

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

2019

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING LATEST STATISTICS

The Slovak Republic began to update its 'Migration policy with outlook until 2020' for the next five-year period. Work also began on updating the 'Integration policy of the Slovak Republic' with focus on labour market integration. Legislative changes in the area of migration took place through the amended Act on residence of foreigners and the Act on employment services. There were no organisational or institutional changes directly related to migration of third-country nationals, nor was any EU legislation transposed.



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

WORK-RELATED MIGRATION

The Slovak Republic continued to implement the measures listed in its 2018 [Strategy for Labour Mobility of Foreigners](#), in the context of the low unemployment rate and continued demand for a labour force from abroad. The number of first applications for temporary residence for the purpose of employment continued to increase in 2019. The amended Act on residence of foreigners and Act on employment services allowed, among other measures, temporary employment agencies based in the Slovak Republic to assign third-country nationals to professions experiencing labour force shortages and to update the list of professions with a labour force shortage four times a year instead of annually.

OTHER MEASURES

The Slovak Republic continued to approve preventive measures in the event of a no-deal Brexit. The Slovak Republic further developed working holiday

KEY POINTS



The Slovak Republic implemented measures set out in its [Strategy for Labour Mobility of Foreigners](#) to address the continuous demand for labour.



The [National Strategy of Integrated Border Management 2019-2022](#) was adopted.



The [Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic 2019-2023](#) was approved.

programmes and launched a new online booking system at the foreign police. In the field of education, the Slovak Republic signed two agreements on mutual recognition of education certificates, one with the Russian Federation and the other with the People's Republic of China.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

The number of asylum seekers and decisions granting asylum granted remained low. The Slovak Republic did not pass any legislative changes related to international protection. The Ministry of the Interior's Migration Office (MO) - responsible for international protection and the refugee integration agenda - paid increased attention to the safety and human rights of individuals in its asylum facilities. The MO prepared an internal methodology for social workers, 'Social workers' competence to avoid and solve critical situations'. Steps were taken to provide interpretation

services more quickly and to enhance the number of languages available. The Supreme Court and Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic issued several decisions on international protection provision.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Following the 2018 legislative amendment, the foster home *Dlaň* for unaccompanied minors in Medzilaborce was transformed into a Children and Family Centre (CFC) on 1 January 2019. Measures adopted (partly as a result of increased numbers of unaccompanied minors) improved the material and personal conditions in the CFC. The position of a cultural mediator was also created.

Where there are doubts about the age of a migrant, a bone examination shall be carried out to determine their age before their placement in the CFC. This measure helped to partially eliminate the long-term problem of migrant placement in cases where their minor status could not be clearly proven.

The Expert Commission for the Support of Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups in Education, Work and Society was established as an advisory body within the structure of the National Council of the Slovak Republic's Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and National Minorities.



INTEGRATION

INTEGRATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family began to update the national integration policy, focusing on foreigners' integration into the labour market.

NON-DISCRIMINATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING

The Slovak Republic began to prepare the 'Concept of combating radicalisation and extremism 2020-2024'. The MO and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) organised several public information events to improve general awareness of migration and to prevent discrimination.

PROMOTING INTEGRATION AT LOCAL LEVEL

Some self-governing authorities, as well as cities, became more actively involved in foreigner integration activities. The municipal office in Bratislava, for

instance, fostered active communication with civil society organisations working in the field of migrant integration.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

The Slovak Republic did not adopt any significant changes related to citizenship of third-country nationals or stateless persons.

As of 1 December 2019, the Act on state citizenship simplified the administrative process for third-country nationals applying for citizenship.



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

BORDER MANAGEMENT

The Slovak Republic adopted the '[National Strategy of Integrated Border Management 2019-2022](#)'. The Strategy contains several objectives in the area of European integrated border management. The Slovak Republic continued to cooperate with the operation and search border unit of Ukraine, based on the 'Plan of development of cooperation between the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium and the State Border Service of Ukraine for 2019-2020'.

VISA POLICY

Although there was a slight increase in visa issuance compared to 2018, it was markedly lower than in 2015- 2017. No significant policy developments occurred within this area.

SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE

European Commission experts undertook the third evaluation of the correct and full application of the Schengen *acquis*. The evaluation covered returns, personal data protection in the visa process, and visa policy.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

2019 saw a decrease in the number of irregular migration cases, with fewer cases of state border

crossings and irregular residence. The number of irregular entries through the external land border with Ukraine decreased, while secondary transit migration from the territory of Hungary increased.

