

COUNTRY FACTSHEET | JULY 2024

Main developments
in migration and
international
protection, including
latest statistics

ITALY 2023



OVERARCHING AND CROSS-CUTTING CHANGES

One very impactful and innovative measure was the [three-year planning of labour migration flows](#), aimed at combatting irregular migration, facilitating and accelerating the establishment of an employment contract, and stabilising the simplification regulations introduced in 2022.

In 2023, [measures](#) on international protection, unaccompanied minors and reception were approved,

with the aim of preventing and combatting irregular migration and managing the reception system (Decree 20/2023). Similarly, support has been granted for security policies and the operation of the Ministry of the Interior.

Cooperation was a key, crosscutting element in the government's agenda, which highlighted the importance and centrality of interstate collaboration on labour migration, and bilateral cooperation to manage asylum applications. Within this framework, the [bill](#) to ratify and implement the protocol for reinforced collaboration on

KEY POINTS

The 2023 Flows Decree introduced a three-year planning of labour flows, facilitating and accelerating the establishment of employment contracts and simplifying the procedural regulations.

Some legislative amendments led to a restriction of the criteria for obtaining special national protection and reduced certain conditions of entry to the reception system.

International cooperation has played a central role, through collaborations with third countries to regulate migratory flows, and through bilateral partnerships aimed at managing asylum applications, preventing irregular migration and regulating incoming labour flows.

migration matters between the government of the Italian Republic and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania was approved, establishing structures designed to carry out border procedures or return migrants not admitted to Italian territory.

LEGAL MIGRATION

In 2023, Italy introduced amendments to the procedure for issuing and renewing residence permits, including the possibility of extending renewals for permanent employed work, selfemployment and family reunification. Major administrative amendments were made to simplify and accelerate the procedures for issuing work permits to obtain an entry visa. To separate the flows for work and protection, some residence permits, such as those for special protection or for medical care, are no longer convertible into work permits upon expiry.

For the years 2023-2025, a single three-year plan was issued to regulate larger labour inflows than in previous years, with targets exceeding the previous approach based on annual differentiated determinations. Overall, 452 000 entries were allocated for employed work, including seasonal work. For 2023, the quota was 136 000. The placement is also envisaged for nonquota workers who have taken part in professional training programmes abroad, and those who convert their study or training permits to permits for work reasons.

New regulations on the entry and residence of highly qualified workers were introduced in implementation of EU Directive 2021/1883. The range of potential beneficiaries of the EU Blue Card (the so-called revised EU Blue Card Directive) has been extended, and new requirements to obtain it have been simplified. Restrictions were also reduced on the duration of employment contracts and remuneration, simplifying the administrative procedures and facilitating family reunification and labour mobility.

A Bilateral Agreement on Migration and Mobility was signed between Italy and India. It includes an extensive programme aimed at facilitating the movement of workers, professionals, students, researchers and academics between the two countries. In addition, the Italy-Tunisia Memorandum of Understanding establishes the annual entry of 4 000 nonseasonal, employed Tunisian workers.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Recent legislative amendments led to a review limiting the circumstances that justify the provision of national protection. Specifically, the explicit provision allowing for obtaining so-called special protection (protezione speciale) on the sole basis of respect for private and family life, or socioeconomic integration, was abolished.

Reception conditions for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection changed, with limitations on the access to second reception services, except for people in vulnerable conditions, resettled and evacuated people, and those from humanitarian corridors.

New measures on border procedures to manage first reception centres and hotspots were introduced, including the option to establish new ones. A medical station was put into operation in Lampedusa to ensure prompt emergency interventions. An accelerated border procedure for assessing applications submitted by applicants from safe countries of origin was also introduced. The list of safe countries of origin was updated on 17 March 2023.

Many procedural changes have taken place, including a review of the inadmissibility criteria for asylum applications, and amendments to the regulations on subsequent applications for international protection. The possibility of detention inside repatriation centres was also established for asylum seekers under the Dublin procedure.

Evacuations and humanitarian corridors from countries of origin and transit continued in line with the national resettlement programme. In this regard, the Humanitarian Corridors – Evacuations from Libya protocol was signed, guaranteeing the arrival of vulnerable people in need of international protection, and enabling those already housed in the facilities of civil society organisations to join the national reception system, if necessary.

TEMPORARY PROTECTION AND OTHER MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO RUSSIA'S WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

Assistance and reception measures were extended until 31 December 2023 by issuing urgent temporary protection measures for beneficiaries of temporary protection (BoTP). The widespread reception, support and social service activities offered by the host municipalities were confirmed, with an increase in funding. The state of emergency was extended by the Budget Law until 31 December 2024, prolonging the assistance and residence permits about to expire. These permits can be revoked following any decision of the Council of the EU to terminate the protection, but they can also be converted into residence permits for work, at the request of the person concerned.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Reception and care of unaccompanied minors

The Council of Ministers approved the regulatory framework regarding the reorganisation of

responsibilities for unaccompanied minors. The main amendments include the: abolition of the Foreign Minors Committee and transfer of its responsibilities to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies; management of the reports on the presence of minors by the public security authorities; and establishment of the National Information System on unaccompanied minors at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies.

In addition, a two-stage procedure was defined for the reception of unaccompanied minors: first, taking charge of minors at government firstreception centres, and then including them in the reception system. Moreover, minors aged 14 and over can be placed in dedicated temporary reception facilities when their reception in dedicated government facilities is not guaranteed due to a large number of incoming unaccompanied minors. In cases of consistent and close arrivals of unaccompanied minors, the public security authority can order health tests, including X-rays, to determine their age.

Other vulnerable groups

The [Handbook](#) for the Identification, Referral and Care of People Living with Vulnerabilities Entering Italy and within the Protection and Reception System was distributed to all prefectures. This document provides guidelines on the procedures to be followed at all stages of reception, along with detailed operating instructions starting from the initial stages of arrival and reception, to identify and assist possible victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups promptly.

INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

Actions within the scope of the national integration strategy are supported by the strategic management of the [Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2021-2027](#), through which eight public calls for tender amounting to more than €153 million were published in support of interventions to promote integration.

Education and training

A [memorandum](#) was signed between Italy and Ethiopia to boost collaboration between educational systems. The agreement envisages the promotion of cultural exchanges and Italian language teaching, the strengthening of technical and professional education in Ethiopia, and the creation of partnerships between technical institutes and academies with innovative programmes.

Fighting racism and discrimination

Creation of the National Plan against Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance is underway, in line with the EU Action Plan against Racism and in light of solicitations from the main international organisations for the respect of human rights.

CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Verification of the requirements in the process of applying for Italian citizenship was streamlined, especially when administrative deadlines for assessment of the application are close to expiry.

For the first time, as part of the maximum entry quotas for reasons of work, entry was granted to refugees recognised as stateless by the competent authorities (such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and countries of first asylum or transit) for reasons of employed and self-employed work, including seasonal workers. A Protocol of Understanding has been established between the Central Directorate for Civil Rights, Citizenship and Minorities, the National Commission for the Right of Asylum, and the UNHCR to improve the process of assessing the status of statelessness.

BORDERS, VISA AND SCHENGEN

With regard to the issuing and renewal of residence permits, the procedures for issuing work permits to obtain an entry visa were simplified and accelerated. [Amendments](#) were also made to the Immigration Act to bring national legislation in line with European standards on the interoperability of IT systems for borders, immigration and security. These amendments also included the adjustment of national legislation to meet European standards for the Entry/Exit System and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

New [urgent measures](#) on irregular migration were adopted to manage migratory flows. The measures give the government the option to limit or prohibit the transit and stay in territorial waters of nongovernmental ships engaged in maritime rescue operations, and to apply administrative sanctions if necessary.

Preventing the Arrival of Irregular Migrants

There is a growing commitment to international cooperation to prevent irregular migration through collaboration with the authorities of third countries, such as Tunisia, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire, and through the exchange of information and promotion of opportunities for foreign businesses.

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The new [National Referral Mechanism](#) for victims of trafficking and serious exploitation was published. This instrument aims to assist in the prompt and accurate identification of victims of trafficking and serious exploitation by promoting an integrated approach

involving various sectors and agencies. In 2023, the Ministry of Defence conducted capacity building activities and missions in Libya, Niger and Mali.

RETURN AND READMISSION

In funding the project on Measures of Assisted Voluntary Return, the Ministry of the Interior established that a single entity should implement return and readmission activities for the next three years. This action aims to ensure efficiency and attaches priority to the return of citizens of specific nationalities, such as those from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nigeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Côte d'Ivoire. Collaboration is also envisaged with Frontex to implement reintegration in third countries.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Provisions to facilitate cooperation on migration and development were adopted between Italy and countries

of the African continent, in line with the [Strategic Italy-Africa Plan: Mattei Plan](#). This plan aims to build a new partnership based on the promotion of shared, sustainable and longlasting development in the political, economic, social, cultural and security spheres. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation also presented the [Strategic Guidelines on the Migration-Development Nexus](#) to direct the resources and capacity of Italian cooperation on migration and development. The document defines five strategic objectives: improving the governance of migration with partner countries; valuing the contribution of regular migration to development; integrating migration as a crosscutting issue in the policies of cooperation; ensuring assistance and protection to vulnerable people; and promoting a responsible and informed narrative on migration. Finally, the Italian Coordination of Diasporas for Development Cooperation has been established, bringing together more than 100 representative associations of the diasporas distributed across nine regional networks.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

The statistical annex available on the next pages complements the Country Factsheet and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Italy on aspects of migration and international protection. It was prepared by Eurostat and it is organised in ten thematic sections, including legal residence, temporary protection, asylum, unaccompanied minors, integration, irregular migration, return and visas. The dashboard-like layout of the annex allows comparability across countries as well as simultaneous visualisation of different indicators.

