



# SLOVAK REPUBLIC 2021

Main developments in migration  
and international protection,  
including latest statistics

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

August 2022



## OVERARCHING CHANGES

In September 2021, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the [Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic: Perspective until 2025](#) (Migration Policy). The strategic document defined the goals, direction and development priorities in legal migration (notably economic migration), international protection, integration, irregular migration and borders, readmission agreements and returns, combating human trafficking, humanitarian and development cooperation, and communication. Under the new Migration Policy, it will be considered whether the agendas of migration, integration and asylum could be centralised into one body, which formed part of the previous policy. In the migration field, the post-COVID [Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic](#) (Recovery and Resilience Plan) addressed the current demographic and labour market situation, including brain drain. In relevant chapters, the Plan set out two aspects of migration:

Component 10: [Attracting and Retaining Talent](#) proposes reforms and measures to support labour and research mobility from abroad, including non-EU countries, integration, simplification of the processes in residence and labour legislation and retain talent.

Component 9: [More Efficient Management and Strengthening of Research, Development and Innovation Funding](#) focuses on the insufficient level of internationalisation in research and labour.

An amendment to the [Act on Residence of Foreigners](#) entered into force in January 2021 which applied the end of the transitional period stipulated in the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement. UK nationals who entered the Slovak Republic after 1 January 2021 and did not have residence

## KEY POINTS



The new Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic: Perspective until 2025 set out the development priorities for migration.



In the area of migration, the Recovery and Resilience Plan was developed in response to brain drain and the needs of the domestic labour market. It addressed attracting and retaining migrant talent and internationalising research.



The Strategy for the Internationalisation of Higher Education until 2030 supported improving access to higher education for foreign university students, teachers, researchers, and artists.

in the territory of the Slovak Republic before that date were considered third-country nationals.



## LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

The Migration Policy set out priorities in respect of legal migration, with an emphasis on managed economic migration. It was considered crucial to create an attractive environment for third-country nationals in order to meet the development needs of the economy and society.

The priorities for managed economic migration were mainly: linking information systems and ensuring cooperation between stakeholders; providing information to third-country nationals in major languages; overseeing the arrival and stay of third-country nationals in the Slovak Republic; streamlining and digitising the acquisition of residence permits; and optimising numbers of workers in prominent workplaces.

## WORK-RELATED MIGRATION

Component 10 of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (Attracting and Retaining Talent) was intended to focus on meeting labour market needs with highly qualified workers (especially healthcare, education, IT). The Plan targeted simplified access to the labour market for highly educated non-EU workers. In December 2021, the government adopted [Regulation of the Slovak Republic No 521/2021 on the interest of the Slovak Republic to grant national visas to highly qualified third-country nationals](#). It will take effect in April 2022, with relevant individuals not required to enter the Slovak Republic before signing their employment contract.

An amendment to the [Act on the Provision of Health Care](#) was prepared, aimed at simplifying access to the healthcare system for medical practitioners from foreign countries. The possibility of a temporary professional placement was introduced in 2020 and may be extended after the end of the COVID-19 health crisis. The Slovak Republic allowed the employment of third-country nationals whose residence and employment permits expired during the pandemic.

## STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

The [Strategy for the Internationalisation of Higher Education until 2030](#) was adopted in December 2021 and will be implemented in 2022. It set out the intention to further open Slovak universities to foreign students, university teachers and researchers. Key measures include support for existing international scholarship programmes, granting national visas, changes to the process of filling associate/professor positions, and support for socio-cultural integration.

## OTHER MEASURES

The Slovak Republic conducted its first electronic [Population and Housing Census](#). Covering all Slovak nationals, EU citizens, third-country nationals and stateless persons, the census mapped i.a. gender, nationality, country of birth and education level.



## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

The Migration Policy was designed to reflect asylum policy and to respond to new forms of protection. International protection priorities include: active engagement in negotiations on the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) (seeking to prevent the adoption of a system of compulsory relocation of asylum seekers); voluntary engagement in regional and international processes; ensuring that the integration of beneficiaries of international protection is correctly regulated;

and the deployment of experts through the EU Asylum Agency.

The Slovak Republic prepared a draft amendment to the [Act on Asylum](#), aiming to systemically regulate initial integration of beneficiaries of international protection.

The internal instrument of the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior used to identify vulnerability and specific needs of asylum seekers ('social profile') was updated.



## MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

The Slovak Republic continued to build material and personnel capacity to care for increased numbers of unaccompanied minors.



## INTEGRATION

### NATIONAL INTEGRATION STRATEGY

The Migration Policy defined several integration priorities: strengthen the integration of third-country nationals at regional/local level; provide high-quality education for the children of third-country nationals, including teaching the Slovak language as a foreign language; support access to adequate housing; promote cultural and social integration, and intercultural dialogue; introduce a language and culture orientation mechanism and support; and implement and check the provision of adequate preventative healthcare.

