

**EMN Annual Report
on Asylum and Migration 2022**



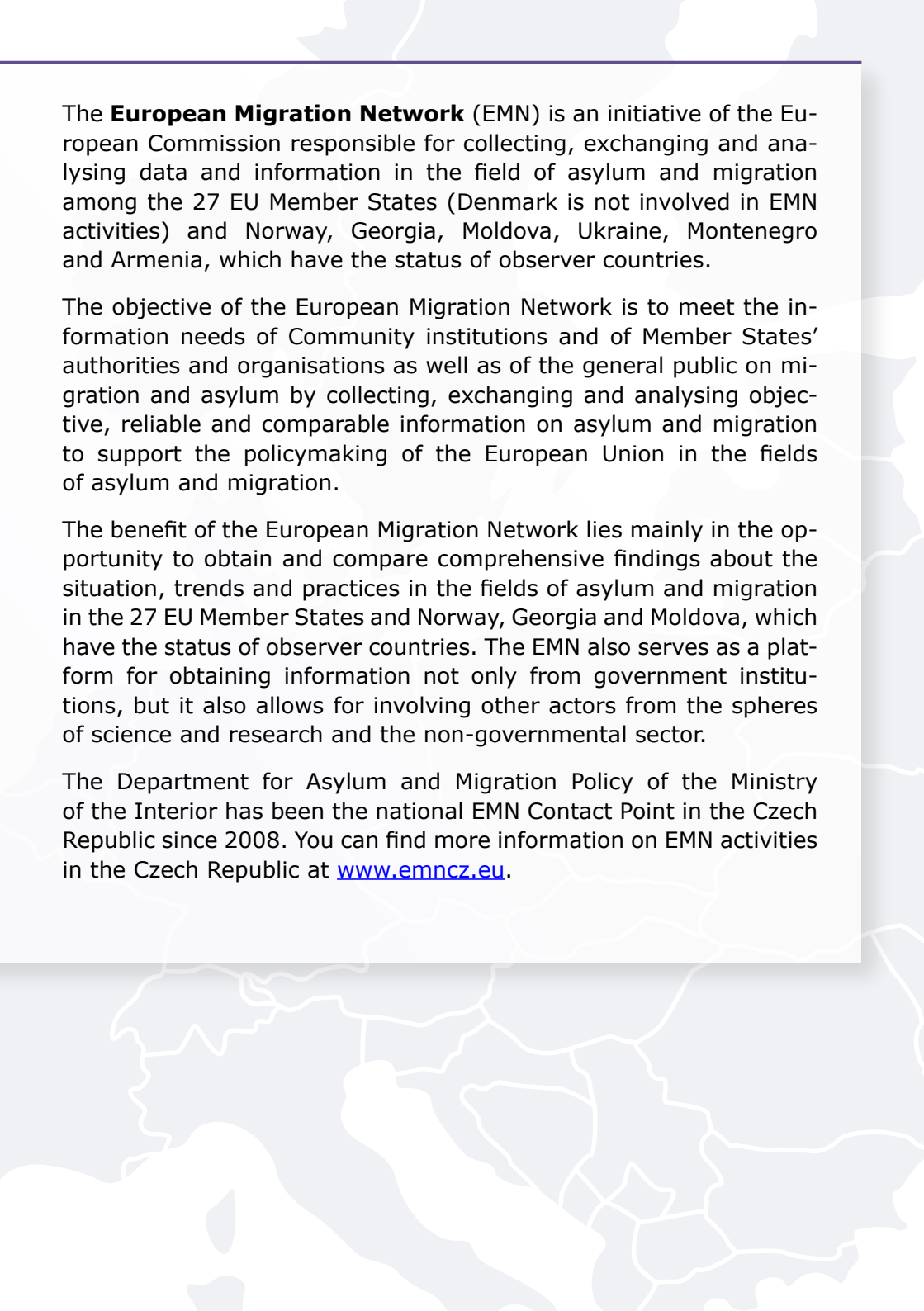
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MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC





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The **European Migration Network** (EMN) is an initiative of the European Commission responsible for collecting, exchanging and analysing data and information in the field of asylum and migration among the 27 EU Member States (Denmark is not involved in EMN activities) and Norway, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Montenegro and Armenia, which have the status of observer countries.

The objective of the European Migration Network is to meet the information needs of Community institutions and of Member States' authorities and organisations as well as of the general public on migration and asylum by collecting, exchanging and analysing objective, reliable and comparable information on asylum and migration to support the policymaking of the European Union in the fields of asylum and migration.

The benefit of the European Migration Network lies mainly in the opportunity to obtain and compare comprehensive findings about the situation, trends and practices in the fields of asylum and migration in the 27 EU Member States and Norway, Georgia and Moldova, which have the status of observer countries. The EMN also serves as a platform for obtaining information not only from government institutions, but it also allows for involving other actors from the spheres of science and research and the non-governmental sector.

The Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior has been the national EMN Contact Point in the Czech Republic since 2008. You can find more information on EMN activities in the Czech Republic at www.emncz.eu.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC	Accommodation Centre
ANACEN	Analytic Centre for Border Protection and Migration
CIS	Information System of Foreign Nationals
COREPER	Committee of the Permanent Representatives of the Governments of the Member States to the European Union
CR	Czech Republic
CZSO	Czech Statistical Office
DAMP	Department for Asylum and Migration Policy (Ministry of the Interior of the CR)
DFPS	Directorate of the Foreign Police Service
DFP	Department of Foreign Police
EASO	European Asylum Support Office
EC	European Commission
ECRIS-TCN	European Criminal Records Information System – Third Country Nationals
EEA	European Economic Area
EHIC	European Health Insurance Card
EMN	European Migration Network
IMPACT	European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats
EP	European Parliament
ETIAS	European Travel Information and Authorisation System
EU	European Union
EUAA	European Union Agency for Asylum

eu-LISA	European Agency for the Operational Management of Large-scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
EUROSUR	European Border Surveillance System
FADO	False and Authentic Documents Online
FN	University hospital (Czech abbreviation)
FPI	Foreign Police Inspectorate
FRONTEX	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
GHIC	UK Global Health Insurance Card
GPIS	General Provider of Integration Services
IA	International airport
IAC	Integration Asylum Centre
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JITs	Joint Investigation Teams
KACPU	Regional Assistance Centres for Help and Assistance to Ukraine
LIBE	European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
MEDEVAC	Programme of Humanitarian Evacuations of Inhabitants with Health Issues (Medical Evacuation)
MfRD	Ministry for Regional Development
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoI	Ministry of the Interior

MoIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MoH	Ministry of Health
NCOZ	Criminal Police and Investigation Service's National Central Unit for Combatting Organised Crime (Czech abbreviation)
NGO	Non-governmental non-profit organisation
OSPOD	Social-legal Child Protection Authority (Czech abbreviation)
PCR	Police of the Czech Republic
RC	Reception Centre
RDP	Regional Directorate of the Police
SIP	State Integration Programme
SIS	Schengen Information System
SUZ	Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior (Czech abbreviation)
UAM	Unaccompanied minors
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ÚP ČR	Labour Office of the Czech Republic (Czech abbreviation)
V4	Visegrad Group
ZDC	Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals (Czech abbreviation)
ZZC	Facility for Detention of Foreign Nationals (Czech abbreviation)



The 2022 European Migration Network (EMN) Annual Policy Report on Asylum and Migration provides a summary of the developments and most important changes in the fields of migration, asylum and integration during the year 2022. The migration situation was significantly affected by the Russian aggression in Ukraine, as a result of which the Temporary Protection Regulation was activated in the EU.

LEGAL MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

Same as in the previous years, the **upward trend in legal migration** into the Czech Republic continued in 2022. As of 31 December 2022, a total of **1,116,154 foreign nationals**¹ (a year-on-year increase by 68.9%) were staying legally in the territory of the Czech Republic (for a period longer than 90 days). At the end of the year 2022, **foreign nationals accounted for approximately 10.6% of the Czech population**,² which is 4.3 percentage points higher than in 2021.

At the end of the year 2022, from among the total number of foreign nationals with residence permits in the Czech Republic, 321,892 (48.7%) had permanent residence in the country and 348,460 (31.2%) foreign nationals had temporary residence. The largest groups were citizens of **Ukraine** (636,828, of whom 432,416 were granted temporary protection), **Slovakia** (117,265) and **Vietnam** (66,340). Overall, the majority consisted of third-country nationals (79.3%, 888,806 persons) and there was a total of 227,348 citizens of EU countries registered.

In the field of **economic migration, a total of 793,290 foreign nationals** were registered as employees with the regional branch offices of the Labour Office of the Czech Republic as of 31 December 2022. This

¹ This information includes foreign nationals with residence permits in the Czech Republic, registered in the Information System of Foreign Nationals. Nevertheless, the actual numbers of foreign nationals legally staying in the territory of the Czech Republic may be different because the registered number of foreign nationals does not include all the citizens of other EU Member States staying in the Czech Republic. The statistical compilations only record those EU citizens who applied for or were issued with a certificate of registration certificate (instead of the earlier temporary residence certificate). Those who are just exercising their right to free movement are not included in the statistics.

² The Czech Republic had a total population of 10,533,399 as of 31 December 2022 (Source: CZSO).

number included 407,257 citizens of EU/EEA Member States and Switzerland, including their family members, and 386,033 third-country nationals, among whom there were 120,819 foreign workers who entered the labour market with a work permit (an Employee Card or a Blue Card, an employment permit). There were 265,214 foreigners from third countries with free access to the labour market, an increase of 71.4% year-on-year, mainly due to foreigners with temporary protection.

Traditionally, nationals of Ukraine (269,911), Russia (20,274) and Vietnam (17,284) were the most represented non-EU countries on the labour market. Among the EU/EEA Member States and Switzerland, nationals of Slovakia (213,447), Poland (49,074), Romania (46,457) and Bulgaria (37,067) were the most represented.

In 2022, the Ministry of Industry and Trade registered a total of **111,693 foreign entrepreneurs** who had 151,244 registered trade licenses. Among the foreign entrepreneurs, the largest number of nationals were from Ukraine (30,978), Slovakia (22,983) and Vietnam (20,745). These three nationalities represent almost 67% of all foreign entrepreneurs.

The **economic migration programmes**, which have been established since 2012 as part of inter-ministerial cooperation between central government bodies, have continued to be implemented. In the field of economic migration, the implementation of economic migration programmes created within interdepartmental cooperation of the central governmental authorities in 2012 continued. These projects represent an effective tool for supporting the migration of selected target groups of third-country nationals whose entry and stay is of increased interest to the Czech state. Since 2019, a total of **4 government-approved migration programmes have been implemented.**

The integration policy in 2022 was based on the Government-approved Procedure for the Implementation of the Updated Concept for the Integration of Foreigners - In Mutual Respect 2022.

A fundamental element of the integration of foreign nationals is **the network of 18 Centres for the Support of Integration of Foreigners**, which operate in all regions of the Czech Republic. They provide a wide range of integration services to foreigners and also help in mutual understanding between foreigners and the majority. With more foreigners on the territory, there is an increasing demand for integration capacities, especially in areas with a higher concentration of foreign wor-

kers. There are also increased demands for sufficient accommodation, medical care and sufficient capacity in nurseries and schools. In some regions, local authorities have been drawing attention to the issues associated with this (industrial zones).

In 2022, **the citizenship** of the CR was acquired by a total of **3,949 foreigners**, most often by citizens of Ukraine (1,370), Russia (798) and Slovakia (590).

In 2022, a total of 473,216 temporary protections were granted to foreigners fleeing the war caused by the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation troops, the vast majority of whom were citizens of Ukraine (99.7%). As of 31 December 2022, a total of 433,540 foreigners with temporary protection residing in the Czech Republic were registered.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

In 2022, **a total of 1,694 persons applied for international protection** in the Czech Republic (up 20.1% year-on-year). The **main source countries of applicants** for international protection were **Ukraine** (280 applicants), **Turkey** (236) and **Russia** (157).

The Czech Republic has granted **international protection in the form of asylum in 92 cases**, mostly to nationals of Afghanistan (38), Myanmar (18), Russia (7) and Azerbaijan (7). **Subsidiary protection was granted to 389 applicants**, most often citizens of Ukraine (277) and Syria (38).

Foreigners who have been granted international protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection can benefit from the **State Integration Programme (SIP)**. In 2022, a total of **293 eligible persons** entered the SIP, an increase of 21 persons (7.2%) compared to the previous year. During the year, a total of 142 individual integration plans were authorised for a total of 281 international protection holders (individuals and families), a record number in the seven-year history of the newly designed SIP.

Within the framework of the **application of the Dublin Regulation**, which determines the EU Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection, the Czech Republic carried out a total of **102 transfers of foreigners from third countries** to another EU Member State in 2022.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

In 2022, the facilities for provision of institutional and protective education established by the MoEYS provided an all-around care for a total of **136 unaccompanied minors**.

In total 40 unaccompanied minors have applied for temporary protection. In the same year, one unaccompanied minor from a third country applied for international protection (the number of unaccompanied minors from third countries applying for international protection each year is only in single digits). These are very low numbers in comparison with the other Member States.

MEASURES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The situation of trafficking in human beings during 2022 has not seen significant changes compared to the previous period. Sexual and labour exploitation remain the most common forms of trafficking. However, there are also mixed cases, where there is a combination of forms, including forced marriages and/or forced criminal activities. **The Programme for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings** (hereinafter referred to as the Programme) is a measure designed to provide support and appropriate protection to victims of trafficking in human beings on the basis of an individual risk assessment. It is intended for victims of trafficking in human beings over the age of 18, for EU citizens trafficked on the territory of the Czech Republic, for third-country nationals trafficked on the territory of the Czech Republic, and for Czech citizens trafficked on the territory of the Czech Republic or abroad.

In **2022, in total 33 probable victims of trafficking in human beings** were included in the Programme (22 more than in 2021). They were from Moldova (1), Pakistan (1), Philippines (8), Slovakia (4), Czech Republic (9), Poland (4), Ukraine (3), Bulgaria (1), Latvia (1), and Romania (1). There were 8 women and 25 men.

Through the **Voluntary Returns Programme**, which is part of the Programme, no voluntary return of the victim to the country of origin was implemented in 2022.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PROJECTS

The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU (CZ PRES) took place in the second half of 2022. A breakthrough was made in the negotiations on asylum and migration reform, a decision was taken to extend temporary protection for refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine and Croatia's accession to the Schengen area was approved.

International cooperation in the field of migration continued in the year 2022 particularly through intensive contacts at the level of respective authorities of the European Union, including its agencies, particularly the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). The Czech Republic also concentrated on strengthening the practical and operational cooperation in all aspects of migration, asylum and state border protection at a bilateral level as well as at multilateral and Union levels.

In 2022, **MEDEVAC**³ continued to operate in priority regions - the **Middle East (Jordan, Lebanon), Africa (Ghana, Kenya, Senegal) and Eastern Europe (Ukraine)**. The programme has been involved in the implementation of emergency assistance to Ukraine totalling CZK 50 million.

Under the **Aid in Place** programme, the MoI gave financial donations abroad, intended particularly to assist refugees directly on the site of their initial displacement and to assist countries which host large numbers of refugees and migrants or which struggle with them as transit countries. The budget of the Aid in Place programme in 2022 amounted to **CZK 130 million** (an additional CZK 45 million was transferred to the budget from the funds originally earmarked for the implementation of the joint V4 countries and Germany project in Morocco). Support was directed to **countries along the Eastern, Central and Western Mediterranean migration routes**, as well as to countries along the Western Balkan migration route and the **EU's immediate neighbourhood**.

In addition, **assistance to Ukraine of CZK 125 million** was implemented in 2022 under the Aid in Place programme (of this amount, CZK 25 million was allocated for assistance to Ukraine from the regular bud-

³ The MEDEVAC program is a government-run, medical humanitarian program of the Czech Republic that focuses on providing medical care for vulnerable populations in regions affected by migration, burdened by large numbers of refugees or in places where specialised specialist care is not available.

get of the 2022 Aid in Place Programme, CZK 100 million were additional funds from the state budget).

ILLEGAL MIGRATION, PEOPLE SMUGGLING

In 2022, a total of **29,235 persons** were identified as perpetrators of **illegal migration** in the territory of the Czech Republic (a year-on-year increase of 161.7%). This number included **201 persons caught during illegal migration across the external Schengen border of the Czech Republic⁴** and **29,034 persons detected as illegally staying persons.**

In connection with illegal migration across the external Schengen border, the most frequently detained persons were citizens from **Georgia** (61), **Russia** (32), **Ukraine** (132), **the UK** (14) and **Iran** (6). Irregular travel documents at the external Schengen border were used by 20 persons, most frequently citizens of Georgia (7 persons) and Iran (5 persons).

The highest number of persons identified as illegally staying persons was among **Syrian nationals** (20,980) followed by citizens of **Ukraine** (2,829), **Moldova** (1,005) and **Turkey** (767).

As of 29 September 2022, **the protection of the internal border between the Czech Republic and Slovakia was temporarily re-introduced** due to the huge increase in the number of people entering the Czech Republic illegally from Slovakia. The measure had the desired effect and by the end of the year the number of persons detected in illegal migration had significantly decreased.

RETURNS

During the year 2022, a total of **668 voluntary returns of third-country nationals** were carried out. This included **392 assisted voluntary returns of foreign nationals carried out by the MoI CR; 262 voluntary returns of foreign nationals were carried out by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and 14 assisted voluntary returns of applicants for international protection were carried out by the Refugee Facilities Administration (SUZ).** Citi-

⁴ Since the external Schengen border only consists of an air border, persons who illegally migrated across the external Schengen border are only recorded with the Directorate of the Foreign Police Service, which was organisationally expanded in 2008 by including 5 Foreign Police Inspectorates at international airports.

zens of Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia and Georgia accounted for the highest numbers among these returnees.

In the field of voluntary returns, the Ministry of the Interior, the Refugees Facilities Administration (SUZ) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) implement their programmes for assisted voluntary returns. In their programmes, the MoI and the IOM primarily focus on foreign nationals with an issued decision on administrative expulsion. In its programme, SUZ provides failed applicants for international protection with assistance for voluntary return trips to their countries of origin. Under all these programmes for voluntary returns, the MoI, SUZ and the IOM make sure not only that the actual voluntary return takes place but they also provide all the related consultancy and assistance, which are necessary for efficient, quick and successful accomplishment of a return.

If foreign nationals are detained and placed in the Facility for Detention of Foreign Nationals (ZZC), the returns of these foreign nationals are carried out by the Directorate of the Foreign Police Service (DFPS) in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, which only provides assistance and related consultancy for foreign nationals.



The *Annual Report on Asylum and Migration Policy in the Czech Republic* provides a summary of the most important political and legislative changes and the basic statistical data regarding asylum and migration in the territory of the Czech Republic for the year 2022.

The report was prepared by the National Contact Point of the European Migration Network in the Czech Republic. According to Article 9 (1) of the Council Decision 2008/381/EC establishing the European Migration Network, each EMN Contact Point prepares a report on developments regarding asylum and migration in the given country on an annual basis.

The report consists of nine chapters and three annexes. The chapters describe the developments in legal migration and international protection; one chapter is concerned with the issues of foreign nationals who are unaccompanied minors. The report also contains information on measures to combat human trafficking and measures to combat illegal migration. The report provides an overview of international cooperation and projects, and describes the developments regarding the returns of foreign nationals⁵ to their countries of origin. Each chapter also contains basic statistical data. The structure of the report complies with the recommended structure of national reports of separate EMN Contact Points in order to make it possible to compare the separate documents and to maintain continuity with the reports prepared in previous years.

The presented report was prepared mainly using the source materials of the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior, which is responsible for the fields of migration, asylum and integration. Other source materials used in preparation of the report included source materials from the Directorate of the Foreign Police Service; the Police Presidium; the Department of Crime Prevention of the Ministry of the Interior; the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Justice; the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior; the National Central Unit for Combatting Organised Crime; and the Facility for Children-Foreigners. More detailed information on

⁵ For the purposes of the report, only third-country nationals are regarded as foreign nationals.

the methodology is contained in Annex 1. Annex 2 contains a list of sources and literature; Annex 3 contains a list of tables and graphs.

1.1 Organisation of Asylum and Migration Policy

1.1.1 MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR (MoI)

The Ministry of the Interior is the main body responsible for the asylum and migration policy in the Czech Republic on a legislative and policy level as well as on the implementation level.

1.1.2 DEPARTMENT FOR ASYLUM AND MIGRATION POLICY (DAMP)

The Department for Asylum and Migration Policy is a unit of the Ministry of the Interior responsible for exercising the powers assigned to the Ministry in the fields of international protection, refugees, entry and stay of foreign nationals, the policy for integration of foreign nationals, the State Integration Programme (for persons who were granted international protection) and Schengen cooperation. This department is also a unit of the Ministry that is responsible for managing the governmental organisation of the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior. The department submits proposals for establishing or modifying the nature of asylum facilities or facilities for detention of foreign nationals.

1.1.3 COORDINATION BODY FOR MANAGING THE PROTECTION OF STATE BORDERS AND MIGRATION

The Coordination Body for Managing the Protection of the State Borders of the Czech Republic and Migration is a permanent interdepartmental body, which is composed of representatives of the relevant Ministries and which has the authority to take the necessary measures in the fields of migration and the protection of state borders. The Ministry of the Interior leads the activities of the Coordination Body. The Coordination Body holds meetings at the level of the members of the Cabinet or Deputy Ministers.

Cooperation among institutions within the Coordination Body enables the government bodies to respond flexibly to the current migration situation and contributes to greater flexibility when dealing with specific issues falling within the terms of reference of multiple Ministries. The Coordination Body also manages the activities of the Analytic Centre for Border Protection and Migration, the permanent office of the Ministry of the Interior with a focus on interdepartmental cooperation at the expert level. Pre-discussing materials intended for the Government of the CR at a meeting of the Coordination Body allows, for example, for their subsequent approval without a debate. No less importantly, the Coordination Body also serves as a platform for discussing the future direction of the migration policy. The Coordination Body is also authorised by the government to make appropriate changes in migration programmes with its decisions.

In 2022, the Coordinating Body discussed a proposal to reset the quotas for recruitment of applications for employment cards at selected embassies (Yerevan, Manila, Chisinau, Skopje and Tbilisi) and a proposal to extend the period of granting of special work visas for work in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors for another 3 years, until 31 December 2025. These proposals were subsequently approved by the Government through its Regulation No. 231/2022 on amendments to the Government Regulation in the field of labour migration, effective from 1 November 2022.⁶ The Coordination Body simultaneously approved accompanying amendments to the Government's migration programmes, the *Skilled Employee Programme* and the *Special Work Visa Programme for Ukrainian nationals working in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors*, through which the above measures are implemented in practice.

1.1.4 ANALYTIC CENTRE FOR BORDER PROTECTION AND MIGRATION (ANACEN)

The Analytic Centre for Border Protection and Migration is a permanent analytical body of an interdepartmental nature controlled by the Ministry of the Interior. In its activities, it concentrates on monitoring and ana-

⁶ The recruitment of applications for employment cards according to the adjusted quotas has been put into practice, while the continuation of the granting of special work visas was approved with the knowledge that it is in practice linked to the future resumption of the suspended recruitment of applications for these visas at the embassies of the Czech Republic in Ukraine.

lysing migration as a comprehensive phenomenon. The Analytic Centre operates at an expert level; its activities are managed by the Coordination Body for Managing the Protection of the State Borders and Migration. All the key bodies involved in the system for managing the protection of state borders and migration control participate in the activities of the Analytic Centre; the close cooperation and information exchange on this platform allow for a flexible and quick response to any problems that arise.⁷

The activities of the Analytic Centre take place on several theme-specific fora and involve continuously monitoring and analysing the current phenomena, which can be identified as risk factors or potentially problematic with respect to security and migration. The activities of the Analytical Centre in 2022 focused on assessing the situation in the field of temporary protection and the impact of the large number of foreigners arriving in the territory, and collecting information from this community. In addition, it continued to focus on aspects of economic migration.

1.1.5 REFUGEE FACILITIES ADMINISTRATION (SUZ)

The Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior is the operator of reception, accommodation and integration asylum centres. In these facilities, SUZ provides particularly accommodation, boarding, psychological, social, educational and consulting services, and also provides opportunities for leisure-time activities. Most of these activities also take place in the facilities for detention of foreign nationals, which are also operated by the SUZ. The SUZ also established and operates 10 regional Centres for the Support of the Integration of Foreigners, which are the centres of integration activities in respective regions.

1.1.6 DIRECTORATE OF THE FOREIGN POLICE SERVICE (DFPS)

The Directorate of the Foreign Police Service is a highly specialised unit of the Police of the Czech Republic (PCR), which, for the issues related to foreign nationals, acts as an umbrella authority for performance of tasks

⁷ The members of the Analytical Centre are delegated representatives of the Ministry of the Interior; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; the Ministry of Industry and Trade; the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; the Ministry of Finance (the General Directorate of Customs); the Police of the Czech Republic and the intelligence services and security forces.

related to detection of illegal migration, application of repressive measures against foreign nationals illegally staying in the territory of the Czech Republic in violation of Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic, fulfilment of the obligations arising from international treaties and directly applicable legal regulations of the European Community and which addresses the crimes committed in connection with the crossing of state borders and cross-border criminal activities. The DFPS is also responsible for implementation of judicial or administrative expulsion, specifically for providing travel and transport documents for the foreign nationals who are being expelled from the territory of the Czech Republic. It is responsible for establishing the identities of foreign nationals in connection with their detention for the purpose of administrative expulsion. No less importantly, it is responsible for implementing readmission agreements, including transports carried out by a police escort, and for performing other tasks arising from the legislation of the European Union and international treaties.

In relation to the territorial units of the Foreign Police, the Directorate of the Foreign Police Service serves the functions of a specialised central methodological, managing, expert, analytical and monitoring authority and is also an executive unit of the Police of the Czech Republic with a national scope of operation. The bodies, which are directly subordinated to the DFPS, include five Foreign Police Inspectorates (FPIs) at international airports,⁸ which ensure the protection of external borders at all international airports of the Czech Republic, the Facility for Detention of Foreign Nationals in Bělá-Jezová, the Facility for Detention of Foreign Nationals in Vyšní Lhoty the Facility for Detention of Foreign Nationals in Balková and the Reception Centre for Foreign Nationals in Zastávka u Brna. In the territories of individual regions, the departments of the Foreign Police, which are embedded in the organisational structures of Regional Directorates of the Police of the CR (RDP), perform the tasks related to migration of foreign nationals.

⁸ These are: the Foreign Police Inspectorate at the Václav Havel Praha International Airport; the Foreign Police Inspectorate at the Mošnov International Airport; the Foreign Police Inspectorate at the Brno Tuřany International Airport; the Foreign Police Inspectorate at the Karlovy Vary International Airport; and the Foreign Police Inspectorate at the Pardubice International Airport.

1.1.7 NATIONAL CENTRE AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME (NCOZ)

The Criminal Police and Investigation Service's National Central Unit for Combatting Organised Crime is the unit of the Police of the CR with a national jurisdiction, which also performs tasks in the field of illegal migration, particularly in combatting human trafficking. Its Organised Crime Section, Department of Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration is responsible for monitoring, analysing and combatting crime groups that perpetrate serious organised crimes in the fields of illegal migration, human trafficking, human organ and tissue trafficking and forced labour as well as other forms of exploitation.

1.1.8 MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MOFA)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a central administrative body of the Czech Republic, which creates the concept of foreign policy and coordinates foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid provided abroad. It carries out public administration in the matters of permitting the residence of foreign nationals in the territory of the Czech Republic who enjoy the privileges and immunities defined by the international law. Through embassies, it carries out public administration in the matters of granting visas pursuant to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals. Within its separate purview, it carries out public administration in the matters of granting short-term visas according to the EU Visa Code.

1.1.9 MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (MOLSA)

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is responsible for the policy in the field of employment of foreign nationals. Among other things, it defines the group of entities playing the role of an employer and, in relation to foreign nationals, it defines the criteria governing the entry of separate categories of foreign nationals into the labour market. According to the situation on the labour market, it defines the terms and conditions for permitting employment and is responsible for the legislation governing the employment of foreign nationals in relation to the applicable legislation of the European Union and concluded intergovernmental agreements. The MoLSA is also responsible for maintaining the central register of vacant job positions, which can be filled by the holders of an Employee Card or a Blue Card.

Besides the national legislation, the field of labour migration is also governed by bilateral international treaties governing social security and employment as well as by multilateral conventions concerning human rights, the status of refugees and social rights, which are binding on the Czech Republic. There is still the phenomenon of illegal employment of foreign nationals in the Czech Republic. Among other authorities, the Interdepartmental Body for Combatting Illegal Employment of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic addresses the issues in this field; the MoLSA is responsible for this body.

Other institutions, which have their defined terms of reference in the field of asylum and migration, are: the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT); the Ministry of Justice (MoJ); the Ministry of Finance (MoF); the Ministry of Health (MoH); the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS); the Ministry of Finance (the General Directorate of Customs); the Ministry of Culture (MoC); and the Ministry for Regional Development (MfRD).

1.2 Asylum and Migration Legislation

Asylum and migration is governed particularly by the following legislation:

- ▶ Act No. 326/1999 Coll., **on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic** and on amendments to certain Acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the “Act on the Residence of Foreigners”)

This Act defines the conditions for the entry of a foreign national into the territory of the CR and the departure of a foreign national from the country; it defines the conditions of the stay of a foreign national in the country and defines the powers of the Police, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this field of public administration.

