

Czech Republic

EMN ANNUAL REPORT

on Asylum and Migration

2024



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MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

EMN European Migration Network CZECH REPUBLIC

The **European Migration Network** (EMN) is an initiative of the European Commission responsible for collecting, exchanging and analysing data and information in the field of asylum and migration among the 27 EU Member States (Denmark is not involved in EMN activities) and Norway, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Montenegro, Armenia, Serbia and North Macedonia, which have the status of observer countries.

The objective of the European Migration Network is to meet the information needs of Community institutions and of Member States' authorities and organisations as well as of the general public on migration and asylum by collecting, exchanging and analysing objective, reliable and comparable information on asylum and migration to support the policy-making of the European Union in the fields of asylum and migration.

The benefit of the European Migration Network lies mainly in the opportunity to obtain and compare comprehensive findings about the situation, trends and practices in the fields of asylum and migration in the 27 EU Member States and Norway, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Montenegro, Armenia, Serbia and North Macedonia, which have the status of observer countries. The EMN also serves as a platform for obtaining information not only from government institutions, but it also allows for involving other actors from the spheres of science and research and the non-governmental sector.

The Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior has been the national EMN Contact Point in the Czech Republic since 2008. You can find more information on EMN activities in the Czech Republic at www.emncz.eu.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ANACEN	Analytic Centre for Border Protection and Migration
API	Advance Passenger Information
CIS	Information System of Foreign Nationals
CR	Czech Republic
CZSO	Czech Statistical Office
DAMP	Department for Asylum and Migration Policy (Ministry of the Interior of the CR)
DFPS	Directorate of the Foreign Police Service
EEA	European Economic Area
EMN	European Migration Network
ETIAS	European Travel Information and Authorisation System
EU	European Union
EUAA	European Union Agency for Asylum
eu-LISA	European Agency for the Operational Management of Large-scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
FN	University hospital (Czech abbreviation)
FPI	Foreign Police Inspectorate
FRONTEX	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
GPIS	General Provider of Integration Services
IA	International airport
IAC	Integration Asylum Centre
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development

IOM	International Organization for Migration
JRS	Joint Reintegration Services
KACPU	Regional Assistance Centres for Help and Assistance to Ukraine (Czech abbreviation)
MEDEVAC	Programme of Humanitarian Evacuations of Inhabitants with Health Issues (Medical Evacuation)
MfRD	Ministry for Regional Development
MoC	Ministry of Culture
MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoI	Ministry of the Interior
MoIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MoH	Ministry of Health
NCOZ	Criminal Police and Investigation Service's National Central Unit for Combatting Organised Crime (Czech abbreviation)
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OSPOD	Authority of Social and Legal Protection of Children
PCR	Police of the Czech Republic
RC	Reception Centre
RDP	Regional Directorate of the Police
SIP	State Integration Programme
SUZ	Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior (Czech abbreviation)
UAM	Unaccompanied minors

UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ÚP ČR	Labour Office of the Czech Republic (Czech abbreviation)
V4	Visegrad Group
VAP	Visa Application Portal
ZDC	Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals (Czech abbreviation)



SUMMARY

The 2024 European Migration Network (EMN) Annual Report on Asylum and Migration provides an overview of developments and the most significant changes in the field of migration, asylum and integration during 2024 in the Czech Republic. The migration situation continued to be significantly affected by the Russian aggression against Ukraine, which led to the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive in the EU in 2022.

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

At the end of 2024, there were **1,094,089 foreigners legally residing in the territory of the Czech Republic** for more than 90 days, which represents **10% of the population** of the Czech Republic.

Of the total number of foreigners with residence permits in the Czech Republic, **34% held permanent residence permits, 30% temporary residence permits and 36% temporary protection**. More than three quarters of all foreigners in the Czech Republic were third-country nationals. Among holders of permanent and temporary residence permits, the largest groups were citizens of Ukraine, Slovakia and Vietnam. As of 31 December 2024, there were **845,468 foreigners employed in the Czech Republic**, with a slight majority being third-country nationals (including beneficiaries of temporary protection). The highest numbers of foreign workers were recorded in Prague, the Central Bohemian, South Moravian and Plzeň regions.

Among non-EU states, the largest groups on the Czech labour market were nationals of Ukraine, Vietnam and Russia. Among EU/EEA and Swiss nationals, the most represented were Slovak, Romanian, Polish and Bulgarian citizens.

Economic migration programmes continued to be implemented, representing an effective tool for supporting migration of selected target groups of third-country nationals whose entry and stay are of increased interest to the Czech state. Since 2019, a total of **four government-approved migration programmes** have been implemented (Highly Qualified Employee Programme, Qualified Employee Programme,

Key and Scientific Personnel Programme, and the Extraordinary Work Visa Programme for nationals of certain countries working in agriculture, food processing or forestry). In addition, the Digital Nomad Programme, the Labour Migration Project from Indonesia and the Aircraft Pilot Project were available to citizens of selected third countries.

A key integration measure is the network of **18 Centres for the Support of the Integration of Foreigners**, which operate in all regions of the Czech Republic.

In 2024, **Czech citizenship was obtained by a total of 6,880 foreigners**, most frequently to nationals of Ukraine, Russia and Slovakia.

FOREIGNERS WITH TEMPORARY PROTECTION ON THE TERRITORY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

At the end of 2024, there were **388,879 foreigners registered with temporary protection** in the Czech Republic, granted in connection with the Russian aggression against Ukraine. This represented 3.6% of the population of the Czech Republic – the highest share per capita among EU Member States. In the course of 2024, the Lex Ukraine laws were amended.

More than two thirds of persons with temporary protection **were aged 18–64 years**, and one quarter were children under 17 years of age. Over 60% of persons with temporary protection were women. **More than half of those of working age** with temporary protection **were employed**, mostly in jobs requiring no or low qualifications.

Adaptation and integration of persons with temporary protection was addressed by the Government Committee for the Adaptation and Integration of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection. The **Regional Assistance Centres for Ukraine (KACPU)** continued to operate, providing initial assistance to newly arrived persons as well as to existing beneficiaries of temporary protection.

In 2024, temporary protection was further extended until 31 March 2025. Legislation also provided for the possibility of extension until the end of March 2026, to take place during 2025, and in subsequent years if an extension is approved at EU level.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

In 2024, a total of **1,363 persons applied for international protection in the Czech Republic**. The main countries of origin were **Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Vietnam**.

International protection in the form of asylum was granted in 54 cases, most frequently to nationals of Myanmar, Russia and Belarus. **Subsidiary protection was granted to 149 applicants**, most often to citizens of Ukraine and Syria.

Foreigners granted international protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection may participate in the **State Integration Programme** (SIP). In 2024, a total of **106 eligible persons** entered SIP. The Czech Republic registered **1,064 so-called Dublin cases** (i.e. incoming and outgoing requests) in 2024. A total of 112 Dublin transfers to the Czech Republic and 120 from the Czech Republic were carried out.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

In 2024, a total of **51 unaccompanied minors** passed through facilities for foreign children. The largest group consisted of persons from Ukraine (mostly children from failing family or foster care). Other larger groups included individuals from Syria and Afghanistan.

A total of 26 unaccompanied minors stayed in the Czech Republic on the basis of temporary protection and 5 persons applied for international protection.

MEASURES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The most common forms of trafficking in human beings continue to be sexual and labour exploitation. The **Programme for the Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking** (hereinafter referred to as "the Programme") is a measure designed to provide victims of trafficking with support and appropriate protection based on individual risk assessment. It is intended for victims of trafficking in human beings over 18 years of age. In 2024, **10 presumed victims of trafficking in human beings were included in the Programme**.

One of the main priorities is the protection of Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic from criminal activities, including trafficking in human beings. For this purpose, several local projects were financially supported.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PROJECTS

International cooperation in the field of migration continued in 2024, particularly through intensive contacts at the level of individual European Union bodies, including their agencies, especially the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). In 2024, the **Czech Republic continued its chairmanship of the Steering Committee of the Prague Process**.

Through the **Aid in Place Programme**, the Ministry of the Interior provides financial donations abroad, primarily to **assist refugees directly in the place of their initial displacement**, and to **countries hosting large numbers of refugees and migrants or facing them as transit countries**. The budget of the Aid in Place Programme in 2024 amounted to CZK 150 million. Assistance was directed to countries along migration routes to Europe, particularly in Africa (Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Tunisia), as well as to Greece and Afghanistan. Within the Aid in Place Programme, projects were also implemented in Ukraine and Moldova.

The **MEDEVAC Programme**, focused on **providing specialised medical care to vulnerable groups of the population in regions affected by refugee crises or natural disasters**, continued to operate in African and Middle Eastern countries as well as in Ukraine.

ILLEGAL MIGRATION

In 2024, a total of **9,461 persons were detected in connection with illegal migration** in the territory of the Czech Republic. Compared to the previous year, the share of transit illegal migration again decreased significantly, to 4.4%.

The largest groups detected in connection with illegal migration were nationals of Ukraine, Moldova and Vietnam.

From 4 October 2023 to 2 February 2024, temporary reintroduction of internal border controls was implemented due to an increase in illegal migration.

RETURNS

In the course of 2024, a total of **791 voluntary returns of third-country nationals** were carried out. Of this number, 748 assisted voluntary returns of foreigners were implemented by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, a total of 38 assisted voluntary returns of applicants for international protection were implemented by the Refugee Facilities Administration, and 5 were implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The most represented among these returnees were nationals of Moldova, Vietnam and Uzbekistan.

The Ministry of the Interior, through its programme, focuses primarily on foreigners who have been issued a decision on administrative expulsion. The programme of the Refugee Facilities Administration provides assistance with voluntary return to the country of origin for former applicants for international protection. The IOM implements returns under a project focusing on the sustainability of returns to the country of origin. All these voluntary return programmes ensure not only the implementation of voluntary return itself but also all related counselling and assistance necessary for an effective, rapid and successful return.





INTRODUCTION

1

The Annual Report on Asylum and Migration provides an overview of the most important policy and legislative changes, as well as basic statistical data concerning asylum and migration in the Czech Republic for 2024.

The report was prepared by the National Contact Point of the European Migration Network in the Czech Republic. According to Article 9(1) of Council Decision 2008/381/EC establishing the European Migration Network, each national contact point is required to prepare an annual report on developments in asylum and migration in its respective country on an annual basis.

The report consists of ten chapters and three annexes. The chapters describe developments in the field of legal migration and international protection; one chapter is dedicated to beneficiaries of temporary protection. Additional information is provided on unaccompanied foreign minors, measures against trafficking in human beings, and the fight against illegal migration. The report also offers an overview of international cooperation, projects, and describes developments in the return of foreign nationals¹ to their countries of origin. Each chapter includes basic statistical data.

The structure of the report follows the recommended layout for national reports of the EMN contact points, in order to ensure comparability of documents and maintain continuity with reports produced in previous years.

The presented report was prepared primarily on the basis of materials from the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior, which is responsible for migration, asylum, and integration policy. Additional data were provided by the Directorate of the For-

¹ For the purposes of the report, only third-country nationals are regarded as foreign nationals.

eign Police Service, the Police Presidium, the Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior, the National Centre for Combating Organised Crime, and the Facility for Foreign Children. Further information on the methodology can be found in Annex 1. Annex 2 includes a list of sources and literature, and Annex 3 contains a list of tables, charts, and figures.

1.1 ORGANISATION OF ASYLUM AND MIGRATION POLICY

The Ministry of the Interior (MoI) is the principal authority responsible for asylum and migration policy in the Czech Republic, both at the legislative-conceptual level and at the implementation level.

The Department for Asylum and Migration Policy (DAMP) is a department of the Ministry of the Interior responsible for exercising the Ministry's competences in the field of international protection, refugee issues, entry and residence of foreign nationals, the concept of integration of foreigners, the State Integration Programme (for persons granted international protection), and Schengen cooperation. The department also manages the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior, submits proposals for establishing or modifying asylum facilities or detention centres for foreign nationals.

The Coordination Body for Managing the Protection of the State Borders and Migration is a permanent inter-ministerial body composed of representatives of relevant ministries, authorised to adopt necessary measures in the field of migration and border protection. The Ministry of the Interior acts as the guarantor of its activities. The Coordination Body meets at the level of government members or deputy ministers.

The Analytical Centre for Border Protection and Migration (ANACEN) is a permanent inter-ministerial analytical unit managed by the Ministry of the Interior, focusing on monitoring and analysing migration as a complex phenomenon. ANACEN operates at an expert level, under the guidance of the Coordination Body for the Management of State Border Protection and Migration. All key authorities involved in the system of border protection and migration regulation participate in its activities.

This close cooperation and exchange of information within this platform enable rapid and operational responses to emerging issues.²

The Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior (SUZ) operates reception, accommodation, and integration asylum centres. In these facilities, SUZ provides accommodation, catering, psychological, social, educational, and counselling services, as well as leisure activities. Most of these activities also take place in detention facilities for foreign nationals, which SUZ also manages. Additionally, SUZ establishes and operates 10 regional Centres for the Support of Integration of Foreigners, which serve as integration activity hubs in the regions.

The Directorate of the Foreign Police Service (DFPS) is a highly specialised unit of the Police of the Czech Republic (PCR) that oversees tasks related to detecting illegal migration and enforcing measures against foreign nationals residing unlawfully in the Czech Republic, pursuant to Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic.

Directly subordinate to DFPS are five Foreign Police Inspectorates (ICP) at international airports,³ which ensure the protection of external borders at all international airports in the Czech Republic, as well as the Detention Centre for Foreign Nationals Bělá-Jezová, Detention Centre Vysní Lhoty, Detention Centre Balková, and the Reception Centre Zastávka near Brno. In the individual regions, migration-related tasks are carried out by Foreign Police Departments, which form part of the organisational structure of the Regional Police Directorates.

A Police unit also engaged in the field of illegal migration, especially in combating human smuggling, is the **National Central Unit for Combating Organised Crime** (NCOZ) of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service. The Organised Crime Section, Department of Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration monitors, investigates, and combats

² The members of the Analytical Centre are delegated representatives of the Ministry of the Interior; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; the Ministry of Industry and Trade; the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; the Ministry of Finance (the General Directorate of Customs); the Police of the Czech Republic and the intelligence services and security forces.

³ These are: the Foreign Police Inspectorate at the Václav Havel Prague International Airport; the Foreign Police Inspectorate at the Mošnov International Airport; the Foreign Police Inspectorate at the Brno Tuřany International Airport; the Foreign Police Inspectorate at the Karlovy Vary International Airport; and the Foreign Police Inspectorate at the Pardubice International Airport.

criminal groups involved in serious organised crime in the fields of illegal migration, human trafficking, trafficking in human organs and tissues, forced labour, and other forms of exploitation.

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** (MoFA) is the central administrative authority responsible for shaping foreign policy and coordinating international development cooperation and humanitarian aid provided abroad. It administers residence permits for foreign nationals in the Czech Republic who enjoy privileges and immunities under international law. Through diplomatic missions, it exercises state administration in visa issuance as defined by the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals. It also administers the issuance of short-stay visas under the EU Visa Code.

The **Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs** (MoLSA) is responsible for employment policy concerning foreign nationals. It defines the circle of entities acting as employers and sets criteria for the entry of different categories of foreign nationals into the labour market. Based on the labour market situation, it sets conditions for employment permits and is responsible for the legal framework on foreign employment in relation to EU regulations and intergovernmental agreements. MoLSA also maintains a central register of job vacancies available to holders of employee or blue cards.

In addition to domestic legislation, labour migration is also governed by bilateral international agreements on social security and employment, as well as multilateral human rights, refugee status, and social rights conventions to which the Czech Republic is bound. The Inter-ministerial Body for Combating Illegal Employment of Foreign Nationals, overseen by MoLSA, also addresses illegal employment issues.

Other institutions with defined competences in the field of asylum and migration include: the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS), the Ministry of Finance (MoF; General Directorate of Customs), the Ministry of Culture (MoC), and the Ministry of Regional Development (MoRD).

1.2 ASYLUM AND MIGRATION LEGISLATION

The following legal acts primarily govern the field of asylum and migration:

- ▶ Act No. 326/1999 Coll., **on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic** and on the Amendment of Certain Acts, as amended ("Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals")

This Act regulates conditions for the entry and departure of foreign nationals, sets conditions for residence in the territory, and defines the competences of the Police of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this area of state administration.

- ▶ Act No. 325/1999 Coll., **on Asylum**, as amended

This Act regulates conditions for the entry and stay of foreign nationals applying for international protection in the Czech Republic, residence of asylum holders or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, procedures for granting or withdrawing asylum or subsidiary protection, rights and obligations of applicants, asylum holders, and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, as well as competences of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and the Police of the Czech Republic in this field. It also covers the State Integration Programme and asylum facilities.

- ▶ Act No. 191/2016 Coll., **on the Protection of State Borders of the Czech Republic** and on Amendments to Certain Related Acts

This Act entered into force on 1 August 2016. Building on Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), as amended, this Act governs the protection of the state borders against unauthorised crossing. It sets conditions for establishing border crossing points at international airports, obligations of aircraft captains and airport operators, and rules for the temporary reintroduction of internal border controls, as well as offences and administrative violations related to border protection.

- ▶ Act No. 221/2003 Coll., **on Temporary Protection of Foreign Nationals**, as amended

This Act regulates conditions for the entry and stay of foreign nationals in the Czech Republic for the purpose of temporary protection and their departure from the territory, procedures for granting and withdrawing residence permits for temporary protection, and the legal status of applicants and holders of such permits. According to Act No. 221/2003 Coll., procedures apply only when temporary protection is declared by a decision of the Council of the European Union. This tool is designed for use in the event of a large-scale migration influx. Temporary protection for refugees from Ukraine is further governed by the Lex Ukraine Act.

- ▶ Act No. 435/2004 Coll., **on Employment**,⁴ as amended

This Act regulates the conditions of employment for foreign nationals in the Czech Republic.

- ▶ Act No. 186/2013 Coll., **on Czech Citizenship** and on Amendments to Certain Acts

This Act regulates the acquisition, loss, verification, and determination of Czech citizenship, issuance of certificates of Czech citizenship, the register of persons who have acquired or lost Czech citizenship, proceedings concerning citizenship matters, and administrative offences in this area.

⁴ With regard to migration.

DEVELOPMENTS IN ASYLUM AND MIGRATION POLICY

2

- ▶ In 2024, elections to the European Parliament, regional assemblies and the Senate were held. In all cases, the most successful party was the ANO movement.
- ▶ In 2024, an inter-ministerial commenting procedure was conducted on the **draft of the new Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals**. The draft was subsequently discussed and **approved by the government and then submitted to the Chamber of Deputies**.
- ▶ The Employment Act was amended to introduce **free access to the labour market for citizens of selected countries**.
- ▶ Lex Ukraine was also amended. **The extension of temporary protection until 4 March 2026 was approved**, along with **the possibility to apply for a so-called special long-term residence permit** for economically self-sufficient beneficiaries of temporary protection who have been residing in the Czech Republic for an extended period.

2.1 POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The year 2024 continued to be marked by **the armed conflict in Ukraine, triggered by the invasion of Russian Federation forces**. The Czech Republic remained the EU country hosting the highest number of Ukrainian refugees per capita.

On 7–8 June 2024, elections to the European Parliament were held. The ANO movement won with 26.14% of the votes (7 seats), narrowly ahead of

the Spolu coalition with 22.27% (6 seats). Přísaha a Motoristé, Stačilo!, and Starostové a osobnosti pro Evropu each gained two seats. The Pirate Party, SPD, and Trikolora each obtained one seat. Voter turnout was 36.45%.

A few months later, on 20–21 September 2024, elections to regional assemblies were held. The ANO movement won in ten out of thirteen regions, receiving a total of 35.38% of votes and 292 seats. In second place was ODS with 5.89% of votes and 54 seats, followed by STAN with 5.47% of votes and 38 seats, and the Spolu coalition with 5.50% of votes but only 31 seats. In the Liberec Region, Starostové pro Liberecký kraj won, while ODS won in the South Bohemian Region and the Spolu coalition won in the South Moravian Region. ANO formed coalitions in eight regions (excluding Central Bohemian and Pardubice Regions). Voter turnout was 32.91%.

In the same period, elections to the Senate were held, with a second round two weeks later. A total of eight senators were elected for ANO, and two each for ODS and STAN. The largest Senate caucus remained that of ODS and TOP 09 (36 members). Voter turnout reached 17.54%.

2.2 LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

Legislative activities in 2024 focused on amendments to the following laws.

- ▶ **Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic**

The Ministry of the Interior prepared a government bill for a new Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals. The main objective of the proposed legislation is to speed up and increase transparency in residence procedures through the digitalisation of the foreign residence agenda (a new information system is planned) and to improve the clarity of the legal framework compared to the current regulation. The new draft introduces mandatory registration of EU citizens (allowing for records of all foreign nationals residing long-term in the Czech Republic) and a new concept of a “guarantor” (aimed at supporting the accountability of entities ensuring the purpose of stay for foreigners). In 2024, an inter-ministerial commenting procedure took place (with over 1,500 substantial comments), followed by government approval, and on 28 August 2024, the bill was submitted to the Chamber of Deputies.

► Act No. 435/2004 Coll., **on Employment**⁵

The 2024 amendment to the Employment Act introduced free access to the labour market for citizens of selected countries. The aim of this measure is to make labour migration more efficient and simpler, thereby accelerating the entry of foreign workers into the domestic labour market and increasing the competitiveness of the Czech Republic. From 1 July 2024, citizens of Australia, Israel, Japan, Canada, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the USA have free access to the Czech labour market; from January 2025, Taiwan will be added.

