



CZECH  
REPUBLIC

# PATHWAYS TO CITIZENSHIP FOR THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS IN EU MEMBER STATES

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COMMON TEMPLATE

## 1 STUDY AIMS AND RATIONALE

The European Convention on Nationality, signed in 1997, establishes principles and rules relating to the acquisition and loss of nationality and issue of multiple nationality. To date, 20 Member States have signed the Convention,<sup>1</sup> while 13 EU Member States have ratified it.<sup>2</sup> Although awarding citizenship is a prerogative of the Member States, national regulations have to be implemented with due regard to EU law. This is particularly important as the establishment of Union citizenship by the Maastricht Treaty in 1992 conferred a number of rights and privileges to all persons who are citizens of an EU Member State. Examining and comparing the different rules and regulations in place in Member States is relevant, as the right to free movement for Union citizens means that the decision of one country over who to accept or reject as citizens can impact all other Member States as well. The acquisition of citizenship has been a topic of debate in many Member States in recent years, with the need to integrate migrants.

This EMN study aims at mapping and comparing the various approaches of EU Member States regarding third-country nationals' acquisition of citizenship in a Member State. It will focus in particular on the ordinary naturalisation for new migrants<sup>3</sup> to the EU and therefore largely excludes the acquisition of citizenship through special naturalisation.<sup>4</sup> Ordinary naturalisation is considered to be "any acquisition after birth of a citizenship not previously held by the person concerned that requires an application to public authorities and a decision by these."<sup>5</sup> This study will include a review of the conditions and requirements for naturalisation

<sup>1</sup> AT, BG, CZ, DE, DK, EL, FI, FR, HR, HU, IT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK

<sup>2</sup> AT, BG, CZ, DE, DK, FI, HU, LU, NL, PT, RO, SE, SK

<sup>3</sup> For the purpose of this study, "new migrants" refer to third-country nationals who do not have a pre-existing historical tie with the Member State (ethnic, family, historical).

<sup>4</sup> i.e. acquisition of citizenship through automatic acquisition, by marriage, through investor scheme and for political and/or discretionary reasons are excluded from the scope of this study

<sup>5</sup> R. Baubock and S. Wallace Goodman (2011), EUDO Citizenship Policy Brief n°2, Naturalisation, available at: [http://eudo-citizenship.eu/docs/policy\\_brief\\_naturalisation.pdf](http://eudo-citizenship.eu/docs/policy_brief_naturalisation.pdf)

(e.g. length of legal stay, definition of legal stay, knowledge of language, economic and housing situation) and the administrative processes used by the Member States to determine whether a person is eligible to acquire citizenship or not. The study will examine whether Member States' permit dual citizenships and, if so, under which conditions. The study will also aim to explore how the acquisition of citizenship links to integration policies in the Member States, and whether naturalisation is considered the end-point of an integration process or whether acquisition of citizenship is intended to facilitate integration.

### 1.1 Target Groups/Audiences

This study targets policy-makers at EU level (e.g. in the area of integration and intra-EU free movement) as well as broader target groups at national level, such as national policy-makers (migration/integration), researchers, and experts at those national authorities that are responsible for citizenship-related administrative procedures. This study would also be of interest to the wider public because of its topicality and due to the growing number of individuals becoming citizens of a Member State of the EU or acquiring a second (dual) citizenship.

## 2 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study focuses on citizenship matters as defined in the EMN glossary or otherwise commonly used. It shall cover the acquisition, by a third-country national, of the citizenship of an EU Member State. The study covers the broad category of third-country nationals who immigrated to the EU as first generation ("new migrants") and thus excludes second- and third generation migrants. If it is difficult to make the distinction in your Member State, please mention this throughout the template wherever relevant. EU citizens acquiring the citizenship of another EU Member State are not covered. The acquisition of citizenship of an EU Member State by persons living in a third country is also outside of the scope of this study.

As far as policies and legislation regarding the acquisition of citizenship is concerned, this study shall reflect the most recent situation and developments in the Member States, therefore focusing on 2019. Regarding policy and legal developments, it also appears useful to trace any such developments over the past five years. If reasonable, contributing EMN NCPs may also include planned legal or policy developments that have not yet come into effect at the time of writing.

As regards statistics, the study shall cover a five-year period, from 2014 to 2018.

### 3 EU LEGAL AND POLICY CONTEXT

The integration of third-country nationals has become an important policy topic in many Member States, not least as a result of the large number of new migrants who arrived in the EU in 2014–2016 and received international protection. When, how and under which circumstances a third-country national can acquire the citizenship of an EU Member State is an essential dimension of integration processes. The acquisition of citizenship can be seen as the final step of an individual's successful integration process, as an incentive for individuals to become part of a new society or both. According to Eurostat, roughly 825 000 individuals became citizens of a Member State of the EU in 2017, most of them in Italy, the United Kingdom, Germany and France. As the EMN has not previously conducted a comparative study on the acquisition of citizenship, the proposed topic will fill a significant gap in the thematic activities of the network.

Awarding citizenship is a prerogative of the Member States, which they must exercise having due regard to EU law.<sup>6</sup> Indeed, Member States

<sup>6</sup> See Judgment of 7 July 1992, *Micheletti and Others v Delegación del Gobierno en Cantabria*, C-369/90, EU:C:1992:295, paragraph 10; Judgment of 11 November 1999, *Belgian State v Mesbah*, C-179/98, EU:C:1999:549, paragraph 29; Judgment of 20 February 2001, *Kaur*, C-192/99, EU:C:2001:106, paragraph 19; Judgment of 19 October 2004, *Zhu and Chen*, C-200/02, EU:C:2004:639, paragraph 37; Judgment of 2 March 2010, *Rottmann*, C-135/08, EU:C:2010:104, paragraph 39

solely are responsible for laying down the conditions for the acquisition of citizenship.<sup>7</sup> However, citizens of a Member State also enjoy the rights of EU citizenship, including that of mobility and free movement across all Member States. As such, the determination of citizenship by one Member State implies a responsibility to all others. In this sense, citizenship has an important EU dimension. As pointed out by the Court of Justice of the EU, while laying down the conditions of acquisition and loss of citizenship falls within the remit of national competence, in doing so Member States must have due regard to EU law.

