

# COUNTRY FACTSHEET: SLOVAKIA 2013

## EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK

### 1. Introduction

This EMN Country Factsheet provides a factual overview of the main policy developments in migration and international protection in the Slovak Republic during 2013, including latest statistics.

### 2. Legal Migration and Mobility

#### 2.1. PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

**Provision of information** is the main channel to promote legal migration in the Slovak Republic. The Ministry of Interior's web-site<sup>1</sup> provides information on entry (visa) and stay (residence permits), while at a dedicated web-site<sup>2</sup> of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (MoLSAF), third-country nationals can find information on employment, social security, marriage, citizenship and setting up a business in the Slovak Republic. Comprehensive counselling to third-country nationals is also provided by the **Migration Information Centre (MIC)**<sup>3</sup>.

#### 2.2. ECONOMIC MIGRATION

In 2013, **specific Action Plans** detailing the measures outlined in the strategic document "Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic: Perspective until the year 2020"<sup>4</sup> were under preparation by the relevant ministries.

In the **Action Plan 2014–2015**, it was envisaged that emphasis will be placed on conducting an analysis and creating a shortage list of professions and the possible introduction of the "Slovak Card" to facilitate and accelerate migrant access to the shortlisted jobs.

In 2013, amendments of legislation were under preparation in view of the **transposition of the Single Permit Directive** (2011/98/EU), which would enter into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. The amendments introduced a more effective procedure for third-

country nationals' applications for a single residence and work permit, which is expected to considerably simplify the administrative procedure.

Legislative changes took effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 in **the recognition of qualifications in non-regulated professions in the context of issuing EU Blue Cards**. The amendment introduced the possibility for higher education institutions in the Slovak Republic providing programmes in identical or similar fields to recognise the documents issued by a higher education institution in third-countries.

#### 2.3. FAMILY REUNIFICATION

An amendment to the Act on Residence of Aliens entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013. The amendment **abolished the possibility to terminate residence permits of certain categories of persons** who were granted residence as a minor (under 18 years<sup>5</sup>) as well as third-country nationals married to Slovak nationals on the grounds that the spouses do not live together as a family.

#### 2.4. INTEGRATION

In 2013, efforts were undergoing in the elaboration of the **Integration Policy document**. The latter was being elaborated under the national project implemented by the MoLSAF "**Preparation of the Integration Policy and its Mainstreaming**", supported by the European Integration Fund (EIF). The Integration Policy document defines a number of indicators and outlines new targets and measures in the field of integration including housing, health, education, employment of foreigners and Slovak language training.

<sup>5</sup> This includes a child under 18 years entrusted into personal care of a TCN who is the spouse of a Slovak citizen with permanent residence; a child under 18 years of a TCN with permanent residence for a period of five years, or a child under 18 years of age entrusted into personal care of a TCN with permanent residence for a period of five years, provided that the person, after reaching 18 years of age, runs business, is employed, or performs a special activity or research and development in the Slovak Republic.

<sup>1</sup> [www.minv.sk](http://www.minv.sk)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.employment.gov.sk/en/>

<sup>3</sup> [www.mic.iom.sk](http://www.mic.iom.sk)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.emn.sk/phocadownload/documents/migration\\_policy\\_sr\\_2020\\_en.pdf](http://www.emn.sk/phocadownload/documents/migration_policy_sr_2020_en.pdf)

Furthermore, in 2013, a number of **on-going integration activities** were organised by international and non-governmental organisations under projects co-financed by both the EIF and the Ministry of Interior. These activities included measures enabling third-country nationals to obtain: basic information on residence and citizenship, language trainings, education programmes, measures aimed to promote migration topics among the general public with the participation of migrant representatives and multi-cultural events.

## 2.5. MANAGING MIGRATION AND MOBILITY<sup>6</sup>

With regard to **visa policy**, by the end of 2013 the **Visa Information System** was installed in 65 diplomatic missions. The number of diplomatic missions using the fingerprints collection system also increased to 16 as of the end of 2013.

Concerning **Schengen governance**, Regulation (EU) No 610/2013 entered into effect on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013. Under the regulation, new measures have been introduced concerning the changed conditions for crossing of Slovak Republic's external border with Ukraine and at international airports.

