



# SLOVAK REPUBLIC EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET 2022

Main developments in migration and international protection, including latest statistics

August 2023



# **OVERARCHING CHANGES**

Almost all the main changes in migration legislation, policies and measures in 2022 were related to the effects of the war in Ukraine and the acquisition of qualified labour force from abroad.

In November 2022, the Steering Committee for Migration and Integration of Foreigners was restructured and transformed into the Steering Committee for Migration, Integration and Inclusion of Foreigners. The members of the Committee have been changed its scope of action became broader and its operation became more efficient.

Also in 2022, the validity of all residence permits, work permits and confirmations on the possibility to fill in a vacancy, were extended until two months from lifting the state of emergency that was declared in the Slovak Republic in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.



In 2022, a number of administrative procedures were simplified for third country nationals (TNCs) who work or plan to work or study in the Slovak Republic.

#### Work-related migration

The amended Act on Employment Services simplified the conditions for the entry of qualified labour from non-EU

# **KEY POINTS**

Almost all the main changes in migration legislation, policies and measures in 2022 were related to the effects of the war in Ukraine, but also to the acquisition of qualified labour force from abroad.

- The Steering Committee for Migration and Integration of Foreigners was restructured and transformed into the Steering Committee for Migration, Integration and Inclusion of Foreigners. The members of the Committee have been changed, its scope of action became broader and its operation became more efficient.
- As of 1 June 2022, the amendment to the Asylum Act systemically regulated the initial integration of persons granted asylum and subsidiary protection in Slovak Republic. The timeframe for asylum seekers to start working in Slovak Republic has also been shortened from nine to six months from the start of the asylum procedure.

countries into the Slovak labour market, especially in occupations with shortage:

The determination of the occupations in shortage was linked to regions needs instead of districts, while the condition of registered unemployment rate of less than 5% was discarded.

- The possibility of employing third country nationals during the decision-making period of their application for the renewal of temporary residence for the purpose of employment was introduced and the renewal of such residence was facilitated by removing the requirement of the labour market test and enabling the retention of qualified labour in the same job.
- The employment of third country nationals was enabled through national visas in selected professions (truck and bus drivers, highly qualified professions, relocated employees and their family members).

The temporary professional internship for foreigners in healthcare was extended to all categories of healthcare workers, and the condition to carry out the internship only with institutional healthcare providers was removed.

#### **Students and researchers**

In order to increase the number of students in study programmes delivered in foreign language, the universities will not charge a fee. If it is decided to provide it for free, the costs will be reimbursed from the state budget.

From January 2022, the Slovak Republic started issuing national visas, for the period of study or for a maximum of one year, to selected groups of students (students using Erasmus+, the National Scholarship Programme, bilateral international agreements and cooperation programmes, CEEPUS and the Slovak Government Scholarship). Previously, a student temporary residence was obtained for a period exceeding the 90 days.

#### **Family reunification**

Third country nationals, who have been granted temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification, can get employed in Slovak Republic after 9 (previously 12) months of continuous residence in Slovak Republic with effect from 1 January 2023.

# Information on routes to and conditions of legal migration

After the outbreak of the war in Ukraine in 2022, the Slovak Republic and the non-profit sector began to provide information on the possibilities of transit and protection/residence for people fleeing through/to the Slovak Republic. Comprehensive information was provided on the new portal www.ua.gov.sk. A specific portal about schools and education in the Slovak Republic www.ukrajina. minedu.sk was launched, also in the Ukrainian language, by the Ministry of Education.

Legal counselling to this group of persons was also provided by IOM and the Human Rights League, which, in addition to the information on their websites had phonelines available in Ukrainian.

#### **Other measures**

On the basis of the Treaty between Slovak Republic and Canada on youth mobility, a reciprocal quota of 350 participants was agreed, for 2023 (the quota remained the same as in 2022).