The data presented in the annex regard third-country nationals, which means persons who are not EU citizens, including stateless persons. The data cover the period 2020-2023. Since 2023 data were not available at the time of publication for certain datasets, in these cases the

period 2020-2022 is covered. Exceptionally, the monthly data on temporary protection covers the period until March 2024. **The data were extracted during April–May 2024. The manuscript was completed in May 2024.** The Eurostat website is constantly updated. Therefore, it is likely that more recent data will have become available since. An online data code available under each figure can be used to directly access the latest data on [Eurostat's website](#).

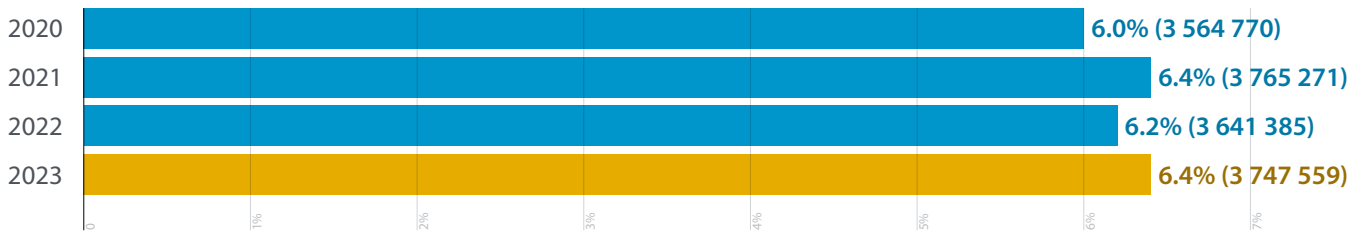
For some indicators, data are rounded at the source. Due to this, in some cases, the sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value.

A 'How to read the statistical annex' guide, describing each individual chart and providing links to the data sources, is available [here](#).

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Third-country nationals, 1 January 2020–2023

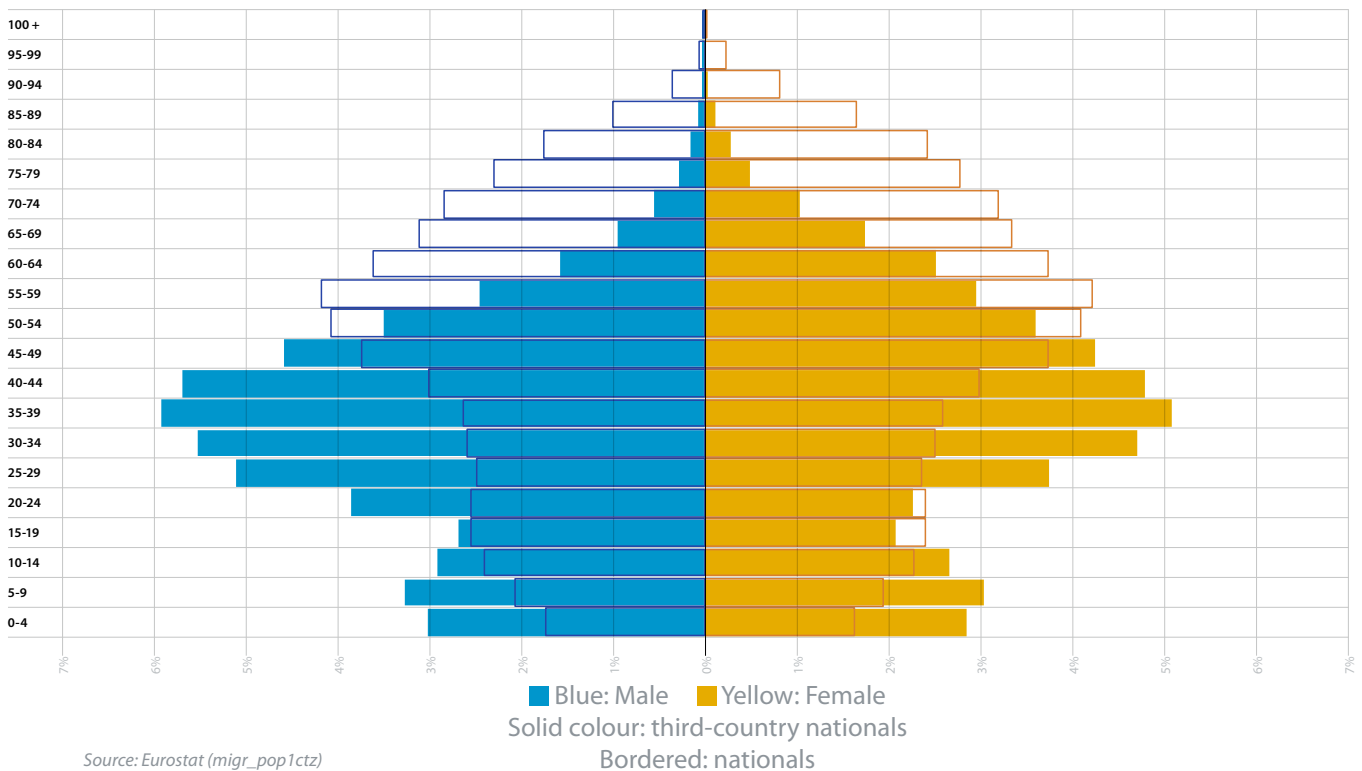
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Age structure of nationals and third-country nationals, 1 January 2023

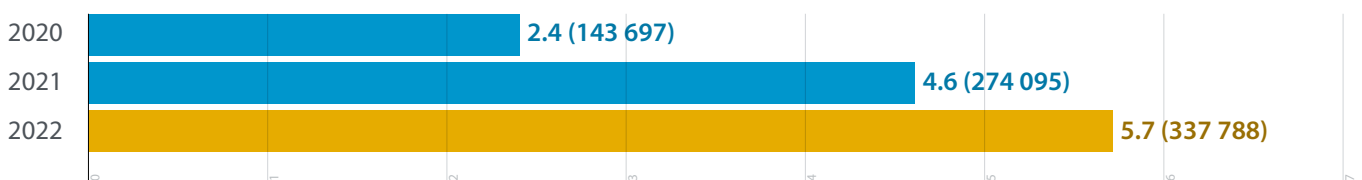
%



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

First residence permits issued to third-country nationals, 2020–2022

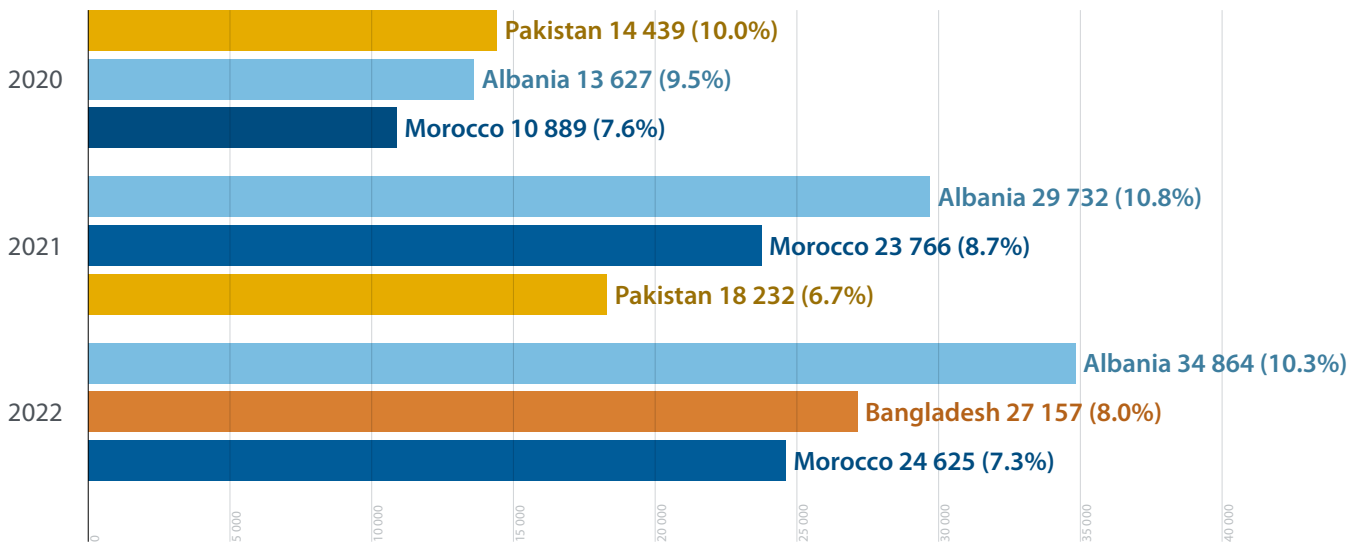
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_pop1ctz and migr_respop)

Top 3 countries whose citizens received first residence permits, 2020–2022

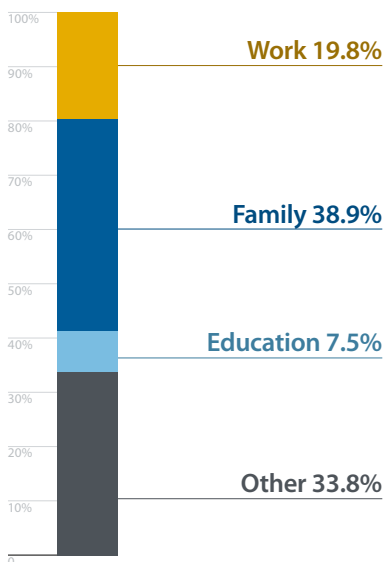
Absolute number (and the share in total number)



