A publication of the National Contact Pointof the European Migration Network for the Slovak Republic (EMN Slovakia)

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EMN ASYLUM AND MIGRATION OVERVIEW SLOVAK REPUBLIC IN 2025

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of the European Migration Network for the Slovak Republic
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Preface

This publication contains information on the most important changes, developments, and activities related to migration and integration in the Slovak Republic in 2025. It is the only publication in the Slovak Republic which annually maps all dimensions of third-country nationals' migration.

This publication is a part of the EMN Synthesis Report with the same focus, which is prepared at the EU level and summarizes findings from national publications 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. The publication for the Slovak Republic is published in Slovak and English. Both versions are available on the EMN Slovakia's website 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

BMVI – Instrument for Border Management and Visa Policy

Coll. – Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic

COLSAF/Central Labour Office – Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

CVEK – Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (Centrum pre výskum etnicity a kultúry)

DFEA OMI SR – Department of Foreign and European Affairs of the Office of the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic

EC – European Commission

EEA – European Economic Area

EES – Entry/Exit System

EMN – European Migration Network

EMN Slovakia – National Contact Point for the European Migration Network in the Slovak Republic

ETIAS – European Travel Information and Authorisation System

EU – European Union

EUAA – European Union Agency for Asylum

Eurostat – Statistical Office of the European Union

FAD FBS MI SR – Foreign Assistance Department of the Finance and Budget Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

Frontex – European Border and Coast Guard Agency

IOM – International Organization for Migration

ISF – Internal Security Fund Financial

Labour Office(s) – Office(s) of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

MEKOMIC – Interministerial Expert Commission for Labour Migration and Integration of Foreigners (Medzirezortná expertná komisia pre oblasť pracovnej migrácie a integrácie cudzincov)

MERDY SR – Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic

MFEA SR – Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

MI SR – Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic

MIC IOM – Migration Information Centre of the International Organization for Migration

MLSAF SR – Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

MO MI SR/ Migration Office – Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic

NUCIM BBFP PFP – National Unit for Combating Irregular Migration of the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium

NVIS – National Visa Information System

OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

PAS MI SR – Public Administration Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

PFP – Police Force Presidium

SIRENE – Supplementary Information Request at the National Entries

SLPCSG – Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship

SO SR – Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

SR – Slovak Republic

TSI – Technical Support Instrument

UN – United Nations

UNHCR – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund

UNODC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Key to Symbols:

(:) – Data not available

(-) – No instances recorded

(/) – Shared ranking / equal values across countries

n/a – Not applicable

Methodology and terms

Methodology and elaboration

This overview was compiled on the basis of common specifications prepared by EMN Member States[1] 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 national needs of the respective countries. This 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[2]. 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 SR, FAD FBS MI SR and DFEA MIO SR, which facilitated information from the National Centre against Human Trafficking of the Crime Prevention Office of the MOI SR and PAS MI SR), 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 (both indirectly through DFEA MIO SR), Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, Government Office of the Slovak Republic and the IOM Slovakia. New data sources for this publication included the Union of Towns of Slovakia and its members, the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia, and the Self-Governing Regions of Slovakia (SK8). Important inputs were gathered from materials, publications, online portals, or in case of need responses to targeted questionnaires submitted to other state, European, international, and non-governmental institutions. The overview also incorporates relevant EMN publications and activities conducted in Slovakia in 2025.

Media coverage was also consulted as a source of information. Accordingly, the overview incorporates references to press coverage of migration-related developments and the activities of Slovak public authorities, civil society organisations, and international organisations operating in this field.

1 EU Member States, with the exception of Denmark.
2 The IOM as the coordinator of the EMN National Contact Point for the Slovak Republic (EMN Slovakia) has been ensuring weekly media monitoring of migration and international protection issues since 2012. The media monitoring is used for preparing EMN publications and other outputs.

This publication was produced by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia in its capacity as coordinator of the EMN National Contact Point for the Slovak Republic (EMN Slovakia). The draft underwent expert review by key partner institutions, including: the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.

Final clearance was granted by the Department of Foreign and European Affairs of the Office of the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

Terms and definitions

The terminology used in this publication generally aligns with the definitions set out in the *EMN Asylum and Migration Glossary*.[3] Where specific terms are not covered by the glossary, they are applied in accordance with relevant national legislation or EU legal instruments (such as regulations and directives).

Particular attention should be paid to the term *foreigner*, which under Slovak law – specifically Section 2(2) of the Act on the Residence of Foreigners[4] – denotes any person who is not a citizen of the Slovak Republic. The EMN *Migration and Asylum Glossary*, by contrast, defines a "*foreigner*" in the EU context as a person who is not a national of an EU Member State, and, in a global context, as a person who is not a national (whether by birth or naturalisation) of a given state.[5] Slovak legislation reserves the term *third-country national*[6] for foreigners who are not nationals of an EU Member State. Throughout this publication, then, the term "foreigner" is used mainly in texts and statistics that relate to, or fall under, the domestic legal framework. In these instances, it follows the definition set out in Section 2(2) of the Act on the Residence of Foreigners, rather than that given in the EMN Migration and Asylum Glossary.

The overview also uses the term "migrant", which – departing from the standard definition set out in the *EMN Asylum and Migration Glossary*[7] – is employed throughout the text as a synonym for "foreigner" or "third-country national".[8]

In the context of the war in Ukraine, the publication adopts terminology such as *people fleeing the war in Ukraine*. The vast majority of these individuals have applied for temporary protection in Slovakia, with a small proportion seeking international protection. The EU Temporary Protection Directive[9] was transposed into Slovak domestic law upon the adoption of the Act on Asylum in 2002. Rather than transposing the term *temporary protection* verbatim, Slovak legislation adopted the term *temporary refuge* (in Slovak *dočasné útočisko*). Consequently, these terms are

3 European Migration Network (EMN), Asylum and Migration Glossary 11.0, 2025, accessed 24 April 2026.
4 Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended (Act on the Residence of Foreigners).
5 European Migration Network (EMN), Asylum and Migration Glossary 11.0, 2025, accessed 24 April 2026.
6 Section 2(4) of the Act on the Residence of Foreigners defines a "third-country national" as any person who is neither a citizen of the Slovak Republic nor an EU citizen, including stateless persons.
7 According to the EMN Asylum and Migration Glossary, in a global context, a migrant is defined as a person who is outside the territory of the state of which they are a national and who has resided in another country for more than one year, regardless of the reasons (voluntary or involuntary) or the means of migration (legal or irregular).
8 European Migration Network (EMN), Asylum and Migration Glossary 11.0, 2025, accessed 24 April 2026.
9 Council 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 effort between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof (Temporary Protection Directive 2001/55/EC), accessed 24 April 2026.

treated as synonymous throughout this overview. Persons who have been granted temporary protection are referred to in Slovak legislation as *odídenci (beneficiaries of temporary protection)*.

Similarly, the terms *irregular* and *illegal* are used interchangeably depending on context, though Slovak legislation uses term *illegal*. Likewise, *citizenship* and *nationality* are treated as synonymous within the text.

Summary

EMN Asylum and Migration Overview summarises information on the most important changes, developments, trends and activities related to migration and integration of third-country nationals in Slovakia and in other European countries, which took place in 2025. It is the only publication of this kind in the Slovak Republic, as, on an annual basis, it maps all the dimensions of third-country national' 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 management and visa policy, 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 basic statistics which are analysed in individual thematic chapters in the context of broader five-year trends.

Key changes in the field of migration and asylum

On 12 June 2025, the Government approved the National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management, building upon the *Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic: Vision 2025*. The Strategy outlines international migration priorities for the next five-year period, while referencing existing strategies and concepts, that were already prepared for specific migration areas. Its opening two chapters follow the structure established under Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/503 of 18 March 2025 (so called "template"), ensuring direct comparability across EU Member States' national asylum and migration management strategies. Subsequent chapters address legal migration, emigration from the country, and public communication of migration matters.

Measures under the strategy will be developed into a dedicated action plan – supported by the European Commission and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) – specifying concrete deliverables, lead institutions, and an implementation timeline. To complement the action plan and ensure long-term sustainability beyond the project's lifecycle, institutional capacity within Slovak authorities will be enhanced through a migration communications training package and a tailored capacity-building framework.

Legislative amendments to the Act on the Residence of Foreigners entered into force on 1 July 2025, addressing labour migration, documentation requirements for residence applications for residence, and application processing procedures. These amendments aim to alleviate pressure on overburdened Foreign Police Departments of the Police Force, expedite application processing, and curb the misuse of temporary residence permits for business purposes.

Slovakia's migration landscape throughout 2025 was shaped by several converging factors: the ongoing fallout from the war in Ukraine and the integration of beneficiaries of temporary protection; demographic decline and labour shortages; a growing foreign workforce; technical and staffing pressures on the Foreign Police; implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and

Asylum; and domestic polarisation surrounding migration. Against this backdrop, an April 2025 report by the Supreme Audit Office highlighted that Slovakia lacks a coherent, measurable, and co-ordinated integration policy for foreigners – a finding that generated significant coverage across media and expert policy circles as it comprised also relevant recommendations.

Legal and labour migration

Trends

After 75 years of continuous growth, the Slovak Republic has experienced a sustained population decline over the past six years, driven primarily by natural decrease and increased emigration abroad. By the end of 2025, Slovakia's population stood at 5 409 407, marking a year-on-year drop of over 10 000 – the second-steepest contraction in the country's history following that of 2021. The resident foreign population (comprising both EU and non-EU nationals) has expanded over the last five years to reach 360 440 accounting for 6.66% of the total population in 2025. Nevertheless, despite this upward trend, Slovakia consistently records one of the lowest proportions of foreigners in Europe.

Over the past four years, third-country nationals have accounted for more than three-quarters of all foreigners in Slovakia, with their total number exceeding 300,000 for the first time in 2025. Of the 360 440 foreigners registered, 305 400 – so more than three-quarters (84.73%) – originated from non-EU/EEA countries, representing 5.65% of Slovakia's overall population. The principal non-EU national groups remained citizens of Ukraine (212 245), Serbia (15 482), Vietnam (12 536), Russia (9 031), and India (8 040), with India overtaking Georgia primarily as a result of labour migration. As in previous years, the largest concentration of non-EU nationals resided in the Bratislava Region.

Migration for employment and business purposes has traditionally been the predominant form of migration to Slovakia. Since Slovakia's EU accession, the foreign workforce has grown more than thirtyfold, rising from 3 351 workers in 2004 to 112 935 by the end of 2025 (84 140 of whom were from non-EU countries). This growth is reflected in the domestic labour market ratio, which narrowed from one foreign worker for every 17 (17.4) Slovak workers at the end of 2024 to one for every 16 (16.6) in 2025.

Non-EU foreign workers were predominantly from Ukraine (43 960), India (6 815), Serbia (5 784), the Philippines (2 396), and Uzbekistan (2 360). Roughly one-third of all foreign workers were employed in the Bratislava Region, followed by the Trnava and Nitra Regions. Notably, 2025 marked the first time since 2016 – excluding the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021 – that the year-on-year increase in non-EU foreign workers remained below 10 000. In line with the Slovak Republic's national work visa scheme, 2025 saw a growing number of workers from Asian countries, particularly India, the Philippines, and Uzbekistan.

The war in Ukraine has resulted in a significant increase in the participation of female migrants from non-EU countries in the Slovak labour market: while women accounted for around a quarter of all employed foreigners from non-EU countries between 2016 and 2021 (21.18%-27.24%), their share surged to more than one third (approximately 40%) over the 2023-2025 period. Employed migrant women in Slovakia have historically originated primarily from Ukraine and Serbia, a trend further consolidated by the war in Ukraine.

Policies, legislation and measures

Following its entry into force in July 2025, an amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreigners introduced targeted measures to mainly relieve operational pressure on overburdened Foreign Police Departments and expedite residence permit applications processing. Legislative changes included extending the validity of some national visas from 90 to 120 days, waiving requirements for applicants for residence permits to submit photographs and proof of financial subsistence, and mandating the use of an electronic appointment booking system for foreigner. Furthermore, applications for temporary residence for business purposes must now be lodged exclusively through Slovak diplomatic missions abroad and are subject to newly established quotas designed to manage high application volumes.

Amendments to the *Labour Inspection Act* taking effect on 1 January 2026 increased financial penalties for illegal employment. At the same time, it reduced the amount of the fine imposed for violating the ban on illegal employment by one third of the original fine if the fine is paid on time.

In 2025, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic initiated strategic discussions in Slovakia on sustainable bilateral cooperation to address sectoral labour shortages in key sectors through regulated, predictable, and mutually beneficial bilateral agreements with non-EU countries. Via European Migration Network (EMN), the Ministry identified practical examples and models of bilateral cooperation in labour migration between EU Member States and non-EU countries which in the context of the Slovak Republic could present a basis for further discussions and thoughts. In October 2025, a bilateral *Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation and Information Exchange in the Field of Labour Mobility* entered into force, covering the area of labour, employment (control) and labour mobility. As of 1 July 2025, Slovakia began issuing national visas for employment to nationals of the People's Republic of China who are employees of an investor and are involved in implementing the investor's investment project or a significant investment in Slovakia.

In November 2025, the Interministerial Expert Commission for Labour Migration and Integration of Foreigners (MEKOMIC) was re-established as an advisory body to the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, tasked with playing a pivotal role in shaping Slovakia's policies on foreigners' integration, labour mobility, and bilateral cooperation. Its membership brings together central government authorities, local and regional bodies, non-governmental organisations, and private sector stakeholders.

Additionally, the bilateral Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation and Information Exchange in the Field of Labour Mobility officially entered into force on 17 October 2025, concentrating on the area of labour, employment (control) and labour mobility.

The Ministry of Education launched a talent scholarship scheme targeting domestic and international students, awarding grants to 1 012 Slovak students and 32 foreign scholars for the 2025/2026 academic year.

Looking ahead, the Slovak Republic plans to launch a dedicated information portal in 2026 to guide both EU citizens and third-country nationals through pre-arrival administrative procedures while providing essential country-specific orientation.

International protection

Trends

The downward trend in asylum applications in the Slovak Republic persisted throughout 2025. Of the 163 applications recorded (131 first-time and 32 subsequent applications), the principal countries of origin were Ukraine (40), Afghanistan (21), Belarus (14), Russia (11), and Syria (8). Unaccompanied minors submitted six asylum applications in 2025 in the Slovak Republic, all originating from Afghanistan. The Slovak Republic granted 41 asylums in 2025 – primarily to citizens of Belarus and Afghanistan, mirroring the previous year's trend. Subsidiary protection was granted to 32 persons, predominantly from Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Syria. The rise in discontinued procedures observed in earlier years did not recur, with figures remaining low at 55 in 2025 (following 58 in 2024, down from over 300 in prior years). Relative to EU averages, the Slovak Republic has consistently recorded a low number of asylum applications and granted forms of international protection, while most of the asylum procedures is terminated. The Slovak Republic neither relocated nor resettled any persons in need of international protection within or through its territory during 2025.

Policies, legislation and measures

On 8 April 2025, the Minister of Interior adopted the *National Plan of the Slovak Republic for Contingencies in the Field of International Protection*, establishing a structured framework to respond to disproportionate pressure or crises arising from a mass influx of applicants of international protection on the territory of the Slovak Republic. As Slovakia's first contingency plan dedicated to international protection, this non-public document focuses on securing adequate reception and procedural capacities to conduct international protection proceedings in line with international standards.

In terms of legislative developments, the most significant change in 2025 was the introduction of legal aid for unaccompanied minors applying for asylum from the initial stage of the procedure. Furthermore, a comprehensive draft bill on international protection advanced through the legislative process in 2025 ahead of its entry into force on 12 June 2026, representing a major overhaul of Slovakia's international protection system designed to transpose and implement legal instruments adopted within the Reform of the Asylum and Migration Policy (EU Pact on Migration and Asylum).

In April 2025, the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic – the authority responsible for international protection in the Slovak Republic – established a mobile unit to deliver specialist support services to applicants for asylum residing outside asylum centres nationwide. The team provides psychological counselling and intervention, cultural mediation, and social guidance to assist applicants in navigating the asylum procedure, the labour market, and local culture.

Throughout 2025 the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic addressed the situation of international protection applicants and beneficiaries of temporary protection in asylum facilities who have complex health conditions. In December 2025, leveraging the European Migration Network (EMN), the Office convened a cross-sector dialogue involving state authorities, local municipalities, and helping organisations to enhance the care framework

for vulnerable migrants, drawing on comparative insights and EU Member States' best practices compiled by EMN Slovakia.

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

Trends

Between 2023 and 2025, cross-border mobility between Slovakia and Ukraine remained steady, with annual entries holding at approximately one million while exits recorded a slight increase. Conversely, applications for temporary protection dropped sharply from 104 764 in 2022 to 17 313 in 2025, confirming a gradual transition beyond the initial emergency response phase. Nevertheless, Ukrainian citizens continue to represent the largest cohort of foreigners in the Slovak Republic.

Policies, legislation and measures

Throughout 2025, the Slovak Republic systematically adapted its legislative and administrative framework to support the long-term integration of beneficiaries of temporary protection into society. The Slovak Government extended temporary protection for beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine until 4 March 2026. Concurrently, the period during which the accommodation allowance is payable, as well as the permitted stay in asylum facilities, was reduced from 120 to 60 days, though this restriction explicitly exempts designated vulnerable categories. The baseline level of the allowance remained unchanged. Alongside these changes, a funding mechanism was introduced to reimburse local authorities for costs incurred in accommodating vulnerable beneficiaries of temporary protection, thereby strengthening municipal capacity and establishing a clear division of responsibilities between central and local government. In education, compulsory schooling was extended to cover children – beneficiaries of temporary protection, supported by an updated information portal (*ukraine.minedu.sk*) to provide parents, teachers, and headteachers with clear, up-to-date guidance. Furthermore, several amendments to the Education Act were passed in 2025 – with key measures taking effect in 2026 – aimed at improving educational provisions for foreigners including beneficiaries of temporary protection.

Overall, state policy is transitioning away from emergency crisis management towards structured integration, with local authorities assuming an increasingly pivotal role alongside continued partnership with international and non-governmental organisations.

Unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups

Trends

Between 2021 and 2025, trends concerning unaccompanied minors in Slovakia shifted from increase in around 2022 to a marked decline in subsequent years, while there was only a slight increase in 2025, though overall figures remained low. Concurrently, the number of departures from facilities fell significantly. Asylum applications submitted by unaccompanied minors have remained low, despite a modest uptick in 2025. The primary countries of origin were Ukraine and Afghanistan.

Policies, legislation and measures

In 2025, a series of developments took place regarding unaccompanied minors. Following the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 under the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, discussions commenced on establishing multidisciplinary age-assessment procedures within asylum proceedings, placing a primary emphasis on rights protection and employing medical examinations strictly as a last resort. Concurrently, work progressed to expand capacity at the Centre for Children and Families in Bratislava, thereby enhancing care standards and integration opportunities for unaccompanied minors and young adults in the region with better accessibility of services.

Another significant change was the introduction of the rights to legal aid for unaccompanied minors with effect from 1 July 2025. This guarantees formal legal representation from the initial stage of the asylum procedure, significantly reinforcing procedural safeguards and the application of the best interests of the child principle.

No substantial changes were recorded with regard to other vulnerable groups.

Integration and inclusion of migrants

In 2025, Slovak municipalities reinforced their frameworks for integrating foreigners through a combination of strategic planning and practical initiatives. In response to increasing number of foreigners and to guarantee equal access to public services – while fostering social cohesion, civic participation, and self-reliance – the Safe Point Network was established, uniting local hubs across Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava, Žilina, Košice, Prešov, and Michalovce to deliver comprehensive support and service coordination for foreigners and refugees. While several centres were already operational in 2024, the network was expanded in 2025 with the opening of the Information and Support Centre (Žilinský Maják) in Žilina.

The city of Trnava adopted the Strategy for the Integration of Foreigners 2025–2035, following a broad consultative process that engaged local public authorities, the non-governmental and private sectors, and foreigners' communities. Furthermore, Trnava introduced free language courses tailored to the shift-working patterns of foreign employees, alongside a volunteering civic orientation programme, Community Connectors, designed to facilitate the active involvement of foreigners in public life. Michalovce City Council approved the Strategy for the Integration of Foreigners and Refugees, formally designating foreigners' integration as one of the municipality's core strategic priorities. Concurrently, Prešov City Council adopted the *Strategy for the Integration of Foreigners in the City of Prešov until 2030 (with an Outlook to 2035)*, establishing a comprehensive framework to coordinate services across employment, education, social care, housing, and community integration. Nitra also formulated an *Action Plan for the Integration of Foreigners*, setting out targeted measures spanning education, employment, healthcare, social support, and local community inclusion.

In 2025, –Slovak local and regional authorities strengthened not only their cooperation with one another in the area of integration services for foreigners, but also their coordination with the state, which in November re-established the Inter-ministerial Commission for Labour Migration and Integration. Foreigners' Service Centres located within Foreign Police Departments in Bratislava, Žilina, and Košice became fully operational.

Legislative amendments to the Education Act and Higher Education Act – enacted in 2025 and taking effect in 2026 – introduced a suite of reforms. Key changes include expediting the placement of foreigners into appropriate school year groups, permitting primary and secondary schools to establish adaptation classes, and extending boarding accommodation for foreign minors during public and school holidays. Furthermore, the amendments allow students to sit a designated language test in lieu of the standard Slovak language component of the school-leaving examination, extend school transport allowances to foreign pupils, and enable university applicants and students aged 16 and above to exercise their legal rights and obligations independently. Additionally, schools gained greater flexibility to recruit foreign teaching and specialist staff without requiring a state language examination in specified cases. In 2025 the process for recognising foreign educational qualifications was streamlined and expedited for both EU and non-EU students via the Ministry of Education's online portal.

Projects and initiatives delivered by key international and civil society organisations – including IOM Slovakia, the Slovak Humanitarian Council, Mareena, and the Human Rights League – remained integral to supporting the integration of third-country nationals throughout 2025. Carried out in close collaboration with local authorities, these measures focused on providing counselling services, language courses, and public awareness activities on migration. In the field of research, the Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (CVEK) and EMN Slovakia continued their ongoing work.

Citizenship and statelessness

Trends

Over the past five years, the number of individuals granted Slovak citizenship has more than tripled, rising from 707 in 2021 to a record high of 2 509 in 2025. The vast majority of recipients in 2025 were non-EU/EEA nationals (exceeding 86%), predominantly originating from Ukraine (613), Serbia (567), the United States (337), Israel (149), and Canada (71). Year-on-year, the number of citizenship granted to non-EU/EEA foreigners grew by nearly half (48%). Among EU citizens acquiring Slovak nationality, Czech nationals continued to represent the largest cohort in 2025 (109).

Slovak citizenship is also acquired by non-EU nationals who were granted international protection (asylum or subsidiary protection). Between 2021 and 2025, annual naturalisation figures within this group ranged between 10 and 30 individuals. In 2025, 24 persons – beneficiaries of international protection acquired Slovak citizenship, originating primarily from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Cuba, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Serbia, and Libya. Meanwhile, UNHCR estimated the total number of stateless persons residing in Slovakia at 49 across both 2024 and 2025.

Policies, legislation and measures

In 2025, the Slovak Republic enacted no new legislation, policies, or administrative measures regarding the acquisition of Slovak citizenship or the status of stateless persons in the context of migration from non-EU/EEA countries. While the *National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management*, adopted in June 2025, features a dedicated chapter on integration, it does not examine citizenship matters in detail.

Schengen governance and other developments in border management and visa policy

Trends

The upward trajectory in visa issuance persisted throughout 2025. Following the drop observed during the pandemic, the number of Schengen and national visas issued grew steadily, propelled chiefly by a recovery in international mobility and legislative changes expanding the scope of eligible applicants.

Policies, legislation and measures

Following the publication of the 2024 Schengen evaluation report, the Slovak Republic drafted and submitted an Action Plan to the European Commission in 2025 to implement the recommendations, address identified shortcomings, and ensure full compliance with Schengen Area rules. Concurrently, following the launch of the Entry/Exit System (EES) in October 2025, a national rollout plan was updated to guide its phased implementation through to April 2026. Preparatory work also progressed on the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), including establishing the ETIAS National Unit, upgrading domestic IT infrastructure, and refining SIRENE workflows to enhance security screening for visa-exempt travellers.

To contain veterinary risks, temporary controls were introduced along internal borders with Hungary and Austria in 2025 to prevent the spread of foot-and-mouth disease.

Slovak Government Regulation No. 160/2025 was enacted in 2025 to streamline the issuance of national visas to designated cohorts of nationals from the People's Republic of China, aimed at encouraging strategic investment and deepening commercial ties.

Irregular migration

Trends

Irregular migration in Slovakia has fluctuated considerably in recent years: a pandemic-era drop gave way to a sharp surge across 2022 and 2023, driven by secondary transit movements along the Western Balkan route. This was succeeded by a marked decline and subsequent stabilisation throughout 2024 and 2025. This downturn was principally linked to EU-level policy interventions, enhanced cooperation with third countries, and evolving dynamics within key countries of origin, particularly Syria. Concurrently, the overall profile of irregular migration shifted, characterised by a reduction in transit movements alongside a relative increase in unauthorised border crossings.

Policies, legislation and measures

In 2025, the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic introduced a draft amendment to the Criminal Code (Act No. 300/2025 Coll.), extending the scope of people-smuggling offences from the borders of the Slovak Republic to the external borders of EU Member States. The proposed legislation focuses specifically on organised crime groups and sophisticated schemes facilitating the unauthorised residence and illegal employment of third-country nationals, thereby enabling more effective sanctioning mechanism. Concurrently, the Slovak Republic deepened international cooperation with Ukraine and actively participated in Frontex operational activi-

ties – deploying experts and police personnel to Serbia and North Macedonia to bolster border security, combat cross-border crime and irregular migration, and support host-country capacity.

Trafficking in human beings

Trends

Following several years of declining numbers of identified foreign victims of human trafficking, an increase was recorded in 2025. Of the 63 total identified victims, 15 (24%) were foreigners. In terms of types of exploitation, sexual exploitation remains the predominant form over the longer term.

Policies, legislation and measures

An update to the National Referral Mechanism for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was approved by the Slovak Government's Council for Crime Prevention on 12 December 2025. The revised framework includes an analysis of the purposes of human trafficking alongside clarified definitions for terms such as "potential victim", "presumed victim", and "formally identified victim". Additionally, it incorporates a description of victim vulnerability, including foreigners.

In 2025, the Slovak Republic established *a national contact point for cross-border assistance to victims of human trafficking* – formally designated as the National Centre against Trafficking in Human Beings within the Crime Prevention Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic – and revised the statute of the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.

Under an ongoing amendment to the Criminal Code, legislative provisions governing human trafficking as criminal offense will be substantially strengthened in 2026. Key reforms include: (i) stiffer penalties for human trafficking offences; and (ii) a new standalone offence targeting the use of services provided by human trafficking victims, criminalising the knowing consumption of services where the user is aware that the provider is an exploited victim of trafficking-related crimes.

In 2025, the Slovak Republic began collaborating with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) under the project *Prevention and Justice for Victims of Trafficking in Persons Affected by the War in Ukraine*. Alongside Slovakia and Ukraine, participating states include Poland, Romania, and Moldova. Furthermore, the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic developed an online training module entitled Trafficking in Human Beings – The Basics aimed at frontline personnel, including community, healthcare, social, and outreach workers.

Returns and readmissions

Trends

In 2025, a slight increase in forced returns temporarily checked the prior downward trajectory, which had been shaped primarily by the war in Ukraine and associated restrictions on returns to that country. Conversely, voluntary departures have maintained a long-term upward trend, accompanied by a rise in assisted voluntary returns.

Policies, legislation and measures

In 2025, the Slovak Republic continued implementing the recommendations arising from the 2024 Schengen evaluation by submitting an Action Plan to the European Commission. Concurrently, operational capacity for the return of individuals without a lawful right of residence in the EU was scaled up through enhanced cooperation with Frontex and participation in the IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme. Slovakia also joined the *EURLO Vietnam 2* project, facilitating closer cooperation with Vietnamese authorities in the area of return.

Projects delivered by non-governmental organisations, designed to uphold dignified conditions for persons placed in Police Detention Centres for Foreigners and support the effective execution of returns, remained an essential component of the national framework throughout 2025.

Migration and development

The Slovak Republic did not adopt any policies or legislation aimed at systematically integrating the migration-development nexus into its broader development strategies or sectoral policies. At the sectoral level, the development potential of migration was addressed primarily through official development assistance and humanitarian aid.

In January 2025, the Slovak Republic approved the Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic 2025–2030, followed by its accompanying action plan in June 2025. As with previous frameworks, one of the strategy's four core objectives is to tackle the root causes of irregular and forced migration by fostering job creation, supporting food security, building human capital, and enhancing the economic and social resilience of communities in countries of origin and transit. The strategy does not address the development potential of migration in non-EU countries – a position mirrored in the *National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management* (adopted in June 2025), which references the medium-term strategy while focusing specifically on supporting the return and reintegration of the Slovak diaspora.

Additionally, at the December 2025 meeting of the *Coordination Committee for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic*, a dedicated *working group* was established to draft the country's first-ever humanitarian strategy.

In 2025, the Slovak Republic commissioned an Evaluation of Government Scholarships as an Instrument of the Slovak Republic's Development Cooperation for the Period 2018–2024. These schemes have long encompassed scholarships awarded to students from conflict-affected states (notably Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, Palestine, Iraq, and Ukraine) and developing economies (notably Kenya and Ethiopia). From a development standpoint, the evaluation highlights a very low rate of return among graduates to their countries of origin, thereby diminishing the programme's overall development impact and intended objective. Nevertheless, despite persistent barriers – such as demand vastly exceeding capacity, language obstacles, and limited institutional and university support – the scholarships deliver a demonstrably positive impact at the individual level.

In 2025, the Slovak Republic facilitated the humanitarian admission of students from the Gaza Strip to Slovakia. Supported by Slovak Government scholarships, these students are pursuing higher education at Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, where they are undertaking language preparation alongside academic studies across general medicine, economics and management, and psychology.



Introduction

The EMN *Asylum and Migration Overview* informs about the most important changes, developments, and activities related to migration and integration in 2025 in the Slovak Republic and other European countries, with a special focus on third-country nationals. It is the only publication of its kind in the Slovak Republic mapping all areas of third-country nationals' migration on annual basis. The overview for the Slovak Republic serves as a basis for the European-wide EMN Annual Overview, its statistical annex, and *Country Factsheets*[10] on developments in individual EU member states.

The publication describes changes, developments, trends and activities related to the legislative, institutional, political and practical aspects of migration and international protection in the Slovak Republic from 1 January 2025 until 31 December 2025. 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 responding to the arrival of people fleeing the war in Ukraine, unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups, integration and inclusion of migrants, citizenship and statelessness, Schengen Area management, border control, and visa policy, irregular migration including migrant smuggling, human trafficking, returns and readmissions, migration and development. Thematic chapters also analyse statistics for the period of years

10 European Migration Network (EMN), EMN Country Factsheets, 2025, accessed 31 March 2026.

2021-2025 and identify trends. The Annex includes relevant statistics for 2025, including those not collected at the EU level through Eurostat or Frontex.

The chapter entitled *Key changes in the field of migration and asylum* outlines the general framework shaping Slovakia's migration policies and legislation. It details overarching and cross-cutting political, legislative, and institutional changes, (inter)ministerial cooperation, policy and measures formulation debates, media discussions, and the broader societal context influencing various aspects of migration, including international protection. Additionally, the chapter provides an overview of migration research conducted in Slovakia during the reporting 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, the profile of foreigners in Slovakia – including migrant workers – and the provision of information to third-country nationals regarding legal migration pathways.

