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# EMN ASYLUM AND MIGRATION OVERVIEW SLOVAK REPUBLIC IN 2024



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# EMN Asylum and Migration Overview Slovak Republic in 2024

Report of the National Contact Point  
of the European Migration Network for the Slovak Republic  
(EMN Slovakia)

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This report was prepared within the European Migration Network (EMN), which provides up-to-date, objective, reliable, and comparable information on migration and asylum to support policymaking in the European Union (EU) and EMN Member States. The EMN Slovakia is funded by the EU and the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

EMN activities are focused on topics related to migration of third-country nationals. The activities are implemented through National Contact Points for EMN Member States (EU Member States except Denmark) and EMN Observer States (Norway, Georgia, The Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Montenegro, Armenia, Serbia and North Macedonia) in coordination with the European Commission, specifically the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME).

The report was elaborated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as the coordinator of the EMN National Contact Point for the Slovak Republic (EMN Slovakia). EMN Slovakia comprises the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium, Migration Office, Department of Foreign and European Affairs of the Office of the Minister of Interior), the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (Department of International Relations and European Affairs), the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (Section of Social Statistics and Demography) and the IOM Slovakia.

This publication was produced with the financial assistance of the EU. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the EU. Equally, the opinions presented herein do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Government of the Slovak Republic or of the IOM.

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## Preface

This report contains information on the most important changes, developments, and activities related to migration and international protection in The Slovak Republic in 2024. It is the only publication in the Slovak Republic which annually maps all dimensions of third-country nationals' migration.

This report is a part of the EMN Synthesis Report with the same focus, which is prepared at the EU level and summarizes findings from national reports compiled by EMN Member States on the basis of common specifications. Until 2023, the EMN Asylum and Migration Overview was called EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum.

The Synthesis Report and the individual reports by EMN Member States are available in English on the European Commission's website [www.ec.europa.eu/emn](http://www.ec.europa.eu/emn). The report for the Slovak Republic is published in Slovak and English. Both versions are available on the EMN Slovakia's website [www.emn.sk](http://www.emn.sk).

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## List of Abbreviations and References

**AMIF** – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund  
**AVR** – assisted voluntary return(s)  
**AVRR** – Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme  
**BBFP PFP** – Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium  
**BoTP** – beneficiary/beneficiaries of temporary protection  
**CCF** – Centre for Children and Families  
**Coll.** – Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic  
**COLSAF/Central Office of Labour** – Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family  
**DFEA MIO** – Department of Foreign and European Affairs of the Office of the Minister of Interior  
**EC** – European Commission/Community  
**EEA** – European Economic Area  
**EMN** – European Migration Network  
**EMN Slovakia** – EMN National Contact Point in the Slovak Republic  
**EU** – European Union  
**EUAA** – European Union Agency for Asylum  
**Eurostat** – Statistical Office of the European Union  
**FAD FBS MI** – Foreign Aid Department of the Financing and Budgeting Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic  
**Frontex** – European Border and Coast Guard Agency  
**IC MI/Information Centre** – Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic  
**IOM** – International Organization for Migration  
**MESRY/Ministry of Education** – Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Youth of the Slovak Republic  
**MFEA/Ministry of Foreign Affairs** – Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic  
**MI/Ministry of Interior** – Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic  
**MIC IOM** – IOM Migration Information Centre  
**MIO** – Office of the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic  
**MLSAF/Ministry of Labour** – Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic  
**MO MI/Migration Office** – Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic  
**NCP** – National Contact Point  
**NUCIM BBFP PF** – National Unit to Combat Irregular Migration of the Bureau of the Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium  
**NVIS** – National Visa Information System  
**Offices(s) of Labour** – Office(s) of Labour, Social Affairs and Family  
**PAS MI** – Public Administration Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic  
**PDCF(s)** – Police Detention Centre(s) for Foreigners  
**PF** – Police Force  
**PFP** – Police Force Presidium  
**SK** – the Slovak Republic  
**SO/Statistical Office** – Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic  
**SPCSG** – socio-legal protection of children and social guardianship  
**TCN** – third country national

**UAM(s)** – unaccompanied minor(s)  
**UN** – United Nations  
**UNHCR** – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
**UNICEF** – United Nations Children’s Fund  
**VAIA** – Research and Innovation Authority

### Symbols:

(:) – data is not available  
 (-) – did not occur  
 (/) – countries with the same number/amount

## Methodology and terms

### Methodology and elaboration

This overview has been compiled on the basis of common specifications prepared by EMN Member States and the European Commission. Common specifications for all EMN Member and Observer States enable the comparability of national reports and their subsequent use for the European-wide EMN publication and other outputs at the EU level.

The overview has Part 1, which is prepared for the European Commission and is not publicly available, and Part 2, which as a publication serves the needs of the Member States. The publication is based on Part 1, while the text is adjusted to national needs (e.g. in the Slovak Republic, the text is extended by additional national activities, with a special focus on EU-funded projects). The overview also includes national statistics, including those which are not collected at the EU level (through Eurostat or Frontex).

In terms of methodology, the overview is based on secondary research and is of a descriptive nature. The authors used available expert publications, statistics, legislation, Slovakia's policy and strategic documents, internet sources and media monitoring.<sup>1</sup> Reference documents and information obtained from the following state administration bodies were important sources of information: Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (namely BBFP PFP, MO MI, FAD FBS MI and DFEA MIO, which facilitated information from the Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention of MI and PAS MI), Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR, Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family, National Labour Inspectorate and Social Insurance Agency (indirectly through MLSAF), Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Youth of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic and the General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic (indirectly through DFEA MIO), Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic and the IOM Slovakia. Materials, publications and websites of other state, European, international and non-governmental institutions and, where needed, also the questionnaires with specific questions sent to the abovementioned also represent important sources of information. The overview also refers to relevant EMN publications and activities conducted in the Slovak Republic in 2024.

Media releases were also used as sources of information. The text therefore contains links to media references to migration topics and activities carried out by public administration, the non-governmental sector and international organisations.

The overview was elaborated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia as the coordinator of the EMN National Contact Point for the Slovak Republic (EMN Slovakia). The report was reviewed by experts from the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the Statistical Office of the SR. The overview was approved by the Department of Foreign and European Affairs of the Office of the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

<sup>1</sup> The IOM as the coordinator of the EMN National Contact Point for the Slovak Republic (EMN Slovakia) has been carrying out weekly media monitoring of migration and international protection issues since 2012. The media monitoring is used for preparing EMN publications and other outputs.

### Terms and definitions

The terms used in this report largely correspond to the definitions in the *EMN Migration and Asylum Glossary*.<sup>2</sup> If it was not possible to use the Glossary, the terms are used in compliance with national or EU legislation (regulations, directives).

Special attention should be paid to the term *foreigner*, which under the Slovak legislation, namely Art 2(2) of the Act on Residence of Foreigners<sup>3</sup> means anybody who is not a citizen of the SR. According to the EMN Migration and Asylum Glossary, a foreigner in the EU context is a person who is not a national of an EU Member State, and, in the global context, a person who is not a national (native or citizen) of a given state.<sup>4</sup> Slovak legislation, however, denotes a foreigner who is not a national of an EU Member State as a *third-country national*.<sup>5</sup> In this report, the term foreigner is therefore used mainly in texts and statistics which are related to or are kept in compliance with national legislation. In such a case, the term foreigner corresponds with the definition under Art 2 (2) of the Act on Residence of Foreigners, and not with the definition in the EMN Migration and Asylum Glossary.

The report also uses the term *migrant*. Unlike the definition in the EMN Migration and Asylum Glossary,<sup>6</sup> in this text it is used as a synonym for foreigner or third-country national.

In the context of the war in Ukraine, the report uses terms such as *people fleeing the war in Ukraine*, majority of whom have applied for temporary protection and some for international protection in the Slovak Republic. The Temporary Protection Directive<sup>7</sup> was transposed into the national legislation of the Slovak Republic in the process of adopting the Asylum Act in 2002. The term *temporary protection* has not been transposed literally and the name *temporary refuge (dočasný útočisko)* has been adopted instead. They are therefore presented as synonymous in the report. Those who have obtained the status of beneficiaries of temporary protection are referred to as "odídenec" in Slovak legislation.

In this report, the terms *irregular* and *illegal* are considered synonyms and their use depends on the specific context. Slovak legislation uses the term *illegal*. Similarly, the terms (*state*) *citizenship* and *nationality* are also used as synonyms in this report.

<sup>2</sup> European Migration Network (EMN), Asylum and Migration Glossary 10.0, 2025, [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary_en), last accessed on 25 February 2025.

<sup>3</sup> Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners and on changes and amendments to some acts (Act on Residence of Foreigners).

<sup>4</sup> European Migration Network (EMN), Asylum and Migration Glossary 10.0, 2025, [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/pages/glossary/alien\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/pages/glossary/alien_en), last accessed on 25 February 2025.

<sup>5</sup> Under Art. 2(4) of the Act on Residence of Foreigners, a third-country national is anybody who is not a national of the Slovak Republic or an EU national. Stateless persons are also third-country nationals.

<sup>6</sup> According to the EMN Asylum and Migration Glossary, a migrant, in the global context, is a person who is outside the territory of the State of which they are nationals or citizens and who has resided in a foreign country for more than one year irrespective of the causes, voluntary or involuntary, and the means, regular or irregular, used to migrate. Source: European Migration Network (EMN), Asylum and Migration Glossary 10.0, 2025. Available at: [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary/glossary/migrant\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-asylum-and-migration-glossary/glossary/migrant_en), last accessed on 25 February 2025.

<sup>7</sup> Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof (Temporary Protection Directive).

## Summary

EMN Asylum and Migration Overview summarises information on the most important changes, developments, trends and activities related to migration and international protection in the Slovak Republic in 2024. It is the only publication of this kind, as, on an annual basis, it maps all the dimensions of third-country nationals migration, including those related to the EU's policies and legislation. Divided into 12 thematic chapters, it summarises developments and trends in the areas of legal migration, international protection, unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups, integration and inclusion, citizenship and the situation of stateless persons, border control and management, visa policies, irregular migration including smuggling, human trafficking, returns and readmissions, as well as migration and development cooperation. One chapter deals specifically with temporary protection and the effects of the war in Ukraine on the migration situation, as well as on the policies and measures adopted by the Slovak Republic. The Annex includes selected statistics related to the above-mentioned areas.

### Key changes to national migration and asylum systems

The main changes in migration legislation, policies, and measures in 2024 concern the recruitment and retention of foreign workers, foreign students and the education of foreign children. In relation to beneficiaries of international protection (BoTP), the changes concerned mainly the transition from emergency measures to more sustainable long-term solutions. The effect of several measures adopted in 2023 in order to prevent secondary transit migration along the Western Balkan route became visible in 2024. Combined with actions taken at EU level, these measures contributed to a significant reduction in irregular migration in the Slovak Republic in 2024.

There have been no significant organisational or institutional changes concerning key state administration departments related to migration, including international protection, in the Slovak Republic in 2024. Due to the persistent shortage of foreign labour on the Slovak Republic, legislative changes were adopted aiming to simplify arrival and settlement of foreign workers. Some of the draft amendments were prepared by the newly established *Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the Coordination of Employment of Third-Country Nationals*, which was established based on the motion of the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic.

The Slovak Republic continued to carry out activities towards the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum in 2024. In December, Government of the Slovak Republic approved the National Implementation Plan of the Slovak Republic for the Reform of Asylum and Migration Policy.

Drafting of the new *National Strategy for the Management of Asylum and Migration* also started in 2024. From 2026, it should replace the expiring *Migration Policy of the SR: Perspective until the Year 2025*, which has been in force since 2021. At the same time, it should reflect the requirements arising from the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. In 2024, the Slovak Republic amended the Act on Residence of Foreigners, the Act on Asylum, the Act on Employment Services and the Administrative Fees Act.

The Slovak Republic focused on addressing persistent shortage of foreign labour on the Slovak labour market, simplification of administrative processes related to the residency agenda, and on measures concerning accommodation and registration of the beneficiaries of temporary protection (BoTP) in the Slovak Republic. In this context, the Slovak Republic approved two major amendments to the Act on Residence of Foreigners effective as of 15 July (Act No. 160/2024) and 15 December 2024 (Act No. 342/2024):

- The primary objective of the first amendment was to transpose the new Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment into the Slovak legislation. Other changes resulting from the conclusions of the Schengen evaluation of the Slovak Republic in 2019, as well as changes resulting from the application practice and changes, suggestions, comments and recommendations by the *Inter-ministerial Working Group for the Coordination of the Employment of Third-Country Nationals*, established by the resolution of the Slovak Government, have also been incorporated into said amendment. The amendment thus helped to facilitate the arrival and settlement of third-country nationals who are foreign workers in The Slovak Republic and introduced significant changes concerning temporary residence, permanent and long-term residence, tolerated stay and returns (administrative expulsion and detention).
- The second amendment created a legislative environment allowing for the introduction of the computerisation of the foreigners registration processes in the framework of the residence agenda. Based on this amendment, the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic will gradually build a system allowing foreigners to use electronic services for a number of life situations, which will result in the acceleration and simplification of communication between the administrative authorities and foreigners, thus reducing the administrative burden as well as the corruption risk.

The Slovak Republic passed several amendments to the Act on Administrative Charges, which increased the fees paid by foreigners for residence permit application, visa application, trade licenses, registration in the Companies register, conclusion of marriage, issuance of a foreigners' passport, grant of citizenship, etc.

### Legal and labour migration

#### Foreigners in the Slovak Republic – Statistics and Trends

The number of foreigners from EU and non-EU countries in The Slovak Republic grew in the last five years to 337 140 (6.22% of the population), with a two percent jump in 2022 and more than 1% in 2023 resulting mainly from the forced displacement of people due to the war in Ukraine. However, despite this increase, the Slovak Republic still and in the long term ranks among the European countries with the lowest number of foreigners (5.74% of the total population in 2023, 5.13% in 2022, 3.08% in 2021 and only 2.75% of the population in 2020).

In 2024, out of 337 140 foreigners with authorised residence in the Slovak Republic 281 648, i.e. more than three quarters (83.54%), were from non-EU countries. Third-country nationals thus comprised 5.20% of the entire Slovak population in 2024. Traditionally, the most numerous non-EU nationalities comprised Ukrainian (197 004), Serbian (17 508), Vietnamese (10 186), Russian (8 746) and Georgian (5 342) nationality. Similarly to previous years, most of the non-EU countries nationals (over one third) lived in the Bratislava region.

In the long term, the dominating purpose for migration to the Slovak Republic has been labour and business. Since the Slovak Republic's EU accession, the number of foreign workers has increased more than 30-fold, growing from 3 351 persons in 2004 to 108 546 foreign workers at the end of 2024, of which 79 380 were from non-EU countries. At the end of 2024, the ratio was 1 foreign worker for every 17 Slovak workers, while the ratio was even higher (19:1) in 2023.

The workers from non-EU countries were mostly from Ukraine (44 168), Serbia (6 712), India (4 482), Moldova (1 989) and Russia (1 983) (see Table 4). About one third of foreigners worked in the Bratislava region, followed by the Trnava and Nitra regions. The number of foreign workers in the Slovak Republic increased by almost 10 000 in 2024, most of whom were citizens of Ukraine.

The war in Ukraine has caused a significant increase in the number of female migrants from non-EU countries in the Slovak labour market. While in the period of years 2016 – 2021 women accounted for a quarter of all employed foreigners from non-EU countries (21.18% – 27.24%), at the end of 2023 and 2024 respectively, they accounted for more than one third (approximately 40%). In the long term, the largest number of female migrants employed in the Slovak Republic is from Ukraine and Serbia and the war in Ukraine has only reinforced this trend.

#### Policies and legislation

The amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners, effective as of 15 July 2024, has, inter alia, regulated the process of granting temporary residence for the purpose of employment (single permit) and granting of Blue Card. In the context of the transposition of the Blue Card Directive concerning employment of highly qualified foreign workers, the amendment extended the scope of application to include some additional categories of persons, simplified some conditions for admission of highly qualified workers to the territory of the Slovak Republic, introduced the recognition of professional qualifications (except for university degrees) as a criterion for the issuance of a Blue Card, adjusted the salary threshold related to the monthly income of a highly qualified worker and extended the upper limit of the period for which a Blue Card can be issued from four to five years.

Changes have also been made to the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 383/2023 Coll. on the interest of the Slovak Republic to grant a national visa to selected groups of third-country nationals in selected occupations in the field of industry. The aim of these changes was to streamline the access of third-country nationals to the Slovak labour market, streamline the admission process of third-country nationals in selected occupations and reduce the acute shortage of labour in said occupations. Granting of national visa under this Regulation was possible until 31 December 2024. Changes have also been made to the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 113/2023 Coll., thanks to which the number of national visas in occupation categories of bus drivers and heavy goods vehicles and lorry drivers (domestic and international transport) increased.

The amendments have also harmonised some discrepancies in national legislation in relation to the Seasonal Workers Directive and plans have been made to prepare amendment to the Act on Employment Services.

#### Information for foreigners

The Foreign Police departments continued to be the main source of information on the options and conditions of the legal migration in 2024, even though they were undergoing a challenging digitalisation process. A total of 153 369 clients who had booked their appointments through the electronic system were processed at the Foreign Police Departments in 2024, which represents an increase by almost 63% compared to two previous years (74 318 clients handled in 2022 and 94 224 clients in 2023).

Acting through its organisation Business Košice, the City of Košice prepared a portal for foreigners called BrainPort Košice, which offers information about the city, specific job opportunities, as well as the basic information necessary for the relocation into the country and the city (from visa requirements, through the residency agenda to key integration areas such as work, accommodation, healthcare, education, etc.). It is the first such portal at the municipal level in the Slovak Republic.

#### **International protection**

Compared to the European average, the Slovak Republic has been recording low numbers of asylum applications and various forms of international protection granted in the long-term and most asylum proceedings are discontinued. This trend has not changed in the last five years: the annual number of asylum applications ranged between 160 and 500, the number of asylum grants between 10 and 40, and the number of subsidiary protection grants between 20 and 50. Over the last five years, repeatedly, asylum seekers have mainly been nationals of Afghanistan, Morocco, Türkiye, Bangladesh, Algeria, and Belarus, and since the beginning of the war in Ukraine a higher number of nationals of Ukraine and of the Russian Federation were also among asylum seekers: of a total of 416 applications submitted in 2023 and 547 applications submitted in 2022, 186 were submitted by the people who fled to the Slovak Republic from Ukraine and 40 were submitted by Russian citizens. This trend did not repeat in 2024: the Slovak Republic registered 31 asylum applications from Ukrainian nationals and 7 from Russian citizens. People fleeing Ukraine primarily used a temporary protection status to stay in the Slovak Republic and access services here (see Chapter 5).

In terms of the number of asylum applications, the Slovak republic recorded a major decrease in 2024 with a total of 165 applications (141 first and 24 repeated applications). Most frequently, asylum seekers were the nationals of Ukraine (31), Afghanistan (19), Belarus (17), Iran (14) and Germany (10).

On average, the number of unaccompanied minors who decide to apply for asylum in the Slovak Republic is 10 – 20 per year. For example, 15 such asylum applications were submitted in 2023, with the UAMs being mostly from Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Türkiye. In 2024, only two such asylum applications were received by the Slovak Republic.

The Slovak Republic granted asylum to a total of 41 persons, mostly from Afghanistan and Belarus, but also from Morocco and Iraq in 2024. In the same period of time, the Slovak Republic granted subsidiary protection to 22 persons, most of whom were from Ukraine and Syria. Negative decisions were issued in 77 cases in 2023. The trend concerning the growing number of discontinued proceedings observed in the previous years did not continue, with a significant drop from 300 to 58 discontinued proceedings recorded in 2024.

The Slovak Republic grants 20 – 30 citizenships each year to people who have been granted international protection (asylum or subsidiary protection) in the country. In the period of years 2022 - 2024, the Slovak Republic granted citizenship to 27, 22 and 13 people respectively.

The Slovak Republic did not resettle or relocate any persons in need of international protection into or through its territory in the period of years 2020 – 2024.

The Slovak Republic amended its Act on Asylum twice in 2024:

- effective as of 1 July 2024, with the exception of articles II and IV, which entered into effect on 1 September 2024; and article III(2), which entered into effect on 1 January 2025; and
- effective as of 15 December 2024 and 1 March 2025.

In addition to the changes concerning temporary protection (see below), the amendment specified in more details the substantial change in the facts in the case of a repeated application for asylum and extended the grounds for discontinuation of asylum proceedings. The second amendment introduced the issuance of ID cards in the form harmonised with the European standards for BoTP and adjusted the conditions for accommodation provision to BoTP.

### **Temporary protection and other measures in response to persons fleeing the war in Ukraine**

The number of people coming to the Slovak Republic from Ukraine in 2024 was roughly the same as in 2023 – approximately one million.

Amendments to the Act on Asylum and the Act on Residence of Foreigners influenced also the status of beneficiaries of temporary protection in the Slovak Republic.

Since 15 December 2024, the temporary protection document, which was issued in a paper form, is issued in the form of a plastic ID card. The ID card is more secure and makes checking of the holder's eligibility to stay in the territory of the Slovak Republic and in all EU Member States easier.

In the light of the continued residence of BoTP in the Slovak Republic, the procedure for granting temporary protection in the event of the birth of a child to a female BoTP was adjusted and new grounds for discontinuation of the temporary protection granting procedure were added to the act.

Aiming to introduce measures that would be sustainable in the long term, a possibility for BoTP to apply for a permanent residence for the period of five years directly in the territory of the Slovak Republic was approved in 2024. Effective as of 15 July 2024, BoTP are allowed to engage in business activities in the Slovak Republic. Moreover, a labour market test does not need to be done when issuing a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy if it concerns a BoTP who has been in an employment relationship in the territory of the Slovak Republic for the minimum of six months and will be employed in the same job and who is applying for a temporary residence for the purpose of employment.

In 2024, the Slovak Republic extended the provision of accommodation allowances for accommodating BoTP under the original schemes until 30 June, but since 1 July 2024 support has been exclusively on new arrivals and vulnerable persons. The period during which BoTP can enjoy free

accommodation was set at 120 days from the first grant of temporary protection in the territory of the Slovak Republic, with the possibility of extension in case of vulnerable persons. In case of vulnerable persons, it is also irrelevant whether it concerns the first or repeated grant of temporary protection.

Moreover, the grounds were defined in 2024 which stipulate when the one-off allowance and the integration allowance shall not be provided to an asylum holder or a foreigner who has been granted subsidiary protection, namely if they have been granted permanent residence or temporary residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic or if they had already been granted temporary protection in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Access to medical care has been facilitated for applicants for temporary protection and BoTP. Outpatient healthcare providers are obliged to enter into a healthcare provision agreement with the above-mentioned groups of persons, therefore they cannot reject a proposal to conclude a healthcare provision agreement on the grounds that it exceeds their acceptable workload.

An amendment to the School Act, adopted in 2024, introduced compulsory school attendance from 1 September 2025 for children of BoTP who are of the age making them eligible for compulsory pre-primary education and compulsory school attendance.

Cooperation with the non-profit sector continued even in 2024. NGOs represent an important element in the efforts to help BoTP to integrate into Slovak society. Support for BoTP continued to gradually merge with support and assistance services provided to all foreigners, with local authorities becoming increasingly involved in this sphere.

### **Unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups**

There have been no significant developments in relation to legislation or policies concerning unaccompanied minors and measures aimed at vulnerable groups of migrants in 2024.

The number of unaccompanied minors placed in the Slovak facilities decreased to only 13 UAMs in 2024, and only two of them applied for asylum. SPCSG authorities implemented measures related to the protection of rights and legally protected interests and provision of care for 48 UAMs in 2024. The trend whereby the overwhelming majority of unaccompanied minors leave the facilities they were placed in continues.

### **Integration and inclusion**

There have been no significant developments in relation to legislation concerning integration in the Slovak Republic in 2024.

In 2024, Nitra and Košice were the first Slovak cities to adopt comprehensive strategies for the integration of foreigners. At the same time, the City of Košice has approved the establishment of a Support Centre for Foreigners and of the point of first contact for foreigners operating under the municipal authority, although relevant services for foreigners were already provided in Košice during 2024. Similarly, Centres for Foreigners were also established in the cities of Prešov and Trnava and the centres for foreigners in Žilina, Nitra, and Bratislava continued to perform their activities.

Acting in line with the Slovak Recovery and Resilience Plan, the Slovak Republic opened three service centres for foreigners under the Foreign Police departments in Bratislava, Žilina and Košice at the end of 2024. The centres aim to provide services related to applying for various types of residence to foreigners interested in working in occupations with shortage of labour, as well as for foreign talents, scientists and researchers, foreign university students, holders of the status of Slovaks living abroad and returnees.

In the context of the National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2030 and of the amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners and in line with the objective to promote Slovak language courses for adults at levels A1, A2 and B1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, a call for applications was launched in 2024, under which Slovak language courses for foreigners will be supported.

Projects and activities implemented by various organisations active in the field of migration in the Slovak Republic (e.g. IOM Slovakia, Unicef, Slovak Humanitarian Council, Mareena or Human Rights League) continued to be a vital part of measures promoting integration of third-country nationals even in 2024. They focused on counselling services, language education or activities aimed at raising awareness of migration, with the involvement of local governments. Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (CVEK) and EMN Slovakia continued to conduct research activities in this field. All these organisations also responded to the needs of BoTP from Ukraine by integrating them even more into their activities implemented to help migrants in general.

Many activities in the field of integration of foreigners, such as helping them with accommodation, social welfare, cultural and sporting events, mental health support, school enrolment for children and education opportunities for adults, community events, informative and awareness raising activities aimed at the general public, have been supported under the national project entitled 'Integration of third-country nationals, including migrants'. The project also supports activities of local governments and non-governmental organizations in this area.

### Citizenship and statelessness

Over the past two years, the number of successful applicants for Slovak citizenship has been unprecedentedly high, exceeding 1 000 granted citizenships for the first time in history (1 432 in 2024 and 1 102 in 2023). Third-country nationals comprise more than two-thirds of all foreigners acquiring citizenship in The Slovak Republic each year. Most frequently, new citizens of the Slovak Republic are from Serbia and Ukraine, followed by nationals of EU member states – the Czech Republic, Hungary and Germany.

In the period of the last more than five years, the number of third-country nationals who have been granted citizenship in the Slovak Republic has been continually growing, except for the pandemic year 2021, when the Slovak Republic granted state citizenship to 480 people. Between 2018 and 2022, state citizenship was granted to approximately 400 – 600 third-country nationals annually. In 2023, this number increased to 909 and the number of citizenships granted by the Slovak Republic in 2024 was 1 051. Similarly to previous years, most new citizens of the Slovak Republic were from Serbia and Ukraine, to a lesser extent Slovak citizenship was granted also to people from the USA, the United Kingdom and Russia, and in 2024 also from Canada.

Citizenship of the Slovak Republic can be obtained also by citizens of non-EU countries to whom international protection (asylum or subsidiary protection) was granted. In the period of years 2020 – 2024, the number of such people ranged between 10 and 30 (see the table below). In 2023, among the people with newly acquired Slovak citizenship were also 13 asylum holders or subsidiary protection beneficiaries from Iraq, Afghanistan and China

In 2024, there have been no developments concerning the Act on Citizenship of the Slovak Republic, which was last amended in April 2022. Similarly, the Slovak Republic did not adopt any legislative measures which would significantly influence the situation of stateless persons in 2024.

### Schengen area governance and other developments in border management and visa policy

There have been no significant developments in relation to legislation or policies concerning border management in 2024.

In 2024, the number of issued Schengen visas increased, but the numbers did not reach the level from the pre-pandemic era. An upward trend continued in the issuance of national visas resulting from the need to fill positions in the occupations with shortage of labour and the issuance of national visas to groups such as bus drivers, lorry drivers and selected occupations in the field of industry.

Aiming to support its consular activity in relation to foreign national visa applications processing, the Slovak Republic sent five so-called 'flying consuls' to India and Indonesia in 2024. This has significantly streamlined the process of recruiting workers from non-EU countries to fill the positions underfilled on the Slovak labour market in the long term.

Within the context of combating irregular migration, the Slovak Republic extended temporary border controls at the internal border with Hungary and, in December 2024, launched a pilot operation of the national part of the entry/exit system at the border crossing point Čierna nad Tisou (Slovak – Ukrainian border).

### Irregular migration

In 2024, the Slovak Republic introduced several measures to prevent irregular migration, which decreased by more than 94% compared to 2023.

The Slovak Republic continued to detain all foreigners apprehended within the scope of secondary transit migration for the time necessary to establish their true identity, thus eliminating a major pull factor. Police and security actions aimed at eliminating secondary transit migration from Hungary continued in 2024. After the national system's connection to the Interpol database via email ceased to function, the Slovak Republic was the only EU country to connect to the Interpol database directly. Close cooperation and exchange of information between the Slovak Republic and the State Border Service of Ukraine in the area of unauthorised crossing of the external land border continued, too. The text of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia on the establishment of joint patrols on the territory of the Republic of Serbia as part of joint operations was revised in 2024, which strengthened the border controls and border surveillance in the third country.

Changes adopted by the amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners have limited the possibility of abusing temporary residence for the purpose of business and study.

### Trafficking in human beings

In the long term, the number of foreigners identified as victims of trafficking in human beings in the Slovak Republic, be it from EU or non-EU countries, is low. As concerns victims from non-EU countries, sexual and labour exploitation has remained the most frequent purpose of trafficking in the last five years and cases of forced labour and forced begging have also been identified.

Over the last five years 2020 – 2024, the number of foreigners identified as victims of trafficking in human beings did not exceed five out of the average of 50 victims identified annually. Out of the three victims of trafficking identified in 2024, none was a non-EU citizen.

Despite the ongoing war in Ukraine, West Balkan irregular migration route into the EU and growing labour migration, no third-country nationals have been identified as victims of trafficking in human beings (formally by the Police) in the Slovak Republic since 2022 and no related cases were investigated in the Slovak Republic. Charges were brought against 22 persons and 20 persons were convicted of committing this crime in 2024.

A new National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2024 – 2028 (sixth in a row), approved by the Slovak Republic in October 2024, entered into force. It is a strategic document concerning prevention and combating trafficking in human beings, which also concerns migration and victims of trafficking in human beings among foreigners as cross-cutting topics. The programme includes also an Action Plan comprising 19 measures and an implementation strategy.

In the context of cooperation of institutions involved in assisting victims of trafficking in human beings, the Slovak Republic plans to revise its current model of the *National Referral Mechanism*, effective since 2020, in 2025. Activities of the *Anti-Trafficking Task Force*, which was established by the UNHCR in 2022 to implement the Regional Response Plan, continued in the Slovak Republic even in 2024. The sub-group was led by IOM Slovakia also in 2024 and its members included representatives of state institutions, non-governmental organisations and international organizations.

The Slovak Republic was subject to international monitoring even in 2024. At the end of February, a week long evaluation visit of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) in the framework of the fourth evaluation round focusing on vulnerabilities to trafficking in human beings in the implementation of the Council of Europe's Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. In the *Trafficking in Persons Report* (TIP), which is published annually by the US Department of State, in 2024 the Slovak Republic remained a Tier 2 country in the meeting of the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking. The Slovak Republic has been Tier 2 since 2019.

### Returns and readmissions

There have been no significant developments in relation to legislation or policies concerning return agenda in 2024.

The downward trend in forced returns continued and, on the contrary, there has been a further increase in voluntary departures.

The Slovak Republic was evaluated as part of the periodic Schengen evaluation in the area of return and a thematic evaluation of the return agenda was also performed in 2024. Several changes of relevant legislation and operational practices have been initiated in this respect and the efforts were made to improve the material conditions in detention centres. The Slovak Republic continued to intensify its cooperation with Frontex in the area of voluntary returns.

A number of projects financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund have been launched e.g. in the area of forced returns, ensuring decent living conditions for persons placed in police detention centres for foreigners, or in the area of assisted voluntary returns and reintegrations implemented by IOM Slovakia.

The motion for the conclusion of the Implementing Protocol between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine for the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the Readmission of Persons was approved and a proposal for the conclusion of bilateral readmission agreements with Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan was prepared as these are the countries whose nationals are eligible for applying for Slovak national visas in the interest of supporting the Slovak labour market pursuant to specific government regulations.

### Migration and development

The Slovak Republic did not adopt any policies or legislation with the specific aim of integrating the development aspect of migration into the country's sectoral policies in a systemic way in the last five years. The *Act on Development Cooperation* was not amended. In terms of sectoral policies, the Slovak Republic focuses on the development potential of migration primarily through development and humanitarian assistance.

