



COUNTRY FACTSHEET: Czech Republic 2015

EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK

1. Introduction

This EMN Country Factsheet provides a factual overview of the main policy developments in migration and international protection in Czech Republic during 2015, including latest statistics.

2. Common European Asylum System

On 3 December 2015, an **amendment to the Act No. 325/1999 on Asylum and Act No. 326/1999 on Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic** was approved and came into force on 18 December 2015. The amendment particularly implemented the Asylum Procedure Directive, the Reception Conditions Directive and the necessary part of the "Dublin III Regulation" into the Czech legislation system. The amendment also provides **limitations to the automatic suspensive effect of appeals** (e.g. in case of appeal against the rejection of the application due to withdrawal of the application or due to inadmissibility) and the provisions concerning request for assisted voluntary return have been simplified. The amendment also **reduced the period in which asylum seekers are not allowed to work from 12 months to 6 months**.

In a similar way in 2015 the application form for international protection was significantly simplified allowing for quicker and more efficient registration and courts are newly **obliged to decide in a given time limit** in cases of appeals against the decisions of the determining authority if the applicant is detained and in case of appeals against the transfer decisions according to the Dublin Regulation.

In 2015, due to the increase of Dublin cases **a new facility for detention of foreigners was opened** in Drahonice. At the same time, the number of staff in the Czech International Protection Unit and Dublin Unit has increased and new vacancies were opened in these units.

The Czech Republic **has voluntarily joined the common EU resettlement scheme** from July 2015 by agreeing to resettle 400 refugees from third-countries.

In 2015, the first 20 persons (4 Syrian families) with severely ill children were resettled from Jordan to the Czech Republic. In December 2015 the Czech government agreed to start a humanitarian admission programme with the goal to resettle 153 Iraqi refugees.

In 2015 the Czech Republic contributed with six experts to EASO teams. The **experts were deployed to hotspots in Italy and Greece**. In total 35 experts have been nominated to the EASO call in connection with the establishment of hotspots. In the same year, the Czech Republic organised a **twining training with Slovakia** on EASO training modules on inclusion and interview techniques.

In the same year, the Czech Republic also **set up a dedicated Programme for Assistance to Refugees in Regions of Origin and for Prevention of High Migration Flows**. In 2015 the budget of the programme was CZK 100 million and in 2016 the budget was increased to CZK 150 million. Projects funded under the programme in 2015 included beside other support financial donations to the UNHCR in Jordan and Iraq as well as contributions to the European Regional Development and Protection Programmes (RDPP) in the Middle East and North Africa.

3. Unaccompanied Minors and other Vulnerable Groups

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior conducted a series of **nationwide trainings** provided to staff of the Socio-legal Child Protection Authority from all regional offices in order to familiarize them with the 2015 amendment to the Act on Asylum regarding unaccompanied minors who are applicants for international protection.

The trainings were also organized with a view of possible future migration waves. As a part of the training, **a completely new handbook was elaborated** for all offices of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs which may come in contact with minor applicants for international protection.

As a result of the unexpected migration waves from the summer of 2015 when a much higher number of families with minors were coming irregularly to the Czech Republic, two new detention centres were opened while the existing one with the overall capacity of 240 places was **designated solely for families with minors and other vulnerable groups**.

When dealing with other vulnerable groups, the Czech Republic implemented also in 2015 the **Programme of Humanitarian Evacuations of Inhabitants with Health Issues (MEDEVAC)** which includes sending medical teams to countries of origin, performing humanitarian evacuation of inhabitants with health issues to the Czech Republic for treatment and professional-educational stays of physicians from areas affected by a humanitarian crisis (war, armed hostilities, natural catastrophe, etc.). The implementation cost of MEDEVAC in 2015 was more than CZK 38 million and included countries like Jordan, Cambodia, Kenya, Iraq and Ukraine.

4. European Policy on Legal migration and Integration

4.1. PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

The **Immigration Portal** that was launched in September 2014 **was upgraded in 2015** with two new information panels. At the same time as a result of the amendments to the Act on Residence of Foreign Nationals the relevant websites were updated while telephone and email lines also had their capacity improved to provide foreigners with answers to more specific enquiries.

