



NORWAY 2021

Main developments in migration and international protection, including latest statistics

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

August 2022



OVERARCHING CHANGES

No significant developments in 2021.



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

The Immigration Regulation was amended to preserve the rights of British citizens and their family members exercising their right to free movement under the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement before the end of 2020, following Brexit.

Several amendments were made to COVID-19-related entry restrictions. All entry restrictions were lifted on 26 November 2021. The right to seek asylum was not affected by entry restrictions at any time during the pandemic.

WORK-RELATED MIGRATION

The requirements for a temporary resident permit for self-employed persons (as set out in the [Norwegian Immigration Regulations](#) (Section 6-18)) were changed to facilitate foreign entrepreneurs moving to Norway and establishing a business.

Seasonal workers who were unable to return home due to COVID-19 restrictions in their country of origin were granted extensions to their temporary work permits in accordance with the [Norwegian Immigration Regulations](#) (Section 6-3b). The amendment aimed to prevent

KEY POINTS



Several amendments were made to COVID-19-related entry restrictions. All entry restrictions were lifted on 26 November 2021.



Responsibility and care for unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors over the age of 15, staying in reception centres, was regulated in the Norwegian Immigration Act and regulations.

work-related crime, such as illegal work, exploitation of workers and social dumping.

[Circular AI-1/2021](#) instructed Norwegian immigration authorities to reject applications for temporary work permits from seasonal workers who would have difficulty returning home due to COVID-19 measures in their country of origin (e.g. entry restrictions, flight ban).



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT¹

At the request of the European Commission and Greece, Norway relocated 51 asylum seekers from Greece in spring 2021. As part of this process, Norway received

¹ Includes Humanitarian Admission Programmes

51 vulnerable children with their families. They were all included in Norway's quota for resettlement, with a corresponding reduction in refugees for resettlement. As a result of the evacuation from Afghanistan, Norway granted permission to more than 800 Afghans as resettlement refugees in 2021.



MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Responsibility and care of unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors over age 15 staying in reception centres was regulated in the Norwegian Immigration Act and regulations.



INTEGRATION

NATIONAL INTEGRATION STRATEGY

The [Integration Act](#), on integration through training, education and work, was implemented on 1 January 2021. The Act sought to ensure that more refugees received formal education through individually tailored elements in the Introduction Programme.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF ADULTS/ LABOUR MARKET AND SKILLS

An amendment to the [Social Services Act](#) entered into force on 1 January 2021. The amendment aimed to help immigrants to achieve a higher level of Norwegian language skills by setting language training as a condition of financial assistance.

A temporary scheme was introduced to facilitate people to combine their studies/training with unemployment benefits, aiming to enhance skills and qualifications among the unemployed and the temporarily laid-off due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From October 2021, the temporary scheme was replaced by new permanent regulations.

FIGHTING RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

A National Centre of Competence against hate crime was established and a new subsidy scheme against racism, discrimination and hate speech was introduced.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF MIGRANTS AND RECEIVING SOCIETIES IN INTEGRATION

A new [Strategy](#) to strengthen the role of civil society in developing and implementing integration policy 2021-2024 was accompanied by a promise of increased economic support to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working to improve integration.

INVOLVEMENT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

A new [Strategy](#) to strengthen the role of civil society in developing and implementing integration policy 2021-2024 was accompanied by a promise of increased economic support to NGOs working to improve integration

BASIC SERVICES

The [Interpretation Act](#) was set to come into effect on 1 January 2022, as the first of its kind in Norway on interpretation services in the public sector. The Act implies a duty for public agencies to use qualified interpreters where necessary to ensure the rule of law or to provide proper assistance and services.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP

Amendments to the [Nationality Act](#) were set to take effect from 1 January 2022, raising the general requirement for length of residence from seven of the last 10 years to eight of the last 11 years. This does not apply to applicants already granted asylum in Norway. Applicants with a specified minimum income level according to the most recent tax assessment are required to have resided in Norway for six of the last 10 years.

Another set of amendments to the [Nationality Act](#) were passed. When they take effect, they will raise the requirement of necessary Norwegian oral skills from level A2 to B1 in order to be granted Norwegian citizenship.



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

VISA POLICY

As part of Schengen cooperation, Norway is obliged to follow the EU/Schengen legislation and policy in respect of visas. In 2020, a new Article 25a was introduced to the Visa Code as the legal basis for using the visa policy to enhance cooperation on readmission. This legal base was applied for the first time (Council Implementing Decision 2021/1781 of 7 November 2021, regarding The Gambia).



IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

No significant developments in 2021.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

No significant developments in 2021.



RETURN AND READMISSION

No significant developments in 2021.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

No significant developments in 2021.



STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex was prepared by ICF, the European Migration Network Service Provider, with statistics provided by Eurostat. It provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Norway on aspects of migration and international protection (2018-2021), 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".

STATISTICAL ANNEX

! GENERAL NOTES

This 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 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. For this edition, figures for Third Country Nationals refer to 'non-EU27 nor reporting country' across all indicators and years. The How to Read Guide is available [here](#).



COLOUR LEGEND

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

Data relative to Norway

Data relative to EU

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

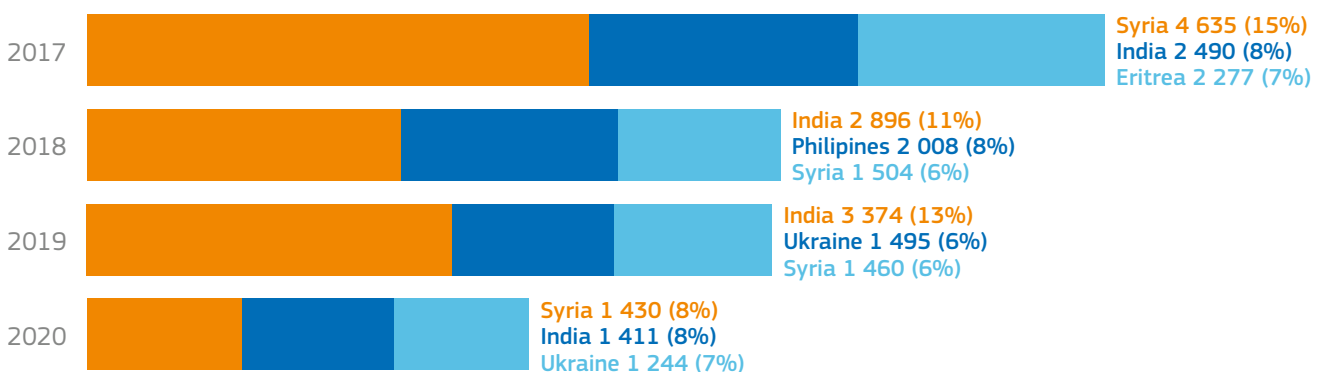
Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) as % of total population in the country (and in the EU) and in absolute numbers

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)



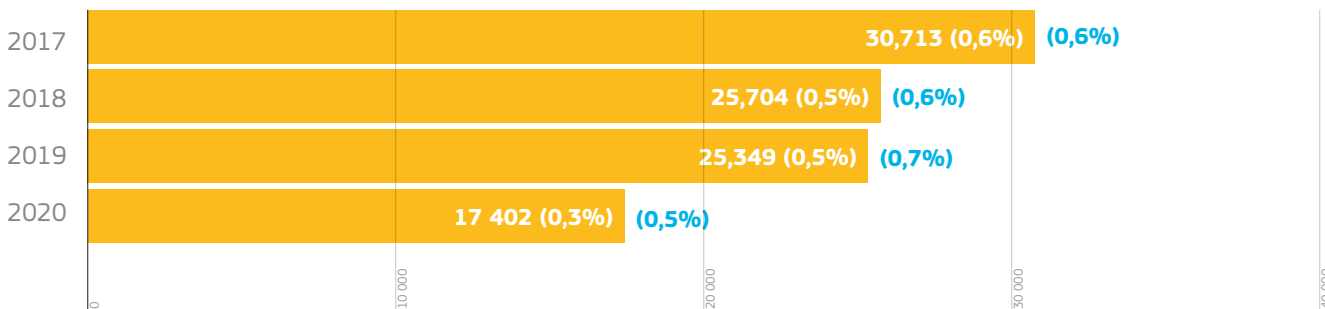
Top 3 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



First residence permits annually issued: total number and % of total population in the country (and in the EU)

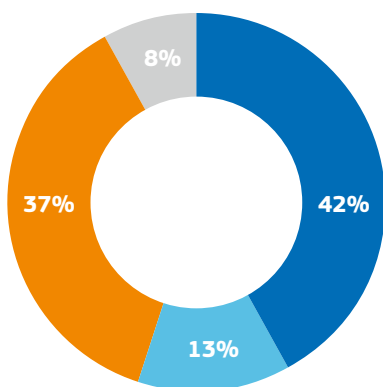
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_pop1ctz)



