

Czech Republic

# EMN ANNUAL REPORT

## on Asylum and Migration

2025



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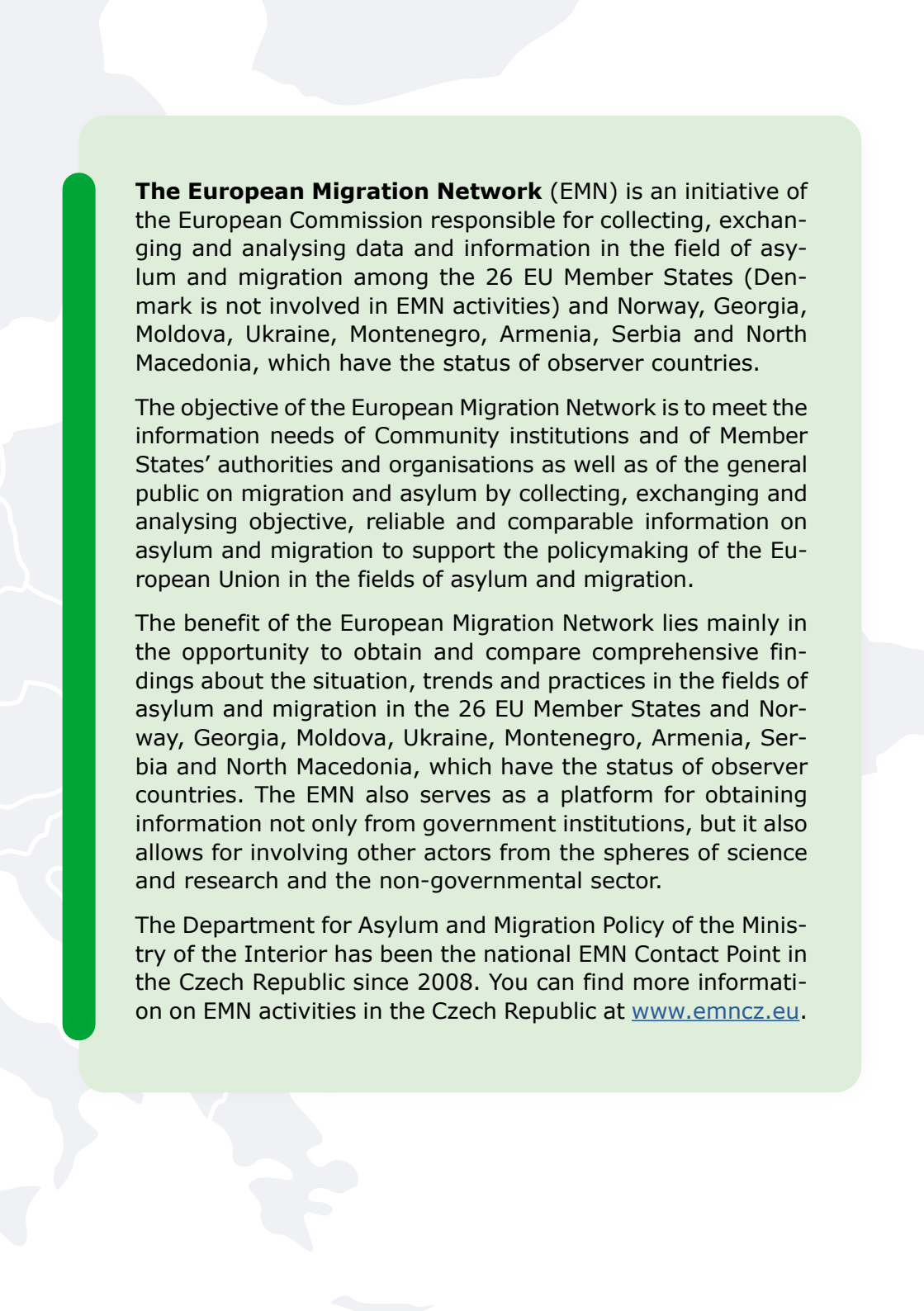
Ministry of the Interior  
of the Czech Republic

**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 26 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 policymaking 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 26 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](http://www.emncz.eu).



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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

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

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



## SUMMARY

**Annual Report of the European Migration Network (EMN) on Asylum and Migration Policy 2025** provides an overview of developments and the most significant changes in the fields of migration, asylum and integration during 2025 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 European Union in 2022.

### LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

At the end of 2025, a total of **1,131,197 foreigners were legally residing in the territory of the Czech Republic** for more than 90 days, representing **10.4% of the population of the Czech Republic**.

Of the total number of foreigners with authorised residence in the Czech Republic, **35% held permanent residence permits, 30% temporary residence permits and 35% temporary protection**. More than three quarters of all foreigners residing in the Czech Republic were third-country nationals. Among holders of permanent and temporary residence permits, the largest groups were nationals of Ukraine, Slovakia and Vietnam.

As of 31 December 2025, a total of **935,322 foreigners were registered as employees**, with third-country nationals (including holders of temporary protection) accounting for the majority. The highest numbers of foreign workers were registered in Prague and the Central Bohemian, South Moravian and Pilsen Regions.

Among non-EU countries, nationals of Ukraine, Vietnam and Russia were the most represented on the labour market. Among EU/EEA Member States and Switzerland, the largest groups were nationals of Slovakia, Romania, Poland and Bulgaria.

**Economic migration programmes** continued to be implemented as an effective instrument for supporting the migration of selected target groups of third-country nationals whose entry and residence are of increased in-

terest to the Czech Republic. Since 2019, **four government-approved migration programmes** have been in operation: the Highly Qualified Worker Programme, the Qualified Employee Programme, the Key and Research Staff Programme, and the Special Work Visa Programme for Nationals of Selected Countries Working in Agriculture, Food Industry or Forestry. In addition, the Digital Nomad Programme, the Labour Migration Project from Indonesia and the Pilot Project remained available to nationals of selected third countries.

A key integration measure continues to be the **network of 18 Centres for Support of Integration of Foreigners** operating in all regions of the Czech Republic.

In 2025, a total of **6,941 foreigners acquired Czech citizenship**, most of whom were nationals of Ukraine, Slovakia and Russia.

## **FOREIGNERS WITH TEMPORARY PROTECTION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

At the end of 2025, a total of **393,056 foreigners holding temporary protection** granted in connection with the Russian aggression against Ukraine were registered in the Czech Republic. This represented 3.6% of the population of the Czech Republic and remained **the highest share per capita among EU Member States**. During 2025, the Lex Ukraine legislation was further amended.

As in previous years, **women** constituted the majority (56.4%) of economically active persons holding temporary protection at the end of 2025. However, in the **18–34 age group, men outnumbered women**, with their number **increasing by 27.3%** compared with 2024 (+15,963 persons). The main reason for this increase was a Ukrainian government regulation which, **from August 2025, allowed all young Ukrainians aged between 18 and 22 to leave the country without restrictions**.

The adaptation and integration of persons with temporary protection continued to be coordinated by the Government Committee for the Adaptation and Integration of Temporary Protection Holders. **The Regional Assistance Centres for Ukraine (KACPU)** remained in operation, providing initial assistance to newly arrived persons as well as to existing holders of temporary protection.

In 2025, **temporary protection was further extended** until 31 March 2026. Legislation also established the possibility of further extensions, subject to a decision at the European level.

## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

In 2025, a total of 1,197 applicants applied for international protection in the Czech Republic. The principal countries of origin of applicants were Vietnam, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

International protection in the form of asylum was granted in 70 cases, most frequently to nationals of Myanmar, Russia and Venezuela. Subsidiary protection was granted to 127 applicants, most commonly to nationals of Ukraine, followed by Russia and Yemen.

Foreigners granted international protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection may participate in the State Integration Programme (SIP). In 2025, a total of 108 eligible persons entered the programme.

In 2025, the Czech Republic recorded 776 Dublin cases (i.e. incoming and outgoing requests). A total of 100 Dublin transfers to the Czech Republic and 104 transfers from the Czech Republic were carried out.

## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

In 2025, a total of 36 unaccompanied migrant children passed through facilities for foreign children. The largest group consisted of children from Ukraine. Other countries of origin included Syria, Egypt, the Philippines, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia and Somalia.

No unaccompanied minor applied for international protection in 2025.

## MEASURES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The most common forms of trafficking in human beings continued to be sexual and labour exploitation. **The Programme to Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings** (hereinafter referred to as “the Programme”) is a measure designed to provide victims of trafficking in human beings with support and appropriate protection based on an individual risk assessment. It is intended for victims of trafficking aged over 18 years. In 2025, a total of **31 presumed victims of trafficking in human beings were admitted to the Programme.**

One of the principal priorities remains the protection of Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic against criminal activities, including trafficking in human beings. To this end, several projects at the local level received financial support.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PROJECTS

International cooperation in the field of migration continued in 2025, primarily through intensive cooperation within the institutions of the European Union, including its agencies, particularly the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA). In 2025, the Czech Republic continued to chair the Steering Committee of the Prague Process.

Through the Assistance in Place Programme, the Ministry of the Interior provides financial assistance abroad, primarily to support refugees directly in the areas of their initial displacement and countries hosting large numbers of refugees and migrants or facing migration pressures as transit countries. The programme's budget amounted to CZK 150 million in 2025. In line with the priorities set for 2025, seven projects were supported in Chad, Libya, Mauritania, Greece, Sudan and Syria. A project was also implemented in Ukraine under the Assistance in Place Programme.

The MEDEVAC Programme, which focuses on providing specialised medical care to vulnerable population groups in regions affected by refugee crises or natural disasters, continued to operate in countries in Africa, the Middle East and Ukraine.

## ILLEGAL MIGRATION, MIGRANT SMUGGLING

In 2025, a total of **10,838 persons were detected in connection with illegal migration** in the territory of the Czech Republic. Compared with the previous year, the proportion of transit illegal migration decreased further to 1.4%. At the same time, this represents **the lowest number of detected persons since separate monitoring of this subcategory began in 2015**.

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

## RETURNS

During 2025, a total of **1,090 voluntary returns of third-country nationals were carried out**. Of these, 1,002 assisted voluntary returns of foreigners were organised by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, 56 assisted voluntary returns of applicants for international protection were implemented by the Refugee Facilities Administration, and 32 returns were organised by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The largest groups of returnees were nationals of Moldova, Vietnam and Uzbekistan.

Through its programme, the Ministry of the Interior primarily assists foreigners who have been issued with an administrative expulsion decision. Through its programme, 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 countries of origin. All these voluntary return programmes provide not only for the implementation of voluntary return itself but also for all related counselling and assistance necessary to ensure that returns are carried out effectively, promptly and successfully.





# 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 2025.

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 nationals<sup>1</sup> 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.

This report was prepared primarily on the basis of materials from the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Inte-

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

rior, which is responsible for migration, asylum, and integration policy. Additional data were provided by the Directorate of the Foreign 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.

**Coordination Body for the Management of Border Protection 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.

**Analytic 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.<sup>2</sup>

**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 14 regional Centres for the Support of Integration of Foreigners across ten regions, which serve as integration activity hubs.

**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 (FPI) at international airports,<sup>3</sup> 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 Vyšní 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 Headquarters for Combating Organised Crime** (NCOZ) of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service. The Organised Crime Section, Department of Human

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> These are the Foreign Police Inspectorates at Václav Havel Airport Prague, Mošnov Airport, Brno-Tuřany Airport, Karlovy Vary Airport and Pardubice Airport.

Trafficking and Illegal Migration monitors, investigates, and combats 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**,<sup>4</sup> 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.

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<sup>4</sup> In terms of migration.

# DEVELOPMENTS IN ASYLUM AND MIGRATION POLICY

# 2

- ▶ The EU extended temporary protection for persons fleeing Ukraine until 4 March 2027. In the Czech Republic, the so-called **special long-term residence permit** for holders of temporary protection was also introduced under Lex Ukraine VII.
- ▶ In September 2025, a **comprehensive amendment to the Asylum Act** (Act No. 314/2025 Coll.) was adopted, which, among other things, responds to the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.
- ▶ Work continued on **the new Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals**, which aims to **digitalise** the residence agenda, introduce mandatory registration of EU citizens and establish the concept of a so-called residence guarantor.
- ▶ In 2025, the media debate on migration focused primarily on the integration of Ukrainian refugees, migration-related security issues and discussions on the European Pact on Migration and Asylum.

## 2.1 POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The parliamentary elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, held on 3 and 4 October 2025, were among the most significant events of the year. The ANO movement won the elections with 34.5% of the vote, securing 80 seats. Following post-elec-

tion negotiations, a new Government led by Andrej Babiš was appointed on 15 December 2025. Lubomír Metnar was appointed Minister of the Interior.

Migration policy was among the key issues of both the election campaign and the subsequent programme priorities of the new Government. Public debate focused primarily on illegal migration, the protection of the external borders of the European Union, a more effective return policy and the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

The continuing military aggression of the Russian Federation resulted in persistently high numbers of internally displaced persons in Ukraine and the arrival of additional displaced persons in the European Union.

The consequences of the war, which entered its fourth consecutive year, continued to present an unprecedented challenge to the unity of EU Member States. The implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive remained the key instrument enabling Member States to respond effectively to the large influx of displaced persons. At the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council meeting on 13 June 2025, Ministers of the Interior agreed to extend temporary protection for persons fleeing the Russian aggression against Ukraine until 4 March 2027.

Throughout 2025, discussions continued regarding the future of the temporary protection instrument, including possible transitions to alternative residence statuses, both at the EU level and within individual Member States. In this context, the Czech Republic introduced the so-called special longterm residence permit under Lex Ukraine VII, for which holders of temporary protection were able to apply for the first time in 2025.

## 2.2 LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

**Legislative activities** in 2025 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 submitted a completely new Act intended to replace Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic. The proposed legislation aims

primarily to accelerate and increase the transparency of residence procedures through the digitalisation of the residence agenda, including the introduction of a new information system. The draft Act also introduces mandatory registration of EU citizens, enabling the registration of all foreign nationals residing in the Czech Republic on a long-term basis, and establishes the concept of a residence guarantor, intended to strengthen the responsibility of entities providing the purpose of residence for foreign nationals. The Government submitted the draft Act to the Chamber of Deputies in August 2024 (Parliamentary Document No. 782). However, it was not discussed before the end of the parliamentary term in 2025. Consequently, the draft was reapproved by the new Government and resubmitted to the Chamber of Deputies in spring 2026.

### ► Act No. 325/1999 Coll., on Asylum

In September 2025, an amendment to the Asylum Act was promulgated under Act No. 314/2025 Coll. It represents **the most comprehensive modernisation of Czech asylum and migration legislation in the past decade**. The amendment responds to the need to make procedures more efficient, faster and more precise, to strengthen security safeguards and to transpose relevant European Union legislation, particularly the Pact on Migration and Asylum. The amendments affect not only the Asylum Act but also the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals, the Employment Act, the Lex Ukraine Act, the Police Act and several other related legal instruments.

The amendment introduces fixed deadlines for the registration of applications for international protection. The Ministry is required to commence registration within five days of receiving notification that an application has been lodged. The places where applications may be submitted are now clearly specified. These changes are intended to harmonise procedures, streamline administrative processes and reduce opportunities for uncertainty or abuse of the system.

A significant part of the amendment concerns the right to remain in the territory. It clearly defines situations in which applicants are no longer entitled to remain, for example where a subsequent or repeated application is submitted without fulfilling the conditions laid down in European Union law, where the applicant is to be surrendered to an international criminal court or another state pursuant to a European Arrest Warrant, or where the applicant poses a threat to public order or national security.

These provisions strengthen the State's ability to prevent abuse of the asylum procedure while fully respecting the principle of non-refoulement.

The amendment also introduces changes to the granting of international protection. Asylum is now granted for a minimum period of three years, while subsidiary protection continues to be granted for a minimum period of one year. This will enable the Czech Republic to monitor more effectively whether beneficiaries of international protection continue to reside in its territory and will also encourage their integration by facilitating their future transition to permanent residence.

The amendment further introduces elements of digitalisation. The Ministry, as well as the courts, may use technical solutions enabling automatic real-time interpretation, interpretation by videoconference and machine translation of documents. These tools are intended to accelerate proceedings and reduce the administrative burden.

Extensive amendments also concern judicial review, service of documents and procedural time limits. The amendment clarifies the rules governing appeals against Ministry decisions, introduces new procedural deadlines and regulates the effects of judicial appeals on the applicant's right to remain in the territory. Administrative courts are now subject to statutory deadlines for deciding all actions against Ministry decisions concerning international protection. These deadlines vary according to the priority of individual cases, with the shortest applying to border asylum procedures, cases involving deprivation of liberty and Dublin procedures.

The amendment also provides more detailed rules governing the detention of applicants for international protection and judicial review of detention decisions. A completely new framework, while building upon the existing legislation, has also been introduced for applications for international protection lodged at the external Schengen border, namely at international airports in the Czech Republic.

The amendment also affects several related legal acts. The Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals has been amended to reflect new requirements concerning the more accurate initial screening of newly arrived foreign nationals and to improve the efficiency and speed of return procedures for illegally staying foreign nationals. Particular attention is given to persons serving prison sentences who will no longer have lawful residence following their release.

The Employment Act has been amended to reflect changes in residence statuses and to revise access to the labour market for applicants for international protection, ensuring that access to employment does not become a motivation for lodging applications for international protection.

The Public Health Insurance Act has also been amended with regard to the entitlement of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection to healthcare. Healthcare for asylum applicants (with the exception of children) is now regulated directly by the Asylum Act. Applicants for international protection are no longer regarded as persons insured by the State but are entitled only to emergency healthcare, the costs of which are covered by the Ministry of the Interior. Emergency healthcare is an established concept within the Czech healthcare system and considerable practical experience already exists with its application.

The Public Defender of Rights Act extends the Ombudsman's powers to include monitoring of the initial screening procedure and border asylum procedures. Initial health and security screening is also addressed by amendments to the Public Health Protection Act and the Police Act. The Lex Ukraine Act includes legislative changes reflecting practical experience gained in response to the continuing high number of arrivals.

