

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

2018

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING LATEST STATISTICS



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

The adoption of the **Strategy for Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic** was a key change in 2018 in relation to legal migration. It aims to make the system governing **the entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of employment** more effective, fast and flexible. It applies mainly to those professions where labour shortage has been identified.

In 2018, the Slovak Republic introduced further measures to facilitate employment of third-country nationals by means of **amendments to the Act on the Residence of Aliens and Act on Employment Services**. Obligatory provisions of the Students and Researchers Directive ((2016/801/EU)¹ were transposed in 2018.

ECONOMIC MIGRATION

In order to address labour market shortages, the **Act on Employment services was amended** with the following changes:

- Legislative provisions facilitating the conditions for the employment of third-country nationals for professions with labour shortage.

¹ Directive 2016/801/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational



KEY POINTS

The **Strategy for Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic** was adopted aiming at governing the entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment.



The **Act on Employment Services** was amended facilitating the conditions for the employment of third-country nationals for professions with labour shortage.



The **Government approved the fifth National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 – 2023**.

- Introduction of the obligation to create a **list of scarce jobs** which is to be updated once a year and should contain mostly vacancies which are not being filled for a long period of time and are suitable for low-qualified workers. The aim is to fill these vacancies in the respective regions with third-country nationals using an accelerated procedure i.e. without the required labour market research.
- Accelerated procedure applied to jobs on the list of identified scarce jobs² while granting single permits to third-country nationals.

projects and au pairing. Available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AJOL_2016_132_R_0002

² The complete list of identified jobs are available at: <https://www.upsvr.gov.sk/sluzby-zamestnanosti/zamestnavanie->

The Slovak Republic also adopted the Strategy for Foreigners' Labour Mobility in 2018. It aims to make the system governing the entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of employment more effective, fast and flexible.

Specific measures under the Strategy include:

- Periods for assessment of applications for seasonal employment permits shortened to 10 days since receiving the application;
- Wider options to enter the labour market through temporary employment agencies in the case of jobs with labour shortage;
- Increased frequency of updating the list of professions with a shortage of labor from once a year to four times a year.

As of 1 May 2018, the **obligatory provisions of the Students and Researchers Directive were also transposed**. Third-country nationals can now engage in internships after graduating from higher education institutions as compared to previously when they were allowed to do so only during the period of studies.

On 7 December 2018, the Slovak Republic adopted further legislative changes pertaining to labour mobility. Next to other changes starting from 2019, third-country nationals' access to the labour market through temporary employment agencies will be facilitated in case of scarce jobs.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

No significant changes occurred in 2018.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

The Slovak Republic **amended the Act on Asylum, particular with a view to** transposing the provisions of the recast Asylum Procedures Directive (2013/32/EU)³ related to the process of assessing applications for international protection. The amendment, effective as of 20 July 2018, determined among other things that a participant in a procedure can also be **represented in an administrative procedure by a non-governmental organisation** which provides foreigners with legal aid. An authorised employee or member of such an organisation with a second level law degree can act on its behalf. It was

cudzincov/zoznam-zamestnani-s-nedostatkom-pracovnej-sily.html?page_id=806803

also determined that when assessing asylum applications, a position on the asylum application from the Military Intelligence is needed along with the position of the Slovak Information Service, while only applications of asylum seekers older than 14 are assessed.

The amendment also **modified the timeframes for deciding on asylum**:

- A six-month period was determined for decisions in the asylum procedure and the conditions of extension were defined;
- A possibility to put the asylum procedure on hold was introduced in case it is not possible to provide a decision within the regular deadline due to the insecure situation in the country of origin of the asylum seeker (can be interrupted repeatedly but the total time of the interruptions cannot exceed 15 months). In the meantime, the person retains the status of an asylum seeker.
- The maximum possible deadline for decisions in asylum procedure was extended to 21 months in cases when the procedure was interrupted due to the uncertain situation in the country of origin of the asylum seeker. In other cases, the maximum possible deadline for decisions is 18 months. Before the amendment came into effect, the maximum deadline for reaching a decision was not determined.