First residence permits annually issued by reason in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

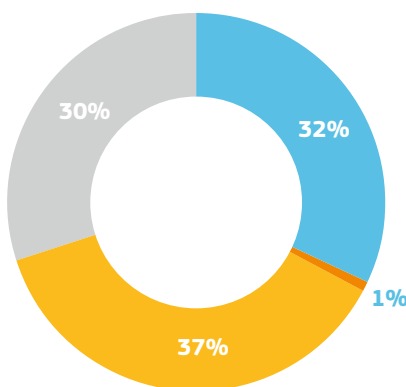
- Family
- Education
- Work
- Other



First residence permits annually issued for work reasons in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resocc)

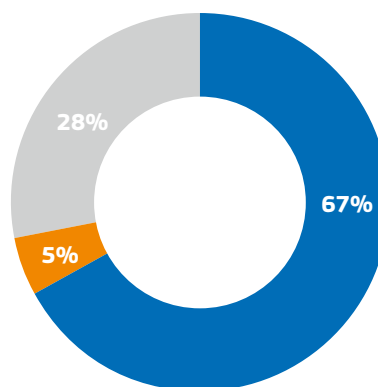
- EU Blue Card
- Highly skilled
- Researchers
- Seasonal workers
- Other



First residence permits annually issued for 'other reasons' in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

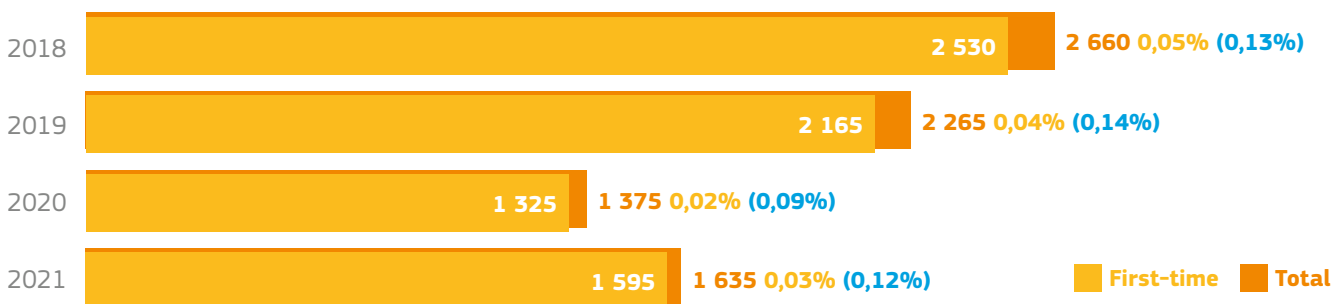
- Refugee/sub prot.
- Residence only
- Humanitarian
- Not specified



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

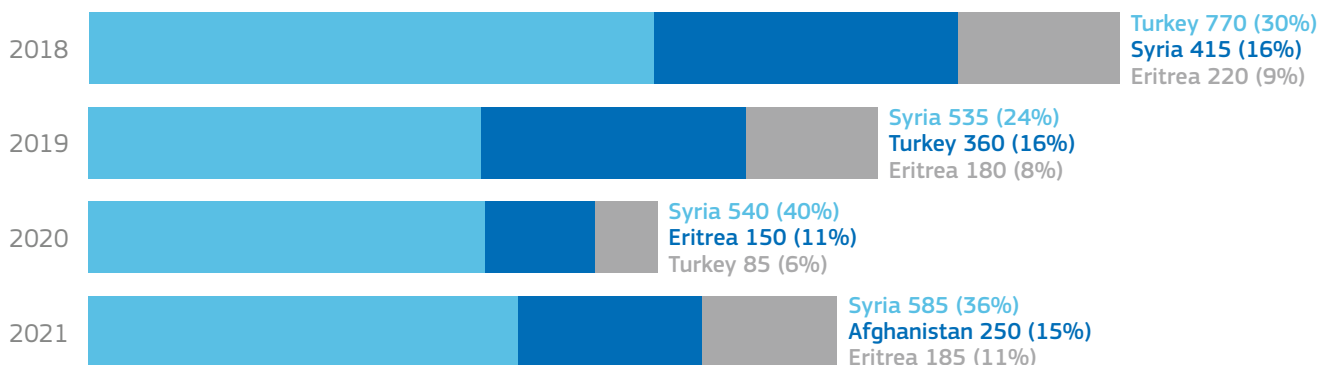
Total/first-time asylum applications; first-time asylum applications as % of population in the country (and in the EU)