#### ► Act No. 186/2013 Coll., **on Citizenship of the Czech Republic**

In 2025, this Act was amended with effect from 1 October 2025 following the adoption of Act No. 152/2025 Coll., amending certain acts in connection with the adoption of the State Social Assistance Benefit Act. The amendment introduced only a terminological change concerning the designation of social benefits in Sections 14(8) and 28(1) of Act No. 186/2013 Coll.

#### ► Act No. 435/2004 Coll., **on Employment**<sup>5</sup>

Migration policy in the field of employment was also affected in 2025 by an amendment to Act No. 435/2004 Coll., on Employment. In particular, the amendment to Section 98 expanded the categories of foreign nationals enjoying free access to the labour market to include foreign nationals performing artistic activities in the Czech Republic as members of artistic

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<sup>5</sup> In terms of immigration.

ensembles of public cultural institutions, as well as nationals of jurisdictions designated by Government Regulation.

As of 1 March 2025, nationals of the Commonwealth of Australia, Japan, Canada, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Republic of Singapore, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the State of Israel and Taiwan have free access to the Czech labour market. The objective of the measure is to facilitate faster access for foreign workers to the domestic labour market and thereby enhance the competitiveness of the Czech Republic.

### **Legislative Activities Related to the Arrival of Persons Following the Russian Aggression against Ukraine**

Throughout 2025, discussions continued on the future of the temporary protection instrument, including possible transitions to alternative residence statuses, both at the EU level and within individual Member States. In this context, the Czech Republic introduced the special long-term residence permit under Lex Ukraine VII, for which holders of temporary protection were able to apply for the first time in 2025.

Legislative amendments concerning the humanitarian benefit were also adopted during 2025. Under Act No. 66/2022 Coll., the humanitarian benefit remains the only social benefit available to persons granted temporary protection. It is intended to cover basic living needs and housing costs.

The amendments formed part of the revision of Act No. 65/2022 Coll., adopted by Act No. 24/2025 Coll. (Lex Ukraine VI), which entered into force in two stages, on 11 February 2025 and 1 July 2025. The principal changes include:

- ▶ scholarships awarded to foreign students holding temporary protection are no longer regarded as income for the purposes of assessing entitlement to the humanitarian benefit;
- ▶ the humanitarian benefit is exempt from enforcement proceedings;
- ▶ the amount of the humanitarian benefit is increased for holders of temporary protection who are persons with disabilities or holders of disability identification cards;
- ▶ the new legislation introduces an obligation to assess the degree of limitation of an applicant's self-sufficiency as a condition for granting the increased humanitarian benefit.

## 2.3 DEBATES IN THE MEDIA

Throughout 2025, migration and asylum policy remained among the regularly covered topics in the Czech media, although both the intensity of media coverage and the framing of the issues evolved over the course of the year. In the domestic context, media attention focused primarily on Ukrainian refugees benefiting from temporary protection and issues related to their integration, particularly labour market participation, their economic contribution, the capacity of the education system and social services, and the functioning of the Regional Assistance Centres for Ukraine (KACPU). Public debate also covered legislative amendments associated with the Lex Ukraine legislation, including the extension of temporary protection and the introduction of the special long-term residence permit.

Alongside integration issues, migration was also widely discussed from a security perspective. Media reporting covered inspections targeting the illegal employment of foreign nationals, cases involving the misuse of residence permits or social benefits, and individual criminal cases involving foreign nationals. These developments were frequently placed within the broader political debate on tightening migration policy and introducing the possibility of withdrawing residence permits from persons repeatedly committing offences against public order, civil coexistence or property.

Towards the end of the year, a major focus of media coverage became the publication of the European Commission's first Annual Report on Migration and Asylum, which identified the Czech Republic as one of the Member States facing a significant migration situation due to the high number of persons benefiting from temporary protection. Media attention centred primarily on the possibility of exempting the Czech Republic from the solidarity mechanism and on the issue of a complete exemption from solidarity contributions to the new common European budget for addressing illegal migration. In this context, the statements of the new governing coalition concerning the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum also received considerable attention. According to these statements, the Czech Republic rejected the Pact in its existing form and sought to limit its participation in the Union's solidarity mechanisms.

Media reporting also reflected key developments in European Union migration and asylum policy, particularly the implementation of new migration management instruments, including the Entry/Exit System (EES), developments in return policy and the tightening of asylum rules in certain Member States. Considerable attention was likewise devoted to developments at the EU's external borders, migration routes across the Mediterranean and the Western Balkans, and the political and societal responses to migration in Western European countries.

In addition to mainstream media, migration remained a prominent topic on disinformation and conspiracy websites, where it was systematically portrayed as a security and civilisational threat. At the European level, dominant narratives focused on the alleged "Islamisation of Europe" and the so-called "Great Replacement". Within the Czech context, disinformation content primarily depicted Ukrainian refugees as a supposedly privileged group, accompanied by claims of abuse of the social welfare system and increasing criminality.

# LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

# 3

- ▶ A total of **1,131,197 foreign nationals** resided in the Czech Republic on a long-term basis (i.e. for more than 90 days) in 2025.
- ▶ A total of **393,056 foreign nationals** resided in the Czech Republic under temporary protection.
- ▶ A total of **738,141 foreign nationals** held either permanent or temporary residence permits.
- ▶ Of the total number of foreign nationals residing in the Czech Republic on a temporary or permanent basis, **20.9%** were EU citizens and **79.1%** were third-country nationals.
- ▶ The largest groups of foreign nationals were nationals of **Ukraine, Slovakia, Vietnam, Russia** and **Romania**.
- ▶ In 2025, **6,941 persons acquired Czech citizenship**.

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

As of the end of 2025, a total of **1,131,197 foreign nationals were registered for legal residence** (for a period exceeding 90 days) in the Czech Republic.<sup>6</sup> Foreign nationals thus represented **10.4% of the total population** of the Czech Republic.<sup>7</sup>

At the end of 2024, foreigners made up 10.4% of the population of the Czech Republic.

Compared to 2024, the overall number of legally residing foreign nationals increased by 3.4%. This growth in 2025 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 (2016–2025)**

| Year                        | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    | 2019    | 2020    |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of foreign nationals | 496,413 | 526,811 | 566,931 | 595,881 | 634,790 |
| Year-on-year change (%)     | 6.2     | 6.1     | 7.6     | 5.1     | 6.5     |

| Year                        | 2021    | 2022      | 2023      | 2024      | 2025      |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of foreign nationals | 660,849 | 1,116,154 | 1,065,740 | 1,094,089 | 1,131,197 |
| Year-on-year change (%)     | 4.1     | 68.9      | -4.5      | 2.7       | 3.4       |

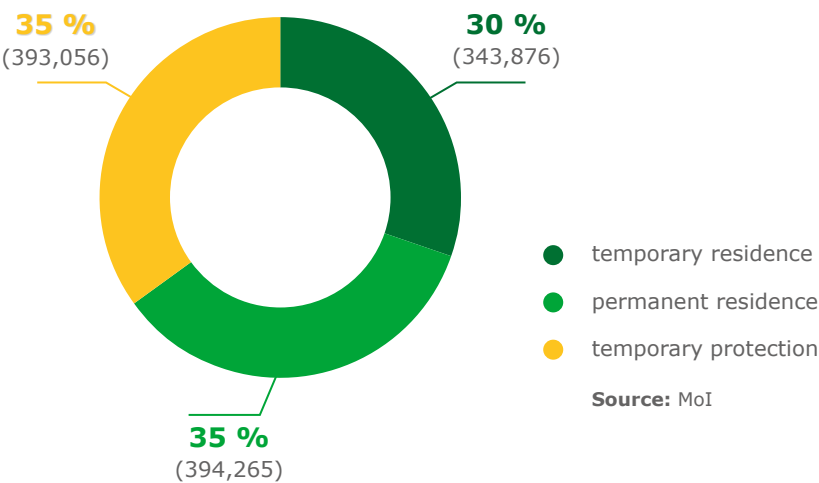
Source: IS CIS

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> The Czech Republic had a total population of 10,915,839 as of 31 December 2025 (Source: CZSO).

A total of **393,056** foreign nationals resided in the territory under temporary protection. The number of foreign nationals with permanent or long-term residence permits amounted to **738,141**, representing an increase of 4.7% compared to the end of 2024. The growth rate of foreign nationals with long-term residence accelerated compared to the previous year; while their number increased by 14,104 persons in 2024, it rose by 32,931 persons in 2025.

**CHART 1:**  
**Foreign nationals in the Czech Republic by type of residence in 2025**

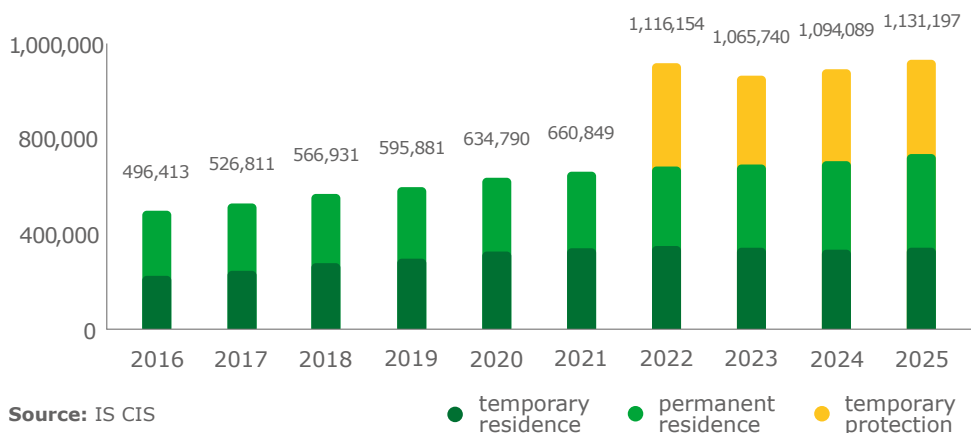


Compared with 2024, the number of foreign nationals holding temporary residence permits increased in 2025 by 10,882. However, the overall increase in the foreign population continued to be driven exclusively by the rise in the number of permanent residence permit holders, which increased by 22,049.

Of the total number of foreign nationals residing in the Czech Republic, 20.9% were EU citizens. Including holders of temporary protection, third-country nationals accounted for 79.1% of all foreign nationals residing in the Czech Republic in 2025 (894,607 persons), representing an increase of 32,939 persons compared with the previous year.

## CHART 2:

### Development of the number of foreign nationals with permitted residence in the Czech Republic (2016–2025)



#### 3.1.1 PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY RESIDENCE

Out of the total recorded number of **738,141 foreign nationals** residing in the Czech Republic with either permanent or temporary residence permits, **68% fell into the category of third-country nationals** (501,551 persons).

A total of **236,590 EU citizens were registered**, representing 20.9% of all foreign nationals residing in the Czech Republic on the basis of permanent or temporary residence permits. Year-on-year, this represents an increase of 4,169 persons. As in the previous year, **EU citizens** were more likely to reside in The Czech Republic on the basis of **permanent residence** (53.2%), whereas among **third-country nationals, temporary protection** remained the predominant residence status (43.9%).

**TABLE 2:**

**Foreign nationals with temporary and permanent residence permits in the Czech Republic by EU membership and type of residence – comparison 2024/2025**

| Year (as of 31 December)  |                               | 2024                 |              | 2025                 |              | Year-on-year change |            |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------|
|                           |                               | Number of foreigners | i.e. %       | Number of foreigners | i.e. %       | Absolute number     | i.e. %     |
| Foreign nationals – total | <b>Total</b>                  | <b>1,094,089</b>     | <b>100.0</b> | <b>1,131,197</b>     | <b>100.0</b> | <b>37,108</b>       | <b>3.4</b> |
|                           | of which temporary residence  | 332,994              | 30.5         | 343,876              | 30.4         | 10,882              | 3.3        |
|                           | of which permanent residence  | 372,216              | 34.0         | 394,265              | 34.9         | 22,049              | 5.9        |
|                           | of which temporary protection | 388,879              | 35.5         | 393,056              | 34.7         | 4,177               | 1.1        |
| EU citizens               | <b>Total</b>                  | <b>232,421</b>       | <b>21.2</b>  | <b>236,590</b>       | <b>20.9</b>  | <b>4,169</b>        | <b>1.8</b> |
|                           | of which temporary residence  | 112,793              | 48.5         | 110,686              | 46.8         | -2,107              | -1.9       |
|                           | of which permanent residence  | 119,628              | 51.5         | 125,904              | 53.2         | 6,276               | 5.2        |
| Third-country nationals   | <b>Total</b>                  | <b>861,668</b>       | <b>78.8</b>  | <b>894,607</b>       | <b>79.1</b>  | <b>32,939</b>       | <b>3.8</b> |
|                           | of which temporary residence  | 220,201              | 25.6         | 233,190              | 26.1         | 12,989              | 5.9        |
|                           | of which permanent residence  | 252,588              | 29.3         | 268,361              | 30.0         | 15,773              | 6.2        |
|                           | of which temporary protection | 388,879              | 45.1         | 393,056              | 43.9         | 4,177               | 1.1        |

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 2024. The only change in the table occurred in ninth place, where the Philippines replaced Germany.



**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 2025)**

| Type of Residence                | Number           | Share (%)    | Year-on-year change (%) | Breakdown           |             |                     |             |                      |              |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|
|                                  |                  |              |                         | Temporary residence | Share (%)   | Permanent residence | Share (%)   | Temporary protection | Share (%)    |
| <b>Foreign nationals – total</b> | <b>1,131,197</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>3.4</b>              | <b>343,876</b>      | <b>30.4</b> | <b>394,265</b>      | <b>34.9</b> | <b>393,056</b>       | <b>34.7</b>  |
| <b>of which TOP 10:</b>          |                  |              |                         |                     |             |                     |             |                      |              |
| Ukraine                          | 612,953          | 54.2         | 4.0                     | 101,902             | 29.6        | 118,718             | 30.1        | 392,333              | 99.8         |
| Slovakia                         | 125,280          | 11.1         | 3.1                     | 51,618              | 15.0        | 73,862              | 18.7        | 0                    | 0.0          |
| Vietnam                          | 69,685           | 6.2          | 1.0                     | 12,321              | 3.6         | 57,324              | 14.5        | 40                   | 0.0          |
| Russia                           | 37,524           | 3.3          | -3.7                    | 10,844              | 3.2         | 26,385              | 6.7         | 295                  | 0.1          |
| Romania                          | 21,287           | 1.9          | 1.7                     | 12,472              | 3.6         | 8,815               | 2.2         | 0                    | 0.0          |
| Poland                           | 17,631           | 1.6          | -0.6                    | 6,022               | 1.8         | 11,609              | 2.9         | 0                    | 0.0          |
| Bulgaria                         | 17,562           | 1.6          | -1.0                    | 9,356               | 2.7         | 8,206               | 2.1         | 0                    | 0.0          |
| Mongolia                         | 14,908           | 1.3          | 5.9                     | 7,653               | 2.2         | 7,254               | 1.8         | 1                    | 0.0          |
| Philippines                      | 14,530           | 1.3          | 39.5                    | 13,912              | 4.0         | 618                 | 0.2         | 0                    | 0.0          |
| Hungary                          | 12,111           | 1.1          | 4.0                     | 7,681               | 2.2         | 4,430               | 1.1         | 0                    | 0.0          |
| <b>EU citizens</b>               | <b>236,590</b>   | <b>20.9</b>  | <b>1.8</b>              | <b>110,686</b>      | <b>32.2</b> | <b>125,904</b>      | <b>31.9</b> | <b>0</b>             | <b>0.0</b>   |
| <b>Third-country nationals</b>   | <b>894,607</b>   | <b>79.1</b>  | <b>3.8</b>              | <b>233,190</b>      | <b>67.8</b> | <b>268,361</b>      | <b>68.1</b> | <b>393,056</b>       | <b>100.0</b> |

Source: IS CIS

The downward trend in the number of Russian citizens residing in the Czech Republic continued in 2025, as a consequence of restrictions on visa issuance introduced in connection with the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Their number decreased by 1,446 persons (-3.7%). By contrast, the highest increase was clearly recorded among citizens of the **Philippines**, continuing the trend observed in previous years in connection with significant labour migration from that country. Their number increased year-on-year by 4,112 persons (+39.5%).

### 3.1.3 FOREIGN NATIONALS BY GENDER AND AGE

Men continued to slightly outnumber women among foreign nationals, both among holders of permanent residence permits and among holders of temporary residence permits. By contrast, women were more represented among holders of temporary protection. Overall, men accounted for 52.2% of foreign nationals at the end of 2025. The ratio of men to women was more balanced among foreign nationals residing permanently in the Czech Republic. Among holders of permanent residence permits, men accounted for 52.8%, while among holders of temporary residence permits their predominance was more pronounced, at 59.4%. Among persons residing on the basis of temporary protection, men accounted for only 45.3%.