Several measures were adopted to increase the competence and effectiveness of police officers in detecting forged and altered documents.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The new [National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2019-2023](#) – and its accompanying action plan – came into effect in 2019. The main objective is to introduce a coordinated system to reduce this type of criminal activity. The Expert Group for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was moved directly under the State Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior. A regular sub-working group was established, comprising Ministry of the Interior representatives, non-governmental sector representatives and invited experts.

A third round of evaluation of implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings was launched.

The Slovak Republic created a network of information offices for victims of crimes, providing complex services and counselling also for human trafficking victims. Construction started on special interview rooms for child victims and other particularly vulnerable victims of crime. The Slovak Republic simplified access to the labour offices and Social Insurance Agency's offices for human trafficking victims, including third-country nationals located outside their place of permanent residence. Several training and prevention activities took place, including a national and European campaign. The number of human trafficking victims from third countries remained low in 2019 and the Slovak Republic did not implement any specific measures or activities in this regard.



RETURN AND READMISSION

There was a slight decrease in the overall number of returns from the territory of the Slovak Republic, although the number of assisted voluntary returns increased.

The Slovak Republic increased its participation in Frontex activities. Cooperation was strengthened with Vietnam and Sri Lanka on readmission and returns. Within the 'Voluntary return and reintegration in the country of origin' project, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched a new website (www.avr.iom.sk) for those seeking information on assisted voluntary return from the Slovak Republic.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Slovak Republic retained its long-term focus on development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. [The Medium-Term Strategy for the Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic 2019-2023](#) was approved, envisaging a manifold increase in official development assistance (ODA) by 2030. The strategy points to the need to deal with the causes of migration in countries of origin and transit by eliminating poverty, creating job opportunities, and enhancing food safety. The Slovak ODA was extended in the East Africa region, guided by its Focus on Bilateral Official Development Cooperation for 2019, as well as by the amended Act on development cooperation and the Act on export-import bank of the Slovak Republic.

The Slovak Republic participated in helping countries of origin and transit through SlovakAid, EU and UN mechanisms.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex was prepared by the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD). It provides an overview of the latest available statistics for the Slovak Republic on aspects of migration and international protection (2016-2019), including legal residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, integration, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics were not available at the time of publication, this is indicated in the Annex as 'N/A'. A How to Read guide, describing each chart and reporting the sources, is available [here](#).



GENERAL NOTES

This four-page statistical annex complements the Country Factsheet with relevant migration-related data organised in nine thematic sections. The dashboard-like layout of the annex allows comparability across countries as well as simultaneous visualisation of different indicators.

Whenever data is not available, the relative chart is left blank or indicated with 'N/A'. Data are provided for the latest available year or the latest available four-year period.

The sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value. This is due to rounding and confidence intervals in the original data. A How to Read guide, describing each chart and reporting the sources, is available on the EMN website.

COLOUR LEGEND

Whenever not specified, the following colour legend is adopted. Colours for multiple nationalities are randomly chosen.

■ data relative to Slovakia

■ data relative to EU

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

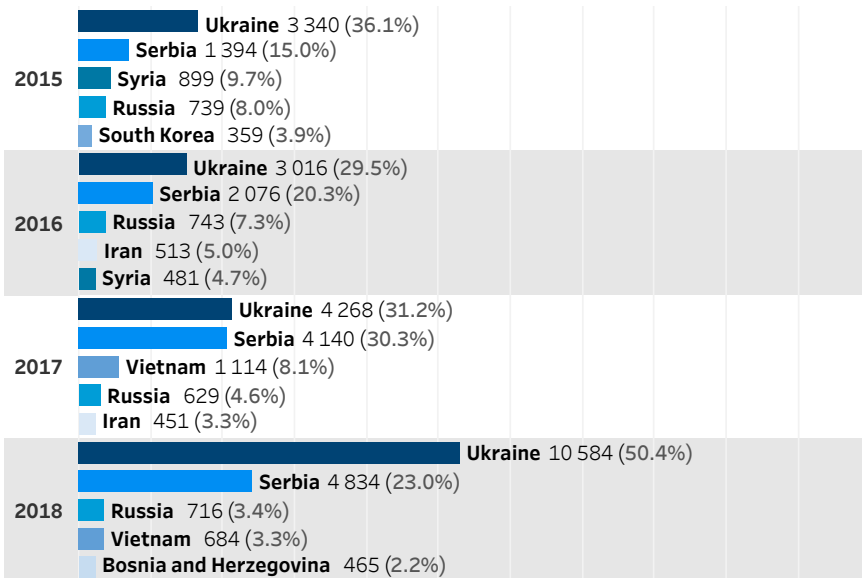
Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) as % of total population (in the country and in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)



