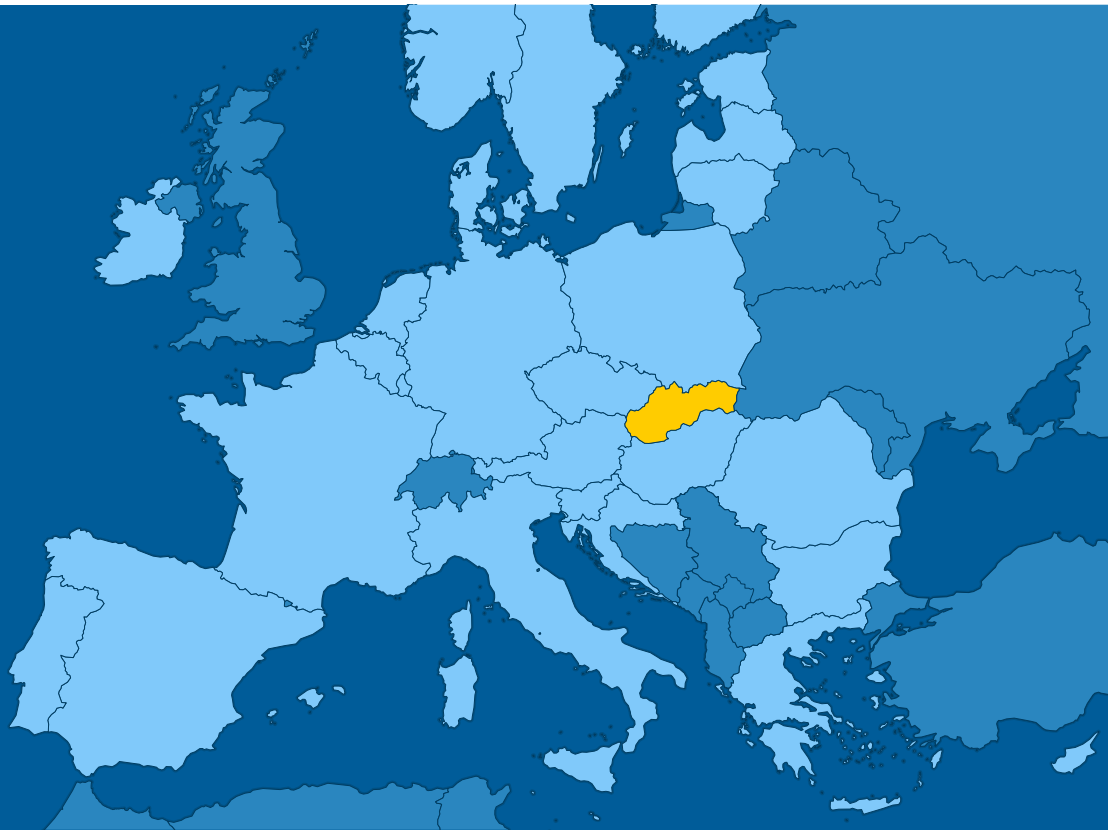


COUNTRY FACTSHEET | JULY 2024

Main developments
in migration and
international
protection, including
latest statistics



SLOVAKIA 2023



OVERARCHING AND CROSS- CUTTING CHANGES

The main changes in migration legislation, policies and measures in 2023 related to tackling the impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, attracting and retaining workers from abroad, foreign students, and the education of children of foreigners.

In 2023, the validity of all residence permits, work permits and confirmations of the possibility of filling vacant

positions was extended until two months after the state of emergency declared in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and the war in Ukraine in 2022 was lifted. The revocation of the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic on 15 September 2023 impacted the eligibility of some foreigners to stay in the Slovak Republic, since during the state of emergency from 2020 certain groups of foreigners could stay in the country without valid residence permits.



KEY POINTS

The revocation of the state of emergency in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic on 15 September 2023 impacted the eligibility of foreigners to stay in the Slovak Republic, since during the emergency period from 2020 certain groups of foreigners could stay in the country without valid residence permits.

In October 2023, the Slovak Republic approved the National Programme for Combating Human Trafficking 2024-2028, which also relates to migration and foreigners.

The Focus of Bilateral Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic 2023 identified the humanitarian crisis caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine as one of the biggest challenges.



LEGAL MIGRATION

In 2023, the Slovak Republic continued to simplify administrative procedures for third-country nationals working or planning to work or study in the country. According to the [Government Manifesto of the Slovak Republic 2023-2027](#), 'in order to solve the availability of labour force in objectively insufficient professions, [the Slovak Republic] will adopt clear rules for obtaining work permits for foreigners, removing existing obstacles to the recognition of qualifications and other administrative barriers'.

In 2023, an amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreigners was submitted to the interdepartmental commenting procedure.

Work-related migration

From January 2023, the amendment to the Act on Employment Services simplified the conditions for the entry of labour force from non-European Union (EU) countries into the Slovak labour market.

In addition to the national visas introduced in 2022 for simplified employment of people from non-EU countries, two government regulations were approved in 2023 in relation to granting national visas to other selected groups of third-country nationals:

- From 6 April 2023, quotas were established of 150 national visas for bus drivers and 5 000 national visas for drivers of heavy goods vehicles or trucks (international and domestic transport);
- From 3 October 2023, a quota was set of 2 000 national visas for selected occupations from industry per calendar year.

Students and researchers

In 2023, the Slovak Republic approved the [National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2030 - Slovakia That Believes in Itself](#). The Strategy contains two measures related to foreigners:

- Supporting international mobility of researchers – this aims to attract foreign researchers through short-term and long-term support in the form of scholarships, as well as developing international cooperation between organisations from the academic and non-academic environment;
- Supporting socio-cultural integration of foreign university students, thereby increasing the likelihood of retaining highly qualified talents already studying in the Slovak Republic.

In 2023, the Slovak Republic launched the first year of the [scholarship scheme](#) for talented scholars from abroad for the academic year 2023-2024.

Family reunification

From 1 January 2023, a third-country national granted temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification can work in the Slovak Republic after nine

months (previously 12 months) of continuous residence in the country. The adjustment simplifies their entry into the labour market.

Information provision

No significant developments to report in 2023.

Other developments

The Agreement between the Slovak Republic and Canada on Youth Mobility allowed a reciprocal quota of 350 participants for 2023 (the same as in 2022).



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Legislative and policy developments

In 2023, two amendments to the Act on Asylum entered into force. In line with a declaration of unconstitutionality by the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, they repealed the provisions enabling refusal of asylum for the purpose of family reunification or failure to provide additional protection based on a negative opinion of the intelligence services. The regulation aimed to provide asylum seekers with sufficient guarantees on the possibility of reviewing the Ministry of the Interior's decision, as well as a fair process in the administrative judiciary.

From 1 January 2023, healthcare for asylum applicants, applicants for temporary protection, and people in the assisted voluntary returns programme is covered through the health insurance company with the largest number of insured persons. The costs are then reimbursed by the Ministry of Health (previously covered by the Ministry of the Interior). This is not an extension of the scope of healthcare, but, rather, an administrative change simplifying the implementation of reimbursement for applicants and healthcare providers.

Relocation, resettlement, humanitarian admission and other pathways to protection

No significant developments to report in 2023.



TEMPORARY PROTECTION AND OTHER MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO RUSSIA'S WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

In 2023, a number of measures were introduced in relation to beneficiaries of temporary protection (BoTP), building on measures in 2022.

An updated [Contingency Plan of the Slovak Republic for dealing with the emergency context of the mass arrival of people from Ukraine into the territory of the Slovak Republic for the period July-December 2023](#) was adopted.

In accordance with [Council Decision 2022/382](#), the provision of temporary protection was extended until

4 March 2024. Due to the decreasing number of people requesting temporary protection, large-capacity centres were gradually closed during 2023 and the registration of temporary protection was transferred to the Foreign Police Departments.

The provision of accommodation allowances to BoTP was extended in 2023, with a lower amount approved for 2024.

From January 2023, the provision of healthcare for children provided with temporary protection until their 19th birthday was adjusted to include the same scope of healthcare provided under public health insurance. The provision of healthcare to adult beneficiaries was similarly adjusted in September 2023.

Several national projects provided advice and assistance to BoTP on labour market integration, social assistance and support, or integration of pupils and students into schools. Assistance was also provided to beneficiaries with disabilities or unaccompanied minors.

There was continued cooperation with municipalities and the non-governmental sector to provide services.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

No significant developments to report in 2023.



INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

National integration strategy

No significant developments to report in 2023.

Basic services

In 2023, the Minister of Education approved a new [State Educational Programme for Primary Education](#), which, for the first time, contains educational standards for teaching Slovak as a second language.

In October 2023, the government prepared the [Manifesto of the Slovak Republic 2023-2027](#). One of its short-term priorities is to consider amending the School Act to introduce compulsory school attendance for children of foreigners and improve the conditions for education of adult foreigners who use services and benefit from public sources. It will include the possibility for foreigners to learn Slovak as a second language.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Acquisition of citizenship

No significant developments to report in 2023.

Statelessness

No significant developments to report in 2023.



BORDERS, VISA AND SCHENGEN

In 2023, the government temporarily reintroduced internal border controls with Hungary at various times, in accordance with the [Schengen Borders Code](#) and the [Act on the Residence of Foreigners](#). This reflected increased pressure of irregular migration across the Slovak-Hungarian border.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

In 2023, irregular migration in the Slovak Republic reached new heights, with an increase in transit irregular migration from the Western Balkans route. At 46 259 foreigners, transit migration accounted for 97.2% of total irregular migration, placing strain on the national migration management system.