On 14 November 2022, the Government was presented with a draft law amending Act No. 325/1999 Coll., on Asylum, as amended, Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreigners in the Czech Republic and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, and other related laws (see subchapter 2.2).

The Act transposes, among other things, the **new EU Blue Card Directive** (Directive 2021/1883 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment (for more details, see Chapter 1.4 Legislative developments).

▶ Act No. 325/1999 Coll., **on Asylum**, as amended

This Act defines the conditions for the entry and residence of a foreign national who applies for international protection in the territory of the CR; governs the residence of recognised refugees or persons enjoying subsidiary protection in the country; the proceedings on the granting of international protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection; and the proceedings on withdrawal of asylum or subsidiary protection; the rights and obligations of an applicant for international protection, a recognised refugee and a person enjoying subsidiary protection in the country; the purviews of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Police of the Czech Republic in this area of the public administration; the State Integration Programme and asylum facilities.

The amendments to this Act are included in the draft Act amending Act No.325/1999 Coll., on Asylum (see subchapter 2.2).

▶ Act No. 191/2016 Coll., **on the Protection of the State Borders of the Czech Republic** and on amendments to certain related Acts

This Act entered into force on 1 August 2016. Building on Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), as amended, this Act governs the protection of the state borders against unauthorised crossing. It defines the terms and conditions for setting up a border crossing at an international airport, the obligations of airplane captains and airport operators as well as the rules for temporary re-establishment of the protection of internal borders, offences and administrative torts related to the protection of borders.

There was no amendment to this law in 2022.

▶ Act No. 221/2003 Coll., **on the Temporary Protection of Foreign Nationals**, as amended

This Act defines the conditions for the entry and residence of foreign nationals in the territory of the CR for the purpose of provision of temporary protection and the conditions for their departure from the country, and governs the proceedings on the granting and withdrawal of a residence permit for the purpose of provision of temporary protection in the territory of the CR; the legal status of a foreign national who applies for a residence permit for the purpose of temporary protection; and a foreign national who has been granted a residence permit for the purpose of temporary protection.

Act No. 221/2003 Coll., on the Temporary Protection of Foreign Nationals, is applied only if the temporary protection was declared by a decision of the Council of the European Union. It is an instrument intended to be used in the event of a large-scale migration wave. In 2022, this law was used for the first time in connection with the arrival of refugees from Ukraine.

▶ Act No. 435/2004 Coll., **on Employment**,⁹ as amended

This Act defines the conditions for employment of foreign nationals in the territory of the CR.

On 1 February 2022, a part of **Act No. 261/2022 Coll., amending certain acts in connection with further digitalization of procedures of public authorities**, entered into force. Public authorities may use public administration information systems to obtain data on foreigners. Previously, they were provided by the Ministry of the Interior from the information system on foreigners (see more in subchapter 2.2).

⁹ With regard to migration.

► Act No. 186/2013 Coll., **on the Citizenship of the Czech Republic** and on Amendments to Certain Acts

This Act defines the ways of acquiring, losing, proving and ascertaining the citizenship of the CR, the ways of issuing certificates on the citizenship of the CR; it governs the maintenance of the register of natural persons who acquired or lost the citizenship of the CR and it governs the proceedings relating to the matter of citizenship and the offences relating to citizenship.

This Act was not amended in 2022.



- ▶ The Czech Republic **held the Presidency of the Council of the EU** in the second half of 2022.
- ▶ Following the invasion of the territory of Ukraine by Russian troops, the so-called **Lex Ukraine, Act No. 65/2022 Coll.**, on certain measures in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of the territory of the Russian Federation, as amended, was adopted.
- ▶ Lex Ukraine is a special legislation designed as **a tool to manage the migration wave from Ukraine**. Act No. 65/2022 lists by name those provisions of the Law on Temporary Protection of Foreigners that do not apply in the current situation, where temporary protection has been declared for persons who have fled to the European Union as a result of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.
- ▶ The first **amendment to the Lex Ukraine Act** took effect on 27 June 2022 with Act No. 175/2022 Coll., which expanded the grounds for inadmissibility of applications for temporary protection (Lex Ukraine II). The second amendment by Act No. 198/2022, effective 30 June 2022 (Lex Ukraine III), addressed the refugee accommodation system through regional and state accommodation facilities.
- ▶ **An amendment to the Employment Act** came into force regarding the access of state authorities to electronic systems. Proposed amendments to the Foreigners Act, the Asylum Act and the Criminal Code were submitted to the Government.

2.1 Political Developments

The year 2022 was influenced not only in the field of migration by the events that began on 24 February 2022, when an **armed conflict began on the territory of Ukraine, triggered by the invasion of the Russian Federation**. Many war refugees arrived in the Czech Republic, which became one of the main destination countries of those fleeing the war.

The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU (CZ PRES) took place in the second half of 2022 and faced a challenge in the form of a continuing discussion on the coordination of assistance to Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees in the EU. The development of the situation in Ukraine in relation to the arrival of refugees to the European Union has been a key issue that has determined the shape of the Czech Republic's international cooperation in the field of migration over the past year. International cooperation focused on combating illegal migration from the Western Balkan countries with the aim of coordinating joint measures and reducing migration pressure. Discussions continued on legislative proposals presented in the framework of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, the reform and enlargement of the Schengen area and measures proposed in relation to the risk of instrumentalisation of migrants by Belarus and Russia.

On 23 and 24 September 2022, the elections to the municipal councils and the Senate of the Czech Republic took place. In the context of the results, most attention was drawn to the big cities, especially Prague, which is also a region. In the capital, a coalition led by the Government ODS party won; however, a coalition agreement at the Prague City Hall was not yet signed by the end of 2022. In most major cities in the Czech Republic, ANO 2011 won the elections.

At the end of 2022, the **campaign for the presidential elections** scheduled for January 2023 was at its peak. The main favourites were retired army general Petr Pavel, ANO 2011 chair Andrej Babiš and university professor Danuše Nerudová.

2.2 Legislative Developments

During the year 2022, **legislative activities** were focused on amendments to the Acts mentioned below.

▶ **Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic**

On 14 November 2022, a draft law was submitted to the Government amending Act No. 325/1999 Coll., on asylum, as amended, Act No. 326/1999

Coll., on the residence of foreigners in the territory of the Czech Republic and on amending certain acts, as amended, and other related laws.

Among other things, the Act **transposes the new EU Blue Card Directive** (Directive 2021/1883 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment). The Directive was adopted to address the need to promote labour migration of talented and highly skilled foreign nationals and it repealed the former Council Directive 2009/50/EC, on which the existing legislation on this type of long-term residence in the territory of the Member States of the European Union and the EU Blue Card system was based.

The changes include **faster procedures, more flexible criteria for admitting third-country nationals for highly qualified employment** and, last but not least, **more extensive rights for Blue Card holders**, including easier mobility within the EU.

The areas requiring changes in Czech legislation can be divided into several main groups. Compared to the original Directive 2009/50/EC, they consist in **extending the scope of the law, changing the salary limits, recognising professional skills as evidence of high qualifications or simplifying the application for intra-EU mobility**. They also affect **access to the labour market, family members of Blue Card holders and access to long-term resident status**.

This Directive is not a completely new measure, but builds on the original Directive. Therefore, it requires only partial changes in the legislation. Many of the general provisions based on the original Blue Card Directive will remain unchanged, as the EU Blue Card system itself was already enshrined in Czech legislation in the past.

Following the main changes brought about by the EU Blue Card Directive 2021/1883, international protection holders and seasonal workers will now be able to apply for a Blue Card. The application under intra-EU mobility will be simplified: it will not be necessary to present qualification documents again in the second Member State if the foreigner has worked in the first Member State for more than 2 years. The time limit for processing applications is reduced from 90 to 30 days. The foreigner may start working in the second Member State no later than 30 days after the application for a Blue Card in the second Member State, regardless of whether a decision has already been issued. After 12 months, the EU Blue Card holder has full access to the labour market and changes

of employer are no longer subject to approval of the competent authorities of the Member States. Finally, family members of new Blue Card holders are not restricted in their access to the labour market.

The amendments to the Act on the Residence of Foreigners concern, among other things, the so-called Schengen evaluations, which the Czech Republic underwent in 2019. It is also proposed to refine the provisions concerning the procedure for stateless persons. The expected date of entry into force of the Act is 1 July 2023.

▶ Act No. 325/1999 Coll., **on Asylum**

In the above-mentioned draft law amending Act No. 325/1999 Coll., on Asylum, as amended, the proposed amendments can be divided into the following thematic areas:

- ▶ Clarification of existing institutes, where the aim is to eliminate or minimise identified practical and interpretative problems.
- ▶ Clarification and supplementation of already transposed directives of EU asylum law.
- ▶ Changes aimed at making international protection proceedings more efficient, including the subsequent judicial review by regional courts and the Supreme Administrative Court.
- ▶ Changes to the reception conditions of applicants for international protection and the introduction of the possibility to participate in the improvement of the environment in the asylum facility and outside it, in the form of activities for compensation in the form of increased pocket money.

At the same time, a modification was added to the draft as a result of the inter-ministerial comment procedure:

- a) tightening the criminal sanction for smuggling - amendment of the Criminal Code (Act No. 40/2009 Coll.),
- b) participation of third-country nationals with long-term residence permits in the public health insurance system until they attain their majority age (regulation of Acts No. 592/1992 Coll. and No. 48/1997 Coll.).

On 1 February 2022, part of Act No. 261/2022 Coll., amending certain acts in connection with further digitalisation of procedures of public authorities, entered into force. This Act abolished the provisions of Section 147c of the Employment Act, under which the Ministry of the Interior or the Police of the Czech Republic provided the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Labour Office, the State Labour Inspection Office and regional labour inspectorates with data from the Foreigner Information System, among others, for the performance of state administration in the field of employment. The reason for the repeal of this provision is that the above-mentioned public authorities can use data necessary for the performance of their agenda, previously provided on the basis of Section 147c of the Employment Act, from public administration information systems.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CRIMINAL CODE CONCERNING THE PROSECUTION OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION

In the area of criminal sanctions against illegal migration, the Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, has prepared two proposals to amend the Criminal Code.

The first proposal concerns the punishment of an offender who stays in the Czech Republic even though he has been sentenced to expulsion or has been administratively expelled.¹¹ The current legislation allows for the prosecution of a foreigner who has been administratively expelled before enforcement measures are applied against him/her under Article 8 of the Return Directive. However, according to the interpretation of the Court of Justice of the European Union, this legislation is not in line with the relevant Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council.¹²

¹⁰ With respect to migration.

¹¹ I.e. the offence of obstruction of official decision and banishment under Section 337 (1)(b) of the Criminal Code.

¹² Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals.

- ▶ It is proposed to create a more precise definition of the moment from which a foreigner's stay in the territory of the Czech Republic (despite the imposed expulsion sentence or decision on administrative expulsion) will constitute a criminal offence in accordance with European law.
- ▶ The second proposed change concerns the facts of criminal offences related to illegal migration on the territory of the Czech Republic.¹³ It will enable more effective prosecution of criminal activities where, for example, illegal migration is organised from the territory of the Czech Republic, but the act itself occurs in another EU state.
- ▶ At the same time, it is proposed that the penalty for committing the offence of organising and facilitating the illegal crossing of the state border under Section 340 of the Criminal Code will be made more severe, as the exposure of a large number of persons to inhuman or degrading treatment will be a circumstance conditioning the application of a higher penalty rate.

All of the above amendments are part of the draft law amending the Asylum Act, the Act on the Residence of Foreigners and other related laws (the Ministry of the Interior is the gestor). This draft was sent to the Government for discussion on 14 November 2022.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY RELATED TO THE INFLUX OF PERSONS AS A RESULT OF THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

The Czech Republic has responded to the consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the large influx of people fleeing the war with new legislation. In particular, Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC,¹⁴ which introduced temporary protection, was implemented. This decision entailed granting protection to Ukrainian nationals, certain categories

¹³ The offences are the forcible crossing of the state border pursuant to Section 339 of the Criminal Code, organising and facilitating the illegal crossing of the state border pursuant to Section 340 of the Criminal Code and aiding and abetting an unauthorised stay in the territory of the Republic pursuant to Section 341 of the Criminal Code.

¹⁴ Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures to ensure a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof.

of third-country nationals or stateless persons who were residing in Ukraine prior to the Russian invasion.¹⁵

However, even before the activation of temporary protection at the EU level, special leave to remain long term visas were issued in accordance with national legislation (Article 33 of Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the stay of foreigners on the territory of the Czech Republic, as amended). Even persons who do not fall within the personal scope of the temporary protection granted and cannot return to Ukraine have the possibility to adjust their residence permit through a leave to remain long term visa.

With regard to the obligation to implement the Council's implementing decision, the so-called **Lex Ukraine, i.e. Act No. 65/2022 Coll.**, on certain measures in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of the Russian Federation, as amended, was adopted. This legislation largely repeals the legislation on the **Temporary Protection of Foreigners Act** (Act No. 221/2003 Coll., as amended).

Lex Ukraine is a special legislation designed as a tool to manage the migration wave from Ukraine. Act No. 65/2022 lists those provisions of the Act on Temporary Protection of Foreigners that do not apply in the current situation, where temporary protection has been declared for persons who have fled to the European Union as a result of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

In particular, this legislation regulates the **personal scope of temporary protection granted and the procedures for granting this form of protection**, including its relationship to the international protection procedure. It also regulates the **conditions for the provision of accommodation and access to public health insurance**.

The first amendment to the Lex Ukraine took effect on 27 June 2022 with Act No. 175/2022 Coll., which expanded the grounds for inadmissibility



Lex Ukraine is a special legislation designed as a tool to manage the migration wave from Ukraine.

¹⁵ On implementation in individual countries, see more at: www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/analysis-measures-provide-protection-displaced-persons-ukraine-situational-report.

of applications for temporary protection (Lex Ukraine II). The second amendment by Act No. 198/2022, effective 30 June 2022 (Lex Ukraine III), addressed the refugee accommodation system through regional and state accommodation facilities.

In 2023, the revision of this law will continue in relation to the extension of temporary protection for one year (until March 2024) and will focus on the adjustment of social benefits and emergency accommodation.

Other legislative activities concerning Ukrainian refugees were implemented under the responsibility of the relevant ministries (in particular the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports):

- ▶ Act No. 66/2022 Coll., on measures in the field of employment and social security in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of the Russian Federation is also related to the migration wave from Ukraine. On the basis of this Act, foreigners granted temporary protection are considered permanent residents for the purposes of the Employment Act and can thus freely enter the labour market of the Czech Republic and benefit from employment services, i.e., they can become job seekers with all rights and obligations. Employers of these foreigners have only information and registration obligations.¹⁶

An important complement to the measures responding to the war conflict on the territory of Ukraine is also the Solidarity Household Allowance, which is intended for households providing free accommodation to temporary protection beneficiaries. The amount of the allowance and the conditions for its provision are set out in Government Decree No. 73/2022 Coll. with effect from 11 April 2022, with modifications effective from 1 July 2022 through Government Decree No. 205/2022 Coll.

- ▶ In response to the arrival of a large number of Ukrainian citizens to the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports also executed a number of activities during 2022 to facilitate their integration into the Czech education system. The starting point is the special **Act No. 67/2022 Coll. on measures in the field of education in connection with the armed con-**

¹⁶ See Sections 87, 102 and 136 of the Employment Act.

flict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of the Russian Federation troops. The Act regulates measures in the field of education applicable to foreigners who have been granted temporary protection in the Czech Republic and introduces regulations for all areas of education, i.e. pre-school, primary, secondary, higher vocational and other education, as well as for studies at universities. The aim of the Act was to react flexibly to the situation when there was an unexpected significant increase in the number of foreign children/students in Czech schools and to facilitate their access to the Czech education system and help their integration as much as possible (see separate subchapter for more details). The Act has been continuously amended according to current needs. In the field of higher education, the Act mainly facilitates access of Ukrainian students to Czech universities.

- ▶ The large influx of refugees has necessitated the **provision of health** services to these people. Ukrainian refugees were included in the public health insurance system on the basis of temporary protection. The State was financially responsible for the insurance for this group of persons, which was changed by the adoption of **Act No. 175/2022 Coll.**, on further measures in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of troops of the Russian Federation and on amendments to other acts in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of troops of the Russian Federation (so-called Lex Ukraine II). In the sense that the State no longer pays insurance for persons aged 18 to 65 years after 150 days from the date of granting temporary protection. These persons have to pay the insurance themselves (employment, self-employed, person without taxable income), or they can be included in another group of state insured persons. At the same time, the general rules for opting out of insurance on the grounds of long-term residence abroad have been modified for Ukrainian nationals in view of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

2.3 Debates in the Media

Media interest in the topic of migration policy in 2022 was largely influenced by the **Russian military aggression in Ukraine**. The military conflict triggered the **largest refugee crisis in Europe since the end of World War II, and the Czech Republic was one of the countries that had to face its direct consequences the most**. Individual governmental actions, as well as actions of the entire state administration coping with the arrival of hundreds of thousands of refugees, were under scrutiny and every step was debated in the media and on social media. In addition to, for example, the declaration of the state of emergency, the introduction of the institution of temporary protection and its legislative anchorage in the form of the so-called Lex Ukraine, direct humanitarian assistance and coordination with other actors from civil society and the non-profit sector were also discussed. The immediate response of state administration actors and the Ministry of Interior was assessed as successful.

The crisis topics that resonated strongly in the Czech media were primarily issues related to Romani refugees from Ukraine. Their arrival at the peak of the refugee crisis sparked a dispute about whether Czech society and state administration were not treating the refugees with a double standard. A separate issue was the growing disinformation campaign and the mass dissemination of misinformation in relation to the war in Ukraine, which was manifested primarily by the emphasis on the dissemination of fake news about solidarity with the refugees at the expense of solidarity with the citizens of the Czech Republic. Especially the second half of 2022 was thus marked by debates on the issue of reducing the willingness of Czech society to help those fleeing Ukraine.

After the successful completion of the initial phase of assistance, the challenge of how to ensure the successful integration of hundreds of thousands of newcomers into the society and avoid any form of exclusion or social conflict began to receive increasing media coverage. These issues, as well as the reflection on the amendment of the Lex Ukraine laws in relation to the standardization of management from crisis to adaptation-integration management, have smoothly transitioned as a key part of the public debate into 2023.

In addition to this dominant topic, **the reintroduction of controls at the internal border with Slovakia due to the increase in illegal transit migration** via the so-called West Balkan migration route also received strong media coverage. In 2022, an increase of 135% in the number of arrivals along this route compared to 2021 was recorded. The high number of arrivals and the introduction of the emergency measures provoked a strong reaction from the public. In particular, the deterioration of the traffic situation at the border crossings with Slovakia has been the subject of frequent reports. However, the general principles and purpose of the Schengen area, which allows such measures in the short term, were also discussed in this context.

During 2022, the Czech media did not stop commenting on the traditional topic of **the migration situation in the Mediterranean**. Most of the attention was devoted to the so-called Central Mediterranean route, which has long been the busiest, where boats carrying people from Africa arrive illegally as part of smuggling routes from the Sahel countries via Libya. The issue of smuggling in North Africa or the increasing difficulty of managing the tens of thousands of arrivals in Italy has been a highly resonant and controversial media issue, amplified by the reactions to the results of the Italian elections in October 2022. Among the foreign issues debated in the context of migration policy, we can also mention the changes in the existing British migration policy in the context of the controversial Rwanda Deportation Act. Finally, the pressing issue of environmental migration, which is expected to grow in importance, has been gaining increasing traction, particularly among the expert community.



- ▶ In the year 2022, a total of **1,116,154 foreign nationals** were staying in the territory of the CR on a long-term basis (for a period longer than 90 days).
- ▶ As a result of the influx of refugees caused by the war in Ukraine, the total number of foreigners on the territory of the Czech Republic increased by 68.9% year-on-year (i.e. by 455,305 persons). These persons were granted temporary protection; by the end of 2022, a total of **433,540** were already residing in the Czech Republic.
- ▶ **A total of 682,614 foreigners with permanent or temporary residence were registered**, which was 3.3% more (i.e. 21,765) than at the end of 2021. Of this number, 348,460 foreigners were staying temporarily (51%) and 334,154 permanently (49%).
- ▶ Of the total number of foreigners residing in the Czech Republic, **20.4% were EU citizens**. The **number of foreigners from third countries** increased significantly in 2022 and **accounted for 79.6%** (888,806), this year-on-year increase is due to the admission of refugees from Ukraine.
- ▶ The most numerous were citizens of **Ukraine** (excluding temporary protection holders 203 866, i.e. 29.9%), **Slovakia** (117,264, i.e. 17.2%), **Vietnam** (66,262, i.e. 9.7%), **Russia** (43,053, i.e. 6.3%) and **Romania** (19,724, i.e. 2.9%).
- ▶ In 2022, **citizenship of the Czech Republic was granted to 3,949 foreign nationals** (349 fewer people than in the previous year).

3.1 Foreign Nationals with Residence Permits in the Territory of the CR

The influx of a high number of refugees as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine has caused a high year-on-year increase in the number of foreigners on the territory of the Czech Republic. As of 31 December 2022, a total of **1,116,154 foreigners** were registered as legally staying (for a period longer than 90 days) on the territory of the Czech Republic. The total number of foreigners on the terri-

tory of the Czech Republic has increased by 68.9% year-on-year (i.e. by 455,305 persons¹⁷) due to the admission of a large number of refugees.

At the end of 2022, **foreigners accounted for 10.6% of the Czech population**,¹⁸ which is 4.3 percentage points higher than in 2021.

Table 1

Development of the numbers of foreign nationals with residence permits on the territory of the CR (2012–2022)

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of foreign nationals	438,213	441,536	451,923	467,562	496,413	526,811
Year-on-year change in %	0.4	0.8	2.4	3.5	6.2	6.1
Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Number of foreign nationals	566,931	595,881	634,790	660,849	1,116,154	Source: IS CIS
Year-on-year change in %	7.6	5.1	6.5	4.1	68.9	

¹⁷ The data includes foreigners with permitted residence in the Czech Republic registered in the Foreigners' Information System. However, the actual number of foreigners legally residing in the Czech Republic may vary, as the registered number of foreigners does not include all citizens of other EU Member States residing in the Czech Republic. Statistical surveys record only those EU citizens who have applied for or been issued with a registration certificate (instead of the earlier temporary residence permit). Those who only exercise their right of free movement within the EU, are not captured statistically.

¹⁸ The Czech Republic had a total population of 10,533,399 as of 31 December 2022 (Source: CZSO).

A total of **433,540 foreigners stayed in the territory with temporary protection. A total of 682,614 resided permanently or temporarily in the country**, which was 3.3% more (i.e. 21,765) than at the end of 2021. Of this number, 348,460 foreigners stayed temporarily¹⁹ (51%) and 334,154 permanently (49%).

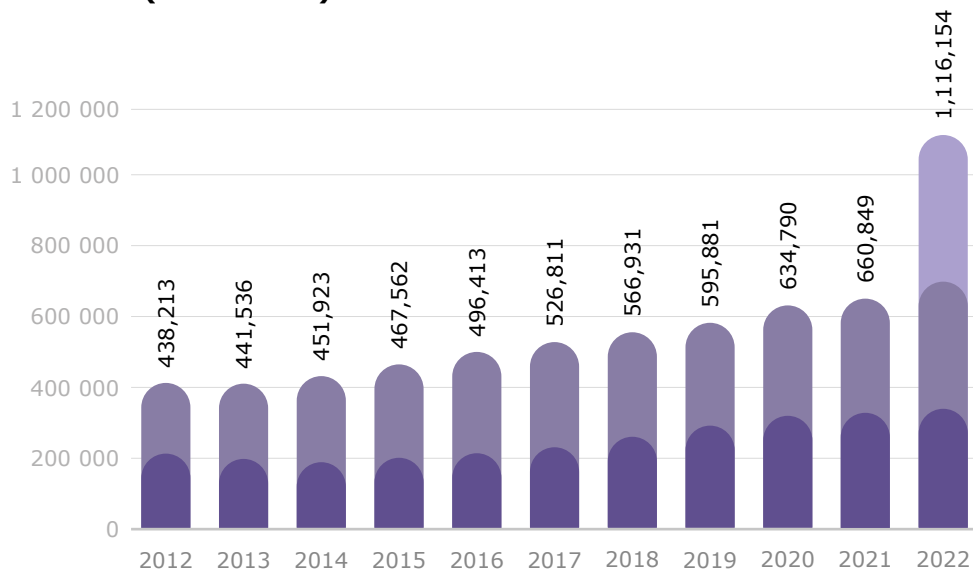
Of the total number of foreigners residing in the Czech Republic, 20.4% were EU citizens.²⁰ The number of foreigners from third countries increased significantly in 2022 and accounted for 79.6% (888,806), this year-on-year increase is due to the admission of refugees from Ukraine.

¹⁹ These are foreigners with a long-term visa, long-term residence permit, EU citizen registration certificate (formerly temporary residence permit of EU citizens) or temporary residence permit of an EU citizen's family member.

²⁰ In the context of the distinction between EU and non-EU categories of foreign nationals, it should be noted that, for the purposes of data processing and simplification, UK nationals are included in the category of non-EU nationals in the data submission, although they can be distinguished into two categories. One category is those who can prove that they were lawfully resident in the territory of the Czech Republic on 31 December 2020 (on 31 December 2020 the so-called transition period ended, during which, under the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, all citizens of Great Britain from the date of their withdrawal on 31 December 2020 were covered by the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community. 1 January 2020 remained subject to the provisions of the Foreign Act relating to EU citizens) and continue to reside after the end of the transitional period (they remain subject to the provisions of the Foreigners Act relating to EU citizens). The second category is UK citizens who arrived in the Czech Republic after the end of the transitional period (they are subject to the provisions of the Act on the Residence of Foreigners concerning third-country nationals). For the purposes of this report, EU citizens include citizens of EU Member States together with countries that are members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), with which the European Union has a treaty establishing a common European Economic Area (i.e. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway). In addition, Switzerland, which is part of the European Single Market, is also included.

Chart 1:

Development of the numbers of foreign nationals with temporary residence permits and permanent residence permits in the CR (2012–2022)



Source: IS CIS ● temporary residence ● permanent residence ● temporary protection

3.1.1 PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY RESIDENCE

Of the total number of 682,614 foreigners²¹ with a residence permit in the Czech Republic, **66.7% fall into the category of foreigners from third countries** (455,281 persons). Compared to 2021, there are 17,525 more third-country nationals residing in the Czech Republic, which represents an increase of 0.5%. At the end of 2022, **49% of persons residing in the territory permanently** (334 154 foreigners with a permanent residence permit) **and 51% temporarily**²² (348 460 foreigners). This representation is almost identical to the previous year.

²¹ This number does not include beneficiaries of temporary protection.

²² This includes persons with an issued long-term visa (over 90 days), an authorised long-term residence, an authorised temporary residence of a family member of an EU citizen and persons with an issued temporary residence permit of an EU citizen or a citizen of a state bound by the European Economic Area Treaty.

A total of 227,333 EU citizens were registered, which represents **33.3% of the total number of foreigners residing permanently or temporarily**. This is an increase of 4,240 persons year-on-year. The majority of foreigners from EU Member States are staying in the Czech Republic **on a temporary basis (53.2%)**, while the category of third-country nationals is balanced between the two types of stay.

Table 2:

Foreigners with temporary and permanent residence in the Czech Republic by EU membership and residence category - comparison 2021/2022

Year (as of 31 Dec)		2021		2022		year-on-year change	
		number of foreigners	i.e. %	number of foreigners	i.e. %	absolute number	i.e. %
Foreigners with temporary and permanent residence	TOTAL	660,849	100.0	682,614	100.0	21,765	3.3
	of which permanently	321,892	48.7	334,154	49.0	12,262	3.8
	of which temporarily	338,957	51.3	348,460	51.0	9,503	2.8
EU citizens	TOTAL	223,093	33.8	227,333	33.3	4,240	1.9
	of which permanently	100,391	45.0	106,478	46.8	6,087	6.1
	of which temporarily	122,702	55.0	120,855	53.2	-1,847	-1.5
Third-country nationals	TOTAL	437,756	66.2	455,281	66.7	17,525	4.0
	of which permanently	221,501	50.6	227,676	50.0	6,175	2.8
	of which temporarily	216,255	49.4	227,605	50.0	11,350	5.2

Source: IS CIS

3.1.2 CITIZENSHIP OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

The composition of foreigners by nationality within the top ten source countries is the same as in 2021.

The most numerous are citizens of Ukraine (almost 204 thousand), **Slovakia** (over 117 thousand), **Vietnam** (over 66 thousand), **Russia** (over 43 thousand) and **Romania** (almost 20 thousand). These are followed by **Poland** (almost 18 thousand), **Bulgaria** (almost 18 thousand), **Germany** (over 14 thousand), **Mongolia** (almost 12 thousand) and **Hungary** (almost 11 thousand). The numbers of other nationalities

are in the lower thousands of people. Within the top 10 most represented nationalities, only Russia (-2,312), Poland (-57) and Germany (-760) saw a decrease. The decrease of Russian citizens is related to visa restrictions in the context of the Russian aggression in Ukraine. Other nationalities in the top 10 saw slight increases, most notably Ukraine (+6,991), Slovakia (+2,634) and Vietnam (+1,411).

