



SLOVENIA 2021

Main developments in migration
and international protection,
including latest statistics

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

August 2022



OVERARCHING CHANGES

The three main pieces of legislation governing asylum and migration were amended. On 26 March 2021, the National Assembly adopted the Act amending the International Protection Act and the Act amending the Employment, Self-employment and Work of Foreigners Act. On 30 March 2021, the National Assembly adopted the Act amending the Foreigners Act.



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

On 30 March 2021, the National Assembly adopted the Act amending the Foreigners Act, transposing Directive (EU) 2016/801 and the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement (rights related to residence, residence documents) into national law. It also implemented Regulation (EU) 2017/1954 (a new form of residence permit with additional protection elements for third-country nationals and their family members, EU nationals and their family members, and Swiss Confederation nationals and their family members, as well as the family members of Slovenian nationals). The Act eliminated the consideration of funds from the social system (e.g. child benefit) for foreigners seeking to demonstrate sufficient means of subsistence. The aim was to ensure that foreigners meet the subsistence requirement with resources outside of social transfers.

The Act introduced the condition of entry-level (A1) Slovenian language knowledge for extending a temporary residence permit for family reunification purposes, and

KEY POINTS



The Act amending the Foreigners Act was adopted on 30 March 2021 and became applicable on 26 May 2021.



The Act amending the International Protection Act was adopted on 26 March 2021 and became applicable on 9 November 2021.



The Act amending the Employment, Self-employment and Work of Foreigners Act was adopted on 26 March 2021 and became applicable on 26 May 2021.

basic-level Slovenian (A2) for a permanent residence permit after five years' uninterrupted residence.

Under the Act, foreigners who submit their application and fingerprints to obtain a first temporary residence permit at a diplomatic mission abroad can be issued their residence permit by the competent authority in Slovenia.

WORK-RELATED MIGRATION

On 26 March 2021, the National Assembly adopted the Act amending the Employment, Self-employment and Work of Foreigners Act. It entered into force on 26 May 2021 and transposed Directive (EU) 2016/801 provisions into the Slovenian national legislation.

STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

The Act amending the Foreigners Act and the Act amending the Employment, Self-employment and Work of

Foreigners Act transposed Directive (EU) 2016/801 into national law. It covered entry and residence conditions for non-EU nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

The Act amending the Foreigners Act introduced the requirement for a sponsor to have stayed lawfully on territory for a period of two years (previously one year) before their family members can join them, as well as the Slovenian language condition (A2) for a family member for the renewal of a temporary residence permit for the purposes of family reunification. These provisions will become applicable on 27 April 2023.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

On 26 March 2021, the National Assembly adopted the Act amending the International Protection Act. It entered into force on 9 May 2021. Amendments aimed to:

- Ensure rapid and effective international protection procedures by eliminating deficiencies in the implementation of individual provisions.
- Introduce appropriate sanctions for obstructing the implementation of international protection procedures, not considering the obligations of applicants for international protection, violating the rules of residence at accommodation centres, public peace and order, and sanctions for committing offences.
- Determine a clearer legal basis and enable more effective implementation of individual law concepts, such as the restriction of movement and repetitive applications.
- Enforce legislative solutions that motivate beneficiaries of international protection to attend Slovenian language courses, learn about Slovenian society and participate in other integration programmes.
- Ensure harmonisation with European legislation, especially Directive 2013/32/EU.

RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT¹

The amended Article 104 of the International Protection Act provided for the possibility to carry out an orientation programme (information on Slovenia, way of life, rights and obligations of beneficiaries of international protection) before people arrive in Slovenia. The introductory period of three months was replaced by an orientation programme before arrival.



MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Amendments to the International Protection Act provided that unaccompanied minors would no longer be accommodated in the asylum centre, but in a

child-friendly institution, after approval by a social work centre. The Act amending the International Protection Act provided the competent authority with the legal basis to order age assessment before an application for international protection is lodged.



INTEGRATION

NATIONAL INTEGRATION STRATEGY

The Act amending the Foreigners Act transferred all integration activities for third-country nationals to the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants, which already had responsibility for integration measures for holders of international protection.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF ADULTS/ LABOUR MARKET AND SKILLS

Digital literacy and the use of digital tools were added to the integration programme for beneficiaries of international protection.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

No significant developments in 2021.