In 2015, the Ministry of the Interior created a **special website on migration** in order to provide timely, profound and detailed information on the current migration situation in the territory. In the same year the **“Strategy on Migration Policy of the Czech Republic”** was approved which formulated the priorities of the country in the field of migration, international protection (asylum) and integration. Moreover, in order to improve the quality of information provided to the public and to answer urgent questions related to migration as discussed in the media, the Office of the Government together with the Ministry of the Interior **established an expert working group** entitled “Media Working Group on Migration”.

4.2. ECONOMIC MIGRATION

Several **amendments to the Employment Act** (435/2004) and the **Act on Residence of Foreign Nationals** in the territory of the Czech Republic (326/1999) were introduced in 2015. The changes to the Employment Act focused on improving regulation of agency employment in order to protect temporary workers and harsher penalties for abuses.

The amendments to the Act on Residence of Foreign Nationals prolonged the time limit to submit an application for long-term residence permit to 120 days before the expiration of the current long-term visa or long-term residence permit (applications to prolong the Employee Card still have to be lodged 30 days before the existing card expires) and in cases of changing the employer or work position the consent of the Ministry of the Interior is needed via an application that once made will also be considered as an application to prolong the Employee Card.

In November 2015, the Czech Republic launched a **new targeted labour migration pilot project for Ukrainian high-skilled workers** (experts) called “Special Procedures for Highly Qualified Workers from Ukraine”. Its participants have priority access to the Czech embassy and consulate in Ukraine when lodging their applications for Employee Cards and Blue Cards because they are not required to use the on-line reservation system like other applicants. The project’s quota was set on 500 migrants per year. More third-countries might be included in the project in the future if its evaluation has a positive outcome.

4.3. FAMILY REUNIFICATION

No policy developments were reported.

4.4. INTEGRATION

The key document in the sphere of integration represents The Policy on Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic. In December 2015, a new updated **Policy on Integration of Foreign Nationals – In Mutual Respect** was elaborated and put forward to the Government of the Czech Republic. The document specifies the assignment in the field of integration of foreign nationals in the Czech Republic.

The Government Resolution from 20 November 2015 approved a **new concept for the State Integration Programme for Beneficiaries of International Protection**. As of January 2016, the new concept includes changes to the system of providing the integration measures. These changes respond to the anticipated increase in the number of persons in the programme and aim to facilitate the integration of beneficiaries of international protection (facilitation of access to the labour market, assistance with housing, education and vocational training). The new programme introduces an **individual integration plan** to be elaborated in cooperation with the beneficiary of international protection. The resulting document describes the integration goals of the person and reflects the specific needs of each beneficiary.

A **working group for resettlement and relocation** of refugees was established in 2015 by the Prime Minister to ensure a smooth running of the selection, relocation and integration of 1500 refugees who should be admitted to the Czech Republic in the next two years according to the agreement with the EU.

4.5. MANAGING MIGRATION AND MOBILITY¹

Starting with 20 November 2015, **the five-year roll-out of the Visa Information System (VIS) was completed** in all Czech visa-issuing offices (visa-issuing consulates and border-crossing points). Furthermore, all Schengen visas issued by the Czech Republic are now biometric.

As in previous years, the Czech Republic implemented all the relevant **Visa Facilitation Agreements** (with Russian federation, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Cape Verde) and took an active part in the preparations of the Visa Code recast and the Schengen evaluation and monitoring mechanisms in 2015.

In 2015, **the Government adopted two resolutions** which increased the capacities of facilities under the Ministry of Interior and police. Due to the relatively **moderate increase in the numbers of migrants in 2015**, the Czech Republic did not have to implement the "The Large-scale Migration Influx" plan. The existing (detention) facilities provided sufficient capacity to accommodate irregular migrants detected by the police who were supposed to be expelled to their countries of origin or transferred to another Member State according to readmission agreements or the Dublin system.