The chapter *International protection* details the Slovak Republic's asylum system, the implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), institutional and legislative changes, national and European case law, intra-EU relocation, resettlement, and other activities in the area of international protection.

The cross-cutting chapter *Temporary protection and other measures in response to persons fleeing the war in Ukraine* focuses on developments in the Slovak Republic during the fourth year of the war in Ukraine. It outlines the implementation of measures designed to integrate persons fleeing war across key areas covered by the EU Temporary Protection Directive – specifically accommodation, healthcare, social security, education, and labour market access. It also highlights updates to document issuance for beneficiaries of temporary protection and addresses areas extending beyond the Directive's scope, such as collaboration 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 related to policies, legislation and services provisions to other vulnerable groups.

The chapter *Integration and inclusion of migrants* details socio-economic integration measures aimed at third-country nationals as well as beneficiaries of international protection. It also outlines initiatives designed to raise public awareness of migration, combat discrimination, support integration at the local level, and foster the civic participation of foreigners.

The chapter *Citizenship and statelessness* covers policies and measures concerning the acquisition of citizenship, alongside the legal status of stateless persons within the Slovak Republic.

The chapter *Schengen governance other developments in border management and visa policy* covers the management and control of external borders, visa policy, and operational measures supporting cooperation with non-EU countries in border management and border control.

The chapter *Irregular migration* details policies and measures to tackle irregular migration and migrant smuggling, alongside prevention and cooperation with non-EU countries in this field.

The chapter *Trafficking in human beings* provides information on policies, legislation, international monitoring, national projects, public campaigns, and broader initiatives, as well as bilateral and multilateral cooperation directly or indirectly affecting foreigners from non-EU countries.

Building on the chapter on irregular migration, chapter entitled *Returns and readmissions* covers forced returns and readmissions, alongside (assisted) voluntary returns and the reintegration of migrants in the country of return.

The chapter *Migration and development* outlines policies and activities designed to integrate the development dimension of migration into national development cooperation and sectoral policies. It covers initiatives relating to circular migration and the Slovak diaspora, alongside basic information – where data is available – on remittances sent by migrants from the Slovak Republic. Furthermore, the chapter provides an overview of major bilateral and multilateral cooperation and assistance projects in transit countries and non-EU states.

The Annex entitled *National statistics* summarises key migration and integration data for the Slovak Republic for 2025, incorporating metrics not collected at EU level by Eurostat [11] or Frontex.[12] It provides details on the number and composition of foreign nationals – including those in employment – alongside data on visas, residence permits, the participation of foreign national children in education, and naturalisations. The Annex also covers various aspects of irregular migration, detained third-country nationals, smuggled persons, smugglers, returns, and reintegration in countries of origin, as well as statistics on perpetrators of human trafficking offences and victims of human trafficking. Finally, it outlines statistical data on international protection, temporary protection, relocation, resettlement, and unaccompanied minors.

11 Eurostat, Migration and migrant population statistics, accessed 30 March 2026.
12 Frontex, Publications, accessed 30 March 2026.



Key changes in the field of migration and asylum

2.1. Migration management system, legislation and migration policies

Slovakia's migration and asylum system remained unchanged in 2025. The responsibilities continued to fall primarily within the remit of 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 acted as the Managing Authority for the Home Affairs Funds for the 2021-2027 programming period,[13] which encompasses the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF),[14] the Internal Security

13 Pursuant to Slovak Government Resolution No. 329 of 27 May 2020

14 Under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), 14 projects were implemented in 2025: 2 under Specific Objective 1 (Common European Asylum System), 5 under Specific Objective 2 (Legal Migration and Integration), and 7 under Specific Objective 3 (Return). These were carried out under 5 calls for proposals launched in 2023, 5 calls launched in 2024, and 4 calls launched in 2025 (a total of 6 calls for proposals were launched in 2025, though project implementation for 2 of them did not begin until 2026). Of the 14 projects implemented in 2025, 9 were national projects with the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic as the beneficiary, while 5 had non-governmental or international organisations as beneficiaries. AMIF projects were aimed at providing services to target groups, namely asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international protection, and irregular migrants. The most common services included social and psychological counselling, integration assistance, Slovak language courses, basic material aid, and supplementary healthcare. Other projects focused on refurbishing accommodation facilities for third-country nationals, upgrading material and technical equipment for units managing irregular migration and returns, and supporting social and legal protection and social guardianship for unaccompanied young people in the Slovak Republic.

Fund (ISF)[15] and the Financial Instrument for Border Management and Visa Policy (BMVI).[16] It also served as the Responsible Authority for the 2014-2020 Home Affairs Funds.

The strategic documents in force during 2025 covering migration issues, in whole or in part, included:

- *National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management* (2025), which replaced the *Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic: Outlook to 2025* (2021),
- *National Implementation Plan of the Slovak Republic for the Reform of Asylum and Migration Policy* (2024),
- *Recovery and Resilience Plan: Component 10 – Attracting and Retaining Talent, and Component 9 – More Effective Management and Strengthening of Funding for Research, Development and Innovation* (2021),
- *Integration Policy of the Slovak Republic* (2014),
- *Strategy for the Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic* (2018),
- *Economic Policy Strategy until 2030* (2018),
- *National Strategy for European Integrated Border Management 2023-2026* (2022),
- *National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights* (2015),
- *Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic 2025-2030* (2025), which replaced *the Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic 2019-2023*,
- *National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2024-2028* (2023).

On 12 June 2025, the *National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management* was adopted[17] building on the expiring *Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic: Outlook to 2025* and incorporating obligations arising from the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum[18]. It sets priorities in the field of international migration for the following five-year period and at the same time refers to existing strategies and concepts already developed for individual migration areas. The first two chapters of the document are structured in accordance with Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/503 of 18 March 2025, based on the standard template, which ensures the comparability of national asylum and migration management strategies of EU Member States.[19] Subsequent chapters address managed legal migration, emigration, and strategic communication on migration issues. Supported by the European Commission and the International Organization for Migration (IOM)[20], the measures outlined in the strategy will be translated into an *action plan* detailing specific tasks, lead entities, and implementation timelines. Alongside the action plan, the institutional capacity of Slovak authorities will be reinforced through a dedicated training package on communicating migration-related matters and a capacity-building plan, ensuring long-term sustainability beyond project completion.[21]

15 Projects funding activities within the remit of the Border and Foreign Police, primarily in the areas of forced returns and external border management. In the past, these included projects reimbursing expenses related to forced returns, providing professional and language training for officers of the Border and Foreign Police, and supplying technical equipment to police units.
16 Projects proposed under the Border Management and Visa Policy Instrument (BMVI) aimed to support effective European integrated border management at external borders through the procurement of a helicopter and support for information systems.
17 Government Office of the Slovak Republic, Slovak Government Resolution No. 300, 2025, accessed 20 January 2026.
18 EU Pact on Migration and Asylum: Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on asylum and migration management, amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1147 and (EU) 2021/1060 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 604/2013.
19 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
20 The project Technical Support for the Preparation of an Action Plan for the National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management is being implemented from May 2025 to July 2026 and is funded by the European Union through the Technical Support Instrument (TSI). The Government mandated that the action plan be submitted for approval by June 2026.
21 Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Technical Support for the Preparation of an Action Plan with the Support of the European Commission project, accessed 23 January 2026.

In 2025, a new Act on International Protection was being drafted to replace the Asylum Act, incorporating the requirements stemming from the adoption of the asylum and migration policy reform (commonly referred to as the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum). The reform entails the implementation of nine regulations [Regulations (EU) 2024/1359, 2024/1358, 2024/1351, 2024/1356, 2024/1352, 2024/1350, 2024/1349, 2024/1348, and 2024/1347 of the European Parliament and of the Council] and the transposition of one directive [Directive (EU) 2024/1346 of the European Parliament and of the Council].[22]

The migration of third-country nationals to the Slovak Republic and the conditions governing their residence, employment, and international protection were regulated primarily by the following Acts:

- *Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners*, which, among other matters, governs the entry and residence of foreigners, their fundamental rights and obligations, and expulsion procedures,
- *Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services*, which regulates the employment of foreign nationals, and
- *Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum*, which, among other matters, governs asylum proceedings and the granting of temporary protection.

Other legislation governing the migration of third-country nationals addresses matters such as the recognition of professional qualifications, the acquisition of citizenship, unauthorised work and illegal employment, healthcare, and administrative fees. In 2025, amendments were made to the *Act on the Residence of Foreigners*, the *Act on Employment Services*, and the *Act on Administrative Fees*, while a new *Act on International Protection* was being drafted, scheduled to replace the *Asylum Act* in 2026 (see subsequent chapters).

At the international level, the *Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025/2026* was published in February 2025.[23] Coordinated by UNHCR, the plan was prepared and implemented in Slovakia in collaboration with other UN agencies, state authorities, and non-profit organisations operating within the country.[24]

2.2. Inter-ministerial cooperation and coordination

In 2025, no significant organisational or institutional changes took place within Slovakia's key government departments in the field of migration, including international protection.[25] An organisational change occurred within the Ministry of Interior, where the *Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic* was renamed the *National Centre against Trafficking in Human Beings*, operating as a department within the Expert Activities Department of the Crime Prevention Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. The role of the Public Defender of Rights (Ombudsman) in the field of migration in Slovakia is set to be significantly strengthened in 2026, when the institution

22 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
23 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Operational Data Portal, accessed 23 April 2026.
24 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Slovakia: Regional Refugee Response Plan – 2025/2026, 2025. accessed 23 April 2026.
25 European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, Organisation of the Migration and Asylum System in the Slovak Republic, 2025, accessed 23 April 2026.

becomes an independent monitoring body overseeing the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. Preparatory work for this mandate commenced in 2025.

In the field of migration and integration, cooperation among relevant ministries and institutions continued, alongside coordination at the local government level. In addition to direct bilateral channels, inter-institutional collaboration took place through:

- *Steering Committee for Migration, Integration and the Inclusion of Foreigners,*[26] whose meetings (27 March, 27 June, 26 September, and 16 December 2025) covered progress in preparing for the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and drafting the new Act on International Protection. These sessions also featured a presentation on the Technical Support project for developing the Action Plan under the *National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management*, implemented by the Migration Office in partnership with the IOM as implementing partner.[27]
- *Interministerial Expert Commission for Labour Migration and Integration of Foreigners (MEKOMIC),*[28] which convened in 2025 with the support of EMN Slovakia following the national conference *Labour Mobility and its Sustainability in Practice: Bilateral Pathways to a Prosperous Slovakia*[29].[30]
- *Steering Committee for the Implementation of European Integrated Border Management,* established at the end of 2022 to coordinate the delivery of tasks under the national strategy for 2023-2026. The Committee did not convene in 2025, and plans are underway for its dissolution. It comprises the bodies responsible for fulfilling the objectives of the national strategy: 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.[31]
- *Inter-ministerial Working Group for the Coordination of the Employment of Third-Country Nationals,* established towards the end of 2023 on the initiative of the Prime Minister within the Government Office of the Slovak Republic. The Group's objectives comprise regulating and monitoring the employment of third-country nationals, assisting employers with recruitment of third-country nationals, attracting skilled workers from outside the EU, and securing additional revenues for the state budget. It also aims to accelerate and streamline the employment process of third-country nationals, reduce turnover among foreign staff – third-country nationals (in cooperation with other governments, redefine deportation procedures). The Slovak Republic anticipates that fulfilling these objectives will significantly support economic development. The impetus for creating the Group was the acknowledgment that Slovakia was not managing third-country national employment with sufficient efficiency, representing the slowest country among the V4 states in this area. Recruitment procedures of third-country nationals in Slovakia currently take between 11 and 18 months, failing to satisfy employer demand or adequately reflect labour market conditions.[32]

26 Government Office of the Slovak Republic, Slovak Government Resolution of 16 November 2022, accessed 23 April 2026.
27 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
28 MEKOMIC is an advisory body to the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and serves as the Ministry's coordinating body for migration and integration policy. Commission members comprise experts from (central) state administration bodies responsible for implementing integration policy objectives and measures. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations are also invited to meetings as required.
29 European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, News, accessed 23 April 2026.
30 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.
31 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
32 Government Office of the Slovak Republic, Explanatory Memorandum to the Resolution, No.736/2023, 2023, accessed 3 February 2025.

- *EMN National Contact Point*[33] *in the Slovak Republic (EMN Slovakia),*[34] which in 2025 carried out a range of activities, including preparing publications,[35] issuing and responding to ad-hoc queries,[36] and organising a national conference alongside other specialist events.[37] Addressing the migration of third-country nationals, these initiatives were aimed primarily at policymakers, public administration representatives, research institutions, academia, and non-governmental organisations, with select activities focusing on youth and student education.[38]

As early as 2024, the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic was tasked with implementing the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. This comprehensive asylum and migration policy reform provides for the introduction of new procedures and the revision of existing ones by June 2026. Key areas cover the reception and processing of international protection cases, including screening procedures, strengthening safeguards for minors and vulnerable individuals, shortening processing times, and implementing enhanced return policy measures. In 2025, the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior implemented a range of measures and held working meetings across departmental, inter-ministerial, and international levels with representatives of the European Commission, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), and international and non-governmental organisations. This collaboration ensured the timely fulfilment of all commitments to date, fully aligned with the European Commission's schedule and requirements, and led to the adoption of all three strategic documents. Following the Slovak Government's adoption of the *National Implementation Plan of the Slovak Republic for the Reform of Asylum and Migration Policy* (18 December 2024), the Minister of the Interior approved the *National Plan of the Slovak Republic for Contingencies in the Field of International Protection* (8 April 2025). Subsequently, the Government adopted the *National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management* (12 June 2025). Building on these strategic documents, comprehensive measures are required across legislative, financial, staffing, and operational levels. In 2025, these included legislative work on a new Act on International Protection. In parallel, intensive work was undertaken in cooperation with the Finance and Budget Section of the Ministry of Interior and the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police to review EU funding allocations (AMIF and BMVI), following the European Commission's intention to support implementation efforts with additional financial resources. The Migration Office accepted the European Commission's offer and, via the Technical Support Instrument, launched a project in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to draft an Action Plan for the operational implementation of the adopted *National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management*. The Migration Office actively participated in the activities of the EUAA Monitoring Platform (Monitoring Network) and all related work concerning the preparation and evaluation of pilot projects conducted under the approved methodology and 2025 programme. It also contributed to launching preparations for the standard monitoring process in accordance with the multiannual monitoring programme for 2026-2030. Under this multiannual framework, Slovakia's asylum and reception system will undergo EU monitoring as early as the second half of 2026, immediately following the end of the implementation period for new measures under EU

33 The European Migration Network (EMN) provides up-to-date, objective, reliable, and comparable information on migration and asylum to support policy-making in the EU and its Member States. The EMN operates through national contact points in all EU Member States (except Denmark) and observer countries, in coordination with the European Commission – specifically the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME). Its activities focus on issues relating to third-country nationals.

34 EMN Slovakia comprises the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, and IOM Slovakia, which has acted as coordinator since 2009.

35 European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, Publications, accessed 23 April 2026.

36 European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, Ad-hoc Queries, accessed 23 April 2026.

37 European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, News, accessed 23 April 2026.

38 European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, News, accessed 23 April 2026.

Pact on Migration and Asylum. Consequently, several bilateral meetings were held with counterparts from Estonia and the Netherlands (pilot countries for the monitoring exercise), as well as with key representatives from the EUAA.[39]

To implement the Regional Refugee Response Plan, UNHCR in Slovakia established several thematic working groups and sub-groups in 2022. Representatives of state institutions, non-governmental organisations, and international bodies continued to participate in these forums throughout 2025: *Refugee Coordination Forum – East, Protection and Inclusion Working Group (*encompassing the *Anti-Trafficking Task Force, the Child Protection Sub-Working Group*, and the *Inclusion Sub-Working Group), Cash Working Group, Health Working Group (*encompassing the *Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Sub-Working Group), Information Management Working Group, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Task Force* and *Education Working Group.*[40] In September 2025, the structure of the *Refugee Coordination Forum* was revised to comprise the following five working groups:

- *Health & MHPSS Working Group,* formed through the merger of the Health Working Group and the MHPSS Sub-Working Group, co-chaired by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the non-governmental organisation League for Mental Health (in Slovak *Liga za duševné zdravie*).
- *Task Force on Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA Task Force),* co-chaired by UNHCR and the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights.
- *Protection and Inclusion Working Group,* co-chaired by UNHCR, the Human Rights League, and People in Peril, which incorporated the Inclusion Sub-Working Group. The Working Group on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, coordinated by IOM Slovakia, also continued to operate within this framework.
- *Education Working Group,* chaired by the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.
- *Refugee Coordination Forum – East,* co-chaired by UNHCR and the Košice District Office.[41]

2.3. Migration in the public sphere and in the media

In 2025, several concurrent factors influenced developments in Slovakia, which were reflected to varying degrees in public and media discourse. These included, in particular, the ongoing impact of the war in Ukraine and the integration of beneficiaries of temporary protection, demographic decline, labour shortages, an increasing number of foreign workers, operational strain on the technical and staffing capacities of the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police, the implementation of the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, and domestic polarisation surrounding migration.[42] In its April 2025 report, the Supreme Audit Office highlighted the absence of a clear, measurable, and coordinated integration policy for foreign nationals in the Slovak Republic.[43] The report resonated widely in the media and among experts, setting out concrete recommendations alongside its audit findings.[44] No elections were held in Slovakia at national, regional, or European level during 2025.

39 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
40 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Operational Data Portal, accessed 28 April 2026.
41 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
42 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia, internal media monitoring, 2025.
43 Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic, press release: Without clear objectives and performance measurement in the integration of foreign nationals, Slovakia is treading water, 2025, accessed 24 April 2026.
44 STVR News, Slovakia ranks at the bottom of global rankings for the integration of foreign nationals into the labour market, as highlighted by the Supreme Audit Office, topky.sk, It won't work without foreign nationals and migrants: Slovakia has missed the boat; we are losing

According to the *Standard Eurobarometer* survey of spring 2025, Slovak public attitudes towards migration were cautious to reserved, with migration failing to rank among the most pressing issues at national level. Only 4% of respondents in Slovakia cited immigration as one of the two most critical issues facing the country – significantly below the EU average of 14%. At European Union level, migration was somewhat more salient to Slovaks, though it remained a secondary concern: 13% of Slovak respondents considered it one of the EU's primary challenges, compared with 18% across the EU as a whole. This indicates that the Slovak public perceived migration predominantly as an external or European matter rather than an immediate domestic priority, with its importance trailing behind economic topics, prices, security, and the war in Ukraine. Simultaneously, however, the survey demonstrated strong solidarity among Slovaks towards individuals fleeing the war in Ukraine. 83% of respondents in Slovakia supported the EU welcoming people fleeing the war – slightly exceeding the EU average of 80%. Support for financial and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine was similarly robust, standing at 77%.[45]

According to a 2025 survey by Milan Šimečka Foundation Market Research, migration and attitudes towards foreigners are among the primary themes of the so-called "cultural axis", reflecting the underlying values of Slovak society. The findings indicated that the predominant attitude leans towards the rejection or strict regulation of incoming foreigners, forming part of a broader inclination towards traditional values. A majority of the population considers that the arrival of foreigners should be restricted, with openness to migration remaining a minority view. This stance is not confined to right-wing political views, but is widespread across social groups and the ideological spectrum, suggesting that scepticism towards migration is a deeply entrenched cultural attitude in Slovakia. This disposition is most pronounced within the largest demographic segment – the so-called "traditionalist left" – which accounts for approximately 44% of the population. This segment unequivocally supports strict rules governing the entry of foreigners, while expecting the state to play a robust role in regulating migration. Pro-migration attitudes are concentrated within limited groups, particularly among the liberal right and, to some extent, the liberal left; however, these groups are numerically small and politically less influential. Also significant is the existence of a political centre that lacks a firmly defined stance on migration, displaying instead a latent tendency towards caution. Overall, the survey demonstrates that, regarding migration, Slovakia is a predominantly culturally conservative society where openness towards foreigners is the exception rather than the norm.[46]

The Infostat survey confirmed that the threats perceived as most serious by the Slovak public were economic instability or crisis (86.2% of respondents) and cyberattacks (81.4%). These were followed by disinformation and propaganda (76.1%), epidemics or pandemics (73.5%), and climate change and natural disasters (72.3%). Uncontrolled migration was perceived as a serious threat by 69.6% of the population. The Slovak public also demonstrated the strongest support for employing foreigners solely in roles for which local residents have no interest (70%). Employing foreigners across any vacant position received significantly lower support (55%).[47]

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our chance for economic growth, claims the Supreme Audit Office, Kadlečíková, J., The integration of foreigners is a weak point in Slovakia, according to some state institutions, In: Minority Policy in Slovakia 2025/02, kapital-noviny.sk, Good news comes from the grassroots,2025, accessed 24 April 2026.

45 Eurobarometer, Standard Eurobarometer Spring 2025, 2025, accessed 24 April 2026.

46 Milan Šimečka Foundation, Political Attitudes of Slovaks: We Are Left-Wingers with Traditional Values and sme.sk, Political Attitudes in Slovakia: The Majority Espouse Traditional Values and Want an Active State, 2025, accessed 24 April 2026.

47 Infostat, Opinions 2/2025: Summary Report on Public Opinion Polls Conducted Between May and August 2025, 2025, accessed 24 April 2026.

2.4. Research, publications, and statistics on international migration in Slovakia

In 2025, research in Slovakia focused on third-country nationals migration across a range of thematic areas. Key research publications and analytical outputs included (in alphabetical order):

- Analysis of the Provision of Social Services to Foreigners, Including Refugees, 2025, CVEK.
- Audit Report 2025: State Integration Policy, 2025, Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic.
- Challenges and Opportunities: Integration of Young People with a Migrant or Refugee Background in Norway and Slovakia, 2025, CVEK.
- Displacement Tracking Matrix (publication series), 2025, IOM.
- Diversity as an Opportunity: Activities for the Inclusion of Foreigners in Secondary Schools, 2025, CVEK.
- Evaluation of Government Scholarships as a Tool of Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic (2018–2024), 2025, Erudio.
- Family Reunification of Third-Country Nationals in the EU: Current Status of Legislation and Practice, 2025, EMN Slovakia, IOM.
- Labour Migration in Times of Labour Shortages, 2025, EMN Slovakia, IOM.
- Migration, Demographic Shifts, and Security: Slovakia's Role in Shaping Policies Amid Emerging Challenges (2025), 2025, Adapt Institute.
- Opinions 2/2025: Summary Report on Public Opinion Surveys Conducted Between May and August 2025, 2025, Infostat – Institute of Informatics and Statistics.
- Overview of Asylum and Migration in the Slovak Republic for 2024, 2025, EMN Slovakia, IOM.
- People from Ukraine in Slovakia: From Reception to Integration. A Sociological Survey of Ukrainian Migrants in Slovakia, 2025, Slovak Academy of Sciences.
- Quality Guide (Part 1): Compliance with Legal Requirements for the Provision of Social Services for the Integration of Persons Under International Protection, 2025, Slovak Humanitarian Council.
- Quality Manual (Part 2): Key Principles and Procedures for the Provision of Integration Services for Persons Under International Protection, 2025, Slovak Humanitarian Council.
- Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025-2026, 2025, UNHCR.
- The Legal Framework for Temporary Protection: A Legal Response to the Mass Influx of People as a Result of Russian Aggression in Ukraine – National Report – Slovakia, 2025, Human Rights League.

In 2025, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic released the following publications:

- International Migration 2024, containing core data on international migration trends in the Slovak Republic evaluated against European indicators. The publication provides an overview of population figures by citizenship and country of birth, migration flows by citizenship, country of birth, and previous or subsequent country of residence, as well as the acquisition of Slovak citizenship to foreigners by previous citizenship and the loss of Slovak citizenship upon acquiring a new citizenship.
- Population Movement 2024, presenting key demographic trends (encompassing internal and international migration alongside statistics on marriage, divorce, fertility, abortion, and mortality rates in the Slovak Republic). More granular demographic data are compiled annually by

the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in a bilingual (Slovak-English) edition, Population Movement in the Slovak Republic in 2024.[48]

The present publication also draws on the findings of several of the aforementioned studies across its individual thematic chapters.

48 Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.

03

Legal migration

3.1. Statistics and trends

Foreigners in Slovakia

Although the population of the Slovak Republic had grown continuously since the 1950s, the country has experienced population decline over the past six years, driven primarily by natural population decrease and higher emigration. At the end of 2025, the population of Slovakia stood at 5 409 407, representing a year-on-year decrease of over 10 000 people – the second most significant decline in the history of the Slovak Republic after that recorded in 2021. Since the establishment of the Slovak Republic, immigration for permanent residence has consistently exceeded emigration. However, over the past five years, immigration has failed to offset the natural population decrease, according to data from the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.[49] The Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia has also drawn attention to this adverse demographic trend, warning that the decline jeopardises regional stability and the country's future economic development.[50]

Over the past five years, the number of foreigners from EU and non-EU countries holding valid residence permits in Slovakia has risen to 360 440 accounting for 6.66% of the total population

49 Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, Demographic Trends in 2025, 2026, accessed 29 April 2026.
50 Pravda.sk, Slovakia is dying out: Fewer children are being born than during the war, and town stability is threatened by a record exodus abroad, 2026, accessed 29 April 2026.

(see Table 1). In 2022, this proportion increased sharply by two percentage points, driven primarily by forced displacement arising from the war in Ukraine. Despite this growth, Slovakia has long maintained one of the lowest proportions of foreigners in Europe. By comparison, foreign residents numbered 337 140 (6.22%) in 2024; 311 406 (5.74%) in 2023; 278 595 (5.13%) in 2022; and 167 519 (3.08%) in 2021.

Foreigners with valid residence in the Slovak Republic between 2021 and 2025

Nationality	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Largest groups of all foreigners in 2025	Largest groups of third-country nationals in 2025
EU/EEA citizens	56 092	56 070	55 508	55 492	55 040	1. Ukraine (212 245) 2. Serbia (15 482) 3. Vietnam (12 536) 4. Czech Republic (12 370) 5. Hungary (9 715)	1. Ukraine (212 245) 2. Serbia (15 482) 3. Vietnam (12 536) 4. Russia (9 031) 5. India (8 040)
Third-country nationals	111 427	222 525	255 898	281 648	305 400		
Total (proportion of the total population of the Slovak Republic)	**167 519 (3.08 %)**	**278 595 (5.13 %)**	**311 406 (5.74 %)**	**337 140 (6.22 %)**	**360 440 (6.66%)**		

Source: BBFP PFP.

Over the past four years, third-country nationals have accounted for more than three-quarters of all foreign residents in Slovakia, with their total exceeding 300 000 for the first time in 2025. Of the 360 440 foreign nationals holding lawful residence in Slovakia in 2025, 305 400 – representing 84.73%, i.e. more than three quarters – originated from non-EU/EEA countries. Third-country nationals thus constituted 5.65% of Slovakia's total population in 2025. The most numerous non-EU nationalities remained citizens of Ukraine (212 245), Serbia (15 482), Vietnam (12 536), Russia (9 031), and India (8 040). India, driven primarily by labour migration, overtook Georgia in volume compared with the previous year (see Table 1). As in preceding years, the largest concentration of non-EU nationals – exceeding one-third of the total- resided in the Bratislava Region (see Table 2).

Traditionally, Ukrainian nationals have constituted the largest group of foreigners in Slovakia. Prior to the outbreak of war in Ukraine in 2022, Ukrainians accounted for one-third (56 480 people) of all foreigners in the country. By the end of 2022, their number had tripled to 156 881, rising more steadily across 2023, 2024, and 2025 to 176 522, 197 004, and 212 245 respectively. Consequently, Ukrainian citizens came to account for more than half of all foreigners residing in Slovakia (56% in 2022, 56.7% in 2023, 58.4% in 2024, and 58.88% in 2025).[51]

More than half of all first residence permits granted in 2025 were issued for the purpose of remunerated activity, with the total rising from 16 717 in 2024 to 18 583. The remainder comprised first residence permits issued for education and study – which experienced a sharp increase from 2 768 in 2024 to 6 002 – as well as for family reasons (3 917) and other grounds, including

51 Oboňová, S., Ulrichová, N.: EMN Overviews of Asylum and Migration in the Slovak Republic for the Years 2021–2024, European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, IOM Slovakia, accessed 29 April 2026.

tolerated residence (17 972) (see Table 3). Among first permits issued for remunerated activities in 2025, employment accounted for the largest share (45%), narrowly surpassing business purposes (41%). This maintains the pattern established in the previous year, when employment first overtook business – a shift attributable in part to legislative amendments to the *Act on the Residence of Foreigners* concerning business residence, which entered into force on 15 July 2024. In 2025, first permits for employment were dominated by foreigners from Moldova, followed by citizens of India, Uzbekistan, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, the Philippines, Georgia, and Indonesia. Business permits were utilised primarily by nationals of Ukraine, Serbia, Georgia, Vietnam, and the Republic of North Macedonia. Meanwhile, the education and study category was dominated by Ukrainian nationals and, to a lesser extent, citizens of India and Kazakhstan. This primarily concerned temporary residence for the purpose of study within the meaning of Section 24(1)(b) of Act No. 404/2011 Coll.[52]

Labour migration

Regular migration – whereby foreigners are in Slovakia under a residence permit for the purposes of employment, business, study, or family reunification – constitutes the primary component of international migration to the Slovak Republic. Addressing domestic labour shortages remains a long-term priority for the country. Neither the COVID-19 pandemic, which broke out in 2020, nor the war in Ukraine in 2022 has dampened demand for labour in Slovakia.[53]

Migration for employment and business purposes has long been the dominant trend in Slovakia. Since Slovakia's accession to the EU, the number of foreign workers has increased more than thirtyfold, rising from 3 351 in 2004 to 112 935 by the end of 2025, of whom 84 140 originated from non-EU countries. At the end of 2024, there was one foreign worker for every 17 (17.4) Slovak workers; by 2025, this ratio had narrowed to one in 16 (16.6).[54] Over the past five years, foreigners have become an integral component of the Slovak labour market, with 2025 recording the highest number of foreign workers on record.[55]

Foreign workers from non-EU countries originated predominantly from Ukraine (43 960), India (6 815), Serbia (5 784), the Philippines (2 396), and Uzbekistan (2 360) (see Table 4). Approximately one-third of all foreigners were employed in the Bratislava Region, followed by the Trnava and Nitra Regions. In 2025, the year-on-year increase in the number of foreign workers from non-EU countries fell below 10 000 for the first time since 2016 (excluding the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021). Although Ukrainian nationals continued to account for more than half of all third-country workers, their numbers declined slightly in 2025. Concurrently, there was a steady rise in workers arriving from Asian countries, notably India, the Philippines, and Uzbekistan.[56]

The war in Ukraine triggered a marked increase in the proportion of female non-EU migrants in the Slovak labour market. Whereas women accounted for a quarter of all employed third-country nationals between 2016 and 2021 (21.18 to 27.24%), by the 2023-2025 period they represented

52 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
53 Oboňová, S., Ulrichová, N.: EMN Overview of Asylum and Migration in the Slovak Republic for 2024, European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, IOM Slovakia, 2025, accessed 13 March 2026.
54 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and EMN Annual Reports on Migration and Asylum in the Slovak Republic for the years 2019–2024, accessed 13 March 2026.
55 Pravda.sk, There are now more Indians working here than Czechs: Slovakia is being flooded with foreign workers, 2026, accessed 29 April 2026.
56 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and EMN Annual Reports on Migration and Asylum in the Slovak Republic for the years 2019–2024, accessed 13 March 2026.

more than a third (approximately 40%). Female migrant workers in Slovakia have long originated predominantly from Ukraine and Serbia,[57] a trend further reinforced by the war in Ukraine.[58] [59]

Foreigners employed in the Slovak Republic between 2021 and 2025

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Largest groups of all foreign nationals in 2025	Largest groups of third-country nationals in 2025
EU/EEA nationals (of whom women)	31 838 (8 915)	31 516 (9 013)	30 398 (8 824)	29 166 (8 761)	28 795 (8 439)	1. Ukraine (43 960) 2. Hungary (7 639) 3. India (6 815) 4. The Czech Republic (6 485) 5. Serbia (5 784)	1. Ukraine (43 960) 2. India (6 815) 3. Serbia (5 784) 4. Philippines (2 396) 5. Uzbekistan (2 360)
Third-country nationals (of whom women)	38 058 (11 566)	57 426 (26 028)	69 223 (31 254)	79 380 (33 076)	84 140 (32 737)		
Total (of whom women)	**69 896 (20 481)**	**88 942 (35 041)**	**99 621 (40 078)**	**108 546 (41 837)**	**112 935 (41 176)**		

Source: Social Insurance Agency (individuals who worked during the year with an assessment base of more than 1 euro).