**TABLE 4:**  
**Foreign nationals with temporary and permanent residence permits in the Czech Republic by gender (as of 31 December 2025)**

| Gender               | Foreign nationals<br>In total | Of which       |             |                |             |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
|                      |                               | men            | i.e. %      | women          | i.e. %      |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>1,131,197</b>              | <b>590,379</b> | <b>52.2</b> | <b>540,818</b> | <b>47.8</b> |
| <b>of which:</b>     |                               |                |             |                |             |
| Temporary residence  | 343,876                       | 204,315        | 59.4        | 139,561        | 40.6        |
| Permanent residence  | 394,265                       | 208,193        | 52.8        | 186,072        | 47.2        |
| Temporary protection | 393,056                       | 177,871        | 45.3        | 215,185        | 54.7        |

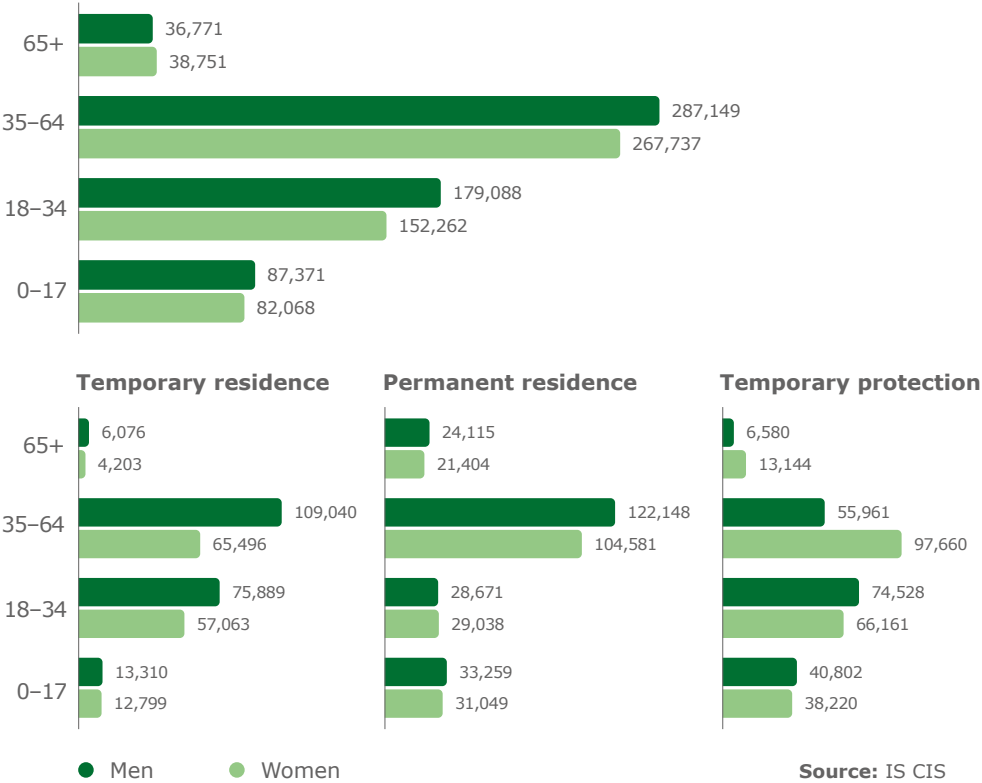
Source: IS CIS

As in 2024, the age structure of foreign nationals in 2025 differed according to their residence status. Among holders of temporary and permanent residence permits, the largest age group continued to be persons aged 35–64 years, whereas among holders of temporary protection this applied only to women.

Among holders of temporary residence permits, men were more strongly represented and the economically active age groups were distributed more evenly. By contrast, among holders of permanent residence permits, the 35–64 age group clearly predominated, with a balanced representation of men and women across all age categories. This group also included a relatively higher proportion of minors (16.3%) and persons aged 65 years and over (11.5%).

CHART 3:

Structure of Foreign Nationals by Type of Residence  
(as at 31 December 2025)



3.2 RESIDENCE PERMITS BY PURPOSE

Third-country nationals wishing to reside temporarily in the Czech Republic for more than 90 days may apply at a Czech diplomatic mission for either a long-term visa or, in the case of specific residence categories governed by EU directives, a long-term residence permit. These categories include study and scientific research, as well as residence permits for employment purposes, such as the Employee Card and the Blue Card.

**In 2025, a total of 36,209 applications for long-term residence titles were submitted** at Czech embassies abroad, representing a year-on-year increase of 6.3%, or 2,159 applications.

Third-country nationals continue to apply for residence in the Czech Republic primarily **for employment and educational purposes**. The overall structure of migration to the Czech Republic has remained stable in this respect over the long-term. In 2025, almost half of all applications (17,290; 47.7%) were submitted for the purpose of economic activities, while more than one third (13,118 applications; 36.2%) were submitted for educational activities. A total of 4,565 applications (12.6%) were submitted for the purpose of family reunification.

Men continued to account for the majority of applicants for long-term residence titles in 2025, representing 62.4% of all applicants.

The year 2025 continued to be affected by the ongoing war in Ukraine and the resulting restrictions on the operation of Czech embassies in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. Consequently, the acceptance of applications for long-term residence titles remained limited.

**CHART 4:**  
**Development of applications for long-term residence permits for entry into the Czech Republic, 2015–2025**

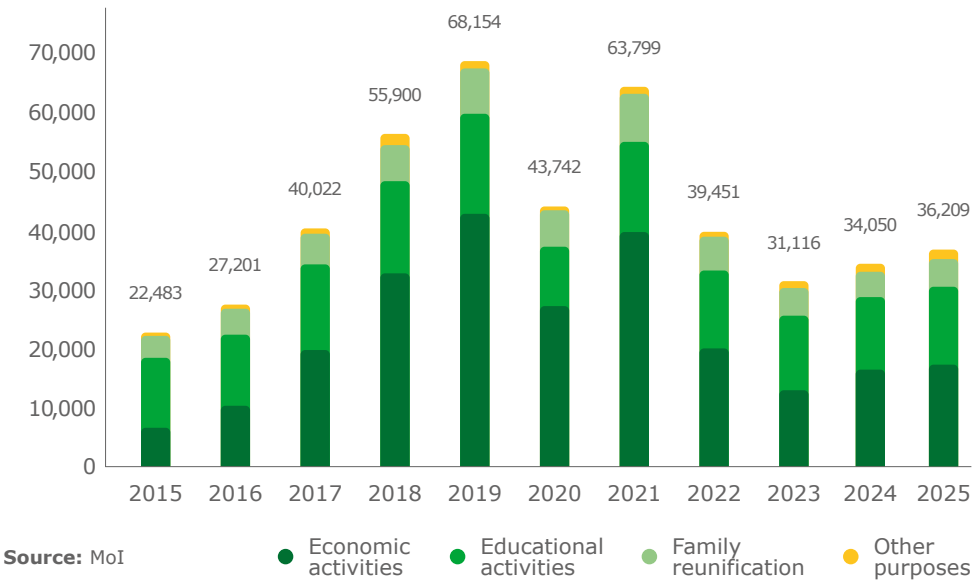


**TABLE 5:**  
**Applications for long-term residence permits by purpose in 2025**

| Purpose                | Number of applications | %            | % change compared to 2024 | Absolute change compared to 2024 |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Economic activities    | 17,290                 | 47.8         | 6.3                       | +1,031                           |
| Educational activities | 13,118                 | 36.2         | 7.53                      | +919                             |
| Family reunification   | 4,565                  | 12.6         | 7.2                       | +306                             |
| Other purposes         | 1,542                  | 4.3          | 15.7                      | +209                             |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>36,515</b>          | <b>100.0</b> | <b>6.3</b>                | <b>+2,159</b>                    |

Source: MoI

The number of applications for long-term visas and long-term residence permits submitted at Czech embassies abroad increased by 6.3% compared with 2024.

The approval rate for applications for long-term residence titles has remained consistently high. In 2025, it reached 85.5%. A total of 36,667 decisions on applications for long-term residence titles were issued, of which **31,336 were positive**.

**TABLE 6:**  
**Long-term residence permits granted in 2025 by purpose**

| Purpose                | Number of permits granted | %            | % change compared to 2024 | Absolute change compared to 2024 |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Economic activities    | 15,653                    | 50           | 10                        | 1,422                            |
| Educational activities | 10,837                    | 34.6         | 5.2                       | 532                              |
| Family reunification   | 3,704                     | 11.8         | -0.27                     | -10                              |
| Other purposes         | 1,142                     | 3.7          | -8.27                     | -103                             |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>31,336</b>             | <b>100.0</b> | <b>6.24</b>               | <b>1,841</b>                     |

Source: MoI

### 3.2.1 ECONOMIC MIGRATION

As of 31 December 2025, a total of **935,322 foreign workers were registered as employees** by regional branches of the Labour Office of the Czech Republic (ÚP ČR).

**As of 31 December 2025, a total of 1,854 employment agencies were registered.**

In total, **416,993 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 (229,014 information cards), followed by citizens of Romania (45,326), Poland (44,417), and Bulgaria (34,750).

A total of **518,329 foreign workers were citizens of non-EU/EEA and non-Swiss countries (third-country nationals)**, most frequently citizens of Ukraine (298,078 information cards + 59,736 work permits), Russia (21,159 information cards + 2,763 work permits), and Vietnam (19,405 information cards + 3,590 work permits).

In terms of regional distribution, **the highest number of foreign workers in employee positions** has long been recorded **in the capital city of Prague** (313,892), followed by the Central Bohemian Region (152,858), South Moravian Region (105,400), and the Pilsen Region (84,540).

**The majority of foreign workers in 2025 consisted of foreign nationals with free access to the labour market.** Out of the total of **935,322 foreign workers, 416,993 information cards were issued to citizens of EU/EEA countries and Switzerland**, including their family members, and 401,644 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 2025 there were **a total of 116,685**, including 105,460 holders of employee cards, 8,977 holders of work permits, 2,179 holders of blue cards, and 69 holders of intra-company transfer cards.

As of 31 December 2025, a total of **1,854 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 the Czech Republic 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 Qualified Worker Programme

This programme is intended for companies employing highly qualified third-country nationals (i.e., foreigners working in the Czech Republic in professions classified under CZ-ISCO major groups 1 to 3: managers, professionals, 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. In 2025, a total of **475 foreign nationals** were included in the Programme, with applicants from **China, India, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** accounting for the largest groups.

The occupations most frequently represented included **mechanical engineering technicians, security data specialists, computer**

**network specialists, programmers, systems analysts, software developers, electrical engineers, head chefs, and language teachers and instructors.**

Within the Highly Qualified Worker Programme, a total of **244 applications for Employee Cards** were submitted in 2025. **237 decisions** were issued, resulting in an approval rate of **93.2%**. The largest numbers of applications were submitted by nationals of **China (67), India (52) and the Republic of Korea (22).**

**In 2025, 475 foreigners were included in the Highly Qualified Worker Programme, most often from China, India, Republic of Korea and Great Britain.**

## **2. The Qualified Worker 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, Thailand and Ukraine.** The programme remains suspended for Belarus.

The annual capacity allocated to Ukraine under the Qualified Worker Programme was 12,100 applications in 2025. Owing to the situation in Ukraine, however, this capacity remained largely unutilised. A total of 1,737 foreign nationals were included in the Programme, representing approximately 15% of the available capacity.

The annual quotas for India (600 applications) and Kazakhstan (500 applications) were fully utilised throughout the year.

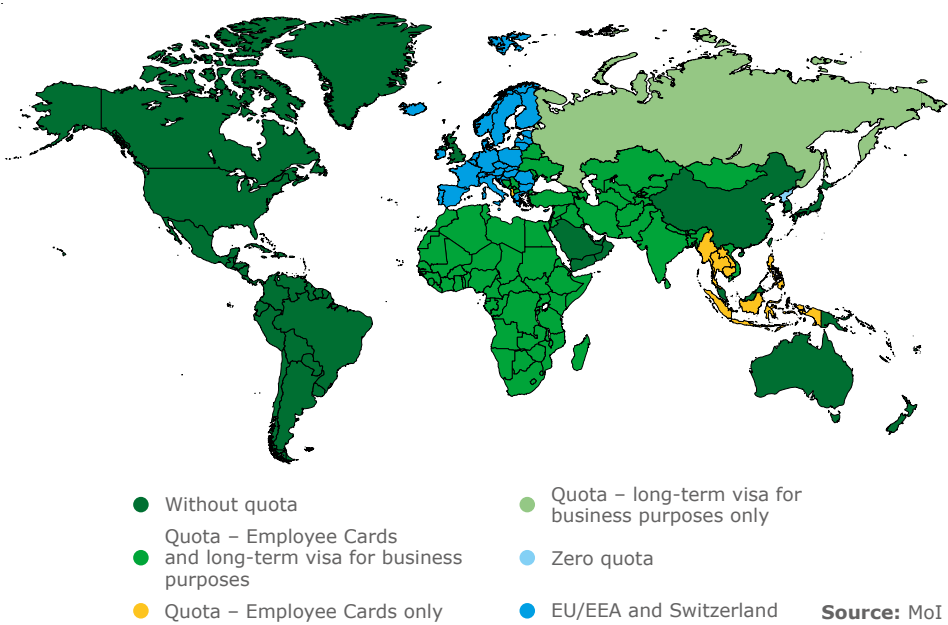
In the Philippines, the annual quota of 10,300 applications was utilised at approximately 47%, with 4,791 foreign nationals included in the Programme. In Mongolia, the annual quota of 3,170 applications was utilised at approximately 54%, and 1,716 foreign nationals were

included. In Moldova, the annual quota of 1,500 applications was utilised at approximately 47%, with 700 foreign nationals included in the Programme. In Georgia, the annual quota of 600 applications was utilised at approximately 44%, and 262 foreign nationals participated in the Programme. In the case of Armenia, the annual quota of 550 applications was utilised at approximately 31%, with a total of 173 foreign nationals included.

Overall, **10,616 foreign nationals** were included in the **Qualified Worker Programme** in 2025. The occupations most frequently sought by employers were welders, assembly workers, bricklayers, drivers, meat and fish processors, metal products machine operators, metal-working trades workers, kitchen assistants and warehouse workers.

Within the Qualified Worker Programme, a total of 9,124 applications for Employee Cards were submitted in 2025. A total of 10,317 decisions were issued, resulting in an approval rate of 85.9%. The largest numbers of applications were submitted by nationals of the Philippines (4,324), Ukraine (1,823) and Mongolia (1,339).

**FIGURE 1:**  
**World map showing quotas for economic migration to the Czech Republic in 2025**



### 3. The Key and Research Staff 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 the **Key and Research Staff Programme**, although to a lesser extent than the two programmes described above, as key personnel from Russia and Belarus were largely replaced by workers from **India** and **Türkiye**. As a result, demand for the Programme among employers has remained high.

In 2025, a total of **1,024 foreign nationals** were included in the **Key and Research Staff Programme**. The principal countries of origin were **India, China, the Republic of Korea, Japan and Türkiye**.

The occupations most frequently represented among applicants included software developers, systems analysts, software testing specialists and related professionals, industrial engineering specialists and related professionals, information and communications technology managers, and applications programmers.

Within the Key and Research Staff Programme, a total of 311 applications for Employee Cards were submitted in 2025. A total of 323 decisions were issued, resulting in an approval rate of 95%. The largest numbers of applications were submitted by nationals of India (69), the Republic of Korea (53) and Japan (32).

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

is intended exclusively for employers seeking lower-skilled and unskilled workers in the sectors specified in the Programme's title. The Programme is currently open to nationals 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.

A total of **424 foreign nationals were admitted under the Training Project in 2025**. The largest groups of applicants came from North Macedonia (206), Mexico (104), Bosnia and Herzegovina (32) and Thailand (18). In 2025, four applications for long-term visas for the purpose of traineeship were submitted, three of which were approved.

The Government-approved **Digital Nomad Programme**, launched in 2023, is intended for highly qualified information technology specialists, so-called digital nomads, wishing to reside in the Czech Republic on a long-term basis.

The Programme is open to nationals of **Australia, Canada, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States**. As of 1 January 2025, the Programme was also extended to nationals of **Brazil, Israel, Mexico and Singapore**. Immediate family members may also participate in the Programme.

In 2025, a total of **23 foreign nationals** were included in the **Digital Nomad Programme**. In **18 cases**, a **visa for the purpose of business** was granted (to freelancers), while in **five cases**, a visa for the purpose of **"Other"** was granted (to employees of foreign employers).

The visas were granted to digital nomads from the **United States (14)**, **the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (7)** and the **Republic of Korea (2)**.

The **Labour Migration Project from Indonesia** was launched on **1 July 2024**. The target group consists of Indonesian students and graduates of polytechnic schools aged **21–29 years**, who wish to undertake temporary skilled employment in the Czech Republic in order to enhance their qualifications in skilled trades, such as **welders, (electro)mechanics and locksmiths**.

The Project is intended for large Czech companies prepared to recruit at least **100 Indonesian workers** at a time. In 2023, the Project was piloted on a one-off basis with **300 Indonesian workers**.

No foreign nationals were included in the Project in 2025.

The **Pilot Project** aims to support the training of qualified pilots from selected third countries. Foreign nationals included in the Project are guaranteed the opportunity to apply for a residence title for the purpose of **flight training**.

The Project is open to nationals of **Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, the Philippines, Ghana, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, the Maldives, Nigeria, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Vietnam**, as well as to holders of passports issued by those countries.

In 2025, a total of **83 foreign nationals** were included in the **Pilot Project**. The majority of participants were nationals of **Vietnam (42)** and **India (35)**.

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

In 2025, a total of **19,528 long-term residence permits** were granted.

As in previous years, most long-term residence permits in 2025 were granted to applicants for **employee cards** — a total of 14,211 permits, representing 72.8% of all granted long-term residence permits. The largest numbers of employee card decisions were issued to citizens of **the Philippines, Ukraine and Mongolia**.

In 2025, a total of **295 Blue Cards** were granted, representing a decrease of 12.5% compared with the previous year.

**Intra-company transfer permit** was again among the residence purposes recording a significant year-on-year increase in 2025, rising by **25.7%**. A total of **357 residence permits** were granted for this purpose, accounting for **1.8%** of all positive decisions.

In 2025, a total of **2,140 long-term residence permits** were granted for the purpose of **family reunification**, representing **11.0%** of all positive decisions.

**Studies** remained the third most common purpose for granting long-term residence permits. A total of **2,083 residence permits** were granted for this purpose, accounting for **10.7%** of all positive decisions. Compared with 2024, the number of long-term residence permits granted for the purpose of studies **decreased by 3.2%**.

The number of **long-term residence permits granted for the purpose of research** decreased by **17.5%** year-on-year.

