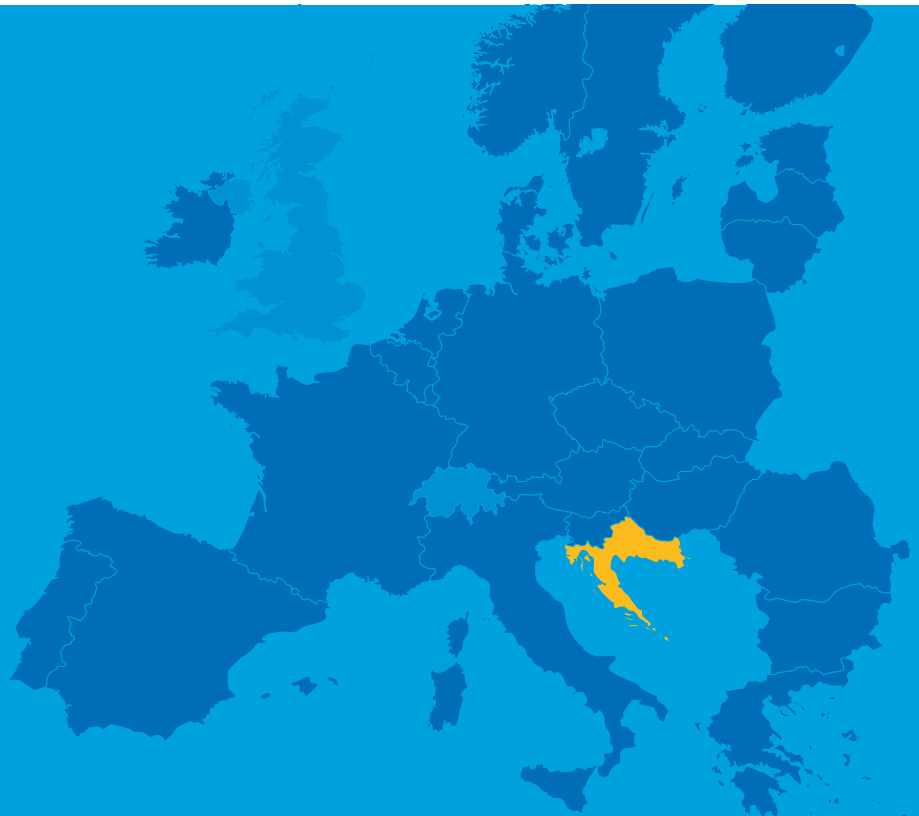


CROATIA

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET 2022

Main developments in migration
and international protection,
including latest statistics
August 2023



OVERARCHING CHANGES

On 8 December 2022, the Council of the European Union (EU) adopted a decision on the full application of the Schengen acquis in Croatia. From 1 January 2023, controls at the internal land and sea borders between Croatia and other Schengen countries were lifted, with internal air border checks lifted from 26 March 2023. In December 2022, the Croatian parliament passed the [Act on Amendments to the Aliens Act](#) and [Act on Amendments to the State Border Control Act](#), ensuring that their provisions allowed full application of the Schengen acquis. The amendments determined the provisions that applied to external borders and the tasks of border police inland.

In March 2022, the government of the Republic of Croatia, adopted the Decision on Temporary Protection for displaced people from Ukraine, based on Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382. The [Temporary Protection Directive](#) was transposed and is currently in force. An Interdepartmental Working Group, coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior, was created for all activities related to displaced people from Ukraine. On 20 March 2022, the Ministry of the Interior launched a bilingual website with daily data for displaced Ukrainians and information for Croatian citizens offering assistance to refugees.

On 23 March 2022, a Decision on financing the costs for housing care of displaced people from Ukraine in individual accommodation was adopted, with housing owners paid the costs of using their property.

From 25 February to 31 December 2022, a total of 22 407 people from Ukraine entered the Republic of

KEY POINTS



On 8 December 2022, the Council of the EU adopted a Decision on the full application of the provisions of the Schengen acquis in the Republic of Croatia, following which the Republic of Croatia became a Member State of the Schengen area on 1 January 2023.



On 7 March 2022, the government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Decision on Temporary Protection for displaced people from Ukraine.

Croatia, 11 162 (49.8 %) female, 3 802 (16.9 %) male, and 7 443 (33.3 %) children.

As of 25 February 2022, the Directorate of Civil Protection was using 46 facilities for the care of displaced people, one laundry company and one transport company. Twenty-two facilities were mobilised (three reception and 19 collective accommodations) and, on the basis of public procurement, people are accommodated in 24 facilities (collective accommodation).



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

In 2022, Croatia made the necessary legal amendments for entry into the Schengen and Eurozone

area. On 23 September, the Croatian Parliament passed amendments to the Aliens Act ([Official Gazette 114/22](#)) that came into effect on 1 January 2023, using the euro in relevant provisions as the national currency. The Act on Amendments to the Aliens Act from 16 December 2022 ([Official Gazette 151/2022](#)) were necessary for the full implementation of the Schengen acquis after Croatia become a member of the Schengen area. The new Ordinance on the residence of third-country nationals in the Republic of Croatia ([Official Gazette 20/2022](#)) entered into force on 24 February 2022 and prescribed the methods of laying down conditions for residence and work of third-country nationals, the layout and form of stay and work permits, and procedures for issuing residence and travel documents to third-country nationals. The Ordinance on Amendments to the Ordinance on the residence of third-country nationals in the Republic of Croatia ([Official Gazette 155/2022](#)) was passed on 15 December 2022, due to the introduction of the euro as the official currency in the Republic of Croatia.

Work-related migration

To facilitate the process of submitting applications for stay and work permits, the Croatian Employment Service created a system for online applications for seasonal workers. From 7 April 2022, employers can submit [online applications for stay and work permits](#) for seasonal workers for up to 90 days.

Students and researchers

A New Act on the Recognition and Assessment of Foreign Education Qualifications came into effect in June 2022 ([Official Gazette 69/2022](#)). It regulates the procedures for evaluating foreign educational qualifications for the purpose of access to the labour market in professions not included in the List of Regulated Professions in the Republic of Croatia, which are implemented in accordance with special regulations.

Other measures

Ahead of the 2022 tourist season (October to mid-December), guidelines were prepared for employers and police administrations/stations, with additional training to improve efficiency in issuing residence and work permits in tourism for returning third-country nationals. Work has been done to upgrade the existing systems/apps for more efficient exchange of data between the bodies involved in issuing stay and work permits, as well as updating the information for employers on the stage/outcome of the procedure. Workshops for associations and employers provided information and raised awareness of the conditions for issuing stay and work permits, as well as steps to make the procedure more efficient.



TEMPORARY PROTECTION

Main national developments in relation to temporary protection

On 7 March 2022, the government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Decision on Temporary Protection for displaced people from Ukraine.

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

On 20 March 2022, the Ministry of the Interior launched a bilingual website providing daily data for displaced people from Ukraine and information for Croatian citizens offering assistance.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Legislative and policy developments related to international protection

In 2022, the Republic of Croatia prepared the Draft Proposal for the Act on Amendments to the International and Temporary Protection Act and submitted it to the parliament. The amendments would, among other, allow applicants with health difficulties to apply for international protection in writing, meaning all notifications received by applicants were required to be in writing.

The provisions on the restriction of freedom of movement will be further harmonised, notably the submission of applications for international protection during forced removal procedures, and a more precise definition of the grounds for restriction of movement for national security and public policy reasons. A shorter deadline is proposed for applicants for international protection acquiring the right to work, as well as introducing the use of medical expertise to determine exposure to persecution or risk of suffering serious harm. It also proposes to allow the use of new methods to establish the identity of persons, search computers and other electronic and mobile devices, the possibility to use audio-visual devices during hearings of applicants for international protection, and the possibility of recording hearings.

The duration of temporary accommodation in reception centres for applicants for international protection is planned to be regulated, as is the possibility of temporary use of a state-owned housing unit after the expiry of the two-year right to accommodation, with a definition of participation in the payment of costs. Finally, to harmonise the Act on International and Temporary Protection with the European legislative framework, through projects from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) in 2022, special attention was paid to improving the reception infrastructure for international protection seekers.