Table 3:

TOP 10 citizenships of foreign nationals with residence permits in the CR by residence category (as of 31 December 2022)

Type of residence	number	share in %	annual change in %	of which			
				Permanent residence	i.e. %	Temporary residence	i.e. %
Foreign nationals in total	682,614	100	3.3	348,460	51.0	334,154	49.0
of which TOP 10:							
Ukraine	203,866	29.9	3.6	110,321	54.1	93,545	45.9
Slovakia	117,264	17.2	2.3	54,920	46.8	62,344	53.2
Vietnam	66,262	9.7	2.2	11,157	16.8	55,105	83.2
Russia	43,053	6.3	-5.1	19,270	44.8	23,783	55.2
Romania	19,724	2.9	4.9	13,389	67.9	6,335	32.1
Poland	17,879	2.6	-0.3	6,594	36.9	11,285	63.1
Bulgaria	17,673	2.6	2.2	10,481	59.3	7,192	40.7
Germany	14,032	2.1	-5.1	9,399	67.0	4,633	33.0
Mongolia	11,965	1.8	8.6	6,071	50.7	5,894	49.3
Hungary	10,514	1.5	7.9	8,075	76.8	2,439	23.2
EU citizens	227,333	33.8	1.9	120,855	53.2	106,478	46.8
Third-country nationals	455,281	66.2	4.0	227,605	50.0	227,676	5.0

Source: IS CIS

A significant year-on-year increase²³ was recorded for citizens of **the Philippines** (+50.6%). Their number increased to 4,864 year-on-year, which is 1,634 more people. This was mainly an increase in temporary residence for employment purposes (+60.1%, i.e. +1 514), which is

²³ For foreigners with a registered number of over 1,000 in 2021.

related to increased labour migration and the increase in quotas for this country under economic migration programmes.

Similar to 2021, an increase of 21.7% has been recorded for citizens of **India** in 2022. Their numbers reached 8,461 persons, which was 1,510 more than in 2021. Their numbers also increased mainly for the purpose of employment (+27%, i.e. +721), which is also the most common purpose of temporary residence (47.1%), but there was also an increase for the purpose of studies (+23.1%) and family reunification (+20%).

A total of 8,057 citizens of **Kazakhstan** were registered as temporary and permanent residents, which was 14.2% more than in the previous year (i.e. +1,141). In their case, this is mostly an increase for study purposes (+460), followed by employment purposes (+316).

3.1.3 FOREIGN NATIONALS BY GENDER AND AGE

As in the previous years, in 2022, men predominated among foreigners with permanent or temporary residence, accounting for 56.4%, which is only 0.1% less than in 2021. The ratio of men and women is more balanced among foreigners residing permanently in the Czech Republic. For permanent residents, the share of men was 52.6%. In the case of temporary resident permits, men had an even greater predominance of 60%. The differences in the representation of foreigners by gender within the individual categories of residence can be linked to the nature of temporary residence, which is rather short-term and mainly economically motivated.

Table 4:

Foreigners with temporary and permanent residence permits in the Czech Republic by gender as of 31 December 2022

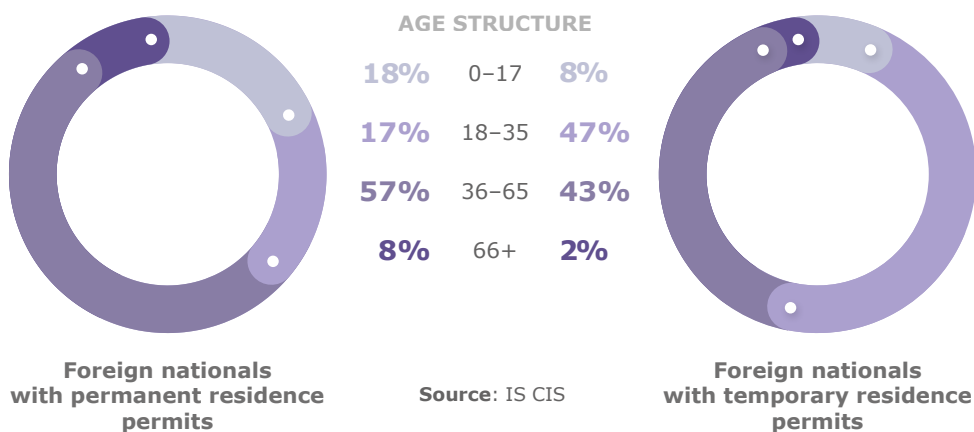
Gender	Total foreigners	of which			
		Men	i.e. %	Women	i.e. %
Total temporary and permanent residence	682,614	384,944	56.4	297,670	43.6
of which:					
temporary	348,460	209,043	60.0	139,417	40.0
permanent	334,154	175,901	52.6	158,253	47.4

Source: IS CIS

In the total number of foreigners, the predominant age category is between 36-65 years old, which accounted for 49.6% in 2022. The age composition varies according to the type of residence. In the category of temporary residence, the age category of 18-35 and 36-65 is almost balanced, while in the category of permanent residence, the age category of 36-65 is clearly predominant and there is also a higher representation of minors and persons over 66 years of age.

Chart 2:

Age structure of foreign nationals with residence permits in the CR (as of 31 December 2022)



3.2 Foreigners with Temporary Protection on the Territory of the Czech Republic

In 2022, due to a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine, **there was a specific category of foreigners with temporary protection** legally residing in the Czech Republic.

Temporary protection is an institution that was first activated at EU level as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, when Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 establishing that there is a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC was implemented. Prior to the activation of the in-

stitution of temporary protection, the Czech Republic was issuing special visas for the purpose of tolerating stay pursuant to Section 33 of the Act on the Residence of Foreigners.

As of 31 December 2022, a **total of 433,540 foreigners with temporary protection** were registered in the Czech Republic. As a result, the Czech Republic became one of the countries with the highest number of refugees per capita. The Czech Republic ranked third in the absolute number of refugees admitted.²⁴

The vast majority of persons residing in the Czech Republic with temporary protection were **citizens of Ukraine** (432,416), who made up 99.7% of all persons with temporary protection. Citizens of other nationalities than Ukrainian represented a negligible share (0.3%). The most frequent among them were citizens of **Russia** (445), **Moldova** (129), **Vietnam** (78), **Belarus** (73), **Azerbaijan** (64), **Georgia** (53), **the United States of America** (38), **Uzbekistan** (33) and **Armenia** (28). These are mostly family members of citizens of Ukraine.

Women with children predominate among foreigners with temporary protection. The share of minors (0-17 years old) was less than one third of 31.7%. Adults of working age accounted for 64% at the end of the year, while women accounted for more than two-thirds (69.1%) of adults of working age.



As of 31 December 2022, a total of 433,540 foreigners with temporary protection were registered in the Czech Republic.

²⁴ Over 1.5 million have been admitted by Poland and almost 1.3 million by Germany (Source: EUAA, data as of 8 January 2023).

Chart 3:

Evolution of the number of foreigners with temporary protection in 2022 by age and gender for persons of working age



Source: IS CIS ● Children 0-17 ● Women 18-64 ● Men 18-64 ● Seniors 65+

In the beginning, women with minor children were significantly more prevalent among the refugees, but as the months progressed and people continued to arrive, the proportion of children began to decrease. While in March, the proportion of minor children was 40%, by the end of the year it was 32%.

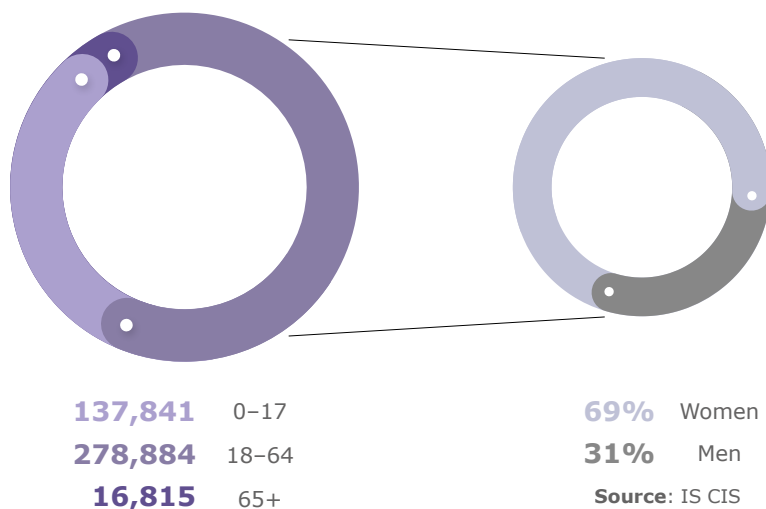
The share of women of working age in the total number of arrivals did not change much during the year and remained around 44% throughout the year. In contrast, the share of working age men in the total increased from an initial 13% to 20% at the end of the year.

The proportion of people aged 65 and over remained constant at 4% throughout the year.

The Czech Republic is one of the countries that has received the most refugees from Ukraine per capita. The Czech Republic ranked third in the absolute number of refugees admitted.

Chart 4:

Age structure of foreigners with temporary protection



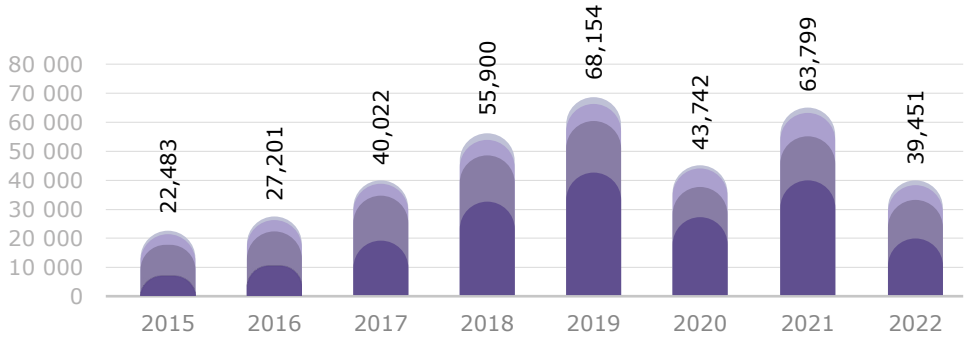
3.3 Residence permits by purpose

Foreigners from third countries who wish to stay in the Czech Republic temporarily for more than 90 days can apply for a visa for a stay of more than 90 days (long-term visa) or a long-term residence permit in the case of special residence titles resulting from European directives (visa policy, study, scientific research, including dual residence permits for employment purposes - employee card and blue card).

The year 2022 was marked by the military conflict in Ukraine and the associated reduction in the operation of embassies in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. In response to the Russian attack, the acceptance of applications for long-term residence permits for citizens of Russia and Belarus was suspended at all Czech embassies abroad (with exceptions) with effect from 25 February 2022. The Embassy in Kiev and the Consulate General in Lviv then suspended their visa activities until further notice and offered visas only in exceptional cases.

Chart 5:

Development of the number of applications for long-term residence permits 2015-2022



Source: MoI ● economic activities ● educational activities ● family ● another

The year 2022 saw the lowest number of applications for long-stay visas since 2016 and a slight change in the share of applications by purpose of stay. Traditionally, applications for economic purposes have been recorded the most frequently mainly from Ukrainian citizens. However, the share of economic activities fell from 62% of the total number of applications in 2021 to 50% in 2022. This was at the expense of economic activities, which increased the share for all other purposes of applications, especially educational activities (from 24% in 2021 to 33% in 2022).

Table 5:

Applications for long-term residence permits by purpose in 2022

Purpose	Number of applications for residence permits	i.e. %	% change compared to 2021	Absolute change compared to 2021
Economic activities	19,829	50.3	-49.4	-19,566
Educational activities	13,100	33.2	-13.6	-2,069
Family	5,689	14.4	-29.6	-2,393
Other	833	2.1	-27.6	-318
Total	39,451	100.0	-38.2	-24,347

Source: MoI

In 2022, a total of **39,451 applications** for long-term visas or long-term residence were submitted to Czech embassies abroad (a decrease of 24,347, i.e. by 38.2%). The majority of these applications (19,829) were submitted for the purpose of economic activities. This was followed by educational purpose (13,100 applications) and family purpose (5,689). For all purposes, a decrease was observed compared to the previous year.

The largest absolute year-on-year decline, almost by half, was recorded for the purpose of economic activities (specifically 49.4%). This means that 19,566 fewer applications were submitted for this purpose, a total of **19,829**, in 2022. The second most frequently recorded purpose was that of educational activities, with a total of **13,100** applications submitted. Compared to the previous year, this represents a decrease of 13.6% and in absolute terms the figure corresponds to 2,069 applications. The family purpose followed in the number of applications, with **5,689** applications and a year-on-year decrease of 29.6%, i.e. 2,393 applications. Other purposes fell by 27.6%, a total of 833 applications were therefore made in 2022 which was 318 fewer than the previous year.

The total number of **38,364 long-term residence permits** (long-term visa, long-term residence) **granted** represents a decrease of 20,236 (i.e. 34.5%) in the number of permits granted compared to 2021. The highest decrease in absolute and relative terms was registered, similarly to the applications for long-term residence permits, for the purpose of economic activities. In total 15,301 fewer applications were approved (43% less).

Citizens of **Ukraine** had the highest number of applications granted (31.3% of all applications granted, a decrease of almost 27%), followed by citizens of the **United States** with 6.8%, **India** (6%) and **Kazakhstan** (5%). Citizens of **Russia** accounted for only 3% of the number of authorisations granted, compared to 9% in 2021.

Table 6:**Long-term residence permits granted in 2022 by purpose**

Purpose	Number of applications for residence permits	i.e. %	% change compared to 2021	Absolute change compared to 2021
Economic activities	20,277	52.9	-43.0	-15,301
Educational activities	11,704	30.5	-9.0	-1,151
Family	5,593	14.6	-22.0	-1,573
Other	790	2.1	-21.1	-211
Total	38,364	100.0	-34.5	-20,236

Source: MoI

3.3.1 ECONOMIC MIGRATION

As of 31 December 2022, a **total of 793,290 foreign workers were registered as employees** by regional branches of the Czech Labour Office (ÚP ČR).

A total of **407,257 foreign workers (i.e. 57.2%) came from the EU Member States**, the European Economic Area and Switzerland (hereinafter EU/EEA and Switzerland), including their family members. The most numerous groups were citizens of Slovakia (213,447 information cards), followed by Poland (49,074 information cards), Romania (46,457 information cards) and Bulgaria (37,067 information cards). **There were a total of 386,033 foreign workers who were not citizens of the EU/EEA Member States and Switzerland** – third-country nationals, with the highest numbers found among the citizens of Ukraine (192,046 information cards²⁵ + 77,865 work permits²⁶), Russia (16 261 information cards + 4,013 work permits) and Vietnam (13,733 information cards + 3,551 work permits).

In regards to territorial structure, **the highest number of foreign workers-employees** has been seen in the **capital city of Prague**

²⁵ This includes workers from third countries who do not need an employment permit, an Employee Card, a Blue Card or an intra-corporate transferee card.

²⁶ This includes employment permits, Employment Cards, Blue Cards and possibly intra-corporate transferee cards.

(236,665), followed by the Central Bohemia Region (135,134), South Moravia Region (91,375) and Pilsen Region (77,289).

Foreign nationals with free access to the labour market accounted for the majority of foreign workers in 2022. Out of a total of **793,290 foreign workers**, the registry reported **407,257 information cards of EU/EEA and Swiss nationals**, including their family members, and **265,214 information cards of non-EU/EEA and Swiss nationals - foreigners from third countries**. Among foreign workers who enter the labour market on the basis of **a work permit, 111,287 holders of employment cards, 7,822 holders of work permits, and 1,710 holders of blue cards** were registered as of 31 December 2022 out of a **total of 120,819**.

As of 31 December 2022, there were 2,130 licensed job agencies, entities with a license to mediate employment, issued by the General Directorate of the Labour Office.

3.3.1.1 ECONOMIC MIGRATION PROGRAMMES

Since 2012, migration programmes and projects have been developed and implemented within the framework of inter-ministerial cooperation between the central government bodies of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health, and some of them also involve business representatives. The programmes represent **an effective tool for supporting the migration of selected target groups of third-country nationals whose entry and stay on the territory of the Czech Republic is of increased interest to the Czech State**.

Since 2019, a total of 4 government-approved migration programmes have been implemented:

- 1) The Highly Skilled Employee Programme** is intended for companies²⁷ employing highly skilled workers from third countries (i.e. for foreigners performing professions in the CR which are included in the main classes 1 through 3 in the CZ-ISCO job classification: managers, specialists, technical and expert workers). The target group also includes medical professionals. The Programme is

²⁷ Operating for at least 2 years in the Czech Republic, with settled liabilities to the state, which presently employ or have previously employed at least 3 persons for at least 3 consecutive months in the period of 2 years prior to the application.

open to citizens of all third countries. Along with the migrant workers, their closest family members can also become participants of the programme.

The functioning of the programme was marked by the war in Ukraine. The inflow of skilled labour from the main source country, Ukraine, was severely restricted. This had a particular impact on the medical professions, which have seen the most significant decline since the launch of the programme. The Highly Skilled Worker Programme **enrolled 545 applicants in 2022**, with applicants from India, Turkey, the UK, South Korea and Egypt being the most represented. The most common candidates were computer network specialists, programmers, software developers, graphic designers, marketing specialists, sales officers, lecturers and language teachers.

In the **Highly Skilled Employee Programme**, a total of 287 applications for an employee card were submitted and 343 decisions were issued, with a success rate of 85.4%. The most frequent applicants were citizens of India (64), Turkey (48) and Ukraine (21).

- 2) The Skilled Employee Programme** is designed for companies employing medium-skilled to low-skilled employees (for foreigners performing professions included in the main classes 4 through 8 in the CZ-ISCO job classification, such as drivers, welders, seamstresses, butchers, assembly workers, workers in automotive and chemical industries, etc.). The Programme guarantors (i.e. the business representations in the CR and the CzechInvest agency) decide on inclusion of a specific employer in the programme and they are responsible for assessing the need for inclusion of each employer on an individual basis. For this Programme, the countries selected as source countries of economic migration to the CR were the ones which the government found to be suitable with regard to the requirements of the Czech labour market, while taking into account the security-related and migration-related risks. These countries are primarily **Ukraine with an annual quota of 40,000 persons, the Philippines (2,000 persons), Belarus (1,900 persons), Serbia and Montenegro (1,900 persons), Moldova (1,500 persons), Mongolia (1,000 persons), India (600 persons) and Kazakhstan (500 persons)**. From November 2022, the programme has

also been extended to Armenia (550 persons), **Georgia** (600 persons) and **North Macedonia** (400 persons). **In contrast, its implementation in Ukraine and Belarus has been suspended as of the end of February 2022.** The capacity of this programme is 51,250 applications per year.

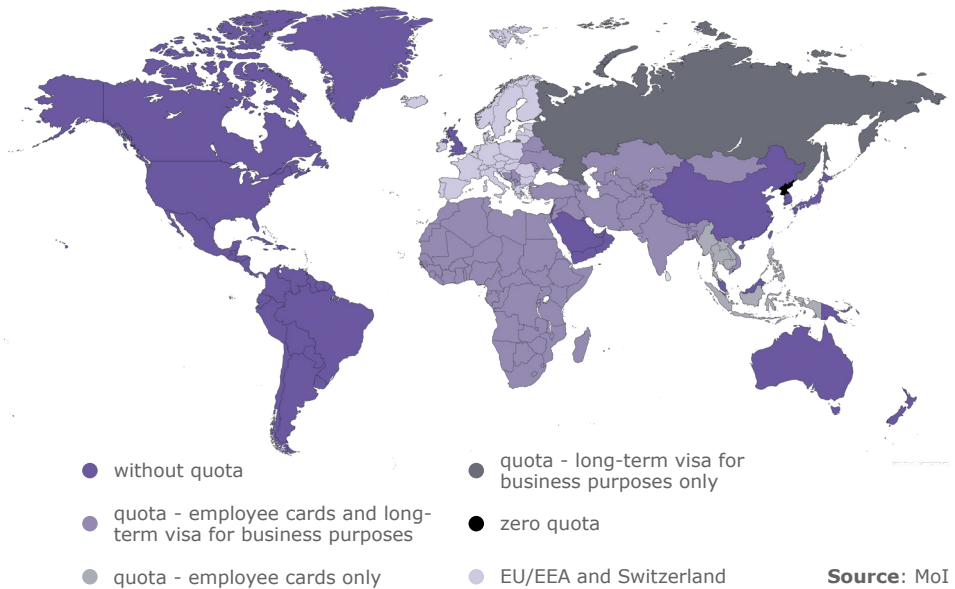
The capacity of the programme allocated to Ukraine (40,000 people per year) has not been used since the end of February 2022 due to the situation in Ukraine. For all other countries, most of the respective quota has been exhausted. The overall data for 2022 shows that the **main source countries** (except Ukraine) **have fully used up their annual quota** (Mongolia 100%, India 100% and Kazakhstan 100%). There has also been strong demand for employees from the Philippines and Moldova, where approximately 95% and 90% of the quota has been used respectively. In the case of Serbia and Montenegro, employers used about 20% of the allocated annual quota. For the newly included countries (Armenia, Georgia and North Macedonia), on average about 50% of the allocated quota was used in 2 months (November and December 2022). In total, **5,801 foreigners** were included in the Skilled Worker Programme from all source countries except Ukraine. The most frequently demanded occupations were assembly workers, bricklayers, drivers, meat and fish processors, metal product processors, machine metal workers, assistant cooks and warehouse workers.

Under the Skilled Employee Programme, a total of 11,213 applications for an Employee Card were filed and 16,310 decisions were made; the success rate amounted to 80.4%. Ukraine (6,981), the Philippines (1,367), Mongolia (869) and Moldova (610).

In 2022, the government set new annual quotas effective 1 November 2022. In the Skilled Worker Program, the annual quota set for the Philippines (by 300 applications per year) and Moldova (by 500 applications per year) was increased. In addition, the Skilled Worker Programme was extended to include new source countries, namely Armenia (550 applications per year), Georgia (600 applications per year) and North Macedonia (400 applications per year). This represents a total of 2,000 applications, at the expense of the **currently unused quota set for the Lviv embassy.**

Figure 1:

World map showing quotas for economic migration



3) The Key and Scientific Personnel Programme is designed for investors, newly incorporated companies, start-ups as well as research organisations and tech companies, which are interested in employing workers from third countries with top qualifications. The Programme is open to citizens of all third countries, and their closest family members can become participants of the programme along with the migrant workers. Their applications for residence permits are processed within a reduced time limit (within 30 days). The interest in this Programme is constantly growing.

The outbreak of the war in Ukraine has also affected this Programme, although not as significantly as the two programmes mentioned above, as key employees from Russia and Belarus have been significantly replaced by Indian and Turkish employees. Thus, interest in this programme is still high among employers. In 2022, in total **2,149 applicants** were **registered**. The most common occupations of the applicants were: IT specialists, software developers, mechanical engineers in research

and development, industrial engineering specialists, marketing specialists, financial advisors, accounting specialists and managers. The most common source countries for this programme were India, Turkey, Japan, South Korea, China and Egypt. Until the end of February 2022, Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus were also among the top source countries.

In 2022, in total 803 applications were submitted for the Key and Scientific Personnel Programme and 848 decisions were issued, with a success rate of 89.4%.²⁸ The most frequent applicants were citizens of India (222), Turkey (100), South Korea (74) and Japan (46).

4) The Special Work Visa for Citizens of Ukraine Working in Agriculture, Food Industry or Forestry Programme is designed exclusively for employers seeking low-skilled and non-skilled workers (included in the main classes 4 through 9 in the CZ-ISCO job classification) in the sectors stated in the name of the Programme and its target group only consists of citizens of Ukraine. The annual capacity of the Programme is 1,500 persons. The Programme is currently suspended due to the ongoing war conflict in Ukraine.

As the Programme is regionally limited to Ukraine, only 138 applicants were enrolled in the months before the Russian aggression began, most of whom did not even manage to apply for a visa. Furthermore, the Regulation on the special work visa for Ukrainian nationals working in the agricultural, food or forestry sectors has been extended for another three years (the original validity of the Regulation was until 31 December 2022).

In 2022, citizens of Ukraine submitted 118 applications for the Special Work Visa Programme and 133 decisions were issued, with a success rate of 64%. However, the Russian invasion of Ukraine ended the visa application process at the end of February 2022 and many workers who had managed to apply by then were subsequently unable to enter the Czech Republic.

²⁸ Program participants are issued employee cards, blue cards, intra-corporate transfer cards, employees, long-term visas for business purposes and long-term visas for their family members for family and long-term residence permit for the purpose of family cohabitation. However, the Ministry of the Interior tracks participation in the Programme in the framework of the residence statistics only for applicants for employment cards who, between participants do not constitute a majority group.

Besides the aforementioned programmes, **a project titled Internship** was implemented in 2022 (it had been launched on 24 November 2014 in cooperation with the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic). This project is intended for third-country nationals who are sent by foreign employers to Czech legal entities (typically manufacturing corporations) or natural persons with the aim of improving their skills and qualifications for the purpose of their further employment with their foreign employers. The duration of their internship must not be longer than 6 months. The project was renewed in the first half of 2022 following the lifting of the anti-covid restrictions. A total of 126 foreigners were enrolled in the project, with applicants from India, Vietnam, Serbia and China being the most represented.

Table 7:
Number of employee card applications and decisions under economic migration programmes in 2022

Program	Number of applications	Number of decisions	Positive decisions	% of positive decisions
Key and scientific personnel	803	848	758	89.4
Highly qualified employee	287	343	293	85.4
Qualified employee	11,213	16,310	13,118	80.4
of which:				
Ukraine	6,981	11,886	9,308	78.3
Philippines	1,367	1,303	1,244	95.5
Mongolia	869	905	819	90.5
Moldova	610	593	539	90.9
India	433	467	411	88.0
Serbia	377	482	365	75.7
Kazakhstan	321	319	303	95.0
Belarus	204	323	98	30.3
Georgia	30	17	17	100.0

Source: MoI

The goal of all economic migration programmes is to simplify the arrival of skilled workers from abroad to the territory of the CR in order to support targeted and selective legal economic migration.

The programmes work as a selection tool for Czech employers and their foreign employees who are provided with preferential treatment when they file applications for residence permits at embassies and are provided with other benefits as well (the option of migrating together with their immediate family members; reduction of bureaucracy; fast-track processing of their application for a residence permit). The criteria for including employers in a programme are defined in such a way so that the programmes cannot be joined by employers who systematically violate laws and do not comply with their statutory obligations towards the state or employees. The programs strengthen the control of state authorities over the labour migration process, reduce the risks associated with migration and increase the preventive protection of foreign workers. One of the important criteria is the minimum wages for various categories of migrant workers, which the employer must ensure and which serve as prevention of social dumping and strengthen the economic position of foreign workers.

Table 8:

Number of long-term residence permits and long-term entry visas granted in 2022

Purpose	Number of long-term residence permits granted	Number of long-term visas granted	Total
Economic activities	18,930	1,347	20,277
Educational activities	2,529	9,172	11,701
Family	3,107	2,486	5,593
Other	n/a	793	793
Total	24,566	13,798	38,364

Source: MoI

3.3.2 FAMILY REUNIFICATION

In 2022, in total 3,107 long-term residence permits were granted for **family reunification purposes**, i.e. 12.6% of the total number of successful applications. This purpose of residence has also decreased year-on-year, corresponding to 10.3%, i.e. -355 positively processed applications. More than a third of the residence permits were granted to citizens of **Ukraine**, a total of 1,218 or 39.2%. The number of permits was halved for **Vietnamese nationals** (620 or 20.0%). This was followed by citizens of **India** with 254 applications granted (8.2%).

3.3.3 STUDENTS AND SCIENTISTS

Long-term residence for the purpose of study was granted to 2,192 foreigners, which corresponds to 8.9% of the total number. Compared to 2021, the number of long-term residence permits granted decreased by 5.2%, which is the lowest relative decrease of all the monitored purposes of long-term residence. Vietnamese nationals received the highest number of positive decisions - 789 in total, corresponding to a 36% share of all residence permits granted for this purpose. This was followed by citizens of India, who were granted residence in 198 cases, i.e. 9.0% of the total, and nationals of Iran, with 122 positive applications (i.e. 5.6%).

3.3.3.1 STUDENT MIGRATION PROJECTS

In 2022, the following projects continued in the area of student migration:

- ▶ **Student Regime:** a concept to facilitate the visa procedure for selected students, the so-called Student Mode

The Student Regime project was approved by the Government of the Czech Republic in 2017. Its point is to **facilitate the visa and residence process** for foreigners from selected countries admitted to study in accredited study programmes at universities in the Czech Republic. Through the Student Regime, these students are given faster access to the embassy to apply for residence permits.

The aim of the Student Regime project is to ensure flexible cooperation between the enrolled universities and the relevant administrative autho-

rities in the Czech Republic and to ensure that the universities provide quality information to foreigners so that applications for residence permits are submitted by students without formal and factual defects.

In 2022, 37 public and private colleges and a total of 2,893 applicants were enrolled in the Student Scheme. The decrease of approximately 1,000 students compared to 2021 is due to the closure of embassies in Russia, which accounted for a significant proportion of the number of students enrolled. A total of 32 countries were included in the Student Scheme as of 1 December 2022, with some embassies having consular responsibility for more than one country (a total of 89 countries were covered in this way).

► **Fast Track Procedure for Granting Residence Permits to Foreigners** – Foreign Students from Third Countries

The project, which was first launched in 2013, continued to be implemented in 2022. **The project focuses on student migration of foreign scholarship holders** and is managed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (co-organised by the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). Students are included in the project on the basis of a nomination by the sponsor of the placement, which is the host institution.