Following the **amendment to the Act on Financial Compensation of Serious Physical Disablement**, those persons with a subsidiary protection status (not only persons granted refugee status) are also eligible for individual financial benefits to compensate for serious physical disability.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

In 2018, an Amendment to the Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children and on Social Guardianship was adopted, bringing a whole range of changes aiming to improve the quality of measures within the socio-legal protection of children, e.g. transforming foster homes into children and family centres, etc.

³ 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



INTEGRATION

The annual evaluation of the fulfilment of Integration Policy showed that the current national policy requires a comprehensive update. As a result, the obligation of Ministries to submit an Annual report on the fulfilment of objectives and measures of the Integration Policy to the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family was cancelled. In the case of the Integration Programme for Beneficiaries of International Protection in the territory of the Slovak Republic, the Prime Minister postponed the deadline for its submission to end of June 2019.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

As of 20 July 2018, the Act on Residence of Aliens reintroduced that a stateless person can obtain permanent residence for five years, not for an indefinite period of time as before.



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISA

In 2018, a new national border control management plan entitled **National Strategy of Integrated Border Management for 2019 – 2022** was prepared. The document specified new tasks that the Slovak Republic will have to perform within integrated European border management in the indicated period. Among these tasks are e.g. further strengthening of the cooperation of common border controls conducted by Slovak and Ukrainian border authorities; information exchange; capacity building of police officers and further trainings; active cooperation of civil society organisations; etc.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

No significant changes occurred in 2018.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The Government approved the fifth **National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for 2019 – 2023**. The main objective of this programme is to introduce a coordinated system

focused on decreasing the crime of human trafficking by enhancing the existing tools verified by years of practice. New tools to respond to recent trends in human trafficking will also be introduced. The programme includes the **Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2019 – 2023**.

In 2018, also the new **regulation of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic No. 144/2018 on the Provision of Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking Programme** came into force.



RETURN AND READMISSION

No significant changes occurred in 2018.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for the Slovak Republic on aspects of migration and international protection (2015-2018), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as "N/A".

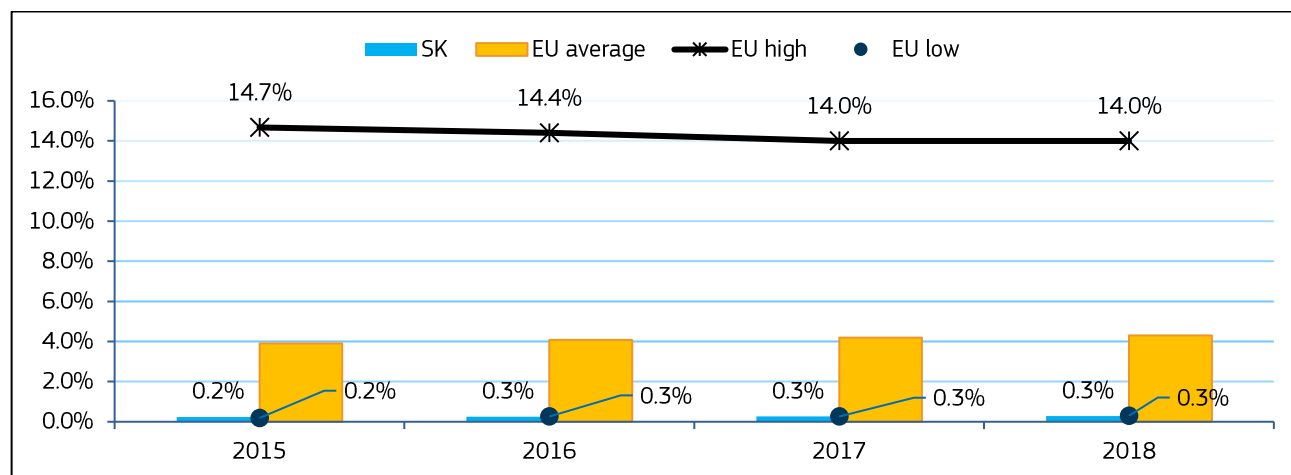
STATISTICAL ANNEX: MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC (2015-2018)



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Eurostat data on first residence permits for 2018 was not available at the time of writing. Please consult the 2018 ARM Statistical Annex for statistics on the number of first residence permits by reason (to be published in July 2019).

