







Main developments in migration and international protection, including latest statistics

August 2023



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

In February 2022, Greece signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on migration and mobility with Bangladesh, which was ratified by Law 4959/2022 (Government Gazette A' 144). On 12 December 2022, a Joint Ministerial Decision 716659 (G.G 6271 B') was issued by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Labour and Social Affairs, Citizen Protection, and Migration and Asylum, providing procedures to implement the MoU.

Other measures

According to the new provisions (Articles 91-93, Law 5007/2022, GG A'241 amending Article 20b of Law 4251/2014, concerning visas for investors, the minimum value of a real estate property, as well as the contractual consideration of hotel accommodation or tourist residences leases, is determined at € 500 000 for the regional units of the north, central and south sectors of Athens and the municipalities of Vari, Voula, Vouliagmeni (Attica region), Thessaloniki (Central Macedonia) and the regional units of Mykonos and Santorini (South Aegean). The new threshold is applicable from 1 May 2023. The previous € 250 000 threshold applies to all other geographical areas in Greece. A transitional period (Law 5007/2022) is also foreseen. According to the new provisions of Law 5007/2022, all investors who purchase a property in the regional units of the north, central and south sectors of Athens and the municipalities of Vari, Voula, Vouliagmeni (Attica region), Thessaloniki (Central Macedonia) and the

KEY POINTS



Temporary protection for displaced people from Ukraine: Ministerial Decision of the Minister of Migration and Asylum No 131035/04.03.2022 activated P.D. 80/2006, which transposed Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55/EC) into national law, due to the mass influx of displaced person from Ukraine. Ministerial Decision of the Minister of Migration and Asylum No 172172/28.03.2022 specified the procedure for granting temporary protection.



Codification of the legal framework on International protection, temporary protection, and reception of third-country nationals and stateless persons: Law 4939/10.6.2022 (GG A'111) incorporated the previous legal framework on reception, international protection (International Protection Act, Law 4636/2019) and its amendments, as well as Presidential Decree No 80/2006 on temporary protection.



Law on national guardianship system and accommodation framework for unaccompanied minors: In July 2022, Law 4960/2022 on National Guardianship System and Accommodation Framework for Unaccompanied Minors and other provisions within the competence of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum (A' 145) was adopted. The changes are part of the Code of Reception that was ratified by Law No. 4939/2022 (A' 111). It sets the rules for a functional and flexible guardianship system.

regional units of Mykonos and Santorini (South Aegean) and pay at least 10 % of the property value as a deposit before 30 April 2023 may conclude their property contracts until 31 December 2023 and are exempt from the new provisions.



TEMPORARY PROTECTION

Main national developments in relation to temporary protection

Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022 established the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC and introduced temporary protection. Following the Communication from the Commission on operational guidelines for the implementation of Council Implementing Decision (2022/C 126 I/01), a Decision of the Minister of Migration and Asylum No 131035/04.03.2022 was issued and activated (P.D. 80/2006), while a Ministerial Decision of the Minister of Migration and Asylum No 172172/28.03.2022 specified the procedure for granting temporary protection. Electronic pre-registration for temporary protection started on 28 March 2022, with full registration and issuance of temporary protection residence cards from 4 April 2022.

Main measures taken outside of the legal framework of the Temporary Protection Directive

Pursuant to the Joint Ministerial Decision of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Migration and Asylum No 708368/25.11.2022, Ukraine was removed from the list of safe countries of origin.



Legislative and policy developments related to international protection

The reception and identification centres (RIC) of Samos, Kos and Leros were replaced by closed controlled access centres of islands (CCACI) in 2021. A further two centres, on Lesvos and Chios, were foreseen for 2022, but will now open in 2023. Presidential Decree No 77/8.11.2022 (Establishment of Closed Controlled Centres and replacement of Reception and Identification Centres) amended Presidential Decree No 106/2020 (Organisation of Hellenic Ministry of Migration and Asylum).