4.6. EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF EU MIGRATION POLICY

The Ministry of Finance has submitted in 2015 a proposal to amend the **Act on Payments which transposes the EU Payment Account Directive (PAD) (2014/92/EU)** into national law. Starting with September 2016, basic payment accounts should be offered by credit institutions in the Czech Republic. The measure should improve access to banking services for all consumers legally residing in the European Union.

The Czech Republic leads a **pilot project on mobility of students** within the Prague Process framework. The implementation of the project started in November 2014 and will finish in May 2016. The outcome of the project will be the **Handbook on Enhancing International Student Mobility** which also includes an aspect of development impact of such mobility on countries of origin.

¹ "Managing migration and mobility" refers to the following themes: visa policy, Schengen governance and border monitoring.

5. Irregular Migration and Return

Due to increased migratory pressure in the neighbouring countries the police of the Czech Republic have started carrying out **reinforced checks in the border area with Austria** as well as international trains and busses. This measure has been in effect since June 2015. The **Czech Republic has not officially reintroduced border control in accordance with the Schengen Borders Code** since no serious threat for the internal security and public policy was detected and the major migratory routes bypassed the territory of the Czech Republic. At the same time, other sources of information such as the data from public CCTVs in towns were used in order to combat irregular migration.

As a response to the escalating migration crisis in neighbouring Austria and an increase in the number of detected migrants irregularly transiting the Czech Republic **a new scheme of extraordinary meetings** of the Operative and Security Forum of the Analytical Centre for Protection of State Borders and Migration (ANACEN) was introduced. This meeting format enables effective coordination of strategical decisions and implementation of necessary measures by all relevant law-enforcement organisations and bodies.

Since 1 January 2016, **the National Centre for Checking Documents has been established** under the responsibility of the Directorate of the Alien Police Service. The new centre focuses on the field of forged documents, but also on irregular migration. Compared to 2014, in 2015 an increase of 105% was registered in the number of persons using false travel documents (234 cases in 2015 from 114 in 2014). The persons identified were mostly Ukrainians followed by Somalis and Syrians.

6. Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings

In 2015 a series of **round tables at regional level** were organised by the Ministry of the Interior to raise awareness among labour inspectors about trafficking in human beings. In the same year, **a new awareness raising campaign aimed at the broad public** was launched by NGO La Strada CR with the financial support of the Ministry of the Interior.

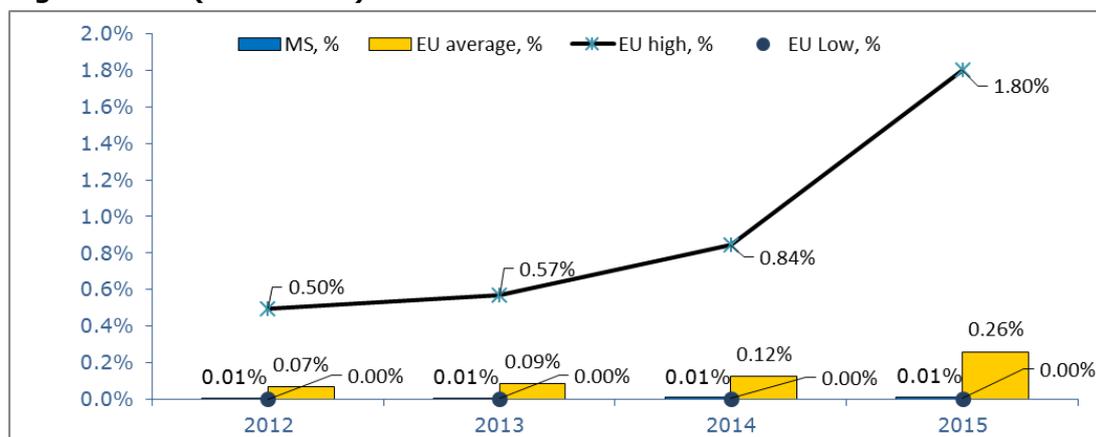
STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for the Czech Republic on aspects of migration and asylum (2012-2015), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as "N/A".