The Slovak Republic was preparing a new Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2025-2030 in 2024 and it was approved in January 2025. Similarly to the previous strategies, one of the four objectives of the Slovak Republic's strategy is to address the causes of irregular migration by creating jobs, promoting food security, developing human capital, and increasing the economic and social resilience of communities. The strategy builds on international commitments of the Slovak Republic, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the European Consensus on Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. SlovakAid's activities will primarily be implemented in the EU Eastern Partnership region, the Western Balkans, the Middle East and East Africa. Moldova, Kenya and Georgia will continue to be the programme countries, and Ukraine has the status of a country with special needs. Central Asia is recognised as a region with great potential for a gradual intensification of the Slovak Republic's development activities. A new feature is the introduction of a separate thematic program focused on the environment, climate change, and circular economy.

Focus of Bilateral Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2024, adopted by the Slovak Republic in March 2024, aspired "to present the Slovak Republic as a strong and innovative partner that is actively involved in improving the humanitarian situation and mitigating the effects of the armed conflict on the citizens of Ukraine and other countries affected by the conflict, and that responds sensitively to their needs".

The Slovak Republic did not adopt or discuss any new legislation or policies at the national level concerning the schemes falling under the scope of the so-called circular migration, which benefits both the country of destination and the sending country, as well as the migrants, in 2024. However, the Slovak Republic provided space for activities with similar focus within the scope of SlovakAid. A project entitled *Digital Talents: Labour Mobility Program for ICT Graduates from Slovakia, Ukraine, and Moldova (Digi Talents)*, which was implemented by the non-governmental organization EMA, ended in July 2024. The project promoted cooperation in the field of labour migration as well as economic exchange between the ICT sectors in the participating countries. The specific objective was to establish a legal migration scheme to support young talents from Moldova and Ukraine who are working in ICT.



## Introduction

The EMN Asylum and Migration Overview (AMO) informs about the most important changes, developments, and activities related to migration and international protection in The Slovak Republic in 2024, with a special focus on third-country nationals.<sup>8</sup> It is the only publication of its kind in the Slovak Republic mapping all areas of third-country nationals' migration on annual basis. For the Slovak republic, it serves as a basis for the European-wide EMN Annual Overview and the *EMN Country Factsheets*<sup>9</sup> on developments in individual EU member states.

The publication describes changes, developments and activities related to the legislative, institutional, political and practical aspects of migration and international protection in The Slovak Republic from 1 January 2024 until 31 December 2024. The described developments have been set into the context of the EU's policies and legislation. The publication consists of 12 thematic chapters focused on the following areas: overarching and crosscutting changes to national migration and asylum systems, legal migration, international protection, temporary protection and other measures in response to persons fleeing the war in Ukraine, unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups, integration and inclusion, citizenship and stateless persons, border control and management including the Schengen Area, visa practice, irregular migration including migrant smuggling, human trafficking, returns and readmissions, migration

<sup>8</sup> The general structure of the political and legal system related to migration and international protection in the Slovak Republic is described in the EMN's Organisation of Asylum and Migration System in the Slovak Republic, 2025, <https://emn.sk/sk/publikacie/studie-a-policy-briefy-emn/item/788-organizacia-migracnej-a-azylovej-politiky-prehľad-2025.html>, last accessed on 26 February 2025.

<sup>9</sup> European Migration Network (EMN), EMN Country Factsheets, 2025, [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-publications/country-factsheets\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-publications/country-factsheets_en), last accessed on 26 February 2025.

and development. Thematic chapters also analyse statistics for the period of years 2020 – 2024 and identify relevant trends. The Annex to this report includes relevant statistics, including those not collected at the EU level through Eurostat or Frontex.

The chapter *Key Changes to National Migration and Asylum Systems* provides a general picture of what shaped migration policies and legislation in the Slovak Republic. This overview describes the overarching and crosscutting political, legislative and institutional developments, (inter-) ministerial cooperation, discussions related to measures and policymaking, media discussions, as well as the wider social context that influenced different areas of migration, including international protection. This chapter contains a list of research on migration conducted in The Slovak Republic in that year.

The chapter *Legal Migration* describes the policies, legislation, measures and activities concerning the admission and residence of different groups of migrants, satisfying labour market needs or prevention of social dumping. The chapter is also devoted to migration and mobility management and to provision of information to migrants from non-EU countries on routes to and conditions of legal migration.

The chapter *International Protection* contains information on the Slovak asylum system, on the implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), institutional and legislative changes, national and European jurisprudence, intra-EU relocations and resettlement, and on other activities in the field of international protection.

The cross-cutting chapter *Temporary Protection and Other Measures in Response to Persons Fleeing the War in Ukraine* focuses on the developments in the Slovak Republic in the third year of the war in Ukraine. The chapter describes how the Temporary Protection Directive has been specifically implemented in The Slovak Republic to integrate people fleeing the war, specifically focusing on accommodation, healthcare, access to welfare services, education and labour market. In addition, it sets out changes regarding the issuance of documents to beneficiaries of temporary protection (BoTP). Moreover, it deals with areas not related to the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive, such as cooperation with international and non-governmental organisations.

The chapter *Unaccompanied Minors and Other Vulnerable Groups* addresses mainly policies, legislation, measures and activities related to admission of and care for minor migrants from non-EU countries as well as measures in the area of services provisions to other vulnerable groups.

The chapter *Integration and Inclusion* focuses on socioeconomic integration measures for third-country nationals and beneficiaries of international protection. It also describes awareness-raising activities in the field of migration and non-discrimination, as well as to integration at the local level and the civic participation of foreigners.

The chapter *Citizenship and Statelessness* is concerned with policies and measures related to the acquisition of citizenship and stateless persons in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

The chapter *Schengen Area Management and Other Developments in Border Management and Visa Policy* provides information on external border control and management, visa policies and measures aimed at cooperation with non-EU countries in the area of border control and management.

The chapter *Irregular Migration* includes information on the misuse of legal migration channels, policies and measures against facilitation of irregular migration (smuggling), as well as on the monitoring and identification of migration routes.

The chapter *Trafficking in Human Beings* informs about the policies, legislation, international monitoring, national projects, campaigns and other activities, as well as cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels in this area directly or secondarily concerning foreigners from non-EU countries.

The chapter *Return and Readmission* follows up on the chapter on irregular migration and includes information about forced returns and readmissions as well as (assisted) voluntary returns and reintegration of migrants in the country of return.

The chapter *Migration and Development* provides an overview of activities and measures to include the development aspect of migration into development and other sectoral policies of the country, as well as basic information on remittances sent by migrants from the Slovak Republic. The chapter also informs about most significant bilateral and multilateral cooperation or assistance in transit EU countries and non-EU countries.

The Annex *National Statistics* summarises core statistics for the Slovak Republic on migration, international protection and integration in 2024, including those which are not collected at the EU level through Eurostat<sup>10</sup> or the Frontex agency.<sup>11</sup> The Annex presents statistics on the numbers of foreigners including those who are employed, remittances sent by migrants from the Slovak Republic, issued residence permits and visas, children of foreigners in the education system, obtained citizenships, cases of irregular migration and detained third-country nationals, smuggled persons with tolerated stays and residence permits granted to them, smugglers, returns and reintegration, numbers related to various aspects of international protection and temporary protection, relocations and resettlements, unaccompanied minors, victims of human trafficking from non-EU countries with reflection periods and residence permits granted to them, as well as the number of traffickers who were prosecuted and sentenced for this crime.

<sup>10</sup> Eurostat, Migration and migrant population statistics, [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration\\_and\\_migrant\\_population\\_statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics), last accessed on 26 February 2025.

<sup>11</sup> Frontex, Publications, <http://frontex.europa.eu/publications/>, last accessed on 26 February 2025.



## Key changes to national migration and asylum systems

### 2.1. Migration management system, legislation and migration policies

In 2024, policies and measures related to migration and international protection of third-country nationals in the Slovak Republic remained primarily within the scope of authority of three ministries: the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. The Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic acts as the managing body of Internal Affairs Funds for the programming period of 2021-2027,<sup>12</sup> which include Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF),<sup>13</sup> Internal Security Fund (ISF)<sup>14</sup> and the Border Management and

<sup>12</sup> By the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 329 of 27 May 2020.

<sup>13</sup> Under the scope of AMIF, 10 projects were implemented in 2024 (two projects under Specific Objective 1 Common European Asylum System, four projects under Specific Objective 2 Legal Migration and Integration and four projects under Specific Objective 3 Return), which are being implemented under five calls for proposals launched in 2023 and five calls for proposals launched in 2024. Of the 10 projects implemented in 2024, five are national projects where the beneficiary is the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and in five projects the beneficiary is a non-governmental and international organization. AMIF projects are aimed at provision of services to target groups including asylum seekers, third-country nationals who have been granted international protection or irregular migrants. The most frequently provided services include social and psychological counselling, integration counselling, Slovak language courses, basic material assistance and complementary healthcare.

<sup>14</sup> Projects aimed at financing activities within the scope of authority of the Border and Foreign Police, primarily concerning forced returns and external border protection. In the past, these have included e.g. the projects aimed at reimbursing expenses related to the forced returns execution; vocational and language training for Border and Foreign Police officers; and material and technical support for Border and Foreign Police units.

Visa Instrument (BMVI).<sup>15</sup> It also acts as a competent authority for the Internal Affairs Funds for the programming period of 2014-2020.<sup>16</sup>

Strategic documents which were in force in 2024 and which concern, in whole or in part, the topic of migration, are:

- *Migration Policy of the SR: Perspective until the Year 2025* (2021) and its action plans (e.g. the Action Plan of the Ministry of Health<sup>17</sup> and the publicly available Action Plan of the Ministry of Labour);<sup>18</sup>
- *Recovery Plan: Component 10: Attracting and Retaining Talents and Component 9: More Efficient Management and Strengthening of R&D&I Funding* (2021);
- *Integration Policy of the Slovak Republic* (2014);
- *Strategy on the Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic* (2018);
- *Economic Policy Strategy of the Slovak Republic until 2030* (2018);
- *National Strategy of Integrated Border Management for years 2023 to 2026* (2022), laying grounds for the establishment of the Steering Committee for the Implementation of the European Integrated Border Management in 2022 (see Chapter 9);
- *National Strategy for Human Rights Protection and Promotion of the Slovak Republic* (2015);
- *Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2019-2023*;
- *National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2024 – 2028* (2023).

In 2024, drafting of the new *National Strategy for the Management of Asylum and Migration* started. From 2026, it should replace the expiring *Migration Policy of the SR: Perspective until the Year 2025*, which has been in force since 2021. A single document will be created that will include the requirements arising from the Migration and Asylum Pact, as well as other areas such as legal migration or emigration from the Slovak Republic with an emphasis on the labour force, which are also included in the current migration policy. A meeting organized by EMN Slovakia,<sup>19</sup> attended by representatives of state administration bodies and of non-profit sector, was also used to prepare the document.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>15</sup> The BMVI projects aim to support effective European integrated border management at the external European borders through the purchase of a helicopter and through the information systems support.

<sup>16</sup> European Migration Network (EMN), Organisation of Asylum and Migration System in the Slovak Republic, 2025, <https://emn.sk/sk/publika-cie/studie-a-policy-briefy-emn/item/788-organizacia-migracnej-a-azylovej-politiky-prehľad-2025.html>, last accessed on 28 April 2025.

<sup>17</sup> The *Migration Policy Action Plan of the MH of 2022* includes the following tasks:

- Legislative change to the form of proof for eligibility for urgent medical care and reimbursement for such care for asylum seekers,
- Preparation of a Public Healthcare Early Response Plan applicable in the event of a migration wave and the establishment of a national coordination mechanism for migrant healthcare in cooperation with EUROHEALTHNET (<https://eurohealthnet.eu/about-us/membership/>) and LANCET Migration European Hub (<https://migrationhealth.org/regional-hubs/europe/about-us/>), where the MH is represented, and
- Implementation of training strategies for the development and strengthening of health services sensitive to the needs of foreign nationals seeking international protection / foreign nationals granted international protection / migrants.

<sup>18</sup> The *Action Plan of the Migration Policy in the domain of the MLSAF SR, perspective until 2025 of 2022* (<https://www.employment.gov.sk/files/sk/uvodna-stranka/informacie-cudzincov/dokumenty/akcny-plan-mpsvr-sr-k-migracnej-politike-sr-st.pdf>) includes the following tasks:

- in the area of legal migration a) implementation of legislative changes to facilitate access of skilled and highly qualified workforce from third countries to the Slovak labour market in accordance with the economic interests of the Slovak Republic, b) execution of checks and preventive action in the area of violation of the prohibition of illegal employment of foreigners, as well as the continuation of cooperation of the involved state agencies,
- in the area of integration, support for foreigners at local and regional levels, in particular by cooperating with local actors in the utilisation of EU funds and other alternative extra-budgetary sources,
- in the area of combating trafficking in human beings, support for the cooperation of relevant national and international institutions in identifying and addressing cases of trafficking in human beings, including those with minor victims.

<sup>19</sup> Available at <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7262078408463978496>, last accessed on 3 February 2025.

<sup>20</sup> MO MI.

The Slovak Republic continued to carry out activities towards the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum in 2024. In December, Government of the Slovak Republic approved the National Implementation Plan of the Slovak Republic for the Reform of Asylum and Migration Policy. The obligation to prepare such a plan results from relevant regulations adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in the field of asylum and migration. The plan is based on the EC's Common Implementation Plan, which sets out the measures forming the CEAS reform and a timetable for their implementation. The plan is divided into 10 thematic blocks covering the entire asylum, reception and return system of the Slovak Republic. Each EU Member State, including the Slovak Republic, is required to implement its national plan by 1 July 2026.<sup>21</sup>

Legal framework of third-country nationals' migration from non-EU countries into the Slovak Republic and the conditions of their residence, work or international protection are governed primarily by the following acts:

- Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners, which, inter alia, governs the entry of foreigners, their residence, basic rights and obligations and expulsion;
- Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services, which regulates the employment of foreigners;
- Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum, which, inter alia, governs the asylum procedure and temporary protection.

Other laws related to the migration of third-country nationals are concerned, for example, with recognition of professional qualifications, granting of citizenship, illegal work and employment, health care, administrative charges etc. In 2024, the Act on residence of Foreigners, the Act on Asylum, the Act on Employment Services and the Act on Administrative Charges were amended (see the following chapters).

Validity of the *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 caused by the escalation of the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine for the period July - December 2023* (2023) was not extended.

At the international level, the *Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan January – December 2024*<sup>22</sup> (January 2024) was developed, coordinated by the UNHCR. The document was developed and implemented in cooperation with other UN agencies, the Slovak Republic and the non-profit organisations operating in the country (see Chapter 5.5).<sup>23</sup>

21 Available at <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/30285/1>, last accessed on 3 February 2025.

22 UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/97958>, last accessed on 28 April 2025.

23 European Migration Network (EMN), Organisation of Asylum and Migration System in the Slovak Republic, 2025, <https://emn.sk/sk/publikacie/studie-a-policy-briefy-emn/item/738-organizacia-migracnej-a-azylovej-politiky-prehľad-2024.html>, consulted on 28 April 2025.

## 2.2. Political developments and (inter)ministerial cooperation

In 2024 in public space, politicians in the Slovak Republic focused primarily on the historic increase of irregular migration into the country in the period of years 2022 and 2023 and this topic resonated strongly even in the campaigns of a majority of political parties before the EU and presidential elections.<sup>24</sup> Other political discourse topics included the integration of BoTP in the Slovak Republic and the ongoing discussion about the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, refugee redistribution and the EU external border management.<sup>25</sup>

### (Inter)ministerial cooperation and coordination

In 2024, no significant organisational or institutional changes were made to the key state administration departments related to migration, including international protection, in the Slovak Republic.<sup>26</sup> In the area of migration and integration, cooperation between the relevant ministries and institutions continued. In addition to direct cooperation between relevant ministries and institutions, cooperation also took place through:

- *Steering Committee for Migration, Integration and Inclusion of Foreigners*,<sup>27</sup> which held meetings on 4 April, 3 July, 4 October and 17 December 2024. During the meetings, issues related to the provision of temporary protection to BoTP from Ukraine and relevant legislative changes were discussed. Update on the asylum and migration situation in the Slovak republic and in the EU member states constituted a regular part of the agenda thereof. The Steering Committee was used as a platform for information sharing and discussions on issues concerning the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum implementation process and on related cooperation necessary, e.g., for the preparation of a baseline document for needs assessment as well as for the drafting of the National Implementation Plan of the Slovak Republic (NIP SR). Members of the Steering Committee were informed about the planned approval of the NIP by the Slovak Government at the Committee meeting in December 2024. During 2024, the meetings were attended by ministries, international organizations (UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF) and the non-governmental organisation Slovak Humanitarian Council.<sup>28</sup>
- *Inter-Ministerial Expert Committee for Labour Migration and Foreigners' Integration (MEKOMIC)*<sup>29</sup> which did not meet in 2024, though the MLSAF (via the Department of International Relations and European Affairs) continuously communicated with the Committee members via emails, sharing news and relevant information.<sup>30</sup>
- *Steering Committee for the Implementation of the European Integrated Border Management*, which was established at the end of 2022 to coordinate the implementation of the tasks contained in the relevant national strategy for the years 2023 to 2026. The Steering Committee is composed of entities involved in the implementation of the objectives of the National Strategy

24 Eurovoľby sú za rohom. Aké sú top priority strán? PS a Smer znova bojujú. Programy sú skôr o Slovensku, než EÚ [European Elections Are Around the Corner. What are the Parties' Top Priorities? Progressive Slovakia and Smer Fighting Again. The Programmes Are More About Slovakia Than About the EU.], <https://spravy.pravda.sk/eurovolby-2024/clanok/712493-eurovolby-su-za-rohom-ake-su-top-priority-stran-ps-a-smer-znova-bojuju-programy-su-skor-o-slovensku-nez-eu/>, consulted on 28 April 2025.

25 Unsorted IOM media monitoring 2024.

26 European Migration Network (EMN), Organisation of Asylum and Migration System in the Slovak Republic, 2025, <https://emn.sk/sk/publikacie/studie-a-policy-briefy-emn/item/788-organizacia-migracnej-a-azylovej-politiky-prehľad-2025.html>, consulted on 28 April 2025.

27 Resolution of the Government of the SR of 16 November 2022, <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Resolution/20511/1>, consulted on 28 April 2025.

28 Information provided by the MO MI.

29 MEKOMIC is a coordination body of the MLSAF for migration and integration policy issues and also an advisory body of the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. MEKOMIC comprises experts from (central) state administration bodies implementing integration policy objectives and measures. Interdepartmental and non-governmental organisations are invited to MEKOMIC meetings as necessary.

30 Information provided by the MLSAF.

of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic and the Office for Personal Data Protection of the Slovak Republic.<sup>31</sup>

- *Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the Coordination of Employment of Third-Country Nationals*, which was established at the end of 2023 based on the motion of the Prime Minister as a part of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Inter-ministerial Working Group should regulate employment of third-country nationals, control employment of third-country nationals, assist entrepreneurs with the employment of third-country nationals, recruit suitable workers from outside the EU, allocate additional financial resources for the state budget, ensure faster and better process of employing third-country nationals and reduce fluctuation of employed third-country nationals (in cooperation with other governments, redefining the expulsion process). The Slovak Republic expects that the fulfilment of these objectives will have a significant impact on the development of the Slovak economy. The working group was established to remedy the address the fact that the Slovak Republic has not been managing the process of employment of third-country nationals effectively enough and it is the slowest of the V4 countries in terms of employment of third-country nationals. Employment of third-country nationals in the Slovak Republic lasts between 11 and 18 months, which does not sufficiently consider requirements of employers and does not take into account the labour market situation in the Slovak Republic.<sup>32</sup>
- *EMN National Contact Point*<sup>33</sup> in the Slovak Republic<sup>34</sup> which implemented various activities in 2024, including the preparation of publications,<sup>35</sup> the submission of and responding to ad-hoc queries and the organisation of the Educational Seminar on Migration and other expert meetings.<sup>36</sup> These activities concerned the migration of third-country nationals and were meant mainly for policy-makers, public administration representatives, research institutions, academia and non-governmental sector.<sup>37</sup>

In the Slovak Republic, MI has been tasked with implementing the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum in 2024. Working groups were established for this purpose based on the instructions of the MO MI Director. In cooperation with other MI departments and relevant ministries, MO MI drew up a baseline document for assessing needs, based on which the EC prepared a set of recommendations (known as the 'needs assessment') in which it suggested priorities for the Slovak Republic. MO MI had been intensively working on the development of a National Implementation Plan (NIP) since the beginning of September. In September 2024, working meetings were held with relevant ministries and departments of MI, where MO MI experts identified outstanding issues and proposed solutions in line with the requirements of the legislative proposals of the Pact. The first draft of the NIP, inclusive of the individual inputs, was sent to the EC on 15 October 2024. Subsequently, the EC communicated its recommendations on the NIP at the beginning of November. These were assessed by the MI and incorporated into the document together with additional input from relevant ministries. The NIP was then submitted for a shortened inter-ministerial

<sup>31</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>32</sup> Submission Report to the Resolution, available at <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/29137/1>, consulted on 3 February 2025.

<sup>33</sup> The European Migration Network (EMN) provides up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and international protection to support policymaking in the EU and its member states. The EMN conducts their activities by means of National Contact Points in all EU MS, except Denmark, and in the EMN Observer Countries in coordination with the EC's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs. The EMN's activities focus on topics related to the third-country nationals' migration.

<sup>34</sup> The EMN National Contact Point for the Slovak Republic (EMN Slovakia) comprises representatives of the MI, MLSAF, SO and IOM Slovakia, acting as its coordinator since 2009.

<sup>35</sup> EMN National Contact Point for the Slovak Republic, Publications, <https://www.emn.sk/sk/publikacie.html>, consulted on 28 May 2025.

<sup>36</sup> EMN National Contact Point for the Slovak Republic, Events, <https://www.emn.sk/sk/podujatia-emn.html>, consulted on 28 May 2025.

<sup>37</sup> EMN National Contact Point for the Slovak Republic, [www.emn.sk](http://www.emn.sk), consulted on 28 May 2025.

consultation process. Three dispute resolution procedures were conducted in relation to the NIP and after agreement was reached on the text, the document was submitted without any discrepancies to the Government of Slovak Republic, which approved it on 18 December 2024 as the *National Implementation Plan of the Slovak Republic for the Reform of Asylum and Migration Policy*.<sup>38,39</sup>

To implement the Regional Response Plan, UNHCR established several thematic working groups and sub-groups in the Slovak Republic in 2022, which included representatives of state institutions and non-governmental and international organisations even in 2024. Among them were, e.g.: *Refugee Coordination Forum*, *Refugee Coordination Forum – East*, *Protection and Inclusion Working Group* (with following sub-groups: *Anti-Trafficking Task Force*, *Child Protection Sub-Working Group* and *Inclusion Sub-Working Group*), *Cash Working Group*, *Health Working Group* (with *Mental Health and Psychosocial Support MHPSS Sub-Working Group*), *Information Management Working Group*, and the *Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Task Force*.<sup>40</sup>

## 2.3. Public opinion and migration in media

In 2024, more than 50% of Slovaks viewed migrants neutrally. As many as 28% of Slovaks considered them to be dangerous, while 15% of respondents believed that they were beneficial to the country. Migrants are perceived as dangerous mainly by people older than 60 years of age. In 2022, more people were afraid of migrants (37%). Fewer people perceived them neutrally and fewer thought they were beneficial to the Slovak Republic.<sup>41</sup>

Even in 2024, major media topics related to migration and foreigners included the forced migration caused by the war in Ukraine, integration of BoTP in the Slovak Republic, professions with a shortage of labour, irregular migration into the EU, but also the critical situation at the Foreign Police departments caused by the failure of their reservation system. Even in 2024, the Slovak Republic was a target of disinformation and hoaxes concerning the topics of migrants and migration.<sup>42</sup>

## 2.4. Research, publications and statistics concerning international migration in the Slovak Republic

The research focus in the field of migration of third-country nationals was on several areas in 2024. Research publications and other short outputs included (in alphabetical order):

- *Ako na to? Zapájanie ľudí z rozmanitých skupín [How to do it? Involving young people from diverse groups]*, Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (CVEK), 2024, <https://cvek.sk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Ako-na-to-zapajania-mladych-ludi-z-rozmanitych-skupin.pdf>
- *Deti z cudziny a rozmanitosť triedy [Children from abroad and diversity in the classroom]*, Inklucentrum, 2024, <https://inklucentrum.sk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Bulletin-deti-z-cudziny.pdf>

<sup>38</sup> National Implementation Plan of the Slovak Republic for the Reform of Asylum and Migration Policy, IOM Slovakia, <https://www.slov-lex.sk/legislativa/legislativne-procesy/SK/LP/2024/646>, consulted on 9 June 2025.

<sup>39</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

<sup>40</sup> UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10785>, consulted on 28 April 2024.

<sup>41</sup> Takmer 30 percent Slovákov považuje migrantov za nebezpečných. Podľa odborníkov dôvod na obavy nie je [Almost 30% of Slovaks consider migrants dangerous. Experts say there is no reason for concern.], <https://spravy.stvr.sk/2024/03/takmer-30-percent-slovakov-povazuje-migrantov-za-nebezpecnych-podla-odbornikov-dovod-na-obavy-nie-je/>, consulted on 28 May 2025.

<sup>42</sup> Unsorted IOM Slovakia media monitoring 2024.

- Displacement Tracking Matrix (series of publications), IOM, <https://dtm.iom.int/slovakia>
- Dočasné útočisko v podmienkach Slovenskej republiky – 1. rok [*Temporary protection in the Slovak Republic – 1st year*], Liga za ľudské práva, 2024, [https://www.hrl.sk/userfiles/files/HRL\\_Studia\\_Docasne%20utocisko\\_2024\\_ONLINE.pdf](https://www.hrl.sk/userfiles/files/HRL_Studia_Docasne%20utocisko_2024_ONLINE.pdf)
- Medzinárodná dimenzia politiky EÚ v oblasti prevencie a boja proti obchodovaniu s ľuďmi a ochrany obetí tohto trestného činu (2024) [*The international dimension of the EU policy on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and on protecting victims of this crime*], (EMN Slovakia: awaiting publication)
- Organizácia systému migrácie a azylu v Slovenskej republike 2025 [*Organisation of Asylum and Migration System in the Slovak Republic, 2025*] (EMN Slovakia: <https://emn.sk/sk/publikacie/studie-a-policy-briefy-emn/item/788-organizacia-migracnej-a-azylovej-politiky-prehľad-2025.html>)
- Participácia zraniteľných skupín z pohľadu samospráv a mimovládnych organizácií [*Vulnerable groups' participation from the perspective of local governments and NGOs*], Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (CVEK), 2024, [https://cvek.sk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Proteus\\_analyza.pdf](https://cvek.sk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Proteus_analyza.pdf)
- Partnerstvá v oblasti mobility zručností [*Labour mobility partnerships*], IOM Slovakia, 2024, [https://www.mic.iom.sk/sk/na-stiahnutie/ine/item/download/1459\\_73f7861aae04b3210ab07701d1fd2951.html](https://www.mic.iom.sk/sk/na-stiahnutie/ine/item/download/1459_73f7861aae04b3210ab07701d1fd2951.html)
- Príručka praktickej psychosociálnej podpory pre utečencov [*Psychosocial support for refugees – A Guidebook*], Slovak Humanitarian Council, 2024, <https://shr.sk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Prirucka-psychosocialnej-starostlivosti-2024-Rifugio-II.pdf>
- Príručka zdravotnej starostlivosti pre azylantov a osoby s udelenou doplnkovou ochranou [*Healthcare for asylum and subsidiary protection holders – A Guidebook*], Slovak Humanitarian Council, 2024 <https://shr.sk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Prirucka-zdravotnej-straostlivosti-pre-azylantov-2024.pdf>
- Regional Refugee Response Plan, UNHCR, 2024, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/106245>
- Ukraine Refugee Situation Slovakia (a series of publications published under the Refugee Response Plan), <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10785>
- Skúsenosti s implementáciou smernice o dočasnej ochrane: výzvy a príklady dobrej praxe v roku 2023 [*Application of the Temporary Protection Directive: challenges and good practices in 2023*], 2024 (EMN Slovakia: <https://emn.sk/sk/publikacie/studie-a-policy-briefy-emn/item/743-skusenosti-s-implementaciou-smernice-o-docasnej-ochrane-vyzvy-a-priklady-dobrej-praxe-v-roku-2023.html>)
- Výročná správa o migrácii a azyle v Slovenskej republike za rok 2023 [*Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Slovak Republic 2023*] (EMN Slovakia: <https://emn.sk/sk/publikacie/vyrocne-spravy-emn-o-migracii-a-azyle/item/758-annual-report-on-migration-and-asylum-2023-sk.html>)
- Zahraniční študenti a študentky na Slovensku [*Foreign students in Slovakia*], VAIA, <https://vaia.gov.sk/sk/2024/12/zahranicni-studenti-ako-dolezity-talent-pre-rast-slovenska-analyza/>
- Zamestnávanie cudzincov na Slovensku [*Employment of Foreign Nationals in Slovakia*], IOM Slovakia, 2024, [https://www.mic.iom.sk/en/download/booklets/item/download/1470\\_30dad7e3105ea6e2ba1742a155443591.html](https://www.mic.iom.sk/en/download/booklets/item/download/1470_30dad7e3105ea6e2ba1742a155443591.html)

In 2024, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic published the following publications including statistics on foreign migration and the data from the *Population and Housing Census 2021* (see also Chapter 3.7.2):

- *Zahraničné sťahovanie 2023* [*Foreign Migration 2023*] is a publication providing basic information on foreign migration in the Slovak Republic according to European indicators concerning the status of the population by citizenship and country of birth, migrant flows by citizenship, country of birth, country of previous and subsequent residence, as well as the granting of Slovak citizenship to foreigners according to their previous citizenship and the loss of Slovak citizenship according to their new citizenship. The publication includes the data for 2023 as well as for the 20 year period due to the 20 year of the Slovakia's EU membership.
- *Pohyb obyvateľstva 2023* [*Population movement 2023*]. The publication contains the results of demographic processes in the Slovak Republic (in addition to internal and external migration, it also includes statistics on marriage, divorce, fertility, abortion, and mortality). It contains data for 2023 and for a 20 year period.
- *Hlavné trendy populačného vývoja v SR 2023* [*Main population development trends in the Slovak Republic in 2023*]. The publication describes key trends in the development of the Slovak population based on demographic processes (marriage, divorce, fertility, abortion and mortality rates and migration (internal and external)) and of demographic structures of the population. It also includes an analysis of population trends in EU countries with an emphasis on the position of the Slovak Republic.
- *Hlavné trendy populačného vývoja v regiónoch SR 2023* [*Main population development trends in Slovak regions in 2023*]. The publication maps key trends in the development of population in Slovak regions.<sup>43</sup>

This report uses selected results of some of the mentioned research publications in its chapters.

<sup>43</sup> Information provided by the SO.