SOURCE: eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz)



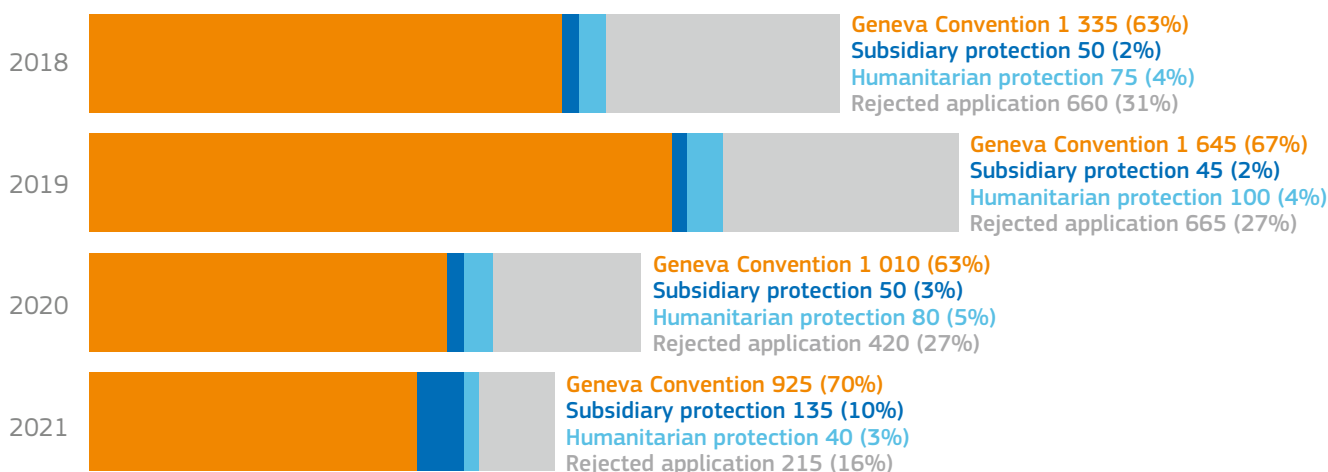
Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-time asylum applications: number of applications and % of total first-time annual applications

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)



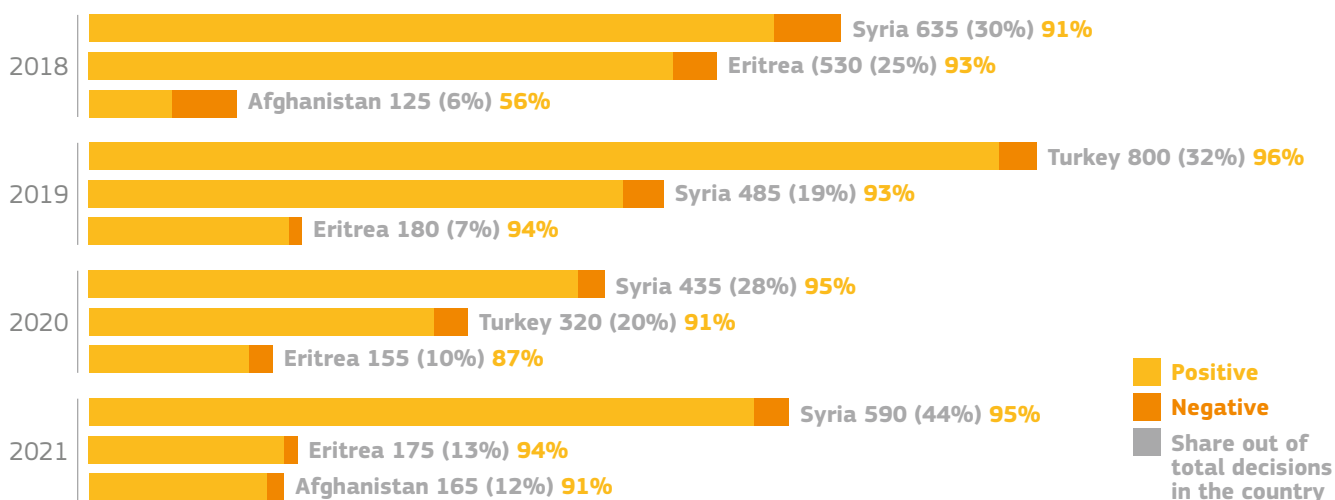
Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)