Statistical Annex: Immigration and Asylum in Czech Republic (2012-2015)

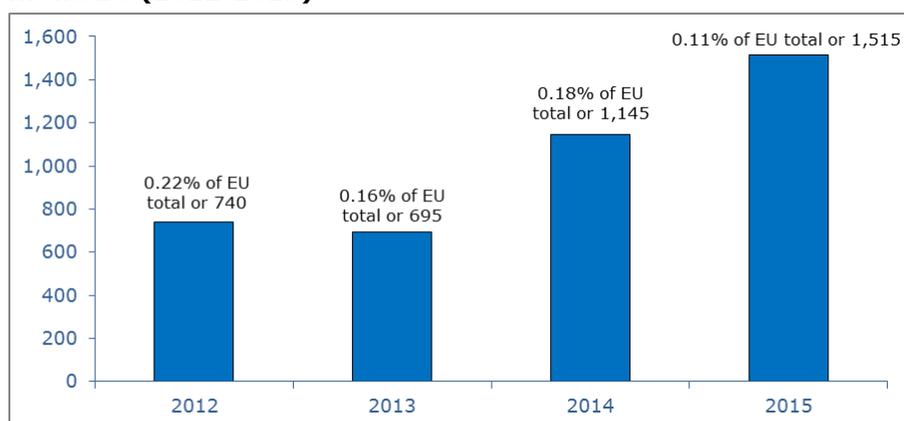
1. COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

Figure 1: Asylum applications as a share of the total population in Czech Republic, EU average and EU high and low (2012-2015)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 04/07/2016

Figure 2: Number of asylum applications and as a share of the total number of applications in the EU (2012-2015)



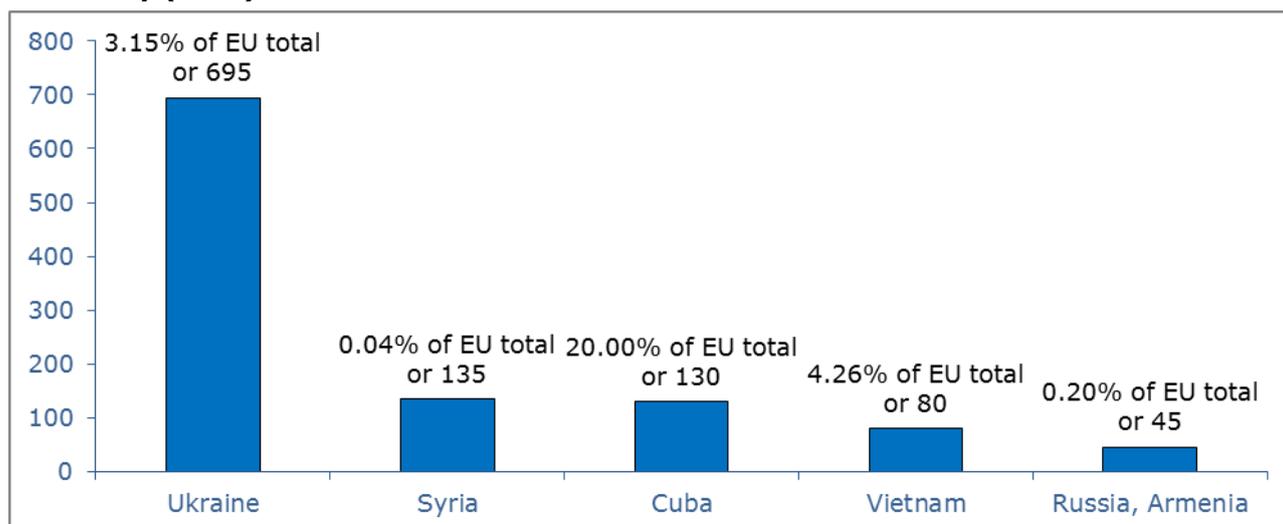
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 04/07/2016

Table 1: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities (2012-2015)