Three main modes of naturalisation exist:<sup>8</sup>

- Ordinary naturalisation – residence-based naturalisation, which does not foresee any waivers of conditions normally envisaged for applicants;
- Discretionary naturalisation on grounds of national interest – fully discretionary naturalisation, where authorities waive all or almost all naturalisation conditions;
- Discretionary facilitated naturalisation on grounds of national interest – discretionary naturalisation, where authorities waive some but not all naturalisation conditions.

Furthermore, as noted by the European Commission, 24 additional types of acquisition of citizenship are found in the EU, including the facilitation of conditions for certain ethnic groups, on grounds of socialisation or family links.<sup>9</sup> This hints at the complexity of the legal provisions surrounding the acquisition of citizenship.

<sup>7</sup> See Case *Tjebbes and others* C-221/17, Judgment of the Court of 12 March 2019, and Case *Rottmann* C-135/08, Judgment of the Court of 2 March 2010

<sup>8</sup> European Commission (2019). Part A Study Investor Citizenship and Residence Schemes, Notes accompanying Deliverable A., available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/part-study-investor-citizenship-and-residence-schemes\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/part-study-investor-citizenship-and-residence-schemes_en). This study focuses on ordinary naturalisation.

<sup>9</sup> European Commission (2019). Part A Study Investor Citizenship and Residence Schemes, Notes accompanying Deliverable A., available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/part-study-investor-citizenship-and-residence-schemes\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/part-study-investor-citizenship-and-residence-schemes_en)

The study will also seek to examine how the Member States support third-country nationals in applying for citizenship and inform them about their rights and duties as national and EU citizens.

The study also presents an opportunity for Member States to cooperate and share good practices on matters relating to citizenship and integration by comparing and analysing the various national rules and procedures used at national level.

#### 4 PRIMARY QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE STUDY

The study will aim to address the following research questions:

- Under what conditions can first generation migrants obtain the citizenship of the countries participating in this study? This includes, among other conditions/requirements, the length of legal stay in the country (with temporary/permanent residence status), the definition of legal stay or residence, knowledge of the language, economic situation, suitable housing, good conduct, or any legal or symbolic commitments to adhere to societal rules and norms.
- Are conditions different for different groups of third-country nationals, such as refugees or other groups significantly represented in the respective Member State (e.g. children, citizens of neighbouring third-countries, stateless people, investors)?
- Are there different procedures to acquiring citizenship (such as ordinary naturalisation by registration or by application)? How do these procedures work and how long do they take? To what extent are these procedures digitalised and applications submitted electronically?
- Is dual citizenship possible, and if so, under what conditions?
- What is the role of citizenship, including dual or multiple citizenships, in immigrant integration?

#### 5 RELEVANT SOURCES AND LITERATURE

Comparable EU statistics on the acquisition of citizenship in the Member States are available at Eurostat. Additional statistical material should be available, in each country, at national level. It should be noted that although this study focuses on first-generation migrants, statistics extracted from Eurostat and provided by Member States will generally include all third-country nationals, including children/persons with a migrant family background ('second- and third-generation').

Many reports, analyses and comparisons regarding citizenship are available at the Global Citizenship Observatory [GLOBALCIT](#), the successor of EUDO CITIZENSHIP, which started in 2009 with a focus on citizenship laws in the EU Member States and then gradually expanded its scope. The [MACIMIDE Global Expatriate Dual Citizenship Dataset](#) charts the rules that existed in near all states of the world since 1960 with regard to the loss or renunciation of citizenship after a citizen of a respective state voluntarily acquires the citizenship of another state. The [Quality of Nationality Index](#) is relevant in that provides information on citizenship by investment.

Recent reports and EMN Ad-hoc queries are worth considering for this study, such as:

##### *Studies and other sources*

- European Commission, Report on Investor Citizenship and Residence Schemes in the European Union, January 2019, accompanied by its Staff Working Document, available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/report-commission-european-parliament-council-european-economic-and-social-committee-and-committee-regions-investor-citizenship-and-residence-schemes-european-union\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/report-commission-european-parliament-council-european-economic-and-social-committee-and-committee-regions-investor-citizenship-and-residence-schemes-european-union_en)
- Milieu Study on "Factual analysis of Member States Investors' Schemes granting citizenship or residence to third-country nationals investing in the said Member State", available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/eu-citizenship/eu-citizenship\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/eu-citizenship/eu-citizenship_en)

- European Parliament, Briefing on Acquisition and loss of citizenship in EU Member States, July 2018, available at: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS\\_BRI\(2018\)625116](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_BRI(2018)625116)
- 'Settling In' 2018, Indicators of Immigrant Integration, OECD
- Migrant integration policy index, available at: <https://www.mipex.eu/access-nationality>
- OECD study on Naturalisation and the Labour Market – Integration of Immigrants, available at: <https://www.oecd.org/els/mig/48328760.pdf>
- Fundamental Rights Agency, Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey – main results, December 2017, available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/eumidis-ii-main-results>

### EMN ADQs

- EMN Ad-hoc query 2019.23 on investor schemes (golden passports) (2019)
- EMN Ad-hoc query 2015.719 on the establishment of identity in connection with naturalisation (2015)
- EMN Ad-hoc query 2015.709 on Fees for Citizenship Application (2015)
- EMN Ad-Hoc Query 2015.669 on Exceptions to an obligation to be released from the old citizenship before acquiring a new one (2015)
- EMN Ad-hoc query 2012.399 on Citizenship Tests (2012)
- EMN Ad-hoc query 2012.402 on Dual Citizenship (2012)

To draft their contributions to this study, EMN NCPs should describe and analyse the respective national laws and policy documents regarding the acquisition of citizenship. Administrative handbooks as well as enquiry and research reports should also be used.

### 6 AVAILABLE STATISTICS

As far as comparable statistics are concerned, Eurostat provides the following data sets for each EU Member State:

- **Residents who acquired citizenship as a share of resident non-citizens by former citizenship (EU/non-EU) and sex** – annual data [migr\_acqs].  
Note: This type of data can provide an indication of how easy or difficult it is in the various Member States to acquire the citizenship of the country of residence.
- **Acquisition of citizenship by age group, sex and former citizenship** (all former EU and non-EU citizenships) – annual data [migr\_acq].  
Note: This dataset is the most important one regarding quantitative analyses of the acquisition of citizenship in the Member States.
- **Acquisition of citizenship by age group, sex and level of human development of former citizenship** – annual data [migr\_acq1ctz].  
Note: In this data set, former citizenships are grouped in accordance with position in human development index.  
Note: These data are not available for all EU Member States.