# **TEMPORARY PROTECTION**

After the start of the war in Ukraine, several laws, regulating the legal status and integration of people coming to the Slovak Republic were adopted with a view to facilitating their everyday life (e.g. provision of temporary protection without a Council Decision or provision of allowance for accommodation of temporary protection holders). Many social measures were adopted as providing benefits for material need, child allowances, establishment of so-called children's groups. Additionally, measures in the field of education, health care and access to the labour market were adopted. Several measures have also been taken in the area of prevention of human trafficking, including retraining of first contact workers, issuing of information leaflets, etc.

In October 2022, the Government approved the Contingency Plan of the Slovak Republic for Dealing with the Emergency Situation in Connection with the mass Influx of Ukrainian Residents to the Slovak Republic caused by the Escalation of the Armed Conflict in Ukraine for the period October 2022 - March 2023.

The non-profit sector was also significantly involved in the assistance for people fleeing from Ukraine, which resulted in the signing of the Memorandum on Cooperation in Solving the Emergency Situation in Connection with the Arrival of a Large Number of People from Ukraine to the Slovak Republic caused by the Escalation of the Armed Conflict in Ukraine, which was signed between represent-atives of 11 non-governmental organisations and the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic in November 2022.

To help the temporary protection holders, the European Commission allocated emergency funds for the Slovak Republic within the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI).



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

As of 1 June 2022, the amendment to the Asylum Act introduced several integration measures for asylum seekers and persons granted international protection (see the Integration section). In line with the EU law, the hierarchy of statuses has been changed so that the need for international protection is assessed first, and only in the event of non-fulfilment of the conditions for granting it, the possibility of granting national status is assessed.

### MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

#### Minors

The amendment to the Asylum Act specified in more detail the specifications for the international protection applicant, taking into account his age and maturity, information related to human trafficking, as well as contacts to the national helpline for victims of human trafficking. In accordance with previous practice, the amendment to the Asylum Act explicitly incorporated the principle of the best interests of the minor.



## INTEGRATION

#### National integration strategy

In 2022, the Slovak Republic adopted the National Action Plan for Women's Employment for the years 2022-2030, which also addresses the situation of migrant women on the labour market. Among other things, the plan identifies the need to increase women's digital and language skills in accordance with the needs and developments of the labour market, as well as the creation of flexible forms of childcare, the so-called children's groups.

The amendment to the Asylum Act modified the initial integration of persons with granted asylum and subsidiary protection. Their position was unified by introducing a one-time allowance also for foreigners who were granted subsidiary protection, by introducing an integration allowance for both categories and also by providing social and psychological counselling and a cultural orientation course. At the same time, this amendment shortened the period the asylum seekers can start working in Slovak Republic, from nine to six months from the start of the asylum procedure.

#### Education and training of adults

Based on the amendment to the School Act, a social scholarship may be granted to students studying for their first or second degree, who have permanent residence in the Slovak Republic, or have been granted asylum, or subsidiary protection or temporary protection and have met the laid down conditions.

#### **Basic services**

In 2022, the Act on State Support for Rental Housing entered into force, establishing, among other things, that any natural person, including foreigners, who have permanent, temporary or similar residence in the Slovak Republic can apply for rental housing.



#### Acquisition of citizenship

From 1 April 2022, the Citizenship Act made it easier for some foreigners to become citizens of the Slovak Republic:

a foreigner does not have to prove his knowledge of Slovak language if they have successfully passed the Slovak language exam defined by law, and no more than 10 years have passed since the exam was taken to the date of submission of the application for granting of citizenship,

an applicant who has a residence permit in the Slovak Republic can be granted citizenship without fulfilling the condition of eight years of permanent residence, if he was not a citizen of the Slovak Republic and at least one of his parents, grandparents or great-grandparents was a Czechoslovak citizen born on the territory.

### BORDERS, SCHENGEN, AND VISAS

#### **Border management**

In 2022, the National Strategy for European Integrated Border Management for the years 2023 to 2026 was approved, setting out the tasks for the Slovak Republic in this area. At the same time, the Steering Committee for the Implementation of European Integrated Border Management was established.

#### Visa policy

The Slovak Republic proceeded, in accordance with the EU guidelines, in non-granting short-term visas to citizens of Russia as a result of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine.

#### Schengen governance

In 2022, the Slovak Republic worked on creating a database of national experts/Schengen evaluators and prepared a communication account/address for direct communication with EU institutions and unified communication within the units of the Police Force Presidium in the area of Schengen management.

### IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

At the end of 2022, the Slovak Republic faced significant pressure of secondary transit migration on the route from Western Balkans. Compared to 2021, there was an increase of 801.5%, which represents an almost 13-times increase of secondary transit migration compared to 2015. After temporary restoration of internal border controls, introduced by the Czech Republic and Austria on their border sections with the Slovak Republic, in September 2022, the number of detained migrants in the relevant areas of the Slovak Republic with the Czech Republic and Austria increased enormously.

#### Preventing facilitation of irregular migration ('smuggling') and preventing irregular stay

Due to the enormous increase of smuggling cases from the Western Balkans migration route, the National Unit for Combating Illegal Migration of the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium was strengthened in terms of personnel. Migration routes within the Slovak Republic were monitored more intensively, and road and highway checks were carried out more frequently, especially on the most active migration routes and in cooperation with other authorities. For the same reason, changes were adopted in the provision of statistical data on irregular migration with a focus on secondary transit migration.

In October, the Slovak Republic acceded to the Agreement on the Creation of a Joint Investigation Team created between the Czech Republic and Hungary for the purpose of facilitating international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of smuggling in the Czech Republic, Hungary and the Slovak Republic.



# National strategic policy developments

The Slovak Republic created a working group, to define the differences between human trafficking for the purpose of forced labour and poor working conditions. The task was supported by the National Programme for Combating Human Trafficking for the Years 2019-2023.

#### Identification and information to victims of trafficking in human beings

As of May 2022, within 15 days from the initiation of the asylum procedure, asylum seekers began receiving information on human trafficking, support and protection programme for its victims, and contacts to the national helpline.

As a result of the war in Ukraine, the Slovak Republic as a neighbouring country prepared a specialised training for the Border and Customs Service of Ukraine on the identification of potential victims of human trafficking. First contact workers, non-profit organizations, volunteers, security forces and other stakeholders in the Slovak Republic were also retrained on the topic by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic and the IOM.

On the basis of GRETA recommendation, the Slovak Republic trained employees of police detention facilities for foreigners on the identification of victims of human trafficking among asylum seekers and persons placed in these facilities. In 2022, all employees of the Centres for Legal Aid operating throughout Slovak Republic were also trained on this topic.

On 18 October 2022 (EU-Anti Trafficking Day), the Slovak Republic in cooperation with Slovnaft, inc. launched at gas stations a preventive information campaign aimed at combating human trafficking. The campaign also provided information in the Ukrainian language and aimed at temporary protection holders from Ukraine.

Also in 2022, the Slovak Republic distributed a self-identification leaflet for potential victims of human trafficking among foreigners in eight languages. After the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the Slovak Republic prepared and distributed information material on the risks of human trafficking in six languages throughout its territory.



#### Main national developments

In 2022, the Slovak Republic used the services of the Frontex for the first time. During the reporting year, a return specialist worked in the police detention facilities for foreigners and assisted the Police Force in the preparation and implementation of returns.

In the case of assisted voluntary returns, which the Slovak Republic carries out through the IOM, the target group has been extended to include persons arriving from Ukraine who were legally staying in the Slovak Republic, so that they can use the services of the programme if they are interested.

#### **Cooperation with third countries**

In 2022, the Slovak Republic did not sign or prepare on national level any new agreements or protocols on returns or readmission. The Protocol between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the implementation of the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the Readmission of Persons is still in the final phase, awaiting Ukraine's approval.



In 2022, the main recipient of the official humanitarian assistance was Ukraine which amounted to over eight million euros since the outbreak of the conflict in February.

The Focus of Bilateral Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for the year 2022 aims at dealing with causes of forced migration as close as possible to the countries of origin of asylum seekers. In the field of humanitarian assistance, which is related to solving the causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, the Slovak Republic continued to consider (i) food security and agriculture (ii) infrastructure and sustainable use of natural resources as key sectoral priorities. In the field of climate change, the Slovak Republic was supposed to contribute to projects whose goal are the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Slovak Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina continued the partnership sharing know-how in the field of asylum and the functioning of the asylum system, which they started in 2021, in the form of a study visit.