2012			2013			2014			2015		
Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total
Ukraine	175	24%	Ukraine	145	21%	Ukraine	515	45%	Ukraine	695	46%
Syria	70	9%	Syria	70	10%	Syria	110	10%	Syria	135	9%
Belarus, Vietnam	55	7%	Russia, Vietnam	50	7%	Vietnam	65	6%	Cuba	130	9%
Russia	40	5%	Cuba, Armenia	40	6%	Russia, Cuba, Stateless	40	3%	Vietnam	80	5%
Myanmar/Burma	30	4%	Stateless	30	4%	Belarus, Armenia	30	3%	Russia, Armenia	45	3%

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 04/07/2016

Figure 3: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities as a share of EU total per given nationality (2015)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), data extracted 04/07/2016

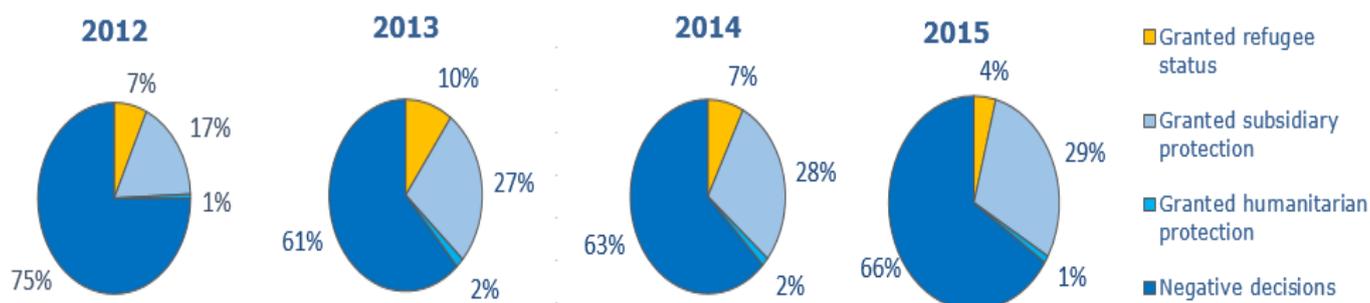
Note: the figure reads as: Czech Republic received 695 asylum applications from Ukraine or 3.15% of all asylum applications from Ukraine launched in EU in 2015.

Table 2: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2012-2015)

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:		Humanitarian reasons	Negative decisions
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		
2012	720	175	50	125	5	540
2013	900	345	90	240	15	555
2014	1,000	375	75	285	15	625
2015	1,335	460	55	390	15	875

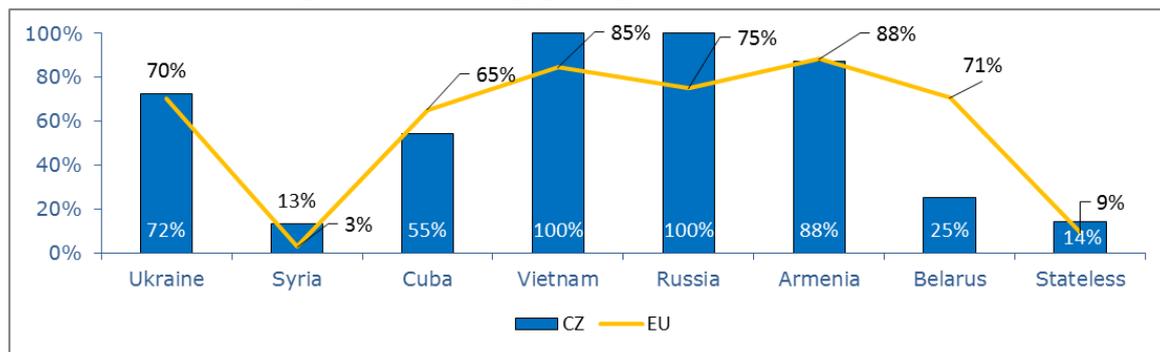
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfsta), data extracted 04/07/2016

Figures 4-7: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2012-2015)