Companies in Slovakia have long faced a shortfall of more than 100 000 workers, a trend that experts predict will intensify. Consequently, public debate has repeatedly highlighted the need both to relax rules governing the entry of workers from non-EU countries and to implement measures to attract Slovaks working abroad (who numbered approximately 350 000 in 2025).[60]

Without foreign workers, numerous businesses, factories, and logistics centres would encounter operational disruption. The Slovak Republic has therefore initiated discussions on establishing new, regulated channels for labour migration from non-EU countries through bilateral labour mobility agreements. The topic was presented by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in its capacity as coordinator of EMN Slovakia, at a joint conference titled *Labour Mobility and its Sustainability in Practice: Bilateral Pathways to a Prosperous Slovakia*, as well as during a MEKOMIC meeting[61]. The conference presented practical models and examples of bilateral cooperation on labour migration between EU Member States and non-EU countries.[62]

57 Oboňová, S., The Integration of Migrant Women in the EU and Norway: Policies and Measures – A Contribution from the Slovak Republic, European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, IOM Slovakia, 2022, and EMN Annual Reports on Migration and Asylum in the Slovak Republic for the Years 2019–2023, accessed 13 March 2026.

58 Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Employment of Foreign Nationals – Statistics, data for 2016–2025 (Tables 1 and 11), accessed 13 March 2026.

59 Drozd, P., Oboňová, S., Labour Migration in Times of Labour Shortages – A Contribution from the Slovak Republic, European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, IOM Slovakia, 2024, accessed 13 March 2026.

60 STVR News, Slovakia is suffering from a labour shortage: Companies are calling for the process of recruiting workers from abroad to be simplified and The Slovak Spectator, Foreign workers become a pillar of Slovakia's labour market, 2026, accessed 29 April 2026.

61 European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, EMN Slovakia supported a meeting of the Interministerial Expert Commission for Labour Migration and Integration of Foreigners (MEKOMIC), 2025,accessed 29 April 2026.

62 European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, Mobility of foreign workers: EMN Slovakia launched a discussion on sustainable bilateral cooperation, 2025, accessed 29 April 2026.

3.2. General legislative changes

On 1 July 2025, an amendment to Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the *Residence of Foreigners*[63], entered into force, introducing provisions concerning labour migration, application procedures, and documentary requirements for various types of residence permits applications. The amendment aimed to alleviate pressure on overburdened Foreign Police Departments, expedite application processing, and restrict the misuse of temporary residence for business purposes.[64] Specifically, the amendment:

- Extended the validity period of a national visa issued in connection with an application for residence permit submitted within the territory of the Slovak Republic from 90 to 120 days, thereby providing sufficient time to secure an appointment via the booking system,
- Reduced the scope of supporting documentation required for applications for residence permit (removing the requirement to submit proof of financial resources for the stay and a photograph),
- Introduced the possibility, in specified cases, to designate alternative departments as competent authorities for receiving applications (applying in particular to applications for the registration of EU citizens' right of residence, giving them equal flexibility to submit applications at any Foreign Police Department as to third-country nationals), thereby streamlining the application intake process; and,
- Established a mandatory obligation for foreigners to utilise the electronic booking system.[65]

Further changes are detailed in Section 3.3.3 below.

In 2025, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic began drafting a new Act on Platform Work to implement the *Directive on improving working conditions in platform work*[66]. The Directive does not mandate that individuals working for digital labour platforms or intermediaries (such as taxi fleets) to be automatically employees; rather, it introduces the legal concept of a "rebuttable presumption". Under this mechanism, where facts indicate direction and control in accordance with national law, a legal presumption of an employment relationship is triggered. The employer may be either a digital labour platform or an intermediary (such as a taxi fleet operator). The legislation aims to protect workers and enhance working conditions within algorithmically managed roles – including through collective bargaining – thereby fostering legal certainty and ensuring same conditions between digital platforms and traditional offline service providers. The act is also expected to strengthen the effectiveness of inspections and compliance controls in platform work, applying equally to third-country nationals.[67]

In November 2025, the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic completed its national project *Digitisation of Residence Permit Issuing Processes*[68], funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). The primary objective of the project was to procure servers and essential

63 Zakonypreludi.sk, Act No. 178/2025 Coll., amending Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, accessed 20 January 2026.
64 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
65 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium and International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia, Amendments to the Act on the Residence of Foreigners from 1 July 2025!, accessed 19 January 2026.
66 Directive (EU) 2024/2831 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2024 on improving working conditions in platform work.
67 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.
68 Project details: Digitisation of residence permit granting processes, (Project code: 408010B119, project duration: October 2024 – November 2025, contracted amount: €2 000 000.00), accessed 20 January 2026.

software licences, alongside their installation and configuration. The project comprised of two components: hardware procurement, delivered under the AMIF programme, and a software module funded through the Slovak Republic's Recovery and Resilience Plan. Both components complemented each other and contributed to achieving the project's objective. By establishing updated procedures and modernising the underlying information system, the initiative enabled targeted data collection on migrants holding residence permits in Slovakia. Furthermore, the integration of these platforms modernised public administration information systems and facilitated more efficient data exchange across state authorities. Enabling online completion of administrative tasks has further reduced bureaucratic burdens. The establishment of interoperability between the IS ECU and both national and supranational systems has enhanced security standards, as all applicants are now automatically screened against relevant registers using their personal and biometric data. Some procedures within the Foreign Police Department have been optimised, streamlined, and digitised, particularly services concerning application submissions and communication with applicant. End-user services were implemented to ensure seamless access to Foreign Police services for all eligible applicants and designated "obligated persons".[69]

In 2025, the Slovak Republic was preparing amendments to expand the National Visa Information System (NVIS), aiming to expedite pre-visa processing for students, researchers, and other categories of migrants by 2026 (see Chapter 9.4).[70]

3.3. Labour migration

The year 2025 marked a historic milestone for Slovakia regarding labour migration. The Slovak labour market reached a juncture where foreign workers became indispensable to the functioning of the economy, driven primarily by deepening demographic decline and shortages of domestic labour. By September 2025, an estimated 135 000 foreign workers were employed in Slovakia – the highest figure on record – representing nearly 7% of total employment, with approximately two-thirds originating from non-EU countries.[71] By comparison, around 65 000 foreigners were working in Slovakia in 2020, meaning their numbers more than doubled over a five-year period.[72] Supported in part by the national visa scheme issued in the interest of the Slovak Republic, Slovakia has consolidated its position as a destination country for labour migration over the past five years, seeing an increasing share of foreign workers from Asian countries (particularly India, the Philippines, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, and Nepal).[73] Nevertheless, the framework continues to fall short of expected standards regarding integration[74], monitoring, and the protection of migrants' rights.

The National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management 2025-2030 identifies the legal admission of migrants into the labour market as a key mechanism for addressing labour shortages. It reflects the current needs of the Slovak labour market, which is characterised by a substantial number of unfilled vacancies and a projected decline in the working-age

69 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium and the Foreign Assistance Department of the Finance and Budget Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
70 Research and Innovation Authority (Výskumná a inovačná autorita – VAIA).
71 The Slovak Spectator, Foreign workers become a pillar of Slovakia's labour market, 2026, accessed 21 April 2026.
72 Pravda.sk, There are now more Indians working here than Czechs: Slovakia is being flooded with foreign workers, 2026, accessed 21 April 2026.
73 The Slovak Spectator, Foreign workers become a pillar of Slovakia's labour market, 2026, accessed 21 April 2026.
74 Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic, press release, Without clear objectives and performance measurement in the integration of foreigners, Slovakia is treading water, 2025, accessed 21 April 2026.

population by 2030. The strategy therefore highlights mechanisms to enhance the utilisation of a labour force comprising third-country nationals as an option for offsetting this shortfall.[75] Although the strategy itself contains no specific measures relating directly to labour mobility, the Slovak Republic intends to develop these within related policy frameworks governing non-EU labour migration. The accompanying Action Plan, drafting of which commenced in 2025, will set out measurable provisions for migrant employment and integration into working life.[76]

In 2025, *the Interministerial Expert Commission for Labour Migration and Integration of Foreigners (MEKOMIC)* was re-established within the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. Its inaugural meeting was held in Bratislava on 12 November 2025, following the EMN national conference *Labour Mobility and its Sustainability in Practice: Bilateral Pathways to a Prosperous Slovakia* (see Chapter 3.1). Serving as an advisory body to the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in the field of foreign labour mobility and integration into the Slovak labour market, MEKOMIC is set to play a pivotal role in shaping national policy on migrant integration and workforce mobility, including bilateral cooperation.[77]

3.3.1. National visas issued in the interest of the Slovak Republic

National visas issued in the interest of the Slovak Republic serve as a mechanism for managing the entry of designated groups of third-country nationals into the country. Individual schemes are linked to specific stay purposes and are frequently subject to set quotas or restricted to particular nationalities. In 2025, the largest share of visas was granted under the drivers' category, predominantly to nationals of India and Uzbekistan. By contrast, no visas were issued to citizens of certain eligible countries, such as Armenia, Georgia, or Bosnia and Herzegovina (see Table 5).

The national visa scheme for highly qualified foreigners is designed to attract international talent, particularly individuals holding a university degree or possessing a profile suited to high value-added occupations. Visas may be granted either for the purpose of seeking employment or on the basis of an employment contract with a specific employer. This represents the sole category of authorisation that permits foreign specialists and workers to enter Slovakia without having to demonstrate a job offer or other specified purpose, enabling them to seek suitable employment directly within the country. Data for 2025 indicate low interest among nationals of OECD countries, with only a handful of applications recorded. The highest number of visas were granted to citizens of India, China, and Russia. Ultimately, only around 4% of the total quota of 3 000 places was filled.

A separate category comprises national visas issued for the intra-corporate transfer of employees from an establishment of a foreign entity outside the Slovak Republic to an establishment of the same entity within its territory. In 2025, 163 employees and 51 family members were registered under this category – a scheme further distinguished by the fact that it permits the entry of family members. The most common nationalities were Chinese, Russian, and Indian; among OECD countries, there were only isolated instances involving citizens from the United Kingdom, USA, the Republic of Korea, Israel, and Japan.

75 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.
76 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.
77 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.

National visas are also granted in connection within the internationalisation of higher education, particularly to foreigners awarded designated scholarships. This category is dominated by nationals of Türkiye and Uzbekistan, with Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Sudan, Kenya, and Ethiopia also represented. Among OECD countries, several applications were recorded from the US.

Overall, the majority of national visas issued in the interest of the Slovak Republic are subject to quotas, none of which were fully filled across individual categories in 2025. The highest demand was recorded for drivers' visas; nevertheless, even in this category, the quota was not fully exhausted. Regarding applicant demographics, Slovakia remains most attractive to nationals of India, Russia, and other post-Soviet states, whereas interest from citizens of OECD countries remains largely marginal.[78]

3.3.2. Bilateral agreements relating to labour migration

In 2025, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic initiated discussions on sustainable bilateral cooperation aimed at addressing labour shortages in key sectors through regulated, predictable, and mutually beneficial bilateral agreements with countries outside the European Union. The topic was presented at the European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia national conference, *Labour Mobility and its Sustainability in Practice: Bilateral Pathways to a Prosperous Slovakia*, held in Bratislava on 11 November 2025.[79] The conference showcased practical models and examples of bilateral cooperation on labour migration between EU Member States and non-EU countries, which, in the context of the Slovak Republic, could serve as a catalyst for further expert discussion and reflection. The event formed part of broader efforts to identify solutions to the persistent labour shortage in the Slovak Republic.[80]

The Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation and the Exchange of Information in the Field of Labour Mobility[81] entered into force on 17 October 2025. The agreement aims to foster cooperation in information sharing across areas of mutual interest, focusing on labour, employment (oversight), and labour mobility. It is thus intended to safeguard the rights and interests of workers from both contracting parties and to combat the illegal employment of citizens from either state.[82]

Other agreements related to a visa scheme designed to promote trade relations and investment (see Section 9.4).

3.3.3. Changes for individual categories of migrant workers

Highly skilled migrants from non-EU countries

The Slovak Republic adopted no significant legislation or measures in this regard in 2025, continuing to issue national visas to this category of migrant workers (see Chapter 3.3.1).

78 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
79 European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, Mobility of Workers from Abroad: EMN Slovakia Has Launched a Discussion on Sustainable Bilateral Cooperation, 2025, accessed 28 January 2026.
80 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
81 Slov-lex.sk, Announcement of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, accessed 13 February 2026.
82 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.

With effect from 1 July 2025, the Slovak Republic began issuing national visas to foster trade relations and investment development between the People's Republic of China and the Slovak Republic.[83] This national visa is granted for the duration of employment of a citizen of the People's Republic of China, up to a maximum period of one year. The legislative framework enabled the issuance of national visas in the interest of the Slovak Republic for employment linked to the delivery of investment projects or major investments, specifically targeting Chinese nationals employed by designated investors. A cap of up to 1 000 such national visas was established per calendar year, subject to a strict limit of one visa per individual (renewal is not permitted). Grounded in experience gained from implementing earlier legislative measures (such as Government Regulation No. 113/2023 Coll. and No. 383/2023 Coll.), the framework for granting these visas is designed to safeguard foreign workers by placing them exclusively with established employers (investors) where there is no risk of infringing employee social protections.[84]

(Low-)skilled migrants

Under a Slovak Government Regulation adopted in 2025,[85] national visas for employment purposes will continue to be issued in 2026 to nationals of selected third countries employed as bus drivers (occupation code 8331001) or heavy goods vehicle (HGV) and lorry drivers in international transport (occupation code 8332006), capped at an overall quota of 5 000 national visas.

The national visa framework has enabled third-country nationals to gain faster and more streamlined access to the labour market, providing substantial support to Slovak transport operators – particularly in light of current conditions within the Slovak labour market. The road transport sector has long faced acute labour shortages, especially regarding professional HGV and bus drivers. Consequently, transport operators have been compelled to recruit workforce from third countries. The amendment was also introduced because third-country nationals must present proof of residence within the territory of the Slovak Republic in order to be issued a Driver's Certificate for international road haulage for hire or reward under a Community licence.[86]

Seasonal workers

In 2025, new migration regulations and strategic frameworks also impacted seasonal labour migration from non-EU countries, an area of key relevance to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic. Although the overhaul of the visa and permit system left the core definition of seasonal work unchanged[87], it is expected to enhance workforce stability within the Slovak agricultural sector, which relies extensively on migrant labour for seasonal and low-skilled roles (such as harvesting, livestock farming, and agricultural processing).[88] Under Act

83 Slov-lex.sk, Slovak Government Regulation No. 160/2025 Coll. of 18 June 2025 on the interest of the Slovak Republic in granting national visas to selected groups of nationals of the People's Republic of China in connection with the promotion of trade relations and investment development between the People's Republic of China and the Slovak Republic, accessed 29 January 2026.
84 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.
85 Slovak Government Regulation No. 404/2025 Coll., amending Slovak Government Regulation No. 113/2023 Coll. on the interest of the Slovak Republic in granting national visas to selected groups of third-country nationals.
86 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.
87 Seasonal work operated under dedicated migration rules in 2025 and was not merged with standard labour migration channels. For third-country nationals, two primary regimes applied:
Short-term seasonal work (up to 90 days): Required a seasonal work permit issued by the competent Labour Office (valid for a maximum of 90 days within 12 consecutive months) and, where applicable under visa rules, a Schengen visa for seasonal work.
Longer-term seasonal work (90–180 days): Granted exclusively on the basis of a temporary residence permit for seasonal employment, provided the employer first obtained official confirmation that the vacancy could be filled.
88 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic.

No. 151/2025 Coll.[89], which took effect on 1 September 2025, the maximum duration of temporary residence granted for seasonal employment was extended from 180 days to 240 days within 12 consecutive months. This adjustment was introduced in response to requests from commercial stakeholders.[90]

Furthermore, Decree No. 337/2025 Coll. of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic expanded the list of sectors eligible for seasonal employment to include warehousing and support activities for transportation, alongside postal and courier services. This update was prompted by industry demand and an increasing volume of operational activity in these sectors.[91]

Self-employed persons and other business activities

From July 2025, the Slovak Republic introduced the following:

- Quotas on application for residence permits for the purpose of business introduced at the request of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic and established by Government Regulation, these quotas substantially reduced application volumes to ease the administrative burden on Foreign Police Departments,
- Foreigners are now required to submit applications for temporary residence for purpose of business exclusively through Slovak diplomatic missions abroad, with no provision for territorial exceptions,
- In-country applications for a temporary residence for the purpose of business are now permitted only after the individual has completed at least two years of lawful residence under another purpose.

These measures address a previous trend where this legal entry route into the Slovak Republic and the Schengen Area was being exploited to facilitate subsequent irregular migration.[92]

3.4. Students and researchers

The Ministry of Education has established a talent scholarship scheme, under which 1 012 domestic students (*"I'm studying at home, Slovakia will reward me"*[93]) and 32 international students[94] were awarded scholarships for the 2025/2026 academic year. The scheme is funded via the *Programme Slovakia (Program Slovensko)* [95] as part of the national project *Provision of scholarships for talented domestic and international students to enable them to study at higher education institutions in the Slovak Republic*[96] (covering all regions excluding the Bratislava Region) and co-funded

89 Act No. 151/2025 Coll., amending Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended.
90 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.
91 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.
92 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium and International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia, Amendments to the Act on the Residence of Foreigners from 1 July 2025!, 2025, accessed 19 January. 2026.
93 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic, 'I'm Studying at Home, Slovakia Will Reward Me', accessed 26 January 2026.
94 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic, 'I'm Studying at Home, Slovakia Will Reward Me', accessed 13 February 2026.
95 Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatisation of the Slovak Republic, We Are Changing Slovakia for the Better Thanks to EU Funds from the 'Slovakia' Programme, accessed 28 January 2026.
96 Project code: 401101C957, project duration: 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2029, financial contribution: EUR 38 257 895.29, Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic, Provision of Scholarships for Talented Domestic and Foreign Students to Study at Higher Education Institutions in the Slovak Republic, accessed 28 January 2026.

by the state budget for the Bratislava Region. This builds upon the talent scholarship framework under the Slovak Republic's Recovery and Resilience Plan, which operated between 2022 and 2024. Funding has now been secured from 2025 through to the end of 2029.[97] The aim is to support the retention and attraction of talented students to study at Slovak higher education institutions, thereby contributing to reducing brain drain abroad and increasing the inflow of talent from abroad through the provision of talent scholarships.[98]

In 2025, the Slovak Republic addressed the need to enhance the efficiency, speed, and accessibility of the qualification recognition process for prospective students. According to the Ministry of Education, effective from 1 March 2025, procedures for recognising qualifications for continuing education and other purposes were streamlined and expedited. Prospective students holding prior qualifications from selected countries can obtain a certificate of qualification recognition[99] via an online database hosted on the Ministry's dedicated portal (https://uznavanie.minedu.sk/navigator/). This digital system simplified procedures, shortened processing times, and reduced administrative fees for graduates from both EU and non-EU countries. [100]

The Slovak Republic updated the dedicated website www.ukraine.minedu.sk, in 2025. The portal provides comprehensive information regarding the education of Ukrainian children and pupils in Slovakia, tailored to the requirements of parents, teachers, and headteachers (see Chapter 5).[101]

Government and other scholarships

In 2025, the Slovak Government funded the costs for a total of 358 scholarship holders, 119 of whom originated from countries affected by armed conflict or primary countries of origin for forced migration. Scholarships were awarded predominantly to students from Ukraine (39), Afghanistan (18), Palestine (15), Lebanon (14), Syria (13), Sudan (8), Ethiopia (8), and Iraq (4).[102]

3.5. Family reunification

In 2025, the Slovak Republic adopted no new legislation or policies regarding family reunification for third-country nationals.[103]

3.6. Preventing social dumping and the lowering of labour standards

In 2025, instances of exploitation and unfair practices targeting foreign workers were highlighted in Slovakia, with findings corroborated by Slovak state authorities, EU institutions, and international organisations. These were not isolated incidents, but rather a long-standing phenome-

97 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic, Applications for 'I'm Studying at Home, Slovakia Will Reward Me' Talent Scholarships Have Been Assessed, 2025, accessed 26 January 2026.
98 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.
99 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic, Information on the Use of the Recognition Clause, accessed 26 January 2026.
100 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.
101 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.
102 Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.
103 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic a Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.

non that has intensified against the backdrop of an increasing foreign workforce.[104] In February 2025, state institutions and authorities convened to address practices concerning the employment, integration, and protection of non-EU foreign workers during a roundtable organised by EMN Slovakia.[105]

In 2025, several amendments to the *Labour Inspection Act*[106] came into force, affecting labour inspection procedures and consequently influencing to some extent working conditions and equal treatment for third-country nationals. Among the most significant changes introduced in 2025 were updated professional competence requirements for the Director-General of the National Labour Inspectorate and directors of regional labour inspectorates, revised time limits for completing labour inspections, and a modified methodology for calculating statutory time limits in administrative proceedings when imposing fines for breaches of legislation.

An amendment to the Labour Inspection Act[107] also increased penalties for illegal employment under Section 19[108], with effect from 1 January 2026:

- For the illegal employment of one individual, the minimum fine was raised from EUR 2 000 to EUR 4 000; for the illegal employment of two or more individuals, the minimum fine increased from EUR 5 000 to EUR 8 000.
- Concurrently, a provision was introduced whereby settling two-thirds of the fine into the designated bank account within 15 days of the decision becoming final deems the penalty paid in full. In effect, the fine for breaching the prohibition on illegal employment is reduced by one-third, provided two-thirds are paid within the prescribed timeframe.

This measure was proposed by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic pursuant to the *Government Manifesto for 2023-2027* and broader public finance consolidation measures.[109]

3.7. Population census, including foreigners

On 26 November 2025, a new regulation on European statistics on population, households, and dwellings was adopted across the EU[110]. The objective of the regulation is to harmonise the collection and provision of population data throughout Member States, facilitating enhanced comparative analysis and ensuring reliable, comparable demographic data essential for policy-making and forecasting.[111] Consequently, the EU has transitioned from traditional decennial censuses toward a continuous system of population statistics based primarily on administrative registers – an approach already adopted by the Slovak Republic in its 2021 population census. However, the new regulation will impose higher standards regarding data quality, system in-

104 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
105 European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, EMN Slovakia Supported a Discussion on Practical Approaches to the Employment, Integration and Protection of Third-Country Nationals, 2025, accessed 29 April 2026.
106 Act No. 125/2006 Coll. on Labour Inspection and Amending Act No. 82/2005 Coll. on Illegal Work and Illegal Employment and Amending Certain Acts, as amended.
107 Act No. 261/2025 Coll. Amending Certain Acts in Connection with the Consolidation of Public Finances, which amended Section 19 of Act No. 125/2006 Coll..
108 Penalties and fines for breaching the prohibition on illegal employment.
109 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.
110 Regulation (EU) 2025/2458 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics on population, dwellings and housing, amending Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 on population and housing censuses and Regulation (EU) No 1260/2013 on European demographic statistics.
111 Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.

tegration, and the frequency of register updates, delivering substantial benefits for planning, regional development, and policy decision-making. The upgraded statistics will permit more accurate monitoring of the actual physical presence of foreigners within Slovak territory, establishing a clearer distinction between formal "administrative residence" and actual settlement.[112]

In 2025, in connection with the aforementioned regulation and associated preparatory work, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic evaluated potential options for conducting the 2031 Population and Housing Census, which will enable the collection of essential statistical data on the state of society, its demographic, socio-economic, and cultural structures, as well as housing and households. A study entitled *SODB 2031 – Alternative Solutions* was produced, identifying a range of feasible options for census data collection unconstrained by current arrangements, the operational viability and effectiveness of which will be assessed in subsequent phases. Once the preferred data collection model has been determined, the remaining components of the census project – namely methodology, the list of variables to be surveyed, legislative frameworks, promotional and communication strategies, IT infrastructure, processing systems, and dissemination procedures – will be developed. [113]

3.8. Information on the possibilities and conditions for legal migration

In 2025, information was provided to third-country nationals by state institutions (and, in the case of beneficiaries of temporary protection, by certain local authorities), alongside international organisations and the civil society sector. Throughout the year, the principal source of information on the possibilities and conditions for legal migration remained the Foreign Police Departments, which were undergoing a challenging process of digitising their services. During 2025, 109 444 clients who had booked appointments via the electronic system were served at these departments. In addition, transit centres established by the state in various locations across Slovakia following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine provided information and other services in 2025 to beneficiaries of temporary protection.[114] A novel feature introduced at selected Foreign Police Departments (in Bratislava, Žilina, and Košice) was the provision of legal and integration counselling by Foreigners' Service Centres, which were established in Slovakia at the end of 2024 to support highly skilled migrants and their families, returning nationals, and international university students. These services were utilised by 2 983 clients during 2025.[115]

Since 2025, the BBFP PFP has restructured its handling of telephone and email enquiries concerning its remit, centralising the provision of information at management level as far as possible to reduce the workload on operational departments. Through the AMIF project,[116] additional staffing capacity and dedicated premises were created, which, since 2025, have provided information on the Act on the Residence of Foreigners – encompassing the powers of public authorities regarding visas, conditions for entry into and departure of foreigners from the territory of the Slovak Republic, residence requirements, document issuance to foreigners, administrative expulsion, entry bans, detention, rights and obligations during border checks and residence,

112 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
113 Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.
114 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
115 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
116 Project: Provision of Information AMIF 2021-2027 (Project code: FVZ-2024-AMIF-SC2-A6-V10, project duration: July 2024 – December 2029, budget: EUR 1 154 000.00).

as well as administrative offences relating to border control and residence – and other matters within the remit of the BBFP PFP. In practice, the target group comprises primarily foreigners, Slovak citizens, national and international organisations and institutions, third-sector entities, the media, and organisational units of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and the Police Force.[117]

The Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, in cooperation with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for the Recovery Plan and Knowledge Economy, plans to launch an online platform in 2026 designed to:

- Reduce information hurdles for third-country nationals and EU citizens prior to their arrival in Slovakia by guiding them through administrative procedures via the portal and providing comprehensive information about living in Slovakia,
- Relieve Foreign Police Departments of the burden of responding to enquiries regarding mandatory supporting documentation required for temporary residence applications,
- Simplify the document verification process prior to formal application submission.[118]

Other information-sharing initiatives in 2025 focused on the integration of migrants residing in Slovakia, specifically addressing residence matters, individual counselling, and the education system (see Chapter 7).[119]

117 ITMS21+, Project details: Provision of Information AMIF 2021-2027, accessed 29 April 2026.
118 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
119 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.

04

International protection

4.1. Statistics and trends

Compared with the European average, Slovakia has long recorded low numbers of asylum applications and granted international protections. This trend remained constant between 2021 and 2025, with annual asylum applications ranging from 160 to 550, granted asylum statuses ranging from 20 to 40, and granted subsidiary protections ranging from 10 to 50 per year. Over the past five years, asylum seekers were predominantly nationals of Afghanistan, Morocco, Türkiye, Bangladesh, Algeria, and Belarus. However, following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, Ukrainian and Russian nationals also featured more prominently among applicants: of the 416 applications in 2023 and 547 in 2022, a total of 186 were submitted by individuals who had fled to Slovakia from Ukraine, and 40 by nationals of the Russian Federation. This trend did not recur in either 2024 or 2025: across both years combined, the Slovak Republic recorded a total of just 52 asylum applications from Ukrainian nationals and 11 from Russian nationals (see Table 15).[120] Individuals fleeing Ukraine primarily opted for temporary protection to reside in the country and access public services (see Chapter 5).

The decline in asylum applications in the Slovak Republic continued in 2025. Of the 163 applications recorded (131 first and 32 repeated applications), the most common countries of or-

120 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Statistical Report of the Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic – 2024 and Statistical Report of the Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic –2025, accessed 19 March 2026.

igin were Ukraine (40), Afghanistan (21), Belarus (14), Russia (11), and Syria (8) (see Table 14). Unaccompanied minors lodged six asylum applications in the Slovak Republic in 2025, all of which were from Afghan nationals (see Table 22).[121]

During 2025, the Slovak Republic granted asylum to 41 individuals in total, primarily from Belarus and Afghanistan, maintaining the pattern established the previous year. Subsidiary protection was granted to 32 individuals, the majority originating from Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Syria. Negative decisions were issued in 54 cases. The surge in discontinued proceedings observed in previous years did not recur in either 2024 or 2025; figures dropped significantly from over 300 discontinued proceedings in both 2022 and 2023 to 58 in 2024 and 55 in 2025 (see Table 14).[122]

Each year, the Slovak Republic grants citizenship to between 20 and 30 individuals who have international protection status (asylum or subsidiary protection) in Slovakia. Specifically, citizenship was conferred upon 27 individuals in 2022, 22 in 2023, 13 in 2024, and 24 in 2025 (see Chapter 8).

Over the preceding five-year period, the Slovak Republic neither resettled nor relocated any persons in need of international protection to or through its territory (see Tables 16, 17, and 18).[123]

Applications for asylum and international protection in the Slovak Republic, 2021-2025

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Asylum seekers (of which first-time applications)	370 (330)	547 (503)	416 (377)	165 (141)	163 (131)
Asylum granted	29	23	37	41	41
Subsidiary protection granted	13	48	43	22	32
Citizenship granted to persons under international protection	10	27	22	13	24

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

4.2. National policies and legislation

The new *National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management*[124] adopted in June 2025 (see Chapter 2.1), sets out strategic objectives and measures for international protection. Within this area, the strategy focuses primarily on:

- Introducing a new system for screening and proceedings at borders,

121 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Statistical Report of the Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic –2025, accessed 19 March 2026.
122 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Statistical Report of the Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic – 2025, accessed 19 March 2026.
123 Oboňová, S., Ulrichová, N.: EMN Overviews of Asylum and Migration in the Slovak Republic for the Years 2021–2024, European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, 2002-2025, IOM Slovakia, accessed 19 March 2026.
124 Government Office of the Slovak Republic, National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management, 2025, accessed 21 January 2026.