# 03

## Legal Migration

### 3.1. Statistics and trends

#### Foreigners in the Slovak Republic

The population of the Slovak Republic at the end of 2024 was 5 419 451, which represents a year-on-year decrease of more than 5 200 inhabitants. The population of the Slovak Republic has thus been decreasing for a fourth consecutive year, whereas it had been growing for 75 years before that. In the last three years, the Slovak Republic has seen a sharp decline in the number of births. Even though the number of immigrants still exceeded the number of emigrants from the country, it failed to eliminate the natural population decline.<sup>44</sup>

The number of foreigners from both EU and non-EU countries residing in The Slovak Republic has grown to 337 140 people (6.22% of the population) in the last five years, while the year 2022 saw an increase by two percents<sup>45</sup> and the year 2023 by more than one percent caused mainly

<sup>44</sup> Demographic Development in The Slovak Republic in 2024, [https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/ext/products/informationmessages/inf\\_sprava\\_detail/472f1f2b-1e83-4ff3-b453-8cc2950c8917/!ut/p/z1/tvJNU4MwFPwtHjiGPEhoUm9pp\\_bD1tFqbZuLXgKthCECNZfb3C8OO-PnwVxeMrO7s5t9WOINikXYZLvQZLoID\\_a9Ib27Kzblg4EnAAZzAtPZ-fXFZHjmj1cBXn8E8lvICKY34nK8nFEPaDI9\\_xbLLGMC1OaFG91Vlcpqv-coKxIU7o0D9qKr3LppCoXqsgqbowNNrczeTsr8xEv8CHmKE05ThKClBgTxOPb7AcS877FOvoyze7z9FXr9U94uDnxxBFi-fIMMx2JC2RyAz8cBT-MVktexFEQKcVAO-0dhaD-xLD53JJIMtXhXdzxxw9R8JtqDPfmrF1u5Xi-FiZ5VDk3Z9aLz5lbylZg-Pj1LYWnVh1LPBm\\_o1WbIotxt49wFl3EGh-DFOdrvBYR0LkQREW4DVCpRlarcp8quc2pMWZ864EDbtu5O691BubHOHfiMkurauv-lxGW-yjk5on2yGBEqoyN5mau1OHkFBbk6tA!!/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/](https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/ext/products/informationmessages/inf_sprava_detail/472f1f2b-1e83-4ff3-b453-8cc2950c8917/!ut/p/z1/tvJNU4MwFPwtHjiGPEhoUm9pp_bD1tFqbZuLXgKthCECNZfb3C8OO-PnwVxeMrO7s5t9WOINikXYZLvQZLoID_a9Ib27Kzblg4EnAAZzAtPZ-fXFZHjmj1cBXn8E8lvICKY34nK8nFEPaDI9_xbLLGMC1OaFG91Vlcpqv-coKxIU7o0D9qKr3LppCoXqsgqbowNNrczeTsr8xEv8CHmKE05ThKClBgTxOPb7AcS877FOvoyze7z9FXr9U94uDnxxBFi-fIMMx2JC2RyAz8cBT-MVktexFEQKcVAO-0dhaD-xLD53JJIMtXhXdzxxw9R8JtqDPfmrF1u5Xi-FiZ5VDk3Z9aLz5lbylZg-Pj1LYWnVh1LPBm_o1WbIotxt49wFl3EGh-DFOdrvBYR0LkQREW4DVCpRlarcp8quc2pMWZ864EDbtu5O691BubHOHfiMkurauv-lxGW-yjk5on2yGBEqoyN5mau1OHkFBbk6tA!!/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/), consulted on 24 April 2025.

<sup>45</sup> Before the war in Ukraine, the number of foreigners living in the Slovak Republic was 167 519, after the outbreak of the war it was 278 595 foreigners as of the end of 2022 and 311 406 foreigners as of the end of 2023.

by the forced displacement due to the war in Ukraine. However, despite this increase, The Slovak Republic still, as well as in the long term, ranks among the European countries with the lowest number of foreigners (5.74 % in 2023, 5.13% in 2022, 3.08% in 2021 and only 2.75% of the population in 2020) (see Table 1).

In 2024, of 337 140 foreigners with authorised residence in the Slovak Republic 281 648, i.e. more than three quarters (83.54%), came from non-EU countries. Third-country nationals thus comprised 5.20% of the entire Slovak population in 2024. Traditionally, the most numerous non-EU nationalities comprised Ukrainian (197 004), Serbian (17 508), Vietnamese (10 186), Russian (8 746) and Georgian (5 342) (see Table 2). Similarly to previous years, most of the non-EU countries nationals (over one third) lived in the Bratislava region (see Table 2).

The most numerous group of foreigners in The Slovak Republic are Ukrainian nationals. Before the war in Ukraine, Ukrainians constituted one third (56 480 persons) of the total number of foreigners in the Slovak Republic. As of the end of 2022, their number tripled to 156 881 and in 2023 and 2024 their number increased only slightly to 176 522 and 197 004 respectively, which means that Ukrainians currently constitute more than half of all foreigners living in Slovakia, including EU citizens (56% in 2022, 56.7% in 2023 and 58.4% in 2024).

Even in 2024, a majority of first permits were issued for the purpose of paid activities (16 717), the rest were family reasons (3 838), education and study (2 768), and other reasons including tolerated residence (26 840) (see Table 3).

Employment comprised the highest proportion (50%) of the first permits issued for the purpose of paid activities in 2024, closely followed by business (48.7%). Compared to the previous year, this represents a change, with employment surpassing business as the main purpose of migration also, inter alia, due to legislative changes introduced in the Act on Residence of Foreigners in the part concerning business, effective from 15 July. In 2024, this group of labour migrants was dominated by Ukrainians, followed by Serbs, Georgians, Vietnamese, and Moldovans. In 2021, a record-breaking year-on-year increase in the number of first residence permits for the purpose of business was recorded (by 180%). Since then, this number has been declining (by 18% in 2022, by 17% in 2023 and by 26% in 2024). This, however, does not reflect the reality that, despite the abovementioned, the number of valid residence permits granted for the purpose of business continued to rise year-on-year until 2024, mainly due to the fact that the applicants were changing their purpose of residence from employment to business. Still, the number of first residence permits issued has seen an increasing trend in general: while in 2018 the Slovak Republic issued a total of 20 989 first residence permits, in 2024 the number was 50 163.<sup>46</sup>

#### Work-related migration

Legal migration, when foreigners come to The Slovak Republic with a residence permit for work, business, study, or family reasons, is the main component of international migration into the Slovak Republic. The Slovak Republic's long-term priority is to address the labour shortage in the country. The demand for labour in the country has not decreased even during the COVID-19 pandemic, which started in 2020, or as a consequence of the war in Ukraine ongoing since 2022.

<sup>46</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

The dominating purpose for migration to the Slovak Republic in the long term is labour and business. Since the Slovak Republic's EU accession, the number of foreign workers has increased more than 30-fold, from 3 351 persons in 2004 to 108 546 foreign workers at the end of 2024, of which 79 380 were from non-EU countries. At the end of 2024, the ratio was 1 foreign worker for every 17 Slovak workers,<sup>47</sup> compared to a higher ratio of 19:1 in 2023.

The workers from non-EU countries were mostly from Ukraine (44 168), Serbia (6 712), India (4 482), Moldova (1 989) and Russia (1 983) (see Table 4). About one third of foreigners worked in the Bratislava region, followed by the Trnava and Nitra regions. The year-on-year increase in the number of foreigners from non-EU countries working in the Slovak Republic has been exceeding 10 000 since 2016. The pandemic years 2020 and 2021 broke this trend, but the war in Ukraine increased the number of employed foreigners by almost 20 000 in 2022. In 2024, the number of foreign workers in the Slovak Republic increased by almost 10 000, most of whom were citizens of Ukraine. Prior to the 2020 pandemic, increased demand from employers in the Slovak Republic for the foreign workforce could be observed for several years, including from non-EU countries, and this trend has resumed after the pandemic.<sup>48</sup>

The war in Ukraine has caused a significant increase in the number of female migrants from non-EU countries in the Slovak labour market. While in the period of years 2016 – 2021 women accounted for a quarter of all employed foreigners from non-EU countries (21.18% – 27.24%), at the end of 2023 and 2024 respectively, they accounted for more than one third (approximately 40%). In the long term, the largest number of female migrants employed in the Slovak Republic is from Ukraine and Serbia<sup>49</sup> and the war in Ukraine has only reinforced this trend.<sup>50,51</sup>

47 In 2024, the total number of employees in the Slovak Republic increased by 11 000 persons (by 0.4%) to 2 620 000 persons. Employment in the Slovak Republic maintained growth in the last quarter and for the whole of 2024, for the third year in a row [https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/ext/products/informationmessages/inf\\_sprava\\_detail/8470fc99-4c33-4f73-bc45-7b4d6513e12c!/ut/p/z1/tvJNU8lwFPwtHnpM80pSUrwFRvkQGAERYMVpa0ortKltbMVfb-p4YUYED-bykpdnd3swwKvscj8Ktn6OIGZvzfjWg\\_zdjQ63YdDtAdExiO7hbTQe-21V-6eHUM8KbzGxg-8Pv-feQ-doC4Wv\\_MfscAizHSuY7xRQenHqNyhJluQv9MMwlsqUuOmyiQg88KvDhZUpdQ7Mz3KIAo7HURDQHcNGEFBSF3EAvrddh0inVbYyOdh8ow3F6FX5\\_I2ceDE4WD44gvS6\\_MBZWMAB9x3YcgHy3lnRghw8g34RWNjPLCTHhyGV1Uia7zMmp\\_Z48Uflw4Aj861YmpvFZPeZGuUfR03fSi8vkjeUJJOX11f-BTa0q0\\_Jd4\\_V\\_9GoyJEFq12Fqg808BoQxj7Zop-050rjgWUA8E6CQkSxkYb8VZp1jrfPy2gIL6rq2t0pt99IOVWwBT5RYIcb9MRLn6TL1yAHtoskNoSI4kl-xPGTrT1pwwGwl/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/](https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/ext/products/informationmessages/inf_sprava_detail/8470fc99-4c33-4f73-bc45-7b4d6513e12c!/ut/p/z1/tvJNU8lwFPwtHnpM80pSUrwFRvkQGAERYMVpa0ortKltbMVfb-p4YUYED-bykpdnd3swwKvscj8Ktn6OIGZvzfjWg_zdjQ63YdDtAdExiO7hbTQe-21V-6eHUM8KbzGxg-8Pv-feQ-doC4Wv_MfscAizHSuY7xRQenHqNyhJluQv9MMwlsqUuOmyiQg88KvDhZUpdQ7Mz3KIAo7HURDQHcNGEFBSF3EAvrddh0inVbYyOdh8ow3F6FX5_I2ceDE4WD44gvS6_MBZWMAB9x3YcgHy3lnRghw8g34RWNjPLCTHhyGV1Uia7zMmp_Z48Uflw4Aj861YmpvFZPeZGuUfR03fSi8vkjeUJJOX11f-BTa0q0_Jd4_V_9GoyJEFq12Fqg808BoQxj7Zop-050rjgWUA8E6CQkSxkYb8VZp1jrfPy2gIL6rq2t0pt99IOVWwBT5RYIcb9MRLn6TL1yAHtoskNoSI4kl-xPGTrT1pwwGwl/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/), consulted on 24 April 2025.

48 European Migration Network (EMN), Annual Reports on Migration and Asylum. Slovak Republic for the years 2019 – 2023, <https://www.emn.sk/sk/publikacie/vyroczne-spravy-emn-o-migracii-a-azyle.html>, consulted on 24 April 2025.

49 Oboňová, S., Integration of migrant women in the EU and Norway: Policies and measures – EMN Slovak Republic, European Migration Network (EMN), 2021, Annual Reports on Migration and Asylum Slovak Republic 2019 – 2023, available at <https://www.emn.sk/sk/publikacie/vyroczne-spravy-emn-o-migracii-a-azyle.html>, consulted on 23 April 2025.

50 Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family – Statistics 2016 – 2024 (tables 1 and 11), available at [https://www.upsvr.gov.sk/statistiky/zamestnavanie-cudzincov-statistiky.html?page\\_id=10803](https://www.upsvr.gov.sk/statistiky/zamestnavanie-cudzincov-statistiky.html?page_id=10803), consulted on 23 April 2025.

51 European Migration Network (EMN), Labour Migration in Times of Labour Shortages – Slovak Republic, consulted on 23 April 2025 (publication is being prepared).

### Foreigners employed in the Slovak Republic in 2020 – 2024

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Most numerous nationalities – all foreigners by nationality in 2024	Most numerous nationalities – third-country nationals in 2024
EU/EEA nationals (of which females)	34 284 (8 971)	31 838 (8 915)	31 516 (9 013)	30 398 (8 824)	29 166 (8 761)	1. Ukraine (44 168) 2. Hungary (8 001) 3. Serbia (6 712) 4. Czech Republic (6 525) 5. India (4 482)	1. Ukraine (44 168) 2. Serbia (6 712) 3. India (4 482) 4. Moldova (1 989) 5. Russia (1 983)
Third-country nationals (of which females)	40 146 (11 849)	38 058 (11 566)	57 426 (26 028)	69 223 (31 254)	79 380 (33 076)		
<b>Total (of which females)</b>	<b>74 430 (20 820)</b>	<b>69 896 (20 481)</b>	<b>88 942 (35 041)</b>	<b>99 621 (40 078)</b>	<b>108 546 (41 837)</b>		

Source: Social Insurance Agency, individuals working with an assessment base exceeding €1 during the year.

## 3.2. General legislative changes

In 2024 there have been changes in temporary residence agenda – in particular changes to the procedures for the single work and residence permit. The whole system for granting these permits to foreigners has changed, the time limit for the administrative authority to decide on this type of applications has been reduced from the previous period of 90 days to 60 days and the previous obligation for the administrative authority to issue the 'Additional information on employment' document has been abolished. Moreover, the obligation to provide a proof of financial means for the stay when applying for a single work and residence permit has been abolished as were some other obligations.

Other changes concern permanent residence and long-term residence, e.g. the possibility of accumulating time periods when calculating the five-year period of regular and continuous residence in relation to the Blue Card before applying for long-term residence.<sup>52,53</sup>

In October 2024, a national project of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic entitled 'Electronisation of residence permit issuance processes' began with the aim to set up new processes and modernize the information system, which will lead to the targeted collection of data on foreigners who have been granted residence permits in the Slovak Republic. Linking of relevant information systems will result in a more efficient exchange of information between state authorities. The introduction of online task completion functionality will also reduce the bureaucratic burden and the ensuring of interoperability between the IS ECU and national and transnational systems will increase the level of security, as each applicant will be automatically checked in the relevant registers based on their personal and biometric data.<sup>54</sup>

52 If a person was a Blue Card holder in the past and had five years of legal, continuous residence in the Slovak Republic or in EU member states, they may become eligible to apply for long-term residence.

53 Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

54 Information provided by the FAD FBS MI.

### 3.3. Labour migration

In terms of its economy, the Slovak Republic faces, inter alia, demographic changes, aging of population, and a shortage of skilled labour, particularly in key sectors such as healthcare, mechanical engineering, and IT.<sup>55</sup> However, labour shortages are felt across the entire spectrum of occupations and sectors. In terms of demographics, in the coming decades the Slovak Republic will face a decline in its working-age population for the first time in modern history. According to the latest Eurostat demographic forecast (EUROPOP 2023), the decline in the working-age population in The Slovak Republic will be one of the fastest in the EU. This rapid pace will continue until 2060. Domestic workforce resources are being depleted and are not capable of satisfying the demand and replace the workers who are retiring.<sup>56</sup>

With the aim to improve the state of the Slovak national economy and streamline the process of attracting foreign workers to the Slovak Republic in occupations with shortage of labour, an *Amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners*, effective July 15, 2024, has, inter alia:

1. regulated the process of granting temporary residence for the purpose of employment (single permit) and granting of Blue Card. The employer shall verify, in advance, with the competent Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family the possibility to fill a vacancy with a third-country national (without the need for them to travel). The application for a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy corresponding to highly qualified employment (Section 21a of the Act on Employment Services) or a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy (Section 21b of the Act on Employment Services) shall be sent to the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (exclusively in electronic format via the Central Government Portal, CGP), which shall then verify the compliance with the statutory requirements and issue the confirmation containing the consent or disagreement with the filling of the vacancy. The Office of labour, Social Affairs and Family sends the confirmation (exclusively in electronic format via CGP) to the MI and MFEA, depending on which of the competent authorities the employer indicated in the application for the issuance of the confirmation, and to the employer. A third-country national may only apply for a temporary residence for the purpose of employment or for the Blue Card if the authority has issued a confirmation of approval. The confirmation sent by the competent Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family to the employer serves as a proof of legal employment. No further employment confirming document is issued.
2. regulated that a third-country national who is legally residing in the territory of the Slovak Republic may be employed even prior to the issuance of a temporary residence permit – Blue Card or before the issuance of a permit for temporary residence for the purpose of employment – a single permit, provided that the third-country national has been issued:
  - a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy corresponding to highly qualified employment, which includes the consent with such filling of the vacancy and a confirmation of the receipt of the Blue Card application, including all the particulars. In such case, the third-country national may work from the date of validity of the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy corresponding to highly qualified employment until the final completion of the Blue Card issuance procedure.
  - a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy, which includes the consent with such

<sup>55</sup> IOM, Labour Mobility Scheme, <https://iom.sk/en/publications/migrant-integration/cooperation-and-partnership.html?download=381:iom/iom-srsp-lab-mob-scheme-2021-comm-strategy-en.pdf>, consulted on 28 April 2025.

<sup>56</sup> IOM, Skills mobility partnerships: New perspective on foreign workers flows to Slovakia, [https://lnkd.in/dP\\_h5eQv](https://lnkd.in/dP_h5eQv), consulted on 28 April 2025.

filling of the vacancy and the confirmation of the receipt of the application for temporary residence for the purpose of employment, including all the particulars. In such case, the third-country national may work from the date of validity of the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy until the final completion of the procedure for granting temporary residence for the purpose of employment.

3. The Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family issues a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy without considering the situation on the labour market if it concerns:
  - a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy issued for the granting of a temporary residence for the purpose of employment to a third-country national who has been granted a national visa in the interest of the Slovak Republic and who will be employed in the same job,
  - performance of a job with a shortage of labour by a third-country national in a region listed in the list of jobs with a shortage of labour and with an employer for whom third-country nationals comprise less than 45% of the total number of employees employed by said employer at the date of application, with the total including the employees employed for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours.

These legislative changes aimed to:

- Streamline and reduce the administrative and time burden on both the applicants and the state. As the MI and MFEA will have access to up-to-date information on the consent certificates issued, they can decide faster in the process for granting a temporary residence or a Blue Card. At the same time, proceedings in cases where a disagreement has been issued will be eliminated, as in such cases the proceedings will not even start.
- Speed up and streamline the access of third-country nationals to the Slovak labour market.
- Streamline the admission process of selected third-country nationals in the occupations of bus drivers, heavy goods vehicle drivers and lorry drivers (national and international transport).
- Reduce the acute shortage of labour in said occupations.<sup>57</sup>

The Slovak Republic has strengthened its consular activities in relation to recruitment of workers from third countries for the positions on the Slovak labour market that have been underfilled in the long-term in 2024. The recruitment process has been significantly streamlined thanks to the strengthened consular activity (see Chapter 9):

- The total number of processed national visa applications submitted to embassies of the Slovak Republic increased by 58% in 2024. MFEA is helping to speed up the inflow of foreign workers by means of the *Flying Consuls project*, who have spent a total of eight months abroad in 2024. Slovak missions in India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan processed the largest number (11 000) of visa applications. Five 'flying consuls' were sent to India and Indonesia and there has been a permanent increase of staff at the embassies in Astana in Kazakhstan and Tashkent in Uzbekistan.<sup>58</sup>

The trend from 2023, in which legal means of entry into the territory of the Slovak Republic or the Schengen area were used for the purpose of further irregular migration, continued in 2024. In this context, the Slovak Republic recorded an increase in applications for temporary residence for the purpose of business or employment. This was one of the reasons why the amendment

<sup>57</sup> Information provided by the MLSAF.

<sup>58</sup> Information provided by the MLSAF.

to the Act on Residence of Foreigners<sup>59</sup> was adopted in 2024, introducing changes in the area of changing/declaring the purpose of temporary residence and tightening the conditions for obtaining a residence permit for the purpose of business (see Chapter 10).<sup>60</sup>

### Highly qualified workers and intra-corporate transferees from non-EU countries

In the context of the transposition of the Blue Card Directive concerning employment of highly qualified foreign workers, effective from 15 July 2024, the amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners (Sections 37 through to 41) extended the scope of application to include some additional categories of persons, simplified some conditions for admission of highly qualified workers to the territory of the Slovak Republic, introduced the recognition of professional qualifications (except for university degrees) as a criterion for the issuance of a Blue Card, adjusted the salary threshold related to the monthly income of a highly qualified worker and extended the upper limit of the period for which a Blue Card can be issued from four to five years. Moreover, the amended law act also lays down certain grounds for the rejection of a Blue Card application, for the withdrawal of the Blue Card or for its non-renewal, etc.

All of the abovementioned amendments result from the transposition of Directive (EU) 2021/1883 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2021 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment and repealing Council Directive 2009/50/EC (OJ L 382, 28.10.2021) into national legislation.<sup>61</sup>

Specific changes resulting from the directive transposition:

- The period for which the Blue Card and a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy (hereinafter referred to as the 'certificate') is issued has been extended from four to five years;
- The competence to issue and cancel the certificate has been transferred from the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family to the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (hereinafter referred to as 'the Office');
- The competent office does not consider the labour market situation when issuing the certificate (the office does not perform a labour market test);
- A Blue Card can be issued not only to the holders of graduate university degree but also to the holders of undergraduate university degree and, in the case of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Executive (Manager) and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Specialist occupations, three years' work experience is sufficient;
- In case of the occupation of ICT executives (managers) and ICT specialists provision of documents proving the acquisition of higher professional skills is sufficient;
- The conditions for the issuance of the certificate have been modified as follows:
  - the duration of the employment relationship is agreed for the minimum period of six months,
  - the monthly salary is agreed to be at least 1.2 times the average monthly salary in the Slovak Republic. In the case of third-country nationals who have completed their university education no more than three years prior to their applying for a Blue Card, a monthly salary at the level of the average salary is sufficient;

<sup>59</sup> Act no. 160/2024, amending the Act no. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners and on changes and amendments to certain acts, as subsequently amended, amending certain acts.

<sup>60</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>61</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

- Further conditions that employers are obliged to comply with for the issuance of the certificate have been added. The employer:
  - must not have been fined for a violation of the ban on illegal employment five years prior to the application for the issuance or renewal of the Blue Card or prior to the notification of a change in the employer and employment information,
  - must have fulfilled its tax obligations, must have not declared bankruptcy, must not have gone into liquidation, receivership and must have not been placed on a repayment plan,
  - must not have unsatisfied claims registered by its employees.
- Statutory reasons for the office to revoke the certificate have been added:
  - the employer has been fined for violation of the ban on illegal employment,
  - the third-country national has been unemployed for more than 3/6 months, depending on the length of the validity of the Blue Card,
  - the third-country national has lost the higher professional qualification to perform a highly qualified job,
  - the salary of the third-country national no longer meets the established threshold requirement,
  - the employer no longer meets the conditions for the issuance of the certificate, i.e. it has not fulfilled its tax obligations, has declared bankruptcy, went into liquidation, receivership or has a record of unsatisfied claims of its employees arising from the employment relationship.
- A certificate is not required in case of third-country nationals who
  - changes employer and has been a Blue Card holder in the Slovak Republic for the minimum of 12 months,
  - has held a Blue Card issued in another EU Member State for at least 12 months, from the date of submission of a complete application for a Blue Card in the Slovak Republic until the final completion of the Blue Card procedure.
- Inclusion of the third-country national who has been granted long-term residence and the third-country national who holds a Blue Card in the Jobseekers register is allowed (which means the third-country national be entitled for unemployment benefit payments after meeting the conditions laid down by the Act on Social Insurance).<sup>62</sup>

### (Low) skilled workers

*Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 34/2024 amending the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 113/2023 Coll. on the interest of the Slovak Republic to grant a national visa to selected groups of third-country nationals as amended by the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 520/2023 Coll. came into effect on 6 March 2024. The Regulation:*

- increased the number of national visas in the occupation of bus driver from a maximum of 200 to a maximum of 2 000 per year,
- increased the number of national visas in the occupation of heavy goods vehicles and lorry drivers (domestic and international transport) from a maximum of 2 000 to a maximum of 5 000 per year,
- extended the list of source countries to include India, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines.

<sup>62</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

Changes have also been made to the *Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 383/2023 Coll. on the interest of the Slovak Republic to grant a national visa to selected groups of third-country nationals in selected occupations in the field of industry*, in particular:

1. Effective from 6 March 2024, the regulation:<sup>63</sup>
  - increased the number of national visas from a maximum of 2 000 to a maximum of 10 000 per year,
  - extended the list of source countries to include India,
  - changed the minimum period of establishment of the employer from four to three years,
  - established that a temporary employment agency is also considered an employer provided that the list of third-country nationals is verified by the employer as user of its services,
  - established that in case of a temporary assignment of third-country nationals, the conditions of Section 1(c) shall also apply to the user employer and, at the same time, in the context of the above-mentioned amendments the maximum time limit within which the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Office shall be obliged to assess the list of third-country nationals for the purpose of granting a national visa has been extended from 5 to 10 working days.
2. Effective from 9 May 2024, the regulation:<sup>64</sup>
  - added 35 occupations to the list of occupations according to the statistical classification of occupations, mainly in the manufacturing industry, with the aim of reducing the acute shortage of labour in these occupations. Among other reasons, this extension takes into account the occupations needed in agri-tourism establishments, as the 2014 - 2022 Rural Development Program of the Slovak Republic stressed, inter alia, the need for greater diversification of activities implemented by agricultural and forestry enterprises (e.g. activities related to biomass extraction and processing, agri-tourism activities, local produce sales, development of recreational and relaxation activities, services),
  - set the validity of the regulation for the year 2024.
3. Effective from 9 May 2024, the regulation:<sup>65</sup>
  - specified the scope of documents that a third-country national shall attach to the application for a national visa in accordance with the subject matter and purpose of this regulation, namely a contract of employment, provided that a proof of completed educational attainment or professional qualifications is not required for the employment in question (e.g. cleaner, chamber maid, auxiliary worker); or a contract of employment and a copy of the educational qualification required for the performance of employment or a copy of the professional qualification required for the performance of employment if it concerns an employment requiring the relevant educational degree or qualifications (e.g. crop production specialist, livestock production specialist, poultry processor, baker, dairy processor, tractor driver, etc.).

<sup>63</sup> Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 35/2024 amending the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 383/2023 Coll. on the interest of the Slovak Republic to grant a national visa to selected groups of third-country nationals in selected occupations in the field of industry.

<sup>64</sup> Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 90/2024 amending the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 383/2023 Coll. on the interest of the Slovak Republic to grant a national visa to selected groups of third-country nationals in selected occupations in the field of industry as amended by Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 35/2024 Coll.

<sup>65</sup> Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 92/2024 amending the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 383/2023 Coll. on the interest of the Slovak Republic to grant a national visa to selected groups of third-country nationals in selected occupations in the field of industry as subsequently amended.

The changes aimed to:

- streamline the access of third-country nationals to the Slovak labour market, streamline the admission process of third-country nationals in the occupations of bus drivers, heavy goods vehicle drivers and lorry drivers (national and international transport) and reduce the acute shortage of labour in said occupations.<sup>66</sup>

### Seasonal workers

The amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners, effective of 15 July 2024, aimed to assure compliance of relevant Slovak legislation with the Seasonal Workers Directive.<sup>67</sup>

A *draft amendment to the Act on Employment Services* is in the legislative process, responding to the need to take legislative measures in relation to the European Commission's formal Communication C(2024) 1036 final of 13 March 2024 concerning the infringement procedure under Art. 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union under number INFR (2024)2010, identified by the European Commission during its compliance assessment in relation to the transposition into national law of Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of employment as seasonal workers (hereinafter referred to as 'the Directive'). The bill takes into account all the reservations of the European Commission concerning the incorrect transposition of the Directive into national law.<sup>68</sup>

The amendment proposed to:

- regulate the implementation of seasonal employment in fixed-term employment relationships,
- extend the period for the purpose of performing seasonal employment from 180 days to 240 days and adjust the period for which a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy is issued in case of seasonal employment,
- provide for a legal right to be granted a work permit provided that the conditions for its issuance have been met,
- lay down a condition for the issuance of a work permit for the purpose of seasonal employment relating to the regulation of accommodation prices for third-country nationals,
- govern the obligation of the office of labour, social affairs, and family to issue a reasoned negative opinion in the event of non-granting or non-submission of a work permit,
- introduce the obligation to grant seasonal workers one extension of their stay provided they meet the legal conditions.

At the same time, the amendment allowed temporary employment agencies to temporarily assign third-country nationals to user employers after the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy is issued and the application for temporary residence for the purpose of employment is submitted until the legal termination of the temporary residence for the purpose of employment granting procedure, provided it concerns a job in occupations with a shortage of labour.<sup>69</sup>

<sup>66</sup> Information provided by the MLSAF.

<sup>67</sup> BBFP PFP.

<sup>68</sup> MLSAF.

<sup>69</sup> MLSAF.

### Self-employed and other types of entrepreneurship

In 2024, the Slovak Republic allowed BoTP to do business only in the territory of the Slovak Republic (see Chapter 5).

## 3.4. Students and researchers

In 2024, the Slovak Republic approved a draft amendment to the Act on Higher Education,<sup>70</sup> which amended its Section 55 so as to modify the conditions for conditional admission of students to allow applicants to undergo additional language training between the date of conditional admission and the commencement of their studies. This amendment enters into effect on 1 February 2025.

In its original wording, the act allowed applicants to be admitted conditionally only if they failed to submit a relevant proof of completion of secondary education (school leaving certificate) by the required deadline for valid reasons. The amendment allows for the conditional admission of applicants also on other grounds, such as language barriers and others. In this specific case, the Slovak Republic wants to allow universities to conditionally accept applicants with less sufficient language skills and allow them to reach the required language proficiency in the period between their conditional admission and a specified date (e.g. the date of regular enrolment). This gives applicants several months for additional study before starting a university.<sup>71</sup>

According to the research published by the Research and Innovation Authority (VAIA) at the end of 2024, the number of foreign students studying at Slovak universities increased by 12 900 between 2016 and 2023, which partially offset the decline in the interest rate among Slovak students. In 2023, students from Ukraine accounted for 53% of all foreign students (more than 10 000 students), followed by students from the Czech Republic (9% of all foreign students). Only half of the period of time spent studying was counted towards obtaining a long-term residence permit, which discouraged 34% of foreign students from remaining in the Slovak Republic after the completion of their studies. As many as 24% of foreign students studied in healthcare study programs, 57% of foreign students studied with Slovak as an exclusive language of instruction, and 80% of those surveyed were motivated by the opportunity to obtain a diploma from an EU country.<sup>72</sup>

### Government scholarships and other scholarships

In 2024, the Government of the Slovak Republic supported a total of 381 scholarship holders, of which 128 were from the countries affected by an ongoing armed conflict or from the countries of origin of forced migration. The scholarships were mainly provided to students from Ukraine (37 scholarship holders in total) Afghanistan (27 scholarship holders), Syria (12 scholarship holders), Palestine (18 scholarship holders), Lebanon (14 scholarship holders), Sudan (8 scholarship holders), Ethiopia (8 scholarship holders), etc.<sup>73</sup>

<sup>70</sup> Act No. 131/2002 on Higher Education and on changes and amendments to some acts.

<sup>71</sup> Information provided by the MESRY.

<sup>72</sup> Skřivánková, V., Turnerová, Ž. (2024), Zahraniční študenti a študentky na Slovensku [Foreign students in Slovakia], <https://vaia.gov.sk/sk/2024/12/zahranični-studenti-ako-dolezity-talent-pre-rast-slovenska-analyza/>, consulted on 6 June 2025.

<sup>73</sup> Information provided by the MFEA.

## 3.5. Family reunification

There have been no new legislation changes or policies relating to family reunification in the context of third-country nationals in 2024 in the Slovak Republic.<sup>74</sup>

## 3.6. Preventing social dumping and lowering of work standards

No legislative changes, relevant policies or measures were adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic in this area in 2024.<sup>75</sup>

## 3.7. Other measures and activities related to legal migration

### 3.7.1. Bilateral agreements related to labour migration

Aiming to satisfy the *Agreement between the Slovak Republic and Canada on Youth Mobility*, a reciprocity quota of 350 participants was confirmed through an exchange of diplomatic notes who could submit their applications for 2025 (the quota remained the same as in 2022 – 2024).<sup>76</sup> As of the end of 2024, the Slovak Republic had concluded six bilateral agreements on youth mobility, allowing Slovak citizens aged 18–35 years to obtain a residence permit and work permit in selected countries for a period of up to one year in a simplified manner.<sup>77</sup>

### 3.7.2. Population and foreigners census

In 2024, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic continued to process data from the 2021 *Population and Housing Census* in the form of analytical publications (see Chapter 2.4). A publicly available publication entitled *Skryté príbehy sčítania [Hidden Stories of the Census]* presents interesting data from the census through data stories, including those relevant to foreigners. For example, it states that the highest proportion of foreigners of all Slovak municipalities and towns (15.57%) can be found in the municipality of Zavar in Trnava region.<sup>78</sup> Available at the SO's website [www.scitanie.sk](http://www.scitanie.sk) is the census data disaggregated by nationality and country of birth in the following combinations:

- at the municipal level: population by sex, age group and nationality;
- at the district level: population by:
  - age (age units), citizenship and state of birth;
  - sex, 5-year age groups, citizenship and nationality;

<sup>74</sup> Information provided by the MLSAF and BBFP PFP.

<sup>75</sup> Information provided by the MLSAF, BBFP PFP and DFEA MIO (on behalf of IC MI).

<sup>76</sup> Information provided by the MLSAF.