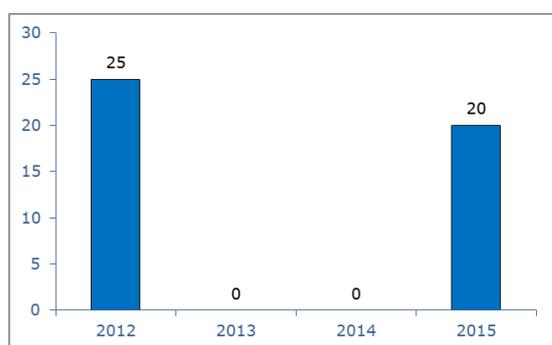
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfsta), data extracted 04/07/2016

Figure 8: Negative decision rate for the top five nationalities of applicants at the first instance in comparison with EU for the same given nationality (2015)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfst), data extracted 04/07/2016

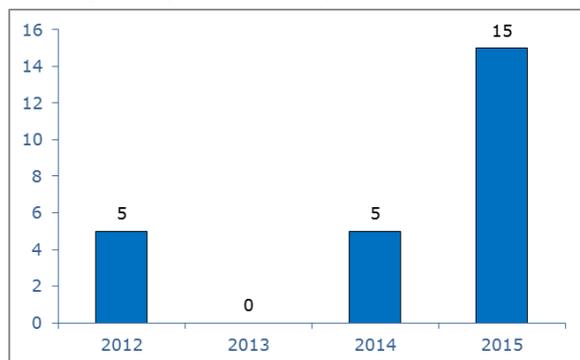
Figure 9: Third-country nationals resettled (2012-2015)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyresa), data extracted 04/07/2016 and National data for 2015

2. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Figure 10: Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum (2012-2015) **Table 3: Unaccompanied minors (2012-2015)**

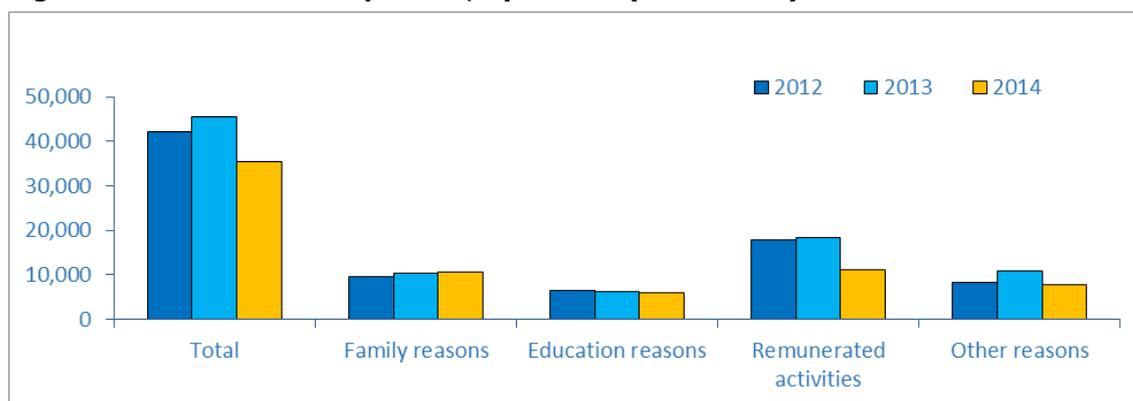


	2012	2013	2014	2015
Unaccompanied minors (total)	NA	NA	NA	NA
Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants	5	0	5	15

Source: Eurostat Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) [migr_asyunaa], data extracted 04/07/2016; EMN NCPs

3. EUROPEAN POLICY ON LEGAL MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

Figure 11: First residence permits, by reason (2012-2014)