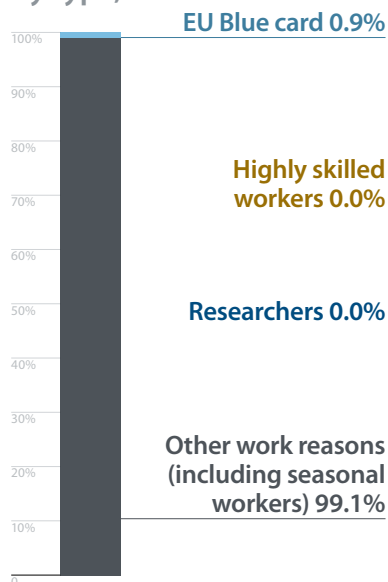
Source: Eurostat (*migr_resfirst*)

First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2022

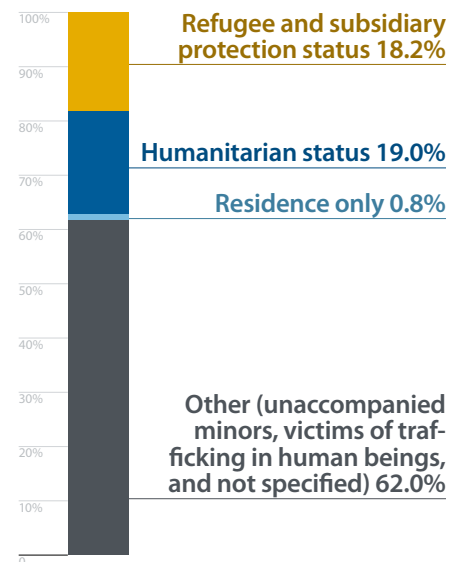
All permits, by reason, %



Work reason, by type, %



Other reason, by detailed reason, %



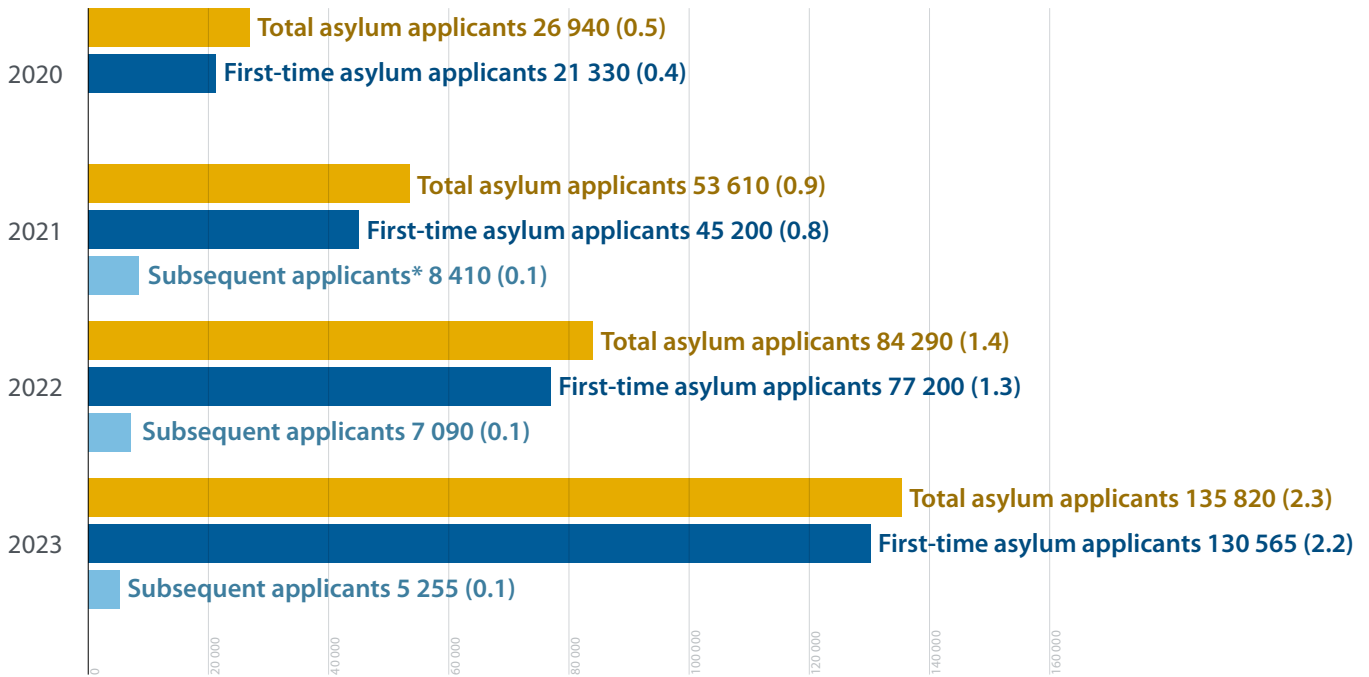
Source: Eurostat (*migr_resfirst*, *migr_resfpc*, *migr_resocc* and *migr_resoth*)



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants by type of application, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

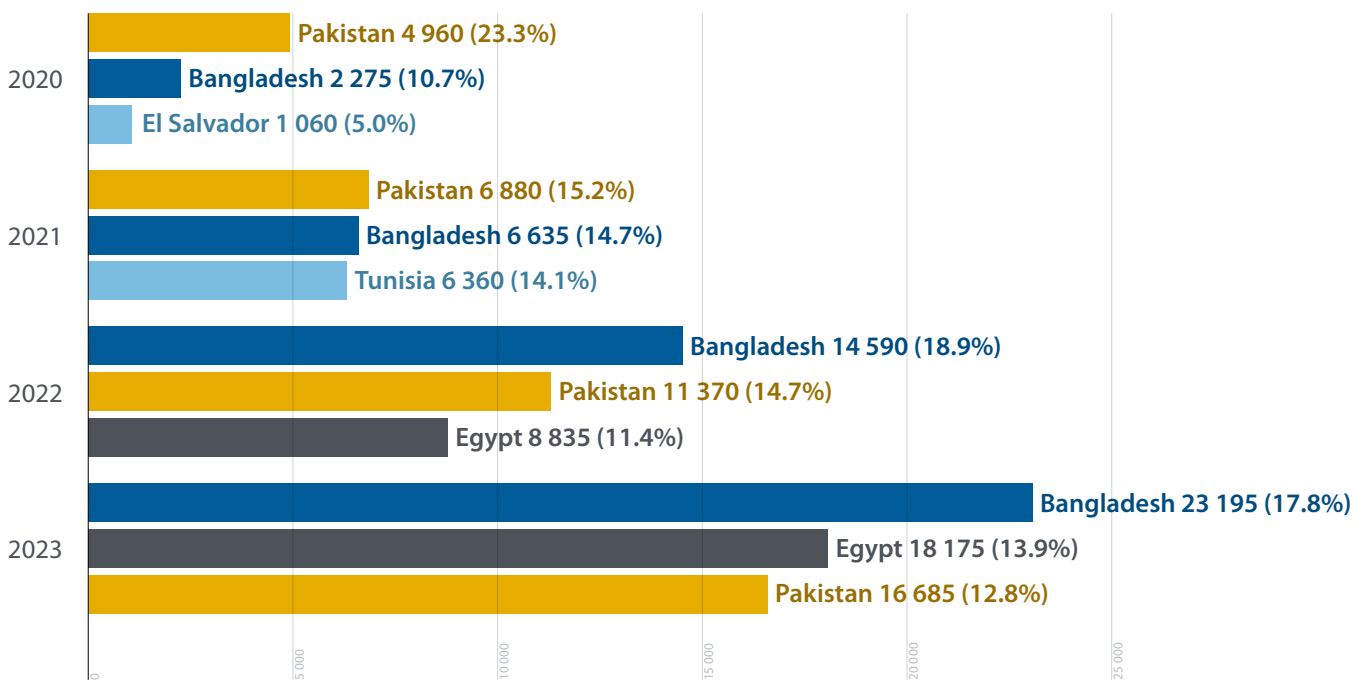


* Data collection from 2021.

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz and migr_asyapp1mp)

Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2020–2023

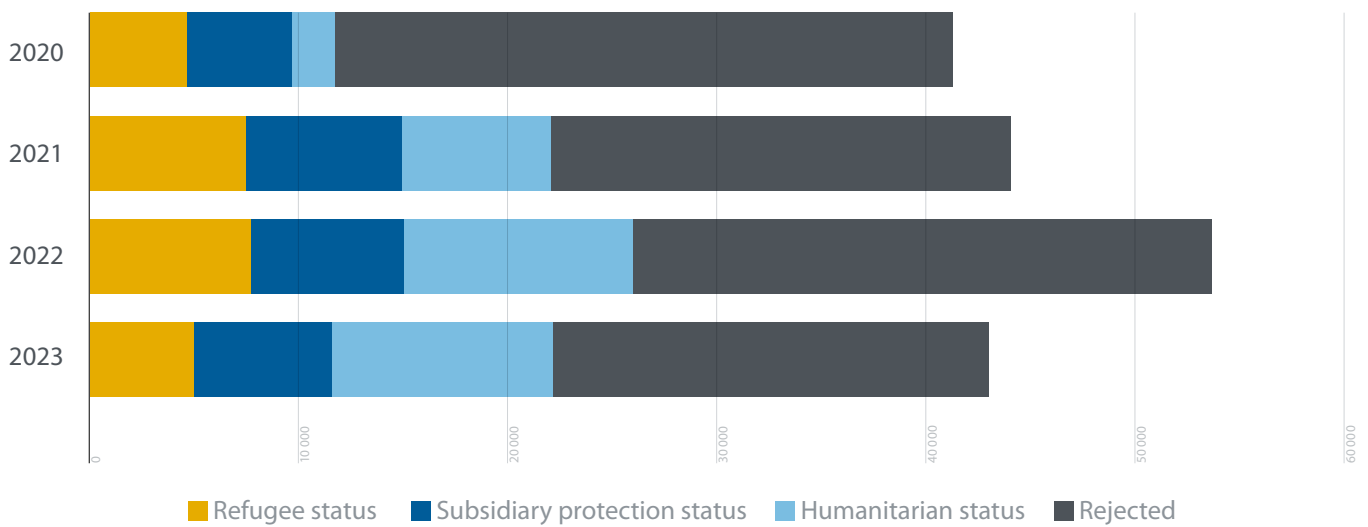
Absolute number (and the share in total number of first-time applicants)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)