<sup>77</sup> Zmluvy o mobilite mladých [Youth mobility agreements], <https://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/ministerstvo/medzinarodna-spolupraca/europska-unia/zmluvy-mobilite-mladych/>, consulted on 27 May 2025.

<sup>78</sup> [https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/87d48cad-edd9-4d92-8b0b-ab492fcd8022!/ut/p/z1/rVvdU-lwFP0t-8BjzE36lfpWUUsRWVpogbw4\\_YSK-bREqir9-A-KsLkPKzm4eMmlzT25ycu4J5niCeRlu8lly51UZPonvKdcfXMNHv1fEAjC0a3C6\\_rVrD00CKuDX9wDW927AGVkd2-uqIkDD\\_Nv0VUDBM-foeuXNd-46oB\\_ztcEAtU7Xb197PW4FvUzbs6RSA7PGnmp39gG\\_bVkc1egCsZ2wgWB3fM11FAUvZ44Pe4CO\\_bYwIOP3-0A-Yq7jeJx5ONAvOw0s2K-Dv\\_QDvi74igHd5yXXfYcWkWAyqWV4gNfd8H8lwGvG805Q8wxzWu62U9x9MqWodztF6g5UvUAtE95YswztMWbNZpvdh-cOMRGVxmKA0SUy-kJiZFLllhZFq0ixOGFC6W3sZ5wmenhs9Ct-qsic2ePoaF5d5chmHdTqrVtsW6JCCAIrCERNoNaaAosyMUahTqpkkuZIoOdAh4Ut2nX31TzqP9c7lav-nASxJwudrleJOeJ0dJAP-7cj7SS2N-vg-RFWQTh7yJJC4V9U7zTa7BpWU1agrWpINILmoqmDRORrCT2iZPX7FvqtCGO3wd61kuiZOTQhijOplzZiJ2K-7TDdANI45YlsW76HH7\\_sH1bzyR6V\\_LpgO423Ri8RTkj8\\_P3BJ-UZV1-lbjyadhtGBdiycjRvuZshbmsaqSI0W9\\_WojB05Oye-OnubklP8QR8ij4kJQcAEXhJDVylRxbEVMZbu\\_78ZnkhCV\\_ft-5nYeFjPUV5mFZ6cBV0W\\_kcrmfKq\\_WgCuZM7j9qsYG\\_IHqNpd\\_PeS8fWj1\\_Eoi2V/dz/d5/L2dBIS9n-QSEh/](https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/87d48cad-edd9-4d92-8b0b-ab492fcd8022!/ut/p/z1/rVvdU-lwFP0t-8BjzE36lfpWUUsRWVpogbw4_YSK-bREqir9-A-KsLkPKzm4eMmlzT25ycu4J5niCeRlu8lly51UZPonvKdcfXMNHv1fEAjC0a3C6_rVrD00CKuDX9wDW927AGVkd2-uqIkDD_Nv0VUDBM-foeuXNd-46oB_ztcEAtU7Xb197PW4FvUzbs6RSA7PGnmp39gG_bVkc1egCsZ2wgWB3fM11FAUvZ44Pe4CO_bYwIOP3-0A-Yq7jeJx5ONAvOw0s2K-Dv_QDvi74igHd5yXXfYcWkWAyqWV4gNfd8H8lwGvG805Q8wxzWu62U9x9MqWodztF6g5UvUAtE95YswztMWbNZpvdh-cOMRGVxmKA0SUy-kJiZFLllhZFq0ixOGFC6W3sZ5wmenhs9Ct-qsic2ePoaF5d5chmHdTqrVtsW6JCCAIrCERNoNaaAosyMUahTqpkkuZIoOdAh4Ut2nX31TzqP9c7lav-nASxJwudrleJOeJ0dJAP-7cj7SS2N-vg-RFWQTh7yJJC4V9U7zTa7BpWU1agrWpINILmoqmDRORrCT2iZPX7FvqtCGO3wd61kuiZOTQhijOplzZiJ2K-7TDdANI45YlsW76HH7_sH1bzyR6V_LpgO423Ri8RTkj8_P3BJ-UZV1-lbjyadhtGBdiycjRvuZshbmsaqSI0W9_WojB05Oye-OnubklP8QR8ij4kJQcAEXhJDVylRxbEVMZbu_78ZnkhCV_ft-5nYeFjPUV5mFZ6cBV0W_kcrmfKq_WgCuZM7j9qsYG_IHqNpd_PeS8fWj1_Eoi2V/dz/d5/L2dBIS9n-QSEh/), consulted on 23 April 2025.

- sex (females, males) 15-year-olds and older, by age, citizenship and number of live-born children;
- sex, 5-year age groups, current economic activity, marital status and citizenship;
- sex (females, males) 15-year-olds and older, by 5-year age groups, current economic activity, number of live-born children and citizenship;
- sex (female, male), 5-year age groups, citizenship, arrival in the Slovak Republic and previous residence abroad (state).<sup>79</sup>

### 3.8. Information on the options and conditions of legal migration

In 2024, information to third-country nationals was provided by state institutions (and, in case of BoTP, also some self-governmental authorities), international organisations and civic sector organisations. The Foreign Police departments continued to be the main source of information on the options and conditions of the legal migration in 2024, even though they were undergoing a challenging digitalisation process. A total of 153 369 clients who had booked their appointments through the electronic system were processed at the Foreign Police Departments in 2024, which represents an increase by almost 63% compared to the two previous years (74 318 clients in 2022 and 94 224 clients in 2023). In addition to the Foreign Police departments, BoTP were also provided relevant information and other services by the so-called transit centres, which were established by the state in several locations across the Slovak Republic following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine.<sup>80</sup>

In 2024, the AMIF funded project entitled *AMIF 2021 – 2027 Information Provision*, implemented by the BBFP PFP, was launched. The aim of the project is to set up a unified information system and ensure that information is provided in the required scope and quality, as well as to centralize the agenda for information provision at the management level of the BBFP PFP. An information office will be created to deal with all requests for information addressed to the BBFP PFP and to communicate with all relevant stakeholders. Human resources will be secured and the material and technical equipment necessary for the provision of information within the competence of the BBFP PFP will be provided. Information will be provided over the phone, in writing (by e-mail and by regular mail) either upon the request or on the basis of the bureau's own initiative and through its own activities, e.g. by publishing information on the MI's website, through information leaflets, etc. The total budget for the project is €1 154 000.00 and the project will be implemented between July 2024 and December 2029.<sup>81</sup>

Acting through its organisation Business Košice, the City of Košice prepared a portal for foreigners called *BrainPort Košice*. The portal offers information about the city, specific job opportunities, as well as the basic information necessary for the relocation into the country and the city (from visa requirements, through the residency agenda to key integration areas such as work, accommodation, healthcare, education, etc.). It is the first such portal at the municipal level in the Slovak Republic. The initiative is linked to more comprehensive measures taken by the City of Košice in relation to foreigners' inclusion. Among the measures were the adoption of a municipal integration policy, establishment of a new Foreigners Integration Department at Košice Municipal Office, and the establishment of a dedicated Client centre (see Chapter 7).<sup>82</sup> The por-

tal was created in reaction to the need to address the shortage of labour in the city of Košice, in Eastern Slovakia, and to promote economic development of the city/region.<sup>83</sup>

Division of Institutions of Higher Education of MESRY compiled information on foreign-language study programs as part of an initiative to improve the promotion of Slovak higher education institutions abroad in 2024. The promotional materials are designed so as to present study opportunities in the Slovak Republic more comprehensively and transparently, thus contributing to more effective outreach to foreign students.<sup>84</sup>

<sup>79</sup> Information provided by the SO.

<sup>80</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>81</sup> Information provided by the IOM Slovakia and <https://portal.itms21.sk/ziadost/?id=202511>, consulted on 9 June 2025.

<sup>82</sup> Information provided by the IOM Slovakia.

<sup>83</sup> Available at <https://brainportkosice.sk/>, consulted on 5 February 2025.

<sup>84</sup> Information provided by the MESRY.



## International Protection

### 4.1. Statistics and trends

Compared to the European average, the Slovak Republic has been recording low numbers of asylum applications and various forms of international protection granted in the long-term and most asylum proceedings are discontinued. This trend has not changed in the last five years: the annual number of asylum applications ranged between 160 and 500, the number of asylum granted ranged between 10 and 40, and the number of subsidiary protection granted ranged between 20 and 50. Over the last five years, repeatedly, asylum seekers have mainly been nationals of Afghanistan, Morocco, Turkey, Bangladesh, Algeria, and Belarus, and since the beginning of the war in Ukraine a higher number of nationals of Ukraine and of the Russian Federation were also among asylum seekers: of a total of 416 applications submitted in 2023 and 547 applications submitted in 2022, 186 were submitted by the people who fled to the Slovak Republic from Ukraine and 40 were submitted by Russian citizens. This trend did not repeat in 2024: the Slovak Republic registered 31 asylum applications from Ukrainian nationals and 7 from Russian citizens.<sup>85</sup> People fleeing Ukraine primarily used a temporary protection status to stay in the Slovak Republic and access services here (see Chapter 5).

<sup>85</sup> Statistical Report of Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic – Year 2024, <https://www.minv.sk/?statistiky-20>, consulted on 15 April 2025.

In terms of the number of asylum applications, the Slovak Republic recorded a major decrease in 2024 with a total of 165 applications (141 first and 24 repeated applications). Most frequently, asylum seekers were the nationals of Ukraine (31), Afghanistan (19), Belarus (17), Iran (14) and Germany (10).<sup>86</sup>

On average, the number of unaccompanied minors who decide to apply for asylum in the Slovak Republic is 10 – 20 per year. For example, 15 such asylum applications were submitted in 2023, with the UAMs being mostly from Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Türkiye. In 2024, only two such asylum applications were received by the Slovak Republic (see Table 22).

The Slovak Republic granted asylum to a total of 41 persons, mostly from Afghanistan and Belarus, but also from Morocco and Iraq in 2024. In the same period of time, the Slovak Republic granted subsidiary protection to 22 persons, most of whom were from Ukraine and Syria. Negative decisions were issued in 77 cases in 2023. The trend concerning the growing number of discontinued proceedings observed in the previous years did not continue, with a significant drop from 300 to 58 discontinued proceedings recorded in 2024.<sup>87</sup>

The Slovak Republic grants 20 – 30 citizenships annually to people who have been granted international protection (asylum or subsidiary protection) in the country. In 2022, the Slovak Republic granted citizenship to 27 people, in 2023 to 22 people and in 2024 to 13 people (see Chapter 8).

The Slovak Republic did not resettle or relocate any persons in need of international protection into or through its territory in the period of years 2020 – 2024 (see Tables 15, 16 and 17).<sup>88</sup>

#### Asylum applications and international protection in the Slovak Republic in 2020 – 2024

Indicator	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Asylum applications (of which first applications)	282 (267)	370 (330)	547 (503)	416 (377)	165 (141)
Asylum granted	11	29	23	37	41
Subsidiary protection granted	27	13	48	43	22
Citizenship granted to persons granted international protection	14	10	27	22	13

Source: MO MI (international protection) and PAS MI (citizenship).

<sup>86</sup> Statistical Report of Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic – Year 2024, <https://www.minv.sk/?statistiky-20>, consulted on 15 April 2025.

<sup>87</sup> Statistical Report of Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic – Year 2024, <https://www.minv.sk/?statistiky-20>, consulted on 15 April 2025.

<sup>88</sup> European Migration Network (EMN), Annual Reports on Migration and Asylum Slovak Republic 2019 – 2023, <https://www.emn.sk/sk/publikacie/vyročne-spravy-emn-o-migrácii-a-azyle/item/758-annual-report-on-migration-and-asylum-2023-sk.html>, consulted on 15 April 2025.

## 4.2. National policies and legislation

The Slovak Republic amended the Act on Asylum twice in 2024.<sup>89,90</sup>

The amendments aimed to avoid lengthy examination of the merits of subsequent applications with low credibility in cases where the applicant discloses allegedly new facts (elements or findings) that existed at the time of the previous proceeding but were not submitted by the applicant during that proceeding without relevant justification. Moreover, conditions concerning the provision of allowance for the accommodation of a BoTP were adjusted by the introduction of new rules and criteria (see Chapter 5). The changes introduced to the act resulted from the need to simplify the administration procedures and narrow down the previously used model of support for the BoTP as it had been unsustainable in the long term.

The amendment to the Act on Asylum of 1 July 2024 allowed for the transposition of Article 40(4) of Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council in Section 11(2), taking into account the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union in Case C-18/20[2] specifying in more detail the substantial change in the facts in the case of a repeated application for asylum and the submission of 'new facts and findings' which already existed in the legally concluded asylum proceedings. This means that if, for example, in a subsequent application, the applicant submits new facts and findings that already existed in the legally concluded asylum proceedings but which the applicant failed to submit in those proceedings through their own fault, this will not be considered a substantial change in the facts and such an application will be rejected as inadmissible.<sup>91</sup>

## 4.3. Reception and caring for asylum seekers

The MO MI prepared new simplified versions of information materials (leaflets/brochures) in 2024 and these were translated into the languages which are most commonly used by applicants for international protection. The materials, which should be used as supplementary materials, aim to enable the applicants to understand the key content of the asylum proceedings information provided better. The text is also combined with simple graphics and icons similar to those used in the information materials on the applicants' rights and obligations in asylum facilities and the icons used for navigation in asylum facilities. The materials represent a response to the need to facilitate the complicated legalese language used in a standard general information materials.<sup>92</sup>

Within the scope of improvement of the quality of services provided in asylum facilities in the Slovak Republic, partial reconstruction of some rooms used for accommodation of applicants for international protection, as well as the reconstruction of restrooms and bathrooms, shared areas, children's play area and outdoor areas took place in these facilities in 2024. The objective was to improve the quality of accommodation provided to applicants for international protection.<sup>93</sup>

<sup>89</sup> Effective as of 1 July 2024 with the exception of Sections II and IV, which come into effect on 1 September 2024; and Section III(2), which came into effect on 1 January 2025; and effective as of 15 December 2024 and 1 March 2025.

<sup>90</sup> Available at <https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2002-480>, consulted on 21 January 2025.

<sup>91</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

<sup>92</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

<sup>93</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

MI's Migration Office continued to provide for the needs of asylum seekers, foreigners granted subsidiary protection (until the time of their departure for integration) and beneficiaries of temporary protection accommodated in asylum facilities also in 2024, also in cooperation with the non-governmental organisations Slovak Humanitarian Council. These include, e.g., the provision of food, healthcare, pocket money, children's school attendance, assistance in finding a job, Slovak language courses, counselling services (legal, psychological and social counselling) and leisure activities.<sup>94</sup> The Migration Office thus continued its close cooperation with the non-governmental sector, particularly within the framework of EU funded projects. Since April 2024, a non-governmental organization Slovak Humanitarian Council has been implementing the *E.S.O.* project,<sup>95</sup> which aims to provide basic and supplementary services to all asylum seekers, including those in asylum facilities, until December 2026. Specific attention is paid to the needs of vulnerable persons. Supplementary services include Slovak language teaching, psychological counselling, social work activities, leisure activities, etc.<sup>96</sup>

In December 2024, the Migration Office started to implement a five-year national project entitled *Pomoc a podpora [Assistance and Support]*.<sup>97</sup> Within the scope of the project, a mobile team of experts should be established to provide specific services to asylum seekers e.g. in the field of psychological assistance, cultural mediation and supervision. These services should help to improve the level of care provided to asylum seekers and compliance with international standards related to the reception of asylum seekers and ensure adequate and timely solutions to the issues faced by this group of foreigners.<sup>98</sup>

In 2024, the Slovak Republic did not engage in any European or bilateral relocation activities (see Table 15). Similarly, the Slovak Republic has not implemented any resettlement or other programme aimed at the reception of refugees from non-EU countries (see Table 16) or any special humanitarian transfers of refugees across its territory (see Table 17).<sup>99</sup>

The Slovak Republic continued to execute transfers to the states applying the Dublin Regulation in 2024, provided the requests of the Slovak Republic were accepted by the concerned Member State and the transfer decisions were enforceable pursuant to the applicable Slovak legislation. In 2024, 37 cases were transferred to the territory of the Slovak Republic for further procedure and 37 persons were transferred from the Slovak Republic to the Member States responsible for examining their international protection applications.<sup>100</sup>

<sup>94</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

<sup>95</sup> Project duration: December 2024 – November 2029. Grant amount: €1 192 599,36. Funding: AMIF and the State Budget of the Slovak republic. Current projects, <https://www.minv.sk/?aktualne-projekty>, consulted on 27 May 2025.

<sup>96</sup> Information provided by the FAD FBS MI.

<sup>97</sup> Project duration: April 2024 – December 2026. Grant amount: €1 600 000. Funding: AMIF and the State Budget of the Slovak republic. Current projects, <https://www.minv.sk/?aktualne-projekty>, consulted on 27 May 2025.

<sup>98</sup> Information provided by the FAD FBS MI.

<sup>99</sup> Since 2009, the Slovak Republic has been entitled to implement special humanitarian transfers of refugees in cooperation with the UNHCR and the IOM. The latest trilateral *Agreement between the Government of The Slovak Republic, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration Concerning Humanitarian Transfer of Refugees in Need of International Protection through the Slovak Republic* was concluded on 18 November 2015.

<sup>100</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

## 4.4 Cooperation with EU Member States and with non-EU states

### Cooperation of EU Member States

In 2024, MO MI prepared documents and opinions for the CEAS reform legislative proposals.

Following the annual bilateral negotiations with the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and the subsequent promise concerning the participation of MO MI's experts in secondments to the asylum support teams, there were 12 secondments by the Slovak republic in total in 2024: four secondments for the position of an information provision expert to the Ter Apel reception centre in the Netherlands, three secondments for the position of a Dublin Regulation expert to the Dublin Unit in Rome, Italy, and a total of five secondments to the Pournara reception centre in Cyprus (three secondments for the position of a registration expert and two secondments for the position of an information provision expert).<sup>101</sup>

### Cooperation with non-EU countries

The Slovak Republic's participation in activities or projects with non-EU countries was limited in 2024 due to personnel and financial constraints. In September 2024, a representative of the MO MI presented the Slovak asylum practices to officials from the North Macedonian asylum and migration authorities. This activity, implemented under the MANOMA project, aims to strengthen the migration and asylum management system in the Republic of North Macedonia. The project was contracted under the Migration Partnership Facility, which is implemented by ICMPD to support the external dimension of the EU migration policy.<sup>102</sup>

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More information about the integration of persons granted international protection and about awareness-raising activities in the field of forced/irregular migration can be found in Chapter 7. Legislative changes, measures and activities to address the situation of the people fleeing the war in Ukraine and beneficiaries of temporary protection are described separately in Chapter 5.

<sup>101</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

<sup>102</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

# 05

## Temporary protection and other measures in response to persons fleeing the war in Ukraine

### 5.1. Statistics

In 2024, the number of people arriving from Ukraine was similar to 2023: while in 2023 the number of entries from Ukraine was 977 227, in 2024 the number was 993 882 (see Table 18). The number of people who have left the territory of the Slovak Republic towards Ukraine in 2024 and in 2023 was also relatively similar: 1 037 946 in 2023 and 1 086 657 in 2024 (see Table 19 and the Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2023).<sup>103,104</sup>

A total of 26 743 persons applied for temporary protection in the Slovak Republic in 2024, which represents a decline by 3 437 people compared to 2023, when the number of applicants was 30 180; and a decrease by more than 100 000 people compared to 2022 (see Table 20). As of 31 December 2024,<sup>105</sup> the Slovak Republic registered a total of 131 696 foreigners with a valid tolerated stay granted for the purpose of temporary protection.<sup>106</sup>

<sup>103</sup> Oboňová, S., Ulrichová, N. Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Slovak Republic 2023 (2024), European Migration Network (EMN), IOM Slovakia, Bratislava.

<sup>104</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>105</sup> Since 1 March 2022.

<sup>106</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

Ukrainian nationals constituted the largest group of foreigners in The Slovak Republic even before the onset of the war in Ukraine, which is naturally reflected in the numbers in all areas where integration is concerned, including schools and education. Ukrainian citizens (see Table 7) represent the largest group of foreigners in the Slovak school system at all levels of education (pre-primary, primary, secondary). In 2021, the number of foreigners (including EU citizens) enrolled in the school system in the Slovak Republic was 8 595, while in 2022 the number of foreigners (including EU citizens) was 19 385, of which 13 607 were citizens of Ukraine. In 2023, the number grew to 42 469 foreigners (including EU citizens), of which more than 58% were Ukrainians. In 2024, the number grew again, albeit more slightly, to 48 238 foreigners (including EU citizens), of which more than 61 % were from Ukraine.<sup>107</sup>

## 5.2 Policies and legislation

Two relevant amendments impacting various aspects of the life and residence of beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine in the Slovak Republic entered into force in 2024 – the amendment to the Act on Asylum<sup>108</sup> and the amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners.<sup>109</sup> They affected, inter alia, the administrative processes, the issuance of documents, the changes to the foreigners' status or the area of accommodation. Among other things, the changes aim to introduce long-term measures related to the stay of BoTP in the Slovak Republic in view of the ongoing war and to ensure their inclusion in Slovak society.

The individual legislative measures are described in detail in the chapters below.

## 5.3. Legal status

The provision of temporary protection was automatically extended until 4 March 2025 by Government Resolution No. 185 of 16 March 2022.

The amendment to the Act on residence of Foreigners<sup>110</sup> provides for the issuance of a new temporary protection document in the form of a plastic ID card from 15 December 2024. Before this date, the temporary protection document was issued in the paper form (A4 size), which did not comply with the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 of 13 June 2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals. The ID card is more secure and makes checking of the holder's eligibility to stay in the territory of the Slovak Republic and in all EU Member States easier. At the same time, it facilitates the movement of migrants within the EU and the Schengen area. The document is valid for the period of 3 years. If the temporary protection granted in the Slovak Republic is terminated, the document is no longer valid and should be surrendered. A BoTP who was registered before 15 December 2024 (i.e. before the amendment became effective) is not obliged to apply for this document and the A4-sized paper certificates remain valid. When the validity of the paper form document expires after the extension of temporary protection in March 2025, BoTP can generate a new document through the

<sup>107</sup> Information provided by the MESRY.

<sup>108</sup> Act No. 144/2024 Coll. amending the Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended, and amending some acts (the so-called Lex Ukraine 4).

<sup>109</sup> Act No. 160/2024 Coll. amending the Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners and on changes and amendments to some acts, Act No. 342/2024 Coll. amending the Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended, and amending the Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended.

<sup>110</sup> Act No. 342/2024 Coll. amending the Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended, and amending the Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended.

system deployed on the website of MI, provided they do not wish to apply for an ID card form of the document. If a person's registration for temporary protection was made after 15 December 2024, the BoTP may apply for a plastic ID card version of the document immediately upon their registration for temporary protection (provided they know the mailing address to which the document shall be delivered) or at any time thereafter. The Foreign Police Department of the Police Force will issue an A4-sized 'temporary' document to the newly arrived BoTP, which is valid for 90 days. In 2025, a Large Capacity Centre in Snina (a town in East Slovakia, close to the border with Ukraine) is expected to start its operation, thus facilitating the process of registration/re-registration of foreigners and the administrative processes connected therein.<sup>111</sup>

Effective as of 15 July 2024, the amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners<sup>112</sup> made it possible for a third-country national who has been granted temporary protection to apply for permanent residence for the period of five years at the Foreign Police Department of the Police Force. Prior to the amendment, such individuals could only apply for permanent residence for the period of five years within the scope of their visa-free regime, i.e. during the first 90 days after entering the Slovak Republic. After this period, they were no longer entitled to apply for permanent residence at the Foreign Police Department of the Police Force, as temporary protection was not specified as a type of authorised stay that allowed for an application to be made in the territory of the Slovak Republic.<sup>113</sup>

Aiming to facilitate administrative processes, the amendment to the Act on Asylum<sup>114</sup> regulates, with regard to temporary protection, the procedure for granting temporary protection in the event of the birth of a child to a female BoTP or a female foreigner applying for temporary protection. Moreover, new grounds for discontinuation of the temporary protection granting procedure were added to the act.<sup>115</sup>

## 5.4. Measures within the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive – Access to rights

### 5.4.1. Access to accommodation

There have been several developments to BoTP access to accommodation in 2024.

The Government of the Slovak Republic extended the provision of the allowance for the provision of accommodation to BoTP in connection with the situation in Ukraine until 30 June 2024 under the same regime as was in force in 2023. Both the scheme run by the MI (for owners of flats and family houses, the so-called accommodation facilities intended for short-term use, provided they are not running a business in the field of accommodation services provision; and for municipalities and higher territorial units, if they provide accommodation free of charge either directly or through their budgetary organisation),<sup>116</sup> and the scheme run by the Ministry

<sup>111</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>112</sup> Act No. 160/2024 Coll. amending the Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended, and amending some acts.

<sup>113</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

<sup>114</sup> Act No. 144/2024 Coll. amending the Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended, and amending some acts (the so-called Lex Ukraine 4).

<sup>115</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>116</sup> Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 459/2023, Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 23/2024, Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 59/2024.

of Transport (accommodation facilities which provide temporary accommodation to the public all year-round or seasonally, i.e. hotels, guesthouses and hostels).<sup>117,118</sup>

There has been a significant change in this area, effective as of 1 July 2024, when an amendment to the Act on Asylum<sup>119</sup> came into force, whereby the non-targeted provision of support in this area was abandoned altogether, with support being focused on new arrivals, i.e. on foreigners who have been granted temporary protection in the territory of the Slovak Republic for the first time, as well as on vulnerable groups of persons that have been specifically defined for the provision of the allowance for accommodation of BoTP<sup>120</sup> and specifically for the purposes of their accommodation in asylum facilities.<sup>121</sup> The allowance for the provision of accommodation to BoTP is governed exclusively by the Act on Asylum and by the relevant Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic governing its implementation, i.e. the under the MI scheme.<sup>122</sup> The scheme of the Ministry of Transport has been abolished as of 1 July 2024, hence legal entities which provide accommodation to BoTP on the basis of a trade licence (hotels, hostels, guesthouses, etc.) can no longer receive the allowance for the accommodation of BoTP.

In particular, the abovementioned amendment to the Act on Asylum modifies the period during which BoTP can benefit from free accommodation to 120 days from the first granting of temporary protection to them in the territory of the Slovak Republic, with the possibility of its prolongation upon request in case of vulnerable persons, within the scope defined by the Act. In case of vulnerable persons, it is irrelevant whether the temporary shelter is granted for the first time or repeatedly. Due to capacity reasons, vulnerable groups are determined differently for the purposes of their accommodation in asylum facilities than for their accommodation by eligible persons under the accommodation allowance regime. In specified cases, a BoTP shall be obliged to leave the asylum facility. A BoTP whose status ceases to exist, whatever the reason, and who subsequently re-applies for such status, may no longer benefit from free accommodation. Free accommodation without any time limitation shall be granted only to vulnerable persons within the scope defined by law.

At the same time, the related Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic redefines when an eligible person shall not be granted an allowance for accommodating a BoTP. A BoTP is obliged to notify the municipality in person twice a month that they are being provided with accommodation by the eligible person.

<sup>117</sup> Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 474/2023, Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 22/2024, Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 60/2024.

<sup>118</sup> Funds for the provision of the allowance for accommodating BoTP allowance were in practice provided by the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic and by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic as reimbursement from the project entitled 'Social inclusion of migrants from Ukraine' under the OP Slovakia 2021-2027 Programme.

<sup>119</sup> Act No. 144/2024 Coll. amending the Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended, and amending some acts (the so-called Lex Ukraine 4).

<sup>120</sup> Vulnerability groups defined for the purpose of the provision of allowance for accommodating beneficiaries of temporary protection:

- a member of a household which receives material need assistance.
- a person with severe disability who is a beneficiary of a humanitarian aid support provided to a person with severe disability under a special regulation
- a person who has reached the age of 65 years,
- one of the parents caring for a child younger than five years of age or a natural person providing personal care to a child younger than five years of age based on a court decision,
- a child younger than five years of age of one of the parents or of a natural person who provides personal care to them based on a court decision.

<sup>121</sup> Vulnerability groups defined for the accommodation of beneficiaries of temporary protection in asylum facilities:

- a person who has reached the age of 65 years,
- a single parent caring for a child younger than five years of age or a natural person providing personal care to a child younger than five years of age based on a court decision,
- a child younger than five years of age of a single parent or of a natural person who provides personal care to them based on a court decision.

<sup>122</sup> Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 151/2024 Coll.

The amount of the allowance under the MI scheme has remained at the level of €5 per night for owners of flats and family houses, or €6 per night for other providers.

Subsequently, effective from 1 March 2025, an amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners,<sup>123</sup> amending the Act on Asylum, which was passed in 2024, reduces again the period of the provision of allowance to 60 days, after which the allowance can only be provided for accommodation of a BoTP who meets the vulnerability conditions stipulated in the Act on Asylum.<sup>124</sup>

#### 5.4.2. Access to medical care

In 2024, there was a development in access to healthcare that affected not only BoTP.

Effective of 1 September 2024, the amendment to Act No. 576/2004 Coll. on Health Care and Health Care-related Services and on changes and amendments to some acts<sup>125</sup> has facilitated access to health care for groups of persons granted subsidiary protection, applicants for temporary protection, asylum holders and beneficiaries of temporary protection at their place of residence. Health care providers are obliged to enter into a healthcare provision agreement with the above-mentioned groups of persons, therefore they cannot reject a proposal to conclude a healthcare provision agreement on the grounds that it exceeds their acceptable workload. This obligation applies to outpatient practices of general practitioners, paediatricians, gynaecologists and dental care providers.<sup>126</sup>

#### 5.4.3. Access to social welfare assistance

A minor change was introduced in the field of access to social welfare in 2024 in the form of the amendment to the Act on Asylum,<sup>127</sup> effective as of 1 July 2024, which defined the grounds when the one-off allowance and the integration allowance shall not be provided to an asylum holder or a foreigner who has been granted subsidiary protection if they have been granted permanent residence or temporary residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic or if they had already been granted temporary protection in the territory of the Slovak Republic.<sup>128</sup>

#### 5.4.4. Access to education

Compliance with the compulsory pre-primary education for 5-year-old children granted temporary protection and compulsory school attendance for students from 6 to 16 years of age who have been granted temporary protection remained voluntary in the Slovak Republic in 2024. This means that even in 2024 it was possible for BoTP to choose between face-to-face education in the Slovak Republic or online lessons taught from Ukraine.<sup>129</sup>

<sup>123</sup> Act No. 342/2024 Coll. amending the Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended, and amending the Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended.

<sup>124</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

<sup>125</sup> Act No. 144/2024 Coll. amending the Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended, and amending some acts.

<sup>126</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

<sup>127</sup> Act No. 144/2024 Coll. amending the Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended, and amending some acts (the so-called Lex Ukraine 4).

<sup>128</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

<sup>129</sup> Information provided by the MESRY.

However, an amendment to Act No. 245/2008 (School Act)<sup>130</sup> was adopted in 2024, which introduced compulsory school attendance from 1 September 2025 for children of BoTP from Ukraine for whom the temporary protection granting proceedings have been initiated, who are of the age making them eligible for compulsory pre-primary and compulsory school attendance.<sup>131</sup>

#### 5.4.5. Access to the labour market

There have been several developments concerning BoTP access to the labour market in 2024. Their aim, above all, was to facilitate their access to the labour market, provide for a long-term and sustainable solution to their situation and promote their economic independence.

Effective as of 15 July 2024, the amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners<sup>132</sup> has added a situation where the competent Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family does not consider the labour market situation when issuing a confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy (the office does not perform a labour market test) in the case of a third-country national who has been granted temporary protection, has been in an employment relationship in the territory of the Slovak Republic for the minimum of six months and will be employed in the same job and who is applying for a temporary residence for the purpose of employment.<sup>133</sup>

Effective as of 15 July 2024, the same amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners<sup>134</sup> has made it possible for BoTP to engage in business activities in the Slovak Republic.<sup>135</sup>

### 5.5. Measures taken outside the scope of implementation of temporary protection directive

There have been no developments concerning returns to Ukraine in 2024, as returns continued to be suspended. Similarly, as concerns the assisted voluntary returns programme implemented in the Slovak Republic by the IOM, Ukraine remained on the list of countries to which it was not possible to carry out assisted voluntary returns (executed by the IOM).<sup>136</sup>

### 5.6. Cooperation with international and non-governmental organisations and involvement of local governments

In 2024, international and non-governmental organisations continued to play a significant role in assisting BoTP from Ukraine and cooperated with state actors in various areas. In the light of the ongoing war in Ukraine and the continued presence of Ukrainian citizens in Slovakia, local governments are also becoming involved in their integration more intensively and systematically.