Relocation and resettlement ¹

On 28 July 2022, the government of the Republic of Croatia adopted a decision on the voluntary relocation of third-country nationals or stateless people who meet the conditions for international protection. According to this Decision ([Official Gazette 88/2022](#)), Croatia pledged to relocate up to 60 people. The Decision on termination of the 2019 Decision on the resettlement of third-country citizens or stateless persons who meet the conditions of international protection was adopted.

¹ Includes Humanitarian Admission Programmes



MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Minors

The Interdepartmental Committee for the Protection of Unaccompanied Children was established to improve interdepartmental cooperation between State administration bodies and other stakeholders involved in protecting unaccompanied children.

Other vulnerable groups

The project 'Renovation of the reception centre for international protection seekers in Kutina' was completed. The reception facility is primarily intended to house vulnerable groups. The project improved the conditions of accommodation and stay of applicants in the reception centre, as well as the working conditions for centre officials and other personnel involved in granting international protection.



INTEGRATION

National integration strategy

In July 2022, the Organization for International Migration (IOM) Croatia began to implement the project, 'Technical Support for the Integration of the Third Country Nationals in Croatia', financed by the Technical Support Instrument (TSI). The project's aim was to provide technical support to the Ministry of Interior with a view to strengthening its capacities in supervising, coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the national policies and mechanisms for the integration of third country nationals. In the long term, the project also aims to achieve an effective management of the goals and activities of integration programmes implemented by stakeholders at national, regional and local level.

Fighting racism and discrimination

In May 2022, the Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia published 'Social Inclusion of Persons Granted International Protection in the Republic of Croatia – data collection system development and recommendations'. It aims to monitor and evaluate the impact of integration policies in individual areas, using a set of indicators.

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

Under the governance of the Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, a [Protocol of Procedure](#) was adopted for the integration of beneficiaries of international protection. An online platform was also

established, with a database on the social inclusion of beneficiaries of international protection.

Basic services

Under the Ministry of Health, work began on draft guidance on the method of providing healthcare for asylum seekers, foreigners under subsidiary protection, foreigners under temporary protection, and their family members.

The implementation period was extended for three AMIF co-funded projects: 'New Neighbours - inclusion of beneficiaries of international protection in Croatian society', 'Establishment of the resettlement mechanism', and 'Translation services during integration assistance'.



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Border management

Procurement of operational equipment for border control for the implementation of the Entry-Exit System (EES) began. The decision to allocate funds was taken on 14 March 2022.

Visa policy

In 2022 amendments to the Aliens Act (Official Gazette 151/2022)² were adopted as part of legislative preparation for full application of the Schengen acquis from 1 January 2023.

Schengen governance

In December 2022, the Council of the EU adopted a decision on the full application of the Schengen acquis in Croatia. From 1 January 2023 onwards, controls at internal land and sea borders between Croatia and other Schengen countries were lifted, with internal air border checks lifted from 26 March 2023. To enable full implementation of the Schengen acquis, the Aliens Act and Act on State Border Control were amended. These amendments created the necessary preconditions to apply the legal acquis of the EU and Schengen from 1 January 2023.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

In November 2022, a new Agreement on the Independent Monitoring Mechanism was signed, following the expiration of the previous Mechanism (June 2021 to June 2022). It protects human rights and ensures effective, independent monitoring of police treatment of irregular migrants and international protection seekers. Members of the Coordination Committee include the Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences, Croatian Academy

² https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2020_12_133_2520.html
https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2022_10_114_1695.html
https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2022_12_151_2347.html

of Legal Sciences, Centre for Culture of Dialogue, Croatian Red Cross and an independent expert. Each institution nominated two members as direct implementers (i.e. in the field).



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

National strategic policy developments

The government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the Decision on the initiation of the process of developing the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2022-2027.



RETURN AND READMISSION

Main national developments

From April 2022, Croatia began to participate in the Frontex Joint Reintegration Services (JRS) programme. Counselling on the programme is carried out in detention centres and reception centres for asylum seekers, while information leaflets inform all third-country nationals about the return process. The IOM implemented the project, 'Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration' until 30 September 2022.



STATISTICAL ANNEX

The statistical annex available on the next pages complements the Country Factsheet and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Croatia 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](#).

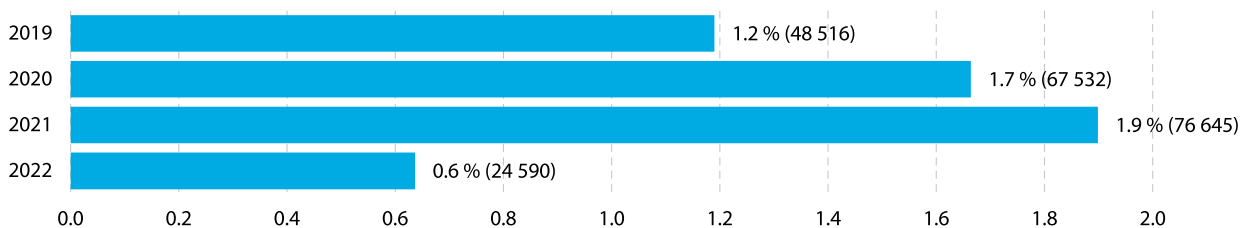
An online data code available under each table/figure can be used to directly access to the most recent data on [Eurostat's website](#).



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Third-country nationals, 1 January 2019–2022

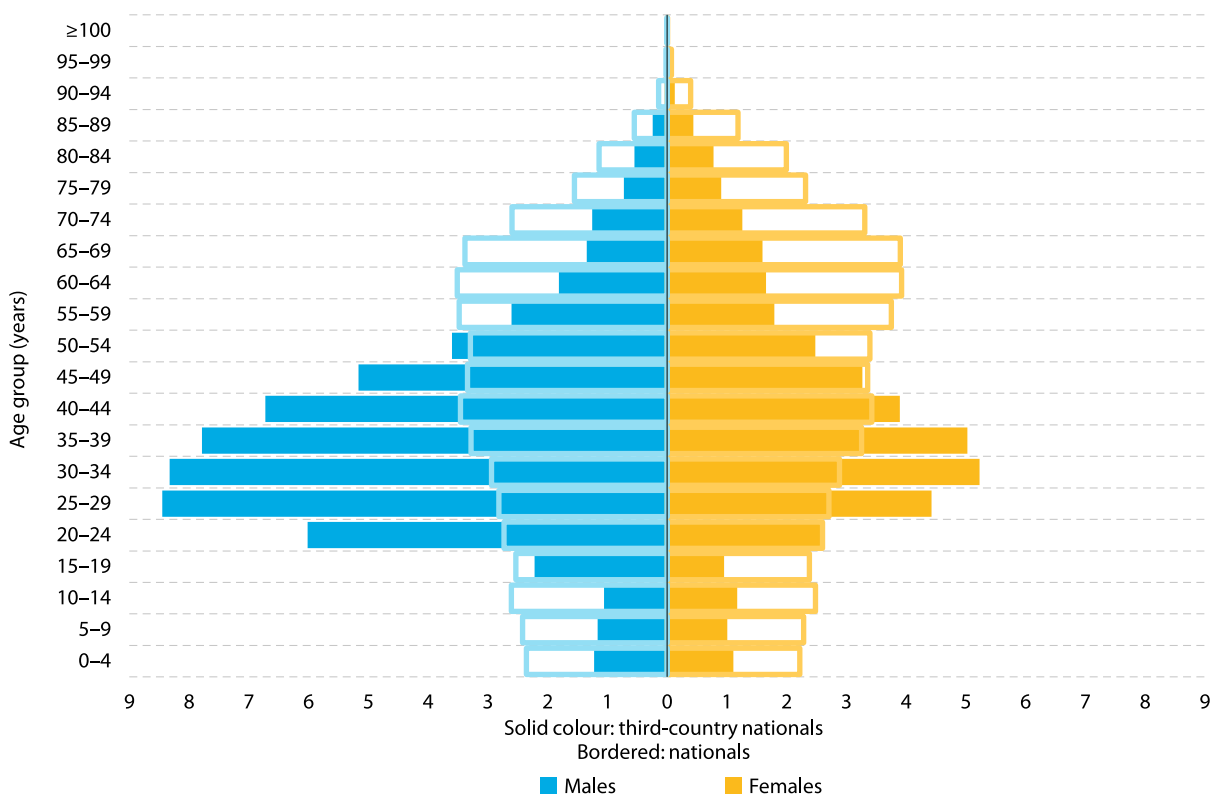
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