### 7 DEFINITIONS

According to the European Convention on Nationality, **"nationality"** means the legal bond between a person and a State and does not indicate the person's ethnic origin.<sup>10</sup> A case of the Court of Justice of the EU further defined nationality as "the special relationship of solidarity and good faith between [a Member State] and its nationals and also the reciprocity of rights and duties, which form the bedrock of the bond of nationality".<sup>11</sup>

**"Multiple nationality"** means the simultaneous possession of two or more nationalities by the same person.<sup>12</sup> For the purpose of this study, the term "dual citizenship" is used.

<sup>10</sup> Article 2(a), European Convention on Nationality, available at: <https://rm.coe.int/168007f2c8>

<sup>11</sup> Judgment of 2 March 2010, Rottmann, C-135/08, available at: <http://curia.europa.eu/juris/liste.jsf?num=C-135/08>

<sup>12</sup> Article 2(b), European Convention on Nationality, available at: <https://rm.coe.int/168007f2c8>

According to the EMN glossary,<sup>13</sup> the term “**citizenship**” is defined as “the particular legal bond between an individual and their State, acquired by birth or naturalisation, whether by declaration, choice, marriage or other means according to national legislation.”

It is noted that, as per the EMN Glossary, in some Member States, a distinction is made between citizenship and nationality, whereas in the EU context, no distinction is made, and the two terms are considered interchangeable. Those countries which distinguish between citizenship and nationality, the term citizenship refers specifically to the legal rights and duties of nationals.

“**Acquisition of citizenship**” refers to “Any mode of becoming a national, i.e. by birth or at any time after birth, automatic or non-automatic, based on attribution, declaration, option or application”.<sup>14</sup>

This study explores the acquisition of citizenship through naturalisation. “**Naturalisation**” means “any mode of acquisition after birth of a nationality not previously held by the target person that requires an application by this person or their legal agent as well as an act of granting nationality by a public authority”.<sup>15</sup> As per a recent report published by the European Parliament, a distinction is made “between ordinary naturalisation – when the primary grounds of acquisition of citizenship is a certain period of residence in the country, and special naturalisation – when the acquisition of citizenship is based on other considerations, such as family links, ethno-cultural connections or special contributions”.<sup>16</sup> The first definition will be used for the purpose of this study, meaning that the emphasis

<sup>13</sup> EMN Glossary 6.0, available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european\\_migration\\_network/glossary\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/glossary_en)

<sup>14</sup> EMN Glossary 6.0, available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european\\_migration\\_network/glossary\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/glossary_en)

<sup>15</sup> EMN Glossary 6.0, available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european\\_migration\\_network/glossary\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/glossary_en)

<sup>16</sup> European Parliament (2018). Acquisition and loss of citizenship in EU Member States – Key trends and issues, available at: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS\\_BRI\(2018\)625116](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_BRI(2018)625116)

is on the third-country nationals acquiring citizenship on the basis of an application process following a minimum legal residing period.

“**Ius sanguinis**” refers to “the determination of a person’s nationality on the basis of the nationality of their parents (or one parent or one particular parent) at the time of the target person’s birth and at the time of acquisition of nationality by the target person (the two points in time are different in cases of acquisition after birth)”.<sup>17</sup>

In contrast to this, “**ius soli**” refers to “the principle that the nationality of a person is determined on the basis of their country of birth”.<sup>18</sup> The different categories of ius soli are defined as follows:<sup>19</sup>

- Unconditional ius soli: on the basis of birth. Citizenship is automatically grant citizenship to those born in the country, regardless of any other conditions;
- Conditional ius soli: on the basis of certain conditions, e.g. minimum period of residence in the country of the parents;
- Automatic double ius soli: on the basis of parental birth in the country. Children born in the country to foreign citizens can automatically acquire citizenship at birth if at least one of their parents was also born in the country;
- Conditional double ius soli: on the basis of certain conditions and parental birth in the country. Children born in the country to foreign citizens can acquire citizenship at birth if at least one of their parents was also born in the country under certain conditions, e.g. minimum period of residence for parents.

<sup>17</sup> EMN Glossary 6.0, available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european\\_migration\\_network/glossary\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/glossary_en)

<sup>18</sup> EMN Glossary 6.0, available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european\\_migration\\_network/glossary\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/glossary_en)

<sup>19</sup> <http://eudo-citizenship.eu/docs/ius-soli-policy-brief.pdf>

# THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AHQ	Ad-hoc query
AMIF	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
CR	Czech Republic
CZK	Czech crown
EIF	European Investment Fund
EMN	European migration network
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro

## INTRODUCTION

European Migration Network Study on the topic “**Pathways to citizenship for third-country nationals in EU Member States and Norway**” aims at describing the system for acquiring and losing citizenship in EU countries. The study is divided into six chapters and addresses the case of the Czech Republic (hereinafter also referred to as the “CR”). The following topics are described in the separate chapters (brief overview of basic information):

**Chapter 1 describes legislation and overview of policy in the area of acquisition and loss of citizenship.**

The Constitution of the Czech Republic stipulates that acquisition and loss of citizenship of the Czech Republic is determined by law. Substantive legislation for acquisition and loss of citizenship of the Czech Republic is enshrined in Act No. 186/2013 Coll. on Citizenship of the Czech Republic and on amendment of certain acts (hereinafter referred also to as the “Citizenship Act”). The Constitution also enshrines a fundamental principle of constitutional law that no one may be stripped of citizenship against his/her will.

The principle of *ius sanguinis* (“blood right”) applies in the Czech Republic. This means that a child gains citizenship of the Czech Republic upon birth if at least one of its parents is a citizen of the Czech Republic. The place of birth of the child is immaterial for gaining citizenship. The principle of *ius soli* (“soil right”) applies in the CR only in a situation

where a child who would otherwise become a stateless person gains Czech citizenship on the strength of being born in the territory of the CR if both parents are stateless persons and at the same time at least one of them has an authorised stay in the territory of the Czech Republic for a period of longer than 90 days.

Czech citizenship can be acquired by so-called classic (general) acquisition of citizenship, by special modes of acquisition of citizenship (special provisions pertaining to acquiring the citizenship) or by simplified acquisition of citizenship by so-called declaration (permitted only for certain person categories).

