

Migration and Development: Bosnians in Switzerland

Didier Ruedin, University of Neuchâtel,
Switzerland

*Joint Workshop: BiH Diaspora and
Development, Sarajevo, 3rd July 2013*

Diaspora

Migration and Development

- Agents for development
 - Remittances
 - Experience and Skills
 - Direct investment
 - Business
- Individual freedom

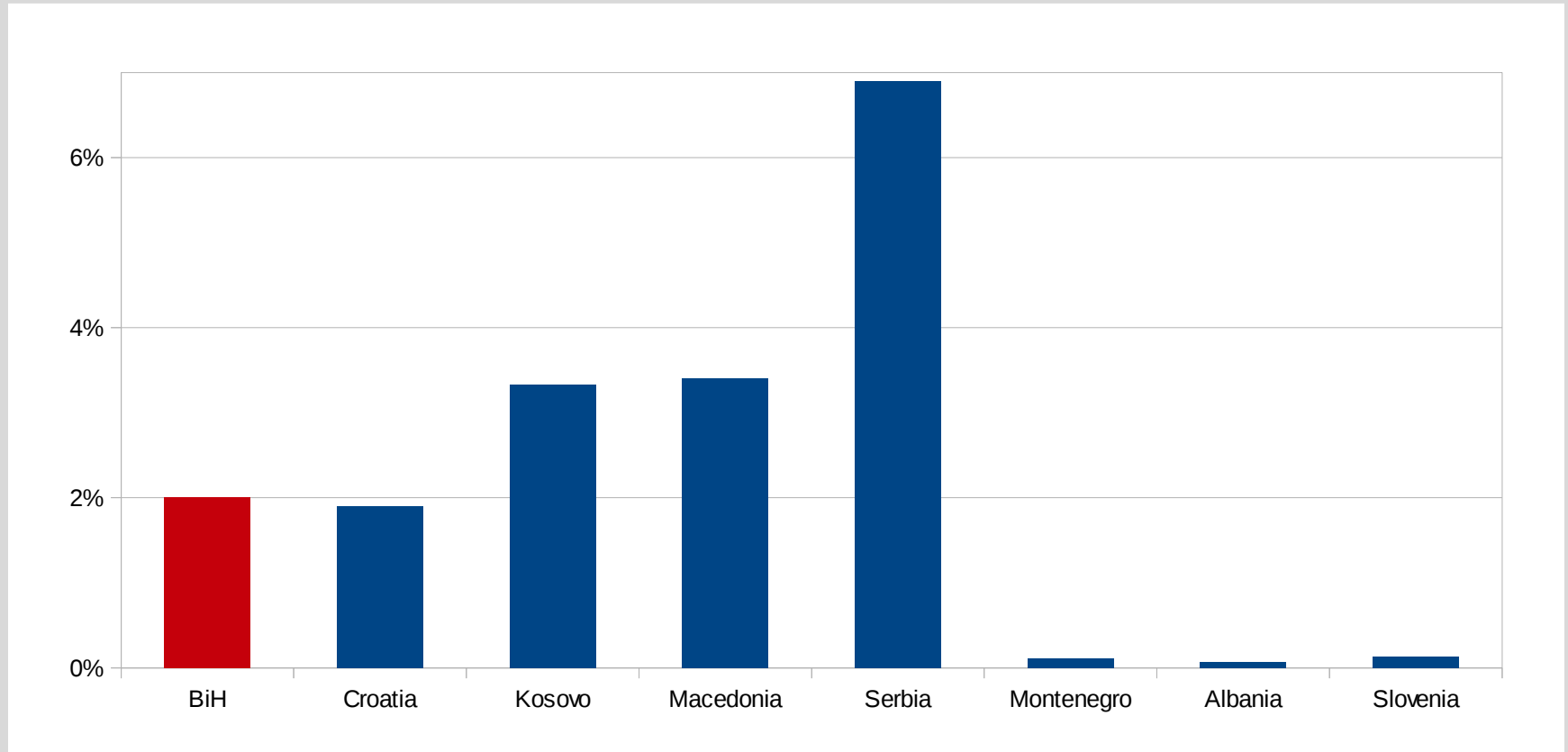
Diaspora Engagement

- Identify goals and capacities
- Know your diaspora
- Build trust
- Mobilize stakeholders

