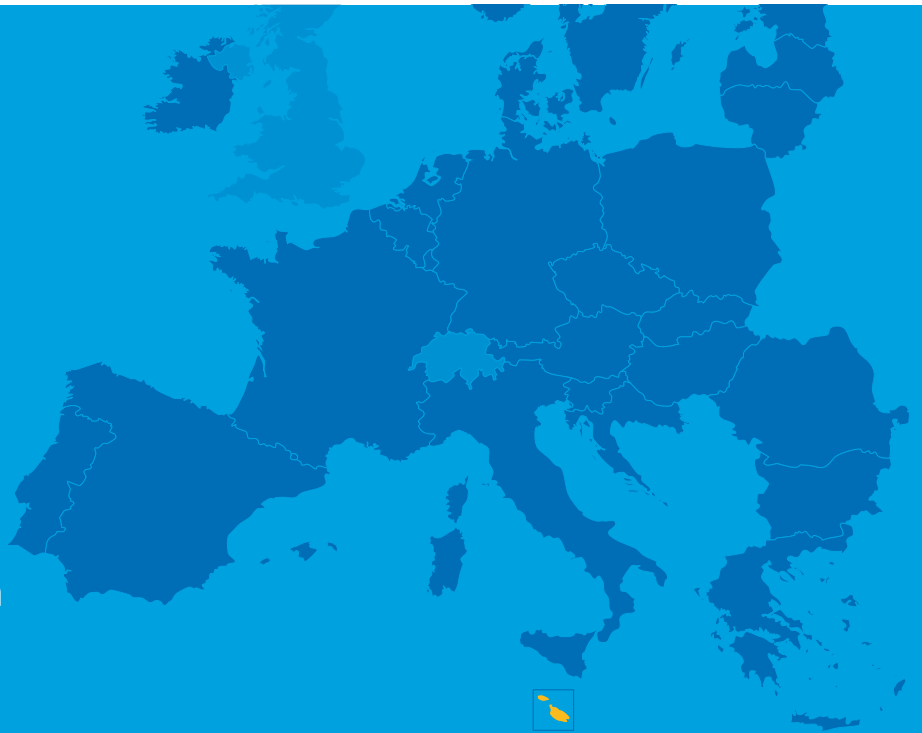


# MALTA

## EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET 2022

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



### TEMPORARY PROTECTION

#### Main national developments in relation to temporary protection

Following Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022, the IPA started granting temporary protection to several categories of people displaced from Ukraine on or after 24 February 2022 as a result of the military invasion by Russian armed forces.

There were [two amendments to S.L. 420.05](#). The first transposed a specific article of the Temporary Protection Directive, on sharing of data (to provide a legal basis for the uploading of data to the temporary protection registration platform), while the second clarified who has a right of appeal (i.e. people who fall under one or more of the exclusion grounds, and not those deemed ineligible by the IPA).







### INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

#### Legislative and policy developments related to international protection

In 2022, the IPA updated its policy on applicants from Syria and Nigeria. Following the Russian invasion

### KEY POINTS

-  Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the International Protection Agency (IPA) suspended the examination of applications for international protection by Ukrainians between 24 February and 12 September 2022. During this period, Ukrainian nationals and others residing in Ukraine could register for temporary protection.
-  Maltese authorities introduced a training allowance to increase migrants' participation in basic language training for employment.
-  Efforts continued to increase migrants' and receiving societies' active participation in integration.
-  The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) worked to safeguard equality and investigate complaints of alleged discrimination on the grounds of race and ethnic origin.

of Ukraine, the IPA suspended the examination of applications for international protection lodged by Ukrainian nationals. This suspension was in force between 24 February 2022 and 12 September 2022. During that period, Ukrainian nationals and people residing in Ukraine could register for temporary protection, provided they met the conditions stipulated in European and national law.

Amendments to the [International Protection Act](#) (Cap 420), the [Reception of Asylum Seekers Regulations](#) (S.L. 420.06) and the [Procedural Standards for Granting and Withdrawing International Protection](#) (S.L. 420.07) were drafted to transpose the provisions of several Directives:

Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (recast);

Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast); and

Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted (recast).

A [Bill amending the International Protection Act](#) (Cap 420) was published on 20 December 2022 by virtue of Act XIX of 2022. A [legal notice](#) amending the Procedural Standards for Granting and Withdrawing International Protection (S.L. 420.07) was published on 11 November 2022 by virtue of legal notice 273 of 2022.

A [legal notice amending the Reception of Asylum Seekers Regulations](#) (S.L. 420.06) was published on 6 January 2023 by virtue of legal notice 2 of 2023.

## Relocation and resettlement

On 22 June 2022 Malta participated in the Solidarity Declaration which provided a voluntary, simple and predictable mechanism to support the EU Member States most affected in the Mediterranean, as well as other EU Member States under pressure, including on the Western Atlantic route, by offering relocation, financial contributions and other measures of support.



## MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

### Minors

A [new amendment](#) to Chapter 217-Immigration Law-Section 5A stated that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS) may appoint an interim legal guardian for any migrant under 18 years of age who is in need of care, particularly if they are unaccompanied by family members (Cap. 602). The interim legal guardian shall be responsible for the minor until they are no longer a minor, or until a guardian is appointed under the Minor Protection (Alternative Care) Act. The interim legal guardian shall: (a) act in the best interests of the minor; (b) ascertain the views and wishes of the minor; and (c) collaborate with all those involved in the protection. The social worker appointed to the alleged minor for support will remain until the case is closed.

Supported by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), AWAS updated the age assessment procedure and the age assessment tool, in line with EUAA guidelines

on age assessment. The last amendment was carried out in December 2022. An assessment team was established and took over the vulnerability assessments previously carried out by the EUAA. The team will now focus on age assessments and the identification of vulnerable beneficiaries.



## INTEGRATION

### National integration strategy

Malta increased its efforts to develop a Second National Integration Policy and Action Plan 2024-2027, which will replace the Migrant Integration Strategy and Action Plan: Vision 2020. A Working Group comprising representatives of government entities and members of civil society and migrant communities was set up to ensure an inclusive process and a shared vision that builds on lessons from the previous plan and supports migrants at all stages of the integration process.

### Education and training of adults/ labour market and skills

In 2022, Jobsplus introduced a training allowance under the Asylum and Migration Integration Fund (AMIF) 11.01 project, Supported Employment Services for Migrants. The measure aims to increase migrants' participation in basic language training for employment. In November 2022, Jobsplus, again under the AMIF, introduced a work exposure (through hands-on training with an employer) of a maximum of 120 hours (spread over a minimum of 3 weeks) for migrants, in order to facilitate their transition into employment. The work exposure initiative should be completed by 30 June 2023 which is also the end of the AMIF project.

Malta carried out intensive work to ensure the longevity of the ['I Belong' programme](#), given the need to allocate more EU and national funds following the conclusion of the Learning - Exchanging - Integrating project at the end of 2022. The programme was extended to reach more students, with two new contracts signed between the Human Rights Directorate, the University of Malta and Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) for the provision of educational services. This programme promotes the full integration of migrants and their prospects of participating in the labour market by providing them with language training and basic digital literacy skills.

Within the framework of the Learning - Exchanging - Integrating project, the Human Rights Directorate continued to implement the [Diploma in Education for Cultural Mediation](#), following its launch by the University of Malta in 2021. This course trains professionals to facilitate harmonious relations between migrants and citizens in the host country, promoting mutual exchange of knowledge and the establishment of positive relations between individuals of diverse cultural backgrounds and ethnic origins. Eleven of the first cohort graduated in November 2022.