The target group consists of students from third countries who have been admitted to study in the Czech Republic on the basis of bilateral or multilateral international treaties and government resolutions (developing countries and compatriots), as well as participants in the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Programme and the Fulbright Programme.

► **Scholarship programme**

In accordance with the Strategy for the Provision of Government Development Scholarships for 2019 - 2024, **scholarship places are offered to applicants from priority countries for foreign development cooperation in the Czech Republic (Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Zambia) and from Ukraine.**

Due to the situation in Ukraine, which led to the closure of the consular sections of the Czech Embassy in Kiev and Lviv, the scholarship holders

from Ukraine did not apply for the relevant long-term visas at the Czech Embassy, but used the institution of temporary protection.

3.3.4 MIGRATION FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES

In 2022, in total 337 foreigners were granted long-term residence permits for **research purposes**, i.e. 1.4% of all long-term residence permits granted at the embassies. The year 2022 saw a decrease of 17.2%, with 70 fewer applications decided positively than in 2021. As in previous years, long-term residence for research purposes was most often granted to citizens of **India**. In 2022, they were granted 107 research residence permits, accounting for 31.8% of the total number of applications decided in favour of this purpose. They were followed by **Chinese citizens**, who received a permit in 22 cases (i.e. 6.2%) and by **Turkish citizens** with 20 positive decisions (i.e. 5.9%).

3.4 Visa Policy and Schengen Cooperation

3.4.1 VISA POLICY

Since fully joining Schengen cooperation (i.e. since 21 December 2007), the Czech Republic has been implementing **the common visa policy**. This agenda is within the purview of the MoFA, which closely cooperates with the MoI in this respect. The basic document of the **common visa policy is Regulation (EU) 2018/1806 of the European Parliament and of the Council (referred to as the “Visa Regulation”)**. **This document lists the third countries whose citizens must have visas when crossing the external border, and also lists the third countries whose citizens are exempt from this obligation.** As regards **visa liberalisation**, there are no changes to the list of countries with visa-free travel with the EU in 2022.

The basic legal instrument, which governs the issue of short-term visas (Schengen visas), is Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 es-

establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code).²⁹ Starting from 2 February 2020, the Visa Code amendment has been in effect.

The amendment responds to the latest developments in the fields of security and migration and, as a tool for addressing problems associated with illegal migration, it integrated the visa policy with the collaboration of individual third countries in readmission of illegally staying third-country nationals.

3.4.1.1 DEVELOPMENTS IN VISA POLICY

One of the new instruments of the revised Visa Code, which the EU implemented in practice for the first time in 2021, was the Article 25a. This represents a **set of negative incentives that can be applied to third countries demonstrating a low level of cooperation on readmission**. In contrast, positive visa incentives can be proposed in case of good cooperation. Under this provision, the EC regularly assesses the cooperation of third countries with regard to readmission at least once a year. Action under Article 25a has been taken **against the Gambia. A second assessment of the level of return cooperation with third countries took place in 2022**. As there has been no significant change and improvement in cooperation with the Gambia, following discussion by the Council working bodies, the EU Council Implementing Decision 2022/2459 on the application of the increased visa fee as regards Gambia (EUR 120) was adopted on 8 December 2022. Therefore, a second phase of restrictive measures was adopted, complementing those adopted in 2021. The directly applicable Council Implementing Decision was published in the Official Journal of the EU and entered into force on 15 December 2022. The measures under consideration for Senegal and Iraq were not adopted.

In 2022, visa liberalisation with third countries was discussed at Council working level, specifically the **draft regulation on visa liberalisation for Kuwait and Qatar**. On 27 April 2022, the European Commission issued a "Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 2018/1806 (Visa Regu-

²⁹ This is directly applicable legislation, which became a part of the Czech legislation on its effective date, i.e. on 5 April 2010. The implementing regulation for the Visa Code is the "Handbook for the Processing of Visa Applications and the Modification of Issued Visas". The Visa Code governs, among other things, the processes in a visa procedure, lists the requirements for visa applications, defines the circumstances of representation and outsourcing, etc.

lation) listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement". The EC therefore proposed to move Kuwait and Qatar from Annex I to Annex II of the Visa Regulation, thus exempting nationals of these countries from the visa requirement when travelling to the Schengen area for a period not exceeding 90 days. Member States agreed on visa liberalisation for Qatar and Kuwait, under the condition of inclusion of suspension mechanisms for bilateral agreements, readmission clauses and full ETIAS functionality. The report on the draft regulation was approved on 1 December 2022.

In the context of Russia's military invasion of Ukraine, which started on 24 February 2022, the **EU's visa policy towards Russia has been tightened**. On 25 February 2022, the Council strongly condemned Russia's military aggression against Ukraine and approved the partial suspension of the EU-Russian Federation agreement on visa facilitation for diplomats, senior civil servants and businesspersons. At an informal meeting on 31 August 2022, foreign ministers reached a political agreement on the full suspension of the visa facilitation agreement. The proposal was adopted by the Council on 9 September 2022 and applies to all Russian citizens coming to the EU for a short stay. Visa applications continue to be processed according to the standard rules of the visa code, i.e. in particular the increase of the visa fee from 35 EUR to 80 EUR, the obligation to submit all supporting documents, the extension of the visa application processing time or stricter rules on the issuance of multiple entry visas. The Commission has subsequently presented guidelines to ensure that the suspension of the agreement will not have a negative impact on certain categories of persons travelling to the EU, such as journalists, dissidents or representatives of civil society.

The partial suspension by Member States **of the visa facilitation agreement with Belarus**, which took place on 9 November 2021 as a result of human rights violations and the denial of democratic governance following the presidential elections in Belarus, was still applicable in 2022.

During 2022, the **ratification process of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Cape Verde** amending the Agreement on the facilitation of the issuance of short-stay visas to citizens of the Republic of Cape Verde and the European Union concluded in December 2014 **was completed**. This was due to legal developments

on both sides, including the revision of the Visa Code on the EU side or the abolition of the visa requirement for EU citizens for stays of less than 30 days by Cape Verde. The agreement entered into force on 1 July 2022.

In the context of the Russian aggression in Ukraine, the European Council in June 2022 **agreed to grant candidate status to Ukraine and Moldova and potentially candidate status to Georgia**. While these steps have led to a sense of uncertainty among partners in the Western Balkans, the European Council has expressed its full and unequivocal commitment to support the EU membership prospects of the Western Balkans. During the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, in October 2022, discussions began on a draft regulation on visa liberalisation for Kosovo, based on the 2016 draft regulation. A compromise proposal with the latest date of 1 January 2024 for Kosovo's liberalisation was approved by the Council of the EU on 2 December 2022. The draft regulation foresees the abolition of visa requirements provided that the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) is launched and was successfully discussed during the political trilogues with the European Parliament during the CZ PRES. The legislative process will continue in 2023.

3.4.1.2 DIGITISATION OF THE VISA PROCESS

Digitisation of the visa process has become one of the key issues for the common visa policy in 2022. In 2021, several EU Member States, including the Czech Republic, had the opportunity to test a prototype of a new application portal (EU VAP-Common EU Visa Application Portal). This experience was used during the **negotiations on the legislative proposal for the digitisation of the visa process**.³⁰ The aim of the proposal will be digitalising the visa process, including replacing the visa sticker with a digital alternative. The draft Regulation foresees the creation of a harmonised online platform for short-stay visa applications with central and executive management for headquarters and consulates.

³⁰ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EC) No 767/2008, (EC) No 810/2009 and (EU) No 2017/2226 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1683/95, (EC) No 333/2002, (EC) No 693/2003 and (EC) No 94/2003 and the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement for the purpose of digitising the visa process.

According to the legislative proposal, the EU application portal should contain both up-to-date information on Schengen visas and general guidelines for applying for a visa. A secure communication channel linking applicants and the consulate is also planned. The use of a single EU application portal should reduce administrative obstacles and costs, such as archiving applications, transfer of visa labels, etc. At the same time, the whole process will be faster and more secure and the risk of visa shopping is expected to be reduced. The personal presence of the applicant will only be necessary for first-time applicants, applicants with a new travel document or for the collection of biometric data. The digital process will thus make the EU more attractive to citizens with visa requirements. **The discussion of the proposal to digitise the visa process has become a priority of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU in the Visa Working Party in the second half of 2022.**

Following the implementing decision of the European Commission, a **visa sticker based on a uniform design** is being issued from 1 November 2022, **augmented by a digital seal, i.e. a secure 2D barcode**. The aim of the change is to strengthen the security of the visa sticker, and in particular to protect it against counterfeiting. The code is a precursor to the introduction of a digital visa, which will replace the paper label used until now. The Czech Republic used the tools of the eu-INIS Programme to introduce the digital seal and successfully applied the 2D barcode to visa labels issued in the territory and embassies in due course in 2022.

3.4.2 SCHENGEN COOPERATION

3.4.2.1 EUROPEAN LEGISLATION RELATED TO THE SCHENGEN ISSUES

- ▶ **Proposal for a Council Regulation on the establishment and operation of an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013**

From 1 October 2022, Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922 on the establishment and functioning of an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 applies to the Schengen evaluation mechanism.

The new Regulation responds to the report on the review of the functioning of the Schengen evaluation after the end of the first five-year cycle under Regulation 1053/2013, which the Commission issued on 25 November 2020. This Regulation should effectively address the main identified shortcomings of the previous mechanism, in particular the lengthy administrative process of receiving evaluation reports and follow-up documents, the insufficient capacity of Member States to deploy experts for evaluations, the low effectiveness of unannounced visits, the slow implementation of action plans and the lack of information on their progress, as well as the insufficient integration of fundamental rights monitoring into the evaluation mechanism.

► **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 establishing a Union Code on the rules governing the cross-border movement of persons**

Following the Strategy for ensuring a fully functional and resilient Schengen area and in response to the current situation at the external borders in the context of the instrumentalisation of migration, on 14 December 2021, the Commission presented a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 establishing a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code). The proposed amendments concerned both the external and the internal borders of the Schengen area (European Union). The proposal introduced, *inter alia*, a new mechanism for the uniform application of external border measures in the event of a public health threat, a response to the instrumentalisation of migration at external borders, the internal border regime and the issue of the temporary reintroduction of internal border controls. The proposal has been presented in a package with the proposal for a Regulation to address situations of instrumentalisation in the area of migration and asylum and is linked to other proposals presented during 2021, such as the proposal to revise the Schengen evaluation mechanism or the Code on police cooperation. The proposal was discussed at Council level under French Presidency in the EU Council, and the Council's general approach was adopted on 10 June 2022.

► **Proposal for a Regulation related to the screening of third-country nationals at external borders**

On 23 September 2020, the Commission presented a proposal for a Regulation establishing screening of third-country nationals at the external borders and amending Regulations (EC) No 737/2008, (EU) 2017/226, (EU) 2019/817. The proposal was discussed in the Council during the German, Portuguese, Slovenian and French Presidencies. It was only during the French Presidency that a mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament was adopted by COREPER on 22 June 2022 as a first step of the gradualist approach initiated by the French Presidency. In the EP, this proposal is currently being discussed in the LIBE Committee (that is European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs).

On 2 March 2021, the Commission submitted a proposal for a regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2019/816 establishing a centralised system for the identification of Member States holding conviction information on third-country nationals and stateless persons (ECRIS-TCN) to supplement the European Criminal Records Information System, and Regulation (EU) 2019/818 on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems in the field of police and judicial cooperation, asylum and migration and amending Regulations (EU) 2018/1726, (EU) 2018/1862 and (EU) 2019/816, in order to introduce screening of third-country nationals at the external borders (screening consequential amendments). This proposal was discussed by the Border Council working group and on 29 June 2022, a mandate for negotiations was adopted. In the European Parliament, the proposal is being discussed in the LIBE committee.

► **Regulation governing the collection and exchange of advance passenger information**

In December 2022, the European Commission presented a proposal for a new regulation governing the collection and exchange of Advance Passenger Information (API data), i.e. passenger identity information contained in travel documents combined with flight information collected at check-in. In parallel to this proposal, the European Commission has presented a proposal for a Regulation regulating the transfer of this data

for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime. The European Commission is thus seeking to create a legal basis for the use of API data not only for the purposes of external border controls, but also for the purpose of combating crime. These proposals will be negotiated in the EU Council in 2023, with the aim of reaching agreement on the final form of both regulations across the EU institutions by the end of 2023.

► **Proposal for a regulation on the digitalisation of the visa process**

In April 2022, the European Commission submitted a proposal for a regulation regarding the digitalisation of the visa process. The visa digitalisation proposal aims to simplify, harmonise, and reduce administrative barriers. The main changes are the introduction of a single European portal for visa applications and the digitisation of the visa sticker. The digitalisation will save consulates time and money by, for example, reducing the processing time of applications, shifting staff from administration and archiving to the examination of applications, thereby strengthening the protection of the Schengen area, or by reducing the costs of producing and transporting visa labels. It will also improve security and reduce the possibility of visa sticker forgery or tampering. Digitalisation will also reduce visa shopping, as the harmonised application procedure implies, in particular, the submission of the application in one digitalised place (portal). Discussions on the proposal were fully launched during the Czech Presidency and will continue in 2023.

3.4.2.2 REINTRODUCTION OF INTERNAL BORDER CONTROL WITH SLOVAKIA

During the summer months of 2022, a sharp increase in illegal secondary migration, increased smuggling activity and a deterioration of the migration and security situation at the EU external borders were recorded. This situation was assessed by the relevant authorities as a serious threat to public order and internal security in the Czech Republic and reached such an intensity that alternative tools to ensure public order and security were not sufficient.

The Government of the Czech Republic therefore **reintroduced**³¹ **protection at the internal borders on the entire section of the land border with the Slovak Republic** for the period from 29 September 2022 to 8 October 2022. This reintroduction was further repeatedly extended by the Government until 25 January 2023. Since the beginning of the reintroduction of controls, officers of the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic have been involved in the implementation of the measures together with the Police of the Czech Republic pursuant to Article 22 of Act No 273/2008 Coll. (a total of 120 officers per day in two morning/night shifts³²), and since 9 October also army personnel on active duty. Thus, in addition to illegal migration, the checks were aimed, inter alia, at importing goods that escaped customs supervision, searching for commodities of interest, illegal import of weapons and narcotic and psychotropic substances; checking customs and tax documents etc.

3.4.2.3 ENLARGEMENT OF THE SCHENGEN AREA

At a meeting of the Home Affairs Council in Brussels on 8 December 2022, the Ministers of the Interior of the Member States decided to **extend the Schengen area to Croatia**. It was stipulated that controls at the internal border with Croatia would be abolished at the land and sea borders as of 1 January 2023, and at the air border as of 26 March 2023. The extension of Schengen to Croatia was one of the priorities of the Czech Presidency of the EU Council.



In 2022, Croatia was approved to join the Schengen area from 1 January 2023.

³¹ Government Resolution No 823 of 26 September 2022 on the temporary reintroduction of internal border protection in the Czech Republic.

³² As of 12 December 2022, the number of deployed officers of the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic was reduced to a total of 60 officers per day, as of 1 January 2023, the number of deployed officers was further reduced to a total of 40 officers and as of 25 January 2023, the deployment of officers of the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic was terminated pursuant to Section 22 of Act No.273/2008 Coll.

3.5 Integration and Citizenship

3.5.1 INTEGRATION

Migration into the Czech Republic can be effective and beneficial to both foreign nationals and the majority society only if it is directly linked to integration measures. An active integration policy is an absolute necessity. Its goal is to support the integration of foreigners into the society, to create opportunities for harmonic conflict-free co-existence of foreigners and the majority society, **to prevent occurrence of negative social phenomena** related to the co-existence (such as emergence of closed communities of foreigners or radicalisation) **and to ensure the protection of the rights and security of all inhabitants of the Czech Republic**. Integration is a mutual process, which requires the willingness to integrate on the part of foreigners on one side and the willingness of the majority society to support their efforts to integrate into the society on the other side.

The primary target group of the policy for the integration of foreigners are third-country nationals. In 2022, the necessary complementarity in terms of target group for the strategy targeting **persons with temporary protection** was allowed. A number of integration tools (e.g. provision of information, social and legal counselling, language courses, or assistance in difficult life situations) can also be used by **EU citizens** and **beneficiaries of international protection** (beyond the services provided for them under the State Integration Programme). In exceptional cases, the target group may also include Czech nationals who have demonstrably similar integration needs as the above-mentioned foreigners. Given that integration is a two-way process, the target group of integration is also the majority society. Integration policy is increasingly focused on the integration of foreigners in a vulnerable or disadvantaged position. These are mainly foreign women (both economically active and housewives), foreign seniors and foreign children and youth.

The Ministry of the Interior is in charge of coordinating the policy on the integration of foreigners, but individual ministries are responsible for its implementation within their respective areas of responsibility. The basic document of the integration policy of the Czech Republic is **Po-**

Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic, approved in 2016. The Policy defines five basic priorities for the integration of foreign nationals, which are knowledge of the Czech language, financial self-sufficiency, foreign nationals' general understanding of the society, development of mutual relationships between communities and gradual acquisition of rights depending on the duration of stay. The MoI presents a draft resolution on the *Procedure for Implementing the Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals* (hereinafter referred to as the "Procedure") to the government every year. This draft resolution contains specific integration measures, which the relevant Ministries responsible for implementing the integration policy during the following year will take to support successful integration of foreign nationals in the CR. In 2022, the integration measures were based on the document *Procedure for the implementation of the updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals - In Mutual Respect 2022*, which was approved by Government Resolution No. 40 of 26 January 2022. Annually (at the beginning of the following year), the Ministry of the Interior submits information on the implementation of the Procedure in the Report on the situation in the field of migration and integration of foreigners in the Czech Republic for the previous year to the Government.³³ A separate line is the integration of persons granted international protection, which is regulated by the State Integration Programme.³⁴

Integration measures are aimed at supporting the self-sufficiency of foreigners so that they know their rights and are able to fulfil their obligations, are able to orient themselves in a new environment, know the customs and way of life in the Czech Republic, understand and are able to communicate in Czech, are independent and self-sufficient socially and economically, and have sufficient information about where to find help and support if needed. Integration assistance for foreigners significantly reduces the risk of abuse, manipulation and dependence on intermediaries.

A crucial tool for supporting the integration of foreign nationals on a regional level is **the nationwide network of 18 Centres for the Sup-**

³³ The Policy, Procedure and Reports are available at www.mvcr.cz/migrace/clanek/zakladni-dokumenty-k-integracni-politice-ke-stazeni.aspx.

³⁴ On 16 January 2017, the Government of the Czech Republic approved by Resolution No.36 an amendment to Government Resolution No.954 of 20 November 2015 on the State Integration Programme for Persons Granted International Protection in 2016 and Subsequent Years.

port of the Integration of Foreigners, which monitors the situation of foreigners in the given region and shares important information with other actors. They also provide foreigners with an equal access to integration services and to expert integration assistance of comparable quality in all the regions of the CR. Thus, they offer a whole range of integration services, such as Czech language courses, socio-cultural courses or social and legal consultancy. In its activities, the Centres also focus on the majority society, the public authorities and other integration actors in the given location (such as non-profit non-governmental organisations, employers or schools). In 2022, in response to the arrival of Ukrainian war refugees, the capacity of the Centres has been approximately doubled, mostly in the second half of the year.

Selected groups of third-country nationals are legally obliged to complete **an adaptation-integration course** starting from 1 January 2021 pursuant to Ordinance No. 520/2020 Coll. The goal of this measure is to familiarise foreigners with their rights and obligations and enhance their self-sufficiency and independence. At the same time, completion of this course should help them break free from the system of dependence on intermediaries and should provide them with information on the opportunities to take advantage of the integration measures. Centres for Supporting the Integration of Foreigners implemented a total of 645 adaptation-integration courses with the participation of 9,864 foreigners. The most numerous language into which the course was interpreted was Ukrainian, followed by Russian, English, Mongolian, Serbian and Vietnamese. Courses were also delivered in languages such as Korean, Japanese, Thai, Albanian, Moldovan and Hindi, including one course interpreted into sign language in Ukrainian for deaf clients. In total 88% of the courses delivered were public, the remaining 12% were nonpublic.³⁵



**The Centres
for the Support
of the Integration
of Foreigners
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adaptation-inte-
gration courses for
9,864 foreigners.**

³⁵ I.e. a course implemented by the Centre in cooperation with a legal entity, e.g. an employer, for predetermined foreigners.

Another key tool to support integration at a local level are projects of municipalities. These help create suitable conditions for problem-free integration of foreign nationals and conflict-free coexistence of all inhabitants of the given municipality. Municipalities and city districts can use funds from state subsidies to implement comprehensive integration projects, which are created based on the knowledge of the local situation and needs. The projects are implemented in cooperation with foreign nationals and other integration actors in the municipality (such as a Centre for the Support of the Integration of Foreign Nationals, non-profit non-governmental organisations, schools). Other integration actors at a local level are non-profit non-governmental organisations, which, as part of their activities, provided foreign nationals with assistance in offices of DAMP or methodologically supervised the adaptation-integration courses, among other things.



The Centres for the Support of the Integration of Foreigners provide services to legally residing foreigners in all regions of the Czech Republic.

During the final quarter of 2022, the Ministry of the Interior, on the basis of input from other ministries and other entities, prepared and submitted to the Government the Procedure for the Implementation of the Updated Policy for the Integration of Foreigners - In Mutual Respect 2023, which was approved on 14 December 2022 by Resolution No. 1051.

In 2022, the amount of CZK 54,290,290 was earmarked from the CR's state budget for support of the integration of foreign nationals under the Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals. From this amount, CZK 41,434,290 was allocated to the MoI; CZK 306,000 was allocated to the Ministry of Culture; CZK 12,300,000 was allocated to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; and CZK 250,000 was allocated to the Czech Statistical Office. Other ministries involved in the integration of foreign nationals (MoLSA, MoFA, MfRD, MoIT and MoH) did not claim any finances for integration from this section of the state budget. Funds were also allocated from the Ministries' own resources outside the Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals as well as from embassies, individual municipalities, foundations and foundation funds. The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund was among other significant sources of funding.

Finances for projects, where foreign nationals were the predominant target group, also came from the European Social Fund.

It is not possible to determine the exact amount allocated to the integration of foreigners in any given year. For example, projects supported by EU funds are multi-year projects with different drawdowns from year to year, and many projects also include other target groups among their users. Therefore, it is not possible to identify precisely the amount that is subsequently earmarked for the integration of the target group of legally residing foreigners from third countries on the territory of the Czech Republic. However, it can be reasonably assumed that the allocated volume of all funds in the area of integration of foreigners in the Czech Republic exceeded the amount of CZK 500 million in 2022 and significant resources have been allocated also in the framework of adaptation and integration of persons granted temporary protection.

3.5.2 CITIZENSHIP

In 2022, a total of **3,949 foreigners were granted citizenship of the Czech Republic** (349 fewer than in the previous year), including 14 foreigners who were residing in the Czech Republic on the basis of international protection in the form of asylum.

Table 9:

The number of foreign nationals who were granted the citizenship of the CR in the period 2012–2022

rok	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of foreign nationals who were granted the citizenship of the CR	1,565	2,253	4,915	2,620	3,897	5,006	3,757	2,973	2,656	4,298	3,949

Source: MoI

Traditionally, the largest number of persons acquiring citizenship of the Czech Republic in 2022 were nationals of **Ukraine** – 1,370 (113 fewer than in the previous year). In addition, the highest number of nationals of **Russia** were granted citizenship of the Czech Republic - 798 (119 less than in the previous year), **Slovakia** - 590 (5 more than in the previous year), **Vietnam** - 163 (10 less than in the previous year) and **Belarus** - 121 (18 less than in the previous year).



**In 2022,
a total of 3,949
foreigners were
granted citizen-
ship of the Czech
Republic.**

In 2022, the Ministry of the Interior also recorded a substantial increase in the total number of applications for Czech citizenship. A total of 4,789 applications for Czech citizenship were received by the Ministry of the Interior in 2022 (compared to 3,854 applications for Czech citizenship in 2021, an increase of almost 25%). This is related to the final lifting of restrictive measures against the spread of the covid-19 disease, which partially restricted the operation

of some public administration bodies in 2021, as well as the outbreak of Russian aggression in Ukraine in February 2022, which was associated with an increase in the number of inquiries from potential applicants for Czech citizenship from among nationals of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, and the number of applications for Czech citizenship submitted by these nationals.

In addition, 44 applications for Czech citizenship were granted pursuant to Section 28 of the Czech Citizenship Act (14 fewer than in the previous year), where Czech citizenship was granted to minor children whose father is a Czech citizen, whose mother is a foreigner without permanent residence in the territory and is not a citizen of an EU Member State, Switzerland or a State that is a party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, and paternity of the child has been established by a consent declaration of the parents.

In 2022, Czech citizenship was granted under Section 29 of the Czech Citizenship Act to 3 minor children (8 fewer than in 2021) who were born in the Czech Republic and did not acquire the citizenship of either of their parents at birth, and at least one parent was allowed to stay in the Czech Republic for more than 90 days.

At the same time, **1,849 foreigners** acquired **Czech citizenship in 2022 on the basis of one of the declarations** provided for in the Czech Citizenship Act³⁶ (75 more than in the previous year).

Among the persons who acquired Czech citizenship in 2022 by declaration under Section 31 of the State Citizenship Act (former Czech citizens

³⁶ Sections 31-36 of Act No. 186/2013 Coll. on the citizenship of the Czech Republic.

or Czechoslovak citizens and their descendants up to the second generation), the most numerous are nationals of the United States of America, Germany and the UK.

Among the persons who acquired Czech citizenship in 2022 by declaration under Section 35 of the Citizenship Act (so-called second-generation immigrants aged 18-21), the most numerous are nationals of Vietnam, Ukraine and Russia.

Thus, a total of **5,842 persons acquired Czech citizenship in 2022** (296 fewer than in 2021).


3.6 Raising Awareness of Foreigners

In 2022, a **number of communication projects** were launched **to unify the information provided with the primary focus on the needs of end users.**

At the end of 2022, the new **Information Portal for Foreigners**³⁷ was launched. The aim of this website is to unify the provision of information on residence issues in the Czech Republic and thus ensure easier orientation of foreigners in the conditions of residence. The Information Portal for Foreigners emphasises the needs of users, who should find information in a simple and easy-to-use form.

An example of the focus on user needs is an interactive guide that identifies users' situations and needs based on their answers to specific questions. It will then offer them exactly the information they need in their situation.

The Information Portal for Foreigners will also include an ordering system through which users will be able to book appointments at the DAMP offices, check the status of their applications and a notification system that will alert them to their legal obligations, expiring deadlines, etc.



At the end of 2022, the Information Portal for Foreigners was launched, summarising information on residence in a clear and comprehensible way.

³⁷ www.frs.gov.cz

Primarily in the context of the war in Ukraine and the growing need to provide temporary protection holders with objective and timely information, several more projects were launched.

- ▶ On the day of the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, an **emergency hotline for people fleeing Ukraine was established** within the Client Centre. During the first days and weeks of the conflict, the line operated 24 hours a day and its operators, speaking Czech and Ukrainian, helped callers with basic orientation upon arrival in the Czech Republic and provided basic information on migration issues (e.g. employment, schooling of children or insurance). During the year, when other ministries launched information lines for Ukrainian citizens, the MoI line returned to providing information under the DAMP agenda and focused on providing general information on obtaining or withdrawing temporary protection. In 2022, a total of 140,625 incoming calls were registered, of which operators successfully handled 77% of calls. In addition to the establishment of the helpline, an email address was also launched, with staff handling 10,419 email enquiries in 2022.
- ▶ **A section for Ukrainian citizens with up-to-date information on staying in the Czech Republic with temporary protection was immediately set up** on the website www.mvcr.cz. Persons arriving in the Czech Republic were notified of the existence of this information channel as soon as they crossed the border by SMS with a link to the above-mentioned website. The information from this page was subsequently transferred to the Information Portal for Foreigners (see above). This step has led to the centralisation of information.
- ▶ The Ministry also worked with other partners on the content of the web signpost www.nasiukrajinci.cz (i.e. Our Ukrainians).
- ▶ The Ministry also uses the offices and premises of the Regional Assistance Centres for Ukraine to provide information. To ensure that the necessary messages reach the target group as widely as possible, information leaflets or printed infographics are distributed at these locations.

- ▶ In September 2022, the Facebook page Our Ukrainians was launched, targeting persons who are applying for or have been granted temporary protection in the Czech Republic, as well as persons or organisations providing assistance to these persons (individuals, NGOs, civil society organisations, etc.). Information is provided in both Ukrainian and Czech. The site publishes warnings, instructions, reactions to fake news, etc.

Currently, a pilot project has been launched to involve virtual assistants (voicebot, chatbot) in communication with foreigners living in the Czech Republic in order to simplify their way to obtain information. At the moment, the project is being tested in the pilot phase only with a smaller group of foreigners (citizens of Ukraine fleeing the armed conflict who are applying for or have been granted temporary protection in the Czech Republic). This pilot project and the data obtained during its course will serve as a basis for analysing the possibilities of future use of these tools for wider groups of foreigners residing in the Czech Republic.

In 2022, the Ministry of the Interior actively participated in international discussions and negotiations on the integration of foreigners. In 2022, two meetings of representatives of the European Integration Network (EIN) working group established within DG HOME were held.

Currently, the representatives of the Czech Republic are the longest serving members of the network. During the meetings, the Czech Republic presented the situation in the field of integration of foreign pupils at the invitation of the European Commission. The European Commission and a number of Member States evaluated the activities of the Czech Presidency very positively. A fundamental request from the Member States was to intensify the network's activities at critical times.