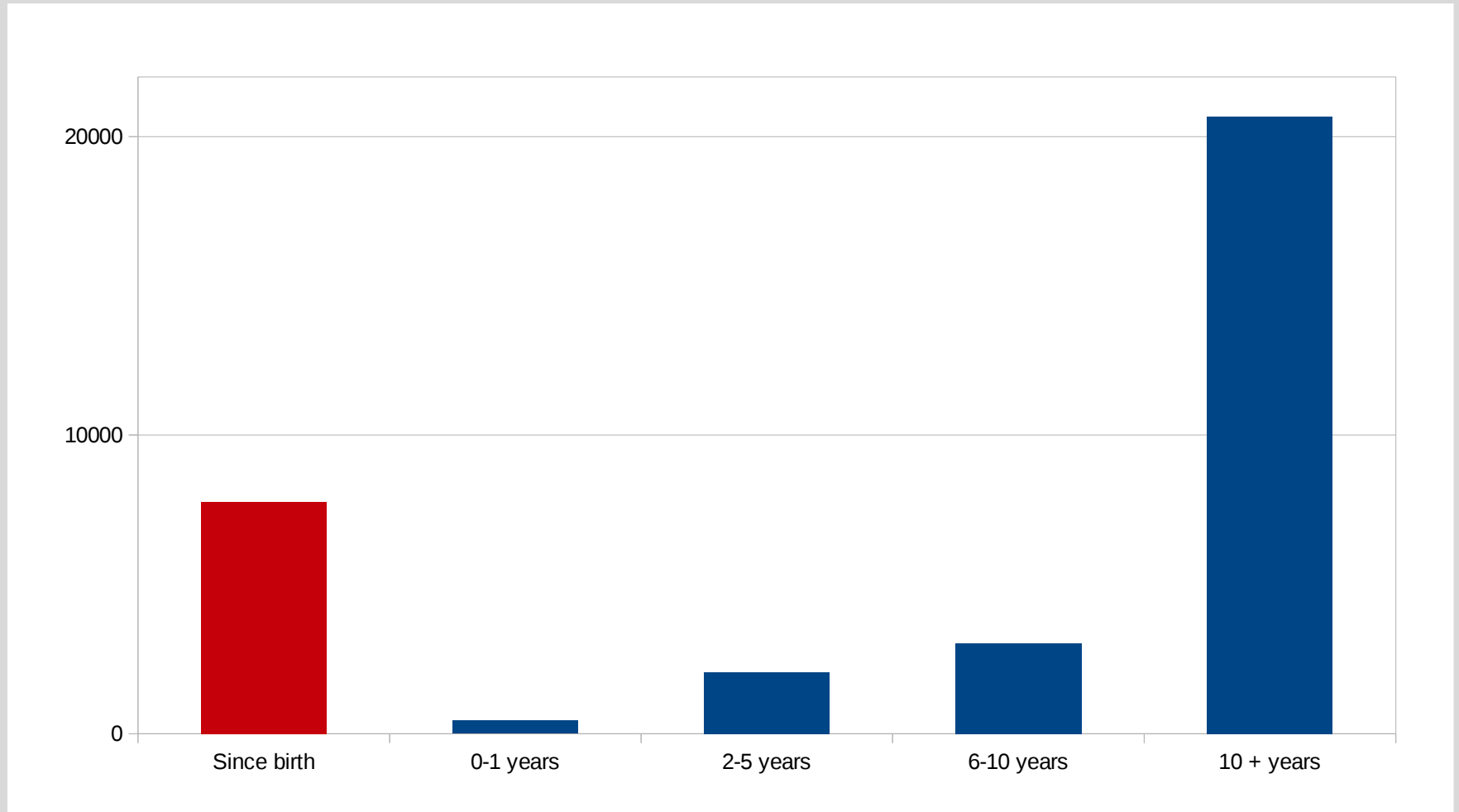
Switzerland

- 3 waves
 - Labour migration: short-term (1960s)
 - Economic migration: escape (1980s)
 - War refugees (1990s)
 - Family reunion (now)
- **N ≈ 52,000** (36,000 BiH citizens)