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

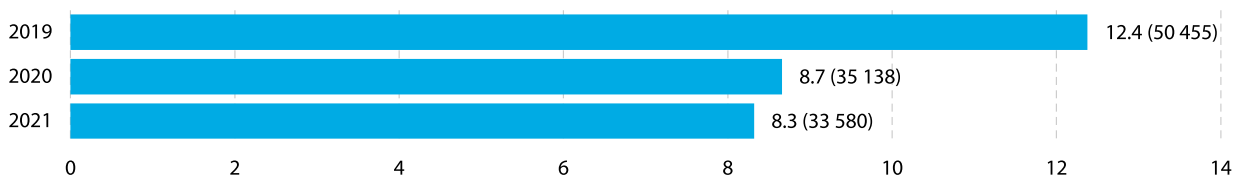
%



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

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

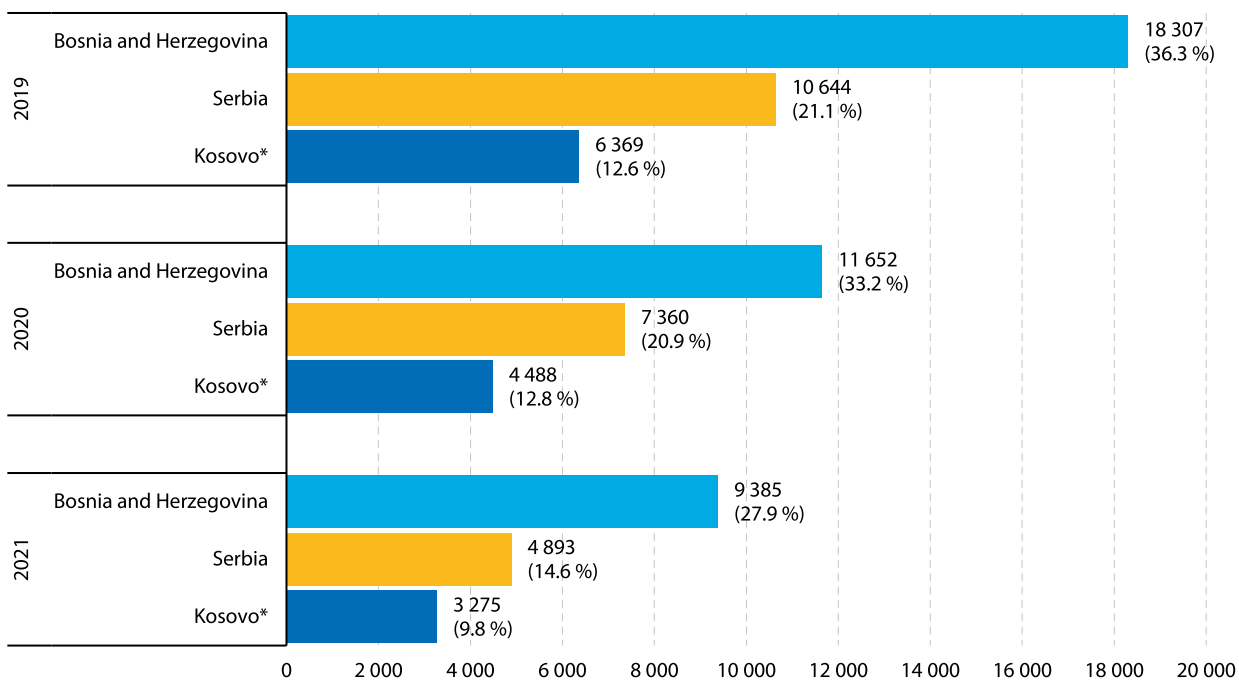
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



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)



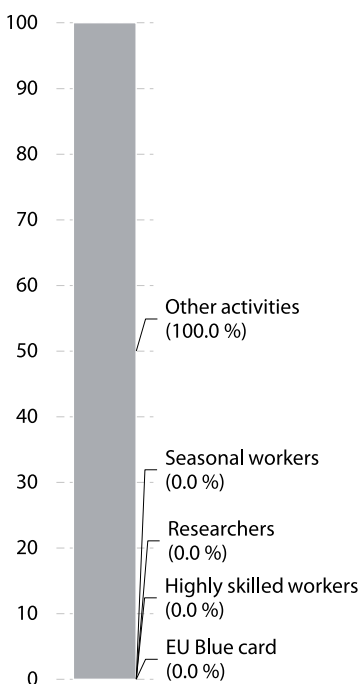
* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#))

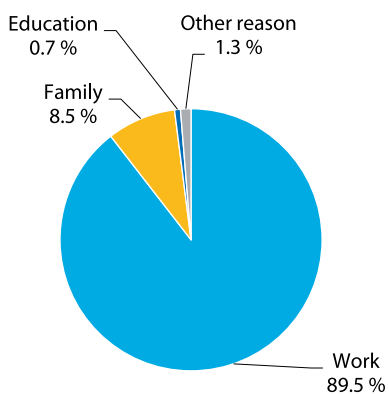
First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2021

%

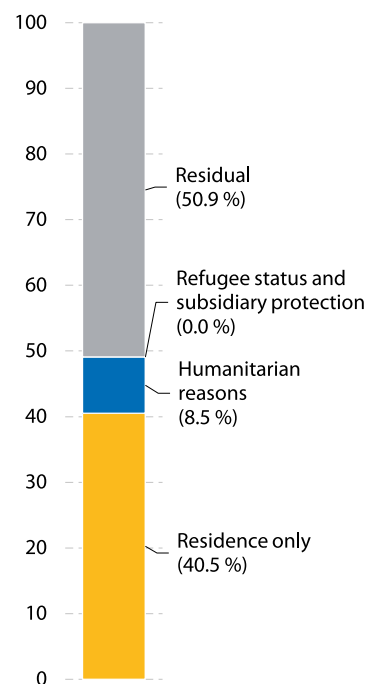
Work reason, by type



All permits, by reason



Other reason, by detailed reason

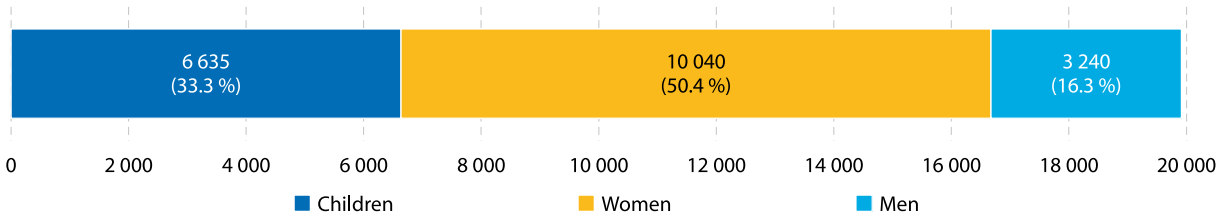


Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#), [migr_resocc](#) and [migr_resoth](#))