In 2022, a total of 140,625 incoming calls were registered by the emergency hotline for people fleeing Ukraine.



- ▶ **In 2022, there was an increase in the number of applicants for international protection as compared to the previous year, specifically by 20.1%.** In total, there were **1,694 applications for international protection** registered in 2022.
- ▶ The main source countries of applicants for international protection in 2022 were Ukraine (280), Turkey (236) and Russia (157).
- ▶ International protection **in the form of asylum was granted to 92 applicants**, most of them were citizens of Afghanistan (38), Myanmar (18), Russia (7) and Azerbaijan (7).
- ▶ **International protection in the form of subsidiary protection was granted in 389 cases.** The most frequent were nationals of Ukraine (277) and Syria (38).
- ▶ The integration of persons who were granted international protection is governed by the **State Integration Programme (SIP)**. The entity with overall responsibility for integration activities has been the Refugee Facilities Administration (SUZ). The goal of the programme is to facilitate the process of integrating recognised refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and their inclusion in the society.
- ▶ A total of **293 eligible persons** joined the SIP in 2022. During the year, **a total of 142 individual integration plans (IIPs) were prepared for a total of 293 beneficiaries of international protection (both individuals and families).**

In 2022, the number of applications for international protection was increasing gradually until March, when the number of applicants from Ukraine escalated due to the Russian invasion. Refugees from Ukraine then came under the temporary protection system. The second spike in applications occurred in September, when the number of applicants from Turkey rose significantly. A total of **1,694 applications for international protection** were submitted, an increase of 20.1% compared to 2021. However, the numbers remain lower than in the period before the outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic. The numbers are comparable to 2018 (then 1,701 applications).

4.1 Applications for International Protection

Compared to most EU+ countries, the Czech Republic receives significantly lower numbers of applicants for international protection. Czech Republic was ranked 24th in the list of destination countries for applicants for international protection in 2022 (the same as in 2021). Only five other countries had lower numbers of applicants (Malta, Latvia, Slovakia, Hungary and Lithuania).³⁸

Table 10:
The numbers of applicants for international protection in the Czech Republic in the period 2012–2022

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of applicants	753	707	1,156	1,525	1,475	1,450	1,701	1,922	1,164	1,411	1,694
Year-on-year change in %	-0.4	-6.1	63.5	31.9	-3.1	-1.9	17.3	13.0	-39.4	21.2	20.1

Source: MoI

International protection in the form of asylum was granted to 92 applicants in 2022.

From among the total number of 1,694 applications for international protection filed in 2022, a total **1,339 (i.e. 79%) applications were filed for the first time** and **355 (i.e. 21%) were filed multiple times**.³⁹ The share of first-time applications slightly increased as compared with the year 2021 (by 3.9%).

Compared to 2021 when the numbers of applicants remained more or less stable in the first half of the year, the year 2022

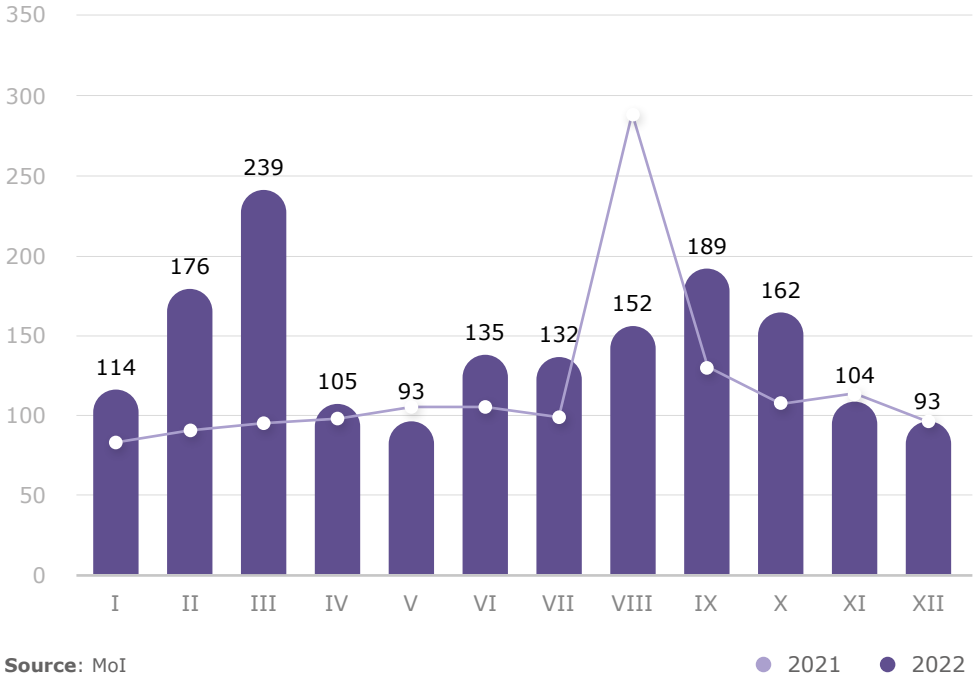
³⁸ According to EUAA data.

³⁹ The number of repeat applications is monitored since the implementation of the so-called procedural EU Directive in the Asylum Act (amendment to the Act with effect from 21 December 2007). Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection status. Foreigners can submit a new application as soon as the decision not to grant international protection for a previous application.

saw an increase in the number of applications in the first months of the year, peaking in March, mainly due to an increase in applicants from Ukraine, who submitted more applications for international protection in the first weeks of the Russian invasion of Ukraine before moving to the temporary protection system, and the number of such applications dropped. In the first quarter, 529 applications were submitted. There was a further spike in September, when the number of applicants from Turkey rose significantly, with 473 applications submitted in in the third quarter, and the lowest number of applications during the second quarter. The average monthly number of applications was 141, an increase of 23 applications year-on-year.

Chart 6:

The number of applications for international protection in each month – comparison between 2021 and 2022



Source: MoI

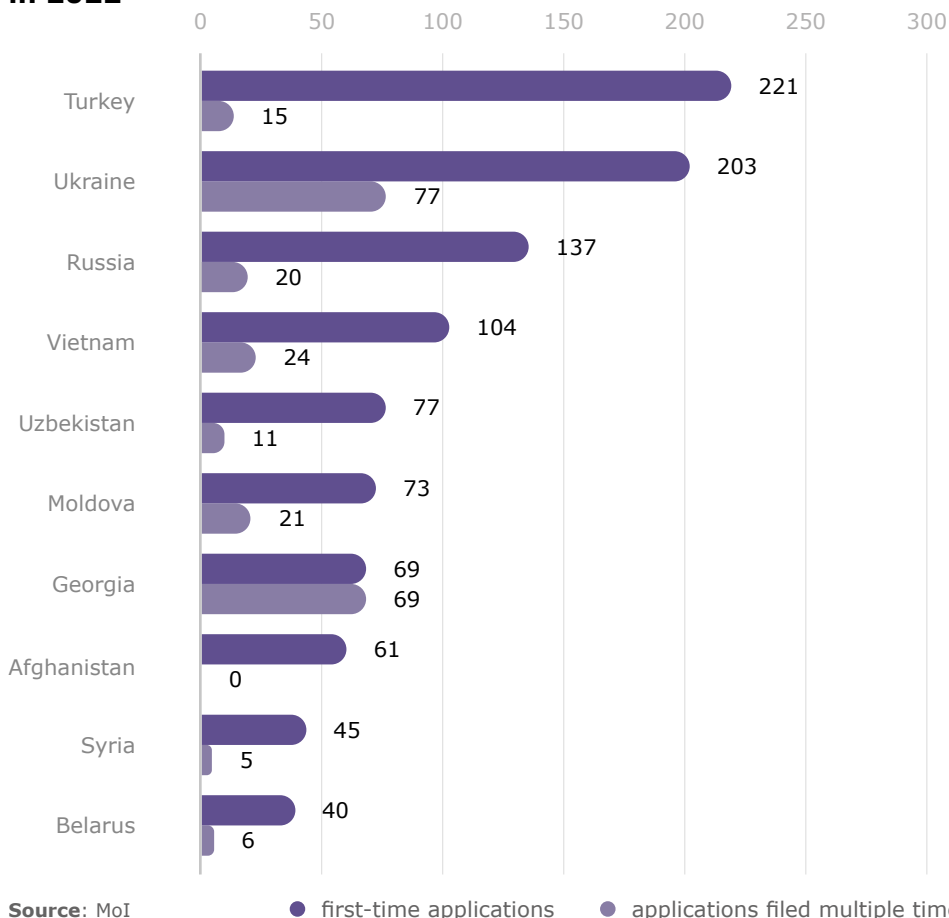
● 2021 ● 2022

International protection in the form of asylum was granted to 92 applicants in 2022. These were citizens of Afghanistan, who were granted asylum in 38 cases, followed by citizens of Myanmar (18), Russia (7) and Azerbaijan (7).

In the form of subsidiary protection, international protection was granted in 389 cases in 2022. The most frequent were nationals of Ukraine (277) and Syria (38).

Chart 7:

The number of first-time applications and repeated applications in 2022



In total, foreigners from 61 countries applied for international protection in the Czech Republic in 2022. Stateless applicants submitted a total of 11 applications. Most applicants came from Asian countries. As in 2021, their share rose slightly to 56.7% in 2022, up from 54.8% in 2021. **Europe was the second most frequent source continent**, with a share of 34.8%, which in turn saw a decrease (by 2.4 percentage

points). Applicants from Africa were represented by 6.8% and from the Americas by 1.1%.

The most significant change relating to applicants for international protection that occurred in 2022 concerns the distribution of the most represented source countries. As in 2021, citizens of **Ukraine** ranked first, **with a total of 280 applications**, down by a quarter year-on-year. There has been a regular increase in the number of applicants from this country since 2019 and, as already mentioned, even in 2022 there was initially a sharp increase in the number of applicants due to the Russian invasion. In particular, a record weekly number of applications were made in the first week of March just after the invasion (57). Thereafter, the numbers dropped significantly with the introduction of temporary protection and, until the end of the year, the weekly number of applications was in the order of units of persons, with no applications in a number of weeks. There were 67 minors among Ukrainian applicants, accounting for 23.9%, a significant increase in the proportion of minors compared to 11.1% in the previous year. The proportion of applications filed multiple times decreased slightly year-on-year, accounting for 27.5%.

The second highest number of applications was filed by citizens of **Turkey with 236 applications**. Their numbers increased almost five times year-on-year (+372%). In absolute numbers, this is the highest year-on-year increase ever recorded. The increase in applications from Turkish citizens is closely linked to the increase in transit irregular migration, a massive increase of which was recorded in 2022. This was most pronounced in the third quarter, when 56% of all applications from Turkish nationals were submitted. The situation where Turkish citizens were apprehended in transit irregular migration was thus often addressed by applying for international protection. The share of repeat applications decreased very significantly year-on-year, accounting for 6.4%, compared to 26% in 2021. The share of minors increased slightly, accounting for 9.3%.

Just as Russia's invasion of Ukraine has affected the number of Ukrainian citizens seeking international protection, it has also affected the number of applicants from **Russia**. They ranked third in 2022 with a total



**In 2022,
international
protection was
granted in 389
cases in the form
of subsidiary
protection.**

of **157 applications** for international protection. The highest number of applications was submitted in the second quarter (56). Year-on-year, there was an increase of 726%, the third highest relative increase. In absolute terms, this is the second highest increase after Turkey (+138). Russia has thus moved into the top ten most frequent source countries in 2022, having been in 13th place in 2021. The share of minors among Russian applicants increased year-on-year to 12.7% (2021: 5.3%). In contrast, the share of applications filed multiple times decreased from 31.6% in 2021 to 12.7% in 2022.

Almost 57% of applicants for international protection in the Czech Republic in 2022 came from Asia.

4.2 Proceedings on Granting International Protection

In 2022, the MoI issued a total of 1,806 decisions in proceedings for granting international protection (i.e. 164 more than in 2021) and 217 decisions in proceedings for extending subsidiary protection. As of 31 December 2022, 768 persons were registered in the proceedings (i.e. persons whose application has not yet been decided).

A total of 481 foreigners were granted international protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection, which is 170 more than in the previous year.

Subsidiary protection was extended in 166 cases in total, 113 fewer than in the previous year (-40.5%). As in previous years, the most frequent cases were nationals of **Syria (61), Ukraine (28) and Iraq (14)**.

During 2022, a total of 545 negative decisions (i.e. 53.1%)⁴⁰ **were issued** in international protection proceedings, where the decision was not to grant international protection or to reject the application as manifestly unfounded. Proceedings were discontinued in 780 cases.

⁴⁰ The proportion of negative decisions is calculated only from the total number of so-called merits decisions, i.e. the number of positive international protection decisions and the number of negative decisions (international protection not granted and application rejected as manifestly unfounded). The number of discontinued proceedings is not included for these purposes.

The rate of granting international protection in 2022 was 46.9% of the total number of decisions on the merits (all decisions excluding the discontinuance of proceedings). This is a significant increase compared to previous years when the rate was far from reaching this level, the last time this level can be compared to the years of the migration crisis 2015-2016.

4.3 Application of the Dublin Regulation⁴¹

In relation to the outbreak of the armed conflict and Russian aggression in Ukraine and the resulting high influx of Ukrainian citizens into the territory of the Czech Republic, transfers under the Dublin Regulation to the Czech Republic were suspended at the end of February 2022 for capacity and logistical reasons. With the gradual stabilisation of the situation, transfers were resumed in a limited mode at the beginning of July 2022, and in a standard mode from September 2022.

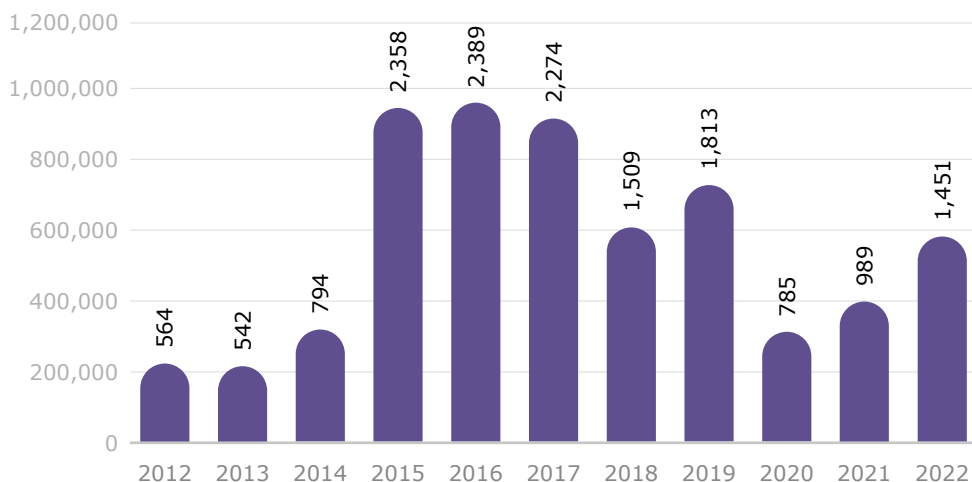
The implementation of the Dublin Regulation has been facilitated by the lifting of all restrictive measures introduced due to the covid-19 pandemic, both in the Czech Republic and in other EU Member States. However, difficulties in planning and transferring persons to the responsible Member States persisted. The most serious obstacles continued to be the limited number of direct air connections to the destinations and the exhausted capacity of transit airports, arbitrary departures and unknown stays of persons to be transferred.

In 2022, the Czech Republic recorded a total of **1,451 Dublin cases** (i.e. applications received and sent), an increase of almost 47% year-on-year.

⁴¹ The Dublin Regulation, Council Regulation (EC) No 604/2013, sets out the criteria for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection. These criteria include, for example, the visa or residence permit issued, the first application for international protection on the territory of a Member State or family ties.

Chart 8:

History of Dublin cases in the period 2012–2022⁴²



Source: MoI

During the year 2022, the **Czech Republic received a total of 818 applications** from another Member State. This is an increase of 136.4% compared to the previous year. Of this number, 254 readmission applications and 564 take-back applications were registered. The Czech Republic received the most applications from Germany (478), France (103) and the Netherlands (50), i.e. from the same countries as in the previous year, but in higher numbers.

In 2022, especially in the second half of the year, the number of abused visas issued at Czech embassies by persons who subsequently came to the EU and applied for international protection gradually increased. Although these numbers do not reach those of the record years of 2016 and 2017, it is a signal that, after the pandemic years, the number of visas issued for tourism, study or employment purposes is on the rise again. In 2022, the most common nationalities to misuse the purpose for issuing visas in this way were citizens of Uzbekistan and Iran.

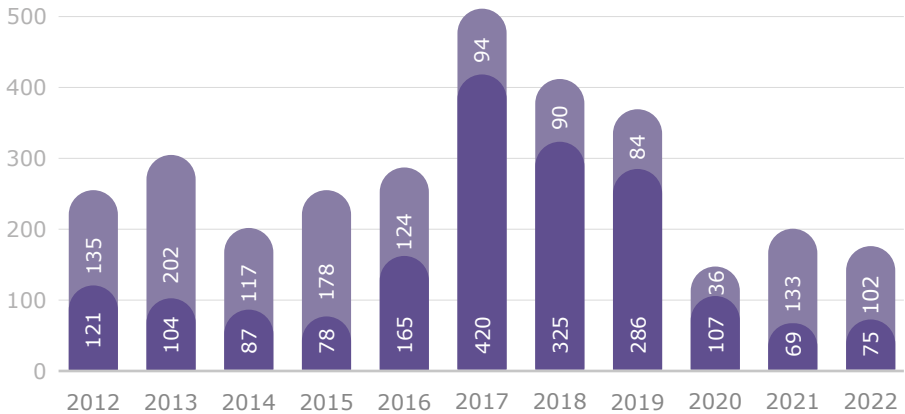
In 2022, the **Czech Republic sent a total of 633 requests** for taking back or receiving foreigners to another Member State. The main count-

⁴² From 2012 to 2015, requests for information were not included in the statistics on Dublin cases.

ries to which the Czech Republic sent applications were **Bulgaria** (121), **Germany** (107) and **Romania** (93).

Chart 9:

Transfers carried out from and to the territory of the Czech Republic in the period 2012-2022⁴³



Source: MoI

● transfers to the Czech Republic ● transfers from the Czech Republic

4.4 Asylum Facilities in the Czech Republic

The **Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior (SUZ)** is the operator of reception, accommodation and integration asylum centres. SUZ provided services to applicants for international protection and to foreign nationals who have been granted international protection in a total of **nine asylum facilities** of three types. **A reception centre (RC)** serves to provide foreign nationals who applied for international protection with initial accommodation while the initial steps, such as registration or medical examination, are carried out. **An accommodation centre (AC)** serves to accommodate applicants for international protection until the time when the proceedings on granting international protection are finally completed. **An integration asylum**

⁴³ From 2012 to 2015, requests for information were not included in the statistics on Dublin cases.

centre (IAC) serves to provide temporary accommodation for recognised refugees and persons who have been granted subsidiary protection.

In 2022, SUZ operated three reception centres, specifically the quarantine facility reception centre in Bělá-Jezová, the reception centre in Zastávka and the reception centre at the Václav Havel International Airport in Prague. SUZ MoI set up the quarantine facility reception centre in Bělá-Jezová under a special measure adopted by the Ministry of the Interior, the Department of Medical Security, as the authority responsible for protecting public health, and is designed for accommodating newly arriving clients in a quarantine regime in connection with the Covid-19 pandemic, both applicants for international protection and detained foreigners. This facility operated from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2022 with a capacity of 65 beds. SUZ operates **three accommodation centres, specifically the accommodation centre in Havířov, the accommodation centre in Kostelec nad Orlicí and, since 2018, the accommodation centre in Zastávka (serving a dual purpose of both a reception centre and an accommodation centre).** In both types of facilities, food is provided in addition to accommodation services (the operator either cooks meals or donates a regular financial contribution that also serves to help with cooking one's own meals). The role of social workers is irreplaceable; a balanced offer of leisure-time activities is available. The workers who are in direct contact with the target group work under expert supervision. Services of social nature are available to clients; a psychologist comes to visit the facility particularly to fulfil the needs of vulnerable persons.

As of 31 December 2022, **the total capacity of the reception and accommodation centres was 923 beds.**

Integration asylum centres serve to provide temporary accommodation for those persons who have been granted asylum or subsidiary protection in the first stage of their integration (the maximum period of accommodation is defined as 18 months in the Asylum Act). Here, all accommodated recognised refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection are provided with assistance from a social worker and with consultancy aimed at obtaining housing and employment; other integration activities and Czech language courses are also provided.

As of 31 December 2022, SUZ operated a total of four integration asylum centres where a total of 44 accommodation units with the maximum ca-

capacity of 124 beds are available to recognised refugees (they are assigned according to the size and nature of the accommodated families).


In 2022, **a total of 1,532 newly arrived foreign nationals – applicants for international protection** (including newborns born while the mother was staying in an asylum facility or persons accommodated based on a granted exception) – came to asylum facilities. The most frequent newcomers in the asylum facilities were nationals of **Ukraine** (271 persons, i.e. 17.7%), **Turkey** (160 persons, i.e. 10.4%), **Russia** (152 persons, i.e. 9.9%), **Georgia** (141 persons, i.e. 9.2%) and **Vietnam** (116 persons, i.e. 7.6%).

On average, **41% of the capacity of reception and accommodation centres** was used; these data include only the persons physically staying in these facilities. If foreign nationals who are registered in the accommodation centres but leave to stay outside the accommodation centres were also included, the extent of using the capacity of the reception and accommodation centres would be 84% on the average.

Applicants for international protection accommodated in an accommodation centre have the option to leave the centre on a long-term basis at their request. In 2022, this option was used, on the average, by 51% of the registered applicants for international protection.

The accommodation capacity of the integration asylum centres remained unchanged during the year.

The information on the extent to which the accommodation capacity of the IACs was used and the information on their occupancy rates is only approximate because the accommodation capacity consists more of apartment units than separate rooms. Therefore, the number of vacant beds does not correspond to the number of vacant apartment units. In 2019, the average number of persons accommodated in the IAS was 71, decreasing to 52 in 2020, increasing to 68 in 2021, and increasing again to 89 in 2022 due to the admission of more persons granted international protection, especially from Afghanistan.



The capacity of reception and residential asylum centres in the Czech Republic is 923 beds.

4.5 Integration of Recognised Refugees and Beneficiaries of Subsidiary Protection

The integration of persons who were granted international protection is governed by the **State Integration Programme (SIP)**. Legislatively, SIP is governed by Sections 68 through 70 of the Asylum Act and by Government Resolution No. 36 of 16 January 2017. In addition to the binding principles of SIP, this legislation also provides for an umbrella entity for integration activities, which is referred to as the **general provider of integration services (GPIS)**. **Since January 2017, this provider with an overall responsibility for integration activities has been the Refugee Facilities Administration,**⁴⁴ which is, among other things, the operator of integration asylum centres.

The goal of the programme is to facilitate the process of integration of recognised refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection (eligible persons) into the society in the Czech Republic. This involves particularly providing assistance and social consultancy regarding housing, entry into the labour market, health care, welfare assistance and education, including the retraining system, and assistance with acquiring and improving the knowledge of the Czech language.

GPIS provides integration services to asylum seekers and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection throughout the territory of the Czech Republic. The task of the General Provider is to coordinate and provide integration services to asylum seekers and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, also in cooperation with other entities, which are mainly concerned ministries, municipalities, NGOs, churches, volunteers and employers. The provider may subcontract individual services through a third party (non-governmental non-profit organisation).

The Individual Integration Plan (IIP) is a key document describing the integration goals of a particular person. It is prepared by the provider in close cooperation with the beneficiaries and the staff of the integration centres. The integration plan is a basic document describing the integration goals of a particular person and the course of integration in the following key areas: housing, employment, education and remo-

⁴⁴ This role is also assigned by the amendment of the aforementioned Act (Act No. 222/2017 Coll.), which entered into force in August 2017.

val of language barriers, social and health. These are the activities that will lead to the fulfilment of the stated integration goal. The implementation and realisation of the activities is financed from the special budget of the SIP and the cooperation for its implementation lasts a maximum of 12 months. All activities are supported by interpreters physically and by telephone if needed.

In 2022, a total of **293 eligible persons** joined SIP, which represents an increase of 21 persons (7.2%) from the previous year. This increase was mainly related to the participation of 139 persons from Ukraine, as a relatively small number of new arrivals applied for and received international protection after the Russian invasion and other Ukrainians were already in the asylum procedure before 24 February 2022. The higher numbers were also related to the arrival of refugees from Afghanistan, which continued in 2022 after the evacuation of the persons who collaborated with the army of the Czech Republic in 2021.

During the year, a total of 142 individual integration plans were prepared for a total of 281 beneficiaries of international protection (individuals and families), which again represents a record number in the seven-year history of the SIP. In addition, most of the 120 plans from the previous year were also under implementation at some point during the year. **A total of CZK 13,294,822 was drawn** from the state budget to provide integration services through the implementation of the IIP. The majority of this amount was direct expenditure for services, in particular the provision of rental housing, as well as equipment for eligible persons, courses and other educational activities, while other costs were made up of payments for integration services to contracted non-governmental non-profit organisations.

In addition to the implementation of the IIP, the SIP also provides assistance to persons who are placed in health care facilities or registered social service facilities. In the case of these clients, the SIP fully covers their stay in the respective facilities for the entire duration of their stay. In 2022, a total of 8 persons were provided with such accommodation and the related costs drawn from the SIP budget amounted to CZK 1.579 million.

Table 11:
SIP beneficiaries in 2022 by nationality

Nationality	Number of
Ukraine	139
Afghanistan	39
Syria	24
Myanmar	17
Russia	10
Somalia	10
Azerbaijan	9
Belarus	8
Kyrgyzstan	6
Yemen	4
Libya	4
Colombia	4
Venezuela	3
Iran	3
Cuba	2
Vietnam	2
Ethiopia	2
Uzbekistan	2
Stateless	1
Iraq	1
Kazakhstan	1
Turkey	1
India	1
Total	293

Source: MoI

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS **5**

- ▶ In 2022, the facilities for provision of institutional and protective care, established by the MoEYS, provided a universal care to a total of **136 unaccompanied foreign minors**.
- ▶ During the year, **one unaccompanied foreign minor applied for international protection in the CR**.
- ▶ **In total, 41 minors from Ukraine** were placed in the facilities for provision of institutional and protective care and 40 clients were registered for temporary protection.

5.1 Unaccompanied Minors

In this field, the Czech Republic follows the *Policy for the Protection and Care of Unaccompanied Minor Foreign Nationals, Including Applicants for International Protection*, which was adopted in 2012. This policy defined the rules for treatment of UAMs who arrive in the territory of the Czech Republic without a legal representative and also defined the system of care and the conditions for the integration of this group.

When it is established that an UAM is present in the territory of the Czech Republic, the Social-Legal Child Protection Authority (OSPOD) is promptly notified by the Police of the CR. Care of an UAM starts immediately after the UAM is received by an OSPOD official who is obliged to act in the best interest of the child and provide the child with adequate care.


To take care of unaccompanied foreign minor, the CR has a unique place for this purpose – the **Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals (ZDC)**, which provides care to children who are not citizens of the CR and meet the conditions defined by the Act on the Social-Legal Protection of Children. ZDC was established by the MoEYS. The facility provides full direct custody, therapeutic and support services, education, intensive work on the integration process and preparation for future self-reliant life.

The facility includes a diagnostic institute, a centre for educational care and an elementary school. The diagnostic institute serves to provide primarily diagnostic, therapeutic, medical and educational training services. During the first two months of the stay of a client in the facility, a comprehensive diagnosis of the client is made (a psychological, special pedagogical, education, social-legal and medical diagnosis) and an individual educational-training plan and client's personality development plan are prepared, the purpose of which is mainly the client's integration into the Czech society. The facility provides clients with systematic elementary education with an emphasis on improvement of their knowledge of the Czech language; the clients may carry out leisure time activities in and outside the facility. The facility allows clients who have already fulfilled mandatory school attendance to prepare for a secondary school in a diagnostic classroom. Clients who study at a secondary school or a university are allowed to remain in the facility under a contract up until the age of 26 years. To ensure a successful integration process, there is also a so-called training apartment where clients prepare for leaving the facility (in 2022, 3 clients lived there).

At the beginning of each child's stay at the ZDC, the needs and situation of the child are comprehensively assessed and, based on the results of this assessment, an individual personality development plan and an individual

educational plan is prepared for each client. The system adopted in 2015 particularly made sure that each minor foreign national is given the opportunity of being subjected to the comprehensive assessment at the ZDC. Based on such identified objective facts, it was possible to set up the aforementioned integration plans together with the client.

In terms of UAMs migration, the year 2022 was significantly affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which brought a new wave of child refugees with different needs and demands. **Of the nearly 472,000 appli-**



Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals provides children who are not citizens of the Czech Republic with full direct care, therapeutic and support services, education, assistance in the integration process and preparation for future independent life.

cants for temporary protection in 2022, 32% were minors. According to an analysis by the MoLSA from June 2022, the largest group was children arriving with their parents (mothers) or legal guardians. Another large group consisted of so-called separated children, i.e. children and minors arriving without their legal representatives, mostly accompanied by close relatives, family friends or other persons; more than 30,000 separated children were registered through the Regional Assistance Centres for Help and Assistance to Ukraine.