**Chapter 2 focuses on the conditions and requirements for acquisition of citizenship by means of classic (general) acquisition of citizenship.**

An applicant for citizenship who is not a citizen of an EU Member State a) must have held a permanent residence permit for the territory of the CR continuously for a period of at least 5 years (the duration of any authorised stay in the CR before reaching 18 years of age also counts towards this, while for study stays only half of the study period is counted) or b) must hold a permanent residence permit which, together with an immediately preceding stay authorisation, covers a period of at least 10 years. Permanent residence is the highest stay authorisation that foreign nationals in the Czech Republic may hold. Beneficiaries of international protection are regarded as persons with permanent residence.

Acquisition of citizenship of the CR is reliant on the following conditions:

- the applicant has had permanent residence in the territory of the CR for the legally stipulated period of time,
- the applicant actually (factually) remains in the CR for the stipulated period,
- the applicant has a clean criminal record,

- the applicant demonstrates the required level of knowledge of the Czech language,
- the applicant demonstrates knowledge of the constitutional system of the Czech Republic and basic orientation in cultural, social, geographical and historical aspects of the Czech Republic (hereinafter "Czech civic knowledge"),
- the applicant demonstrates that he/she has performed the obligations required from him/her on the basis of special legislation applicable to selected areas of law,
- the applicant proves the sources and level of his/her income,
- the applicant proves that he/she is not a burden for the social security and assistance in material need system.

In addition to the aforementioned conditions, the applicant must demonstrate that he/she: a) is integrated into society in the CR, especially with regard to family, professional or social integration and b) presents no threat to state security, its sovereignty and territorial integrity, democratic foundations, lives, health or property (state security endorsement).

### **Chapter 3 addresses procedural aspects of acquisition of citizenship.**

Submission of applications in person is required by law. No fee is charged at the moment of submission of an application for acquisition of citizenship. However, an administrative fee is charged for actual acquisition of citizenship which differs according to person category. Furthermore, there is a fee charged for taking examinations in Czech language and Czech civic knowledge for the purpose of acquisition of citizenship. The Citizenship Act expressly propounds the principle that no legal right to acquisition of citizenship exists.

### **Chapter 4 deals with dual citizenship.**

Act No. 186/2013 Coll. on Citizenship of the Czech Republic, entered into effect on 1 January 2014 and by the end of October 2019 (when work was underway on this study) had been amended once by Act

No. 207/2019 Coll. The Act on Citizenship of the Czech Republic brought a wide range of changes in the area of acquisition of citizenship of the Czech Republic. Amongst other things, the Czech Republic fully endorses the existence of dual (or multiple) citizenship.

### **Chapter 5 focuses on citizenship and integration.**

Acquisition of citizenship is mentioned in the main integration policy document in the CR (Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic – In Mutual Respect), and while acquisition of citizenship is not cited as a main integration target in strategic and policy documents (e.g. Migration Policy Strategy), on the other hand one of the key areas of integration is an emphasis on the principle of gradual gaining of rights for foreign nationals in connection with gradual acquisition of higher stay statuses for the territory of the CR.

As for acquisition of new rights in the event of acquisition of citizenship, foreign nationals from third-countries already gain full social rights with regard to access to public health insurance and unlimited access to the labour market upon gaining permanent residence. Thanks to gaining Czech citizenship foreign nationals gain just full voting rights.

Unlike third-country foreign nationals, Czech citizens may hold all types of public office, including jobs in state service that are limited to persons with Czech citizenship. In the course of systemisation and in the public interest, the government may stipulate an essential requirement for some jobs in state service to be Czech citizenship. The requirement of citizenship may also apply for certain positions in the armed forces.

**Closing section, chapter 6, summarises the main findings of the study.**

## Section 1

### LEGAL AND POLICY OVERVIEW

**Q1a.** With reference to international law, is your Member State a party to the 1961 UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness?

- Yes.  
 No.

**Q1b.** With reference to international law, is your Member State a party to the 1997 European Convention on Nationality?

- Yes.  
 No.

**Q2.** Which are the main legal instruments covering the acquisition of citizenship for third-country nationals in your Member State? For example, is the acquisition of citizenship laid out in the constitution?

Art. 12 of the Constitution of the Czech Republic stipulates that acquisition and loss of citizenship is determined by law.

Substantive legislation for acquisition and loss of citizenship of the Czech Republic is enshrined in **Act No. 186/2013 Coll. on Citizenship of the Czech Republic** and on amendment of certain acts (hereinafter also referred to as the "Citizenship Act"). This Act entered into effect on 1 January 2014 and by the end of October 2019 (when work was underway on this study) had been amended once by Act No. 207/2019 Coll.

Art. 12 of the Constitution further enshrines the fundamental principle of constitutional law that no one may be stripped of citizenship against his/her will.

**Q3. Have the laws and policies regarding third-country nationals' acquisition of citizenship in your country undergone any major changes in recent years which significantly changed the procedures or requirements of the acquisition of citizenship<sup>20</sup>? If yes, what have been the main drivers for the change? (e.g. EU/national case law, changes in other aspects of (national) migration law or policy etc.)**

Yes.

No.

Act No. 186/2013 Coll., in effect since 1 January 2014, brought a wide range of changes in the area of acquisition of citizenship of the Czech Republic. These changes stemmed from overall analysis of the process of acquisition of citizenship and the individual conditions for acquisition of citizenship as had been enshrined in the preceding legislation. This analysis was based on the practical remarks of the administrative offices involved in citizenship matters, on judicial case law, and was also inspired by legislation of other (particularly European) states in the field of citizenship.

<sup>20</sup> In the framework of this study, the aim is to identify and assess potential changes that may have occurred in the past five years. Please limit your analysis to the 2014–2019 period. However, should important changes occurred in 2013, you can still mention those and explain the impact on the current rules in place.

**Q4. Have there been any major debates or national issues about third-country nationals holding or acquiring the citizenship of your Member State in recent years? If so, have these debates included the acquisition also of EU citizenship rights (such as right to vote, right to free movement including labour mobility, consular protection and right to protection, etc.)? Please specify in which framework these debates were held (e.g. policy-makers, media, general public).**

Yes.

No.

Debate concerning the matter of acquisition and loss of citizenship took place in connection with preparation of new legislation in this area that was in the end enacted by the passing of Act No. 186/2013 Coll. on Citizenship of the Czech Republic. In addition to offices participating in the legislative process, representatives of non-government organisations focusing on the matter of migration and the status of foreign nationals in the Czech Republic were also involved in the expert discussions.

