

MALTA

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

2019

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING LATEST STATISTICS



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

WORK-RELATED MIGRATION

Subsidiary Legislation 217.24¹ established a reporting unit to inspect illegally staying/employed third-country nationals and to monitor third-country nationals enrolled in educational establishments. The unit has the power to inspect premises, documentation and records.

A new Temporary Employment Agreement was signed between Malta and Tunisia in February 2019. This Agreement was established in response to Malta's fast-growing economy and need for more skilled workers.

STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS


A new programme on teaching English and Maltese to children from a migrant background was introduced in over 20 schools and hubs. Through the LLAPSI+² (an Asylum and Migration Integration Fund (AMIF) project), intensive summer language courses and after-school creative clubs were organised to enhance language skills and build relationships.


In June 2019, the Centre for Resilience and Socio-Emotional Health at the University of Malta, in collaboration with the Commissioner for Children, undertook the study, 'A passage to Malta: the health and wellbeing of foreign children in Malta'.³ The study


¹<http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=13001&l=1>

² Language Learning and Parental Support for Integration PLUS

KEY POINTS

 A reporting unit was created, tasked with inspecting illegally staying/employed third-country nationals and monitoring third-country nationals enrolled in educational establishments.

 On 11 December 2019, Malta submitted the instrument of accession for the 1954 Convention on Statelessness to the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York.

 The Maltese government terminated the implementation of the Fourth Action Plan on Human Trafficking and began drafting the Fifth Action Plan on Human Trafficking.

explored foreign children's education, inclusion, physical health, mental health and resilience, and access to services, as well as the attitudes of Maltese children towards foreign children living in Malta.

³<https://tfal.org.mt/en/publications/PublishingImages/Pages/Research-Studies/Passage%20to%20Malta%20website.pdf>



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

In 2019, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Malta had a pool of multilingual interpreters trained to identify vulnerabilities and to use self-support tools to deal with difficult situations. The team supported all of the activities carried out with migrants, including information and counselling sessions in the centres.

The influx of boat arrivals from 2018 resulted in an increased backlog at appeals stage. This was managed by contracting additional legal aid lawyers and the creation of a new Refugee Appeals Board Chamber.

In 2019, a new scheme⁴ introduced by the Housing Authority offered a housing benefit to residential tenants, making rent more affordable. The scheme was also available to persons holding refugee status or subsidiary protection and those with long-term residence status.

RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT

In July 2019, the European Commission approved an AMIF emergency mechanism proposal submitted by IOM. It was intended to provide comprehensive relocation support to people identified for voluntary relocation from Malta to other Member States. 325 people were relocated under the REMA⁵ project. Bilateral arrangements with other Member States resulted in the relocation of 294 asylum seekers.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

2019 saw an increase in the number of social workers working with the care team of the Agency for Welfare of Asylum Seekers. The latter established the Therapeutic Services Unit (TSU) for migrants suffering from trauma-related psychological disorders. An activity

team with special focus on children and unaccompanied minors was also formed.



INTEGRATION

NON-DISCRIMINATION

In 2019, the Integration Unit expanded its portfolio to include anti-racism, becoming the **Integration and Anti-Racism Unit**.

The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality used social media channels to spread targeted messages against racism and xenophobia. It also shared the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) recommendations, with the aim of combating racism in various spheres.

PROMOTING INTEGRATION AT LOCAL LEVEL

The **Local Integration Charter and Action Plan**⁶ was established, encouraging local councils to support their increasingly diverse migrant communities. The Plan saw one councillor from every locality given responsibility for social and integration matters.

The Interfaith Integration Forum was formed jointly with the IOM as a platform to tackle matters of religion and belief. It held its first meeting in December 2019.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

STATELESSNESS

A new milestone was reached on 11 December 2019, when Malta submitted the instrument of accession for the **1954 Convention on Statelessness** to the UN headquarters in New York.



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

No significant developments in 2019.