### Fighting racism and discrimination

As part of its work to safeguard equality, the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) investigated three complaints of alleged discrimination on

the grounds of race and ethnic origin. It also continued to share information on equality rights and responsibilities through training with various stakeholders. It continued to raise awareness of racism and xenophobia through social media and a local newspaper article.

Malta continued to implement its Anti-Racism Strategy 2021-2023. In 2022, the Human Rights Directorate and its partners (European Network Against Racism (ENAR), Diversit, Kopin, University of Malta, NCPE, and National Statistics Office) worked on Towards the Implementation of the Anti-Racism Strategy (END-RACISM-MT), a project co-financed by the EU under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme. Set to be implemented over a period of two and a half years, the project will support the implementation of key measures in the Anti-Racism Strategy and improve the response of the Maltese public authorities to multiple and intersectional discrimination, racism, and xenophobia.

### Active participation of migrants and receiving societies in integration

In 2022, the last five of eight conferences on [Turning the Tables](#) were held. A migrant-led initiative supported by the Human Rights Directorate, it involved the organisation of conferences and the publication of research on integration topics, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the African Media Association Malta (AMAM). It sought to empower migrant and refugee communities to strengthen their capacity to participate in the policy-making and legislative processes. Eight thematic reports summarised the findings and recommendations from the conferences: education; employment; documentation; political rights; detention; integration governance: the way forward; migrant-led initiatives; and a compendium of recommendations.

The Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) project, funded by [Equality for all in Malta](#), developed a citizens' awareness model, in partnership with local councils. The Local

Integration Charter and the related action plan, agreed between the Human Rights Directorate and the Local Councils Association, sought to bring local councils on board to combat discrimination. An Addendum to the Charter emphasises the importance of non-discrimination and equality on the basis of religion, belief, race, and ethnic origin.

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

The Human Rights Directorate engaged local NGO, the Aditus Foundation, to carry out integration mapping research to understand the activities that facilitate the interaction of migrants with the host society, as well as the integration services offered. This aimed to identify existing gaps and challenges and assess the need for future services and policies. Four reports were published: Migrants and citizenship; Migrants and mental health; Socialisation; and Family reunification.



## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

### National strategic policy developments

Malta continued to develop its efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. It aimed to strengthen cooperation between various agencies, improve coordination of existing processes, and promote an active approach in the fight against all forms of trafficking in human beings. On 26 September 2022, the technical support instrument (TSI)-funded project supported Malta to design and implement of a new National Anti-Trafficking Strategy. The Human Rights Directorate has now begun to implement the project.



## STATISTICAL ANNEX

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

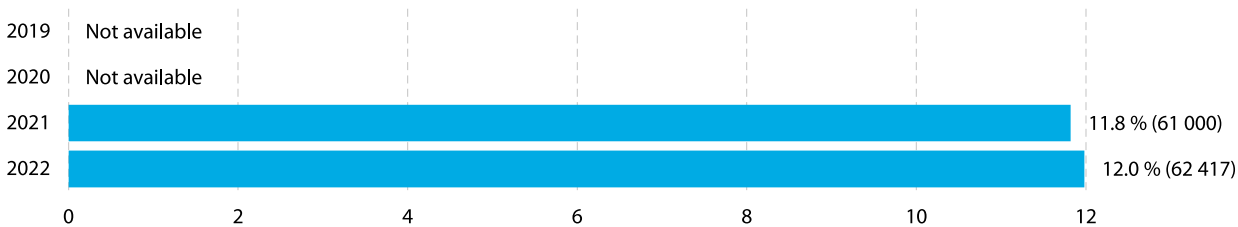
An online data code available under each table/figure can be used to directly access to the most recent data on [Eurostat's website](#).



## LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

### Third-country nationals, 1 January 2019–2022

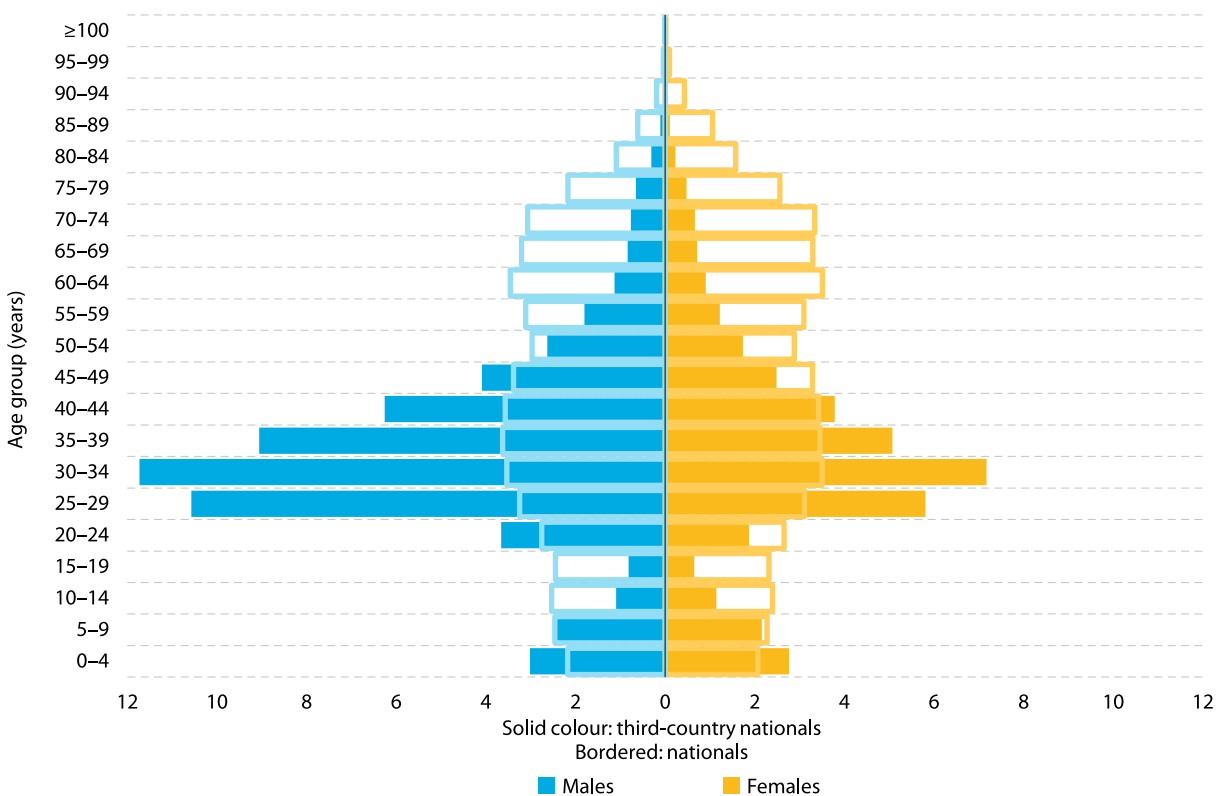
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctz)

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

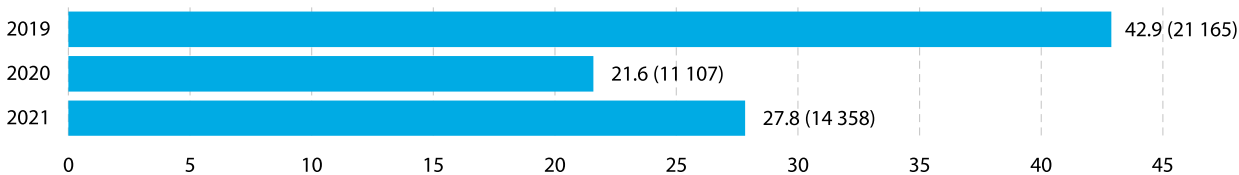
%



Source: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctz)