Restriction of freedom of movement within a specific geographical area (the islands of Lesvos, Chios, Samos, Kos or Leros, in which the applicant arrived) ceased to apply by the end of 2021. As of January 2022, it was replaced by the restriction of freedom of movement within the RIC for the duration of reception and identification procedures (a period not exceeding 25 days).

Law No. 4939/2022 (A' 111) is the national legal asylum framework and codified the previous legal framework

on reception and international protection (International Protection Act, Law 4636/2019) and its amendments, as well as Presidential Decree No 80/2006 on temporary protection.

Pursuant to Joint Ministerial Decision No 78391/2022, Egypt, Benin, and Nepal were added to the national list of safe countries of origin, and pursuant to Joint Ministerial Decision No 708368/GG B'6012/2022, Ukraine was removed from the list

Under Joint Ministerial Decision No 734214/GG B'6250/2022,i the provisions of Joint Ministerial Decision No 42799/2021 (GG B'2425) continue to apply. The national list of safe third countries includes Turkey as a safe third country for applicants for international protection from Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan and Bangladesh, Albania as a safe third country for applicants for international protection entering Greece irregularly from the Albanian-Greek borders, and North Macedonia as a safe third country for applicants for international protection entering Greece irregularly from the North Macedonian-Greek borders.

Joint Ministerial Decision No 513542/2022, GG B'4763 was issued for the procedure of providing beneficiaries of international protection with a Residence Permit (ADET).

Joint Ministerial Decision No 605869/2022 regulates the issuance of a provisional foreigner's insurance and health-care number (PAYPA), enabling applicants for international protection to access social insurance, healthcare services and the labour market.

Joint Ministerial Decision No 513551 (G.G. B' 4763 of 12.09.2022) allows the competent authority to impose a fine in the event of a late unjustified submission of an application for residence permit renewal.



Minors

In July 2022, Law 4960/2022 on National Guardianship System and Accommodation Framework for Unaccompanied Minors and other provisions within the competence of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MMA) (A' 145) was adopted. The proposed changes are part of the Code of Reception for the reception, the international protection of third-country nationals and stateless persons and temporary protection in case of mass influx of displaced foreigners, which was

ratified by Law No 4939/2022 (A' 111). The new initiative sets the rules for a functional and flexible guardianship system, where the State exercises control and supervision, gives directions for the exercise of guardianship duties, and supports the implementation of the programme.



National integration strategy

The National Strategy for the Social Integration of Applicants and Beneficiaries of International

Protection, formulated and announced by the MMA in November 2021, was opened for public consultation from 7 to 22 January 2022. It concerns the integration of asylum seekers and (recognised) beneficiaries of international protection and introduces a 'pre-integration' process for those with refugee status. The National Strategy has **four main pillars**:

Pre-integration of asylum seekers for the smooth transition of adults to professional life and minors from non-formal to formal education, without discrimination. Defense of rights and promotion of the European way of life and the rule of law. Prevention and effective protection against all forms of violence:

Social inclusion of beneficiaries of international protection through the development of intensive education and training programmes to facilitate their access to the labor market. Promotion of the European way of life:

Prevention and effective protection against all forms of violence, exploitation, and abuse by strengthening reporting mechanisms; and

Monitoring of the integration process through commonly accepted and comparable indicators.

The Social Integration Directorate of the MMA is responsible for planning, monitoring and implementing the integration policy and the National Strategy for Integration.

Education and training of adults/ labour market and skills

One of the four main pillars of the National Strategy for Integration is 'Social inclusion of beneficiaries of international protection through the development of intensive education and training programmes to facilitate beneficiaries' access to the labour market. Promoting the European way of life'. It contains general objectives and goals, subdivided into specific actions. Law 4939/2022 (G G A' 111) amended Law 4636/2019 (G G A' 169) and specifies the rights of beneficiaries of international protection to access to education, vocational training, employment, procedures for the recognition of academic titles and professional qualifications, as well as a number of other sectors and services (social assistance, medical care, housing, free movement, social integration services, repatriation).

Fighting Racism and discrimination

Another pillar of the National Strategy for Integration is 'Prevention and effective protection against all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse by strengthening reporting mechanisms'. It contains general objectives and goals, subdivided into specific actions.

Active participation of migrants and receiving societies in integration

The National Strategy for Integration is based on the principle that social inclusion is achieved through a two-way integration process, which presupposes cooperation, dialogue and engagement of the host society (not only of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection) in all integration stages, from reception to integration.

The Social Integration Directorate of the MMA, in collaboration with local authorities, migrants' and refugees' organisations and communities, is competent for coordinating and providing support for the functioning of the so-called Migrant and Refugee Integration Councils (MRICs), founded by Article 78 of l.3852/2010.

Involvement of multi-stakeholders including non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

The National Strategy for Integration was designed by the MMA and is implemented through cooperation with various agencies and services at central, regional, and local level. In addition to coordination and cooperation between the competent ministries, coordination mechanisms are provided at all levels of government, including cooperation with international organisations and NGOs to develop actions in the field of integration.

Basic services

The National Strategy for Integration refers to the social integration of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection through access to basic services such as information, health services and housing. At the level of national legislation, the rights of beneficiaries of international protection (access to education, vocational training, employment and procedures for the recognition of academic titles and professional qualifications, social assistance, medical care, housing, free movement, social integration services and the repatriation process) are described in detail in Law 4939/2022 (GG A'111), which amended Law 4636/2019.

Pre-departure/arrival programmes

Integration falls under the remit of the Social Integration Directorate of the MMA. The National Strategy for Integration considers the first period of asylum seekers' stay in the country the 'early integration' stage. The relevant pillar is 'Pre-integration of asylum seekers for the smooth transition of adults into working life and of minors from non-formal into formal education. Defending rights and promoting the European way of life and the rule of law. Prevention and effective protection against all forms of violence'. It contains general objectives and goals, subdivided into specific actions.



Acquisition of citizenship

The requirements for the acquisition of Greek citizenship, according to Article 1B of the Greek Nationality Act, were amended in relation to the acquisition of Greek citizenship on the grounds of studying at a school in Greece.



National strategic policy developments

On 23 May 2022, the Deputy Public Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of the Hellenic Republic issued #7 circular on the Official Recognition of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings. It highlighted the victim-centred and protective nature of the existing legal framework for the protection of victims of trafficking in human beings, and provided guidance for the competent prosecution authorities on the procedure of the issuance of the Act of Recognition for victims of trafficking in human beings, provided for in Article 1 para 1 (ia) of Law 4251/2014 (GG A'80).

Identification and information to victims of trafficking in human beings

In its fourth year of operation, the Greek National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for the Protection of Victims

of Human Trafficking, administered by the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) and supervised by the Office of National Rapporteur Against Human Trafficking, has managed to:

- Increase in number of cases of trafficking in human beings victims reported to the NRM;
- Continuous support to front-line professionals provided by the NRM team of experts;
- Capacity-building activities targeting national authority staff, provided by the National Centre for Public Administration & Local Government (ΕΚΔΔΑ), in collaboration with the NRM team of experts;
- Other training activities targeting national authorities and NGO staff, organised and delivered by the NRM experts;
- Information material developed by the NRM team of experts.



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

The data presented in the annex were extracted on 8 May 2023, with the exception of data on first-time applicants extracted on 7 June 2023. They cover the period 2019-2022. Since 2022 data were not available at the time of publication for certain datasets, in these cases the period 2019-2021 is covered.

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

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

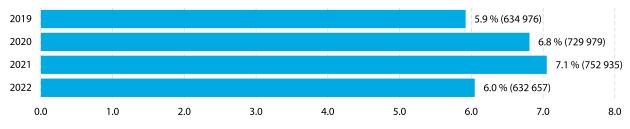
An online data code available under each table/figure can be used to directly access to the most recent data on Eurostat's website.



