

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

2020

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING LATEST STATISTICS



OVERARCHING CHANGES

Following the COVID-19 outbreak, the government declared an emergency situation in the entire territory of the Slovak Republic on 11 March 2020, while a state of emergency was declared in the healthcare system from 16 March until 14 June 2020. A state of emergency was again declared on 1 October 2020 and was extended by a further 40 days on 29 December 2020.

The [Act on Residence of Foreigners \(No. 404/2011 Coll.\)](#) was amended to reflect the COVID-19 pandemic and the departure of the UK from the European Union (EU). Where third-country nationals' residence permits expired during the COVID-19 crisis, they were automatically extended, while the validity periods of employment permits, single work and residence permit certificates were similarly prolonged.

Within the scope of internal procedures, the Slovak Republic focused, inter alia, on ensuring compliance with anti-pandemic measures and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in its migration and asylum system. To this end, it adopted various changes and measures, such as altered opening hours for foreign police departments, limited submission of residence permit applications and dealing with foreigners in person, entry permits to the Slovak Republic, and border management.

The Slovak Republic was preparing the [Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic – Perspective until 2025](#), which was subjected to cross-sectoral consultation in September 2020. Continuing the previous policy

KEY POINTS



Residence and employment permits granted to third-country nationals whose validity expired during the COVID-19 crisis were automatically extended.



Slovak Republic has been working on the new 'Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic – Perspective until 2025' and preparing the Act on Citizenship of the Slovak Republic.



A declaratory system was adopted for United Kingdom (UK) nationals, together with new legislation regulating their residence.

(Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic – Perspective until 2020), the Policy has been elaborated as a basic document of the Slovak Republic and the starting point for a modern, comprehensive, and effective policy on all areas of migration. It regulates the goals of the Slovak Republic with respect to labour mobility, reintegration of Slovak citizens returning from abroad, integration of foreigners into Slovak society, and effective returns. It also ensures the granting of international protection.



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

WORK-RELATED MIGRATION

[A number of legislative changes](#) amended some acts within the authority of the Ministry of the Interior to mitigate public health risks to the greatest extent

possible while also protecting citizens' rights within a restricted public authority activity. Amendments to the Act on Residence of Foreigners and Act on Employment Services introduced automatic extension of the validity period of third-country nationals' residence permits, employment permits, single work and residence permit certificates that expired during the crisis. A third-country national granted temporary residence for business purposes who applies to renew their permit in 2021 will not be obliged to comply with the statutory requirement on minimum income/profit in 2020.

The amended Act on Provision of Healthcare introduced the [temporary professional stints option for foreign doctors](#) (EU citizens and third-country nationals alike) once their training (diploma) was recognised in Slovakia. However, temporary professional stint employment was exclusively linked to the duration of the COVID-19 crisis and a foreigner could not continue to perform the activity once the crisis was resolved.

The Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Argentine Republic on a Working Holiday Scheme was approved in January 2020. Working holiday schemes promote youth mobility, allowing citizens of the Slovak Republic and citizens of Argentina, aged 18-35 years, to access a simplified application process for a one-year work and residence permit, provided they fulfil the conditions stipulated in the bilateral agreement.

STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

The number of Slovak government scholarships for countries affected by conflict or for countries of origin of migrants increased from 24 to 25 in 2020. This was the result of efforts to fulfil the commitment of the Slovak Republic to provide 550 scholarships for refugees by 2021 under the Leaders' Summit on Refugees on 20 September 2016 ('Obama Summit'). By the end of 2020, the Slovak Republic had provided 125 governmental scholarships for students from countries affected by war.

OTHER MEASURES

The Slovak Republic claimed derogations concerning residence permits issued to third-country nationals, disaggregated by gender and age (Article 6 of the amended Regulation on Community Statistics on Migration and International Protection).



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

In November 2020, the Slovak Republic passed the [amendment to the Act on Health Insurance](#), effective as of 1 January 2021. The amendment transferred the obligation to pay for healthcare provided to third-country nationals granted subsidiary protection (as they are not holders of public health insurance) from the Ministry of the Interior to the health insurance company with the largest number of insured persons. The costs covered by the health insurer will be reimbursed by the Ministry of Health. The responsibility to issue entitlement cards for this group will also be transferred to the health insurance company.

In December 2020, the Slovak Republic approved the [National Strategy for Vaccination against COVID-19 Disease in the Conditions of the Slovak Republic](#), which placed those granted asylum into the third of the four vaccination phases for the population. In this third phase, vaccines will be administered to specific communities at high risk of spreading the disease. Following revision of the Strategy, this was no longer valid from the beginning of 2021.

Dublin transfers were suspended in spring 2020 in light of COVID-19 restrictions, such as closure of international airports.



MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

The government adopted a regulation allowing for a response to the positive/negative developments in the epidemiological situation in the area of socio-legal protection of children and social guardianship. The regulation governed possible changes in the organisation of individual groups in Children and Family Centres (CFC) – e.g. admission conditions, conditions for ensuring isolation, quarantine groups.

From 1 December 2020, a quarantine group for unaccompanied minors was established in CFC Kolárovo, with capacity for eight children. Following confirmation of a negative COVID-19 test result and the end of the quarantine period in CFC Kolárovo, the children were transferred to CFC Medzilaborce (another centre specialising in care for unaccompanied minors).



INTEGRATION

OVERARCHING DEVELOPMENTS

The worsening epidemiological situation saw the government introduce the so-called [pandemic parental allowance, as well as the parental allowance](#) granted to persons (third-country nationals included) whose entitlement to parental allowance ceased during the COVID-19 crisis for certain reasons.

FIGHTING RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

The [Concept for Combating Radicalisation and Extremism until 2024](#) was drafted in 2020. Several tasks in the field of migration and international protection were identified.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP

The Ministry of the Interior developed a [draft amendment of the Act on Citizenship](#) and submitted it for interministerial commentary. It reflects the commitments declared in the Mission Statement of the Government of the Slovak Republic and is expected to enter into force on 1 July 2021.



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

VISA POLICY

As of 2 February 2020, the Slovak Republic applied the [new Visa Code](#), following Regulation (EU) 2019/1155 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 amending Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code).



IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

MISUSE OF LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

To adhere to measures to stop the spread of COVID-19, the Labour Inspectorate restricted its activities controlling illegal employment during the first and second wave of the pandemic (spring and autumn 2020). Reflecting changes in the legislation governing regular stay and employment of third-country nationals, illegal employment controls focused exclusively on foreigners working on the territory of the Slovak Republic who did not hold a residence permit for the purpose of employment.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In November 2020, the Slovak Republic passed an amendment to the [Act on Health Insurance](#), effective from 1 January 2021. The amendment provided for the reimbursement of healthcare costs for foreigners without public health insurance (or health insurance in any other EU Member State), as well as foreigners granted tolerated residence placed in the Human Trafficking Victims Assistance and Protection Programme. This healthcare is covered by the health insurance company with the largest number of insured persons. The costs incurred by the health insurance company will be reimbursed by the Ministry of Health.

The Slovak Republic updated its [National Referral Mechanism](#) from 2015 on the basis of practical experience and lessons learned. The document offers a more comprehensive model of cooperation with various stakeholders at national level. It aims to ensure that victims are informed and to provide assistance to victims of human trafficking, including foreigners.

The new Regulation of the Ministry of the Interior on the Provision of the Human Trafficking Victims Assistance and Protection Programme was approved in December 2020. It set out provisions concerning foreigners (children and adults) for the identification of victims of human trafficking and the follow-up cooperation mechanism at national level.



RETURN AND READMISSION

MAIN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Act No. 404/2011 on Residence of Foreigners](#) was amended in light of COVID-19 restrictions. Enforcement of the administrative expulsion decision was suspended for the duration of the crisis and the obligation to travel laid down in the administrative expulsion decision did not apply until the crisis was lifted.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In January 2020, the government approved the [Focus of Bilateral Development Cooperation for the Year 2020](#). It states that the Slovak Republic shall pursue sustainable development objectives in line with the Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of Slovakia for 2019–2023 and continuously strengthen and build strategic partnerships with African countries and with other priority countries

taking part in development cooperation programmes. The aim is to promote sustainability and higher visibility of the SlovakAid brand and its activities. The Slovak Republic will strive to intensify the participation of development actors, including private entities in particular development activities, and to raise awareness of the importance of meeting Slovakia's development commitments among public authorities and general public.

The Slovak Republic continued to address causes of migration and actively contributed to the EU Trust Funds in 2020. In accordance with the payment schedule, the Slovak Republic donated €1.61 million to FRIT, an EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex was prepared by the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD) and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Slovak Republic on aspects of migration and international protection (2017-2020), 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 up to nine thematic sections – depending on data availability. The dashboard-like layout of the annex allows comparability across countries as well as simultaneous visualisation of different indicators. Whenever data are 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. For some indicators, data are rounded in the source. 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



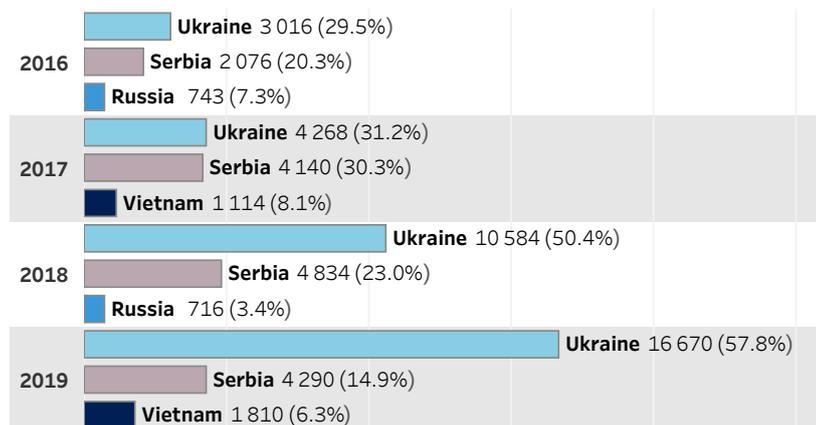
data relative to EU



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

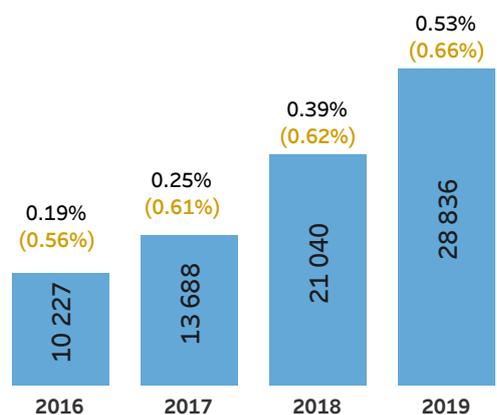
Top 3 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



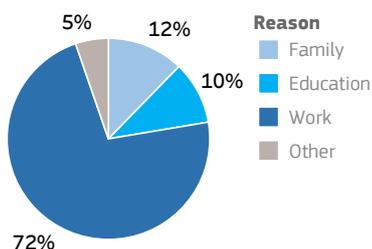
First residence permits annually issued: tot. num. and % of tot. pop. in the country (and EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



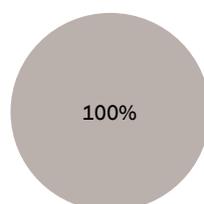
First residence permits annually issued by reason in 2019

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



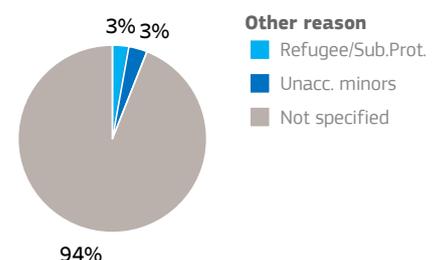
First residence permits annually issued for work reasons in 2019

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoc)



First residence permits annually issued for 'other reasons' in 2019

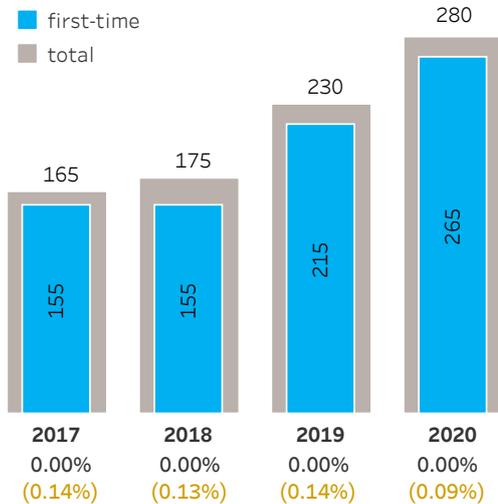
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)



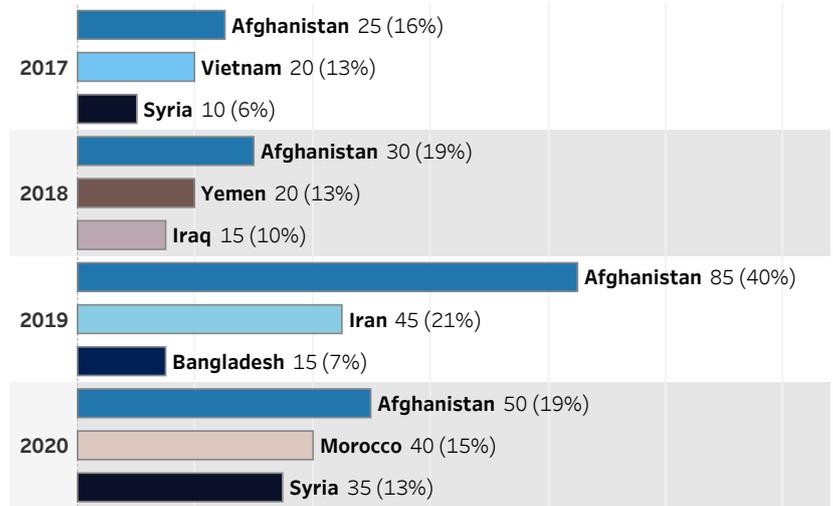


INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Total/first-time asylum applications; first-time asy app as % of population in the country (and in EU) SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz)

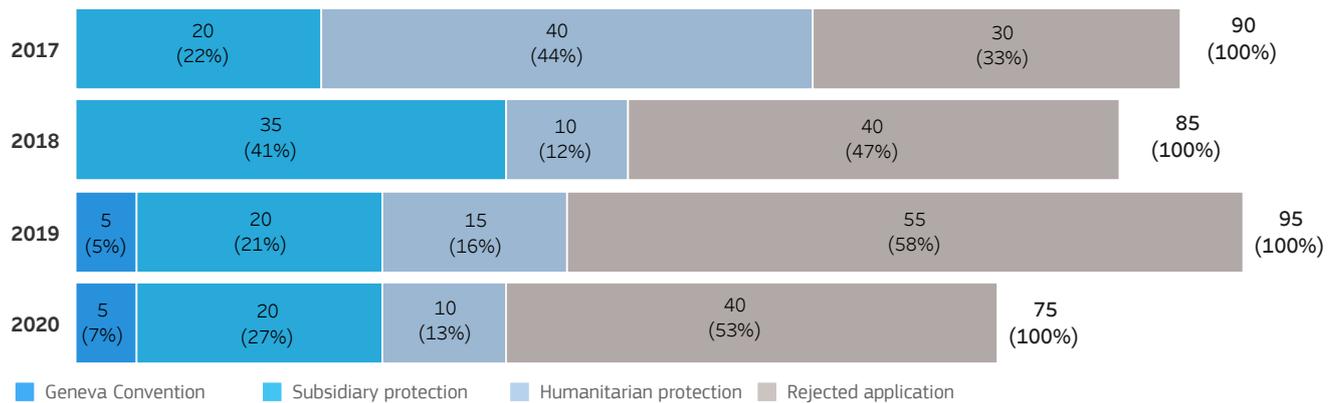


Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-time asylum applications: number of applications and % of total first-time annual applications SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)