⁴<https://housingauthority.gov.mt/en/Documents/Schemes/HBS%20Conditions%20-%20English%202019.pdf>

⁵ Voluntary Relocation from Malta to EU Member and Associated States of Relocation

⁶<https://meae.gov.mt/en/Documents/migrant%20integration-EN.pdf>



IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

Subsidiary Legislation 217.24⁷ established a reporting unit to inspect illegally staying/employed third-country nationals and to monitor third-country nationals enrolled in educational establishments. The unit has the power to inspect premises, documentation and records.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

NATIONAL STRATEGIC POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2019, the Maltese government terminated the implementation of the **Fourth Action Plan on Human Trafficking**. The Plan had included a study on women and children asylum seekers in Malta and their vulnerability to human trafficking. The study found that although no cases of human trafficking could be identified, some of these people were potentially vulnerable to human trafficking. The Anti Human Trafficking Monitoring Committee began to draft the **Fifth Action Plan on Human Trafficking**.

IMPROVING IDENTIFICATION OF AND PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONAL VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The government contracted IOM to undertake the project, 'Enhancing counter-trafficking efforts in Malta through synergistic intervention - encounters'. The project related to the identification and referral of human trafficking victims in all forms, including child victims and applicants for asylum.

The government launched a national education campaign on human trafficking – **Human, Like You** - to raise awareness of human trafficking and indicators of exploitation. A new website (**trafficking.gov.mt**) was set up to disseminate information on human trafficking and to offer professional help to potential victims (in six different languages).

⁷<http://justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=13001&l=1>

Maltese police took part in a joint investigation focusing on an international prostitution ring with elements of human trafficking.



RETURN AND READMISSION

COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

In July 2019, a bilateral meeting was held between the foreign ministers of Malta and Bangladesh. The meeting covered the issue of emergency travel documents requested by Malta in order to return Bangladeshi nationals staying irregularly, in line with the EU-Bangladesh Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The matter was then followed up through diplomatic channels.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

MOBILITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Maltese government made numerous contributions to facilitate migration and development in third countries, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Emergency Transit Mechanism in Rwanda and the UNHCR 3RP.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex was prepared by the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD). It provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Malta on aspects of migration and international protection (2016-2019), including legal residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, integration, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics were not available at the time of publication, this is indicated in the Annex as 'N/A'.

A How to Read guide, describing each chart and reporting the sources, is available [here](#).



GENERAL NOTES

This four-page statistical annex complements the Country Factsheet with relevant migration-related data organised in nine thematic sections. The dashboard-like layout of the annex allows comparability across countries as well as simultaneous visualisation of different indicators.

Whenever data is not available, the relative chart is left blank or indicated with 'N/A'. Data are provided for the latest available year or the latest available four-year period.

The sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value. This is due to rounding and confidence intervals in the original data. A How to Read guide, describing each chart and reporting the sources, is available on the EMN website.

COLOUR LEGEND

Whenever not specified, the following colour legend is adopted. Colours for multiple nationalities are randomly chosen.