Figure 1: Resident population of third-country nationals as a share of total population in the Slovak Republic, EU average, EU high and low (2015-2018)

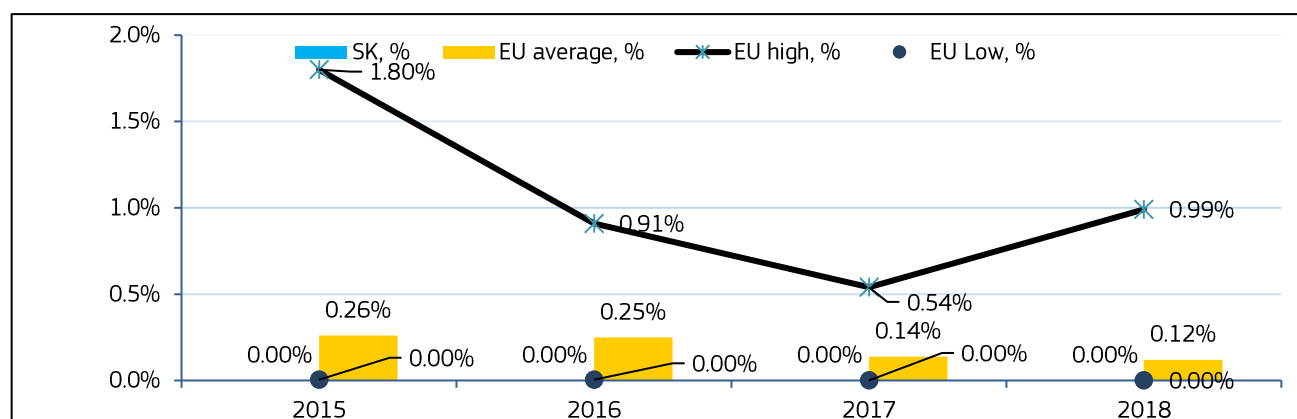


Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_pop1ctz](#)), data extracted 02.05.19



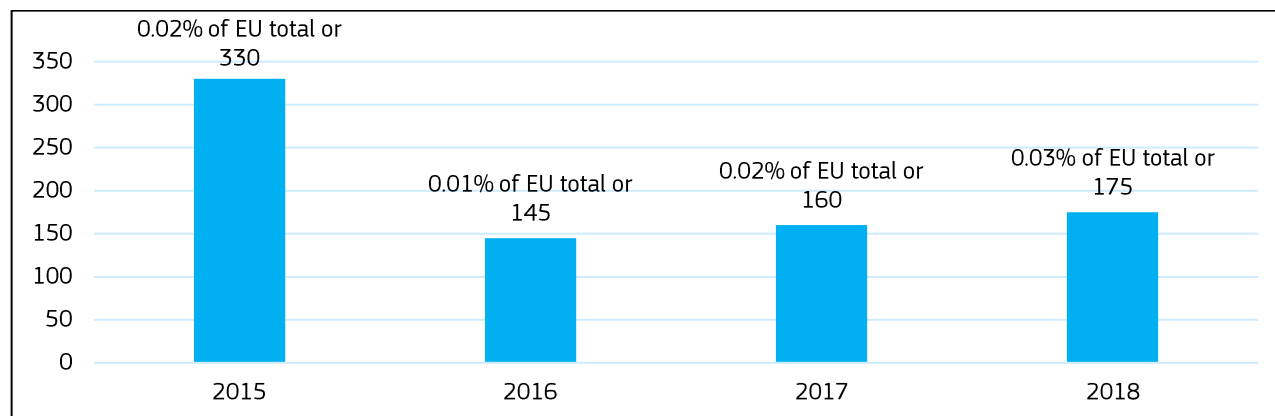
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Figure 2: Asylum applications as a share of the total population in the Slovak Republic, EU average and EU high and low (2015-2018)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 26.04.2019