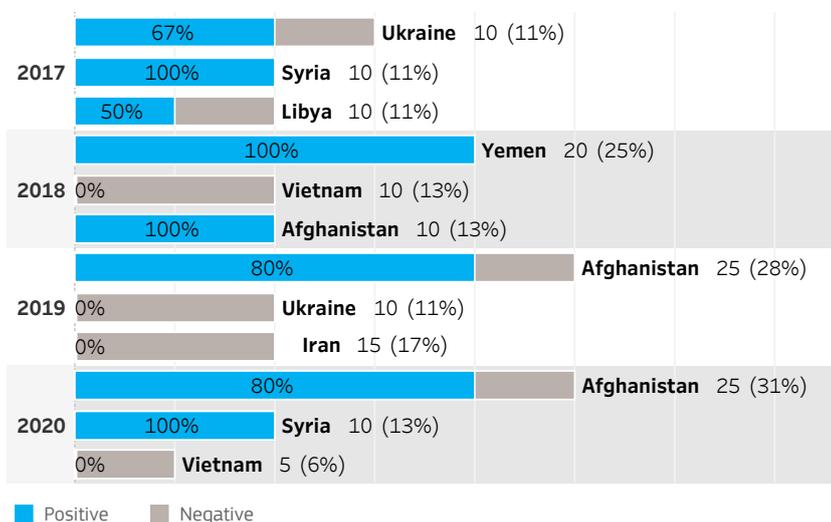
Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)



Top 3 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)

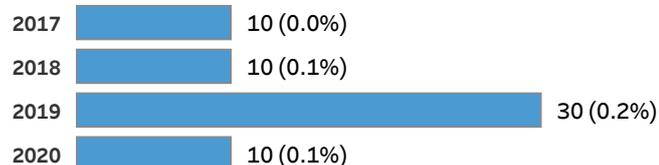




UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

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 available year.

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

Labour market (2020)	Indicator	Nationals		TCNs	
		Country	EU	Country	EU
Labour market (2020)	Employment rate (15-64)	67.5%	68.3%	60.2%	55.1%
	Unemployment rate (15-64)	6.8%	6.6%		



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

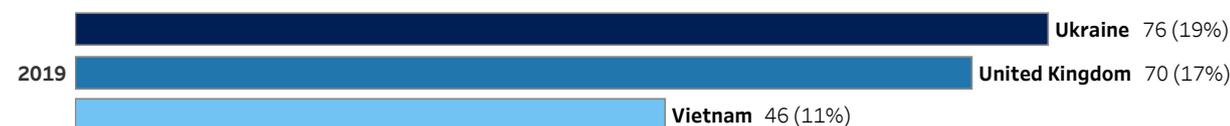
Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute number

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acqs, migr_acq)



Top 3 nationalities by number of citizenship acquisition in 2019: absolute number and % of total acquisitions in the country by Third-Country Nationals

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acq)

