



CZECH REPUBLIC 2021

Main developments in migration
and international protection,
including latest statistics

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

August 2022



OVERARCHING CHANGES

2021 saw two main legal changes for third-country nationals. Firstly, from September 2021, a level of A2 in Czech language was required to obtain a permanent residence (an increase from A1 level). This higher-level examination will be taken by third-country nationals who applied for permanent residence on or after 1 September 2021. Secondly, the Amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals came into force on 2 August 2021, with several important changes. Further information can be found in the section on legal migration and mobility.



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

The Amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals came into force on 2 August 2021, with several important changes.

A distinction between 'close' and 'distant' family members of EU and Czech Republic citizens was established. Distant family members (e.g. unmarried couples living in the same household) applying for a temporary residence permit are required to prove aggregate monthly family income and comprehensive health insurance for the entire period of their stay.

Documents containing biometric identifiers to be issued to all citizens of third countries, including family members of EU citizens.

KEY POINTS



From September 2021, obtaining a permanent residence permit requires passing A2-level Czech language examination (an increase from A1 level).



Amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals came into force on 2 August 2021, with implications for UK citizens, family members of EU and Czech Republic citizens, biometric identifiers, and travel insurance comprising healthcare.



From 1 January 2021, every foreign national issued a long-term residence permit or a permanent residence permit without the precondition of previous authorised stay was obliged to take the Adaptation and Integration Course within one year.

UK citizens with temporary or permanent residence in the Czech Republic required to exchange current residence authorisation documents for new biometric documents.

The amendment also imposes an obligation on specific group of third country nationals entering the Czech Republic and staying in its territory for more than 90 days to hold commercial travel medical insurance covering comprehensive health care (not only necessary and urgent health care as before) for the duration of the foreign national's stay within 90 days of entering the Czech Republic.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

No significant developments in 2021.



MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

A new regulation came into force on 1 September 2021, modifying language supports for foreigners in compulsory pre-school/primary education.

Foreigners were entitled to Czech language training within compulsory pre-school education so as to ensure smooth transition to primary education. Kindergartens with a higher share of foreigners were to have special language training groups and be (financially) supported to provide foreign children with language training for one hour per week. In primary education, the concept of regionally designated schools supporting migrants was set to continue, with significantly enhanced accessibility (at least one school in the administrative district of the municipality designated to provide additional language support). The scope of support was set between 100 and 200 hours (in-person and distance learning), according to individuals' entrance tests.

The Ministry of Education developed and provided schools with the curriculum of Czech as a Second Language for Pre-School and Primary Education, setting out the expected outcomes of language training and including the indicative entrance test, as well as a new methodology on provision of free language training in pre-school and primary education.



INTEGRATION

NATIONAL INTEGRATION STRATEGY

From 1 January 2021, every foreign national issued a long-term residence permit for the territory of the Czech Republic, or issued a permanent residence permit after that date without the precondition of previous authorised stay, is obliged to take the Adaptation and Integration Course within one year of collecting their residence permit. That change was designed to support the distribution of information on integration measures and improve orientation.

The 'Procedure for implementing the updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – in Mutual Respect in the Year 2021' was approved by the government on 21 December 2020. This document served as an action plan to implement the policy.

INVOLVEMENT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

SLOVO 21, a Prague-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) formed by immigrants, prepared a methodology for the mandatory Adaptation and Integration Courses and contributed to designing the overall system.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

No significant developments in 2021.



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in line with the common EU approach, visa issuance was limited/suspended. Czech Republic resumed representation agreements in issuing Schengen visas from 1 August 2021. The scope of visa services complied with the Council Recommendation on the temporary restriction on non-essential travel into the EU and the possible lifting of such restriction (2020/912/EU). The Czech Republic's representation of Slovakia and Hungary in issuing Schengen visas in Afghanistan was suspended as of 15 August 2021, due to the political situation. In May 2021, the Government of the Czech Republic adopted the updated Programme for the implementation of the national parts of the EU information systems in justice and home affairs (eu-INIS Programme 2021), containing mechanisms for coordination, support and supervision of the proper implementation of projects implemented by relevant authorities.

VISA POLICY

In line with the provisions of the Visa Code, Czech Republic made efforts to extend cooperation with external service providers and facilitate lodging of Schengen visa applications. No visa centre was open in 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Representation agreements with EU countries worldwide were resumed in 2021. Together with other Member States, Czech Republic partially suspended its Visa Facilitation Agreement with Belarus and implemented Council Decision on the suspension of certain provisions of the Visa Code with respect to Gambia (activation of Article 25(a) Visa Code). It took active part in discussions in the Visa Working Party, as well as in the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanisms. It partially updated its internal methodology to apply the Schengen visa policy uniformly at its Consulates.

The new Regulation on Visa Information System (VIS) entered into force in August 2021, with implementation to be completed by end-2023. Czech Republic continued to implement the 2D barcode of the visa sticker, which is set to continue until May 2022, with a transitional period ending in November 2022. A delay of two months was reported.