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

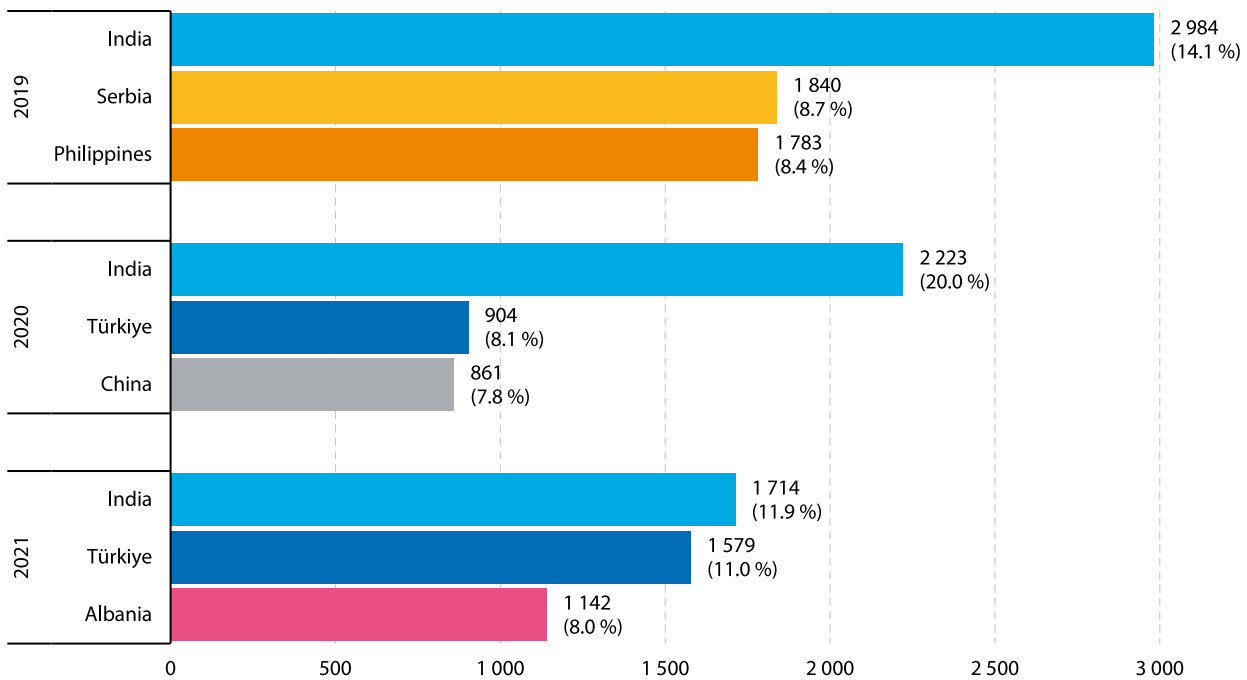
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



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)

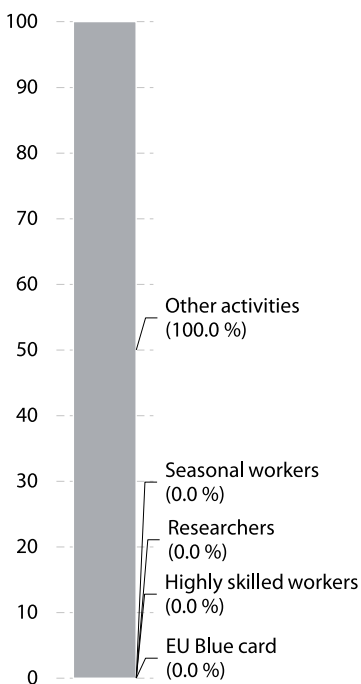


Source: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)

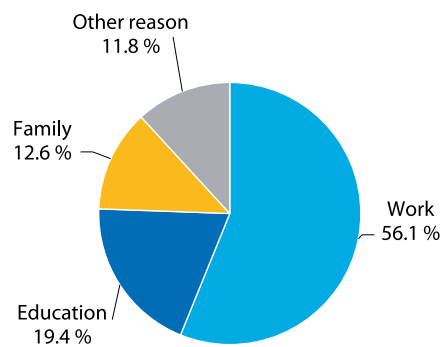
### First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2021

%

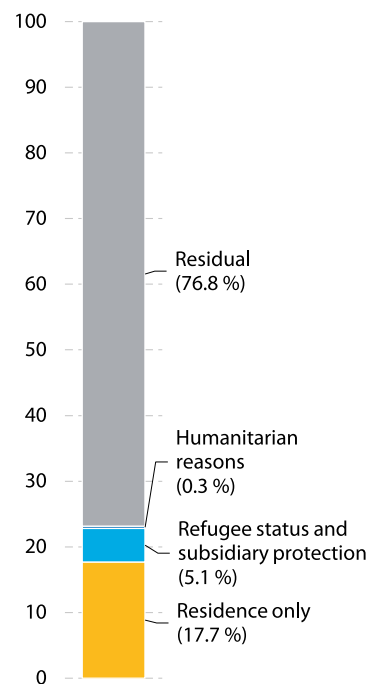
#### Work reason, by type



#### All permits, by reason



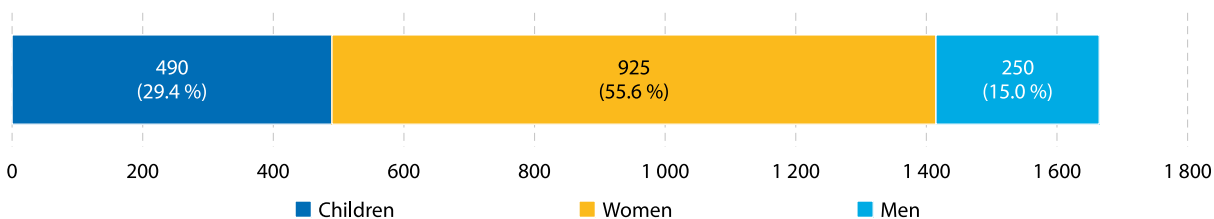
#### Other reason, by detailed reason



Source: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst, migr\_resoccc and migr\_resoth)

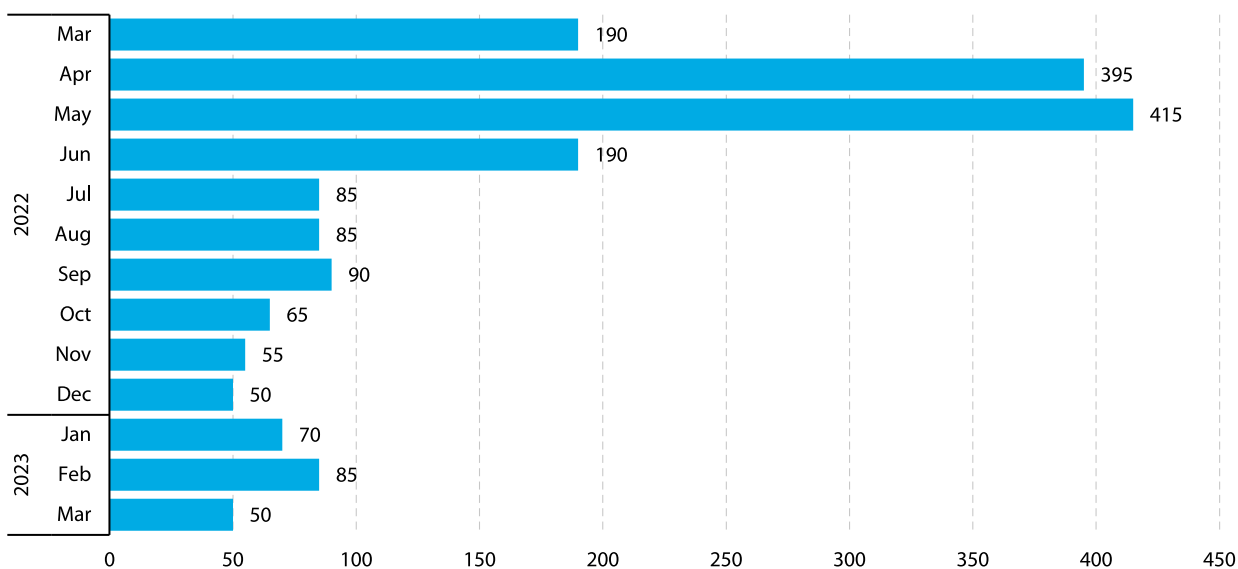
## TEMPORARY PROTECTION

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)



