

# MALTA

## EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

2020

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING LATEST STATISTICS



### OVERARCHING CHANGES

Legislative amendments to the [Refugees Act](#) saw it renamed the International Protection Act, while the Office of the Refugee Commissioner was given the status of an agency.

A full-time international Protection Appeals Tribunal was established, and the concept of Temporary Humanitarian Protection was introduced in national legislation.

Statutory provisions were provided to issue the European Union (EU)/United Kingdom (UK) Withdrawal Agreement beneficiary status document. Malta started accepting applications from the end of February 2020.



### LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

No significant developments in 2020.



### INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Following the closure of Malta's international airport after the COVID-19 outbreak, Dublin transfers were temporarily suspended between 13 March and the end of June 2020. Dublin transfers then resumed normally.

From 7 August 2020, the Refugee Act was repealed and replaced with the International Protection Act. One key change transformed the Refugee Appeals Board into the International Protection Appeals Tribunal,

### KEY POINTS



**Amendments to the Refugees Act came into effect, with the Act renamed the International Protection Act, and the Office of the Refugee Commissioner given agency status.**



**A full-time international Protection Appeals Tribunal was established, and the concept of Temporary Humanitarian Protection was introduced in national legislation.**



**On 20 November 2020, new legislation was published to allow the granting of citizenship for exceptional services.**

which is composed of a full-time chair, three part-time members, and a secretary.

A Country of Origin Information (COI) helpdesk was set up with the help of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), which replies to queries raised by the International Protection Agency (IPA) case officers or IPA senior management about possible policy changes in respect of certain profiles of applicants or countries of origin.

Malta relocated 273 migrants through the Malta Declaration.



## MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

The [Child Protection \(Alternative Care\) Act](#) impacted the way in which tutors were appointed and [Care Orders](#) issued. A new fast-tracking policy was adopted by the IPA, which prioritises applications lodged by unaccompanied minors deemed to be in need of special procedural guarantees.



## INTEGRATION

### INTEGRATION OF ADULTS

With the aim of facilitating better integration of third-country nationals into the Maltese labour market, Jobs plus launched Basic English and Basic Maltese courses for employment, under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 11.01.



## CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

### ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP

On 20 November 2020, new legislation was published to allow the granting of citizenship for exceptional services. A new agency, [Community Malta Agency](#), was established to administer these regulations, along with all other applications for Maltese citizenship.

The [Malta Individual Investor Programme](#) closed and a new path to gaining Maltese citizenship in prescribed conditions was established.

### STATELESSNESS

Following its accession to the 1954 Statelessness Convention, Malta will issue residence permits to stateless persons recognised by the Maltese authorities.



## BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

No significant developments in 2020.



## IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

No significant developments in 2020.



## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

No significant developments in 2020.



## RETURN AND READMISSION

### COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

In view of increased flows in 2019 and 2020, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with Libya on 28 May 2020 to address irregular migration. The MoU is valid for three years with an optional extension of a further year. It provides for the setting up of two mirror offices, one in Malta and one in Libya, financed by Malta.



## MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

No significant developments in 2020.

## STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex was prepared by the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD) and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Malta on aspects of migration and international protection (2017-2020), 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 up to nine thematic sections - depending on data availability. The dashboard-like layout of the annex allows comparability across countries as well as simultaneous visualisation of different indicators. Whenever data are 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. For some indicators, data are rounded in the source. 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