First instance asylum decisions by outcome, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)

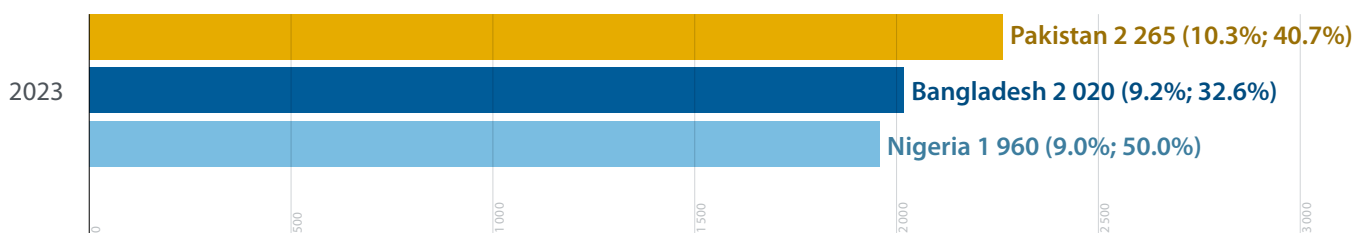


Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2020	4 580 (11.2%)	4 970 (12.2%)	2 035 (5.0%)	29 215 (71.6%)
2021	7 380 (16.9%)	7 350 (16.9%)	7 080 (16.3%)	21 745 (49.9%)
2022	7 610 (14.3%)	7 205 (13.6%)	10 865 (20.5%)	27 385 (51.6%)
2023	4 910 (11.6%)	6 495 (15.3%)	10 485 (24.7%)	20 625 (48.5%)

Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta and migr_asydec1pc)

Top 3 countries of citizenship granted positive asylum decisions at first instance, 2023

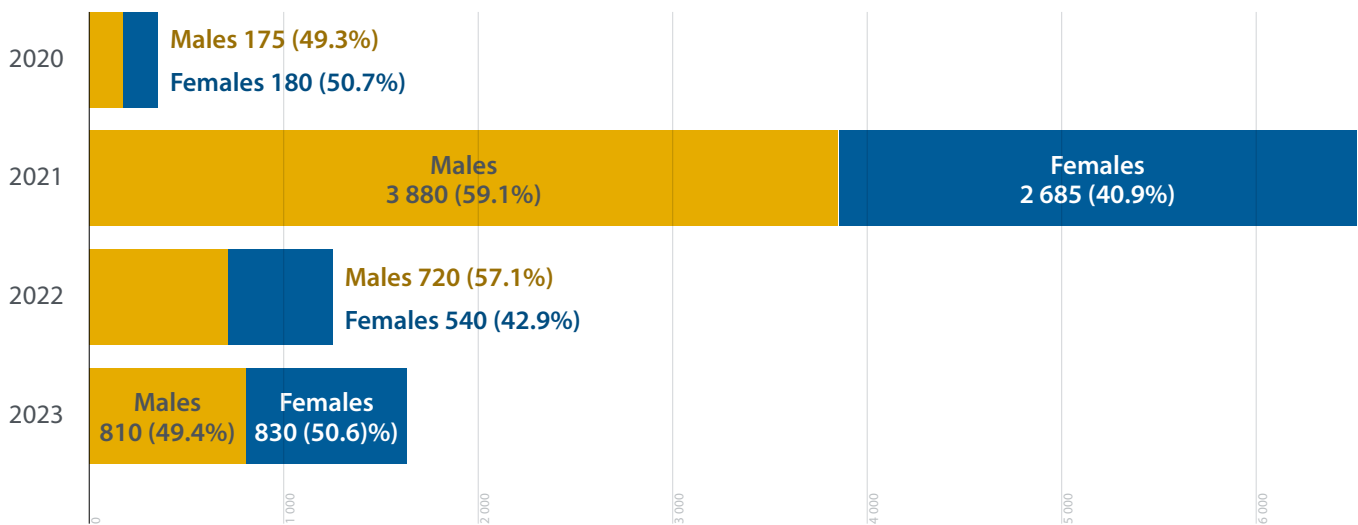
Absolute number (and the share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)

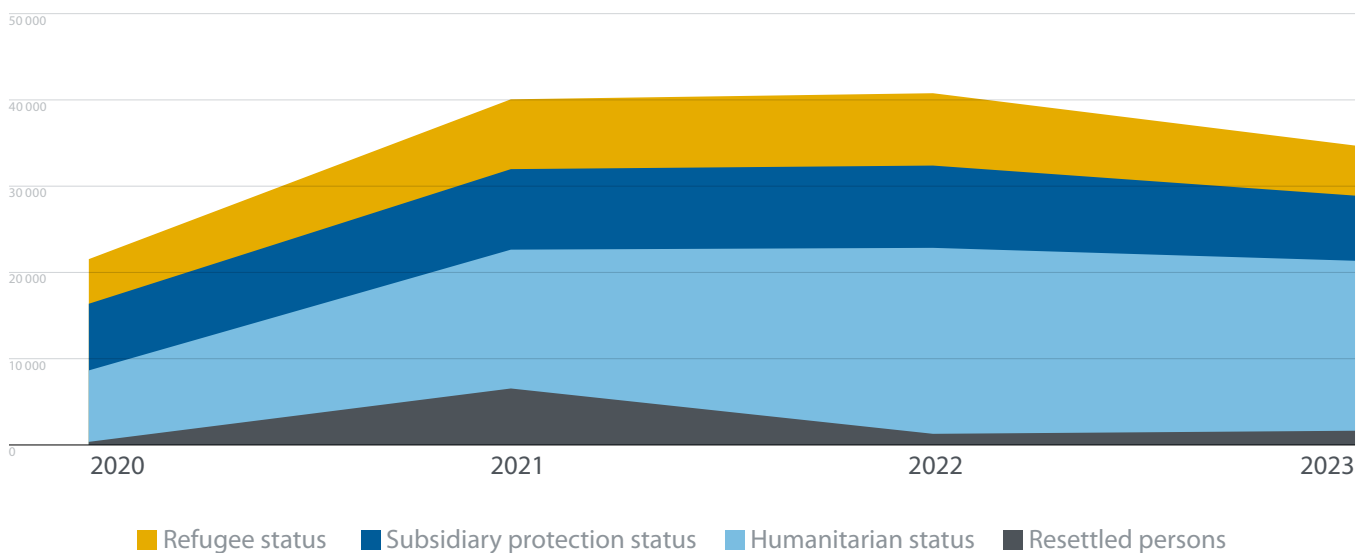
Resettled third-country nationals by sex, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of total resettled third-country nationals)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)

Number of positive decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2020–2023



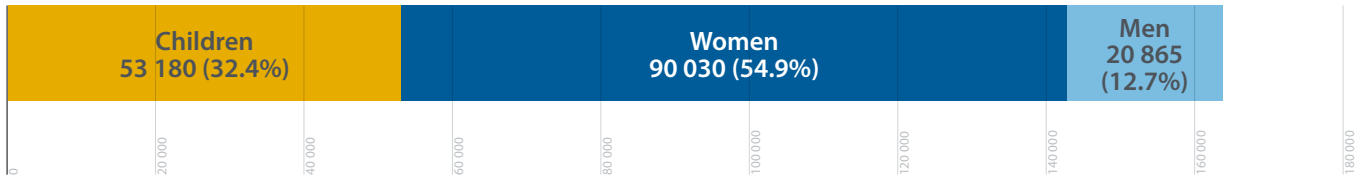
Year	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection status	Humanitarian status	Resettled persons
2020	5 195	7 760	8 320	350
2021	8 130	9 375	16 165	6 565
2022	8 425	9 580	21 655	1 285
2023	5 830	7 585	19 790	1 645

Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta, migr_asydcfina and migr_asyresa)