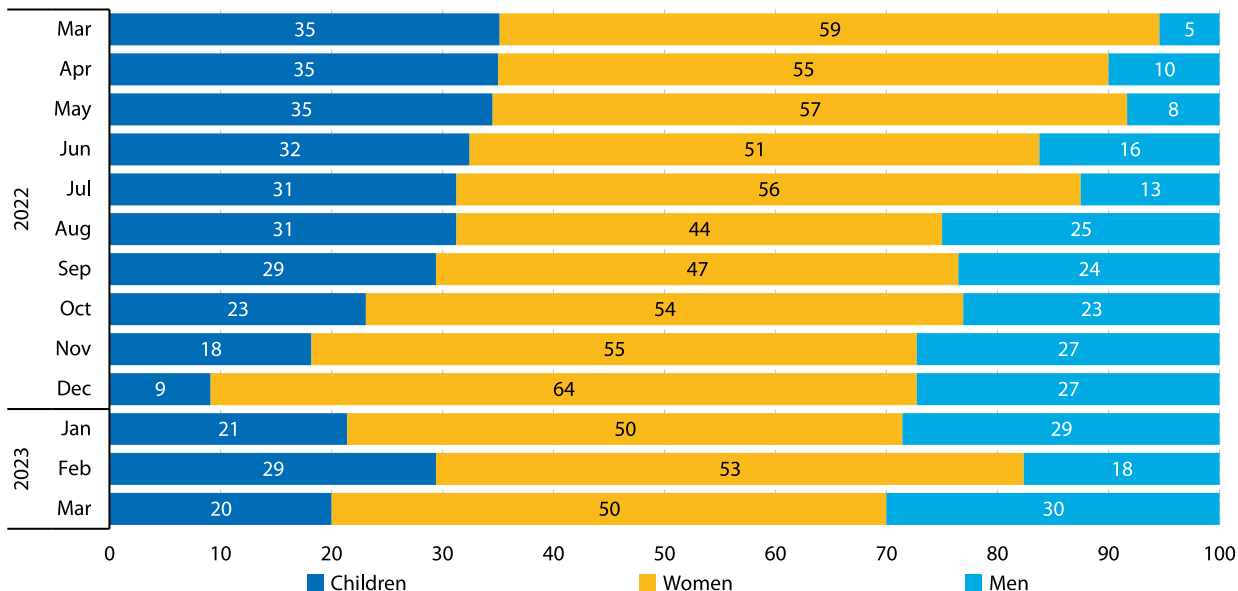
Source: Eurostat (migr\_asytpsm)

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  
 %



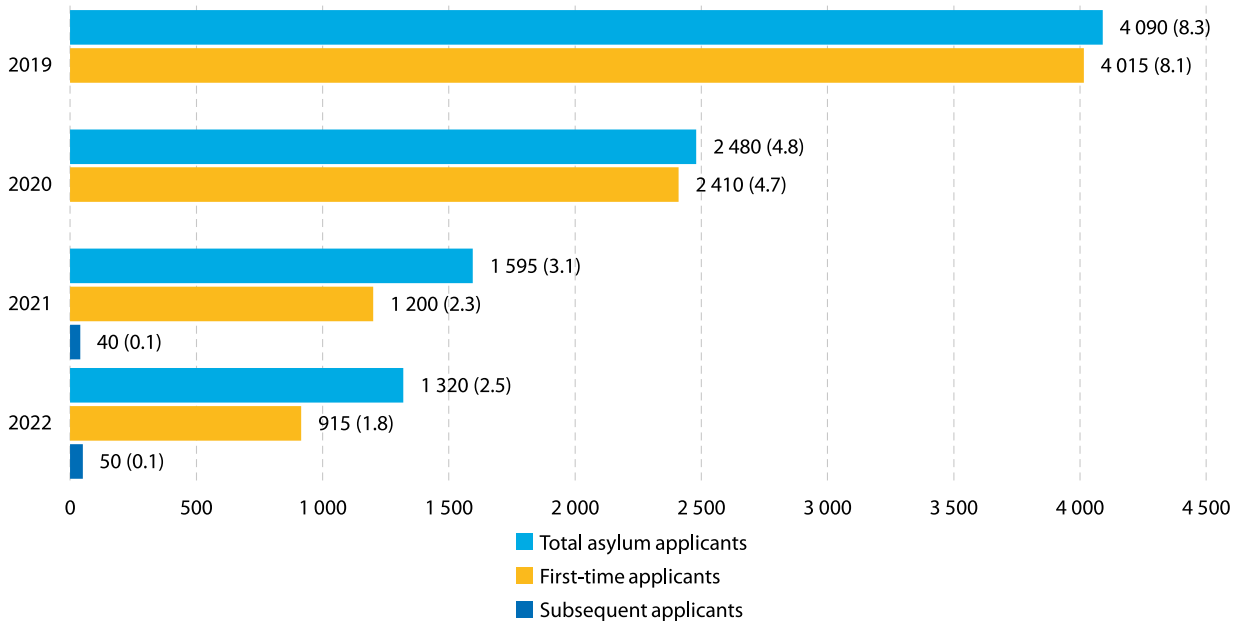
Source: Eurostat (migr\_asytpfm)



## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

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

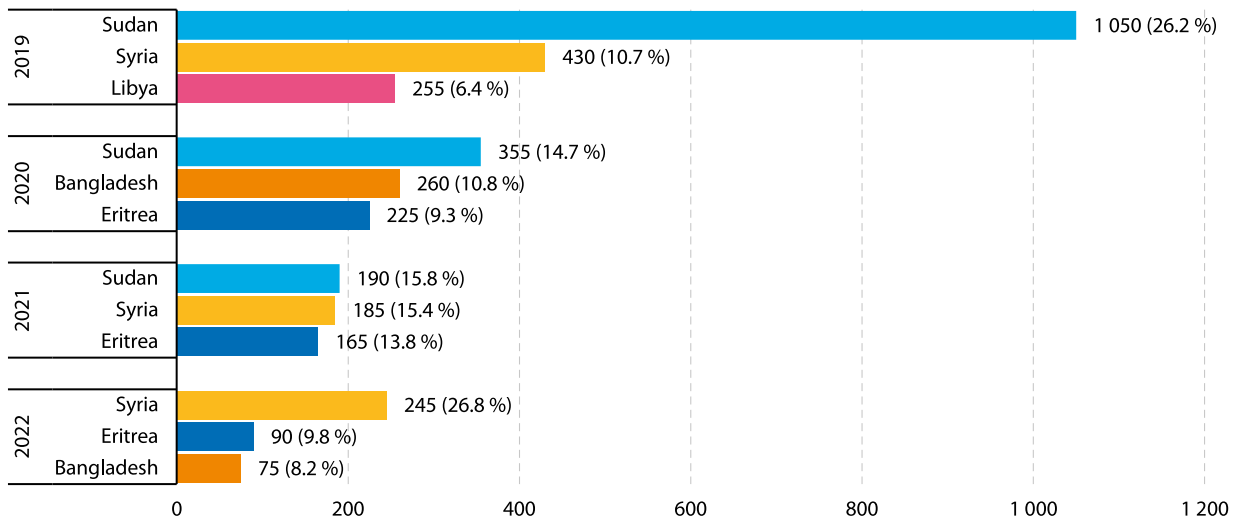
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_asyappctza](#) and [migr\\_pop1ctz](#))