Additional priorities were to strengthen social inclusion and cohesion, facilitate systemic regulation of the integration of vulnerable groups, introduce a vocational subject on the integration of third-country nationals into social work studies, and support, streamline and digitise the process of obtaining information on the health condition of third-country nationals.

Component 10 of the Recovery and Resilience Plan targeted the integration of working foreigners including returnees, highly qualified employees from third countries and their family members, and foreign university students studying in the Slovak Republic. Its aim is to create a legal framework for 'one-stop shops' providing comprehensive counselling and services.

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF ADULTS/ LABOUR MARKET AND SKILLS

The government adopted the [Strategy for Lifelong Learning and Counselling 2021-2030](#). The Strategy set out measures to address various target groups of adults, including migrants, with basic skills, pilot intervention programmes, and support for civil education.

Component 10 of the Recovery and Resilience Plan presupposes a simplified regime for the recognition of qualifications and the exercise of regulated professions.

## FIGHTING RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION

The government approved the [National Strategy for Equality between Women and Men and Equal Opportunities 2021-2027](#), which includes women migrants.

## BASIC SERVICES

Amended [Act on Health Insurance](#) came into effect on 1 January 2021. Under the Act, a person granted asylum will be considered a state-insured person for six months. The State will continue to pay insurance where the person meets certain conditions. To access healthcare, the beneficiaries of subsidiary protection must present a foreigner's card of entitlement to healthcare reimbursement. The card is valid for the period of granted subsidiary protection.

The Migration Policy addressed digitising the process of obtaining information about third-country nationals' health and support/implementation/verifying the provision of adequate, evidence-based healthcare for migrants.



## CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

### ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP

The Slovak Republic prepared an amendment to the [Act on Citizenship](#), which was adopted in February 2022 and will enter into force in April 2022. It aims to simplify acquisition of citizenship mainly for former Slovak citizens who lost their citizenship by acquiring foreign nationality, as well as Slovaks living abroad.



## BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

### BORDER MANAGEMENT

The Migration Policy set out the priorities to prevent severe security threats and support significant strengthening of personnel and material capacity at the external Schengen border.

### SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE

Health and security checks continued to be carried out at internal borders to ensure compliance with quarantine obligations due to COVID-19 pandemics.



## IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

### PREVENTING FACILITATION OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION ('SMUGGLING') AND PREVENTING IRREGULAR STAY

The Migration Policy underlined the importance of close cooperation with transit and source countries and

supporting their capacity-building in limiting irregular migration.



## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

### NATIONAL STRATEGIC POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

The Migration Policy defined several priorities in fighting trafficking in human beings and assisting foreign victims: improve identification; sensitive approach when identifying victims and their needs; punishment of perpetrators; cooperation at national and international level; and education for professionals working with vulnerable people.

As one of the signatories of the Council of Europe's Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, the Slovak Republic received recommendations in the third evaluation round. Those recommendations were reflected in the [Proposal of Measures](#) which was approved by the government, with relevant subjects now obliged to comply with the recommendations.

The updated National Referral Mechanism (NRM) from 2015 was implemented. Changes clarified the provision of assistance and support for victims of trafficking in human beings, introduced a procedure when identifying victims (including the identification interview), and specified provisions on child victims (Slovak nationals and third-country nationals).

From 1 January 2021, an amendment to the [Health Insurance Act](#) saw healthcare provided to third-country nationals in the Human Trafficking Victims Assistance and Protection Programme who were not insured in the EU and who were granted tolerated residence. The costs are covered by the Ministry of Health.

### IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The Ministry of the Interior organised several seminars for professional groups working with (potential) victims of trafficking in human beings (Migration Office, Slovak Humanitarian Council, Slovak Bar Association).



## RETURN AND READMISSION

### MAIN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Migration Policy defined priorities for readmission agreements and return. The Slovak Republic prefers voluntary returns, including assisted voluntary returns, where possible.

### COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

The Slovak Republic launched the Readmission Case Management System (RCMS) platform with Pakistan, but has yet to use it.



## MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Migration Policy defined priorities on synergies of migration with humanitarian assistance and development cooperation, notably increased policy coherence, directing aid and cooperation towards countries of migration into the Slovak Republic or the EU, preventing forced and irregular migration, and using circular migration and government scholarships to develop other countries.

**Bilateral development cooperation** pointed to migration as one of the most important long-term challenges of development cooperation and committed to dealing with the causes of irregular and forced migration in countries of origin and transit. The Slovak Republic launched a call for supporting activities that respond to the consequences of armed conflict and prevent negative effects of migration by improving the living conditions and employment prospects in their home communities (humanitarian assistance projects for Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon).



## STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex was prepared by ICF, the European Migration Network Service Provider, with statistics provided by Eurostat. It provides an overview of the latest available statistics for the Slovak Republic on aspects of migration and international protection (2018-2021), including legal residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, integration, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics were not available at the time of publication, this is indicated in the Annex as "N/A".

# STATISTICAL ANNEX

## ! GENERAL NOTES

This statistical annex complements the Country Factsheet with relevant migration-related data organised in up to nine thematic sections – depending on data availability. The dashboard-like layout of the annex allows comparability across countries as well as simultaneous visualisation of different indicators. Whenever data are not available, the relative chart is indicated with 'N/A'. Data are provided for the latest available year or the latest available four-year period. For some indicators, data are rounded in the source. The sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value. This is due to rounding and confidence intervals in the original data. For this edition, figures for Third Country Nationals refer to 'non-EU27 nor reporting country' across all indicators and years. The How to Read Guide is available [here](#).

### COLOUR LEGEND

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

Data relative to Slovak Republic

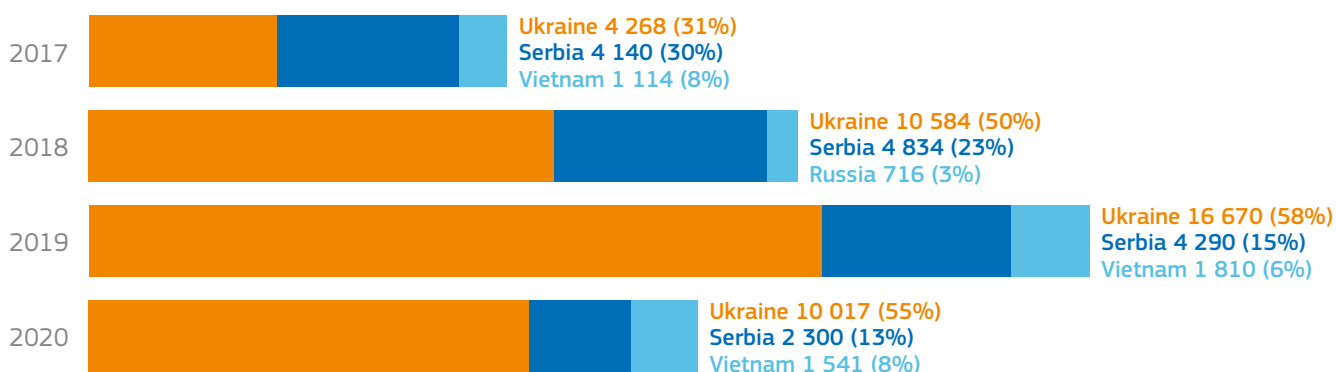
Data relative to EU



## LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

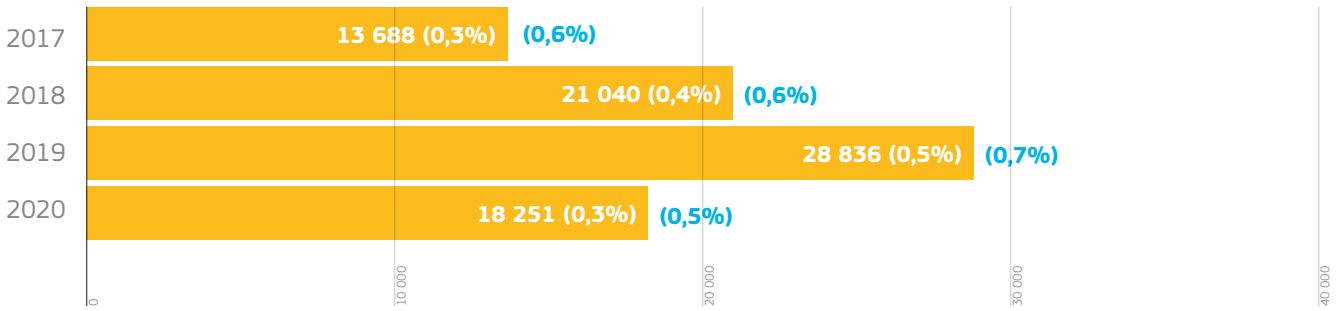
### Top 3 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)



### First residence permits annually issued: total number and % of total population in the country (and EU)

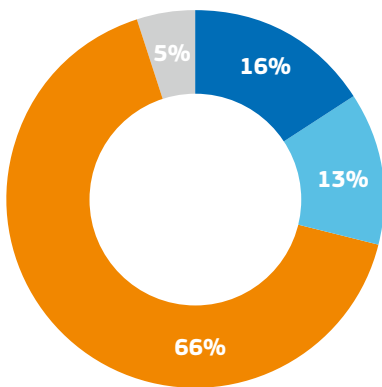
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst, migr\_pop1ctz)