The statistical annex available on the next pages complements the Country Factsheet and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Slovak Republic 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.

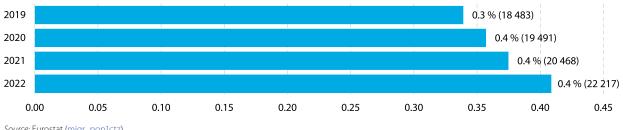
For some indicators, data are rounded at the source. Due to this, in some cases, the sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value.

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

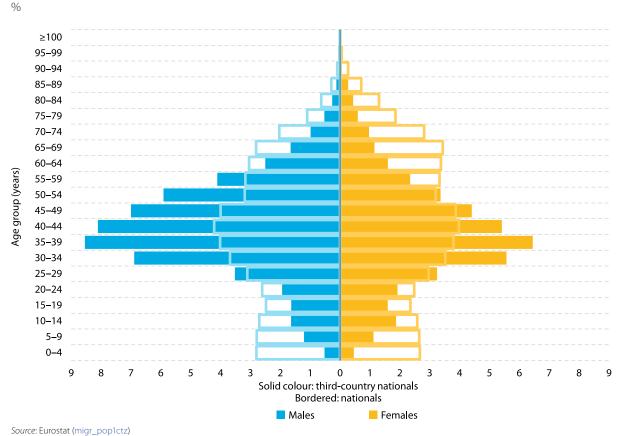
An online data code available under each table/figure can be used to directly access to the most recent data on Eurostat's website.

# **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)



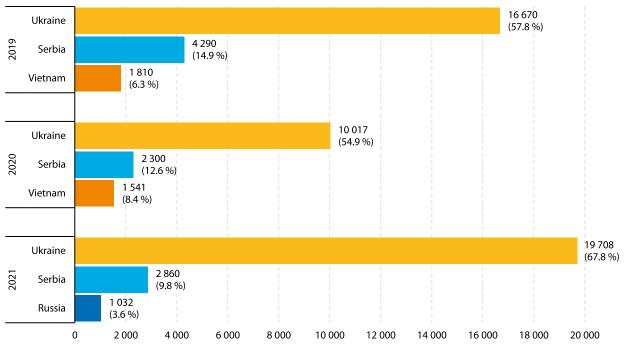
Age structure of nationals and third-country nationals, 1 January 2022

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)

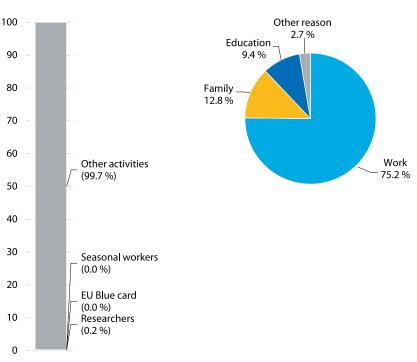


Source: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)

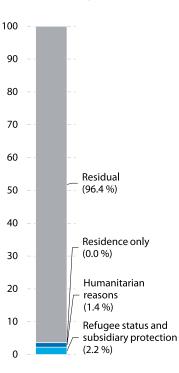
First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2021 %

#### Work reason, by type

#### All permits, by reason



#### Other reason, by detailed reason



Note: data not available for first residence permits issued for highly skilled workers. *Source*: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst, migr\_resocc and migr\_resoth)

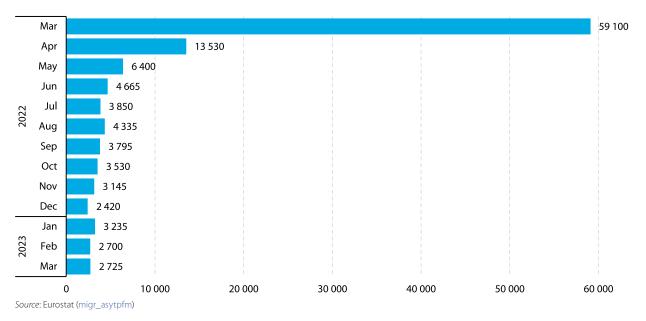


Third-country nationals who fled Ukraine and were benefitting from temporary protection at the end of March 2023 Absolute number (and the share within the total)