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 outcomes

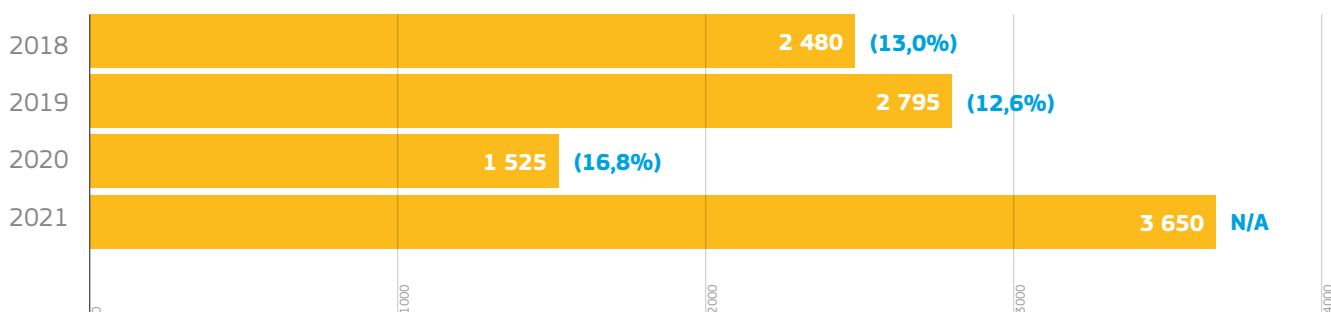
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)



■ Positive
■ Negative
■ Share out of total decisions in the country

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

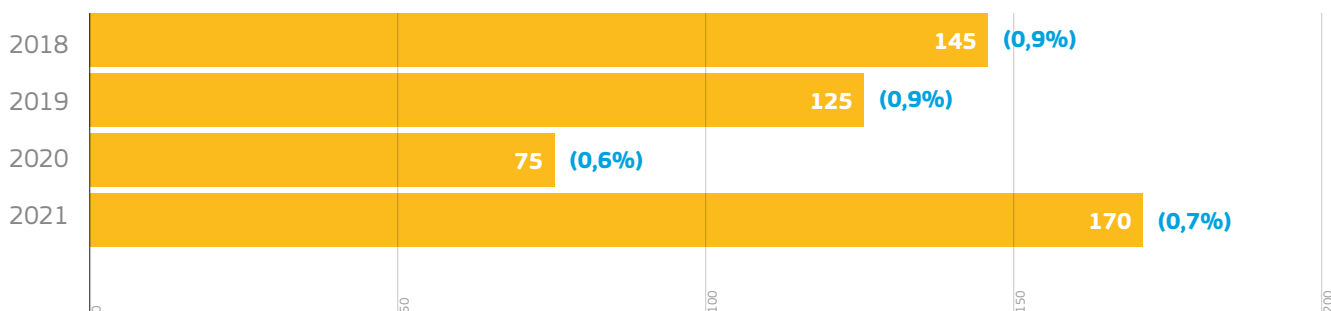
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

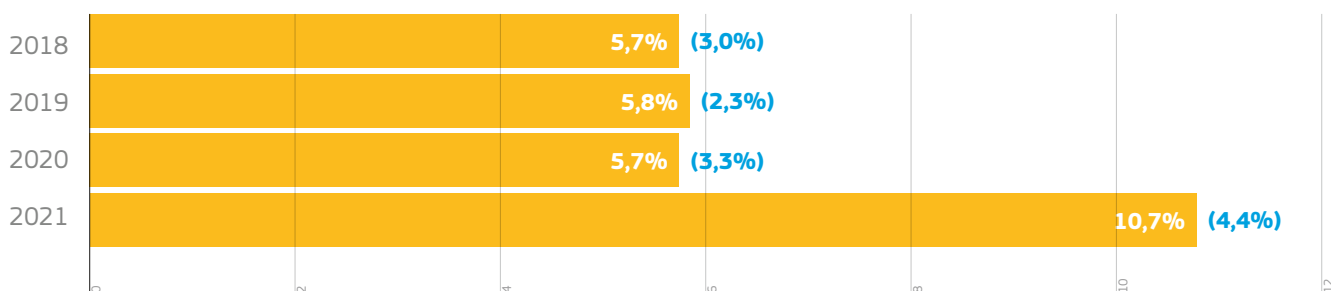
Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum in the country (and % of total applications from unaccompanied minors in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)