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

BORDER MANAGEMENT

On foot of Council Decision 2008/616/JHA on the implementation of Decision 2008/615/JHA on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime, Slovenia established joint patrols with Poland, Hungary and Estonia at the external Schengen border. The national Integrated Border Management (IBM) strategy was adopted and approved by the government. The police leadership formed and integrated the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) National Unit into the Criminal Police Directorate within the General Police Administration. The Entry-Exit System (EES) was to be established at several border crossing points - three air, two sea, 12 road and seven rail.

¹ Includes Humanitarian Admission Programmes



IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

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

Article 308 of the Penal Code was amended to define the elements of illegal migration and enable seizure of the vehicle used to transport illegal migrants.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

NATIONAL STRATEGIC POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

The new [Action Plan](#) for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2021–2022 was adopted on 4 March 2021.

On EU Anti-Trafficking Day (18 October 2021), the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU, together with the Network of Anti-Trafficking Coordinators of South-East Europe (SEE), carried out an information campaign on impunity in the context of the crime of trafficking in human beings.

The Act amending the Foreigners Act transposed provisions set out in the Istanbul Convention and Article 14 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The government signed an agreement on cooperation in the fight against trafficking in human beings and child abuse with the Republic of Montenegro in December 2021. The agreement targeted improved prevention, identification, protection, referral and participation in

criminal and other proceedings, and mutual assistance in the voluntary return of victims and potential victims of trafficking.

Negotiations continued on agreements with the governments of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and North Macedonia.



RETURN AND READMISSION

MAIN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

In 2021, Slovenia joined the European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN) and began promoting reintegration project within the programme.

COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

In cooperation with Pakistan, Slovenia gained access to the National Database and Registration Authority (NAD-RA).



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

No significant developments in 2021.