Monitoring and identifying irregular migration routes

Due to high migratory pressure from the Western Balkans route, there was an intensive exchange of information with neighbouring EU Member States during 2023, at both analytical and operational level. Information was also exchanged at EU level.

Combating facilitation of unauthorised entry (migrant smuggling)

A decrease in secondary transit migration was recorded in the Slovak Republic at the end of 2023, primarily due to Serbian authorities' decisive measures at the Serbian-Hungarian border. The Slovak Republic and other EU Member States also implemented several measures at their own internal borders, including the introduction of controls.

A measure temporarily extended the jurisdiction of the Border and Foreign Police Service to district and regional criminal units of the Police Force.

To combat smuggling, the police forces and judiciary of the Slovak Republic continued to cooperate intensively with Europol and Eurojust activities. In 2023, the Slovak Republic was a member of a joint investigation team to identify and prosecute organised smuggling groups.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In October 2023, the Slovak Republic approved the [National Programme for Combating Human Trafficking 2024-2028](#), which also relates to migration and foreigners.

In 2023, the Slovak Republic published the [Analysis of Human Trafficking for the purpose of Labour Exploitation](#), distinguishing between trafficking in human beings

for the purpose of forced labour and poor working conditions.

From 1 December 2023, [the Information Centre for Combating Human Trafficking and Crime Prevention of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic](#) was abolished as a facility of the Ministry of the Interior. It was then re-established under the same name as a new unit within the Department of Crime Prevention of the Ministry of the Interior.



RETURN AND READMISSION

Main national developments

Following the lifting of the COVID-19 emergency on 15 September 2023, return decisions were issued to groups of third-country nationals who had been unable to leave within the set deadline. Foreigners who were previously protected during the emergency situation lost their legal protection and could be subject to return decisions, increasing beneficiaries of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme.

Cooperation with third countries

The Slovak Republic joined the Readmission Case Management System (RCMS) with Georgia.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2023, Ukraine was the main recipient of the official humanitarian assistance of the Slovak Republic, as in the previous year. Since the outbreak of Russia's war of aggression in February 2022, the amount of assistance has reached almost € 16 million (€ 7 million in 2023).

[The Focus of Bilateral Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic 2023](#) identified the humanitarian crisis caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine as one of the biggest challenges. It confirmed the goal of tackling the causes of forced migration as close as possible to the countries of origin of applicants for international protection, so that refugees can find protection closest to their homes. In addition to conflicts, it highlighted climate change as the source of forced migration.

As a priority, the Slovak Republic continued to introduce multi-year strategic partnerships for the implementation of development projects. A new strategic partnership was created in Moldova (previously, such a partnership had only existed with Kenya since 2022). The Slovak Republic aims to become more involved in the implementation of EU development cooperation instruments through delegated cooperation and coordinated Team Europe initiatives.

Efforts continued to involve the business sector in development cooperation. In 2023, the validity of the Medium-Term Development Cooperation Strategy of the Slovak Republic 2019-2023 was prolonged by one year. The new medium-term strategy will be submitted to the Government for approval during 2024.



STATISTICAL ANNEX

The statistical annex available on the next pages complements the Country Factsheet and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for the 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 regard third-country nationals, which means persons who are not EU citizens, including stateless persons. The data cover the period 2020-2023. Since 2023 data were not available at the time of publication for certain datasets, in these cases the

period 2020-2022 is covered. Exceptionally, the monthly data on temporary protection covers the period until March 2024. **The data were extracted during April–May 2024. The manuscript was completed in May 2024.**

The Eurostat website is constantly updated. Therefore, it is likely that more recent data will have become available since. An online data code available under each figure can be used to directly access the latest data on [Eurostat's website](#).

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.

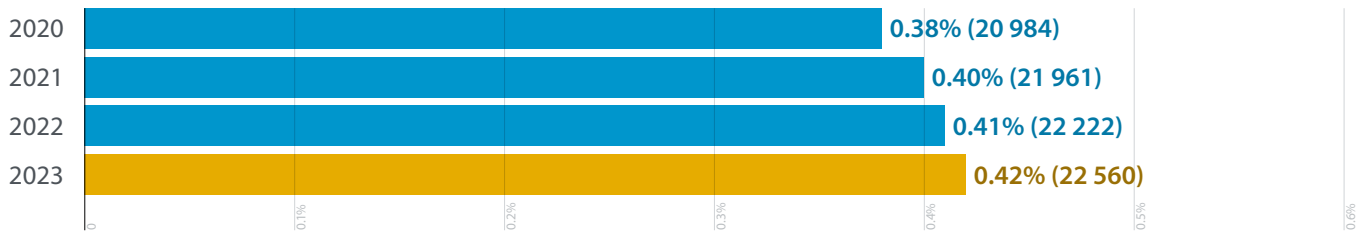
A 'How to read the statistical annex' guide, describing each individual chart and providing links to the data sources, is available [here](#).



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

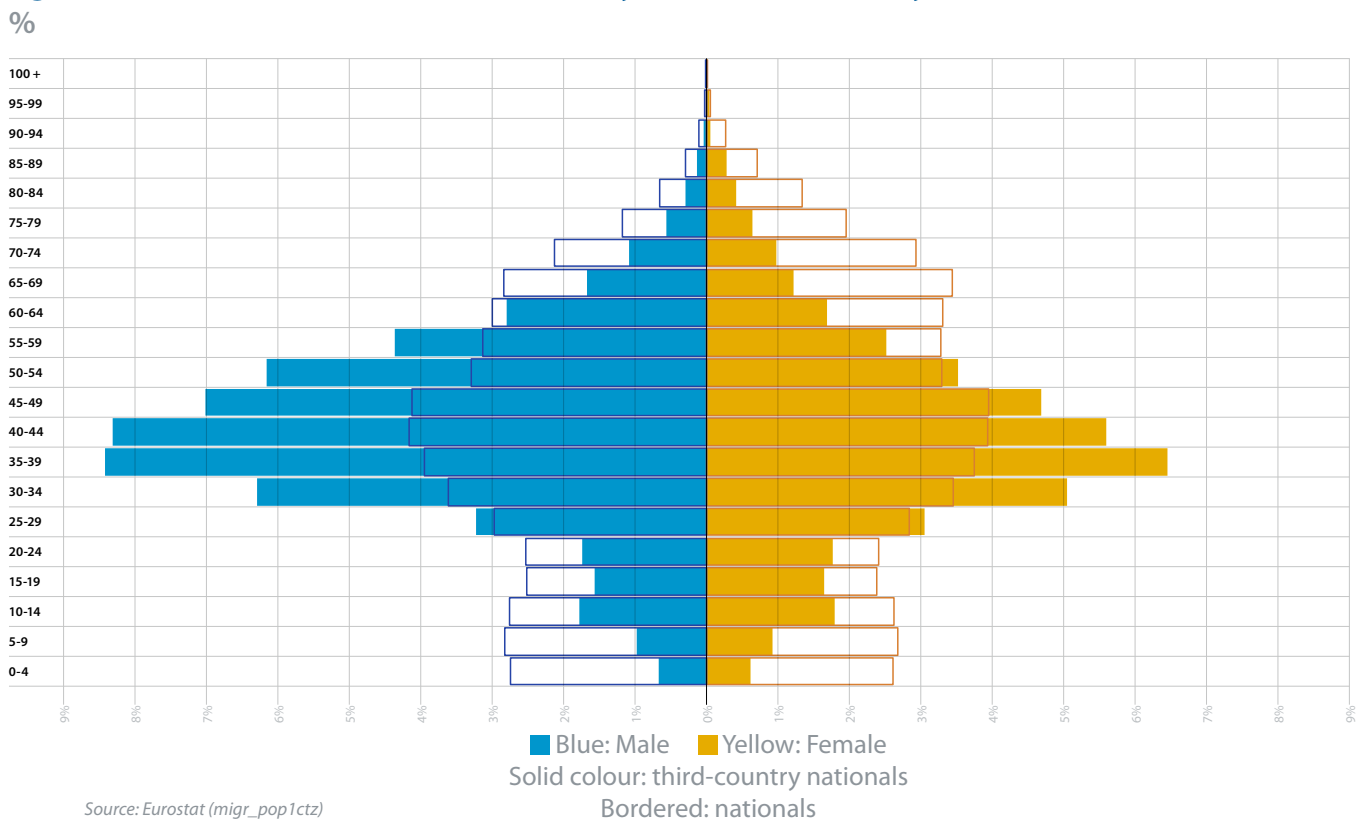
Third-country nationals, 1 January 2020–2023

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



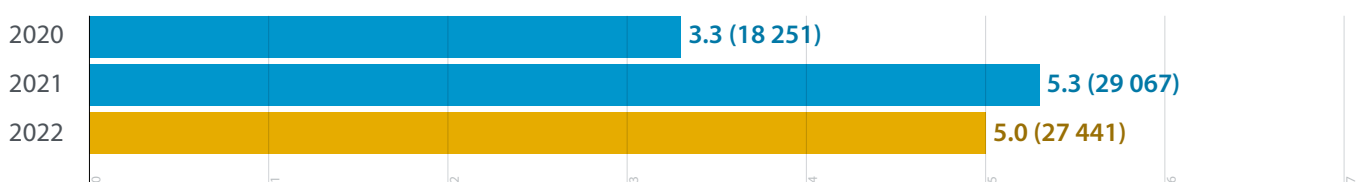
Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Age structure of nationals and third-country nationals, 1 January 2023