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

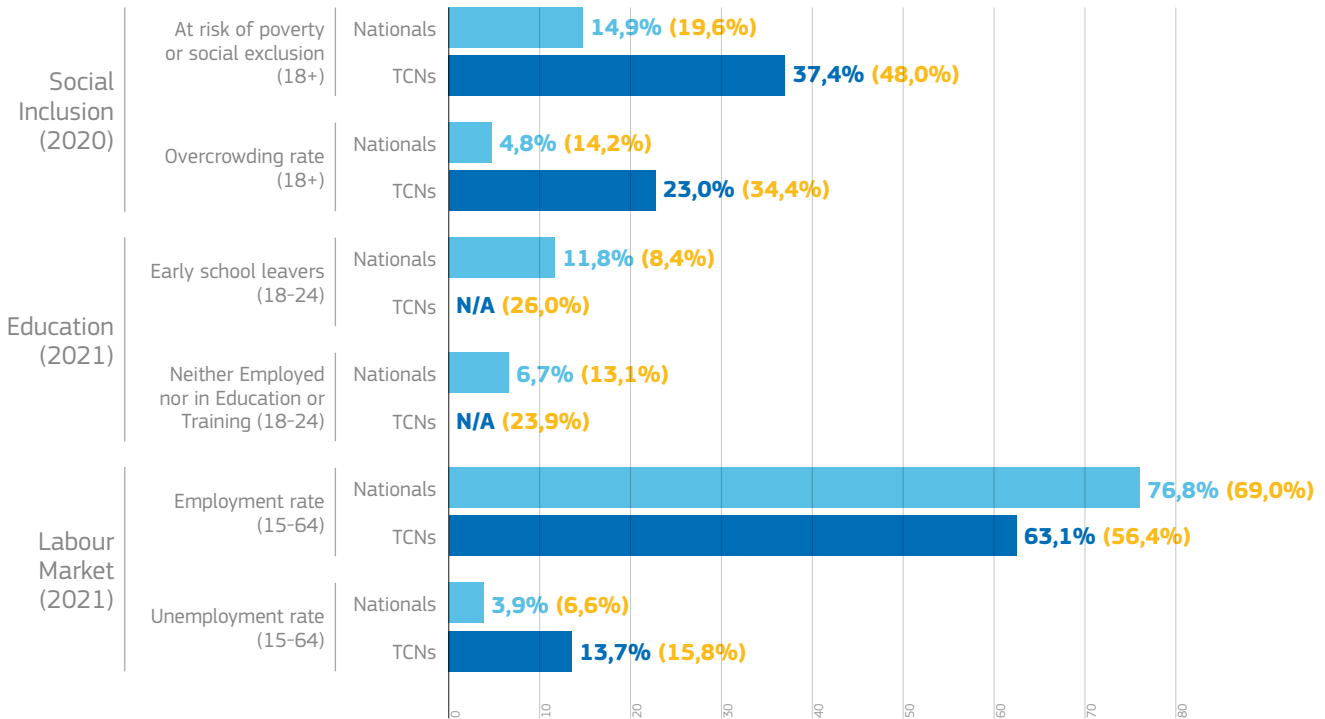
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa, migr_asyappctza)



INTEGRATION

Integration indicators for nationals (light blue) and Third-Country Nationals (dark blue) in the country (when available). The same indicator is provided in yellow for the EU.

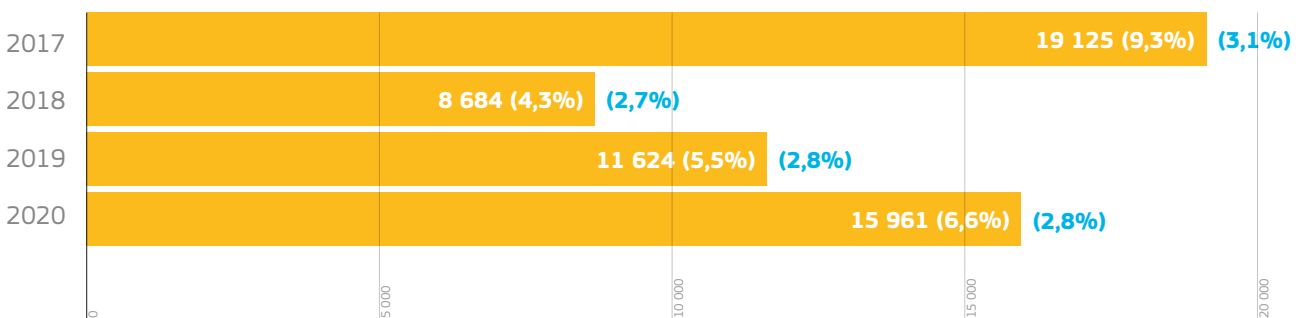
SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc_peps05, ilc_lwho15, edat_lfse_01, edat_lfse_23, lfsa_ergan, lfsa_urgan)