## 3. International Protection and Asylum

In 2013, a number of legislative amendments were adopted in the area of international protection. These included the following:

- ★ According to amendments to the Act on Employment Services, which entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013, **a work permit is not required from third-country nationals granted subsidiary protection**. Under the new provisions, persons granted subsidiary protection are considered disadvantaged job-seekers, and therefore have the same status as persons granted asylum to access to the labour market.
- ★ Under amendments to the Act on Residence of Aliens, **persons granted with asylum and persons under subsidiary protection can apply for EU long-term residence status**. The period of which a person must legally and continuously stay on the territory of the country before filing an application for long-term residence, which is established at five years, would now consider/include the period from the filing of the application for asylum until the date of the decision on granting asylum or subsidiary protection.
- ★ In order **to transpose the Qualification Directive** (2011/95/EC), intensive efforts were carried out on the preparation of the amendment to the Act on Asylum. The latter was expected to enter into force by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

<sup>6</sup> "Managing migration and mobility" refers to the following themes: visa policy, Schengen governance and border monitoring.

## 4. Unaccompanied Minors and other Vulnerable Groups

In 2013, there were no significant policies or legislative changes in the area of Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs) and other vulnerable groups. In the preparation of the Integration Policy (see Section 2.4), a separate chapter on the **integration measures of unaccompanied minors** was elaborated. The measures include: developing a new guidance for determining the child's best interests, reviewing the system for determining the age or identification of the causes of escapes of unaccompanied minors and providing education and language training. At international level, the Slovak Republic was involved in the preparation of **manuals to determine the age of unaccompanied minors**, developed by EASO in line with the Action Plan for Unaccompanied Minors 2010–2014.

## 5. Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings

In 2013, several legislative changes were implemented, including:

- ★ The amendment of the Criminal Code which was carried out in view of **transposing the trafficking in human beings Directive** (2011/36/EU). This amendment modified provisions concerning trafficking in human beings in order to widen the scope of trafficking to include beggary and the purposes of exploitation, such as forced marriage and abuse for committing crimes.
- ★ Legislative changes were also implemented to the Criminal Procedure Code, which stipulate that victims of trafficking in human beings forced to commit a minor offence are not to be prosecuted or imposed penalties.

A number of **national awareness-raising campaigns** for victims of trafficking were implemented in 2013. In addition, the Slovak Republic participated in several **international projects** aimed at providing training to law enforcement authorities and to support the return of trafficked persons and the prevention of further trafficking. The Slovak police also regularly cooperated with the INTERPOL and with police forces of other countries.

## 6. External Dimension of EU Migration Policy

In 2013, the Slovak Republic was actively involved in **international dialogues on the synergies of migration and development**, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and United Nations high-level dialogue on international migration and development. At the second meeting of the UN high-level dialogue, which was held in October 2013 in New York, the Slovak Republic participated in

a discussion on “Strengthening partnerships and cooperation in international migration”. The Slovak contribution highlighted the importance of international cooperation, especially within the EU “Global Approach to Migration and Mobility”.

## 7. Irregular Migration

Regarding **measures to prevent irregular migration**, in 2013, the competent authorities continued **to implement measures aimed to address the negative impacts of large-scale migration** waves under the National Border Control Management Plan 2011–2014.

The **National Unit to Combat Irregular Migration (NUCIM)** signed a protocol with the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service Administration aiming to ensure close cooperation through organising meetings at operational staff level and together with the heads of the two partner organisations.

The Slovak Republic also participated in the project “*Building training and analytical capacities on migration in Moldova and Georgia*” (GovAc). The aim of the project was to introduce a permanent mechanism to ensure an independent and institutionalised training mechanism in these countries. Furthermore, for the purpose of executing actions related to irregular migration through the territory of the Western Balkans, the NUCIM participated in the EUROPOL project “FIMATHU Operation”.

The Slovak Republic is also involved, together with the Eastern Partnership countries, in the implementation of the **Prague Process**<sup>7</sup>, which aims to enhance the strategic and operational cooperation within the Eastern Partnership region in order to prevent cross-border crime, with special emphasis on irregular migration. Under the Prague Process, the Slovak Republic is involved in the Pilot Project 1, which its main objective is to enhance the capacities of the Prague Process countries in **combatting irregular migration through knowledge sharing**. The project focuses on concluding readmission agreements, the sharing of experience on organising migrant returns to their countries of origin or countries agreeing to their admission.<sup>8</sup>

Concerning **border control and surveillance**, technical equipment was installed at border crossing points under projects implemented in 2013.

Furthermore, in 2013, the Slovak Republic was engaged in six **Frontex joint operations**. The joint operations involved participation of experts in documents, border surveillance and experts in second line control.

In the area of **return**, a number of projects to facilitate professional and language training of staff of the Border Police (BBAP PFP) were carried out in 2013. Efforts were also made to encouraging voluntary return through cooperation and exchange of good practices within the European Voluntary Return Network (VREN) and through participation in other platforms focusing on voluntary return.