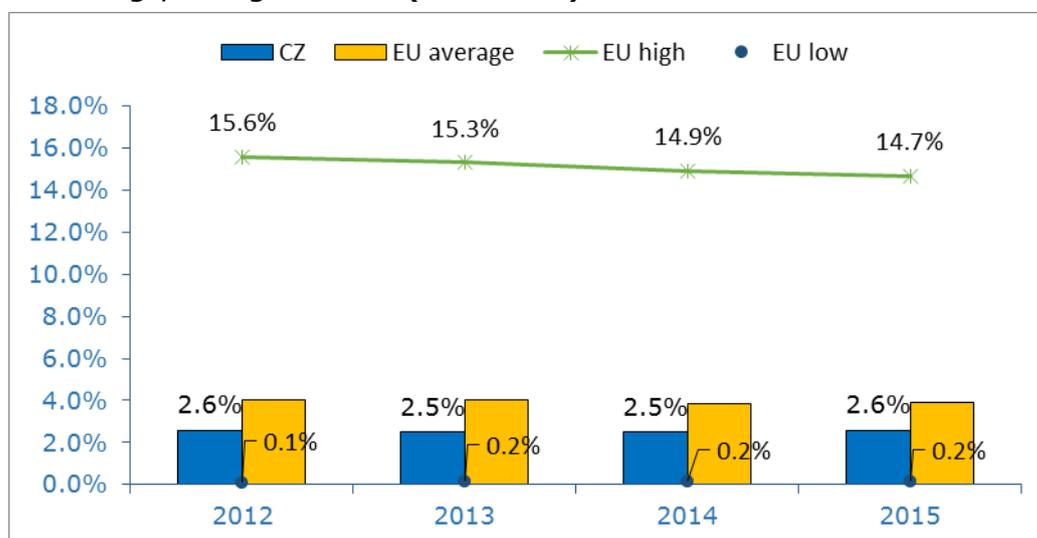
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst), data extracted 04/07/2016

Table 4: First residence permits: Top five third-country nationalities (2012-2015)

2012		2013		2014		2015	
Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number
Ukraine	18,152	Ukraine	18,622	Ukraine	12,867	Ukraine	23,207
Russia	5,211	Russia	7,146	Russia	6,040	Russia	11,289
Vietnam	3,698	Vietnam	4,915	Vietnam	3,995	Vietnam	7,543
United States	3,052	United States	2,539	United States	1,780	United States	4,195
Kazakhstan	1,162	Kazakhstan	1,137	Kazakhstan	1,051	Kazakhstan	2,164

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_resfirst), data extracted 04/07/2016

Figure 12: Resident population of third-country nationals as a share of total population in Czech Republic, EU average, EU high and low (2012-2015)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_pop1ctz), data extracted 04/07/2016

4. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

Table 5: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders (2012-2015)

Third country nationals:	2012	2013	2014	2015
Refused entry at external borders	190	310	330	465
Found to be illegally present	3,315	3,695	4,430	8,165
Ordered to leave	2,375	2,405	2,460	4,510
Returned following an order to leave	430	330	320	1,715

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eirfs)(migr_eipre)(migr_eiord) (migr_eirtn), data extracted 04/07/2016

Table 6: Third-country nationals returned (2012-2015)

	Returned as part of forced return measures	Returned voluntarily	Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme
2012	465	209	254
2013	195	109	174
2014	187	144	170
2015	151	120	257

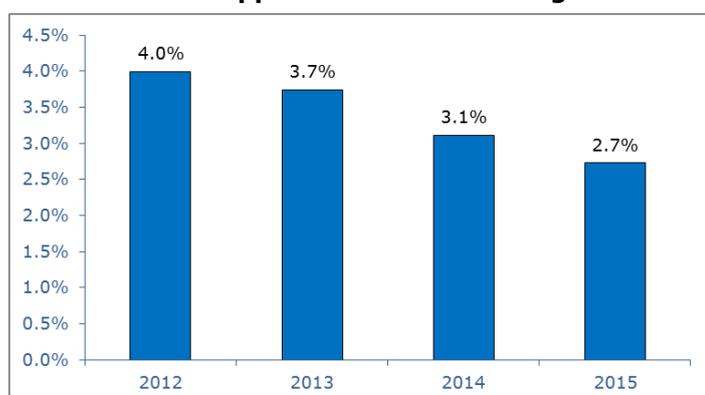
Source: EMN NCPs

5. SECURING EUROPE'S EXTERNAL BORDERS

Table 7: Number of Schengen visas applications (2012-2015)