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

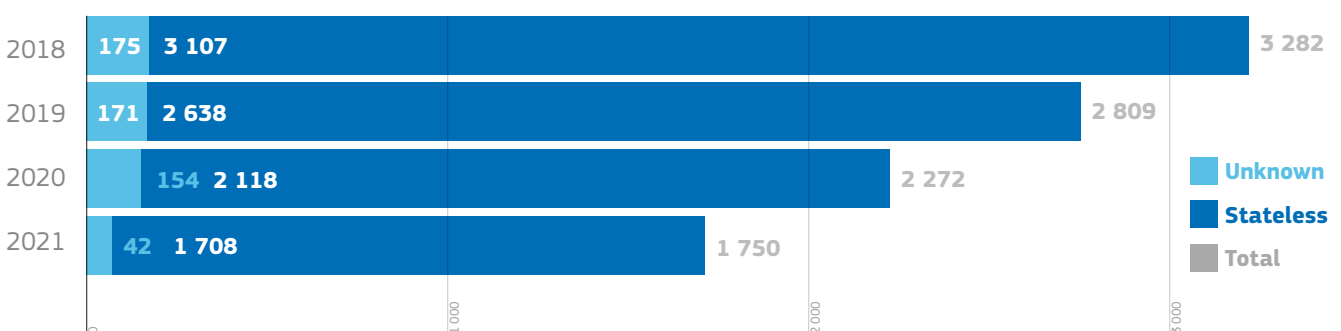
Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute numbers

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acqs, migr_acq)



Stateless, unknown citizens and recognised non-citizens (RNC) - where present

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)



Top 3 nationalities by number of citizenship acquisition in 2020: absolute number and % of total acquisitions in the country by Third-Country Nationals

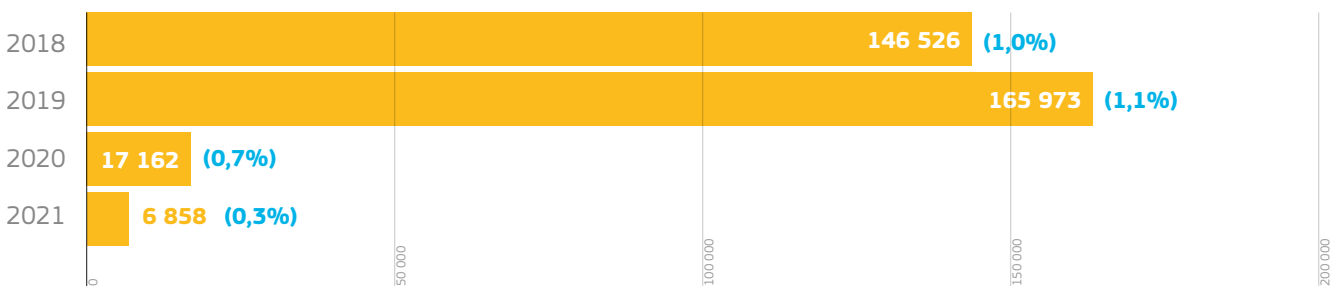
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acq)