Legislative activity related to the influx of persons as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine

In connection with the arrival of a large number of people from Ukraine, the key legislation is the set of acts known as Lex Ukraine, namely:

- **Act No. 65/2022 Coll.**, on certain measures in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine resulting from the invasion by the troops of the Russian Federation, as amended,
 - defines the scope and conditions of the provided temporary protection;
- **Act No. 66/2022 Coll.**, on measures in the field of employment and social security in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine resulting from the invasion by the troops of the Russian Federation
 - defines the conditions of employment of foreign nationals with temporary protection and the provision of humanitarian benefits;
- **Act No. 67/2022 Coll.**, on measures in the field of education in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine resulting from the invasion by the troops of the Russian Federation
 - governs all the areas of education, i.e. pre-school, primary, secondary, higher vocational and other education as well as studies at universities.

⁵ With respect to migration.

The main points of the February 2025 amendment to Lex Ukraine included **an extension of temporary protection until 4 March 2026**, and the introduction of **a special long-term residence permit for beneficiaries of temporary protection** residing in the Czech Republic for an extended period.

In 2024, legislative adjustments were also made regarding humanitarian benefits. From 1 December 2024, the deductible housing costs were increased. Newly, no distinction is made between the amounts of deductible housing costs in flats registered in the Housing Register and other types of accommodation. The categorisation into vulnerable and non-vulnerable persons was retained.

2.3 DEBATES IN THE MEDIA

In 2024, migration and asylum issues were once again strongly present in the Czech public and media space. The main impetus was **the adoption of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum**, which provoked strong reactions across the political spectrum and civil society. Simultaneously, migration continued to be shaped by the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, resulting in the largest forced displacement in Europe since World War II. In 2024, more than four million beneficiaries of temporary protection were residing in EU countries. The most common destination for Ukrainians fleeing the war was Central Europe, with Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic accepting the highest absolute numbers. The Czech Republic hosted more than 388,000 Ukrainian refugees, ranking first in the EU in per capita terms.

A major topic resonating in Czech society throughout the year was **the reform of European migration and asylum policy**, which created a new legal basis for a fairer and more effective migration management system. While a compromise draft of the Pact on Migration and Asylum had been agreed at the end of 2023, final decisions were taken in the first half of 2024. The Czech government abstained from the February vote in Brussels, explaining that the final text was less favourable than the version negotiated during the Czech EU presidency. In domestic media debates, various interpretations clashed: the government presented the agreement as a necessary step to maintain a functional Schengen area and strengthen EU solidarity, while human rights organisations warned

of possible violations of migrants' rights. The opposition framed the issue mainly around quotas and the alleged loss of national sovereignty.

Alongside the asylum reform, media attention focused on **the seventh amendment to Lex Ukraine**, which allowed Ukrainian refugees to extend their temporary protection and introduced the possibility of transitioning to a standard residence permit. While the extension of temporary protection was largely uncontroversial, tensions arose over parliamentary amendments tightening conditions for Russian applicants for Czech citizenship and introducing a new offence of unauthorised activities for foreign powers. In addition to the amendment, the media also addressed integration issues — from the labour market situation to the school attendance of children. State technical measures were also mentioned, such as the use of a virtual voice assistant at the Client Centre for Providing Information to Foreigners.

The presence of migration in the media and political discourse intensified particularly before **the European Parliament elections** in early June. Some parties — especially on the far right — used migration as a central campaign theme, often in the context of rejecting the Pact on Migration and Asylum or warning against "mass migration." Media coverage focused not only on individual campaigns but also on debates about the future direction of common EU migration policy in light of the expected strengthening of populist and Eurosceptic factions in the European Parliament.

At the European level, media noted the return of the tactic of **instrumentalising migration** at the Belarus border — the organised movement of migrants as part of hybrid operations by the regimes in Minsk and Moscow. Discussions on **the externalisation of asylum policy**, i.e. processing asylum applications outside EU territory, also gained traction. The Italian-Albanian agreement and the UK "Rwanda plan" were particularly highlighted. Media also reported on the new agreement between the EU and Egypt, which combined economic support with strengthening Egypt's role as a migration management partner.

During the September regional elections, the SPD party's pre-election campaign strongly resonated in Czech media, using xenophobic visuals depicting a fictional migrant with a knife and a slogan about "imported surgeons." The materials sparked widespread criticism across the political spectrum and civil society.

In the international context, **the attack in Southport, UK**, drew attention when a 17-year-old attacker killed three girls. Although the perpetrator was a British citizen of Rwandan origin, social media was flooded with false and manipulative narratives linking the attack to migration and Islam. This was followed by several violent incidents targeting asylum hostels, mosques and police units.

At the end of the year, migration became a prominent topic in **the US presidential campaign**. Donald Trump based part of his rhetoric on the criminalisation of migrants and promises of mass deportations of up to eleven million undocumented individuals. In this context, the media reported on Canadian authorities preparing for a possible increase in asylum seekers who might flee the United States if Trump were to win.

Towards the very end of the year, **the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria** became a significant topic in the Czech public and media space. In response, the Ministry of the Interior suspended decisions on asylum applications from Syrian citizens, explaining the need to assess the new political situation in the country. Similar measures were adopted by other European countries, including Germany and Austria.

In **alternative news outlets**, claims emerged domestically about a supposed increase in crime among Ukrainian refugees. Migration was framed as a direct threat to the safety of Czech cities. In the international context, conspiracy and disinformation websites targeted the EU and its migration policies, particularly the new migration management rules and the establishment of a common asylum system. The Czech Minister of the Interior, Vít Rakušan, became a frequent target, accused by disinformation websites of allegedly lying about mandatory relocation quotas and the negotiated exemption in the solidarity mechanism. Migration was also repeatedly linked to the alleged risk of the "Islamisation" of Europe and framed as a cause of the continent's cultural and civilisational decline. The longstanding narrative of migration as an existential threat found new support in developments in Syria, often combined with warnings about increasing drug trafficking. The systematic injection of these narratives into the information space and their conflictual interpretations contributed to making migration one of the most polarising topics in Czech public debate in 2024.

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

3

- ▶ In 2024, a total of **1,094,089 foreigners** were staying in the Czech Republic on a long-term basis (for more than 90 days).
- ▶ A total of **388,879 foreigners resided in the territory for the purpose of temporary protection**.
- ▶ A total of **705,210 foreigners with permanent or temporary residence were registered**. Of this number, 47.2% of foreigners resided in the territory temporarily and 52.8% permanently.
- ▶ Of the total number of foreigners residing in the Czech Republic temporarily or permanently, 33% were EU citizens and 67% were foreigners from so-called third countries.
- ▶ The most numerous are citizens of **Ukraine, Slovakia, Vietnam, Russia, and Romania**.
- ▶ In 2024, 6,880 persons obtained Czech citizenship.

3.1 FOREIGN NATIONALS WITH PERMITTED RESIDENCE IN THE TERRITORY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

As of the end of 2024, a total of **1,094,089 foreign nationals were registered for legal residence** (for a period exceeding 90 days) in the Czech Republic.⁶ Foreign nationals thus

represented **10% of the total population** of the Czech Republic.⁷

At the end of 2024, foreigners made up 10% of the population of the Czech Republic.

Compared to 2023, the overall number of legally residing foreign nationals increased by 2.7%. This growth in 2024 was primarily driven by the continued influx of Ukrainian nationals applying for temporary protection in the Czech Republic.

TABLE 1:
Development of the number of foreign nationals with permitted residence in the Czech Republic (2014–2024)

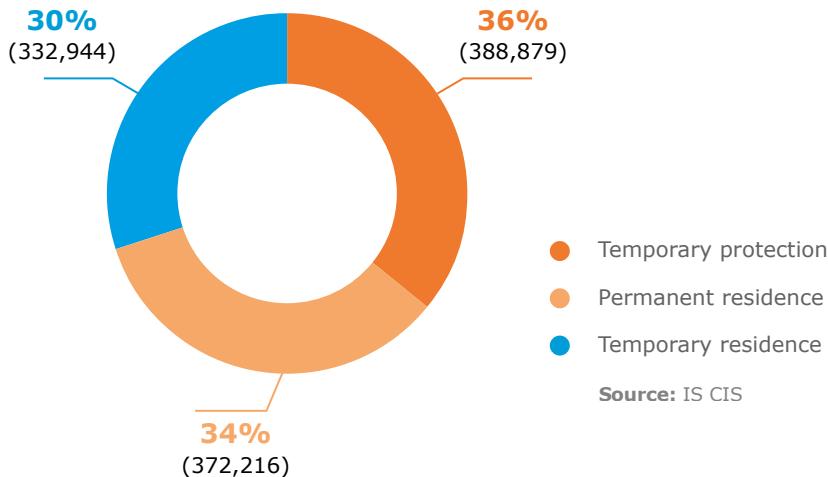
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of foreign nationals	451,923	467,562	496,413	526,811	566,931	595,881
Year-on-year change (%)	2.4	3.5	6.2	6.1	7.6	5.1
Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Source: IS CIS
Number of foreign nationals	634,790	660,849	1,116,154	1,065,740	1,094,089	
Year-on-year change (%)	6.5	4.1	68.9	-4.5	2.7	

⁶ The data includes foreigners with permitted residence in the Czech Republic registered in the Foreigners' Information System. However, the actual number of foreigners legally residing in the Czech Republic may vary, as the registered number of foreigners does not include all citizens of other EU Member States residing in the Czech Republic. Statistical surveys record only those EU citizens who have applied for or been issued with a registration certificate (instead of the earlier temporary residence permit). Those who only exercise their right of free movement within the EU, are not captured statistically.

⁷ The Czech Republic had a total population of 10,897,237 as of 31 December 2024 (Source: CZSO).

A total of **388,879** foreign nationals resided in the territory under **temporary protection**. The **number of foreign nationals with permanent or long-term residence permits amounted to 705,210**, representing an increase of 2% compared to the end of 2023. The growth rate of foreign nationals with long-term residence accelerated compared to the previous year; while their number increased by 8,484 persons in 2023, it rose by 14,104 persons in 2024.

CHART 1: **Foreign nationals in the Czech Republic by type of residence in 2024**

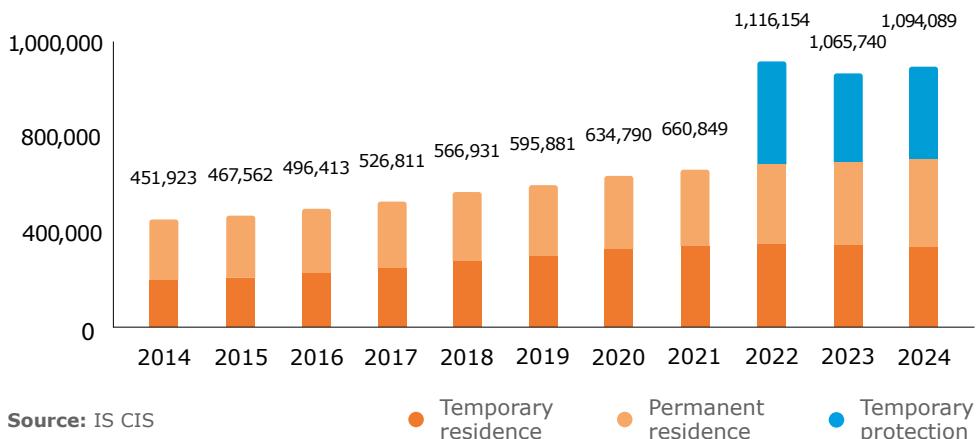


Similarly to 2023, the number of foreign nationals residing on the basis of a long-term residence permit decreased year-on-year (-8,117), while the increase was solely attributable to the number of permanent residence permits (+22,221).

Of the total number of foreign nationals residing in the Czech Republic, 21.2% were EU citizens. The share of third-country nationals, including holders of temporary protection, reached 78.8% (861,668) in 2024, representing an increase of 25,624 persons.

CHART 2:

Development of the number of foreign nationals with permitted residence in the Czech Republic (2014–2024)



3.1.1 PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY RESIDENCE

Out of the total recorded number of **705,210 foreign nationals** residing in the Czech Republic with either permanent or temporary residence permits, **67% fell into the category of third-country nationals** (472,789 persons).

A total of **232,421 EU citizens were registered**, representing 33% of all foreign nationals residing in Czechia on the basis of permanent or temporary residence permits. Year-on-year, this represents an increase of 2,725 persons. Unlike in the previous year, EU citizens were more often residing in Czechia on the basis of a permanent residence permit (51.5%), while among third-country nationals, the predominance of permanent residence continued (53.4%).

TABLE 2:

Foreign nationals with temporary and permanent residence permits in the Czech Republic by EU membership and type of residence – comparison 2023/2024

Year (as of 31 Dec)		2023		2024		Year-on-year change	
		Number of foreigners	i.e. %	Number of foreigners	i.e. %	Absolute number	i.e. %
Foreign nationals with long-term and permanent residence	total	691,106	100	705,210	100	14,105	2.0
	of which temporarily	341,111	49.4	332,944	47.2	-8,117	-2.4
	of which permanently	349,995	50.6	372,216	52.8	22,221	6.3
Eu citizens	total	229,696	33.2	232,421	33.0	2,725	1.2
	of which temporarily	116,642	50.8	112,793	48.5	-3,849	-3.3
	of which permanently	113,054	49.2	119,628	51.5	6,575	5.8
Third-country nationals	total	461,410	66.8	472,789	67.0	11,379	2.5
	of which temporarily	224,469	48.6	220,201	46.6	-4,268	-1.9
	of which permanently	236,941	51.4	252,588	53.4	15,647	6.6

Source: IS CIS

3.1.2 NATIONALITY OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

The composition of foreign nationals by nationality among the ten most represented source countries remained almost identical to 2023. In the table, the positions of Poland and Bulgaria have switched compared to 2023. Citizens of Mongolia now represent the eighth largest group of foreign nationals with long-term residence (they ranked ninth in 2023).

TABLE 3:

Foreign nationals with long-term and permanent residence permits in the Czech Republic by type of residence and nationality (as of 31 December 2024)

Structure of foreigners in the Czech Republic	Number	Share (%)	Year-on-year change (%)	of which			
				Temporary	i.e. %	Permanent	i.e. %
Foreign nationals in total	705,210	100.0	2.0	332,944	47.2	372,216	52.8
of which TOP 10:							
Ukraine	201,389	28.6	0.3	92,843	27.9	108,546	29.2
Slovakia	121,471	17.2	1.9	51,596	15.5	69,875	18.8
Vietnam	68,967	9.8	1.8	12,323	3.7	56,644	15.2
Russia	38,647	5.5	-4.9	13,369	4.0	25,278	6.8
Romania	21,049	3.0	2.8	12,986	3.9	8,063	2.2
Poland	17,733	2.5	-0.6	6,221	1.9	11,512	3.1
Bulgaria	17,733	2.5	-1.0	9,791	2.9	7,942	2.1
Mongolia	14,071	2.0	11.1	7,228	2.2	6,843	1.8
Germany	11,768	1.7	-7.5	7,044	2.1	4,724	1.3
Hungary	11,650	1.7	4.8	7,837	2.4	3,813	1.0
EU citizens	232,421	33.0	1.2	112,793	33.9	119,629	32.1
Third-country nationals	472,789	67.0	2.5	220,201	66.1	252,588	67.9

Source: IS CIS

The downward trend in the number of Russian citizens residing in the Czech Republic continues (as a consequence of restrictions on visa issuance in connection with Russia's aggression against Ukraine). In contrast, **the highest increase was recorded among Mongolian nationals**, whose number rose year-on-year by 1,410 persons (+11.1%), mainly in the category of long-term residence.

Similarly to 2023, in 2024 **the highest year-on-year increase was recorded among citizens of the Philippines**, amounting to 48.3%. Their number in Czechia rose from 7,026 to 10,418, primarily due to an increase in long-term residence for the purpose of employment.

3.1.3 FOREIGN NATIONALS BY GENDER AND AGE

Men continue to slightly outnumber women among foreigners, both in terms of permanent residence permits and temporary residence permits. At the end of 2024, men accounted for 56.1% of foreigners. In terms of permanent residence permits, the proportion of men was 52.7%. In the case of temporary residence permits, men had an even more significant majority, accounting for 59.8%. Differences in the representation of foreigners by gender within individual residence categories can be linked to the nature of temporary residence, which is more temporary and mainly economically motivated.

TABLE 4:

Foreign nationals with temporary and permanent residence permits in the Czech Republic by gender (as of 31 December 2024)

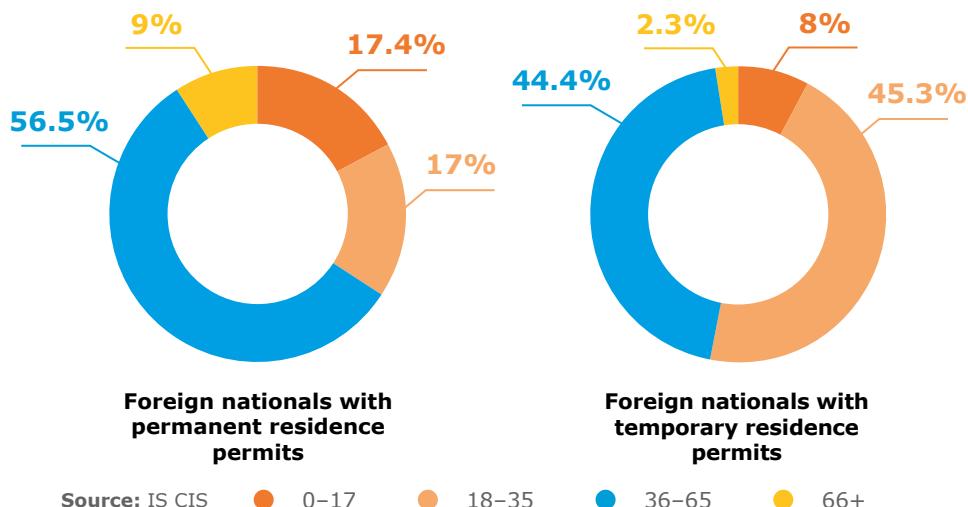
Gender	Foreign nationals in total	of which			
		Men	i.e. %	Women	i.e. %
Folders of temporary and permanent residence permits in total	705,210	395,417	56.1	309,793	43.9
of which:					
Temporary	332,994	199,189	59.8	133,805	40.2
Permanent	372,216	196,228	52.7	175,988	47.3

Source: IS CIS

The age group between 36 and 65 has long been the most common among foreigners staying in the country on a temporary or permanent basis, accounting for 50.8% in 2024. The age distribution varies depending on the type of stay. In the temporary residence category, the 18–35 and 36–65 age groups are more evenly balanced, while in the permanent residence category, the 36–65 age group clearly predominates, and there is also a higher representation of minors and persons over 66 years of age (see graphs below).

CHART 3:

Age structure of foreign nationals with residence permits in the Czech Republic (as of 31 December 2024)



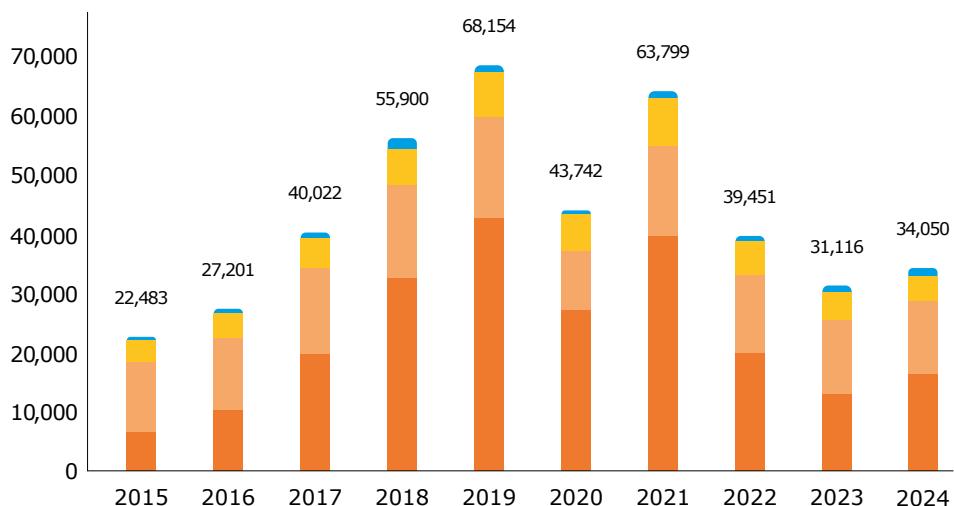
3.2 RESIDENCE PERMITS BY PURPOSE

Third-country nationals who wish to reside in the Czech Republic temporarily for more than 90 days may apply at Czech embassies for a long-term visa or a long-term residence permit, in the case of specific residence titles based on EU directives (such as visa policy purposes, studies, scientific research, including dual-purpose residence permits for employment – Employee Card and Blue Card).

The year 2024 was still marked by the ongoing war in Ukraine and the related restrictions on the operation of embassies in Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus. The acceptance of applications for long-term residence permits thus remained limited.

CHART 4:

Development of applications for long-term residence permits for entry into the Czech Republic, 2015–2024



Source: MoI ● Economic activities ● Educational activities ● Family ● Other purpose

TABLE 5:

Applications for long-term residence permits by purpose in 2024

Purpose	Number of applications	i.e. %	% change compared to 2023	Absolute change compared to 2023
Economic activities	16,259	47.8	27.1	+3,464
Educational activities	12,199	35.8	-2.7	-338
Family reunification	4,259	12.5	-8.4	-393
Other purposes	1,333	3.9	17.8	+201
Total	34,050	100.0	9.4	+2,934

Source: MoI

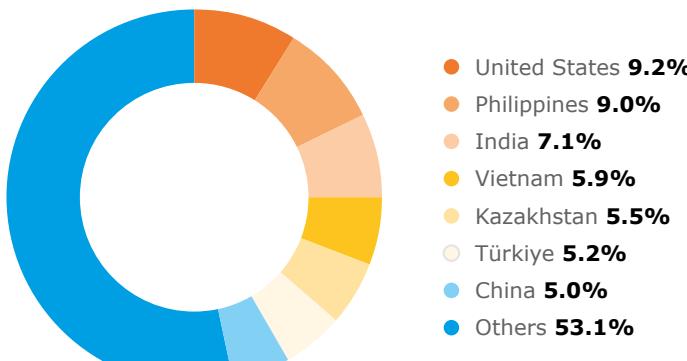
In 2024, the **declining trend in the number of applications** for long-term residence permits submitted at Czech embassies abroad, which had been observed in the previous two years, **came to an end**. Economic purposes of stay again became the dominant category, at levels typical before 2022.