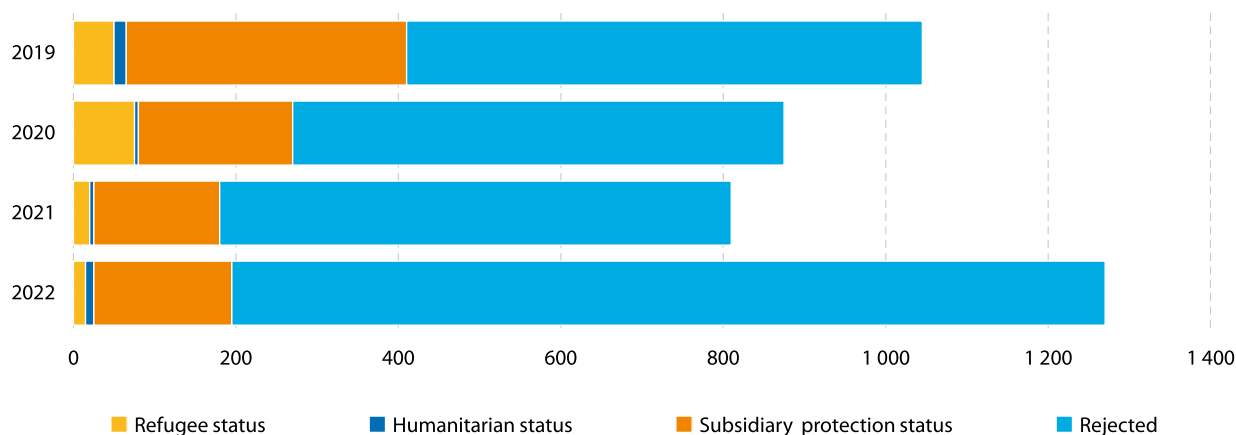
### Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2019–2022

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



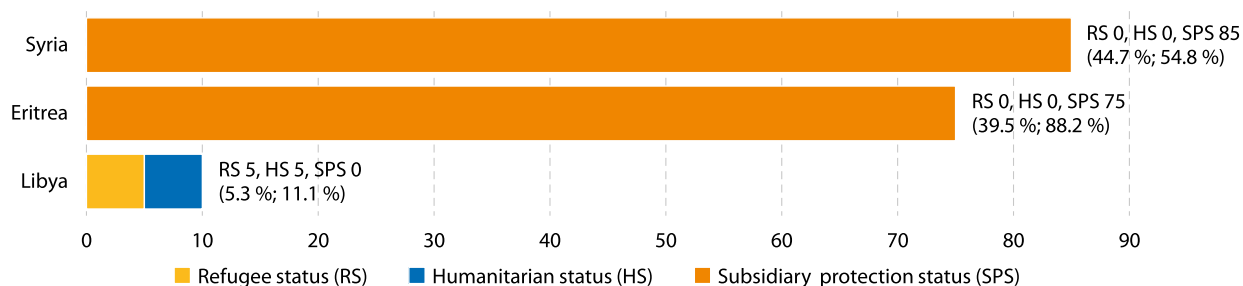
	Refugee status		Humanitarian status		Subsidiary protection status		Rejected	
	Number	Share in total (%)	Number	Share in total (%)	Number	Share in total (%)	Number	Share in total (%)
<b>2019</b>	50	4.8	15	1.4	345	33.0	635	60.8
<b>2020</b>	75	8.6	5	0.6	190	21.7	605	69.1
<b>2021</b>	20	2.5	5	0.6	155	19.1	630	77.8
<b>2022</b>	15	1.2	10	0.8	170	13.4	1 075	84.6

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

Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_asydcfsta](#))

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

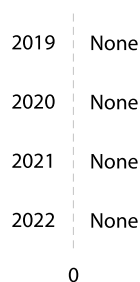
Absolute number (and share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_asydcfsta](#))

### Resettled third-country nationals, 2019–2022

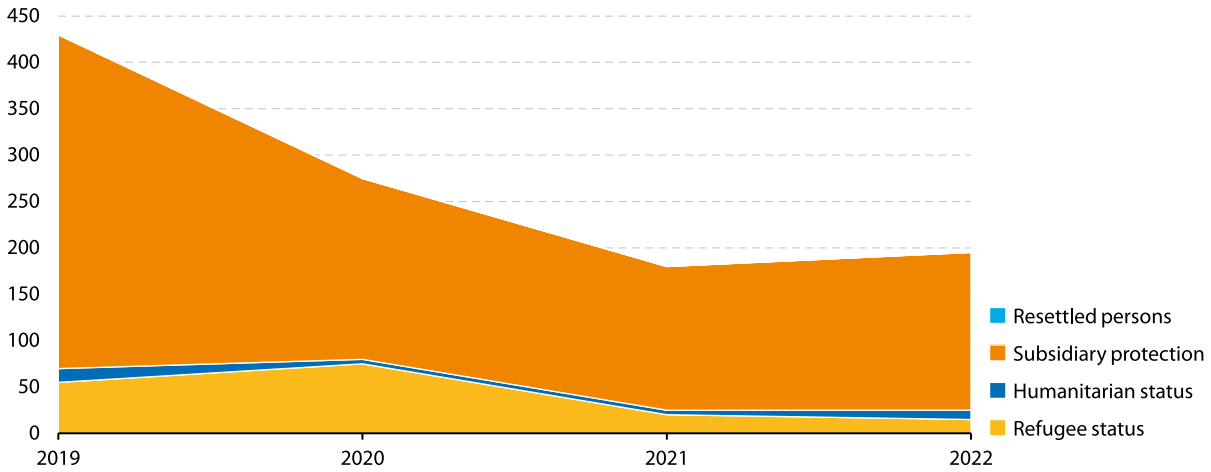
Absolute number (and the share of the total resettled within the EU)



Source: Eurostat ([migr\\_asyresra](#))



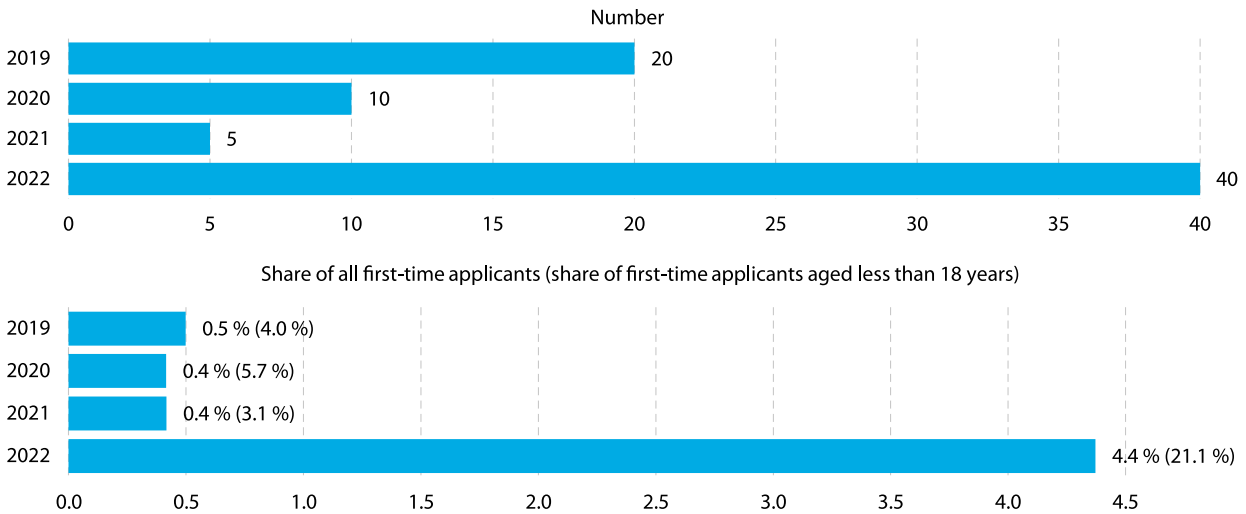
### Number of positive decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2019–2022