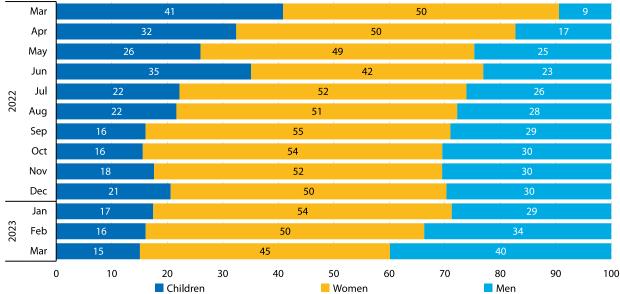


Source: Eurostat (migr\_asytpsm)

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



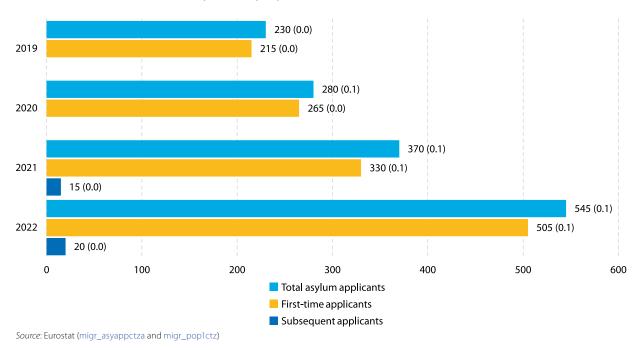
Distribution by age and sex of decisions granting temporary protection to third-country nationals displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2023 %



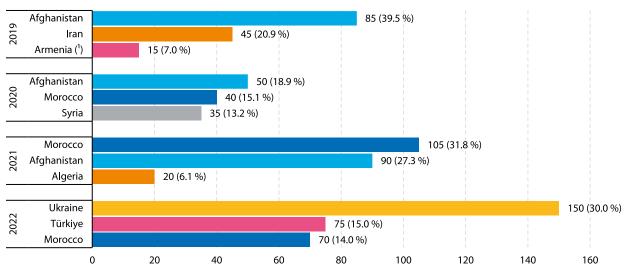
Source: Eurostat (migr\_asytpfm)

# INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

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

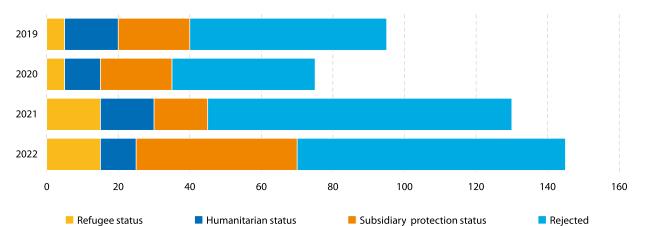


**Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2019–2022** Absolute number (and the share in total number of first-time applicants)



(<sup>1</sup>) Bangladesh: same number.

Source: Eurostat (migr\_asyappctza)

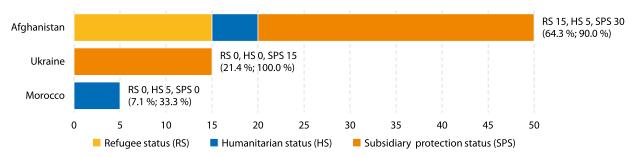


#### Number of first instance asylum decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2019–2022

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	5	5.3	2019	15	15.8	2019	20	21.1	2019	55	57.9
2020	5	6.7	2020	10	13.3	2020	20	26.7	2020	40	53.3
2021	15	11.5	2021	15	11.5	2021	15	11.5	2021	85	65.4
2022	15	10.3	2022	10	6.9	2022	45	31.0	2022	75	51.7

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)