<sup>130</sup> Act No. 290/2024 amending the Act No. 597/2003 Coll. on Financing of Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and School Facilities, as amended, and amending some acts.

<sup>131</sup> Information provided by the MESRY.

<sup>132</sup> Act No. 160/2024 Coll. amending the Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended, and amending some acts.

<sup>133</sup> Information provided by the MLSAF.

<sup>134</sup> Act No. 160/2024 Coll. amending the Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended, and amending some acts.

<sup>135</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

<sup>136</sup> Information provided by the IOM Slovakia and BBFP PF P.

Within the scope of a national project implemented in the context of the OP Slovakia call for 'Integration of Third-country Nationals, Including Migrants'<sup>137</sup> integration of foreigners, including BoTP, is also supported by local self-governmental authorities.

In general, activities designed specifically for BoTP since the beginning of the war have been integrated into the more comprehensive activities and services provided to all foreigners, which are described in detail in Chapter 7 herein.

The Regional Refugee Response Plan,<sup>138</sup> which has been prepared also for 2024, can be seen as an example of interagency cooperation of state authorities, non-governmental and international organisations in this area. As many as 25 institutions operating in the region participated in its creation, of which 16 were non-governmental organisations, two were organisations led by refugees, and seven were the UN agencies. The Plan aims to support all the states neighbouring with Ukraine, including the Slovak Republic, in receiving refugees from Ukraine in a way which ensures their access to safety and international protection. The Plan also serves to ensure effective coordination of partners regionally and in individual countries. Attention is given to critical services, social cohesion, inclusion, and peaceful cohabitation. The Plan covers all basic needs – material support, health, education, means of subsistence, inclusion, logistics and telecommunications. Consultations and preparatory works for the drafting of a similar plan for the years 2025 – 2026 commenced in 2024.<sup>139</sup>

Thanks to the cooperation between international (UNHCR, UNICEF) and non-governmental organizations (Slovak Humanitarian Council, Human Rights League, Mareena, Nitra Community Foundation), assistance to BoTP from Ukraine was provided also in 2024 through the so-called Blue Dot<sup>140</sup> centres located in Bratislava, Košice, Michalovce and Nitra. Blue Dots are support centres that provide important protection services as well as reliable information for BoTP. Activities carried out in 2024 were focused mainly on transferring the provision of services to foreigners and the possible establishment of client centres to local governments. These activities are described in more detail in Chapter 7.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) continued to provide support to BoTP through its Migration Information Centre (MIC IOM) even in 2024. Until the end of March 2024, MIC IOM operated in all 8 regional cities of the Slovak Republic. Since April, MIC IOM continued to provide its services and counselling to non-EU countries nationals only in Bratislava and Košice.

BoTP had access to legal and employment counselling, language courses, reimbursed retraining courses or education recognition grants. In addition to this, MIC IOM organised various community and cultural events aimed at connecting communities and the integration promotion in the Slovak Republic. Information was provided over the phone, through the website, through various leaflets and through face-to-face meetings.<sup>141</sup>

<sup>137</sup> MLSAF, <https://www.mpsvr.sk/files/slovensky/esf/op-slovensko/vyzvy-np/zmena-c-1-vyzvy-integracia-statnych-prislusnikov-tretich-krajinn.pdf>, consulted on 13 January 2025. Implementation period of the national project is 1 January 2024 – 31 August 2026.

<sup>138</sup> UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/106245>, consulted on 12 March 2025.

<sup>139</sup> Information provided by IOM Slovakia.

<sup>140</sup> UNHCR, Slovakia, <https://help.unhcr.org/slovakia/sk/services/modre-body/>, consulted on 12 March 2025.

<sup>141</sup> MIC IOM, [www.mic.iom.sk](http://www.mic.iom.sk), consulted on 12 March 2025.

Among other things, IOM Slovakia worked with BoTP in the areas of assisted voluntary returns, prevention of human trafficking, prevention of sexual exploitation and violence, it provided material assistance and support in securing accommodation and health care, and participated in the collection and evaluation of data on BoTP in the Slovak Republic.

In cooperation with UNICEF, local self-governments implemented activities to support Ukrainian children's access to formal and informal education and to foster inclusive and quality education. These activities included the employment of Ukrainian teaching assistants, psychologists, and special educators providing support to all students.<sup>142</sup>

In general, in 2024 non-governmental and international organisations provided assistance and counselling to BoTP from Ukraine as part of their wider scope of activities aimed at foreigners, building on the activities they had been providing in this area even before the war. The channels through which they provided assistance included fieldwork, websites or hotlines. More detailed information on this can be found in Chapter 7.

Human Rights League NGO launched a specific project in 2024 in cooperation with the international organisation Kids in Need of Defense (KIND). The project named 'Suzir'ya for the protection of minors' aims to provide legal support to children and young people displaced from Ukraine who may be at risk and/or may be victims/witnesses of war-related crimes, inclusive of human trafficking, exploitation and other serious international crimes.<sup>143</sup>

Moreover, Human Rights League conducted in-depth interviews about their situation with more than 100 BoTP as part of the Protection Profiling and Monitoring project.<sup>144</sup>

Human Rights League published a publication entitled *Dočasné útočisko v podmienkach Slovenskej republiky – 1. Rok [Temporary protection in the Slovak Republic – 1st year]* which maps the conditions and standards of temporary protection in the first year of its provision in the context of the Temporary Protection Directive, as well as the scope of individual rights enjoyed by persons granted temporary protection in the Slovak Republic.<sup>145</sup>

<sup>142</sup> Information provided by UNICEF.

<sup>143</sup> Human Rights League, <https://www.hrl.sk/sk/co-robime/projekty/aktualne-projekty/projekt-suzir%e2%80%99ya>, consulted on 12 March 2025.

<sup>144</sup> Information provided by Human Rights League. Available from UNHCR: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/108210>, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/111667>, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/113754>, consulted on 28 May 2025.

<sup>145</sup> Human Rights League, <https://www.hrl.sk/sk/co-robime/Kniznica/publikacie>, consulted on 31 March 2025.



## Unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups

### 6.1. Unaccompanied minors

#### Statistics and trends

The number of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) in the Slovak Republic grew in the period of years 2020 – 2022, in 2023 the number declined and the significantly decreasing trend in the number of UAMs in the Slovak Republic continued also in 2024. The most significant increase occurred between 2021 (183 UAMs) and 2020 (79 UAMs), while such a large increase was not recorded even in 2022, when the overall number of foreigners in the Slovak Republic increased significantly as a result of the war in Ukraine. A total of 270 new UAMs were placed in SPCSG facilities in the Slovak Republic in the course of 2022, the year 2023, on the contrary, saw the decline to 179 new UAMs and in 2024 the number decreased to only 13. The most numerous group of UAMs were citizens of Syria, followed by UAMs from Ukraine, Afghanistan and Egypt. In the period of years 2020 – 2022 there has been an increase in the number of UAMs for whom protective measures were implemented by SPCSG authorities, with 89 such UAMs in 2020, 194 UAMs in 2021 and 3 018 in 2022. In 2023, their number decreased to 245 and the year 2024 saw a sharp drop, as relevant SPCSG bodies implemented such measures only for a total of 48 UAMs. It is important to mention that a vast majority of these UAMs will leave the Slovak Republic after some time.

In 2024, the number of such departures was 11, which represents approx. 85% (see Table 21).<sup>146</sup>

Only two UAMs applied for asylum in the Slovak Republic in 2024, which represents 15% of the total number of UAMs newly arriving in the SPCSG facilities (see Table 22). In general, the number of UAMs who applied for asylum is low: 15 UAMs (6%) in 2023 and 9 UAMs in 2022, which comprised only 3% of all UAMs in that year.<sup>147</sup>

### Policies, legislation and measures

There have been no significant developments in relation to legislation or policies concerning unaccompanied minors in 2024.

An amendment to the Act on Asylum, inter alia, extended the grounds for suspending asylum granting proceedings, including those with implications for UAMs. Pursuant to Section 19(1)(l) and (m) of the Act on Asylum, if an asylum seeker fails to comply with the obligation to report to an accommodation centre within the period specified by law following the expiry of their temporary residence or permanent residence or from the date of reaching the age of majority in the case of an unaccompanied minor this shall constitute grounds for suspending asylum granting proceedings. This shall not apply if the asylum seeker was unable to report to the accommodation centre for serious reasons (e.g. hospitalization), or, in the case of an unaccompanied minor, if they requested to remain in a SPCSG facility.<sup>148</sup>

In 2024, the MO MI prepared and launched a simplified version of the instructions for asylum seekers which is particularly suitable for vulnerable persons and minors. This material includes, among other things, information on self-identification of victims of human trafficking and information on the possibilities available to such victim, inclusive of the contact details of competent authorities (see also Chapter 11).<sup>149</sup>

In the context of combating trafficking in human beings, two employees of CCF Medzilaborce participated in the educational activity and a study trip to Italy, which was organised by Prešov Self-governing Region under the project entitled 'Socio-economic Integration of Refugees and Migrants' in 2024.

As part of the National Project *Rozvoj výkonu opatrení sociálnoprávnej ochrany detí a sociálnej kurately II [Development of Social and Legal Protection and Social Guardianship Measures for Children II]*, there has been an increase in the number of employees of the offices of labour, social affairs and family, including the office in Medzilaborce, where the number of employees currently working on matters concerning unaccompanied minors increased to three, which is an increase of two employees compared to recent years.<sup>150</sup>

<sup>146</sup> Information provided by the COLSAF.

<sup>147</sup> Information provided by the COLSAF.

<sup>148</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

<sup>149</sup> Information provided by the DFEA MIO (on behalf of IC MI).

<sup>150</sup> Information provided by the MLSAF.

### Other measures

The IOM MIC continued to provide legal counselling, socio-cultural mediation activities and interpreting services to UAMs in CCF Medzilaborce in 2024. Due to the low number of UAMs, no other specific activities were carried out (unlike in previous years).

## 6.2. Other Vulnerable Groups

There have been no significant developments in relation to policies or legislation in this area in 2024.<sup>151</sup>

<sup>151</sup> Information provided by the MO MI, MLSAF and BBFP PFP.



## Integration and inclusion

### 7.1. Integration of third-country nationals

#### 7.1.1. Policies and legislation

There were no significant developments in relation to legislation concerning integration and inclusion in 2024. No strategic policy documents were adopted in this area in 2024 either. At the local level, strategic documents have been adopted which mainly result from the long-term systematic work of the non-profit sector, international organizations and local governments. These documents respond to the growing number of foreigners in the Slovak Republic related to the war in Ukraine or to the new job opportunities and the need for broader involvement of cities and local governments in the integration of foreigners, which brings along new challenges but also opportunities requiring a comprehensive and systematic approach.

In June 2024, Nitra became the first Slovak city to adopt a comprehensive Strategy for the integration of foreigners (including refugees and migrants) in the city of Nitra with a view to 2035.<sup>152</sup> In December 2024, the city of Košice also adopted such a strategy, together with a related action plan.<sup>153</sup> These strategies aim to define priorities and tools for addressing the issues related to migration and integration of foreigners at the city level and to take steps towards the effective and sustainable integration of foreigners living in Slovakia.

<sup>152</sup> Contact Point for Foreigners COMIN, <https://comin.sk/kontakty/strategia-integracie-cudzincov-v-meste-nitra>, consulted on 10 February 2025.

<sup>153</sup> City of Košice, <https://www.kosice.sk/clanok/mesto-kosice-s-pomocou-osn-aktivne-pracuje-na-integracii-cudzincov>, consulted on 13 March 2025.

#### 7.1.2. Measures to support integration

In 2024, several changes to support integration were introduced at the state level.

Acting in line with the Slovak Recovery and Resilience Plan and its Component 10, Investment 1. Attracting and Retaining Talents – Support tools and assistance for returnees, highly qualified third-country workers and their family members and foreign higher education students studying in Slovakia, the Slovak Republic opened three service centres for foreigners under the Foreign Police departments in Bratislava, Žilina and Košice at the end of 2024. The centres aim to provide services related to applying for temporary residence, permanent residence, a Blue Card, national visas, or temporary protection for foreigners interested in working in occupations with shortage of labour, as well as for foreign talents, scientists and researchers, foreign university students, holders of the status of Slovaks living abroad and returnees. The centres provide comprehensive services in the area of social and labour integration of applicants and their family members, offer guidance and assistance with applications and required documents, and even with the actual application submission.<sup>154</sup>

In the context of the *National Strategy for Research, Development and Innovation 2030 – Slovakia that trusts itself* and, in particular, measure no. 2.2.2.6. - *Institutionalization and promotion of language education for foreigners* of the related Action Plan,<sup>155</sup> and in the context of the approved amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners of 15 July 2024, which stipulates that verification of the level of command of the Slovak language will be required when foreigners apply for long-term residence from 2025, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Youth of the Slovak Republic (MESRY) launched a call for applications for grants for Slovak language education for foreigners in October 2024. Eligible for the support under the call are Slovak language courses for adults at levels A1, A2 and B1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Eligible applicants included municipalities, higher territorial units (self-governing regions) and state-recognised churches and religious societies in the Slovak Republic, which must act as founders of the language schools included in the official network of schools and educational establishments of the Slovak Republic.

The integration support continued to be implemented mainly by project activities also in 2024. The projects focused on various integration areas and offered direct support to migrants, such as counselling, courses etc., or contributed to the creation of policies, measures or sensitive public discussion. Unlike in the previous years, when some integration activities were provided exclusively to people fleeing the war in Ukraine, while other projects provided services to all foreigners, in 2024 these activities were more closely integrated and there was no distinction between assistance provided to BoTP and to other foreigners.

2024 saw the commencement of the implementation of the national project entitled *Provision of Information AMIF 2021 – 2027*. The project aims to establish a specialized workplace through which information will be provided by telephone or in writing, through the website of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic or via information materials, to the target group consisting mainly of foreigners, citizens of the Slovak Republic, state and non-state institutions, national and international organizations, third-sector organizations, etc. (see also Chapter 3.8).<sup>156</sup>

<sup>154</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

<sup>155</sup> VAIA, [https://vaia.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Priloha\\_1\\_Akcnny\\_plan\\_final.pdf](https://vaia.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Priloha_1_Akcnny_plan_final.pdf), consulted on 13 February 2025.

<sup>156</sup> Available at <https://portal.itms21.sk/ziaдост/?id=202511>, consulted on 12 May 2025.

Effective integration of foreigners is inevitably linked to the active participation of municipalities, local governments and non-governmental organizations in the process and their synergistic cooperation with state institutions. Local governments and NGOs continue to play an important role in the long-term integration efforts and activities implemented for the benefit of foreigners.

To this end, a national project entitled 'Integration of third-country nationals, including migrants'<sup>157</sup> implemented under the OP Slovakia was launched in 2024. Within the project, support for the integration of persons from the target group is ensured by the local governments and non-governmental organisations, which are provided with financial resources in a systematic, transparent and efficient manner to ensure the implementation of socio-economic integration activities aiming to facilitate the contact of the target group members with the social environment and to promote their access to services, thus supporting their integration into society, focusing on key areas such as education, housing, employment, health care and social care. Supported activities include the provision of general information and advice, organisation of activities and programs designed to increase the effectiveness of integration support, but also activities and programs at the community level and community events, information and awareness-raising activities aimed at the general public, training events and methodological and coordination activities.<sup>158</sup>

In particular, the following project activities are supported:

- In the area of primary and secondary education, activities related to the education and integration of children, pupils, and students according to their individual needs beyond the standard teaching process are implemented. Coordination of the placement of children and pupils/students in schools and school facilities is ensured, as well as coordination of their first contact with the school. Language clubs and Slovak language courses for children/students are organized, study materials, teaching aids and language teaching aids are designed. Clubs dedicated to various school subjects are organized for ninth-graders, and specialized lectures are held for their parents on secondary school study opportunities. Extracurricular sports, cultural, educational, and instructional events related to the successful adaptation and integration of children and students are coordinated and organized and individual consultations and tutoring, psychological diagnostics, counselling and consultations with families and children, as well as the coordination of members of the schools' psychosocial team and crisis intervention groups are supported.
- In the field of higher (tertiary) and adult education, various forms of supplementary education are provided, such as the 'preparation courses for new professions in the host country', and the acquisition of new skills required on the labour market is also supported. As concerns the education of adults, there are regular courses of Slovak as a foreign language for adults, with emphasis placed not only on language teaching but also on the socio-cultural orientation of participants. Conversation events where participants have the opportunity to engage in multilingual conversations are also becoming increasingly popular, as they allow for the practicing of people's language skills, socializing, and networking within the community.
- With the aim to facilitate foreigners' integration in the labour market, interpreting services

<sup>157</sup> MLSAF, <https://www.mpsvr.sk/files/slovensky/esf/op-slovensko/vyzvy-np/zmena-c-1-vyzvy-integracia-statnych-prislusnikov-tretich-krajov.pdf>, consulted on 13 January 2025. The national project is implemented from 1 January 2024 to 31 August 2026.

<sup>158</sup> Information provided by the MLSAF.

are provided, inclusive of translations of personal and official documents, writing of CVs, e.g., for employment purposes, and assistance in dealing with state and public administration authorities. Assistance is also provided in the recognition of educational documents obtained outside the Slovak Republic. Support is provided for the employment of third-country nationals by employers in the Slovak Republic in professions such as medical doctor (various specializations), nurse, primary and secondary school teacher (of various subjects), psychologist, SEN teacher, etc. Support is also provided for the supervision of the medical practice of interns – medical doctors from third countries, supervision of their professional training, interpreting, methodological guidance on the practice of medicine under the supervision of a Slovak doctor, education about the Slovak healthcare system, and familiarization with relevant Slovak legislation.

- In relation to access to accommodation, information is provided and the continuous communication between local government bodies and state administration bodies concerning housing, claims for financial contributions and material assistance, and the provision of information on the registration and reporting of the residence of persons in the target group is ensured.
- As concerns access to healthcare, including mental health, initial psychological support, necessary healthcare and medical services are provided to children and adults, including the provision of specialised medical care (provided by general practitioners, specialists, specialist nurses, healthcare assistants, etc.) in healthcare facilities such as outpatient surgeries and polyclinics whose founding authorities are higher territorial units. Support is also provided for independent nursing care for patients in primary outpatient care system, physiotherapy services, psychological support, mental health support and assistance in reducing the impact of post-traumatic stress events.<sup>159</sup>

Some of the specific activities, which are also described below, are co-financed from this project.

### Legal and labour counselling

A number of local governments in the Slovak Republic launched or strengthened their contact points supporting integration of foreigners in 2024.

From 2025, a Support Centre for Foreigners will operate in the City of Košice as a separate department within the organizational structure of the city council. The centre will serve, inter alia, as a point of first contact for foreigners under the acronym KO-S-I-CE (Contact, Social and Information Centre),<sup>160</sup> while services for foreigners were already provided in Košice during 2024. The Košice local government also launched a portal for foreigners called *BrainPort Košice* (see also Chapter 3) in 2024.

Similarly, a Centre for Foreigners was also established by the local government in Prešov<sup>161</sup> and the ConnectT centre for foreigners was established in Trnava<sup>162</sup> in 2024.

<sup>159</sup> Information provided by the MLSAF.

<sup>160</sup> City of Košice, <https://www.kosice.sk/clanok/mesto-kosice-s-pomocou-osn-aktivne-pracuje-na-integracii-cudzincov>, consulted on 10 February 2025.

<sup>161</sup> City of Prešov, <https://www.presov.sk/klientske-centrum-pre-cudzincov-mesta-presov-pomaha-uz-viac-ako-pol-roka-oznam/mid/491237/.html>, consulted on 11 February 2025.

<sup>162</sup> City of Trnava, <https://www.trnava.sk/aktualita/13137/podporne-centrum-connectt-je-otvorene-pre-cudzincov-zijucich-v-trnave>, consulted on 11 February 2025.

Counselling centres for foreigners in Žilina, Nitra, and Bratislava continued their activities.

The centres provide various forms of support for foreigners living in their respective cities in general. In particular, their services include legal, social, and work-related counselling, provision of relevant information about housing, health care, education or job opportunities. Moreover, they may also provide language and upskilling courses, psychological counselling and psychosocial support, assistance with liaising with government offices and hospitals, assistance with adaptation in the school or work environment, etc.

The establishment of these centres and the intensified efforts to support the integration of foreigners at the municipal level is a continuation of the systematic and long-term activities of non-governmental and international organizations in this field (e.g. the Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture, Human Rights League, Mareena, IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR) and it also constitutes a continuation of the work of the so-called Blue Dot centres (see also Chapter 5).

The IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC IOM) continued to provide their services in 2024. These were not only their counselling services in legal, labour and socio-cultural areas, but also other services to promote integration, such as language and vocational education of foreigners or protection of UAMs rights and support for their integration. The cooperation with migrant communities was also being developed. The work of IOM MIC continued to be significantly impacted by the increase in the number of foreigners in the Slovak Republic caused by the war in Ukraine even in 2024. Consultations about residence, family, employment, business, education or citizenship in the Slovak Republic continued to be provided mainly via phone or e-mail, but also during face-to-face meetings. Until the end of March 2024, MIC IOM operated in all eight regional capitals of the Slovak Republic, ensuring better accessibility of counselling and other services for foreigners in their respective regions. Since April 2024, MIC IOM continues to offer its services free of charge in the cities of Bratislava and Košice.<sup>163</sup>

All the information for foreigners is summarised in a comprehensive way on the IOM MIC website in Slovak, English, and Russian. Selected information continues to be available also in the Ukrainian language. In 2024, MIC IOM continued to organize information seminars on various topics concerning, in particular, residence, labour and family law.<sup>164</sup> In addition to these meetings, MIC IOM worked with cultural mediators in various locations throughout the Slovak Republic to organise community and cultural events mainly for the Ukrainian community. These activities aspired to bring together the Ukrainian and Slovak communities and let them explore both cultures, festivities and cuisine.<sup>165</sup>

The MIC IOM's Visa Check<sup>166</sup> web application continued to be used actively in 2024. The app provides information to foreigners from any country who want to come the Slovak Republic and wish to find out if they need visa to enter the country.

The MIC IOM continued to provide consultations about the labour market orientation, CV preparation, job interview preparation, communicating with employers, searching for job offers or arranging employment in 2024. Aiming to improve the chances of foreigners on Slovak labour

<sup>163</sup> Information provided by the IOM Slovakia.

<sup>164</sup> IOM Slovakia, IOM Slovakia - YouTube, consulted on 12 March 2025.

<sup>165</sup> Information provided by IOM Slovakia.

<sup>166</sup> MIC IOM, Visa Check <https://mic.iom.sk/visacheck/en/home/>, consulted on 12 March 2025.

market, MIC IOM also continued to provide financial support for client retraining courses and for their qualifications recognition.<sup>167</sup>

Free-of-charge legal assistance to individuals with lived experience of migration and asylum (counselling and representation) was provided also by the Human Rights League (HRL), either on a pro bono basis or within the scope of their project focused on hate crimes victims and potential victims.<sup>168</sup>

The non-profit organisation Mareena also provided its services in the cities of Bratislava and Košice in 2024, focusing mainly on labour-related counselling.<sup>169</sup>

### Education

Integrating children of foreigners into the education system in Bratislava was the organisation called Inkluscentrum. In the first phase of their activities, between January and August 2024, 16 employees of Inkluscentrum provided psychosocial, language, methodological, and leisure time support in 19 schools in Bratislava. In the second phase of the project, which started in September 2024, focus is on the gradual transition of the children from the support system to the regular system, as well as on the coordination of the entire comprehensive education inclusion support system in Bratislava (including the Capital City of Bratislava, Counselling and Prevention Centres and Leisure Centres) and on the training of school staff and guidance provided to relevant schools in the area of inclusion and psychosocial support services for children.<sup>170</sup> In 2024, Inkluscentrum also published a short brochure on the presence of children foreigners in schools, the challenges associated with this, and good practices. The title of the brochure is '*Deti z cudziny... a rozmanitosť triedy*' (Children from abroad and diversity in the classroom).<sup>171</sup>

The MIC IOM continued to provide Slovak language courses online and in person also in 2024. During the first half of 2024, face-to-face language courses were only available in Bratislava and Košice and later they only continued in an online form. Most of the courses were for beginners, but some were extended to include also B1 and B2 levels of language proficiency. The MIC IOM also provided specialised courses for Ukrainian professionals working in medical sphere and in education. At the same time, social and cultural orientation courses continued to be provided, usually as part of the language courses.<sup>172</sup>

In 2024, Mareena civic association also provided Slovak language and conversation courses, mainly to the third-country nationals and other foreigners, in Bratislava and Košice. The courses covered beginner to advanced proficiency levels. In Nitra, Mareena also organised summer camps including Slovak language courses for children. Moreover, Mareena also continued to offer socio-cultural orientation courses and courses aimed at comprehensive skills training for female migrants who are mothers and housewives, aiming to improve their employability and facilitate their entry into the labour market.<sup>173</sup>

<sup>167</sup> Information provided by IOM Slovakia.

<sup>168</sup> HRL, Our Work <https://www.hrl.sk/sk/co-robime/projekty/aktualne-projekty/pomoc-obetiam-trestnych-cinov-z-nenavisti>, consulted on 5 July 2024.

<sup>169</sup> Information provided by Mareena.

<sup>170</sup> Inkluscentrum, <https://inklucentrum.sk/komplexna-podpora-zaclenovania/>, consulted on 13 March 2025.

<sup>171</sup> Inkluscentrum, <https://inklucentrum.sk/publikacie/>, consulted on 13 March 2025.

<sup>172</sup> Information provided by IOM Slovakia.

<sup>173</sup> Information provided by Mareena, available also at <https://mareena.sk/migra-moms>, consulted on 15 April 2025.

## Community activities

The above mentioned organisations continued to develop community activities also in 2024.

In 2024, the main organisation to organise community activities was Mareena. For example, they organized a multi-genre event in the garden of its community centre in Bratislava, where Ukrainian, Indian, Mexican, Turkish and Slovak communities presented their countries through food, music, dance, and culture. The event called 'Living Library: Women's Day with Foreigners Among Us' presented stories of interesting women from Iraq, Türkiye and Ukraine who found their new home in Slovakia. Events were also held in other parts of the Slovak Republic, organised in cooperation with local governments. Mareena also organized educational activities and continued to develop its engagement programme, which promotes individual and community volunteering promoting the process of integrating foreigners and working with communities.<sup>174</sup>

### 7.1.3. Integration of beneficiaries of international protection

In the area of the integration of beneficiaries of international protection and related legislation, an amendment to Act No. 576/2004 Coll. on Healthcare and Healthcare-related Services and on changes and amendments to some acts was adopted in 2024.<sup>175</sup> Effective as of 1 September 2024, the amendment has facilitated access to healthcare for groups of persons granted subsidiary protection, applicants for temporary protection, asylum holders and beneficiaries of temporary protection at their place of residence. More detailed information is available in Chapter 4.

In 2024, the new Rifugio II project started to be implemented by the Slovak Humanitarian Council. It follows up on the Rifugio project implemented in the previous programming period until February 2024. Under the scope of the project, HRL's clients – persons granted asylum or subsidiary protection – are provided social, labour or psychological counselling, legal and social assistance or the assistance in searching for accommodation, material or financial help, Slovak language teaching, and school integration.

A slight decrease in the number of beneficiaries of international protection was recorded in 2024. A total number of 280 people (224 in Bratislava and 57 in Košice) used the services provided by the Slovak Humanitarian Council. The client data and profile management system continued to be used, allowing for the administration of individual client profiles which are always up to date. The system helped to improve the quality of reporting at various project levels and facilitate the day-to-day operation of the integration project.

Thirteen types of integration activities aimed at several integration aspects were implemented under the project in 2024. There were seminars aimed to improve the clients' socio-cultural orientation in Slovakia, organised in eight modules divided by topics; activities to promote client employment, such as job workshops or clients' participation in the Profesia Days job fair; lectures aimed at raising awareness about refugees in The Slovak Republic and around the world among students, etc. The Slovak Humanitarian Council participated in EUAA activities within the

<sup>174</sup> Information provided by Mareena, available also at [https://www.facebook.com/events/292492670296600/?acontext=%7B%22ref%22%3A%2252%22%2C%22action\\_history%22%3A%22\[%7B%5C%22surface%5C%22%3A%5C%22share\\_link%5C%22%2C%5C%22mechanism%5C%22%3A%5C%22share\\_link%5C%22%2C%5C%22extra\\_data%5C%22%3A%7B%5C%22invite\\_link\\_id%5C%22%3A260236727133239%7D%7D%22%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/292492670296600/?acontext=%7B%22ref%22%3A%2252%22%2C%22action_history%22%3A%22[%7B%5C%22surface%5C%22%3A%5C%22share_link%5C%22%2C%5C%22mechanism%5C%22%3A%5C%22share_link%5C%22%2C%5C%22extra_data%5C%22%3A%7B%5C%22invite_link_id%5C%22%3A260236727133239%7D%7D%22%7D), consulted on 12 March 2025.

<sup>175</sup> Act No. 144/2024 Coll. amending the Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended, and amending some acts.

Civic Society Organisations Advisory Forum and, specifically, reviewed modules related to the so-called complementary pathways for admission of refugees and regarding the information about countries of origin.<sup>176</sup>

Within the scope of this project, a guidebook entitled *Psychosocial support for refugees – A Guidebook* was published in 2024 with the aim to help refugees who have experienced difficult situations address the problems they may encounter. Similarly, *Healthcare for asylum and subsidiary protection holders – A Guidebook* provides information on entitlement to public health insurance, care, including preventive and emergency treatment, as well as the rights and obligations of patients from this group.<sup>177</sup>

The Human Rights League continued to work with IKEA in 2024 to implement the Skills for Employment project to support the work integration of international protection beneficiaries in the Slovak Republic. The aim of the initiative is to help these people obtain new skills and work experience and thus improve their chances to find employment, either with IKEA or in other companies in Slovak Republic. Moreover, the participants have a better chance to integrate into their new host community in this way.<sup>178</sup>

## 7.2. Raising awareness on migration and non-discrimination

Many activities in this area, extended to include BoTP from Ukraine, continued also in 2024.

As part of the awareness raising activities concerning migration and asylum issues, the MI has been working with the Secondary Police Force School in Pezinok, where asylum and migration issues are included in the school's curriculum as part of vocational education. Four lectures on this topic were held in the school in 2024. A lecture was also organised at the Police Force Academy in Bratislava. MI representatives actively participated in the discussion organised during the annual World Refugee Day celebrations in Bratislava, an event organized by the Slovak Humanitarian Council, UNHCR Slovakia, and Milan Šimečka Foundation.<sup>179</sup>

The Human Rights League organised *Fórum Integrácie* (Integration Forum) as one of its activities also in 2024. The topics included the integration of people from Ukraine and the legal aspects beyond 2025, irregular migration and the protection of rights of child migrants.<sup>180</sup>

The Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture organised a conference entitled 'Local governments and the integration of refugees and foreigners: Experience, challenges, needs' where integration at the local government level and related challenges were discussed.

As part of its activities focused on working with local governments, the Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture published an analytical report on the perception of the participation of minorities and vulnerable groups in public life at the local level, its advantages and disadvantages, their opportunities to participate in decision-making processes, and on the needs that arise

<sup>176</sup> Information provided by the MO MI. Information also available at <https://shr.sk/integracia-utecencov-na-slovensku-rifugio-ii/>, consulted on 12 May 2025.

<sup>177</sup> Available at <https://shr.sk/publikacie-2/>, consulted on 12 March 2025.

<sup>178</sup> Information provided by the HRL. Information also available at <https://www.ikea.com/sk/sk/this-is-ikea/community-engagement/ikea-pomaha-utecencom-s-uplatnenim-na-trhu-prace-pub2c2373f0>, consulted on 31 March 2025.

<sup>179</sup> Information provided by the MO MI.