The number of applications for long-term visas or long-term residence permits submitted to Czech diplomatic missions abroad increased by 9.4% compared to 2023.

In 2024, a total of **29,495 long-term residence permits** (long-term visas and long-term residence) were granted on the basis of applications submitted at Czech embassies, representing a year-on-year increase of 1,928 permits (i.e., 7%).

Compared to 2023, the ranking of countries from which foreign nationals with the most frequently granted long-term residence titles originate did not change. Until 2023, Ukrainian citizens predominated for a long period, whereas for the second consecutive year, the highest number of permits was granted to citizens of the United States.

CHART 5: **Long-term residence permits granted in 2024 by nationality**



Source: MoI

TABLE 6:**Long-term residence permits granted in 2024 by purpose**

Purpose	Number of permits granted	i.e. %	% change compared to 2023	Absolute change compared to 2023
Economic activities	14,231	48.2	19.3	+2,307
Educational activities	10,305	35.0	-2.0	-169
Family reunification	3,714	12.6	-9.4	-384
Other purposes	1,245	4.0	16.0	+174
Total	29,495	100.0	7.0	+1,928

Source: MoI

3.2.1 ECONOMIC MIGRATION

As of 31 December 2024, a total of **845,468 foreign workers were registered as employees** by regional branches of the Labour Office of the Czech Republic (ÚP ČR).

In total, **397,637 foreign workers originated from the Member States of the European Union, the European Economic Area, and Switzerland** (hereinafter referred to as EU/EEA and Switzerland), including their family members. The most numerous group consisted of Slovak citizens (215,611 information cards), followed by citizens of Romania (44,405), Poland (43,793), and Bulgaria (34,185).

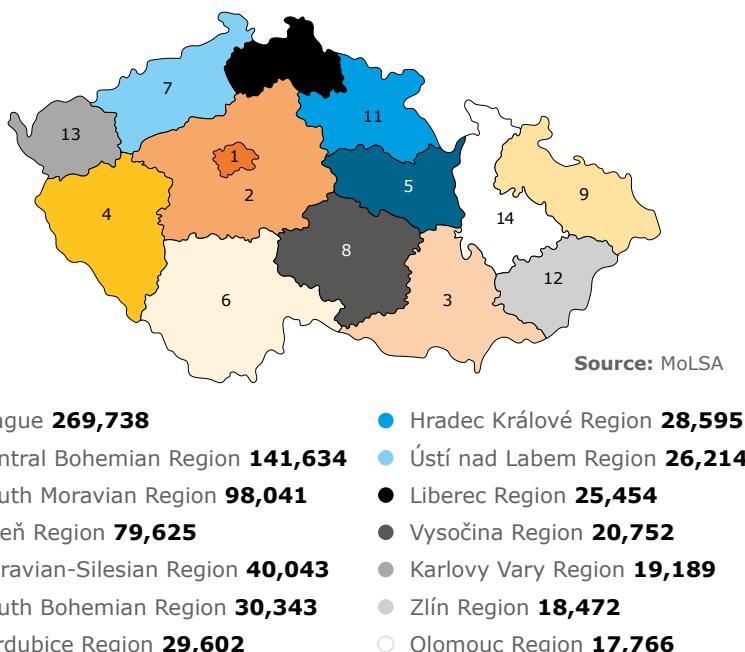
A total of **447,831 foreign workers were citizens of non-EU/EEA and non-Swiss countries (third-country nationals)**, most frequently citizens of Ukraine (239,351 information cards⁸ + 65,331 work permits⁹), Russia (19,115 information cards + 3,311 work permits), and Vietnam (17,257 information cards + 3,684 work permits).

⁸ This includes workers from third countries who do not need an employment permit, an Employee Card, a Blue Card or an intra-corporate transferee card.

⁹ This includes employment permits, Employee Cards, Blue Cards and possibly intra-corporate transferee cards

In terms of regional distribution, **the highest number of foreign workers in employee positions** has long been recorded **in the capital city of Prague** (269,738), followed by the Central Bohemian Region (141,634), South Moravian Region (98,041), and the Plzeň Region (79,625).

FIGURE 1:
Distribution of foreign workers in the Czech Republic by region in 2024



As of 31 December 2024, a total of 1,749 employment agencies were registered.

The majority of foreign workers in 2024 consisted of foreign nationals with free access to the labour market. Out of the total of 845,468 foreign workers, 397,637 information cards were issued to citizens of EU/EEA countries and Switzerland, including their family members, and 329,699 information cards were issued to third-country nationals who did not require a work permit.

Among **foreign workers who enter the labour market on the basis of a work permit**, as of the end of 2024 there were a **total of 118,132**, including **108,113 holders of employee cards, 7,897 holders of work permits, 2,049 holders of blue cards, and 73 holders of intra-company transfer cards**.

As of 31 December 2024, a total of **1,749 employment agencies** (entities holding a licence to mediate employment issued by the General Directorate of the Labour Office) were registered.

3.2.1.1 ECONOMIC MIGRATION PROGRAMMES

Migration programmes and projects represent **an effective tool to support the migration of selected target groups of third-country nationals whose entry and stay in the Czech Republic are of particular interest to the state**.

The aim of all economic migration programmes is to simplify the arrival of qualified foreign workers to Czechia and thereby promote targeted and selective legal economic migration.

The programmes serve as a selection tool for Czech employers and their foreign employees, who are granted preferential treatment when submitting residence applications at embassies, along with other advantages (possibility of migrating with close family members, reduced administrative burden, and expedited application processing). The programmes strengthen state control over the process of labour migration, reduce migration-related risks, and enhance the preventive protection of foreign workers.

Since 2019, a total of four government-approved migration programmes have been implemented:

1. The Highly Skilled Employee Programme

This programme is intended for companies employing highly qualified third-country nationals (i.e., foreigners working in Czechia in professions classified under CZ-ISCO major groups 1 to 3: managers, professionals,

In 2024, 404 foreigners were included in the Highly Skilled Employee Program, most often from China, India, the USA, South Korea, Great Britain, and the Philippines.

and technicians and associate professionals). The target group also includes healthcare professionals. **The programme is open to citizens of all third countries**, and close family members of labour migrants may also participate.

The operation of the programme continued to be affected by the war in Ukraine, previously a key source country of skilled labour force. **The most significant decrease since the launch of the programme was recorded among healthcare professionals. In 2024, 404 foreigners were enrolled in the Highly Skilled Employee Programme, with most applicants coming from China, India, the USA, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the Philippines.** Most frequent professions included mechanical engineers, cybersecurity specialists, network specialists, programmers, system analysts, software developers, electrical engineers, head chefs, and language lecturers and teachers.

A total of 202 applications for employee cards were submitted within this programme,¹⁰ with 238 decisions issued¹¹ and a success rate of 86.6%. The most frequent applicants were citizens of India (33), Nepal (29), and China (22).

2. The Skilled Employee Programme

This programme is designed for companies employing medium- to low-skilled workers. The source countries for economic migration to the Czech Republic were selected by the government as suitable in terms of labour market needs and security and migration risks.

The programme is currently open to **Armenia, Montenegro, the Philippines, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Mongolia, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine**. The programme remains suspended for Belarus.

The quota allocated to Ukraine (11,000 applications per year) was only utilised at about 10% (1,142 workers enrolled) due to the situation in Ukraine. In 2024, the quota for the Philippines was increased

¹⁰ The participants of the Programme are issued Employee Cards, Blue Cards, intra-corporate transferee cards, and their family members are issued long-term visas for family purposes and long-term residence permits for the purpose of family reunification. However, within the residence statistics, the Ministry of the Interior only tracks participation in the Programme for applicants for Employee Cards.

¹¹ This figure also includes decisions on applications from the previous year.

(10,300 applications per year from 1 May 2024; total 8,633 for 2024) and for Mongolia (3,170 applications per year).

For India and Kazakhstan, the quota was fully used in all months; for Moldova, it was 57% utilised, and for Georgia, 52%. Data for 2024 show that the main source countries were the Philippines (4,027 enrolled applicants) and Mongolia (2,367). There was also significant interest in workers from Moldova (854), India (600), and Kazakhstan (500).

In Serbia and Montenegro, approximately 19% of the allocated annual quota was used, in Armenia 29%, and in North Macedonia only 7.5%.

In total, 10,339 foreigners were enrolled in the Skilled Employee Programme from all source countries. The most in-demand professions were welders, assembly workers, bricklayers, drivers, meat and fish processors, metal product workers, engineering metalworkers, assistant cooks, and warehouse operators.

Within this programme, 8,286 applications for employee cards were submitted, with 8,165 decisions issued and a success rate of 92.8%. The most frequent applicants were citizens of the Philippines (3,668), Mongolia (1,859), and Ukraine (793).

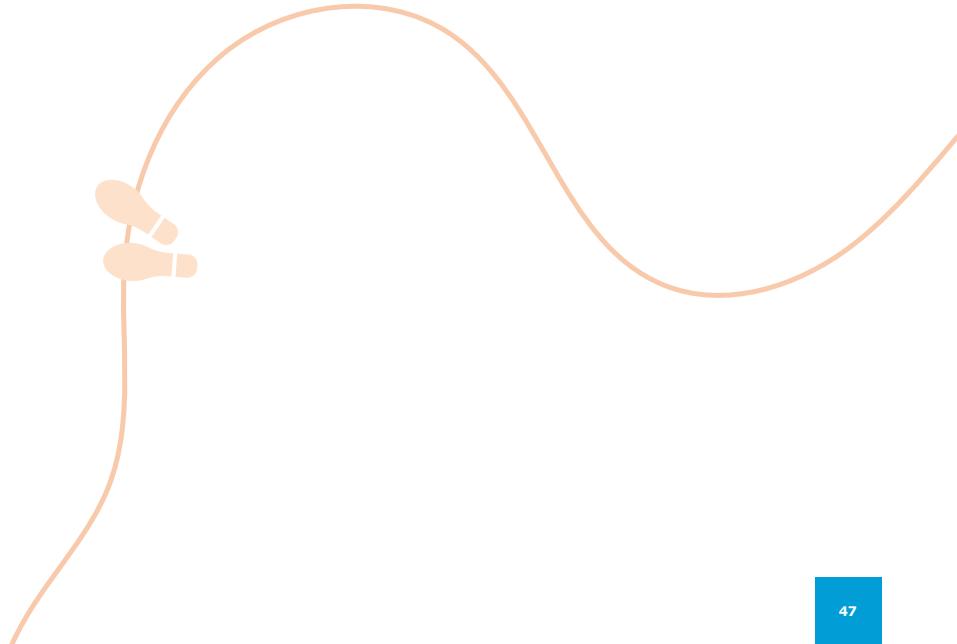
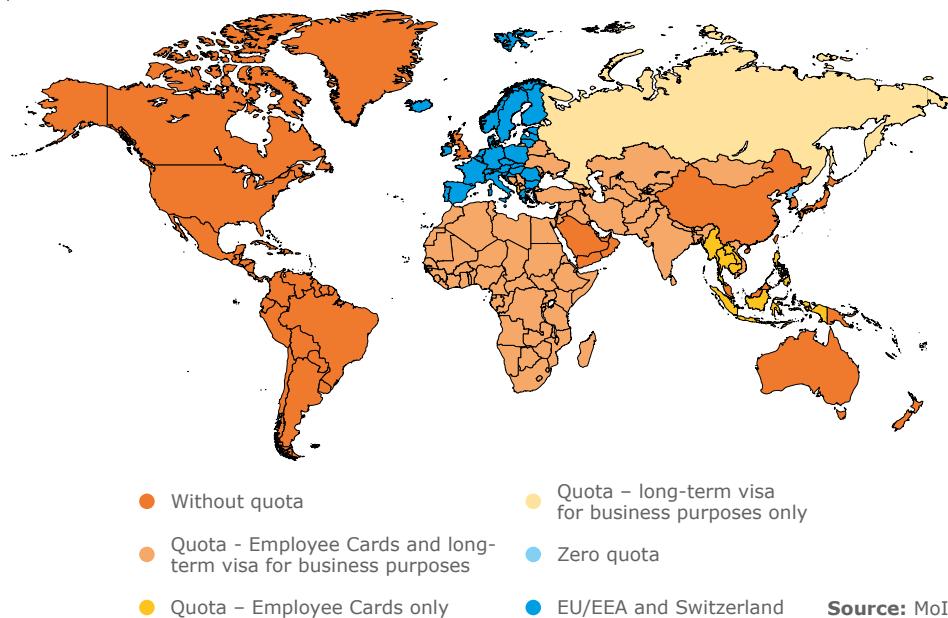


FIGURE 2:

World map showing quotas for economic migration to the Czech Republic in 2024



3. The Key and Scientific Personnel Programme

This programme is intended for investors, newly established companies, start-ups, and, more recently, research organisations and technology companies wishing to employ top-tier highly qualified workers from third countries. The programme is **open to citizens of all third countries**, and close family members of labour migrants may also participate.

The outbreak of the war in Ukraine also affected this programme, with key workers from Russia and Belarus largely replaced by Indian and Turkish workers. In 2024, a total of **1,099 foreigners were enrolled**. The most common professions included IT specialists, software developers, mechanical engineers in R&D, industrial engineering specialists, marketing specialists, financial advisors, accounting specialists, and managers. The most frequent source countries were India, Türkiye, Japan, South Korea, and China.

In 2024, 371 applications for employee cards¹² were submitted within this programme, with 381 decisions¹³ issued and a success rate of 93.2%. The most frequent applicants were citizens of India (87), South Korea (72), and Japan (42).

4. The Special Work Visa for Nationals of Certain Countries Working in Agriculture, Food Industry or Forestry Programme

This programme is intended exclusively for employers seeking low-skilled and unskilled workers in these sectors. Currently, it is open to citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, North Macedonia, and Ukraine.

In addition to the above programmes, since 2014 the **Internship Project** has been implemented, designed for third-country nationals sent by foreign employers to Czech companies to improve their skills and qualifications for future employment with their foreign employer. The internship may last for a maximum of six months.

In 2024, **120 foreigners were enrolled in the Internship Project**, most frequently from Mexico, Bosnia and Herzegovina, India, Vietnam, and China. In 2024, **21 applications for long-term visas were submitted and approved, with the majority from Mexico (16)**.

Since 2023, a new government-approved **Digital Nomad Programme** has been launched. This programme is intended for highly qualified IT specialists – so-called digital nomads – who wish to stay long-term in the Czech Republic. The programme is open to citizens of **Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Taiwan**, and from 1 January 2025 also to citizens of **Brazil, Israel, Mexico, and Singapore**. Close family members may also participate.

In 2024, **18 foreigners** (8 employees of foreign companies, 8 freelancers, and 2 family members) **from the USA, the UK, Australia, and**

¹² The participants of the Programme are issued Employee Cards, Blue Cards, intra-corporate transferee cards, long-term visas for business purposes, and their family members are issued long-term visas for family purposes and long-term residence permits for the purpose of family reunification. However, within the residence statistics, the Ministry of the Interior only tracks participation in the Programme for applicants for Employee Cards.

¹³ The number of issued decisions exceeding the number of accepted applications is due to the fact that decisions are made at the beginning of a calendar year on applications that were filed before the end of the preceding years.

Canada were enrolled. A total of 12 applications for long-term visas were submitted and approved, most commonly by US citizens.

On 1 July 2024, the **Project for Labour Migration from Indonesia** was launched. The target group comprises **Indonesian students or graduates of polytechnic schools aged 21–29** wishing to temporarily engage in **skilled craft-type jobs** (e.g., welders, (electro)mechanics, locksmiths) to improve their qualifications in the Czech Republic. The project is intended for large Czech companies prepared to accept at least 100 Indonesian migrants at once. A pilot phase was tested in 2023 with 300 Indonesian workers. In 2024, no foreigners were enrolled.

The **Aircraft Pilot Project** aims to support the training of qualified pilots from selected third countries. Enrolled foreigners are guaranteed the possibility to apply for a residence permit for pilot training purposes. The project applies to citizens of **Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, the Philippines, Ghana, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, and Vietnam**, or holders of passports issued by these states.

In 2024, **59 foreigners were enrolled in the Aircraft Pilot Project**, most of whom were from Vietnam and the Maldives.

TABLE 7:
Number of Applications for Employee Cards and Decisions under Economic Migration Programmes in 2024

Programme	Applications submitted	Decisions issued	Positive decisions	% of positive decisions
Key and Scientific Personnel	371	381	355	93.2%
Highly Skilled Employee	202	238	206	86.6%
Skilled Employee	8,286	8,165	7,580	92.8%
of which:				
Philippines	3,668	3,621	3,471	95.9%
Mongolia	1,859	1,762	1,666	94.6%
Ukraine	793	584*	564*	96.6%
India	656	700	561	80.1%

Moldova	653	724	619	85.5%
Kazakhstan	276	312	249	79.8%
Serbia	250	315	246	78.1%
Georgia	149	131	110	84.0%
Armenia	130	155	145	93.5%
South Korea	89	87	85	97.7%

Source: MoI

3.2.2 LONG-TERM RESIDENCE PERMITS AT THE ENTRY INTO THE CZECH REPUBLIC

In 2024, a total of **18,344 long-term residence permits were granted**.

As in previous years, most long-term residence permits in 2024 were granted to applicants for employee cards – a total of 12,843 permits, representing 70% of all granted long-term residence permits. The largest numbers of employee card decisions were issued to citizens of **the Philippines, Mongolia, and China**.

Blue cards were most frequently granted to citizens of **India, Türkiye, and Ukraine**, similarly to 2023.

Intra-company transfer permits saw a significant year-on-year increase of 39.9%, with a total of 284 permits granted (1.5% of all positive decisions). Almost two-thirds of these permits were granted to **Chinese citizens**, followed at a considerable distance by citizens of **Japan and the United Kingdom**.

A total of 2,192 long-term residence permits were granted for the purpose of **family reunification** in 2024, representing 11.9% of all positive decisions. One third of these permits were granted to **Vietnamese citizens**, followed by citizens of **India** and **Ukraine**.

Studies represented the third most frequent purpose of granted long-term residence permits, with a total of 2,152 permits granted (11.7% of all positive decisions). Compared to 2023, the number of permits granted for studies decreased by 7%. Similarly to family reunification, study-related permits were most often granted to **Vietnamese citizens** (33.3% of the total), followed by citizens of **India** and **Bangladesh**.

A significant year-on-year increase of 60.5% was recorded in the number of long-term residence permits granted for **research** purposes. In 2024, these permits were most frequently granted to citizens of **India** (36.8% of the total), followed by citizens of **China** and **Pakistan**.

TABLE 8:
Granted Long-term Residence Permits from Applications Submitted at Czech Embassies by Purpose in 2024

Purpose	Number of permits granted	i.e. %	% change compared to 2023	Absolute change compared to 2023
Total	18,344	100.0	14.9	+2,380
of which:				
Employment – Employee Card	12,843	70.0	23.5	2,445
Family reunification	2,192	11.9	-5.5	-127
Studies	2,152	11.7	-7.0	-162
Employment – Blue Card	337	1.8	-14.2	-56
Research	536	2.9	60.5	+202
Intra-company transfer	284	1.5	39.9	+81

Source: MoI

One fifth of long-term residence permits in 2024 were granted to citizens of the **Philippines**, followed by citizens of **Mongolia** and **China**.

TABLE 9:

Granted Long-term Residence Permits from Applications Submitted at Czech Embassies by Nationality – Comparison 2023/2024

Year	2023	i.e. %	2024	i.e. %	Change compared to previous period	
					%	Absolute figure
Total	15,964	100	18,344	100	14.9	2,380
of which TOP 10 (ranked by 2024):						
Philippines	2,553	16.0	3,761	20.5	47.3	1,208
Mongolia	969	6.1	1,736	9.5	79.2	767
China	1,198	7.5	1,576	8.6	31.6	378
Vietnam	1,590	10.0	1,445	7.9	-9.1	-145
Ukraine	457	2.9	1,412	7.7	209.0	955
India	1,422	8.9	1,389	7.6	-2.3	-33
Moldova	752	4.7	700	3.8	-6.9	-52
Serbia	583	3.7	666	3.6	14.2	83
Türkiye	592	3.7	591	3.2	-0.2	-1
Kazakhstan	316	2.0	296	1.6	-6.3	-20

Source: MoI

Projects in the area of student migration:

- **Student Scheme:** a scheme aimed at facilitating visa procedures for selected students (the so-called "Student Scheme")

The purpose of this project is to **simplify the visa and residence process** for foreigners from selected countries admitted to accredited study programmes at higher education institutions in the Czech Republic. Under the Student Regime, these students are allowed faster access to embassies to submit their residence applications.

In 2024, a total of **37 public and private universities** participated in the Student Scheme, with **1,085 applicants enrolled**. A total of 26 countries were included in the Student Regime, while certain embassies had consular competence for several countries (thus **covering a total of 60 countries**).

► **Fast Track Procedure for Granting Residence Permits to Foreigners** – International Students from Third Countries

This project targets the migration of international scholarship holders. Students are included in the project based on a nomination by the hosting institution acting as the residence guarantor.

The target group consists of students from third countries (Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Zambia, Ukraine) admitted to study in the Czech Republic under bilateral or multilateral international agreements and government resolutions (developing countries and compatriots), as well as participants of the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility and Fulbright programmes.

3.3 VISA POLICY

Since its full accession to the Schengen cooperation (i.e., since 21 December 2007), the Czech Republic has implemented the **EU's common visa policy**. This agenda falls under the competence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in close cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior.