Figure 3: Number of asylum applications in the Slovak Republic as a share of the total number of applications in the EU (2015-2018)



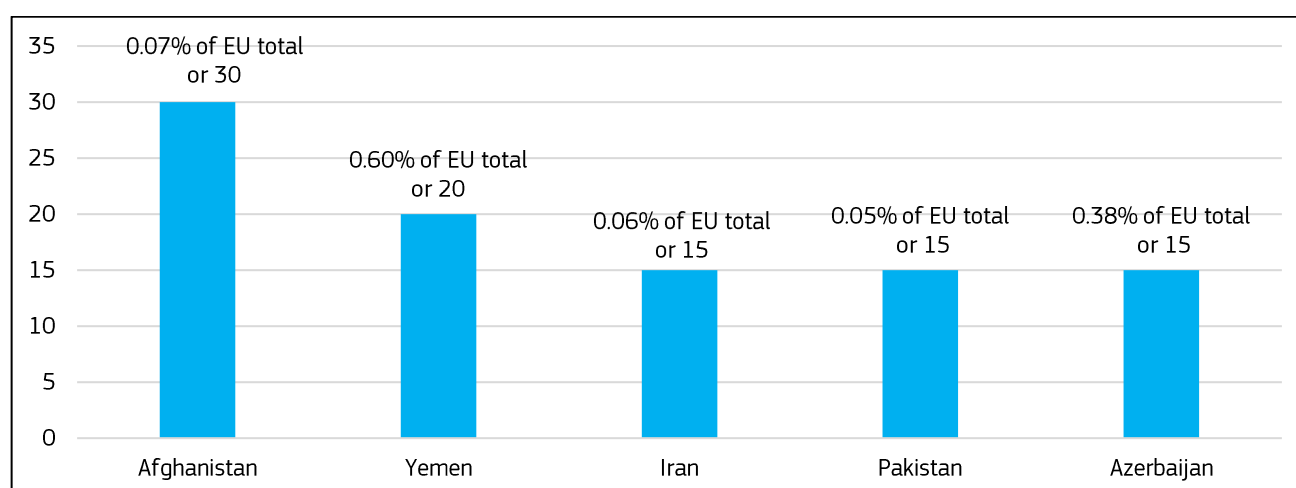
Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 26.04.2019

Table 1: Asylum applications - Top five third-country nationalities in the Slovak Republic (2015-2018)

2015			2016			2017			2018		
Nationality	No.	% of total	Nationality	No.	% of total	Nationality	No.	% of total	Nationality	No.	% of total
Iraq	170	52%	Ukraine	25	17%	Afghanistan	25	16%	Afghanistan	30	17%
Afghanistan	35	11%	Afghanistan	15	10%	Vietnam	20	13%	Yemen	20	11%
Ukraine	25	8%	Pakistan	15	10%	Ukraine	10	6%	Iran	15	9%
Unknown	15	5%	Iraq	15	10%	Morocco	10	6%	Pakistan	15	9%
Russia, India, Syria	10	3%	Syria	15	10%	Cuba	10	6%	Azerbaijan	15	9%

Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 29.04.2019

Figure 4: Asylum applications - Top five third-country nationalities in the Slovak Republic as a share of EU total per given nationality (2018)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 26.04.2019