First residence permits issued to third-country nationals, 2020–2022

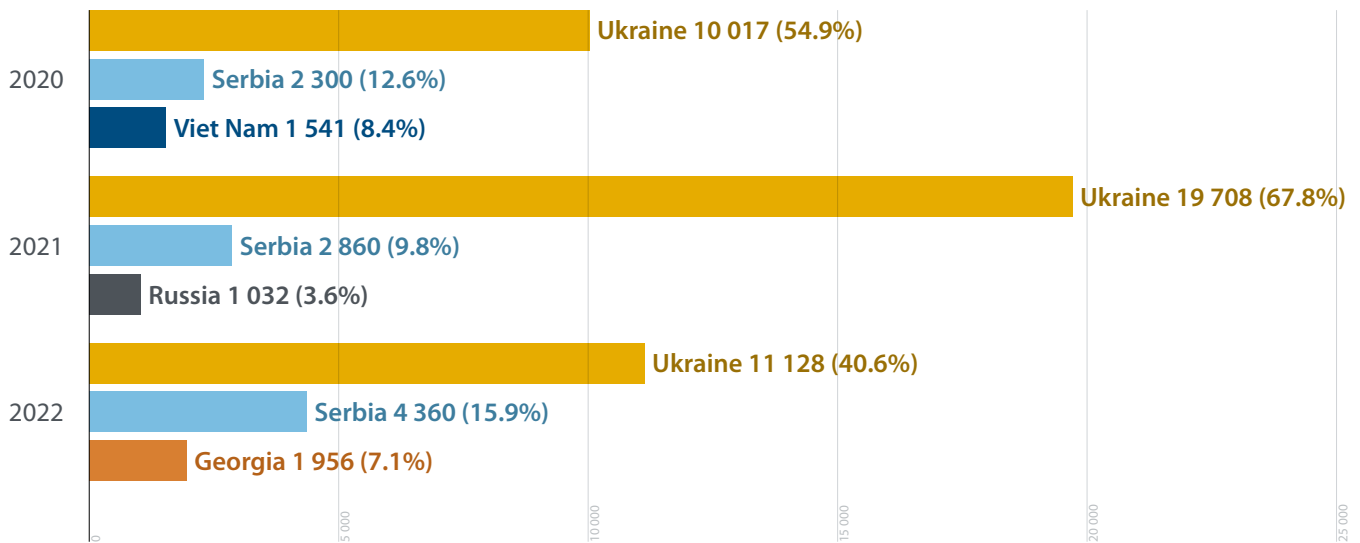
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_pop1ctz and migr_respop)

Top 3 countries whose citizens received first residence permits, 2020–2022

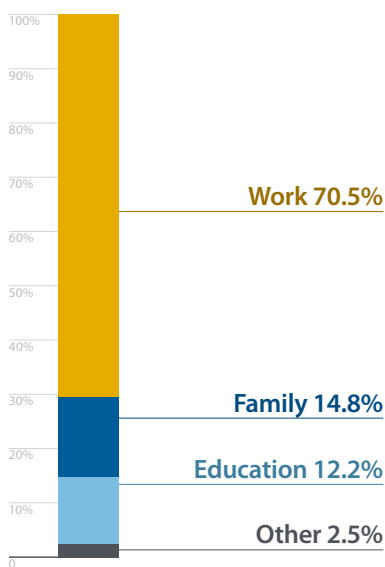
Absolute number (and the share in total number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2022

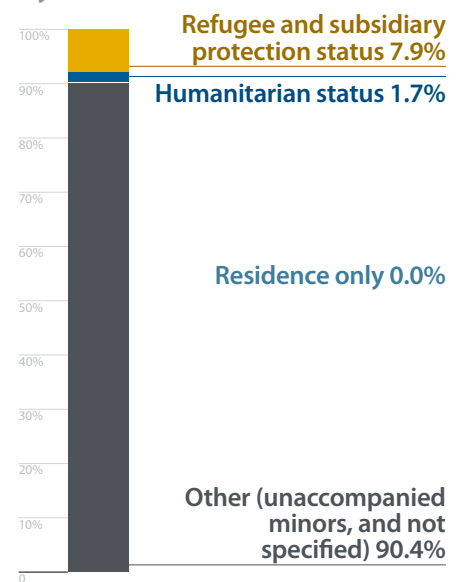
All permits,
by reason, %



Work reason,
by type, %



Other reason,
by detailed reason, %



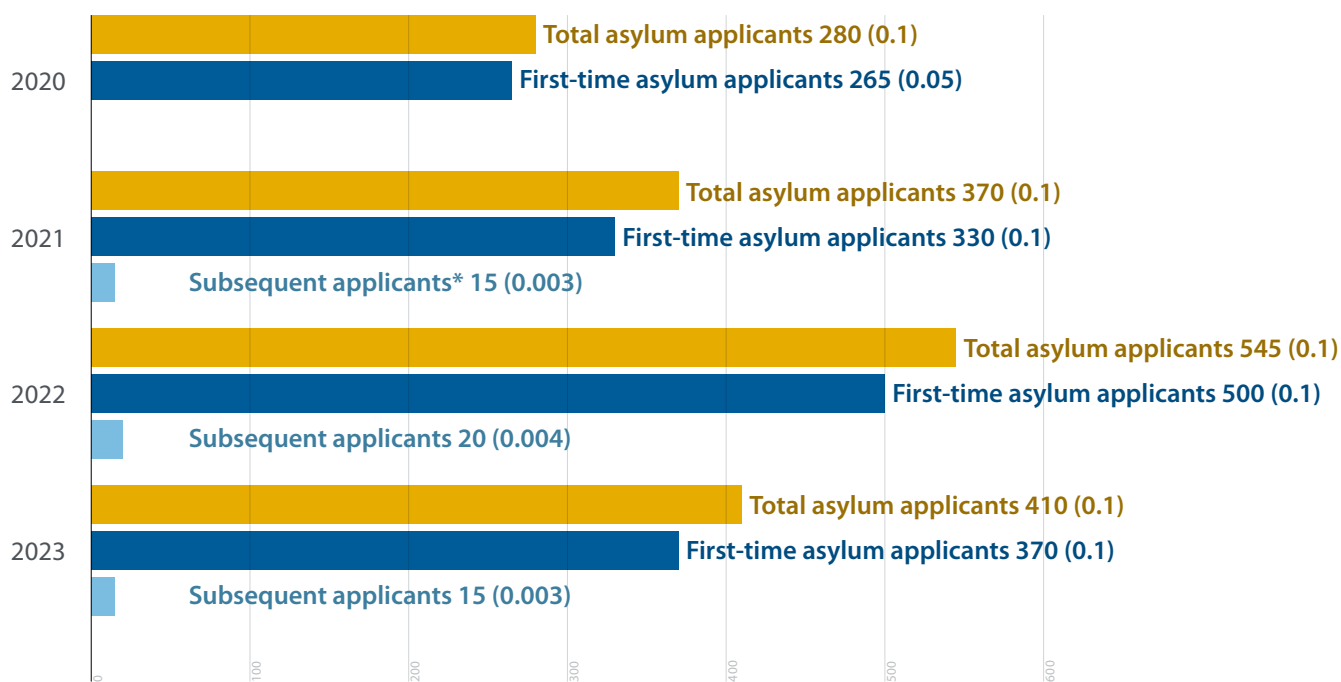
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_resfpc, migr_resocc and migr_resoth)



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants by type of application, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

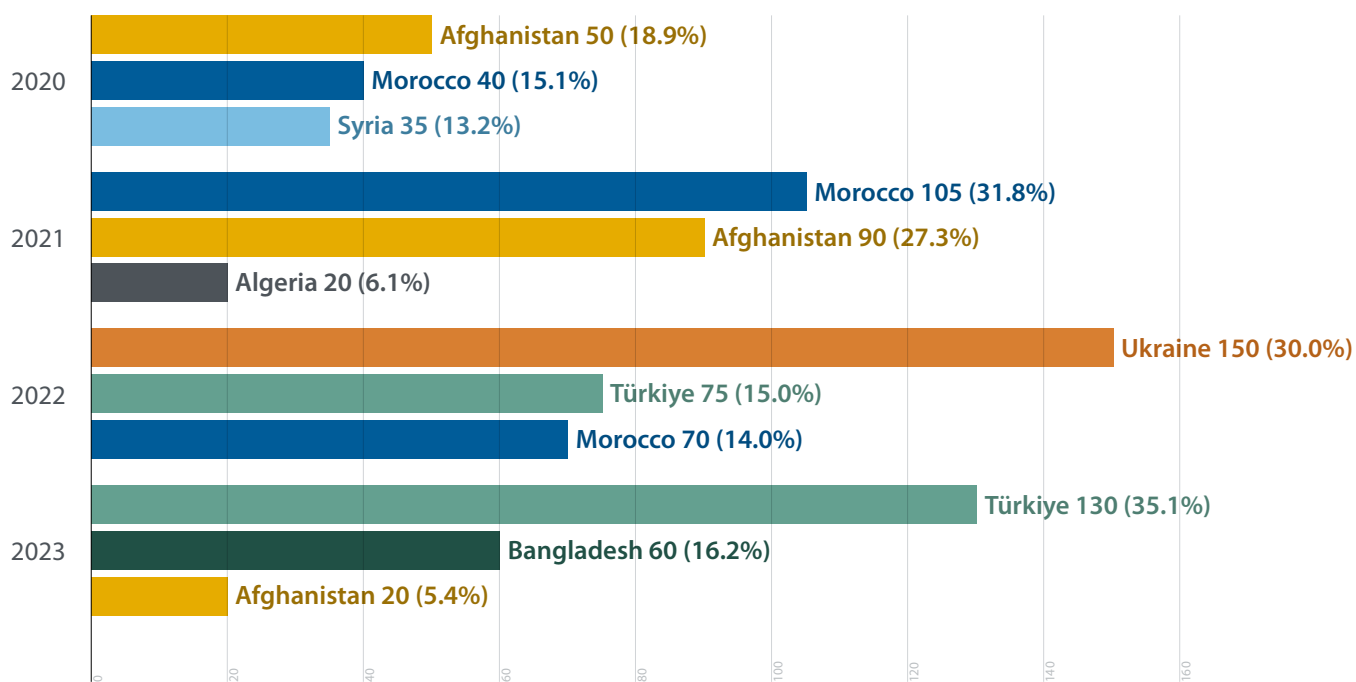


* Data collection from 2021.