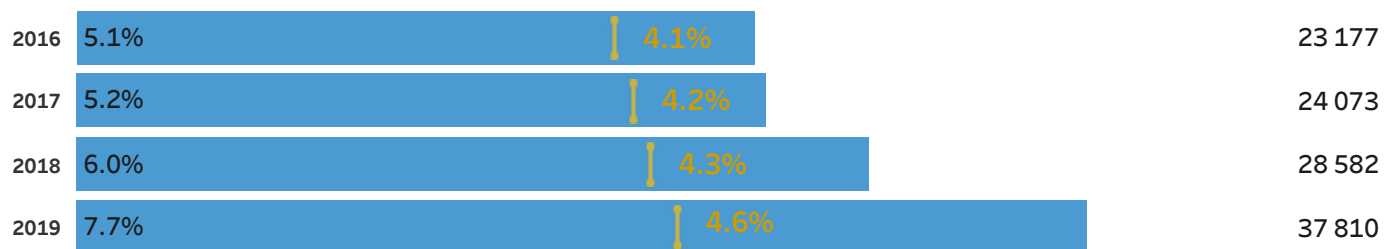
■ data relative to Malta

■ data relative to EU

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

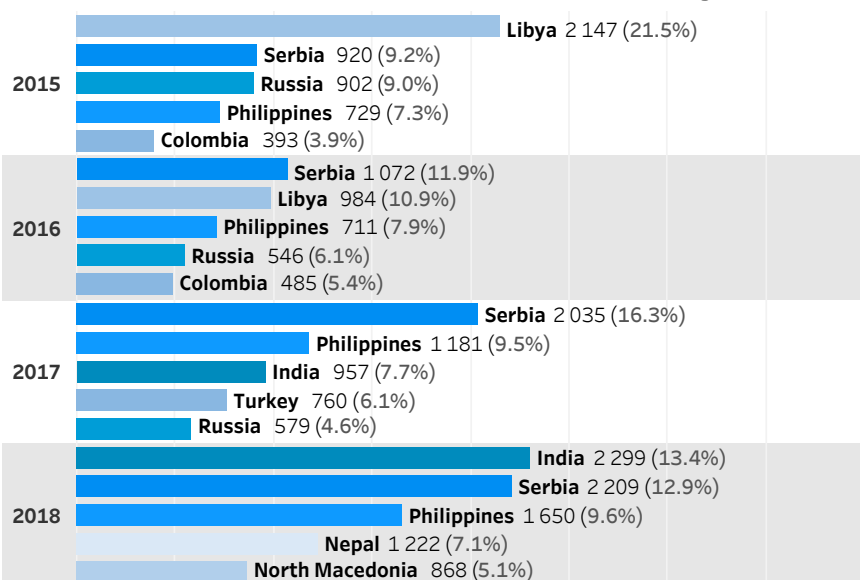
Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) as % of total population (in the country and in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)



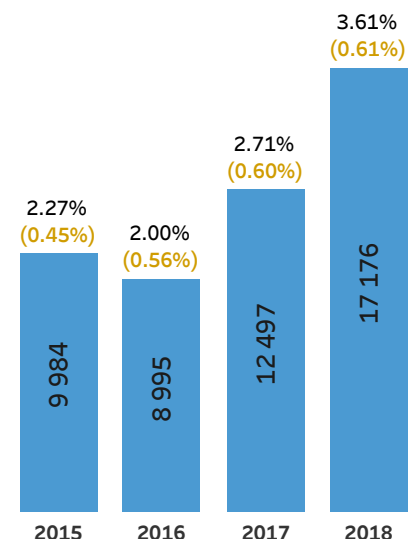
Top 5 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



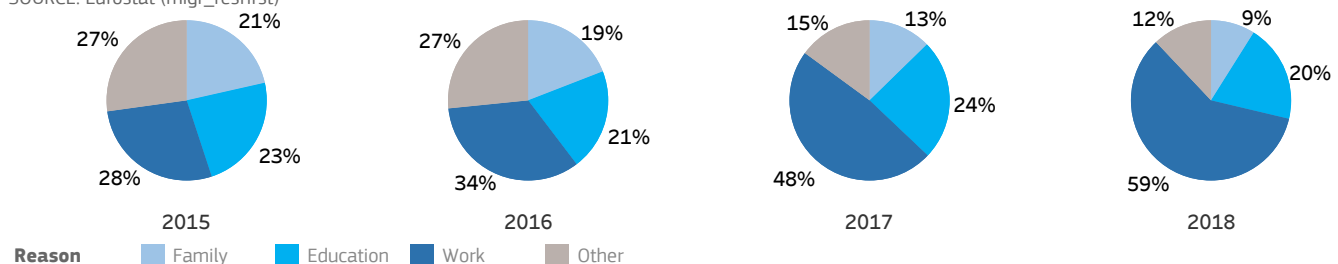
First residence permits annually issued: tot. num. and % of tot. pop. in the country (and EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



First residence permits annually issued by reason

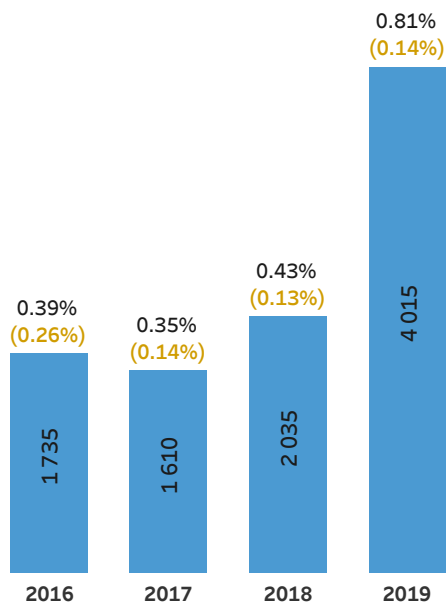
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