**Q5. From a legal perspective, is there a distinction between nationality and citizenship in your Member State? If so, what are the differences?**

Yes.

No.

**Citizenship** is understood as the personal legal relationship of a certain natural person to a certain state. The substance of this legal relationship is a range of rights and obligations arising from the natural person belonging to the state. Citizenship is primarily an institution of domestic law. Therefore its substance as well as conditions for acquisition or loss thereof is determined by the law of the state in question. Only a natural person may be a subject of citizenship law. Nationality, race and ethnic origin is irrelevant in this.

Contrarily, in the Czech Republic the term **nationality** is understood as a natural person belonging to a certain nation, while a nation is understood as a certain community of people characterised usually by common cultural traditions, common historical development, common ethnic and linguistic features thanks to which they differ from other people. In the Czech Republic everybody has the right to decide about his/her own nationality, i.e. it is up to the free will of each natural person with which nationality he/she identifies.

**Q6. Is the acquisition of citizenship in your Member State based on the *ius sanguinis* or the *ius soli* principle, on a mixture of these principles, or on other principles?**

Please check the appropriate box and explain.

***Ius sanguinis.***

A child gains citizenship of the Czech Republic upon being born if on his/her date of birth at least one of his/her parents is a citizen of the Czech Republic. Place of birth has no influence on acquisition of Czech citizenship.

***Ius soli.***

- Unconditional *ius soli*.
- Conditional *ius soli*.<sup>21</sup>
- Automatic double *ius soli*.<sup>22</sup>
- Conditional double *ius soli*.<sup>23</sup>
- Mixed *ius soli* and *sanguinis*.
- Other.

A child who otherwise would become a stateless person gains Czech citizenship upon being born in the territory of the Czech Republic, if both parents are stateless persons and also at least one of the parents has authorised stay in the Czech Republic for a period longer than 90 days.

**Q7. In which modes can third-country nationals acquire the citizenship of your Member State?**

Please check all boxes that apply and briefly describe the main modalities.

***By ordinary naturalisation.***

The Citizenship Act lays down the conditions for so-called classic (general) acquisition of citizenship of the Czech Republic. In such cases this involves an ordinary naturalisation process.

<sup>21</sup> This means that certain conditions have to be fulfilled, e.g. minimum period of residence in the country of the parents.

<sup>22</sup> This means that children born in the country to foreign citizens can automatically acquire citizenship at birth if at least one of their parents was also born in the country.

<sup>23</sup> This means that children born in the country to foreign citizens can acquire citizenship at birth if at least one of their parents was also born in the country under certain conditions, e.g. minimum period of residence for parents.

☒ **By special naturalisation**  
(e.g. based on considerations such as historical/ethno-cultural considerations, for political or other discretionary reasons, investment scheme).

The law of the CR recognises special modes of acquisition of citizenship. This involves the following groups of persons to whom citizenship may be granted in a special manner:

- granting citizenship to persons who, if acquired the citizenship of the Czech Republic, would mean a significant benefit for the Czech Republic from the point of view of science, education, culture and sports, would serve towards meeting the international obligations of the CR or humanitarian purposes, or is in a different state interest,
- granting citizenship to a child whose mother is not a citizen of the CR, an EU state nor homeless, and whose father, a citizen of the CR has been determined as the father on the basis of an affirmative parental declaration of paternity,
- granting citizenship to a child born in the territory of the CR who has not acquired the citizenship of either of his/her parents and at least one of the parents has authorised stay in the Czech Republic for a period of longer than 90 days,
- granting citizenship to a person over 3 years of age found in the territory of the CR where, due to the level of mental capacity or due to medical disability, it proves impossible to determine his/her identity, if it does not become clear within 6 months of being found that this natural person has acquired citizenship of another state.

☒ **By declaration/notification.**

The law of the CR also recognises the option of simplified acquisition of citizenship by so-called declaration. If the legal conditions stipulated for this **declaration** are satisfied, a legal right to acquisition of citizenship by declaration exists.

The following person categories are permitted to make declaration of acquisition of citizenship (only basic definition described here):

- former Czechoslovak and Czech citizens who lost their citizenship prior to 1 January 2014 (the law excludes certain groups of former citizens from the declaration option) and then their second and third generation descendants,
- persons who held citizenship of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic until 31 December 1992, but did not retain citizenship of either the Czech Republic or the Slovak Republic thereafter,
- persons who were in the past issued with a document proving Czech citizenship and this document has not been cancelled within the stipulated term,
- so-called second generation migrants who can prove the required length of stay in the CR,
- children entrusted to foster care in the CR.

☐ **Other (e.g. reinstatement of former citizenship).**

**Q7a. What is the most common/frequent way from those mentioned above for third-country nationals to acquire citizenship in your Member State?<sup>24</sup>**

Classic acquisition of citizenship.

<sup>24</sup> Please note that statistics on the number of third-country nationals who have acquired the citizenship of your country each year between 2014–2018 are requested in the Statistical Annex.

## Section 2

### CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP AFTER BIRTH THROUGH ORDINARY NATURALISATION

**Q8. In cases where citizenship is not acquired at birth, what are the requirements and conditions that third-country nationals have to fulfil to obtain citizenship of your Member State?**

*Please provide a brief overview of the conditions and requirements. Further details are to be provided in the subsequent questions. Please note that the questions below only refer to cases when the primary grounds of acquisition of citizenship is through ordinary naturalisation (i.e. the legal process whereby a third-country national who is legally present on the territory of a Member State may acquire citizenship of an EU Member State). A new migrant is described as a third-country national who does not have a pre-existing historical tie with the Member State (ethnic, family, historical). The conditions and requirements in place for second- or third-generation migrants and those migrants with special (e.g. ethnical or linguistic) ties to the country are not covered.*

Acquisition of citizenship of the CR is reliant on the following conditions:

- the applicant has had permanent residence for the legally stipulated length of time,
- the applicant has actually (factually) been staying in the territory of the CR for the legally stipulated length of time,
- the applicant has a clean criminal record,
- the applicant demonstrates his/her knowledge of the Czech language,
- the applicant demonstrates his/her knowledge of the constitutional system in the Czech Republic and basic orientation in cultural, social, geographical and historical aspects of the Czech Republic ("Czech civic knowledge"),
- the applicant proves that he/she has met the obligations required of him/her under special legislation that covers the selected legal field,
- the applicant proves the sources and level of his/her income,
- the applicant proves that he/she is not a burden for the social security and assistance in material need system.