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz and migr_asyapp1mp)

Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2020–2023

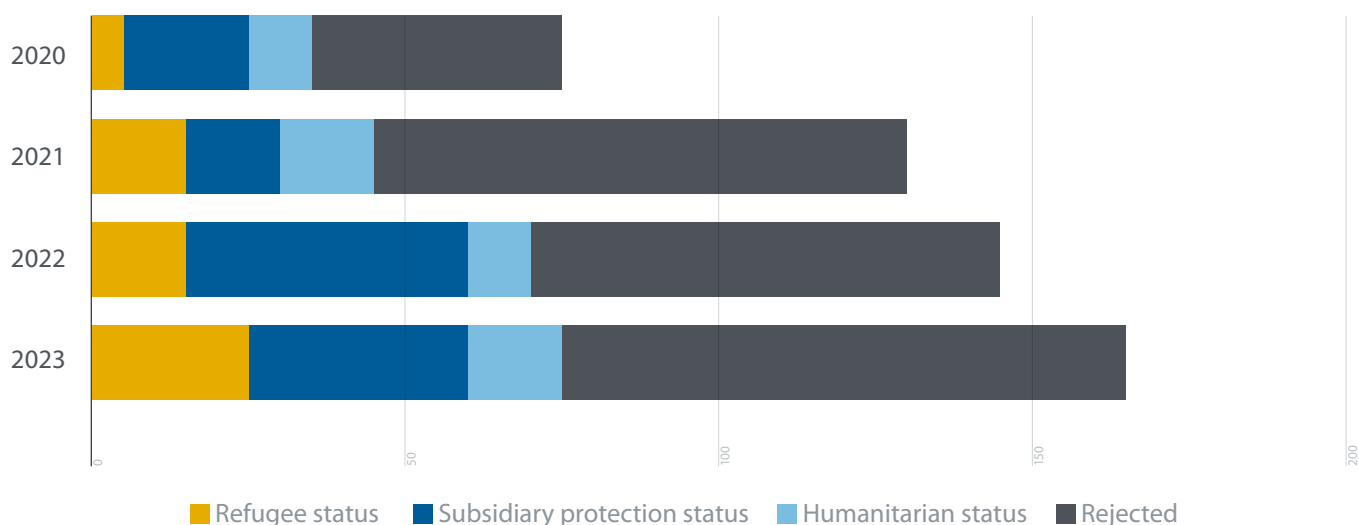
Absolute number (and the share in total number of first-time applicants)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)

First instance asylum decisions by outcome, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)

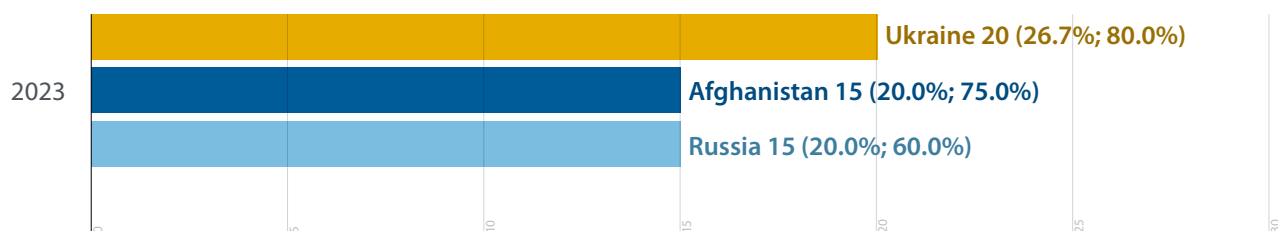


Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2020	5 (7.6%)	20 (27.8%)	10 (12.7%)	40 (51.9%)
2021	15 (12.5%)	15 (10.2%)	15 (11.7%)	85 (65.6%)
2022	15 (10.8%)	45 (29.7%)	10 (8.1%)	75 (51.4%)
2023	25 (14.5%)	35 (21.8%)	15 (10.3%)	90 (53.3%)

Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfst and migr_asydec1pc)

Top 3 countries of citizenship granted positive asylum decisions at first instance, 2023

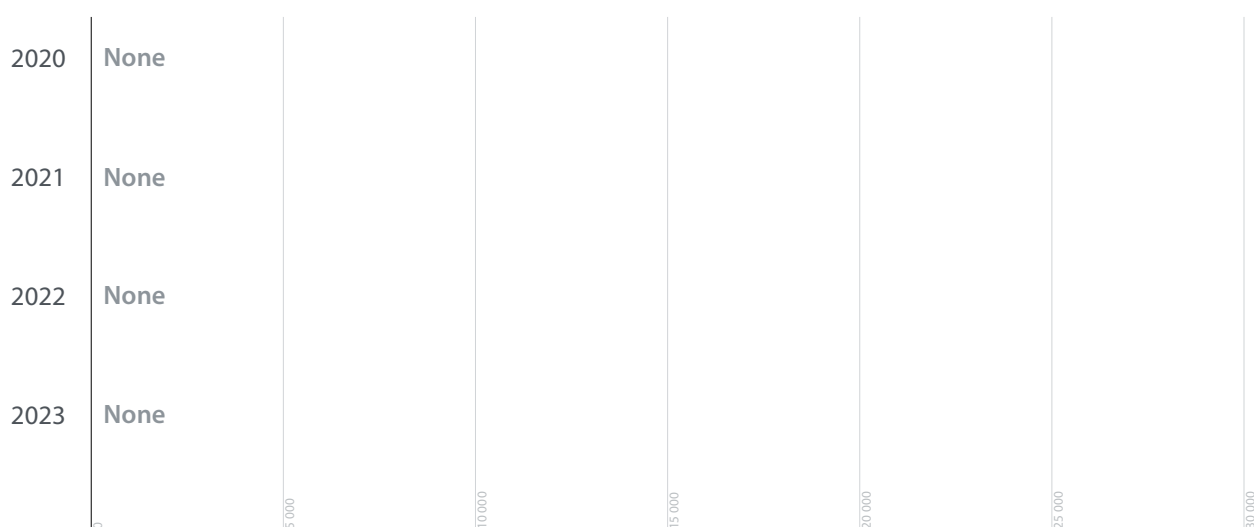
Absolute number (and the share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfst)

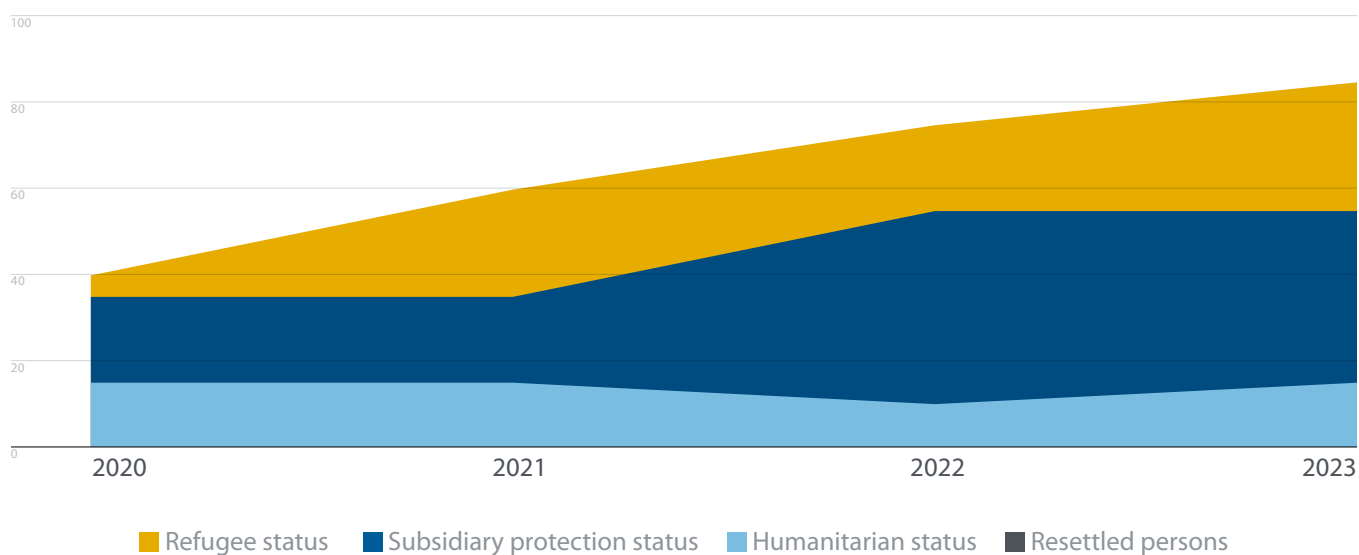
Resettled third-country nationals by sex, 2020–2023