As part of the protection of these UAMs, virtually all facilities in the network for the execution of institutional education immediately offered any available capacity to accommodate these clients and provided accessible services beyond their obligations. The Facility for Children-Foreigners was designated as the coordinator for the placement of UAMs, worked closely with all facilities, prepared methodological materials and set up a mobile work team that went out to provide therapeutic, special education and interpretation services. A special email list was set up for consultations and reporting on the number of children in each facility, so that vacancies were always available. Close cooperation was established with all KACPU departments.

All children admitted to these facilities were provided with full direct care, education and leisure activities. Emphasis was placed especially on learning the Czech language with regards to an early integration into the Czech education system. Some children were simultaneously studying Ukrainian schools online. On an ongoing basis, according to the professional choice and study prerequisites of individual clients, CR prepared children for studying at secondary schools. Children required to attend primary school were enrolled in regular primary schools. All children were provided with a valid residence document (temporary protection), as well as contact with their families and, if possible, meetings with them. In case of reaching the age of majority, clients were always provided with subsequent accommodation and a job opportunity provided with a proper employment contract.

In 2022, a total of **41** Ukrainian minors have undergone institutional and protective education. Most children from Ukraine were placed into facilities in the month of March.

Apart from the Ukrainian migration wave, comprehensive services were also provided to all other unaccompanied foreign minors who were detained anywhere in the Czech Republic. Minors from Syria and Afghanistan

contributed significantly to child migration in 2022. As well as children from Ukraine, these refugees were provided with full direct provision, adequate education, therapeutic services and leisure activities. In total, **136** clients were provided with protection and facilities in institutions for the execution of institutional and protective education established by the MoEYS.

Of the total, 12 were girls and 124 were boys, 25 clients were under the age of 15 and 111 were over the age of 15. In total 40 clients were granted temporary protection and one client applied for international protection.

Table 12:

The numbers of unaccompanied minor foreign nationals who applied for international protection in the period 2009–2022

Year	Number of unaccompanied minors applying for international protection
2009	9
2010	4
2011	8
2012	5
2013	2
2014	6
2015	14
2016 ⁴⁵	4
2017 ⁴⁶	7
2018	10
2019	8
2020	7
2021	6
2022	1

Source: DAMP a ZDC (for the years 2016-2017)

⁴⁵ This number may not be complete for the CR; this is the number of children who were placed in the Facility for Children-Foreigners and applied for international protection in this facility in 2016.

⁴⁶ This number may not be complete for the CR; this is the number of children who were placed in the Facility for Children-Foreigners and applied for international protection in this facility in 2017.

Table 13:**Total number of UAMs receiving care by nationality in 2022⁴⁷**

Nationality	Number of
Ukraine	41
Syria	39
Afghanistan	29
Slovakia	7
Egypt	4
Morocco	4
Turkey	3
Yemen	1
Libya	1
Lebanon	1
Moldova	1
Pakistan	1
Poland	1
Romania	1
Russia	1
Somalia	1
Total	136

Source: ZDC

⁴⁷ Only unaccompanied minors who have been provided care in the Facility for Children-Foreigners and other subordinate facilities, i.e. the VÚ and SVP Klíčov, VÚ and SVP Pšov and VÚ Višňové, are included.

5.2 Other Vulnerable Groups of Persons

As well as unaccompanied minors and victims of human trafficking or persons in proceedings for the granting of international protection, persons with a medical condition, disabled persons, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with a minor child, persons with a mental disorder and persons who have been exposed torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, all belong to the so-called vulnerable groups.⁴⁸

The Czech Republic has a system in place to provide victims of trafficking with support and assistance and also focuses on prevention in this field. For victims of human trafficking older than 18 years, the Czech Republic has the Programme of Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking, and for victims of human trafficking younger than 18 years, there is a special system of assistance in place, which is within the purview of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The offices of OSPOD, which protect the rights and defend the interests of a vulnerable child, also play an important role in addressing the situations of child victims of human trafficking. The topic of human trafficking is covered in greater detail in Chapter 6.

⁴⁸ According to Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (Reception Directive).

- ▶ In 2022, **12 persons were prosecuted** for the crime of human trafficking and 16 persons were convicted of this crime.
- ▶ **In 2022, in total 33 probable victims of trafficking in human beings** were included in the Ministry of the Interior's ***Programme for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings***, most of them from the Czech Republic (9) and the Philippines (8). In total, there were 8 women and 25 men.
- ▶ The year 2022 was fundamentally affected by the **arrival of refugees as a result of the war in Ukraine**. Public authorities and NGOs organised **prevention and awareness-raising activities and campaigns** to reduce the risk of refugees' vulnerable position being used for labour or sexual exploitation.
- ▶ During 2022, the trend of targeting men and women from socially and educationally disadvantaged environment in the Czech Republic continued, with subsequent luring abroad, especially to the UK, where women are forced into prostitution and men have to perform physically demanding work.

6.1 Human Trafficking

Pursuant to Act on Victims of Crime (No. 45/2013 Coll.), victims of human trafficking are considered a group of especially vulnerable persons, who need to be treated in a sensitive and special manner. The National Reference Mechanism is configured accordingly.

6.1.1 PROGRAMME FOR THE SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

There is a **Programme for the Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking** operated by the Ministry of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as Programme) as a measure created to provide victims of human trafficking with support and appropriate protection based

on individual risk assessment. It is intended for victims of human trafficking older than 18 years and covers EU citizens trafficked in the territory of the CR, third-country nationals trafficked in the territory of the CR as well as Czech citizens trafficked in the territory of the CR or abroad.

In 2022, 33 presumed victims of trafficking in human beings were included in the Programme (22 more than in 2021), from Moldova (1), Pakistan (1), Philippines (8), Slovakia (4), Czech Republic (9), Poland (4), Ukraine (3), Bulgaria (1), Latvia (1), Romania (1). There were 8 women and 25 men.

A key objective of the Programme is the humanitarian dimension of assistance and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings. For victims of this serious crime, the Programme offers accommodation, psychosocial and medical assistance, interpretation services, legal assistance, the services of a lawyer, assistance in finding employment, assistance in changing the residence permit and, if desired, the implementation of a dignified return to the country of origin. However, its purpose is also to obtain relevant information about the criminal environment that can lead to the detection, punishment and conviction of offenders. In 2022, no voluntary return of a victim to a country of origin was implemented under the Programme.

6.1.2 TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN 2022

Compared to 2021, the issue of trafficking in human beings has not seen any major changes in the forms of trafficking in human beings detected or in the methods of behaviour of the perpetrators of this crime. The Czech Republic can still be considered primarily a country of destination and transit, but also a country of origin. In the Czech environment, the main forms of trafficking in human beings were the use of victims for prostitution, forced labour or other forms of exploitation. The issue of trafficking in human beings as found in the Czech Republic is similar to that in other EU Member States and correlates with current European trends in this type of organised crime.⁴⁹

The year 2022 was fundamentally affected by the refugee crisis due to the war in Ukraine. Given the large influx of women and children ente-

⁴⁹ This conclusion results, among other things, from information obtained during expert meetings within the Europol EMPACT THB project.

ring into the country, there is a risk that their vulnerable position will be used for labour or sexual exploitation. In this context, many prevention and awareness-raising activities and campaigns have been and are still being implemented in cooperation with public authorities, NGOs, etc.⁵⁰ Thanks to these measures, no case of such abuse has been confirmed so far in 2022.

During 2022, men and women from disadvantaged environments continued to be targeted in the Czech Republic and subsequently lured abroad, particularly to the UK. There, men were forced to perform physically demanding work (e.g. in car washes, fruit and vegetable sorting plants, poultry farms etc.) for little or no pay. The perpetrators then robbed them of their money, and in some cases, in addition, they took out loans in the victims' names. The women were forced into prostitution or into marriage with third-country nationals.

A liaison officer of the Police of the Czech Republic working at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in London provides assistance to potential victims of human trafficking through voluntary returns to the Czech Republic, informs the NCOZ of specific suspicions and arranges communication with the British police authorities during subsequent investigations of criminal activity.

Cases of suspected trafficking for forced labour or other forms of exploitation are often linked to so-called agency employment, or labour agents with a permit from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Those interested in employment came mainly from Romania, Bulgaria, but also from the Philippines, Nepal and Mongolia. In the case of workers from Ukraine, the most frequent were holders of Polish visas. There was also a trend towards the employment of Moldovan nationals with forged documents in order to facilitate access to the EU labour market. Another detected form of exploitation was a targeted recruitment of men from disadvantaged backgrounds, who were then forced to perform physically demanding work in the construction industry, for which they received little or no pay.

The data on the number of persons does not reflect the overall situation in the area of trafficking in human beings in the Czech Republic. The pro-

⁵⁰ For example, training of employees of the SÚIP and regional labour inspectorates, training of field workers of the NGO People in Need, and training of health service workers through the Medical Chamber.

gramme should be seen as only one of the possible measures for victims of trafficking in human beings. Since 2003, when the Programme was established, a total of 317 presumed victims of trafficking in human beings have been included in the Programme.

6.2 Preventive Activities and Educational Events in 2022

Prevention, awareness-raising and educational activities in 2022 were completely subordinated to the consequences of the war in Ukraine and the related refugee wave to the Czech Republic. These were mainly women and children who became potential victims of human trafficking after arriving in the Czech Republic. Therefore, in cooperation with public authorities, police and concerned NGOs, a wide range of preventive and educational activities were implemented, such as video spots, separate websites, free telephone lines providing a wide range of counselling, informative leaflets (with topics such as crime prevention, prevention of labour exploitation, sexual awareness), social work with the target group, monitoring of the risk environment (sexual, labour, criminal) including online and control activities in the risk environment.

Educational activities have also been strengthened (especially by the NCOZ and relevant NGOs) for identified target professional groups (e.g. volunteers, field social workers, employees of the State Labour Inspection Office or health services) aimed at early identification of potential victims of trafficking in human beings (for this purpose, among other things, a card of indicators of possible trafficking in human beings has been issued, which contains a number of categorised features that may indicate a potential victim of trafficking in human beings).

The assistance programme for victims of trafficking has been strengthened. Refugees have been and continue to be provided with concrete and intensive assistance in all aspects of their lives with the aim of ensuring their safety, protection and maximum integration into the mainstream of our society. In the second half of 2022, the Czech Republic held the Presidency of the Council of the EU, and therefore a number of measures aimed at the protection and safety of these people were coordinated at European level.

6.3 Statistics

In 2022, in total **12 persons were criminally prosecuted** by the Police of the Czech Republic and **16 persons were convicted** of the crime of human trafficking.

Table 14:

The number of persons criminally prosecuted for and convicted of human trafficking in the period 2012–2022⁵¹

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of persons prosecuted for human trafficking*	31	25	16	12	23	24	15	26	21	21	12
Number of persons convicted of human trafficking**	11	20	6	19	8	14	16	9	0	24	16

Source: * Police Presidium; ** Ministry of Justice

⁵¹ There was an extensive reconstruction of the Crime Registration Statistical System carried out in 2016, and therefore, it is not possible to compare the number of persons prosecuted for human trafficking in that year with the numbers from previous years.



- ▶ In the second half of 2022, the **Czech Republic held the Presidency of the Council of the EU**. Among the biggest achievements of the Presidency were the breakthrough in the negotiations on asylum and migration reform, the extension of temporary protection for refugees from the war in Ukraine and the approval of Croatia's entry into the Schengen area.
- ▶ Since 2015, the Ministry of the Interior has been implementing permanent **Aid in Place Programme** (Programme of the Ministry of the Interior for Assistance to Refugees in Regions of Origin and for Prevention of Large Migration Flows) with the budget of **CZK 130 million**.
- ▶ Support was directed to countries along the Eastern, Central and Western Mediterranean migration routes, as well as to countries along the Western Balkan migration route and to the EU's immediate neighbourhood. In addition, the Aid in Place Programme assistance to Ukraine amounting to CZK 125 million was implemented.
- ▶ **In 2022, the MEDEVAC** programme, which focuses on providing specialist medical care to vulnerable populations in regions affected by a refugee crisis or natural disaster, was also implemented.
- ▶ In total **eight Czech hospitals** were involved in the implementation of **14 operational missions in Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon and Senegal**. During the year, 39 people from Ghana, Senegal and Ukraine were trained in five specialities. The budget of the MEDEVAC programme in 2022 was **CZK 50 million**.
- ▶ **Emergency assistance of CZK 50 million** has been provided to Ukraine. These included material aid packages, financial assistance to the Ukrainian Red Cross in the amount of CZK 5 million and the evacuation of three people from Ukraine to the Czech Republic for medical treatment.
- ▶ During 2022, a total of **229 members of Czech expatriate communities in Ukraine, Russia and Venezuela** were resettled in the Czech Republic as part of the **Programme of Assistance to Czech Compatriots**.

7.1 International Cooperation and Projects

The Czech Republic's migration policy is firmly rooted in the common policies of the European Union and its implementation is largely determined by the common legal instruments of the EU. The specific fields of migration, which are mostly regulated by the EU common policies, include primarily international protection, the common visa policy, the protection of the external border of the EU and the field of returns (including the expulsion of illegally staying foreign nationals). In the field of legal migration and the integration of foreign nationals, the EU Member States retained a fairly high degree of sovereignty. All the aforementioned fields, regardless of the degree of their harmonisation at the Union level, form an integrated system framework. Thus, in its approach to migration issues, the Czech Republic must take into account not only its specific needs and possibilities but also the situation at the EU level and must actively participate in addressing them under the EU's common policies.

The political, security and socio-economic situation in Europe has been fundamentally affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine since February 2022. The military aggression of the Russian Federation has resulted, among other things, in an unprecedented wave of refugees heading to Europe. The development of the situation in Ukraine in relation to the arrival of refugees was therefore a crucial issue that largely determined the overall shape of the Czech Republic's international cooperation in the field of migration. The main **emphasis in this respect was on strengthening the capacity and capability of states to host newcomers from Ukraine**, including the issue of **providing sufficient financial, material and technical assistance, or organising movements, registration of persons and general exchange of information**. The war in Ukraine and its impact on the area of home affairs was also one of the priorities of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU in the second half of 2022, where the main focus was on addressing the refugee crisis caused by the war in Ukraine.

Another migration trend in 2022 was the increasing number of migrants heading to Europe, with the most significant year-on-year increase in the number of people on the Central Mediterranean route and the Western Balkan route. In this context, the Czech Republic has been actively engaged in particular in the fi-

ght against irregular migration from the Western Balkans, participating in negotiations with its closest neighbours and countries along the Western Balkan route to coordinate border protection measures and reduce migration pressure. In November 2022, the increasing illegal migration from the Western Balkans was addressed by the interior ministers of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Austria in a joint meeting, where they **stressed the need to align the visa policies of the Western Balkan countries with the EU**. In its capacity of the Presidency of the EU Council, the Czech Republic chaired a meeting of the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs, which focused on strengthening cooperation in the Western Balkans in relation to border management, operational partnership against people smuggling and the alignment of visa policy with the EU. The result was a joint statement committing to address existing shortcomings or further strengthen cooperation.

In terms of dynamics at EU level, in addition to dealing with the consequences of the military aggression in Ukraine, **there were ongoing discussions on the legislative proposals presented in the framework of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, the reform and enlargement of the Schengen area and the measures proposed in relation to the instrumentalisation of migrants.**

7.2 Presidency of the Council of the EU

In the second half of 2022, the Czech Republic held the Presidency of the Council of the EU. During the Presidency, a major breakthrough was achieved on asylum and migration reform and important progress was made on legislation to combat child sexual abuse. The adoption of common rules on critical infrastructure, which will contribute to strengthening the Union's resilience, was also a success. In the context of the war in Ukraine, a decision was taken to extend temporary protection for Ukrainian refugees and to launch a structured security dialogue with the Ukrainian authorities. It was also possible to negotiate a common EU approach on the non-recognition of Russian passports issued in the occupied territories of Ukraine and Georgia. The approval of Croatia's accession to the Schengen area was also a significant achievement.

7.3 Regional cooperation

Within the framework of **regional cooperation**, the Czech Republic **continued in developing relations in the near neighbourhood**.

In November 2022, the Czech Republic participated in **the Salzburg Forum Ministerial Conference** on the coordination of assistance to Ukrainian refugees and the current migration situation in the European neighbourhood. During 2022, **the Czech Republic also continued to develop its relations with its partners from the Western Balkans**, where, in addition to the aforementioned EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum, it participated in the second high-level conference on migration, the Sarajevo Migration Dialogue, the Berlin Process Ministerial Meeting of Interior Ministers and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Conference on Sustainable Migration Management in the Western Balkans. Within the framework of the Joint Coordination Platform, the Czech Republic participated in the ministerial conference on returns in February 2022, where the possibilities of a regional return mechanism and return partnership with the Western Balkan countries in the context of migration movements along the Western Balkan migration route were discussed. In December 2022, the Czech Republic, as the country holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU, together with representatives of European institutions, participated in the EU-US Ministerial Meeting on Justice and Home Affairs, where, among other things, the topic of enhanced cooperation in the area of border security and information sharing related to that was discussed. As part of the strengthening of cooperation with the Southern Wing countries, the Czech Republic participated in the meeting of the Ministers of the Interior of Malta, Greece, Cyprus, Italy and Spain (MED 5) in June and October 2022.

The Czech Republic continued to be actively involved in regional activities through the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), especially through its participation in regional dialogues (Rabat Process, Khartoum Process, Budapest Process, Prague Process), which the Czech Republic used to present, build partnerships and promote its long-term objectives in relation to third countries.

The Czech Republic further developed cooperation at the international level, in particular with the International Organization for Mi-

gration (IOM) and the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (UNHCR), with the aim of addressing the impact of the influx of refugees from Ukraine and coordinating assistance.

In terms of bilateral relations, the Czech Republic continued to focus on building relations in the area of migration with EU Member States and other relevant third countries. In particular, with regard to the Czech Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2022, many bilateral meetings were held between the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and counterparts from EU Member States and representatives of EU institutions. The Czech Republic also profiled itself in 2022 in supporting EU Member States and third countries in the field of migration, in particular through the implementation of projects and financial donations aimed at capacity building of a specific third country and expert support.

7.4 Specific Activities in the Field of International and Regional Cooperation

7.4.1 PRAGUE PROCESS

The Czech Republic maintains good relations within the eastern and south-eastern dimensions, including through cooperation with the Prague Process. The Prague Process is the main dialogue with countries from the eastern regions, which are the main source countries of migration for the Czech Republic.

In 2022, the Czech Republic **continued its chairmanship of the Prague Process Steering Committee** with the aim of preparing this important intergovernmental dialogue on migration for the next phase of its existence, both politically and technically. During the year, the Czech Republic organised two high-level meetings of officials to serve as preparatory meetings for the Prague Process Ministerial Conference to be held under the auspices of the Czech Presidency in October 2022. At this conference, which was one of the largest ever events during the Czech Presidency, a Ministerial Declaration was adopted together with the Prague Process Action Plan for 2023-2027. Both documents will now serve to plan further activities in the Prague Process region and to strategically define the objectives of this migration dialogue.

7.4.2 COOPERATION AMONG THE VISEGRAD GROUP

In June 2022, the Czech Republic participated in the **conference of the Ministers of the Interior of the Visegrad Four (V4) countries in Budapest**. The main topic of the meeting was the cooperation of the V4 countries with regard to the military invasion of Russia in Ukraine, especially with regard to migration and security aspects and the joint fight against illegal migration on the Western Balkan migration route.

7.4.3 EUROPEAN UNION ASYLUM AGENCY (EUAA)

The European Union Agency for Asylum Affairs (EUAA), launched on 19 January 2022 by EU Regulation 2021/2303, replacing the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). The Agency's main objective is to provide operational and technical assistance to EU Member States and to support the implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

In 2022, EUAA provided operational and technical support to the asylum system in 12 Member States; Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Spain, Greece, Malta, Cyprus and now also Belgium, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Romania and Bulgaria. The support provided in 2022, in addition to the traditional migratory pressure linked to the high number of migrants coming from Afghanistan and Syria, responded to a large extent to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, in particular the activation of Directive 2001/55/EC, the so-called Temporary Protection Directive (IT, EL, CY, MT, ES, RO, BE, BG, CZ) and the transfer of Ukrainian refugees from Moldova to other EU Member States.

In response to this conflict, on 7 March 2022 EUAA established the Emergency Response Board (UERB) to monitor and coordinate activities related to the war in Ukraine. EUAA's assistance to EU Member States has focused mainly on increasing accommodation capacity, providing interpreters and training.

EUAA support was also provided to the Czech Republic under the Operational Plan, which was signed on 10 June and extended at the end of 2022 to 2023. This support included in particular the provision of translators for the Regional Assistance Centres for Help and Assistance to Ukraine. EUAA, in cooperation with DAMP, organised webinars for Mi-

nistry of the Interior and SUZ staff on providing information to people displaced from Ukraine, temporary protection and communication with vulnerable persons. The “Train the Trainer” programme trained 2 DAMP’s staff on trafficking in human beings. In 2022, the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic also cooperated with EUAA in the special training of national experts from among the DAMP staff of the MoI and the SUZ of the MoI; 18 experts were newly trained.

In 2022, the EUAA focused on its duties under its mandate, as well as on fulfilling the new obligations arising from the transformation from EASO. These include, in particular, the creation of a pool of 500 trained national staff, facilitating the process of deployment of experts or promoting cooperation between EU members and third countries. By the end of October, an asylum pool of 242 national experts from 19 Member States had been created. EUAA also increased the number of training sessions organised, prioritising the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive. During the first 10 months of the year, EUAA deployed 1,055 of its experts, 250 more than in the previous year, including 22 national experts from EU Member States. EUAA was involved in the registration of 38,000 (33%) asylum applications and 32,400 (28%) temporary protection applications.

7.5 Humanitarian Projects

7.5.1 AID IN PLACE PROGRAMME

In response to the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in the immediate vicinity of the EU, mainly related to the ongoing armed conflict in Syria, in January 2015, the Government of the Czech Republic approved the establishment of a permanent **Ministry of the Interior Programme for Assistance to Refugees in Regions of Origin and Prevention of Large Migration Movements** (Aid in Place). In the autumn of the same year, the Government then approved the *Concept of the Ministry of Interior for Assistance to Refugees and States under Strong Migration Pressures*, which formulates the general framework within which the MoI carries out and will carry out its activities in the future in relation to the external dimension of migration, in particular assistance to refugees and countries under strong migration pressures.

In July 2021, following the negotiation of the new European Pact on Asylum and Migration, the Government of the Czech Republic approved a new *Concept of the Ministry of the Interior's On-Site Assistance Programme as an instrument of the Czech Republic's external migration policy* (abbreviated as the *Concept of the Aid in Place Programme*). It is a document replacing the original Concept from 2015. The main objective of this new Concept is to create a comprehensive conceptual and methodological

**In 2022,
the Aid in Place
programme had
a budget of CZK
130 million.**

framework through which the priorities of the Ministry of the Interior for the *Aid in Place Programme* as an instrument of the external migration policy of the Czech Republic will be determined.

Through the Aid in Place programme, the MoI makes cash donations abroad, mainly to assist refugees at the point of their initial displacement and countries hosting large numbers of refugees and migrants or dealing with them as transit countries. Such an approach reduces the reasons for people to move further towards the European Union and contributes to reducing irregular migration.

Beyond what is happening on the main migration routes, the migration situation in the EU in 2022 has been significantly affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent forced displacement of the Ukrainian population to neighbouring and other European countries.⁵²

The budget for the Aid in Place programme in 2022 was **CZK 130 million** (additional CZK 45 million was transferred to the budget from the funds originally earmarked for the implementation of a joint V4-German project in Morocco). Support was directed to **countries along the Eastern, Central and Western Mediterranean migration routes**, as well as to countries along the **Western Balkan migration route** and the **EU's immediate neighbourhood**.

⁵² Almost 5 million people have applied for temporary protection in EU countries since the beginning of the crisis in Ukraine until 8 January 2023. 3.8 million persons with active temporary protection have been registered in EU Member States (as of 8 January 2023), most of them in Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic (Source: EUAA). In Ukraine, there were a total of 5.9 million IDPs at the beginning of December 2022 (Source: IOM).

In addition, **assistance to Ukraine** was implemented in 2022 under the Aid in Place Programme, following the Government Resolution No. 131 of 25 February 2022 on the provision of emergency assistance to Ukraine in the amount of **CZK 125 million** (of this amount, CZK 25 million was allocated for the provision of assistance to Ukraine from the regular budget of the 2022 Aid in Place Programme, CZK 100 million were additional funds from the state budget).

7.5.1.1 LIST OF DONATIONS UNDER THE AID IN PLACE PROGRAMME IN 2022

▶ **Priority 1** – Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkan migration route

▶ **Afghanistan – Supporting resilience and reintegration of internally displaced populations – CZK 25 million**

The cash donation was made to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for a joint project to stabilise the people of Afghanistan. The aim of the project was to improve access to basic services, promote entrepreneurship and create emergency employment opportunities for the internally displaced population of the country. The implementation of the project was completed in December 2022.

▶ **Bosna and Herzegovina – Support to the national return system – CZK 7 million**

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) project aims to support Bosnia and Herzegovina's national return system in cooperation with the Ministry of Security. This pilot project aims to strengthen the national capacity to implement voluntary and forced returns. The pilot project will be implemented by the end of October 2023.

▶ **Lebanon – Supporting the livelihoods of vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian farmers – CZK 10 million**

ADRA's project aims to improve the income-generating activities of small-scale refugee farmers and the host community by strengthening their capacities and supporting the marketing of their products on the local market. The project is implemented in coo-

peration with the Lebanese Organisation for Studies and Training (LOST) and will be completed in May 2023.

▶ **Lebanon – Supporting vocational training and job opportunities for poor Lebanese and Syrian refugees – CZK 8 million**

The Lutheran World Federation project aims to expand access to vocational training courses for young and disadvantaged adults in the Hay El Gharbeh slum in south Beirut, where many Syrian refugees, as well as poor Lebanese, live. Project activities include the establishment of a new teaching space in the vocational training centre, the expansion of the existing sewing apprenticeship and the establishment of a new carpentry apprenticeship. Other activities include the electrification of the training centre with a solar system to ensure self-sufficiency in the face of erratic electricity supply. The project will be completed in June 2023.

▶ **Priority 2** – The EU's immediate neighbourhood

▶ **Ukraine – Support for internally displaced persons in connection with Russian aggression – CZK 25 million**

The donation was made to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to support internally displaced persons in Ukraine in the context of Russian aggression. The donation supported the provision of necessary protection for IDPs, accommodation and basic humanitarian assistance – both material and monetary. The implementation was completed in December 2022.

▶ **Ukraine – Support for the State Migration Service and Consular Services Abroad – CZK 25 million**

The aim of the project of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is to support the capacity of the Ukrainian State Migration Service and to strengthen the consular services of Ukrainian consular offices in the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany in order to facilitate the issuance of personal documents to Ukrainian citizens and to expand the provision of information. The project is co-financed by the Czech Republic and Germany. The implementation of the project will run until June 2025.

▶ **Priority 3** – Central Mediterranean Migration Route

▶ **Libya – Support to Libya’s border management system – CZK 25 million**

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICM-PD) project aims to support institutional reform of Libya’s border management system. The project will develop a strategic road-map of the steps leading to the implementation of key systemic measures, develop a border management strategy and last but not least strengthen the coordination and operational capacities of key Libyan institutions. The project will start in January 2023 and run until December 2023.

▶ **Priority 4** – Western Mediterranean Migration Route

▶ **Mali – Protection and reintegration of children and adolescents on the move – CZK 25 million**

This is an ongoing project of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Mali to support unaccompanied migrant minors. The aim is to protect and stabilize displaced children and adolescents in Mali and prevent their further migratory movements. The main outputs of the project include the provision of protection and psychosocial support to 4,000 children and adolescents and the training of social outreach workers. The second output is reintegration support for adolescents returning to their homes. The implementation of the project will run until June 2024.

▶ **Other supported projects**

▶ **Cyprus – Support for voluntary returns in the context of the current increased migration flows – CZK 25 million**

The monetary donation was made to the Ministry of Interior (MoI) of the Republic of Cyprus. The aim of the project is to support the Office for Voluntary Returns, which is established under the Ministry of Interior of Cyprus. Specifically, the donation will support the provision of information on voluntary returns among unsuccessful asylum seekers and will pay for the transport of returnees to their countries of origin. The implementation of the project will run until February 2023.

7.5.1.2 IMPLEMENTING URGENT AID TO UKRAINE

Under the Aid in Place programme, five cash donations to international organisations, each amounting to CZK 25 million, were made in 2022, following Government Resolution 131 of 25 February 2022. Four of the donations went to Ukraine: to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to support health care in Ukraine, to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support Ukrainian children, to the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide food for displaced and most affected people in Ukraine, and to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to assist internally displaced people in Ukraine. The fifth cash donation was made to UNHCR to support reception facilities for Ukrainian refugees in Moldova.

7.5.2 THE PERMANENT PROGRAMME OF HUMANITARIAN EVACUATIONS OF INHABITANTS WITH HEALTH ISSUES – MEDEVAC PROGRAMME

The **MEDEVAC** Programme is a governmental, medical humanitarian programme of the CR, which focuses on providing medical care to vulnerable groups of population in regions affected by migration or strained by a large number of refugees, or in places where specialised professional care is not available. Treatment is provided for free and exclusively to civilians (predominantly to women, children and elderly persons) whose medical condition is serious or whose medical condition does not allow them to lead a dignified life. The programme is implemented under

Resolution No. 956 of the Government of the Czech Republic of 20 November 2015 by sending teams of Czech physicians abroad, by training medical staff and by supporting projects designed to build and develop medical infrastructure.