## 8. Provision and Exchange of Information to support Policy Development

In 2013, the Slovak Republic actively exchanged information with other EU Member States in the field of asylum and migration through various fora (e.g. European Migration Network (EMN, National Contact Points on Integration (NCPI), EURES, ENARO and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)). The Slovak Republic was also involved in **EU Migration Dialogues** with other third countries, such as the USA, and on a regional basis within the Eastern Partnership countries or with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. With regard to **regional cooperation**, the Slovak Republic actively participated in developments under the framework of the Prague Process.

### STATISTICAL ANNEX

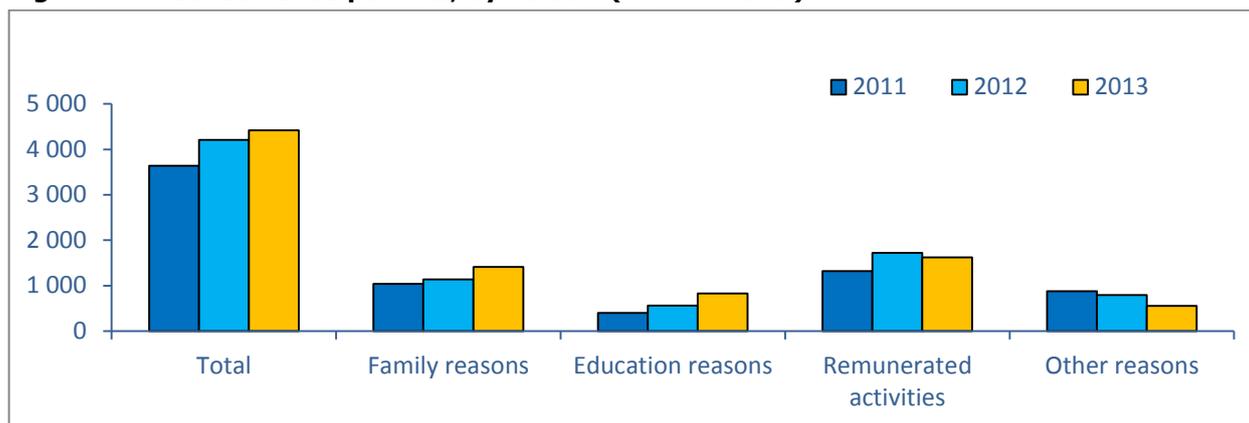
The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Slovak Republic on aspects of migration and asylum (2011-2013), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as “N/A”.

<sup>7</sup> The leading countries of the Prague Process are Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. The third countries participating in the project are, in particular, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

<sup>8</sup> The main project coordinator is Poland in cooperation with the SR and Romania. Third countries involved in the projects are: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgian, Kazakhstan, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/1999), Kirgizstan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

## Statistical Annex: Immigration and Asylum in the Slovak Republic (2011-2013)

**Figure 1: First residence permits, by reason (2011 – 2013)**



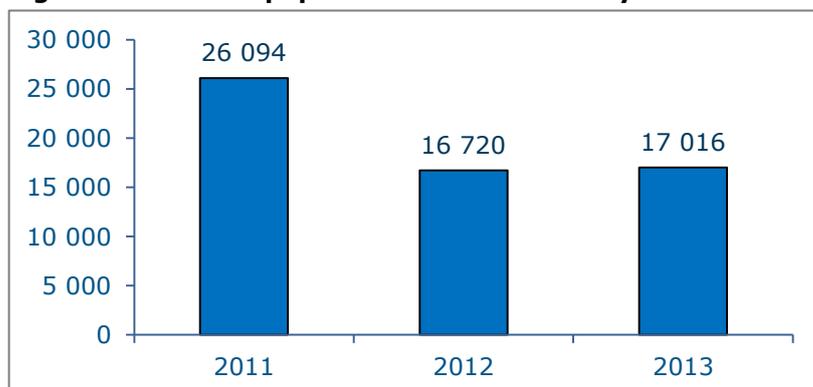
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_resfirst), extracted 28 July 2014

**Table 1: First residence permits: Top five third-country nationalities (2011 – 2013)**

2011	2012	2013
<b>1. Ukraine</b> – 686	<b>1. Ukraine</b> – 782	<b>1. Ukraine</b> – 1,040
<b>2. Serbia</b> – 568	<b>2. Serbia</b> – 548	<b>2. Serbia</b> – 603
<b>3. South Korea</b> – 369	<b>3. South Korea</b> – 373	<b>3. South Korea</b> – 389
<b>4. Russia</b> – 298	<b>4. Russia</b> – 345	<b>4. Russia</b> – 377
<b>5. United States</b> – 195	<b>5. United States</b> – 211	<b>5. China</b> – 228