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Uniform visas (short-stay visas)	603,484	646,719	519,819	421,355

Source: DG Migration and Home – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Figure 13: Uniform visa applications received in the Czech Republic as a share of the total number of uniform visa applications in all Schengen states consulates (2012-2015)

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Table 8: Top five countries in which the highest number of visa applications for the Czech Republic was lodged

2012		2013		2014		2015	
Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number
Russia	387,141	Russia	426,065	Russia	325,621	Russia	203,131
Ukraine	77,074	Ukraine	79,343	Ukraine	59,607	Ukraine	65,729
Turkey	21,689	Turkey	20,498	China	18,158	China	28,760
Belarus	15,960	Belarus	16,557	Belarus	18,045	Turkey	15,604
China	13,255	China	14,681	Turkey	15,849	India	12,744

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

6. ASYLUM AND MIGRATION EU FUNDING SOURCES (2007-2013 AND 2014-2020)

Table 9: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) allocation in euro per area

Areas	AMIF 2014-2020
Asylum	5,237,036
Legal Migration and Integration	12,045,181
Return	6,462,775
Technical Assistance	2,440,185
Special cases (resettlement/transfer)	21,646,000
TOTAL	47,831,177

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

Table 10: Internal Security Fund (ISF) allocation in euro per area

Areas	ISF 2014-2020
ISF Borders	14,381,484
ISF SA Frontex	NA
ISF SA Consular cooperation	774,000
ISF Borders Emergency Assistance	NA
ISF Police	17,029,012
TOTAL	32,184,496

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

Table 11: SOLID funds allocation in euro and share of total funds allocated to the Czech Republic (2007-2013)

SOLID FUNDS	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
European Refugee Fund (ERF)	NA	1,131,906 (1.5%)	1,126,603 (1.1%)	1,110,087 (1.2%)	865,826 (0.9%)	762,733 (0.7%)	885,407 (0.8%)	5,882,564 (1%)
European Return Fund (RF)	NA	1,162,395 (2.1%)	1,018,044 (1.7%)	956,447 (1.2%)	1,002,330 (0.9%)	1,189,726 (0.8%)	1,290,973 (0.7%)	6,619,915 (1%)
European Fund for the Integration of TCN (EIF)	1,323,426 (2%)	1,793,443 (2.3%)	2,272,761 (2.3%)	2,643,736 (2.4%)	2,780,278 (2.1%)	3,116,062 (1.9%)	2,677,925 (1.5%)	16,607,631 (2%)
External Borders Fund (EBF)	1,973,113 (1.4%)	1,813,239 (1.4%)	1,844,892 (1.2%)	1,804,591 (0.9%)	2,012,084 (0.9%)	2,741,306 (0.9%)	3,664,316 (0.9%)	15,853,542 (1%)

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

7. INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT TO DETECT EMPLOYMENT OF IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

Table 12: Number of Inspections carried out to detect employment of irregular migrants and share of inspections as a percentage of the employers in sector (in %)

Risk sector	2015	
	No.	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	327	5.83
Mining and quarrying	6	
Manufacturing	1,502	7
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	29	5.8
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	78	3.7
Construction	1,864	7
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	2,396	6.3
Transportation and storage	231	2.33
Accommodation and food service activities	1,574	9
Information and communication	63	1.3
Financial and insurance activities	76	4.75
Real estate activities	237	7.2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	394	3
Administrative and support service activities	409	7.7

Risk sector	2015	
	No.	%
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	15	
Education	26	4.33
Human health and social work activities	44	0.4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	91	3.37
Other service activities	221	5.26

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

Table 13: Number of inspections in which irregular migrant workers were detected (I) and number of irregular migrant workers detected (IWD) – 2015

Risk sector	Number of inspections in which irregular migrant workers were detected	Number of irregular migrant workers detected
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	5	6
Manufacturing	4	9
Construction	12	28
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	2	2
Transportation and storage	1	1
Accommodation and food service activities	1	1
Real estate activities	2	2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	4	14
Administrative and support service activities	3	4

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs