

BAL KAN

VITAL GRAPHICS

ENVIRONMENT
WITHOUT BORDERS





This publication was initiated by the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC), a partnership between six organizations listed below.

The **United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP), as the world's leading inter-governmental environmental organisation, is the authoritative source of knowledge on the current state of, and trends shaping the global environment. The mission of UNEP is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

The **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP) is the UN's Global Development Network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. It operates in 166 countries, working with them on responses to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, the countries draw on the UNDP people and its wide range of partners. The UNDP network links and co-ordinates global and national efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

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With 56 participating States, the **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe** (OSCE) is a pre-eminent instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, conflict management and post conflict rehabilitation in continental Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and North America. Since its beginnings in 1973 the OSCE has taken a comprehensive view of security, including through the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, economic and environmental cooperation, and political dialogue.

The **Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe** (REC) is a non-partisan, non-advocacy, not-for-profit international organization with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe. The center fulfils this mission by promoting cooperation among non- governmental organizations, governments, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision-making.

The **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation** (NATO) embodies the transatlantic link that binds Europe and North America in a unique defence and security alliance. In response to recent changes in the overall security environment, NATO took on new fundamental tasks. These include addressing both instability caused by regional and ethnic conflicts within Europe and threats emanating from beyond the Euro-Atlantic area. NATO's "Science for Peace and Security" programme brings scientists together to work jointly on new issues and to contribute to security, stability and solidarity among nations.



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For the purpose of this publication the name Kosovo has been used to refer to the territory under the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, established in 1999 by the UN Security Council resolution 1244; and the name Macedonia has been used to refer to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

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Foreword

by Otto Simonett

One of the more recent James Bond movies, Casino Royale, prominently featured somewhere called Montenegro, thus putting a little known place – or country – on the world map, at least for those who saw the film.

In the film, what purported to be Montenegro did not look quite like the real thing. Nor did the story, the action, nor indeed anything else in the movie particularly appeal to me personally (unlike the early Bond movies of my childhood). All in all I do not recall anything other than a cliché now shared with many of the millions who also saw the film: Montenegro is a place of natural beauty and a paradise for money launderers, with lots of long legged ladies.

Consequently talk of the Balkans, the environment and security may sound like yet another indigestible cocktail of pollution, conflict and poverty, with maybe some sex and crime too. However, we have also added vital graphics, to give the book more of a superstructure or spin, in short the ambition to communicate.

We aim to communicate nothing less than the environment of this highly complex, fascinating and attractive

region, a part of the world that faces many problems related to its environment and security, a place where “the dark side” often overshadows opportunities based on rich, diverse natural and human assets, the “bright side”.

With this publication, the consortium of international organizations behind the ENVSEC initiative would like to paint a picture using more colours than just black and white, taking intermediate hues to highlight the region’s environmental and security issues: gray, for the political background, always relevant to such a harmless topic as the environment; blue, for water, as in the Blue Danube, disregarding national borders and offering enormous potential for cooperation; brown, with an industrial legacy of brown clouds and rusty water, yet endowed with a certain charm and considerable potential for future development; lastly green, symbolic of nature itself, but also associated with conservation, production, cooperation and consumption.

Unfortunately our booklet will probably have far fewer readers than Casino Royale had viewers, but to those who do take a look at it, we say: *Enjoy!*

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“*What would be ...*”

“Long before appointed time the four ‘recognized notables’ met on the deserted square and walked with slow steps to the kapia ... They sat on the kapia as they had once done when they were young and carefree and, like the rest of the young people, wasted their time there. Only now they all advanced in years. Pop Nikola and Mula Ibrahim were old, and the schoolmaster and the rabbi in the prime of life. They were all in their best clothes, filled with anxiety both for themselves and their flocks. They looked at one another closely and long in the fierce summer sun, and each seemed to the others grown old for his years and worn out. Each of them remembered the others as they had been in youth or childhood, when they had grown up on this bridge, each in his own generation, green wood of which no one could tell what would be.

They smoked and talked of one thing while turning another over in their minds, glancing every moment towards Okoliste whence the commandant upon whom everything depended was to come and who could bring them, their people and the whole town, either good or evil, either peace or fresh dangers.”

Excerpt from *The Bridge on the Drina* (Serbo-Croat: *На Дрини Цуприја* or *Na Drini Cuprija*), a novel by the Yugoslav writer Ivo Andric, winner of the Nobel Prize in 1961. The book describes relations between Orthodox Christian Serbs and Muslims in the town of Višegrad in east Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Ottoman occupation. The story spans about four centuries and is, in some sense, a collection of short stories. What unites the book and becomes in a sense the main “character” is the bridge over the Drina River in Višegrad.

“Много пре одређеног времена четворица ‘законаша’ нашли су се на опустелој пијаци и спорим корацима запутили на капију ... Тако су седели на софи као некад кад су били млади и безбрижни и као и остала младеж кратили време на капији. Само што су сада били сви већ у годинама. Поп Никола и Мула Ибрахим стари, а мудерис и рабин зрели људи, празнички одевени и безбрижни за себе и сваки за своје. Гледали су се на оштром летњем сунцу, онако на дугу времену и изблиза, и долазили су један другом престарели за своје године и сувише истрошени. И сваки се сећао другог какав је био у младости или у детињству, кад су расли поред овог моста, сваки са својим нараштајем, зелено дрво од којег се још не зна шта ће бити.