**TABLE 7:**  
**Granted Long-term Residence Permits from Applications Submitted at Czech Embassies by Purpose in 2025**

|                              | 2024   | i.e. % | 2025   | i.e. % | Change compared to previous period |                 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
|                              |        |        |        |        | %                                  | Absolute figure |
| Total                        | 18,344 | 100.0  | 19,528 | 100.0  | 6.5                                | 1,184           |
| of which:                    |        |        |        |        |                                    |                 |
| Employment – Employment Card | 12,843 | 65.1   | 14,211 | 72.8   | 10.7                               | +1,368          |
| Family reunification         | 2,192  | 14.5   | 2,140  | 11.0   | -2.4                               | -52             |
| Studies                      | 2,152  | 14.5   | 2,083  | 10.7   | -3.2                               | -69             |
| Employment – Blue Card       | 337    | 2.5    | 295    | 1.5    | -12.5                              | -42             |
| Research                     | 536    | 2.1    | 442    | 2.3    | -17.5                              | -94             |
| Intra-company transfer       | 284    | 1.3    | 357    | 1.8    | 25.7                               | +73             |

Source: MoI

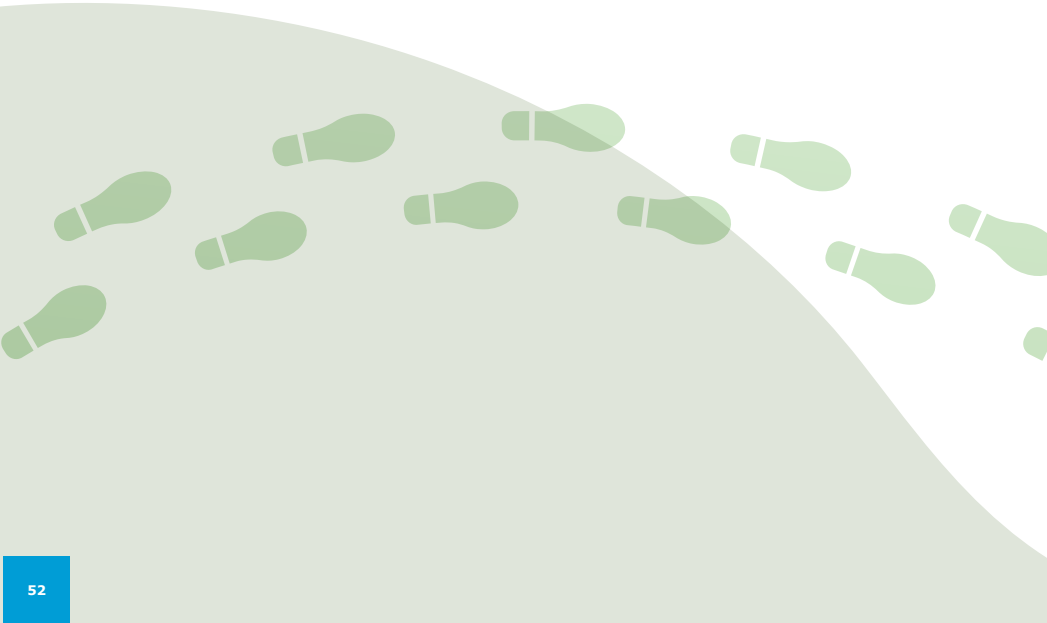


**TABLE 8:**  
**Granted Long-term Residence Permits from Applications Submitted at Czech Embassies by Nationality – Comparison 2024/2025**

| Year                              | 2024   | i.e. % | 2025   | i.e. % | Change compared to previous period |                 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
|                                   |        |        |        |        | %                                  | Absolute figure |
| Total                             | 18,344 | 100.0  | 19,528 | 100.0  | 6.5                                | 1,184           |
| Of which TOP 10 (ranked by 2025): |        |        |        |        |                                    |                 |
| Philippines                       | 3,761  | 20.5   | 4,639  | 23.8   | 23.3                               | 878             |
| Ukraine                           | 1,412  | 7.7    | 2,871  | 14.7   | 103.3                              | 1,459           |
| Mongolia                          | 1,736  | 9.5    | 1,515  | 7.8    | -12.7                              | -221            |
| India                             | 1,389  | 7.6    | 1,498  | 7.7    | 7.8                                | 109             |
| China                             | 1,576  | 8.6    | 1,215  | 6.2    | -22.9                              | -361            |
| Vietnam                           | 1,445  | 7.9    | 1,157  | 5.9    | -19.9                              | -288            |
| Moldova                           | 700    | 3.8    | 639    | 3.3    | -8.7                               | -61             |
| Türkiye                           | 591    | 3.2    | 540    | 2.8    | -8.6                               | -51             |
| Uzbekistan                        | 262    | 1.4    | 432    | 2.2    | 64.9                               | 170             |
| Kazakhstan                        | 296    | 1.6    | 330    | 1.7    | 11.5                               | 34              |

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.

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 63 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.

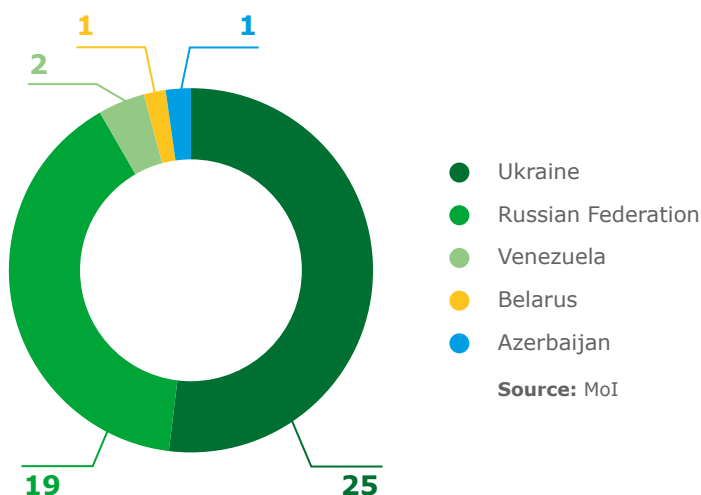
### 3.2.3 ASSISTANCE TO COMPATRIOTS

In 2025, the **Programme for Providing Assistance with the Resettlement of Czech Compatriots** continued.

Participation in the Programme does not automatically entitle participants to permanent residence in the Czech Republic. Rather, it simplifies the overall procedure, primarily by transferring responsibility for the provision of accommodation and means of subsistence to the State. These benefits are granted only to persons for whom such assistance is justified, namely persons from areas affected by conflict or Czech compatriots who are disadvantaged for health, social or economic reasons.

## CHART 5:

### Number of members of Czech compatriot communities resettled to the Czech Republic in 2025



The implementation of the Programme continued to be significantly affected by the war in Ukraine, which prevented many compatriots from resettling to the Czech Republic due to military conscription obligations applying to men and, in selected professions, also to women.

In 2025, a total of **48 persons** were resettled to the Czech Republic: **25** from **Ukraine**, **19** from the **Russian Federation**, **2** from **Venezuela**, **1** from **Belarus** and **1** from **Azerbaijan**.

During the year, **32 persons** secured permanent accommodation and employment. Following their departure from temporary accommodation, all programme participants achieved full independence, thereby fulfilling the Programme's objective. The largest numbers of compatriots settled in **Prague** and the **Central Bohemian** and **South Bohemian Regions**.

The **Prague Archdiocesan Charity** continued to act as the Ministry of the Interior's partner in implementing the Programme, providing direct assistance to programme participants.

Since the Programme was launched in 2015, a total of **2,561 persons** had been resettled to the Czech Republic by **31 December 2025**. The average period spent in temporary accommodation provided by the Ministry of the Interior was **71 days**.

### 3.3 VISA POLICY

Since its full accession to the Schengen area on 21 December 2007, the Czech Republic has implemented **the EU common visa policy**. Responsibility for this area lies with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), in close cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior (MoI).

The principal legal instrument governing the common visa policy is Regulation (EU) 2018/1806 of the European Parliament and of the Council (the Visa Regulation). This Regulation establishes the list of third countries whose nationals are required to hold a visa when crossing the external borders of the Member States, as well as the list of third countries whose nationals are exempt from that requirement.

The principal 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 instruments introduced by the revised Visa Code is the **mechanism set out in Article 25a**, which provides for both positive and negative visa measures for third countries based on their level of cooperation on readmission. The European Commission regularly assesses such cooperation. In previous years, visa measures were proposed in respect of Ethiopia, The Gambia, Senegal, Bangladesh and Iraq.

In 2025, the European Commission adopted its sixth assessment report on cooperation in the area of readmission. The measures previously introduced in respect of Ethiopia and The Gambia remained unchanged, despite partial progress achieved by Ethiopia, where discussions on the possible lifting of the measures have already commenced. Previously submitted proposals concerning other countries, including Guinea, Senegal, Bangladesh, Somalia and Iraq, continued to be discussed within the Council of the European Union.

On 13 March 2024, the Council of the European Union adopted its negotiating mandate for the 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 nationals of third countries in the event of a sudden increase in irregular migration or

security risks. It was first activated in 2019 in relation to Albania and subsequently in 2022 in relation to Vanuatu.

The proposed revision introduces new grounds for triggering the suspension mechanism, including visa policy misalignment, investor citizenship schemes and hybrid threats. It also provides for more flexible activation thresholds based on individual assessments, a revised suspension procedure with extended timeframes and a new urgent procedure, as well as enhanced monitoring and reporting with a broader geographical and substantive scope. In addition, the proposal expands the grounds for suspending visa-free travel to include, for example, serious violations of human rights or international law. At the end of 2025, the proposal remained under the legislative procedure.

## 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 the **Digitalisation of Travel Documents Package**, comprising two legislative proposals: a proposal for a Regulation establishing EU Digital Travel Credentials<sup>8</sup> and a proposal for a Regulation establishing the EU Digital Travel application.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Proposal for a Council Regulation on the issuance of digital travel credentials based on identity cards and on technical standards for such credentials.

<sup>9</sup> Proposal for a Regulation establishing an application for the electronic submission of travel data (“EU Digital Travel Application”) and amending Regulations (EU) 2016/399 and (EU) 2018/1726 and Council Regulation (EC) No 2252/2004 as regards the use of digital travel credentials.

The proposals aim to introduce common standards for Digital Travel Credentials as well as a common EU Digital Travel application for mobile devices, enabling travellers to submit their travel data electronically.

A Digital Travel Credential is a digital representation of a person's identity derived from the information stored on the chip of an identity card or travel document (i.e. an already issued physical identity card or passport). The digital credential will contain the same information as the holder's physical document, including the holder's facial biometric image, but will not include fingerprints. However, even where a Digital Travel Credential has been generated through the application, travellers will still be required to carry their physical travel document when crossing the external borders.

The objective of the proposed Regulations is to facilitate faster and smoother border checks while enhancing the efficiency of border control procedures and strengthening border security.

Throughout 2025, discussions on the proposals continued within the Council of the European Union, with the aim of reaching agreement on the Council's general approach.

### 3.4.2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTEROPERABILITY ARCHITECTURE

The objective of the interoperability of EU information systems in the fields of justice and home affairs is to ensure a higher quality of information exchange among the competent authorities, enabling them to perform their tasks more effectively. Achieving this objective requires the development of new EU information systems and the adaptation of certain existing systems.

The first milestone in establishing the interoperability architecture was the launch of the **Schengen Information System (SIS)** in March 2023. In **October 2025**, the **Entry/Exit System (EES)** was successfully launched and will be progressively rolled out until **10 April 2026**. The objective of the system is to enhance internal security within the European Union and improve the effectiveness of border checks at the external borders.

Further systems to be integrated into the interoperability architecture in **2026** include **Eurodac**, **ECRIS-TCN** and **ETIAS**.

At the end of 2025, an updated implementation timetable was approved, reflecting the needs of the Member States and the **eu-LISA** Agency, as

well as the challenges related to securing sufficient financial, material and human resources. The interoperability architecture is expected to be completed by around **2030**. Its completion will enable more effective management of the external borders of the European Union, strengthen internal security, and facilitate the fight against crime as well as the exchange of information in the fields of justice and home affairs.

### 3.4.3 TEMPORARY REINTRODUCTION OF BORDER CONTROLS BY NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AT THEIR INTERNAL BORDERS WITH THE CZECH REPUBLIC

In 2024, **Germany** and **Austria** reintroduced border controls at their land borders with the Czech Republic, citing security risks related to irregular migration and migrant smuggling. The controls at the Czech-German border were extended until **March 2026**, while those at the Czech-Austrian border were extended until **June 2026**.

The frequent reintroduction of controls at internal borders has generally been criticised by several EU Member States, particularly in the context of the revision of the **Schengen Borders Code**. The revised Code, which entered into force in **July 2024**, aims to clarify the conditions for the reintroduction and prolongation of border controls and to limit the use of this instrument to exceptional situations where public security or public policy is at risk. Despite these legislative changes, however, the number of internal border controls increased, illustrating the challenge of striking a balance between ensuring security and preserving the free movement of persons within the Schengen area.

A specific situation affecting the internal borders in 2025 was the outbreak of **foot-and-mouth disease** and the associated risk of the disease being introduced from **Slovakia** and **Hungary**. Through emergency veterinary measures, the **State Veterinary Administration** introduced specific restrictions and tightened the conditions governing, inter alia, the transport of animals and animal products. Drivers of vehicles with a maximum authorised mass exceeding **3.5 tonnes** were required to use designated border crossing points when entering the Czech Republic from Slovakia and to undergo inspections of consignments of susceptible animals.

These measures did not constitute the temporary reintroduction of internal border controls within the meaning of the **Schengen Borders Code** or the **Act on the Protection of the State Borders of the Czech Republic**.

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

Since **3 July 2024**, the Czech Republic has not recognised **non-biometric travel documents issued by the Russian Federation** for the purposes of entry into or residence in its territory. Exceptions apply to **minor children** and to persons holding residence authorisation granted in the interests of the Czech Republic.

#### 3.4.5 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.

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

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 be effective and beneficial both for foreign nationals and for the host society only if it is directly linked to integration measures. An active integration policy is therefore essential.

The primary target group of the integration policy consists of **legally residing third-country nationals**. In 2025, coordination between the general integration strategy and the strategy targeting beneficiaries of temporary protection made it possible to complement one another with regard to their respective target groups. A wide range of integration measures, such as the provision of information, social and legal counselling, Czech language courses and assistance in difficult life situations,

**In 2025, 470  
adaptation and  
integration courses  
were held for 8,254  
foreigners.**

is also available to **EU citizens** and to **beneficiaries of international protection**, in addition to the services provided under the **State Integration Programme (SIP)**. As integration is a two-way process, the host society also constitutes one of the target groups of integration policy. Particular attention is paid to foreign nationals in vulnerable or dis-

advantaged situations, especially **women (both economically active women and homemakers), older foreign nationals, and children and young people with a migrant background.**

The **Ministry of the Interior** is responsible for coordinating the integration policy, while individual ministries are responsible for its implementation within their respective areas of competence. The principal strategic document is the **Concept of Integration of Foreigners in the Territory of the Czech Republic**, most recently updated in 2016. The Concept identifies five key priorities: **knowledge of the Czech language, economic self-sufficiency, orientation in society, the development of mutual relations between communities, and the gradual acquisition of rights depending on the length of residence.**

Each year, the Ministry of the Interior submits to the Government a proposal for the **Procedure for the Implementation of the Concept of Integration of Foreigners** (hereinafter referred to as the **Procedure**), which sets out the specific integration measures to be implemented by the ministries responsible for integration policy during the following year. In 2025, integration measures were based on the document **Procedure for the Implementation of the Updated Concept of Integration of Foreigners – In Mutual Respect 2025**, approved by **Government Resolution No. 930 of 11 December 2024**. In the following year, the Ministry of the Interior reports to the Government on the implementation of the Procedure as part of the **Report on the Situation in the Area of Migration and Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic.**

The integration of **beneficiaries of international protection** is addressed separately through the **State Integration Programme (SIP)**. The adaptation and integration of **holders of temporary protection** is coordinated by the **Government Body for the Adaptation and In-**

**tegration of Holders of Temporary Protection.** The activities of this body are chaired by the **Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs**, while the Executive Committee is headed by the **Government Commissioner for Human Rights**.

A key instrument supporting the integration of foreign nationals at regional level is the nationwide network of **18 Centres for the Support of the Integration of Foreigners**. These Centres monitor the situation of foreign nationals in individual regions and share relevant information with other stakeholders. They also ensure equal access to integration services and provide qualified integration support at a comparable standard across all regions of the Czech Republic. Their services include **Czech language courses, socio-cultural orientation courses, and social and legal counselling**.

Selected groups of third-country nationals are required to attend an **Adaptation and Integration Course**. The purpose of this measure is to familiarise foreign nationals with their rights and obligations and to strengthen their independence and self-reliance.

Another important instrument supporting integration at the local level consists of **municipal integration projects**. These projects help create conditions conducive to the successful integration of foreign nationals and to harmonious coexistence among all residents of the municipality. Through state subsidies, municipalities and city districts implement comprehensive integration projects tailored to local circumstances and needs. These projects are carried out in cooperation with foreign nationals and other local integration stakeholders, including the **Centres for the Support of the Integration of Foreigners, non-governmental organisations (NGOs)** and schools. NGOs also play an important role in local integration by providing, inter alia, assistance to foreign nationals at **Department for Asylum and Migration Policy (DAMP)** offices and by providing methodological supervision of the Adaptation and Integration Courses.

**The Ministry  
of the Interior  
is responsible for  
coordinating  
integration policy.**

In 2025, a total of **CZK 54,290,290** was allocated from the **State budget** to support the integration of foreign nationals under the **Concept of Integration of Foreigners**, representing an increase of **50% compared with 2024**.

### 3.6 CITIZENSHIP

In 2025, **Czech citizenship<sup>10</sup> was granted to a total of 4,610 foreigners** (an increase of 23 persons compared to the previous year), including 7 foreigners who had resided in the Czech Republic under international protection in the form of asylum.

**TABLE 9:**  
**Number of foreigners granted Czech citizenship, 2016–2025**

| Year                                           | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  | 2024  | 2025  |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Number of foreigners granted Czech citizenship | 3,897 | 5,006 | 3,757 | 2,973 | 2,656 | 4,298 | 3,949 | 4,298 | 4,330 | 4,610 |

Source: MoI

As in previous years, **Ukrainian nationals** constituted the largest group among persons who acquired **Czech citizenship by grant** in 2025, with **1,536 persons** (49 more than in 2024). They were followed by nationals of **Slovakia (1,229; 262 more than in 2024)**, the **Russian Federation (628; 355 fewer than in 2024)**, **Belarus (179; 52 more than in 2024)** and **Vietnam (156; 54 more than in 2024)**.

In 2025, the **Ministry of the Interior** registered a total of **6,412 applications for the grant of Czech citizenship** pursuant to **Section 11 of the Citizenship Act**, representing a slight year-on-year increase (**158 more applications**) compared with the previous year. This increase was attributable not only to the continuing war in Ukraine but also to the long-term growth in the number of foreign nationals holding residence permits in the Czech Republic. In 2025, in particular, the number of applications submitted by **Slovak nationals** increased significantly.

<sup>10</sup> Pursuant to Section 11 of the Citizenship Act.

**TABLE 10:**  
**Special ways of granting Czech citizenship in 2025**

| Provision of the Act on Czech Citizenship | § 28 <sup>11</sup> | § 29 <sup>12</sup> | § 30 <sup>13</sup> |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Number of persons granted citizenship     | 34                 | 1                  | 0                  |

Source: MoI

In 2025, **2,296 foreign nationals acquired Czech citizenship by declaration** under one of the declaration procedures provided for in the **Citizenship Act**,<sup>14</sup> representing an increase of **33 persons** compared with the previous year.

Among persons who acquired **Czech citizenship by declaration** pursuant to **Section 31 of the Citizenship Act** (former Czech or Czechoslovak citizens and their descendants up to the second generation), the largest groups were nationals of the **United States of America, Germany, Canada** and the **United Kingdom**.

**In 2025, Czech citizenship was granted to a total of 4,610 foreigners. A total of 6,941 people obtained citizenship.**

Among persons who acquired **Czech citizenship by declaration** pursuant to **Section 35 of the Citizenship Act** (so-called **second-generation immigrants** aged **18–21 years**), the largest groups were nationals of **Vietnam, Ukraine** and **Slovakia**.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> §§ 31–36 of Act No 186/2013 Coll., on Czech Citizenship.

Overall, **6,941 persons** acquired Czech citizenship by grant or by **declaration** in 2025, representing an increase of **61 persons** compared with 2024.

### 3.7 PROVISION OF INFORMATION FOR FOREIGNERS

**The Information 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 Czech and English. The section dedicated to persons fleeing the armed conflict in Ukraine is available in Czech and Ukrainian.

In 2025, the Information Portal for Foreigners' Facebook page, launched in September 2024, was fully operational. It provides, among other things, up-to-date information on obtaining and extending residence permits, as well as changes to the opening hours of Ministry of the Interior offices. The most important communication campaigns in 2025 included a campaign on the abolition of revenue stamps and the introduction of the payment details generator on the Information Portal for Foreigners, as well as a campaign on the rights and obligations of holders of long-term visas and residence permits for the purpose of studies. The posts with the widest reach were those informing users about legislative and other important changes. As of January 2026, the Information Portal for Foreigners' Facebook page had 7,183 followers, and during 2025 it was visited by 158,000 users.

**In 2025, the Client Centre recorded a total of 543,562 incoming calls and 28,580 answered email inquiries.**

Another key information initiative is the **Client Centre for Providing Information to Foreigners**, established in 2020, which has since served as the Ministry's principal telephone and e-mail information service for answering enquiries and providing information to foreign nationals in the Czech Republic in Czech, English and Ukrainian.

# FOREIGNERS WITH TEMPORARY PROTECTION ON THE TERRITORY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

# 4

- ▶ **A total of 393,056 persons** were residing in the Czech Republic under **temporary protection** in 2025. Relative to its population, this represented the **highest number among all EU Member States**.
- ▶ **Of the persons granted temporary protection in 2025**, 73.7% were aged 18–64 years, while 22.4% were children under 18 years of age. Women accounted for 48.3% of persons, **meaning that men outnumbered women among newly granted temporary protection cases for the first time**.
- ▶ **More than half of all working-age persons under temporary protection were employed**, most of them in low-skilled occupations.
- ▶ In 2025, **temporary protection was extended until March 2026**, while a **further extension until March 2027** was also approved.
- ▶ The Information Portal for Foreigners remained the principal source of information on temporary protection in Czech and Ukrainian. It also served as the platform through which the extension of temporary protection was carried out.

In 2025, **beneficiaries of temporary protection** continued to constitute a specific category of foreign nationals legally residing in the Czech Republic under the temporary protection regime introduced in response to the war in Ukraine. At the end of the year, there were almost 36 holders of temporary protection from Ukraine per 1,000 inhabitants, mean-

ing that they accounted for 3.6% of the population of the Czech Republic. Relative to its population, the Czech Republic continued to host the highest number of beneficiaries of temporary protection among all EU Member States.

Temporary protection was activated at EU level for the first time following the Russian invasion of Ukraine through the adoption of Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382, establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Council Directive 2001/55/EC. In response, the Czech Republic adopted a new legislative framework known as Lex Ukraine.

The adaptation and integration of holders of temporary protection was coordinated by the Government Body for the Adaptation and Integration of Holders of Temporary Protection. The body was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, while the Executive Committee was headed by the Government Commissioner for Human Rights.

Throughout 2025, Regional Assistance Centres for Assistance to Ukraine (KACPU) continued to operate in all regions of the Czech Republic, providing initial assistance to newly arriving persons. The activities of the KACPU network are coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior.

**As of 31 December 2025, a total of 393,056 beneficiaries of temporary protection were recorded in the Czech Republic.**

In 2025, temporary protection was extended until 31 March 2026. The legislation also provided for any further extension, should one be decided at the European Union level.

As in previous years, the extension of temporary protection was carried out in two stages. During the first stage, persons wishing to continue residing in the Czech Republic were required to register on-

line for the extension of temporary protection by 15 March 2025. Upon successful registration, their temporary protection was extended until 30 September 2025.

During the second stage, applicants were required to appear in person at a Ministry of the Interior office by 30 September 2025 in order to have

a visa sticker affixed. Upon affixing the visa sticker, their temporary protection was extended until 31 March 2026.

By 15 March 2025, approximately 351,000 persons had registered for the extension of temporary protection, representing 90% of all persons eligible for the extension. By 30 September 2025, Ministry of the Interior offices had affixed approximately 330,000 visa stickers, thereby extending temporary protection until March 2026. Consequently, 94% of those who had registered successfully completed the second stage of the extension procedure.

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

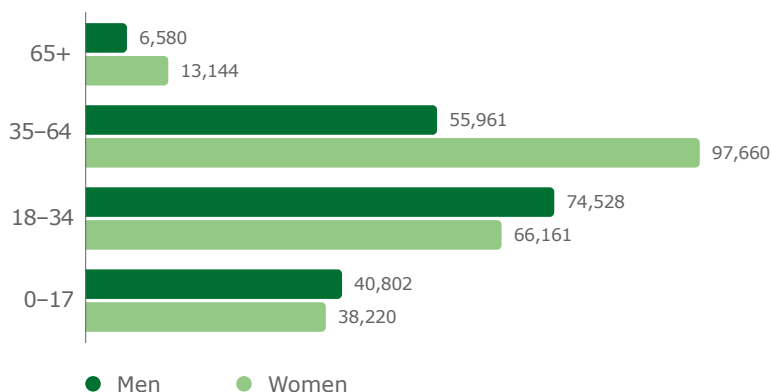
At the end of 2025, a total of **393,056 foreign nationals** were registered as holders of temporary protection in the Czech Republic, representing an increase of 1.07% compared with 2024. The Czech Republic continued to host the highest number of refugees per capita among all EU Member States.

The overwhelming majority of persons holding temporary protection in the Czech Republic were **Ukrainian nationals (392,333)**, who accounted for **99.8%** of all beneficiaries of temporary protection at the end of the year. Other nationalities represented only a negligible share (**0.2%**), most commonly nationals of the **Russian Federation (295)**, **Moldova (116)**, **Azerbaijan (44)**, **Vietnam (40)** and **Georgia (40)**. These were predominantly family members of Ukrainian nationals.

Among beneficiaries of temporary protection, women with children continued to constitute a significant proportion. Minors accounted for one fifth (20.1%) of all holders of temporary protection. As in previous years, women represented the majority (56.4%) of persons of working age at the end of 2025. However, within the 18–34 age group, men outnumbered women, with their number increasing by 27.3% (15,963 persons) compared with 2024. The main reason for this increase was a Ukrainian government measure introduced in August 2025, which allowed all young Ukrainian nationals aged 18 to 22 years to leave the country without restrictions.

## CHART 6:

### Age structure of beneficiaries of temporary protection as of 31 December 2025



Source: IS CIS

## 4.2 EMPLOYMENT OF BENEFICIARIES OF TEMPORARY PROTECTION

In 2025, a substantial part of the activities of the Labour Office of the Czech Republic continued to focus on foreign nationals residing in the Czech Republic in connection with the armed conflict in Ukraine. This included, inter alia, providing information on employment opportunities for persons from Ukraine, both beneficiaries of temporary protection and foreign nationals holding a tolerated stay visa.

In this context, employers were primarily provided with information on the conditions and possibilities for employing these persons, while foreign nationals received information mainly on available job vacancies, registration as jobseekers, retraining courses (particularly Czech language courses), labour law, and available social benefits.

At the end of 2025, the **number of employed beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine** reached **198,593**. Women accounted for more than 60% of all employment relationships. Beneficiaries of temporary protection were most frequently employed in Prague, the Central Bohemian Region and the Pilsen Region. They were employed primarily as **labourers in construction, manufacturing and transport, or as assemblers of products and equipment**.

## 4.3 AWARENESS OF BENEFICIARIES OF TEMPORARY PROTECTION

In 2025, as in previous years, the Information Portal for Foreigners served as the platform through which holders of temporary protection completed the online registration for the extension of temporary protection. In addition, the Portal was newly used in 2025 for the declaration of interest in the Special Long-term Residence Permit and, for applicants meeting all statutory requirements, for the subsequent online registration to obtain this residence permit.

In response to the ongoing armed conflict, the **Our Ukrainians Facebook page** continued to operate as a long-term platform for countering disinformation and providing verified information to beneficiaries of temporary protection. The most significant communication campaigns in 2025 focused on the extension of temporary protection, the declaration of interest in the Special Long-term Residence Permit, and the online registration process for obtaining it. The posts achieving the greatest reach concerned the Special Long-term Residence Permit, particularly the procedure for submitting a declaration of interest, the eligibility requirements and the characteristics of this residence status. As of January 2026, the page had 45,901 followers, while 1.4 million users visited it during 2025.

In June 2025, an Our Ukrainians Telegram channel was also launched in order to expand communication with the target group. As of January 2026, the Telegram channel had 6,277 followers.

In connection with the continuing armed conflict in Ukraine, the Temporary Protection Information Line (+420 974 801 802) continued to operate throughout 2025. The helpline provides information in Czech and Ukrainian, primarily to holders of and applicants for temporary protection, but also to members of the host society, including accommodation providers and employers. During 2025, the helpline consultants provided both technical and information support throughout the declaration of interest in the Special Long-term Residence Permit and the subsequent online registration process. Communication with the target group also continued via e-mail at [ukrajina@mv.gov.cz](mailto:ukrajina@mv.gov.cz).

Compared with 2024, the number of incoming calls increased by 12%, reaching 65,529, of which **55,443 calls** were answered, representing an 85% response rate. A total of **11,697 e-mails** sent to [ukrajina@mv.gov.cz](mailto:ukrajina@mv.gov.cz) were answered. The highest demand for both communication channels was recorded during the first quarter of 2025 in connection with the extension of temporary protection, followed by April, during the declaration of interest in the Special Long-term Residence Permit, and September, when online registration for obtaining the permit commenced.



# INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION<sup>15</sup>

# 5

- ▶ A total of **1,197 applications for international protection** were registered in 2025.
- ▶ The main countries of origin of applicants for international protection in 2025 were Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Vietnam.
- ▶ International protection in the form of asylum was granted to 70 applicants, most of them citizens of Myanmar, Russia and Venezuela.
- ▶ **Subsidiary protection** was granted in **127 cases**. It was granted most frequently to **Ukrainian nationals**, followed by nationals of the **Russian Federation** and **Yemen**.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

- ▶ In 2025, a total of **108 eligible persons** entered the **State Integration Programme (SIP)** for beneficiaries of international protection. During the year, **77 Individual Integration Plans (IIPs)** were concluded for a total of 97 persons.
- ▶ In 2025, the Czech Republic recorded **776 Dublin cases**. A total of 100 Dublin transfers to the Czech Republic and **104 Dublin transfers** from the Czech Republic were carried out.

## 5.1 APPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Compared to most EU+ countries,<sup>16</sup> the Czech Republic continues to receive significantly lower numbers of applicants for international protection. In 2025, the Czech Republic ranked 23rd among destination countries for such applicants.

**TABLE 11:**  
**Number of applicants for international protection in the Czech Republic, 2016–2025**

| Year                    | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  | 2024  | 2025  |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Number of applicants    | 1,478 | 1,450 | 1,701 | 1,922 | 1,164 | 1,411 | 1,694 | 1,425 | 1,363 | 1,197 |
| Year-on-year change (%) | -3.1  | -1.9  | 17.3  | 13.0  | -39.4 | 21.2  | 20.1  | -15.9 | -4.4  | -12.2 |

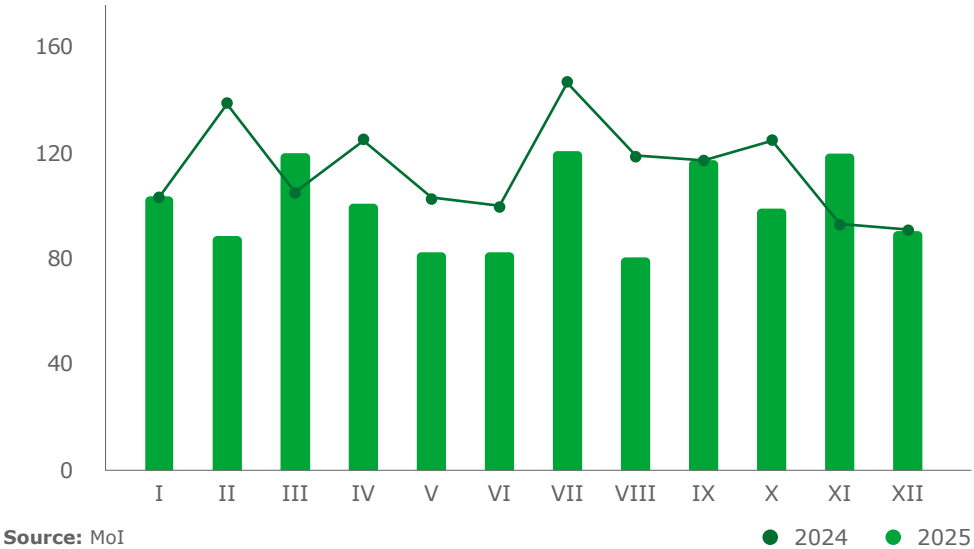
Source: MoI

Of the total **1,197** applications for international protection lodged in 2025, 937 were first-time applications. The share of first-time applications increased year-on-year to 78.3%; however, in absolute terms, this represented 97 fewer applications than in the previous year. A total of 260 subsequent applications were recorded. The highest numbers

<sup>16</sup> I.e., the European Union Member States along with Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

of first-time applications were lodged by nationals of **Vietnam (172)**, **Ukraine (138)**, **Uzbekistan (92)**, **Moldova (61)** and the **Russian Federation (53)**.

**CHART 7:**  
**Number of applications for international protection by month – comparison 2024/2025**



In 2025, applicants from 70 countries sought international protection in the Czech Republic. Stateless applicants submitted 5 applications.

Compared with the previous year, the ranking of the most common nationalities of applicants changed. While Uzbekistan ranked first in 2024, it moved to third place in 2025. However, the composition of the ten most frequently represented countries remained unchanged. The only difference was that Azerbaijan, which had shared tenth place with Syria in the previous year, dropped out of the top ten.