In addition to the aforementioned conditions, the applicant must prove that he/she:

- is integrated into society in the CR, especially with regard to family, professional or social integration,
- presents no threat to state security, its sovereignty and territorial integrity, democratic foundations, lives, health or property (state security endorsement).

## Section 2.1 Eligibility

### Period of residence

**Q9. After how many years or months of (interrupted/continuous) residence in your country can a third-country national acquire the citizenship of your Member State?**

An applicant for acquisition of citizenship who is not a citizen of an EU Member State must fulfil the following on the date of submission of his/her application:

- must have held permanent residence authorisation continuously for a period of at least 5 years (the duration of any authorised stay in the CR before reaching 18 years of age also counts towards this), or
- must hold a permanent residence permit which, together with an immediately preceding stay authorisation, covers a period of at least 10 years.

Permanent residence is the highest stay authorisation that foreign nationals in the Czech Republic may hold. Beneficiaries of international protection are regarded as persons with permanent residence.

Only applicants who have stayed in the CR continuously for 5 years on a long stay visa, long-term residence permit or under a document issued according to the Asylum Act or the Temporary Protection of Foreign Nationals Act, may apply for permanent residence.

The condition of preceding permanent residence **need not be satisfied** by foreign nationals who apply for permanent residence for humanitarian reasons, for reasons warranting special consideration, if their stay is

in the interests of the CR, or if they are minor foreign nationals with permanent residence if the reason for their application is common habitation of the family.

Foreign nationals under 18 years of age or over 65 years of age or foreign nationals who are unable to care for themselves and who are staying in the CR after completion of international protection proceeding and their parent, foster parent or direct relative who is caring for this foreign national are required merely to satisfy the condition of **4 years** of preceding, continuous stay.

**Q9a. Is this period of residence based on legal residence (i.e. registration at the city hall or in a population registry) or is habitual residence (e.g. proved by house rental, school attendance, tax reports) in the Member State also counted?**

- Legal residence required.
- Presence in the country sufficient.
- No residence/presence in the Member State is required and citizenship is granted upon entry (e.g. investor schemes).
- Other.

See answer to question Q9. An essential precondition for acquisition of citizenship is for the applicant to hold a permanent residence permit (permanent residence is the highest stay authorisation that foreign nationals in the Czech Republic may hold).

For assessment of the legally required period of stay for acquisition of permanent residence, it is important that the foreign national has

uninterrupted legal stay according to the Foreign National Information System.

**Q9b. Is this period of residence based on effective residence (i.e. physical presence for a regular and extended period in the territory) or is holding a residence permit for the required timeframe sufficient?**

**Different criteria apply for permanent residence than for acquisition of citizenship.**

- Yes, physical presence necessary.

A third-country national must have authorised stay, i.e. hold one of the types of stay permits for the required period of time. His physical presence in the territory of the CR is not necessary for the entire duration of temporary stay, i.e. the third-country national may leave the territory. Even such reasoned absence may count towards the minimum 5-year duration of stay according to Section 68(2)(e) and (f) and according to Section 68(4) of the Act on Residence of Foreign Nationals in Territory of the Czech Republic.

However, it is enough to interrupt legal stay in the territory even for one single day and the required period for acquisition of permanent residence begins to elapse from the beginning.

An issued permanent residence permit shall be cancelled by the Ministry of the Interior if 1) the foreign national has stayed outside the territory of European Union Member States for a continuous period exceeding 12 months if no serious reasons are provided for this fact, in particular pregnancy and birth of a child, serious illness, study or professional training or job placement abroad; 2) the foreign national

who was formerly a holder of a Blue Card, or a family member thereof, has stayed outside the territory of European Union Member States for a continuous period exceeding 24 months; 3) in all other cases if the foreign national has stayed outside the territory continuously for a period in excess of 6 years.

It follows from the above that continuous physical presence of the foreign national in the territory is necessary for acquisition of citizenship. The period of continuous legal stay is maintained if any absence did not exceed 6 consecutive months and if in total did not exceed 310 days or if one period of the foreign national's absence from the territory was not more than 12 consecutive months in serious circumstances, in particular pregnancy and birth of a child, serious illness, study or professional training. This is an independently set condition which differs from the condition demanding a set length of permitted permanent residence.

No, holding a permit is sufficient.

From a point of view of acquiring permanent residence, it is important that the foreign national has had valid authorisation of stay for the entire period.

Other.

The Citizenship Act contains two conditions side by side relating to the stay of an applicant in the CR. The first condition (Section 14(1) of the Citizenship Act) demands a stipulated length of permitted permanent residence. The second condition (Section 14(2) of the Citizenship Act) then demands proof of factual stay of the applicant in the CR for the stipulated period. The applicant must prove that he/she has actually remained in the territory of the Czech Republic for at least half of the period of stay, i.e. for applicants of third-countries the assessed period is a term of 5 years preceding submission of an application.

**Q9c. What proof (e.g. documentary evidence) is required to demonstrate that the minimum period of residence has been met?**

- The length of permanent residence is based on state controlled Foreign National Information System and from documents that prove permanent residence in the CR (permanent residence permit).
- The factual stay of the applicant in the territory of the CR is verified on the basis of specific documents that the applicant presents to prove this fact (the Citizenship Act expressly stipulates that the applicant must accompany the application with documents proving the applicants stay in the Czech Republic and his/her stays abroad). For each applicant the factuality of his/her stay is verified using specific materials that the applicant submitted for this purpose.

**Q9d. Can the period of residence be interrupted? If yes, how long can this interruption last?**

Yes.

No.

The important thing is for the applicant to satisfy the required period of factual stay as described in the answer to Q9b. The required period of factual stay may be interrupted, but it is essential that an applicant from a third-country proves that during the 5 years preceding the date of submission of his/her application had factually remained in the territory of the CR for a period of at least 30 months.

**Pre-existing legal residence status****Q10. What pre-existing legal residence status of the citizenship applicant is accepted?**

Please also indicate for how long each of the given legal statuses has to be held in order for the third-country national to be able to acquire the citizenship of your country. For temporary permits, please indicate to what extent the number of years the third-country national possesses such a permit count towards being granted access to citizenship.

- Permanent residence permit.
- Refugee status.
- Temporary residence permit.
- Other protection statuses.
- Other status.