### First residence permits annually issued by reason in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)

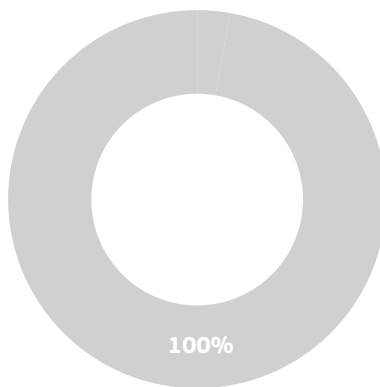
- Family
- Education
- Work
- Other



### First residence permits annually issued for work reasons in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resocc)

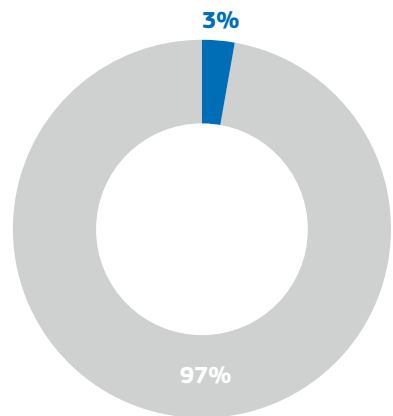
- EU Blue card
- Highly skilled
- Researchers
- Seasonal workers
- Other



### First residence permits annually issued for 'other reasons' in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resoth)

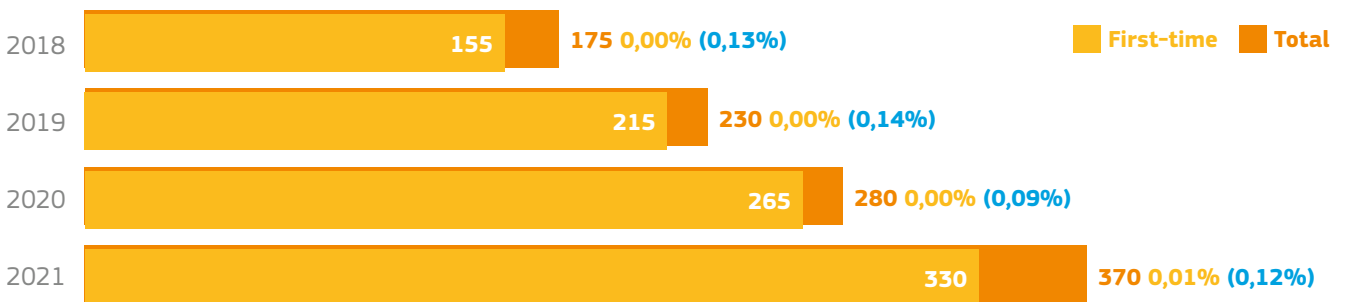
- Refugee/sub prot.
- Residence only
- Humanitarian
- Not specified



## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

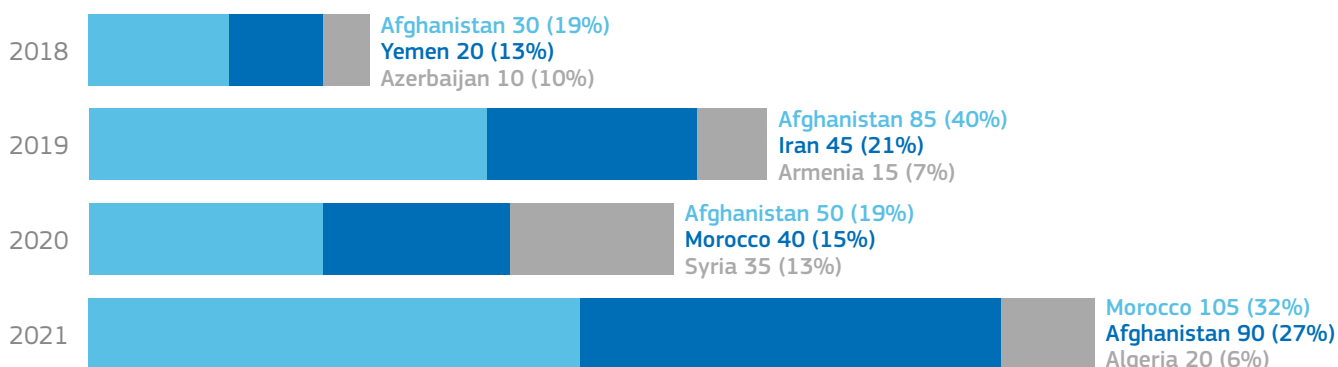
### Total/first-time asylum applications; first-time asylum applications as % of population in the country (and in the EU)

SOURCE: eurostat (migr\_asyappctza, migr\_pop1ctz)



## Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-time asylum applications: number of applications and % of total first-time annual applications

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyappctza)