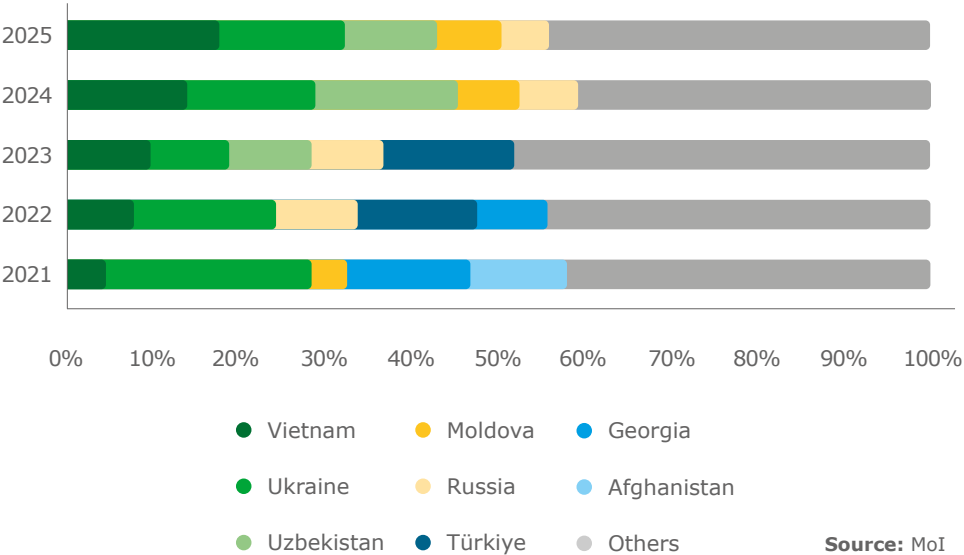
**TABLE 12:****Applicants for international protection by citizenship – comparison 2024/2025**

| Citizenship                                        | 2024                 |            |          | 2025                 |            |          | Change from the previous period |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|----------|----------------------|------------|----------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
|                                                    | Number of applicants | i.e. %     | Ranking  | Number of applicants | i.e. %     | Ranking  | i.e. %                          | Absolute figure |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>1,363</b>         | <b>100</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>1,197</b>         | <b>100</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>-12.2</b>                    | <b>-62</b>      |
| <b>of which TOP 10 (ranked according to 2025):</b> |                      |            |          |                      |            |          |                                 |                 |
| Vietnam                                            | 186                  | 13.6       | 3.       | 210                  | 17.5       | 1.       | 12.9                            | 24              |
| Ukraine                                            | 205                  | 15         | 2.       | 172                  | 14.4       | 2.       | -16.1                           | -33             |
| Uzbekistan                                         | 224                  | 16.4       | 1.       | 132                  | 11.0       | 3.       | -41.1                           | -92             |
| Moldova                                            | 87                   | 6.4        | 6.       | 86                   | 7.2        | 4.       | -1.1                            | -1              |
| Russia                                             | 91                   | 6.7        | 5.       | 65                   | 5.4        | 5.       | -28.6                           | -26             |
| Türkiye                                            | 99                   | 7.3        | 4.       | 62                   | 5.2        | 6.       | -37.4                           | -37             |
| Georgia                                            | 47                   | 3.4        | 7.       | 41                   | 3.4        | 7.       | -12.8                           | -6              |
| Kazakhstan                                         | 35                   | 2.6        | 9.       | 35                   | 2.9        | 8.       | 0.0                             | 0               |
| Nigeria                                            | 37                   | 2.7        | 8.       | 30                   | 2.5        | 9.       | -18.9                           | -7              |
| Syria                                              | 32                   | 2.3        | 10.      | 27                   | 2.3        | 10.      | -15.6                           | -5              |

**Source:** MoI

**CHART 8:**

**Share of the Top 5 nationalities of applicants for international protection in the total number of applications, 2021–2025**



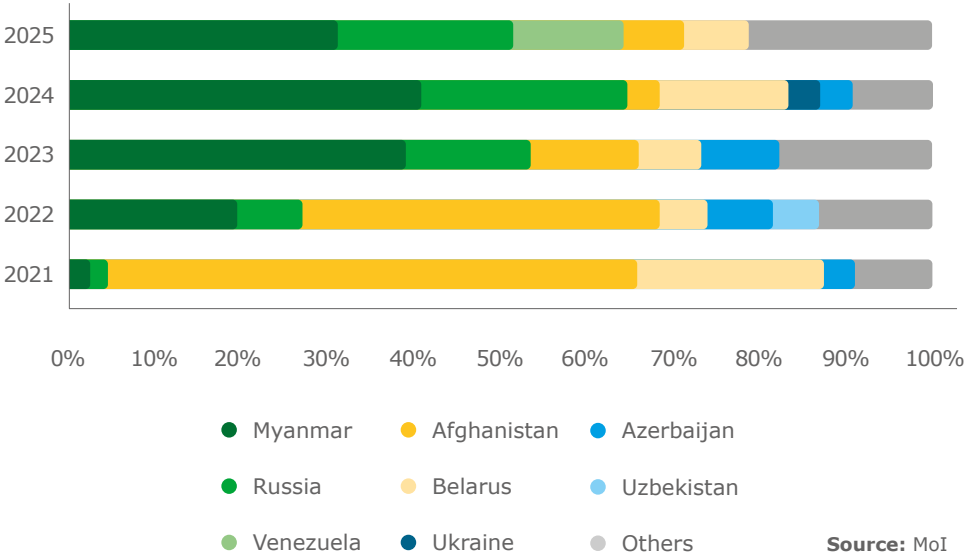
**5.2 INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION PROCEEDINGS**

In 2025, the Ministry of the Interior issued a total of 1,222 decisions in international protection proceedings and 471 decisions on the extension of subsidiary protection. As of the end of 2025, 627 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 197 foreign nationals.**

**CHART 9:**

**Most frequent citizenships granted asylum, 2021–2025**

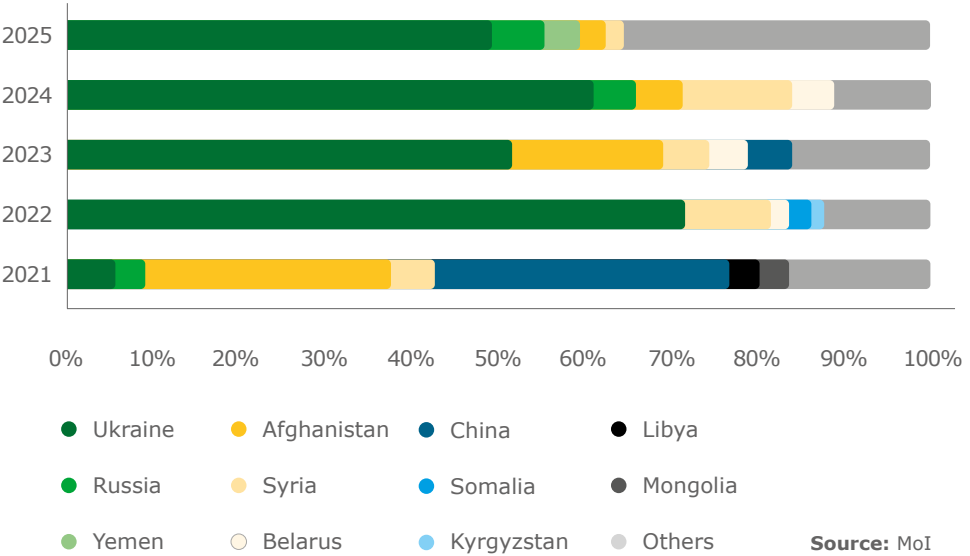


**In 2025, asylum was granted to 70 applicants.** The largest group comprised nationals of Myanmar, who were granted asylum in 22 cases, followed by nationals of the Russian Federation (14) and Venezuela (9). Nationals of Myanmar have accounted for the highest number of grants of asylum over the past three years. In 2021 and 2022, an increased number of grants of asylum was recorded for Afghan nationals, reflecting the political situation in Afghanistan.

**In 2025, subsidiary protection was granted in 127 cases.** It was granted most frequently to nationals of **Ukraine (86)**, followed by the **Russian Federation (11)**, **Yemen (7)**, **Afghanistan (5)** and **Syria (4)**. The period 2022–2025 saw a significant increase in grants of subsidiary protection to Ukrainian nationals as a result of the armed conflict in Ukraine.

**CHART 10:**

**Most frequent citizenships granted subsidiary protection, 2021–2025**



**Subsidiary protection was extended** in 471 cases, representing six fewer cases than in the previous year, and thus remaining relatively stable.

During 2025, a total of **571 negative decisions** (46.7%) were issued in international protection procedures, either refusing to grant international protection or rejecting the application as manifestly unfounded. Proceedings were discontinued in 454 cases (37.2%).

**In 2025, the recognition rate for international protection amounted to 25.7%** of all decisions on the merits (i.e. all decisions excluding discontinuation of the proceedings). The overall recognition rate in 2024 was 25% of all merit decisions (excluding discontinued cases).

**TABLE 13:**  
**Granted asylum in 2025**  
**by citizenship**

| Citizenship  | Asylum granted | i.e. %       |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Myanmar      | 22             | 31.4         |
| Russia       | 14             | 20.0         |
| Venezuela    | 9              | 12.9         |
| Afghanistan  | 5              | 7.1          |
| Belarus      | 5              | 7.1          |
| Ukraine      | 4              | 5.7          |
| Cuba         | 3              | 4.3          |
| Türkiye      | 2              | 2.9          |
| Iran         | 1              | 1.4          |
| Kazakhstan   | 1              | 1.4          |
| Tajikistan   | 1              | 1.4          |
| Uzbekistan   | 1              | 1.4          |
| Vietnam      | 1              | 1.4          |
| Yemen        | 1              | 1.4          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>70</b>      | <b>100,0</b> |

Source: MoI

**TABLE 14:**  
**Granted subsidiary protection**  
**in 2025 by citizenship**

| Citizenship  | Subsidiary protection granted | i.e. %       |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Ukraine      | 86                            | 67.7         |
| Russia       | 11                            | 8.7          |
| Yemen        | 7                             | 5.5          |
| Afghanistan  | 5                             | 3.9          |
| Syria        | 4                             | 3.1          |
| Belarus      | 2                             | 1.6          |
| Iran         | 2                             | 1.6          |
| Bangladesh   | 2                             | 1.6          |
| Venezuela    | 1                             | 0.8          |
| Cameroon     | 1                             | 0.8          |
| Moldova      | 1                             | 0.8          |
| Mongolia     | 1                             | 0.8          |
| Nigeria      | 1                             | 0.8          |
| Rwanda       | 1                             | 0.8          |
| Turkmenistan | 1                             | 0.8          |
| stateless    | 1                             | 0.8          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>127</b>                    | <b>100.0</b> |

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 2025, a total of **1,037 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, Moldova, and Russia** entered the facilities.

The capacity of reception and accommodation centres was used at an average rate of **26%** in 2025, including all registered persons. Applicants for international protection accommodated in an accommodation centre may, upon request, leave the centre on a long-term basis. In 2025, this option was used on average by 36.1% of registered applicants for international protection.

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

In 2025, **28 persons** were accommodated in the **Integration Asylum Centre (IAC)**.

## 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 Interior<sup>17</sup>** 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 2025, a total of 108 eligible persons entered the State Integration Programme (SIP)**, representing an increase of two persons compared with 2024. During the year, 77 individual integration plans were concluded for 97 persons, with a total of CZK 5,012,000 allocated from the state budget for their implementation.

In addition to the implementation of an individual educational plan, the SIP also provides assistance to persons accommodated in healthcare facilities or registered social service institutions. In such cases, the costs

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<sup>17</sup> This role is also assigned by the amendment of the aforementioned Act (Act No. 222/2017 Coll.), which entered into force in August 2017.

of their accommodation are fully covered from SIP funds for the entire duration of their stay. In 2025, accommodation was provided in this manner for seven persons, at a total cost of CZK 1.99 million.

**TABLE 15:**  
**SIP beneficiaries in 2025 by citizenship**

| Citizenship | Number | Citizenship  | Number     |
|-------------|--------|--------------|------------|
| Ukraine     | 42     | Bangladesh   | 1          |
| Russia      | 16     | Kazakhstan   | 1          |
| Myanmar     | 12     | Moldova      | 1          |
| Venezuela   | 10     | Nigeria      | 1          |
| Afghanistan | 7      | Rwanda       | 1          |
| Belarus     | 3      | Türkiye      | 1          |
| Cuba        | 3      | Turkmenistan | 1          |
| Iran        | 2      | Uzbekistan   | 1          |
| Yemen       | 2      | Vietnam      | 1          |
| Cameroon    | 2      | <b>Total</b> | <b>108</b> |

Source: MoI

## 5.5 APPLICATION OF THE DUBLIN REGULATION<sup>18</sup>

The implementation of the Dublin system remained stable in 2025, with no significant developments or changes. The Czech Republic continued to be primarily a transit country rather than a destination country.

In 2025, the Czech Republic recorded a total of **776 Dublin cases** (i.e. incoming and outgoing requests), representing a decrease of approximately one quarter compared with the previous year.

<sup>18</sup> 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 11:**  
**Development of Dublin cases, 2016–2025<sup>19</sup>**



During 2025, the Czech Republic received a total of 431 requests from other Member States: 152 requests for taking back<sup>20</sup> and 279 requests for taking charge.<sup>21</sup> The majority of requests came from **Germany** (170), **France** (90), **Belgium** (33), and **Austria** (31). These requests mostly concerned nationals of Ukraine (46), Türkiye (40), India (26), and Mongolia (26).

<sup>19</sup> From 2012 through 2015, requests for information were not included in the statistics on Dublin cases.

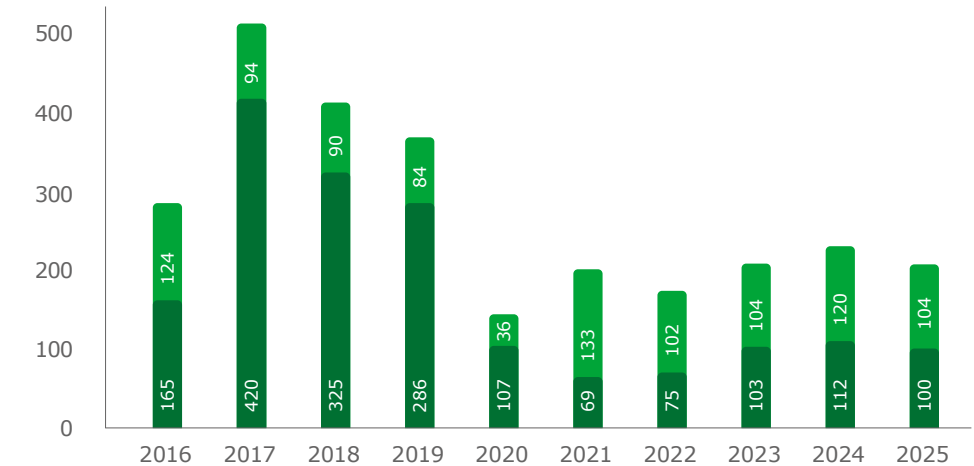
<sup>20</sup> A request to take back a foreign national is submitted by a Member State, in which the foreign national is now staying and in which he or she filed an application for international protection, and this request is addressed to that EU Member State, which is already examining the applications 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.

<sup>21</sup> 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 2025, the Czech Republic sent a total of 345 requests to other Member States to take charge or take back individuals. The main recipient countries were **Germany** (77), **France** (43), and **Croatia** (27). Compared with 2024, France moved up to second place, replacing Croatia. Outgoing requests primarily concerned applicants for international protection and foreign nationals from Uzbekistan (61), Vietnam (30) and Russia (29).

CHART 12:

Transfers to and from the Czech Republic, 2016–2025



Source: MoI      ● Transfers to the Czech Republic      ● Transfers from the Czech Republic



# UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

# 6

- ▶ In 2025, a total of **36 unaccompanied minors** came into contact with the **Authority for Social and Legal Protection of Children (OSPOD)**.
- ▶ In 2025, the **Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs** issued methodological guidance on ensuring protection for unaccompanied minors arriving from Ukraine.

## 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 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).

**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.**

In 2025, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs issued Methodological Guidance on Ensuring Protection for Unaccompanied Minors Arriving from Ukraine, with the aim of harmonising the procedures of the Authorities for Social and Legal Protection of Children (OSPOD) across all regions and ensuring appropriate protection of the rights of unaccompanied minors arriving from Ukraine. The guidance was distributed to all OSPOD offices through the regional authorities and is also available on the website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

In 2025, a total of **36 unaccompanied minors** came into contact with OSPOD, including 31 boys and 5 girls. According to OSPOD records, 27 were Ukrainian nationals, the vast majority of whom were aged over 15 years. Other countries of origin of unaccompanied foreign minors included Syria, Egypt, the Philippines, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia and Somalia.

**No unaccompanied minor applied for international protection in 2025.**

**TABLE 16:**  
**Number of unaccompanied minor foreigners who applied for international protection in the period 2016–2025**

| Year                                                                 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of unaccompanied minors applying for international protection | 4    | 7    | 10   | 8    | 7    | 6    | 1    | 2    | 5    | 0    |

Source: DAMP and ZDC

## 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 Sports 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 2025, **31 presumed victims of human trafficking** from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine and Colombia 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 set-up 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 2025, a total of 31 persons were admitted to the Programme as presumed victims of trafficking in human beings, including 7 women and 24 men,** in all cases in connection with labour, sexual or other forms of exploitation in the Czech Republic. With the exception of one woman from Ukraine, one woman from Colombia and one male Slovak national, all participants were Czech nationals. During the year, six persons left the Programme (four Czech nationals, one Ukrainian national and one Philippine national).

**The primary objective of the Programme is to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in human beings. The Programme offers victims of this serious crime accommodation, psychosocial and healthcare support, interpreting services, legal assistance, legal representation, assistance in finding employment, support in regularising their residence status, and, where requested, assistance with a safe and dignified voluntary return to their country of origin.** At the same time, the Programme also aims to obtain relevant information on the criminal environment that may contribute to the detection, prosecution and conviction of offenders.

## **7.2 PREVENTIVE ACTIVITIES AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS IN 2025**

**Protecting Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic from crime, including trafficking in human beings, remained one of the Government's key priorities.** Over the past three years, particular emphasis has been placed on assessing their vulnerability in the labour market, especially in cases where the employer also provided accommodation. In this context, the inspection activities of the competent public authorities were further strengthened, support was provided for preventive awareness-raising campaigns, and the social work and other integration activities carried out by the relevant non-governmental organisations were further intensified.

As regards 2025, the security situation in the vicinity of industrial zones was considered to have stabilised. The Crime Prevention Assistant project has made a significant contribution to improving the situation in several of the monitored industrial zones, including Plzeň, Tachov and Mladá Boleslav.

# INTERNATIONAL COOP- ERATION AND PROJECTS CONCERNING MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

# 8

- ▶ Migration developments in 2025 were significantly affected by the consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and increasing migratory pressures resulting from the growing number of conflicts worldwide.
- ▶ Since 2015, the Ministry of the Interior has been implementing the **Aid in Place Programme** (Programme of the Ministry of the Interior for Assistance to Refugees in Regions of Origin and Prevention of Large-Scale Migration Movements). The budget of the Aid in Place Programme amounted to **CZK 150 million** in 2025. In line with the priorities set for 2025, **seven projects** were supported in Chad, Libya, Mauritania, Greece, Sudan and Syria. As in previous years, particular attention was paid during the selection and implementation of projects to vulnerable groups, especially children and adolescents. The Aid in Place Programme also provided assistance to Ukraine in 2025.
- ▶ The **MEDEVAC** Programme continued to operate in 2025, providing specialised medical care to vulnerable population groups in regions affected by refugee crises or natural disasters. Eleven Czech hospitals participated in the implementation of **16 medical missions in Ghana, Jordan, Lebanon, Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Senegal, Ukraine and Zambia**. During the year, 388 persons from Ghana, Iraq, Rwanda, Senegal, Ukraine and Zambia received training in six medical specialisations. The budget of the MEDEVAC Programme amounted to **CZK 60 million in 2025**.