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_resfirst), extracted 4 June 2014

**Figure 2: Resident population of third-country nationals in thousands (2011 – 2013)**



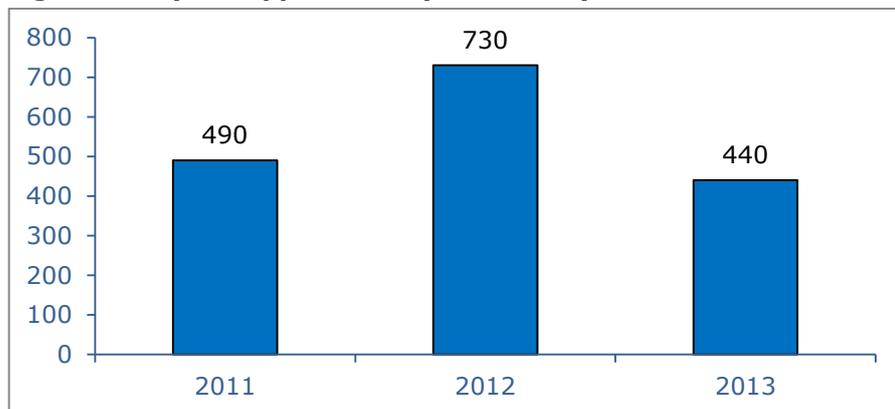
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_pop1ctz), extracted 4 June 2014

**Table 2: Resident population: Top five third-country nationalities (2011 – 2013)**

2011	2012	2013
<b>1. Ukraine</b> – 6,297	<b>1. Ukraine</b> – 3,873	<b>1. Ukraine</b> – 3,915
<b>2. Serbia</b> – 3,853	<b>2. Russia</b> – 1,803	<b>2. Russia</b> – 1,835
<b>3. Vietnam</b> – 2,257	<b>3. Stateless</b> – 1,556	<b>3. Stateless</b> – 1,553
<b>4. Russia</b> – 2,227	<b>4. Vietnam</b> – 1,489	<b>4. Vietnam</b> – 1,544
<b>5. China</b> – 1,878	<b>5. USA</b> – 856	<b>5. China</b> – 875

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_pop1ctz), extracted 4 June 2014

**Figure 3: Asylum applications (2011-2013)**



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asyappctza), extracted 4 June 2014

**Table 3: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities (2011 – 2013)**

2011	2012	2013
1. Somalia – 80	1. Somalia – 225	1. Afghanistan – 110
2. Afghanistan – 75	2. Afghanistan – 90	2. Somalia – 55
3. Georgia – 65	3. Georgia – 55	3. Georgia – 35
4. Moldova – 40	4. Congo – 45	4. Eritrea – 30
5. Russia – 35	5. Armenia – 35	5. Armenia – 25

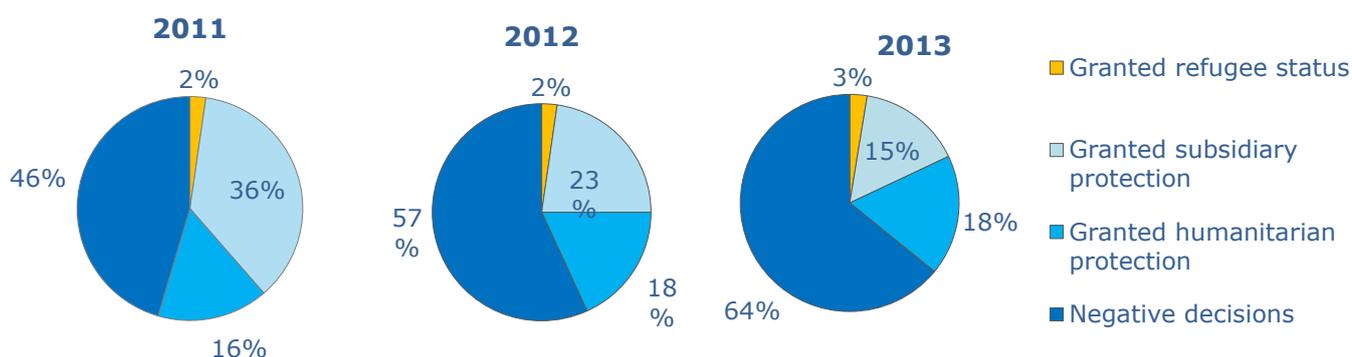
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asyappctza), extracted 4 June 2014