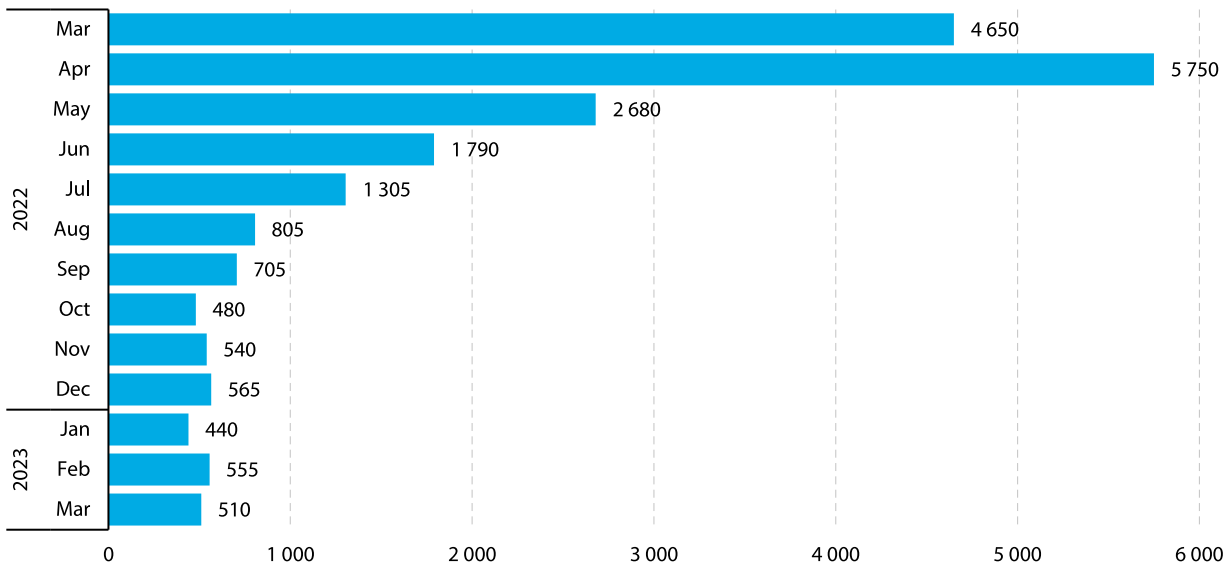
TEMPORARY PROTECTION

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)



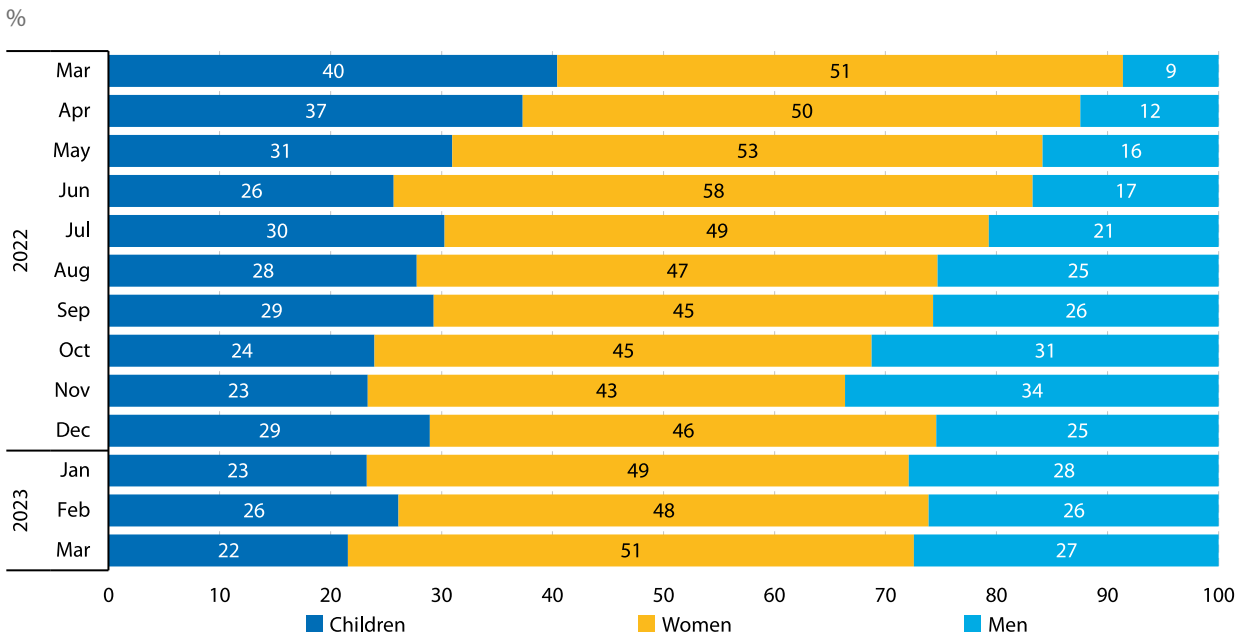
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpsm)

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



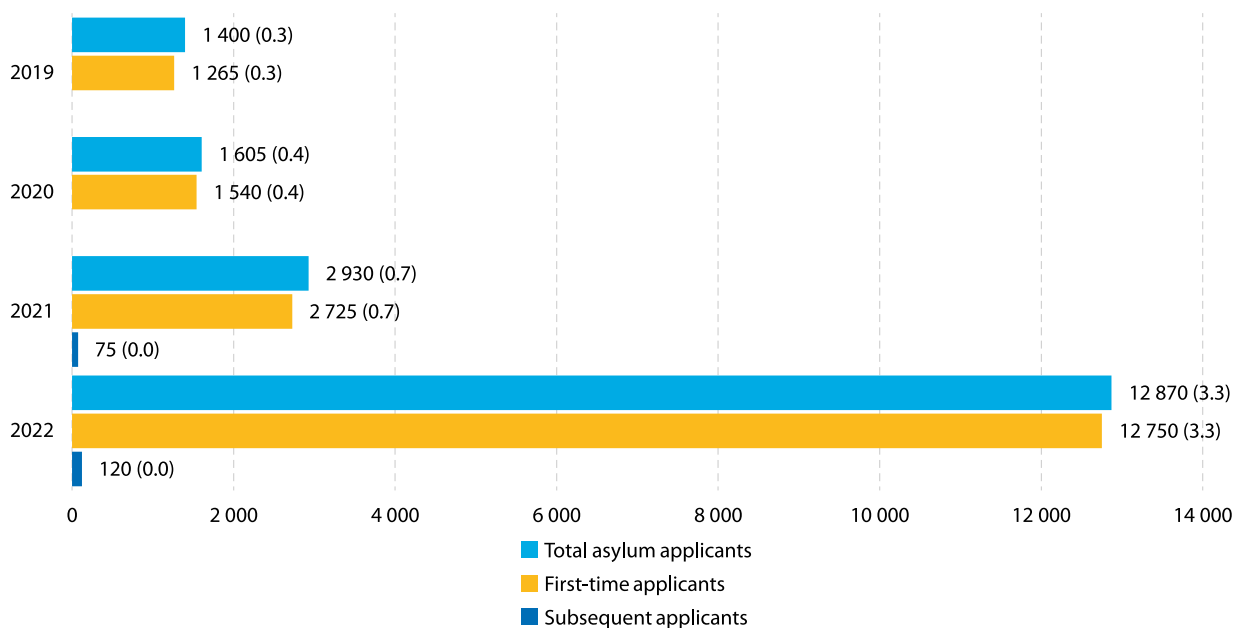
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpfm)



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants (third-country nationals), by type of application, 2019–2022