The fundamental document governing the common visa policy is Regulation (EU) 2018/1806 of the European Parliament and of the Council (the so-called Visa Regulation). This document establishes the list of third countries whose nationals are required to hold a visa when crossing the external borders, as well as the list of third countries whose nationals are exempt from this requirement.

The primary legal instrument governing the issuance of short-stay (Schengen) visas is Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas (Visa Code), which was amended in 2019.

One of the tools introduced by the amended Visa Code is the set of **measures under Article 25a**, which include negative and positive visa incentives for third countries based on their cooperation in the field of readmission. The European Commission regularly assesses this cooperation. In the past, visa measures have been proposed against Ethiopia, The Gambia, Senegal, Bangladesh, and Iraq. The Council adopted the proposal concerning Ethiopia in April 2024. In the case of The Gambia, an increase in visa fees was proposed in 2022 due to insufficient cooperation.

In view of progress made in return flights, the increased visa fee was cancelled in April 2024; however, the package of measures adopted in 2021 remains in place. Measures concerning other countries are still under negotiation with the aim of further improving cooperation in the field of readmission.

On 13 March 2024, the Council adopted a mandate to negotiate a revision of Regulation (EU) 2018/1806 aimed at strengthening the visa suspension mechanism. This mechanism allows for the temporary suspension of visa-free travel for third countries in the event of a sudden increase in irregular migration or security risks. The mechanism was first activated in 2019 for Albania and again in 2022 for Vanuatu.

The proposed revision introduces new grounds for suspension (e.g., misalignment of visa policy, investor citizenship programmes, hybrid threats), more flexible thresholds for activation based on individual assessment, a revised suspension procedure with longer timeframes and a new urgent procedure, as well as enhanced monitoring and reporting with broader geographical and thematic scope.

The revision also expands the grounds for suspending visa exemptions to include, for example, serious violations of human rights or international law. The proposal is currently undergoing the approval process.

3.3.1 DIGITALISATION OF THE VISA PROCESS

Visa digitalisation at the EU level will consist of the **introduction of a unified application portal** (Visa Application Portal – VAP), which will connect Schengen Member States.

Applicants for a Schengen visa will choose their destination and submit their application via the portal, where they will create their own account.

Use of the portal will likely not be mandatory, as some countries already operate their own digitalised systems. Electronic applications will then be transferred to national visa systems, such as the forthcoming ELVIS system in the Czech Republic, where they will be processed.

A pilot project of the portal was conducted in 2020–2021, involving selected countries including the Czech Republic. Currently, both technical and legislative solutions for the portal are being prepared. The proposal passed its first reading during the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, and the initiative was approved.

The preliminary launch date of the portal is January 2026; however, delays in the implementation of the EES and ETIAS systems may also result in a delay of the VAP project.

3.4 SCHENGEN COOPERATION

3.4.1 EUROPEAN LEGISLATION RELATED TO SCHENGEN MATTERS

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 establishing a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders

The amendment to Regulation (EU) 2016/399 establishing the Schengen Borders Code entered into force on 10 July 2024. It has a fundamental impact on the functioning of the Schengen area and strengthens its resilience to crises at external borders.

The regulation introduces the possibility to adopt EU-wide measures restricting access for third-country nationals to the EU in the event of a large-scale public health emergency. It also establishes a relocation procedure to help address secondary movements of migrants (from one Member State to another) as an alternative to reintroducing internal border controls. Additionally, it provides solutions for situations where migration is deliberately exploited (instrumentalisation of migration).

Clarifying the rules on reintroducing border controls ensures that this remains a measure of last resort.

New rules on Advance Passenger Information to facilitate external border management and enhance internal security

In March 2024, a political agreement was reached between the European Parliament and the Council of the EU on two regulations concerning the collection and exchange of Advance Passenger Information (API) data — information on the identity of passengers contained in travel documents combined with flight information collected at check-in. These regulations replace the 2004 directive and create a legal basis for the effective use of API data in external border checks and crime prevention. The regulations entered into force at the beginning of 2025 following their publication in the Official Journal of the EU.

Proposal for a Regulation on screening of third-country nationals at external borders ("Screening Regulation")

On 14 May 2024, the Council of the EU adopted the Pact on Migration and Asylum, which includes a regulation introducing the screening of third-country nationals at external borders.

The regulation entered into force on 1 July 2024 and will be applicable from 12 June 2026. Its objective is more effective migration management through pre-entry screening and the harmonisation of procedures for border checks, asylum, and return processes. The regulation sets out rules for swift screening of persons at external borders or within the EU, including registration and collection of information to assess security and health risks, determining the next steps in asylum or return proceedings.

Package on the digitalisation of travel documents

On 8 October 2024, the European Commission published **a package on the digitalisation of travel documents**, including two legislative proposals: a proposal for a regulation introducing an EU Digital Travel Authorisation¹⁴ and a proposal establishing an EU Digital Travel Application.¹⁵

¹⁴ Proposal for a Council Regulation on the issuance of digital travel authorizations based on identity cards and on technical standards for such authorisations.

¹⁵ Proposal for a regulation introducing an application for the electronic submission of travel data („EU Digital Travel App“) and amending Regulations (EU) 2016/399 and (EU) 2018/1726 and Council Regulation (EC) 2252/2004 as regards the use of digital travel authorisations.

The aim is to introduce uniform standards for digital travel authorisations and a common mobile application for submitting travel data. The digital travel authorisation will enable a digital representation of an individual's identity to be stored on a mobile phone. The application is expected to be available from 2030.

As of 1 January 2025, Bulgaria and Romania are fully integrated into the Schengen area.

The proposals also apply to third-country nationals, who will be required to provide travel data, allowing for faster and more targeted border checks. The digital travel authorisation will be part of the European Digital Identity Wallet, to be available by the end of 2026. The agency eu-LISA will ensure the technical implementation of these systems, while Member States will be responsible for secure integration with their national systems.

3.4.2 TEMPORARY REINTRODUCTION OF BORDER CONTROLS BY NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AT THE INTERNAL BORDERS WITH THE CZECH REPUBLIC

In 2024, **Germany and Austria reintroduced border controls at their land borders with the Czech Republic**, justified by security risks related to irregular migration and smuggling.

Controls at the Czech-German border applied from June 2024 to March 2025, while controls at the Czech-Austrian border were in place from October 2024 to April 2025.

3.4.3 NON-RECOGNITION OF NON-BIOMETRIC TRAVEL DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

As of 3 July 2024, the Czech Republic does not recognise non-biometric travel documents issued by the Russian Federation for entry and residence on its territory. Exceptions apply to minors and persons granted residence permits in the interest of the Czech Republic.

3.4.4 COMPLETION OF THE SCHENGEN AREA EXPANSION

In December 2024, the interior ministers of Member States agreed to **lift controls at internal land borders with Bulgaria and Romania** from 1 January 2025.

The lifting of land border controls follows the removal of controls at air and sea borders, which took place on 31 March 2024.

This important step finalises the full accession of both countries to the Schengen area, thereby strengthening the internal market through the promotion of trade and tourism.

3.5 INTEGRATION

Migration to the Czech Republic can only be effective and beneficial to both foreigners and the majority society if it is directly linked to integration measures. An active integration policy is an absolute necessity.

The primary target group for integration are legally residing third-country nationals. In 2024, necessary mutual complementarity was enabled within the strategy focused on persons with temporary protection. A range of integration tools (e.g., provision of information, social and legal counselling, language courses, or assistance in difficult life situations) can also be used by **EU citizens** and **beneficiaries of international protection** (in addition to services specifically provided to them within the State Integration Programme).

Considering that integration is a two-way process, the majority society is also regarded as a target group of integration. Integration policy increasingly focuses on integrating foreigners in vulnerable or disadvantaged positions, particularly female foreigners (both economically active and homemakers), foreign seniors, and children and youth from migrant backgrounds.

The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for coordinating the integration policy for foreigners, while individual ministries are responsible for its implementation within their respective remits. The fundamental document of the Czech Republic's integration policy is the **Policy for the Integration of Foreigners**.

In 2024, 411 adaptation and integration courses were held for 6,531 foreigners.

tion of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic, most recently updated in 2016.

The Concept defines five main integration priorities: knowledge of the Czech language, economic self-sufficiency, orientation within society, development of mutual relations be-

tween communities, and gradual acquisition of rights depending on the length of stay. Each year, the Ministry of the Interior submits to the government a draft resolution on the *Procedure for the Implementation of the Policy for the Integration of Foreigners* (hereinafter referred to as the "Procedure"), which contains specific integration measures that the respective ministries responsible for integration policy will implement to support the successful integration of foreigners in the Czech Republic in the following year.

In 2024, integration measures were based on the document *Procedure for the Implementation of the Updated Policy for the Integration of Foreigners – In Mutual Respect 2024*, approved by Government Resolution No. 218 of 3 April 2024. The following year, the Ministry of the Interior submits to the government information on the implementation of the Procedure within the Report on the Situation in the Area of Migration and Integration of Foreigners in the Territory of the Czech Republic.

A separate line is the integration of persons granted international protection, which is governed by the State Integration Programme. The adaptation and integration of beneficiaries of temporary protection is addressed by the Government Council for the Adaptation and Integration of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection. This council is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, while the Government Commissioner for Human Rights is responsible for leading its executive committee.

A key tool for supporting the integration of foreigners at the regional level is the **nationwide network**

In 2024, CZK 27,145,145 was allocated from the state budget to support the integration of foreigners as part of the Policy for the Integration of Foreigners.

of eighteen Centres for the Support of the Integration of Foreigners. These centres monitor the situation of foreigners in their respective regions and share important information with other stakeholders. They also ensure equal access to integration services and qualified integration support at a comparable level across all regions of the Czech Republic. The centres offer integration services such as Czech language courses, socio-cultural courses, and social and legal counselling.

Selected groups of third-country nationals are obliged to complete an **adaptation-integration course**. The aim of this measure is to familiarise foreigners with their rights and obligations and to strengthen their independence and self-reliance.

Another key tool supporting integration at the local level consists of municipal projects. These projects help create appropriate conditions for the smooth inclusion of foreigners and peaceful coexistence of all residents of a given municipality. Municipalities and city districts can implement comprehensive integration projects funded by state subsidies, based on knowledge of the local situation and needs. The projects are carried out in cooperation with foreigners and other integration stakeholders in the municipality (e.g., Centres for the Support of the Integration of Foreigners, NGOs, schools).

Other important actors in local-level integration are NGOs, which, among other activities, provided assistance to foreigners at the offices of the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy (DAMP), or supervised adaptation-integration courses methodologically.

In 2024, an amount of CZK 27,145,145 was allocated from the state budget of the Czech Republic for the support of foreigner integration within the framework of the Concept of Integration of Foreigners (i.e., half the amount compared to 2023).

3.6 CITIZENSHIP

In 2024, **Czech citizenship¹⁶ was granted to a total of 4,587 foreigners** (an increase of 161 persons compared to the previous year), including 6 foreigners who had resided in the Czech Republic under international protection in the form of asylum.

¹⁶ Pursuant to Section 11 of the Citizenship Act.

TABLE 10:
Number of foreigners granted Czech citizenship, 2014–2024

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of foreigners granted Czech citizenship	4,915	2,620	3,897	5,006	3,757	2,973	2,656	4,298	3,949	4,426	4,587

Source: MoI

Among those who acquired Czech citizenship by grant in 2024, **Ukrainian** nationals represented the largest group — 1,487 persons (230 more than in the previous year). They were followed by nationals of **Russia** — 1,077 (99 fewer than in the previous year), **Slovakia** — 967 (109 more), **Belarus** — 127 (41 fewer), and **Vietnam** — 102 (24 fewer).

In 2024, there was once again an increase in the total number of applications for the grant of Czech citizenship. In total, 6,254 applications for citizenship of the Czech Republic¹⁷ were submitted to the Ministry of the Interior in 2024 (representing an increase of approximately 19% compared to 5,254 applications in 2023; compared to 4,789 applications in 2022, this is an increase of about 31%).

In 2024, Czech citizenship was granted to a total of 4,587 foreigners. A total of 6,880 people obtained citizenship.

This trend is related both to the ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine (Ukrainian, Russian, and Belarusian citizens together constitute by far the largest group of applicants for Czech citizenship) and to the generally long-term increase in the number of foreigners holding permanent residence permits in the Czech Republic.

¹⁷ Pursuant to Section 11 of the Citizenship Act.

TABLE 11:
Special ways of granting Czech citizenship in 2024

Provision of the Act on Czech Citizenship	§ 28 ¹⁸	§ 29 ¹⁹	§ 30 ²⁰
Number of persons granted citizenship	28	2	0

Source: MoI

Additionally, in 2024, a total of **2,263 foreigners acquired Czech citizenship by declaration** under one of the provisions stipulated in the Act on Czech Citizenship²¹ (412 more persons than in the previous year).

Among those who acquired Czech citizenship by declaration under § 31 of the Act on Czech Citizenship (former Czech or Czechoslovak nationals and their descendants up to the second generation), the most represented nationalities were citizens of the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

Among those who acquired Czech citizenship by declaration under Section 35 of the Act on Czech Citizenship (so-called second-generation immigrants aged 18–21), the most represented nationalities were citizens of Vietnam, Ukraine, Russia, and Slovakia.

TABLE 12:
Declaration of acquisition of Czech citizenship in 2024

Provision of the Act on Czech Citizenship	§ 31	§ 32	§ 33	§ 34	§ 35	§ 36
Number of persons acquiring citizenship by declaration	829	183	0	8	1,231	12

Source: MoI

¹⁸ Cases where Czech citizenship that was granted to minor children whose father is a citizen of the Czech Republic and whose mother is a foreign national without permanent residence in the country and is not a citizen of an EU Member State, Switzerland or a country that is a party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, and where the paternity to the child was determined by concurring statements from the parents.

¹⁹ Cases where children were born in the territory of the Czech Republic and have not acquired citizenship of either parent by birth and where at least one of the parents had a residence permit for staying in the territory of the Czech Republic for more than 90 days.

²⁰ A natural person over 3 years of age found on the territory of the Czech Republic, whose identity cannot be established due to his/her degree of intellectual maturity or disability, unless it becomes apparent within 6 months from the date of discovery that he/she has acquired the citizenship of another state.

²¹ Section 31 – Section 36 of Act No. 186/2013 Coll., on Citizenship of the Czech Republic.

In total, therefore, **6,880 persons acquired Czech citizenship by grant or declaration in 2024** (443 more than in 2023).

3.7 PROVISION OF INFORMATION FOR FOREIGNERS

The Informational Portal for Foreigners (IPC) of the Ministry of the Interior provides comprehensive and up-to-date information on residence-related matters in a user-friendly format in both Czech and English (sections focusing on information for persons fleeing the armed conflict in Ukraine are available in Czech and Ukrainian).

Through the IPC, online registration for the extension of temporary protection was carried out at the beginning of 2024. A total of 320,304 individuals extended their temporary protection in this way.

In the second half of 2024, the Informational Portal changed its logo and domain. It is now accessible at ipc.gov.cz. The portal is also preparing to expand the range of agendas for which foreigners will be able to make online appointments themselves, including appointments for the collection of biometric data.

In September 2024, the Facebook page of the Informational Portal for Foreigners of the Ministry of the Interior was launched. This page is intended for foreigners who live in or plan to move to the Czech Republic. It provides, for example, up-to-date information on obtaining and extending residence permits and changes in the operating hours of offices.

Information for holders of temporary protection is provided through the Facebook page "Naši Ukrajinci" (Our Ukrainians).

Another main informational project is the **Client Centre for Providing Information to Foreigners**, which was established in 2020 and has since served as the main telephone and email source for answering inquiries and providing information to foreigners in the Czech Republic in Czech, English, and also Ukrainian.

In 2024, the Client Centre recorded a total of 526,356 incoming calls and 23,184 answered email inquiries.

FOREIGNERS WITH TEMPORARY PROTECTION ON THE TERRITORY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

4

- ▶ In 2024, **388,879 beneficiaries of temporary protection** were residing in the Czech Republic. This is the highest number per capita of any EU country.
- ▶ **More than two-thirds** of beneficiaries of temporary protection **were aged 18-64**, and one-quarter were children up to 17 years old. Over 60% of beneficiaries of temporary protection were women.
- ▶ **More than half of working-age beneficiaries of temporary protection were employed**, mostly in positions requiring low or no qualifications.
- ▶ In 2024, **temporary protection was extended until March 2025**, and an additional extension until March 2026 was approved.
- ▶ The main source of information on temporary protection in Czech and Ukrainian languages remained the Information Portal for Foreigners, which was also used for extending temporary protection.

In 2024, **foreign nationals who are legally permitted to stay in the Czech Republic on the basis of temporary protection** granted due to the war in Ukraine continued to form a specific category. There were almost 36 holders of temporary protection from Ukraine per one thousand inhabitants, representing 3.6% of the population in the Czech Republic. Thus, the Czech Republic continued to host the highest number of persons with temporary protection in the EU relative to its population.

Temporary protection is an instrument that was first activated at the EU level as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, when Council Imple-

As of 31 December 2024, a total of 388,879 beneficiaries of temporary protection were recorded in the Czech Republic.

menting Decision (EU) 2022/382 was implemented, establishing that a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine had occurred within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC. In the Czech Republic, new legislation was adopted, known as Lex Ukraine. In 2024, several amendments to these laws were adopted in response to ongoing developments.

The adaptation and integration of persons with temporary protection is addressed by the Government Committee for the Adaptation and Integration of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection. The activities of this committee are overseen by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, and the executive committee is chaired by the Government Human Rights Commissioner.

In 2024, **Regional Assistance Centres for Assistance and Help to Ukraine (KACPU)** continued to operate across all regions of the Czech Republic, providing initial assistance to newly arrived individuals. The activities of KACPU are coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior.

In 2024, **temporary protection was further extended until 31 March 2025**. A legal framework was also established for a potential further extension should a decision be made at the EU level.

4.1 DEMOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE OF BENEFICIARIES OF TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

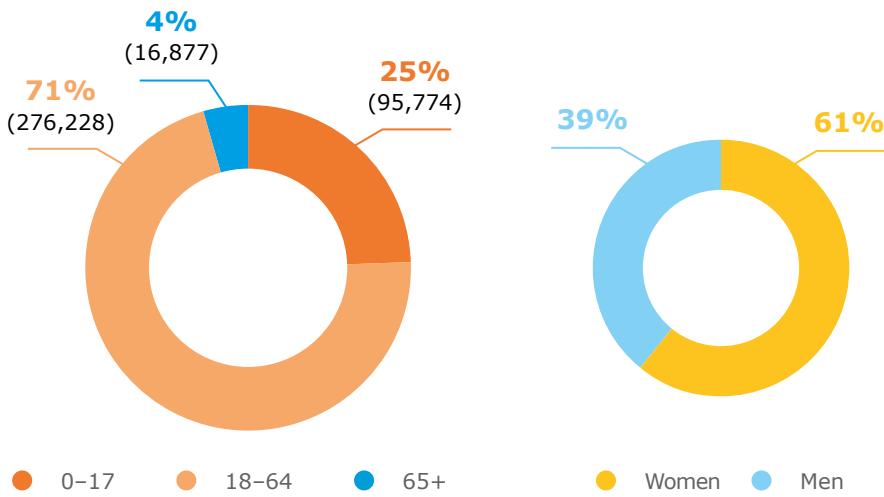
At the end of 2024, there were **a total of 388,879 beneficiaries of temporary protection** recorded in the Czech Republic, representing an increase of 3.8% compared to 2023. The Czech Republic remains the country with the highest number of refugees per capita in the EU.

The vast majority of those residing in the Czech Republic with temporary protection were **Ukrainian** citizens (388,067), who accounted for 99.8% of all persons with temporary protection at the end of the year. Other nationalities represented a negligible share (0.2%), most frequently in-

cluding citizens of **Russia** (323), **Moldova** (128), **Azerbaijan** (50), and **Vietnam** (48). These were mostly family members of Ukrainian citizens.

Among beneficiaries of temporary protection, women with children predominated. The share of minors (0–17 years) accounted for one-quarter (25%). Adults of working age accounted for 71% at the end of the year. As in the previous year, the majority of economically active individuals were women (61%), although there was a slight decrease (in 2023, it was 63%).

CHART 6: **Age structure of beneficiaries of temporary protection** **as of 31 December 2024**



Source: IS CIS

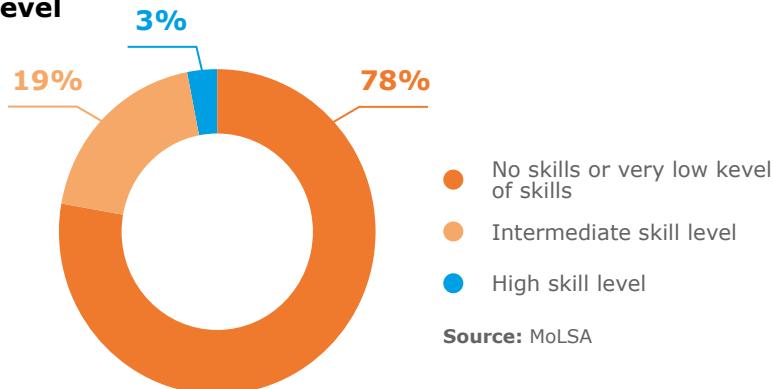
4.2 EMPLOYMENT OF BENEFICIARIES OF TEMPORARY PROTECTION

Beneficiaries of temporary protection have free access to the labour market. As of 31 March 2025, there were **152,762 beneficiaries of temporary protection active in the Czech labour market** (i.e., 55.3% of those of working age), representing an estimated number of employment relationships. Thus, beneficiaries of temporary protection made up over 47% of third-country nationals with free access to the labour market.

By the end of 2024, most beneficiaries of temporary protection held positions requiring no or very low qualifications. The most common positions

included **warehouse workers, forklift operators, and construction and building maintenance workers**. While the employment activity of beneficiaries of temporary protection has been continuously increasing over time, the employment structure by occupation classification has remained almost unchanged.

CHART 7:
Employment rate of beneficiaries of temporary protection by skill level



4.3 AWARENESS OF BENEFICIARIES OF TEMPORARY PROTECTION

In 2024, the main source of information continued to be the Information Portal for Foreigners, which provides up-to-date information on temporary protection in Czech and Ukrainian languages. It was also used for extending temporary protection and related processes. In 2025, a new function will be introduced, allowing expressions of interest in a special long-term residence permit for beneficiaries of temporary protection and online registration to obtain this special long-term residence.

The information helpline on temporary protection and the Facebook page "Our Ukrainians," which was created in mid-2022, continued to operate. In 2024, the page reached 215,690 users and had 29,670 followers (as of January 2025). The aim of this page is to provide verified information not only to beneficiaries of temporary protection and also to counter misinformation regarding this topic.

The Ministry of the Interior also contributes to managing the information available on the "Our Ukrainians" website. The website serves as a hub with links to practical information related to life in the Czech Republic.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION²²

5

- ▶ A total of **1,363 applications for international protection** were registered in 2024.
- ▶ The main source countries of applicants for international protection in 2023 were Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Vietnam.
- ▶ **International protection in the form of asylum was granted to 54 applicants**, most of them citizens of Myanmar, Russia and Belarus.
- ▶ **International protection in the form of subsidiary protection was granted in 149 cases.** The most frequent were nationals of Ukraine and Syria.

²² The conditions governing the entry and stay of a foreign national who has applied for the granting of international protection in the territory of the Czech Republic and the stay of a recognised refugee and a beneficiary of subsidiary protection in the country are defined by the Asylum Act.

An applicant for international protection is a foreign national who applied for international protection in the Czech Republic or a foreign national who submitted an application for international protection in another EU Member State, if the Czech Republic is responsible for examining the application. A foreign national has the status of an applicant during the proceedings on the granting of international protection or during the court proceedings on a legal action against a decision of the MoI under a special law, if this legal action has a suspensory effect.

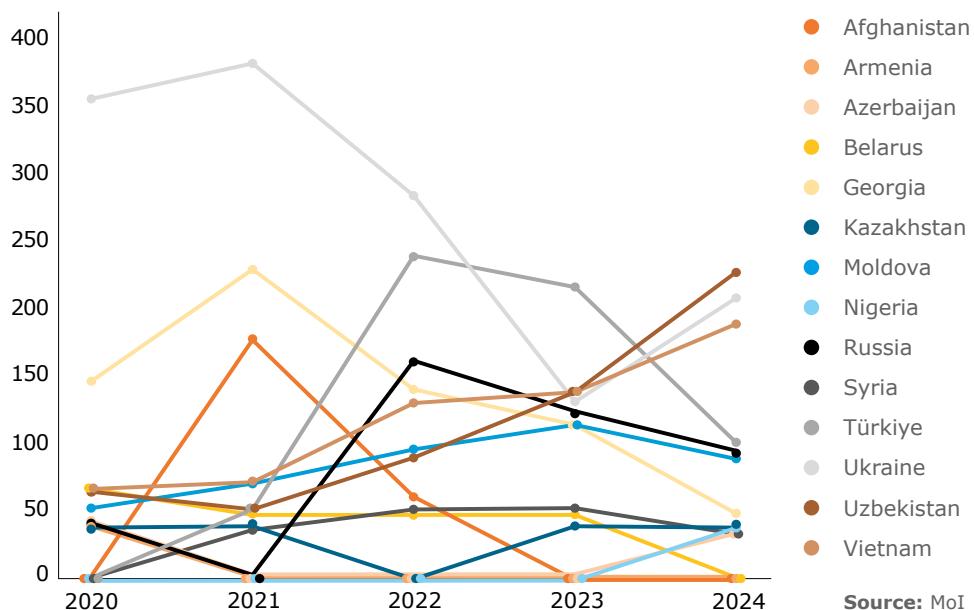
A recognised refugee is a foreign national, who was granted asylum under the aforementioned Act. Such a person holds this status during the period of validity of the decision to grant asylum.

A beneficiary of subsidiary protection is a foreign national who does not meet the requirements for being granted asylum pursuant to the aforementioned Act but who was granted subsidiary protection. Such a person holds this status during the period of validity of the decision to grant subsidiary protection.

- ▶ A total of **106 eligible persons** entered the State Integration Programme for persons granted international protection in 2024. During the year, a total of **79 Individual Integration Plans (IIP) were concluded for a total of 126 persons**.
- ▶ In 2024, the Czech Republic registered **1,064 so-called Dublin cases**. There were 112 Dublin transfers to the Czech Republic and 120 from the Czech Republic.

The development in the number of applicants from the most common source countries over the last five years is illustrated in the chart below.

CHART 8:
Applicants for international protection by citizenship – development in 2020–2024



5.1 APPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Compared to most EU+ countries,²³ the Czech Republic continues to receive significantly lower numbers of applicants for international protection. In 2024, the Czech Republic ranked 24th among destination countries for such applicants.

TABLE 13:
Number of applicants for international protection in the Czech Republic, 2013–2024

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of applicants	707	1,156	1,525	1,478	1,450	1,701	1,922	1,164	1,411	1,694	1,425	1,363
Year-on-year change	-6.1	63.5	31.9	-3.1	-1.9	17.3	13.0	-39.4	21.2	20.1	-15.9	-4.4

Source: MoI

Out of a total of 1,363 applications for international protection in 2024, **1,034 were first-time applications** (75.9%), and 329 were repeat applications.²⁴ The highest number of first-time applications came from nationals of Uzbekistan (177), Ukraine (176), Vietnam (140), Moldova (69), and Russia (68).

²³ I.e., the European Union Member States along with Luxembourg, Norway, and Switzerland.

²⁴ The number of repeat applications has been monitored since the implementation of the so-called EU Procedural Directive in the Asylum Act (amendment to the Act with effect from 21 December 2007). This is Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection status. Foreigners can submit new applications immediately after the decision not to grant international protection for the previous application has entered into force.

CHART 9:

Number of applications for international protection by month – comparison 2023/2024



Source: MoI

● 2023 ● 2024

In 2024, applicants from 58 countries sought international protection in the Czech Republic. Stateless applicants submitted 16 applications.

The most numerous group of applicants for international protection in 2024 were citizens of Uzbekistan. A significant decline was recorded in applications from Türkiye (-114).

TABLE 14:
Applicants for international protection by citizenship – comparison 2023/2024

Citizenship	2023			2024			Change from the previous period	
	Number of applicants	i.e. %	Ranking	Number of applicants	i.e. %	Ranking	i.e. %	Absolute figure
Total	1,425	100	-	1,363	100	-	-4.4	-62
of which TOP 10 (ranked according to 2023):								
Uzbekistan	136	9.5	2.	224	16.4	1.	64.7	88
Ukraine	129	9.1	3.	205	15.0	2.	58.9	76
Vietnam	136	9.5	2.	186	13.6	3.	36.8	50
Türkiye	213	14.9	1.	99	7.3	4.	-53.5	-114
Russia	120	8.4	4.	91	6.7	5.	-24.2	-29
Moldova	112	7.9	5.	87	6.4	6.	-22.3	-25
Georgia	73	5.1	6.	47	3.4	7.	-35.6	-26
Nigeria	22	1.5	13.	37	2.7	8.	68.2	15
Kazakhstan	3	2.5	9.	35	2.6	9.	-2.8	-1
Azerbaijan	32	2.2	10.	32	2.3	10.	0.0	0
Syria	51	3.6	7.	32	2.3	10.	-37.3	-19

Source: MoI

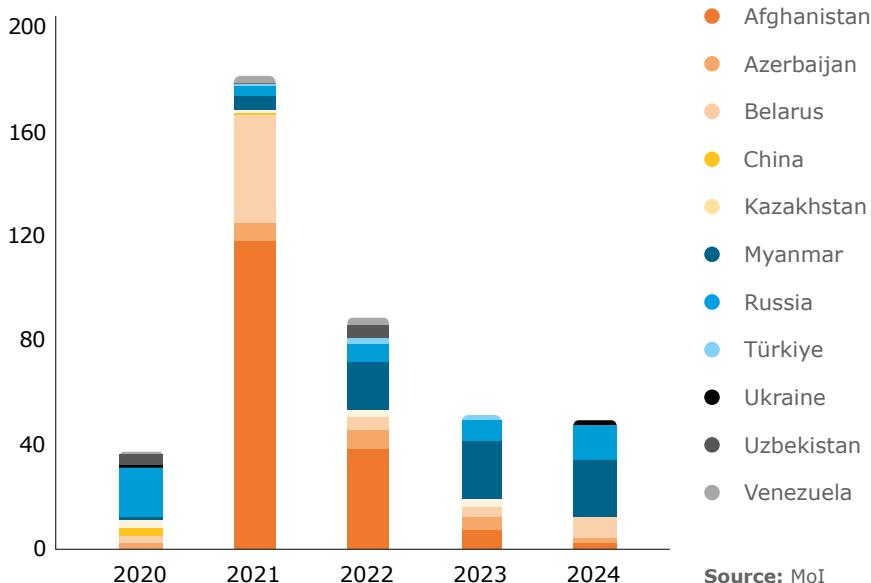
5.2 INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION PROCEEDINGS

In 2024, the Ministry of the Interior issued a total of 1,517 decisions in international protection proceedings and 477 decisions on the extension of subsidiary protection. As of the end of 2024, 689 individuals were still in the procedure (i.e., pending decisions).

International protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection was granted to a total of 203 foreign nationals.

CHART 10:

Most frequent citizenships granted asylum, 2020–2024

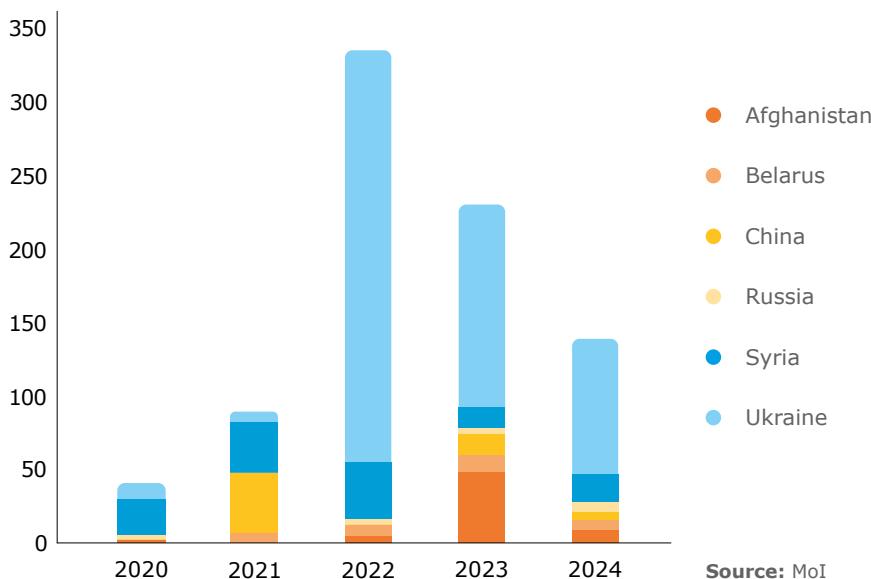


In 2024, asylum was granted to 54 applicants, mainly to citizens of Myanmar (22 cases), Russia (13), and Belarus (8).

Subsidiary protection was granted in 149 cases, most often to citizens of Ukraine (91), Syria (19), Afghanistan (8), Belarus (7), and Russia (7).

CHART 11:

Most frequent citizenships granted subsidiary protection, 2020–2024



Subsidiary protection was extended in 477 cases, an increase of 53 compared to the previous year. This growth is linked to the higher number of Ukrainian refugees who were granted subsidiary protection in 2022 due to the war in Ukraine and whose protection was extended in 2024.

In 2024, a total of **608 negative decisions were issued** (i.e., 75%²⁵), meaning protection was not granted or applications were dismissed as manifestly unfounded. Proceedings were discontinued in 706 cases.

The overall recognition rate in 2024 was 25% of all merit decisions (excluding discontinued cases).

²⁵ The percentage of negative decisions is calculated only from the total number of decisions referred to as merits decisions, i.e. the number of positive decisions on international protection and the number of negative decisions (international protection not granted and application rejected as clearly unfounded). The number of discontinued proceedings is not included for these purposes.

TABLE 15:
Granted asylum in 2024 by citizenship

Citizenship	Asylum granted	i.e. %
Myanmar	22	40.7
Russia	13	24.1
Belarus	8	14.8
Ukraine	2	3.7
Afghanistan	2	3.7
Azerbaijan	2	3.7
Kazakhstan	1	1.9
Egypt	1	1.9
Iraq	1	1.9
Uzbekistan	1	1.9
Venezuela	1	1.9
Total	54	100.0

Source: MoI

TABLE 16:
Granted subsidiary protection in 2024 by citizenship

Citizenship	Subsidiary protection granted	i.e. %
Ukraine	91	61.1
Syria	19	12.8
Afghanistan	8	5.4
Russia	7	4.7
Belarus	7	4.7
China	5	3.4
Azerbaijan	4	2.7
Kazakhstan	2	1.3
Botswana	1	0.7
Ethiopia	1	0.7
Ghana	1	0.7
South Sudan	1	0.7
Cameroon	1	0.7
Tajikistan	1	0.7
Total	149	100.0

Source: MoI

5.3 ASYLUM FACILITIES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior (SUZ) operates reception, residential, and integration asylum centres. SUZ provided services to applicants for international protection and to persons already granted such protection at **nine asylum facilities of three types**.

A reception centre serves for the initial accommodation of applicants for international protection while the initial steps, such as registration or medical examination, are carried out. **A residential centre** accommodates applicants until the final decision on their application. **An integration asylum centre** is intended for the temporary accommodation of recognised refugees and persons with subsidiary protection.

In 2024, a total of **1,202 newly arrived foreigners entered asylum facilities** — including newborns born during their mothers' stay — or individuals accommodated under exemptions. Most frequently, **nationals of Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Vietnam, Türkiye, and Russia** entered the facilities.

The capacity of reception and accommodation asylum centres in the Czech Republic is 923 beds

The capacity of reception and residential centres was on average 18% utilised, calculated based on persons physically present. Including those officially registered but residing outside the centres, the occupancy would be 28% on average.

A total of 36 individuals were accommodated in integration asylum centres (IAC) in 2024.

5.4 INTEGRATION OF RECOGNISED REFUGEES AND BENEFICIARIES OF SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION

The integration of persons who were granted international protection is regulated by the **State Integration Programme (SIP)**, legally defined in Sections 68–70 of the Asylum Act and Government Resolution No. 36 of 16 January 2017. In addition to the binding principles of SIP, this legislation also provides for an umbrella entity for integration activities, which is referred to as **the general provider of integration services (GPIS)**. **Since January 2017, this provider with an overall responsibility for integration activities has been the Refugee**

Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior²⁶ which is, among other things, the operator of integration asylum centres.

The aim of the programme is to facilitate the integration of recognised refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection into Czech society. Assistance focuses on housing, access to the labour market, health, social assistance, education (including retraining), and Czech language acquisition. The provider may subcontract individual services through a third party (non-governmental non-profit organisation).

An **Individual Integration Plan (IIP)** is a key document describing the integration goals of a particular person. It is prepared by the provider in close cooperation with the beneficiaries and the staff of the integration asylum centres, containing activities that will lead to the fulfilment of the stated integration goal. The implementation and realisation of the activities is financed from the special budget of the SIP and the cooperation for its implementation lasts a maximum of 12 months.

In 2024, a total of 106 persons entered the SIP, a 54% decrease compared to 2023. Throughout the year, 79 individual integration plans covering 126 persons were concluded. **CZK 7.7 million was drawn from the state budget** for these services.

Outside of individual plans, the SIP also covers assistance to persons in healthcare facilities or registered social services, with full cost coverage for their stays. In 2024, accommodation was provided for six such persons, with costs totalling CZK 1.65 million.

²⁶ This role is also assigned by the amendment of the aforementioned Act (Act No. 222/2017 Coll.), which entered into force in August 2017.

TABLE 17:
SIP beneficiaries in 2024 by citizenship

Citizenship	Number	Citizenship	Number
Ukraine	43	Uzbekistan	1
Russia	17	Venezuela	1
Syria	13	Ethiopia	1
Afghanistan	9	Ghana	1
Belarus	8	Iraq	1
Azerbaijan	6	Kazakhstan	1
China	4	Uzbekistan	1
Myanmar	2	Total	109

Source: MoI

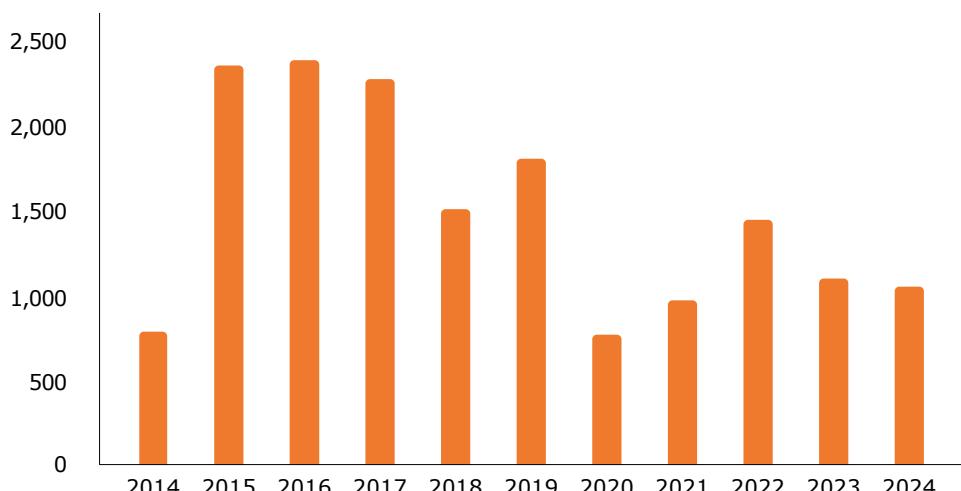
5.5 APPLICATION OF THE DUBLIN REGULATION²⁷

There were no major changes in the implementation of the Dublin system in 2024. The Czech Republic remains a transit country rather than a destination.

In 2024, the Czech Republic recorded a total of **1,064 “Dublin cases”** (i.e., incoming and outgoing requests), a similar number to the previous year.

²⁷ The Dublin Regulation, Council Regulation (EC) No 604/2013, sets out the criteria for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection. These criteria include, for example, the visa or residence permit issued, the first application for international protection on the territory of a Member State or family ties.

CHART 12: Development of Dublin cases, 2014–2024²⁸



Source: MoI

During 2024, **the Czech Republic received a total of 603 requests from other Member States**: 199 requests for taking back²⁹ and 404 requests for taking charge.³⁰ The majority of requests came from **Germany** (295), **France** (88), **Austria** (46), and **the Netherlands** (45). These requests mostly concerned nationals of **Türkiye** (148), **Syria** (57), **Ukraine** (49), and **Iran** (47).

²⁸ From 2012 through 2015, requests for information were not included in the statistics on Dublin cases.

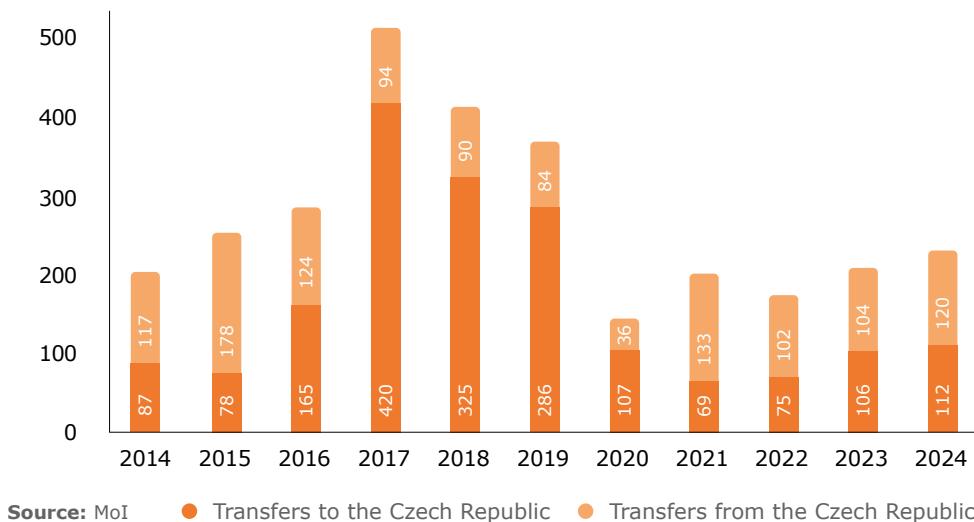
²⁹ A request to take back a foreign national is submitted by a Member State, in which the foreign national is now staying and in which he or she filed an application for international protection, and this request is addressed to that EU Member State, which is already examining the applications for international protection from the foreign national concerned or which examined such applications in the past, and therefore is responsible for making a decision on the application for international protection.

³⁰ A request for taking charge of a foreign national is submitted by a Member State, in which the applicant applied for international protection, to that Member State, which granted a visa or a residence permit to this foreign national and which, therefore, is responsible for making a decision on the application for international protection. In 2022 and 2023, taking charge requests accounted for 69% and 61.3% of the total number of received requests, respectively.

In 2024, the Czech Republic sent a total of 461 requests to other Member States to take charge or take back individuals. The main recipient countries were **Germany** (84), **Croatia** (68), and **Poland** (53). These outgoing requests mainly concerned applicants for international protection and foreign nationals from **Uzbekistan** (116), **Russia** (44), and **Türkiye** (38).