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Third-country nationals, 1 January 2019–2022

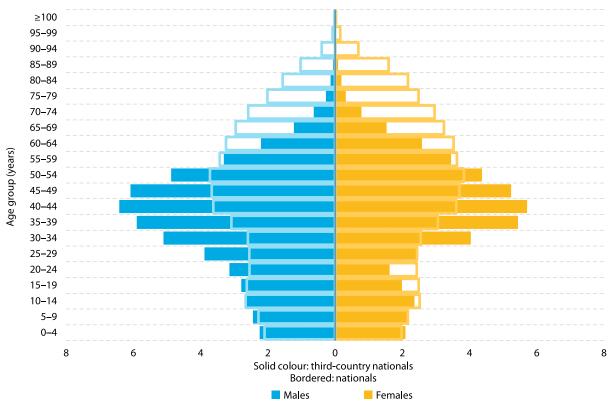
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Age structure of nationals and third-country nationals, 1 January 2022

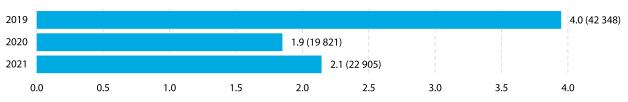
%



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

First residence permits issued to third-country nationals, 2019–2021

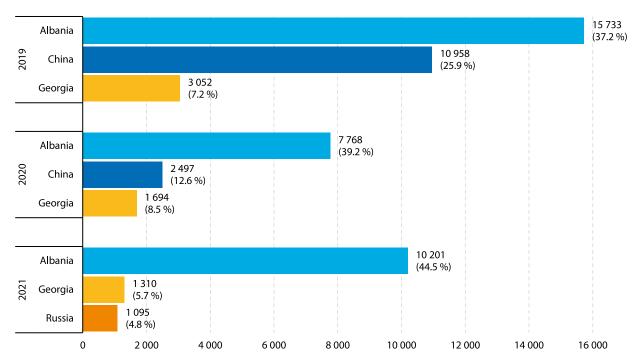
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst and migr_pop1ctz)

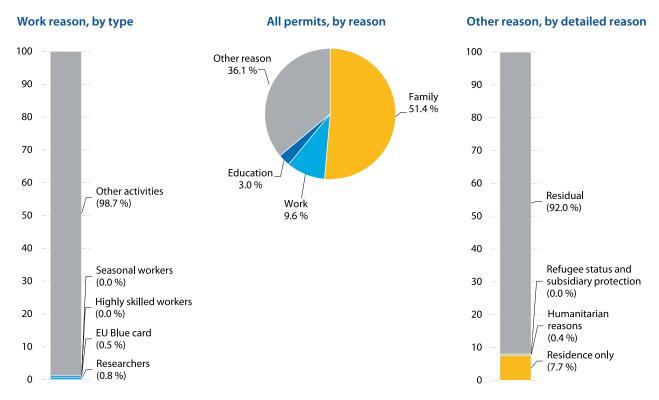
Top 3 countries whose citizens received first residence permits, 2019–2021

Absolute number (and the share in total number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2021 %



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_resocc and migr_resoth)

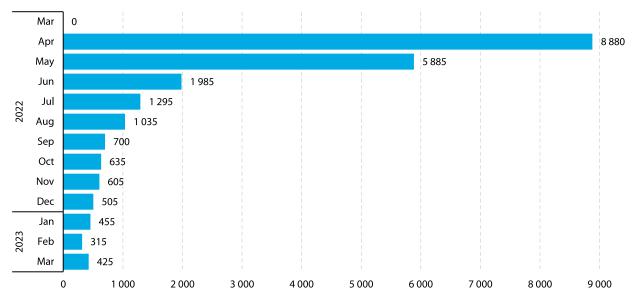
TEMPORARY PROTECTION

Third-country nationals who fled Ukraine and were benefitting from temporary protection at the end of March 2023 Absolute number (and the share within the total)