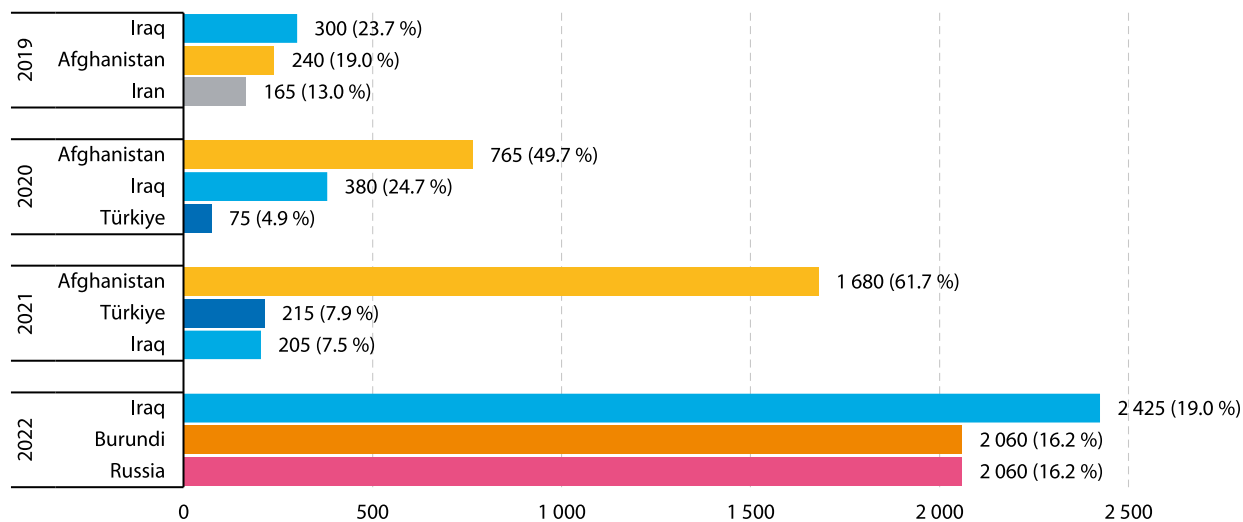
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctza](#) and [migr_pop1ctz](#))

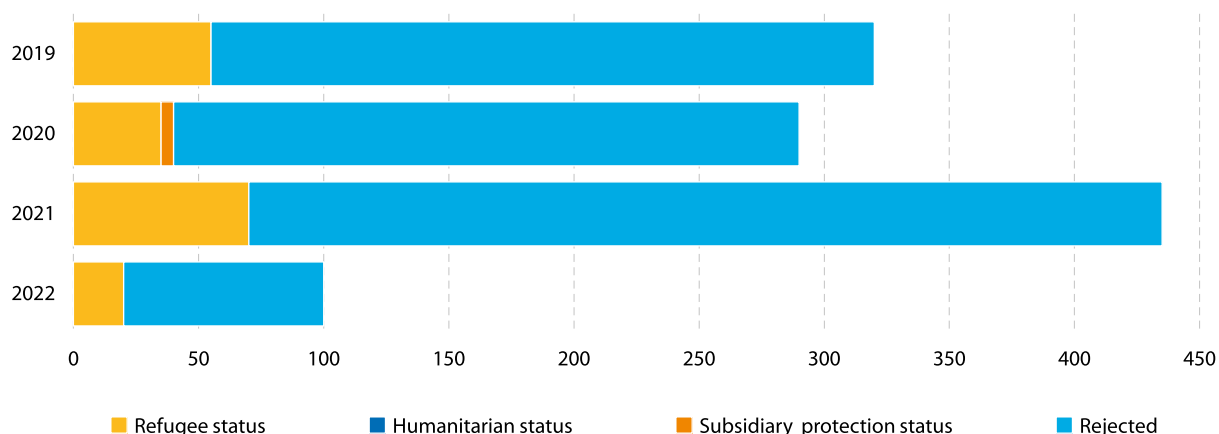
Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2019–2022

Absolute number (and the share in total number of first-time applicants)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyappctza](#))

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



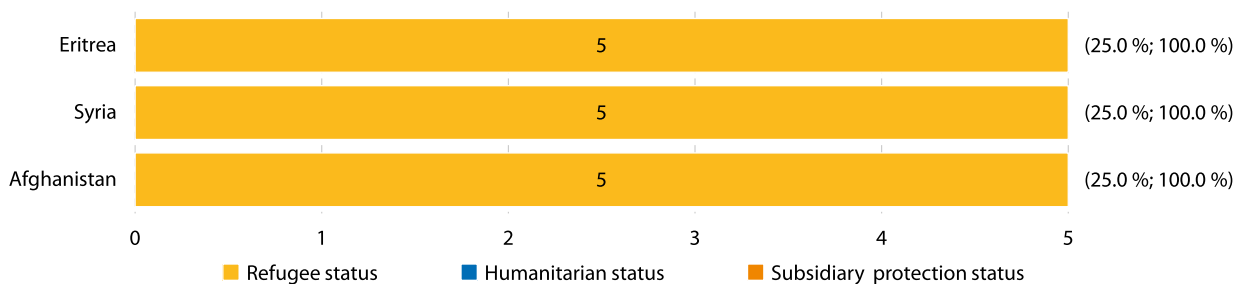
| Refugee status | | Humanitarian status | | Subsidiary protection status | | Rejected | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|-----|------|-----|------|
| Number | Share in total (%) | Number | Share in total (%) | Number | Share in total (%) | Number | Share in total (%) | | | | |
| 2019 | 55 | 17.2 | 2019 | 0 | 0.0 | 2019 | 0 | 0.0 | 2019 | 265 | 82.8 |
| 2020 | 35 | 12.1 | 2020 | 0 | 0.0 | 2020 | 5 | 1.7 | 2020 | 250 | 86.2 |
| 2021 | 70 | 16.1 | 2021 | 0 | 0.0 | 2021 | 0 | 0.0 | 2021 | 365 | 83.9 |
| 2022 | 20 | 20.0 | 2022 | 0 | 0.0 | 2022 | 0 | 0.0 | 2022 | 80 | 80.0 |

Note: the shares are calculated using the sum of the four outcomes as the denominator.

Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#))

Top 3 countries of citizenship granted positive asylum decisions at first instance, by outcome, 2022

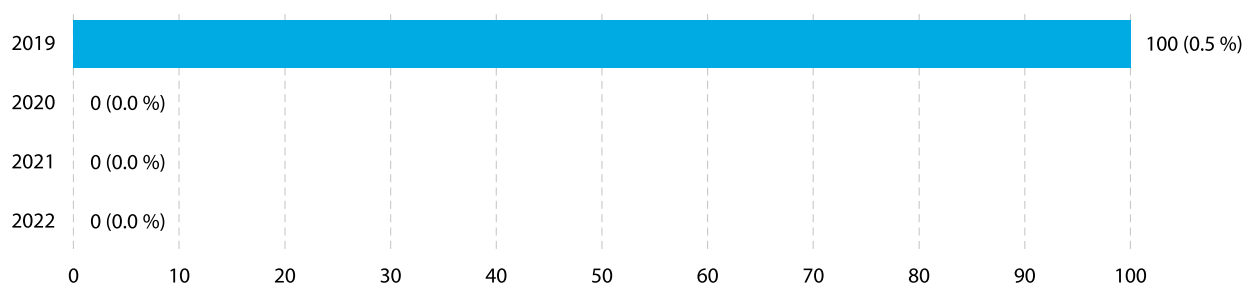
Absolute number (and share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asydcfst](#))

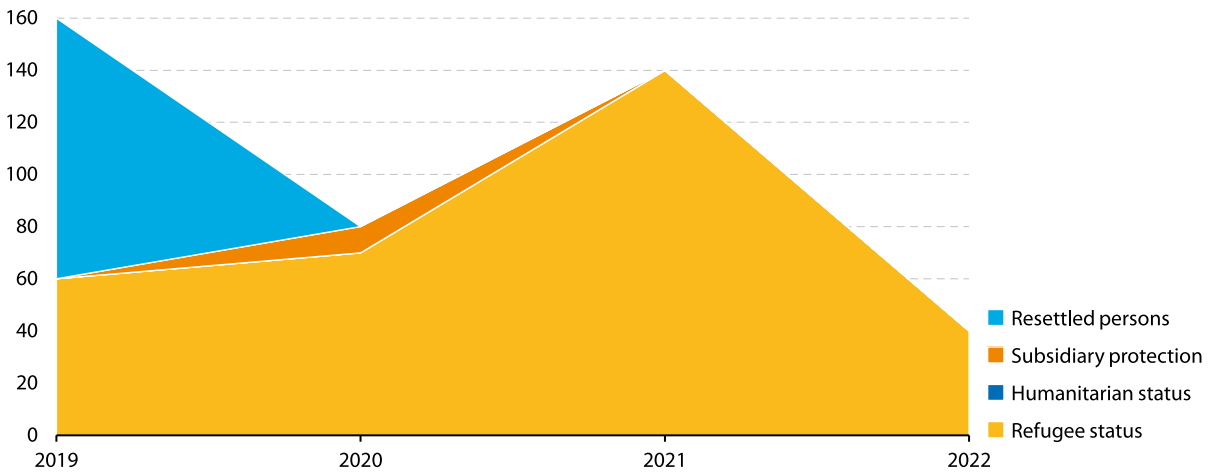
Resettled third-country nationals, 2019–2022