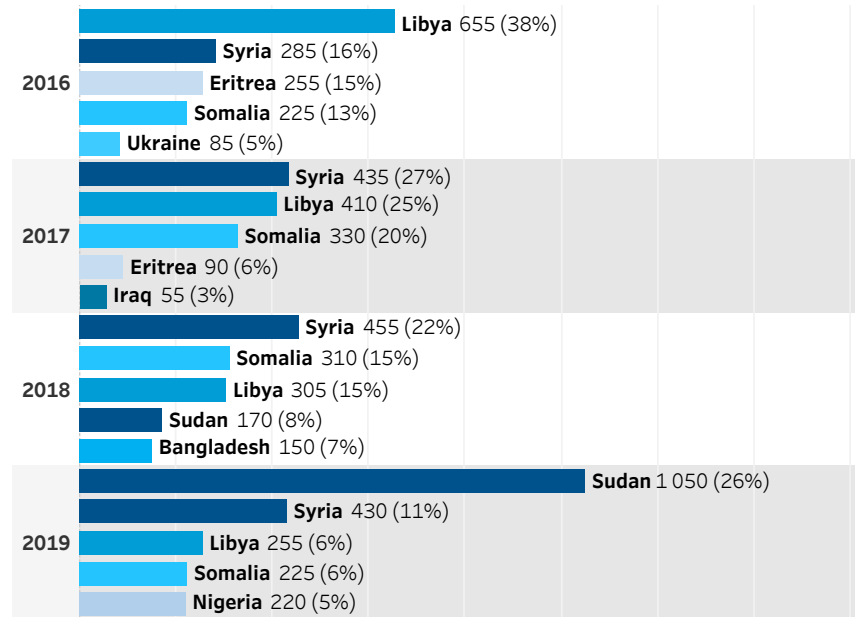
First-time asylum applications: total num. and as % of population in the country (and in EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz)



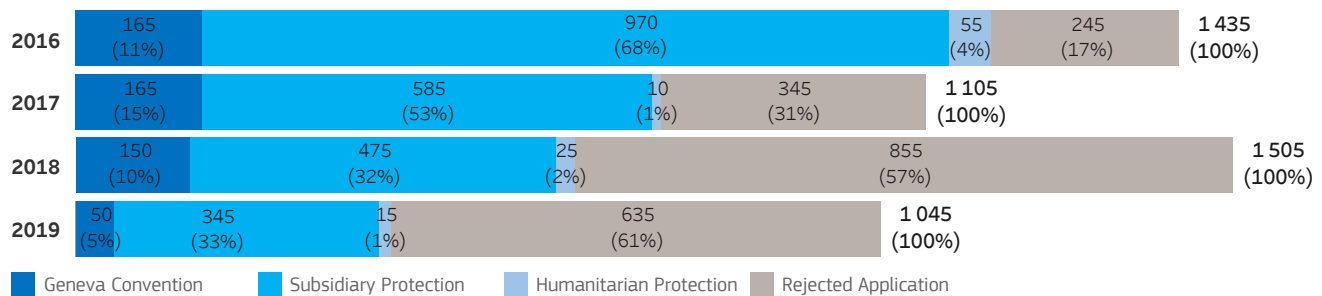
Top 5 nationalities of annual number of first-time asylum applications: number of applications and % of total first-time annual applications

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)