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



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)

Number of positive decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2020–2023



Year	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection status	Humanitarian status	Resettled persons
2020	5	20	15	0
2021	25	20	15	0
2022	20	45	10	0
2023	30	40	15	0

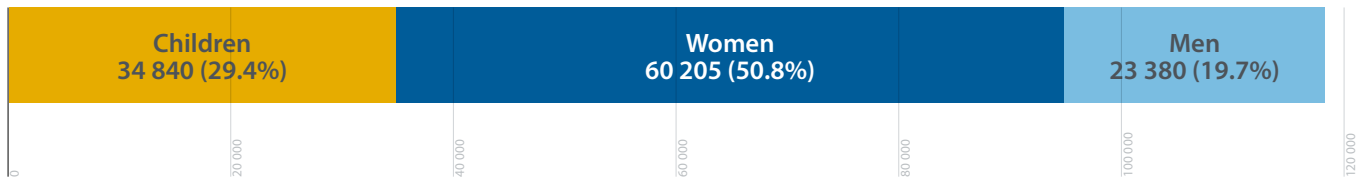
Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta, migr_asydcfina and migr_asyresa)



TEMPORARY PROTECTION

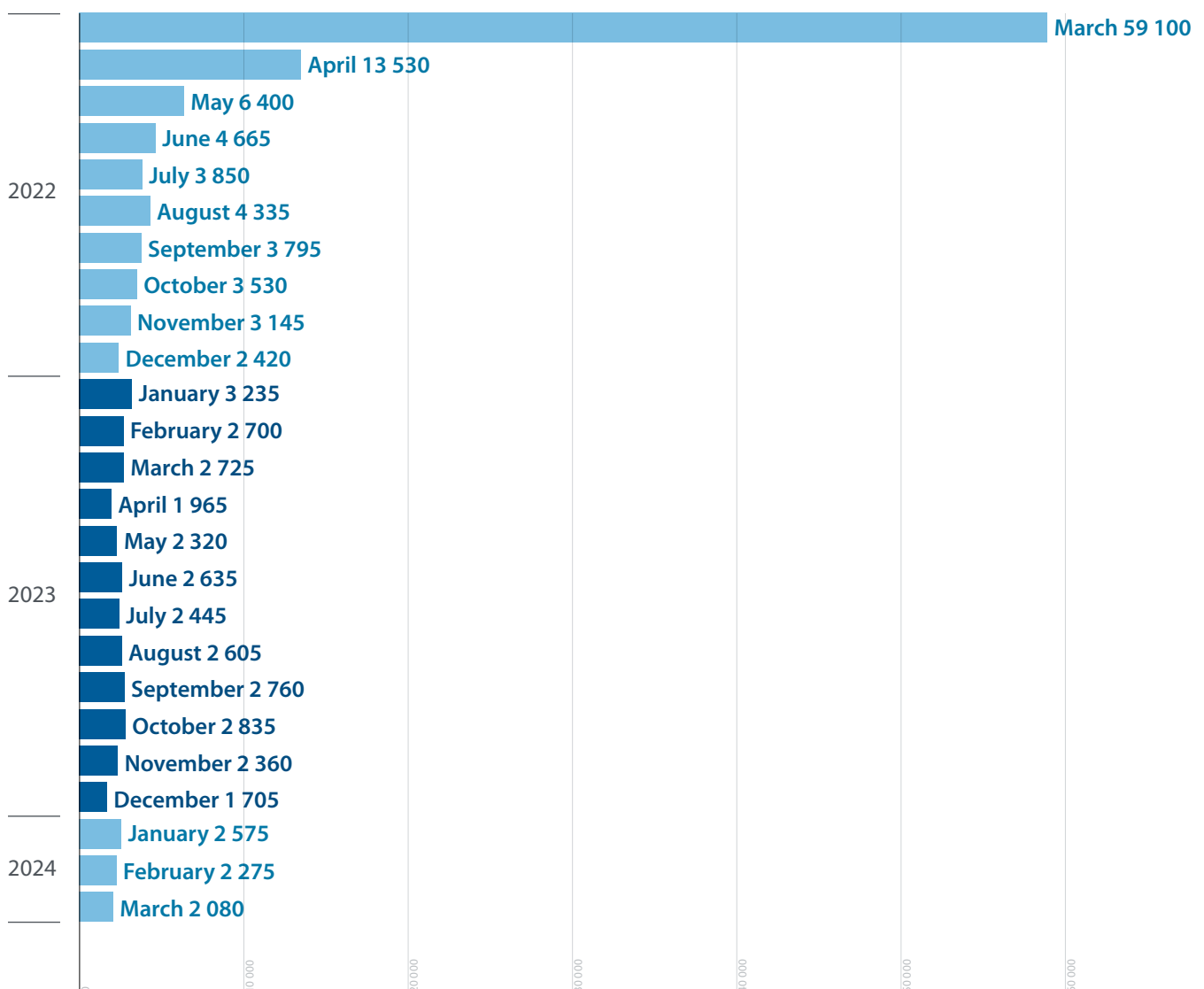
Beneficiaries of temporary protection by age and sex at the end of March 2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



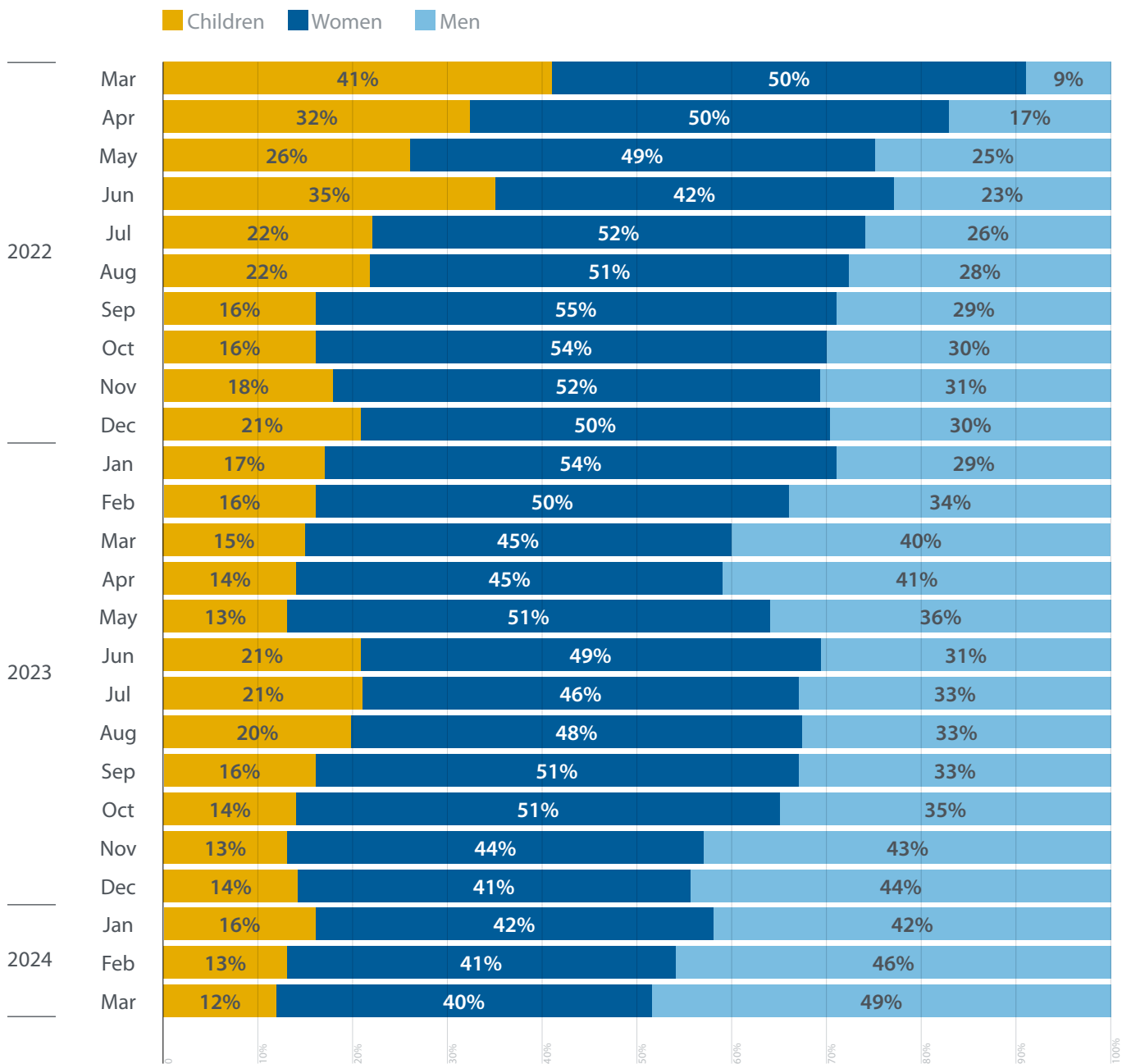
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpsm)

Number of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2024



Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpfm)

Distribution by age and sex of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2024