Пушили су, разговарали једно а у мислима претурали друго, погледајући сваки час на Околишта, одакле треба да се јави командант од кога зависи сада све и од кога може доћи и за њихов свет и целу касабу и добро и зло и смирење и нове опасности.”



GREY

BACKGROUND



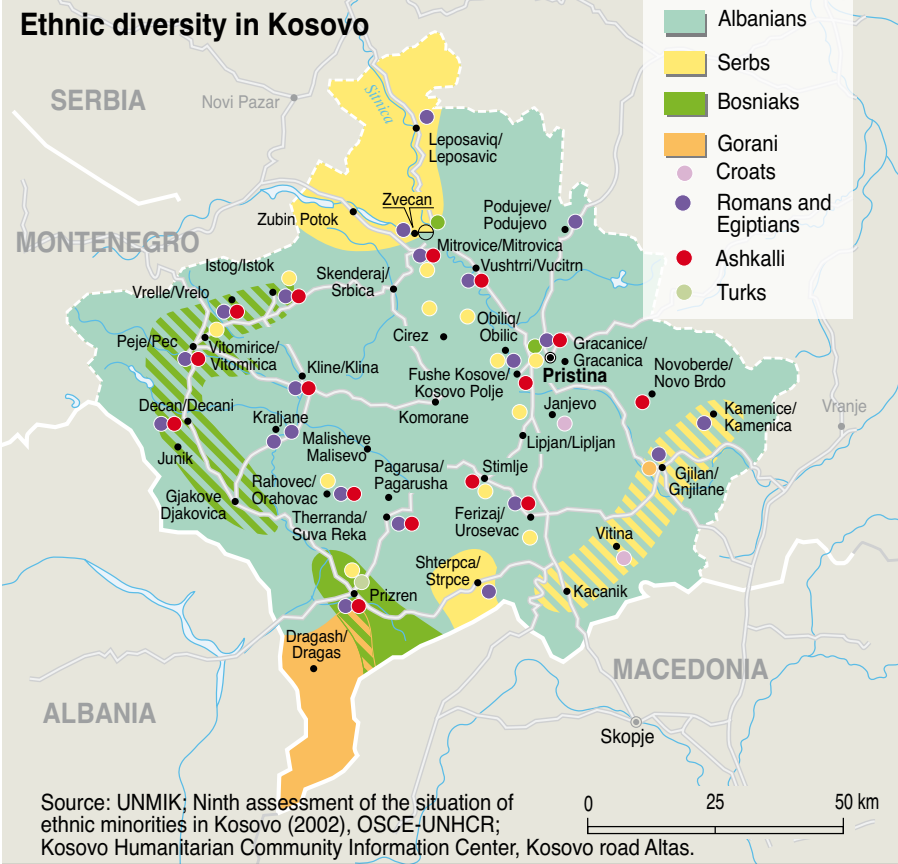
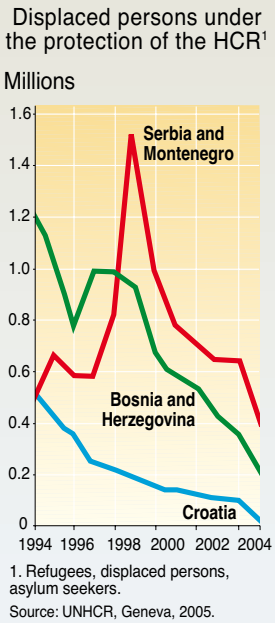
The west Balkans and the Black Sea region are characterized by numerous common risks and challenges, including fragile statehood, a shared history of violent conflict, unconsolidated democratization and economic underdevelopment. Given the crucial geopolitical position of both regions as (a) direct neighbours to the European Union (EU), North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and Russia, (b) a bridge to the Middle East and Central Asia, and (c) an increasingly important energy transport route, instability in either region can have significant ramifications for domestic, regional, and international security. (Ref: Berteismann Group for Policy Research)

People and identity

The wars in former-Yugoslavia speeded up the process of ethnic homogenization underway in the west Balkans since modern states started to take form in the 19th century. In Croatia, for instance, the proportion of Serbs in the overall population has dropped from 12 per cent to just 4 per cent in 10 years. Bosnia and Herzegovina now consists of two political entities, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska, and Distric Brcko hosting three main ethnic groups. The same is true of Kosovo, where the Serbs have lived in enclaves since 1999. A similar trend is at work in Macedonia, discreetly separating communities. It is even apparent in Skopje where segregation between Macedonian and Albanian neighbourhoods is growing.



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The wars gave rise to significant movements of population, some temporary, others permanent. It has proved difficult for refugees and displaced persons to return to their former homes. In Bosnia and Herze-

govina, the process is often illusory. Returnees hurry to sell recovered property, particularly when it is located in areas in which the ethnic community to which they belong is now in the minority.



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_10909



Fighting may have ended but migration continues. Despite increasingly strict EU policies on immigration, the “western dream” still exerts a powerful force of attraction on the people of the Balkans. This is particularly noticeable in Kosovo where half the population is under 20 and unemployment affects 60 per cent of people of working age. The brain drain, primarily among young graduates, is compromising the future of countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Albania. In recent years there has been an increase in the number of migrants being forcibly repatriated, under readmission agreements signed by all the west Balkan countries with the EU.

In the meantime, the rural exodus is continuing all over the region, particularly in Albania where people are deserting mountain areas and the population of Tirana has risen from 200 000 at the end of the communist era to almost a million. The newcomers cram into the city outskirts lacking any proper infrastructure. A similar pattern may be seen in Belgrade, Sarajevo and Skopje.