TEMPORARY PROTECTION

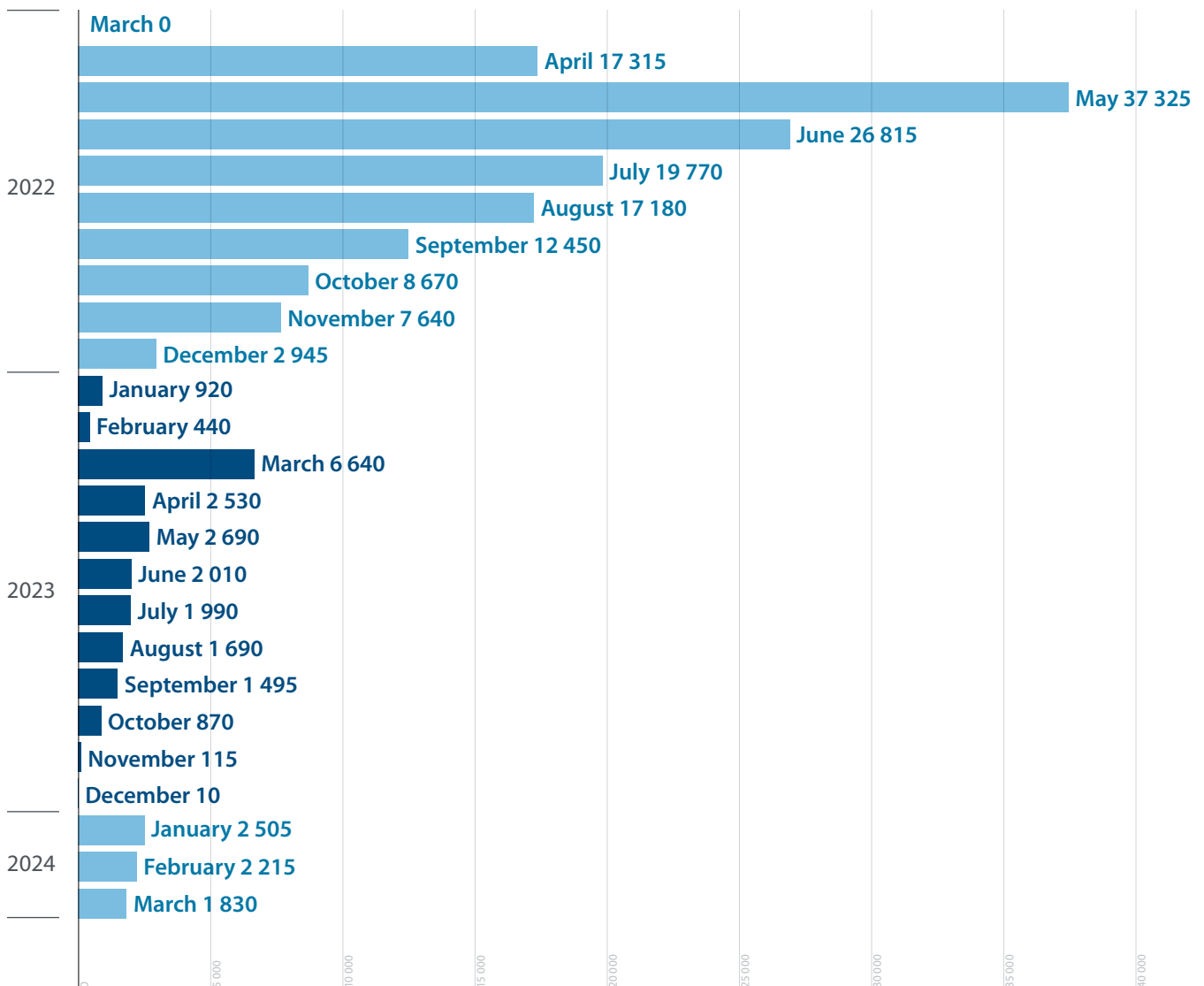
Beneficiaries of temporary protection by age and sex at the end of March 2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



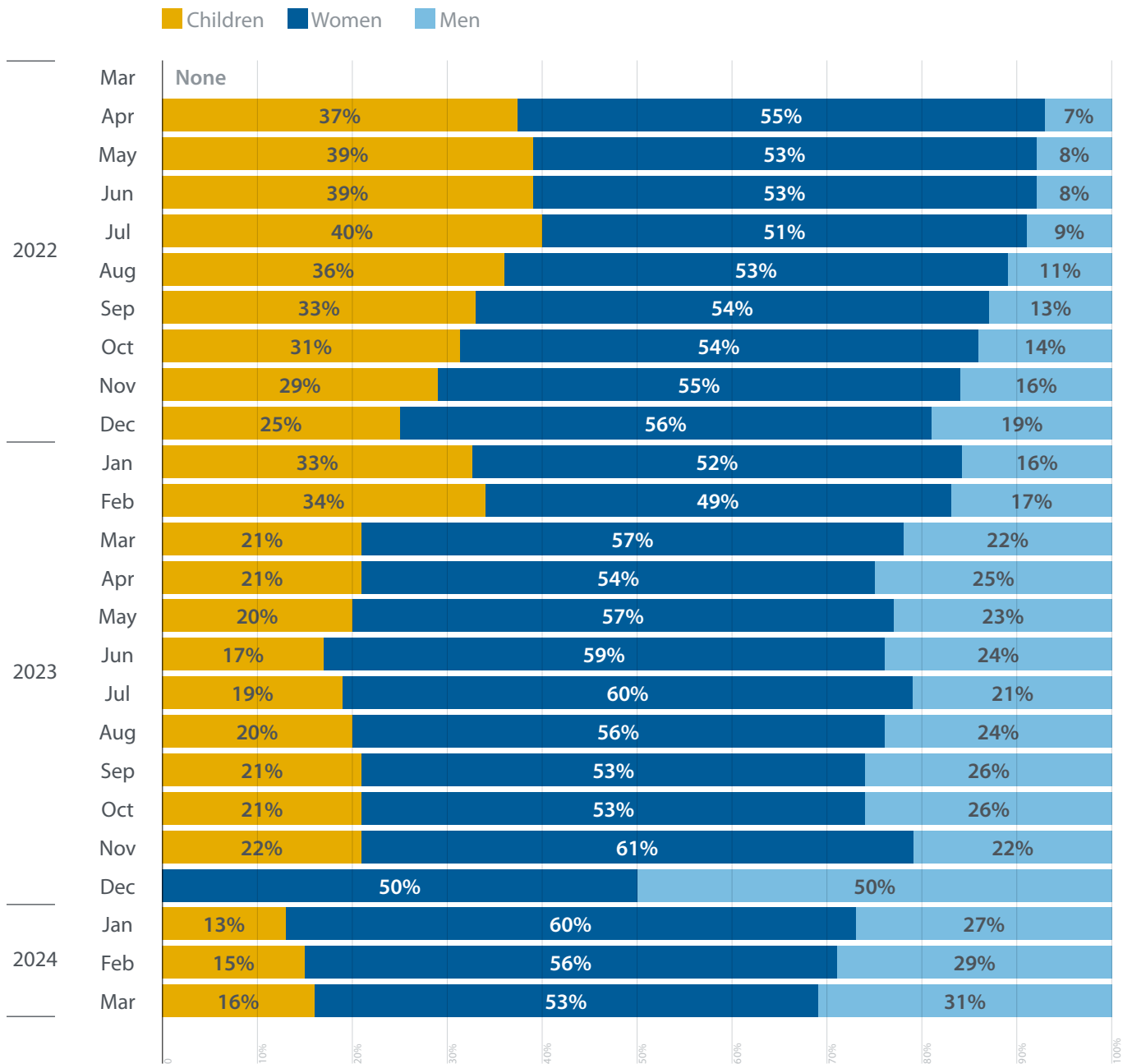
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpsm)

Number of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2024



Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpfm)

Distribution by age and sex of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2024



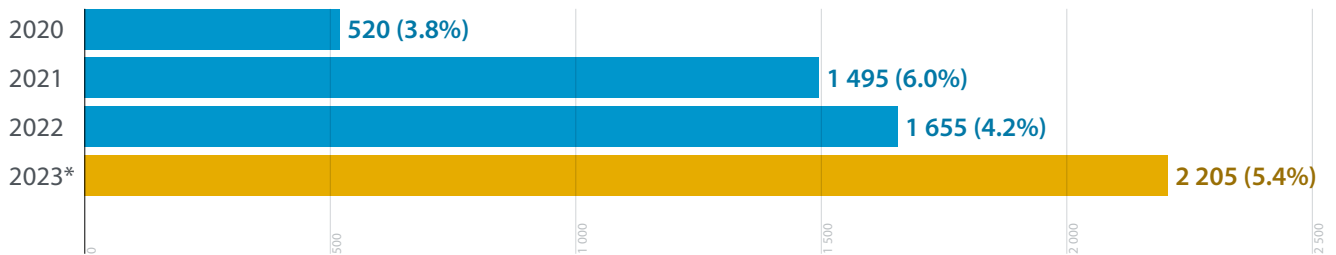
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpfm)



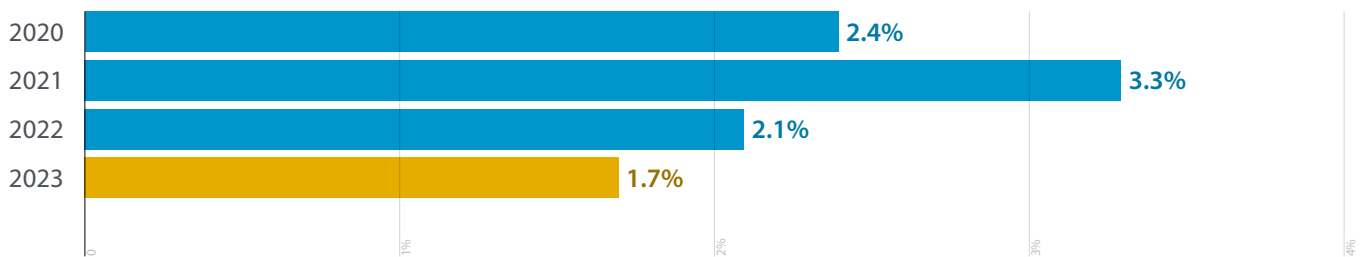
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum, 2020–2023