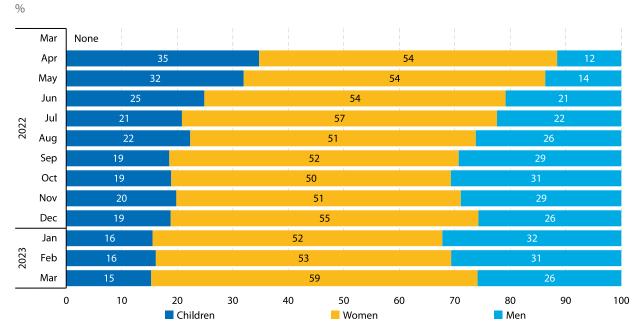
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpsm)

Number of decisions granting temporary protection to third-country nationals displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2023



Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpfm)

Distribution by age and sex of decisions granting temporary protection to third-country nationals displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2023

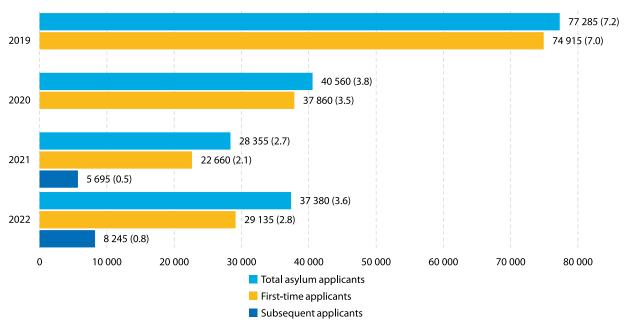


Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpfm)



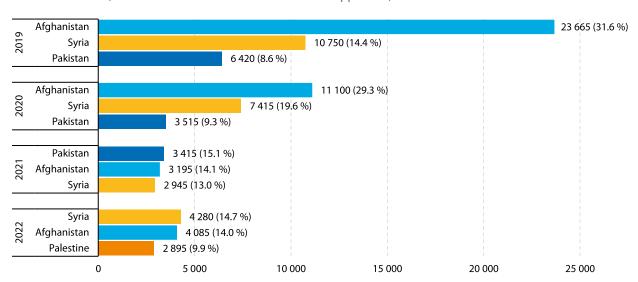
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants (third-country nationals), by type of application, 2019–2022 Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza and migr_pop1ctz)

Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2019–2022 Absolute number (and the share in total number of first-time applicants)

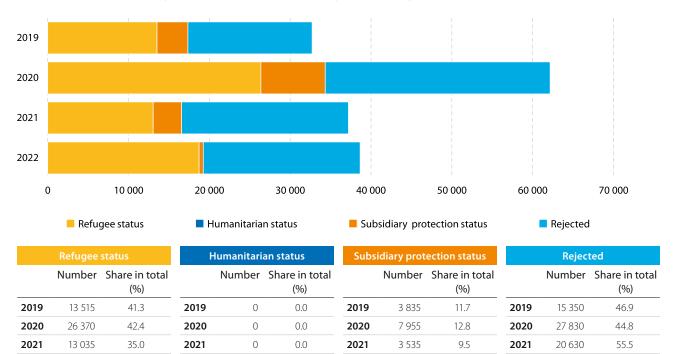


Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)

2022

18 730

Number of first instance asylum decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2019–2022



Note: the shares are calculated using the sum of the four outcomes as the denominator. Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)

2022

48.5

Top 3 countries of citizenship granted positive asylum decisions at first instance, by outcome, 2022 Absolute number (and share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)