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



Source: Eurostat ([migr_asyresa](#))

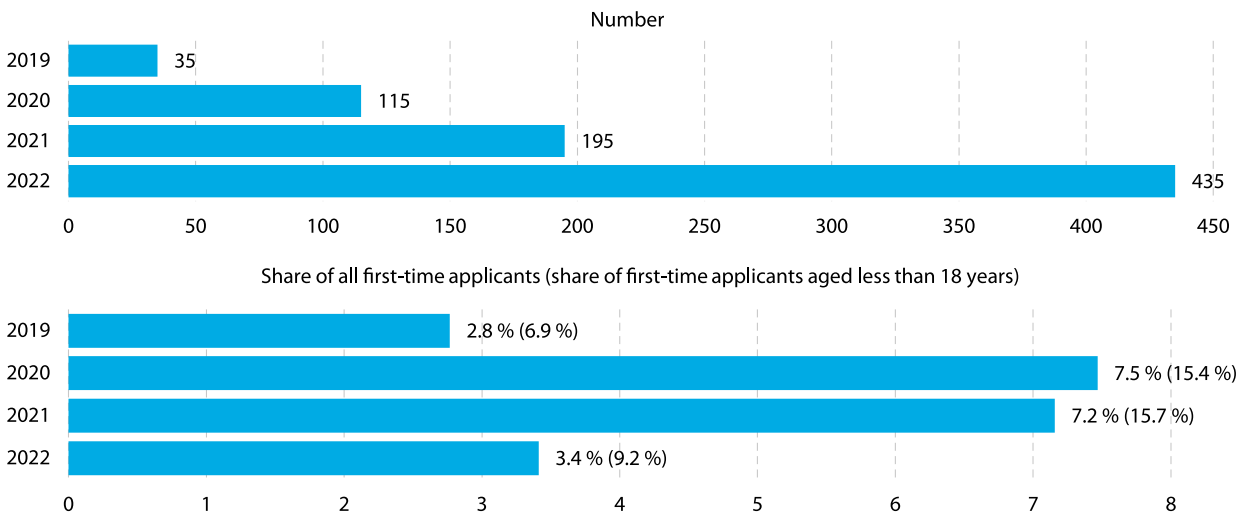
Number of positive decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2019–2022



Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfst, migr_asydcfina and migr_asyresa)

 UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

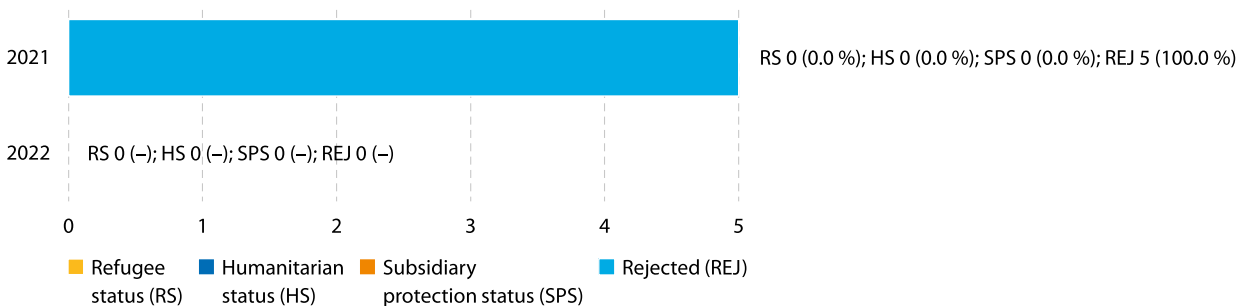
Unaccompanied minors (third-country nationals) applying for asylum, 2019–2022



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)



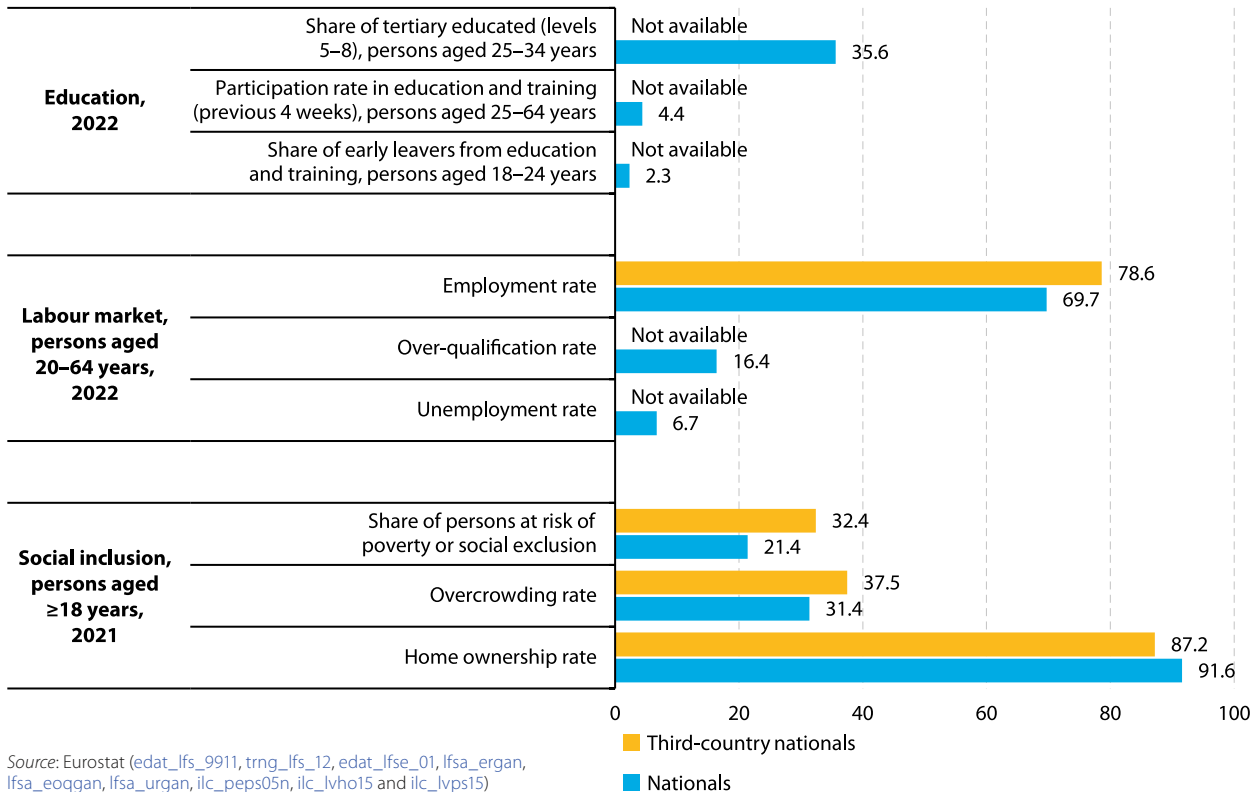
Source: Eurostat (migr_asyumdcfq)



INTEGRATION

Integration indicators, 2021 or 2022

%



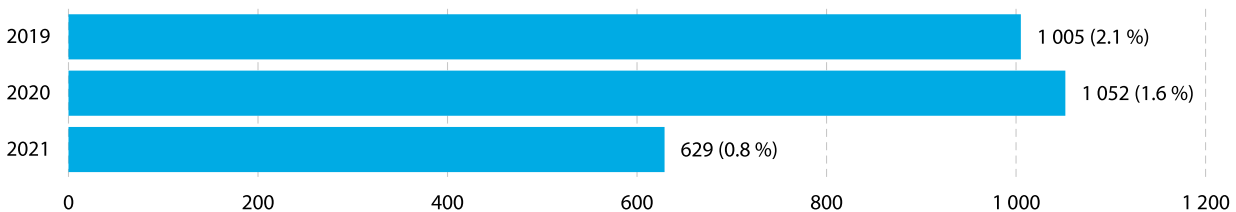
Source: Eurostat (edat_lfs_9911, trng_lfs_12, edat_lfse_01, lfsa_ergan, lfsa_eoqgan, lfsa_urgan, ilc_peps05n, ilc_lvho15 and ilc_lvps15)