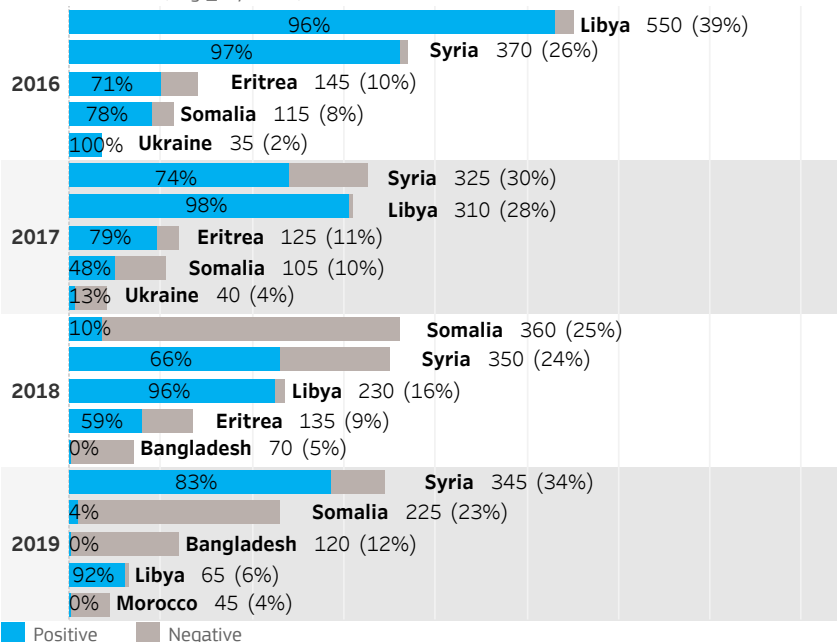
Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)



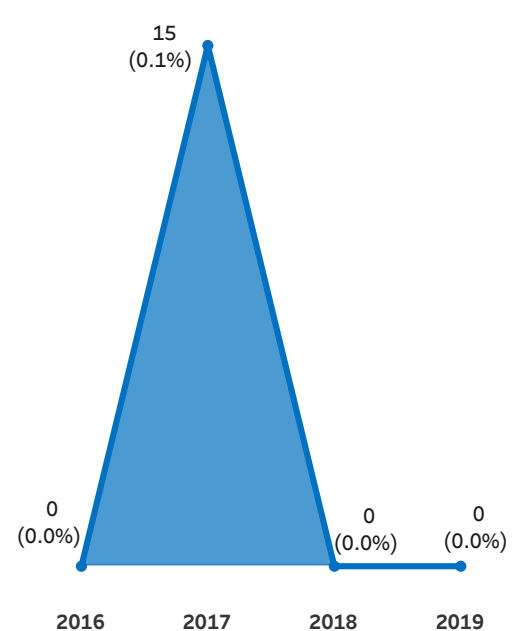
Top 5 nationalities of annual number of first-instance decisions: number of decisions (% of total decisions in the country) and % of positive outcome

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)



Third-Country Nationals resettled: absolute number and as % of total resettled in EU

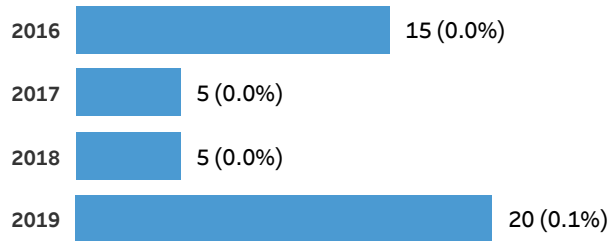
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

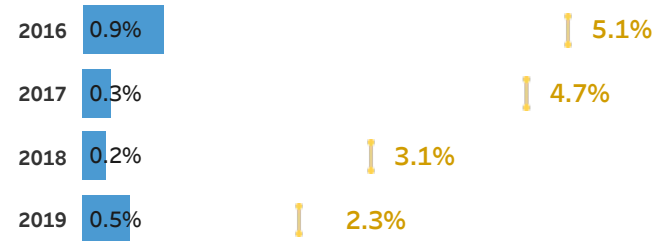
Unaccompanied Minors applying for asylum in the country (and % of total applications from Unaccompanied Minors in EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)



Unaccompanied Minors as % of first asylum applications (in the country and in EU)