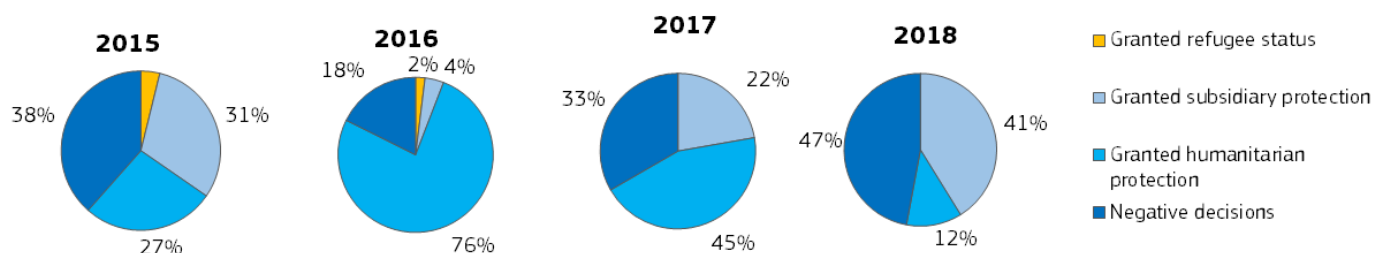
Note: the figure reads as: The Slovak Republic received 30 asylum applications from Afghanistan or 0.07 % of all asylum applications launched by Afghanistan in EU in 2018.

Table 2: Asylum applications – First instance decisions in the Slovak Republic by outcome (2015–2018)

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:		Humanitarian reasons	Negative decisions
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		
2015	130	80	5	40	35	50
2016	250	210	5	10	195	45
2017	90	60	0	20	40	30
2018	80	45	0	35	10	40

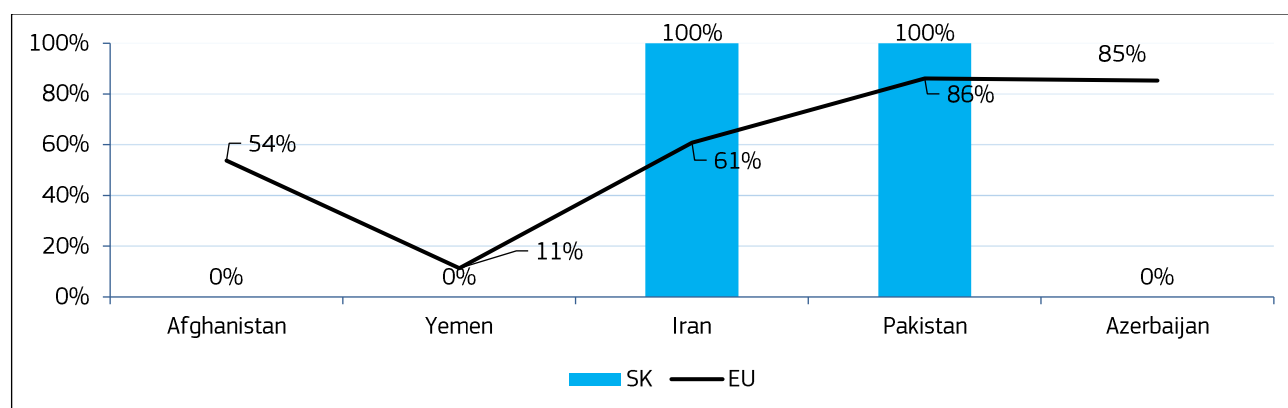
Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asydcfst](#)), data extracted 29.04.2019

Figure 5: Asylum applications – First instance decisions in the Slovak Republic by outcome (2015–2018)