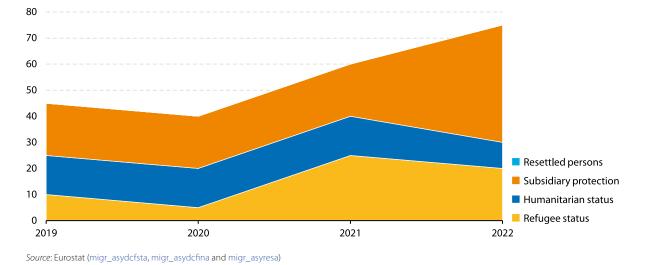


Source: Eurostat (migr\_asydcfsta)

**Resettled third-country nationals, 2019–2022** Absolute number (and the share of the total resettled within the EU)

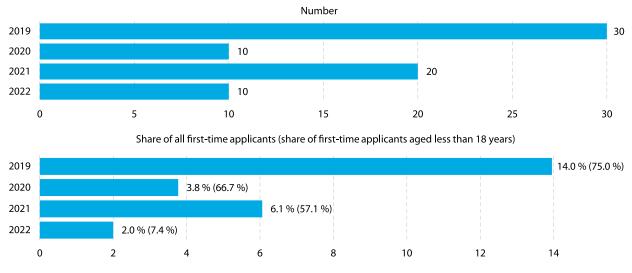


Source: Eurostat (migr\_asyresa)



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

# UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

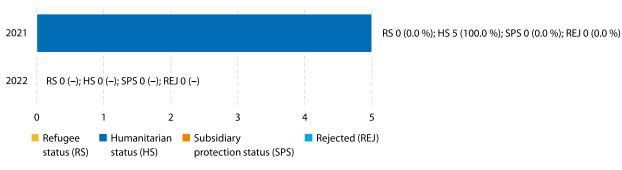


Unaccompanied minors (third-country nationals) applying for asylum, 2019–2022

Source: Eurostat (migr\_asyunaa and migr\_asyappctza)

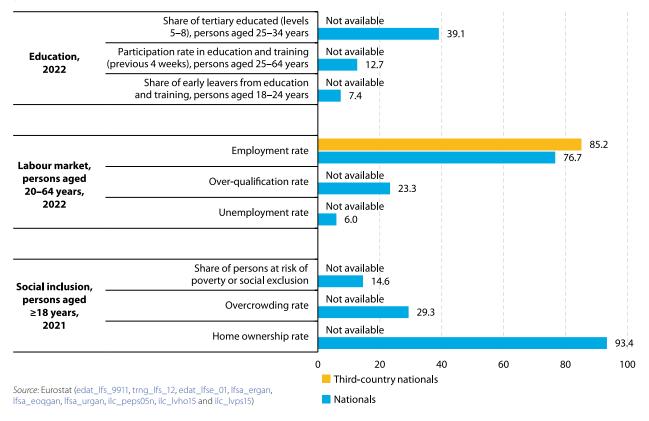
First instance asylum decisions on applications lodged by unaccompanied minors (third-country nationals), by outcome, 2021 and 2022

Absolute number (and the share in the total)



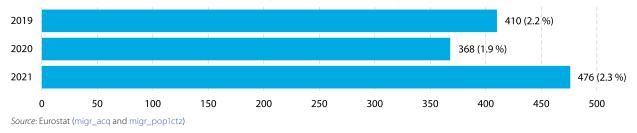


Integration indicators, 2021 or 2022 %

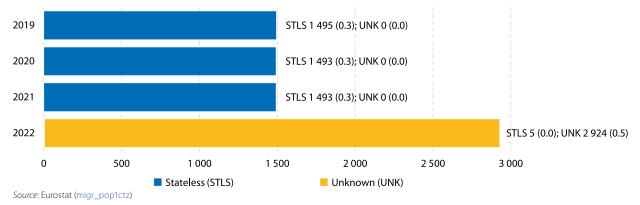


# CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

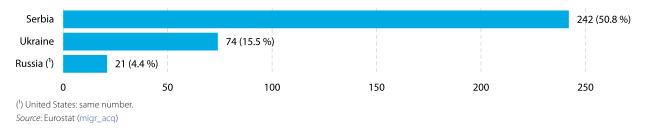
Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2019–2021 Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