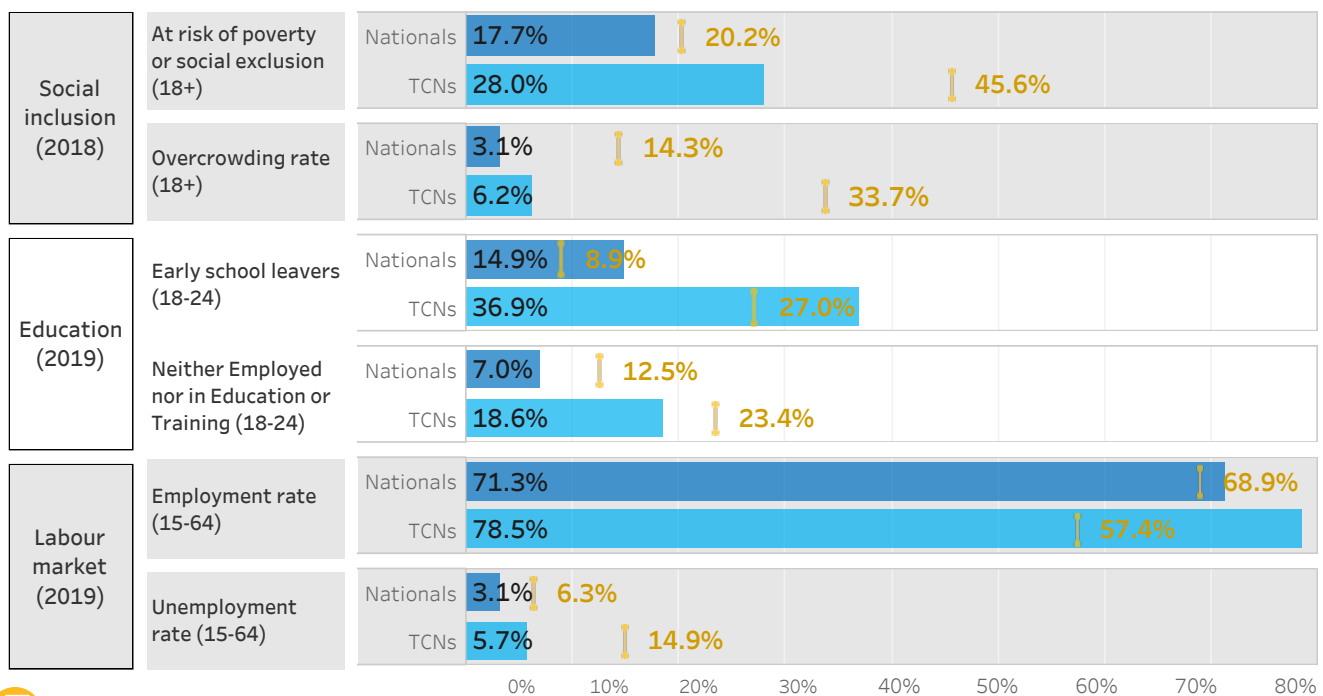
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)



INTEGRATION

Integration indicators for nationals of the country (blue) and Third-Country Nationals (TCNs - light blue) in the country (when available). The same indicator is provided in yellow for EU. Data are relative to the last year available.

SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc_peps05, ilc_lvho15, edat_lfse_01, edat_lfse_23, lfsa_ergan, lfsa_urgan)



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

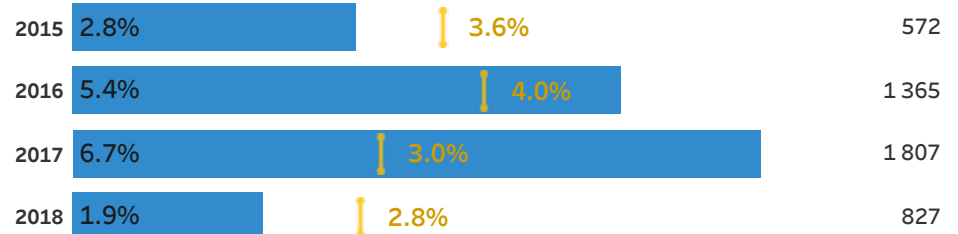
Stateless, Recogn. Non-Citizens (RNC) and Unknown Citizens

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctza)

0 or not available

Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute number

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acqs, migr_acq)



Top 5 nationalities by number of citizenship acquisition in 2018: absolute number and % of total acquisitions in the country by Third-Country Nationals