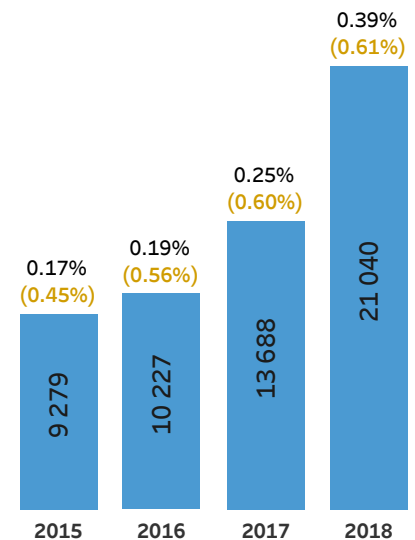
Top 5 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



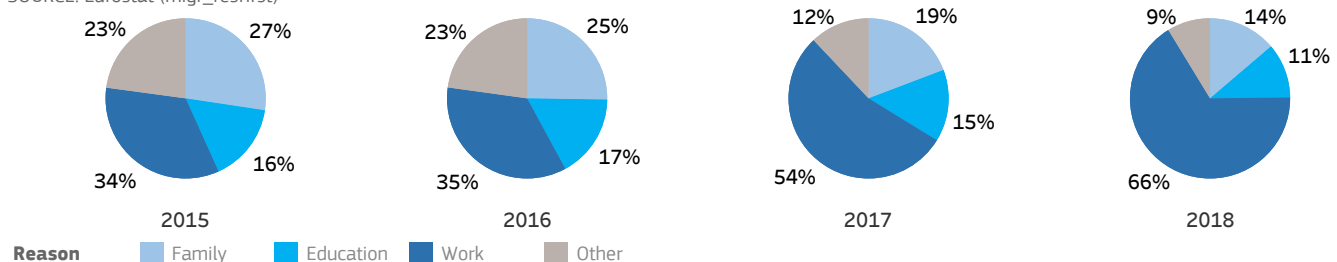
First residence permits annually issued: tot. num. and % of tot. pop. in the country (and EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



First residence permits annually issued by reason

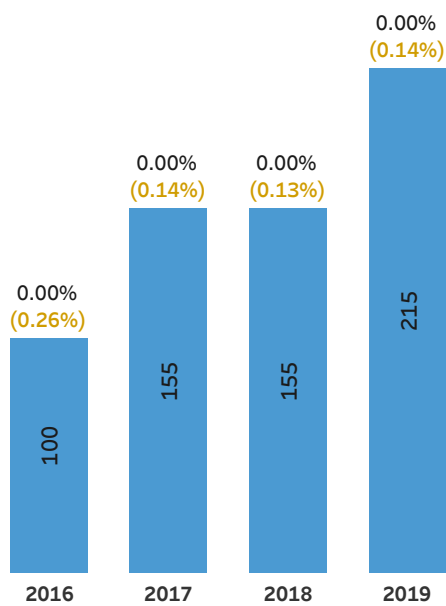
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