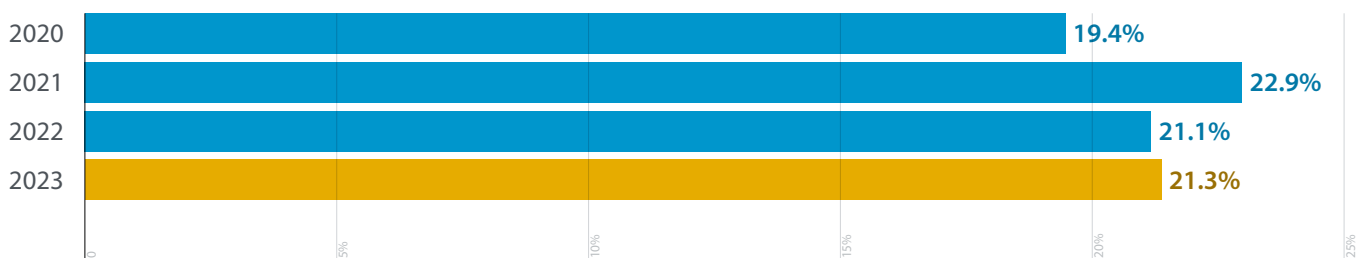
Number (and the share in total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU)



Share of all first-time asylum applicants



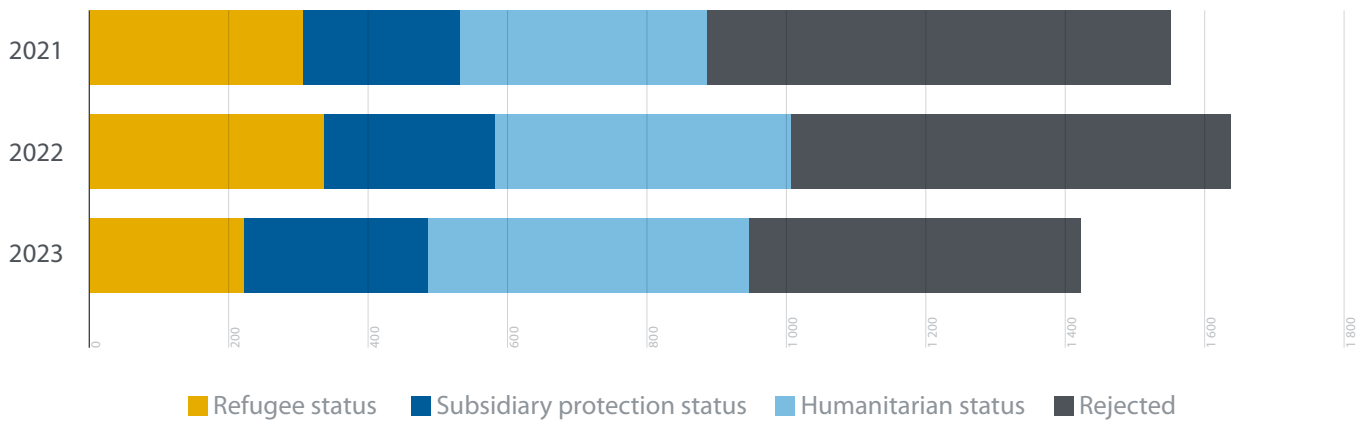
Share of all first-time asylum applicants aged less than 18 years



* The total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU used to calculate the share includes 2022 data for Cyprus.
Source: Eurostat (migr_asyuna and migr_asyappctza)

First instance asylum decisions on applications lodged by unaccompanied minors by outcome, 2021-2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



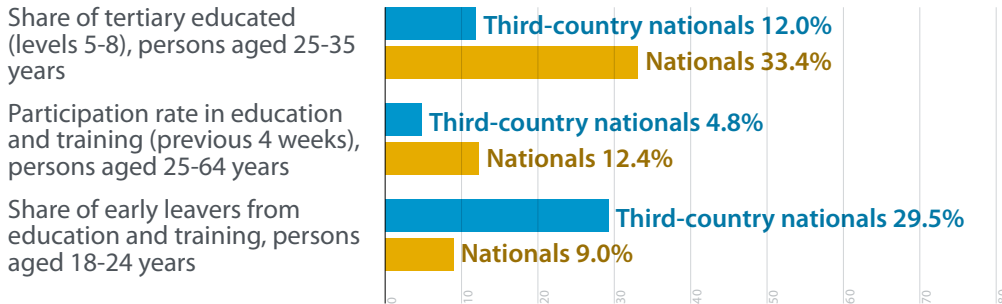
Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2021	305 (19.7%)	225 (14.5%)	355 (22.9%)	665 (42.9%)
2022	335 (20.5%)	245 (15.0%)	425 (26.0%)	630 (38.5%)
2023	220 (15.5%)	265 (18.7%)	460 (32.4%)	475 (33.5%)

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyumdca)

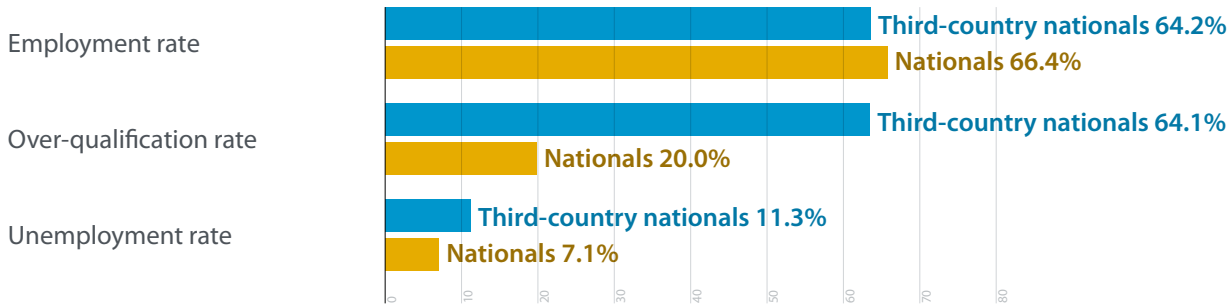
INTEGRATION

Integration indicators, 2022 or 2023

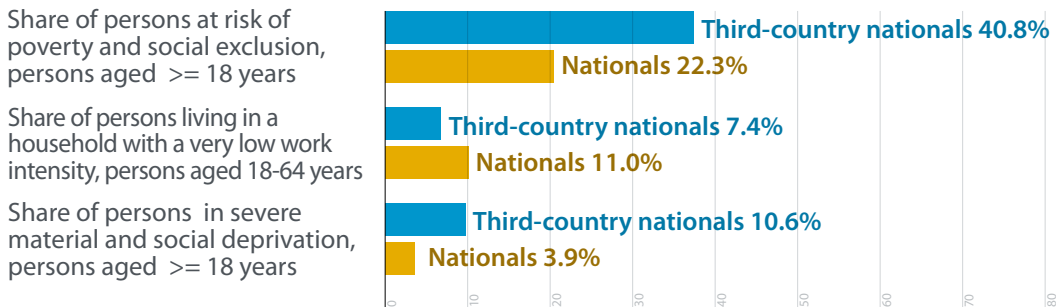
Education, 2023



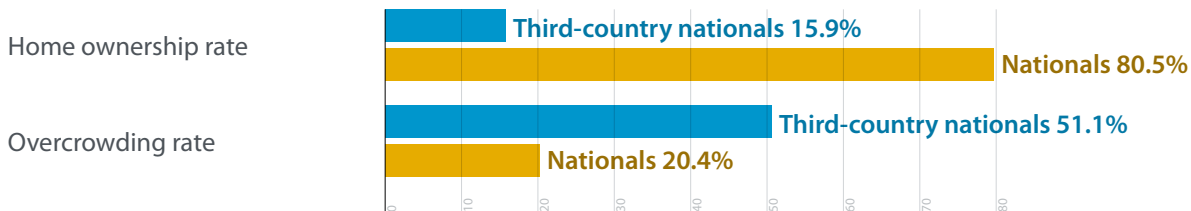
Labour market, persons aged 20-64 years, 2023



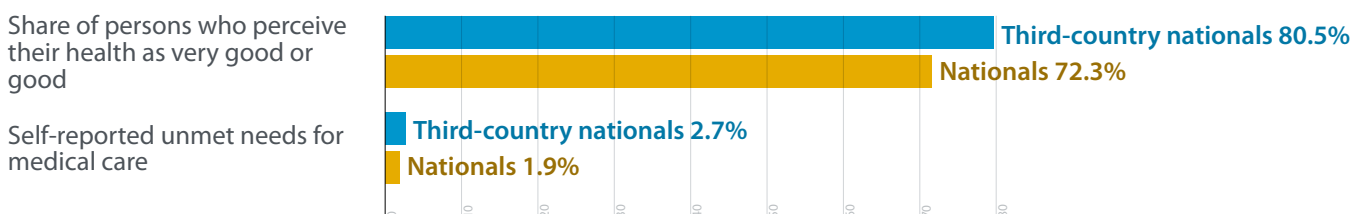
Social inclusion, 2022



Housing, persons aged >= 18 years, 2022



Health, persons aged >= 16 years, 2022

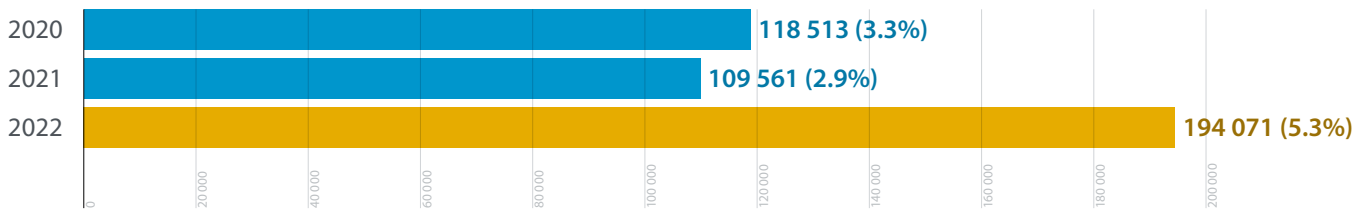




CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2020–2022

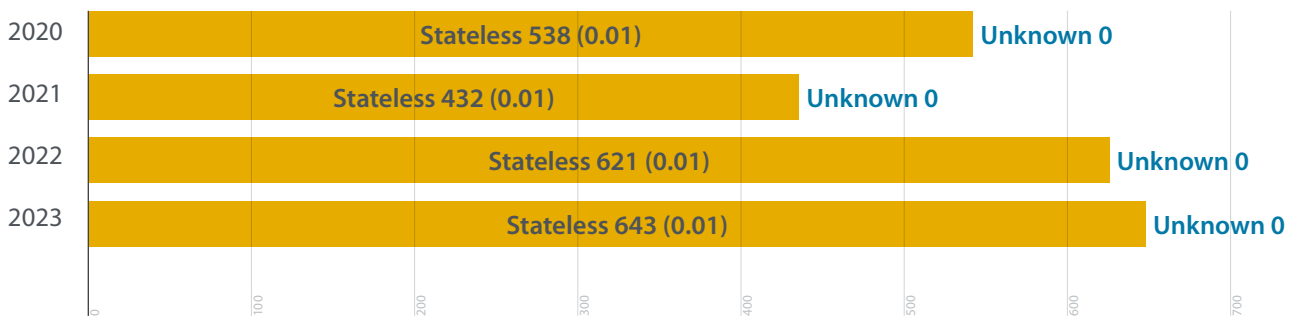
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



