

## Road Safety: Western Balkans' Road Fatalities for 2021

The year 2021 is marking the start of the new decade of Action in Road Safety 2021-2030. The Western Balkans regional Partners has embraced the new ambitious goal for this decade: reduction of fatalities and serious injuries by 50% by 2030.

The figures for the 2021 year show an increase in the number of fatalities in comparison with the 2020 year. The increase was expected to happen since the year 2020 was the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic Situation. Lower traffic volumes, as the result of the Covid-19 pandemic, had a clear, though unmeasurable, impact on the number of road fatalities. Having that said, the baseline year for the Second Decade of Action 2021-2030 will be 2019 year.

Table 1 shows that the rate of fatalities per million has decreased from 2019 to the 2020 year. That brought the regional partners closer to reaching the goals of the previous decade 2011-2020. North Macedonia is the only regional partner that has a reduction in the number of fatalities for 2021 in comparison with 2020. The change in percentage for 2020/2021 varies from a 5% increase in Bosnia and Herzegovina to the highest value of 37% in Kosovo\*.

Table 1: Number of fatalities per million inhabitants – preliminary data for 2021

| Regional Partner       | Fatalities per million 2019 | Fatalities per million 2020 | Fatalities per million 2021 | % change 2019/2021 | % change 2020/2021 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Albania                | 80                          | 63                          | 69                          | -13%               | 8.8%               |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 74                          | 69                          | 74                          | -2%                | 5%                 |
| North Macedonia        | 63                          | 60                          | 56                          | -12%               | -7%                |
| Kosovo                 | 60                          | 43                          | 59                          | -1.8%              | 37%                |
| Montenegro             | 76                          | 77                          | 88                          | 17%                | 15%                |
| Serbia                 | 77                          | 71                          | 75                          | -2.4%              | 5.9%               |
| <b>Western Balkans</b> | <b>73</b>                   | <b>66</b>                   | <b>70</b>                   | <b>-4%</b>         | <b>7%</b>          |

<sup>1</sup> Note: The percentage changes in the table are based on the rate per million inhabitants.

Table 2: Number of fatalities for the period 2019-2021

| Regional Partner       | Number of fatalities |              |              |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                        | Year 2019            | Year 2020    | Year 2021    |
| Albania                | 227                  | 181          | 197          |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 261                  | 244          | 263          |
| North Macedonia        | 132                  | 125          | 116          |
| Kosovo                 | 113                  | 81           | 111          |
| Montenegro             | 47                   | 48           | 55           |
| Serbia                 | 534                  | 492          | 521          |
| <b>Western Balkans</b> | <b>1,314</b>         | <b>1,171</b> | <b>1,255</b> |

(\* ) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.