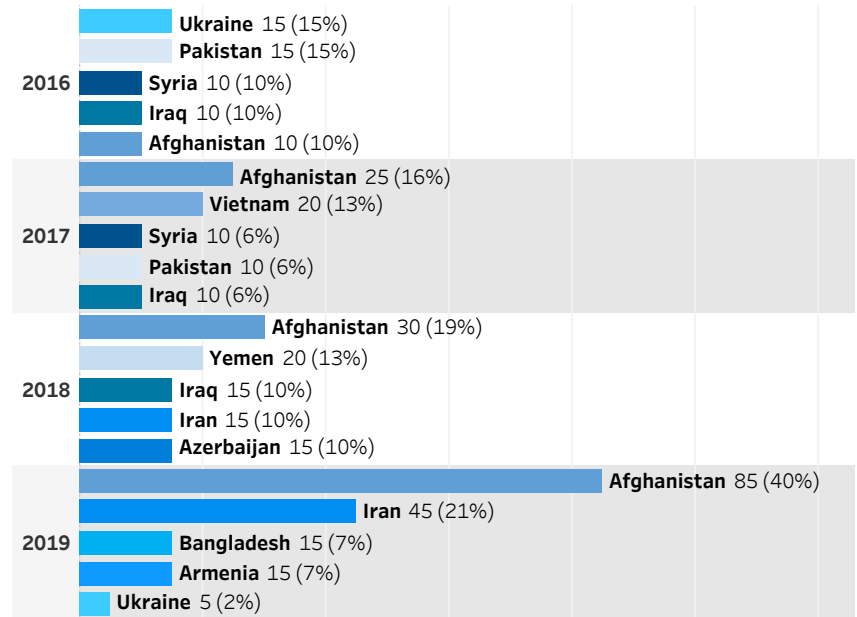
First-time asylum applications: total num. and as % of population in the country (and in EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz)



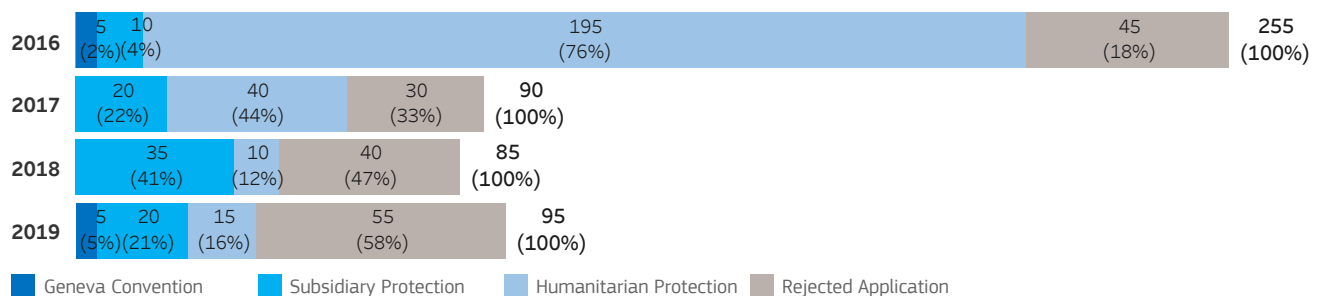
Top 5 nationalities of annual number of first-time asylum applications: number of applications and % of total first-time annual applications

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)



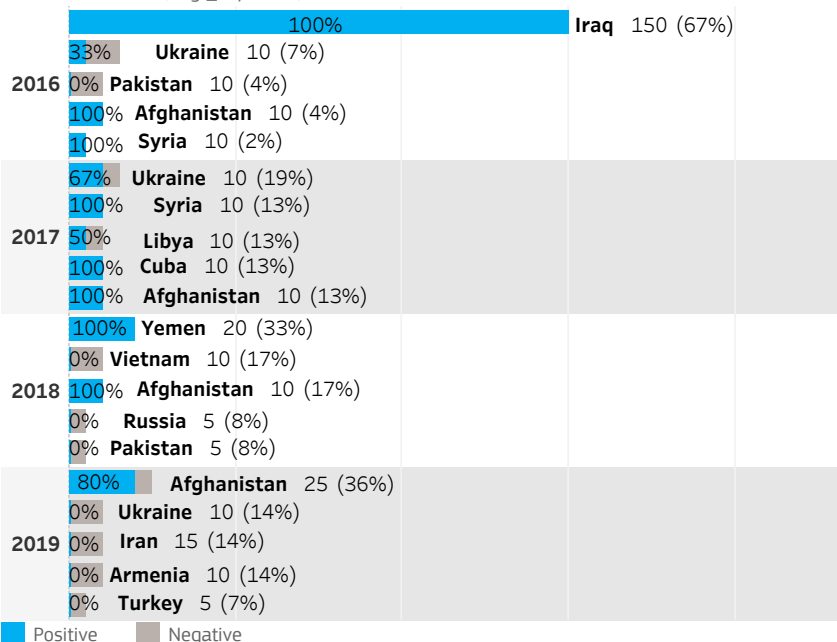
Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)



Top 5 nationalities of annual number of first-instance decisions: number of decisions (% of total decisions in the country) and % of positive outcome