See answer to Q9. The condition of preceding permanent residence need not be satisfied by foreign nationals who apply for permanent residence for humanitarian reasons – i.e. that they are the spouse of a beneficiary of international protection and the marriage occurred before entry to the CR, the minor child of a beneficiary of international protection or if the foreign national was a Czech citizen in the past.

**Section 2.2 Conditions****Language****Q11. Is knowledge of the national language(s) required for all naturalisation grounds, and if so, what is the required level?<sup>25</sup>**

- Yes.
- No.

The required level of proficiency in the Czech language is stipulated as B1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

**Q11a. If yes, how is this proven or evaluated? What evidence is required, and which authority is responsible for assessment (e.g. ministry officials, language experts, private language institutions contracted by state, etc.)?**

An applicant must submit a Czech Language examination pass certificate with his/her application for acquisition of citizenship.

Only an entity that as a fully-fledged member of the Association of Language Testing Institutions in Europe that is organising a Czech Language as a Foreign Language examination certified by the aforesaid

<sup>25</sup> Please indicate the level according to the Common European Framework of References for Languages – CEFR (A1-C2).

association is authorised to hold Czech language examinations for the purposes of conferral of citizenship.

Currently the examination institution according to the paragraph above is Charles University (specifically the Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies).

**Q11b. If your Member State uses a language test, has this test ever been evaluated?**

- Yes.  
 No.

Statistical success of applicants in the Czech language examination for purposes of acquisition of citizenship is assessed on an ongoing basis by the institution holding the examination.

### **Citizenship tests and commitments**

**Q12. Are citizenship applicants required to pass a citizenship or integration test for all naturalisation grounds?**

*Please note that this could also include oral interviews.*

- Yes.  
 No.

Applicants for acquisition of citizenship must demonstrate basic knowledge of the constitutional system of the Czech Republic and basic orientation in the cultural, social, geographical and historical aspects of the Czech Republic.

No other test is required in connection with acquisition of citizenship.

**Q12a. If yes, has the citizenship test ever been evaluated?**

- Yes.  
 No.

**Q13. Is the applicant required to legally or symbolically commit to certain values or norms (such as human rights, democracy, quality and the rule of law) for all naturalisation grounds and if so, which ones?**

- Yes.  
 No.

The condition described in Q12 involves demonstration of knowledge concerning the basics required from a citizen, particularly the fundamental of the constitutional system of the Czech Republic.

**Q14. Are applicants required to pledge formally allegiance to your Member State (e.g. oath of allegiance?) If yes, does this apply to all naturalisation grounds? Please explain the differences.**

Yes.

No.

For persons over 15 years of age acquiring citizenship by classic acquisition (naturalisation), acquisition of citizenship takes place by oath of citizenship.

For more details, see answer to Q32.

#### **Good conduct**

**Q15. Is the third-country national expected to fulfil any requirements regarding good conduct (e.g. clean criminal record, fulfilment of civic requirements such as payment of taxes), public order, public health and if so, which ones?**

Yes.

No.

– An applicant over 15 years of age must satisfy the condition of a clean criminal record (i.e. has not been convicted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment for a negligent crime or for an intentional crime).

If an applicant's stay in the CR is a period of less than 10 years, he/she must prove that, over the 10 years preceding the date of submission of his/her application, he/she was not convicted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment for a negligent crime or for an intentional crime in the state of which he/she is a citizen or in states where he/she stayed for more than 6 months after reaching 15 years of age (unless the applicant has been granted international protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection).

The above condition is satisfied if an applicant is regarded as having not been convicted and sentenced if he/she was convicted of an act which is not a crime according to the laws of the CR.

– An applicant must prove that in the past 3 years he/she has not seriously breached the obligations arising from the legislation governing entry to and stay of foreign nationals in the territory of the CR, public health insurance, social security, pension insurance, employment, taxes, duty, deductions and fees, maintenance for a child who has permanent residence in the territory of the CR, or public obligation towards a municipality where the applicant has his/her registered address.

**Q15a. If yes, what proof (e.g. documentary evidence) is required to demonstrate that the criteria for good conduct has been met?**

With respect to proving the condition of a clean criminal record, an applicant must provide:

- an extract from the penal register or an equivalent document issued by the relevant court or administrative authority of a foreign state or other document proving that the applicant has a clean criminal

record, or a statutory declaration affirming a clean criminal record. These documents must not be older than 6 months.

With respect to proving the condition requiring performance of obligations stipulated by special legislation, the application must submit with his/her application:

- certificates no older than 30 days confirming that both the Financial Administration authorities of the Czech Republic nor the Customs and Excise authorities of the Czech Republic have no debt on record for the applicant with the exception of a debt, deferred payment of which or payment by instalments has been authorised,
- confirmation that the relevant social security authority has no debt on record with regard to social security premiums,
- confirmation that the relevant health insurance company has no debt on record with regard to public health insurance premiums.

### **Economic resources**

**Q16. Is the applicant's economic/financial situation or standard of living taken into account and if so, how (e.g. a minimum income level and assets)? Does this apply to all naturalisation grounds?**

Yes.

No.

An applicant for acquisition of citizenship over 18 years of age must prove the level and source of his/her income for the 3-year period preceding the date of submission of his/her application.

**Q16a. If yes, what proof (e.g. documentary evidence) is required to demonstrate that the minimum income level/assets have been met?**

For the purpose of proving the condition described above in Q16 with his/her application for acquisition of citizenship of the CR, the applicant must present documents proving the applicant's financial resources serving to cover his/her living needs in the Czech Republic, in particular:

- confirmation of employment, including earnings,
- confirmation that the applicant receives an old-age, invalidity or other pension,
- documents proving the spouse's or partner's income if the applicant is reliant on that person's income,
- documents proving that the applicant has income from abroad.

**Q17. Is the third-country national's housing situation taken into account?**

Yes.

No.

Verification of the applicant's situation with regard to housing is not a specific condition for acquisition of citizenship of the Czech Republic.

However, in certain cases it cannot be ruled out that this will also be taken into account during assessment of the applicant's comprehensive integration in the Czech Republic.

### **Others**

#### **Q18. Are there any other requirements not listed above?**

Yes.

No.

An applicant for acquisition of citizenship must prove that during the 3-year period preceding submission of the application, he/she did not burden the state social benefits system or the assistance in material need system significantly and without good reason.