- ▶ As **part of emergency assistance to Ukraine**, support totalling **CZK 32 million** was provided. This included the delivery of medical supplies and equipment, the organisation of medical missions in Ukraine, educational activities in the Czech Republic, and financial support for international organisations.

## 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 2025, 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 continuing military aggression of the **Russian** Federation resulted in a high number of internally displaced persons in Ukraine<sup>22</sup> and the arrival of additional displaced persons in the European Union. Developments in Ukraine therefore remained a key issue shaping the overall framework of the Czech Republic's international cooperation in the field of migration. The main focus was on supporting the stabilisation of internally displaced persons in Ukraine and strengthening the capacities of host countries to accommodate persons arriving from Ukraine, including ensuring adequate financial, material and technical assistance. At the **Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council** meeting on **13 June 2025**, Ministers of

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<sup>22</sup> According to IOM statistics, there were a total of 3.7 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine at the end of 2025.

the Interior agreed to extend temporary protection for persons fleeing the Russian aggression until **4 March 2027**. Throughout 2025, discussions continued at both EU and national level on the future of the temporary protection instrument, including possible transitions to alternative residence statuses. In this context, the **Special Long-Term Residence Permit** was introduced in the Czech Republic under **Lex Ukraine VII**, allowing holders of temporary protection to apply for this new residence status for the first time in 2025.

Despite the improvement in the regional migration situation in 2025, the Czech Republic continued to monitor developments closely and remained actively engaged, particularly in efforts to combat irregular migration along the **Western Balkans route**. In addition to measures implemented directly in the region, the Czech Republic participated in discussions with neighbouring countries and countries located along the Western Balkans route in order to coordinate border protection measures and reduce migratory pressure, both bilaterally and within regional frameworks such as the **Visegrad Group (V4) plus Austria and Germany** and the **Salzburg Forum**.

As the **Chair of the Salzburg Forum**, the Czech Republic organised a **Ministerial Conference** in September 2025 focusing, inter alia, on the further implementation of the reform of the European migration and asylum policy. The conference resulted in the adoption of a **Joint Min-**

**isterial Declaration**, in which the Ministers of the Salzburg Forum countries expressed their support for continuing the migration reform, including the operationalisation of innovative solutions and enhanced cooperation with third countries, particularly in the field of returns.

**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.**

The Czech Republic also remained actively involved in regional activities through the **International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)**, particularly by participating in regional migration dialogues, including the **Rabat Process, Khartoum Process,**

**Budapest Process** and **Prague Process**, which served as platforms for presenting Czech priorities, strengthening partnerships and promoting the country's long-term objectives in relation to third countries. The Czech Republic also actively participated in several senior officials' meetings held within these processes.

In 2025, the Czech Republic continued to chair the **Steering Committee of the Prague Process**, working together with the **ICMPD Secretariat** on the implementation of the **2023–2027 Action Plan**, adopted during the Ministerial Conference held under the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union. As part of the implementation process, the Czech Republic, together with **Moldova**, assumed co-leadership of activities under the thematic component focusing on **readmission cooperation, voluntary return and sustainable reintegration**. In 2026, as Chair of the Prague Process, the Czech Republic will lead the preparation of the updated **2028–2032 Action Plan** and **Ministerial Declaration**, which are expected to be adopted at the Ministerial Conference in **Vilnius** in January 2027.

The Czech Republic also continued to contribute actively to the work of the **European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)**. It participated in regular meetings of the **EUAA Management Board** and other expert meetings. In 2025, the Czech Republic deployed **six experts** to EUAA support missions in **Germany, Italy, Romania and Cyprus**, where they worked in the areas of **applicant registration, information provision, Dublin procedures and workflow management**. The EUAA also organised training activities attended by **13 Czech experts**, covering **applicant registration, communication, interviewing techniques, Dublin procedures and country of origin information (COI)**.

## 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.

**In 2025, the Aid in Place programme had a budget of CZK 150 million.**

**The budget of the Aid in Place Programme amounted to CZK 150 million in 2025.** Under the Programme, seven projects were supported in Chad, Libya, Mauritania, Greece, Sudan and Syria. The financial contribution to Greece was provided as the Czech Republic's con-

tribution under the European Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism, established following the Solidarity Declaration adopted by the majority of EU Member States, including the Czech Republic, on 22 June 2022. As in previous years, particular attention was paid during the selection and implementation of projects to vulnerable groups, especially children and adolescents.

In addition, the Aid in Place Programme continued to provide assistance to Ukraine in 2025 under the Programme of Humanitarian, Stabilisation, Reconstruction and Economic Assistance to Ukraine for 2023–2025 (Ukraine Programme). In 2025, the Aid in Place Programme supported the implementation of three projects in Ukraine, with a total allocation of CZK 75 million.

**In 2025, the Aid in Place programme supported the implementation of 3 projects in Ukraine for an amount of CZK 75 million.**

**TABLE 17:****List of donations from the Aid in Place programme in 2025**

|                                                                              | Country    | Purpose of the Grant                                                                                        | Implementing Partner                                          | Amount           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Priority No. 1:<br>Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkans migration route | Greece     | Support for border protection and the prevention of irregular migration and trafficking in human beings     | International Organization for Migration (IOM)                | CZK 25 million   |
|                                                                              | Syria      | Support for internally displaced persons and returnees in Syria                                             | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)         | CZK 25 million   |
| Priority No. 2:<br>Central Mediterranean migration route                     | Chad       | Support for Sudanese refugees in Chad                                                                       | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)         | CZK 12.5 million |
|                                                                              | Libya      | Support for voluntary returns and the fight against trafficking in human beings                             | International Organization for Migration (IOM)                | CZK 25 million   |
|                                                                              | Libya      | Development of the border management and protection system – continuation of the project                    | International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) | CZK 12.5 million |
|                                                                              | Sudan      | Support for ensuring food security for the population of Sudan                                              | World Food Programme (WFP)                                    | CZK 25 million   |
| Priority No. 3:<br>Western Mediterranean migration route                     | Mauritania | Stabilisation of refugees from Mali                                                                         | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)         | CZK 25 million   |
| Assistance to Ukraine                                                        |            | Continuation of support for humanitarian demining                                                           | HALO Trust                                                    | CZK 25 million   |
|                                                                              |            | Support for a pilot solution for economic recovery and reintegration in the Dnipropetrovsk region           | International Organization for Migration (IOM)                | CZK 25 million   |
|                                                                              |            | Increasing capacities to assist displaced Ukrainian citizens and ensuring their safe international mobility | International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) | CZK 25 milli     |

Source: MoI

## 8.2.2 PERMANENT MEDICAL HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME MEDEVAC

**MEDEVAC** czech **MEDEVAC is a governmental medical humanitarian programme of the Czech Re-**

**public 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 2025, 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 2025 amounted to CZK 60 million.

**In 2025,  
the MEDEVAC  
programme was  
active in Jordan,  
Lebanon, Iraq,  
Ghana, Côte  
d'Ivoire, Senegal,  
Rwanda, Zambia  
and Ukraine.**

### 8.2.2.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDEVAC PROGRAMME IN 2025:

- ▶ **Eleven Czech hospitals participated in the implementation of the Programme:** Brno University Hospital, Bulovka University Hospital, Královské Vinohrady University Hospital, Motol University Hospital, Thomayer University Hospital, Olomouc University Hospital, Ostrava University Hospital, Institute for Clinical and Experimental Medicine (IKEM), Central Military Hospital, General University Hospital in Prague, and Na Homolce Hospital.
- ▶ **During 16 medical missions,** Czech healthcare professionals performed a total of 916 surgical procedures on 852 patients in Ghana, Jordan, Lebanon, Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Senegal, Ukraine and

Zambia, in the fields of gynaecology, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology (ENT), plastic surgery and traumatology.

- ▶ During internships, training courses and medical missions, 388 health-care professionals from Ghana, Iraq, Rwanda, Senegal, Ukraine and Zambia received training in six medical specialisations: anaesthesiology, gynaecology, infectious diseases, otorhinolaryngology (ENT), plastic surgery and traumatology.

### **8.2.2.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF URGENT AID TO UKRAINE**

Pursuant to Government Resolution No. 855 of 12 October 2022 on the provision of emergency assistance to Ukraine, the MEDEVAC Programme provided extraordinary assistance to Ukraine through the delivery of medical supplies and equipment, the organisation of medical missions in Ukraine, educational activities (internships and training) in the Czech Republic, and financial support for international organisations. In 2025, assistance provided under the MEDEVAC Programme totalled CZK 32 million.

- ▶ During five medical missions in the fields of reconstructive micro-surgery, burn treatment and traumatology, teams from Královské Vinohrady University Hospital and the General University Hospital in Prague performed surgery on a total of 97 patients. These missions also included the training of Ukrainian healthcare professionals, who had the opportunity to participate in the surgical procedures.
- ▶ During 2025, seven internships were organised in the Czech Republic, providing training to 21 Ukrainian healthcare professionals in the fields of paediatric oncology, physiotherapy, ophthalmology and traumatology. In addition, 77 healthcare professionals received training in infectious diseases during a training programme held in Lviv, Ukraine, in cooperation with the Institute for Clinical and Experimental Medicine (IKEM).

- ▶ In total, the MEDEVAC Programme supported five projects, primarily implemented with Ukrainian partners, focusing mainly on strengthening Ukraine's healthcare infrastructure. These included, for example, a project of the National Institute of Mental Health aimed at supporting the mental health of people affected by the war in Ukraine.
- ▶ During 2025, four projects received financial support under the MEDEVAC Programme:
  - ▶ **Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation** – improving access to healthcare, supporting internally displaced persons, returnees and other vulnerable groups in accessing the labour market, and contributing to the long-term strengthening of Ukraine's healthcare infrastructure (CZK 5 million).
  - ▶ **European Ukrainian Council for Cooperation and Development** – psychological support and prevention of burnout among nursing staff at the Volyn Regional Clinical Hospital (CZK 5 million).
  - ▶ **Health Solutions for Open Society** – primary healthcare in the Chernihiv region, workforce sustainability and mobile healthcare services (CZK 5 million).
  - ▶ **Peaceful Heaven of Kharkiv** – mobile health clinics providing healthcare and psychosocial support to internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups in the Dnipropetrovsk region (CZK 5 million).





# ILLEGAL MIGRATION

# 9

- ▶ In the course of 2025, a total of **10,838 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.
- ▶ In 2025, the **temporary reintroduction of internal border** controls by Germany at the Czech–German border and by Austria at the Czech–Austrian border was extended once again.
- ▶ The number of persons apprehended in connection with **transit irregular migration**, as well as the number of migrant smugglers, declined significantly.

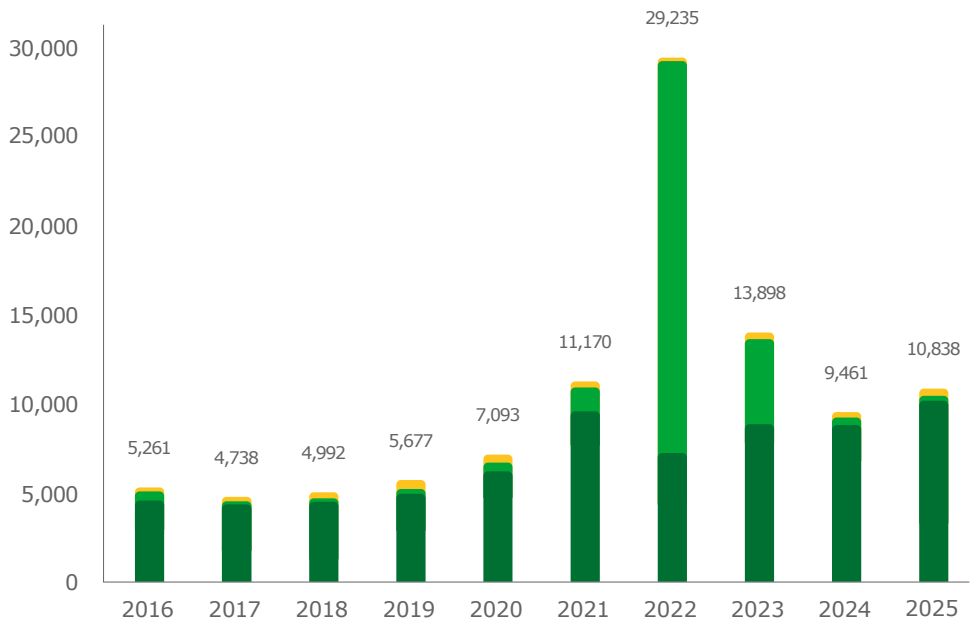
## 9.1 ILLEGAL MIGRATION WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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 13:**  
**Development of irregular migration in 2016–2025**

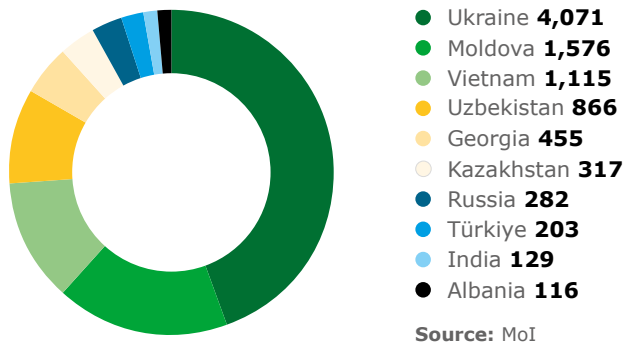


**Source:** DFPS

- Irregular stay
- Transit irregular migration
- Irregular migration via external Schengen border

**CHART 14:**

**Irregular migration in 2025 by citizenship**



**Temporary reintroduction of internal border controls of the Czech Republic**

During 2025, the internal border controls reintroduced by Germany at the Czech–German border and by Austria at the Czech–Austrian border were extended once again.<sup>23</sup>

**Transit illegal migration**

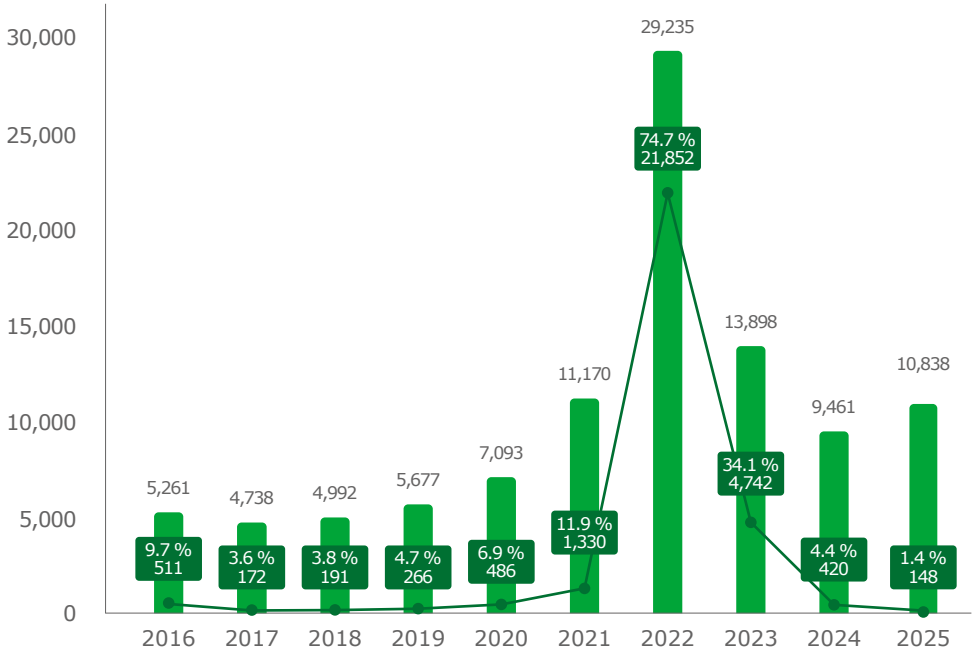
**Transit irregular migration**, as a separate subcategory of irregular stay, has been monitored statistically since mid-2015, i.e. since the previous migration wave. Foreign nationals (third-country nationals) who enter the Czech Republic irregularly by land, through an internal Schengen border, or by air on intra-Schengen flights intend to use the Czech Republic solely as a transit country. Their destination is another EU/ Schengen country, particularly neighbouring Germany.

In 2025, the downward trend in transit irregular migration observed over the previous two years continued. A total of **148 persons** were detected, representing a year-on-year decrease of **272 persons (–64.8%)**.

<sup>23</sup> 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 share of this subcategory in total irregular migration fell further to **1.4%**. At the same time, this was the lowest number of persons detected since this subcategory began to be monitored separately in 2015. The continuing decline resulted from the overall reduction in migratory pressure along the **Western Balkans route** (down by **42% year-on-year**, according to Frontex data), changes in the political and security situation in **Syria**, the main country of origin in previous years, and the tightening of Germany's migration policy as the principal destination country.

**CHART 15:**  
**Share of transit illegal migration within overall migration, 2016–2025**



**Source:** DFPS      ● Share of total irregular migration      ● Transit irregular migration

**TABLE 18:**  
**Illegal stay in the Czech Republic by citizenship – comparison**  
**2024/2025**

| Year                              | 2024  | i.e. % | 2025   | i.e. % | Year-on-year change |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|---------------------|-----------------|
|                                   |       |        |        |        | Change in %         | Absolute figure |
| Total                             | 9,159 | 100.0  | 10,438 | 100.0  | 14.0                | 1,279           |
| of which TOP 10 (ranked by 2025): |       |        |        |        |                     |                 |
| Ukraine                           | 3,653 | 39.9   | 4,052  | 38.8   | 10.9                | 399             |
| Moldova                           | 1,377 | 15.0   | 1,544  | 14.8   | 12.1                | 167             |
| Vietnam                           | 665   | 7.3    | 1,108  | 10.6   | 66.6                | 443             |
| Uzbekistan                        | 637   | 7.0    | 824    | 7.9    | 29.4                | 187             |
| Georgia                           | 444   | 4.8    | 386    | 3.7    | -13.1               | -58             |
| Kazakhstan                        | 225   | 2.5    | 314    | 3.0    | 39.6                | 89              |
| Russia                            | 225   | 2.5    | 276    | 2.6    | 22.7                | 51              |
| Türkiye                           | 166   | 1.8    | 189    | 1.8    | 13.9                | 23              |
| India                             | 84    | 0.9    | 118    | 1.1    | 40.5                | 34              |
| China                             | 48    | 0.5    | 102    | 1.0    | 112.5               | 54              |

Source: DFPS

## 9.2 CRIMINAL OFFENSES RELATED TO ILLEGAL MIGRATION

In connection with irregular migration, a total of **30 foreign nationals** and **15 Czech nationals** were prosecuted in 2025. The offences included **violent crossing of the state border** (Section 339 of the Criminal Code), **organising and facilitating the unlawful crossing of the state border** (Section 340), **facilitating unauthorised stay in the territory of the Czech Republic** (Section 341), and **violations of regulations governing international flights** (Section 343). Compared with 2024, the number of prosecuted persons increased by **10 Czech nationals** and **14 foreign nationals**.