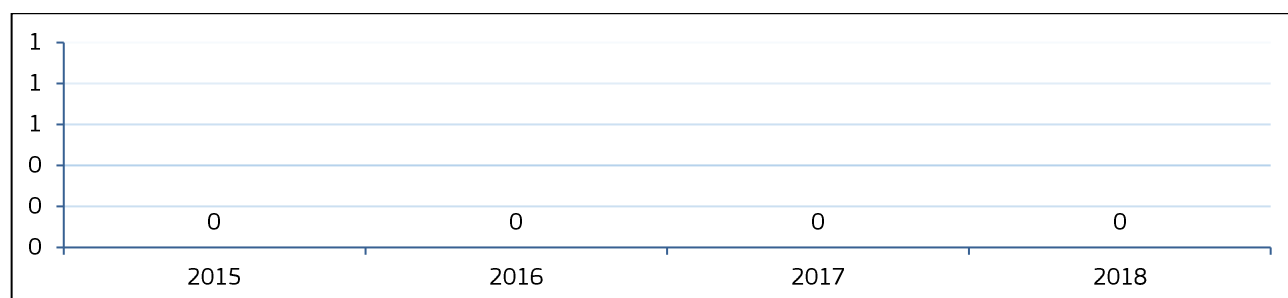
Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asydcfst](#)), data extracted 30.04.19

Figure 6: Negative decision rate in the Slovak Republic for the top five nationalities of applicants at the first instance in comparison with EU for the same given nationality (2018)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asydcfst](#)), data extracted 30.04.19

Figure 7: Third-country nationals resettled by the Slovak Republic (2015–2018)

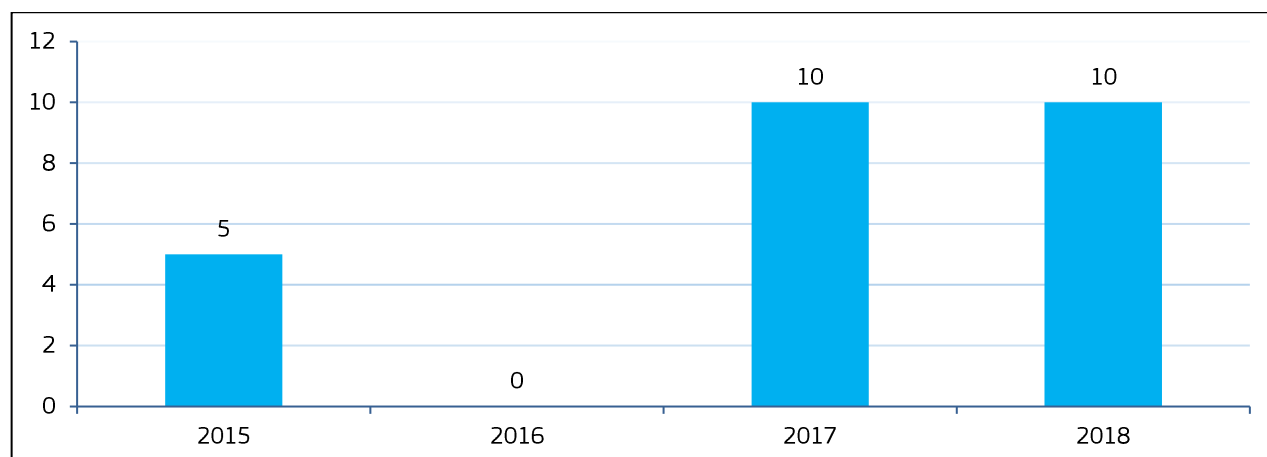


Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyresa](#)), data extracted 02.05.19



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Figure 8: Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum in the Slovak Republic (2015–2018)



Source: Eurostat Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) ([migr_asylum](#)), data extracted 02.05.19.