Following a ruling of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU),¹ Czech Republic altered the information given to visa applicants whose application was rejected due to an objection by another Member State. It continued to improve the technical equipment and premises of consulates.

¹ C-225/19 and C-226/19.

SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE

In November 2021, the Government of the Czech Republic adopted the Schengen Cooperation Strategy 2021-2027. It was based on previous strategic documents on preparing for accession and membership in Schengen (e.g. National Schengen Plan 2014), reports on its implementation, and EU materials (e.g. Strategy for a fully functioning and resilient Schengen area).

The Strategy 2021 was implemented by the Schengen Implementation Plan 2021, which was adopted by the Government at the same time. The plan will be evaluated in the form of a report submitted by the Ministry of the Interior to the Government every two years from 2023.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

PREVENTING AND TACKLING IRREGULAR MIGRATION IN LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

The exchange of tactical and operational information between the National Organised Crime Agency (NCOZ) and foreign police units (e.g. Hungary, Poland, Slovakia) intensified in 2021. NCOZ used the information received in ongoing criminal proceedings. Security checks by the Department) were processed according to standard schemes developed in response to previous experience.

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

NCOZ cooperated with representatives of the Czech Foreign Police, focusing on identifying locations for illegal border crossings. An increased number of checks on vehicles passing through these locations focused on transportation of illegal migrants.

Higher numbers of transiting illegal migrants through Czech Republic were recorded, with residence checks increasingly focused on main migration routes.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Czech Republic joined the [EMPACT](#) campaign on sexual exploitation, disseminating campaign materials through social media and NGOs.



RETURN AND READMISSION

MAIN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Czech Republic joined the Videoconference for Identification (VCI) project, resulting in more efficient return counselling and enhanced identification procedures. During the COVID-19 restrictions, VCI was widely used for interviews with detainees and to communicate with international and state actors. A Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of videoconferencing technology between the Ministry of the Interior, the Parliament and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was drafted to streamline the identification process through the location of mobile videoconferencing facilities at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Vienna and Berlin.

From May 2021, the Return Unit of the Ministry of the Interior participated in a Frontex-funded Joint Reintegration Service pilot project to support foreigners from selected countries (Ukraine, Armenia, Brazil, Ethiopia). It was the Ministry of the Interior's first experience with reintegration assistance. It facilitated the decision to return, supporting those lacking finances, relatives or connections in their country of origin, or vulnerable people who might face difficulties after their return. The project helped to implement dignified return and eliminated re-emigration. An expanded version of the project is expected in 2022.

COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

Cooperation was negatively affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which impacted returns.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Czech Republic provided systematic financial assistance to support the asylum, migration and border management systems of states that host large refugee communities, face a high influx of migrants as transit countries, and provide support for stabilisation of refugees. Two programmes are coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior – 'Aid in Place' and the health humanitarian programme, MEDEVAC. Assistance was provided in the Middle East (Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq), in Africa (Libya, Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Ghana), in the Western Balkans (North Macedonia, Serbia) and Eastern Europe (Ukraine). Both programmes constituted part of the Czech external migration policy.

In November 2021, the Government approved a new development programme for the MENA region: Reconstruction Programme of the Czech Republic in the Middle East region for the period 2022-2024. The programme will be coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with a total budget of CZK 300 million for humanitarian and reconstruction activities, focusing on Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan and Yemen.

In December 2021, Czech Republic joined the Team Europe Initiatives on Comprehensive Migration Approach for the Southern Neighbourhood. The assistance programmes for Iraq and Syria were implemented, with 17 activities (CZK 65.5 million) in Iraq, and 18 activities

(CZK 62.2 million) in Syria. The programmes supported socioeconomic reconstruction and development in Iraq and stabilisation of populations and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Syria.

The National Programme to Address the Root Causes of Migration in African Countries of Origin and Transit 2020-2022 was implemented, with 20 activities (CZK 110 million) carried out in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of South Africa, Tunisia. The programme supported socioeconomic development of the region (particularly Sahel and Horn of Africa) through humanitarian assistance, development, economic cooperation, and the promotion of good governance, rule of law and fight against disinformation. The programme was partly redirected to strengthen

the health systems of African countries in light of the COVID-19 crisis.



STATISTICAL ANNEX

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

STATISTICAL ANNEX

! GENERAL NOTES

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

COLOUR LEGEND

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

Data relative to Czech Republic

Data relative to EU



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

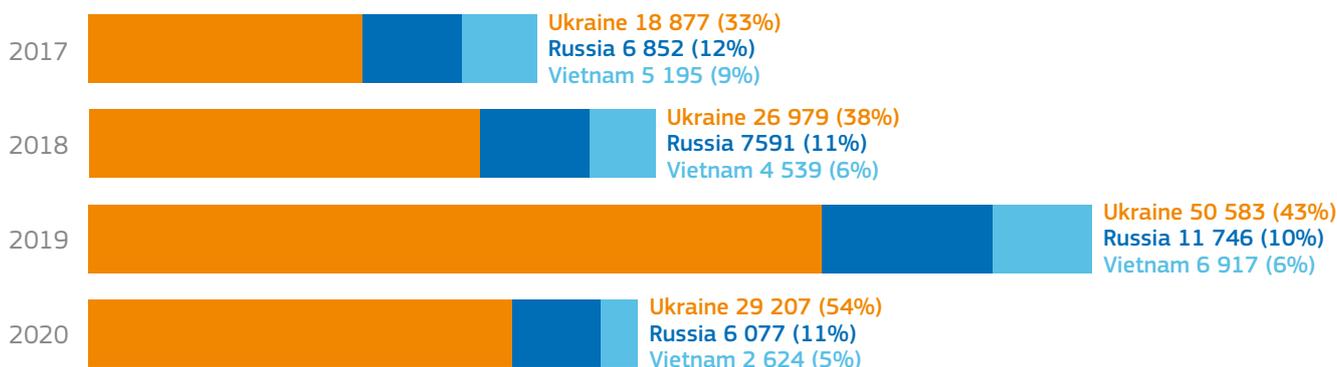
Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) as % of total population in the country (and in the EU) and in absolute numbers

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)



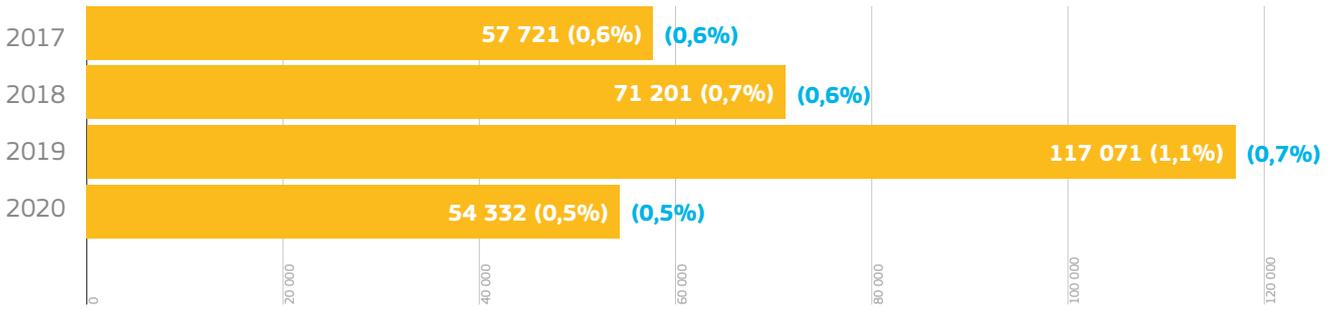
Top 3 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



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

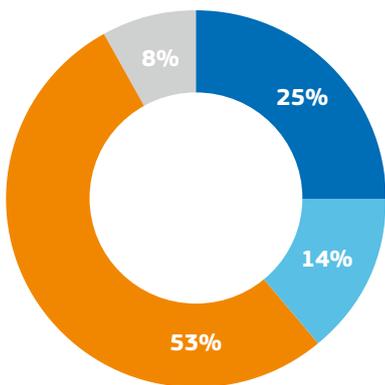
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_pop1ctz)



First residence permits annually issued by reason in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

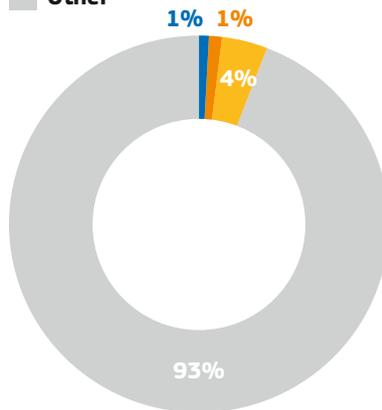
- Family
- Education
- Work
- Other



First residence permits annually issued for work reasons in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resocc)

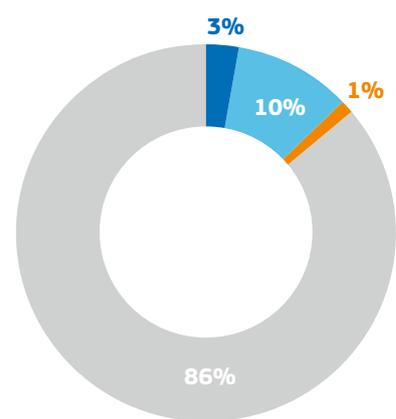
- EU Blue Card
- Highly skilled
- Researchers
- Seasonal workers
- Other



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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

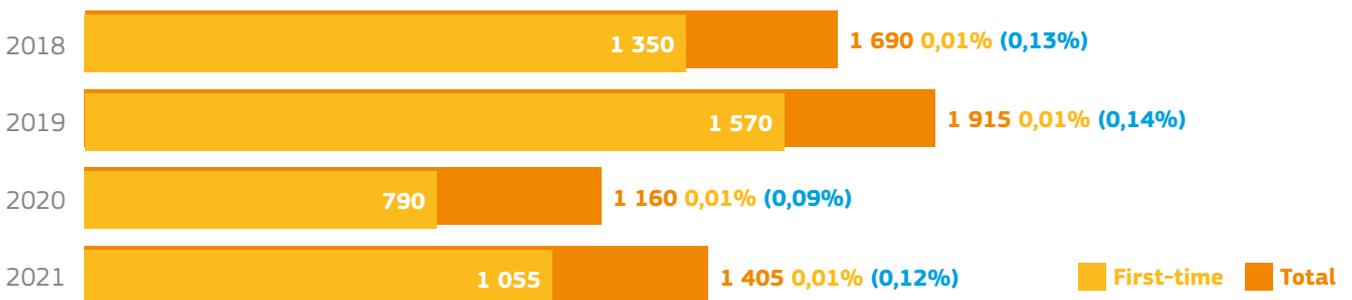
- Refugee/sub prot.
- Residence only
- Humanitarian
- Not specified



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

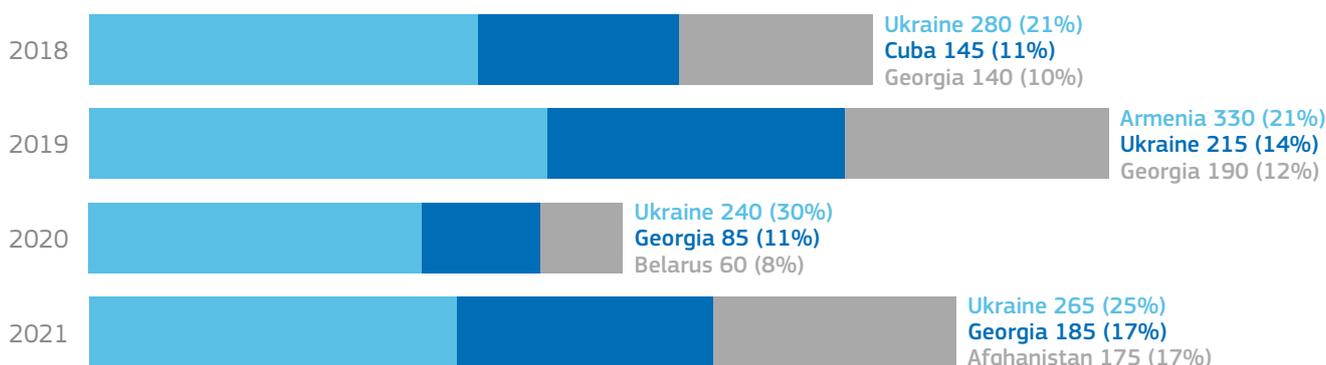
Total/first-time asylum applications; first-time asylum applications as % of population in the country (and in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz)



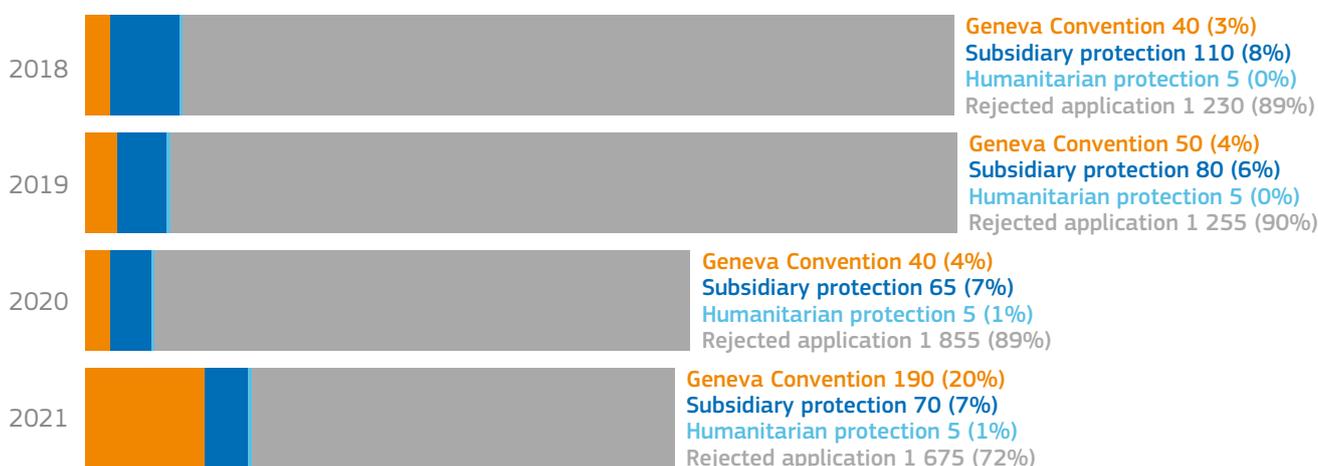
Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-time asylum applications: number of applications and % of total first-time annual applications

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)



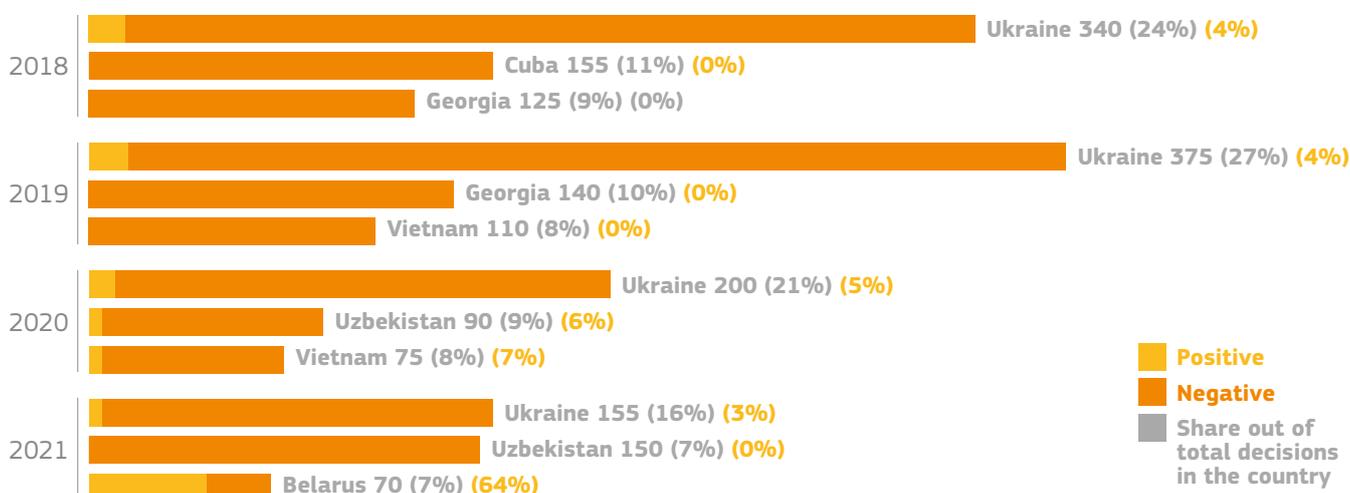
Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)



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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)



■ Positive
■ Negative
■ Share out of total decisions in the country

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

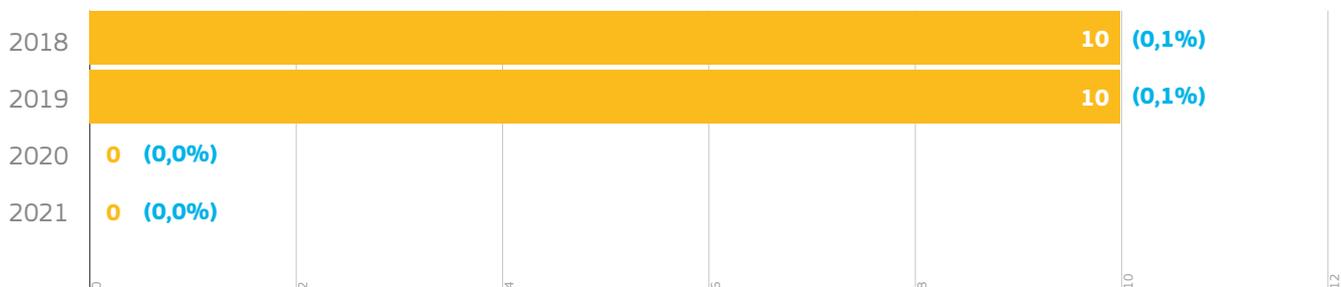
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

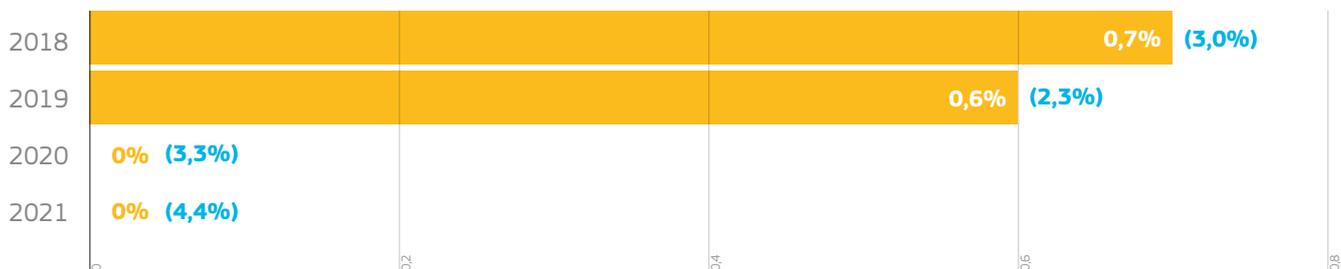
Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum in the country (and % of total applications from unaccompanied minors in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)



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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa, migr_asyappctza)

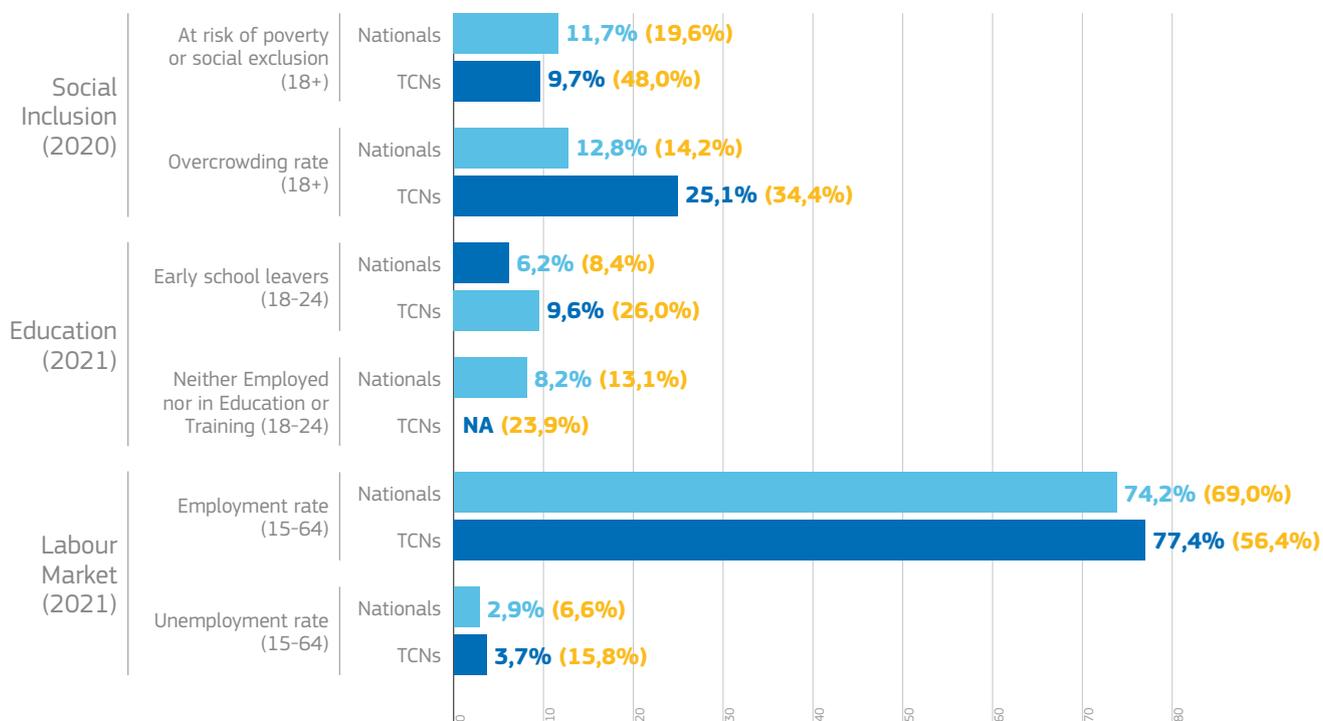




INTEGRATION

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

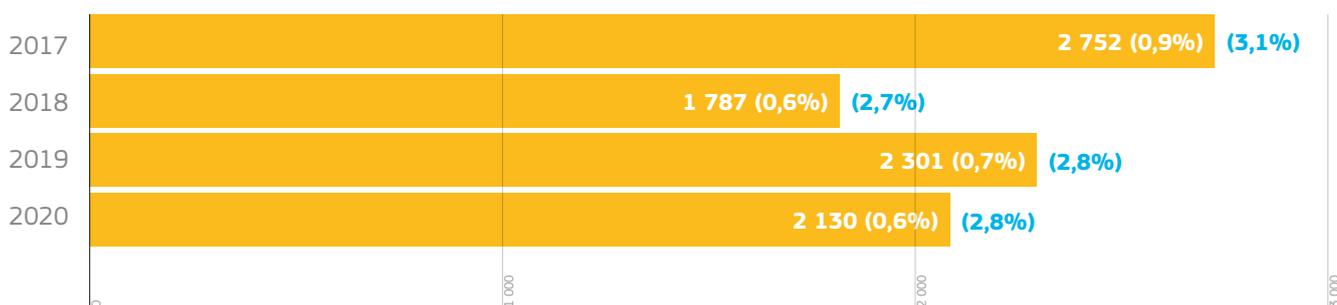
SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc_peps05, ilc_lwho15, edat_lfse_01, edat_lfse_23, lfsa_ergan, lfsa_urgan)



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

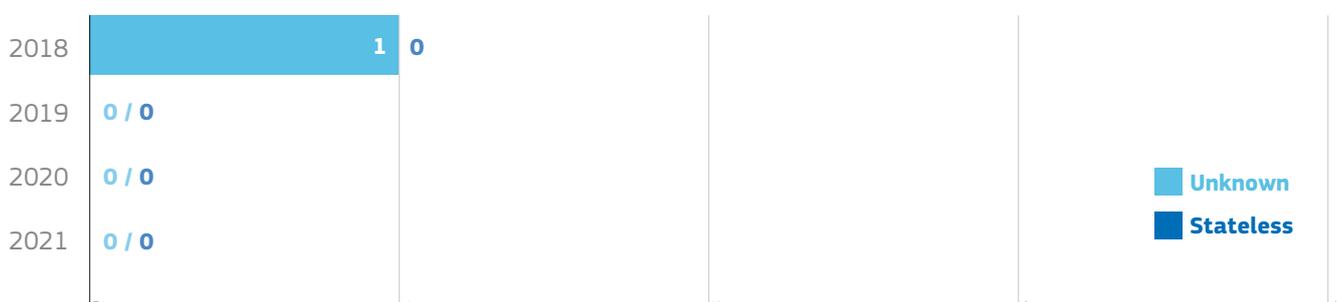
Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute numbers

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acqs, migr_acq)



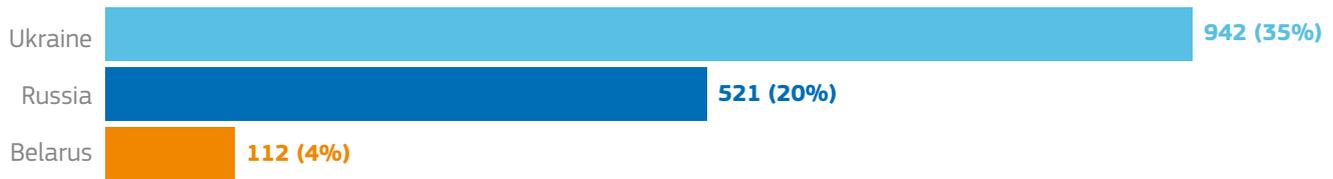
Stateless, unknown citizens and recognised non-citizens (RNC) - where present

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

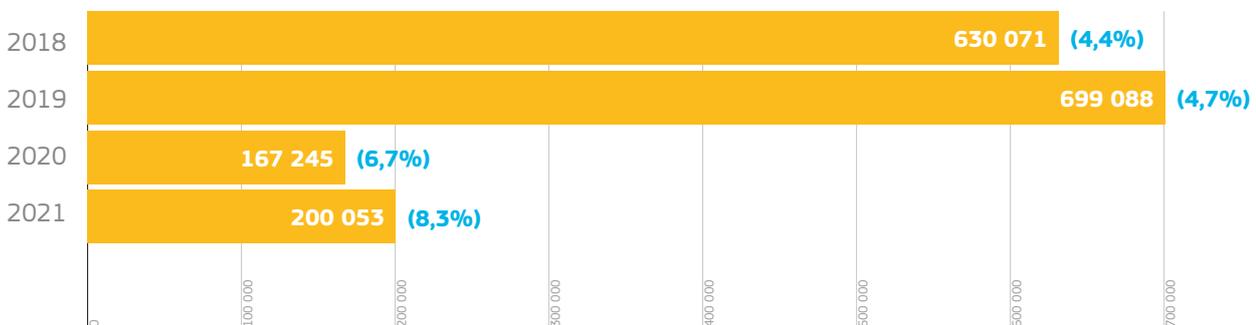
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acq)



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

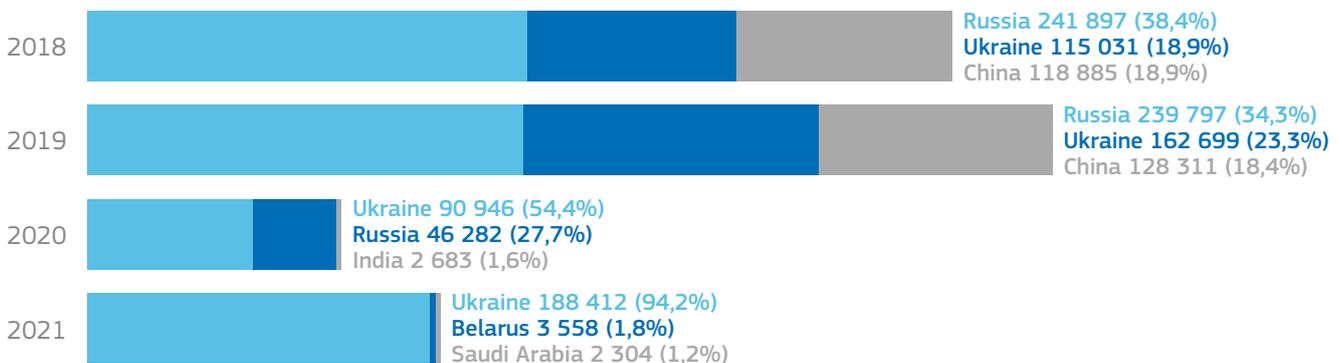
Short-term visa issued (% of Schengen)