CHART 13:

Transfers to and from the Czech Republic, 2014–2024³¹



³¹ From 2012 through 2015, requests for information were not included in the statistics on Dublin cases.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

6

- ▶ In 2024, the facilities for provision of institutional and protective care, established by the MoEYS, provided a universal care to **a total of 51 unaccompanied foreign minors**.
- ▶ **Five unaccompanied minors have applied for international protection in the Czech Republic.**
- ▶ 26 unaccompanied minors stayed in the Czech Republic on the basis of temporary protection.

6.1 UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

The Czech Republic follows the Policy for the Protection and Care of Unaccompanied Minor Foreigners, Including Applicants for International Protection, which was adopted in 2012. This policy defined rules concerning the treatment of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) who arrive in the territory of the Czech Republic without a legal guardian, and also defined the system of care and conditions for the integration of this group.

Once it is determined that an UAM is present in the territory of the Czech Republic, the Police of the Czech Republic immediately notifies the Authority of Social and Legal Protection of Children (OSPOD). Care of an UAM starts immediately after the UAM is received by an OSPOD official who is obliged to act in the best interest of the child and provide the child with adequate care.

The Czech Republic operates a unique facility for the care of unaccompanied minor foreigners — the **Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals (ZDC)**, which provides care to children who are not Czech citizens

The Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals provides children who are not Czech citizens with full direct care, therapeutic and supportive services, education, assistance with integration, and preparation for future independent life.

and who meet the conditions specified in the Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children.

The facility includes a diagnostic institute, an educational care centre, and a primary school. Within the diagnostic institute, the facility primarily provides diagnostic, therapeutic, health, and educational services. Unaccompanied minors who are studying at secondary schools or universities are allowed to stay at the facility under a contract until the age of 26. To ensure a successful integration process, a so-called

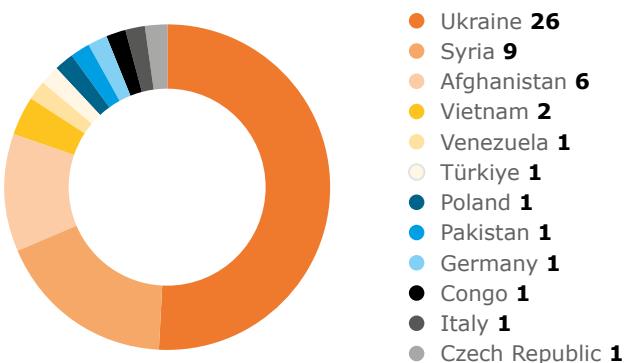
training apartment is also available, where individuals prepare for leaving the facility (in 2024, four UAMs studying at universities lived there).

In 2024, a total of **51 unaccompanied minor migrants** passed through the Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals. The largest group consisted of clients from Ukraine (mostly from failing family or foster care backgrounds). Other significant groups were clients from Syria and Afghanistan.

Out of the total number, there were 17 girls and 34 boys; 25 clients were under 15 years of age and 26 were over 15. 26 clients resided in the Czech Republic under temporary protection, and 5 clients applied for international protection. The remaining clients had their stay legalized based on an institutional care order.

TABLE 18:**Number of unaccompanied minor foreigners who applied for international protection in the period 2010–2024**

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Number of unaccompanied minors applying for international protection	4	8	5	2	6	14	4	7	10	8	
Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Source: DAMP and ZDC					
Number of unaccompanied minors applying for international protection	7	6	1	2	5						

CHART 14:**Citizenships of unaccompanied minors who received care in 2024³²****Source:** Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals

³² Only unaccompanied minors who received care in the Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals and other subordinate facilities, i.e. the VÚ and SVP Klíčov, VÚ and SVP Pšov and VÚ Višňové, are included.

6.2 OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS OF PERSONS

Similarly to unaccompanied minors and victims of human trafficking, other groups are also considered vulnerable in international protection procedures. These include persons with disabilities, elderly persons, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, persons with mental disorders, and individuals who have been subjected to torture, rape, or other serious forms of psychological, physical, or sexual violence. These groups fall under the so-called vulnerable groups as defined by Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (Reception Directive).

The Czech Republic has a system of support and assistance for victims of human trafficking and also focuses on prevention in this area. For victims of human trafficking over 18 years of age, the Programme for the Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking is available. For persons under 18, a specialised assistance system managed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport is in place. OSPOD offices play an important role in handling cases involving child victims of human trafficking, protecting the rights and defending the interests of endangered children. The topic of human trafficking is covered in greater detail in Chapter 7.

MEASURES AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

7

- ▶ In 2024, **10 presumed victims of human trafficking** from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Ukraine were included in the **Programme for Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking** of the Ministry of the Interior.
- ▶ One of the key priorities is to protect Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic from criminal activities, including human trafficking.

7.1 HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Victims of human trafficking are considered, under the Act on Victims of Crime (Act No. 45/2013 Coll.), as a group of particularly vulnerable persons who require sensitive and specific treatment. This is also reflected in the setup of the National Referral Mechanism.

7.1.1 THE PROGRAMME FOR THE SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The **Programme for the Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking** of the Ministry of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as "the Programme") is a measure designed to provide support and adequate protection to victims of human trafficking based on individual risk assessments. It is intended for victims over 18 years of age, including EU citizens trafficked within the territory of the Czech Republic, third-country nationals trafficked within the Czech Republic, as well as Czech citizens trafficked either within the Czech Republic or abroad.

In 2024, a total of 10 individuals were included in the Programme as presumed victims of human trafficking, coming from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Ukraine. This group consisted of 5 women and 5 men. In two cases (the Czech Republic and Ukraine), there was suspicion of sexual exploitation, and in two other cases, a combination of sexual, labour, or other forms of exploitation (forced labour, forced begging) was suspected. In all other cases, there was suspicion of labour exploitation.

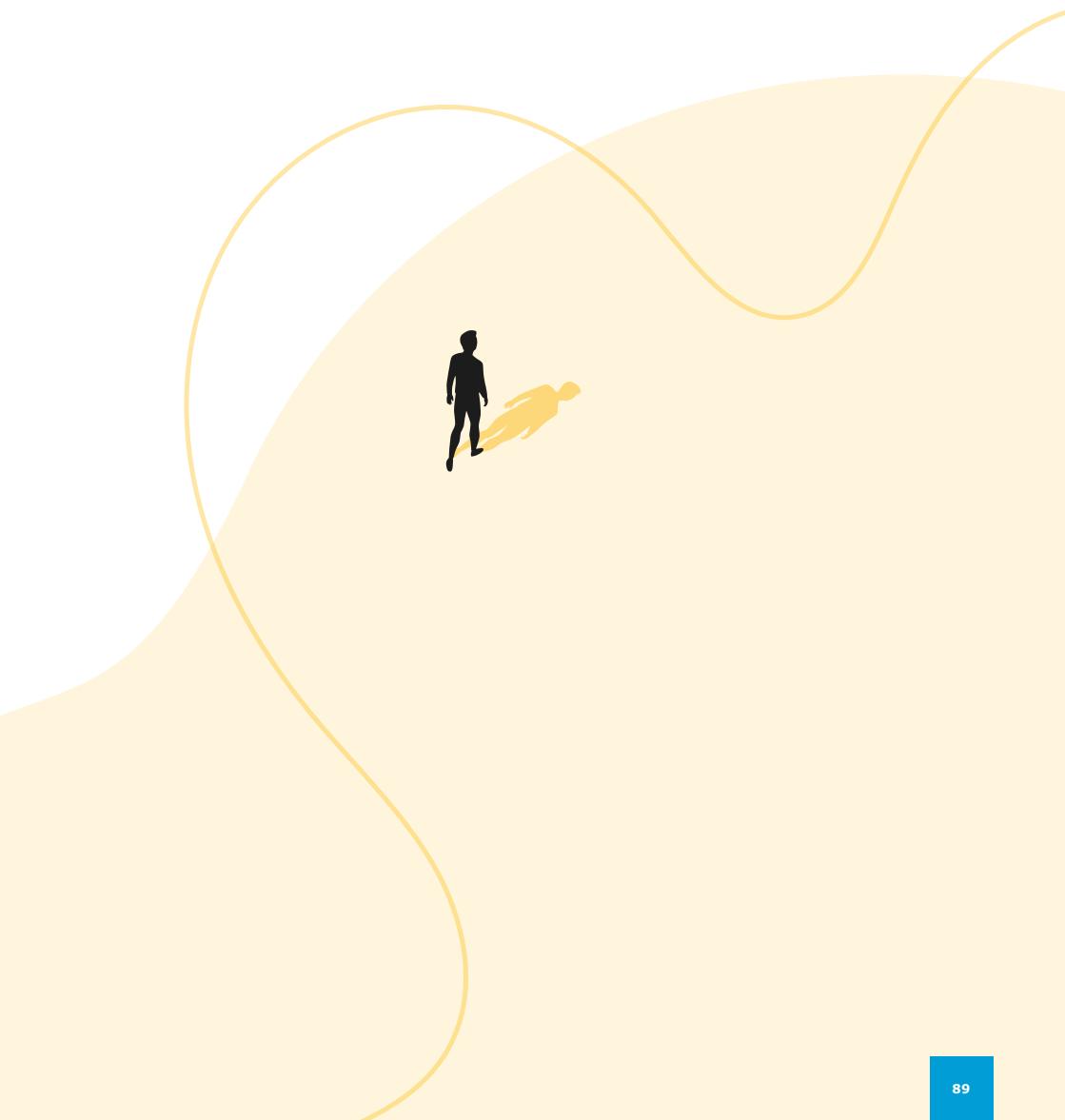
The key objective of the Programme is the humanitarian aspect of assistance and protection for victims of human trafficking. The Programme offers victims accommodation, psychosocial and medical assistance, interpreting services, legal assistance, legal representation, help with job searching, assistance with residence permit arrangements, and, if desired, support for dignified return to their country of origin. Nevertheless, it also aims to obtain relevant information about the criminal environment, which may lead to the detection, punishment, and conviction of perpetrators.

7.2 PREVENTIVE ACTIVITIES AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS IN 2024

In 2024, an extraordinary call for the **Local Crime Prevention Programme for 2024 – 2nd round³³** was announced. The funds were intended to implement projects aimed at crime prevention at the local level in connection with the refugee crisis from Ukraine. These projects included: Crime Prevention Assistant, Housekeeper-Preventionist, and Support for Crime Prevention at the Regional Level. In total, subsidies were approved for 27 projects amounting to nearly CZK 21 million.

³³ In accordance with the Government-approved 'Crime Prevention Strategy in the Czech Republic for 2022 to 2027' and on the basis of Government Resolutions No. 285/2022, No. 560/2022 and No. 309/2022 on the establishment of strategic priorities of the Government of the Czech Republic to manage the consequences of the refugee influx related to the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

The protection of Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic from crime, including human trafficking, remains one of the main priorities. In the past two years, special attention has been paid to mapping their vulnerable position in the labour market — primarily in cases where their employer also provided accommodation. In this context, the inspection activities of relevant state authorities were intensified, preventive awareness-raising campaigns were supported, and social work and other integration activities by involved non-governmental organisations were strengthened.





INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PROJECTS CONCERNING MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

8

- ▶ The migration situation in 2024 was significantly affected by the consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and by increasing migration pressures in response to a rising number of conflicts.
- ▶ Since 2015, the Ministry of the Interior has been implementing the **Aid in Place programme** (the Ministry of the Interior's Programme for Assistance to Refugees in Regions of Origin and for the Prevention of Large-Scale Migration Movements). The budget for Aid in Place in 2024 amounted to CZK 150 million. **Support was directed to countries located along migration routes to Europe, primarily in Africa (Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Tunisia), as well as to Greece and Afghanistan.** In addition, projects were carried out in **Ukraine and Moldova** under this programme.
- ▶ In 2024, the MEDEVAC programme continued to be implemented, focusing on **providing specialised medical care to vulnerable population groups in regions affected by refugee crises or natural disasters.** A total of **22 surgical missions were carried out in Ghana, Jordan, Lebanon, Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Senegal, Ukraine and Zambia**, involving 10 Czech hospitals and a team of doctors from the Czech Army. During the year, 366 individuals from Ghana, Iraq, Rwanda, Senegal, Ukraine and Zambia were trained in six medical specialisations. The budget for the MEDEVAC programme in 2024 amounted to CZK 60 million.

- ▶ As part of **urgent assistance to Ukraine**, aid totalling CZK 43.58 million was provided. This included the supply of medical material aid, the organisation of medical missions to Ukraine and training activities in Czechia, as well as financial support to international organisations.
- ▶ During 2024, under **the Programme for Providing Assistance to Czech Compatriots**, a total of 31 members of Czech compatriot communities from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus were resettled to the Czech Republic.

8.1 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION CONCERNING MIGRATION

The migration policy of the Czech Republic is firmly anchored within the framework of the common policies of the European Union, and its implementation largely follows the EU's legal instruments. Among the areas of migration most regulated by common EU policies are international protection, the common visa policy, protection of the EU's external borders, and return policies (including the expulsion of illegally staying foreign nationals). In the areas of legal migration and integration of foreigners, EU Member States have retained a relatively high degree of sovereignty.

In 2024, the situation in Europe was still **significantly affected by the consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine** and by growing migration pressures in response to an increasing number of armed conflicts (which have doubled over the past ten years, reaching their highest level since 2016).

The ongoing military aggression by the Russian Federation has resulted in **a high number of internally displaced persons in Ukraine**³⁴ and further arrivals to the EU. The situation in Ukraine thus remained a key topic that largely determined the overall shape of the Czech Republic's international cooperation in the field of migration. The main focus was on **stabilising internally displaced persons in Ukraine**

³⁴ According to the IOM statistics, there were a total of 3.7 million of internally displaced persons in Ukraine as of the end of 2024.

and on **strengthening the capacities and capabilities of states to host newcomers from Ukraine**, including ensuring sufficient financial, material, and technical assistance. In 2024, it was agreed to further **extend temporary protection for persons fleeing Russian aggression against Ukraine until 4 March 2026**. Discussions also continued on the future of the temporary protection instrument, including possibilities for alternative and more permanent forms of residence in the EU. **The Czech Republic will allow beneficiaries of temporary protection to apply for permanent residence** under the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals within the framework of Lex Ukraine VII.

Despite an improved regional migration situation in 2024, the **Czech Republic continued to monitor developments and actively engaged, particularly in combating irregular migration from the Western Balkans**. In addition to measures directly in the region, the Czech Republic participated in negotiations with neighbouring countries and countries along the Western Balkan route to coordinate border protection measures and reduce migration pressure (bilaterally or in regional formats such as V4 plus Austria and Germany or the Salzburg Forum).

In May 2024, the EU adopted a package of legislative and non-legislative measures known as the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. A two-year transitional implementation period will last until June 2026.

The Czech Republic further actively engaged in regional activities through the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), in particular by **participating in regional dialogues (the Rabat Process, the Khartoum Process, the Budapest Process, and the Prague Process)**, which the Czech Republic used to present, build partnerships, and promote its long-term goals in relation to third countries.

In May 2024, a package of legislative and non-legislative measures, known as the Pact on Migration and Asylum, was adopted at EU level. The two-year transitional implementation period runs until June 2026.

In 2024, the Czech Republic continued in its chairmanship role of the Prague Process Steering Committee, where, together with the ICMPD Secretariat, it contributed to im-

plementing the Action Plan for 2023–2027 adopted at the ministerial conference during the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU. As part of the implementation process, the Czech Republic, in cooperation with Moldova, began leading activities focused on supporting readmission co-operation, voluntary returns, and sustainable reintegration.

The Czech Republic also participated in activities of the EU Agency for Asylum (EUAA). It took part in regular meetings of the EUAA Management Board and other expert meetings. In 2024, eight experts from the Czech Republic were deployed on support missions, working in areas such as applicant registration, information provision, Dublin procedures, and follow-up processes in Bulgaria, Italy, Romania, and Cyprus. EUAA also provides training, in which 13 Czech experts participated in 2024, covering applicant registration, communication, interview techniques, Dublin procedures, and country-of-origin information.

8.2 HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS

8.2.1 AID IN PLACE

In response to the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in the immediate vicinity of the EU, especially due to the ongoing armed conflict in Syria, the Government of the Czech Republic approved the establishment of the Ministry of the Interior's permanent **Programme for Assistance to Refugees in Regions of Origin and Prevention of Large Migration Movements (Aid in Place)** in January 2015.



Through this programme, the Ministry of the Interior provides **financial donations abroad, intended primarily to assist refugees directly at the site of their initial displacement and to support countries hosting large numbers of refugees and migrants or facing challenges as transit countries**. This approach reduces the reasons for further movement towards the EU and contributes to limiting irregular migration.

The programme budget for Aid in Place in 2024 amounted to CZK 150 million. In 2024, six projects were supported under this programme

in Afghanistan, Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Greece, and Tunisia, in accordance with the priorities set for 2024 in the countries along the Central Mediterranean migration route (Priority No. 1), the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkan route (Priority No. 2), and the Western Mediterranean route (Priority No. 3).³⁵

In addition, in 2024, Aid in Place also supported Ukraine as part of the Humanitarian, Stabilisation, Reconstruction, and Economic Assistance Programme for Ukraine 2023–2025 (Ukraine Programme). Under Aid in Place, three projects in Ukraine and one project in Moldova were supported in 2024 with a total of CZK 75 million.

TABLE 19:
List of donations from the Aid in Place programme in 2024

	Country	Purpose of donation	Implementation partner	Amount
Priority No. 1: Central Mediterranean migration route	Côte d'Ivoire	Support for border protection and prevention of irregular migration and human trafficking	International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)	CZK 25 million
	Rwanda	Refugee support	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	CZK 25 million
	Tunisia	Support for voluntary returns and migrant reintegration	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	CZK 25 million
Priority No. 2: Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkan migration route	Afghanistan	Support for reintegration of returnees	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	CZK 25 million
	Greece	Safe zones for unaccompanied minor migrants	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	CZK 25 million
Priority No. 3: Western Mediterranean migration route	Mauritania	Stabilisation of refugees from Mali	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	CZK 25 million

³⁵ The financial donations to Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, Greece and Tunisia were made as Czech contributions under the European Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism following the Solidarity Declaration adopted by the majority of EU Member States, including the Czech Republic, on 22 June 2022. As in previous years, special attention was paid to vulnerable groups of people, especially children and adolescents.

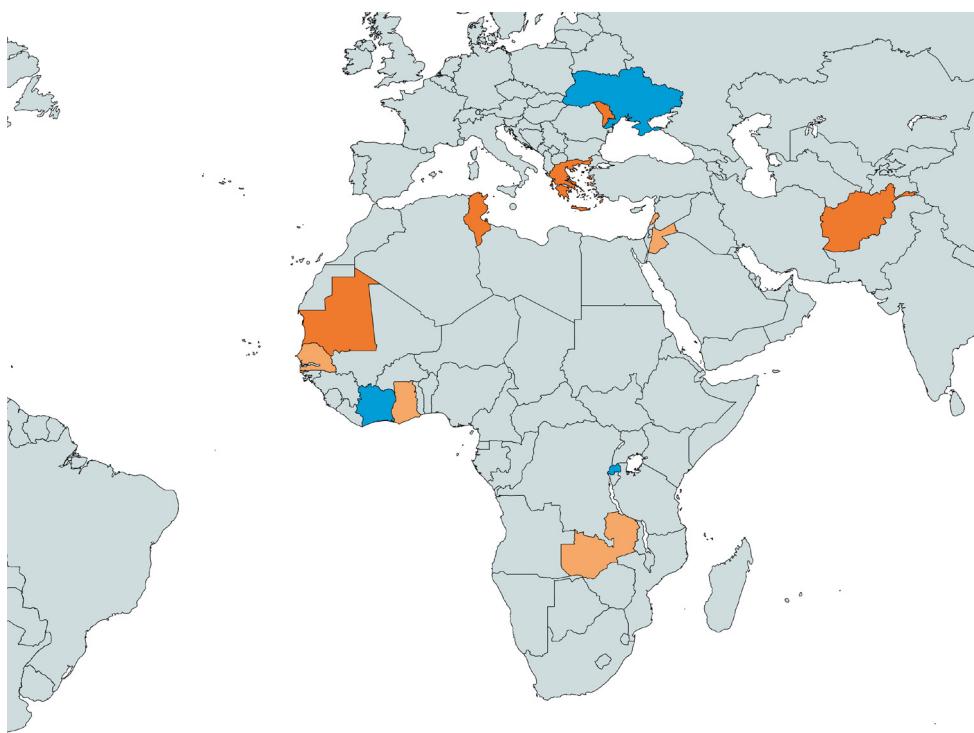
	Country	Purpose of donation	Implementation partner	Amount
Support to Ukraine and neighbouring countries	Moldova	Continued support for the Moldovan border police inspectorate	International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)	CZK 25 million
	Ukraine	Continued support for humanitarian demining	HALO Trust	CZK 25 million
	Ukraine	Support for economic opportunities for returnees, internally displaced persons, and other war-affected populations in eastern Ukraine	Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation	CZK 20 million
	Ukraine	Provision of psychological and social assistance to internally displaced persons in western Ukraine	Kryla Nadiyi	CZK 5 million

Source: MoI

In 2024, the Aid in Place programme supported the implementation of 3 projects in Ukraine and 1 project in Moldova for an amount of CZK 75 million.

In 2024, the Aid in Place programme had a budget of CZK 150 million.

FIGURE 3:
Geographical scope of the Aid in Place and MEDEVAC programmes



Source: MoI

● Aid in Place ● MEDEVAC ● Aid in Place + MEDEVAC

8.2.2 PERMANENT MEDICAL HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME MEDEVAC

MEDEVAC is a governmental medical humanitarian programme of the Czech Republic focused on providing medical care to vulnerable population groups in regions affected by migration, burdened with large numbers of refugees, or where specialised care is unavailable. Treatment is provided free of charge and exclusively to civilians who are in serious medical condition or whose health prevents them from living a dignified life. The programme is implemented through deploying Czech medical teams abroad, training local medical staff, and supporting projects for building and developing healthcare infrastructure.

In 2024, MEDEVAC continued to operate in priority regions — **in the Middle East (Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq), Africa (Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Rwanda, Zambia), and Eastern Europe (Ukraine)**. The programme budget in 2024 amounted to CZK 60 million.