On 21 June 2021, the Government of the Czech Republic approved the new Concept of the MEDEVAC Programme of the Ministry of the Interior as an instrument of the external migration policy of the Czech Republic (MEDEVAC Programme Concept) by Resolution No. 556. The main objective of this new Concept is to create a comprehensive conceptual and methodological framework through which the priorities of the Ministry of the Interior for the MEDEVAC Programme as an instrument of the external migration policy of the Czech Republic will be determined.

In 2022, the MEDEVAC programme continued to operate in priority regions – **the Middle East (Jordan, Lebanon), Africa (Ghana, Kenya, Senegal) and Eastern Europe (Ukraine)** – through the implementation of medical missions, training of medical personnel and financial support for projects to build medical infrastructure. In addition to activities in established partner countries, fact-finding missions to Rwanda and Zambia were carried out to establish cooperation and expand the MEDEVAC programme. The programme was also involved in the implementation of assistance to Ukraine. In 2022, the MEDEVAC budget amounted to CZK 50 million.

7.5.2.1 SUMMARY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDEVAC PROGRAMME IN 2022

- ▶ **Eight Czech hospitals** (FN Bulovka, FN Brno, IKEM, FN Královské Vinohrady, FN Motol, FN Olomouc, ÚVN, VFN) **participated in the implementation of the programme.**
- ▶ **14 surgical missions** with 851 surgical procedures performed on 833 patients in Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon and Senegal (pediatric cardiac surgery, gynecology, ophthalmology, ENT, plastic surgery, traumatology).

**In 2022,
the MEDEVAC
programme operated in Jordan,
Lebanon, Ghana,
Kenya, Senegal
and Ukraine.**

- ▶ During internships, training and missions, **39 people were trained** in five specialties (anaesthesiology, gynaecology, ENT, plastic surgery and burns) from Ghana, Senegal and Ukraine.
- ▶ The programme budget supported *Amel Association International's* project to support primary health care in Lebanon by **building health infrastructure for** the amount of **CZK 5 million**.

7.5.2.2 IMPLEMENTING URGENT AID TO UKRAINE

Following Government Resolution No. 131 of 25 February 2022 on the provision of emergency assistance to Ukraine, the MEDEVAC programme provided emergency assistance to Ukraine through the delivery of material medical assistance, evacuations for medical treatment in the Czech Republic and financial support from international organisations. MEDEVAC assistance was provided in the total amount of CZK 50 million.

- ▶ In total nine material aid packages (consumable medical supplies, blood bags, splints, external fixators and orthopaedic material, pacemakers, etc.).
- ▶ Cash donation to the Ukrainian Red Cross to support the logistics of humanitarian aid in the amount of CZK 5 million.
- ▶ Evacuation of three people from Ukraine to the Czech Republic for medical treatment.

7.6 Assistance to Compatriots

In 2022, the programme providing resettlement assistance to Czech expatriates continued. The implementation of this programme was made possible by the adoption of Government Resolution No. 1014 of 8 December 2014, by which the Government approved new principles of the Government's policy on resettlement of persons of proven Czech origin (compatriots) living abroad.

Participation in the programme does not automatically grant permanent residence. It is a simplification of the whole procedure, especially as the State takes responsibility for providing accommodation and means of residence. However, these benefits are provided only to persons

for whom such assistance is needed, i.e. persons from vulnerable areas or medically, socially or economically disadvantaged members of Czech expatriate communities.

During 2022, a total of 229 members of Czech expatriate communities in Ukraine, Russia and Venezuela **resettled in the Czech Republic**. In the case of Ukraine, these were mainly members of compatriot communities in Zaporozhye, Odessa and Zhitomir regions and from Kiev. By the end of 2022, they had found permanent residence and employment and had become fully independent, thus fulfilling the purpose of the programme. The remainder of the resettled compatriots will move to their permanent settlement in early 2023. The largest number of compatriots have settled in Prague and in the Pilsen, South Bohemia, Central Bohemia and Ústí nad Labem regions. The partner of the MoI in the implementation of this programme in 2022 was the Archdiocesan Caritas Prague, which provided direct work with clients.

From the beginning of the programme in 2015 until 31 December 2022, a total of 2,443 people have been resettled in the Czech Republic. The average duration of their stay in temporary accommodation provided by the MoI was 71 days, which is 8 days more than in 2021. The increase in the duration of stay in the MoI facility was mainly due to the deteriorated situation on the real estate market, which was directly related to the arrival of a high number of refugees from Ukraine.

The programme, which is in line with the above-mentioned government resolution, is open to members of Czech expatriate communities regardless of their country of origin. The programme will continue in 2023, or, depending on the interest of the clients, in the following years as well, and the target group may be expanded to include compatriots from other regions, especially from South America and the countries of the former Soviet Union.



- ▶ During 2022, a total of **29,235 persons** were detected illegally migrating to the Czech Republic. This number represents the **highest** absolute (+18,065) and percentage (+161.7%) **increase** since the Czech Republic joined the Schengen area. Of this number, **201 persons** were detected illegally crossing the external Schengen border and **29,034 persons** were detected illegally staying, while **21,852 persons** were detected illegally in transit.
- ▶ The majority of persons illegally residing in the Czech Republic were **Syrians** (20,980, i.e. 72.3%), **Ukrainians** (2,829, i.e. 9.7%) and **Moldovans** (1,005, i.e. 3.5%).
- ▶ As of 29 September 2022, the **protection of the internal border between the Czech Republic and Slovakia has been** temporarily **reintroduced** due to a huge increase in illegal transit migration. The measure had the desired effect and by the end of the year the number of persons detected in illegal migration had significantly decreased.
- ▶ In 2022, **190 people were** identified as **facilitating irregular migration**. Compared to the previous year, there was a significant increase of 138 persons (+265.4%). These were mostly citizens of **Ukraine** (38 persons), **Syria** (35 persons) and the **Czech Republic** (23 persons).

8.1 Illegal Migration into the Territory of the CR

Since 2008 (entry into the Schengen area), **two basic categories of illegal migration on the territory of the Czech Republic** have been monitored:

- 1) Illegal crossing of the external Schengen border of the Czech Republic** - this category monitors persons who have illegally crossed or attempted to illegally cross the external Schengen border (airport) of the Czech Republic. By persons we mean foreigners and citizens of the Czech Republic.

- 2) Illegal stay** - in this category are reported foreigners found on the territory of the Czech Republic, including the transit area at airports (illegal entry, overstaying, etc.). This category also includes the sub-category of so-called **transit illegal migration** (statistics collected since 2015; foreigners illegally crossing mostly land internal Schengen borders with the aim of continuing through the territory of the Czech Republic to other EU/Schengen area countries).

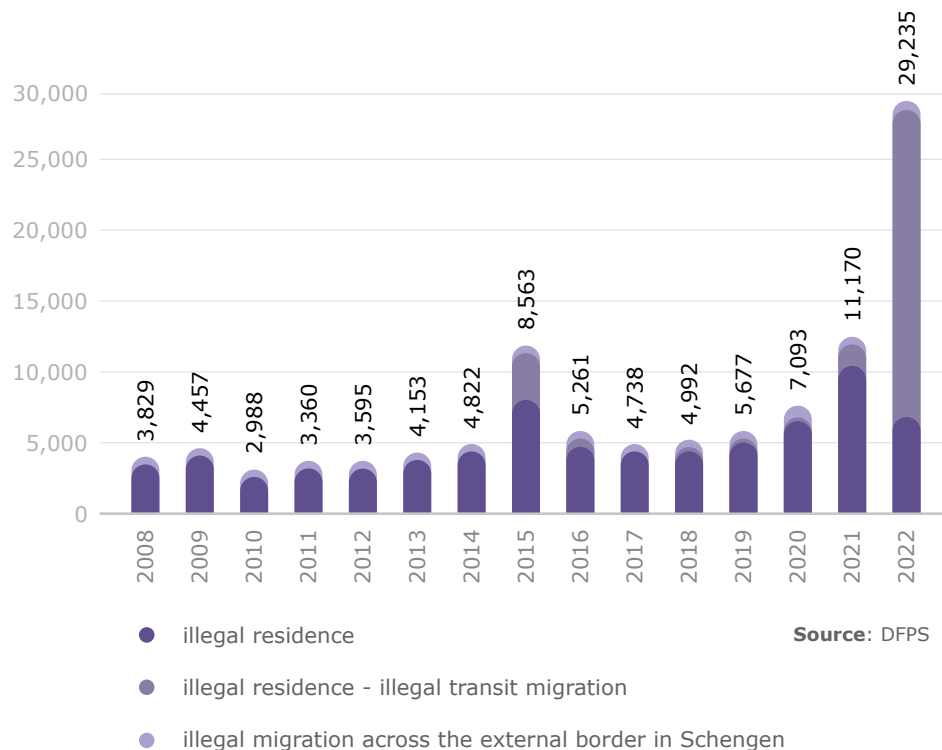
The development of illegal migration in the Czech Republic in the ten-year period since 2013 has been marked by two significant migration waves and the global pandemic of the covid-19 disease, which “closed” the land borders of the Schengen area countries and almost stopped passenger air transport.

Citizens of Ukraine, Russia and Vietnam have been the groups of foreigners with the highest numbers of persons detected in illegal migration to the Czech Republic in recent years, with the exception of the years affected by the migration waves in 2015 and 2022.

In 2015, the year in which the Czech Republic was hit by a wave of irregular transit migration (the number of detected irregular migrants reached a then unprecedented amount of 8 563 persons), citizens of Ukraine were replaced by citizens of Syria for the first time. In the following years, the curve of illegal migration began to increase significantly in 2020 (7,093 persons) and 2021 (11,170 persons), i.e. at the time of the anti-epidemic measures introduced by the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic to protect against the introduction of covid-19.

Chart 10:

Development of irregular migration between 2008 and 2022



The second migration wave **in 2022** with a significantly higher number of illegal arrivals compared to the first one in 2015 reached almost 30,000 people (**29,235 persons**) detected during illegal migration on the territory of the Czech Republic, with the highest year-on-year absolute (+18,065 persons) and percentage (+161.7%) increase since the Czech Republic joined the Schengen area.⁵³

Out of the total number of 29,235 persons detected, a total of **29,034 persons** (i.e. 99.3%) were detected **during illegal stay** and **201 persons were detected during illegal migration across the external Schengen border of the Czech Republic.**

The Czech Republic is part of the main corridor of illegal migration along the Western Balkan route to Western Europe. In 2022, increased migra-

⁵³ Czech Republic entered the Schengen area on 27 December 2007.

tion pressure at the EU external border along the Western Balkan route led to a rapid increase in the number of irregular migrants arriving at the internal land border between Slovakia and the Czech Republic. These persons entered the Czech Republic with the intention of continuing to the EU/Schengen destination countries. The **number of persons detected in transit irregular migration accounted for 74.7%** of the total number of foreigners detected in irregular migration **with 21,852 persons**. Although the Czech Republic has been the destination country for the most frequently detected nationalities since 2016, in 2022 the numbers of persons intending to transit through the Czech Republic significantly exceeded the numbers of persons for whom the Czech Republic is the destination country.

The migration wave in 2022 caused the composition of nationalities of persons detected during illegal migration to the Czech Republic to differ significantly from previous years. The **most represented were citizens of Syria** (20,981), who accounted for 71.8% of the total number of persons detected in irregular migration and 93.3% of the total number of persons in transit irregular migration. Compared to the previous year, their number increased by 4,734%. Furthermore, high numbers of persons detected in irregular migration were recorded for citizens of **Ukraine** (2,850) and **Moldova** (1,010). In both cases, this is a decrease compared to 2021. This was mainly linked to the relaxation of the measures against covid-19 disease and thus they were no longer detained in such high numbers for violation of the rules of entry and stay in breach of these measures.

As of 2018, citizens of Ukraine and Moldova were the most frequently identified nationalities. The next most common transiting nationality was citizens of **Turkey** (772), with the second highest (among the top ten nationalities) year-on-year increase of 503.1%. Citizens of other nationalities, i.e. ranked 5th to 8th, have regularly been in the top positions of the most represented nationalities since 2018, as have citizens of Ukraine and Moldova. At the same time, these nationalities of **Georgia** (413), **Vietnam** (391), **Uzbekistan** (310) and **Russia** (267) all saw year-on-year increases. This was followed by nationals of **Afghanistan** (246) and **Morocco** (177), most of whom were transiting through the territory of the Czech Republic.

TEMPORARY REINTRODUCTION OF INTERNAL BORDER PROTECTION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The reasons preventing mainly Syrian citizens from returning to their home country⁵⁴ and the related non-acceptance of the obligations arising from the bilateral readmission agreement on the return of persons between the Czech Republic and Slovakia and, on the contrary, the compliance with the obligations from the readmission agreement concluded with Germany, gave rise to the adoption of temporary security measures on the land border with Slovakia, i.e. in the direction of arrival of the vast majority of the illegal migrants in transit.

Following the imminent threat to public order and internal security of the Czech Republic, the increased activity of organised groups of smugglers and the deteriorating migration and security situation in the countries along the Western Balkan route, **the Government of the Czech Republic⁵⁵ decided to temporarily re-establish the protection of the internal borders of the Czech Republic from 29 September 2022 along the entire section of the land border with Slovakia.** In view of the continued increased migratory pressure, the Government of the Czech Republic has repeatedly decided to extend this measure until 4 February 2023.

The measure had a positive impact, as the number of people surveyed was reduced to almost pre-crisis levels by the end of the year. At the same time, it was possible to carry out readmissions on the territory of Slovakia more effectively and around 140 smugglers were apprehended.

⁵⁴ Safe countries of origin are defined in Article 371 of Council Directive 2013/32/EU of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection status.

⁵⁵ As the competent authority pursuant to Section 11(1) of Act No.191/2016 Coll., on the protection of the state borders of the Czech Republic and in accordance with Article 28(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code).

TRANSIT ILLEGAL MIGRATION

Transit illegal migration as a separate subcategory of illegal residence has been monitored statistically since mid-2015, i.e. since the previous migration wave. Foreigners (third-country nationals) who illegally enter the Czech Republic by land (i.e. via the internal border) or by air (intra-schengen flights) intend to use the Czech Republic only as a transit country. The destination of these foreigners are other EU/Schengen countries, in particular neighbouring Germany.

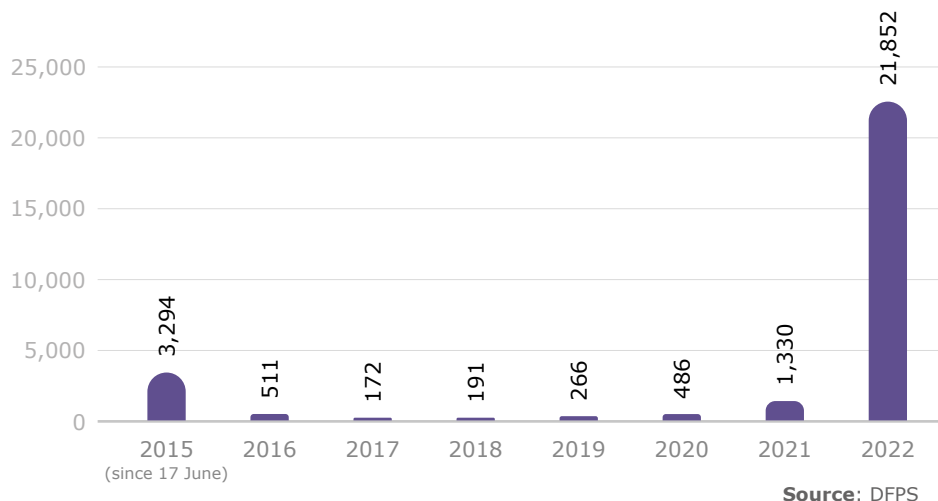
The situation in the field of irregular migration in 2022 was to some extent influenced by the gradual abolition of measures introduced to protect health, public order and internal security as a result of the decline in the global spread of the covid-19 disease. All Schengen states proceeded to abolish these measures, which was also used by organised groups engaged in criminal activities in the field of irregular migration to increase their activities again.

The interest of migrants in transporting and settling in some of the Schengen area countries, especially Germany, France, Italy and Austria, has not declined even in 2022. The reasons for irregular migration remained the same and were partly intertwined. Migrants were fleeing from countries that were unstable in terms of security or from countries that were already experiencing war. At the destination, foreigners who entered the territory illegally expected, in addition to safety, a noticeable improvement in their personal economic situation. Another key factor was the desire to visit family members who had left their country of origin in previous migration waves and had gradually established themselves in an EU country.

In 2022, the most used route for smuggling migrants into the EU was the so-called Balkan route, which starts in Turkey and branches off into two main routes. One branch was routed through Greek territory and continued via Albania/Northern Macedonia - Serbia - Hungary - Slovakia/Austria - Czech Republic to Germany. The second branch was routed via Bulgaria - Romania - Hungary - Austria/Slovakia - Czech Republic to Germany. Migrants whose final destination was Italy travelled along the route Albania - Serbia - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Croatia.

Chart 11:

Development of transit migration between 2015 and 2022



The year 2022 saw a significant **increase in the number of persons detected in transit irregular migration (21,852 persons, i.e. +20,522 persons, +1,543% year-on-year)** and the number of persons significantly exceeded the level of the 2015 migration wave. The entry into the territory of the Czech Republic of migrants in transit illegally was recorded mainly by land (in 92.5% of cases, i.e. 21,639 persons) and to a lesser extent by air on intra-Schengen flights (213 persons, mostly Syrian citizens - 180 persons). The majority (93.3%) of persons in transit were **Syrian** citizens (20,387) fleeing the ongoing civil war that broke out on Syrian territory in March 2011.

Citizens of **Turkey** (487, i.e. 2.2%) and **Afghanistan** (224, i.e. 1%) were also found to be in high numbers, followed by citizens of **Morocco** (146) and **Iraq** (81).

In 2022, in total **201 persons** (i.e. 0.7% of the total number of persons detected in irregular migration) were detected at the external Schengen border. A decrease of 134 persons, i.e. 40%, was recorded year-on-year.

In 2022, in total **29,034 foreigners** were detected **illegally staying in the Czech Republic**, with a high year-on-year increase of 18,199 persons, i.e. +167.9%. The high values for illegal stay in 2022 were the result of a high number of persons detected in the so-called **transit**

illegal migration (21,852), which is part of the category of illegal stay and accounted for 99.3% of the total number of illegal stay.

The upward trend of detected cases of illegal residence (i.e. illegal migration in transit) started in July and reached its peak in September (9,002).

Table 15:

Illegal residence in the Czech Republic - comparison 2021/2022

Year	2021	i.e. %	2022	i.e. %	Change from previous period	
					in %	Absolute number
Total	10,835	100.0	29,034	100.0	168,0	18,199
of which EU citizens	132	1.2	101	0.3	-23,5	-31
third-country nationals	10,703	98.8	28,933	99.7	170,3	18,230
of which TOP 10 (sorted by 2022):						
Syria	428	4.0	20,980	72.3	4,801.9	20,552
Ukraine	5,844	53.9	2,829	9.7	-51.6	-3,015
Moldova	1,548	14.3	1,005	3.5	-35.1	-543
Turkey	113	1.0	767	2.6	578.8	654
Vietnam	309	2.9	386	1.3	24.9	77
Georgia	271	2.5	352	1.2	29.9	81
Uzbekistan	172	1.6	306	1.1	77.9	134
Afghanistan	529	4.9	246	0.8	-53.5	-283
Russia	180	1.7	235	0.8	30.6	55
Morocco	142	1.3	177	0.6	24.6	35

Source: DFPS

The composition of the most frequently represented nationalities of foreigners found to be illegally staying in 2022 was more or less the same as for overall illegal migration. In the year-on-year comparison, the same nationalities were in the top ten as in the previous year, but based on the specifics of the two years (2021 – measures against the spread of covid-19, 2022 – a significant wave of transit irregular migration), the ranking differed.

Foreign nationals of the four most frequently detected transiting nationalities were also among the top ten nationalities recorded in the illegal residence statistics. The highest number of persons recorded were nationals of Syria **with 20,980** (i.e. 72.3% of the total number of persons detected in illegal stay, +4,801.9% year-on-year), the fourth highest number was recorded for **Turkish** nationals (767, i.e. 2.6%, +578.7% year-on-year), the eighth highest number of persons detected illegally staying was recorded for **citizens of Afghanistan** (246, i.e. 0.8%, -53.5% year-on-year) and the tenth highest number was recorded for nationals of **Morocco** (177, i.e. 0.6%, +24.6% year-on-year).

In the context of citizens of Ukraine registered as illegally staying, the statistical reporting did not include persons who entered our territory without the relevant residence permits or with previous valid sanctions consisting in a ban on entering the territory of the Czech Republic as part of humanitarian entry after the outbreak of the armed conflict in Ukraine. Thus, the number of illegally staying citizens of Ukraine is made up of those persons who were detected during the year often without legalizing their previous unauthorized stay on our territory (granting a visa for the purpose of leave to remain or temporary protection) or who did not extend their legal stay on the territory.

8.2 Facilitation of Illegal Migration

In the criminal legislation of the Czech Republic, facilitating illegal migration is punishable by the offences of organising and facilitating the illegal crossing of the state border pursuant to Section 340 of Act No.40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code, hereinafter referred to as the “Criminal Code”, aiding and abetting unauthorised stay pursuant to Section 341 of the Criminal Code and organising and forcibly crossing the state border pursuant to Section 339 of the Criminal Code.

The number of persons detected in facilitating illegal migration dealt with by the Foreign Police⁵⁶ **in 2022 increased significantly year-on-year, mainly as a result of the increase in the number of persons who organised or facilitated the illegal crossing of the state border during the high migration wave across the territory of the Czech Republic.**

8.2.1 STATISTICS

In 2022, in total 190 people were identified as **facilitating irregular migration**. Compared to the previous year, there was a significant increase of 138 persons (+265.4%). In terms of the form of facilitation, 173 persons (91.1%) were involved in smuggling across the border, 8 persons were involved in paternity fraud, 6 in purposeful cohabitation (spouse), 2 in purposeful marriage and one person was involved in facilitating illegal residence. In terms of nationality, the most common nationalities were citizens of **Ukraine (38 persons), Syria (35 persons) and the Czech Republic (23 persons)**. In addition, 9 citizens of Turkey, 8 citizens of Bulgaria, 7 citizens of Georgia, 5 citizens of Germany, 5 citizens of Uzbekistan and 4 citizens of Moldova and Romania were dealt with by the Foreign Police for this criminal activity.

⁵⁶ The competent departments of the Foreigners Police deal with criminal activities only within a limited scope, i.e. criminal offences for which the statutory penalty is imprisonment not exceeding 3 years (exceptionally 5 years); other cases related to foreigners are handled by the Criminal Police Service.

Table 16:**Facilitation of an illegal stay or crossing of a border – comparison between 2021 and 2022**

Year	2021	i.e. %	2022	i.e. %	Change as compared with the previous period	
					in %	Absolute figure
Total number of persons	52	100.0	190	100.0	+265.4	138
persons who facilitated illegal migration:						
sham marriage and organisation thereof	8	15.4	2	1.1	-75	-6
paternity fraud and organisation thereof	4	7.7	6	3.2	+50	+2
facilitation of an illegal crossing of the state border	6	11.5	8	4.2	+33.3	+2
sham cohabitation (male partner/ female partner) and organisation thereof	34	65.4	173	91.1	+408.8	+139
facilitating irregular stay (arranging visas, accommodation, false documents)	-	-	1	0.5	-	+1

Source: DFPS



- ▶ In 2022, a total of **7,405 administrative return decisions** were registered. From this amount, a total of **6,449 enforceable decisions on administrative expulsion** were registered. There were also **956 decisions on imposition of the obligation to leave the country** issued in 2022.
- ▶ In the field of voluntary returns, the **Department of Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, the International Organization for Migration** and the **Administration of Refugee Facilities of the Ministry of the Interior implement their programmes of assisted voluntary returns.**
- ▶ In 2022, a **total of 668 voluntary returns of foreigners from third countries** were carried out. Within this number, 392 assisted voluntary returns of foreigners were implemented by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, 262 voluntary returns of foreigners were implemented by the IOM and 14 assisted voluntary returns of applicants for international protection were implemented by the SUZ.
- ▶ The largest number of people were returned to **Turkey (115), Kyrgyzstan (88) and Moldova (73).**
- ▶ During 2022, in total **1,185 expulsion sentences** were imposed by the courts, mostly on citizens of **Ukraine (205 persons), Moldova (197 persons) and Slovakia (123 persons).**
- ▶ Mainly due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, only **189 deportations** were carried out, mostly to Slovakia (54 persons), Romania (21 persons) and Moldova (20 persons).

The return policy forms an integral part of the migration policy as a whole. It aims to reduce and deal with the consequences of illegal migration through close cooperation with third countries in accordance with the readmission policy. The readmission policy, the transfer/readmission of illegally staying persons, needs to be addressed in a broader context of international cooperation, which goes beyond the field of migration.

A return of a foreign national can be either voluntary or forced.

- ▶ **A voluntary return** provides for a safe and dignified return to the foreign national's country of origin or another state, which allows the foreign national to enter its territory. The returnee travels as an ordinary tourist, without the assistance of the police or other governmental authorities. The return is carried out by air or possibly by land, depending on the destination and the preferences of the returnees. Governmental institutions in the country of return are notified neither of the arrival of the returnees nor of the circumstances of their stay in the country, from which they are returning.
- ▶ **A forced return** concerns those foreign nationals who are staying illegally in the country or who were sentenced to expulsion by a court and are obliged to leave the country. If they do not take advantage of the opportunity to apply for a voluntary return, a forced return must be carried out. In the Czech Republic, the option of a voluntary departure from the country is always preferred to a forced return, which is also reflected in the statistics.

9.1 Administrative Decision on Return

In 2022, a total of **7,405 administrative return decisions** were recorded. An administrative return decision can take the form of an order to leave the territory or an administrative expulsion decision.

9.1.1 DECISION ON THE OBLIGATION TO LEAVE THE TERRITORY

In 2022, a total of 956 persons were issued a **decision on the imposition of an obligation to leave the territory of the Czech Republic**. In the year-on-year comparison, 149 fewer persons were issued a decision (i.e. a decrease of 13.5%). Most such decisions were issued to nationals of **Syria** (178 persons, 18.6% of the total number), **Ukraine** (146, i.e. 15.3%), **Vietnam** (81, i.e. 8.5%), **Russia** (69, i.e. 7.2%), **Uzbekistan** (53, i.e. 5.5%). Citizens of **Moldova** (34), **Georgia** (30), **Turkey** (26) and **China** (23) followed with 20 or more persons.

In 2022, in 9 cases (a year-on-year decrease of 31 cases) an appeal against a decision on the obligation to leave the territory of the Czech Republic was decided. In 6 cases the appeal was rejected and in 3 cases it was upheld. In 315 cases (+113 cases), appeals against decisions to leave the territory of EU Member States were decided, where in 169 cases the appeal was rejected and in 70 cases upheld, in 67 cases the decision was annulled and returned and in 9 cases the decision was reversed.

9.1.2 DECISION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPULSION

Administrative expulsion is an administrative decision by which the stay of a foreign national in the country is terminated, the time limit for leaving the country is set and the period of time for which the foreign national cannot be permitted to enter the territories of the European Union Member States is defined. The period for which the foreign national cannot be permitted to enter the territories of the EU Member States is set by the Police of the CR in the decision of administrative expulsion.

In 2022, the situation related to the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine also affected the area of administrative expulsion. These circumstances have made it impossible to deal with the unlawful actions of persons residing in Ukraine who entered the territory of the Czech Republic without any right of residence after the outbreak of the invasion on 24 February 2022, as well as those who were already on the territory of the Czech Republic before that date. The police continuously reacted to the development of the situation and, when dealing with the cases and assessing the residence status of the above-mentioned persons on the territory of the Czech Republic, took appropriate measures, including in the form of administrative expulsion. In this context, citizens of Ukraine were subject to administrative expulsion on grounds preventing their departure (return to Ukraine)⁵⁷ and were granted a visa to stay for more than 90 days in order to tolerate their stay on the territory.⁵⁸

In 2022, **6,449 foreigners were issued with administrative expulsion decisions**,⁵⁹ with an increase of 1,462 persons, i.e. +29.3%, compared to the previous year.

⁵⁷ Procedure according to Section 120a of the Act on the Residence of Foreigners.

⁵⁸ Pursuant to Section 33(1) of the Act on the Residence of Foreigners.

⁵⁹ Number of persons registered in the IS CIS as of 31.12.2022.

In 2022, as in previous years, the most represented group of foreigners with an administrative expulsion decision were citizens of **Ukraine** (1,960 persons), who accounted for almost one third (30.4%) of the total number. As in 2021, there was a significant year-on-year decrease in the number of citizens of Ukraine with administrative expulsion issued in 2022, which continued in 2022 following the anti-covid measures in 2021.

With a high year-on-year increase (+1,137 persons, i.e. +464.1%) and the second highest number exceeding the 1,000 threshold, administrative expulsion decisions were issued to **Syrian** citizens (1,382 persons, i.e. 21.4% of the total), who were the most frequent nationality of foreigners detected in transit irregular migration.

As in the previous year, **Moldovan** citizens ranked among the top three nationalities with 991 persons and 15.4% of the total number of foreigners with an administrative expulsion decision, as did citizens of Ukraine and Syria. Year-on-year, this decision was issued to almost the same number of Moldovan citizens (+7), who, like Ukrainian citizens, most frequent remained on our territory after overstaying their visas and residence permits.