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

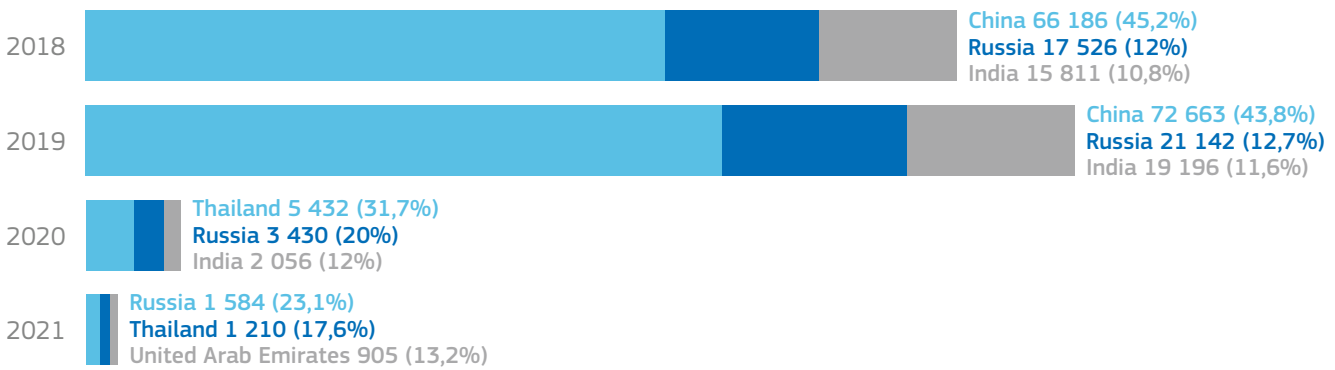
Short-term visa issued (% of Schengen)

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



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

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

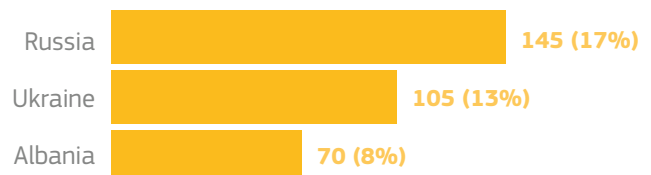
Top 3 nationalities ordered to leave the country in 2021, in absolute number and as a share of all nationalities ordered to leave the country

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eiord)



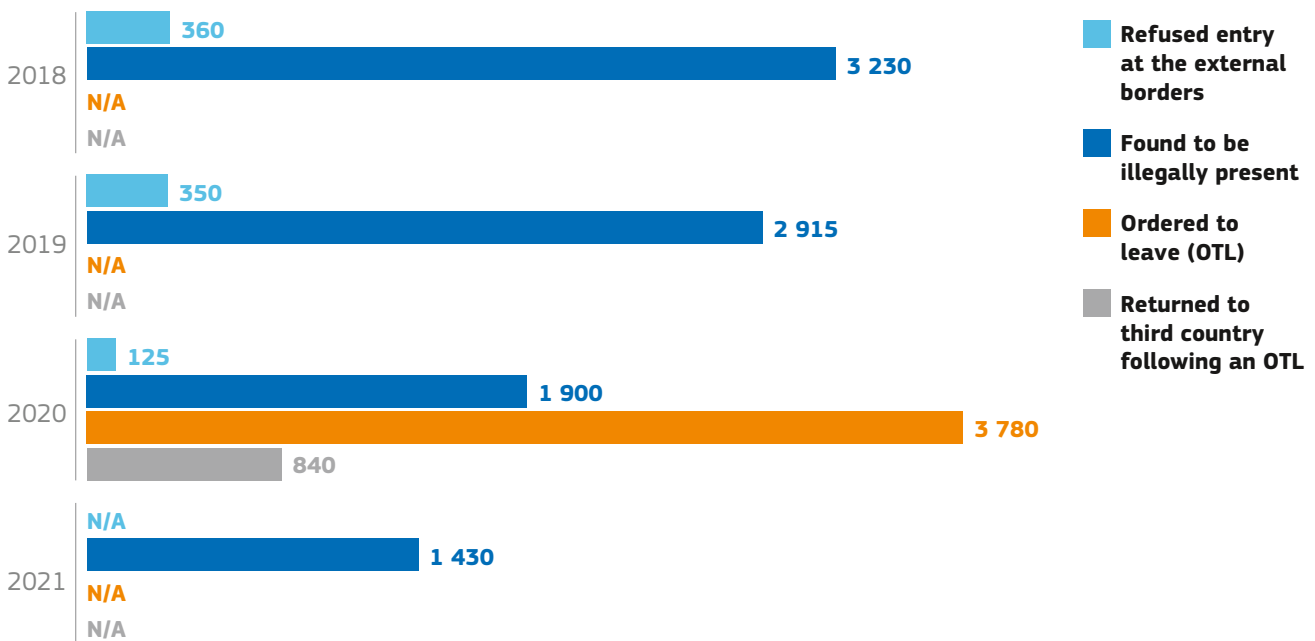
Top 3 nationalities returned to third country in 2021, in absolute number and as a share of all nationalities ordered to leave the country

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirtn)



General statistics on irregular migration

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord, 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)

N/A



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