MEDEVAC czech

8.2.2.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDEVAC PROGRAMME IN 2024:

- ▶ **Ten Czech hospitals** (FN Bulovka, FN Brno, IKEM, FN Královské Vinohrady, FN Motol, FN Olomouc, Military University Hospital, General University Hospital, Thomayer University Hospital, Na Homolce Hospital) and the Czech Army medical team participated in the implementation of the programme.
- ▶ During **22 surgical missions**, Czech medical personnel performed a total of 1,470 surgeries on 1,302 patients in Ghana, Jordan, Lebanon, Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Senegal, Ukraine, and Zambia (in the fields of gynaecology, ophthalmology, ENT, plastic surgery, and traumatology).
- ▶ During internships, training sessions, and missions, 366 persons from Ghana, Iraq, Rwanda, Senegal, Ukraine, and Zambia were trained in six medical specializations (anaesthesiology, gynaecology, infectious diseases, ENT, plastic surgery, and traumatology).

In 2024, the MEDEVAC programme was active in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Rwanda, Zambia and Ukraine.

8.2.2.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF URGENT AID TO UKRAINE

Following Government Resolution No. 855 of 12 October 2022 on the provision of emergency assistance to Ukraine, the MEDEVAC programme delivered extraordinary aid to Ukraine through shipments of medical material, organisation of surgical missions in Ukraine, training activities (internships, courses) in the Czech Republic, and financial support to international organisations. In total, assistance provided under MEDEVAC amounted to CZK 43.58 million.

- ▶ During four surgical missions in the fields of reconstructive micro-surgery, burns, and traumatology, teams from FNKV and the General University Hospital in Prague operated on 77 patients. During these missions, 16 Ukrainian colleagues were trained and had the opportunity to participate.
- ▶ Ten Ukrainian medical professionals were trained in physiotherapy at FN Motol. During training in infectious diseases (in cooperation with IKEM) in Lviv, Ukraine, a total of 96 healthcare workers were trained. In total, 122 persons were trained in 2024.
- ▶ Under MEDEVAC, five projects were supported, primarily with Ukrainian implementing partners, focusing mainly on strengthening healthcare infrastructure in Ukraine, and, for example, a project by the National Institute of Mental Health to support the mental health of war-affected populations.
- ▶ In cooperation with the Czech Embassy in Kyiv, four projects were identified and financially supported by MEDEVAC:
 1. **E+ Initiative** – support for hospitals in eastern, southern, and central Ukraine (CZK 5 million).
 2. **CARE Ukraine** – improving health in communities affected by conflict in eastern Ukraine (CZK 5 million).
 3. **Vilnyy Vybir** – access to psychological support services for healthcare personnel (CZK 5 million).
 4. **Zaporuka** – support for rehabilitation of oncology and war-affected patients (CZK 5 million).

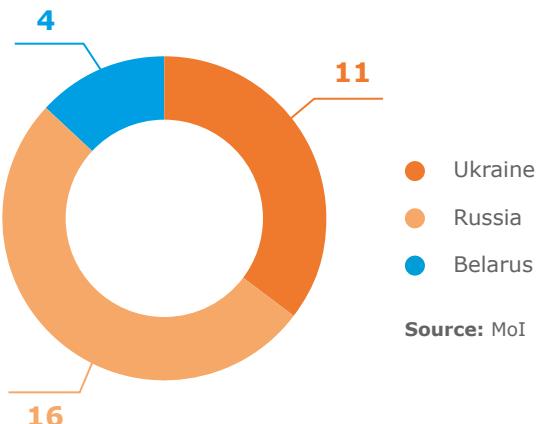
8.3 ASSISTANCE TO COMPATRIOTS

In 2024, the programme for providing resettlement assistance to Czech compatriots continued.

Participation in the programme does not automatically grant participants permanent residence. Rather, it simplifies the overall procedure, especially as the state assumes responsibility for providing accommodation and subsistence. These benefits are provided only to persons in need, such as those from endangered areas or compatriots disadvantaged due to health, social, or economic reasons.

CHART 15:

Number of compatriots resettled to the Czech Republic in 2024



Implementation of the programme in 2024 was significantly complicated by the war situation in Ukraine, which prevented a number of compatriots from resettling to the Czech Republic, due to mandatory military service, which does not allow men as well as women of certain professions to leave the country.

Due to this complicated situation, **only 31 persons from Czech compatriot communities resettled to the Czech Republic in 2024** (11 from Ukraine, 16 from Russia, and 4 from Belarus). During 2024, a total of 40 persons found permanent housing and employment, including 9 individuals from the 2024 resettled group. After moving out of temporary accommodation, all clients became fully independent.

The partner of the Ministry of the Interior in implementing this programme in 2024 remained the Caritas of the Archdiocese of Prague, which provided direct support to clients.

Since the start of the programme in 2015 until 31 December 2024, a total of 2,327 persons have been resettled to the Czech Republic. The average length of their stay in temporary accommodation provided by the Ministry of the Interior was 71 days, the same as in 2023.

ILLEGAL MIGRATION

9

- ▶ In the course of 2024, a total of **9,461 individuals** were detected in connection with illegal migration within the territory of the Czech Republic.
- ▶ Among those unlawfully residing in the Czech Republic, the most represented nationalities were **Ukrainians, Moldovans, Vietnamese** and **Uzbeks**.
- ▶ **Internal border controls were temporarily reintroduced** until 2 February 2024.
- ▶ **There was a significant decrease in the number of individuals apprehended during transit illegal migration**, as well as in the number of **persons facilitating illegal migration**.

9.1 ILLEGAL MIGRATION WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Since 2008 (joining to the Schengen area), two main categories of illegal migration have been monitored within the territory of the Czech Republic:

1. **Illegal crossing of the external Schengen border of the Czech Republic** — This category concerns individuals who have unlawfully crossed or attempted to cross the external Schengen border (airport) of the Czech Republic. The term “individuals” refers to both foreign nationals and Czech citizens.
2. **Illegal stay** — This category includes foreign nationals found within the Czech Republic’s territory, including airport transit zones (illegal entry, overstaying validity or duration of stay, etc.). This category also

comprises a subcategory of so-called transit illegal migration (monitored since 2015), referring to foreign nationals who mostly cross internal Schengen land borders unlawfully with the intention of continuing further through the Czech Republic to other EU/Schengen countries.

CHART 16: Development of irregular migration in 2015–2024

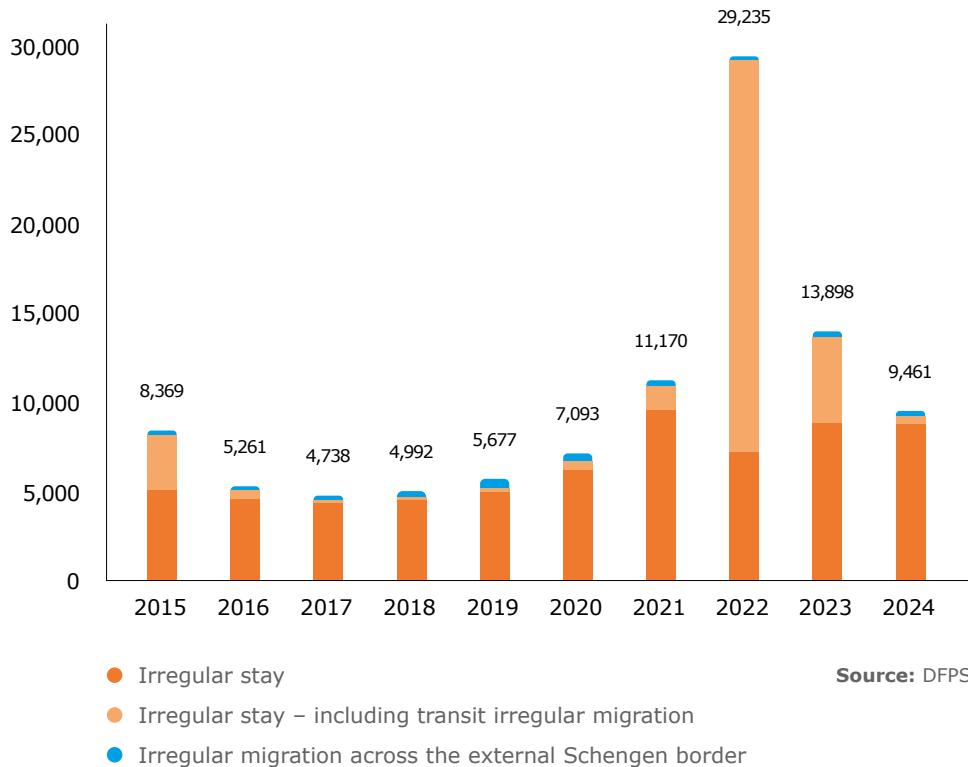
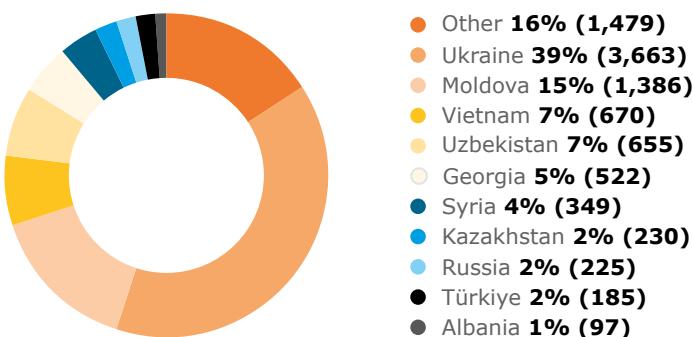


CHART 17: Irregular migration in 2024 by citizenship



Source: DFPS

Temporary reintroduction of internal border controls of the Czech Republic

Due to the continued increase in illegal migration across Europe, internal border controls were introduced from 4 October 2023 to 2 February 2024.³⁶

Transit illegal migration

Transit illegal migration has been statistically monitored as a separate subcategory of illegal stay since mid-2015, following the previous migration wave. Foreign nationals (third-country nationals) entering the Czech Republic unlawfully via land routes (i.e. across internal Schengen borders) or by air (on internal Schengen flights) intend to use the Czech Republic merely as a transit country. The ultimate destination of these foreign nationals is other EU/Schengen states, especially neighbouring Germany.

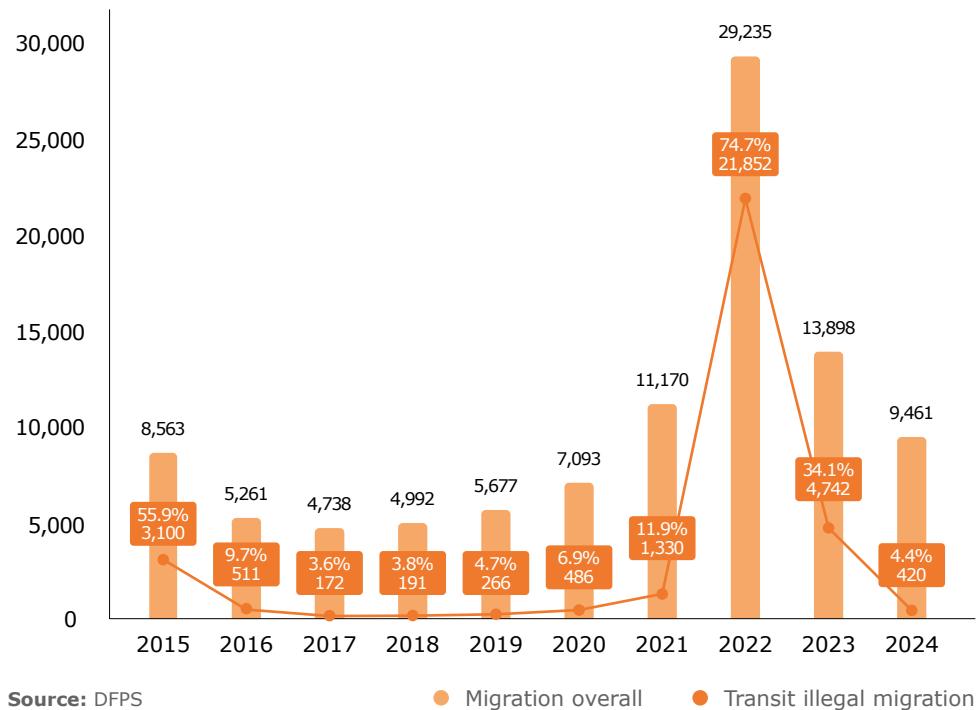
Year-on-year, there was a significant decrease in the share of transit illegal migration within overall illegal migration. While in 2023, during the continued wave of increased numbers of detected individuals illegally transiting through the Czech Republic, the transit illegal migration sub-category accounted for 34.1%, in 2024 it represented only 4.4%.

³⁶ Under a special measure implemented by the Ministry of the Interior of the CR as the competent authority pursuant to Section 12(1) of Act No. 191/2016 Coll., on the protection of the state borders of the Czech Republic and on amendments to related Acts, and within the meaning of Article 28(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code).

The year-on-year decrease in transit illegal migration resulted from:

- ▶ continued measures implemented against transit illegal migration flows in countries along the Western Balkan route, particularly Serbia;
- ▶ control measures introduced by Germany at the German-Czech border;
- ▶ the temporary reintroduction of internal border controls between the Czech Republic and Slovakia at the beginning of 2024.

CHART 18:
**Share of transit illegal migration within overall migration,
2015–2024**



Source: DFPS

● Migration overall

● Transit illegal migration

TABLE 20:
Illegal stay in the Czech Republic by citizenship – comparison
2023/2024

Year	2023	i.e. %	2024	i.e. %	Year-on-year change	
					Change in %	Absolute figure
Total	13,530	100.0	9,159	100.0	-32.3	-4,371
of which TOP 10 (ranked by 2024):						
Ukraine	3,437	25.4	3,653	39.9	6.3	216
Moldova	1,659	12.3	1,377	15.0	-17.0	-282
Vietnam	397	2.9	665	7.3	67.5	268
Uzbekistan	501	3.7	637	7.0	27.1	136
Georgia	461	3.4	444	4.8	-3.7	-17
Syria	4,222	31.2	344	3.8	-91.9	-3,878
Kazakhstan	194	1.4	225	2.5	16.0	31
Russia	212	1.6	225	2.5	6.1	13
Türkiye	833	6.2	166	1.8	-80.1	-667
Mongolia	70	0.5	89	1.0	27.1	19

Source: DFPS

9.2 CRIMINAL OFFENSES RELATED TO ILLEGAL MIGRATION

In connection with **illegal migration within the territory of the Czech Republic**, 2024 saw a **significant decrease in the number of foreign nationals prosecuted** compared to the previous year. Only 16 individuals were prosecuted for offences including illegal crossing of the state border, organising and facilitating unlawful border crossings, assisting in unauthorised stay within the territory, and violations of regulations on international flights,³⁷ representing a decrease of 95.4% compared to 345 individuals in 2023.



³⁷ Sections 339 - 343 of the Criminal Code.

- ▶ In 2024, a total of **6,675 administrative decisions on return** were recorded, of which **4,325 were final decisions on administrative expulsion and 1,435 were decisions imposing an obligation to leave the territory**.
- ▶ In the area of voluntary returns, **assisted voluntary return programs are implemented by the Asylum and Migration Policy Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior (SUZ), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM)**.
- ▶ In 2024, a total of **791 voluntary returns of third-country nationals were carried out**. Of this number, 748 assisted voluntary returns of third-country nationals were carried out by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, 38 assisted voluntary returns of applicants for international protection were carried out by SUZ, and 5 were carried out by IOM.
- ▶ Most people were returned to **Moldova** (166), **Vietnam** (127), and **Uzbekistan** (118).
- ▶ In 2024, **4,325 foreigners were issued administrative expulsion decisions, and 424 expulsions** were carried out.

The objective of return policy is to reduce and address the consequences of illegal migration through close cooperation with third countries within the framework of readmission policy. The so-called readmission policy,

meaning the transfer/readmission of individuals staying illegally, must be addressed in the broader context of international cooperation, extending beyond the field of migration. An effective return policy is an essential prerequisite for an efficient migration policy.

A return of a foreign national can either be voluntary or forced.

VOLUNTARY RETURN

Ensures a safe and dignified return to the country of origin or to another state that admits the foreign national. The returning individual travels as a regular tourist, without police or state authority escort. Return takes place by air or land, depending on the destination and preferences of the returnee. State authorities in the country of return are not notified about the individual's arrival or circumstances of stay in the country of departure.

FORCED RETURN

This type of return concerns those foreign nationals who are staying illegally in the country or who were sentenced to expulsion by a court and are obliged to leave the country. If they do not take advantage of the opportunity to apply for a voluntary return, a forced return must be carried out.

10.1 ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS ON RETURN

In practice, there are three types of decisions obliging a foreign national to leave the territory of the Czech Republic: a decision imposing the obligation to leave the territory, an administrative expulsion decision, and a judicial expulsion order. All these decisions are binding for the foreign national and represent measures (in the case of a court order, a punishment) enforced regardless of the individual's will. The actual return then takes place in various ways depending on the type of decision and the information it contains. The Czech Republic recognises return decisions issued by other EU Member States.

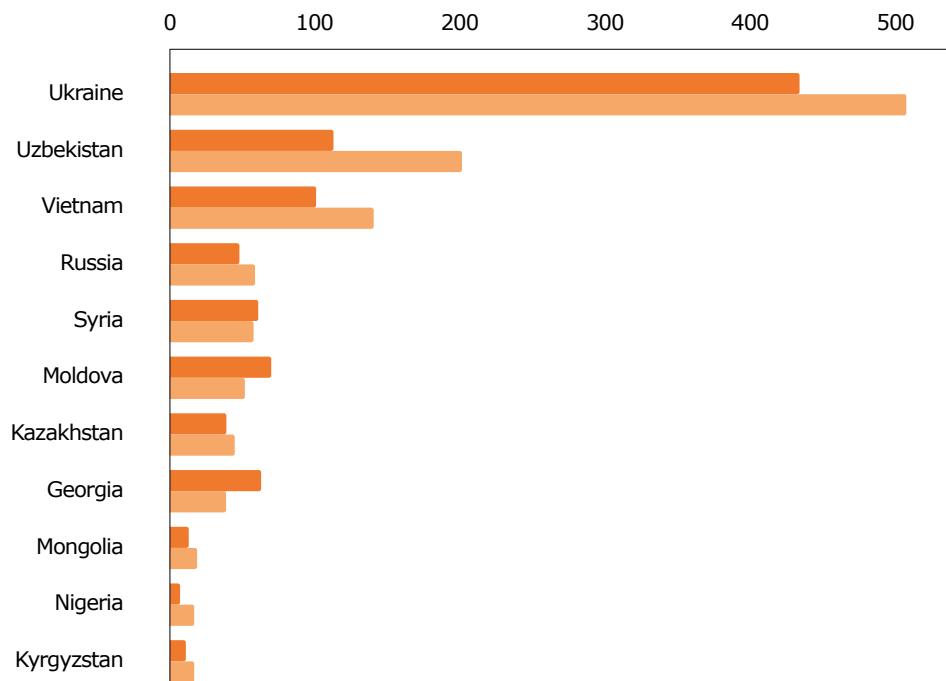
In 2024, a total of **6,675 administrative decisions on return** were recorded. An administrative decision on return may take the form of an obligation to leave the territory or an administrative expulsion decision.

10.1.1 DECISION ON THE OBLIGATION TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY³⁸

In 2024, a total of **1,435 individuals were issued a decision imposing the obligation to leave the territory** of the Czech Republic. Compared to the previous year, this represents an increase of 115 individuals, i.e. a year-on-year increase of 8.7%.

CHART 19:

Decisions imposing the obligation to leave the territory by citizenship – comparison 2023–2024



Source: DFPS

● 2023 ● 2024

³⁸ The institution of a decision on the obligation to leave the country was introduced in connection with the Return Directive in January 2011 and was defined in Section 50a of Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals

10.1.2 DECISION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPULSION

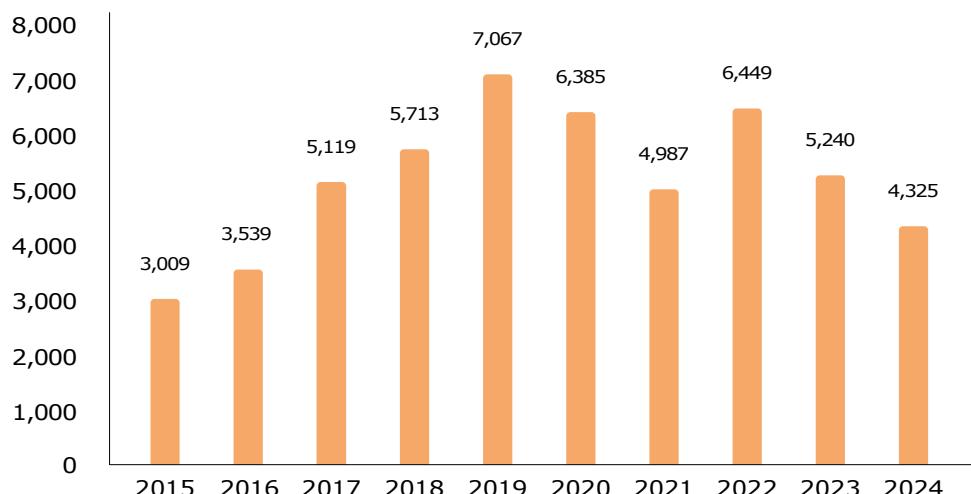
Administrative expulsion refers to the termination of a foreign national's stay, associated with a specified period for departure from the territory of EU Member States, and a period for which the foreign national cannot be permitted to enter the territories of the EU Member States.