# RETURNS

# 10

- ▶ In 2025, a total of **6,578 administrative decisions on return** were recorded, of which **4,691 were final decisions on administrative expulsion** and **1,887 were decisions imposing an obligation to leave the territory**.
- ▶ In the area of voluntary returns, **assisted voluntary return programmes 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 2025, a total of **1,090 voluntary returns of third-country nationals were carried out**. Of this number, 1,002 assisted voluntary returns of third-country nationals were carried out by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, 56 assisted voluntary returns of applicants for international protection were carried out by SUZ, and 32 were carried out by IOM.
- ▶ Most people were returned to **Vietnam, Moldova, and Uzbekistan**.
- ▶ In 2024, **4,691 foreigners were issued administrative expulsion decisions**.

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.

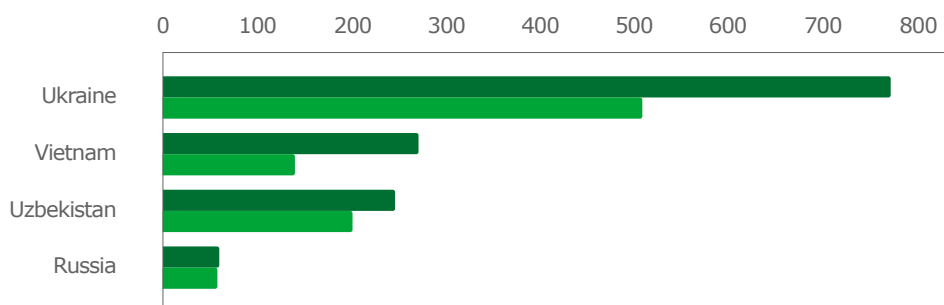
In 2025, a total of **6,578 administrative decisions on return** were recorded. An administrative decision on return may take the form of an obligation to leave the territory or an administrative expulsion decision.

### 10.1.1 DECISION ON THE OBLIGATION TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY<sup>24</sup>

In 2025, a total of **1,887 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 452 individuals, i.e. a year-on-year increase of almost one third.

#### CHART 16:

#### Decisions imposing the obligation to leave the territory by citizenship – comparison 2024–2025



Source: MoI

● 2024 ● 2025

### 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 2025, 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)<sup>25</sup> and they were granted a visa for a stay longer than 90 days for the purpose of leave to remain in the country.<sup>26</sup>

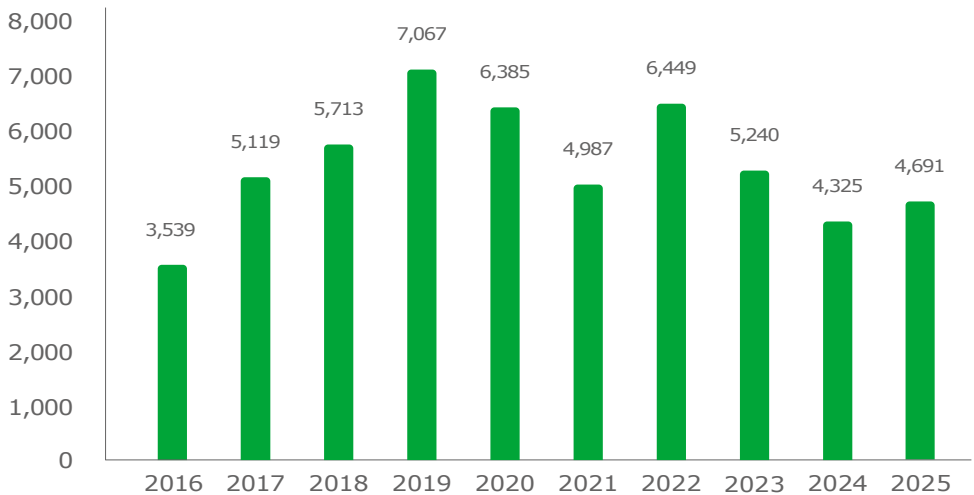
<sup>24</sup> The institution of a decision on the obligation to leave the country was introduced in connection with the Return Directive in January 2011 and was defined in Section 50a of Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals

<sup>25</sup> Procedure according to Section 120a of the Act on the Residence of Foreigners.

<sup>26</sup> Pursuant to Section 33 of the Act on the Residence of Foreigners.

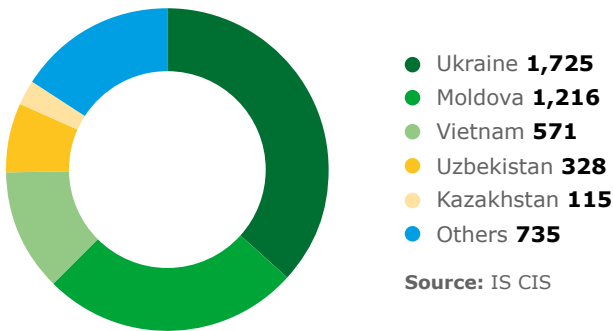
A total of **4,691 foreign nationals were issued administrative expulsion decisions in 2025**,<sup>27</sup> representing a decrease of 366 individuals.

**CHART 17:**  
**Number of foreign nationals with issued final decisions on administrative expulsion, 2016–2025**



Source: DFPS

**CHART 18:**  
**Foreign nationals with issued decisions on administrative expulsion in 2025**



Source: IS CIS

<sup>27</sup> The number of persons registered in the IS CIS as of 31 December 2025.

In 2025, a total of **4,691 final administrative expulsion decisions** were recorded.<sup>28</sup>

As in 2024, the main reasons for administrative expulsion were over-stays 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.<sup>29</sup>

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

In 2025, **the penalty of expulsion was imposed on 942 individuals**<sup>30</sup> (a year-on-year decrease of 96 individuals, i.e. -9.2 %), most frequently on nationals of Ukraine (209), Romania (104), Slovakia (101), Moldova(83) and Georgia (71). 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). For Ukraine, the number of administrative expulsions increased by 53, while all other countries recorded a decrease.

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<sup>28</sup> Multiple decisions can be issued to the same person in a given time period.

<sup>29</sup> Section 80(1) of Act No. 40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code.

<sup>30</sup> Number of persons registered in the IS CIS as of the 31 December 2025.

## 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,"<sup>31</sup> 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.

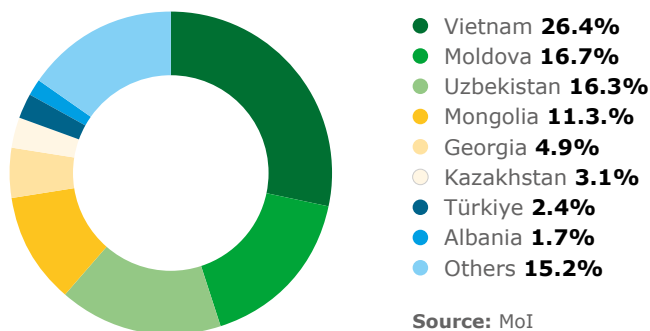
In 2025, a total of **1,090 voluntary returns of third-country nationals were carried out**. Of these, 1,002 assisted voluntary returns were implemented by the Ministry of the Interior, 56 by SUZ, and 32 with IOM assistance. The most represented nationalities among these returnees were Vietnam, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Mongolia and Georgia.

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<sup>31</sup> The project is funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) Operational Programme.

## CHART 19:

### Voluntary returns by citizenship in 2025



#### 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, housing 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 2025, reintegration support was provided to 47 individuals, mostly from Vietnam and Mongolia.

In 2025, **the Ministry carried out 1,002 assisted voluntary returns**, of which 628 involved individuals placed in detention facilities. The most frequent nationalities were **Vietnamese** (289), **Moldovan** (180), **Uzbek** (161), **Mongolian** (111), and **Georgian** (53). Overall, voluntary returns were successfully carried out for foreign nationals of 46 different nationalities.

Throughout 2025, the situation in the area of returns continued to be affected by the consequences of the armed conflict in Ukraine. Before the outbreak of the conflict, Ukraine had long been the country with the highest number of completed returns. Return activities remained limited due to the ongoing armed conflict. A total of 13 voluntary returns were carried out in 2025, of which 9 were implemented using a medical transport service.

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

In 2025, the Frontex Application for Return (FAR) system was used for the second consecutive year to purchase flight tickets. Tickets purchased through this system are financed from the Frontex budget. In 2025, the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic used the FAR system to purchase flight tickets for almost **two thirds of all completed returns**.

#### **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 automatically. 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 2025, a total of **69 applications for voluntary return** were processed, of which **56 individuals were successfully returned** to their chosen countries. The breakdown by nationality is as follows: Vietnam (18 persons), Syria (4 persons), Iraq, Russia, North Macedonia and Türkiye (3 persons each), Azerbaijan, the Philippines, Kazakhstan, Colombia, Moldova and Uzbekistan (2 persons each), and Armenia, China, India, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Venezuela (1 person each).

### 10.2.2 FORCED RETURNS

In 2025, administrative expulsion was enforced in respect of 623 persons,<sup>32</sup> representing a year-on-year increase of 199 persons. The enforcement of administrative expulsion from detention facilities for foreign nationals was recorded in 623 cases, which was 199 more than in the previous year. The enforcement success rate exceeded 95%. However, certain obstacles may prevent nationals of some third countries from being physically removed.

Administrative expulsion from detention facilities for foreign nationals was most frequently enforced in respect of Vietnamese nationals (195 persons). This represented an almost threefold year-on-year increase and was linked to the overall rise in irregular migration by Vietnamese nationals in 2025. They were followed by Moldovan nationals, whose number remained similar to the previous year (138 persons, an increase of 9). Among Uzbek nationals, the upward trend already recorded in 2024 continued. Returns were carried out in respect of 123 persons, which was 39 more than in the previous year. Georgian nationals ranked fourth, with 41 persons returned, representing a year-on-year decrease of 4 persons. In general, the number of returns carried out reflects the level of irregular migration among individual nationalities in the given year.

**The implementation of judicial expulsion, based on the penalty of expulsion imposed by a court, was carried out for 150 individuals in 2025.** Judicial expulsions most frequently concerned nationals of Slovakia, Ukraine,<sup>33</sup> Romania, Moldova and Poland.

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<sup>32</sup> Returns carried out from detention facilities for foreign nationals.

<sup>33</sup> 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.

## 10.3 READMISSION AGREEMENTS

One of the instruments used to ensure the effective enforcement of forced returns to countries of origin is transfer under a readmission agreement.

No new readmission agreement was concluded in 2025, either at bilateral or EU level.

Readmission agreements have already been concluded with most of the countries considered problematic. Negotiations with some other countries cannot be conducted because the European Commission holds the negotiating mandate, particularly in relation to Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. In view of the current migration situation, the Czech Republic identified India, Iraq and Morocco as priority countries, and Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Nepal and Tunisia as desirable partners for the conclusion of bilateral readmission agreements in 2025. However, negotiations were not initiated with any of these countries in 2025. In 2026, the Czech Republic will seek to open negotiations with at least one of them.

The Czech Republic currently has 18 bilateral readmission agreements in place with Austria, Poland, Germany, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Canada, Croatia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Moldova, Vietnam, Switzerland, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Mongolia and Uzbekistan.

In addition to the agreements listed above, the Czech Republic is also bound by readmission agreements concluded by the EU. These comprise 18 agreements with Hong Kong, Macao, Sri Lanka, Albania, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pakistan, Georgia, Türkiye, Cape Verde, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus. The Czech Republic concludes bilateral implementing protocols to these agreements, setting out the technical details of the readmission procedure.

At EU level, a draft readmission agreement with Kazakhstan and Nigeria is currently under preparation. In addition, the European Commission holds negotiating mandates for six other countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Nigeria and China). However, these negotiations have largely stalled, primarily due to the reluctance of the partner countries to engage.

The EU has also agreed practical arrangements for cooperation on returns with several other countries. Although these arrangements do not have the status of formal agreements, they facilitate communication and the implementation of return operations. Such cooperation is conducted, with varying degrees of success, with The Gambia, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Afghanistan. Return-related cooperation is also pursued with other countries without such arrangements being in place. In the case of Iraq, cooperation is based on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. With Egypt and Senegal, workshops on return procedures have been organised, together with activities aimed at familiarising officials with the organisation of returns of irregularly staying third-country nationals.

**In 2025, the Czech Republic accepted a total of 179 persons from neighbouring countries** under the readmission procedure, representing a year-on-year increase of 21 persons (+13.3%). Of these, 127 were third-country nationals.

The increase was recorded primarily along the border with Germany, which has long been the busiest section. In 2025, the Czech Republic accepted 91 third-country nationals from Germany, representing an increase of 7 persons (+8.3%) compared with the previous year. This slight increase in readmission cases was most likely linked to the tightening of border controls in Germany, despite the fact that transit irregular migration followed a downward trend in 2025.

The Czech Republic also accepted 23 third-country nationals from Poland (a year-on-year decrease of one person) and 13 from Austria (a year-on-year increase of two persons). As in the previous year, no persons were accepted from Slovakia in 2025.

**TABLE 19:**  
**Readmission procedures — persons received by the Czech Republic from neighbouring countries — comparison 2024/2025**

| Year                                                            | 2024 | 2025 | Change compared to previous period |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
|                                                                 |      |      | in %                               | Absolute number |
| Persons received by the Czech Republic from neighbouring states | 118  | 127  | +7.6                               | 9               |
| of which (ranked by 2025):                                      |      |      |                                    |                 |
| from Germany                                                    | 84   | 91   | +8.3                               | 7               |
| from Poland                                                     | 24   | 23   | -4.2                               | -1              |
| from Austria                                                    | 11   | 13   | +18.2                              | +2              |
| from Slovakia                                                   | 0    | 0    | -                                  | 0               |

Source: DFPS

In 2025, the Czech Republic transferred a total of 85 persons to neighbouring countries under readmission procedures, representing a year-on-year increase of 22 persons. Of these, 68 were third-country nationals. Among EU citizens, the majority of those transferred were Slovak nationals.

**TABLE 20:**  
**Readmission procedures — persons transferred by the Czech Republic to neighbouring countries — comparison 2024/2025**

| Year                                                             | 2024 | 2025 | Change compared to previous period |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
|                                                                  |      |      | in %                               | Absolute number |
| Persons transferred by the Czech Republic to neighbouring states | 43   | 68   | 58.1                               | 25              |
| of which (ranked by 2025):                                       |      |      |                                    |                 |
| to Germany                                                       | 19   | 32   | +68.4                              | +13             |
| to Austria                                                       | 13   | 16   | +23.1                              | +3              |
| to Poland                                                        | 3    | 15   | +400                               | +12             |
| to Slovakia                                                      | 8    | 5    | -37.5                              | -3              |

Source: DFPS

# ANNEXES

## ANNEX 1: METHODOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

This report was prepared primarily on the basis of information provided by institutions involved in asylum, migration and integration. Responsibility for these areas lies mainly with the Ministry of the Interior. Additional source material was provided by the Directorate of the Foreign Police Service, the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic, 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 Centre against Organised Crime and the Facility for Foreign Children. Most of these institutions were contacted either by the Czech National Contact Point of the European Migration Network (EMN), which forms part of the Asylum and Migration Policy Department of the Ministry of the Interior, or directly by the Department itself. Information provided by these institutions constitutes the principal source material for this report, supplemented by publicly available information.

Statistical data were obtained primarily from the information systems of the Police of the Czech Republic, the Asylum and Migration Policy Department of the Ministry of the Interior, and the Facility for Foreign Children. The report draws in particular on information and data from the draft Report on the Situation in the Field of Migration and Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic in 2025<sup>34</sup>, as well as on reports and studies prepared by the European Migration Network in the relevant fields. Particular use was made of the Czech national contribution to the EMN Annual Migration Overview 2025 (formerly the *Annual Report on Migration and Asylum*), prepared by the Czech National Contact Point of the EMN at the beginning of 2026.

An analysis of media coverage relating to asylum and migration in 2025 was also used for the purposes of this report.

The terminology used in this report is consistent with national practice and legislation. It also follows the definitions contained in the 10th edition of the EMN Asylum and Migration Glossary.

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<sup>34</sup> The report is prepared annually by the Ministry of the Interior.

## **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 2025

EMN, 2025 EMN Asylum and migration overview, Annex 1, national contribution from the Czech EMN Contact Point

EMN, Specification of Requirements for the 2025 EMN Annual Policy Report

EMN, Asylum and Migration Glossary, 10th 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.mvcr.cz](http://www.mvcr.cz)

[www.suz.cz](http://www.suz.cz)

[www.mzv.cz](http://www.mzv.cz)

[www.mpsv.cz](http://www.mpsv.cz)

[www.emncz.eu](http://www.emncz.eu)

[www.frs.gov.cz](http://www.frs.gov.cz)

[www.nasiukrajinci.cz](http://www.nasiukrajinci.cz)

[www.psp.cz](http://www.psp.cz)

[www.vitejtevcr.cz](http://www.vitejtevcr.cz)

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The content of this **EMN Annual Report on Asylum and Migration 2025 – 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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