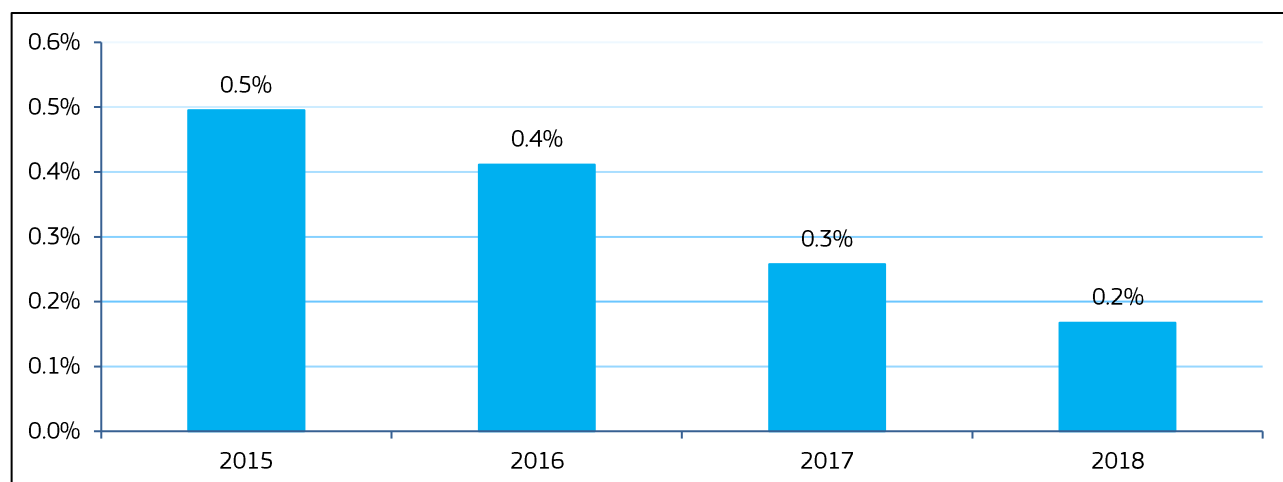
BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISA

Table 3: Number of Schengen visa applications in the Slovak Republic (2015–2018)

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Uniform visas (short-stay visas)	76 491	62 472	41 639	26 797

Source: DG Migration and Home – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Figure 9: Uniform visa applications received in the Slovak Republic as a share of the total number of uniform visa applications in all Schengen states consulates (2015–2018)



Source: DG Migration and Home Affairs – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Table 8: Top five countries in which the highest number of visa applications for the Slovak Republic was lodged (2015-2018)

2015		2016		2017		2018	
Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number
Ukraine	45 727	Ukraine	38 426	Ukraine	16 299	Russian Federation	9 513
Russian Federation	11 268	Russian Federation	13 085	Russian Federation	11 478	Belarus	3 961
Belarus	8 811	Belarus	5 384	Belarus	4 148	China	1 980
China	1 944	China	3 456	China	1 810	Ukraine	1 718
Kuwait	1 186	Kuwait	1 252	Turkey	1 401	Turkey	1 448

Source: DG Migration and Home Affairs – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Table 4: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders, found to be illegally present, ordered to leave and returned following an order to leave in the Slovak Republic (2015–2018)

Third-country nationals:	2015	2016	2017	2018
Refused entry at external borders	465	750	1 085	1 755
Found to be illegally present	1 985	2 035	2 590	2 635
Ordered to leave	1 575	1 735	2 375	2 500
Returned following an order to leave	1 230	1 410	1 740	2 115

Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_eirfs](#))([migr_eipre](#))([migr_eiord](#))([migr_eirtn](#)) data extracted 03.05.2019



RETURN

Table 5: Third-country nationals returned by the Slovak Republic (2015-2018)

Year	Returned as part of forced return measure	Returned voluntarily	Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme
2015	275	418	57
2016	314	1 094	116
2017	353	1 387	43
2018	430	1667*	80

Source: EMN Slovak Republic

* Voluntarily returned (including assisted voluntary returns) is understood as: a) voluntary fulfilment of the obligation to leave the SK territory within the deadline set in the decision on AE issued for this purpose due to detection of unauthorised stay inland, or b) leaving the SK territory when unauthorised stay is detected at the border crossing during the foreigners exit from the SK territory, for which the decision on AE was issued to the foreigner.