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2019–2021

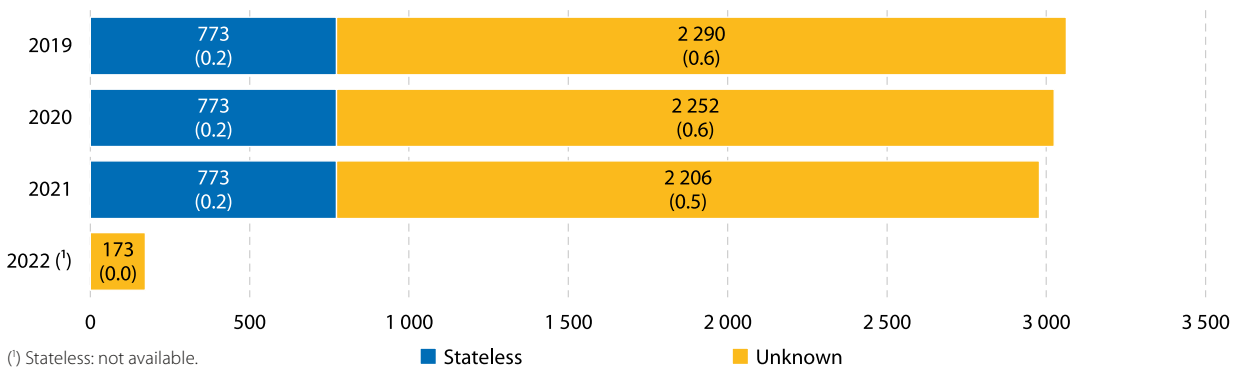
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



Source: Eurostat (migr_acq and migr_pop1ctz)

Stateless persons, persons with unknown citizenship and recognised non-citizens, 2019–2022

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

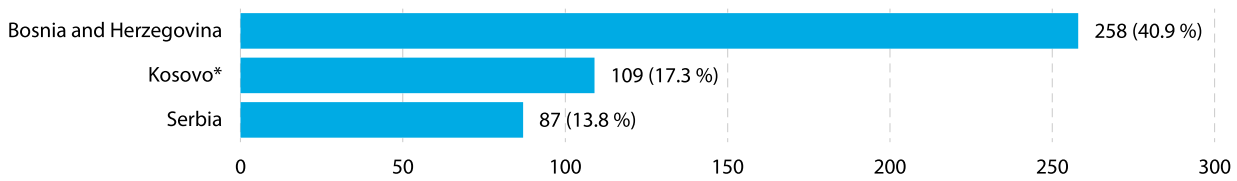


(*) Stateless: not available.

Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

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)



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

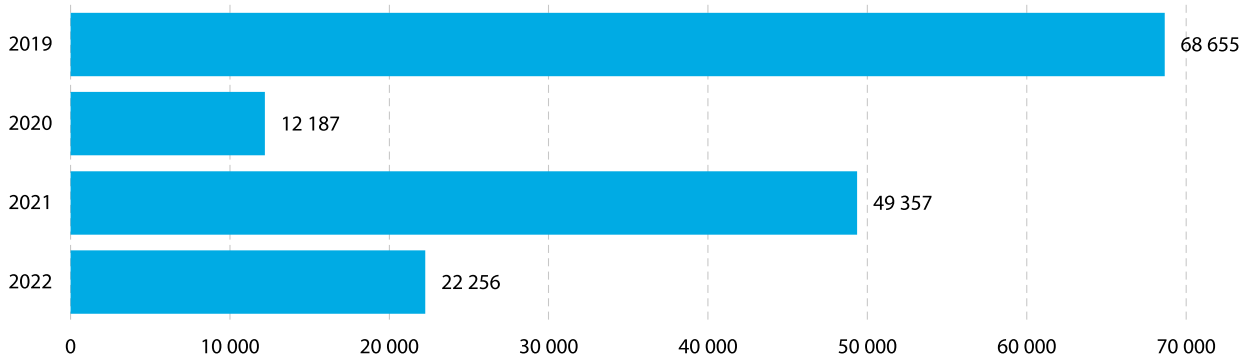
Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Short-stay visas issued, 2019–2022

Absolute number



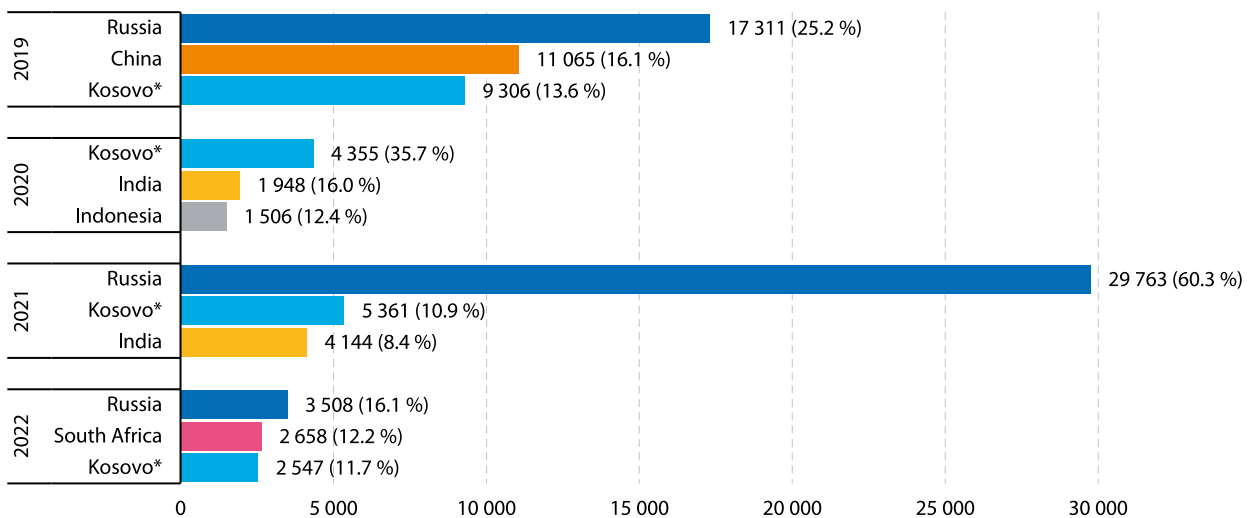
Note: Bulgaria, Ireland, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania were not part of the Schengen Area.

Note: 2019–2021, excluding visas issued at border crossings.

Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

Three consulate countries in which the most short-stay visas were issued, 2019–2022

Number of short-stay visas issued (and the share of all 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.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

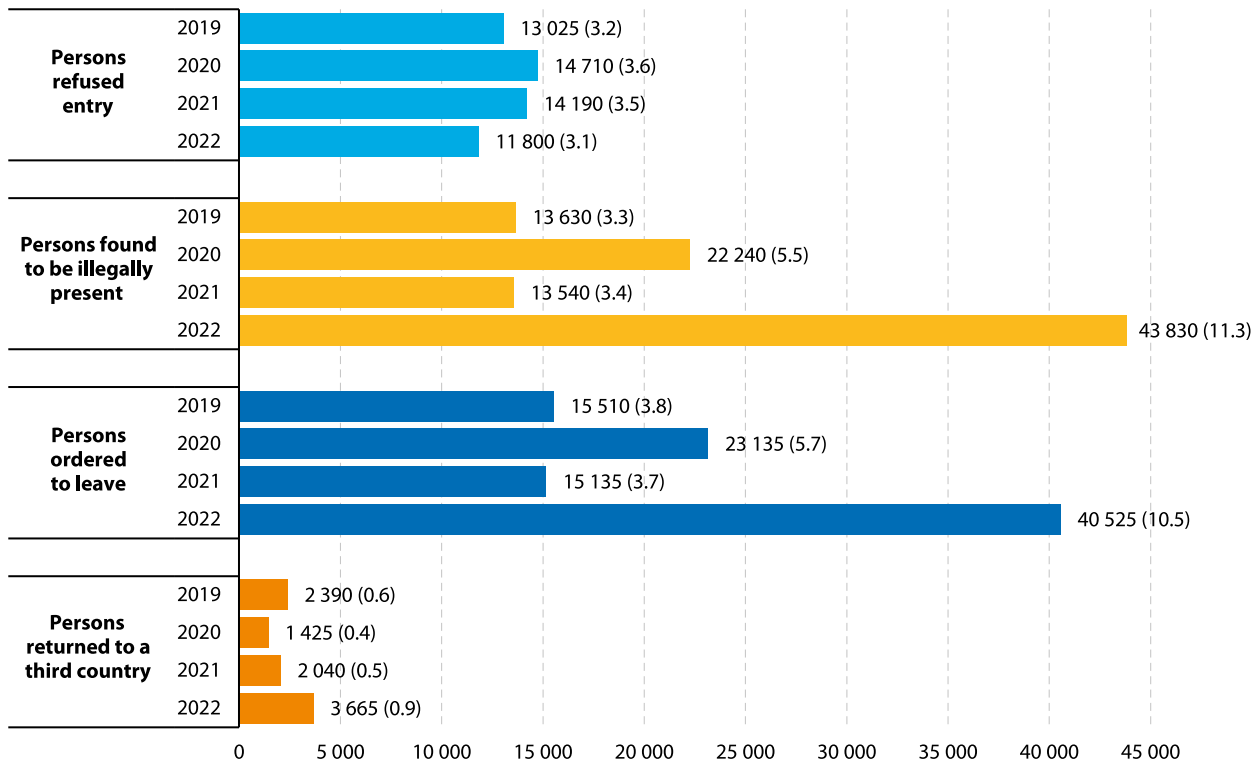
Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2019–2022

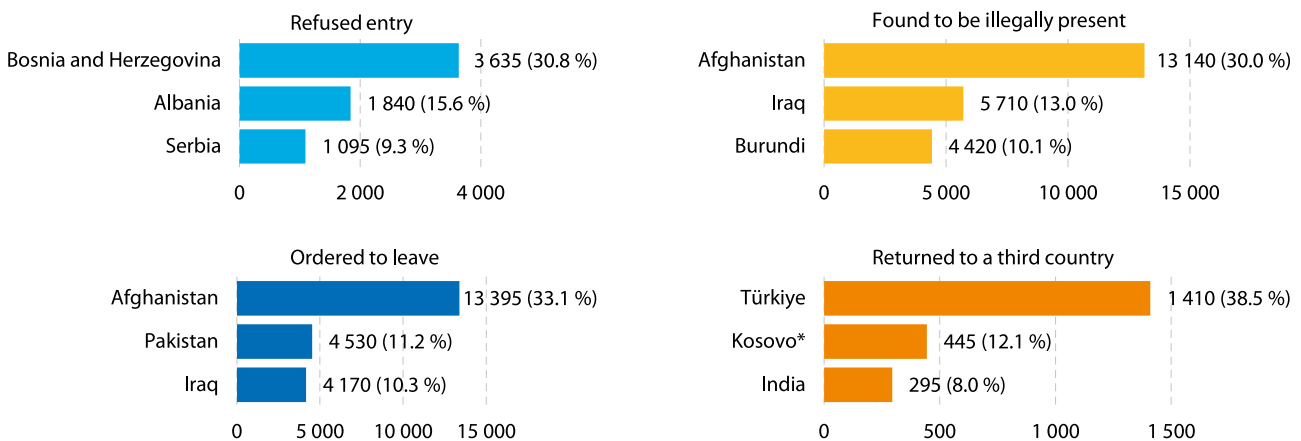
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



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)



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

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)

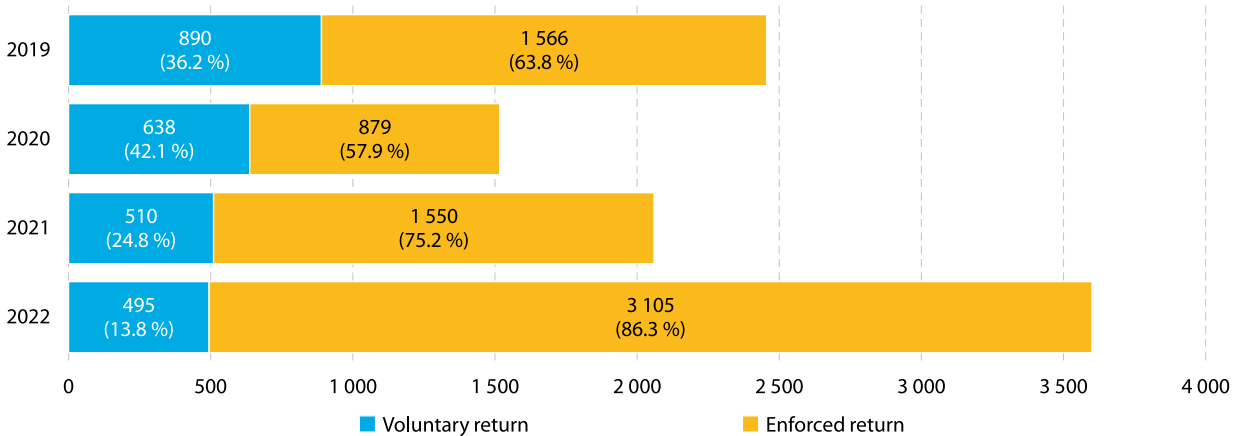
| | |
|------|------|
| 2019 | None |
| 2020 | None |
| 2021 | None |
| 0 | |

Source: Eurostat (migr_resoth)



RETURN AND READMISSION

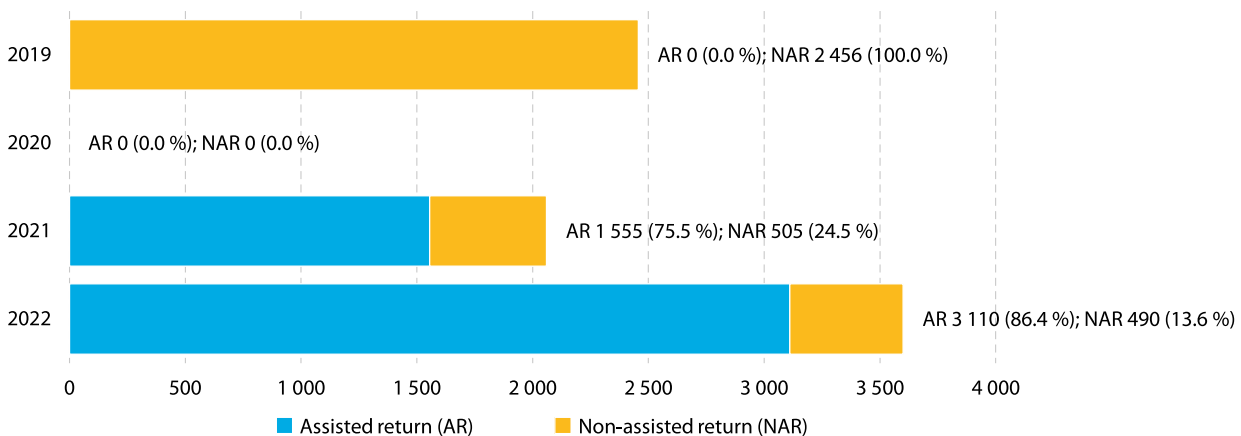
Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of return, 2019–2022
Absolute number (and the share within the total)



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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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/>

France www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/Europe-et-International/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM3/Le-reseau-europeen-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/europejska-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/statistics-and-analysis/european-migration-network---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>