0.0

2022

515

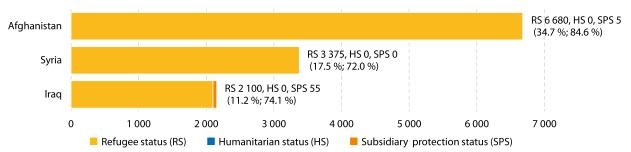
1.3

2022

19 405

50.2

0



Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)

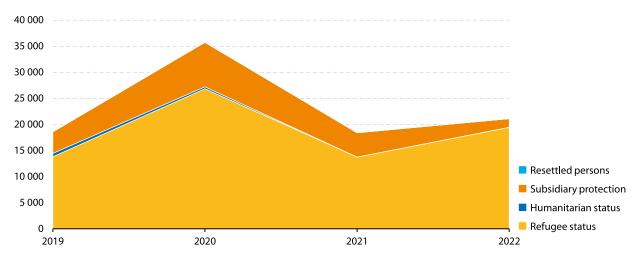
Resettled third-country nationals, 2019-2022

Absolute number (and the share of the total resettled within the EU)

2019	None	
2020	None	
2021	None	
2022	None	
C)	

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)

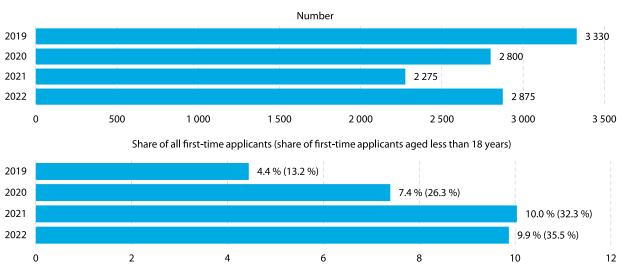




Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta, migr_asydcfina and migr_asyresa)

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

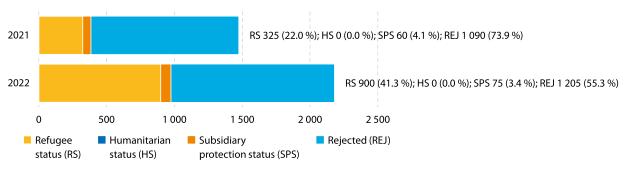
Unaccompanied minors (third-country nationals) applying for asylum, 2019–2022



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa and migr_asyappctza)

First instance asylum decisions on applications lodged by unaccompanied minors (third-country nationals), by outcome, 2021 and 2022

Absolute number (and the share in the total)

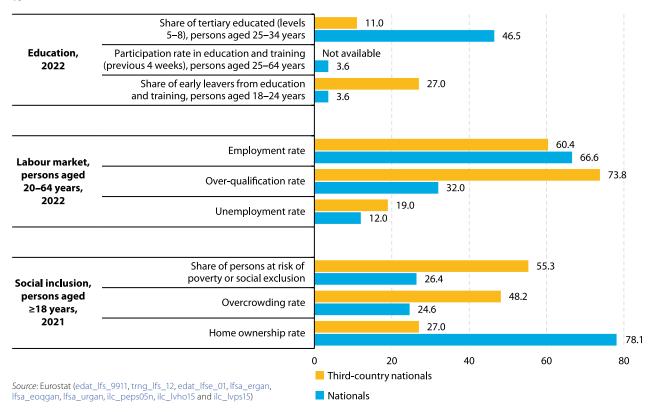


Source: Eurostat (migr_asyumdcfq)



Integration indicators, 2021 or 2022

%

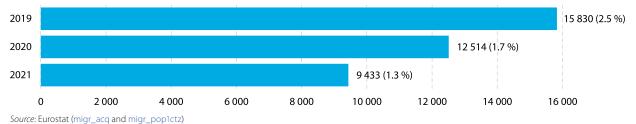




CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2019-2021

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

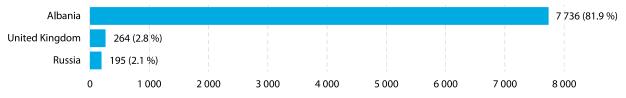


Stateless persons, persons with unknown citizenship and recognised non-citizens, 2019–2022 Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