- Ensuring high quality, consistency, and efficiency in international protection proceeding,
- Maintaining a sustainable reception system,
- Creating suitable conditions for timely integration,
- Enhancing preparedness for unforeseen events in the event of an increased influx of persons seeking international protection,
- Strengthening internal processes – including their digitisation – alongside upgrading IT systems and staffing capacities.[125]

On 8 April 2025, the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic adopted the *National Plan of the Slovak Republic for Contingencies in the Field of International Protection*. The plan focuses on ensuring adequate reception capacity and procedural capacities to conduct asylum proceedings in accordance with international standards during situations of exceptional pressure or crises involving a mass influx of people seeking international protection in the territory of the Slovak Republic. The Slovak Republic did not previously have such a contingency framework in this area. The document is not public and was adopted pursuant to the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, specifically *Directive (EU) 2024/1346 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection*.[126]

In 2025, the *Draft Act on International Protection and Amending Certain Acts* progressed through the legislative process,[127] having been submitted for inter-ministerial consultation in October 2025, and is set to come into force on 12 June 2026. The new legislation will replace *Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum (as amended),* which has been in force in the Slovak Republic since 2002.[128] This initiative constitutes a comprehensive overhaul of international protection in Slovakia, implementing and transposing EU legal instruments adopted under the broader Reform of Asylum and Migration Policy (commonly known as the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum). Accordingly, the new Act on International Protection will incorporate requirements arising from the adoption of the Reform of Asylum and Migration Policy.[129]

With effect from 1 July 2025, an unaccompanied minor has the right to legal aid provided by the Legal Aid Centre if they have applied for aid in an asylum case – either on their own or via a court-appointed guardian – and do not already have legal representation in the proceedings in question. In practice, this legislative amendment ensures legal representation for unaccompanied minor – asylum seeker from the initial stage of proceedings through to their final conclusion, addressing a key gap in previous legal provision (see Chapter 6.1.).[130] Among the Slovak Republic's most significant initiatives specifically targeting unaccompanied minors – irrespective of whether they are seeking international protection or not – was the 2025 launch of a new national AMIF project entitled *Support for the integration and implementation of measures for the social and legal protection of children and social guardianship for unaccompanied minors in the Slovak Republic* (see Chapter 6.1).[131]

125 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
126 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
127 Slov-lex.sk, Draft Act on International Protection and on Amendments to Certain Acts (LP/2025/505), accessed 21 January 2026.
128 Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, press release, Ministry of the Interior Has Prepared New Legislation on International Protection to Replace the Current Asylum Act, 2026, accessed 21 January 2026.
129 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
130 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
131 Partnership Map, Details of the Call for Proposals: Support for the Integration and Implementation of Measures for the Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship for Unaccompanied Minorshttps://mapapartnerstva.gov.sk/?vyzvy=podpora-integracie-a-vykonu-opatreni-socialnopravnej-ochrany-deti-a-socialnej-kurately-pre-maloletych-bez-sprievodu, accessed 13 March 2026.

4.3. Reception and care for asylum seekers

In 2025, the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic addressed the challenges facing applicants for international protection and beneficiaries of temporary protection accommodated in asylum facilities who suffer from serious health conditions. Asylum facilities of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic operated under the remit of the Migration Office are not designated social care facilities (with tailored infrastructure and specialised healthcare and social personnel), for applicants for international protection who are in need of specialised health and social services bearing in mind their health condition. This constraint equally impacts certain beneficiaries of temporary protection who, despite holding a status distinct from international protection, have been placed in asylum facilities due to their acute vulnerability. Unlike Slovak citizens, applicants for international protection do not hold public health insurance and, under current legislation, are ineligible for admission to social care facilities. Consequently, in December 2025, the Migration Office – utilising the EMN Slovakia network – initiated discussions among state institutions, local authorities, and support organisations on how to enhance the care for this group of vulnerable migrants. To inform these deliberations, the Office also drew upon responses provided by other EU Member States[132] to an ad-hoc query compiled by EMN Slovakia.[133]

The Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic acknowledged that asylum seekers residing outside asylum facilities (whether on long-term leave or holding a valid residence permit in the Slovak Republic) faced restricted access to specialist services, information, and counselling. Accordingly, with financial support from the EU,[134] from April 2025 the Office commenced the provision of specialist services to asylum seekers accommodated outside asylum facilities across Slovakia by means of a dedicated *mobile team*.[135] Team members provided psychological counselling and interventions, cultural mediation, and social guidance – including practical information to help asylum seekers navigate the asylum procedure, the labour market, and local cultural realities. Alongside web site, an information leaflet detailing the mobile team's services was made available in Slovak[136] and Russian[137].[138]

In 2025, the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic worked to enhance the accessibility of information regarding the vulnerabilities and specific needs of individual asylum seekers, while streamlining the exchange of such data among relevant Migration Office personnel. Consequently, a restricted-access section was established within IS MIGRA – the national information system for migration and international protection shared by the BBFP PFP and Migration Office. This module is dedicated to recording identified vulnerabilities and special needs, including their potential impact on reception conditions and procedural safeguards. In addition, the Migration Office closed its under-utilised reception centres located at Košice Airport and Poprad Airport.

132 European Migration Network (EMN), Ad-hoc query on 2025.40 care of international protection applicants & beneficiaries of temporary protection in asylum facilities with serious health condition, accessed 21 January 2026.
133 European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, How to Improve Care for Foreign Nationals in Asylum Facilities with Serious Health Problems? EMN Slovakia Has Initiated a Discussion Involving State Institutions, Local Authorities and Aid Organisations, accessed 21 January 2026.
134 AMIF National Project 'Assistance and Support', The Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic is currently involved in the following projects, accessed 21 January 2026. Code: NFP408010A439. Duration: December 2024 – November 2029.
135 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Mobile Team for Asylum Seekers, accessed 21 January 2026.
136 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Mobile Team – Your Journey, Our Mission (information leaflet), accessed 21 January 2026.
137 Migration Office of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, Mobile Team – Your Journey, Our Mission (information leaflet), accessed 21 January 2026.
138 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

In 2025, as in previous years, several projects supporting applicants for international protection were implemented in the Slovak Republic, primarily with support from the European AMIF fund. These comprised a combination of state-funded initiatives run by the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, national projects, and projects delivered by non-governmental organisations, providing supplementary services, care, and integration support.[139]

4.4. Integration of persons granted international protection

As with asylum seekers, the needs of persons granted asylum or subsidiary protection in Slovakia in 2025 were addressed through ongoing multi-annual projects funded by the AMIF. Implemented by state bodies and the non-profit sector, these projects focused on social, economic, and community integration.[140]

In 2025, the Slovak Republic did not participate in any European or bilateral relocation initiatives (see Table 16). Similarly, it implemented no resettlement or other admission schemes for refugees from non-EU countries (see Table 17), nor did it conduct any special humanitarian transfers of refugees through its territory (see Table 18).[141]

During 2025, the Slovak Republic continued to execute Dublin transfers to states applying the Dublin Regulation, provided that requests for take-back or acceptance were accepted by the requested Member State and that decisions were enforceable under applicable Slovak legislation. In 46 cases, individuals were transferred to the territory of the Slovak Republic for further proceedings, primarily from Germany, Norway, Austria, and Sweden. Conversely, the Slovak Republic transferred 23 individuals from its territory to the responsible Member States, notably Germany, Sweden, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, and Austria.[142]

4.5. Cooperation with EU and non-EU countries

Cooperation with EU agencies and EU Member States

In preparation for implementing EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic carried out a range of measures in 2025 and participated in working meetings with representatives of the European Commission and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), including the EUAA Monitoring Network. Under the multiannual monitoring programme for 2026-2030, the Slovak Republic's asylum and reception system is scheduled to undergo EU monitoring in the second half of 2026, immediately following the expiry of the implementation period for new measures arising from EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. For this reason, several bilateral meetings were initiated and conducted, including discussions with representatives from Estonia and the Netherlands (pilot countries for the monitoring exercise). In cooperation with the Czech Republic, a bilateral training session was delivered for decision-makers, focusing on the EUAA module concerning the assessment and evaluation

139 Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Current Projects, accessed 13 March 2026.
140 Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Current Projects, accessed 13 March 2026.
141 Since 2009, the Slovak Republic has carried out special humanitarian transfers of refugees in cooperation with UNHCR and IOM. The most recent trilateral Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic, UNHCR and IOM on the Humanitarian Transfer of Refugees in Need of International Protection via the Slovak Republic was concluded on 18 November 2015 and has not been renewed.
142 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

of evidence in asylum proceedings. Eight Czech and eight Slovak decision-makers participated in the joint training session.

On 22-23 October 2025, a workshop titled *Against Radicalisation* was held following a meeting of contact points for the V4 Migration Crisis Response Mechanism platform. Alongside platform representatives, the workshop was attended by delegates from the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with a representative from Comenius University in Bratislava and officials from the Counter-Terrorism Centre of the Police Force Presidium.

During 2025, the Slovak Republic deployed experts from the Migration Office on 12 occasions. These comprised: three deployments to Cyprus (expert in registration and experts reception); two to Bulgaria (experts in asylum information provision and expert in vulnerability); five to Italy (as Dublin Regulation experts); one to Germany (as a Dublin Regulation expert); and one to Romania (as a registration expert).

The Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic serves as the national contact point for EUAA training. As part of ongoing capacity-building efforts, a total of 88 participants were registered for EUAA training activities in 2025, comprising 59 staff members from the Migration Office, 12 from the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police, and 17 from partner non-governmental organisations operating primarily in the area of reception. Participants attended courses and modules organised directly by the EUAA or undertook training delivered through national programmes utilising EUAA modules. Five national training sessions were held during the year, covering the following modules: *Application of Exclusion Clauses who are not Entitled to International Protection*; *Working with Interpreters*; *Introduction to Vulnerability; Introduction to Communication for Asylum and Reception Personnel*; and *Introduction to Ethical and Professional Standards*. Furthermore, a joint regional training session was conducted with asylum officers from the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic, focusing specifically on the EUAA module *Assessment of Evidence*. Two Migration Office employees completed the dedicated EUAA module for trainers.[143]

Cooperation with non-EU countries

Given constraints on staffing and financial resources, participation in activities and projects involving non-EU countries was limited in 2025.

At the beginning of 2025, the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic decided to participate in the European Union Agency for Asylum's (EUAA) Regional Protection Project for the Southern Neighbourhood (RPSN), which runs from 2024 to 2029. Implemented in cooperation with the EUAA, this initiative focuses on capacity-building in the fields of migration and asylum across partner countries in North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia) through dedicated training sessions and workshops. The training activities, workshops, and study visits themselves are scheduled to take place between 2026 and 2029.

On 26-27 November 2025, a conference was held in Malta to mark the official launch of the EUAA's Regional Protection Project for the Southern Neighbourhood, attended by a representative from the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.[144]

143 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
144 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

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Further details on the integration of persons granted international protection, as well as initiatives to raise awareness of forced and irregular migration, are set out in Chapter 7. Legislative changes, policy measures, and actions addressing the situation of individuals fleeing the war in Ukraine – including those granted displaced person status – are detailed in Chapter 5.

05

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

5.1. Statistics

In 2025, border entries from Ukraine remained broadly consistent with figures recorded in 2023 and 2024. The Slovak Republic registered 992 377 entries from Ukraine in 2025, compared with 993 882 in 2024 and 977 227 in 2023 (see Table 19). Departures from the Slovak Republic to Ukraine likewise remained relatively stable across the 2023-2025 period, with 1 037 946 departures recorded in 2023, 1 086 657 in 2024, and 1 156 303 in 2025 (see Table 20).[145]

In 2025, a total of 17 313 individuals applied for temporary protection, continuing a downward trend observed since 2022. By comparison, 26 743 applications were submitted in 2024, 30 180 in 2023, and 104 764 in 2022 (see Table 21). As at 31 December 2025[146], the Slovak Republic recorded 139 640 foreigners holding valid tolerated residence status for the purpose of temporary protection.[147]

Ukrainian nationals constituted the largest group of foreigners in Slovakia prior to the outbreak of the war in Ukraine – a demographic reality reflected across all spheres of integration, includ-

145 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
146 From 1 March 2022.
147 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.

ing the education sector. Ukrainian citizens (see Table 8) form by far the largest proportion of foreigners in the Slovak school system across all tiers, encompassing nursery, primary, secondary, and higher education. In 2021, there were 8 595 foreigners (including EU citizens) enrolled in the Slovak education system; by 2022, this figure had risen to 19 385, of whom 13 607 were Ukrainian nationals. By 2023, the total had reached 42 469 foreigners (including EU citizens), with Ukrainian nationals accounting for over 58%. In 2024, the figure increased further – albeit at a more moderate pace – to 48 238 foreigners (including EU citizens), of whom more than 61% were from Ukraine. By 2025, a further rise brought the number of foreigners (including EU citizens) in the Slovak education system to 54 206, with Ukrainian citizens comprising 63% of the total.[148]

5.2. Policies and legislation

In comparison with 2024, 2025 saw no legislative changes of similar magnitude impacting the residency and daily lives of beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine. During 2025, beneficiaries of temporary protection were primarily affected by legislative changes in the fields of education and, to a lesser extent, accommodation; these measures are detailed in the subsequent chapters.

5.3. Legal status

Pursuant to Slovak Government Resolution No. 185 of 16 March 2022, the provision of temporary protection was automatically extended until 4 March 2026.

From 15 December 2024, taking full effect in 2025, beneficiaries of temporary protection began to be issued with three-year identity cards in plastic format as proof of residence.

Beneficiaries of temporary protection holding paper documentation – namely the A4 paper confirmation of temporary protection – who have not yet obtained a plastic identity card may continue to update their details via the online service.

Applications for temporary protection may be lodged at any Foreign Police Department, irrespective of the applicant's intended place of residence.[149]

5.4. Measures taken to implement the Temporary Protection Directive – Access to rights

5.4.1. Access to accommodation

In 2025, further adjustments were made to the entitlement period for the accommodation allowance, alongside a reduction in the maximum duration of stay permitted in asylum facilities. These changes excluded vulnerable persons, for whom specific arrangements regarding allowances and accommodation in asylum facilities remain in force.

148 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.
149 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.

To encourage faster integration into the workforce and wider society, Slovak Government Regulation No. 36/2025 Coll.[150] (amending Regulation No. 151/2024 Z. z.) reduced the period for which the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic provides an accommodation allowance – disbursed via local authorities – from 120 to 60 days, effective from 1 March 2025. This reduction does not apply to vulnerable individuals, defined as: recipients of assistance in material need, persons with severe disabilities, individuals aged 65 and over, children under five years of age, and their parents or carers. The allowance rate remains unchanged for all categories.[151, 152]

Simultaneously, with effect from 1 March 2025, the maximum period for which a beneficiary of temporary protection may be accommodated in an asylum facility was reduced from 120 days to 60 days following the initial first registration of temporary protection in the Slovak Republic.[153] This time limit does not apply to vulnerable persons as defined for this purpose under the Asylum Act – namely individuals who have reached the age of 65, single parents caring for a child under five years of age, or individuals personally caring for a child under five pursuant to a court decision, together with the child concerned.[154,155]

Regarding the accommodation allowance for beneficiaries of temporary protection, a legislative mechanism introduced under Slovak Government Regulation No. 151/2024 took effect on 1 March 2025, enabling local authorities to claim reimbursement for costs incurred in providing accommodation to vulnerable beneficiaries of temporary protection. This mechanism established a clearer division of responsibilities between central and local government, positioning local authorities as direct service providers while the state supplies the requisite funding. Consequently, it has reinforced the role of local authorities as key actors in delivering suitable accommodation for vulnerable beneficiaries of temporary protection.[156]

5.4.2. Access to healthcare

No significant changes were introduced regarding access to healthcare in 2025.[157]

5.4.3. Access to social support

No significant changes were introduced regarding access to social support in 2025.[158]

To meet the basic needs of vulnerable beneficiaries of temporary protection during the winter months, IOM Slovakia implemented a targeted financial assistance programme in the fourth quarter of 2025, reaching more than 530 households (917 individuals). The programme was developed in coordination with UNHCR and other partners in accordance with the national humanitarian framework. Eligible households received a one-off payment of EUR 150 per person (up to a maximum of EUR 400 per family) to cover essential expenses such as heating, food,

150 Slovak Government Regulation No. 36/2025, Coll., accessed 19 March 2026.
151 The contribution for accommodation in residential premises is set at EUR 5 per night per person (regardless of age), and at EUR 6 per night per person in non-residential premises. Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, Information on the Accommodation Allowance for Foreigners Under the Act on International Protection, accessed 19 March 2026.
152 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
153 Act No. 342/2024 Coll., amending the Act on the Residence of Foreigners and the Act on Asylum
154 Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on Amendments to Certain Acts, accessed 19 March 2026.
155 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
156 Union of Slovak Towns.
157 Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
158 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.

clothing, and medicines. Assistance was restricted to individuals previously registered with UNHCR under the Cash for Protection programme (2024-2025) and to households with members aged 60 or over who had health or other specific needs.[159]

5.4.4. Access to education

In 2025, several amendments were made to the Education Act[160] and the Higher Education Act[161] (the majority of which will enter into force on 1 January 2026), directly affecting beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine. As these measures apply to foreigners in general, they are detailed in Chapter 7 (*Integration and inclusion of migrants*).

To resolve ambiguities, address low participation rates among children – beneficiaries of temporary protection, and ensure their prompt, equal, and systematic integration into the Slovak education system, compulsory education was introduced under the Education Act[162] for children – beneficiaries of temporary protection of pre-primary and compulsory school age. This obligation is governed by a transitional provision applying for the duration of the state of emergency declared in connection with the mass influx of foreigners into the territory of the Slovak Republic caused by the armed conflict in Ukraine.

In this context, a requirement was introduced for local authorities – effective from 1 January 2025 – to maintain a register of beneficiaries of temporary protection of compulsory pre-primary and compulsory school age holding an address of temporary protection within the municipality, alongside records of the schools they attend.[163]

To ensure the prompt and appropriate enrolment of foreign national children following application, as well as to support their integration and educational opportunities, an amendment to the Education Act taking effect on 1 January 2026[164] revised among other things the administrative timeline. Under these provisions, foreign national children[165] who do not hold permanent residence in the Slovak Republic are to be placed without delay into the relevant year group by the headteacher, following an assessment of their current educational level and proficiency in the language of instruction.

Legislation in force prior to 1 January 2026 stipulated that children of asylum seekers and foreign nationals granted subsidiary protection were to be placed in school no later than three months from the commencement of the asylum procedure. For children of beneficiaries of temporary protection, a three-month deadline applied from the initiation of the procedure for granting temporary protection.[166]

159 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
160 Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Upbringing and Education (the Education Act) and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, accessed 19 March 2026.
161 Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, accessed 19 March 2026.
162 Amendment to Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Education and Training (the Education Act), Section 161r(4), (5) and (6), by Act No. 290/2024, which was passed back in 2024.
163 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.
164 Act No. 323/2025 Coll., amending Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Upbringing and Education (the Education Act).
165 Under the provisions of this Act, these children include:
a) Citizens of another state or stateless persons with authorised residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic,
b) Applicants for asylum in the territory of the Slovak Republic under special regulation,
c) Slovaks living abroad,
d) Applicants for Asylum under special regulation,
e) Unaccompanied foreign minors present in the territory of the Slovak Republic without a legal guardian,
166 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

Additionally, in 2025, the web portal Ukraine.minedu.sk[167] was updated to provide parents, teachers, and headteachers with clear, up-to-date guidance, procedures, and support regarding the education of Ukrainian children in Slovakia.[168]

5.4.5. Access to the labour market

In 2025, minor changes were introduced regarding access to the labour market for teaching staff who are foreigners, including beneficiaries of temporary protection. As these changes apply to foreigners in general, they are detailed in Chapter 7 (*Integration and inclusion of migrants*).

5.5. Measures outside the scope of the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive

There were no changes in 2025 regarding the assisted voluntary return programme operated by IOM Slovakia. Ukraine remained on the list of countries to which assisted voluntary returns organised by IOM Slovakia could not be carried out. [169]

Similarly, no changes occurred in the areas of family reunification or guardianship.[170]

5.6. Cooperation with international and non-governmental organisations and other activities relating to beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine

In 2025, international and non-governmental organisations continued to play a significant role in assisting beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine, cooperating with state actors across various areas. Given the ongoing war in Ukraine and the continued presence of Ukrainian citizens in the Slovak Republic, local authorities likewise played a key role in their integration.

A further example of cooperation between state authorities, non-governmental and international organisations was the Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025-2026,[171] developed with the involvement of non-governmental organisations, refugee-led entities, and UN agencies across the region. The plan aims to assist refugees in leading stable, independent lives in host countries, whilst harmonising international and national support systems. In contrast to previous plans, the 2025-2026 Plan marks a strategic shift away from emergency response and immediate relief towards long-term solutions, inclusion, stability, and self-reliance for beneficiaries of temporary protection. Its core pillars comprise: a) protection, legal status, security, and access to rights, with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups; b) integration into national systems such as access to education for children, public healthcare, and entry into the labour market; c) coordination and

167 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic, Information on the Education of Children and Pupils from Ukraine in Slovakia, accessed 19 March 2026.
168 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.
169 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
170 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, and Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic.
171 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025 – 2026, 2025, accessed 19 March 2026.

funding by structured collaboration between government bodies, non-governmental organisations, and UN agencies.[172]

During 2025, Human Rights League continued its project with the international organisation Kids in Need of Defence (KIND), entitled 'Suzir'ya', aimed at protecting minors. Under this initiative, legal support is provided to children and young people displaced from Ukraine who may be at risk, or who may be victims of or witnesses to war-related crimes, including human trafficking, exploitation, and other grave international crimes.[173]

As part of its publishing activities, the Slovak Academy of Sciences published a report in 2025 entitled *People from Ukraine in Slovakia: From reception to integration – A social survey of Ukrainian migrants in Slovakia*. Based on a quantitative survey and qualitative research (focus groups), the report examines employment and economic activity, family and caregiving responsibilities, social support networks, and integration processes. The report finds that a significant proportion of migrants, particularly women and single mothers, face challenges relating to childcare, limited access to formal care services, and precarious working conditions. Many work in roles below their qualification level and earn wages below the Slovak average, frequently in temporary or informal employment. Despite high rates of economic activity (with 67% of respondents in employment), language and institutional barriers persist, hindering full integration. The report highlights the critical role played by social and transnational networks in providing care, emotional support, and economic survival. Its findings point to the need for targeted policies that address family vulnerability, improve access to care infrastructure, support labour market integration, and strengthen community ties.[174]

In 2025, Human Rights League published *The Legal Framework for Temporary Protection: A Legal Response to the Mass Influx of People as a Result of Russian Aggression in Ukraine – National Report – Slovakia*. The publication analyses the legal instruments adopted by public authorities in response to the influx of people from Ukraine across the Visegrad Four (V4) countries, comparing legislative solutions and proposing recommendations for states handling similar challenges in future.[175]

Other initiatives that were specifically designed for beneficiaries of temporary protection during earlier years of the war have progressively been integrated into broader services available to all foreigners; these are consequently detailed in Chapter 7 (*Integration and inclusion of migrants)*.

172 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
173 Human Rights League, project Suzir'ya, accessed 27 March 2026.
174 Slovak Academy of Sciences, People from Ukraine in Slovakia: From Reception to Integration – A Social Survey of Ukrainian Migrants in Slovakia, 2025, accessed 19 March 2026.
175 Human Rights League, The Legal Framework for Temporary Protection: A Legal Response to the Mass Influx of People as a Result of Russian Aggression in Ukraine – National Report – Slovakia, 2025, accessed 19 March 2026.

06

Unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups

6.1. Unaccompanied minors

Statistics and trends

The number of unaccompanied minors in the Slovak Republic increased steadily between 2021 and 2022, rising from 183 new placements in 2021 to 270 in 2022. In 2023, the figure fell to 179, and this sharp downward trend continued into 2024, when only 13 new placements were recorded. In 2025, a slight uptick occurred, with 25 unaccompanied minors newly placed in facilities. In 2025, the largest groups of unaccompanied minors comprised Ukrainian and Afghan nationals. This marked a shift from previous years, as Syrian nationals were no longer among the primary origin groups of new arrivals.

Between 2021 and 2022, primarily as a result of the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the number of children for whom the Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship (SLPCSG) authorities implemented measures increased from 194 in 2021 to 290 in 2022. In 2023, the figure fell to 245, and this downward trend continued into 2024 – when SLPCSG authorities implemented measures for 48 unaccompanied minors – and into 2025, when 31 unaccompanied minors were subject to such measures. Previous years were characterised by a high rate of departures by unaccompanied minors from care facilities; in 2024, for instance, 11 departures were

recorded, accounting for approximately 85% of the unaccompanied minors for whom SLPCSG authorities implemented measures. In 2025, however, only a single departure was recorded (see Table 23).[176]

In 2025, six unaccompanied minors (24% of new placements) applied for asylum, representing an increase compared with 2024, when only two applied accounting for 15% of new placements (see Table 22). Overall, the volume of asylum applications submitted by unaccompanied minors remains low. In 2023, 15 unaccompanied minors (6%) applied for asylum; in 2022, nine applications were lodged (3% of all unaccompanied minors); and in 2021, 21 unaccompanied minors applied (12%).[177]

Policy, legislation, and measures

To ensure effective, accessible legal aid and representation for unaccompanied minors in asylum proceedings from the first instance, as well as to safeguard their rights and best interest of child, provision was made – with effect from 1 July 2025 – for unaccompanied minors to receive legal aid through the Legal Aid Centre. This entitlement applies where an application for legal aid in an asylum case has been submitted either by the minor directly or via a court-appointed guardian, provided the minor does not already have legal representation in those proceedings.[178] This legislative amendment introduces, for the first time, legal representation for unaccompanied minors from the first instance of the asylum procedure through to the final conclusion of proceedings.[179]

During 2025, a new Act on International Protection was drafted. Among other matters, the legislation addresses the multidisciplinary age assessment of minors within asylum proceedings, in line with the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union. In this context, stakeholder consultations were conducted during 2025 and draft procedures established to ensure a fair, professional, and uniform age assessment process. These procedures take account of the applicant's psychosocial circumstances, safeguard the rights of minors, and ensure medical examinations are utilized as a last resort.[180]

Other measures

In 2025, under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, implementation commenced on a project entitled *Support for the integration and implementation of measures for the social and legal protection of children and social guardianship for unaccompanied minors in the Slovak Republic*.[181] The primary objective of the project is to carry out physical and technical alterations to expand capacity and create specialised spaces at the Centre for Children and Families on Röntgenova Street in Bratislava. These works will support the establishment of dedicated groups for unaccompanied minors and young adults, enhance the quality of care provided, and foster

176 Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.
177 Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.
178 Act No. 98/2025 Coll., amending Act No. 327/2005 Coll. on the Provision of Legal Aid to Persons in Material Need and Amending Act No. 586/2003 Coll. on the Legal Profession and Amending Act No. 455/1991 Coll. on Small Business (the Small Business Act), as amended, and Amending Certain Acts.
179 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.
180 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
181 ITMS21+, projekt 'Support for the Integration and Implementation of Measures for the Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship for Unaccompanied Minors in the Slovak Republic', accessed 23 March 2026.

their integration into society. During 2025, physical and technical refurbishment works were undertaken at the premises, including the creation of separate accommodation units for unaccompanied minors and young adults, the modernisation of sanitary facilities, and the provision of a dedicated activity room and sports facilities. Previously, the sole Centre for Children and Families for unaccompanied minors and young adults was located in Medzilaborce in eastern Slovakia. The objective is to progressively shift the focus of care for unaccompanied minors and young adults to the Bratislava region, where enhanced access to educational institutions, interpreters, and migrant communities provides significantly better conditions for integration – opportunities that are objectively limited in Medzilaborce.[182]

In 2025, the IOM Migration Information Centre continued to provide vital support to unaccompanied minors at the Centre for Children and Families in Medzilaborce. Its efforts focused on ensuring the continuity of legal counselling, interpreting, and socio-cultural mediation services. Given the lower number of minors residing at the centre, assistance was concentrated on these core areas, with provision limited to the aforementioned support without the implementation of further specific activities.[183]

6.2. Other vulnerable groups

No legislative or policy changes took place in this area during 2025.[184]

182 Foreign Aid Department of the Financing and Budget Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, and Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.
183 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
184 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.

07

Integration and inclusion of migrants

7.1. Integration of third-country nationals

7.1.1. Policies, legislation, and coordination

In 2025, several changes occurred in the area of integration and inclusion, spanning both legislation and strategic policy frameworks.

In June 2025, the *National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management*[185] was adopted, featuring a dedicated chapter on integration. Within this area, the Slovak Republic set out to establish an effective system supporting the integration of foreigners lawfully residing within its territory. Grounded within this framework, the document specifies that the Slovak Republic favours an integration model based on foreigners complying with generally binding legislation, respecting cultural norms, and state language. It emphasises that integration is a continuous, long-term, and dynamic process requiring reciprocal effort from foreigners and from the state through the provision of necessary conditions. Integration measures are designed to establish coordinated, interconnected mechanisms enabling foreigners to enter the labour market, master the state language, access education, healthcare, social services, and housing, and participate in civic and political life – potentially leading to the acquisition of Slovak citizenship (see Section 2.1.).[186]

185 Government Office of the Slovak Republic, National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management, 2025, accessed 21 January 2026.
186 Government Office of the Slovak Republic, National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management, 2025, accessed 26 January 2026.

Thanks primarily to the sustained, systematic efforts of the non-governmental sector, international organisations, and local authorities, strategic policy documents have been adopted at the local level. These documents respond both to the growing number of foreigners in the Slovak Republic – whether driven by the war in Ukraine or expanding employment opportunities – and to the pressing need for greater municipal involvement in foreigners' integration. The adoption of these strategic documents addresses both the emerging challenges and the opportunities presented by an increasing foreign population, requiring a comprehensive and structured approach.[187]

In 2025, the City of Trnava adopted the *Strategy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the City of Trnava 2025-2035*.[188] Alongside the municipal authority, the drafting process engaged regional public and state bodies, non-profit organisations, the private sector, representatives of foreign communities, and migrants themselves – including pupils, students, families, foreign workers, and community members with personal experience of integration – as well as bigger or smaller local organisations and institutions. Drafting the strategic document through this participatory process aimed to create a sustainable framework for the systematic involvement of all relevant stakeholders in developing and implementing integration policy, ensure the strategy is grounded directly in the lived experiences and needs of migrants residing in Trnava, alongside the expertise of local actors, strengthen the municipal authority's networking role across the public, state, non-profit, and private sectors and establish a platform for the ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and adjustment of integration measures based on practical feedback.[189]

Concurrently, in 2025, Michalovce City Council approved the *Strategy for the Integration of Foreigners and Refugees*[190], establishing the integration of foreigners as one of the municipality's primary strategic priorities. Prešov City Council approved the *Strategy for the Integration of Foreigners in the City of Prešov to 2030 (with an outlook to 2035)*, establishing a framework to coordinate services across employment, education, social support, housing, and community integration.[191]

In 2025, the City of Nitra reinforced its structured approach to foreigners' integration by formulating an *Action Plan for the Integration of Foreigners* to complement its existing 2024 Strategy for the Integration of Foreigners.[192] Both the Strategy and the subsequent Action Plan address the city's growing foreign population alongside the prolonged emergency situation arising from the war in Ukraine. The Action Plan defines concrete measures concerning access to information and services, education, employment, health and social care provision, and community integration. [193]

187 The preparation of local strategic integration documents and the operation of municipal integration centres in 2025 was supported financially under the Operational Programme Slovakia – Operačný Program Slovensko ('Support for the socio-economic integration of third-country nationals, including migrants').

188 City of Trnava, Strategy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the City of Trnava for 2025–2035, 2025, accessed 13 January 2026 (also available in English and Ukrainian).

189 As of 30 June 2025, the City of Trnava recorded 12 001 third-country nationals (16% of the total municipal population), representing a 62% increase since 2022. Source: City of Trnava.

190 City of Michalovce, Strategy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals and Refugees in the City of Michalovce, 2025, accessed 10 March 2026.

191 City of Michalovce and City of Prešov.

192 In 2024, the City of Nitra adopted Strategy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals (including Refugees and Displaced Persons) in the City of Nitra with a View to 2035, 2024, accessed 10 March 2026.

193 City of Nitra. The Action Plan was drawn up within the context of a Technical Support Instrument (TSI) project entitled ‚Support for local authorities in improving access to high-quality and inclusive services for children and their families of refugee and foreign origin: a shift from an emergency approach to long-term inclusion strategies'. Implemented in the cities of Nitra and Bratislava in partnership with UNICEF and the Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (CVEK), the initiative supports data collection systems, local inclusion strategies, and intercultural communication training for municipal staff. Source: City of Nitra, accessed 11 March 2026.