Source: Eurostat (migr\_asydcfsta, migr\_asydcfina and migr\_asyresa)

## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

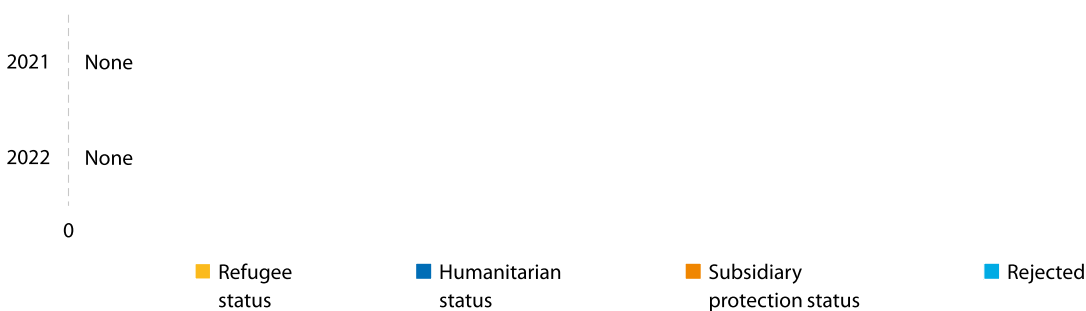
### Unaccompanied minors (third-country nationals) applying for asylum, 2019–2022



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)



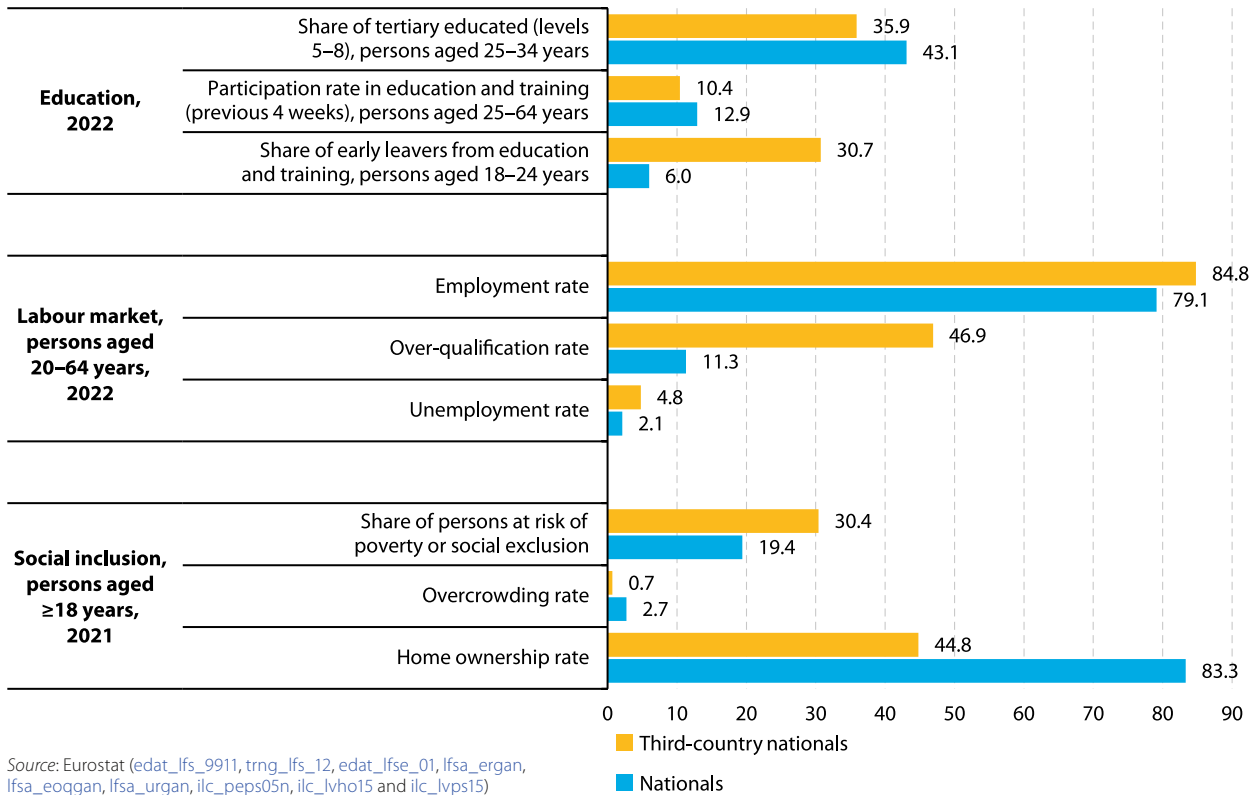
Source: Eurostat (migr\_asyumdcfq)



## INTEGRATION

### Integration indicators, 2021 or 2022

%



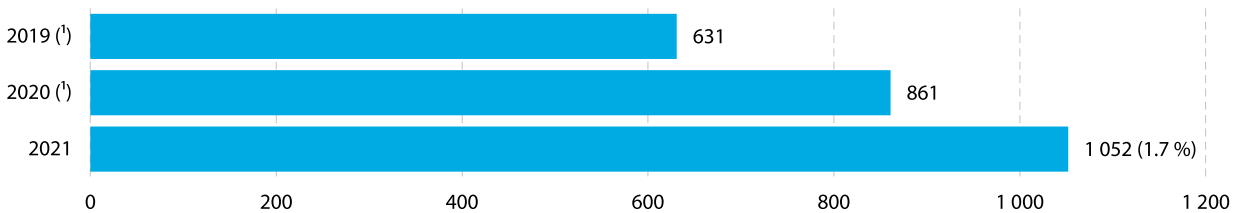
Source: Eurostat (edat\_lfs\_9911, trng\_lfs\_12, edat\_lfse\_01, lfsa\_ergan, lfsa\_eoqgan, lfsa\_urgan, ilc\_peps05n, ilc\_lvho15 and ilc\_lvps15)



## CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

### Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2019–2021

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



(\*) Share of total third-country nationals in the country: not available.

