permanently settle in foreign countries because of economical, safety and psychological reasons.

²⁰ *Statistical Yearbook of Bosnia and Herzegovina 1992*, State Institute for statistics, Sarajevo, 1992, pg. 301

²¹ **Kulenović, S., Ibreljić, I., Suljić, A.:** Demographic changes on area of Srebrenica municipality after her occupation 1995, Papers collection of a Physic and mathematics faculty, Year I, Number I, Tuzla, 2004, pg. 157

²² Information's from Ministry for reconstruction, development and return about provide for persecuted persons and refugees-returnees on area of Tuzla Canton and Republic Srpska, Government of Tuzla Canton, Tuzla, 30.03.2005.

Conclusion

Bosnia and Herzegovina has been an emigrational active country for a long time. Until the beginning of the 1990s migrations of Bosnia and Herzegovina inhabitants to developed countries of Europe and around the World was mainly caused by economical factors. However, aggression of Serbia and Montenegro on Bosnia and Herzegovina during the 1992-1995 intensified forced migration of inhabitants, which makes emigrational process in this country as a process with political connotation. Forced emigration of inhabitants as a result had great demographical, economical and social changes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Those changes are slowing the returning process of refugees to their pre war residence places, reducing population growth rate, making ethnical homogenization of certain areas, slowing economical development, creating inadequate system of health care etc.

If returning process continues with this pace it is expecting to be more expressive demographical, economical and social problems a long-term period. Solving these problems requires appropriate political climate in the country as well as faster growth of the economy and overall development.

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