This briefing note provides insight into the potential labour market integration of migrants in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) from the perspective of employers in key sectors of the economy. It summarizes and presents the key findings of a study commissioned by IOM and carried out by the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (SSST). Researchers collected information from 60 companies – 45 from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and 15 from Republika Srpska. These companies consisted of three small-sized companies, 41 medium-sized companies, and seven large-sized companies. The study was authored by Professor Maja Savić-Bojanić and Professor Faruk Hadžić.

Employers’ Perspectives on the Labour Market Integration of Migrants in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Interested in hiring migrant workers 67%

Would require support from a competent authority to employ a migrant worker 65%

Educational requirement for a migrant worker according to respondents

- Depends on the position 38%
- High school 30%
- Don’t need foreign workers 18%
- Elementary school 7%
- Specialized school 5%
- University degree 2%

Does the “Law on Foreigners in Bosnia and Herzegovina” constitute an obstacle in the hiring of migrants?

- Agriculture
- Construction
- Tourism and services

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IOM BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SEPTEMBER 2023
Migrants’ language skills are adequate for them to do a good job

83% believe migrants are not difficult to integrate with local employees

95% believe that their customers do not have a preference for contact with local employees compared to migrant workers

We do not want to cut wages for newly recruited low-skilled workers