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



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

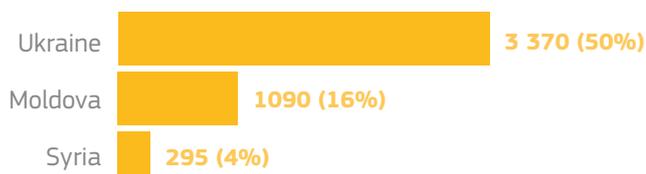
SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

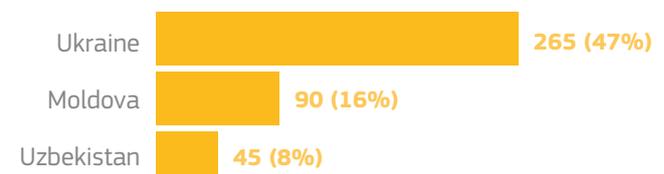
Top 3 nationalities ordered to leave the country in 2021, in absolute number and as a share of all nationalities ordered to leave the country

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eiord)



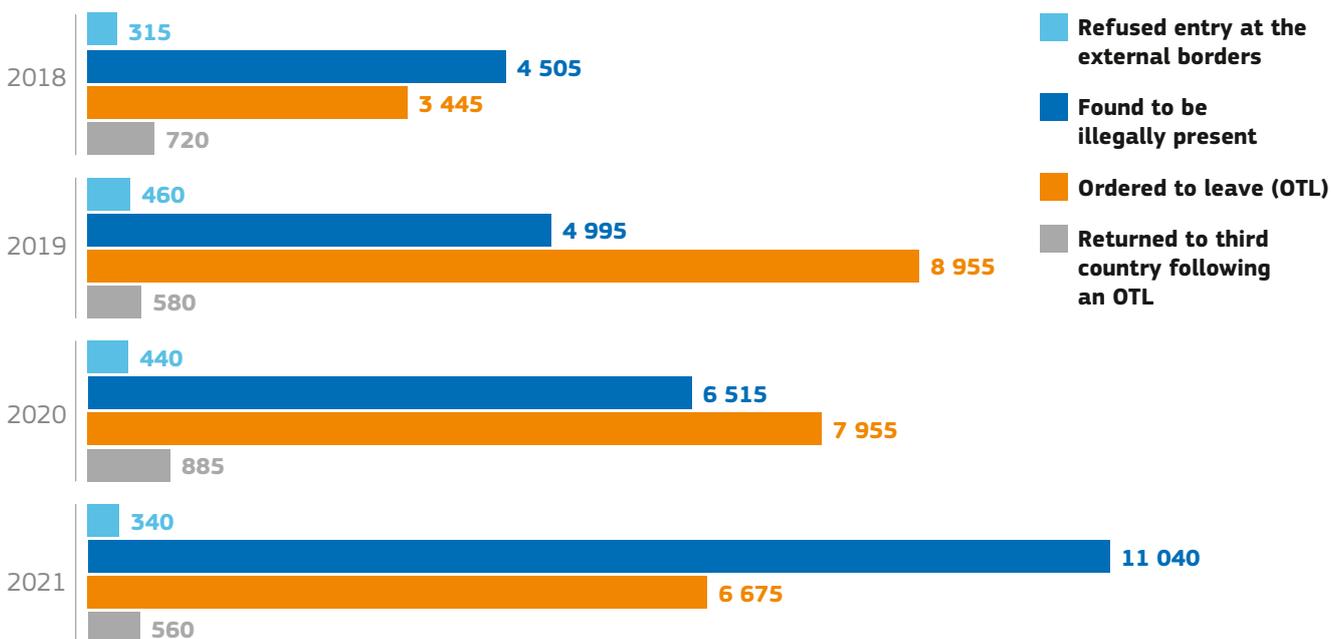
Top 3 nationalities returned to third country in 2021, in absolute number and as a share of all nationalities ordered to leave the country

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirtn)



General statistics on irregular migration

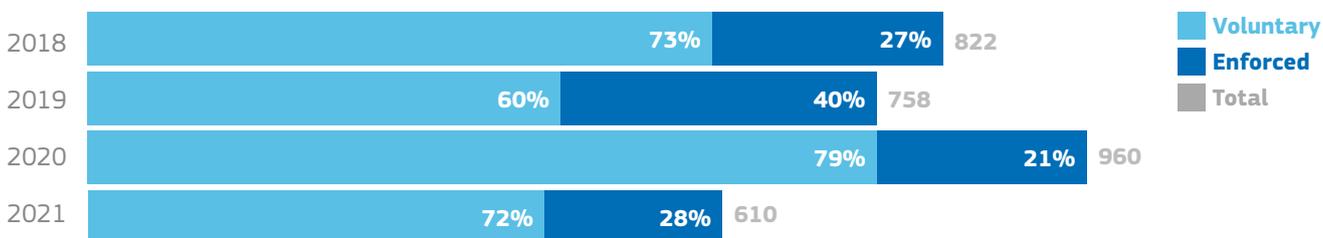
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord, migr_eirtn)



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)