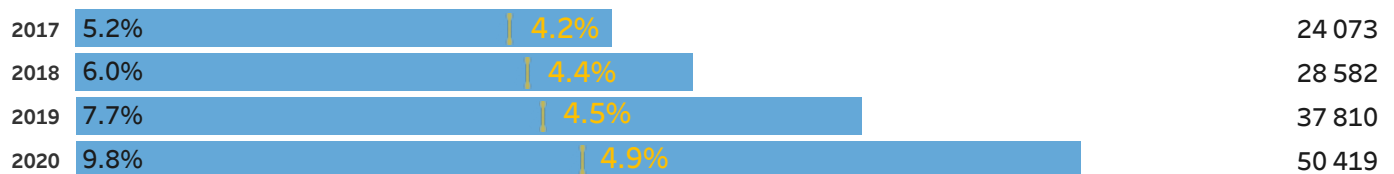


**LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY**

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

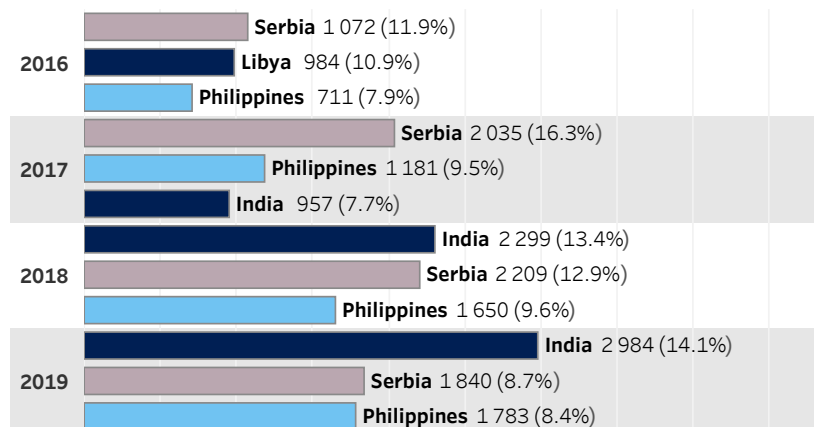
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctz)

**Number of TCNs**



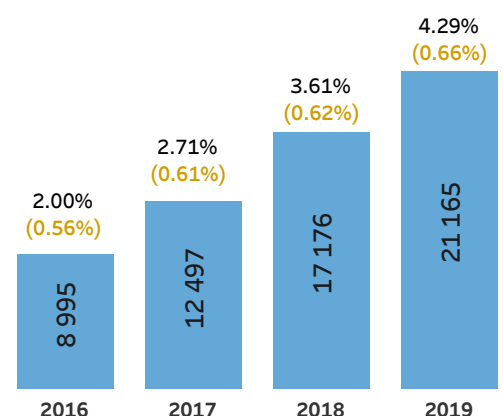
**Top 3 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits**

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)



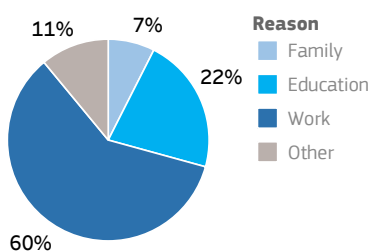
**First residence permits annually issued: tot. num. and % of tot. pop. in the country (and EU)**

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)



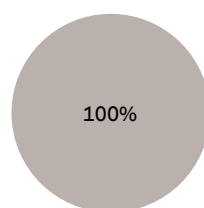
**First residence permits annually issued by reason in 2019**

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)



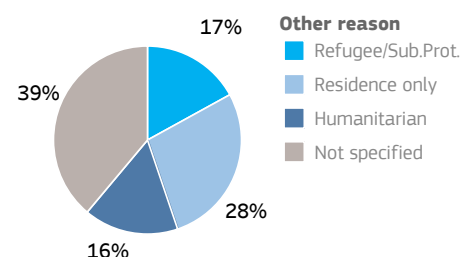
**First residence permits annually issued for work reasons in 2019**

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resocc)



**First residence permits annually issued for 'other reasons' in 2019**

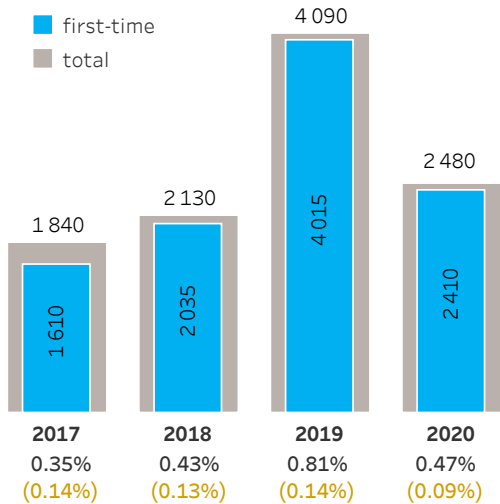
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resoth)