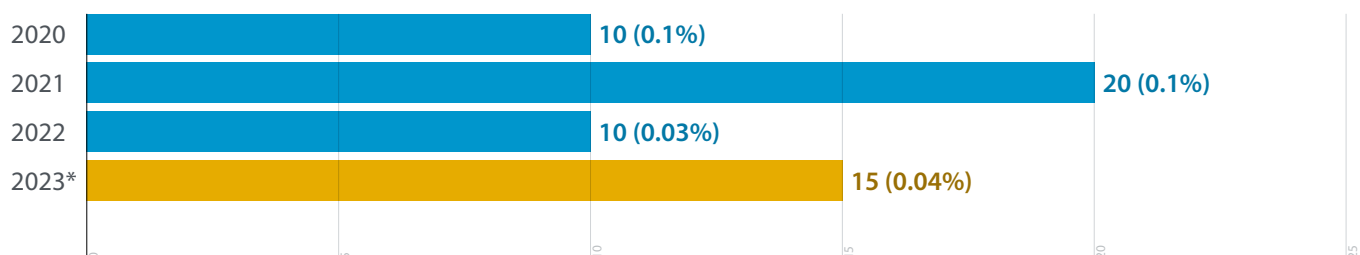
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpfm)



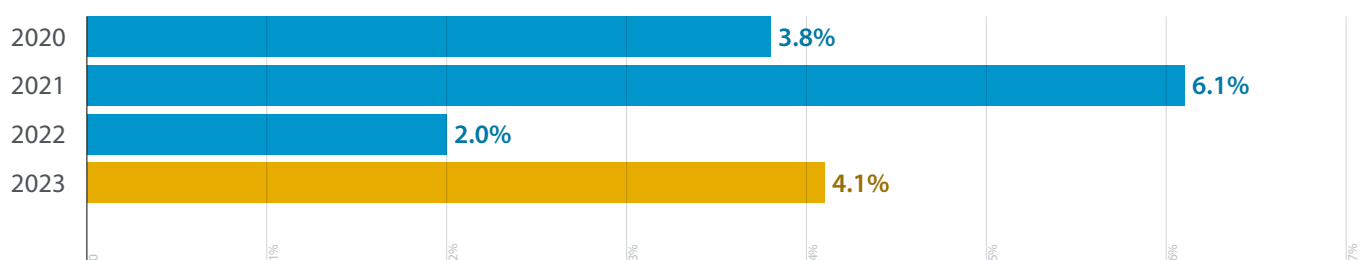
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum, 2020–2023

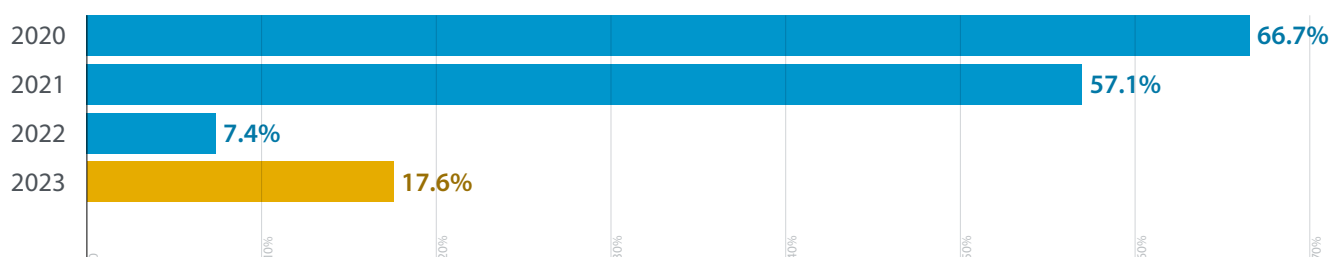
Number (and the share in total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU)



Share of all first-time asylum applicants



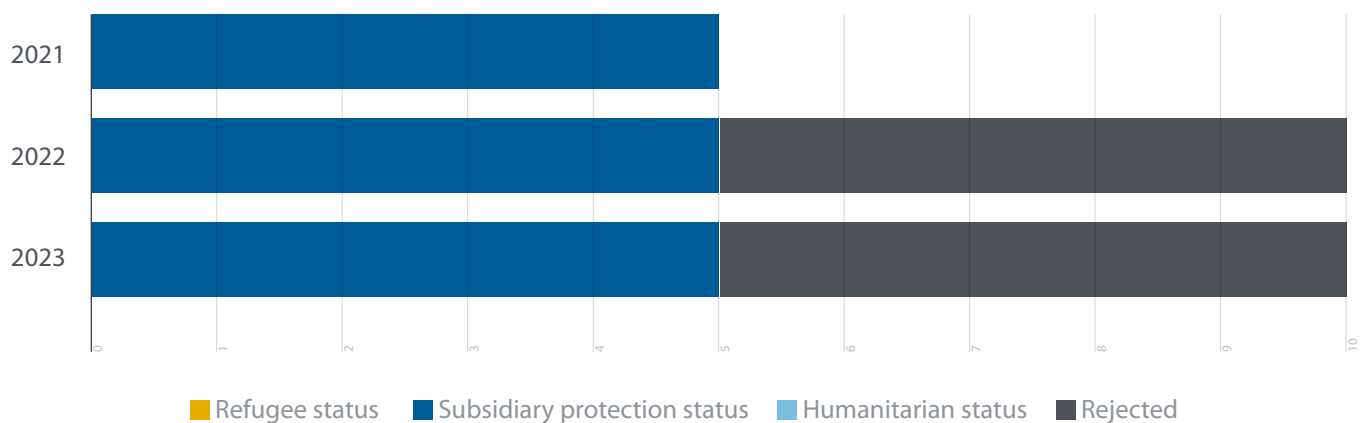
Share of all first-time asylum applicants aged less than 18 years



* The total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU used to calculate the share includes 2022 data for Cyprus.
Source: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa and migr_asyappctza)

First instance asylum decisions on applications lodged by unaccompanied minors by outcome, 2021-2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



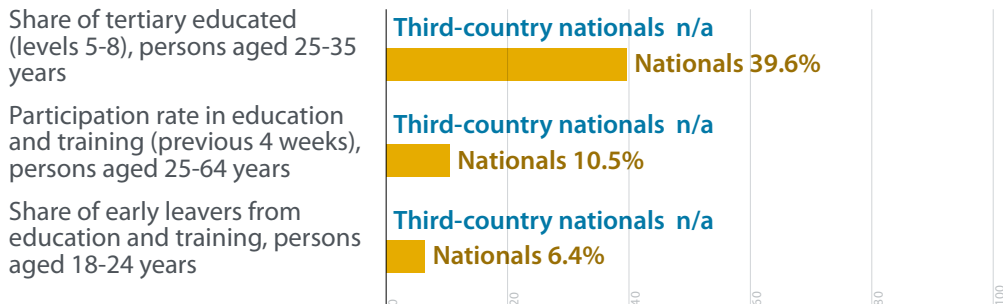
Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2021	0 (0.0%)	5 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
2022	0 (0.0%)	5 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (50.0%)
2023	0 (0.0%)	5 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (50.0%)

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyumdca)

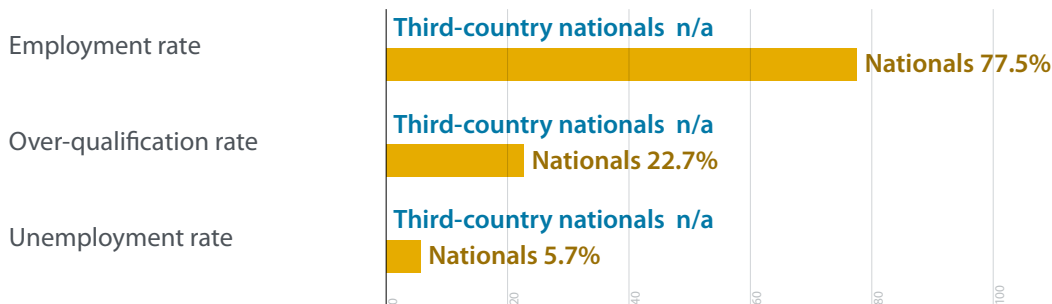
INTEGRATION

Integration indicators, 2022 or 2023

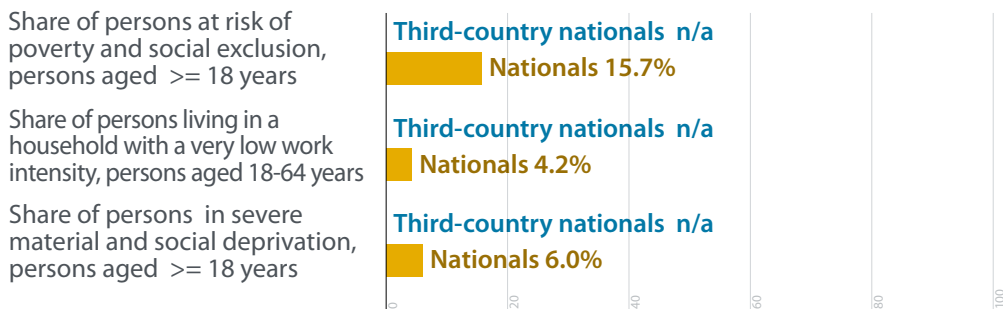
Education, 2023



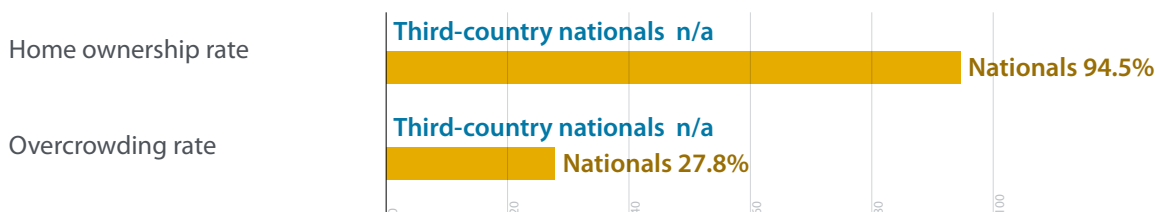
Labour market, persons aged 20-64 years, 2023