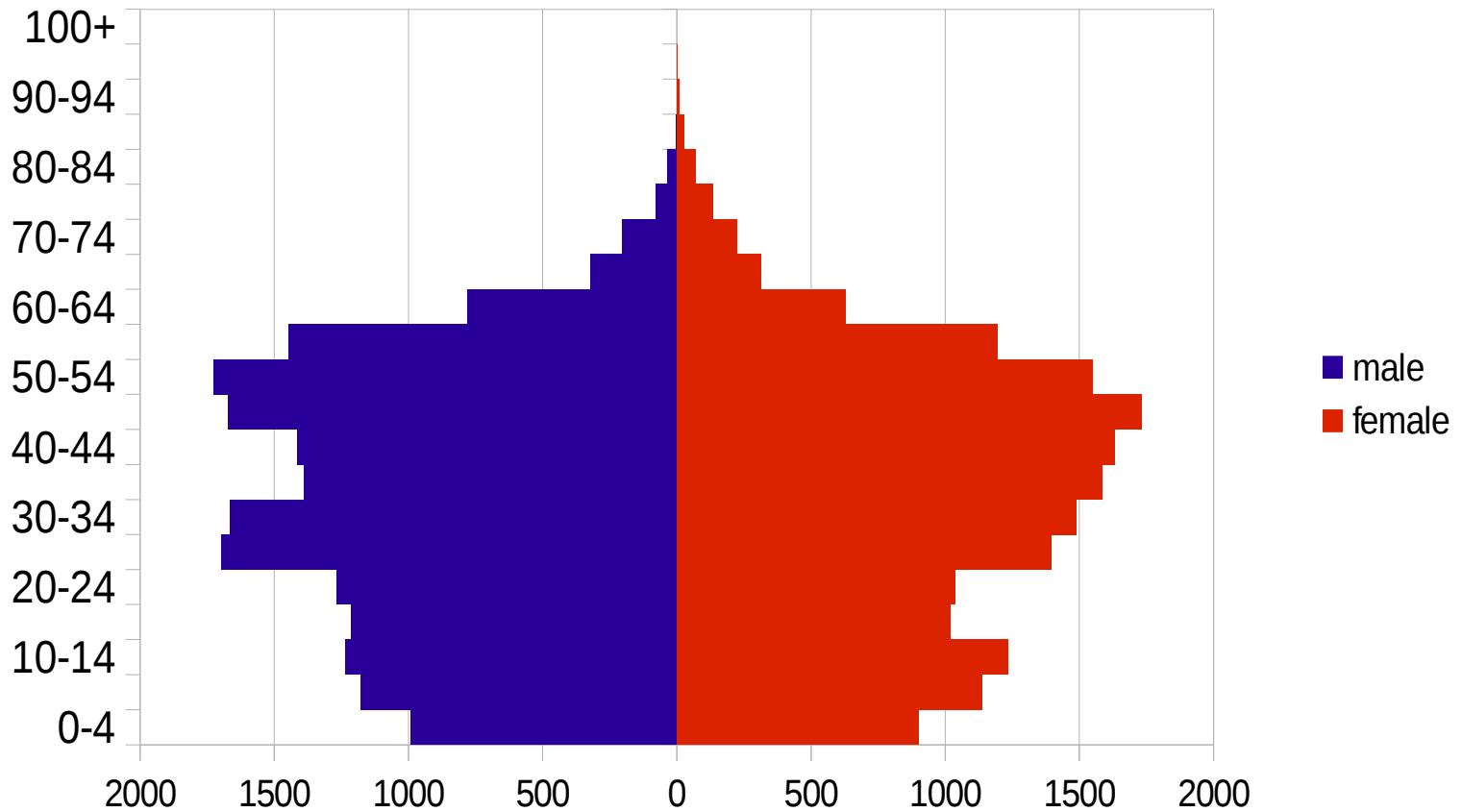
Foreign Population, SE Europe



Residence in Switzerland: BiH



Age Distribution



Naturalization

- Relatively high rates
- ~~Successful integration~~ of 2nd generation
 - A “natural” step
- Security
- Previously: travel (visa)
- Filling a void? (post-Yugoslavia)

Principal Language Spoken

$\frac{1}{2}$

Swiss language

$\frac{1}{2}$

Language of BiH

- Second generation

Work

- Concentration in low-skilled work
 - Earlier migration (1960s, 1980s)
 - Interrupted education
- Fewer active in labour market
- Unemployment: 7%
 - 3% CH, 8% foreigners

Diaspora Organizations

- Many diasporas
- Few cross-ethnic
- No systematic approach to development
- Highly qualified: most interest

Migration and Development

- Integration in Switzerland
- **Not centrally organized**
 - Difficult to mobilize
 - Ethnic divisions
- Work ethic, corruption, political deadlock
- **Strong attachment** to BiH
- Skills, but long-term?