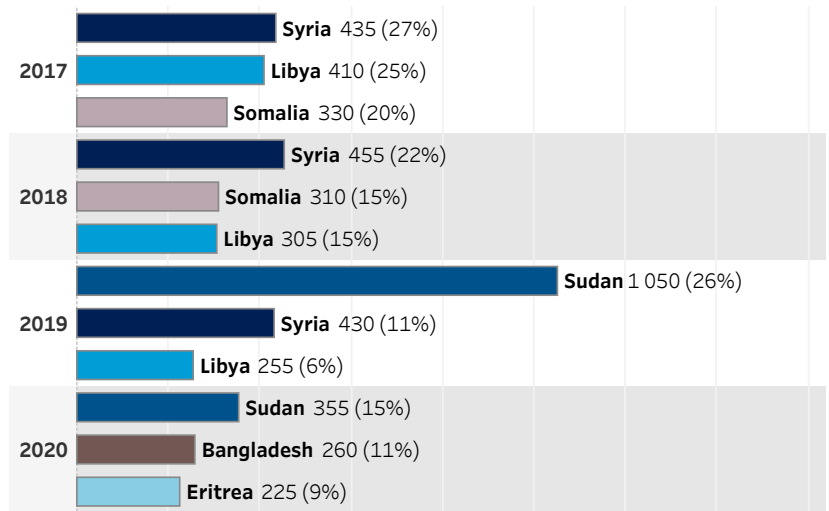


INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

**Total/first-time asylum applications; first-time asy app as % of population in the country (and in EU)** SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyappctza, migr\_pop1ctz)

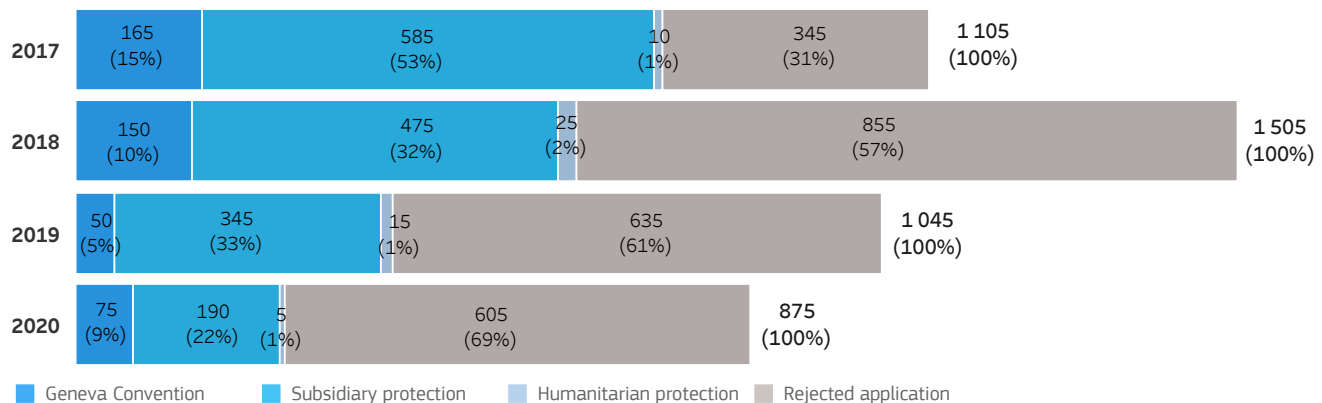


**Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-time asylum applications: number of applications and % of total first-time annual applications** SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyappctza)



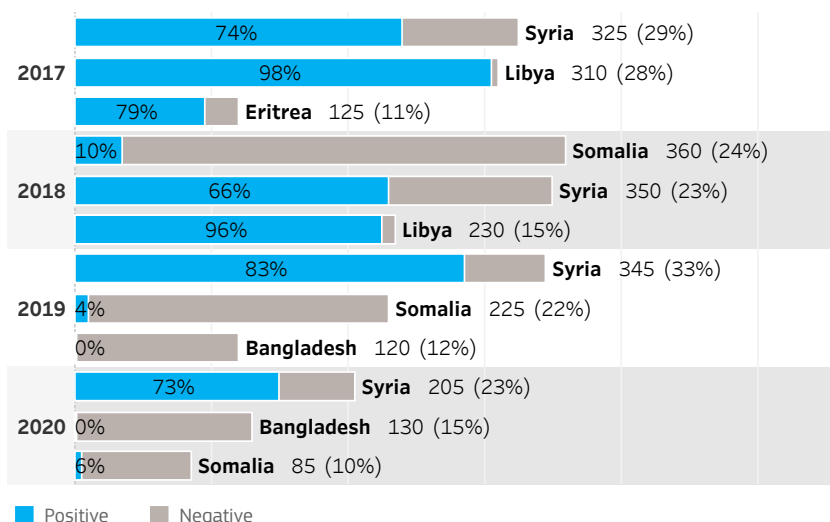
**Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)**

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asydcfsta)