<sup>180</sup> HRL, Our Work, <https://www.hrl.sk/sk/co-robime/vzdelavanie/forum-o-integracii-/forum-o-integracii-2024>, consulted on 13 March 2025.

in this area. The publication is entitled ‘*Vulnerable groups’ participation from the perspective of local governments and NGOs*.<sup>181</sup> In this context, a methodology was also published with the aim to promote involvement of young people by highlighting important steps and areas that must not be overlooked when implementing participatory processes, entitled ‘*How to do it? Involving young people from diverse groups*.<sup>182</sup>

Other 2024 events aiming to promote the topic of migration and asylum in the Slovak Republic in a sensitive manner included, for example, the *Fjúžn* multigenre and multicultural festival organised by the Milan Šimečka Foundation. Every year it focuses on the topic of migration and foreigners living in the Slovak Republic. In 2024, the main topic was ‘The roots that we don’t just have at home.’<sup>183</sup>

Thanks to cooperation of a number of non-governmental and international organisations, the *Umbrella March* event was organised in June in Bratislava – Staré Mesto and in Košice to mark the World Refugee Day. The march was followed by a cultural programme, discussions, expo and a variety of side events.<sup>184</sup>

*Človek v ohrození* (People in Peril) organisation prepared another edition of the *One World Documentary Film Festival*, which, among other topics, features also the topic of migration. The festival also included the *One World in Schools* section, which involved 77 schools.<sup>185</sup>

The People in Peril organisation organised also the third edition of *The World Between the Lines Festival of Journalism* in 2024, which included the *Svet medzi riadkami* (*World Between the Lines*) podcast and the *Naša migrácia* (*Our Migration*) media special. The *World Between the Lines* podcast discusses, inter alia, also migration-related topics.<sup>186</sup>

The Human Rights League continued to publish its blog discussing, inter alia, various migration-related topics on SME daily webportal in 2024.<sup>187</sup>

EMN Slovakia also worked to raise awareness about migration in 2024. Throughout the year, it has organised 12 educational events at schools, universities and other stakeholder institutions, using the *Destination Europe* tool, with more than 230 participants.<sup>188</sup> This tool allows participants to put themselves in the shoes of a minister, a commissioner, a mayor or an NGO representative and find out how their decisions can influence policymaking in the fields of migration and integration and how these decisions will affect the lives of migrants.<sup>189</sup> Some workshops also included lectures for students on the topic of migration and explanations of related terms, migration processes and policies.<sup>190</sup>

The *Destination Europe* educational tool, as well as the EMN and the topic of migration in general were presented during the celebration of Europe Day in Bratislava, organised by the Representation of the EC in Slovakia, the European Parliament Office in The Slovak Republic and the European Investment Bank; and during the public event organised to mark the World Refugee Day.

To present information about migration, the EMN prepared videos and podcasts from the *10th EMN Educational Seminar on Migration: Demystifying Migration and Harnessing Its Power*.<sup>191</sup> The podcasts are available at the EMN Slovakia podcast channel.<sup>192</sup>

181 Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture, <https://cvek.sk/publikacie/>, consulted on 4 April 2025.

182 Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture, <https://cvek.sk/publikacie/>, consulted on 4 April 2025.

183 Festival Fjúžn, <https://festival.fjuzn.sk/index.php?lang=sk>, consulted on 13 March 2025.

184 Ambrela, <https://ambrela.org/podujatia/svetovy-den-utecencov-a-uteceniak-v-str/>, consulted on 13 March 2025.

185 People in Peril, News, <https://clovekvohrozeni.sk/co-sa-nam-podarilo-v-roku-2024/>, consulted on 13 March 2025.

186 People in Peril, News, <https://clovekvohrozeni.sk/co-sa-nam-podarilo-v-roku-2024//>, consulted on 13 March 2025.

187 SME Daily, Blog, <https://blog.sme.sk/ligazaludskeprava>, consulted on 13 March 2025.

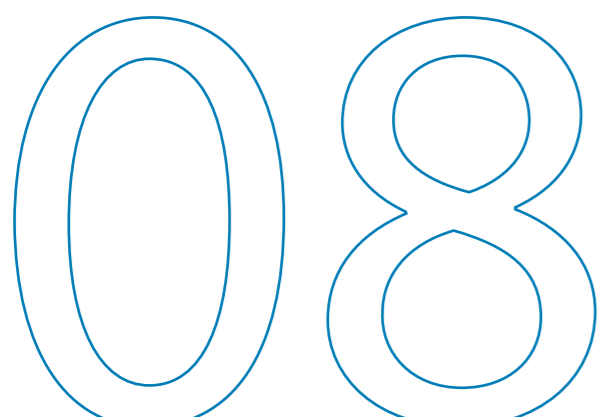
188 EMN Slovakia, Vzdelávanie o migrácii [Education on Migration], <https://www.emn.sk/sk/vzdelavanie-o-migracii.html>, consulted on 13 March 2025.

189 EMN Slovakia, News, <https://www.emn.sk/sk/novinky.html>, consulted on 13 March 2025.

190 Information provided by IOM Slovakia.

191 EMN Conference, Previous Seminars, <https://www.emnconference.sk/previous-seminars/2023/2023-programme-and-participants.html>, consulted on 13 March 2025.

192 Podbean, EMN Slovakia, <https://emnslovakia.podbean.com/>, consulted on 13 March 2025.



## Citizenship and statelessness

### 8.1. Statistics and trends

Over the past two years, the number of successful applicants for Slovak citizenship has been unprecedentedly high, exceeding 1 000 granted citizenships for the first time in history. At the same time, third-country nationals comprise more than two-thirds of all foreigners acquiring citizenship in the Slovak Republic each year. Most frequently, new citizens of the Slovak Republic are from Serbia and Ukraine, followed by nationals of EU member states – the Czech Republic, Hungary and Germany.

In the period of the last more than five years, the number of third-country nationals who have been granted citizenship in the Slovak Republic has been continually growing,<sup>193</sup> except for the pandemic year 2021, when the Slovak Republic granted state citizenship to 480 people. Between 2018 and 2022, state citizenship was granted to approximately 400 – 600 third-country nationals annually. In 2023, this number increased to 909 and the number of citizenships granted by the Slovak Republic in 2024 was 1 051. Similarly to previous years, most new citizens of the Slovak Republic were from Serbia and Ukraine, to a lesser extent Slovak citizenship was granted also to people from the USA, the United Kingdom and Russia, and in 2024 also from Canada (see Table 6 in Annex).

<sup>193</sup> European Migration Network (EMN), Annual reports on Migration and Asylum Slovak Republic 2017 – 2023, <https://emn.sk/sk/publikacie/vyrocnne-spravy-emn-o-migracii-a-azyle.html>, consulted on 18 March 2025.

Citizenship of the Slovak Republic can be obtained also by citizens of non-EU countries to whom international protection (asylum or subsidiary protection) was granted. In years 2020 - 2024, the number of such people ranged between 10 and 30 (see the table below). In 2024, among the people with newly acquired Slovak citizenship were also 13 asylum holders or subsidiary protection beneficiaries from Iraq, Afghanistan and China.<sup>194</sup>

#### Acquisition of citizenship of the Slovak Republic 2020 – 2024

Indicator	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Citizenship of the Slovak Republic acquired by third-country nationals	626	480	515	909	1 051	<b>3 581</b>
Citizenship of the Slovak Republic acquired by all foreigners	916	707	797	1 102	1 432	<b>4 954</b>
Of which citizenship of the Slovak Republic granted to beneficiaries of international protection (asylum and subsidiary protection)	14	10	27	22	13	<b>86</b>

Source: PAS MI.

### 8.2. Acquisition and loss of citizenship

There have been no developments concerning the Act on Citizenship of the Slovak Republic, which was last amended in April 2022 in 2024. Similarly, the Slovak Republic did not adopt any legislative measures which would significantly influence the situation of stateless persons in 2024.<sup>195</sup>

<sup>194</sup> Act No. 40/1993 Coll. on the Citizenship of the Slovak Republic, as amended. Information provided by the PAS MI (via DFEA MIO).

<sup>195</sup> Act No. 40/1993 Coll. on the Citizenship of the Slovak Republic, as amended. Information provided by the PAS MI (via DFEA MIO).



## Schengen area governance and other developments in border management and visa policy

### 9.1. Statistics and trends

In 2024, the number of issued Schengen visas increased again to 12 652, but the numbers (similarly to 2023, when 11 605 Schengen visas were issued) did not attain the level from the pre-pandemic era (see Table 5). Before the pandemic, there were 23 508 Schengen visas issued in 2019, and, due to the restricted mobility of people, the number dropped in the subsequent years to 4 129 in 2020 and 3 718 in 2021. As mobility started to increase again, in 2022 the number of Schengen visa issued increased more significantly to 10 878.<sup>196</sup>

The pandemic had a similar effect on national visas, as the number of national visas issued dropped from 5 640 in 2019 to 3 111 in 2020. Subsequent years saw a slight increase due to both the weakening of the pandemic and the legislative changes adopted by the Slovak Republic. In 2021, 4 647 national visas were issued and in 2022 the number increased to 6 136. In 2022, the Slovak Republic began issuing national visas for highly qualified workers and bus and lorry drivers, due to which the number of national visas issued in that year exceeded that of

<sup>196</sup> Information provided by the MFEA and MI.

2019. The upward trend continued even in 2023, when the list of categories of persons to whom national visas are issued was extended to include manual occupations in the industrial sector. The number of national visas issued increased to 8 951 in 2023 and the trend continued with 15 075 national visas issued in 2024 (see Table 5).<sup>197</sup>

### 9.2. Schengen governance including internal border control

In the context of the regular evaluation of compliance with Schengen acquis, the Slovak Republic was evaluated with respect to the field of returns in the period between 20 and 25 October 2024. For more information, see Chapter 12.

In 2024, a new consular methodology was prepared which, in its part regulating the issuance of Schengen visas, fully reflects the new Visa Code Handbook.<sup>198</sup> The new methodology will become effective in January 2025.<sup>199</sup>

In December 2024, the Slovak Republic launched a pilot operation of the national part of the entry/exit system at the border crossing point Čierna nad Tisou (Slovak – Ukrainian border).<sup>200</sup>

In the context of the introduction of measures to combat irregular migration, the Slovak Republic extended temporary border controls at the internal border with Hungary pursuant to Article 25(3) of the Schengen Borders Code in the period from 24 December 2023 to 22 January 2024.<sup>201</sup>

Gradually, the checks at the internal border between the Slovak Republic and Hungary have had the desired effect and the number of apprehended irregular migrants has been significantly reduced. From the beginning of 2023 to 4 October 2023, a total of 40 884 irregular migrants were registered as apprehended within the scope of secondary transit migration. Following the temporary reinstatement of controls at the internal border between the Slovak Republic and Hungary (from 5 October 2023 to 22 January 2024), irregular migration from Hungary to the Slovak Republic decreased by 84% (-34 469).<sup>202</sup> For more information see Chapter 10.

In 2024, several projects aimed at the effective implementation of Schengen system began to be implemented. The projects focus on maintaining and supporting the NVIS system, increasing the capacity of the Vyšné Nemecké – Uzhgorod border crossing on the Slovak-Ukrainian border, supporting internships for police officers at the Slovak Liaison Office at Europol with the aim of strengthening cross-border police cooperation, maintaining the AFIS/CODIS information systems, and purchasing off-road vehicles and off-road vehicles for dog handlers.<sup>203</sup>

<sup>197</sup> Information provided by the MFEA and MI.

<sup>198</sup> Implementing Decision C(2024)4319 final of 26 June 2024 amending Decision C(2010) 1620 final as regards the replacement of the Handbook for the processing of visa applications and the modification of issued visas (Visa Code Handbook I).

<sup>199</sup> Information provided by the MFEA.

<sup>200</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>201</sup> Regulation of the Government of the SR No. 461 of 6 December 2023 extending the temporary reintroduction of controls at the internal border of the Slovak Republic with Hungary.

<sup>202</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>203</sup> Information provided by the FAD FBS MI.

### 9.3. Visa policy

Within the context of implementation of the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 113/2024 Coll. on the interest of the Slovak Republic to grant a national visa to third-country nationals who will work in the occupations of bus drivers, heavy goods vehicles and lorry drivers (international transport) and heavy goods vehicles and lorry drivers (domestic transport); and the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 383/2023 Coll. on the interest of the Slovak Republic to grant a national visa to selected groups of third-country nationals in selected occupations in the field of industry, the Slovak Republic supported its consular activity related to foreign national visa applications by sending five so-called 'flying consuls' to India and Indonesia and by a permanent increase of staff at its embassies in Astana in Kazakhstan and Tashkent in Uzbekistan in 2024. This has significantly streamlined the process of recruiting workers from non-EU countries to fill the positions underfilled on the Slovak labour market in the long term.<sup>204</sup> See also Chapter 3.3.

# 10

## Irregular Migration

### 10.1. Statistics and trends

Between 2019 – 2021, the Slovak Republic has been recording decreasing trend in irregular migration: the overall irregular migration has decreased from 2 190 persons in 2019 to 1 769 persons in 2021. A more significant decrease was recorded mainly in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (1 295 persons). However, in 2022, there was a significant increase of irregular migration due to significant pressure of secondary transit migration along the route from the Western Balkans and the temporary reintroduction of internal border controls by the Czech Republic and Austria at the sections of their borders with the Slovak Republic. In 2022, the irregular migration thus increased to 11 791 persons. An even more significant increase occurred in 2023, when, yet again as a result of a huge increase in secondary transit migration, total irregular migration increased to 47 610 persons, of which more than 97% was secondary transit migration. As a result of various measures, such as cooperation with non-EU countries along major migration routes and the fight against organised groups of smugglers, the most significant decline in irregular migration to the EU since 2021 was recorded in 2024. In the Slovak Republic, irregular migration decreased to 2 664 persons, which is a decrease of more than 94% compared to 2023 (see Table 8).<sup>205</sup>

As concerns irregular migration, the Slovak Republic distinguishes between two migration situations or statistical categories: unauthorized residence, which includes secondary transit migra-

<sup>204</sup> Information provided by the MFEA. [https://www.mzv.sk/sk/pressreleasedetail?p\\_p\\_id=sk\\_mzv\\_portal\\_pressrelease\\_detail\\_portlet\\_PressReleaseDetailPortlet&p\\_p\\_lifecycle=0&groupId=10182&articleId=51969394](https://www.mzv.sk/sk/pressreleasedetail?p_p_id=sk_mzv_portal_pressrelease_detail_portlet_PressReleaseDetailPortlet&p_p_lifecycle=0&groupId=10182&articleId=51969394), consulted on 15 January 2025.

<sup>205</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

tion (a 22% share in 2024, compared to the 98.6% share in 2023) and unauthorized crossing of the external state border (a 78% share in 2024 compared to the 1.4% share in 2023). A year-on-year decrease has been recorded the category of unauthorized residence by almost 99% (decrease from 46 932 to 586 cases), while in the category of the unauthorized crossing of the external state border a 206% increase has been recorded (increase from 678 in 2023 to 2 078 in 2024). Based on these statistical data, an increase in migration across the eastern EU border can be seen, mainly from Ukraine and Belarus, as well as a significant decrease of migration along the West Balkan route (see Table 8).<sup>206</sup>

In the unauthorized crossing of the external state border category, citizens of Ukraine were the most prominent group (almost 98%). These were mostly men trying to avoid conscription due to the mobilisation declared in Ukraine caused by the ongoing war. On the other hand, the Slovak Republic recorded an increased number of the unauthorised inland stays (the so-called 'overstayers') with a more than 170% increase in unauthorized stays by persons from countries with a visa-free regime (e.g., Serbia, Georgia or Moldova).<sup>207</sup>

## 10.2. Developments in policies and legislation to prevent and tackle irregular migration

The Slovak Republic adopted a number of measures to prevent irregular migration; however, these were not legislative changes or comprehensive developments in relevant policies (see Chapter 10.3).

### 10.3. Preventing irregular migration

#### Preventing the arrival of irregular migrants

In 2023, a significant pull factor and one of the main reasons why an increased number of foreigners transited through the territory of the Slovak Republic was the fact that these persons were not detained in police detention units for foreigners. At the same time, it was not possible to return these persons to third countries due to the existence of an obstacle to their expulsion, namely their declared origin, which was predominantly Syrian (whereby the foreigners travelled mainly without travel documents). Therefore, the measures described above were taken at the end of 2023 and in 2024, which, combined with the measures taken by the competent Serbian authorities, resulted in a significant decrease in the number of foreigners in this sub-category of irregular migrants apprehended on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

This measure mainly consisted in the detention of foreigners apprehended within the scope of secondary transit migration for the time necessary to establish their true identity, continuation of the police and security actions aimed at eliminating secondary transit migration from Hungary and the continuous improvement of the linking of the national information system for migration and international protection with international databases (SIS II, Interpol, EURODAC) in order to compare biometric data.<sup>208</sup>

<sup>206</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>207</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>208</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

An increased rate of unauthorised crossings of the external land border of the Slovak Republic by citizens of Ukraine in the direction into the Slovak Republic was recorded throughout 2024. These persons were almost exclusively men, who were trying to avoid their military duty (see also Chapter 10.1) in this way. This was thus one of the reasons for continuing close cooperation and exchange of information between the BBFP PFP and the State Border Service of Ukraine in the area of unauthorised crossing of the external land border.<sup>209</sup>

#### Preventing irregular stay

The trend from 2023 when legal means of entry to the territory of the Slovak Republic or the Schengen area were used also for the purpose of irregular migration continued in 2024. In this context, the Slovak Republic registered an increase in applications for temporary residence for the purpose of business and employment. The Slovak Republic is often unofficially or informally promoted (via social networks) in connection with this type of migration as a gateway for foreigners interested in working in other European countries.

This was one of the reasons why the amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners<sup>210</sup> was adopted in 2024, which, inter alia, regulates the agenda of temporary residence for the purpose of business and employment and introduces changes pertaining to change/declaration of the purpose of temporary residence. The conditions for obtaining a business permit have been tightened:

- the possibility of applying for a national visa in connection with the submission of an application for temporary residence for the purpose of business to the Foreign Police has been abolished,
- foreigners who have been granted temporary residence for the purpose of employment may only apply for its change to a business permit 12 months after the initial temporary residence permit was granted,
- change of residence for the purpose of study can be made only after successful completion of previous or current studies in the territory of the Slovak Republic,
- the financial means for the residence of non-EU foreigners must be proven by a bank statement for the period of three previous months, a bank statement stating the bank account balance is not sufficient.

See also Chapter 3.

The amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners helped to slow down the trend of submission of applications for temporary residence for the purpose of business in 2024.<sup>211</sup>

#### Cooperation with non-EU countries

Since Serbia is one of the main transit countries for irregular migrants and a gateway to the Schengen area, the text of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia on the establishment of joint patrols on the territory of the Republic of Serbia as part of joint operations was revised

<sup>209</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>210</sup> Act No. 160/2024 Coll. amending the Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended, and amending some acts.

<sup>211</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

in 2024. This has led to the renewal of bilateral support of the Slovak Republic in border controls and border surveillance at the state borders of the Republic of Serbia and the reduction of the number of illegal entries into the Schengen area by strengthening border control on the territory of third countries.<sup>212</sup>

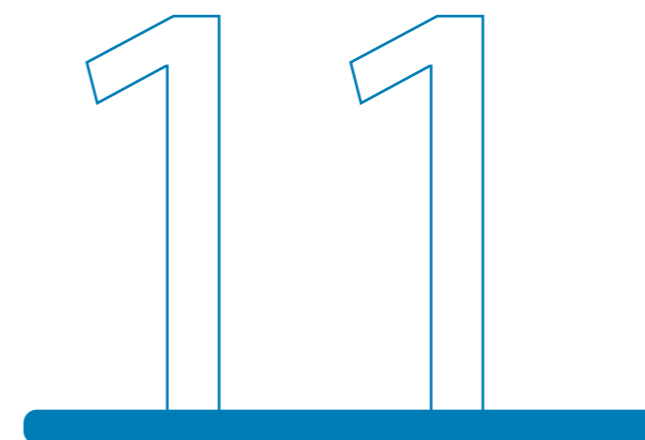
### Combatting migrant smuggling

In 2024, 410 irregular migrants were documented as smuggled in investigation files. This represents a decrease compared to 2023, when 2 462 such cases were documented, with mostly undetermined nationalities (see Table 9).

The offenses in cases prosecuted in 2024 were mostly committed still in 2022 – 2023, but, due to the number of actions within criminal proceedings which depend on expert opinions and international legal assistance, charges were not brought forward until 2024. Only the cases of people smuggling at the external state border could be included in this group of irregular migrants apprehended with a smuggler – in 2024, 29 such irregular migrants from Ukraine were apprehended. Other cases involved fraudulent conduct aimed at obtaining residence status in the Slovak Republic for third-country nationals for the purpose of family reunification, employment, or business.<sup>213</sup>

<sup>212</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>213</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.



## Trafficking in Human Beings

### 11.1. Statistics and trends

The number of foreigners who were identified as (potential) victims of human trafficking in the Slovak Republic, be it from EU or non-EU countries, is very low in the long term. As concerns (potential) victims of human trafficking from non-EU countries, sexual and labour exploitation has remained the most frequent purpose of trafficking in the last five years and cases of forced labour and forced begging have also been identified. According to Slovak authorities, in addition to children without parental care, children in institutional care, children and adults from Roma communities, homeless people and the disabled, migrants and asylum seekers are also particularly vulnerable to this crime.<sup>214</sup> In general, the number of victims who are already formally recognized as injured parties in criminal proceedings and who are also provided assistance, has been very low in the long term – we can only speak of a few individuals per year, and only very rarely they are foreigners.

<sup>214</sup> Rada Európy: Slovensko zlepšilo ochranu obetí obchodovania s ľuďmi [Council of Europe: Slovakia has improved its protection of trafficking in human beings victims] (2024), <https://www.teraz.sk/spravy/re-uznava-pokrok-sr-v-boji-proti-obchod/866382-clanok.html>, consulted on 18 March 2025.

In terms of the assistance provided, in 2024 the Slovak Republic recorded the following positive change:

- As concerns the specialized program for the support and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings (hereinafter referred to as the 'programme'), significantly more victims (63%) expressed their interest in entering the program than in the past; and
- up to 44% of the total number of 43 identified victims acquired the status of an injured party in relevant criminal proceedings and, at the same time, expressed their interest in the programme and the services it offers. For comparison, in 2023 this share was 15%.<sup>215</sup>

Over the last five years 2020 – 2024, the number of foreigners identified as victims of trafficking in human beings did not exceed five out of the average of 50 victims identified annually.<sup>216</sup> In 2022, 2023 and 2024, three foreigners were identified as trafficking victims in the respective year, of which one person was from a non-EU country both in 2022 and in 2023. No non-EU citizen was identified as a victim of trafficking out of three victims so identified in the Slovak Republic in 2024 (see Table 23).

Despite the ongoing war in Ukraine, West Balkan irregular migration route into the EU and growing labour migration, no third-country nationals have been identified as victims of trafficking in human beings (formally by the Police or informally by other actors) in the Slovak Republic since 2022. In the period of years 2022 – 2024 no case of human trafficking was investigated in the Slovak Republic that would be linked to the West Balkan route leading to the territory of the Slovak Republic or linked to Ukraine, which would concern persons from Ukraine either as victims or as perpetrators.<sup>217</sup>

As concerns the crime of trafficking in human beings, the Slovak Republic filed charges against 22 persons in 11 cases and convicted 20 persons of committing this crime in 2024 (see Table 24).<sup>218</sup> Like in the past, in most cases personal contacts were used to recruit the victims in 2024.

More detailed information on relevant trends and statistics can be found in the situation reports of the MI. The *Situačná správa pre oblasť boja proti obchodovaniu s ľuďmi v Slovenskej republike za rok 2023 (Situation Report on Human Trafficking in the Slovak Republic 2024)* describes concrete activities and measures taken in the area of combating trafficking in human beings.<sup>219</sup>

## 11.2. Policies, legislation and international monitoring

A new *National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2024 – 2028*<sup>220</sup> (sixth in a row), approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in October 2024, entered into force. It is a strategic document concerning prevention and combating trafficking in human beings, which

<sup>215</sup> Information provided by the DFEA MIO (on behalf of IC MI).

<sup>216</sup> MI, *Situačné správy pre oblasť boja proti obchodovaniu s ľuďmi v SR za roky 2020 – 2024 [Situation Reports on Human Trafficking in the Slovak Republic 2020 – 2024]*, <https://www.minv.sk/?informacne-centrum-na-boj-proti-obchodovaniu-s-ludmi-a-prevenciu-kriminality> Informačné centrum na boj proti obchodovaniu s ľuďmi a prevenciu kriminality, Ministerstvo vnútra Slovenskej republiky, consulted on 16 May 2025.

<sup>217</sup> *Situačia v oblasti obchodovania s ľuďmi na Slovensku [Situation Concerning Trafficking in Human Beings in Slovakia]*, <https://www.minv.sk/?obchodovanie-s-ludmi-a-slovenska-republika>, consulted on 17 March 2025.

<sup>218</sup> Information provided by the NUCIM BBFP PFP and DFEA MIO.

<sup>219</sup> MI, *Situačná správa pre oblasť boja proti obchodovaniu s ľuďmi v SR za rok 2024 [Situation Report on Human Trafficking in the Slovak Republic 2024]*, 2025, <https://www.minv.sk/?informacne-centrum-na-boj-proti-obchodovaniu-s-ludmi-a-prevenciu-kriminality&subor=542331>, consulted on 26 May 2025.

<sup>220</sup> Available at <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/28861/1>, consulted on 17 January 2025.

also concerns migration and victims of trafficking in human beings among foreigners as cross-cutting topics. The programme includes also an Action Plan comprising 19 measures and an implementation strategy. Among other things, the programme addresses also a new area for the Slovak Republic - setting of state systemic policies to reduce demand for goods and services in the provision of which victims of human trafficking could be exploited.<sup>221</sup>

No new National Referral Mechanism has been adopted in 2024. A revision of the current model, which is effective and valid since 2020, is planned in 2025. This will be implemented in line with Measure No. 3 of the *Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2024-2028*. The aim of this measure is to ensure a more effective assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings while harmonizing and formalizing the procedures followed by the entities involved in the victim referral process and maintaining the promptness of referrals to support systems, with the consistent application of the non-discrimination principle. At the same time, the revision of the current National Referral Mechanism should take into account the changes in the European Referral Mechanism and its impact on the Slovak Republic's Referral Mechanism.<sup>222</sup>

### International monitoring

Between 26 February and 1 March 2024 the Slovak Republic received and organised the evaluation visit of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) in the framework of the fourth evaluation round focusing on vulnerabilities to trafficking in human beings in the implementation of the Council of Europe's Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The evaluation report was published in March 2025.<sup>223,224</sup>

In the *Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP)*, which is published annually by the US Department of State, in 2024 the Slovak Republic remained a Tier 2 country in the meeting of the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking. The Slovak Republic has been Tier 2 since 2019. According to the TIP Report, experts urged the Slovak Republic to "increase verification of recruitment agencies employing third-country nationals, particularly refugees from Ukraine. The government made efforts to inform refugees from Ukraine of their employment rights during the reporting period, but did not report further efforts on other foreign workers. Experts and civil society continued to urge the government to increase efforts to inform foreign worker populations of their rights. Lack of awareness of the availability of services, language barriers, and fear of immigration officials continued to prevent some foreign victims from seeking help from authorities."<sup>225</sup>

## 11.3. Interinstitutional and international cooperation

The Slovak Republic continued to perform regular checks of business entities to detect illegal work and illegal employment and to identify potential victims of trafficking in human beings also in 2024. The checks were conducted jointly by the BBFP PFP and Labour Inspectorates or COLSAF authorities. No victim of trafficking in human beings has been identified during these checks.

<sup>221</sup> Oboňová, S., Ulrichová, N. Annual Report on migration and Asylum Slovak Republic 2023 (2024), European Migration Network (EMN), IOM Slovakia, Bratislava.

<sup>222</sup> Information provided by the DFEA MIO (on behalf of IC MI).

<sup>223</sup> GRETA publishes its fourth report on the Slovak Republic, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/anti-human-trafficking/-/greta-publishes-its-fourth-report-on-the-slovak-republic>, consulted on 6 June 2025.

<sup>224</sup> Information provided by the DFEA MIO (on behalf of IC MI).

<sup>225</sup> US Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2024, 2025*, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/slovakia/>, consulted on 17 March 2025.

To implement the Regional Response Plan, UNHCR established several thematic working groups and sub-groups in the Slovak Republic in 2022 (see Chapter 2.2), including the *Anti-Trafficking Task Force*. The sub-group was led by IOM Slovakia also in 2024 and its members included representatives of state institutions, non-governmental organisations and international organizations.<sup>226</sup>

#### 11.4. Provision of information and assistance

Based on the contract from the MI, the Slovak Catholic Charity and Greek Catholic Charity provided help and support to victims of trafficking in human beings under the specialised Programme for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings. The Slovak Catholic Charity continued to operate the nation-wide toll-free hotline for the victims of trafficking in human beings (0800 800 818). Even in 2024, IOM Slovakia operated the information hotline on human trafficking and safe travels. Their staff answered the phone calls and replied to e-mail queries about trafficking in human beings, requests for the checking of labour agencies or requests for information on trainings in the field of preventing human trafficking. The organisations also provided reception and reintegration assistance to the victims of human trafficking.<sup>227</sup>

In 2024, the MO MI prepared and launched a simplified version of the instructions for asylum seekers which is particularly suitable for vulnerable persons and minors. This material includes, among other things, information on self-identification of victims of human trafficking and information on the possibilities available to such victims, inclusive of the contact details of relevant competent authorities.<sup>228</sup>

#### 11.5. Awareness raising and increasing of victim identification rates

The *National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2024 – 2028* includes Measure no. 17 – implementation of non-legislative measures to reduce the demand for services of victims and improve the timeliness of identification of victims of trafficking in human beings. The Slovak Republic plans to implement targeted training events for professionals, including labour inspectors, judges and prosecutors, with the objective to reduce the demand for services of victims and improve the timeliness of identification of victims of trafficking in human beings.<sup>229</sup>

In 2024, the Information centres for victims of crime and other anti-social activities implemented a total of 198 activities aimed at preventing trafficking in human beings, which were attended by a total of 4 793 participants (of which 123 were BoTP who have fled the war and 382 were first contact workers, mainly educators and other professional school personnel).<sup>230</sup>

The Slovak Republic has been building its capacity to combat human trafficking in 2024 through the following seminars and training courses for selected professionals who come into contact with (potential) victims of trafficking in human beings, e.g.:

- The first nationwide meeting of prosecutors on combating human trafficking was held on 2 and 3 September 2024, attended by 60 prosecutors. The meeting was organized and led by the General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic.

<sup>226</sup> UNHCR, Open Data Portal, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/working-group/378?sv=54&geo=10785>, consulted on 17 March 2025.

<sup>227</sup> Information provided by IOM Slovakia.

<sup>228</sup> Information provided by the DFEA MIO (on behalf of IC MI).

<sup>229</sup> Information provided by the MLSAF.

<sup>230</sup> Information provided by the DFEA MIO (on behalf of IC MI).

- Throughout 2024, the MI organised training activities for consular staff with the aim to enable them to identify victims of trafficking and familiarize themselves with the national referral mechanism. At the same time, training was provided for the diagnostic centre staffers, secondary vocational school students, information offices staffers, NUCIM operations officers, and authorized members of the Police Force and investigators, focusing on acquiring basic knowledge in the area of human trafficking identification, assisting victims, and the national referral mechanism.
- Border and Foreign Police Directorate in Sobrance re-trained 220 police officers and, through virtual module, re-trained further 576 police officers in this field in June 2024.
- At the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024, training was provided for all specialists involved in asylum proceedings from the Procedure Department of the MO MI within the EUAA Trafficking in Human Beings module, which specifically focuses on applicants for international protection. The module was completed and all staff underwent practical training in March 2024.
- The NUCIM conducted 12 training and educational activities on the topic of trafficking in human beings, which were attended by 235 participants. The activities included, inter alia, a lecture on Tasks in the field of migration and human trafficking organised at the Secondary Police School in Bratislava as part of the Operational Management and Public Order Police courses.
- In 2024, the COLSAF continued its cooperation with the Crime Prevention Section of the MI within the framework of the Effective Public Administration OP. Two employees of CCF Medzilaborce participated in the educational activity (in Prešov) and a study trip to Italy, which was organised by Prešov Self-governing Region under the SIRM (Socio-economic Integration of Refugees and Migrants) project.

Under its 2024 subsidy scheme, the MESRY supports organizations that are also involved in the prevention of trafficking in human beings and other activities promoting the provision of information and counselling services to young people. Therefore, the Youth Information Centre in Banská Bystrica and Martin organized several workshops, during which they explained what constitutes the crime of human trafficking and how it occurs. Attention was paid to the participants' ability to distinguish between credible and untrustworthy work offers.<sup>231</sup>

Trainings and educational events in the field of prevention of trafficking in human beings and exploitation were also organised by NGOs and international organisations such as IOM and UNHCR during 2024:

- Due to the high level of vulnerability of people coming from Ukraine, first contact workers, members of NGOs, volunteers, law enforcement agencies, etc. were trained again on the related topics by the MI and IOM Slovakia experts. IOM Slovakia trained 613 professionals during 31 training events and 1 360 beneficiaries during 43 events (information meetings and workshops).<sup>232</sup>
- Slovak Catholic Charity (*Slovenská katolícka charita, SCC*) organised nine discussions on the topic of prevention for 131 people (homeless people, pupils and students, asylum seekers, and SCC employees). Moreover, SCC also participated in trainings for consular staff, in particular on the topic of trafficking in human beings victims identification and on cooperation during their returns.<sup>233</sup>

<sup>231</sup> Information provided by the DFEA MIO (on behalf of IC MI).