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)

Year	Stateless (STLS)	Unknown (UNK)
2019	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
2020	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
2021	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
2022	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)

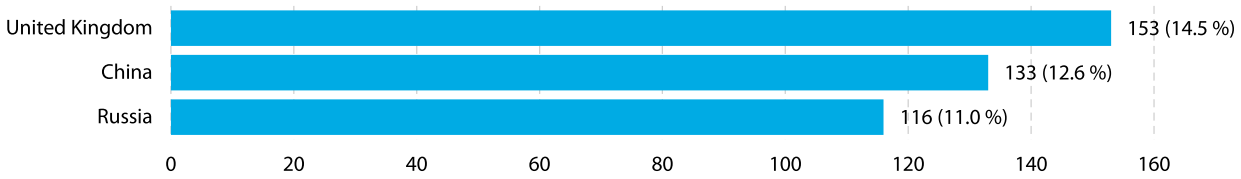
Source: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctz)

■ Stateless (STLS)

■ Unknown (UNK)

### 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)



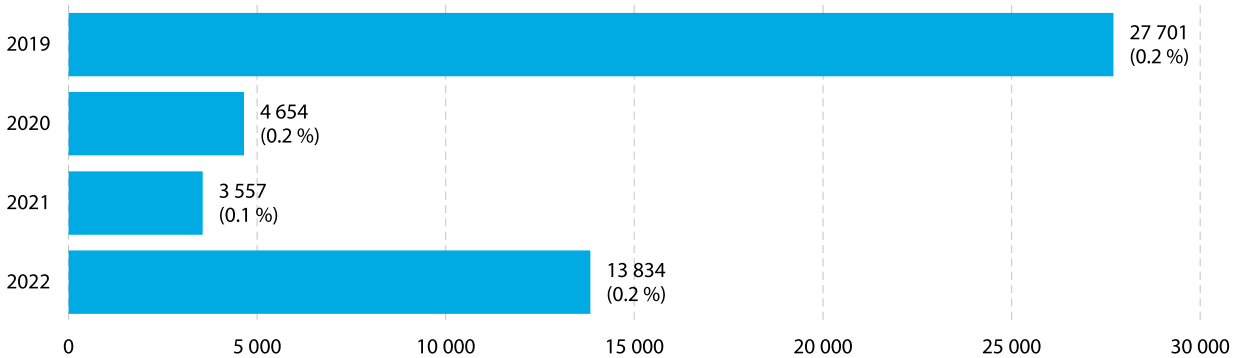
Source: Eurostat (migr\_acq)



## 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)

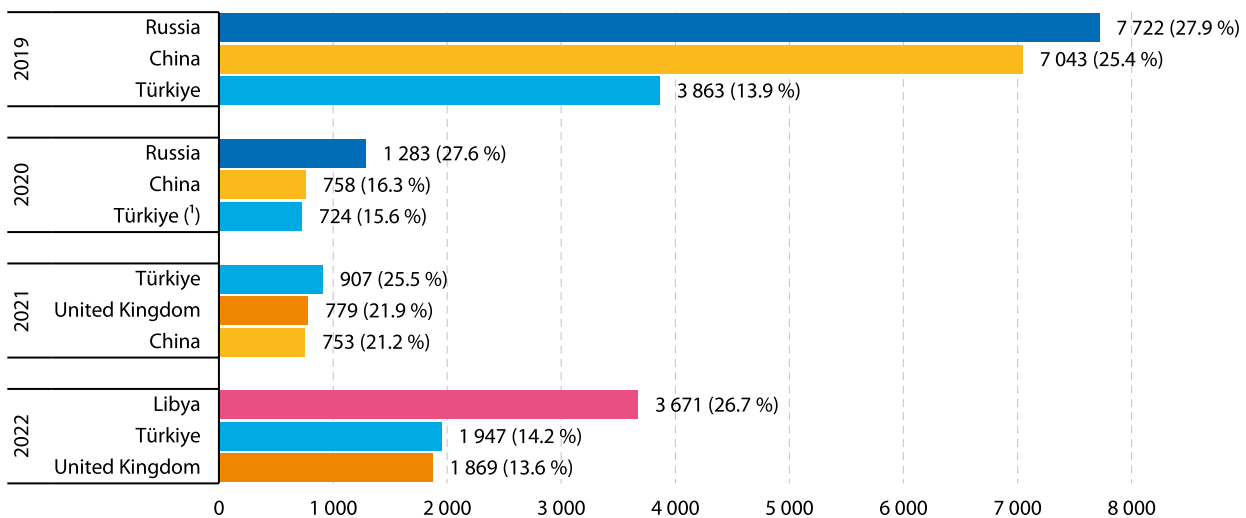


Note: Bulgaria, Ireland, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania were not part of the Schengen Area. Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple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

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.

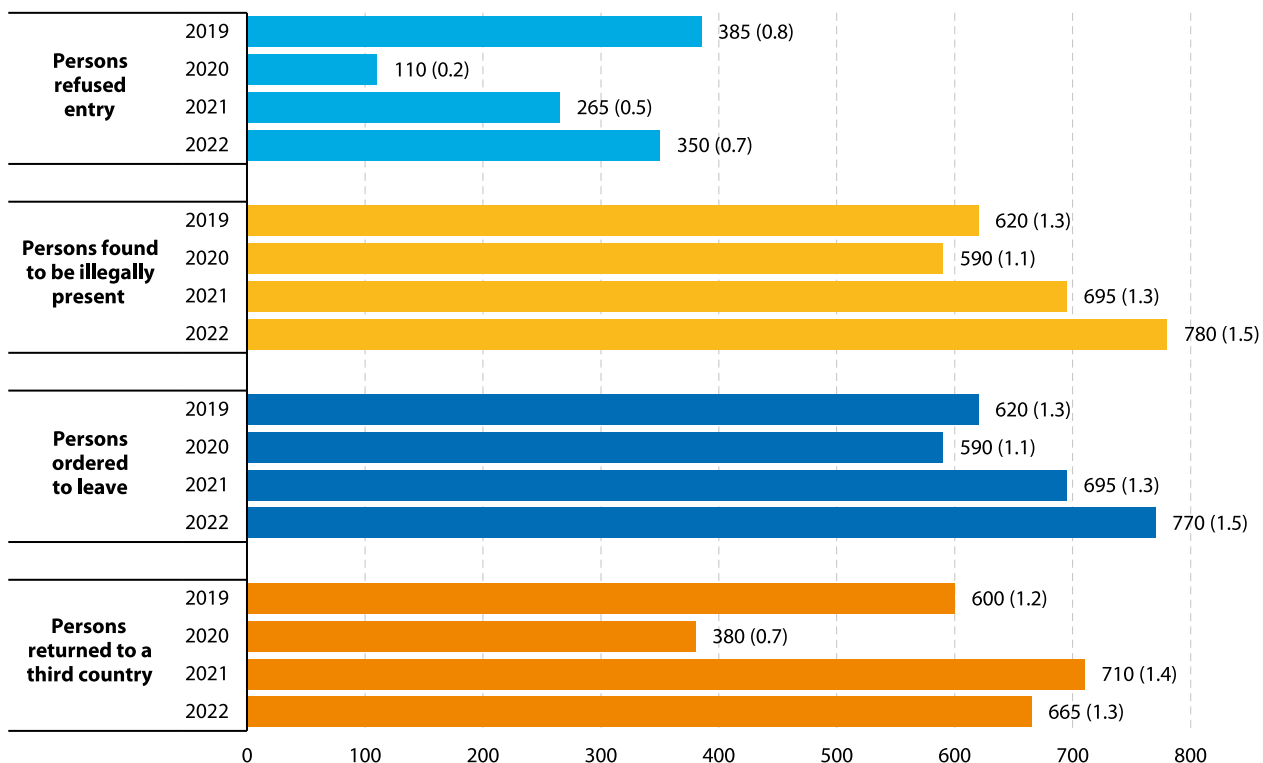
(!) United Kingdom: same number.

Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

## IRREGULAR MIGRATION

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

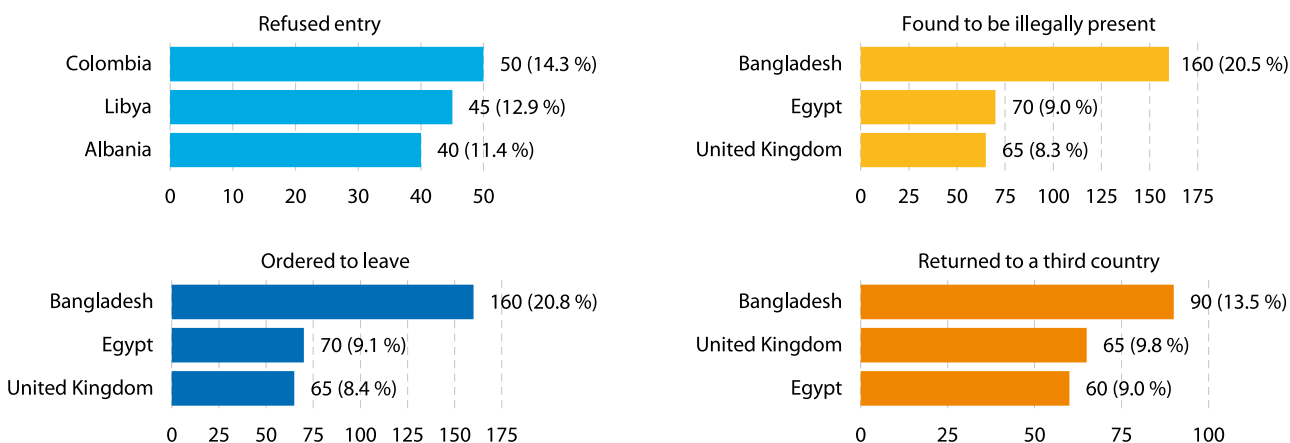
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



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)



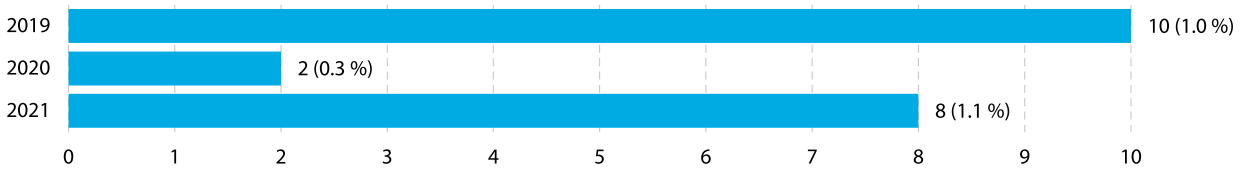
Source: Eurostat (migr\_eirfs, migr\_eipre, migr\_eiord and migr\_eirtn)



## 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)



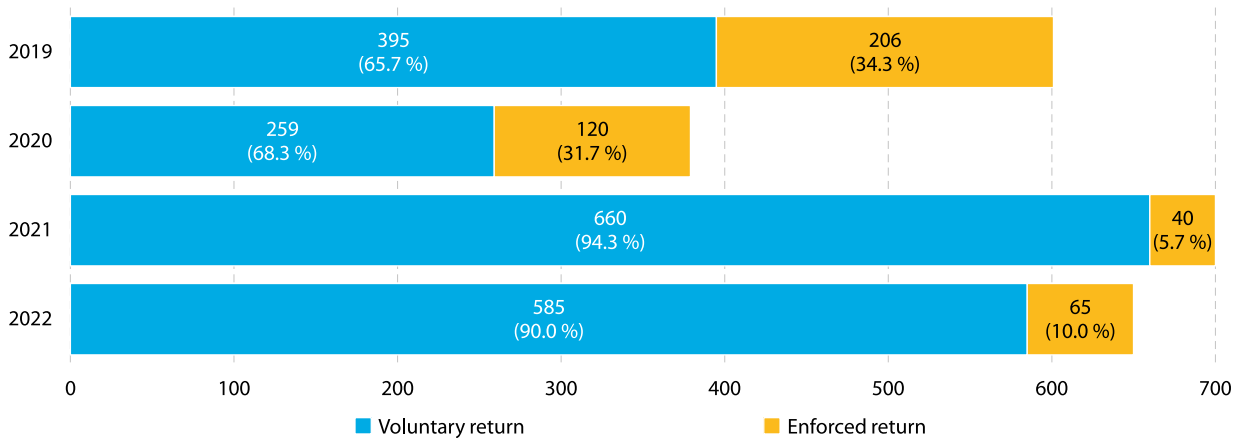
Source: Eurostat (migr\_resoth)



## RETURN AND READMISSION

### Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of return, 2019–2022

Absolute number (and the share within the total)

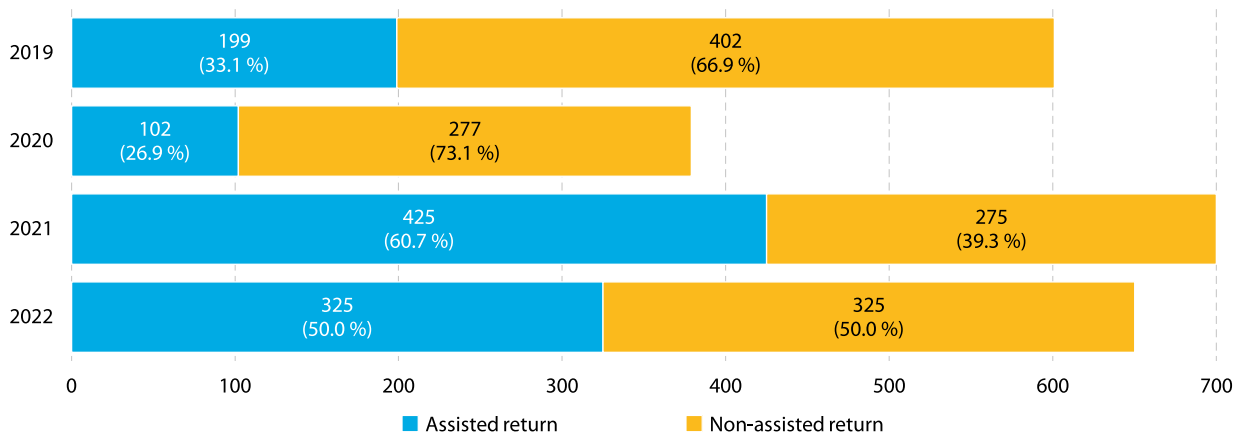


Note: data for 2019 and 2020 are from migr\_eirt\_vol. Data for 2021 and 2022 are from migr\_eirtn1.

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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- at the following standard number: +32 22999696,
- via the following form: [european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/write-us\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/write-us_en).

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### EU publications

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### EU law and related documents

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1951 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex ([eur-lex.europa.eu](https://eur-lex.europa.eu)).

### EU open data

The portal [data.europa.eu](https://data.europa.eu) provides access to open datasets from the EU institutions, bodies and agencies. These can be downloaded and reused for free, for both commercial and non-commercial purposes. The portal also provides access to a wealth of datasets from European countries.



## 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/](http://www.emn.at/en/)

Belgium [www.emnbelgium.be](http://www.emnbelgium.be)

Bulgaria [www.emn-bg.com](http://www.emn-bg.com)

Croatia <https://emn.gov.hr/>

Cyprus [www.moi.gov.cy/moi/crmd/emnncpc.nsf/home/home?opendocument](http://www.moi.gov.cy/moi/crmd/emnncpc.nsf/home/home?opendocument)

Czechia [www.emncz.eu](http://www.emncz.eu)

Denmark [www.justitsministeriet.dk/](http://www.justitsministeriet.dk/)

Estonia [www.emn.ee/](http://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](http://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](http://www.emnhungary.hu/en)

Ireland [www.emn.ie/](http://www.emn.ie/)

Italy [www.emnitalyncp.it/](http://www.emnitalyncp.it/)

Latvia [www.emn.lv/en/home/](http://www.emn.lv/en/home/)

Lithuania [www.emn.lt/en/](http://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](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>