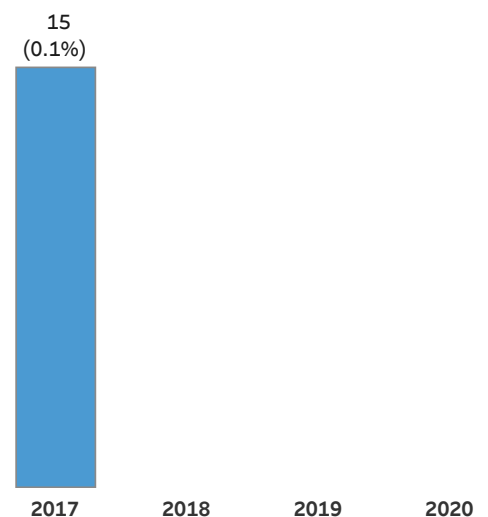
**Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-instance decisions: number of decisions (% of total decisions in the country) and % of positive outcome**

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asydcfsta)



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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyresa)

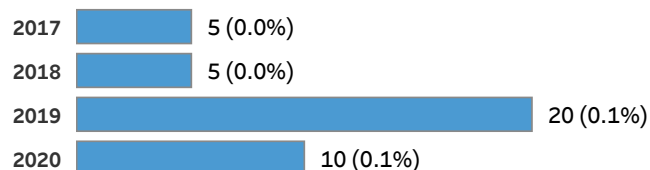




## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

**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 available year.**

SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc\_peps05, ilc\_lvho15, edat\_lfse\_01, edat\_lfse\_23, lfsa\_ergan, lfsa\_urgan)

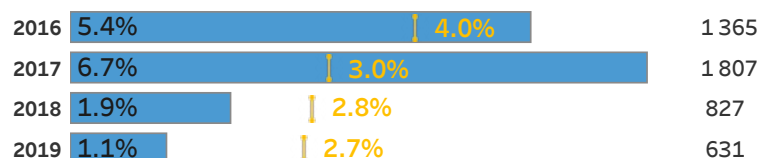
Category	Indicator	Nationals	TCNs	EU
Social inclusion (2019)	At risk of poverty or social exclusion (18+)	19.0%	25.7%	19.6% 45.3%
	Overcrowding rate (18+)	3.5%	1.0%	14.3% 34.8%
Education (2020)	Early school leavers (18-24)	15.2%	34.1%	8.6% 28.2%
	Neither Employed nor in Education or Training (18-24)	8.7%		13.5%
Labour market (2020)	Employment rate (15-64)	72.2%	73.9%	68.3% 55.1%
	Unemployment rate (15-64)	3.7%	7.1%	6.6% 17.0%



## CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

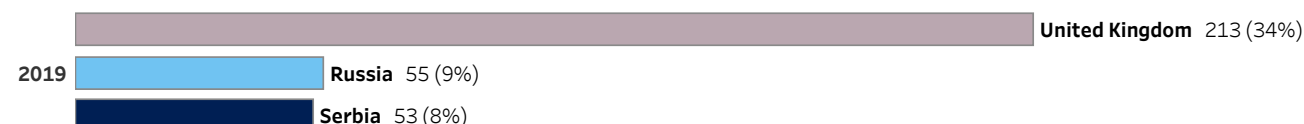
**Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute number**

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_acqs, migr\_acq)



**Top 3 nationalities by number of citizenship acquisition in 2019: absolute number and % of total acquisitions in the country by Third-Country Nationals**

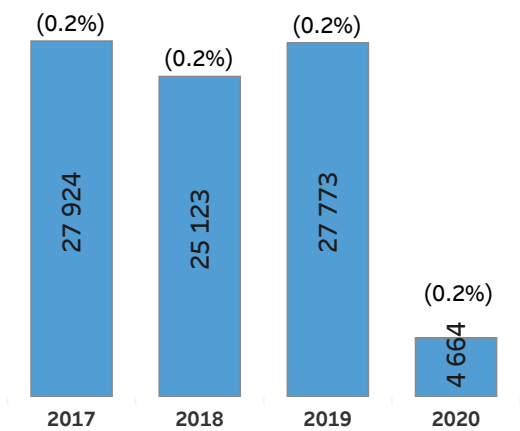
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_acq)



## BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

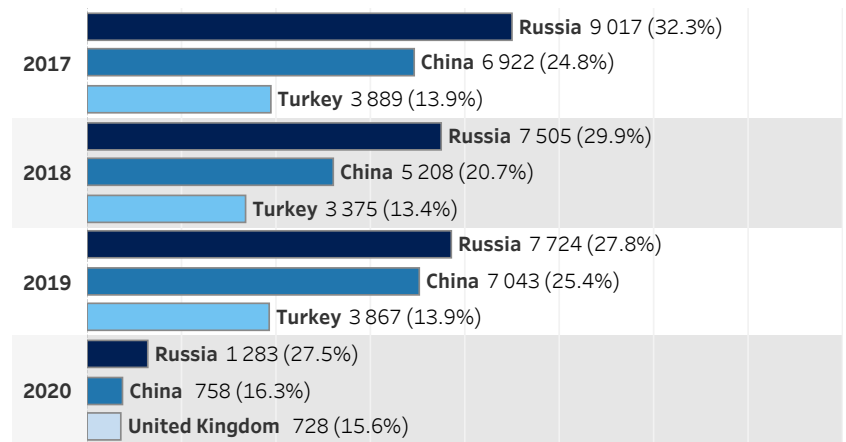
### Short-term visa issued (% of Schengen)