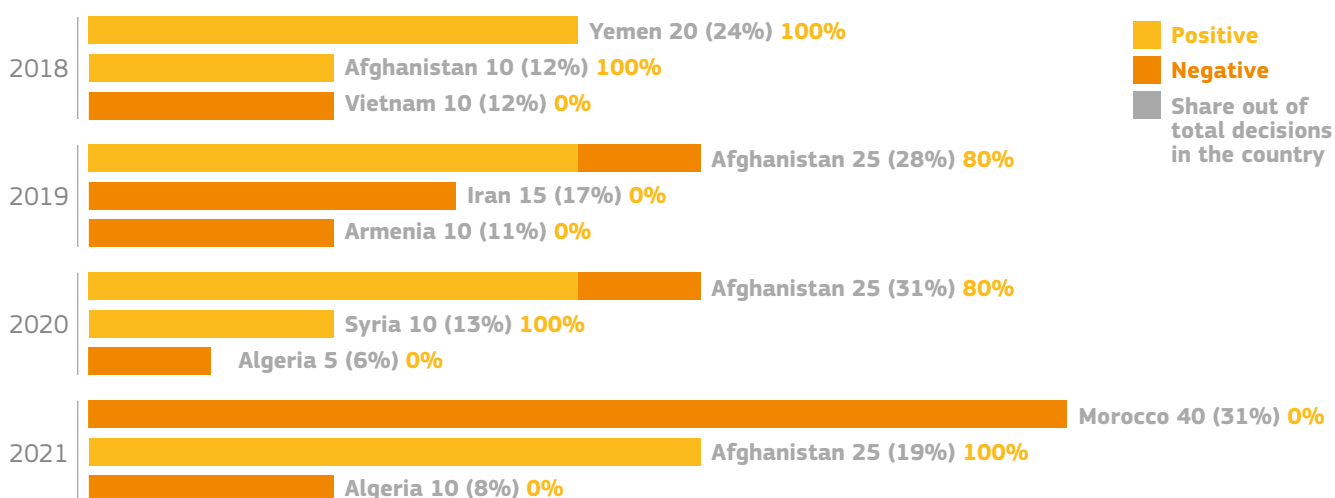
## Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asydcfsta)



## Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-instance decisions: number of decisions (% of total decisions in the country) and % of positive outcomes

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asydcfsta)



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

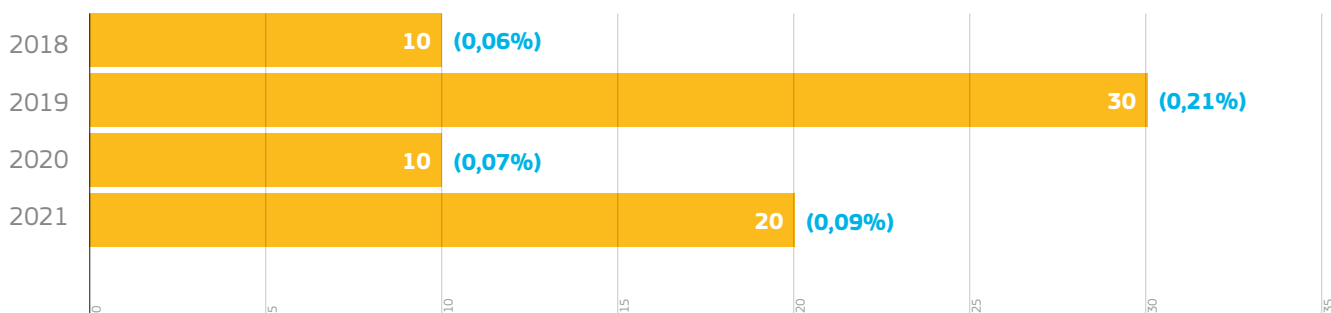
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyresa)



## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

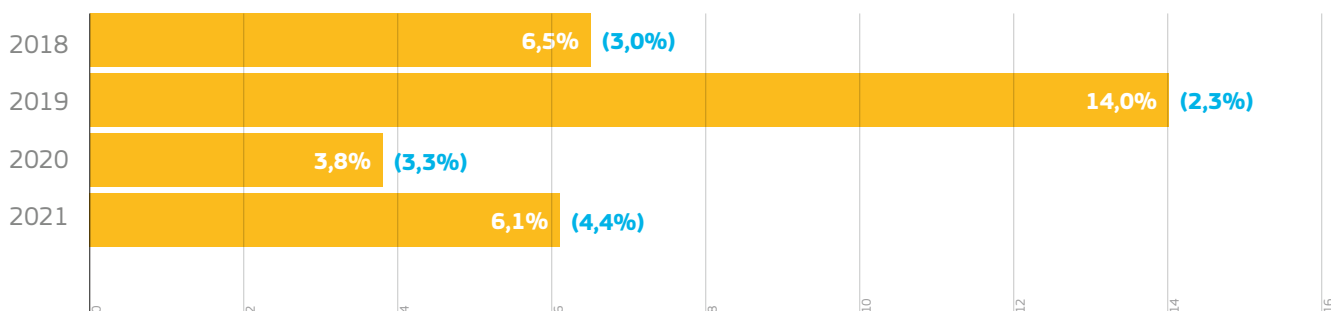
### Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum in the country (and % of total applications from unaccompanied minors in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyunaa)