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)



Third-Country Nationals resettled: absolute number and as % of total resettled in EU

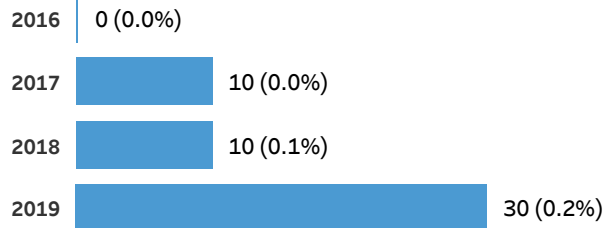
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)

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UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

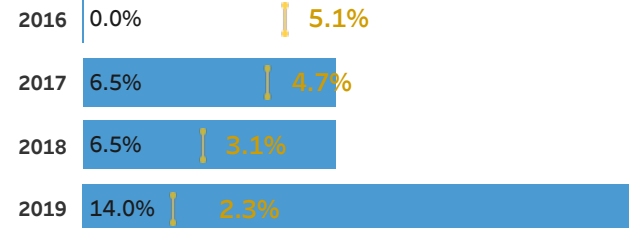
Unaccompanied Minors applying for asylum in the country (and % of total applications from Unaccompanied Minors in EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)



Unaccompanied Minors as % of first asylum applications (in the country and in EU)

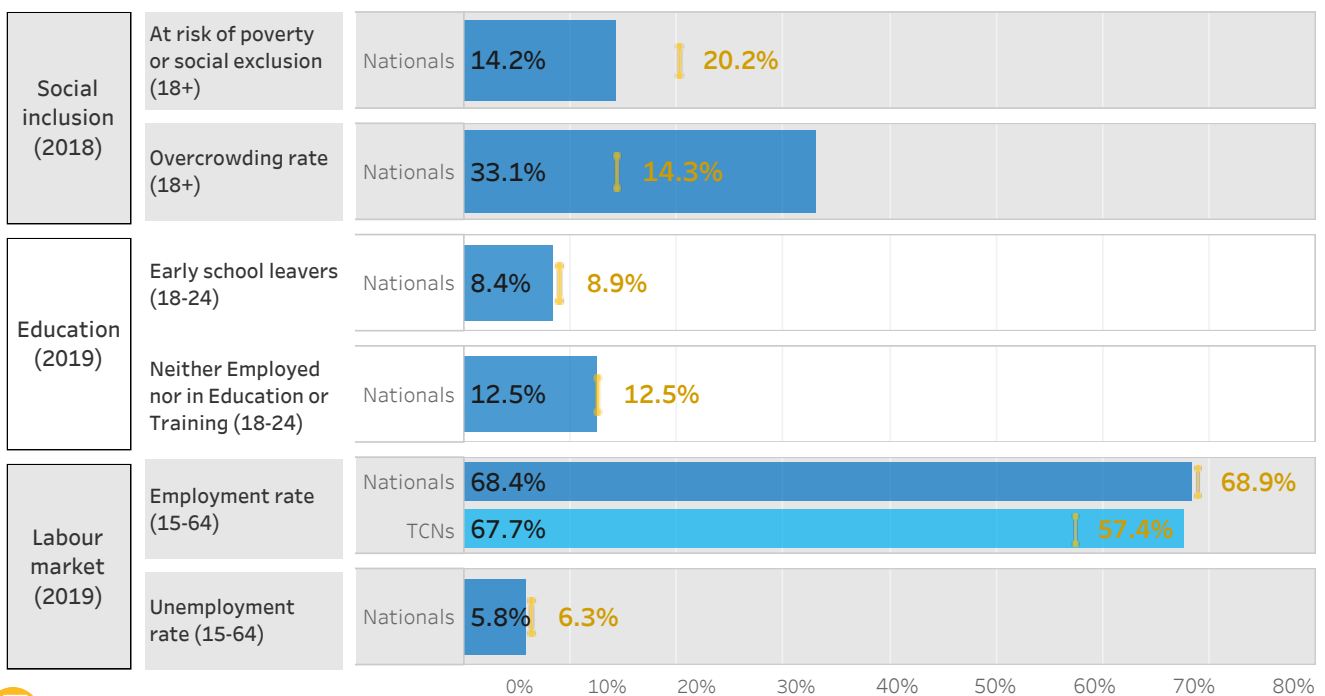
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)



INTEGRATION

Integration indicators for nationals of the country (blue) and Third-Country Nationals (TCNs - light blue) in the country (when available). The same indicator is provided in yellow for EU. Data are relative to the last year available.