Source: E	Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)	■ Stateless (STLS)	Unknown (UNK)
()		
2022	STLS 0 (0.0); UNK 0 (0.0)		
2021	STLS 0 (0.0); UNK 0 (0.0)		
2020	STLS 0 (0.0); UNK 0 (0.0)		
2019	STLS 0 (0.0); UNK 0 (0.0)		

Top 3 countries of previous non-EU citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship, 2021

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



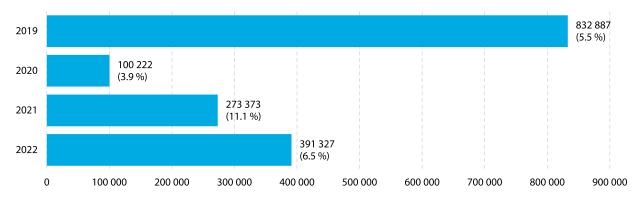
Source: Eurostat (migr_acg)



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Schengen uniform short-stay visas issued, 2019–2022

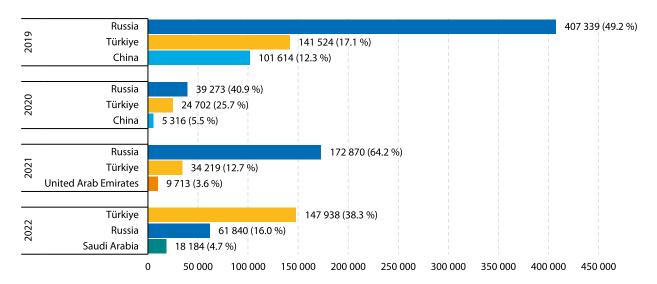
Absolute number (and the share of all uniform short-stay visas issued within the Schengen Area)



Note: Bulgaria, Ireland, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania were not part of the Schengen Area. Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry

Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

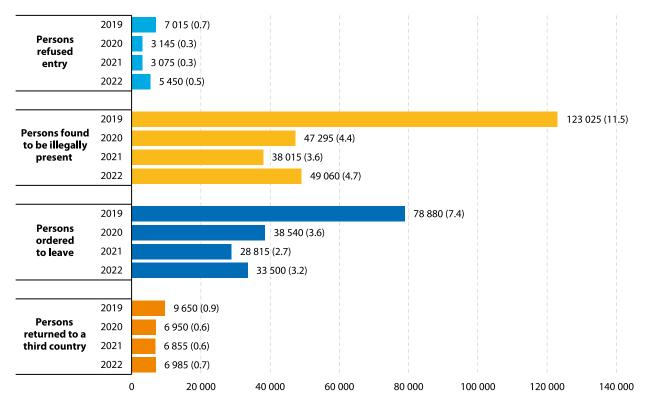
Three consulate countries in which the most Schengen uniform short-stay visas were issued, 2019-2022 Number of uniform short-stay visas issued (and the share of all uniform short-stay visas issued in consulate countries)



Note: the consulate country might not be the same as the country of citizenship of the visa applicant. Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

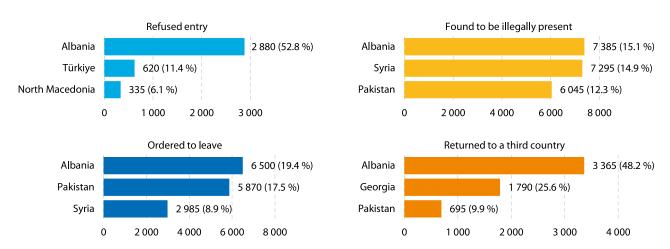
EN IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2019–2022 Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord, migr_eirtn and migr_pop1ctz)

Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2022 Absolute numbers (and the shares in the respective totals)