From a legislative perspective, several laws enacted in 2025 had a direct impact on integration and inclusion within education.

To enable schools to systematically address linguistic and educational deficits among pupils and facilitate their seamless integration into mainstream education, an amendment to the Education Act – which came into force on 1 January 2025[194] – permitted primary schools to establish adaptation classes. These classes are designed to bridge learning gaps for pupils who lack sufficient command of the language of instruction. The amendment also clarified the specific cohort of children for whom placement in an adaptation class is appropriate. A subsequent amendment to the Education Act, enacted in October 2025 and coming into force on 1 January 2026[195], opens the possibility to establish adaptation classes to secondary schools. This legislative change responds to the rising number of pupils – particularly children of foreign nationals and beneficiaries of temporary protection – with insufficient proficiency in the language of instruction, a barrier that hinders full classroom participation and increases the risk of academic failure and exclusion.[196]

This amendment to the Education Act – enacted in October 2025 and taking effect from 1 January 2026[197] –introduced further measures in support of integration.

Specifically, the amendment permits minor foreigners to remain in boarding accommodation during school and public holidays. The objective is to remove barriers to educational access caused by the loss of accommodation during holiday periods, thereby establishing appropriate conditions for their equal integration into the education system.[198]

The amendment also enables foreigners to sit a language examination in the state language in lieu of taking the school-leaving examination in Slovak language and literature. Depending on the circumstances, this examination may be taken at a language school, at the pupil's secondary school, or at a higher education institution offering an accredited study programme focused on the state language. The measure aims to dismantle language barriers within the school-leaving examination for foreigners, which could otherwise impede their ability to complete secondary education and hinder their integration into the Slovak education system.[199]

To ensure equal access to financial support for school attendance for all pupils, regardless of nationality or residence status, the amendment extends the transport allowance – covering travel to school – to foreign nationals.[200]

An amendment to the Higher Education Act – enacted in October 2025 and taking effect from 1 September 2026[201] – introduced a provision enabling study applicants and students to exercise the rights and fulfil the obligations arising from this Act independently upon reaching 16 years of age. In recent years, the enrolment of international students aged 16 or 17 across Slovak higher education institutions has risen. Previously, study-related administrative documents required signature by a legal guardian, or institutions were obliged to liaise with parents resid-

194 Section 29(14) of Act No. 323/2025 Coll.
195 Act No. 323/2025 Coll. of 21 October 2025.
196 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.
197 Act No. 323/2025 Coll. of 21 October 2025.
198 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.
199 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.
200 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.
201 Act No. 300/2025 Coll. of 21 October 2025.

ing abroad – a requirement that significantly protracted the entire process. Under the amended legislation, higher education institutions can now deal directly with the student without requiring individual powers of attorney or the involvement of legal guardians.[202]

An amendment to Act No. 138/2019 Coll. on Teaching Staff and Specialist Staff,[203] taking effect from 1 January 2026, introduces a simplified procedure for employing teaching and specialist staff from Ukraine, and foreign nationals generally. It waives the requirement for staff to be proficient in the state language or a national minority language when providing education, training, or specialist support to children of foreign nationals who do not speak those languages. The amendment aims to allow schools to flexibly recruit personnel to work with foreign pupils without requiring proficiency in the official language, thereby ensuring high-quality, inclusive teaching.[204]

To address the growing number of foreigners and the corresponding need to re-establish coordination across government departments, local authorities, the voluntary sector, and employers regarding labour migration and integration, a meeting of the Interministerial Expert Commission for Labour Migration and Integration of Foreigners (MEKOMIC) within the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic was convened in November 2025, supported by the European Migration Network (EMN). Alongside state bodies, attendees included representatives from local authorities, employers' associations, the non-profit sector, and international organisations. The meeting sought to examine current developments in labour mobility and the integration of foreigners into the Slovak labour market, as well as to evaluate proposals for future initiatives in this area.[205]

7.1.2. Measures to Promote Integration

In 2025, integration support continued to be delivered primarily through project-based activities, accompanied by measures aimed at strengthening capacity at both national and local levels. These projects encompassed diverse aspects of integration – ranging from direct assistance for foreign nationals (such as counselling services and language courses) to initiatives fostering policy formulation, measures, and a more sensitive public discourse. Concurrently, the practice of aligning support mechanisms originally established specifically for beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine with broader initiatives accessible to all foreigners continued.

Provision of Information, Counselling, and Integration Support

During 2025, the Foreigners' Service Centres reached full operational capacity. Established under the Recovery and Resilience Plan, the centres formally commenced operations at the end of 2024 across three regional capitals – Bratislava, Žilina, and Košice – located within Foreign Police Departments. The centres provide specialist, coordinated services for international students, highly qualified workers, individuals holding Slovak Living Abroad status, returning citizens, and their family members. By operating within Foreign Police Departments, they provide a unique link between integration activities and practical solutions concerning the residence status of the

202 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.
203 Act No. 325/2025 Coll. of 21 October 2025.
204 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic.
205 European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, EMN Slovakia Supported a Meeting of the Interministerial Expert Commission for Labour Migration and the Integration of Foreigners (MEKOMIC), 2025, accessed 29 January 2026.

target group, under the so-called "one-stop shop" approach, meaning that clients can obtain the necessary information and assistance in one place. Their services cover the complete process of arrival and integration in Slovakia – from initial contact and counselling on visas and residence permits to social and labour market integration, alongside everyday practical counselling related to the life in the new country. Throughout 2025, the centres established systematic cooperation with universities, educational institutions, and partner organisations, delivering targeted training and educational activities for both staff and international students, while actively building partnerships with regional and local authorities. [206]

In 2025, implementation of the national project *Provision of Information AMIF 2021–2027* progressed alongside the deployment of the necessary staffing capacity. The project aims to operate a dedicated unit providing information via telephone, written correspondence, the website of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, and published information materials. Its target audience primarily comprises foreigners, Slovak citizens, statutory and non-governmental institutions, national and international bodies, and third-sector organisations (see Section 3.8.).[207] The project contributes significantly to raising awareness among foreigners residing in the Slovak Republic. Staff on the nationwide helpline are available every working day between 8 A.M. and 2 P.M., whilst foreigners may also submit written enquiries.[208] Information is provided in English, Russian, and Hungarian. Foreigners receive guidance on securing online appointments with Foreign Police Departments, navigating electronic communication channels – including the online submission of applications – and fulfilling documentation requirements for residence applications.[209]

The effective integration of foreigners is inextricably linked to the active involvement of municipalities, local authorities, and non-governmental organisations, as well as their close, collaborative working with state institutions. Local authorities and non-governmental bodies have long played – and continue to play – a pivotal role in supporting long-term integration and delivering initiatives for the benefit of foreigners.

In this context, implementation of the national project *Integration of Third-Country Nationals, Including Migrants* – funded under the Programme Slovakia (Program Slovensko) call for proposals – continued throughout 2025.[210] The project finances a range of initiatives delivered by local authorities and non-governmental organisations to foster the socio-economic integration of the target group. Its objective is to facilitate social interaction, improve access to services, and promote inclusion across key sectors, specifically education, housing, employment, healthcare, and social care. Eligible activities encompass general information and counselling services, measures to enhance the effectiveness of integration delivery, community-level programmes, community development, and public awareness campaigns. Furthermore, provision is made for methodological guidance, coordination, and training initiatives.[211]

206 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
207 Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatisation of the Slovak Republic, project Provision of Information on AMIF 2021-2027, accessed 12 March 2026.
208 Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Provision of Information to Foreign Nationals, accessed 2 June 2026.
209 Foreign Assistance Department of the Finance and Budget Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
210 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, 'Integration of Third-Country Nationals, Including Migrants', (project duration: 1 January 2024 – 31 August 2026), accessed 12 March 2026.
211 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.

This support encompasses the ongoing operation of integration centres in Bratislava, Nitra, Trnava, Košice, and Prešov, alongside the establishment of a new centre in Žilina (*Žilinský Maják*)[212] and the incorporation of the Michalovce centre into the municipal social services system, building on initial support provided by UNICEF. [213] In 2025, these integration counselling centres[214] were brought together under the auspices of the Union of Slovak Cities, with expert support from UNHCR, to establish the "Safe Point" network. This serves as a formal platform for existing integration centres catering to refugees and foreigners across Slovakia. [215] The centres served as an initial point of contact and orientation, helping clients navigate matters relating to residence, employment, housing, healthcare, social security, and access to education. They assisted with communications involving public authorities, employers, and medical professionals, while supporting families with the enrolment and integration of children into the school system. Their activities also encompassed assistance in securing accommodation, administering housing allowances for beneficiaries of temporary protection, and organising community, educational, and integration events designed to foster interaction between foreigners and the local communities. Concurrently, the centres worked in close partnership with public institutions, schools, universities, employers, and non-governmental organisations – including Mareena, the Human Rights League, and the Slovak Humanitarian Council – which provided ongoing operational support. The centres also contributed to formulating local integration strategies and action plans. Through these efforts, they improved service coordination, enhanced access to public services for foreigners, and reinforced social inclusion at a local level.[216]

In 2025, the IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC IOM) continued to deliver counselling services covering legal, employment, and socio-cultural matters, alongside broader initiatives to support integration, safeguard the rights of unaccompanied minors, and facilitate their integration. The Centre provided consultations on residence, family affairs, employment, business, education, and citizenship in the Slovak Republic – delivered primarily by telephone or email, as well as in person at its Bratislava and Košice offices. Over the course of 2025, the MIC IOM conducted more than 9 000 consultations, the majority of which were delivered to citizens of Ukraine as a consequence of the ongoing war. Comprehensive information for foreigners is published on the MIC IOM website in Slovak, English, and Russian, with selected material also available in Ukrainian.[217]

Throughout 2025, the MIC IOM Visa Check[218] web application remained in active use, enabling foreigners worldwide to determine whether they require a visa to enter the Slovak Republic.

The Human Rights League also provided free legal aid to individuals with a migration or asylum background through its ongoing projects – legal assistance to applicants for international protection[219] and delivering reliable information services to refugees in Slovakia.[220]

212 Welcome to Slovakia, City of Žilina – Žilinský Maják Information and Support Centre, accessed 10 March 2026.
213 City of Michalovce, Michalovce Integration Centre, 2025, accessed 10 March 2026.
214 The regional integration centres are supported under a project implemented through the call for proposals of the 'Slovakia' Programme ('Integration of Third-Country Nationals, Including Migrants').
215 Union of Slovak Towns, press release: Network of Centres for Refugees and Foreign Nationals Established in Seven Slovak Towns – Safe Point, 2025, accessed 12 March 2026.
216 Union of Slovak Towns.
217 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
218 Migration Information Centre IOM Slovakia, Visa Check, accessed 11 March 2026.
219 Human Rights League, Legal Assistance for Applicants for International Protection, accessed 27 March 2026.
220 Human Rights League.

Furthermore, Mareena continued to offer employment counselling in Bratislava, Nitra, and – during the first half of 2025 – Košice. In Košice and Nitra, Mareena also began providing targeted employment counselling to young people from Ukraine.[221]

In 2025, as part of the project *A Voice for All – A Training Module for Local Authorities on Fostering the Participation of Vulnerable Groups*, the Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (CVEK) developed and piloted a new methodology for training local authority staff. The initiative seeks to strengthen local authority capacity to engage diverse communities – including foreigners – effectively and inclusively in public policy-making.[222] Concurrently, under the project *Mainstreaming the Needs of Refugees/Foreigners into the Provision of Social Services – An Inclusive Approach*, draft methodological guidance was developed to assist local authorities in embedding an inclusive approach within local social service delivery.[223]

In the area of integration policy support, the Slovak Humanitarian Council participated during 2025 in the project *Support for the Professional and Coordination Capacities of Civil Society Umbrella Organisations*[224].[225] The project seeks to enhance the scope and effectiveness of civil society organisations' involvement in public policy implementation across employment, education, and social inclusion, as well as related fields. It achieves this by building advocacy, analytical, and coordination capacities within umbrella bodies in the civil society sector, while fostering cross-sectoral partnerships across all tiers of public administration. The identified public policy in the development of which Slovak Humanitarian Council participated through a participatory process is the implementation of EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and the development of national policies stemming from the Pact and their subsequent implementation, with a focus on the integration of foreigners.[226]

Education

In 2025, integration initiatives for foreigners in Slovakia were implemented across various levels, encompassing systemic measures, support for integrating children and young people into the education system, adult language training, and local authority initiatives.

To streamline and expedite the recognition of educational qualifications through an online digital system, while reducing administrative and financial burdens for applicants, procedures for recognising qualifications – whether for continuing studies or other purposes – were significantly simplified and accelerated from 1 March 2025. Prospective students holding qualifications from selected countries can obtain a certificate of recognition online via a dedicated portal operated by the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic. This digital platform streamlines procedures, shortens processing times, and reduces administrative fees for graduates from both EU and non-EU countries.[227]

221 Mareena.
222 CVEK, project A Voice for All – A Training Module for Local Authorities on Promoting the Participation of Vulnerable Groups, accessed 11 March 2026.
223 CVEK, project Mainstreaming the Needs of Refugees/Foreign Nationals into the Provision of Social Services – An Inclusive Approach, accessed 11 March 2026.
224 Thirteen organisations active across social sectors are involved in the initiative (including Ambrela, Slovak Catholic Charity, and the Association of Social Service Providers of the Slovak Republic), under the oversight of the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for the Development of Civil Society.
225 Slovak Humanitarian Council, project 'Support for the Professional and Coordination Capacities of Civil Society Umbrella Organisations', accessed 25 March 2026.
226 Slovak Humanitarian Council.
227 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic, Recognition of Educational Qualifications, accessed 19 January 2026.

Through a project implemented under the Programme Slovakia (Program Slovensko) call for proposals *Activating Young NEETs for the Digital Age*[228], support was delivered in 2025 to enhance the vocational and digital skills of young people not in employment, education, or training (NEETs). The initiative seeks to address rapid technological changes within the labour market and foster integration through education and vocational training. The project enables the development and piloting of an innovative assessment tool designed to evaluate digital skill levels and identify individual aptitudes for specific career paths. Target groups for the initiative include young third-country nationals, including migrants. By combining psychometric and preference profiling with bespoke digital competence assessments, the tool generates personalised reports outlining prospective career options alongside suitable follow-on retraining and adaptation programmes. The project also entails developing a methodology for testing and providing expert interpretation of personalised reports, analysing current digital skill levels among the young people evaluated, and creating training programmes designed to build foundational digital competencies.[229]

Under the project *Improving the Quality and Attractiveness of VET (Vocational Education and Training) in Line with Labour Market Needs*, the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic – specifically through the State Institute for Vocational Education – prepared specialised Slovak language courses during 2025. Structured as practical vocational training at A2 level, these courses focus on the automotive and allied sectors rather than general language acquisition. Participants master technical and manufacturing terminology, gain an understanding of operational procedures and workplace health and safety, and acquire practical communication skills required for daily tasks. Course delivery is adapted to accommodate shift patterns. The project further seeks to support the integration of workers with a migrant background by expanding employer capacity, notably through the development of a methodology and a practical "Starter Guide" for inclusive workplaces. In collaboration with IOM Slovakia, a survey and stakeholder needs analysis was conducted in 2025. The initiative sought to identify the needs of employers and employees operating within multicultural environments, map key challenges and best practices, and formulate a practical methodology reflecting real-world workplace requirements.[230]

In 2025, the Faculty of Arts at Comenius University in Bratislava – specifically through the *Studia Academica Slovaca* centre – in partnership with IOM Slovakia, prepared a socio-cultural orientation programme as part of language tuition for adult migrants within the framework of teaching Slovak as a foreign language. This initiative also encompassed a legal analysis alongside proposals for systemically anchoring language and integration education in Slovakia.[231]

In 2025, the organisation *Inklucentrum* maintained its focus on integrating children of foreign nationals into the education system – particularly in Bratislava – delivering a series of projects designed to provide comprehensive support for beneficiaries of temporary protection entering schools, alongside adaptation courses at language centre. The organisation worked in partnership with several entities experienced in inclusive education, as well as with the Ministry of

228 Central Register of Projects, project 'Engaging Young NEETs for the Digital Age', accessed 12 March 2026.
229 Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.
230 State Institute of Vocational Education (Štátny inštitút odborného vzdelávania – ŠIOV), project, 'Improving the Quality and Attractiveness of VET (Vocational Education and Training) in Line with Labour Market Needs', accessed 12 March 2026.
231 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.

Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic on amendments to the Education Act concerning foreigners (see Section 7.1.1).[232]

During 2025, CVEK implemented a project supporting secondary schools to integrate young migrants and refugees by cultivating an inclusive environment and fostering pro-social relationships. As part of this project, a toolkit was developed – collection of activities and methodological materials for schools to deploy throughout the academic year. For each month, the toolkit prescribes structured activities designed to bring pupils together, promote acceptance of diversity, prevent bullying, and foster a positive school climate.[233]

In 2025, the MIC IOM continued to offer counselling on navigating the labour market, drafting CVs, and searching for job vacancies. To enhance clients' employment prospects, MIC IOM also provided financial support for retraining courses and grants towards qualification recognition. Across the year, 293 clients received financial grants from the IOM – 132 for retraining courses and 161 for the recognition of qualifications.[234]

The MIC IOM also maintained its provision of online Slovak language courses in 2025. Two cycles of open language courses were delivered across levels A1 to B2, totalling 53 courses of 100 teaching hours each, with 1 150 participants taking part. Concurrently, socio-cultural orientation sessions were conducted, which are routinely integrated into the language courses.[235]

In 2025, the civic association Mareena provided Slovak language courses and conversation classes for third-country nationals and other foreigners across Bratislava, Nitra, and Košice, ranging from beginner to advanced levels. In Nitra and Košice, courses were tailored specifically for young people from Ukraine, while specialised "Business Slovak" modules were delivered across all three cities. Furthermore, Mareena continued to run socio-cultural orientation and skills development programmes – primarily in Bratislava and Košice – aimed at enhancing the employability of foreigners, facilitating their integration into the labour market, and strengthening their resilience. Workshops focused specifically on mental health, healthcare and social care systems in Slovakia, labour law, and social assistance. Under the *Pathways* project, social counselling was provided to young people from Ukraine; between January and April 2025, 76 clients accessed this service across 83 consultations. Overall, the *Pathways* project focused on developing language and soft skills, providing career and employment guidance, and offering retraining courses for young people aged 15 to 18. More than 300 participants attended career workshops and guidance sessions, which were also made available online.[236]

In 2025, language education was also delivered by local authorities through their integration centres (see Section "Provision of information, counselling and integration support"). Activities encompassed free Slovak language courses for children, young people, adults, and families; preparatory and adaptation programmes for school pupils and students; and community and educational events focused on intercultural communication, inclusion, and the promotion of diversity. The centres collaborated with local schools, educational institutions, non-governmental organisations, experts, and other partners, thereby contributing to the integration of foreigners

232 Inklucentrum, Projects, accessed 11 March 2026.
233 CVEK, Toolkit for Secondary Schools – Supporting the Integration of Young Foreign Nationals, accessed 11 March 2026.
234 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
235 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
236 Mareena.

into both the education system and local community life. Beyond supporting language acquisition, these measures fostered social inclusion and strengthened inter-community ties.[237]

The City of Trnava has adopted a specific approach focused on removing barriers and, in 2025, introduced free Slovak language courses[238] specifically designed for foreign workers working shifts, with the schedule adapted to shift work. Structured as three-month programmes held three times a week, courses were offered across various time slots (accommodating morning and afternoon shifts, with adjustments for night-shift patterns) and supplemented by socio-cultural orientation. Forty foreign workers completed the initial two cycles. During this pilot phase, the courses were organised in partnership with the private sector, specifically Stellantis, the region's largest employer.[239]

In 2025, the Slovak Humanitarian Council participated in the international project *AGRI (for Integration)*, which focuses on integrating third-country nationals – particularly women – through their involvement in agriculture and the agri-food sector. Project activities are designed to enable migrant women to acquire new skills, access support, and participate actively in both working and social life. As part of the initiative, a *Local Integration Strategy for Third-Country Nationals in the Agri-Food Sector Labour Market* was also developed, alongside plans to produce a comprehensive guide covering organic farming, sustainable agri-food production, job profiles, the rights of third-country nationals, and dedicated career guidance.[240]

Community activities

The organisations mentioned above continued to expand community initiatives in 2025, while local authorities also delivered a wide range of activities through their integration centres. These initiatives were designed to encourage foreigners to connect and engage in local community life. Activities encompassed community events, workshops, information seminars, intercultural communication training, volunteering schemes, adaptation and educational programmes for children, young people, and families, as well as forums promoting dialogue between diverse communities. The centres collaborated with local schools, cultural and sports organisations, non-profit and charitable entities, faith groups, experts, and volunteers. Overall, these activities sought to strengthen social cohesion, promote the inclusion of foreigners, facilitate their integration into city life, and enhance coordination between communities and local authorities.[241]

As part of its broader community initiatives, the City of Trnava launched a civic orientation volunteering programme for migrants in Slovakia in 2025 – *Community Connectors*[242] – establishing a unique, scalable, and sustainable peer-to-peer model to foster foreigners' participation in public life. The initiative comprises thematic pillars designed to promote activism and empower participants through storytelling. A key feature of the scheme is that graduates do not merely acquire information regarding municipal life and existing volunteering opportunities; they are actively encouraged to form an active collective of foreign residents. This group engages in public affairs, contributes to the formulation and evaluation of integration policies, organises events for the wider public, and facilitates dialogue between communities and the municipality.

237 Union of Slovak Towns.
238 The courses are funded under the National Project 'Integration of Third-Country Nationals, Including Migrants' (ESF+).
239 City of Trnava.
240 Slovak Humanitarian Council, project AGRI (for Integration), accessed 18 March 2026.
241 Union of Slovak Towns.
242 Funded under the National Project 'Integration of Third-Country Nationals, Including Migrants' (ESF+).

The programme additionally encompasses legal guidance on possibilities for establishing a civic association.[243]

Mareena was also active in community initiatives throughout 2025. Among the most significant events in Bratislava was the Community Iftar, a dinner organised in collaboration with the Muslim community to mark the opening of the new LOOM community centre.[244] The programme encompassed 'living books' sessions, discussions on the significance of Ramadan, prayer, a concert, and an artistic workshop on the *ebru* paper-marbling technique. Events were also held in Košice and Nitra.

In Nitra, targeted activities for young Ukrainians were launched, with a notable highlight being the *Together for Ukraine* community gathering. The event featured readings of original works, a workshop on traditional Ukrainian paper crafts, refreshments, and information stalls.

In 2025, Mareena once again co-organised the PESTRO Festival – the largest community event in Košice, delivered in partnership with Tabačka.[245] The festival featured "living books" sessions, dance performances, multi-ethnic catering, and cultural presentations from various communities residing in the city. Mareena also continued to develop its engagement scheme – a programme of individual and community volunteering designed to support foreigners' integration and foster community outreach.[246]

MIC IOM continued to maintain its support for informational and cultural community events in collaboration with community mediators across various locations in Slovakia. These activities sought to connect foreign communities with the Slovak public while familiarising local residents with different cultures, festivals, and cuisines. Across 2025, 43 community events took place with MIC IOM support. [247]

7.1.3. Integration of persons granted international protection

In 2025, a range of activities was undertaken in the field of integration and work with persons granted international protection.

During 2025, the Slovak Republic participated in the *Displaced Talent for Europe (DT4E) 2.0* project which presents an innovative solution connecting displaced persons in Jordan, Lebanon, and other countries with European employers in Belgium, France, and Slovakia. Through the project, displaced persons can find safe place in Slovakia while bringing missing skills to the labour market. As part of the project, a suitable residence mechanism was successfully discussed at the level of the state administration in Slovakia. Sixty-five employers were also engaged, allowing them to explore the potential of displaced individuals and evaluate prospective candidates for vacant positions.[248]

243 City of Trnava.
244 City of Bratislava, LOOM Centre for People of Foreign Origin, accessed 23 March 2026.
245 Tabačka Kulturfabrik is an independent cultural centre in Košice, housed in a former tobacco factory, which organises concerts, theatre performances, exhibitions, discussions, and other cultural and community events.
246 Mareena.
247 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
248 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia, news and events: project Displaced Talent for Europe 2.0 Project, accessed 12 March 2026.

In 2025, implementation of the Slovak Humanitarian Council's *Rifugio II* project continued, building on the initial phase of the *Rifugio* project, which ran until February 2024. Through the initiative, clients – individuals who have been granted asylum or subsidiary protection – are provided with social, employment, and psychological counselling; legal and social support; assistance with securing accommodation; material and financial aid; as well as Slovak language tuition and educational integration support.

Across 2025, services were delivered under the project to a total of 317 clients granted international protection, representing a 12% increase on the previous year. External software continues to be used for client data management, providing a single central repository for all client information – including contact details, communications, services delivered, individual and family integration plans, and other interactions. This eliminates the need to search across disparate tools and enhances data accuracy. The system enables more precise analysis and reporting, directly enhancing the quality of services delivered.

Under the project, activities encompassing assistance, legal actions, and counselling were delivered, alongside support sessions, community events, and gatherings. Thirteen distinct types of integration activities covering a range of domains were conducted across the year. Seminars designed to enhance socio-cultural orientation in Slovakia were delivered, structured into eight thematic modules, according to various topics. Targeted initiatives were also undertaken to support clients' employment, including job workshops and legal seminars covering citizenship and civil rights. A variety of community gatherings took place on a regular basis, including a women's group, a conversation club, and activities for children. Furthermore, lectures were organised to raise students' awareness of refugee issues both in Slovakia and globally. The Slovak Humanitarian Council also participated in EUAA activities within the framework of the Advisory Forum for Civil Society Organisations.[249]

In 2025, the project published two key resources: the *Quality Handbook (Part 1): Compliance with Legal Requirements for the Provision of Social Services for the Integration of Persons under International Protection* and the *Quality Handbook (Part 2): Key Principles and Procedures for the Provision of Integration Services for Persons under International Protection*. These handbooks define quality requirements for integration services alongside practical methods and procedures, while emphasising the vision, mission, and core values of high-quality social work. Particular attention is given to risk management and crisis prevention. Furthermore, the publications set out transferable and replicable practices applicable to other social services of a similar nature, focusing on the implementation of quality standards and the embedding of a process-based approach within the delivery of integration services.[250]

In 2025, implementation of the Slovak Humanitarian Council's *E.S.O.* project also continued. The project primarily aims to deliver supplementary care and assistance to asylum seekers, applicants for temporary protection, and beneficiaries of temporary protection registered at the Ministry of Interior asylum facilities, as well as unaccompanied minor asylum seekers accommodated at the Centre for Children and Families in Medzilaborce – delivering supplementary services that extend beyond standard state provision. At these facilities, clients receive various forms of assistance – primarily psychological, social, legal, material, and other specialist support, includ-

249 Slovak Humanitarian Council.
250 Slovak Humanitarian Council, Integration of Refugees in Slovakia, project Rifugio II, accessed 18 March 2026.

ing personal assistance where appropriate. A broad range of recreational activities and support services is also provided, with particular focus on the needs of vulnerable groups.[251]

7.2. Raising awareness of migration and non-discrimination

During 2025, a range of initiatives targeting both professionals and the wider public – including Ukrainians beneficiaries of temporary protection – was delivered to raise awareness of migration and promote non-discrimination.

As part of these efforts, the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic collaborates with the Police Secondary Vocational School in Pezinok, where asylum and migration topics are embedded within the vocational training curriculum. Under this framework, regular lectures are delivered at the school, with five sessions held across 2025. Additionally, a lecture on integrating asylum seekers and persons with granted subsidiary protection in Slovakia was delivered to external students on the "Missionary and Charitable Work" programme at the St Elizabeth University of Health and Social Work (Vysoká škola zdravotníctva a sociálnej práce sv. Alžbety) in Bratislava. Two further discussion sessions on asylum were held at Metodova Grammar School in Bratislava. One of these sessions featured an asylum seeker, who shared with students the circumstances prompting him to seek asylum, his experiences residing in asylum facilities while his application was being processed, and his ongoing integration in Slovakia. To challenge stereotypes and combat prejudice, the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior presented good practice and success stories regarding the integration of beneficiaries of international protection at regular working meetings convened by Košice City Council with UNHCR support. The Migration Office also participated in specialist conferences and public panel discussions on migration and asylum – including the Integration Forum, SIRM (Interreg Europe / Prešov Self-Governing Region), and Magnetize Slovakia Košice, held under the auspices of the Mayor of Košice. Furthermore, it contributed to inter-agency coordination meetings on foreign national integration in Košice and Prešov, strengthening information sharing between public bodies and non-governmental organisations. Additionally, the Migration Office participated in the Dunajská Streda Job Fair to raise awareness of its work among the wider public.[252]

In 2025, the Human Rights League once again hosted the Integration Forum, with discussions focusing on EU Pact on Migration and Asylum alongside radicalisation and extremism in society. The forum sought to foster closer cooperation between international bodies, state institutions, local authorities, and non-governmental organisations. [253]

Notable among other events addressing migration and asylum sensitivity was *Fjúžn* – a multi-genre, multicultural festival organised annually by the Milan Šimečka Foundation to spotlight migration and foreigners in Slovakia. The central theme for the 2025 edition was "Courage". The festival serves as a reminder that migration extends far beyond moving from place to place – encompassing loss and gain, as well as the balance between what individuals bring with them and what they hope to create. Through the festival, the lives of people from across the globe who form an integral part of Slovak society are brought to the fore.[254]

251 Slovak Humanitarian Council, project E.S.O., accessed 18 March 2026.
252 Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
253 Human Rights League, What We Do, Integration Forum 2025, accessed 12 March 2026.
254 City of Bratislava, Events, Festival Fjuzn 2025, accessed 12 March 2026.

Through collaboration between several non-governmental and international organisations, a further edition of the *Umbrella March* was held in June in Bratislava's Old Town and in Košice to mark World Refugee Day. The march was accompanied by a cultural programme, panel discussions, an exhibition, and various other activities.[255]

In 2025, People in Need hosted "*Jeden svet*" documentary film festival, which incorporates migration-related themes. Main screenings were held across various cinemas and venues in Bratislava, with selected films subsequently made available online nationwide. The festival also operates school and community outreach initiatives, bringing screenings to regional audiences, particularly schools and local groups.[256]

During 2025, CVEK was also active in research and publishing initiatives. Among its releases was the report *Challenges and Opportunities – The Integration of Young People with a Migrant and Refugee Background in Norway and Slovakia*[257], which compares integration frameworks and systemic challenges across both nations. Its second study, *Analysis of the Provision of Social Services to Foreigners, Including Refugees*[258] reviews Slovakia's legislative and strategic policy frameworks for social care, evaluating state priorities and assessing how effectively existing measures address the needs of foreigners and refugees in Slovakia. It further examines funding structures and associated administrative hurdles, before setting out local authority responsibilities in service delivery. Additionally, CVEK produced a practical guide, *Diversity as an Opportunity: Inclusive Activities for Foreign Students in Secondary Schools*[259]. Designed for educators seeking to build a school environment where students from abroad can integrate naturally, actively, and without pressure, the resource outlines a month-by-month programme to promote inclusion, intercultural understanding, and community engagement.

EMN Slovakia was also raising awareness of migration throughout 2025. During the year, it ran 15 educational sessions across schools, universities, and partner institutions using the *Destination Europe* learning tool, reaching over 450 participants.[260] The interactive tool allows participants to step into the role of a minister, EU Commissioner, mayor, or NGO representative, giving them direct insight into how policymaking shapes migration and integration, and how these decisions impact migrants' lives.[261] Several workshops paired the exercise with introductory lectures on core migration concepts, processes, and policies. A dedicated train-the-trainer session was also held to equip participants to facilitate *Destination Europe* and engage effectively with young people on migration topics.[262]

The *Destination Europe* tool, alongside broader EMN initiatives and general migration awareness, was also showcased during Europe Day celebrations in Bratislava and at a public event marking World Refugee Day.