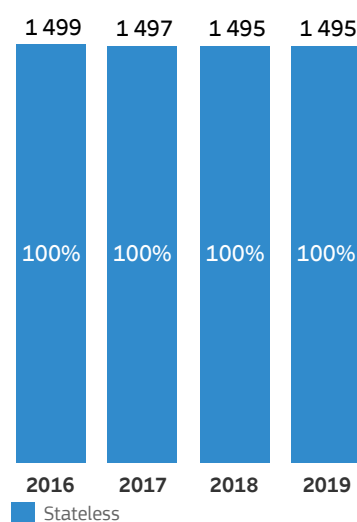
SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc_peps05, ilc_lvho15, edat_lfse_01, edat_lfse_23, lfsa_ergan, lfsa_urgan)



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

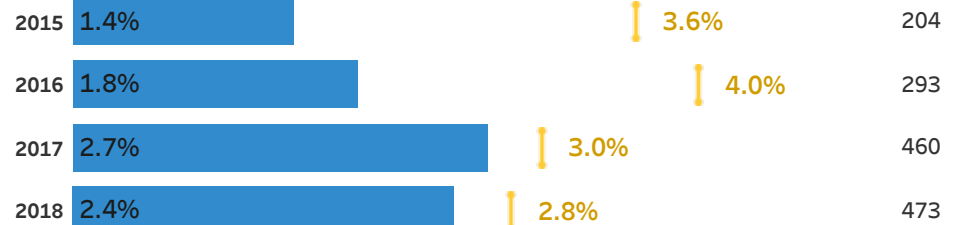
Stateless, Recogn. Non-Citizens (RNC) and Unknown Citizens

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctza)



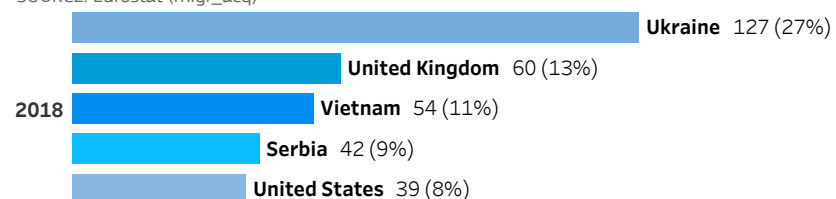
Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute number

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acqs, migr_acq)



Top 5 nationalities by number of citizenship acquisition in 2018: absolute number and % of total acquisitions in the country by Third-Country Nationals

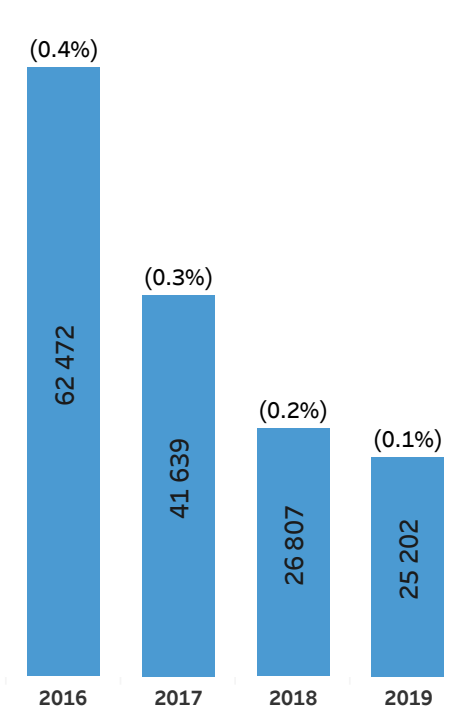
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acq)