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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyunaa, migr\_asyappctza)



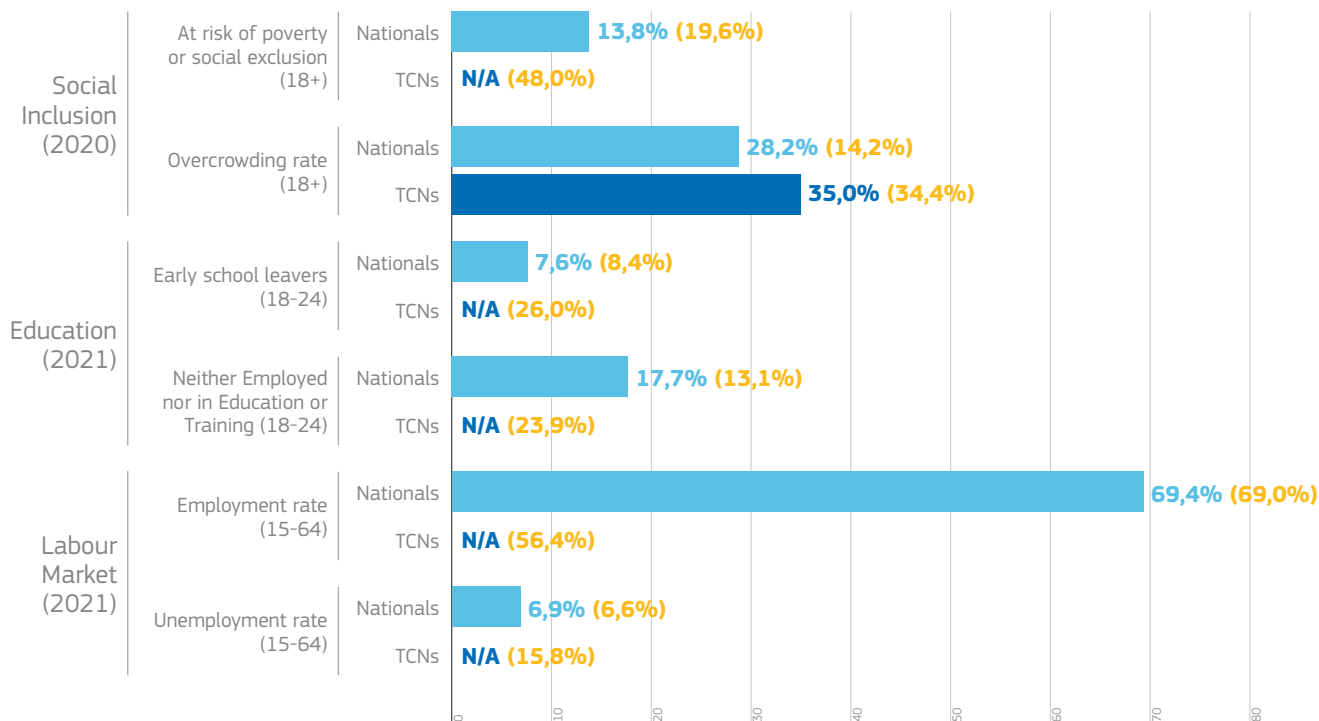




## INTEGRATION

Integration indicators for nationals (light blue) and Third-Country Nationals (dark blue) in the country (when available). The same indicator is provided in yellow for the EU.

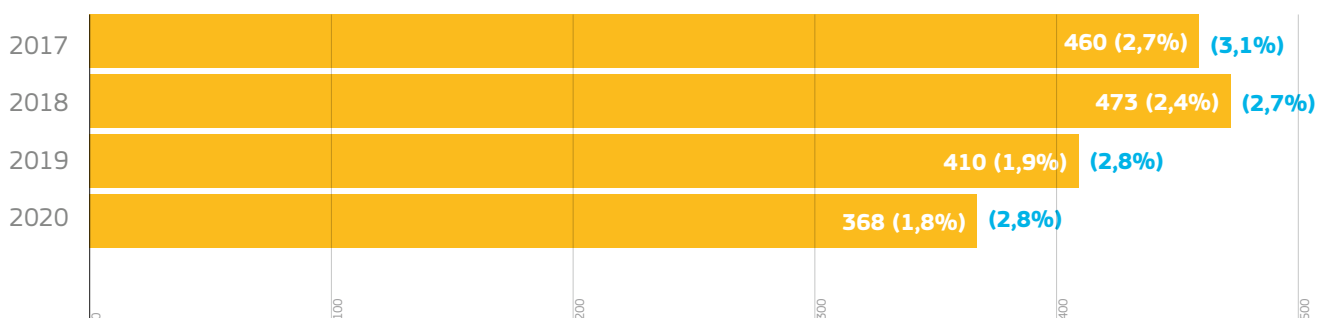
SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc\_peps05, ilc\_lwho15, edat\_lfse\_01, edat\_lfse\_23, lfsa\_ergan, lfsa\_urgan)



## CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

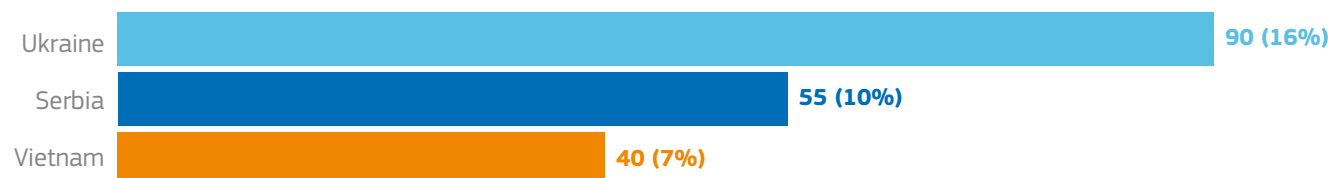
Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute numbers

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_acqs, migr\_acq)



Top 3 nationalities by number of citizenship acquisition in 2020: absolute number and % of total acquisitions in the country by Third-Country Nationals

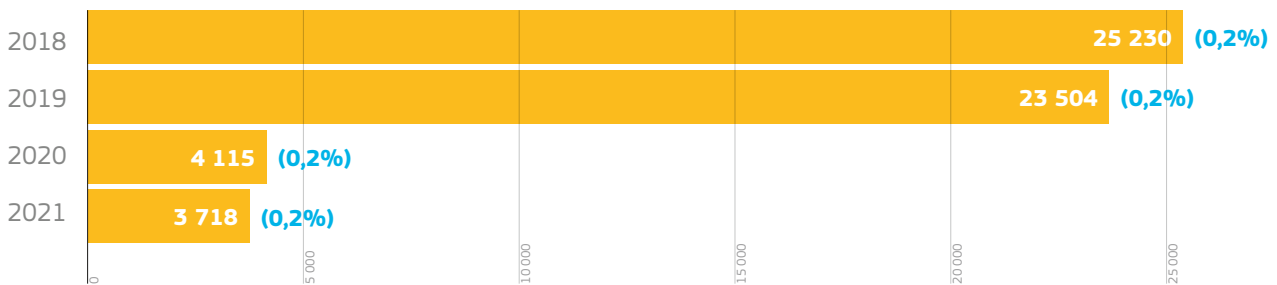
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_acq)



## BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

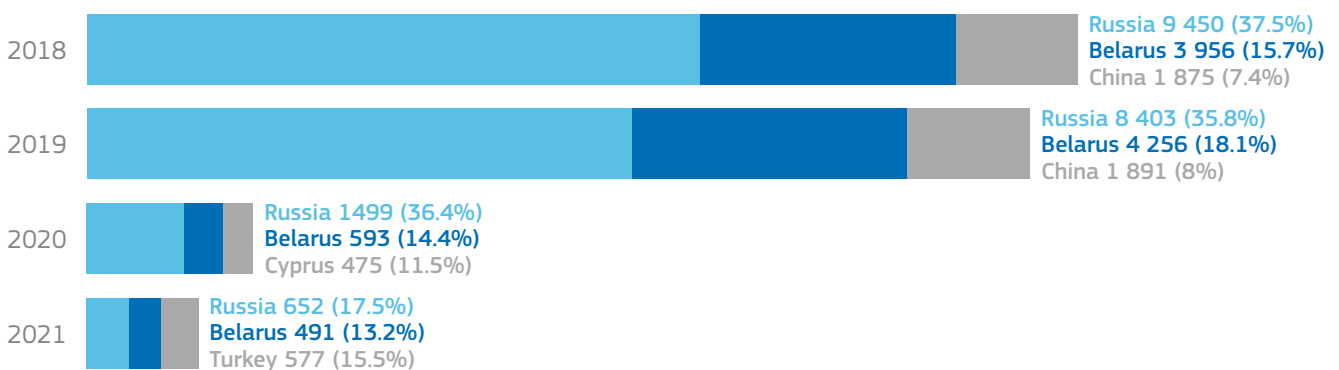
### Short-term visa issued (% of Schengen)