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



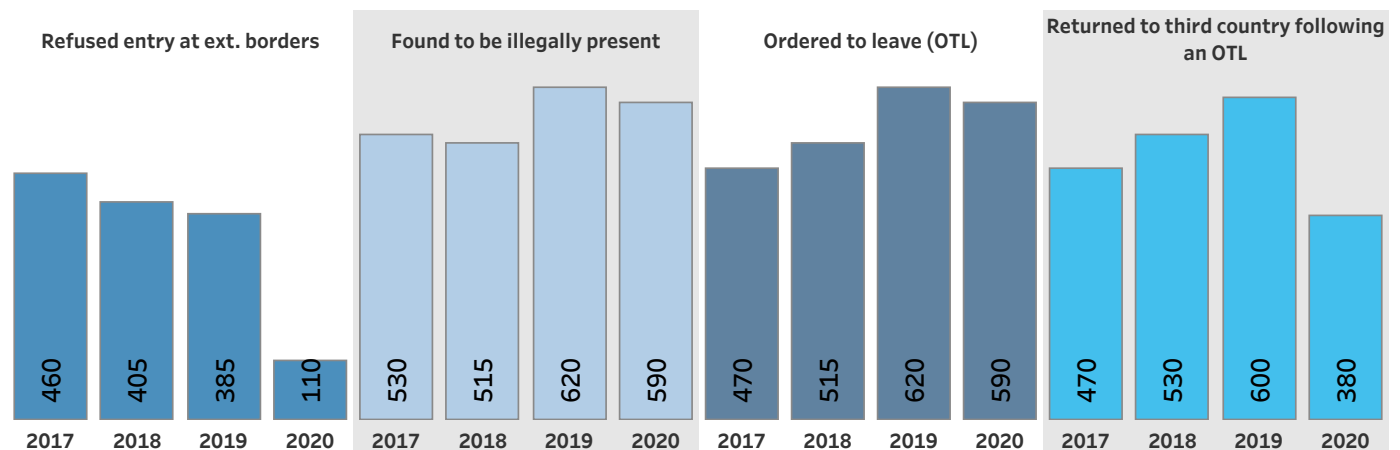
### Short-term visa issued in top 3 consulate countries (% of total issued)

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



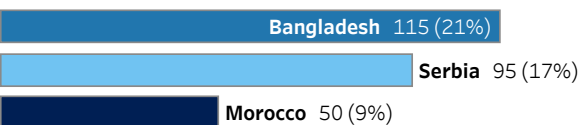
## IRREGULAR MIGRATION

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eirfs, migr\_eipre, migr\_eiord, migr\_eirtn)



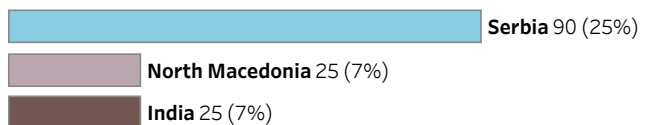
### Top 3 nationalities ordered to leave the country, 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eiord)



### Top 3 nationalities returned to third countries, 2020

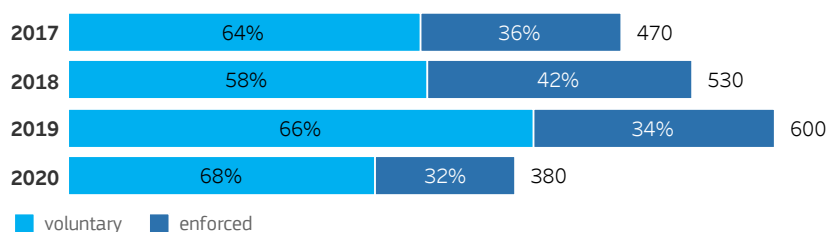
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eirtn)



## RETURN AND READMISSION

### Number of Third-Country Nationals who left the territory by type of return (in %) and total returns

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eirt\_vol)



## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

### Number of residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resoth)