Source: Eurostat (migr_acq and migr_pop1ctz)

Stateless persons and persons with unknown citizenship, 2020–2023

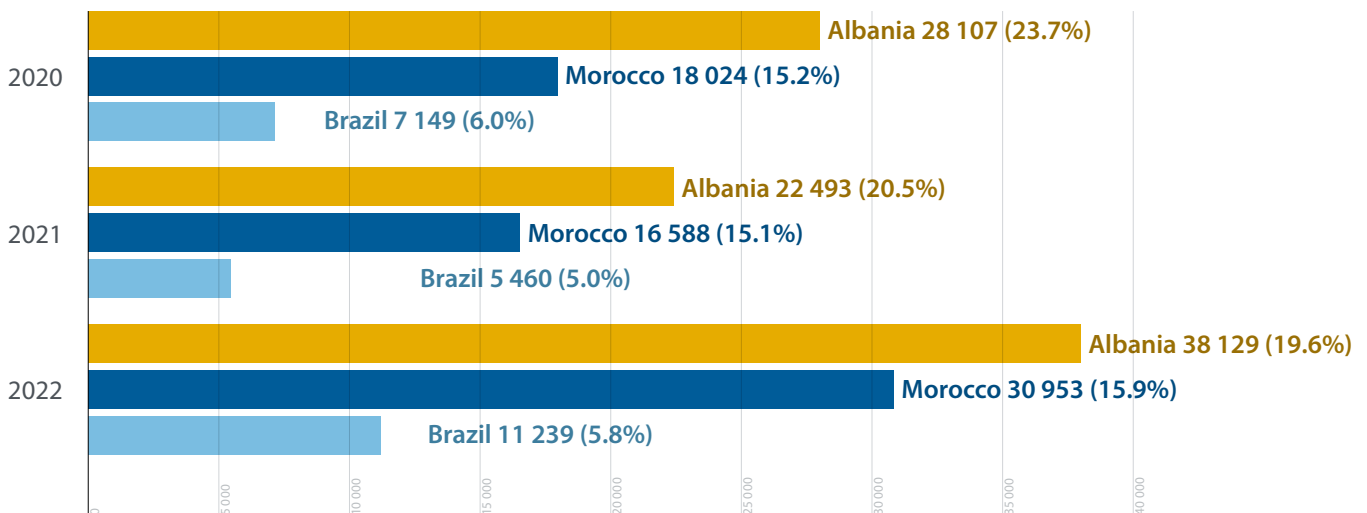
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Top 3 countries of previous non-EU citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship, 2020-2022

Absolute number (and the share of all acquisitions by third-country nationals)

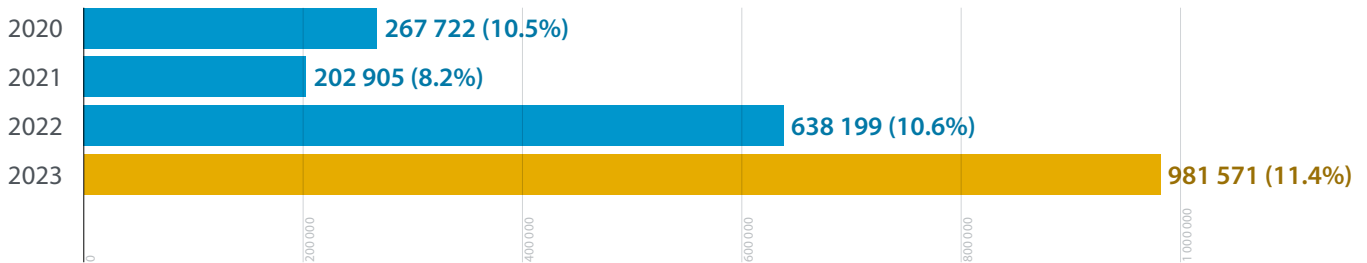


Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Schengen uniform short-stay visas issued, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of all uniform short-stay visas issued within the Schengen Area)

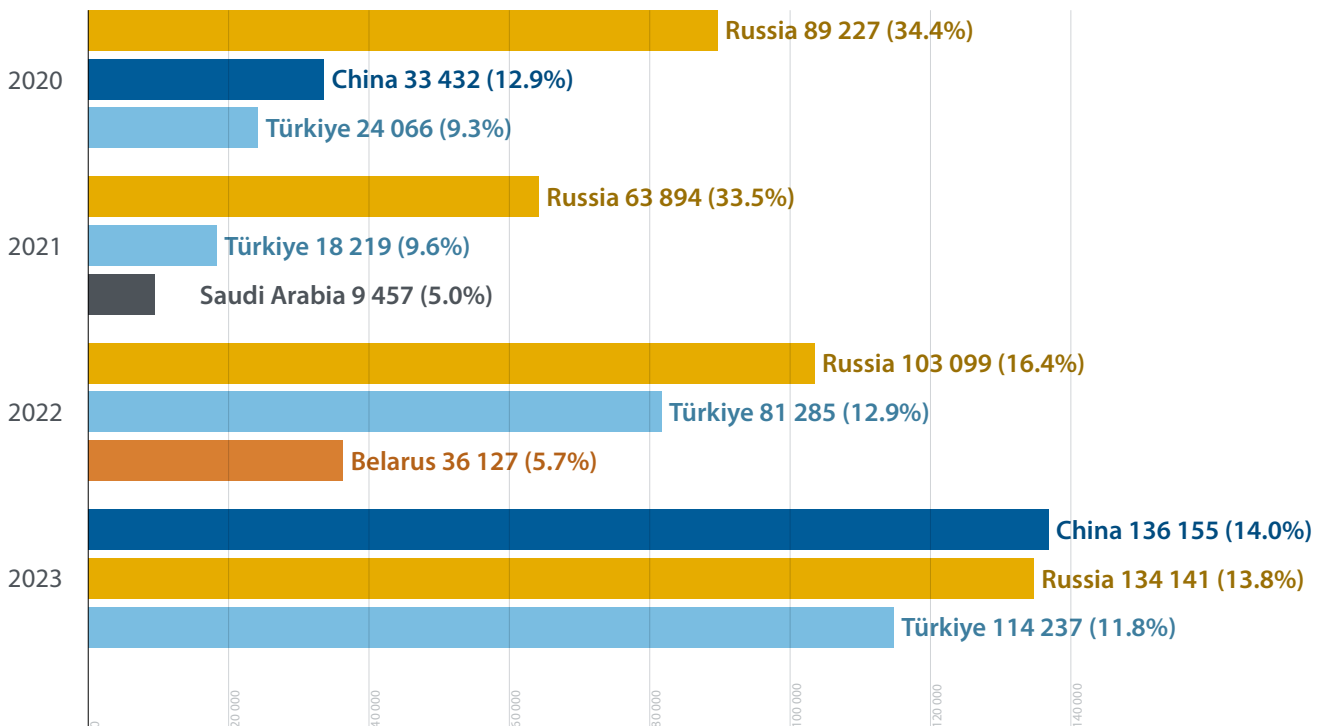


Note: Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple entries.

Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

Three consulate countries in which the most Schengen uniform short-stay visas were issued, 2020–2023

Number of uniform short-stay visas issued (and the share of all uniform short-stay visas issued in consulate countries)



Note: the consulate country might not be the same as the country of citizenship of the visa applicant.