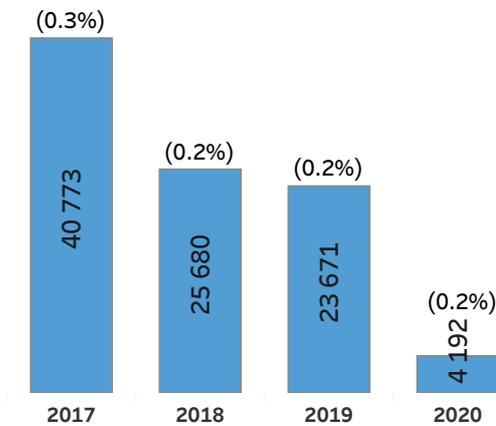




BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

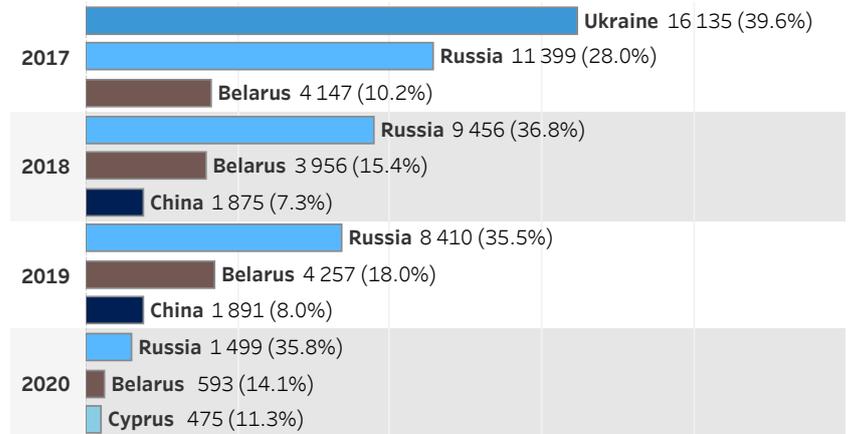
Short-term visa issued (% of Schengen)

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



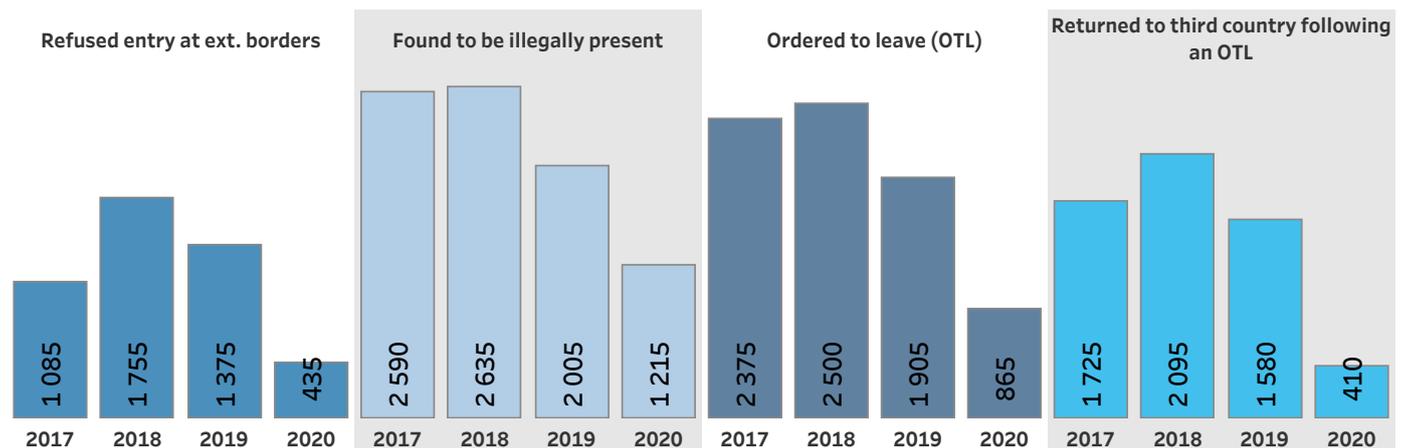
Short-term visa issued in top 3 consulate countries (% of total issued)

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



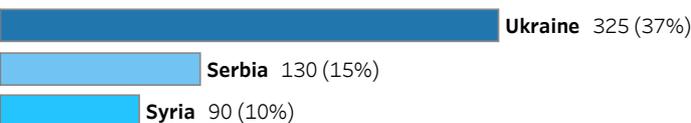
IRREGULAR MIGRATION

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



Top 3 nationalities ordered to leave the country, 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eiord)



Top 3 nationalities returned to third countries, 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirtn)



RETURN AND READMISSION

Number of Third-Country Nationals who left the territory by type of return (in %) and total returns

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirt_vol)