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



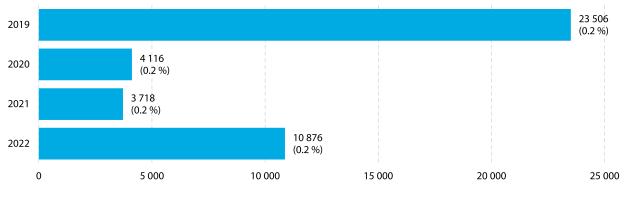
Top 3 countries of previous non-EU citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship, 2021 Absolute number (and the share of all acquisitions by third-country nationals plus stateless)



# 🦁 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

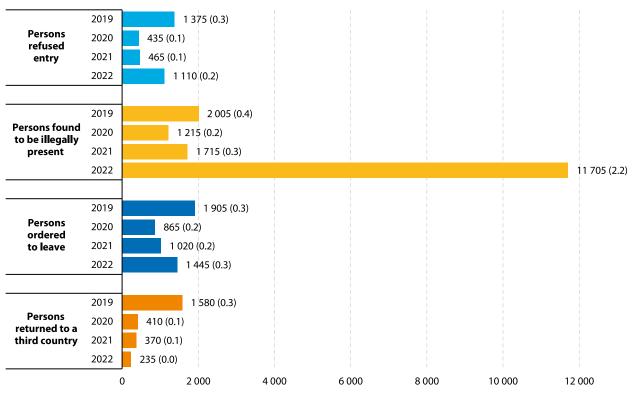
Russia 8 403 (35.8 %) 2019 Belarus 4 256 (18.1 %) China 1 891 (8.0 %) Russia 1 499 (36.4 %) 593 (14.4 %) Belarus Cyprus 475 (11.5 %) Russia 652 (17.5 %) 202 Türkiye 577 (15.5 %) Belarus 491 (13.2 %) Belarus 2 175 (20.0 %) 2022 Türkiye 1 698 (15.6 %) Cyprus 951 (8.7 %) 0 1 0 0 0 4 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 6 0 0 0 7 0 0 0 8 0 0 0 9 000 2 0 0 0 3 0 0 0

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

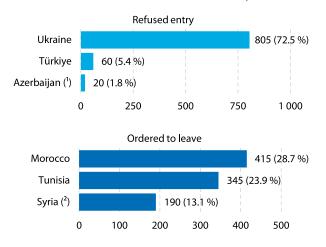


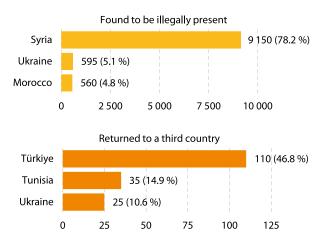
Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2019–2022 Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



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)





(<sup>1</sup>) Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan: same number.

<sup>(2)</sup> Türkiye: same number.

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



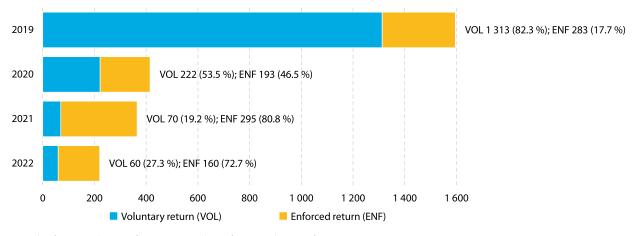
**First residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings, 2019–2021** Absolute number (and the share within the EU)

2019	None						
2020	None						
2021	None						
0							

Source: Eurostat (migr\_resoth)

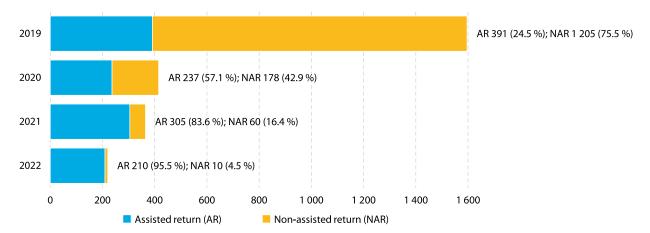


Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of return, 2019–2022 Absolute number (and the share within the total)



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.

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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).

#### EU open data

The portal 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/ 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