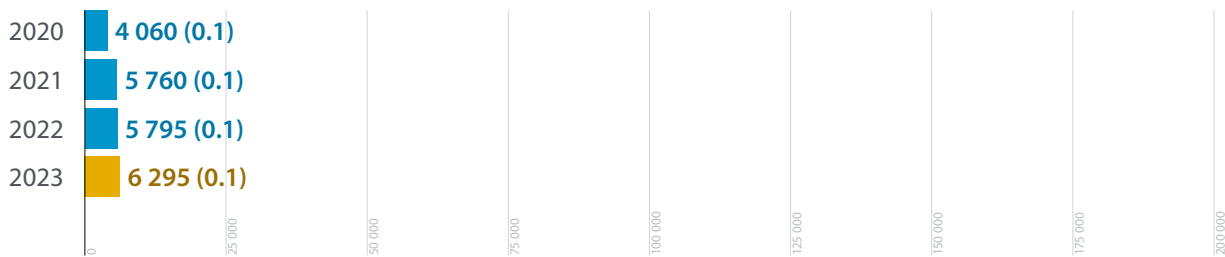
Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

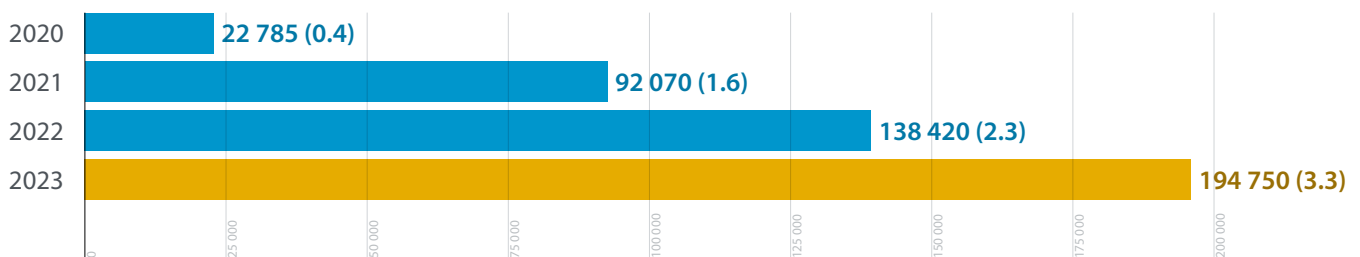
Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

Persons refused entry



Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country



Source: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord, migr_eirtn, demo_gind and migr_eilpop)

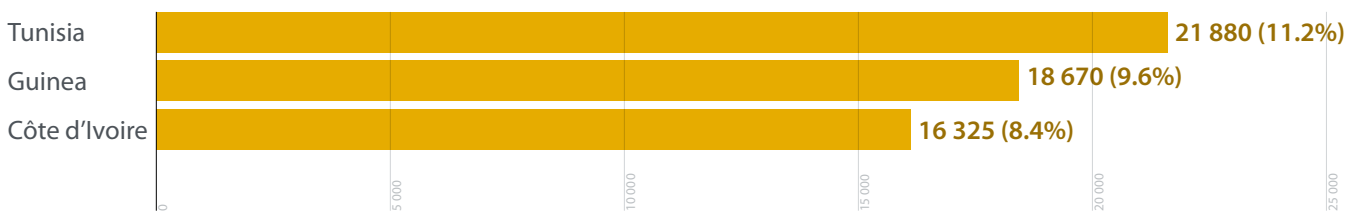
Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2023

Absolute numbers (and the shares in the respective totals)

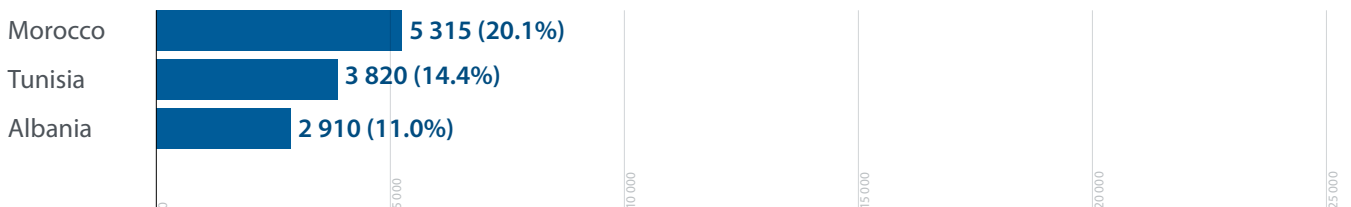
Persons refused entry



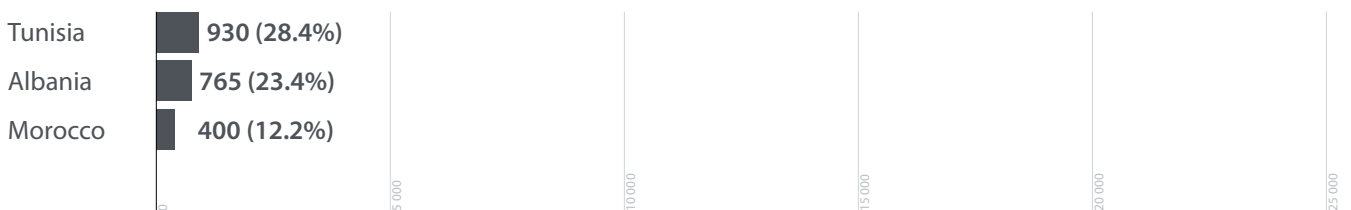
Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

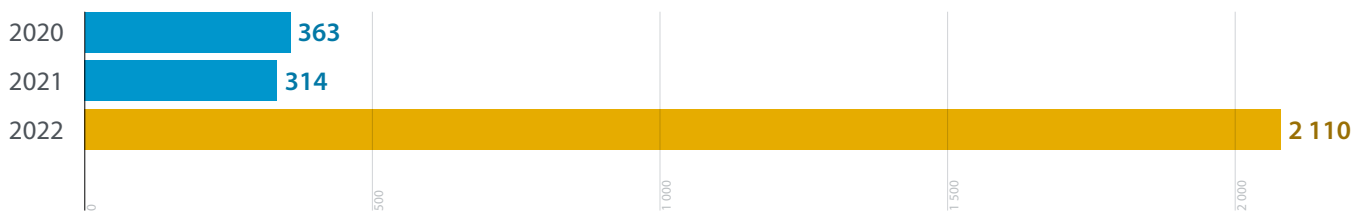


Source: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord and migr_eirtn)



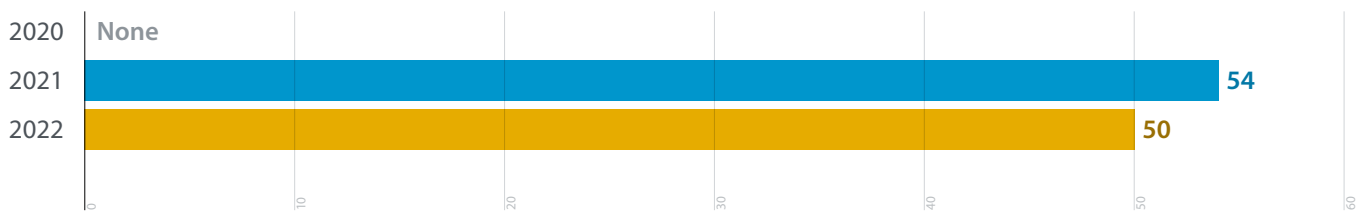
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of third-country nationals victims of trafficking in human beings, 2020-2022



Source: Eurostat (crim_thb_vctz)

Number of first residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings, 2020–2022

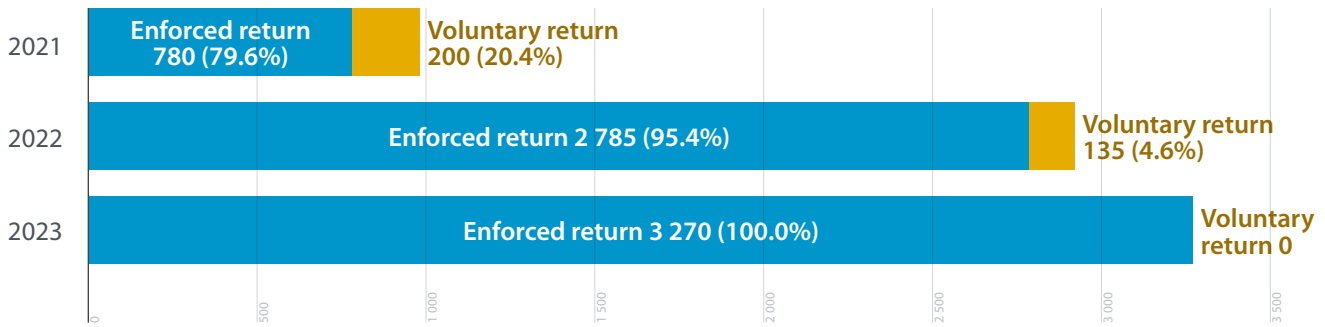


Source: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

RETURN AND READMISSION

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of return, 2021–2023

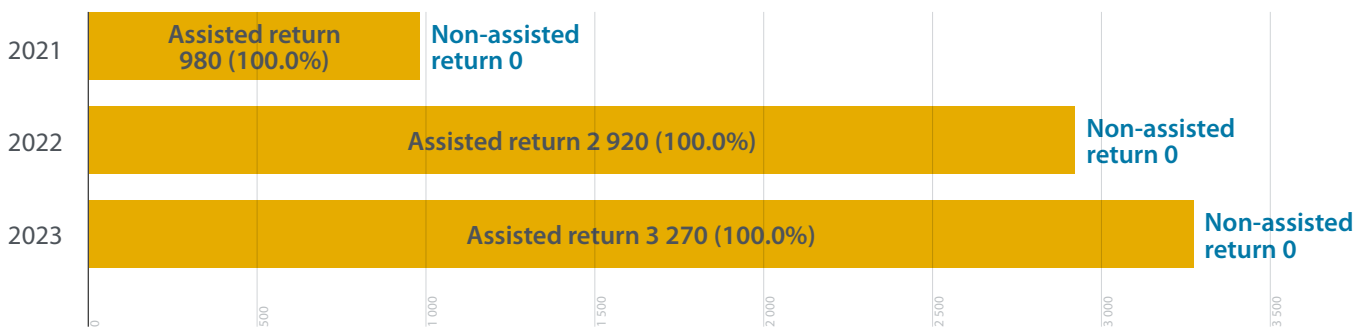
Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat (migr_eirtn1)

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of assistance received, 2021–2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat (migr_eirtn1)