255 Umbrella March 2025 and Umbrella March 2025 Košice, accessed 12 March 2026.
256 Festival Jeden svet, accessed 12 March 2026.
257 CVEK, Challenges and Opportunities – Integration of Young People with a Migrant and Refugee Background in Norway and Slovakia, CVEK, Bratislava, 2025, accessed 11 March 2026.
258 CVEK, Analysis of the Provision of Social Services to Foreign Nationals, Including Male and Female Refugees, CVEK, Bratislava, 2025, accessed 11 March 2026.
259 CVEK, Diversity as an Opportunity – Activities for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in Secondary Schools, CVEK, Bratislava, 2025, accessed 11 March 2026.
260 European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, Education on Migration, Destination Europe, accessed 12 March 2026.
261 European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, News, accessed 12 March 2026.
262 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.



Citizenship and statelessness

8.1. Statistics and trends

Over the past five years, the number of Slovak citizenships granted has more than tripled, rising from 707 in 2021 to a record 2 509 in 2025. The overwhelming majority of foreigners with new Slovak citizenship in 2025 were non-EU/EEA nationals (exceeding 86%), with the largest numbers originating from Ukraine (613), Serbia (567), the United States (337), Israel (149), and Canada (71). Year-on-year, citizenship grants to non-EU/EEA nationals increased by nearly half (48%). Among EU nationals acquiring Slovak citizenship, Czech citizens continued to form the largest group, with 109 grants in 2025 (see Table 7 in the Annex).

Slovak citizenship is also granted to non-EU nationals holding international protection (asylum or subsidiary protection). Between 2021 and 2025, annual figures ranged between 10 and 30 (see table below). In 2025, 24 individuals in this category acquired citizenship, originating primarily from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Cuba, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Serbia, and Libya.[263]

UNHCR estimated the stateless population in Slovakia at 49 across both 2024 and 2025.[264]

263 Department of Foreign and European Affairs of the Office of the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic (via the Department of General Internal Administration of the Public Administration Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic).

264 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNHCR Slovakia Fact Sheet, February 2025 a UNHCR Slovakia Fact Sheet, September 2024, 2025 and 2024, accessed 16 March 2026.

Acquisition of Slovak citizenship between 2021 and 2025

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	**Total**
Acquisitions of Slovak citizenship by third-country nationals	480	515	909	1 051	2 178	**5 133**
Acquisitions of Slovak citizenship by all foreigners	707	797	1 102	1 432	2 509	**6 547**
Of which: Granted to beneficiaries of international protection (asylum and subsidiary protection)	10	27	22	13	24	**96**

Source: PAS MI SR.

8.2. Acquisition and loss of citizenship

The Slovak Republic last amended its Citizenship Act[265] in April 2022. Throughout 2025, no new legislation, policies, or measures were adopted regarding citizenship acquisition or the situation of stateless persons in the context of non-EU/EEA migration.[266] While *the National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management*[267] (adopted in June 2025) includes a dedicated chapter on integration, it does not address citizenship in detail (see Chapter 2.1).[268]

In 2025 work began on a draft amendment to the Citizenship Act, which should enter into force in 2026. The proposed changes focus on citizenship for descendants of Czechoslovak citizens, removing the requirement to hold a residence permit in the Slovak Republic. This shift places greater emphasis on applicants' historical and legal ancestral ties to the Slovak Republic, while easing the administrative burden on both applicants and relevant authorities.[269]

265 Act No. 40/1993 Coll. on Citizenship of the Slovak Republic, as amended.
266 Department of Foreign and European Affairs of the Office of the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic (via the Department of General Internal Administration of the Public Administration Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic).
267 Government Office of the Slovak Republic, National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management, 2025, accessed 21 January 2026.
268 Government Office of the Slovak Republic, National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management, 2025, accessed 21 January 2026.
269 AKMV Law Firm, Changes to Slovak Citizenship from 15 July 2026, 2026, accessed 23 March 2026.

09

Schengen governance and other developments in border management and visa policy

9.1. Statistics and trends

The number of Schengen visas issued continued a gradual upward trend in 2025, rising to 15 913 (see Table 5) from 12 652 in 2024, 11 605 in 2023, and 10 878 in 2022. Figures were significantly lower during the COVID-19 pandemic owing to mobility restrictions, standing at just 3 718 in 2021 and 4 129 in 2020.[270]

National visa issuance followed a similar pattern, dropping to a five-year low of 3 111 in 2020 due to pandemic-related disruptions. Subsequent years saw a steady increase, driven both by the easing of pandemics and legislative changes in the Slovak Republic. Issuance rose to 4 647 in 2021 and 6 136 in 2022, when Slovakia introduced national visas for highly skilled professionals alongside bus and lorry drivers. This upward trajectory continued in 2023 as eligibility was expanded to include industrial manual workers, pushing totals to 8 951. Growth then accelerated, reaching 15 075 in 2024 and 17 910 in 2025 (see Table 5).[271]

270 Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.
271 Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

9.2. Developments in policy and legislation

The *National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management*, adopted in 2025, also covers border management (see Chapter 2.1). Drawing on the National Strategy for European Integrated Border Management, the document emphasises the implementation of the "Smart Borders" package, greater automation in border control and surveillance, and enhanced interoperability across national IT systems in the area of European Integrated Border Management. It also underlines the need to stabilise staffing and organisational structures within specialist units responsible for delivering European Integrated Border Management tasks.[272]

9.3. Schengen governance, including internal border controls

To ensure full implementation of recommendations from the 2024 Schengen evaluation, address identified shortcomings, and guarantee compliance with the Schengen acquis, Slovakia submitted an action plan to the European Commission for approval on 2 December 2025.[273]

With the aim to monitor and control the movement of foreigners at the EU border, bolster security, ensure visa compliance, and safeguard the rights of travellers entering the Schengen Area, Slovakia began a phased rollout of the Entry/Exit System (EES) in October 2025. The national plan of its implementation into practice was prepared and updated. The EES is scheduled to become fully operational in April 2026.[274]

Work also continued in 2025 on implementing the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS). Progress was made towards establishing the National ETIAS Unit, which will oversee system operations and process travel authorisation applications. Work continued on adapting the national systems of Member States connected to the EES or ETIAS, as well as on the development and implementation of national processes and IT solutions to update the SIRENE case management system [275]. Testing of the national system against the central ETIAS platform was underway, with full rollout scheduled for October 2026. The system aims to help identify visa-exempt third country nationals who pose a security, irregular migration, or high epidemiological risk when assessing travel authorisations and entry into the Schengen Area.[276]

To ensure the effective and harmonised use of EU information systems in external border management and migration, as well as to strengthen external border protection and Schengen internal security, technical and operational implementation of the interoperability framework continued throughout 2025 under Regulations (EU) 2019/817 and 2019/818.[277]

In April 2025, temporary checks were introduced along internal borders with Hungary and Austria following an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, a contagious disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals. These checks remained in place until July 2025.[278]

272 Government Office of the Slovak Republic, National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management, 2025, accessed 26 January 2026.
273 Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.
274 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
275 Activities are being conducted as part of the project "Completion of the ETIAS system and adaptation of the EES and SIS applications for ETIAS purposes", implemented under the Financial Support Instrument for Border Management and Visa Policy (BMVI).
276 Foreign Assistance Department of the Finance and Budget Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
277 Information Technology, Telecommunications and Security Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
278 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.

Work had begun in 2024 on several projects aimed at the effective implementation of the Schengen. These projects focused on maintaining and supporting the NVIS system, expanding capacity at the Vyšné Nemecké-Uzhhorod crossing on the Slovak-Ukrainian border, supporting Police Force postings to Slovakia's Liaison Office at Europol to strengthen cross-border police cooperation, maintaining the AFIS and CODIS information systems, enhancing police IT interoperability, and procuring off-road vehicles, including specialised models for dog handlers. In 2025, additional projects were launched to adapt and monitor working procedures, train consular staff on NVIS, replace technical security equipment at diplomatic missions, complete the ETIAS system, and adapt EES and SIS applications for ETIAS.[279]

9.4. Visa policy

In 2025, preparations were underway to amend and expand the NVIS information system (see Chapter 3.2). Work also progressed on updating the national section of the Visa Information System (VIS), operated by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, to align with new recast VIS legislation. The reforms aim to streamline the pre-visa process, as the existing NVIS lacked a mechanism to prioritise specific groups of national visa applicants deemed in the national interest under the Act on Residence of Foreigners.[280]

To facilitate national long-stay visas for strategic investors, the Slovak Government adopted Regulation No. 160/2025 on 18 June 2025. This regulation establishes the national interest in issuing national visas to selected citizens of the People's Republic of China to foster bilateral trade and investment. The measure was introduced in response to economic needs, easing entry and employment for key personnel working with major strategic Chinese investors.[281]

279 The Foreign Assistance Department of the Finance and Budget Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
280 The Research and Innovation Authority (Výskumná a inovačná autorita – VAIA) of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for the Recovery Plan and the Knowledge Economy.
281 Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

10

Irregular migration

10.1. Statistics and trends

Between 2019 and 2021, the Slovak Republic recorded a downward trend in irregular migration, falling from 2 190 individuals in 2019 to 1 769 in 2021. A more pronounced drop occurred in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, when figures fell to 1 295. However, 2022 saw a significant increase driven by heavy secondary transit migration along the Western Balkans route, coupled with the temporary reintroduction of internal border controls by the Czech Republic and Austria along their borders with Slovakia. Consequently, irregular migration rose to 11 791 in 2022. An even more dramatic surge occurred in 2023 when, again fuelled by secondary transit movement, total irregular migration reached 47 610 individuals – with secondary transit migration accounting for over 97% of all cases. In 2024, extensive counter-measures, such as cooperation with non-EU countries along major migratory routes and targeted action against people-smuggling networks, produced the largest decline in irregular migration into the EU since 2021. In Slovakia, irregular migration fell to 2 664 individuals, representing a drop of over 94% compared with 2023. This downward trend continued into 2025, when figures dropped further to 1 580 individuals (see Table 9).[282] The ongoing decline was primarily driven by an improved geopolitical situation in Syria. Between January and November 2025, 5 900 Syrian nationals were detected crossing the EU's external borders irregularly – a stark contrast to nearly 46 000 recorded over

282 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.

the same period in 2024. Syrian nationals thus accounted for more than half of the overall reduction in irregular migration at the EU"s external borders.[283]

Slovakia distinguishes between two main migratory situations or statistical categories of irregular migration: unauthorised residence – which includes secondary transit migration – and unauthorised crossing of the external state border. In 2025, unauthorised residence accounted for 40% of total cases (down from 98.6% in 2023), while unauthorised border crossings made up 60% (up from 1.4% in 2023). These figures reflect both the overall decline and stabilisation of irregular migration, particularly secondary transit migration. Figures for individuals residing unlawfully have largely levelled off, with 637 recorded in 2025 compared with 586 in 2024. Meanwhile, unauthorised external border crossings experienced a more pronounced reduction, dropping from 2 078 individuals in 2024 to 943 in 2025. In 2025, Ukrainian nationals remained the largest group, accounting for over 98% of cases (see Table 9).[284] The sharp increase in unauthorised external border crossings in 2024 was likely linked to stricter mobilisation legislation in Ukraine, which prompted some Ukrainian men to leave illegally. The subsequent decline was likely driven by enhanced border surveillance by Ukrainian authorities. From September 2025, detentions of Ukrainian men aged 18 to 22 also fell, following changes introduced in late August 2025 that permitted them to leave the country legally.[285]

10.2. Developments in policy and legislation to prevent and curb irregular migration

The National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management[286], adopted in June 2025, also addresses irregular migration. The document highlights Slovakia's commitment to innovative approaches, focusing on tackling irregular migration before it reaches EU borders. This involves supporting non-EU countries and addressing the root causes of migration to prevent irregular migration directly in third – countries through regional and bilateral cooperation. Slovakia further underscores the need for active collaboration not only with countries of origin, but also with transit countries and EU Member States in this area (see Chapter 2.1). [287]

In 2025, legislation was drafted,[288] to amend Act No. 300/2025 Coll., the Criminal Code. Among other measures, the bill enhances Schengen Area protection by extending the scope of people-smuggling offences (Sections 355 and 356) beyond Slovak borders to the borders of all EU Member States.[289] The amendment aims to enable more effective prosecution of individuals engaged in cross-border people smuggling. It also responds to practical operational requirements, seeking to remedy identified shortcomings in how law enforcement authorities classify offences related to smuggling. [290]

283 Frontex, Annual Brief 2025, accessed 26 March 2026.
284 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
285 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
286 Government Office of the Slovak Republic, National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management, 2025, accessed 21 January 2026.
287 Government Office of the Slovak Republic, National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management, 2025, accessed 26 March 2026.
288 The approval process for the draft bill will continue in 2026, with the legislation expected to come into force on 15 July 2026.
289 The impetus for drafting the amendment to the Act is the transposition of Directive (EU) 2024/1712 of 13 June 2024, amending Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (OJ L, 2024/1712, 24 June 2024).
290 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.

The draft bill also amends the offence of people smuggling (Section 356) by expanding its scope to cover further aggravated forms, as set out in the proposed paragraphs. The most significant change proposed is enabling the prosecution of organised criminal groups who, in a sophisticated manner, facilitate the unauthorised residence and employment of third-country nationals, alongside measures aimed at preventing the fraudulent regularisation of residence of third-country nationals.[291]

10.3. Prevention of irregular migration

Cooperation with non-EU countries

To strengthen border control cooperation, expand cooperation of operational, investigative, and risk-analysis units, and prevent cross-border crime, human trafficking, and irregular migration, Slovakia and Ukraine signed a Cooperation Development Plan for 2025-2026 in 2025. The agreement was concluded between the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium and the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine.[292]

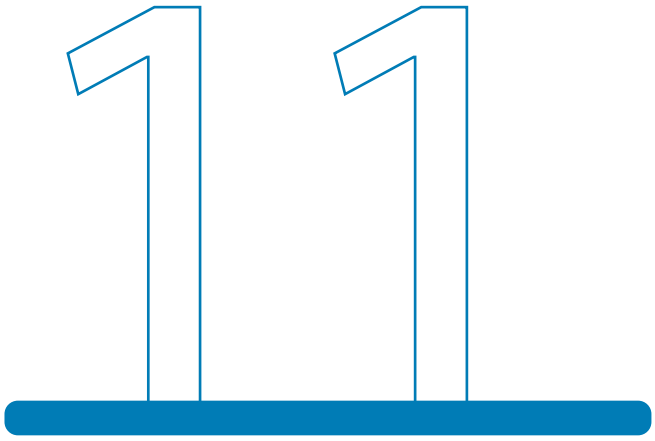
To strengthen external border security, tackle irregular migration and cross-border crime, build host country capacity, and enhance international cooperation, Slovakia actively participates in Frontex operational activities by deploying police officers to non-EU countries, such as Serbia and North Macedonia. In 2025, eight police officers were deployed to Serbia on short-term assignments (comprising one cross-border crime expert, one document expert, and six border guards). A further five officers are carrying out long-term (two-year) deployments in Serbia focused on border surveillance. In North Macedonia, two officers were seconded for short-term border control duties in 2025, while one officer is serving a long-term secondment within a border control unit.[293]

Combating smuggling

In 2025, 179 irregular migrants were recorded in investigation files as having been smuggled. This represents a further significant decrease compared with 2024 and 2023, when figures stood at 410 and 2 462 respectively. In 2025, the majority of cases involved Iranian and Ukrainian nationals (see Table 10).[294]

During the year 2025, 43 suspects were detained and 46 individuals were charged with the criminal offence of people smuggling. Of those charged, 28 were prosecuted for organising or aiding illegal border crossing (Section 355 of the Criminal Code), while 18 were charged with aiding or organising unlawful residence (Section 356 of the Criminal Code) (see Table 11).[295]

291 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
292 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
293 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
294 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
295 Office of the Prosecutor General of the Slovak Republic.



Trafficking in human beings

11.1. Statistics and trends

In previous years, Slovakia recorded low numbers of foreign nationals among identified victims of human trafficking. However, 2025 marked an increase, with 15 foreigners identified out of a total of 63 victims – representing approximately 24% of all identified victims. Sexual exploitation remains the predominant form of exploitation over the long term. In 2025, 24 victims of sexual exploitation were identified, accounting for approximately 38% of total identified victims. Children comprised 75% of those sexually exploited. Additionally, 18 victims were identified as having been exploited for forced begging, representing roughly 29% of all identified victims; in three of these cases, the victims were foreigners from Moldova and Ukraine. Labour exploitation was the third most common form, with ten victims identified, six of whom were foreigners from Nepal, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

Regarding support provided in 2025, 16 of the 63 newly identified victims decided to enter the specialised Programme for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings ("the Programme") – representing 25% of the total.

In total, 12 individuals expressed an interest in the services provided under the Programme. These were victims formally identified by the police who were also recorded as injured parties in criminal proceedings (a cohort of 59 individuals in 2025 statistics), representing 20% of formally identified victims.

Although the Programme has a static operational capacity of 25 places at any one time, support and assistance were delivered to a total of 39 individuals over the course of 2025.

While between 2021 and 2024 the number of foreigners identified annually as victims of trafficking in human beings did not exceed five per year (out of an annual average of 50 identified victims), 2025 saw an increase: 15 of the 63 identified victims were foreigners, all of whom were third-country nationals (see Table 24). These non-EU victims originated mainly from Ukraine, Moldova, Nepal, Brazil, Colombia, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

Despite the ongoing war in Ukraine, irregular migration along the Western Balkans route, and rising labour migration, no third-country nationals had previously been identified in Slovakia as victims of trafficking in human beings – whether formally by the police or informally by other actors – since 2022. Between 2022 and 2024, no cases of trafficking in human beings investigated in Slovakia were linked either to the Western Balkans route passing through Slovak territory or to Ukraine, nor were Ukrainian nationals involved as victims or perpetrators. In 2025, however, this trend shifted. Foreigners were among the identified victims of trafficking in human beings, with all of them being third-country nationals. Several of these individuals entered the assistance and support programme for victims of trafficking in human beings, and criminal proceedings for trafficking offences were initiated in connection with a number of these cases.[296]

In relation to the offence of trafficking in human beings, Slovakia brought charges against 15 individuals across 10 cases in 2025, securing 16 convictions (see Table 25).[297] As in previous years, victims were predominantly recruited through personal contact.

At the time of writing this overview, the *Situation Report on the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings in the Slovak Republic for 2025* was not yet available; alongside statistics and trends, this report details specific anti-trafficking activities and measures.

11.2. Policies, legislation and international monitoring

Adopted in June 2025, the new *National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management* addresses combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims within the broader context of safeguarding vulnerable individuals in asylum and migration processes. It sets out targeted measures for their identification, protection, and support within the overarching migration policy framework. The strategy encompasses several measures extending beyond the scope of the *National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2024-2028*, notably:

- Measures concerning border procedures, individual vetting, and mandatory vulnerability screening – including the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings by trained personnel,
- Provisions within asylum and return procedures to identify and safeguard victims,
- Comprehensive integration initiatives for all vulnerable migrants as a systemic instrument to prevent trafficking in human beings,

296 National Centre against Trafficking in Human Beings of the Expert Activities Department of the Crime Prevention Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

297 National Unit for Combating Illegal Migration of the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium, Department of Foreign and European Affairs of the Office of the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic, and National Centre against Trafficking in Human Beings of the Expert Activities Department of the Crime Prevention Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

- Security and technological enhancements linking anti-trafficking efforts with broader migration and security policies,
- Measures to strengthen data interoperability and technical infrastructure,
- Aligning development cooperation and diplomacy with the prevention of trafficking in human beings.[298]

On 17 December 2025, the Slovak Government approved an amendment to the *Criminal Code*,[299] which includes revisions to Section 179 concerning trafficking in human beings. The proposed legislative amendments inter alia:

- Increase the penalties applicable to this offence, raising the minimum custodial sentence from four to five years, and increasing the penalty for child trafficking to between 10 and 15 years (up from seven to 12 years),
- Introduce new criminal offence of *using the services of a victim of trafficking in human beings* (Section 179a) to curb the demand driving trafficking in human beings and all forms of exploitation. This aims to criminalise the knowing use of services provided by an exploited individual where the user is aware that the provider is a victim of a trafficking-related offence under Section 179, and
- Address practical operational shortcomings in the legal classification of trafficking offences, while responding to concerns raised by the Council of Europe regarding the inappropriate reliance on suspended custodial sentences in cases involving child victims – a practice currently enabled by provisions on exceptional sentence reduction.

The proposed date of entry into force is 15 July 2026, in line with the transposition deadline set out in the Directive. This legislation transposes *Directive (EU) 2024/1712 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024, which amends Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims* (OJ L, 2024/1712, 24 June 2024). The updated Directive aims to render anti-trafficking efforts more effective, introduce new preventive measures, and enhance victim protection by updating the legal framework established under Directive 2011/36/EU. Directive (EU) 2024/1712 was adopted following the *EU Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025*, which highlighted the need to adapt existing legal frameworks to evolving developments in the fight against trafficking.[300]

The National Referral Mechanism for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings[301] (NRM), has been updated and was formally approved by the Slovak Government's Crime Prevention Council on 12 December 2025. Earlier iterations of the NRM lacked a formal analysis of key terminology used in the area of fight against trafficking in human beings. Beyond examining the various forms of trafficking in human beings and clarifying concepts such as "potential victim", "presumed victim", and "formally identified victim", the updated NRM explicitly addresses specific victim vulnerabilities, including foreigners. The revision was executed pursuant to Measure No. 3 of the Action Plan under the National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2024-2028, as well as Directive (EU) 2024/1712 of the European Parliament and of the Council[302].[303]

298 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
299 Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 627/2025, approving the draft law amending Act No. 300/2005 Coll. (the Criminal Code), as amended, and amending and supplementing certain other laws, accessed 9 February 2026.
300 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
301 National Referral Mechanism for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, 2025, accessed 28 January 2026.
302 Directive (EU) 2024/1712 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 amending Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims.
303 Crime Prevention Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

Internal regulations of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic governing the *Programme for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings* have also been amended to streamline procedures and reflect developments in victim assistance and support. The changes, which took effect on 1 April 2025, introduced a formal definition of the *National Contact Point for Cross-Border Coordination of Victim Assistance*, specifying its core responsibilities and designating the responsible department within the Ministry of Interior. This aligns with the Action Plan[304] and the revisions introduced under Directive (EU) 2024/1712,[305] contributing to the establishment of a transnational referral mechanism at EU Member State level.[306]

In practice, the National Contact Point for Cross-Border Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings in Slovakia has been operationalised as the *National Centre against Trafficking in Human Beings,* situated within the *Expert Activities Department of the Crime Prevention Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic*. Rather than serving as a direct contact point for victims, it operates as a cross-border coordination mechanism linking competent authorities and institutions responsible for supporting victims across EU Member States. This measure aligns with the Action Plan[307] and the revisions introduced under Directive (EU) 2024/1712[308].[309]

Slovakia has also revised the statute of the *National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings* to separate political coordination from technical (executive) functions. This reform refines the National Coordinator's role and remit to ensure full compliance with the requirements of Directive (EU) 2024/1712[310].[311]

International monitoring

The Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) published its report under the fourth evaluation round of Slovakia's implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Published on 26 March 2025, the report covers the 2020-2024 evaluation period and focuses on access to justice and effective remedies for victims of trafficking in human beings. It analyses the vulnerability of specific groups, dedicating a distinct analytical section to migrants, asylum seekers, and migrant workers. GRETA issued several specific recommendations to Slovakia, the most migration-relevant of which include:

- Strengthening the identification of victims among migrants and asylum seekers,
- Ensuring that residence status is not a prerequisite for accessing protection,
- Expanding the capacity of labour inspectorates,
- Introducing a recovery and reflection period prior to formal identification,
- Imposing stiffer penalties for offences involving trafficking in human beings.

304 National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for 2024-2028, (Measure No. 1: " Updating the programme for the support and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings in light of developments in the field of trafficking in human beings", p. 20; Measure No. 4: " Establishment of a National Contact Point for the referral of victims", p. 21), accessed 22 January 2026.
305 Directive (EU) 2024/1712 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 amending Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims.
306 Crime Prevention Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
307 National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for 2024-2028, (Measure No. 4: "Establishment of a National Contact Point for the Referral of Victims", p. 21), accessed 22 January 2026.
308 Directive (EU) 2024/1712 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (specifically recital 15 and Article 1(2)).
309 Crime Prevention Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
310 Directive (EU) 2024/1712 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting victims of such trafficking (specifically Article 19).
311 Crime Prevention Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

The report identified the labour exploitation of foreign workers as an escalating phenomenon, highlighting the link between illegal employment and trafficking in human beings. It noted that migrants often refrain from accessing support mechanisms in Slovakia for fear of expulsion.[312]

The annual *Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report)*, published by the U.S. Department of State, kept Slovakia in Tier 2 in 2025 for meeting the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons, where it has been placed since 2019. Notably, the report highlighted that, for the first time in years, labour inspectorates had systematically referred potential trafficking cases to police – specifically those involving the labour exploitation of foreign workers. Conversely, it criticized the lenient sentences and high rate of suspended sentences imposed for trafficking in human beings, the decline in the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators for the fourth consecutive year, as well as the insufficient identification of victims, including foreigners.[313]

11.3. Inter-institutional and international cooperation

In 2025, Slovakia partnered with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) under the project *Prevention and Justice for Victims of Trafficking in Persons Affected by the War in Ukraine*. Alongside Slovakia and Ukraine, participating states include Poland, Romania, and Moldova. The project maps procedures for detecting, identifying, and referring victims of trafficking in human beings who have fled the war in Ukraine to designated victim assistance and support frameworks. Its objective is to produce a practical guide for diplomatic mission staff outlining procedures when indicators of trafficking are detected, thereby enhancing the early identification of potential victims with a specific focus on vulnerable groups.[314]

In 2025, Slovakia continued to carry out regular inspections of businesses to detect instances of illegal work and illegal employment, as well as to identify potential victims of trafficking in human beings.[315] These operations were conducted jointly by BBFP PFP alongside labour inspectorates and bodies of the Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family; no victims of trafficking in human beings were identified during these joint inspections[316].[317]

Operating within the Regional Response Plan coordination framework overseen by UNHCR and led by the IOM, the *Anti-Trafficking Task Force* remained active in Slovakia throughout 2025. The group convened four times during the year, formulating recommendations in these areas:

- Invisible labour exploitation: Victim identification rates in Slovakia remain exceptionally low, particularly among Ukrainian nationals and other migrant workers. It is necessary to reinforce labour inspections, scale up community awareness-raising initiatives, and deepen collaboration between state entities, employers, and civil society.

312 Council of Europe, Evaluation Report – Slovak Republic (fourth evaluation round), 2025, accessed 16 March 2026.
313 U. S. Department of State, 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report: Slovak Republic, accessed 16 March 2026.
314 Crime Prevention Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
315 In 2025, members of the Police Force, in cooperation with labour inspectorates, carried out inspections at 506 business premises, checking 1 595 individuals (851 Slovak citizens and 744 foreigners). Inspections focused primarily on identifying foreigners residing illegally in the Slovak Republic, enforcing Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners, as amended, and detecting victims of human trafficking under Section 179 of Act No. 300/2005 Coll. (the Criminal Code), as amended.
316 In 2025, a total of 16 635 inspections were carried out across 14 736 business entities, checking over 31 500 individuals at workplaces. Inspections identified 1 211 illegally employed individuals (1 003 Slovak citizens and 208 foreigners). Labour inspection authorities specifically focused on the legal employment of foreigners; no victims of human trafficking were identified during these checks.
317 National Centre against Trafficking in Human Beings of the Expert Activities Department of the Crime Prevention Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

- Heightened vulnerability of minor international students: Young students with limited support networks face an elevated risk of exploitation and neglect. Strengthening safeguarding mechanisms within educational institutions and local communities is essential.
- Gaps in the National Referral Mechanism (NRM): Despite the implementation of the updated NRM, there remains a pressing need to enhance the consistency of victim identification, the clarity of institutional roles, and the quality of follow-up support. Protection and victim stabilisation must be prioritised, rather than framing support purely around cooperation with law enforcement authorities.
- Alignment with international recommendations and rising migration: Implementing recommendations from GRETA and the TIP Report is crucial, particularly given the increasing number of migrants and the heightened risk of labour exploitation. Enhanced inter-institutional coordination is required.
- Access to justice and redress: Victims face constrained access to justice owing to legislative gaps and inconsistent practice. Stiffer penalties, a clear definition of labour exploitation, standardised identification procedures, and improved information provision for migrants are vital.[318]

Recommendations are also set out in the UNODC publication *Mapping of Trafficking in Human Beings, Screening and Identification, Support and Care Infrastructure, and an Analysis of Available Cases of Trafficking in Human Beings in Criminal Proceedings in Slovakia in Relation to Victims of Trafficking Affected by the War in Ukraine*. These focus principally on raising awareness among Ukrainian nationals and strengthening procedures across Slovak diplomatic missions abroad regarding the identification of potential victims of trafficking in human beings, including children.[319]

11.4. Provision of information and direct assistance

Under contract with the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Catholic Charity and the Greek Catholic Charity continued to deliver assistance and support to victims of trafficking in human beings in 2025 under the Programme for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings. These organisations provided victims with both reception and reintegration support. The Slovak Catholic Charity continued to operate the freephone National Helpline for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings (0800 800 818). IOM Slovakia likewise operated its information helpline on safe travel and anti-trafficking in 2025, with staff fielding telephone and email enquiries regarding trafficking in human beings, requests to verify employment agency credentials, and queries concerning preventive training courses.[320]

11.5. Raising awareness and victim identification rates

In 2025, officers from the National Unit for Combating Irregular Migration within the BBFP PFP (NUCIM BBFP PFP) identified an increased number of third-country victims of trafficking in human beings across cases under active investigation. In total, 12 foreigners from non-EU countries

318 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
319 Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, UNODC – Mapping Trafficking, accessed 29 April 2026.
320 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.

were identified out of 59 victims overall. By way of comparison, police identified two foreign victims out of a total of 35 in 2024, and one foreign victim out of 39 in 2023.[321]

Slovakia has also established an online training module, *Trafficking in Human Beings – The Basics*,[322] targeted at frontline personnel (such as community, healthcare, social, and outreach workers). Developed by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, the module is accessible upon registration via its Learning Management System. The module aims to familiarise participants with indicators of trafficking in human beings, facilitate early detection, and clarify procedures for reporting information concerning potential victims, including foreigners. It was developed pursuant to Measure No. 17 of the Action Plan under the National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2024-2028[323] and Directive (EU) 2024/1712 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims.[324]

In 2025, officers from the National Unit for Combating Irregular Migration (NUCIM BBFP PFP) within the BBFP PFP delivered training to personnel across the Police Force, the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic, and other partner institutions to enhance victim identification capabilities.[325]

In 2025, information offices staff delivered 237 training sessions on trafficking in human beings, reaching a total of 5 470 participants, including 42 foreign nationals who had arrived in Slovakia as a result of armed conflict.[326]

The Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic also organised pre-departure training for consular staff in 2025 to enable the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings and familiarise personnel with the National Referral Mechanism to ensure the timely delivery of assistance.

Activities were delivered to diagnostic centres, secondary vocational and grammar school students, information offices personnel, hospitality staff, operational personnel of the NUCIM BBFP PFP, as well as authorised Police Force officers and investigators. They focused on building foundational knowledge in victim identification, victim support, NRM and general increase of sensitivity in the area of trafficking in human beings. Throughout 2025, the National Centre against Trafficking in Human Beings conducted educational and awareness-raising initiatives for both professionals and the general public, delivering 32 events to a total of 860 participants. Targeted training sessions aimed at raising awareness and sensitivity in the area of trafficking in huma beings were organised for Police Force officers under the project *Special Interview Rooms for Child Victims and Other Particularly Vulnerable Victims*, as well as for participants in regional victim support platforms across the Prešov and Trenčín regions.

In 2025, an online training module on trafficking in human beings for frontline personnel (including community, social, healthcare, and outreach workers) was made accessible to the general

321 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
322 Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, MI SR Training – E-Learning, accessed 28 January 2026.
323 National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for 2024-2028, (Measure No. 17: " Implementation of non-legislative measures to reduce demand for the services of victims and to ensure the timely identification of victims", p. 26), accessed 22 January 2026.
324 Crime Prevention Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
325 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
326 National Centre against Trafficking in Human Beings of the Expert Activities Department of the Crime Prevention Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

public via the LMS platform. Between 17 October and 31 December 2025, a total of 856 participants completed the course.

Additionally, 58 posts were published on the "Fight Against Human Trafficking" Facebook page throughout 2025, generating a total of 8 420 views.

Throughout 2025, the General Prosecutor's Office of the Slovak Republic actively cooperated with relevant authorities in the fight against trafficking in human beings and related criminal activity:

- In collaboration with the NUCIM BBFP PFP: Training activities were conducted for officers focusing on the vulnerability of victims, marriages of convenience as a form of migrant smuggling, the amended procedural status of suspects in pre-trial proceedings, and the practical application of information technology and covert operational techniques. An operational working meeting was also held between the Public Prosecutor's Office and the police to coordinate joint action against trafficking, migrant smuggling, and related offending. Alongside prosecutors from the Criminal, Non-Criminal, International, and Strategy, Legislation and Constitutional Law Departments of the General Prosecutor's Office, regional public prosecutors also participated;
- In collaboration with the National Labour Inspectorate: Sessions were organised for labour inspectors focusing on the legal elements of criminal offence of trafficking in human beings in the form of labour exploitation, the definition of victim vulnerability, legal entities as potential perpetrators of this criminal activity, and the distinction between labour exploitation, trafficking in human beings, and illegal employment.

The NUCIM BBFP PFP organised 10 training and educational sessions on trafficking in human beings for 269 participants, primarily targeting students at the Secondary Vocational School of the Police Force in Bratislava and the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava.

As part of the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic's curriculum – designed to enhance the professional development of judges, prosecutors, legal trainees, assistant prosecutors, and senior court officials – a two-day training course was conducted on trafficking in human beings and people smuggling, titled: *Trafficking in Human Beings: Specific Offence Types, Evidentiary Methodology, and Technology-Facilitated Trafficking, Including Artificial Intelligence*.[327]

Alongside national authorities, non-profit and international organisations were also actively engaged in capacity-building initiatives throughout 2025. For example, the IOM delivered 19 training sessions to 413 participants, 338 of whom represented state institutions. Additionally, 22 information sessions on workplace safety were conducted for 602 beneficiaries of aid from Ukraine.[328]

In 2025, IOM Slovakia conducted information and awareness-raising activities reaching over 560 individuals, focusing on workplace safety to enhance understanding of the risks associated with labour exploitation. Concurrently, it trained more than 400 professionals from detention centres, non-governmental organisations, Labour Offices, and other key institutions, thereby strength-

327 National Centre against Trafficking in Human Beings of the Expert Activities Department of the Crime Prevention Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
328 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.

ening institutional capacity to prevent and respond to trafficking in human beings.[329] In 2025, the IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC IOM) – which provides free counselling services to foreigners in Slovakia via telephone and email – handled nine cases of labour exploitation, including referrals to the Assistance Programme where appropriate. The IOM information line on safe travel and anti-trafficking remained operational throughout 2025, fielding 38 calls in total.[330]

Slovakia also continued to raise public awareness regarding the risks of trafficking in human beings to mark World Day Against Trafficking in Persons and European Anti-Trafficking Day. In October, the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic conducted a week-long campaign highlighting indicators of exploitation – including at Bratislava Airport – and promoting a new online educational tool covering the fundamentals of human trafficking offences.[331] Additionally, in July, the Ministry published a thematic press release alongside targeted social media content.[332]

329 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia, In 2025, IOM Slovakia reached over 560 people through awareness-raising sessions,2026, accessed 16 March 2026.
330 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
331 Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, European Day Against Trafficking in Human Beings: Launching a Week-Long Information Campaign and The Number of Child Victims of Human Trafficking Is Rising in Slovakia, 2025, accessed 29 April 2026.
332 Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, World Day Against Trafficking in Persons and the press release: 30 July Is World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, 2025, accessed 29 April 2026.



Returns and readmissions

12.1. Statistics and trends

In 2025, the total number of forced returns to third countries following irregular migration rose slightly to 72, up from 52 in 2024. This marked a break – albeit a minor one – in the downward trend in forced returns seen over the preceding five-year period: 298 forced returns were carried out in 2021, falling to 94 in 2022 and just 59 in 2023. The sharp decline from 2022 onwards was primarily driven by the war in Ukraine. In 2021, Ukraine was the main country of return, with Ukrainian nationals ranking among the top five nationality groups subject to forced return. In 2025, Ukrainian nationals once again constituted the largest group returned under forced return procedures, and Ukraine remained one of the most common countries of return (see Table 13).[333]

Voluntary departures also increased compared with 2024, continuing an upward trajectory observed since 2021. In 2025, the number of voluntary departures rose to 324, up from 227 in 2024. By way of comparison, 205 voluntary departures were recorded in 2023, 139 in 2022, and 72 in 2021. Regarding assisted voluntary returns, figures also rebounded compared with 2024, driven primarily by the full operationalisation of the AMIF-funded assisted voluntary return project. In 2025, 78 voluntary returns were carried out (facilitated through both Frontex and the IOM's AVRR programme), compared with 29 in 2024, 50 in 2023, and 90 in 2022 (see Table 13).[334]

333 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
334 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium a International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.

12.2. Policy and legislative developments and cooperation

The National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management[335] of June 2025 (see Chapter 2.1) also addresses the returns sector, emphasising the promotion of an effective and assertive EU return policy through visa and trade policy leverage vis-à-vis third countries, as well as the importance of cooperation in the area of return policy. In this context, Slovakia highlights the need to resolve operational obstacles, such as non-cooperation by third-country nationals or the misuse of asylum applications solely to delay removal. The Strategy establishes that national policy prioritises voluntary returns over forced returns while ensuring that returns remain effective, safe, and sustainable. At the same time, it maintains the consistent enforcement of administrative and judicial expulsions of third-country nationals. The Strategy further underscores that tackling irregular migration is an integral element of return policy, alongside enhancing cooperation with third-country diplomatic missions – particularly where difficulties arise in identifying foreign nationals, issuing travel documentation, or their admittance by countries of origin. Slovakia also actively supports relevant European initiatives and mechanisms in this field.[336]

In October 2024, Slovakia underwent a periodic Schengen evaluation in the field of returns, alongside a dedicated thematic return evaluation. The evaluation report was published on 2 October 2025. On 2 December 2025, Slovakia submitted an Action Plan for European Commission approval, setting out measures to implement the report's recommendations. The objective is to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Schengen evaluation recommendations, remedy identified shortcomings, and guarantee compliance with the rules and standards of the Schengen acquis.[337]

In 2025, the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police Office of the Police Force Presidium strengthened cooperation with third countries to enhance return policy effectiveness. Measures focused in particular on closer engagement with third-country diplomatic missions and consular offices – principally those in Vienna – to facilitate the identification of third-country nationals and the issuance of travel documentation.[338]

12.3. Forced returns, readmissions and detention

As part of efforts to foster cooperation with Vietnamese authorities in the field of returns, Slovakia joined the *EURLO Vietnam 2* project: *Strengthening cooperation within the ILO regional network coordinated by EURLO in Vietnam and developing capacity for the practical implementation of issues relating to readmission and the return of persons*. The project encompasses the exchange of information, expertise, and best practice.[339]

In 2025, Slovakia again participated in return operations organised by Frontex, which coordinates joint return operations for individuals lacking a legal right to reside in the EU, thereby

335 Government Office of the Slovak Republic, National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management, 2025, accessed 23 January 2026.
336 Government Office of the Slovak Republic, National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management, 2025, accessed 23 January 2026.
337 Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic a Bureau of Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
338 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
339 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.

enhancing return policy effectiveness. Slovakia contributes to these measures as part of broader cooperation on border security and migration management. In practice, Frontex provides support in organisation and realisation – including financing or co-financing – for Member States' return operations, covering the chartering of aircraft as well as returns via scheduled commercial flights or alternative transport.[340]

In 2025, the non-governmental organisation Slovak Humanitarian Council continued implementing the *DETENT* project,[341] which aims primarily to ensure dignified living conditions for individuals placed in specialised facilities operated by the BBFP PFP, as well as for those within 60 days of release from these facilities, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups. As part of the project's activities, third-country nationals in Police Detention Centres for Foreigners are provided with social and psychological counselling, recreational activities, education (including Slovak language courses and cultural orientation), supplementary healthcare, material assistance, and translation and interpreting services. Third-country nationals released from these facilities receive basic care support under the project for up to 60 days post-release. This encompasses essential provisions for a dignified standard of living – such as hygiene supplies, essential healthcare, a food allowance, financial support for administrative expenses, low-threshold accommodation, travel costs, and outreach social care – subject in all cases to consultation with and approval by the PDFF. The project also focuses on the practical implementation of alternatives to detention, which constitute a legally established option for managing the stay of detained individuals within the territory of the Slovak Republic. These activities contribute to ensuring an effective return process for those concerned.[342]

In 2025, work continued on the project *BBFP PFP RETURN – AMIF I. 2021-2027*, funded under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). The primary objective of the project is the preparation and execution of forced returns by the BBFP PFP. Key operational strands include: the identification and securing emergency travel documentation; the provision of travel and flight tickets; the provision of accommodation, subsistence, meal allowances, and insurance; translation and interpreting services, including within asylum procedures; age assessment procedures; and the provision of healthcare and material assistance.

Collectively, these activities form an integral part of Slovakia's return policy, directly enabling the execution of return operations. The aim is to ensure the proper implementation of return-related activities that directly follow from the strategic documents of the Slovak Republic and the EU. The project therefore contributes to making the fight against irregular migration more effective and to the consistent implementation of the return policy towards persons residing irregularly in the territory. The entire process is based on the principles of respect for human rights, non-discrimination and effectiveness, in line with the applicable legislation and EU recommendations.[343]

12.4. Assisted voluntary returns and reintegration

In 2025, Slovakia stepped up cooperation on voluntary returns with Frontex return specialists, who provide services and support – both within and outside police detention facilities for for-

340 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
341 Slovak Humanitarian Council, project Detent, accessed 25 March 2026.
342 Foreign Assistance Department of the Finance and Budget Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and Slovak Humanitarian Council.
343 Foreign Assistance Department of the Finance and Budget Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

eigners – to third-country nationals lacking sufficient financial resources during the voluntary return process.[344]

Slovakia also continued delivering its Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme via IOM, providing return and reintegration services to unlawfully resident migrants and rejected asylum seekers, both within and outside Ministry of Interior facilities. In this context, implementation of the AMIF-funded project "*Voluntary Return and Reintegration in the Country of Origin*" continued throughout 2025. Its primary objective is the delivery of comprehensive AVRR services, encompassing awareness-raising on programme opportunities among target groups and relevant institutions, as well as the preparation and execution of assisted voluntary returns themselves. The project also encompasses follow-up reintegration support for migrants in their countries of origin, alongside regular outcome monitoring. Emphasis is placed on respecting individual wishes and facilitating a planned return, thereby avoiding the adverse consequences of forced expulsion. This minimises the risk of returnee stigmatisation, which is a key prerequisite for successful and sustainable reintegration into their home society.[345]

As part of the AVRR programme, cooperation with the embassies and consulates of countries of origin continued throughout 2025 to promote AVRR services and secure assistance in issuing travel documentation. To support this collaboration, diplomatic missions were provided with details of the comprehensive support offered to migrants via IOM Slovakia. Thanks to this approach, embassies recognise the added value of the services provided, strengthening inter-agency ties, broadening opportunities for mutual engagement, and enabling more effective assistance for returning nationals.[346]

Comparing the two voluntary return pathways, the majority of individuals who returned via the IOM's AVRR programme in 2025 did not come from facilities operated by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. In total, 65 individuals returned to their country of origin via the IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme in 2025, with Indian and Vietnamese nationals accounting for the largest shares. Reintegration assistance was delivered to seven individuals, the majority of whom were citizens of Uzbekistan.[347]

344 Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium.
345 Foreign Assistance Department of the Finance and Budget Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
346 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
347 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.

13

Migration and development

Over the past five years, the Slovak Republic has not adopted any policies or legislation aimed at systematically integrating the development dimension of migration into its national development or broader sectoral policies.

13.1. Development and development cooperation

The National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management[348] of June 2025 (see Chapter 2.1) references the *Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic 2025-2030* with regard to migration and development (focused on tackling the root causes of irregular and forced migration), while introducing a thematic chapter dedicated to supporting the return and reintegration of the Slovak diaspora (encompassing individuals with ties to Slovakia who may not hold Slovak citizenship or who hold official status as a Slovak living abroad). The national migration strategy does not address the development potential of migration in non-EU countries.[349]

In terms of sectoral policies, Slovakia addresses the development potential of migration primarily through development assistance and humanitarian aid. From 2017 to the present, it has affirmed its commitment and directed development and humanitarian funding and activities towards addressing the drivers and impacts of forced and/or irregular migration globally – a phenomenon

348 Government Office of the Slovak Republic, National Strategy of the Slovak Republic on Asylum and Migration Management, accessed 23 January 2026.
349 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.

exacerbated also by the armed conflict in Ukraine, climate change, and the lack of legal migration pathways to the EU. Support has also been targeted at the most vulnerable groups through various development cooperation instruments, including grant projects, in-kind humanitarian aid, financial contributions, and the strengthening of asylum systems in transit countries.[350] No amendments were made to the Development Cooperation Act in 2025.[351]

In January 2025, the new *Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic 2025-2030*[352] was approved. It was developed through a consultative process involving key stakeholders across Slovakia's development cooperation sector, including public administration bodies, non-governmental organisations, and the business community. To support the strategy, an *Action Plan* was established in June 2025[353], setting out specific measures and activities to implement in practice. This Strategy is further supplemented by the document *Focus of Bilateral Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2025*[354]. Based on this document, Slovakia continues to support initiatives aimed at mitigating the impacts of conflict while responding to migration and refugee crises – particularly in the Middle East (Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq)[355] as well as in Ukraine[356]. A further objective is promoting the sustainable management of natural resources, which fosters local stability and helps alleviate drivers of population displacement.

As in previous frameworks, one of the four core objectives of the new strategy is to tackle the root causes of irregular and forced migration by creating employment, promoting food security, developing human capital, and strengthening the economic and social resilience of communities in countries of origin and transit. The strategy is grounded in international commitments, 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, Slovakia will endeavour to foster a cross-cutting approach to sustainable development. This seeks to ensure coherence and synergies across national policies – including development, foreign, security, trade, environmental, and migration policy – preventing individual sectoral strategies from undermining development goals and ensuring they contribute effectively to overall sustainable development. Under the strategy, SlovakAid activities focus primarily on the EU's Eastern Partnership region, the Western Balkans, the Middle East, and East Africa. The core programme countries remain Moldova, Kenya, and Georgia, whilst Ukraine retains special-needs status. Central Asia is also identified as a region offering significant potential for the gradual expansion of Slovakia's development activities. The strategy was drawn up in response to: a) the expiry of the *Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic 2019-2023*, the validity of which had been extended to the end of 2024 under Slovak Government Resolution No. 620 of 20 November 2023; and b) the August 2024 evaluation of the outgoing framework,[357], which assessed the instrument's design and overall effectiveness.[358]

350 Oboňová, S., Ulrichová, N.: Annual Report on Migration and Asylum in the Slovak Republic for 2023 and EMN Overview of Asylum and Migration in the Slovak Republic for 2024, European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, IOM Slovakia, accessed 16 March 2026.
351 Zákonypreludi.sk, Act No. 392/2015 Coll. on Development Cooperation, as amended, accessed 16 March 2026.
352 Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and Slovakaid, Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2025-2030, 2025, accessed 23 January 2026.
353 Government Office of the Slovak Republic, Action Plan for the Implementation of the Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2025 – 2030, 2025, accessed 9 February 2026.
354 Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and Slovakaid, Focus 2025, 2025, accessed 16 March 2026.
355 In 2025, the Slovak Republic, through the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAMRS), launched humanitarian Call No. SAMRS/2025/HUM/1: Mitigating the negative impacts of the migration and refugee crisis caused by ongoing and recent armed conflicts and the persistent crisis in the Middle East region (Syria, Iraq, Lebanon), open until 7 May 2025.
356 The Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAMRS) launched Call No. SAMRS/2025/HUM/2/UA: Ensuring and improving access to healthcare for vulnerable people affected by the armed conflict in Ukraine, open until 19 May 2025.
357 Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and Erudio, Evaluation of Government Scholarships as a Tool of the Slovak Republic's Development Cooperation in 2018–2024 – Final Report, 2025, accessed 27 January 2026.
358 Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

In 2025, the Slovak Government funded a total of 358 scholarship recipients, 119 of whom originated from countries affected by armed conflict or main countries of origin for forced migration. Scholarships were awarded primarily to students from Ukraine (39), Afghanistan (18), Palestine (15), Lebanon (14), Syria (13), Sudan (8), Ethiopia (8), and Iraq (4).[359]

13.2. Humanitarian aid and government scholarships

Slovakia and the civil society sector recognised the need for an effective mechanism to deliver humanitarian aid.[360] Consequently, at a meeting of Slovakia's Coordination Committee for Development Cooperation in December 2025, a *working group* was reconvened to draft the country's first-ever humanitarian strategy. The objective is to enhance the effectiveness of Slovak humanitarian aid, including through improved inter-ministerial coordination, the leverage of European financial instruments, and strategic partnerships with the private sector.[361]

In 2025, Slovakia commissioned an *Evaluation of Government Scholarships as an Instrument of the Slovak Republic's Development Cooperation for the Period 2018-2024.*[362] These scholarships have long targeted students from conflict-affected states (notably Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, Palestine, Iraq, and Ukraine) and developing economies (notably Kenya and Ethiopia). From a development perspective, the report highlights a very low rate of return among graduates to their countries of origin, which undermines the overall development impact and original purpose of the programme. According to the evaluators, the absence of a tracking mechanism to gather data on scholarship holders and maintain alumni contact prevents the scheme from fully realising its potential. In particular, this limits synergies with other development cooperation instruments, weakens bilateral relations between Slovakia and partner countries, and compromises the sustainability of outcomes. Despite operational obstacles – such as demand significantly exceeding capacity, language barriers, and insufficient support from institutions and universities – the scholarships continue to deliver a highly positive impact at an individual level. Ultimately, the evaluation identified key weaknesses and prospective adjustments to ensure a more effective deployment of this humanitarian and development tool.[363] [364]

In 2025, Slovakia helped mitigate the impact of the armed conflict in the Gaza Strip by facilitating the humanitarian admission of students from the region. [365] Supported by Slovak Government scholarships, these students were able to pursue higher education at Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, undergoing language and specialized preparation in general medicine, economics and management, and psychology. For the 2025/2026 academic year, the Ministry of Education registered nine students from the Gaza Strip.[366]

359 Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.
360 Ambrela, On the Need for a High-Quality Humanitarian Strategy for the Slovak Republic, 2025, accessed 26 January 2026.
361 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
362 Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and Erudio, Evaluation of Government Scholarships as a Tool for the Slovak Republic's Development Cooperation in 2018–2024 – Final Report, 2025, accessed 27 January 2026.
363 Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and Erudio, Evaluation of Government Scholarships as an Instrument of the Slovak Republic's Development Cooperation in 2018–2024 – Final Report, 2025, accessed 23 January 2026.
364 International Organization for Migration (IOM) Slovakia.
365 Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, press release: Palestinian Scholarship Holders from the Gaza Strip Thanked Slovakia, 2026, accessed 23 January 2026.
366 Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic a Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

Humanitarian assistance under Slovakia's Official Development Assistance (ODA) framework continued throughout 2025, encompassing material and financial support alongside humanitarian projects funded via Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (Slovenská agentúra pre medzinárodnú rozvojovú spoluprácu – SAMRS) calls for proposals targeting Ukraine and the Middle East (Lebanon, Iraq, and Syria). In total, Slovakia allocated EUR 4.9 million to international humanitarian aid in 2025.

Humanitarian aid activities remained primarily focused on addressing the urgent needs of civilians affected by the armed conflict in Ukraine, through material support and financial assistance channelled to local non-governmental organisations, public institutions, and established international humanitarian bodies. In 2025, Ukraine was the largest recipient of Slovak ODA. Total approved ODA for Ukraine – comprising both in-kind and financial assistance – amounted to EUR 8 020 480.22. In-kind humanitarian aid, valued at EUR 1 508 108.55, comprised two containerised water purification units, a tent camp for 250 people, disinfectants, generators, solid-fuel stoves, IT equipment, clothing, non-perishable food, and fuel drums. Financial assistance totalled EUR 6 512 371.67. Specific allocations included a financial contribution of EUR 300 000 towards the modernisation and reconstruction of underground facilities at educational institutions in the Sumy and Chernihiv regions to serve as civil defence shelters, provided under Slovakia's membership of the Coalition for the Construction of Civil Defence Shelters. Additionally, Slovakia provided a further financial contribution of EUR 500 000 to support Ukraine's energy sector. In 2025, SAMRS launched a call for proposals for humanitarian aid projects in Ukraine, focusing on securing and improving access to healthcare for vulnerable populations affected by the war. Under this call, grants totalling EUR 400 000 were approved for two projects. A further three contracts for medical equipment were awarded during the year, with a combined value of EUR 343 320. Beyond these grants, financial assistance encompassed contributions channelled through Slovakia's Embassy in Kyiv, departmental contributions from line ministries to international organisations – including macro-financial assistance from the Ministry of Finance channelled via the European Commission – and scholarships for Ukrainian students under the government scholarship scheme.

Slovakia also responded to other crises by delivering material and financial humanitarian aid. SAMRS launched a call for proposals for humanitarian projects in the Middle East, aimed at mitigating the adverse impacts of the migration and refugee crisis caused by ongoing and recent armed conflicts and persistent crisis in the region. Three projects were funded under this call. Financial contributions were deployed to provide medical assistance in Lebanon and to Afghan refugees in Iran, as well as to meet basic food, healthcare, and educational needs in the Sahrawi refugee camps near Tindouf, Algeria.

Beyond Ukraine, Slovakia provided material humanitarian aid to Lebanon, Egypt, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Gaza Strip, Cuba, and Jamaica.[367]

13.3. Circular migration

In 2025, Slovakia had neither adopted nor discussed at national level any new legislation or policies relating to circular migration schemes.

367 Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic.

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Government Regulation No. 23/2024 of 21 February 2024 amending Government Regulation No. 218/2022 Coll. on the Provision of an Allowance for the Accommodation of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection.

Government Regulation No. 59/2024 of 20 March 2024 amending Government Regulation No. 218/2022 Coll. on the Provision of an Allowance for the Accommodation of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection.

Government Regulation No. 60/2024 of 20 March 2024 on the Allowance for the Provision of Accommodation to Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in Connection with the Situation in Ukraine.

Government Regulation No. 151/2024 of 26 June 2024 on the Provision of an Allowance for the Accommodation of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection.

Government Regulation No. 459/2023 of 6 December 2023 amending Government Regulation No. 218/2022 Coll. on the Provision of an Allowance for the Accommodation of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection.

Government Regulation No. 461/2023 of 6 December 2023 extending the temporary reintroduction of border control at the internal border of the Slovak Republic with Hungary.

Government Regulation No. 474/2023 of 6 December 2023 on the Allowance for the Provision of Accommodation to Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in Connection with the Situation in Ukraine.

Council 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 effort between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof.

Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022 establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC, and introducing temporary protection.

Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services (as amended) and amending certain Acts.

Act No. 40/1993 Coll. on Citizenship of the Slovak Republic (as amended).

Act No. 144/2024, amending Act No. 480/2002 on Asylum and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, and amending certain other Acts.

Act No. 145/1995 Coll. on Administrative Fees (as amended).

Act No. 160/2024, amending Act No. 404/2011 on the Residence of Foreigners and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, and amending certain other Acts.

Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on Upbringing and Education (*The Education Act*) (as amended).

Act No. 290/2024 Coll. amending Act No. 597/2003 Coll. on the Financing of Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, and Educational Facilities, and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, and amending certain other Acts.

Act No. 342/2024 Coll., amending Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, and amending Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended, and amending certain other Acts

Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners (as amended).

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Annex: National statistics

This Annex summarises key statistics on international migration and foreigners in the Slovak Republic for 2025, including data not collected at EU level by Eurostat[368] or Frontex[369]. The tables encompass all foreigners – that is, both EU/EEA citizens and third-country nationals (see also the *Methodology and Terms* section). These data are also used to identify five-year trends across the individual thematic chapters, ranging from legal migration to Slovakia and integration through to irregular migration and returns from Slovakia.

National statistical data for Slovakia are primarily available in the yearbooks published by BBFP PFP[370] (regular and irregular migration, returns, and temporary protection), as well as annual statistics from MO MI SR[371] (international protection – including unaccompanied minors seeking asylum, temporary protection). Further data are compiled by COLSAF[372] (employment of foreigners and unaccompanied minors not seeking asylum), the Social Insurance Agency[373] (employment records of foreigners), MFEA SR[374] (visas), SO SR[375] (demographic trends and international migration), the Public Administration Section of MI SR[376] (citizenship) and Ministry of Education, Development, Research and Youth of the Slovak Republic[377] (education of foreigners). Additionally, Eurostat data on migration and integration in Slovakia for the calendar year are presented in the EMN Country Factsheet published alongside this report[378].

Key to Symbols:
(:) – Data not available
(-) – Not recorded
(/) – Shared ranking / equal values across countries
n/a – Not applicable

368 Eurostat, Migration to and from the EU and Migration and Asylum Overview, 2026, accessed 12 March 2026.
369 Frontex, Publications, accessed 12 March 2026.
370 Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Yearbooks and Temporary Protection, accessed 12 March 2026.
371 Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Asylum and Migration – Statistics, accessed 12 March 2026.
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377 Statistics are available on request from the Ministry or directly from the Centre for Scientific and Technical Information of the Slovak Republic (CVTI SR), which compiles and publishes them under the Statistical Yearbook – Higher Education Institutions, accessed 12 March 2026.
378 European Migration Network (EMN) Slovakia, Publications, accessed 12 March 2026.

Legal migration and visas

Table 1: Foreigners with valid residence in the Slovak Republic in 2025 – EU citizens and third-country nationals

<table>
<tr><th>Numbers and proportions of foreigners with valid residence in the Slovak Republic</th><th colspan="2">Data as at 31 December 2025</th><th>Most numerous groups</th></tr>
<tr><td>Total foreigners (EU citizens and third-country nationals)</td><td colspan="2">360 440</td><td rowspan="2">1. Ukraine (212 245)
2. Serbia (15 482)
3. Vietnam (12 536)
4. Czech Republic (12 370)
5. Hungary (9 715)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Proportion of foreigners in total population*</td><td colspan="2">6.66 %</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Of which: Third-country nationals</td><td rowspan="3">305 400</td><td>Temporary residence: 119 523</td><td rowspan="5">1. Ukraine (212 245)
2. Serbia (15 482)
3. Vietnam (12 536)
4. Russia (9 031)
5. India (8 040)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Permanent residence: 46 223</td></tr>
<tr><td>Tolerated residence: 139 654**</td></tr>
<tr><td>Proportion of third-country nationals among total foreigners</td><td colspan="2">84.73 %</td></tr>
<tr><td>Proportion of third-country in total population**</td><td colspan="2">5.65 %</td></tr>
</table>

Source: BBFP PFP and SO SR.

Notes:

* The total population of the Slovak Republic comprises all individuals holding permanent residence in the territory, regardless of citizenship. As at 31 December 2025, according to the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, the total population stood at 5 409 407.

** The substantial rise in the number of foreigners holding tolerated residence in the Slovak Republic since 2022 is primarily driven by the provision of temporary protection following the outbreak of war in Ukraine. The vast majority of tolerated residence permits relate directly to temporary protection. As at 31 December 2022: Out of 95 450 total cases, only 60 did not relate to temporary protection (53 on the grounds of being unaccompanied minors and 7 on grounds of respect for private and family life). As at 31 December 2023: Out of 114 223 total cases, only 73 fell outside temporary protection (66 for unaccompanied minors and 7 for respect for private and family life). As at 31 December 2024: Out of 131 713 total cases, only 17 fell outside temporary protection (12 for unaccompanied minors and 5 for respect for private and family life). As at 31 December 2025: Out of 139 654 total cases, only 21 fell outside temporary protection (10 for unaccompanied minors, 3 for victims of human trafficking, and 3 for respect for private and family life).

Table 2: Third-country nationals with valid residence in the regions of the Slovak Republic in 2025

Region in the Slovak Republic	Number of valid residences held by third-country nationals as at 31 December 2025	Of which: tolerated residence (temporary protection)
Bratislava Region	109 459	47 430
Košice Region	41 759	20 907
Nitra Region	36 301	14 078
Trnava Region	32 195	14 412
Žilina Region	24 850	13 634
Prešov Region	24 350	11 313
Trenčín Region	20 586	10 011
Banská Bystrica Region	15 900	7 852
Total	**305 400**	**139 637**

Source: BBFP PFP.

Table 3: Residence permits issued in the Slovak Republic in 2025 to third-country nationals

Purpose of residence[379] in the Slovak Republic – third-country nationals	Total number of residence permits*	Most numerous groups	Of which first-time permits**	Most numerous groups
Family reasons (family formation and reunification)[380]	11 083	1. Ukraine (49 632) 2. India (5 927) 3. Vietnam (5 794) 4. Serbia (4 628) 5. Russia (2 511)	3 917	1. Ukraine (24 184) 2. India (3 997) 3. Vietnam (2 723) 4. Serbia (1 775) 5. Philippines (1 713)
Education and study[381]	10 459		6 002	
Paid activities[382]	47 869		18 583	
Other[383]	20 010		17 972	
Total	89 421		46 474	

Source: BBFP PFP.

Table 3 note: Data broken down by sex are not available in the Slovak Republic. However, it is estimated that of the 89 421 total residence permits, 32% were issued to women and 68% to men. For first-time residence permits (comprising 46 474 third-country nationals), the proportion was 30% women and 70% men.

Explanatory notes:

* Total number of residences granted, renewed, or extended in the Slovak Republic in the given year.

** Residences granted in the Slovak Republic for the first time in the given year, or issued at least six months after the expiry of the previous residence.

379 Grounds for granting residence align with 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 definitions of categories of grounds for issuing residence permits]. These grounds fall into four primary categories: 1. Family formation and reunification (family reasons); 2. Education and study; 3. Paid activities; and 4. Other reasons. National residence types and purposes are classified accordingly under these four overarching categories.

380 The family formation and reunification (family reasons) category encompasses the following residence statuses under Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners 1. Temporary residence: long-term residence in another EU Member State pursuant to Section 30(1)(e); family reunification; and Slovaks living abroad (where the applicant selects the‚family' category); 2. Permanent residence for five years: statuses granted pursuant to Section 43(1)(a) to (d); family members of EU citizens; and five-year Brexit residence status (where the applicant selects the‚family' category) – recorded since 2020; 3. Permanent residence for unlimited period of time: statuses granted pursuant to Section 46(1)(a) and (b); and permanent residence as a family member of an EU citizen; 4. Long-term residence: statuses granted pursuant to Section 52(1)(a) (family); Slovaks living abroad (where selected under‚family'); Section 52(1)(b) (where selected under‚family'); and indefinite Brexit residence status (where selected under‚family')—recorded since 2020; and 5. Tolerated residence: granted where necessary to respect a foreigner´s private and family life without jeopardising national security or public order, pursuant to Section 58(1)(b).