**Table 4: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2011-2013)**

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:			Negative decisions
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
2011	215	115	5	80	35	100
2012	440	190	10	100	80	250
2013	190	70	5	30	35	125

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asydcfsta), extracted 4 June 2014

**Figures 4-6: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2011 – 2013)**

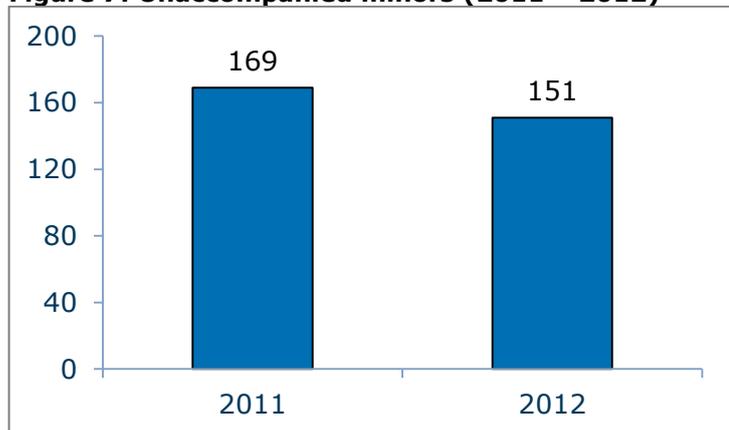


Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asydcfsta), extracted 4 June 2014

**Table 5: Third-country nationals relocated and resettled (2011 – 2013)**

	2011	2012	2013
Third-country nationals relocated	0	0	0
Third-country nationals resettled	0	0	5*

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asyresa), extracted 6 June 2014 and Commission Staff Working Document -Accompanying the 5th Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum 2013; Data provided by SK national contact point.

**Figure 7: Unaccompanied minors (2011 – 2012)**

Source: EMN, A Descriptive Analysis of the Impacts of the Stockholm Programme 2010-2013

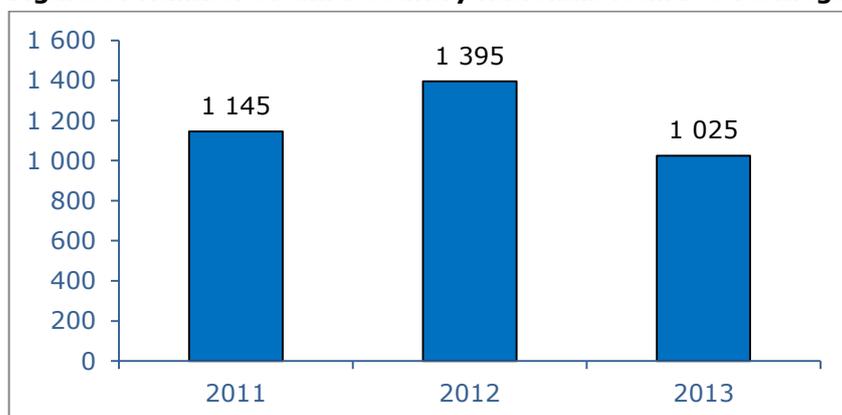
**Table 6: Unaccompanied minors (2011 – 2013)**

	2011	2012	2013
<b>Unaccompanied minors (total)</b>	169	151	N/A
<b>Unaccompanied minors not applying for asylum</b>	150	N/A	70
<b>Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants</b>	20	5	5

**Table 7: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders (2011– 2013)**

	2011	2012	2013
<b>Third-country nationals refused entry at external borders</b>	595	595	435

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_eirfs), extracted 4 June 2014

**Figure 8: Number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present (2011 – 2013)**

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_eipre), extracted 4 June 2014

**Table 8: Third-country nationals returned (2011-2013)**

	Third-country nationals ordered to leave	Returned as part of forced return measures	Returned voluntarily	Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme
<b>2011</b>	580	390	95	95
<b>2012</b>	490	273	72	54
<b>2013</b>	545	325	64	50

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_eiord), extracted 4 June 2014 and Commission Staff Working Document - Accompanying the 5th Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum 2013

**Table 9: Number of visas issued by type (2011 – 2013)**

	2011	2012	2013
<b>Total visas</b>	N/A	75,836	N/A
<b>Schengen visa (short-stay visas)</b>	69,681	74,539	129,286
<b>National visa</b>	1,235	1,175	1,183

Source: Commission Staff Working Documents on the Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum; EMN, A Descriptive Analysis of the Impacts of the Stockholm Programme 2010-2013