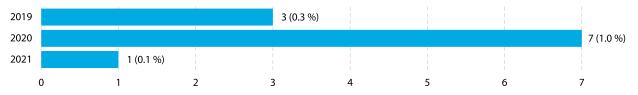


Source: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord and migr_eirtn)



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

First residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings, 2019–2021 Absolute number (and the share within the EU)

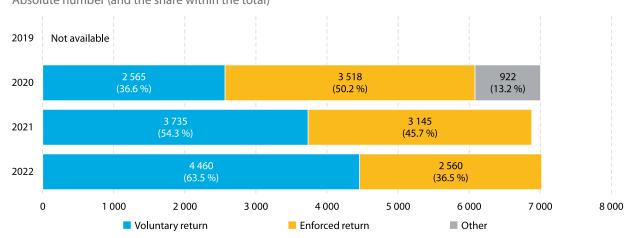


Source: Eurostat (migr_resoth)



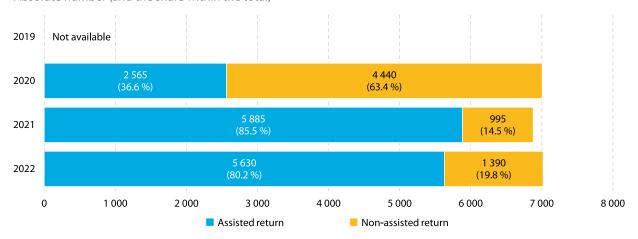
RETURN AND READMISSION

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of return, 2019–2022 Absolute number (and the share within the total)



Note: data for 2019 and 2020 are from migr_eirt_vol. Data for 2021 and 2022 are from migr_eirtn1. Source: Eurostat (migr_eirt_vol and migr_eirtn1)

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of assistance received, 2019–2022 Absolute number (and the share within the total)



Note: data for 2019 and 2020 are from migr_eirt_ass. Data for 2021 and 2022 are from migr_eirtn1. Source: Eurostat (migr_eirt_ass and migr_eirtn1)

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EU open data

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For more information

EMN website: http://ec.europa.eu/emn

EMN LinkedIn page: https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-migration-network

EMN Twitter account: https://twitter.com/emnmigration

EMN YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@EMNMigration

EMN National Contact Points

Austria www.emn.at/en/

Belgium www.emnbelgium.be

Bulgaria www.emn-bg.com

Croatia https://emn.gov.hr/

Cyprus www.moi.gov.cy/moi/crmd/emnncpc.nsf/

home/home?opendocument

Czechia www.emncz.eu

Denmark www.justitsministeriet.dk/

Estonia www.emn.ee/

Finland https://emn.fi/en/

 $\label{prop:convergence} France\ www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/$

Europe-et-International/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM3/Le-reseau-europ-

een-des-migrations-REM2

Germany https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/EMN/

emn-node.html

Greece http://emn.immigration.gov.gr/en/

Hungary www.emnhungary.hu/en

Ireland www.emn.ie/

Italy www.emnitalyncp.it/

Latvia www.emn.lv/en/home/

Lithuania www.emn.lt/en/

Luxembourg https://emnluxembourg.uni.lu/

Malta https://emn.gov.mt/

The Netherlands https://www.emnnetherlands.nl/

Poland https://www.gov.pl/web/europejs-

ka-siec-migracyjna

Portugal https://rem.sef.pt/

Romania https://www.mai.gov.ro/

Spain https://www.emnspain.gob.es

Slovak Republic https://emn.sk/en/

Slovenia https://emm.si/en/

Sweden http://www.emnsweden.se/

Norway https://www.udi.no/en/statis-

tics-and-analysis/european-migration-net-

work---norway

Georgia https://migration.commission.ge/index.

php?article_id=1&clang=1

Republic of Moldova http://bma.gov.md/en

Ukraine https://dmsu.gov.ua/en-home.html

Montenegro https://www.gov.me/en/mup

Armenia https://migration.am/?lang=en

Serbia https://kirs.gov.rs/cir