<sup>232</sup> Information provided by IOM Slovakia.

<sup>233</sup> Information provided by the DFEA MIO (on behalf of IC MI).

IOM prepared the following in 2024:

- A new edition of the training manual entitled '*Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings*',<sup>234</sup> which should serve as an aid in educating people about the risks of human trafficking and the ways to prevent it. The manual offers interactive activities and covers, among other things, the topics such as responsible purchasing, since fashion industry ranks among the sectors with the highest rates of exploitation worldwide.<sup>235</sup>
- Slovak version of an e-learning course<sup>236</sup> designed primarily for helping professions, healthcare providers and other professionals who are in direct contact with assistance beneficiaries. The course offers tips on how to proceed in real-life situations and provide trauma-informed care. Completion of this course, which is offered free of charge, is confirmed by a certificate.
- A documentary entitled *Modern Day Slavery Among Us*,<sup>237</sup> depicting four real life-inspired stories about how someone can find themselves in the position of a victim of trafficking in human beings. The film is available in Slovak, English, and Ukrainian and also includes stories of people fleeing the war in Ukraine.<sup>238</sup>

In 2024, awareness raising activities in the field of trafficking in human beings in the Slovak Republic included, in addition to lectures for young people, also the promotion of OSCE's 'BE SAFE' campaign targeting BoTP from Ukraine, and a short video campaign highlighting the warning signs of trafficking in human beings, which marked the EU Anti-Trafficking Day on October 18.<sup>239</sup>

234 Aktualizovaný Tréningový manuál prevencie obchodovania s ľuďmi [*Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings - Updated Manual*], [https://iom-int-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/personal/dgadusova\\_iom\\_int/Edbko3Gh2epGmBTb-7ZdCSMBp7BvO29365wM-OSSytbbEQ?e=iPi2MC](https://iom-int-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/personal/dgadusova_iom_int/Edbko3Gh2epGmBTb-7ZdCSMBp7BvO29365wM-OSSytbbEQ?e=iPi2MC), consulted on 27 May 2025.

235 Aktualizovaný Tréningový manuál prevencie obchodovania s ľuďmi [*Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings - Updated Manual*], <https://iom.sk/sk/novinky-a-podujatia/2260-aktualizovan%C3%BD-tr%C3%A9ningov%C3%BD-manu%C3%A1l-prevencie-obchodovania-s-%C4%BEu%C4%8Fmi.html>, consulted on 27 May 2025.

236 Kurz o obchodovaní s ľuďmi pre pomáhajúce profesie a pre poskytovateľov zdravotnej starostlivosti [*Course on Trafficking in Human Beings for Helping Professions and Healthcare Providers*], <https://www.ecampus.iom.int/enrol/index.php?id=823>, consulted on 26 May 2025.

237 *Modern Day Slavery Among Us*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKfa4boMvtg>, consulted on 26 May 2025.

238 [https://www.facebook.com/IOMSlovakia/posts/pfbid0dKU5k6to56DqgPWeVrMKGjPWcLsnfyCHgdwqbiEsi1RGvDb68WfTG9fEwWtSL09l?\\_ft\\_\\_\[0\]=AZUDFqvGNOjoaVaeDY7Og3vbhIKk1hA-kl3mOyEG9T1VfGY6joJoZJhJiuv9FmsZsaaMraMfXJzkHXGcGVUAX67u3OJtKoddZNX3MPAEN-kxawlFN6apadaCcwIhxAO5vgYEY\\_wPoiIINKYjBYTQkM-exgOrBsGS8K0HTtPEYonROg&\\_tn\\_=%2CO%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/IOMSlovakia/posts/pfbid0dKU5k6to56DqgPWeVrMKGjPWcLsnfyCHgdwqbiEsi1RGvDb68WfTG9fEwWtSL09l?_ft__[0]=AZUDFqvGNOjoaVaeDY7Og3vbhIKk1hA-kl3mOyEG9T1VfGY6joJoZJhJiuv9FmsZsaaMraMfXJzkHXGcGVUAX67u3OJtKoddZNX3MPAEN-kxawlFN6apadaCcwIhxAO5vgYEY_wPoiIINKYjBYTQkM-exgOrBsGS8K0HTtPEYonROg&_tn_=%2CO%2CP-R), consulted on 26 May 2025.

239 Information provided by the DFEA MIO (on behalf of IC MI).



## Return and Readmission

### 12.1. Statistics and trends

The downward trend in forced returns continued in 2024, as there were 94 forced returns in 2022, only 59 forced returns in 2023 and 52 forced returns in 2024. The most significant decline occurred between 2022 and 2021, as the number of forced returns in 2021 was 298. This decline was caused mainly by the war in Ukraine. Between 2019 and 2021, Ukraine was the most frequent country of return, and the citizens of Ukraine were among the top five nationalities most frequently represented as for the forced returns. After the beginning of the war in Ukraine, forced returns to Ukraine were almost completely stopped. Ukrainians are expelled almost exclusively on the grounds of a criminal warrant or other substantive decision of a court following a sentence of expulsion issued on the grounds of committing a criminal offence in the territory of the Slovak Republic. However, in the event of enforcement of forced return and duration of the ban on entry into the territory of the Slovak Republic, these persons are allowed to enter the territory of the Slovak Republic in specified cases, following an individual assessment of the case by police officers performing the border control.<sup>240</sup>

On the contrary, the number of voluntary departures increased from 205 in 2023 to 227 in 2024. The growing trend could be seen already since 2021, with 72 voluntary returns in 2021 and 139 voluntary returns in 2022. Assisted voluntary returns decreased from 50 returns in 2023 to 29

240 Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

returns in 2024, which represents a continuation of the downward trend, as in 2022 90 assisted voluntary returns were carried out. This was mainly caused by the fact that the AMIF-funded assisted voluntary return project ended in May 2023. In 2024, however, the Slovak Republic continued to cooperate with Frontex in the area of voluntary returns (see Table 12).<sup>241</sup>

## 12.2. Policy and legislation developments

In October 2024, the Slovak Republic was evaluated as part of the periodic Schengen evaluation in the area of return and a thematic evaluation of the return agenda was also performed. The evaluations identified the need for a number of changes to be implemented, such as the changes to the relevant legislative framework or internal management acts, the need to promote better cooperation with the Ministry of Justice in the areas requiring changes to the Administrative Procedure Code and the need to improve the material conditions in detention centres. The changes will be implemented mainly in 2025.<sup>242</sup>

To ensure sustainable cooperation with consular and diplomatic missions of non-EU countries, while achieving independence in the event of the termination of the deployment of Frontex return experts, the BBFP PFP started intensive preparations for the creation of a separate Return Department, as well as for strengthening the capacity of police detention centres for foreigners in 2024. A major organisational change of BBFP PFP is planned for 2025.<sup>243</sup>

## 12.3. Forced returns, readmissions and detention

Aiming to regulate the practical conditions for the implementation of the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the Readmission of Persons, in particular the definition of the competent authorities, border crossing points for readmission and the establishment of transit conditions, on 20 September 2024 the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the motion for the conclusion of the Implementing Protocol between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.<sup>244</sup>

In July 2024, the MI sent a proposal for the conclusion of bilateral readmission agreements to MFEA with a request to send these to Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. This proposal addresses the need to aptly regulate situations where persons who have been granted national visas in the interest of supporting the Slovak labour market cease to meet the conditions for entry and residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic and do not voluntarily return to their home country.<sup>245</sup>

With the aim to improve material conditions in detention facilities for foreigners in the Slovak Republic, Hungary held a meeting to exchange information on returns and detention centres between Hungary, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. The delegations shared their insights in the respective fields as well as the best practices to ensure better cooperation in future.<sup>246</sup>

<sup>241</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP and IOM Slovakia.

<sup>242</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>243</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>244</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>245</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

<sup>246</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

In April 2024, Slovak Humanitarian Council NGO commenced the implementation of the *DETENT* project,<sup>247</sup> which is primarily focused on ensuring that persons placed in specialized facilities operated by the BBFP PFP or within 60 days of their release from these facilities live in dignified living conditions, with a special emphasis on members of vulnerable groups. Project activities include the provision of social and psychological counselling, leisure and educational activities (Slovak language courses and cultural orientation courses), supplementary health care and material assistance, as well as interpreting and translation services to third-country nationals in the detention facilities for foreigners. Third-country nationals who are released from these facilities are provided with basic care assistance for a period of 60 days after their release under the project (they are provided basic necessities for a dignified life, such as sanitary items, essential health care, food allowance, funds for administrative expenses, low-threshold accommodation, reimbursement of travel expenses and field social care), always on the basis of consultations and the favourable statement by the competent police detention centre for foreigners (PDCF). These activities contribute to the effectiveness of the return process undergone by the project beneficiaries.<sup>248</sup>

The BBFP PFP's AMIF-funded RETURN – AMIF I. 2021 – 2027 project was implemented in 2024. Its main objective is the preparation and carrying out of forced returns by the BBFP PFP, mainly concerning the following areas: identification and processing of replacement travel documents; providing of travel and airline tickets; providing accommodation, meals, meal allowances, insurance; interpreting and translation, including in the context of asylum proceedings; expert age assessment; material assistance; and healthcare. All of the project activities form part of the Slovak Republic's return policy, are directly related to the return agenda, and ensure mutual feasibility of return operations in the Slovak Republic.<sup>249</sup>

## 12.4. Assisted voluntary returns and reintegrations

In 2024, intensive cooperation between the BBFP PFP and Frontex return specialists was launched. 12 June 2024 marked the official start of the cooperation, when preparatory work involving the specialists and other divisions of the Border and Foreign Police started with the aim of launching a project to increase the number of voluntary returns "from the street". At the same time, the project aims to motivate third-country nationals without financial means to return voluntarily using Frontex services such as the provision of flight tickets, reintegration services in the country of origin, medical assistance, etc. The so-called return specialists are working in PDCFs in Medvedov and Sečovce, where they are responsible for the entire return agenda. The MI aims to expand this cooperation in the future, as it represents a less demanding (in terms of administration), less financially burdensome, and therefore more effective way of implementing voluntary returns for the Slovak Republic.<sup>250</sup>

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) continued to implement humane, dignified and financially effective returns of unsuccessful asylum seekers and foreigners without a residence permit to their country of origin also in 2024. However, due to the absence of funding from AMIF, the comprehensive services provided under the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme were only provided in full at the end of 2024, after a new project was launched.

<sup>247</sup> The project follows up on the Slovak Humanitarian Council's projects COMPAS II and COMPAS III. For more information see <https://shr.sk/po-moc-ziadatelom-o-azyl-projekty-detent-a-e-s-o/>, consulted on 18 March 2025. Project implementation period is from April 2024 to February 2027.

<sup>248</sup> Information provided by the FAD FBS MI.

<sup>249</sup> Information provided by the FAD FBS MI. Project duration period is from November 2023 to February 2027.

<sup>250</sup> Information provided by the BBFP PFP.

The emphasis is put on the importance of informing the target group and cooperating institutions about the program, preparing and implementing assisted voluntary returns to countries of origin, and preparing beneficiaries for reintegration in their country of origin. Similarly to the previous years, in 2024 the target group of people entitled to use programme services included unsuccessful asylum seekers and foreigners without a residence permit, as well as third-country nationals arriving from Ukraine, who are legally residing in the territory of the Slovak Republic. In 2024, one citizen of Moldova returned to their country of origin with the help of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme. Returns of two Vietnamese nationals and one Nigerian national had been prepared already in 2024, but they were carried out in 2025.<sup>251</sup>

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## Migration and development

The Slovak Republic did not adopt any policies or legislation with the specific aim of integrating the development aspect of migration into the country's sectoral policies in a systemic way in the last five years.

### 13.1. Migrants' remittances

According to World Bank data, remittances (cash contributions) sent by migrants living in the Slovak Republic to support their families and communities in other countries around the world in the period of years 2020 – 2023 amounted, on average, to 470 million USD.<sup>252,253</sup>

#### Personal remittances sent by migrants from the Slovak Republic to other countries in 2020 – 2024

Indicator	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Personal remittances in USD	410 588 884	565 021 522	486 280 572	417 630 875	Data unavailable at the time of writing of this overview.

Source: World bank.

<sup>252</sup> World Bank, Data, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BM.TRF.PWKR.CD.DT?end=2023&locations=SK&start=2010>, consulted on 3 April 2025.

<sup>253</sup> European Migration Network (EMN), Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Slovak Republic 2023, <https://www.emn.sk/sk/publikacie/vyroczne-spravy-emn-o-migracii-a-azyle/item/758-annual-report-on-migration-and-asylum-2023-sk.html>, consulted on 3 April 2025.

<sup>251</sup> Information provided by IOM Slovakia.

## 13.2. Development cooperation

In terms of sectoral policies, the Slovak Republic focuses on the development potential of migration primarily through development and humanitarian aid. Since 2017, the country has reaffirmed its interest and aimed its activities and funding in the area of development and humanitarian assistance to address the causes and impacts of global forced and/or irregular migration, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, climate change and lack of legal migration pathways into the EU; and to provide support to the most vulnerable groups through various development cooperation instruments (e.g. grant projects, in kind humanitarian assistance, financial contributions or asylum system development in transit countries).<sup>254</sup> There have been no amendments to the Act on Development Cooperation in 2024.<sup>255</sup>

The Slovak Republic was preparing a new *Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2025-2030*<sup>256</sup> in 2024. It was developed through a broad consultative process involving all relevant development cooperation stakeholders in the Slovak Republic, including state administration bodies and representatives of the non-governmental and business sectors. The draft document was submitted to the Government for discussion in December 2024 and the Strategy was approved in January 2025. This ensured the continuity of humanitarian assistance and development cooperation of the Slovak Republic in view of the expiration of the previous *Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2019-2023*, which was extended<sup>257</sup> until the end of 2024. Similarly to the previous strategies, one of the four objectives of the Slovak Republic's strategy is to address the causes of irregular migration by creating jobs, promoting food security, developing human capital, and increasing the economic and social resilience of communities.

The strategy builds on international commitments of the Slovak Republic, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the European Consensus on Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. In line with the 2030 Agenda, the Slovak Republic will seek to promote a horizontal approach to sustainable development to ensure coherence and synergies between national policies (including development, foreign, security, trade, environment, migration policies, etc.) to prevent negative impacts of individual policies on the development goals and to contribute effectively to sustainable development.

In line with the strategy, SlovakAid's activities will primarily be implemented in the EU Eastern Partnership region, the Western Balkans, the Middle East and East Africa. Moldova, Kenya and Georgia will continue to be the programme countries, and Ukraine has the status of a country with special needs. Central Asia is recognised as a region with great potential for a gradual intensification of the Slovak Republic's development activities.<sup>258</sup>

<sup>254</sup> European Migration Network (EMN), Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Slovak Republic 2023, <https://www.emn.sk/sk/publikacie/vyročne-spravy-emn-o-migrácii-a-azyle/item/758-annual-report-on-migration-and-asylum-2023-sk.html>, consulted on 3 April 2025.

<sup>255</sup> Act No. 392/2015 Coll. on Development Cooperation and on changes amendments to some acts, <https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2015-392> consulted on 4 April 2025.

<sup>256</sup> Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2025-2030, <https://slovakaid.sk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/3-Vlastny-material.pdf>, consulted on 27 January 2025.

<sup>257</sup> by the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 620 of 20 November 2023.

<sup>258</sup> Information provided by the MFEA.

*Focus of Bilateral Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2024*, approved by the Slovak Republic in March 2024, aspired "to present the Slovak Republic as a strong and innovative partner that is actively involved in improving the humanitarian situation and mitigating the effects of the armed conflict on the citizens of Ukraine and other countries affected by the conflict, and that responds sensitively to their needs".<sup>259</sup>

In 2024 the Government of the Slovak Republic funded the studies of students from the countries impacted by conflicts. It provided stipends for a total of 381 scholarship holders, 128 of whom come from countries affected by armed conflicts or from countries of origin of forced migration. Scholarships were mainly provided to students from Ukraine (37 scholarship holders, Afghanistan – 27 scholarship holders, Syria – 12 scholarship holders, Palestine – 18 scholarship holders, Lebanon – 14 scholarship holders, Sudan – 8 scholarship holders, Ethiopia – 8 scholarship holders, etc.).<sup>260</sup>

## 13.3. Humanitarian assistance

Humanitarian assistance provided in 2024 within the scope of the Slovak Republic's official development assistance (ODA) was provided in material and financial form, as well as through humanitarian projects implemented under the grant calls launched by the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAIDC) with a territorial focus on Ukraine and the Middle East (Lebanon, Iraq, Syria). The Slovak Republic spent more than €6.1 million in total on humanitarian aid abroad in 2024.

As concerns humanitarian assistance activities, the primary focus continued to be on meeting the urgent needs of civilians affected by the war in Ukraine, both in the form of material aid and financial assistance provided to locally operating non-governmental organizations, institutions, and established international humanitarian organizations. In addition to Ukraine, the Slovak Republic provided material humanitarian aid to Lebanon, Kenya, Egypt, and the Gaza Strip. More material aid was delivered to Ukraine through the Vatican's Dicastery for the Service of Charity. Financial aid was provided for the construction of flood-preventing infrastructure in order to help with the aftermath of the floods in Brazil, assistance to Afghan refugees in Iran, acquisition of powdered milk for Cuban children through the World Food Programme (WFP), and to rehabilitate water wells in Syria.

The main recipient of the official development assistance of the Slovak Republic in 2024 was Ukraine. The total value of ODA for Ukraine approved and disbursed in 2024, including both material and financial assistance, amounted to €10 001 149.71. Material humanitarian assistance, which included, among other things, food, sanitary kits, first aid kits, medicines and medical supplies, power generators, transformers, ambulances, passenger vehicles, clothes, fertilizers and IT equipment, amounted to €942 294.12 in 2024. The financial assistance provided by the Slovak Republic amounted to €8 786 044.69. In 2024, SAIDC launched a call for applications for grants for humanitarian assistance projects in Ukraine focusing on the provision of basic health-care and psychosocial assistance to vulnerable people affected by the war in Ukraine. One grant was approved under this call. Moreover, the highest financial contribution to date was provided

<sup>259</sup> Focus of Bilateral Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2024, <https://slovakaid.sk/zameranie-dvojstrannej-oda-sr-na-rok-2024-je-schvalene/>, consulted on 27 January 2025.

<sup>260</sup> Information provided by the MFEA.

in 2024 based on the decision by the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. The grant in the amount of €3 500 000 was used for the purchase of demining systems for humanitarian demining activities in Ukraine.

In the Middle East, the aim of the Slovak Republic's activities is to support efforts to stabilize the political and security situation in the region and promote recovery and reconstruction of the countries there, including infrastructure development. The SAIDC's call for projects for the Middle East region in 2024 focused on supporting humanitarian activities responding to the consequences of armed conflicts and addressing the causes of irregular and forced migration by improving the living conditions of the people and their prospects for employment in their home communities. Particular attention was paid to improving the living conditions of refugees and internally displaced persons, bad economic situation of suffering people, and creating favourable conditions for their return, if the situation in their home country or in their place of origin allows it. One project submitted by the Integra Foundation was supported under the call by €250 000. The main objective of the project entitled *Rehabilitation of Two Water Wells in Syria*, which will serve a 22 000 people strong community, is to improve the quality of life and health of people by securing a sustainable access to safe drinking water for the local communities in Hjeireh and Sbeineh neighbourhoods in rural Damascus (Syria).

In addition to the abovementioned material need, the Slovak Republic provided the EURACARE Flight & Shelter module under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) for two medical evacuations of child patients from Gaza Strip in 2024 (on 29 June and 19 December 2024) and also organised evacuation flights from Lebanon (4 – 5 October 2024).<sup>261</sup>

### 13.4. Circular migration

The Slovak Republic did not adopt or discuss any new legislation or policies at the national level concerning the schemes falling under the scope of the so-called circular migration, which benefits both the country of destination and the sending country, as well as the migrants, in 2024. However, the Slovak Republic provided space for activities with similar focus within the scope of SlovakAid.

A project entitled *Digital Talents: Labour Mobility Program for ICT Graduates from Slovakia, Ukraine, and Moldova (Digi Talents)*, which was implemented by the non-governmental organization EMA, ended in July 2024. The project promoted cooperation in the field of labour migration as well as economic exchange between the ICT sectors in the participating countries. The specific objective was to establish a legal migration scheme to support young talents from Moldova and Ukraine who are working in ICT. At the same time, the program sought to fill vacancies in the ICT sector in the Slovak Republic and promote the mutual exchange of knowledge and experience. Under the scope of the programme, young Moldovan and Ukrainian talents could find short-term employment (12 months) or internships (3 months) in leading ICT companies in Slovakia, allowing them to gain practical knowledge, skills, and experience, which they can later use in their home countries. The overall objective of the project was to contribute to the EU's migration agenda by creating a well-managed job mobility scheme for young graduates that is mutually beneficial for all countries involved – the Slovak Republic, Moldova, and Ukraine. The project was

<sup>261</sup> Information provided by the MFEA.

implemented in cooperation with the Digital Coalition and Moldovan IT Association.<sup>262</sup>

At the EU level, through its Statistical Office, the Slovak Republic was involved in commenting on and approving of the new European regulation on European Statistics on Population (ESOP), which concerns statistics on population, migration, and the census of population, houses, and apartments. Following comments from Member States on the possibility of providing statistics in this area, circular migration is not included in the draft regulation.<sup>263</sup>

### 13.5. Brain drain and workforce migration from the Slovak Republic and the Slovak diaspora abroad

Development potential of the Slovak Republic is also affected by the emigration of domestic population who may not have formal ties to the Slovak Republic (i.e. its citizenship). According to a report by the Research and Innovation Agency (VAIA), brain drain from the Slovak Republic is more pronounced than in case of most EU countries and it is one of the key reasons for the lack of talent in the country.<sup>264</sup> The Slovak Republic is experiencing a brain drain that significantly deviates from the average in similar EU and OECD countries. Based on OECD data, almost 10% of the Slovak population lives abroad,<sup>265</sup> which represents more than a double of the average for other OECD countries. The differences are particularly visible when it comes to young people's choice of university where they study. In 2020, more than 30 000 Slovak students were studying abroad, which significantly exceeds the EU average (22% compared to 4%). Moreover, the proportion of students studying abroad is increasing despite the stagnation in the absolute numbers of students abroad. Almost two out of three young people (aged 18 to 25) in the Slovak Republic are thinking of studying abroad.<sup>266</sup> Yet, according to statistics, by 2030 as many as 121 000 working age people will be missing in the Slovak Republic. Every university-educated talent who does not stay in the Slovak Republic means that the country loses €2.8 million.<sup>267</sup>

According to VAIA, deepening/expanding cooperation with the original diaspora represents a great opportunity for the Slovak Republic in the field of migration and development.<sup>268</sup> Apart from the Slovaks who left after 2000, an estimated one million people who declare their affiliation to Slovak origin are living abroad. The VAIA analysis states that their numbers will naturally increase due to the so-called second generation of Slovaks – the children of those who left The Slovak Republic in this millennium.<sup>269</sup> A permanent conference entitled *The Slovak Republic and*

<sup>262</sup> Migration for Development, <https://www.migrationagency.eu/projekty>, consulted on 4 April 2025.

<sup>263</sup> Information provided by the SO.

<sup>264</sup> Slovenskí profesionáli v zahraničí: cenný zdroj pre rozvoj Slovenska [*Slovak professionals abroad: A valuable resource for Slovakia's development*], [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=pfbid02diWxSe7noAQLT4LvuWmpBWTwwxQvPLY2LQWrrzqDv6TRLWg6ruDt5SiGsD2rnoHUYI&id=100087175073938&\\_cft\\_\\_\[0\]=AZXBFF-IComOgUK4rwJEInGGBV20GIIdo\\_T2UsMDaLGVXJ9BJS7PBIOPd\\_H4RQx5uevK-GYEqQIO6l2hxE5hSSyiR0qpV1NxvgZ0O3TmcT4dALFbvGhXulBJgp8f1t1svMvMWysi6vVLvoEIQ7GwByadQy5aWcP9AQxm5iq5bikq19HQ&\\_tn\\_=%2CO%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid02diWxSe7noAQLT4LvuWmpBWTwwxQvPLY2LQWrrzqDv6TRLWg6ruDt5SiGsD2rnoHUYI&id=100087175073938&_cft__[0]=AZXBFF-IComOgUK4rwJEInGGBV20GIIdo_T2UsMDaLGVXJ9BJS7PBIOPd_H4RQx5uevK-GYEqQIO6l2hxE5hSSyiR0qpV1NxvgZ0O3TmcT4dALFbvGhXulBJgp8f1t1svMvMWysi6vVLvoEIQ7GwByadQy5aWcP9AQxm5iq5bikq19HQ&_tn_=%2CO%2CP-R), consulted on 9 June 2025.

<sup>265</sup> According to the results of the 2021 Population and Housing Census conducted by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, 240 932 Slovaks (4.46% of the population) were residing abroad at the time of the census, even though their permanent residence was in the Slovak Republic. Slovaks who did not have permanent residence in the Slovak Republic and whose residence on the date of the 2021 census was abroad constituted a group of 202 517 persons (3.75%).

<sup>266</sup> MESRY, Úspešné Slovensko v prosperujúcej Európe – konkurencieschopnosť v časech globálnej transformácie [*A successful Slovakia in a prosperous Europe – Competitiveness in times of global transformation*] (2023), [https://vaia.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/white\\_paper\\_1\\_magnet\\_pre\\_talent\\_online.pdf](https://vaia.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/white_paper_1_magnet_pre_talent_online.pdf), consulted on 9 June 2025.

<sup>267</sup> Zahraniční študenti ako dôležitý talent pre rast Slovenska [*Foreign students as an important talent for Slovakia's growth*], <https://vaia.gov.sk/sk/2024/12/zahrancni-studenti-ako-dolezity-talent-pre-rast-slovenska-analyza/>, consulted on 6 June 2025.

<sup>268</sup> Office for Slovaks Living Abroad, <https://www.uszz.sk/krajania/>, consulted on 18 March 2025.

<sup>269</sup> VAIA, Magnet pre talent [*A Magnet for Talents*] (2023), [https://vaia.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/white\\_paper\\_1\\_magnet\\_pre\\_talent\\_online.pdf](https://vaia.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/white_paper_1_magnet_pre_talent_online.pdf), consulted on 18 March 2025.

*Slovaks Living Abroad 2024* took in Bratislava on 24–25 October 2024. The conference is organised bi-annually by the Office for Slovaks Living Abroad and serves as a forum for addressing issues faced by Slovaks living abroad. The meeting was attended by representatives of Slovak communities from all over the world, prominent figures from the Slovak diaspora, and representatives of Slovak state authorities. This year, the topic of the conference was “Connecting for the Future” and the main focus was on the challenges and opportunities for Slovak diaspora in the fields of education, research, culture and media. For the first time, the event also discussed migration and using the services of the Slovak professionals living abroad.<sup>270</sup> Conclusions and recommendations from the conference were to be incorporated into the update of the *Concept of state policy in relation to Slovaks living abroad*, which is valid until 2026.<sup>271</sup>

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## Annex: National Statistics

This annex provides an overview of relevant statistics regarding international migration and international protection in 2024, including the statistical data not collected at the EU level by Eurostat<sup>272</sup> or Frontex.<sup>273</sup>

National statistics for the Slovak Republic are available mainly in the annual reports of the BBFP PFP<sup>274</sup> (regular and irregular migration, returns, temporary protection), MI MO<sup>275</sup> (international protection including UAMs applying for asylum, temporary protection), COLSAF statistics<sup>276</sup> (employment of foreigners and UAMs not applying for asylum), Social Insurance Agency of the Slovak Republic<sup>277</sup> (employment of foreigners), MFEA<sup>278</sup> (visas), SO<sup>279</sup> (demographical data and foreign migration), Public Administration Section of the MI<sup>280</sup> (citizenship), MESRY<sup>281</sup> (foreigners' education), the World Bank<sup>282</sup> and Eurostat<sup>283</sup> (remittances). Eurostat statistics on migration, integration and remittances for the Slovak Republic for the calendar year are contained in the EMN Country Factsheet<sup>284</sup> and the information on trends can be found at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia's website.<sup>285</sup>

Symbols:

(:) – data not available

(-) – did not occur

(/) – countries with the same number/amount

<sup>272</sup> Eurostat, [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration\\_and\\_migrant\\_population\\_statistics](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics), consulted on 3 March 2025.

<sup>273</sup> Frontex, Publications, <http://frontex.europa.eu/publications/>, consulted on 3 March 2025.

<sup>274</sup> MI, <http://www.minv.sk/?rocnky> and MI, <https://www.minv.sk/?docasne-utocisko>, consulted on 3 March 2025.

<sup>275</sup> MI, <http://www.minv.sk/?statistiky-20>, consulted on 3 March 2025.

<sup>276</sup> COLSAF, Statistics, [http://www.upsvar.sk/statistiky/zamestnavanie-cudzincov-statistiky.html?page\\_id=10803](http://www.upsvar.sk/statistiky/zamestnavanie-cudzincov-statistiky.html?page_id=10803), consulted on 3 March 2025.

<sup>277</sup> Statistics are only available upon request.

<sup>278</sup> Statistics on the number of issued visas are only available upon request.

<sup>279</sup> SO, Statistics, [https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/ext/themes/demography/population/news!/ut/p/b1/jdDRColwFAbgZ-kF3HFbc7ucRnM-l5jTLdhMWEVJqUBS9fRbeZp27A9\\_wznlogLZprxXx\\_JWtU15fu-WbY2nue-7Eri\\_wqC9OHXnxqi5Szuw6UCgZEi9CIBHagxahnkqDCEgyX95-DISfu-VnyFa72nnsawccAEKx4JQzoCxsSBojexgRe71YJolWAqqgkm6mIJeBphnEcOg2A8Abg-GnvABA1fGYVsfUHY9oUudF89MV8IRjI5AKltdl4/d5/L2dBl-SEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/](https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/ext/themes/demography/population/news!/ut/p/b1/jdDRColwFAbgZ-kF3HFbc7ucRnM-l5jTLdhMWEVJqUBS9fRbeZp27A9_wznlogLZprxXx_JWtU15fu-WbY2nue-7Eri_wqC9OHXnxqi5Szuw6UCgZEi9CIBHagxahnkqDCEgyX95-DISfu-VnyFa72nnsawccAEKx4JQzoCxsSBojexgRe71YJolWAqqgkm6mIJeBphnEcOg2A8Abg-GnvABA1fGYVsfUHY9oUudF89MV8IRjI5AKltdl4/d5/L2dBl-SEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/), consulted on 3 March 2025.

<sup>280</sup> Statistics are only available upon request.

<sup>281</sup> Statistics are only available upon request from the Ministry or directly from the Centre for Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (CVTI), which processes and publishes said statistics on their website [https://www.cvtisr.sk/cvti-sr-vedecka-kniznica/informacie-o-skolstve/statistiky/statisticka-rocenka-publikacia/statisticka-rocenka-vysoke-skoly.html?page\\_id=9596](https://www.cvtisr.sk/cvti-sr-vedecka-kniznica/informacie-o-skolstve/statistiky/statisticka-rocenka-publikacia/statisticka-rocenka-vysoke-skoly.html?page_id=9596), consulted on 3 March 2025.

<sup>282</sup> World bank, Personal remittances, paid (current US\$) - Slovak Republic <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BM.TRF.PWKR.CD.DT?locations=SK&view=map>, consulted on 18 March 2025.

<sup>283</sup> Eurostat, Personal transfers and compensation of employees [bop\_rem6], [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/bop\\_rem6\\_custom\\_8976509/bookmark/table?lang=en&bookmarkId=e798898b-1d20-416c-8f64-a0397969fdd2](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/bop_rem6_custom_8976509/bookmark/table?lang=en&bookmarkId=e798898b-1d20-416c-8f64-a0397969fdd2), consulted on 18 March 2025.

<sup>284</sup> EMN Slovakia, Publications, <https://emn.sk/sk/publikacie/vyrocné-spravy-emn-o-migrácii-a-azyle.html>, consulted on 3 March 2025.