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



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

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



## IRREGULAR MIGRATION

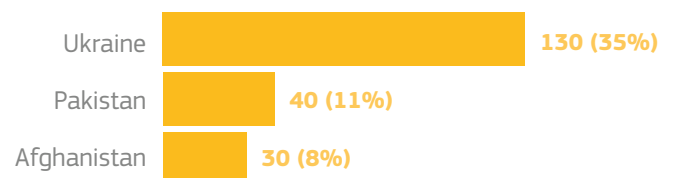
### Top 3 nationalities ordered to leave the country in 2021, in absolute number and as a share of all nationalities ordered to leave the country

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eiord)



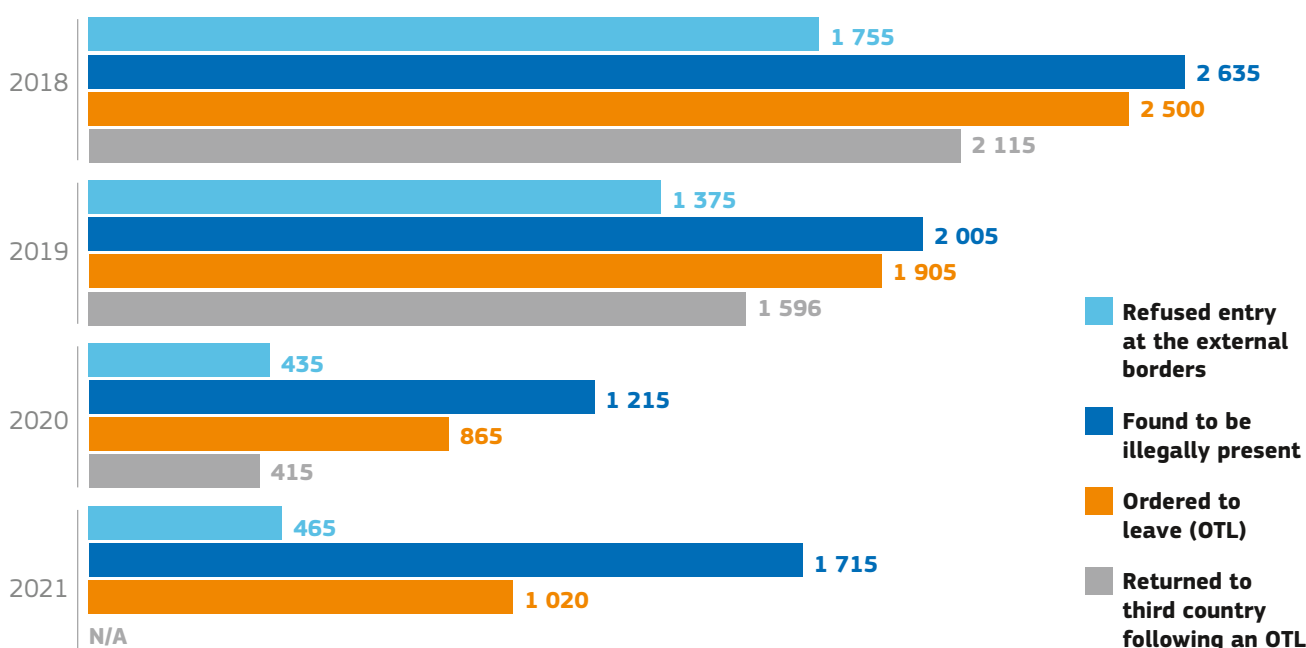
### Top 3 nationalities returned to third country in 2021, in absolute number and as a share of all nationalities ordered to leave the country

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eirtn)



## General statistics on irregular migration

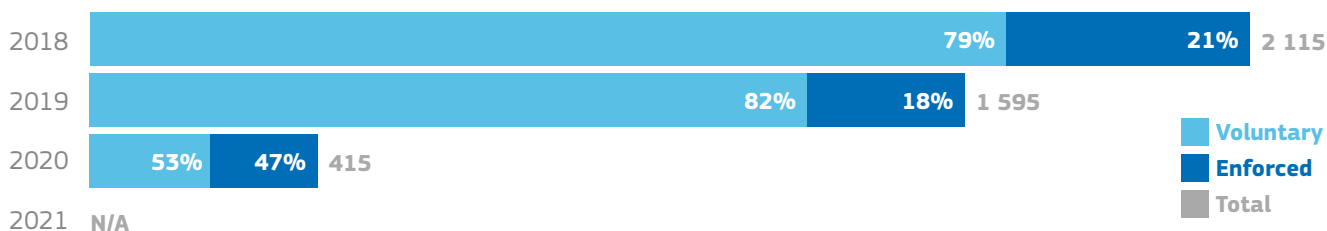
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eirfs, migr\_eipre, migr\_eiord, migr\_eirtn)



## RETURN AND READMISSION

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eirt\_vol)



## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

### Number of first residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resoth)