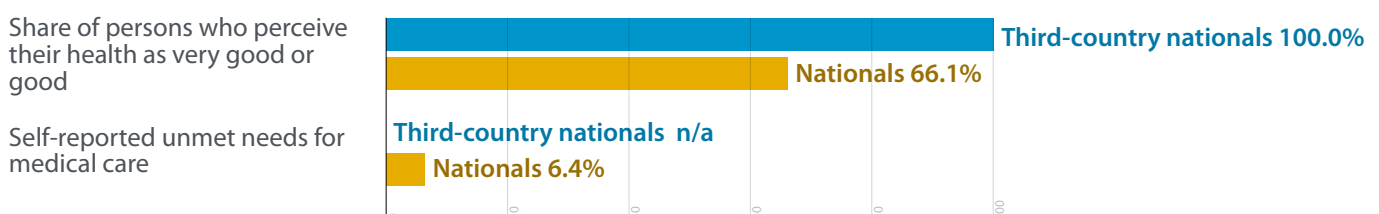
Social inclusion, 2023



Housing, persons aged >= 18 years, 2023



Health, persons aged >= 16 years, 2022





CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2020–2022

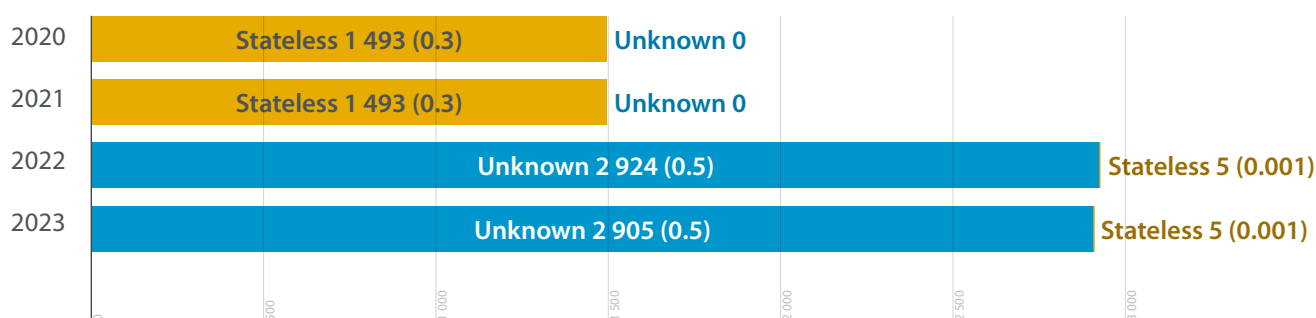
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



Source: Eurostat (migr_acq and migr_pop1ctz)

Stateless persons and persons with unknown citizenship, 2020–2023

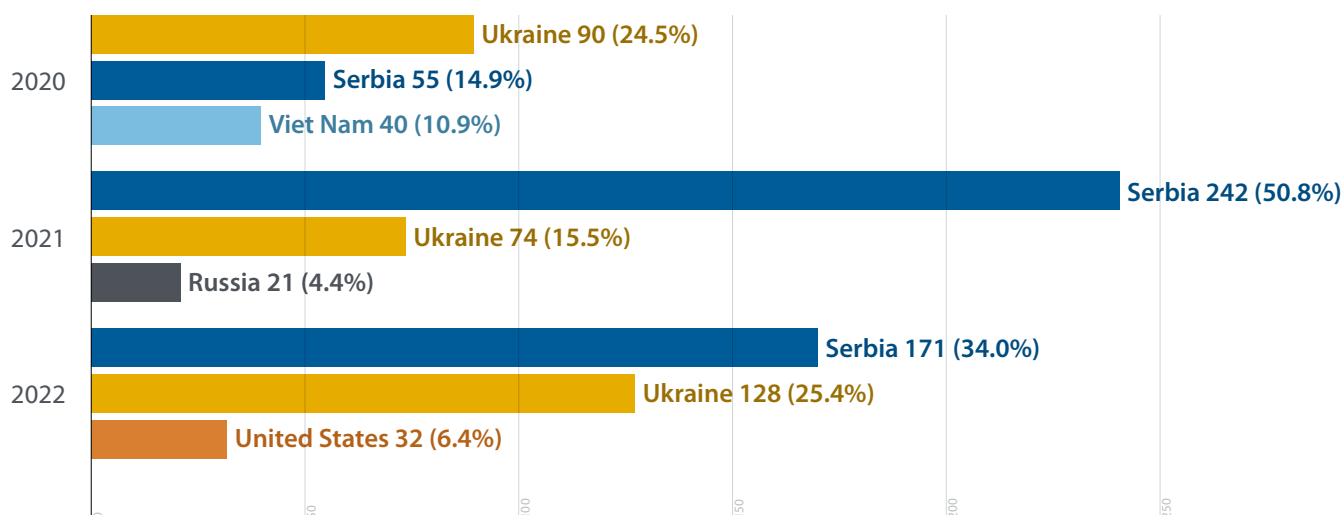
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Top 3 countries of previous non-EU citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship, 2020–2022

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

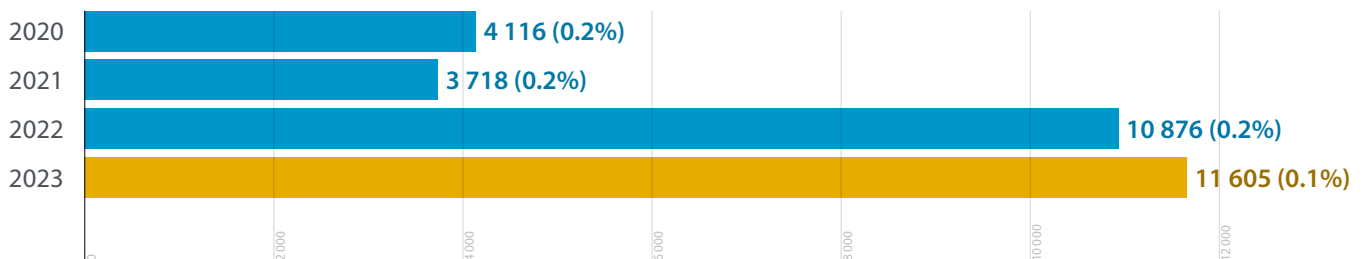


Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Schengen uniform short-stay visas issued, 2020–2023

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

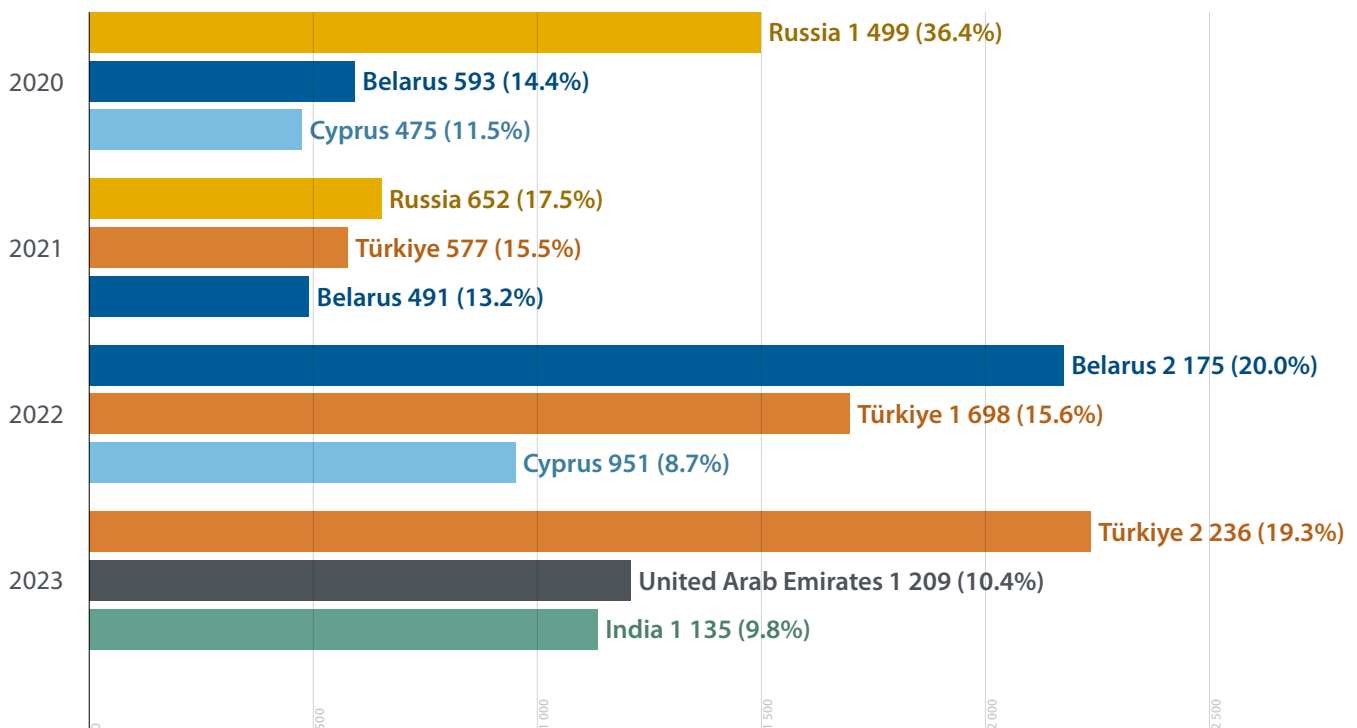


Note: Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple entries.

Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

Three consulate countries in which the most Schengen uniform short-stay visas were issued, 2020–2023

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.

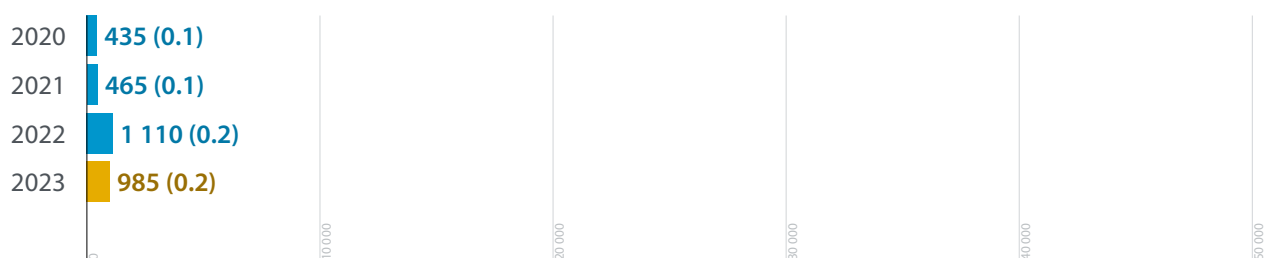
Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

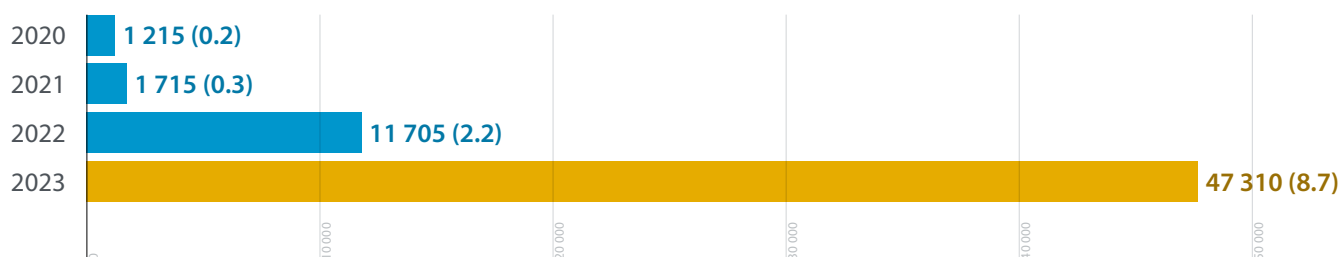
Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

Persons refused entry



Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country



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

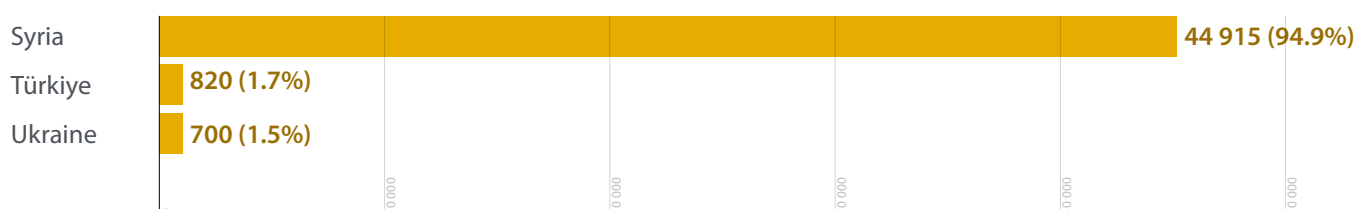
Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2023

Absolute numbers (and the shares in the respective totals)

Persons refused entry



Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

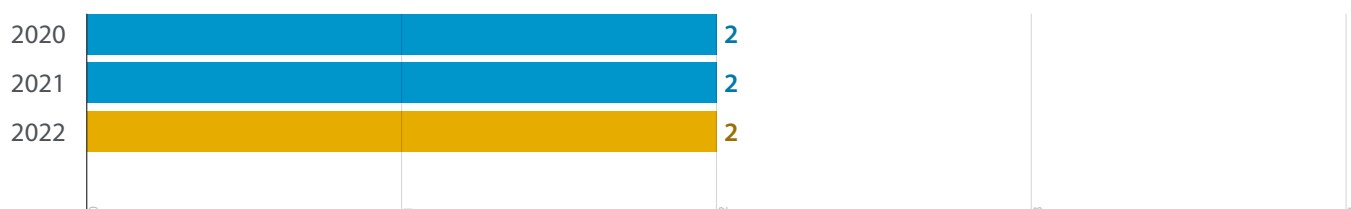


Source: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord and migr_eirtn)



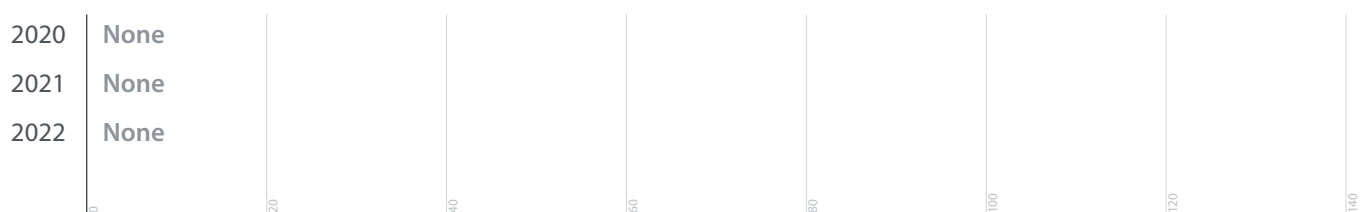
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of third-country nationals victims of trafficking in human beings, 2020-2022



Source: Eurostat (crim_thb_vctz)

Number of first residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings, 2020-2022

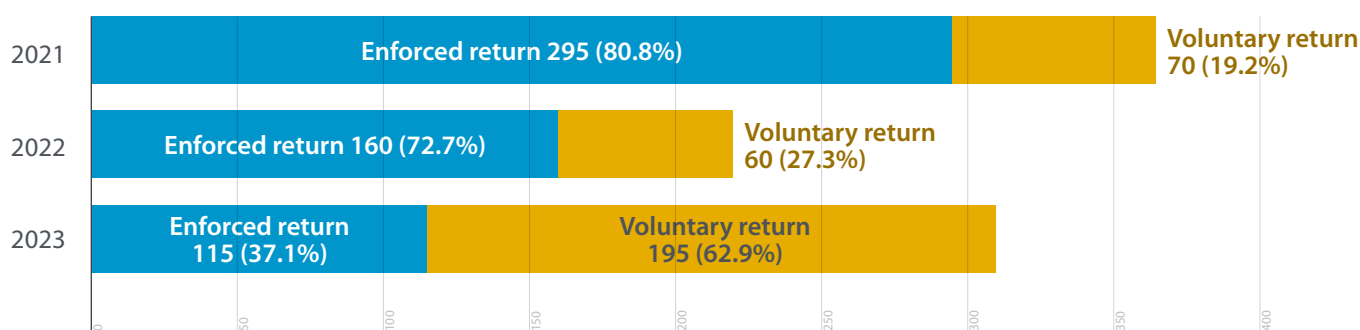


Source: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

RETURN AND READMISSION

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of return, 2021–2023

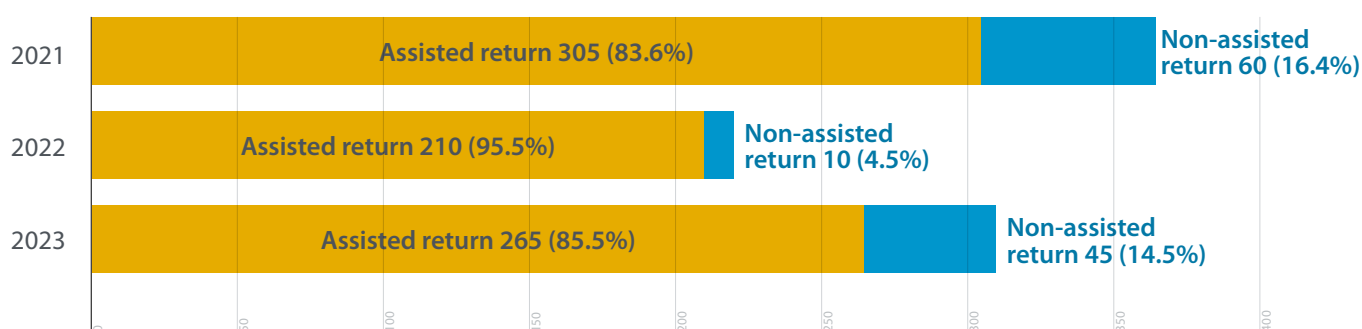
Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat (migr_eirtn1)

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of assistance received, 2021–2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat (migr_eirtn1)