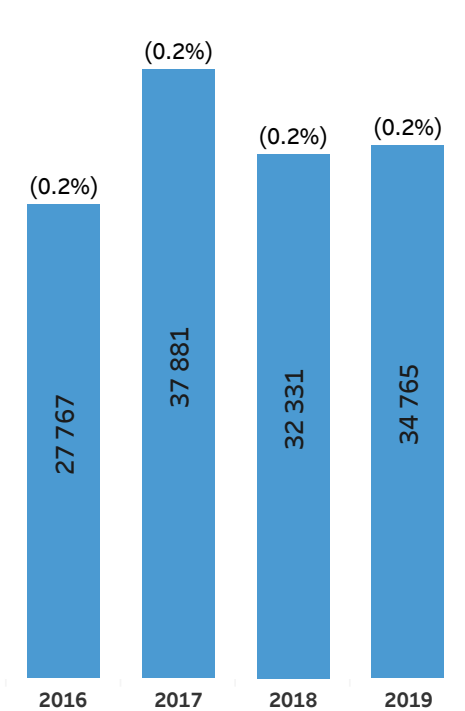
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acq)



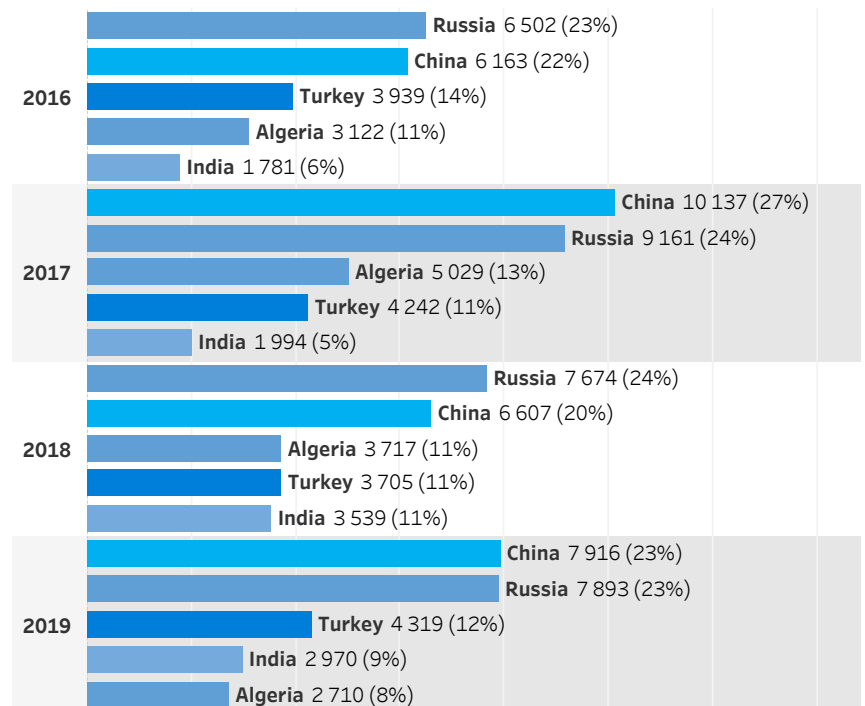
BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs (complete statistics on short-stay visas applications to Schengen States)

Lodged short-term Visa app. (% of Schengen)



Lodged short-term Visa applications in top 5 consulate countries (% of total apps)



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

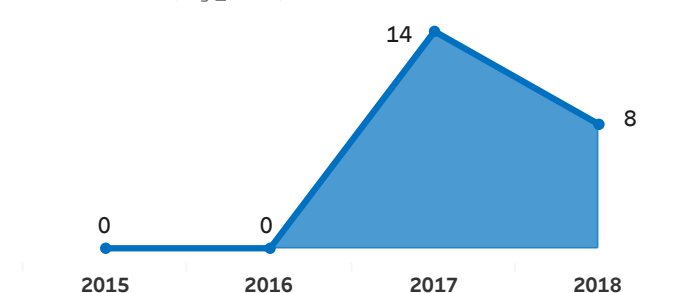
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord, migr_eirtn)



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of residence permits issued to victims of Trafficking in Human Beings

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)



RETURN AND READMISSION

Number of Third-Country Nationals who left the territory by type of return

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirt_vol)