In 2024, the situation remained affected by the consequences of the armed conflict in Ukraine. If citizens of Ukraine are issued with a decision on administrative expulsion, there are reasons precluding their departure (return to Ukraine)³⁹ and they were granted a visa for a stay longer than 90 days for the purpose of leave to remain in the country.⁴⁰

A total of **4,325 foreign nationals were issued administrative expulsion decisions in 2024**,⁴¹ representing a decrease of 915 individuals year-on-year, i.e. -17.5%.

CHART 20:

Number of foreign nationals with issued final decisions on administrative expulsion, 2015–2024



Source: DFPS

³⁹ Procedure according to Section 120a of the Act on the Residence of Foreigners.

⁴⁰ Pursuant to Section 33 of the Act on the Residence of Foreigners.

⁴¹ The number of persons registered in the IS CIS as of 31 December 2024.

GRAF 21:

Foreign nationals with issued decisions on administrative expulsion in 2024



Source: IS CIS

In 2024, a total of **5,240 final administrative expulsion decisions** were recorded.⁴²

As in 2023, the main reasons for administrative expulsion were overstays by third-country nationals exempted from visa requirements when crossing external borders for stays not exceeding 90 days in any 180-day period. To a lesser extent, overstays occurred among those holding a visa or residence permit issued by another Member State. The principal motive for overstays was the pursuit of economic activity (employment).

10.1.3 THE EXPULSION PENALTY IMPOSED BY COURTS

The penalty of expulsion from the territory of the Czech Republic may be imposed on a non-Czech national as a stand-alone punishment or alongside another sentence, where required for public security, property protection, or other public interests.⁴³

The penalty of expulsion is implemented in cases where foreign nationals are serving a prison sentence or are in deportation custody. The Directorate of the Foreign Police Service arranges travel documents, coordinates with diplomatic missions, and cooperates with other state author-

⁴² Multiple decisions can be issued to the same person in a given time period.

⁴³ Section 80(1) of Act No. 40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code.

ities, notably the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, courts and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2024, **the penalty of expulsion was imposed on 1,038 individuals**⁴⁴ (a year-on-year decrease of 9 individuals, i.e. -0.9%), most frequently on nationals of Ukraine (156), Romania (143), Slovakia (112), and Moldova (105). For Ukraine, a significant year-on-year decrease was recorded (by 417 individuals), whereas for Romania and Slovakia, there were significant increases (by 135 and 100 individuals respectively).

10.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF RETURN DECISIONS

10.2.1 VOLUNTARY RETURNS

The Czech Republic prioritises voluntary returns over compulsory returns. At national level, voluntary returns are regulated by the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals, Section 123a. Based on a written request from a foreign national submitted to the Ministry of the Interior or the Police, the Ministry may cover the costs of voluntary return for a foreign national detained in a detention centre, who has been given a departure deadline, or who is staying in the country without a valid residence permit.

Assisted voluntary return programmes are currently implemented by the Ministry of the Interior and the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior (SUZ). The Ministry focuses mainly on foreign nationals issued an administrative expulsion decision or an obligation to leave decision, particularly those who have been detained. SUZ, through its programme, supports voluntary return of former applicants for international protection to their country of origin.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), through the project "Return and Reintegration Support for Voluntary Returns of Third-Country Nationals 2024–2026,"⁴⁵ provides assistance to migrants who cannot or do not wish to remain in the Czech Republic and decide to return to their country of origin. The programme facilitates the return process to ensure it is as sustainable as possible.

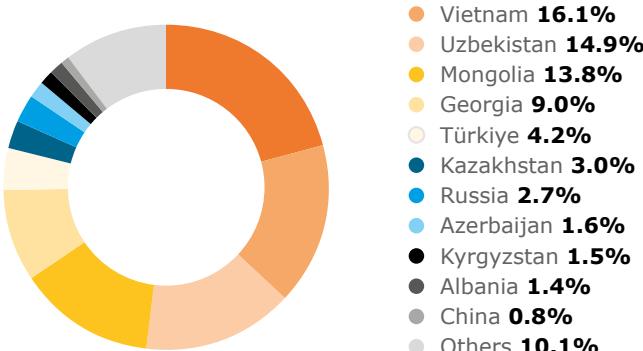
⁴⁴ Number of persons registered in the IS CIS as of the 31 December 2024.

⁴⁵ The project is funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) Operational Programme.

In 2024, a total of **791 voluntary returns of third-country nationals were carried out**. Of these, 748 assisted voluntary returns were implemented by the Ministry of the Interior, 38 by SUZ, and 5 with IOM assistance. The most represented nationalities among these returnees were **Moldova, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Mongolia and Georgia**.

As part of the implementation of the voluntary return of the Ministry of the Interior, foreigners are provided with counselling and assistance.

CHART 22: Voluntary returns by citizenship in 2024



Source: MoI

10.2.1.1 VOLUNTARY RETURNS IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASYLUM AND MIGRATION POLICY (DAMP)

The Ministry provides not only the actual implementation of voluntary returns but also related counselling and assistance necessary for effective, rapid and successful returns. Since 2023, DAMP has implemented two interconnected return projects funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

The Ministry is also involved in the Joint Reintegration Services (JRS) programme funded by Frontex. Through this programme, reintegration support is available in 42 return countries at the end of 2024. Participation enables returnees to receive support for starting a business, hous-

ing assistance, social, health and psychosocial support, labour market access, financial support, education, professional training, and family reunification. The use of reintegration activities through the EURP programme allows the Ministry to respond to specific needs and support overall reintegration in the country of origin. In 2024, reintegration support was provided to 62 individuals, mostly from Vietnam and Mongolia.

In 2024, **the Ministry carried out 748 assisted voluntary returns**, of which 479 involved individuals placed in detention facilities. The most frequent nationalities were **Moldovan** (164), **Vietnamese** (127), **Uzbek** (110), **Mongolian** (109), and **Georgian** (65). Overall, voluntary returns were successfully carried out for foreign nationals of 45 different nationalities.

In 2024, return implementation remained limited due to the ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine. From June to November, a "Pilot Project for Assisted Returns of Persons Staying in the Czech Republic Based on a Residence Permit Issued in Connection with the Armed Conflict in Ukraine"⁴⁶ was implemented. The project aimed to support the return of beneficiaries of temporary protection or asylum holders residing in the Czech Republic who expressed interest and could not arrange return on their own. In 2024, 22 Ukrainian nationals were returned under this pilot project, of whom 17 travelled by bus and 5 via ground medical transport accompanied by a physician.

Since January 2024, the Ministry began using the Frontex Application for Return (FAR) module for purchasing flight tickets. Tickets purchased via FAR are funded by Frontex. In 2024, the Ministry used FAR for more than half of all return flights.

10.2.1.2 VOLUNTARY RETURNS IMPLEMENTED BY THE REFUGEE FACILITIES ADMINISTRATION (SUZ)

Every foreign national who meets the conditions laid down in Section 54a of the Asylum Act is entitled to apply for repatriation — i.e. a voluntary, dignified and safe return to their country of origin or a third country, funded by the State. The entitlement to voluntary return does not arise au-

⁴⁶ The project was prepared by the Ministry of the Interior on the basis of Government Resolution No. 311.

tomatically. Each application is assessed individually, and the State seeks to support the return of individuals who make such a request voluntarily.

The Refugee Facilities Administration (SUZ) covers the costs of repatriation, taking into account whether the foreign national fulfils the statutory conditions. In the implementation phase, SUZ considers the applicant's physical and psychological health, family and social circumstances, and other relevant factors.

As part of the voluntary return process, SUZ provides applicants with a free airline ticket or travel pass to the destination country, direct assistance at departure, and counselling. If it is not possible to arrange transport all the way to the applicant's chosen destination within the country of return, a contribution towards onward travel within that country may be provided.

In the year 2024, a total of **50 applications for voluntary return** were processed, of which **38 individuals were successfully returned** to their chosen countries. The breakdown by nationality is as follows: **Türkiye** (8 persons), **Georgia** (6 persons), **Uzbekistan** (5 persons), **Russia** (4 persons), **Venezuela** (3 persons), **Azerbaijan, China, Iraq, Moldova, and Cuba** (each 2 persons), and **Iran and Syria** (each 1 person).



TABLE 21:
Voluntary returns by nationality under assisted voluntary return programmes in 2024

Citizenship	Total number of foreign nationals returned under voluntary return programmes		
	Implemented by the MoI of the Czech Republic	Implemented by SUZ of the MoI of the Czech Republic	Implemented by IOM
Albania	11		
Armenia	2		
Azerbaijan	11	2	
Bangladesh	6		
Belarus	3		
Bosna and Herzegovina	4		
Brazil	1		
Bulgaria	1		
Cameroon	1		
China	4	2	
Colombia	1		
Egypt	1		
Georgia	65	6	
Guatemala	2		
Indie	2		
Iraq	1	2	
Iran		1	
Kazakhstan	24		
Kosovo	5		
Kuba		2	
Kyrgyzstan	12		
Latvia	4		
Mexico	1		
Moldova	164	2	

Citizenship	Total number of foreign nationals returned under voluntary return programmes		
	Implemented by the MoI of the Czech Republic	Implemented by SUZ of the MoI of the Czech Republic	Implemented by IOM
Mongolia	109		
Montenegro	1		
Nepal	1		
Nigeria	2		
North Macedonia	2		
Philippines	5		
Romania	1		
Russia	15	4	2
Serbia	4		
Sri Lanka	2		
Syria		1	
Tajikistan	2		
Thailand	3		
Tunisia	2		
Türkiye	25	8	
Turkmenistan	4		
Ukraine	4		
United Arab Emirates	1		
United Kingdom	1		
United States	1		
Uzbekistan	110	5	3
Venezuela		3	
Vietnam	127		
Total	748	38	5

Source: MoI

10.2.2 FORCED RETURNS

In 2024, **administrative expulsion was enforced in respect of 424 individuals**,⁴⁷ representing a decrease of 26 persons year-on-year. The number of individuals for whom administrative expulsion was actually enforced (424) is typically significantly lower than the number of individuals on whom administrative expulsion decisions were imposed (4,325). This is because only some of those issued with an administrative expulsion decision are placed in detention facilities for the purpose of enforcement. For others, independent departure from the territory of the Czech Republic is expected, or there are obstacles that prevent the physical expulsion of certain third-country nationals.

The implementation of judicial expulsion, based on the penalty of expulsion imposed by a court, was carried out for 167 individuals in 2024. Judicial expulsions most frequently concerned nationals of Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine,⁴⁸ Moldova and Bulgaria.

10.3 READMISSION AGREEMENTS

One of the tools for effectively implementing forced returns is the **transfer under a readmission agreement**.

In 2024, no negotiations were launched on new bilateral readmission agreements, nor were any new agreements concluded at bilateral or EU level.

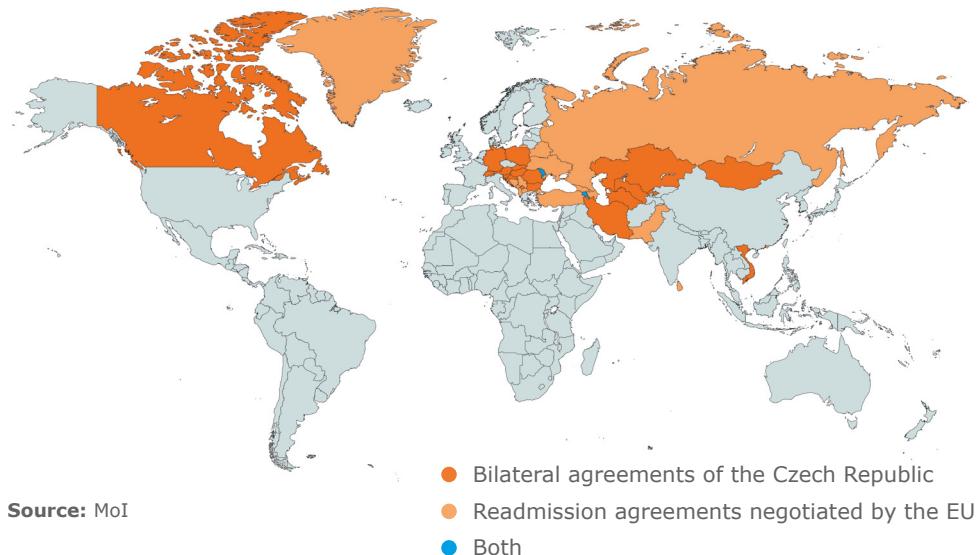
With most priority countries, readmission agreements have already been concluded; with others, negotiations are not possible since the European Commission holds the mandate to negotiate (in particular with Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia). For 2024, countries identified as potential partners for bilateral agreements based on current migration trends included Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Iraq and Nepal. However, initial communication was launched only with Iraq, where preliminary documents on potential cooperation in migration were exchanged. No formal negotiations

⁴⁷ The expulsion was carried out from the facility for detention of foreigners.

⁴⁸ On 1 January 2024, the Criminal Procedure Code (Act No. 141/1961 Coll. on Criminal Procedure (Criminal Procedure Code)) was amended, which again allowed for the implementation of expulsion of Ukrainian nationals on the basis of court judgements.

on a readmission agreement took place yet. In 2025, efforts will focus on advancing these preliminary talks or initiating new negotiations with selected states.

FIGURE 4:
Readmission agreements of the Czech Republic and the EU



The Czech Republic has concluded bilateral implementing protocols with some of these agreements, specifying technical details of the readmission procedure. In addition, the EU has signed non-binding arrangements on return cooperation with certain other states; although these are not formal agreements, they facilitate communication and the practical implementation of returns. Such cooperation, with varying degrees of success, has taken place with the Gambia, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, among others.

Readmission procedures are conducted based on readmission agreements on the acceptance and transfer of persons. Both bilateral agreements between the Czech Republic and specific states and agreements concluded by the European Union are used.

Readmission agreements with neighbouring countries are the most frequently applied. Over recent years, the Czech Republic has most often received individuals from Germany and transferred individuals back to

Slovakia. This pattern continued in 2024; however, due to a decline in migration flows, the number of transferred persons was significantly lower.

TABLE 22:
Readmission procedures with neighbouring countries, 2015–2024

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total persons received under readmission agreements	1,656	381	612	888	1,085	710	409	3,221	2,683	220
of which received:										
from neighbouring countries	1,369	151	126	105	144	79	46	1,110	1,954	62
by the Czech Republic	260	230	486	783	941	631	363	2,111	729	158
Total refusals of acceptance	186	79	75	75	95	203	117	3,157	452	64
of which:										
refused by neighbouring countries to the Czech Republic	24	6	2	9	13	42	37	3,028	273	9
refused by the Czech Republic to neighbouring countries	162	73	73	66	82	161	80	129	179	55

Source: DFPS

In 2024, the Czech Republic received a total of 158 persons from neighbouring countries under readmission procedures, representing a year-on-year decrease of 571 persons (-78.3%). This decrease was mainly due to a significant decline in the number of persons transiting through the Czech Republic to Germany. In 2024, 84 third-country nationals were accepted from Germany, which is 580 fewer persons (-87.3%) than in the previous year.

Among the persons received from neighbouring countries, the most frequent nationalities were **Syria** (28 persons), **Ukraine** (15), **Moldova** (13), and **Vietnam** (10).

TABLE 23:
Readmission procedures — persons received by the Czech Republic from neighbouring countries — comparison 2023/2024

Year	2023	2024	Change compared to previous period	
			in %	Absolute number
Persons received by the Czech Republic from neighbouring states	686	119	-82.7	-567
of which (ranked by 2024):				
from Germany	664	84	-87.3%	-580
from Poland	10	24	+140.0%	+14
from Austria	8	11	+37.5%	+3
from Slovakia	4	0	-100.0%	-4

Source: DFPS

In 2024, the Czech Republic transferred a total of 62 persons to neighbouring countries under readmission procedures, representing a significant decrease of 1,892 persons (-96.8%). Of this total, 43 were third-country nationals and 19 were Slovak nationals subject to judicial expulsion.

TABLE 24:**Readmission procedures — persons transferred by the Czech Republic to neighbouring countries — comparison 2023/2024**

Year	2023	2024	Change compared to previous period	
			in %	Absolute number
Persons transferred by the Czech Republic to neighbouring states	1,950	43	-97.8	-1,907
of which (ranked by 2024):				
to Germany	30	19	-36.7%	-11
to Austria	27	13	-51.9%	-14
to Slovakia	1,888	8	-99.6%	-1,880
to Poland	5	3	-40.0%	-2

Source: DFPS

Citizens of Ukraine and Eritrea (5 persons each), followed by citizens of Syria (4 persons) were the most frequently transferred to neighbouring countries.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: METHODOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

This report was prepared mainly using the source materials of institutions engaged in asylum, migration and integration. This agenda is particularly within the terms of reference of the Ministry of the Interior. Furthermore, source materials from the following entities were used in preparation of the report: the Directorate of the Foreign Police Service, the Police Presidium, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Refugee Facilities Administration, the National Central Unit for Combating Organised Crime and the Facility for Children-Foreigners. Most of these institutions were contacted by the National Contact Point of the EMN in the Czech Republic, which is a part of the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior, or directly by this Department. The source materials of these institutions represent most of the content of this report. Another source was information in the public domain.

Statistical data were taken particularly from the information systems of the Police of the Czech Republic, the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the MoI and the Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals.

For the most part, information and data from the working version of the Report on the Situation in Migration and the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic in 2024⁴⁹ and from the reports and studies of the European Migration Network in the areas concerned were used. Particularly the national contribution to the 2024 EMN Annual Synthesis Report (2024 EMN Asylum and Migration Overview, previously EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum), which the Czech National Contact Point of the EMN prepared in early 2025, was used. For the purposes of this report, the analysis of press articles concerned with asylum and migration in 2024 was also used. The terminology was used in accordance with the national practice and legislation. The definitions of terms contained in the 6th edition of the EMN Asylum and Migration Glossary were also used.

⁴⁹ This report is prepared by the Ministry of the Interior on an annual basis.

ANNEX 2: LIST OF SOURCES AND LITERATURE

SOURCES

Ministry of the Interior
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Justice
Directorate of the Foreign Police Service
Police Presidium
Refugee Facilities Administration
National Central Unit for Combating Organised Crime
International Organization for Migration
Facility for Children of Foreign Nationals

LITERATURE

MoI CR, the Report on the Situation in Migration and the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic 2024
EMN, 2024 EMN Asylum and migration overview, Annex 1, national contribution from the Czech EMN Contact Point
EMN, Specification of Requirements for the 2024 EMN Annual Policy Report
EMN, Asylum and Migration Glossary, 6th edition

LEGISLATION

Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic and on amendments to certain Acts, as amended
Act No. 325/1999 Coll., on Asylum, as amended

Act No. 191/2016 Coll., on the Protection of the State Borders of the Czech Republic and on amendments to related Acts

Act No. 222/2017 Coll., amending Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic and on amendments to certain Acts, as amended, and other related Acts

Act No. 221/2003 Coll., on the Temporary Protection of Foreign Nationals, as amended

Act No. 435/2004 Coll., on Employment, as amended

Act No. 186/2013 Coll., on Citizenship of the Czech Republic and on amendments to certain Acts

Act No. 40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code

Act No. 45/2013 Coll., on Victims of Crimes and on amendments to certain Acts

Act No. 277/2019 Coll., amending certain Acts in connection with adoption of Act on the Collection of Laws and International Agreements

Act No. 165/2020 Coll., amending Act No. 141/1961 Coll., on Judicial Criminal Proceedings (Code of Criminal Procedure), as amended, and certain other Acts

Act No. 285/2020 Coll., amending Act No. 262/2006 Coll., the Labour Code, as amended, and certain other related Acts

Act No. 350/2020 Coll., on the Special Methods of Voting in the Elections to Regional Councils and the Senate in 2020

Ordinance No. 520/2020 Coll., on Implementation of Adaptation-Integration Courses

Act No. 274/2021 Coll., amending Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic and on amendments to certain Acts, as amended, and other related Acts

Act No. 65/2022 Coll., on certain measures in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion by the troops of the Russian Federation, as amended

Act No. 66/2022 Coll., on measures in the field of employment and social security in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion by the troops of the Russian Federation

Act No 175/2022 Coll., on further measures in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion by the troops of the Russian Federation and on amending other Acts in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion by the troops of the Russian Federation

Act No. 198/2022 Coll., amending Act No. 65/2022 Coll., on certain measures in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion of Ukraine by the troops of the Russian Federation, as amended by Act No. 175/2022 Coll., and Act No. 66/2022 Coll. on measures in the field of employment and social security in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine caused by the invasion by the troops of the Russian Federation, as amended by Act No. 175/2022 Coll.

Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning irregularly staying third-country nationals

Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for reception of applicants for international protection

Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code)

Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing

Regulation (EU) 2018/1240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 September 2018 establishing a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)

Regulation (EU) 2018/1726 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA)

Council Regulation (EC) No. 604/2013 (Dublin III Regulation)

Government Resolution No. 621 of 29 July 2015 on the Migration Policy Strategy of the Czech Republic and on the Migration Communication Strategy of the Czech Republic

Government Resolution No. 954 of 20 November 2015 on the State Integration Programme for Persons with Granted International Protection in 2016 and the Following Years

Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 956 of 20 November 2015 on the Creation of the Permanent Medical Humanitarian Programme MEDEVAC

Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic of 3 April 2024 No. 218 on the Procedure for the Implementation of the Updated Concept of Integration of Foreigners - In Mutual Respect in 2024

INTERNET SOURCES

www.mv.gov.cz

www.suz.cz

www.mzv.cz

www.mpsv.cz

www.emncz.eu

www.frs.gov.cz

www.nasiukrajinci.cz

www.psp.cz

www.vitejtevcr.cz

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The content of this **EMN Annual Report on Asylum and Migration 2024 – Czech Republic** represents the views of the author(s) and is their sole responsibility. The European Commission accepts no responsibility for use of the information it contains.

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Prepared by:

Czech National Contact Point
of European Migration Network

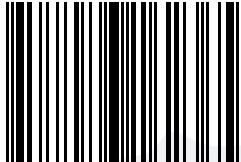
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