381 The‚education and study' category encompasses the following residence statuses defined under Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners:: 1. Temporary residence: for study purposes (higher education students and school pupils) pursuant to Section 24(1)(b), Section 24(1)(c), Section 34(1)(b), and Section 24(1)(a); special activities under government or EU programmes (where categorized under‚study'); special activities under international agreements (where categorized under‚study'); special activities involving study-related work placements outside Slovakia; special activities involving voluntary service; long-term residence in another EU Member State pursuant to Section 30(1)(c) or Section 30(1)(d) (where categorized under‚study'); and Slovaks living abroad (where categorized under‚study'); 2. Permanent residence for five years: five-year Brexit residence status (where categorized under‚study')—recorded since 2020; and 3. Indefinite long-term residence: statuses granted pursuant to Section 52(1)(a) to Slovaks living abroad (where categorized under‚study'); Section 52(1)(a) for specific activities (where categorized under‚study'); and Section 52(1)(b) (where categorized under‚study').

382 The‚paid activities' category encompasses the following residence statuses defined under Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners: 1 Temporary residence: for business; start-up business; employment pursuant to Section 23(1) and (2); seasonal employment; special activities involving journalism, lecturing, artistic activities, or sporting activities; special activities under international agreements (where categorized under‚paid'); special activities under government or EU programmes (where categorized under‚paid'); intra-corporate transfers (ICT manager, specialist, or trainee); long-term residence in another EU Member State pursuant to Section 30(1)(a) and (b), or Section 30(1)(d) (where categorized under‚paid'); performance of official duties by civilian components of the armed forces pursuant to Section 28; EU Blue Card holders; research and development (including pursuant to Section 34(1)(b)); and Slovaks living abroad (where categorized under‚paid'); 2. Permanent residence for five years: granted in the interests of the Slovak Republic pursuant to Section 43(1)(e); and five-year Brexit residence status (where categorized under‚paid')—recorded since 2020; 3. Permanent residence for unlimited period of time: granted in the interests of the Slovak Republic pursuant to Section 46(1)(a); and 4. Indefinite long-term residence: statuses granted pursuant to Section 52(1)(a) for employment, business, research and development, Slovaks living abroad (where categorized under‚paid'), or specific activities (where categorized under‚paid'); Section 52(1)(b) (where categorized under‚paid'); Section 52(1)(c) for EU Blue Card holders; and indefinite Brexit residence status (where categorized under‚paid')—recorded since 2020.

383 The‚other reasons' category encompasses the following residence statuses under Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners that do not fall into any of the three preceding categories:: 1. Temporary residence: for specific activities—namely healthcare provision and accompanying a third-country national receiving medical care; Slovaks living abroad (where categorised under‚other reasons'); and long-term residence in another EU Member State pursuant to Section 30(1)(d) (where categorised under‚other reasons'); 2. Permanent residence for five years: statuses granted in the interests of the Slovak Republic pursuant to Section 43(1)(e) and Section 45a (where categorised under‚other reasons'); and five-year Brexit residence status (where categorised under‚other reasons')—recorded since 2020; 3. Permanent residence for unlimited period of time: statuses granted in the national security interests of the Slovak Republic pursuant to Section 46(2) (where categorised under‚other reasons'); 4. Indefinite long-term residence: statuses granted pursuant to Section 52(1)(a) to Slovaks living abroad (where categorised under‚other reasons'); Section 52(1)(b) (where categorised under‚other reasons'); and indefinite Brexit residence status (where categorised under‚other reasons')—recorded since 2020; 5. Tolerated residence: permits granted to minors found in the territory of the Slovak Republic pursuant to Section 58(1)(a); adult victims of human trafficking pursuant to Section 58(1)(c) or for a reflection period of up to 90 days pursuant to Section 58(3); cases arising from international obligations pursuant to Section 58(1)(d); and illegally employed persons subject to particularly exploitative working conditions or illegally employed minors whose presence is required for criminal proceedings pursuant to Section 58(2); 6. Subsidiary protection; 7. Asylum; and 8. Temporary protection.

Table 4: Foreigners employed in the Slovak Republic in 2025

Foreigners employed in the Slovak Republic	As at 31 December 2025	Male	Female	The most numerous groups of foreigners	The most numerous groups of third-country nationals
EU/EEA citizens	28 795	20 356	8 439	1. Ukraine (43 960) 2. Hungary (7 639) 3. India (6 815) 4. Czech Republic (6 485) 5. Serbia (5 784)	1. Ukraine (43 960) 2. India (6 815) 3. Serbia (5 784) 4. Philippines (2 396) 5. Uzbekistan (2 360)
Third-country nationals	84 140	51 403	32 737		
Total	**112 935**	71 759	41 176		

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Note: Social Insurance Agency figures cover employees in active employment during the year with an assessment base exceeding €1. These figures may differ from publicly available data from the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, which track work permits issued to foreigners and foreigners employed under an information card. Discrepancies between Social Insurance Agency and Labour Office data stem from several factors, most notably differences in processing timelines, reporting periods, and data selection methodologies. Social Insurance Agency data are derived from an export generated in February of the following year and remain subject to subsequent adjustment, whereas Labour Office data are compiled using figures valid as at mid-January of the following year. Furthermore, whereas the Labour Office reports monthly end-of-month figures covering all workers, Social Insurance Agency data are analysed on an annual basis and relate exclusively to employees.

Table 5: Visas issued by the Slovak Republic to third-country nationals in 2025

Slovak Republic visas for third-country nationals*		As at 31 December 2025	Male	Female
(Schengen) short-stay visas • Type A visas (airport transit visas) • Type C visas (tourist visas) • LTV visas (visas with limited territorial validity)	Issued in a third country	14 823	9 044	5 779
	Issued to a person residing in another EU Member State	1 090***	517	573
National visas (Type D visas)**	Issued in a third country	17 783	13 956	3 827
	Issued to a person residing in another EU Member State	127	34	93
Total		**33 823**	23 551	10 272

Source: MFEA SR (derived from Microcomp data in the NVIS system).

Explanatory notes:

* Figures reflect the number of visas issued by Slovak diplomatic missions in EU Member States or third countries; data regarding applicants' place of residence are not available for statistical processing.

** In addition to the visas detailed above, the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic issued 218 national visas within Slovak territory, 55 of which were issued to women.

*** The total number of category C visas issued in EU Member States includes one visa issued to a male applicant at a Slovak border crossing point.

Note: Visa figures may differ from those published in the BBFP PFP yearbook, *Statistical Overview of Legal and Irregular Migration in the Slovak Republic – 2025*. The number of visas processed in the system at the time of compiling this overview may not correspond precisely to the number of visas printed or issued.

Table 6: National visas issued in the interest of the Slovak Republic to third-country nationals in 2025

National visas issued in the interest of the Slovak Republic to third-country nationals	Purpose		Number of applications for national visas	Male	Female	Number of rejected applications / national visas not granted	The most numerous groups
Intra-corporate transferees[384] – Transferred employees and their family members	Employment for the duration of the employment contract, up to a maximum of one year.		163	139	24	0	1. China (124) 2. Russia (29) 3. India (15) 4. Philippines (6) 5. Egypt/Sri Lanka (5)
	Family reunification for the duration of the transferred employee's national visa.		51	21	30	0	
Highly qualified individuals – Jobseekers and individuals who have secured employment[385]	Job-seeking for a period of 90 days.		20	18	2	0	1. India (33) 2. China (30) 3. Russia (19) 4. Belarus/Türkiye (4) 5. Philippines/Syria (3)
	Employment for the duration of the employment contract, up to a maximum of one year.		93	63	30	3	
Bus and heavy goods vehicle (HGV) drivers[386]	Employment for the duration of the employment contract, up to a maximum of one year.	Bus driver	109	109	0	1	1. India (501) 2. Uzbekistan (322) 3. Kyrgyzstan (181) 4. Tajikistan (83) 5. Azerbaijan (63)
		Heavy goods vehicle (HGV) driver	1 363	1 359	4	20	
Students, researchers and university lecturers – Internationalisation of higher education institutions[387]	Selected scholarship programmes.		436	221	215	7	1. Türkiye (148) 2. Uzbekistan (110) 3. Ukraine (24) 4. Palestine (13) 5. Egypt/Kazakhstan/Pakistan (10)
Chinese nationals – Promotion of trade relations and investment development between China and the Slovak Republic[388]	Employment for the duration of the visa, up to a maximum of one year – implementation of an investment project or significant investment.		10	9	1	0	n/a
Other grounds[389]	Sport, other grounds.		107	75	32	0	-
Total			**2 065**	1 727	338	**31**	**1. India (556) 2. Uzbekistan (444) 3. Kyrgyzstan (185) 4. China (157) 5. Türkiye (155)**

Source: MFEA SR.

384 Government Regulation No. 269/2022 Coll. on the interest of the Slovak Republic in granting national visas to relocated third-country nationals and their family members.
385 Government Regulation No. 521/2021 Coll. on the interest of the Slovak Republic in granting national visas to highly qualified third-country nationals.
386 Government Regulation No. 113/2023 Coll. on the interest of the Slovak Republic in granting national visas to selected categories of third-country nationals.
387 Government Resolution No. 731/2021 on the Strategy for the Internationalisation of Higher Education up to 2030.
388 Government Regulation No. 160/2025 Coll. on the interest of the Slovak Republic in granting national visas to selected categories of nationals of the People's Republic of China to promote trade relations and bilateral investment.
389 Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners, section 15(1)(d).

Integration and citizenship

Table 7: Slovak citizenship acquired by foreigners in 2025

Slovak citizenship acquired by foreigners	As at 31 December 2025	Male	Female	Most numerous groups by previous citizenship
EU/EEA citizens	**329**	164	165	1. Czech Republic (109) 2. Hungary (81) 3. Romania (54) 4. Germany (21) 5. Switzerland (15)
Third-country nationals	**2 178**	1 191	987	1. Ukraine (613) 2. Serbia (567) 3. USA (337) 4. Israel (149) 5. Canada (71)
Stateless persons	**2**	1	1	n/a
Total	**2 509**	1 356	1 153	**1. Ukraine (613)** **2. Serbia (567)** **3. USA (337)** **4. Israel (149)** **5. Czech Republic (109)**

Source: Citizenship Department, PAS MI SR.

Note: Slovak citizenship is usually acquired through naturalisation.

Table 8: Foreigners in the Slovak school system in the 2025/2026 school year

Foreigners in the Slovak school system	As at 15 September 2025	Of which third-country nationals	The most numerous groups of third-country nationals
Foreigners in nursery schools	3 360	2 883	1. Ukraine (2 237) 2. Vietnam (147) 3. Russia (93) 4. Serbia (86) 5. China (30)
Foreigners in primary schools	13 914	12 426	1. Ukraine (9 686) 2. Vietnam (577) 3. Russia (495) 4. Serbia (266) 5. Republic of Korea (193)
Foreigners in special nursery and primary schools	264	228	1. Ukraine (193) 2. Russia (9) 3. Serbia, Vietnam, USA (16)
Foreigners in secondary schools	6 603	6 010	1. Ukraine (4 968) 2. Russia (296) 3. Serbia (128) 4. Vietnam (100) 5. Republic of Korea (74)
Foreigners in higher education institutions	30 065	22 951	1. Ukraine (17 255) 2. Russia (1 117) 3. Kazakhstan (656) 4. Norway (482) 5. India (480)
Total	**54 206**	**44 498**	**1. Ukraine (34 339)** **2. Russia (2 010)** **3. Serbia (898)** **4. Vietnam (855)** **5. Belarus(589)**

Source: MERDY SR.

Irregular migration and returns

Table 9: Irregular migration of foreigners in the Slovak Republic in 2025

Cases of irregular migration of foreigners in the Slovak Republic	As at 31 December 2025	Male	Female	Most numerous groups
Recorded irregular crossings of the state border	943	940	3	1. Ukraine (929) 2. Czech Republic (4) 3. Hungary (3) 4. Egypt (2) 5. Mongolia (1)
Recorded unauthorised residence	637	533	104	1. Ukraine (165) 2. Serbia (46) 3. India (45) 4. Vietnam (44) 5. Georgia (34)
Total	**1 580**	1 473	107	1. Ukraine (1 094) 2. Serbia (46) 3. India (45) 4. Vietnam (44) 5. Georgia (34)

Source: BBFP PFP.

Table 10: Third-country nationals identified by the Slovak Republic as smuggled migrants

Third-country nationals identified by the SR as smuggled migrants [390]	As at 31 December 2025	Male	Female	Minors	Most numerous groups
Total	**179**	:	:	:	1. Iran (48) 2. Ukraine (45) 3. Syria/Unknown (20) 4. Serbia (11) 5. North Macedonia (9)

Source: BBFP PFP.

Explanatory note:

(:) Data not available – in cases recorded by the NUCIM BBFP PFP, data is limited to the citizenship of irregular migrants and the connection to the specific criminal offence for which charges were brought against the smugglers.

390 Under Sections 355 and 356 of Act No. 300/2005 Coll. (the Criminal Code), people smuggling is defined as follows:
"Section 355 – Any person who organises, facilitates, or assists in the irregular crossing of the state border of the Slovak Republic or transit through its territory by a person who is neither a citizen of the Slovak Republic nor a permanent resident in its territory, whether or not for financial or other material gain, commits an offence.
Section 356 – Any person who, with the intention of obtaining a direct or indirect financial or other material benefit for themselves or another, enables or assists a person—who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the Slovak Republic, another EU Member State, or an EEA Contracting State—to remain or to be unlawfully employed within the territory of the Slovak Republic, another EU Member State, or an EEA Contracting State, shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of between two and eight years."

Table 11: Migrant smugglers in the Slovak Republic in 2025

Migrant smugglers in the Slovak Republic [391]	Total
Detained as suspects *	**43**
Charged	**46****
Convicted	**35*****

Source: Prosecutor General's Office of the Slovak Republic.

Explanatory notes:

* Total number of persons suspected of the criminal offence of migrant smuggling.

Note:

** Of the 46 persons charged, 28 were charged under Section 355 of the Criminal Code and 18 under Section 356 of the Criminal Code.

*** 19 persons were convicted under Section 355 and 16 under Section 356 of Act No. 300/2005 Coll. (the Criminal Code).

Table 12: Third-country nationals detained in the Slovak Republic in 2025

Third-country nationals detained and placed in the facilities of the Slovak Republic	As at 31 December 2025	Male	Female	Minors	Most numerous groups
Police Detention Centre for Foreigners Sečovce	48	43	3	2	1. Syria (17) 2. Georgia/Serbia (16) 3. Moldova (15) 4. Vietnam (11) 5. Türkiye (8)
Police Detention Centre for Foreigners Medveďov	98	95	3	0	
Total	**146**	138	6	2	

Source: BBFP PFP.

391 This figure includes individuals convicted under Sections 355 and 356 of Criminal Code No. 300/2005 Coll. and Section 171a of former Criminal Code No. 140/1961 Coll. (depending on the nature of the offence).

Table 13: Returns of third-country nationals from the Slovak Republic in 2025

Third-country nationals returned from the Slovak Republic	**Total**	Male	Female	Minors	Most numerous groups	Most common countries of return
Returned within forced returns*	**72**	68	4	0	1. Ukraine (21) 2. Moldova (13) 3. Serbia/Vietnam (9) 4. Georgia (6) 5. Türkiye (3)	1. Ukraine 2. Moldova 3. Serbia/Vietnam 4. Georgia 5. Türkiye
Voluntarily returned (including IOM AVRR and Frontex)**	**324*** **	265	59	0	1. Serbia (40) 2. Türkiye (30) 3. India (26) 4. Georgia (24) 5. Vietnam (19)	1. Türkiye 2. Serbia 3. Ukraine 4. Georgia 5. Vietnam
Voluntarily returned within the IOM AVRR programme	**65**	57	8	0	1. India (17) 2. Vietnam (7) 3. Colombia (6) 4. Kyrgyzstan/Philippines/Indonesia (5) 5. Brazil (4)	
Persons who received reintegration assistance under the IOM AVRR programme	**7**	7	0	0	1. Uzbekistan (2) 2. Serbia/Georgia/India/Moldova/Brazil (1)	

Source: BBFP PFP[392] and IOM Slovakia[393].

Note: AVRR – IOM Slovakia's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme.

Explanatory notes:

* Forced return: Cases where an administrative or judicial expulsion order is enforced by a Police Force escort: a) across an external land border, b) across an internal land border, or c) by air to a third country.

** Voluntarily returned (including IOM AVRR and Frontex): This category includes: a) voluntary compliance with the obligation to leave the territory of the Slovak Republic within the prescribed period specified in an administrative expulsion order issued on grounds of unauthorised stay (where compliance was recorded at an external border crossing point); or b) departure from the territory of the Slovak Republic following the detection of unauthorised stay at a border crossing point upon exit, for which a forced return decision was issued to the foreigner. This category also includes individuals returned via the IOM under the AVRR programme and via Frontex following the issuance of an expulsion order. Each individual is counted only once (i.e. only one expulsion order is recorded per person).

*** The total figure of 324 comprises 13 voluntary returns conducted in cooperation with Frontex, 65 voluntary returns via the IOM AVRR programme, and 246 voluntary departures.

392 The BBFP PFP compiled return statistics using the data provided to Eurostat for 2022. When compiling these data, the BBFP PFP complied with Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection, as well as Eurostat's technical guidelines currently in force [Technical Guidelines for the Data Collection – Enforcement of Immigration Legislation (EIL) Statistics].

393 IOM Slovakia compiles statistics on assisted voluntary return and reintegration which, unlike the figures presented above, are published on its website as the number of AVR cases and reintegration cases. A single case may involve multiple individuals.

International protection

Table 14: International protection in the Slovak Republic in 2025

International protection for foreigners	**Total**	Male	Female	Minors	Most numerous groups	
Asylum applications (of which: first-time applications)	**163 (131)**	131 (100)	32 (31)	35 (27)	Total number of applicants: 1. Ukraine (40) 2. Afghanistan (21) 3. Belarus (14) 4. Russia (11) 5. Syria (8)	First-time applicants: 1. Ukraine (37) 2. Afghanistan (17) 3. Belarus (14) 4. Russia (9) 5. Syria (8)
Asylum granted	**41**	16	25	16	1. Belarus (18) 2. Afghanistan (14) 3. Russia (5) 4. Azerbaijan/Tajikistan/Türkiye/stateless (1) 5. -	
Subsidiary protection granted*	**32**	26	6	13	1. Ukraine (13) 2. Afghanistan (8) 3. Syria (5) 4. India / Russia (3) 5. -	
Negative decisions**	**54**	40	14	6	1. Russia (7) 2. Germany (5) 3. Colombia (4) 4. Afghanistan/Belarus/Morocco/Ukraine (3) 5. China/Egypt/India/Serbia/Sri Lanka (2)	
Proceedings terminated***	**55**	50	5	4	1. Ukraine (21) 2. Afghanistan/Angola/Azerbaijan/Pakistan/Türkiye (3) 3. Algeria/India/Iran/Morocco/Serbia/Syria (2) 4. Egypt/Netherlands/Colombia/Latvia/Palestine/Turkmenistan/Vietnam (1) 5. -	

Source: MO MI SR.

Note: Figures reflect decisions taken in first instance in administrative proceedings.

Explanatory notes:

* Subsidiary protection: Protection against serious harm in the country of origin.

** Negative decisions: Includes decisions on not granting asylum, not granting subsidiary protection, and rejecting asylum applications as (i) manifestly unfounded or (ii) inadmissible. These do not include decisions rejecting applications as inadmissible where another state holds jurisdiction over the asylum proceedings (known as 'Dublin cases').

*** Terminated proceedings: Termination of proceedings pursuant to Section 19 of Act No. 480/2022 Coll. on Asylum and Amending Certain Acts, as amended.

Table 15: Applicants for asylum in the Slovak Republic in 2025 in connection with the war in Ukraine

Citizenship	As at 31 December 2025	Male	Female	Minors
Ukraine	21	15	2	4
Russia	4	2	2	0
Other third countries	1	0	1	0
Total	**26**	17	5	4

Source: MO MI SR.

Table 16: Third-country nationals relocated in the Slovak Republic in 2025

Total	Male	Female	Minors	Country of origin of relocated third-country nationals	Relocations carried out from EU Member States
0	0	0	0	–	–

Source: MO MI SR.

Table 17: Third-country nationals resettled in the Slovak Republic in 2025

Total	Male	Female	Minors	Original host country
0	0	0	0	–

Source: MO MI SR.

Table 18: Third-country nationals resettled via the Slovak Republic to third countries in 2025

Total	Male	Female	Minors	Original host country	Destination country
0	0	0	0	–	–

Source: MO MI SR and IOM Slovakia.

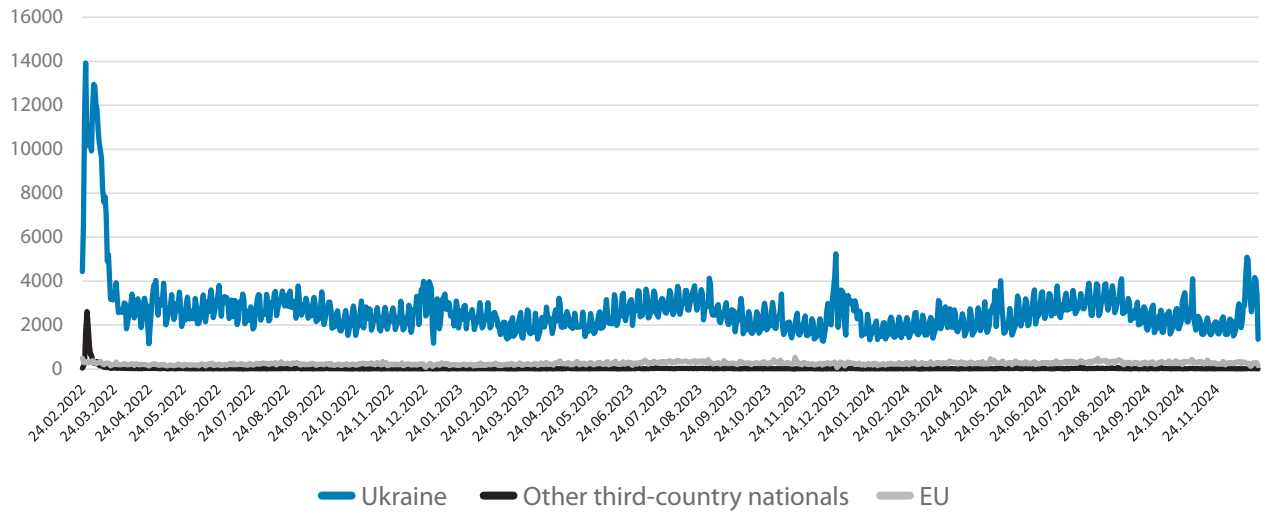
Temporary protection and the movement of persons to and from Ukraine

Table and Figure 19: Entries into the Slovak Republic from Ukraine in 2025 and since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine

Arrivals in the Slovak Republic from Ukraine	Persons by citizenship			
	Ukrainian nationals	Other third-country nationals	EU/EEA nationals	**Total**
Number of arrivals (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025	871 311	10 052	111 014	**992 377**
Number of arrivals (24 February 2022 – 31 December 2025)	3 634 981	42 435	374 863	**4 052 279**

Source: BBFP PFP.

Passenger flows at the Slovak–Ukrainian land border (entries into Slovakia), 24 February 2022 – 31 December 2025 (daily from 00:00 to 23:59)



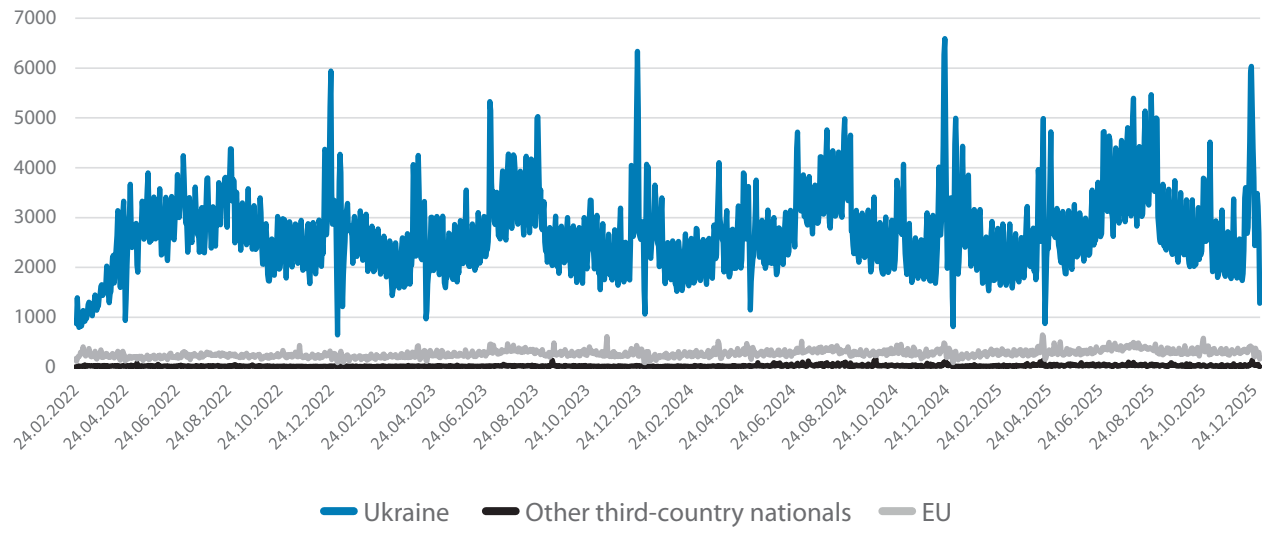
Source: BBFP PFP.

Table and Figure 20: Exits from the Slovak Republic to Ukraine in 2025 and since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine

Exits from the Slovak Republic to Ukraine	Persons by citizenship			
	Ukrainian nationals	Other third-country nationals	EU/EEA nationals	**Total**
Number of exits (1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025	1 030 122	11 153	115 028	**1 156 303**
Number of exits (24 February 2022 – 31 December 2025)	3 738 705	32 912	384 003	**4 155 620**

Source: BBFP PFP.

Passenger flows at the Slovak–Ukrainian land border (exits from Slovakia), 24 February 2022 – 31 December 2025 (daily from 00:00 to 23:59)



Source: BBFP PFP.

Table 21: Applications for temporary protection in the Slovak Republic in connection with the war in Ukraine in 2025 and since 1 March 2022

Applications for temporary protection by citizenship	Adults		Minors		Number of applications from 1 March 2022 to 31 December 2025*	Adults		Minors		Number of applications from 1 January to 31 December 2025*
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female	
Ukraine	43 206	81 130	28 607	24 425	177 368	8 405	5 336	2 245	1 195	17 181
Russia	197	322	19	28 655	566	27	52	1	1	81
Other countries	316	133	29	17	495	33	14	1	2	51
Total	43 719	81 585	28 655	24 740	**178 429**	8 465	5 402	2 247	1 199	**17 313**
	125 304		53 125			13 867		3 446		

Source: BBFP PFP.

Explanatory note:

* Figures based on the IS MIGRA report dated 9 March 2026. These statistics are subject to change and are updated daily (including retrospectively) as part of ongoing verification and data checks within the source system. Consequently, figures for 2025 applications published at a later date may reflect minor adjustments.

Unaccompanied minors

Table 22: Unaccompanied minors in the Slovak Republic in 2025

Numbers of unaccompanied minors by legal status	As at 31 December 2025	Male	Female	Most numerous groups**
Unaccompanied minors not seeking asylum	19	14	5	1. Ukraine 2. Egypt 3. - 4. - 5. -
Unaccompanied minors seeking asylum	6	6	0	1. Afghanistan 2. - 3. - 4. - 5. -
Total*	**25**	20	5	1. Ukraine 2. Afghanistan 3. - 4. - 5. -

Source: MO MI SR (asylum seekers) and COLSAF (non-asylum seekers).

Notes:

* Unaccompanied minors – third-country nationals – in the care of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship services.

** Where the number of unaccompanied minors is low, specific figures are not reported for protection reasons.

Table 23: Unaccompanied minors in facilities in the Slovak Republic in 2025

Numbers of unaccompanied minors in facilities*	**Total**	Male	Female	Most numerous groups**	Left the facility
Unaccompanied minors placed in facilities	**25**	20	5	1. Ukraine 2. Afghanistan 3. - 4. - 5. -	1
Total number of unaccompanied minors in facilities	**31**	23	8	1. Ukraine 2. Afghanistan 3. - 4. - 5. -	1

Source: COLSAF.

Note:

* In 2025, unaccompanied minors who are third-country nationals were placed at the Centre for Children and Families in Medzilaborce. Unaccompanied minors from Ukraine were placed at the Centre for Children and Families in Medzilaborce, Bratislava (Röntgenova), and Nitra.

** Where the number of unaccompanied minors is low, specific figures are not reported for protection reasons.

Trafficking in human beings

Table 24: Victims of trafficking in human beings from non-EU countries in the Slovak Republic in 2025

		Total*	Male	Female
Third-country nationals identified as victims of human trafficking[394] or presumed victims of human trafficking[395] Presumed victims are indicated in parentheses ( ).		**15 (3)**	11 (2)	4 (1)
Age	Aged 18 and over	15 (3)	11 (2)	4 (1)
	Under 18	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Form of exploitation[396]	Sexual exploitation	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	Labour exploitation	6 (3)	3 (2)	3 (1)
	Other	9 (0)	8 (0)	1 (0)
Largest groups by citizenship		**Confidential data****	Confidential data	Confidential data
Tolerated residence granted ***		0	0	0
Directive 2004/81/EC [397]		0	0	0
Other		0	0	0
Residence permits applied for		0	0	0
Directive 2004/81/EC		0	0	0
Other grounds (e.g. humanitarian grounds)		0	0	0
Residence permits granted		0	0	0
Directive 2004/81/EC		0	0	0
Other grounds (e.g. humanitarian grounds)		0	0	0

Source: BBFP PFP (residence permits) and the National Centre against Human Trafficking within the Expert Activities Department of the Crime Prevention Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

Notes:

* In total, 63 victims (both Slovak citizens and foreigners) were identified formally and informally in the Slovak Republic in 2025: 59 were formally identified (i.e. by the police, specifically the NUCIM BBFP PFP) and 4 were classified as presumed victims.

** To protect vulnerable individuals, figures are suppressed or omitted where numbers are low, as are selected related data concerning the victims in question. Specific values are replaced by the entry 'Confidential data'.

*** In 2025, the BBFP PFP recorded three grants of tolerated residence to Brazilian nationals pursuant to Section 58(1)(c) of Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners.

394 Identified victims are individuals who have been formally identified by competent authorities (i.e. a person or body at national level authorised to formally identify victims of human trafficking). Under the Slovak Republic's National Referral Mechanism, only law enforcement authorities may formally identify a victim.

395 Presumed victims are individuals who meet the definition of a victim of human trafficking under Directive 2011/36/EU, but have not been formally identified by competent authorities (i.e. a person or body at national level authorised to formally identify victims of human trafficking).

396 Each victim may be subject to multiple forms of exploitation; consequently, the statistics presented in this section may not correspond directly to the overall totals above.

397 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.

Table 25: Human traffickers in the Slovak Republic in 2025

		Total	Male	Female
Human traffickers	Charged	**15***	7	8
	Convinced	**16****	12	4

Source: BBFP PFP (charged) and the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (convicted).

Explanatory notes:

* Number of proceedings concluded with a final decision.

** Under Section 179 of the Criminal Code.



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