<sup>285</sup> IOM Slovakia, Migration in the Slovak Republic, <http://www.iom.sk/sk/migracia/migracia-na-slovensku>, consulted on 3 March 2025.

## Legal migration and visa

**Table 1: Foreigners with valid residence in the Slovak Republic in 2024 (by nationality and type of residence)**

Indicator	Situation as of 31 December 2024		The most numerous groups of foreigners by nationality
Number of foreigners with valid residence	<b>337 140</b>		1. Ukraine (197 004) 2. Serbia (17 508) 3. Czechia (12 690) 4. Hungary (9 843) 5. Vietnam (10 186)
Share of the total population*	6.22 %		
Number of third-country nationals with valid residence	<b>281 648</b>	Temporary residence: 110 113	1. Ukraine (197 004) 2. Serbia (17 508) 3. Vietnam (10 186) 4. Russia (8 746) 5. Georgia (5 342)
		Permanent residence: 39 882	
		Tolerated residence: 131 713**	
Share of TCNs in total number of foreigners	83.54 %		
Share of TCNs in total population *	5.20 %		

Source: BBFP PFP and SO.

NB:

\* The total population of the Slovak Republic represents the number of persons with permanent residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic, regardless of their citizenship. According to the SO, the total population of the Slovak Republic as of 31 December 31 2024 was 5 419 451.

\*\* The enormous increase in the number of foreigners with tolerated stay in the Slovak Republic, compared to 2021, is related to the granting of temporary protection after the outbreak of the war in Ukraine in February 2022 (granted mainly to Ukrainian nationals). Of the total of 95 450 tolerated stays granted in 2022, only 60 did not involve temporary protection (the purpose in these cases being UAMs – 53 cases respect for private and family life – 7 cases). In 2023, out of 114 223 tolerated stays, 73 did not involve temporary protection (UAMs – 66 cases and respect for private and family life – 7 cases). In 2024, of the total of 131 713 tolerated stays 17 did not involve temporary protection (UAMs – 12 cases and respect for private and family life – 5 cases).

**Table 2: Third-country nationals with valid residence by regions of the Slovak Republic in 2024**

Region	Valid residences as of 31 December 2024	Of which tolerated residence (temporary protection)
Bratislava region	103 176	47 230
Košice region	36 038	17 365
Nitra region	30 926	12 732
Trnava region	29 443	13 130
Žilina region	24 350	13 503
Prešov region	23 525	10 505
Trenčín region	19 617	9 913
Banská Bystrica region	14 573	7 318
<b>Total</b>	<b>281 648</b>	<b>131 696</b>

Source: BBFP PFP.

**Table 3: Residence permits issued to third-country nationals by the Slovak Republic in 2024 (by sex and purpose of residence<sup>286</sup>)**

Sex***	Total (of which first permits)	Purpose				The most numerous groups of foreigners, by nationality, in total/first permits
		Family formation and reunification <sup>287</sup> (family reasons)	Education and study <sup>288</sup>	Remunerated activities <sup>289</sup>	Other <sup>290</sup>	
Males	:	:	:	:	:	1. Ukraine (59 161) 2. Serbia (6 733) 3. Vietnam (4 791) 4. Georgia (2 850) 5. Russia (2 830)
Females	:	:	:	:	:	1. Ukraine (31 791) 2. Serbia (2 722) 3. Vietnam (1 753) 4. Georgia (1 685) 5. Moldova (1 165)
<b>Total* (of which first permits **)</b>	<b>96 162 (50 163)</b>	11 128 (3 838)	5 289 (2 768)	50 609 (16 717)	29 136 (26 840)	First permits: 1. Ukraine (31 791) 2. Serbia (2 722) 3. Vietnam (1 753) 4. Georgia (1 685) 5. Moldova (1 165)

Source: BBFP PFP.

Explanatory notes:

\* Total residence permits shall mean all residences granted, renewed or extended in a given year.

\*\* First permits (data in brackets) shall mean residences granted in the Slovak Republic for the very first time in a given year or after the period of minimum of six months from the end of the previous stay.

\*\*\* The Slovak Republic does not have data disaggregated by sex. It is estimated that of the total number of 96 162 residences, 35% were females and 65% were males. For first permits, the ratio is 38% females and 62% males.

286 The reasons for granting residence comply with the relevant EU legislation [Commission Regulation (EU) No. 216/2010 of 15 March 2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection, as regards the definition of categories of reasons for issuing residence permits]. The reasons are divided into four categories: 1. Family formation and reunification (family reasons), 2. Education and study, 3. Remunerated activities, and 4. Other reasons. Individual national types and purposes of residence are divided into these four categories.

287 The *Family formation and reunification (family reasons)* category includes stays pursuant to Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners: 1. Temporary residence – a person with long-term residence in another EU Member State within the meaning of Section 30(1)(e); family reunification; a Slovak living abroad (if the foreigner specifies the Family category); 2. Permanent residence for the period of five years within the meaning of Section 43(1)(a) to (d); a family member of an EU citizen; Brexit for five years (if the foreigner specifies the Family category) – recorded since 2020; 3. Permanent residence for an indefinite period of time within the meaning of Section 46(1)(a) and (b); a family member of an EU citizen – permanent; 4. Long-term residence within the meaning of Section 52(1)(a) – family; a Slovak living abroad (if the foreigner specifies the Family category); Section 52(1)(b) (if the foreigner specifies the Family category); Brexit for an indefinite period of time (if the foreigner specifies the Family category) – recorded since 2020; 5. Tolerated residence – if required to respect the private and family life of the foreigner and provided it does not pose a threat to state security and public order within the meaning of Section 58(1)(b).

288 The *Education and study* category includes stays pursuant to Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners: 1. Temporary residence for the purpose of study (study – student, study – pupil); study – student/ Section 24(1)(b), study – student/section 24(1)(c), study – student/Section 34(1)(b), study – pupil/section 24(1)(a); special activity – government or EU program (only with the Study category); special activity – international treaty (only with the Study category); special activity – internship as part of studies outside the Slovak Republic; special activity – volunteer work; for the purpose of a person with long-term residence in another EU Member State within the meaning of Section 30(1)(c) or within the meaning of Section 30(1)(d) (if the foreigner specifies the Study category); Slovak living abroad (if the foreigner specifies the Study category); 2. Permanent residence for the period of five years – Brexit for five years (if the foreigner specifies the Study category o) – recorded since 2020; 3. Long-term residence for an indefinite period of time within the meaning of Section 52(1)(a) – a Slovak living abroad (if the foreigner specifies the Study category); Section 52(1)(a) – special activity (if the foreigner specifies the Study category), Section 52(1)(b) (if the foreigner specifies the Study category);

**Table 4: Foreigners employed in the Slovak Republic in 2024**

	Situation as of 31 December 2024 (of which females)	The most numerous groups of foreigners, by nationality	The most numerous groups of third-country nationals
EU/EAE citizens	29 166 (8 761)	1. Ukraine (44 168) 2. Hungary (8 001)	1. Ukraine (44 168) 2. Serbia (6 712)
Third-country nationals	79 380 (33 076)	3. Serbia (6 712) 4. Czech Republic (6 524)	3. India (4 482) 4. Moldova (1 989)
<b>Total</b>	<b>108 546 (41 837)</b>	5. India (4 482)	5. Russia (1 983)

Source: Social Insurance Agency.

289 The *Remunerated activities* category includes stays pursuant to Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners: 1. Temporary stay for the purpose of business; business – start-up; employment within the meaning of Section 23(1) and (2), seasonal employment; special activity – journalist; special activity – lecturing; special activity – artistic activity; special activity – sporting activity; special activity – international contract (only with the Remunerated activities category); special activity – government or EU program (only with the Remunerated activities category), for the purposes of intra-corporate transfer (ICT – manager, ICT – specialist, ICT – trainee); person with long-term residence in another Member State within the meaning of Section 30(1)(a) and (b) and also within the meaning of Section 30(1)(d) (if the foreigner specifies the Remunerated activities category); performance of official duties by civilian personnel of the armed forces within the meaning of Section 28; EU Blue Card; research and development; research and development/Section 34(1)(b); a Slovak living abroad (if the foreigner specifies the Remunerated activities category); 2. Permanent residence for the period of five years within the meaning of Section 43(1)(e) – interest of the Slovak Republic; Brexit for five years (if the foreigner specifies the Remunerated activities category) – recorded since 2020; 3. Permanent residence for an indefinite period of time within the meaning of Section 46(1)(a) – interest of the Slovak Republic; 4. Long-term residence within the meaning of Section 52(1)(a) – employment; Section 52(1)(a) – business; Section 52(1)(a) – research and development; Section 52(1)(a) – a Slovak living abroad (if the foreigner specifies the Remunerated activities category), section 52(1)(a) – special activity (if the foreigner specifies the Remunerated activities category); Section 52(1)(b) (if the foreigner specifies the Remunerated activities category); Section 52(1)(c) – EU Blue Card holder; Brexit for an unlimited period of time (if the foreigner specifies the Remunerated activities category) – recorded since 2020.

290 The *Other reasons* category includes the following types of residence pursuant to Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners, which do not fall under any of the previous three categories: 1. Temporary residence for the purpose of special activities – healthcare – provision of healthcare and accompanying a third-country national who is receiving healthcare; a Slovak living abroad (if the foreigner specifies the Other reasons category), a person with long-term residence in another EU Member State within the meaning of Section 30(1)(d) (if the foreigner specifies the Other reasons category); 2. Permanent residence for the period of five years pursuant to Section 43(1)(e) – if it is in the interest of the Slovak Republic and pursuant to Section 45a (if the foreigner specifies the Other reasons category); Brexit for five years (if the foreigner specifies the Other reasons category) – recorded since 2020; 3. Permanent residence for an indefinite period of time pursuant to Section 46(2) – if it is in the security interests of the Slovak Republic (if the foreigner specifies the Other reasons category); 4. Long-term residence for an indefinite period of time pursuant to Section 52(1)(a) – a Slovak living abroad (if the foreigner specifies the Other reasons category); Section 52(1)(b) (if the foreigner specifies the Other reasons category); Brexit for an indefinite period of time (if the foreigner specifies the Other reasons category) – recorded since 2020; 5. Tolerated stay – if it concerns a minor found on the territory of the Slovak Republic within the meaning of Section 58(1)(a) or if it concerns a victim of trafficking in human beings who is at least 18 years old within the meaning of Section 58(1)(c), or a victim of trafficking in human beings who is at least 18 years old, where a period of up to 90 days is considered a tolerated stay within the meaning of Section 58(3), and if this follows from the international obligations of the Slovak Republic within the meaning of Section 58(1)(d); also if it concerns an illegally employed person under particularly exploitative conditions or an illegally employed minor whose presence in the territory of the Slovak Republic is necessary for the purposes of criminal proceedings within the meaning of Section 58(2); 6. Subsidiary protection; 7. Asylum.

**Table 5: Visas issued by the Slovak Republic to third-country nationals in 2024 (by type and place of issuance)**

Total	(Schengen) short-term visas (type A, C and LTV visa)		National visas (type D)*	
	Issued in a third country	Issued to persons residing in another EU MS	Issued in a third country	Issued to persons residing in another EU MS
<b>27 727</b>	12 193	459	14 225	850

Source: MFEA (based on the Microcomp data from the NVIS system).

\* In addition to the numbers given herein, the MI issued 591 national visas in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Explanation:  
 Type A visa – airport transit visa,  
 Type C visa – tourist visa,  
 Type D visa – national visa,  
 LTV visa – visa with limited territorial validity.

NB: The number of issued visas may differ from the data provided in the BBFP PFP yearbook *Statistical Overview of Legal and Illegal Migration in the Slovak Republic 2024*. The number of visas in the system for which decision has been made at the time of writing of this overview may not be reflected in the number of visas printed or issued.

## Integration and citizenship

**Table 6: Acquired citizenship of the Slovak Republic in 2024 (by sex and previous citizenship)**

Sex	Citizenship of the Slovak Republic acquired by foreigners	The most numerous groups of foreigners by previous citizenship	Citizenship of the Slovak Republic acquired by third-country nationals	The most numerous groups of third-country nationals by previous citizenship
Males	777	1. Serbia (380) 2. Ukraine (234)	575	1. Serbia (380) 2. Ukraine (234)
Females	655	3. USA (141) 4. Czechia/Hungary (130) 5. Germany (49)	476	3. USA (141) 4. United Kingdom (39) 5. Canada/Russia (32)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 432</b>		<b>1 051</b>	

Source: MI.

NB: Slovak citizenship is usually acquired through naturalisation.

**Table 7: Foreigners in the Slovak education system as of 15 September 2024 (school year 2024/2025) – pre-primary facilities, primary and secondary schools and universities**

Indicator	Total	Of which third-country nationals	The most numerous groups of third-country nationals
Foreigners in pre-primary facilities (kindergartens)	3 148	2 672	1. Ukraine (2 127) 2. Vietnam (131) 3. Russia (93) 4. Serbia (74) 5. Republic of Korea (23)
Foreigners in primary schools	13 294	11 834	1. Ukraine (9 294) 2. Russia (510) 3. Vietnam (428) 4. Serbia (288) 5. Republic of Korea (201)
Foreigners in special pre-primary and primary schools	237	198	1. Ukraine (159) 2. Russia (15) 3. Serbia, Vietnam, USA (11)
Foreigners in secondary schools	5 744	5 164	1. Ukraine (4 158) 2. Russia (299) 3. Serbia (156) 4. Kazakhstan (78) 5. Vietnam (71)
Foreigners at universities	25 815	19 178	1. Ukraine (13 843) 2. Russia (1 054) 3. Serbia (501) 4. Norway (480) 5. Belarus (476)
<b>Foreigners in total</b>	<b>48 238</b>	39 046	1. Ukraine (29 581) 2. Russia (1 971) 3. Serbia (1 023) 4. Vietnam (733) 5. Belarus (612)

Source: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Youth of the SR.

## Irregular migration and returns

**Table 8: Irregular migration in the Slovak Republic in 2024**

Indicator	Number of cases	The most numerous groups from non-EU countries by citizenship
Irregular crossing of state borders	2 078	1. Ukraine (2 029) 2. Czechia (9) 3. Iran (8) 4. Hungary (7) 5. Pakistan (5)
Irregular stay	586	1. Ukraine (111) 2. Serbia (53) 3. Georgia (39) 4. Vietnam (37) 5. Syria (36)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 664</b>	1. Ukraine (2 140) 2. Serbia (54) 3. Georgia (39) 4. Vietnam (37) 5. Syria (36)

Source: BBFP PFP.

**Table 9: Trafficked persons in the Slovak Republic in 2024<sup>291</sup>**

Indicator	Males	Females	Total	The most numerous groups by citizenship
Third-country nationals identified as trafficked persons	:	:	<b>410</b>	1. Unidentified (253) 2. Syria (54) 3. Ukraine (36) 4. Serbia (14) 5. China (11)

Source: BBFP PFP.

Explanation:

(:) Data not available (in cases documented by the NUCIM BBFP PFP the only facts recorded are the state citizenship of irregular migrants and the connection with the criminal offense for which the traffickers were charged).

<sup>291</sup> Pursuant to Section 355 and Section 356 of the Act No. 300/2005 Coll. – the Criminal Code, trafficking is defined as follows: "Section 355 – Anyone who organizes the illegal crossing of the state border of the Slovak Republic or transit through its territory for a person who is not a citizen of the Slovak Republic or a person with permanent residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic, or enables or assists in such an act, in exchange for financial or other material gain.

Section 356 - Anyone who, with the intention of obtaining a financial or other material advantage for themselves or another person, directly or indirectly, for a person who is not a citizen of the Slovak Republic or a citizen of another Member State of the European Union or a citizen of a contracting state to the EEA Agreement, or who does not have permanent residence in their territory, enables or assists them to remain or to work illegally in the territory of the Slovak Republic, another Member State of the European Union or a contracting state to the EEA Agreement, shall be punished by two to eight years of imprisonment."

**Table 10: Traffickers in the Slovak Republic– selected indicators in 2024**

Indicator	Traffickers		
	detained as suspects/charged	The most numerous nationality (suspects/accused)	convicted
<b>Total<sup>292</sup></b>	<b>73*/42**</b>	1. Unidentified (30-) 2. Ukraine (13/13) 3. Slovak Republic (13/16)	144***

Source: BBFP PFP (detained as suspects), General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic (charged) and the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (convicted).

\* Total number of persons suspected of the crime of trafficking in human beings.

\*\* Of the total number of 42 persons charged, 25 were charged with illegally crossing the state border, 7 with marriage of convenience, and 10 with illegal residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic/EU.

\*\*\* 121 persons were convicted pursuant to Section 355 and 21 persons were convicted pursuant to Section 356 of the Act No. 300/2005 Coll. – the Criminal Code.

**Table 11: Detained third-country nationals in the Slovak Republic 2024\***

	PDCF Sečovce	PDCF Medveďov	Total	The most numerous groups by nationality
Third-country nationals placed during 2023	93	140	<b>233</b>	1. Syria (40) 2. Morocco (26) 3. Türkiye (19) 4. Iran (13) 5. Iraq (10)

Source: BBFP PFP.

Explanation:

In the Slovak Republic, detained third-country nationals are placed in police detention centres for foreigners (PDCF).

<sup>292</sup> The number includes the people convicted under Sections 355 and 356 of the new Criminal Code No. 300/2005 Coll. and section 171a of the old Criminal Code No. 140/1961 Coll. (depending on the nature of crime).

**Table 12: Third-country nationals returned from the Slovak Republic in 2024 (by type of return, nationality and country of return)**

Indicator	Returned within forced return measures*				Returned voluntarily (including AVR)**				Returned voluntarily within AVR programme				Persons with provided reintegration assistance within AVR			
	Total	M	F	Out of which Min. 1	Total	M	F	Out of which Min. 11	Total	M	F	Out of which Min. 0	Total	M	F	Out of which Min. 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	48	4	1	<b>256***</b>	217	39	11	<b>1</b>	1	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0
<b>Top nationalities</b>	1. Ukraine (11) 2. Georgia (8) 3. Türkiye /Vietnam (4) 4. Serbia/Uzbekistan/ Moldova/Albania (3) 5. Morocco (2))				1. Türkiye (54) 2. Serbia (34) 3. Kirgizstan/Georgia (24) 4. Vietnam (12) 5. North Macedonia (11)				Moldova (1)				-			
<b>Top countries of return</b>	1. Ukraine 2. Serbia 3. Moldova/Tunisia 4. Georgia 5. Türkiye				1. Türkiye 2. North Macedonia 3. Vietnam 4. Egypt 5. Georgia											

Source: BBFP PFP<sup>293</sup> and IOM Slovakia.<sup>294</sup>

\* Forced return – this category includes cases of enforcement of administrative or judicial expulsion decisions by means of escorting by the Police Force: a) across the external land border, b) across the internal land border, or c) by air to a third country.

\*\* Voluntary returns (including AVR) – this category includes: a) voluntary fulfilment of the obligation to leave the territory of the Slovak Republic within the period specified for this purpose in the decision on administrative expulsion issued due to the discovery of unauthorized stay in the internal territory (the fulfilment of the obligation is recorded at the border crossing on the external border) or b) leaving of the territory of the Slovak Republic upon detection of a person's unauthorized stay at the border crossing point during their departure from the Slovak Republic, for which the foreigner was issued a decision on administrative expulsion. This category also includes persons whose return was carried out by the IOM (through the AVRR programme) and Frontex after a decision on expulsion was issued. Each individual is included only once (i.e., only one decision on expulsion is issued to one person).

\*\*\* The total (256) includes 28 voluntary returns carried out as a result of cooperation with Frontex, 1 voluntary return under the IOM AVRR programme and 227 voluntary departures.

Explanation:

AVR – assisted voluntary returns, AVRR – IOM's Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegrations Programme, M – males, Min.– minors, F – females

<sup>293</sup> The BBFP PFP compiled statistics on returns based on the 2022 data provided by Eurostat. When processing the data, the BBFP PFP proceeded in accordance with Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and in accordance with current technical instructions by Eurostat [Technical Guidelines for the Data Collection – Enforcement of Immigration Legislation (EIL) Statistics].

<sup>294</sup> IOM Slovakia keeps statistics on assisted voluntary returns and reintegrations, which, unlike the data mentioned above, are presented on the IOM's website as the number concerning AVR cases and the number of reintegration cases. Thus, one case may concern several persons.

## International protection

**Table 13: Asylum seekers and persons granted international protection in the Slovak Republic in 2024 – selected indicators**

Indicator	Total	Males	Females	Of which minors	The most numerous nationalities ***
Asylum applications (of which first applications)	<b>165</b> <b>(141)</b>	134 (113)	31 (28)	29 (26)	1. Ukraine (31) 2. Afghanistan (19) 3. Belarus (17) 4. Iran (14) 5. Germany (10)
Asylum granted	41	29	12	10	1. Afghanistan (15) 2. Belarus (8) 3. Morocco/Russia (4) 4. Iraq (2) 5. Algeria/Egypt / Kirgizstan/Pakistan / Palestine/Sudan/Syria/Türkyie (1)
Subsidiary protection granted*	22	20	2	4	1. Ukraine (10) 2. Syria (8) 3. Afghanistan (2) 4. Belarus (1) 5. Russia (1)
Negative decisions**	59	52	7	9	1. Germany (10) 2. Türkiye (7) 3. Morocco (6) 4. Iran/Pakistan (5) 5. Russia (4)
Discontinued proceedings ***	58	52	6	4	1. Ukraine (14) 2. Iran/Türkyie (8) 3. Morocco (4) 4. Pakistan/Sri Lanka (3) 5. Czechia/Iraq/Nepal/Sudan (2)

Source: MO MI.

NB: These are the first instance decisions in the administrative proceedings.

Explanation:

\* Subsidiary protection – protection against serious injustice in the country of origin.

\*\* Negative decisions – this category includes decisions not to grant asylum, decisions not to grant subsidiary protection, and decisions to reject asylum applications as (i) manifestly unfounded or (ii) inadmissible. Decisions on asylum applications which were rejected as inadmissible if another country is responsible for the asylum procedure, the so-called Dublin cases, are not included in the statistics.

\*\*\* Discontinued proceedings – discontinuation of proceedings pursuant to Section 19 of Act No. 480/2022 on Asylum and on amendments to some acts, as amended.

**Table 14: Persons who have applied for asylum in the Slovak Republic in 2024 in relation to the war in Ukraine**

Nationalities	Males	Females	Minors	Total
Ukraine	15	0	0	15
Russia	1	1	0	2
Other third countries	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	16	1	0	17

Source: MO MI.

**Table 15: Third-country nationals relocated to the Slovak Republic in 2024 (by sex, country of origin and the EU member state)**

Indicator	Total	Males	Females	Minors	Country of origin of third-country nationals relocated	Relocations from an EU member state
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	–	–

Source: MO MI.

**Table 16: Third-country nationals resettled to the Slovak Republic in 2024 (by sex and the original host country)**

Indicator	Total	Males	Females	Original host country
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	–

Source: MO MI.

**Table 17: Third-country nationals resettled to third countries through the Slovak Republic in 2024 (by sex and the original host country)**

Indicator	Total	Males	Females	Original host country	Destination country
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	–	–

Source: MO MI and IOM Slovakia.

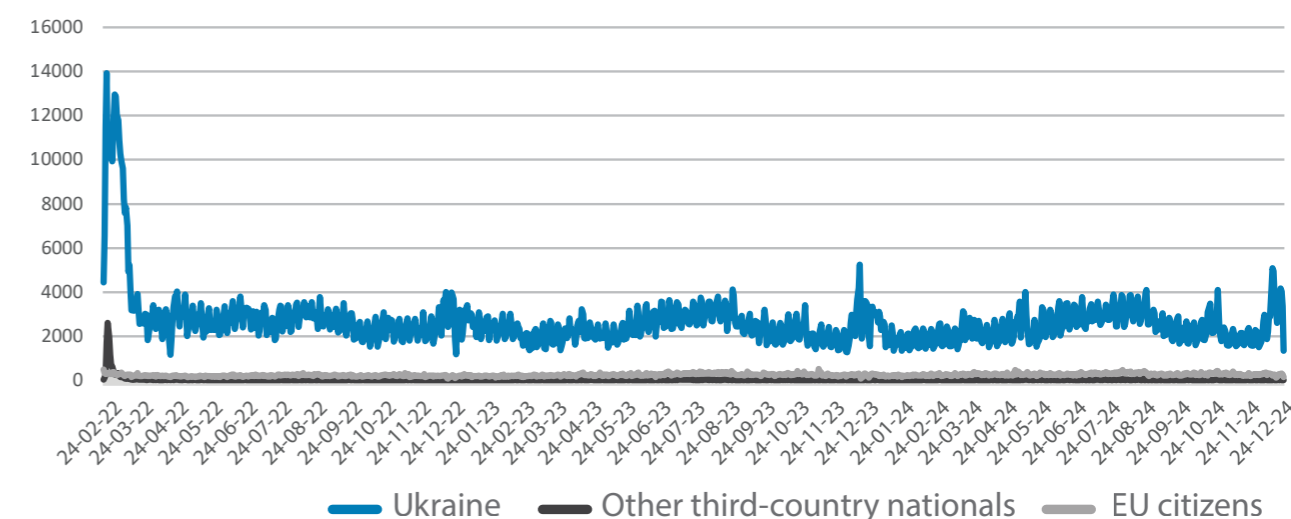
NB: The Slovak Republic may carry out resettlement activities to other third countries through its territory (see Chapter 4.3). The *Humanitarian Transfer of Refugees through the Territory of the Slovak Republic* programme is based on a trilateral agreement concluded between the Government of the Slovak Republic, UNHCR, and IOM.

## Temporary protection and movement of people from Ukraine to and from the Slovak Republic

**Table and figure 18: Number of entries into the territory of the Slovak Republic from Ukraine since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine (24 February 2022 – 31 December 2024)**

Indicator	Persons by nationality			
	Ukrainian nationals	Other third-country nationals	EU citizens	Total
Number of entries (24 February 2022 – 31 December 2024)	2 763 680	32 383	263 851	3 059 914
Number of entries (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024)	884 172	7 911	101 799	993 882

Source: BBFP PFP.

**Migratory flows at the land border between the SR and UKR, entries to the SR 24 February 2022 – 31 December 2024 (daily from 00.00 to 23.59)**

Source: BBFP PFP.

**Table 19: Number of exits from the territory of the Slovak Republic towards Ukraine since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine (24 February 2022 – 31 December 2024)**

Indicator	Persons by nationality			
	Ukrainian nationals	Other third-country nationals	EU citizens	Total
Number of exits (24 February 2022 – 31 December 2024)	2 708 595	21 759	268 979	2 999 333
Number of exits (1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024)	972 504	10 259	103 894	1 086 657

Source: BBFP PFP.

**Table 20: Persons who applied for temporary protection in the territory of the Slovak Republic in relation to the war in Ukraine (1 March 2022 – 31 December 2024)**

Nationality	Adults		Minors		No. of applications from 1 March 2022 to 31 December 2024*	Adults		Minors		No. of applications from 1 January to 31 December 2024*
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
Ukraine	34 807	75 961	26 406	23 270	160 444	10 132	10 230	4 029	2 220	26 611
Russia	170	269	18	27	484	30	61	1	2	94
Other countries	284	119	28	14	445	24	11	3	0	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>35 261</b>	<b>76 349</b>	<b>26 452</b>	<b>23 311</b>	<b>161 373</b>	<b>10 186</b>	<b>10 302</b>	<b>4 033</b>	<b>2 222</b>	<b>26 743</b>
<b>Applications in total (1 March 2022 – 31 December 2024)</b>	<b>161 373</b>									

Source: BBFP PFP.

\* According to the IS MIGRA report dated 25 March 2025. The statistics provided are subject to change and are updated on a daily basis, including retroactively, due to constant checks and corrections made in the source information system. Thus there may be slight changes in the numbers of applications for 2024 published at a later date.

## Unaccompanied minors

**Table 21: Unaccompanied minors in Slovak facilities\* in 2024**

Indicator	Males	Females	Total	The most numerous groups by nationality	Persons leaving facilities
Unaccompanied minors placed in facilities	12	1	<b>13</b>	1. Syria 2. Ukraine 3. Iran/Iraq/Egypt/ Morocco/ Somalia/ Afghanistan	11
Unaccompanied minors in facilities – total	42	6	<b>48</b>	1. Ukraine (33) 2. Syria 3. Türkiye 4. Afghanistan 5. Egypt/Iran/Iraq/ Morocco/Somalia/ Romania	13

Source: COLSAF.

NB:

\* In 2024, unaccompanied minors who were non-EU citizens were placed in the Centre for Children and Families (CCF) Medzilaborce. Unaccompanied minors from Ukraine were placed in CCF Bratislava – Rontgenova, CCF Bratislava – Učiteľská, CCF Dominika – Rožňava, CCF Nitra, CCF Trenčín and CCF Holíč.

**Table 22: Unaccompanied minors in the Slovak Republic by legal status and sex in 2024\***

Indicator	Males	Females	Total	The most numerous groups by nationality**
Unaccompanied minors who have not applied for asylum	40	6	46	1. Ukraine (33) 2. Syria 3. Türkiye
Unaccompanied minors who have applied for asylum	2	0	2	Confidential information
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>48</b>	1. Ukraine (33) 2. Syria 3. Türkiye

Source: MO MI (UAMs who have applied for asylum) and COLSAF (UAMs who have not applied for asylum).

NB:

\* UAMs in care of SPCSG authorities.

\*\* Where the number of minors is low, data is not provided to ensure their protection.

## Trafficking in human beings

**Table 23: Trafficking in human beings victims from non-EU countries in the Slovak Republic – selected indicators in 2024\***

Indicator		Total**	Males	Females
<b>Third-country nationals – identified victims<sup>295</sup> or presumed victims<sup>296</sup></b> <b>Numbers of presumed victims are indicated in brackets ( ).</b>		0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Age	18+	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Younger than 18 years of age	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Form of exploitation <sup>297</sup>	Sexual exploitation	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Labour exploitation	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Other	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Most frequent nationalities of people trafficked		Confidential information	Confidential information	Confidential information
<b>Tolerated stay granted***</b>		0	0	0
Directive 2004/81/EC****		0	0	0
Other		4	4	0
<b>Residence permits – submitted applications</b>		0	0	0
Directive 2004/81/EC		0	0	0
Other (e.g. humanitarian reasons, etc.)		0	0	0
<b>Residence permits granted</b>		0	0	0
Directive 2004/81/EC		0	0	0
Other (e.g. humanitarian reasons, etc.)		0	0	0

Source: BBFP PFP (residences) and IC MI.

NB:

\* Where the number is low, data is not provided, similarly to other selected data concerning the victims to ensure their protection as vulnerable persons. In such case, the specific figure is replaced by the phrase 'Confidential information'.

\*\* A total of 43 victims were identified, both formally and informally, in the Slovak Republic in 2024, of which 35 were formally (i.e. by the Police) identified by the NUCIM (two of these victims are counted twice, as they appear as victims in two different trafficking cases within one year).

\*\*\* No tolerated residence granted or extended to a minor in 2024 pursuant to Section 58(1)(c) of Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Foreigners has been recorded by the BBFP PFP.

\*\*\*\* Council Directive 2004/81/EC of 29 April 2004 on the residence permit issued to third-country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings or who have been the subject of an action to facilitate illegal immigration, who cooperate with the competent authorities.

<sup>295</sup> Identified victims are persons who have been formally identified by the competent authorities (i.e. a person or authority at the national level that is authorized to formally identify victims of trafficking in human beings). The National reference mechanism of the Slovak Republic states that only law enforcement authorities can formally identify victims in the Slovak Republic.

<sup>296</sup> Presumed victims are persons who meet the definition of victims of trafficking in human beings under Directive 2011/36/EU but have not been formally identified as such by the competent authorities (i.e. a person or body at national level that is authorized to formally identify victims of trafficking in human beings).

<sup>297</sup> Each victim may be associated with multiple forms of exploitation, therefore the statistics contained herein may not add up to the total statistics quoted above.

**Table 24: Traffickers of human beings in the Slovak Republic – selected indicators in 2024**

Indicator	Traffickers of human beings			
	charged		convicted	
Total	22*	13 males	20**	13 males
		9 females		7 females

Source: BBFP PFP (charged) and the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (convicted).

\* Number of legally concluded proceedings.

\*\* Pursuant to section 179 of the Criminal Code.

## Migration and development

**Table 25: Personal remittances sent by migrants from the Slovak Republic to other countries in 2024**

Indicator	2024
Personal remittances in USD/EUR	Data unavailable at the time of writing.

Source: World Bank and Eurostat.



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