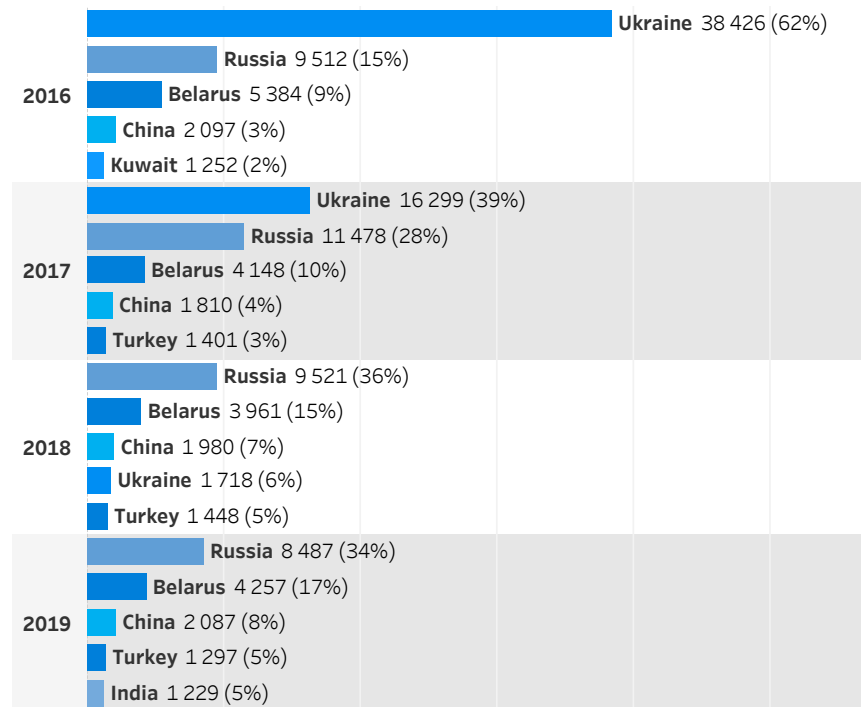
BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs (complete statistics on short-stay visas applications to Schengen States)

Lodged short-term Visa app. (% of Schengen)

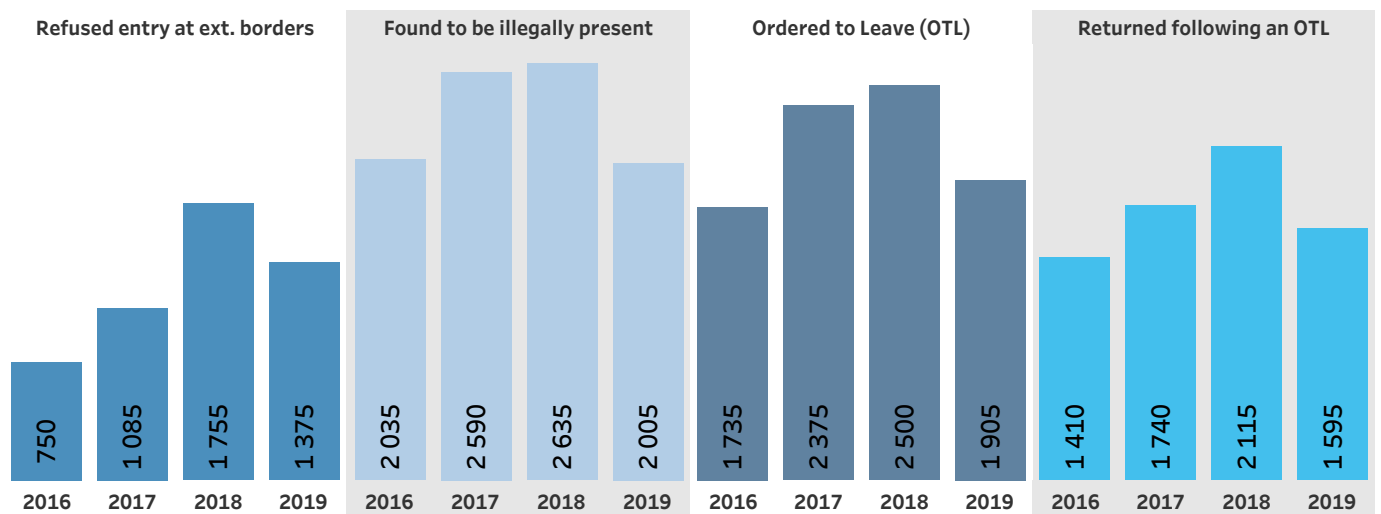


Lodged short-term Visa applications in top 5 consulate countries (% of total app.s)



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord, migr_eirtn)



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of residence permits issued to victims of Trafficking in Human Beings

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

0 or not available

RETURN AND READMISSION

Number of Third-Country Nationals who left the territory by type of return

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirt_vol)