In the fourth place, citizens of **Turkey** (434 persons, i.e. 6.7% of the total number) recorded a significant year-on-year increase of 393 persons (i.e. +958.5%), due to the fact that the number of persons detected in transit illegal migration on the territory of the Czech Republic increased many times. In 2022, citizens of Turkey did not figure in the TOP 10 nationals with an issued decision on administrative expulsion.

Citizens of the following five nationalities - **Georgia** (214 persons, i.e. +91, +42.5%), **Uzbekistan** (213, i.e. +114, +53.5%), **Vietnam** (191, i.e. +98, +105.4%), **Morocco** (113, i.e. +9, +8.7%) and **Afghanistan** (104, i.e. +57, +121.2%) exceeded the threshold of 100 persons with administrative expulsion and were included in the Top 10 last year. The top 10 nationalities are rounded off by citizens of **India** with 65 persons (+46, +242.1%), who recorded a significant year-on-year increase in irregular migration in transit.

In 2022, **6,449 final administrative expulsion decisions** were recorded.⁶⁰

⁶⁰ Multiple decisions can be issued to the same person in a given time period.

The reasons for administrative expulsion, as in 2021, were dominated by overstaying on the territory of the Czech Republic, especially by third-country nationals who are exempt from the visa requirement when crossing the external borders of Member States for residence permits whose total duration does not exceed 90 days during any period of 180 days. For these foreign nationals, the main motive for crossing is the exercise of an economic activity, i.e. employment.

9.1.3 THE EXPULSION PENALTY IMPOSED BY THE COURTS

In the case of non-compliance with an administrative expulsion decision, the foreigner's conduct may be qualified as a criminal offence of obstructing the execution of an official decision. However, in practice, this institute is usually used only in the case of a second and subsequent violation/non-compliance with the imposed obligation.

The punishment of expulsion from the territory of the Czech Republic is imposed by the courts on offenders who are not citizens of the Czech Republic, either as a separate punishment or in addition to another punishment under Act No.40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code, as amended, if the safety of people or property or other general interest so requires. The penalty of expulsion may be imposed as a separate penalty if the nature and gravity of the offence committed and the person and circumstances of the offender make the imposition of another penalty unnecessary. The court may impose a sentence of expulsion of between one and ten years or for an indefinite period.

The penalty of expulsion is implemented by the DFPS in cases where foreigners are in custody or in deportation detention. In this case, the DFPS provides travel and transport documents, communicates with embassies, cooperates with other state administration bodies, in particular the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, courts and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2022, a total of **1,185 persons** were registered as having been sentenced to expulsion by the criminal courts, which represents a year-on-year decrease of 103 persons (i.e. -8%). The top five most frequently represented nationalities follow the same order as last year, namely citizens of **Ukraine** (205, i.e. 17.3% of the total number of persons who have been issued an expulsion penalty), **Moldova** (197, i.e. 16.6%), **Slovakia** (123, i.e. 10.4%), **Romania** (97, i.e. 8.2%), and **Poland** (76,

i.e. 6.4%). Citizens of **Georgia** (73), **Vietnam** (46), **Bulgaria** (42), **Syria** (37), **Germany** (27) and **Uzbekistan** (22) followed with numbers exceeding 20.

The implementation of judicial expulsion was carried out for **189 foreigners** in 2022, which represents a decrease of 82 persons (i.e. -30.3%) compared to the previous year. The implementation of expulsion was also significantly affected by the military conflict in Ukraine, as a result of which the implementation of citizens of Ukraine was suspended on 24 February 2022. In terms of nationality, the most frequent nationals were citizens of **Slovakia** (54 persons, i.e. 28.6%), **Romania** (21, i.e. 11.1%), **Moldova** (20, i.e. 10.6%), **Poland** (15, i.e. 7.9%) and **Bulgaria** (13, i.e. 6.9%).

9.2 Execution of a Decision on Return

9.2.1 VOLUNTARY RETURNS

The Czech Republic prefers the option of a voluntary return to a forced return. At the national level, voluntary returns are governed by the provision of Section 123a of the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals. The Ministry may also bear the costs associated with the voluntary return of a foreign national who is detained for the purposes of administrative expulsion or who was given a time limit for leaving the country in a decision on administrative expulsion to leave the country and who is staying in the country without a valid residence permit. DAMP is responsible for examining an application filed by a foreign national and for possibly approving and implementing his or her application. Voluntary repatriation is also governed by the Asylum Act, which provides that under its provision in Section 54a, the Ministry of the Interior may bear the costs associated with a voluntary return, if this is in the public interest.

In the context of the issues of voluntary returns and returns in general, the EU's legislation is also important with respect to the legislation governing these issues. This specifically includes Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning irregularly staying third-country nationals.

As concerns voluntary returns, the MoI, SUZ and the IOM implement their **programmes of assisted voluntary returns**. In their programmes, the Ministry of the Interior and the IOM focus particularly on those foreign nationals to whom a decision on administrative expulsion or a decision on an obligation to leave the country was issued. Under its programme, SUZ provides assistance with voluntary departure for the country of origin to failed applicants for international protection.

From 1 April 2019 to 31 May 2022, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) implements a project titled "Assisted Voluntary Returns and Integration", funded under the national programme of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and from the budget of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. The main goal of this project is to contribute to effective migration management through comprehensive support of the concept of assisted voluntary returns and reintegration and to support sustainable reintegration of returnees in their countries of origin.

Under all these programmes of voluntary returns, the Ministry of the Interior, SUZ and the IOM carry out not only the actual voluntary return but they also provide all the related consultancy and assistance, which are necessary for effective, fast and successful implementation of a return. The provided services include provision of information on voluntary return to foreign nationals placed in reception and accommodation centres for applicants for international protection and in facilities for detention of foreign nationals. Return counselling is also provided to foreigners with an obligation to leave the territory of the Czech Republic who have not been detained. In connection with the consultancy concerning returns, the foreign nationals concerned are provided with assistance in their communication with the embassies of their countries of origin, most often in connection with procurement of an emergency travel document. If necessary, the IOM can also provide a foreign national with transit assistance and assistance after his or her arrival in his or her country of origin.

Besides the possibility to use one of the functioning programmes of assisted voluntary returns, failed applicants for international protection, foreign nationals with terminated residence or foreign nationals on whom administrative expulsion was imposed can leave the country spontaneously at their own expense.


During 2022, a total of **668 voluntary returns of foreigners from third countries** were carried out. Within this number, 392 assisted voluntary returns of foreigners were implemented by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, 262 voluntary returns of foreigners were implemented by IOM and 14 assisted voluntary returns of applicants for international protection were implemented by SUZ. The most frequent among these returnees were nationals of Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Uzbekistan.

9.2.1.1 VOLUNTARY RETURNS IMPLEMENTED BY DAMP

The Ministry of the Interior, specifically the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, has been implementing its own programme of voluntary returns since January 2017. The DAMP voluntary returns programme is governed by the basic rules laid down in the provision of Section 123a of Act No. 326/1999 Coll. on the Residence of Foreign Nationals. In accordance with the aforementioned law, the current target group of the programme consists of foreign nationals who were issued a decision on administrative expulsion.

As part of the implementation of voluntary returns, the Ministry of the Interior not only carries out the actual voluntary return but also provides all the related consultancy and assistance, which are necessary for effective, fast and successful implementation of a return. With the support of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the Ministry of the Interior is implementing a project titled *Building Return Capacities of the MoI CR* from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2022. The goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity and improve the quality of the return mechanisms of the MoI CR so that maximum availability of this service is ensured throughout the country in order to significantly increase the number of implemented returns and improve the efficiency of the entire return process.

In 2020, a total of 4 field offices of the Voluntary Returns Unit of DAMP were set up in regions, specifically in facilities for detention of foreigners (ZZC Balková, ZZC Bělá-Jezová, ZZC Vyšní



In the process of voluntary return of the MoI, the foreigner is provided with counselling and assistance.

Lhoty) and as part of the DAMP Brno office. The actions ensured by the Voluntary Returns Unit include mainly the provision of information on voluntary return to foreign nationals placed in facilities for detention of foreigners. Return-related consultancy is also provided to those foreign nationals with an issued decision on administrative expulsion, with terminated residence, with an expulsion sentence or with a decision on an obligation to leave the country who have not been detained. In connection with return-related consultancy, the foreign nationals concerned are also provided with assistance in communication with the embassies of their countries of origin, most often in connection with obtaining an emergency travel document. If a foreign national decides to take advantage of the option of a voluntary return, the Ministry ensures implementation of the return, while taking into account the needs and preferences of individual foreign nationals, for example, as concerns their requirements for the final destination.

Since April 2022, the MoI has been involved in a programme funded by FRONTEX called *Joint Reintegration Services (JRS)*. Under this programme, the MoI offers reintegration support to foreigners from 24 countries of origin through partner organisations. As part of the implementation of voluntary return, foreigners can now apply for support in starting a business, long-term housing support, social, health and psychosocial support, support in entering the labour market, financial support, support for education, further vocational training and family reunification. The implementation of reintegration activities under the JRS programme enables the MoI to streamline the process of voluntary return and assisted integration of the foreigner in the country of origin.

In 2022, the MoI implemented a total of 392 assisted voluntary returns. Of this amount, 315 persons were placed in detention facilities for foreigners. The most frequent voluntary return implemented by the Ministry of the Interior was for nationals of Turkey (115 persons) or Moldova (71 persons). In total, voluntary return of foreigners of 30 different nationalities was successfully implemented.

During 2022, the implementation of returns continued to be challenged by the impact of the covid-19 pandemic. The Voluntary Returns Unit faced challenges in preparing for returns, mainly in early 2022, in terms of national conditions and arrangements for entry or the limited availability of air connections.

The outbreak of conflict in Ukraine had a major impact on the implementation of voluntary returns. In the past years, the Unit of Voluntary Returns has implemented voluntary returns of Ukrainian nationals in large numbers (161 persons last year). The amount of returned Ukrainians has decreased to 37 persons in 2022 as their return is no longer possible due to the outbreak of the armed conflict. Voluntary return to the country of origin was used by a number of third-country nationals fleeing Ukraine, the largest group in this respect being nationals of Kyrgyzstan, who benefited from an IOM voluntary return in March in the number of 78 persons.

The practice of returns was also affected by the **restriction or complete cancellation of some flights** in the context of the outbreak of the conflict. Aeroflot's scheduled flights have been cancelled and other flights to Eastern Europe and Asia have been severely curtailed. Preparations for returns to China, for example, but also to other countries such as Vietnam, Tunisia and Nigeria, have been particularly challenging in the context of measures against the covid-19 pandemic or restrictions on flight availability. In 2022, the total number of returns of foreigners outside detention facilities increased from 48 to 77.

9.2.1.2 VOLUNTARY RETURNS IMPLEMENTED BY THE SUZ OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Every foreign national meeting the conditions defined in the provision of Section 54a of the Asylum Act is eligible to apply for repatriation – meaning a voluntary, dignified and safe return to their country of origin or a third country, paid from the state budget. The eligibility for a voluntary return is not acquired automatically. Each application is examined on a case-by-case basis. SUZ bears the costs of repatriation, taking into account whether the foreign national meets the conditions defined in Section 54a of the Asylum Act, the financial standing of the applicant, the degree of cooperation on the part of the foreign national; and the foreign national's health and mental state, their family and social situation and other factors are also taken into account in the implementation.

When carrying out a voluntary return, SUZ provides applicants with a free plane ticket or a free ticket for travel by land to the destination country, direct assistance at their departure and consultancy; and if it is not possible to ensure transportation for the client to their chosen destination, a contribution for transportation to the requested destination can be paid to the client.

In addition to that, SUZ may provide other necessary assistance that will lead to a successful return of a foreign national; this includes, for example, assisting with procurement of a travel document if such a document is absent, paying the costs associated with this, paying the costs of the required covid-19 tests, ensuring transportation to the point of departure from the Czech Republic, providing a medically unfit foreign national with a specialised transport medical service that will accompany him or her, providing assistance during a possible transfer in a foreign country, etc.

If necessary, SUZ cooperates with DAMP, the IOM or the Czech Red Cross in implementing repatriations. In order to protect the personal data of applicants for international protection, SUZ does not come into direct contact with the foreign authorities in the countries of origin. SUZ cooperates with the aforementioned organisations under a contract particularly in the following cases:

- ▶ if it is necessary to procure emergency travel documents or to renew the period of validity of the existing travel documents;
- ▶ if a child is born to an applicant for international protection in the territory of the Czech Republic and, as a result, is not stated in the parent's travel document, and the Police of the CR cannot issue a travel identity card or such a travel identity card is not sufficient for the return;
- ▶ if assistance is necessary during a layover (for example, due to a disability);
- ▶ if a layover and a transfer in the countries of the Schengen Area is inevitable;
- ▶ if the returnee is an unaccompanied minor applicant for international protection.

In 2022, a total of **17 applications for voluntary return** were processed, of which a total of **14 persons** were returned to the requested countries, namely **Georgia** (6 persons), **Mongolia** (3 persons), **Ethiopia**, **Russia**, **Serbia**, **Tunisia** and **Uzbekistan** (1 person per country).

9.2.1.3 VOLUNTARY RETURNS OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS WITH AN ISSUED RETURN DECISION, IMPLEMENTED THROUGH IOM

The IOM has also been engaged in voluntary returns for a long time. This organisation ensures not only the actual implementation of a voluntary return but also all the related consultancy and assistance, which are necessary for successful implementation of a return. In the implementation of its own programme of voluntary returns, the IOM focuses on foreign nationals with an issued decision on administrative expulsion who were not detained in a facility for detention of foreign nationals (ZZC) and who were given a deadline for leaving the country.

The services provided by the IOM include providing foreign nationals with basic information on a voluntary return as well as providing foreign nationals with comprehensive consultancy regarding returns, including assistance in communication with the embassies of their countries of origin, most often in connection with procurement of an emergency travel document. As a rule, the returning foreign nationals are provided with departure assistance at the airport and, if necessary, also with transit and post-arrival assistance.

IOM carried out a total of 262 voluntary returns, with the most frequent destinations being **Kyrgyzstan** (87 persons), **Uzbekistan** (47 persons) and **Vietnam** (32 persons).

Table 17:

Persons returned voluntarily under assisted voluntary return programmes in 2022 by their citizenships

Nationality	Total number of nationals returned under voluntary return programmes		
	Implemented by the MoI of the Czech Republic	Implemented by IOM	Implemented by SUZ MV CR
Albania	29		
Algeria	1		
Armenia	1	3	
Azerbaijan	3	2	
Bangladesh	1		
Belarus	1		
Bosnia and Herzegovina		1	

Brazil		3	
Cameroon	1		
Colombia	1	2	
Côte d'Ivoire		1	
China	1		
Ethiopia			1
Georgia	32	17	6
Ghana		1	
India	7	3	
Iraq	6		
Kazakhstan	5	16	3
Kyrgyzstan	1	87	
Mexico		1	
Moldova	71	2	
Mongolia	22	23	3
Nepal		1	
Nigeria	1		
North Macedonia	2		1
Pakistan	1		
Philippines	4	12	
Russia	4	2	
Rwanda		1	
Serbia	3	1	1
Tajikistan	1		
Thailand	1	2	
Tunisia	2		1
Turkey	115		
Ukraine	37	1	2
USA	1		
Uzbekistan	17	48	1
Vietnam	19	32	
Zimbabwe	1		
Total	392	262	14

Source: MoI

9.2.2 FORCED RETURNS

In 2022, **477 persons were subject to administrative expulsion** (an increase of 88 persons year-on-year). The number of persons subject to administrative expulsion (477) is usually significantly lower than the number of persons who were administratively expelled by the decision (6,449), due to the fact that only a part of foreigners with a decision on administrative expulsion are detained in a detention centre (in case there are legal grounds for their detention in a detention centre) for the purpose of its implementation. For other foreigners, their independent departure from the territory of the Czech Republic is assumed, or there are obstacles on the basis of which citizens of certain third countries cannot be physically deported.

In 2022, in total **862 cases of appeals against decision on administrative expulsion** were decided, down by 130 cases year-on-year. Of this number, in 414 cases, the appeal was rejected, in 21 cases the decision was annulled and the proceedings were discontinued, in 319 cases the decision was annulled and returned for a new hearing and in 107 cases the operative part of the decision was amended.

In 2022, a total of **189 applications for the removal of the severity of the administrative expulsion decision** under Section 122 of the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals were dealt with. This represents an increase of 12 cases year-on-year. Out of this number, in 98 cases the decision on administrative expulsion was cancelled, in 53 cases the request for cancellation of the decision on administrative expulsion was rejected and in 38 cases the proceedings were discontinued pursuant to Section 66 of Act No. 500/2004 Coll., Administrative Procedure Code.

In 2022, a total of **221 appeals** were lodged **against the decision of the appellate administrative authority**, down by 104 year-on-year. In 152 cases, the court rejected the action, in 12 cases the action was dismissed, in 48 cases the court annulled the decision of the appellate administrative authority and referred it back to the administrative authority for a new hearing and in 8 cases the proceedings against the decision of the appellate administrative authority were dismissed.

9.3 Readmission Agreements

One of the tools for effective implementation of a forced return of a person to their country of origin is **a transfer under a readmission agreement**. The Czech Republic is interested in negotiating bilateral agreements and arrangements with those countries, which are important to the Czech Republic but have not been selected by the European Union as possible candidates for negotiations at the Union level. The Czech Republic also participates in the work of the European Commission in the negotiations of EU readmission agreements with selected third countries and is actively involved in the Union's return policy by having its representatives attend the relevant meetings of the Council and the Commission and the meetings with specific third countries.

In 2022, after a long pause, representatives of the Czech Republic and Uzbekistan met to finalise the draft text of the readmission agreement. The meeting was a follow-up to the expert meeting in 2014 and its main objective was to eliminate some of the mistakes that had occurred subsequently during the correspondence negotiations. During the meeting, the full texts of the readmission agreement and its implementing protocol were discussed. In view of the changes compared to 2014, the readmission agreement and its implementing protocol will be renegotiated in the intra- and inter-ministerial comment procedure and submitted to the Government of the Czech Republic for approval.

Negotiations on bilateral readmission agreements with other countries have not been initiated in 2022, mainly because most of the third countries with which there is an interest in cooperating on a contractual basis have already been approached and the relevant readmission agreements have already been concluded or are at various stages of development. However, more distant countries have been identified for potential negotiations in 2023. There has been interest in concluding bilateral admission agreements with Bangladesh, Lebanon, Iran, and Nepal in view of the current migration situation, or agreements of lesser legal force with Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, keeping in mind that the European Commission had the mandate to negotiate a readmission agreement.

The Czech Republic currently has a total of 17 bilateral readmission agreements with Austria, Poland, Germany, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Canada, Croatia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Moldova, Vietnam, Switzerland, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo and Mongolia.

In addition to the above-mentioned agreements, the Czech Republic is also bound by **readmission agreements negotiated by the EU** or the **EC. Currently, the EU has negotiated 18 readmission agreements in total:** Hong Kong, Macao, Sri Lanka, Albania, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pakistan, Georgia, Turkey, Cape Verde, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus. The Czech Republic has negotiated bilateral implementing protocols to some of these agreements, which regulate the technical details of the readmission procedure. An implementation protocol with Azerbaijan is under preparation.

In the framework of the negotiation of EU readmission agreements, the Commission has not received a mandate to negotiate a readmission agreement with a new third country in 2022, nor has it concluded any readmission agreement.

9.3.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF READMISSION AGREEMENTS

Readmission procedures are carried out on the basis of readmission agreements. Bilateral readmission agreements between the Czech Republic and the State concerned and readmission agreements concluded by the European Union are used in the readmission procedure.

Readmission agreements with neighbouring countries are the most frequently used. In previous years, persons from Germany were most often readmitted to the Czech Republic, while most numerous transfers were back to Slovakia. The year 2022 has continued this trend and, due to high migration flows, has increased the numbers many times over.

9.3.1.1 PERSONS TAKEN TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Table 18:

Readmission procedures with neighbouring countries - comparison 2021/2022

Year	2021	i.e. %	2022	i.e. %	Change from previous period	
					in %	Absolute number
Persons readmitted under readmission agreements	409	100.0	3,221	100.0	687.5	2,812
of which:						
by neighbouring countries	46	11.2	1,110	34.5	2,313.0	1,064
by party of the Czech Republic	363	88.8	2,111	65.5	481.5	1,748
Takeover rejected	117	100.0	3,157	100.0	2,598.3	3,040
of which:						
of which by neighbouring countries from the Czech Republic	37	31.6	3,028	95.9	8,083.8	2,991
the Czech Republic from neighbouring countries	80	68.4	129	4.1	61.3	49

Source: DFPS

In 2022, the **Czech Republic readmitted a total of 2,111 persons from neighbouring countries under the readmission procedure, i.e. an increase of 1,748 persons (+481.5%) year-on-year.** The section of the state border with Germany has long been one of the busiest in terms of persons readmitted by the Czech Republic, and in 2022, it far exceeded the previous year 2021. This is due to the high number of persons (mainly Syrian citizens) detected during transit illegal migration to the territory of the Czech Republic, whose destination country was mostly Germany. In addition, persons were taken from Austria (7 persons, +2 persons) and Poland (2 persons, -5 persons). No persons were taken over from Slovakia in 2022 and 2021.

By nationality, the most frequently admitted from neighbouring countries were citizens of **Syria** (1,456 persons), **Turkey** (161) and **Moldova** (102), followed by citizens of Georgia (47), Albania, Serbia and Ukraine (34 persons each).

Table 19:

Readmission procedures with neighbouring countries - persons taken by the Czech authorities from neighbouring countries - comparison 2021/2022

Year	2021	i.e. %	2022	i.e. %	Change from previous period	
					in %	Absolute number
Taken over by the authorities of the Czech Republic from neighbouring countries	363	100.0	2,111	100.0	481.5	1,748
of which:						
from Austria	5	1.4	7	0.3	40.0	2
from Germany	351	96.7	2,102	99.6	498.9	1,751
from Poland	7	1.9	2	0.1	-71.4	-5

Source: DFPS

9.3.1.2 PERSONS TRANSFERRED BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC TO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

In 2022, the **Czech Republic handed over a total of 1,110 persons to neighbouring countries under the readmission procedure**, with a significant year-on-year increase of 1,064 persons (i.e. +2,313%) due to the high number of persons detected in transit illegal migration on the territory of the Czech Republic after arrival from Slovakia (as in the case of persons taken back). The direction of arrival of migrants on our territory for transit to other countries is also matched by the highest number of persons handed over to the neighbouring country, i.e. Slovakia, where 1,042 persons were handed over in 2022, an increase of 1,021 persons (i.e. +4,861.9%).

Table 20:**Readmission procedures with neighbouring countries - persons transferred by the Czech authorities to neighbouring countries - comparison 2021/2022**

Year	2021	i.e. %	2022	i.e. %	Change from previous period	
					in %	Absolute number
Handed over to the authorities of the Czech Republic to neighbouring countries	46	100.0	1,110	100.0	2,312.0	1,064
of which:						
to Austria	4	8.7	38	3.4	580.0	34
to Germany	19	41.3	25	2.3	31.6	6
to Poland	2	4.3	5	0.5	150.0	3
to Slovakia	21	45.7	1,042	93.9	4,861.9	1,021

Source: DFPS

The number of persons returned to other neighbouring countries is significantly smaller, amounting to 38 persons returned to Austria, 25 persons to Germany and 5 persons to Poland.

According to nationality, the most frequent citizens of **Syria** (1,041) and **Turkey** (30) were handed over to neighbouring countries, followed by much smaller numbers of citizens of Afghanistan (6), Palestine (5), Morocco and Pakistan (3 each).

In 2022, a total of 3,028 persons were refused entry by neighbouring countries (+2,991 persons, i.e. +8,083.8% year-on-year), mainly by the Slovak authorities in the number of 3,018 persons and 10 persons refused entry by Austria.

9.3.1.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF READMISSION AGREEMENTS WITH NON-NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Under readmission agreements with non-neighbouring countries, **19 persons** were **transferred to their origin countries in 2022**, including citizens of **Moldova** (9), **Vietnam** (7), **Georgia** (2) and **Russia** (1).



ANNEX 1: METHODOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

This report was prepared mainly using the source materials of institutions engaged in asylum, migration and integration. This agenda is particularly within the terms of reference of the Ministry of the Interior. Furthermore, source materials from the following entities were used in preparation of the report: the Directorate of the Foreign Police Service, the Police Presidium, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Refugee Facilities Administration, the National Central Unit for Combating Organised Crime and the Facilities for Children-Foreigners. Most of these institutions were contacted by the National Contact Point of the EMN in the Czech Republic, which is a part of the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior, or directly by this Department. The source materials of these institutions represent most of the content of this report. Another source was information in the public domain.

Statistical data were taken particularly from the information systems of the Police of the Czech Republic, the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the MoI and the Facility for Children-Foreigners.

For the most part, information and data from the working version of the Report on the Situation in Migration and the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic in 2022⁶¹ and from the reports and studies of the European Migration Network in the areas concerned were used. Particularly the national contribution to the synthesis report titled EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2022, which the Czech National Contact Point of the EMN prepared in early 2023, was used.

For the purposes of this report, the analysis of press articles concerned with asylum and migration in 2022 was also used.

The terminology was used in accordance with the national practice and legislation. The definitions of terms contained in the 6th edition of the EMN Asylum and Migration Glossary were also used.

⁶¹ This report is prepared by the Ministry of the Interior on an annual basis.

ANNEX 2: LIST OF SOURCES AND LITERATURE

SOURCES

Ministry of the Interior

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Justice

Directorate of the Foreign Police Service

Police Presidium

Refugee Facilities Administration

National Central Unit for Combating Organised Crime

International Organisation for Migration

Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals

LITERATURE

MoI CR, the Report on the Situation in Migration and the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic in 2022

EMN, 2022 EMN Annual Policy Report, Annex 1, national contribution from the Czech EMN Contact Point

EMN, Specification of Requirements for the 2022 EMN Annual Policy Report

EMN, Asylum and Migration Glossary, 6th edition

LEGISLATION

Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic and on amendments to certain Acts, as amended

Act No. 325/1999 Coll., on Asylum, as amended

Act No. 191/2016 Coll., on the Protection of the State Borders of the Czech Republic and on amendments to related Acts

Act No. 222/2017 Coll., amending Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic and on amendments to certain Acts, as amended, and other related Acts

Act No. 221/2003 Coll., on the Temporary Protection of Foreign Nationals, as amended

Act No. 435/2004 Coll., on Employment, as amended

Act No. 186/2013 Coll., on Citizenship of the Czech Republic and on amendments to certain Acts

Act No. 40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code

Act No. 45/2013 Coll., on Victims of Crimes and on amendments to certain Acts

Act No. 277/2019 Coll., amending certain Acts in connection with adoption of Act on the Collection of Laws and International Agreements

Act No. 165/2020 Coll., amending Act No. 141/1961 Coll., on Judicial Criminal Proceedings (Code of Criminal Procedure), as amended, and certain other Acts

Act No. 285/2020 Coll., amending Act No. 262/2006 Coll., the Labour Code, as amended, and certain other related Acts

Act No. 350/2020 Coll., on the Special Methods of Voting in the Elections to Regional Councils and the Senate in 2020

Ordinance No. 520/2020 Coll., on Implementation of Adaptation-Integration Courses

Act No. 274/2021 Coll., amending Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic and on amendments to certain Acts, as amended, and other related Acts

Act No. 65/2022 Coll., on certain measures in connection with armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion by the troops of the Russian Federation, as amended

Act No. 66/2022 Coll., on measures in the field of employment and social security in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of the Russian Federation

Act No 175/2022 Coll., on further measures in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of the troops of the Russian Federation and on amending other acts in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of the troops of the Russian Federation^{198/2022}

Act No. 198/2022 Coll., amending Act No. 65/2022 Coll., on certain measures in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of Ukraine by the troops of the Russian Federation, as amended by Act No 175/2022 Coll., and Act No 66/2022 Coll. on measures in the field of employment and social security in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of the Russian Federation, as amended by Act No 175/2022 Coll.

Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning irregularly staying third-country nationals

Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for reception of applicants for international protection

Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code)

Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing

Regulation (EU) 2018/1240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 September 2018 establishing a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)

Regulation (EU) 2018/1726 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA)

Council Regulation (EC) No. 604/2013 (Dublin III Regulation)

Government Resolution No. 621 of 29 July 2015 on the Migration Policy Strategy of the Czech Republic and on the Migration Communication Strategy of the Czech Republic

Government Resolution No. 954 of 20 November 2015 on the State Integration Programme for Persons with Granted International Protection in 2016 and the Following Years

Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 956 of 20 November 2015 on the Creation of the Permanent Medical Humanitarian Programme MEDEVAC

Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic of 26 January 2022 No. 40 on the Procedure for the Implementation of the Updated Concept of Integration of Foreigners - In Mutual Respect in 2022

INTERNET SOURCES

www.mvcr.cz

www.suz.cz

www.mzv.cz

www.mpsv.cz

www.emncz.eu

www.frs.gov.cz

www.nasiukrajinci.cz

www.psp.cz

www.vitejtevcr.cz

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EMN ANNUAL REPORT ON ASYLUM AND MIGRATION 2022

Prepared by:

Czech National Contact Point
of European Migration Network

Published by:

Ministry of the Interior, 2023

Graphic design:

Karmášek Advertising Agency & Print Shop

ISBN 978-80-7616-197-9



9 788076 161979

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