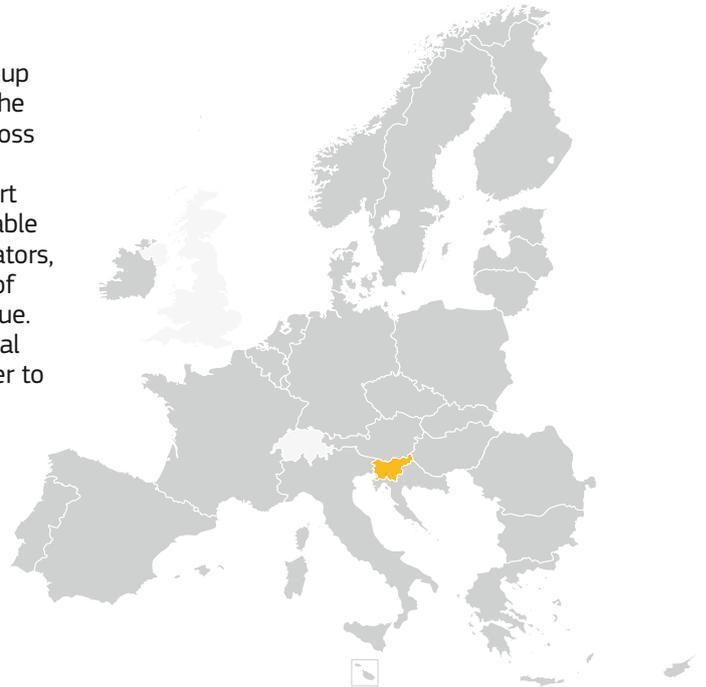
STATISTICAL ANNEX

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

STATISTICAL ANNEX

! GENERAL NOTES

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



COLOUR LEGEND

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

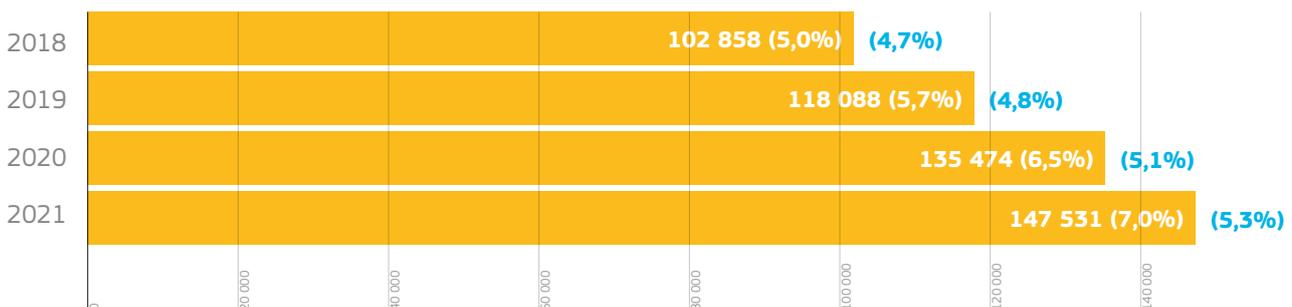
Data relative to Slovenia

Data relative to EU

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

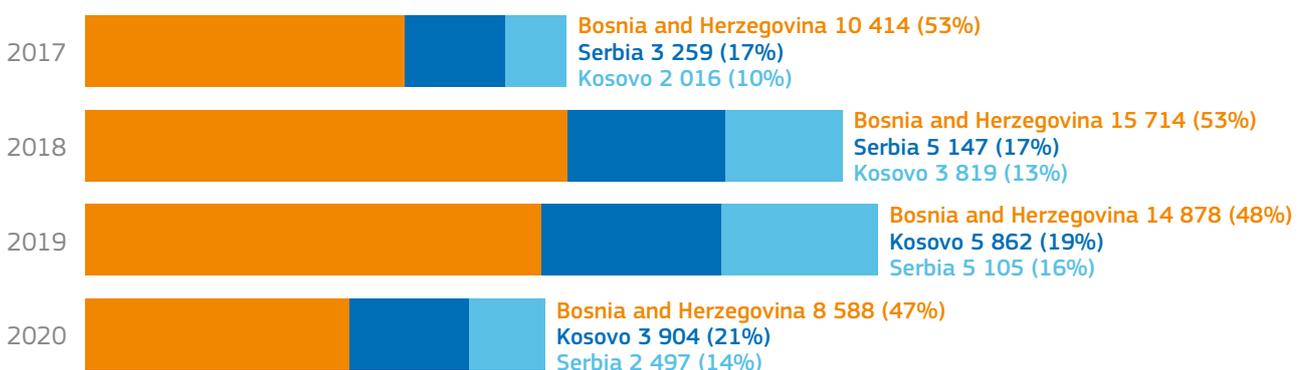
Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) as % of total population in the country (and in the EU) and in absolute numbers

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)



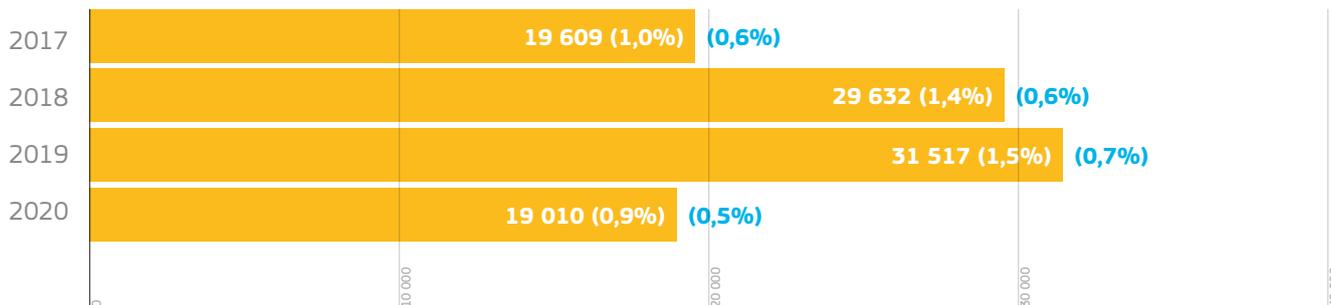
Top 3 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



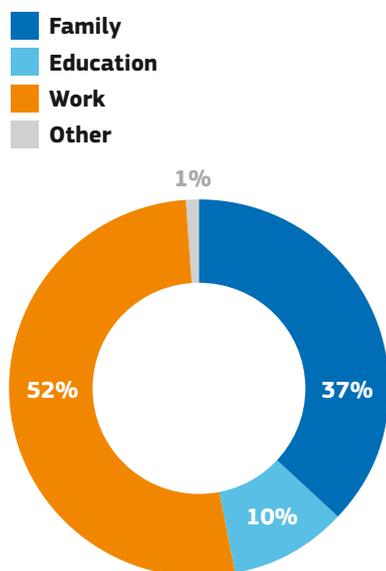
First residence permits annually issued: total number and % of total population in the country (and in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_pop1ctz)



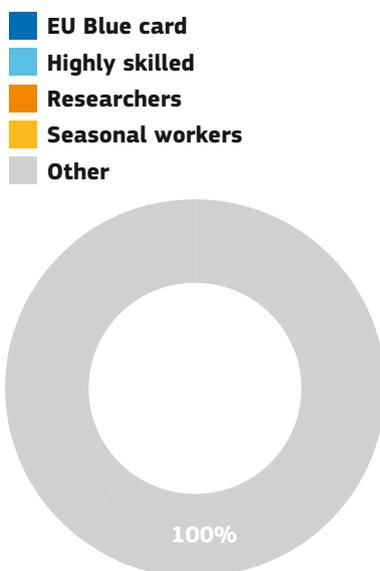
First residence permits annually issued by reason in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



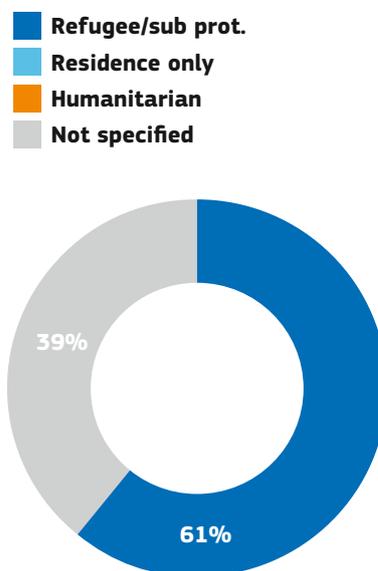
First residence permits annually issued for work reasons in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resocc)



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

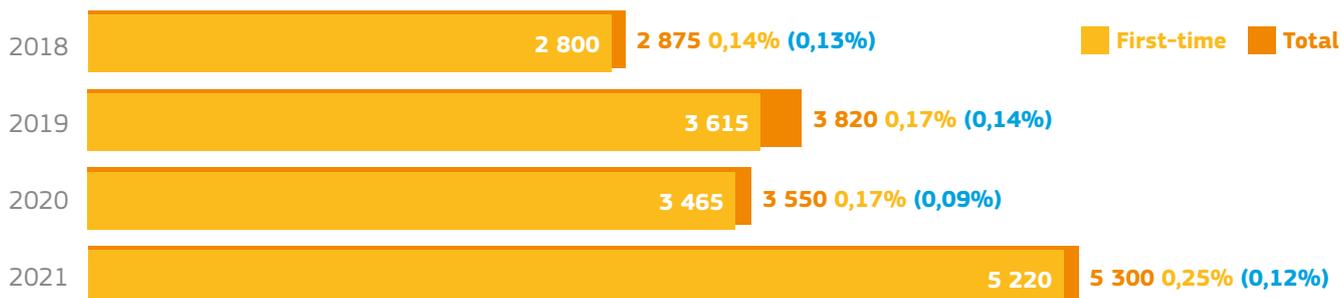
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

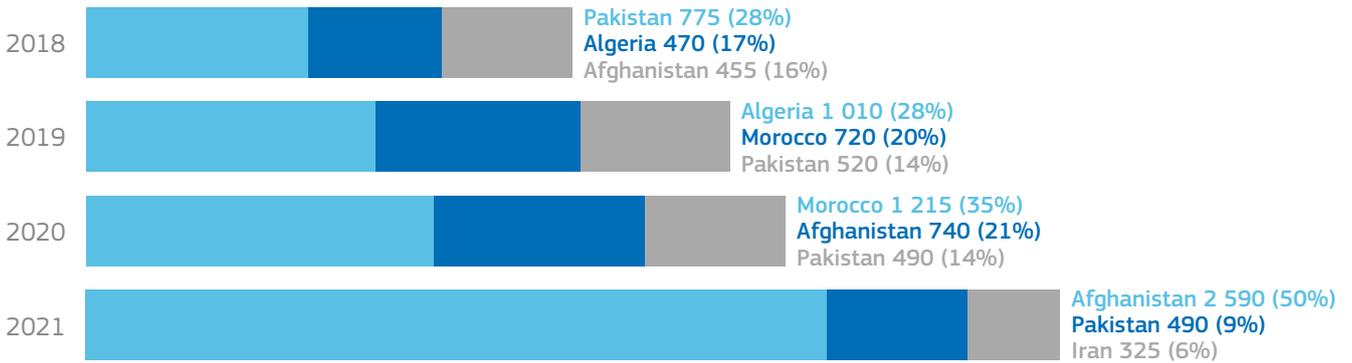
Total/first-time asylum applications; first-time asylum applications as % of population in the country (and in the EU)

SOURCE: eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz)



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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)



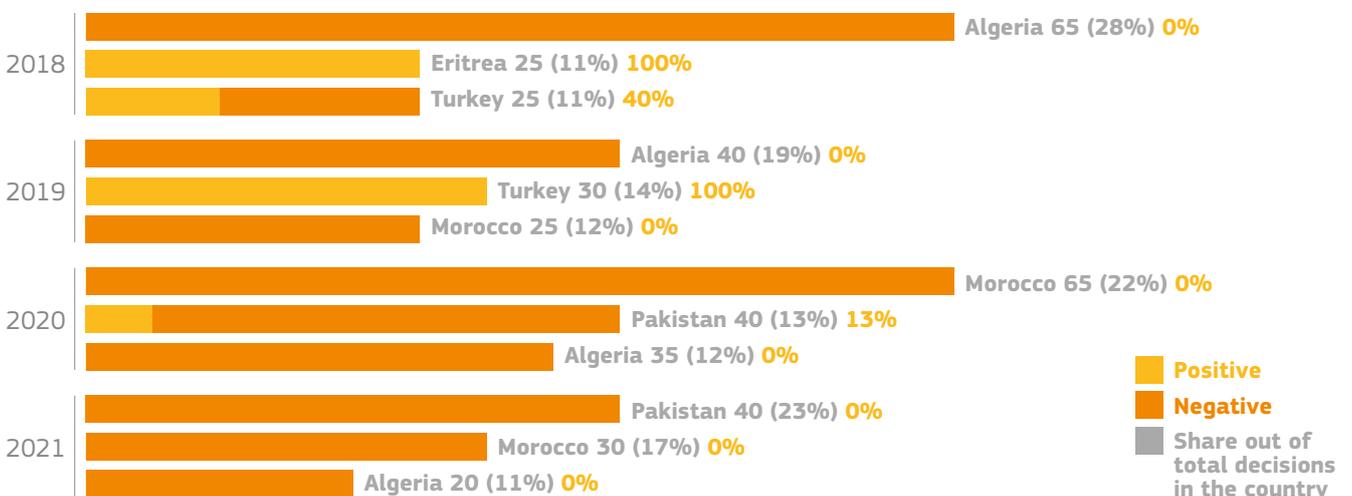
Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)



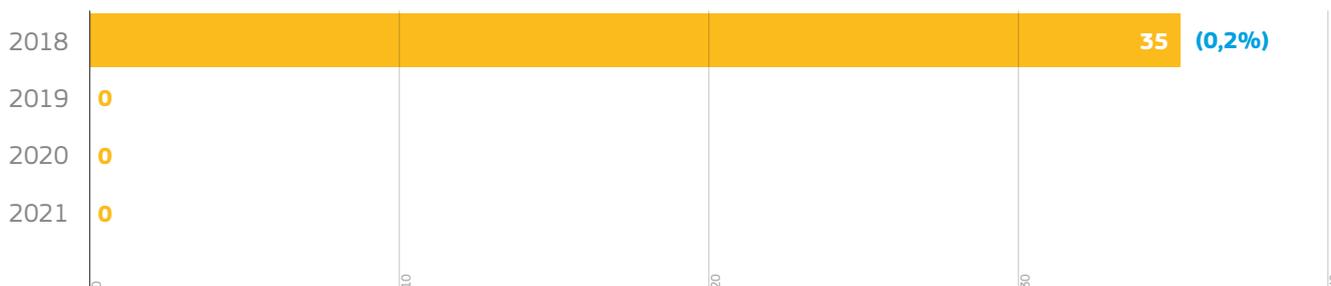
Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-instance decisions: number of decisions (% of total decisions in the country) and % of positive outcomes

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)



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

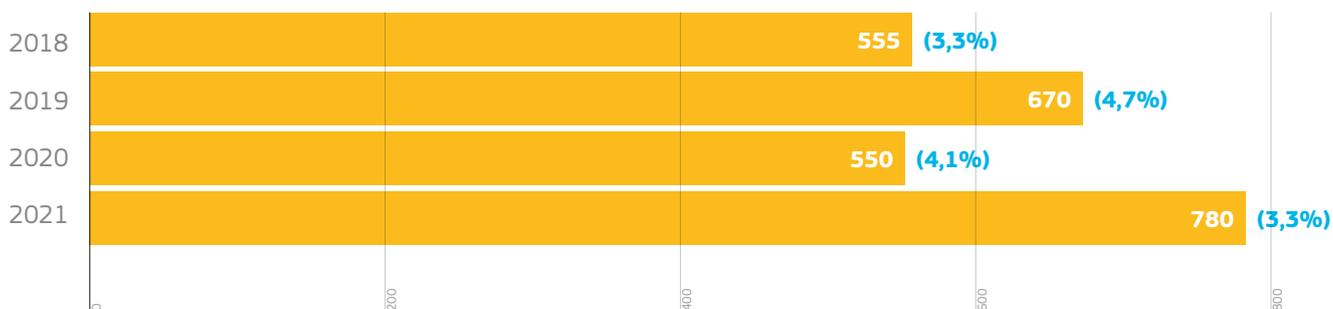
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)



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

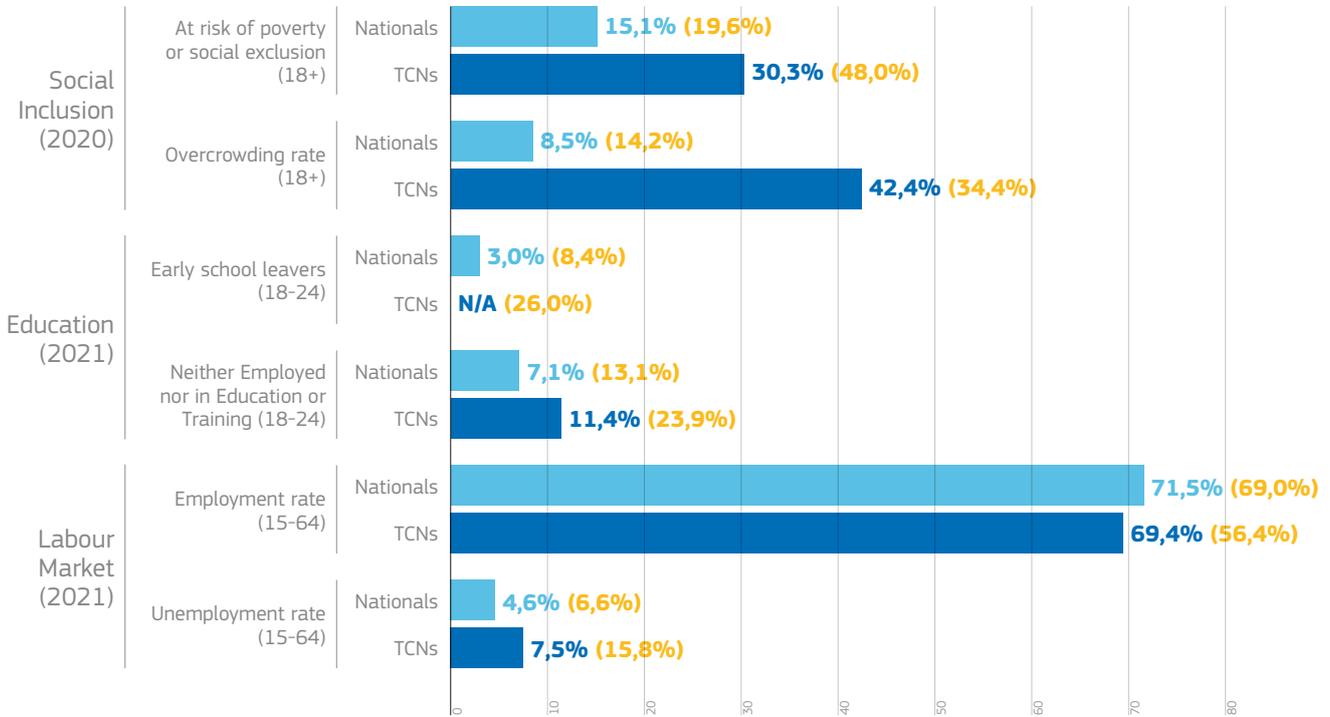
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa, migr_asyappctza)



INTEGRATION

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc_peps05, ilc_lvho15, edat_lfse_01, edat_lfse_23, lfisa_ergan, lfisa_urgan)



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

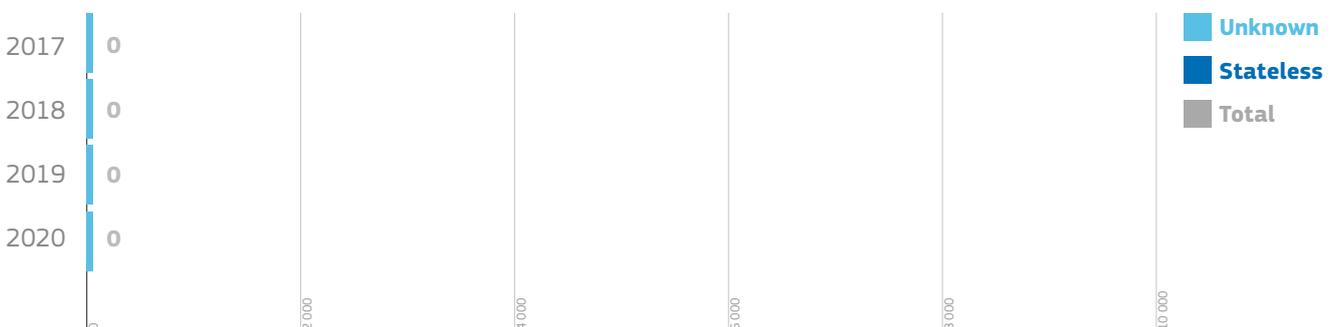
Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute numbers

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acqs, migr_acq)



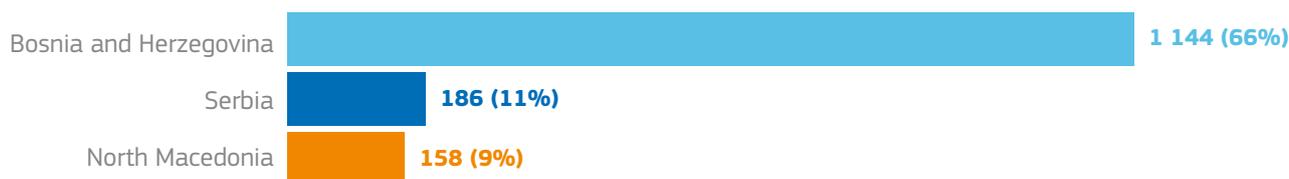
Stateless, unknown citizens and recognised non-citizens (RNC) - where present

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)



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

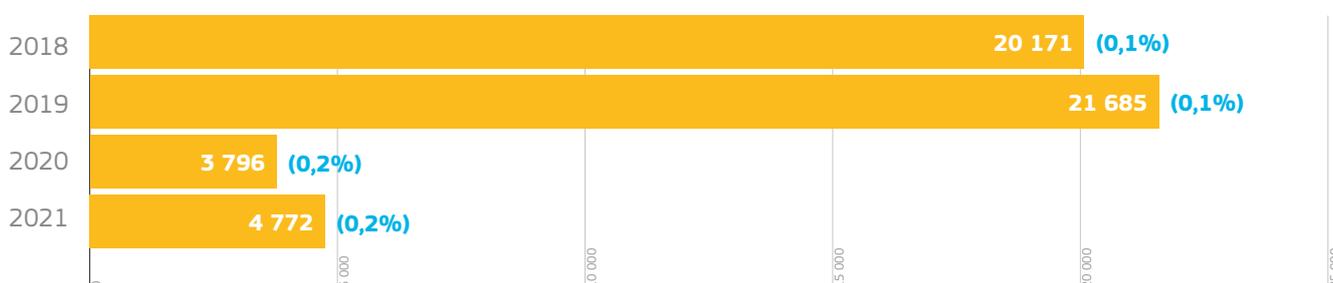
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acq)



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

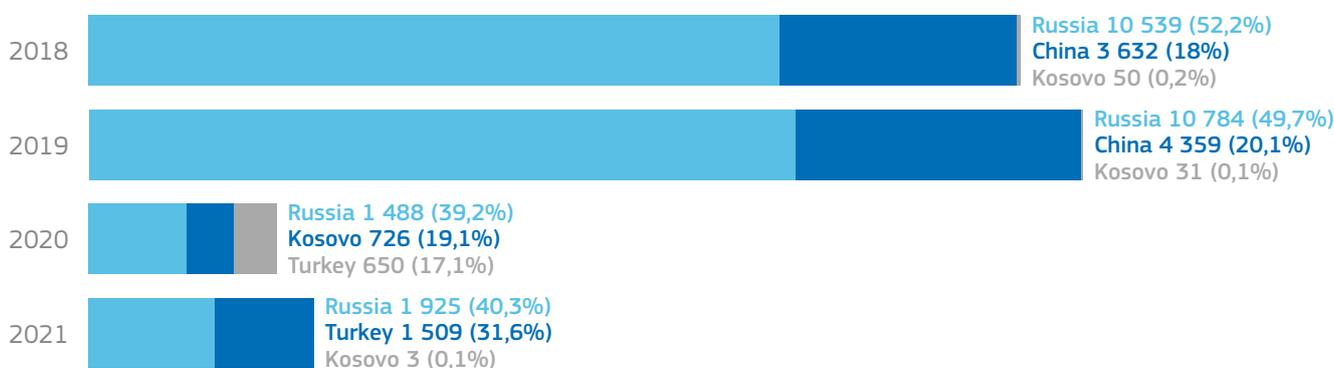
Short-term visa issued (% of Schengen)

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



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

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eiord)



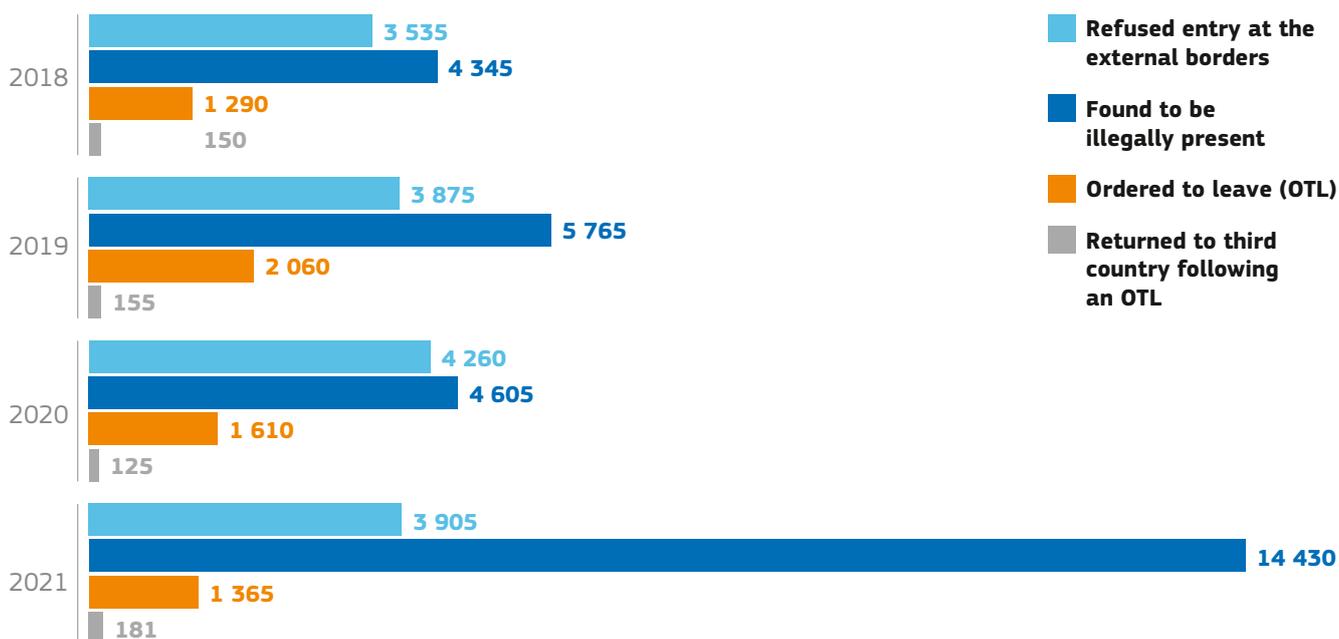
Top 3 nationalities returned to third country in 2021, in absolute number and as a share of all nationalities ordered to leave the country

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirtn)



General statistics on irregular migration

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



RETURN AND READMISSION

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirt_vol)



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