### **Section 2.3 Security**

#### **Q19. Are there any specific exclusion criteria (e.g. threats to national security and public order)?**

Yes.

No.

The Citizenship Act expressly stipulates that citizenship of the Czech Republic cannot be granted to an applicant who presents a threat to state security, its sovereignty and territorial integrity, democratic foundations, lives, health or property.

For this purpose, reports concerning applicants over 15 years of age by the intelligence services of the CR and the Police of the CR are submitted under a regime of secrecy.

## Section 2.4 Specific groups of third-country nationals

**Q20. Are the above-mentioned requirements different for specific groups of third-country nationals, such as the groups listed below. For each group, please briefly explain the main differences that apply:**

- a. Refugees**
- b. Other beneficiaries of international protection statuses**
- c. Specific categories of legal migrants**
- d. Other groups that are significantly represented in your Member State, incl. stateless persons**

### a. Refugees

The Citizenship Act allows beneficiaries of international protection exemption from the legally stipulated required length of permitted permanent residence.

See answers to Q9 and Q10.

### b. Other beneficiaries of international protection statuses

Beneficiaries of international protection are not required to present foreign identity documents which they would otherwise have to present if they had to approach their home state.

Beneficiaries of international protection pay a lower administrative fee for acquisition of citizenship (for more details see Q26).

See answer to Q9.

### c. Specific categories of legal migrants e.g. people with disabilities or people in old age

Persons over 65 years of age are not required to prove knowledge of Czech language or Czech civic knowledge.

Also applicants with physical or mental disabilities that preclude them from acquiring knowledge of the Czech language and Czech civic life are exempted from this condition.

See answer to Q9.

### d. Other groups that are significantly represented in your Member State (e.g. stateless persons, minors, investors, citizens of neighbouring countries).

- The Citizenship Act allows exemption from the legally stipulated required length of permitted permanent residence for applicants who are stateless persons.
- Citizenship may be granted to an applicant who, if acquired citizenship of the Czech Republic, would mean a significant benefit for the Czech Republic from the point of view of science, education, culture and sports, would serve towards meeting the international obligations of the CR or humanitarian purposes, or is in a different state interest, if such applicant has permitted permanent residence in the CR and state security endorsement – such applicant is not required to satisfy any other conditions for acquisition of citizenship. The applicant may prove significant benefit for the CR with a document issued

by a ministry or other central administrative authority, the Office of the President of the Republic, a public or state university or public research institute.

## Section 3

### PROCEDURAL ASPECTS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP IN THE MEMBER STATE

*Please note that, consistent with Section 2, the questions below again only refer to cases when the primary grounds of acquisition of citizenship is through naturalisation based on a minimum period of residence in the country (i.e. "ordinary naturalisation", not the conditions and requirements in place for second- or third-generation migrants and those migrants with special (e.g. ethnical or linguistic) ties to the country).*

**Q21. Please briefly describe the procedure in place for third-country nationals to obtain citizenship through ordinary naturalisation.**

An application for acquisition of citizenship must be submitted at the appropriate Regional Office according to the registered address of the applicant. This Office passes on the application with the stipulated documents within 30 days to the Ministry of the Interior. The law allows spouses to submit a joint application which may also include their children. Similarly, one parent may include children in his/her application with the consent of the other parent. It is also possible to submit an independent application for a child.

Subsequently, the Ministry of the Interior makes its decision on the basis of the adduced evidence within 180 days. If the application is successful, the applicant is issued a certificate of acquisition of citizenship of the CR and is summoned to take the citizenship oath before the director of the Regional Office. In the event of rejection of an application, the Ministry of the Interior shall issue a refusal decision which must specify the reasons that led to rejection of the application. The applicant may appeal against a refusal decision in the form of a so-called "remonstrance" which is decided by the Minister of the Interior as the second instance authority.

**Q21a. Are children automatically naturalised once their parents are granted citizenship?**

- Yes.
- No.

**Q22. What public authorities/agencies are involved in procedures for third-country nationals' acquisition of the citizenship of your Member State?**

*Please mention and describe their roles at each step of the process in order to identify the authorities by which the application is introduced and those taking the decisions.*

- The Regional Office (in Prague the District Offices of Prague 1 to 22) – is responsible for accepting applications for acquisition of citizenship of the CR. It issues a substantive opinion regarding the application. The applicant takes the citizenship oath before the director of the

Regional Office (in Prague before the secretaries of the City District Offices of Prague 1 to 22).

- The Ministry of the Interior – decides on the basis of merit on applications for acquisition of citizenship, i.e. it conducts administrative proceedings concerning such applications.
- The municipal office of the municipality where the applicant has his/her registered address – in the course of proceedings it provides an opinion on the applicant's character.
- The intelligence services of the CR and the Police of the CR – they provide a so-called state security opinion concerning applicants over 15 years of age. These opinions are submitted under a regime of secrecy.

**Q23. Are these procedures digitised? Can applications for citizenship be made online?**

- Yes.
- No.

On the contrary, submission of applications in person is expressly required by law.

**Q24. What documentation is required in order to submit the application (e.g. passport, birth certificate) (in addition to the evidence reported to meet the conditions set out in Section 2)?**

An applicant for acquisition of citizenship must append:

- the applicant's registry documents (birth certificate, marriage certificate, divorce certificate, spouse's death certificate and similar documents relating to registered partnership),
- a document confirming a clean criminal record abroad, if the applicant is required to prove this fact,
- a curriculum vitae in free prose in Czech providing in particular information concerning his/her stay in the territory of the Czech Republic, including periods of stay abroad during this time, work or other gainful activities and study in the Czech Republic and his/her family and social life,
- Czech language and Czech civic knowledge examination pass certificates (or else documents proving a period of study in the Czech language for at least 3 years, or documents proving that the applicant has a physical or mental disability that precludes him/her from acquiring knowledge of Czech language and Czech civic life),
- documents proving the applicant's stay in the territory of the Czech Republic and abroad,
- certificates no older than 30 days confirming that both the Financial Administration authorities of the Czech Republic nor the Customs and Excise authorities of the Czech Republic have no debt on record

for the applicant with the exception of a debt, deferred payment of which or payment by instalments has been authorised,

- documents proving the applicant's financial resources serving to cover his/her living needs in the Czech Republic,
- confirmation of employment,
- confirmation of study, if the applicant has studied or is studying in the CR.

**Q25. What is the legally prescribed maximum time period for the procedure, if applicable, and how long do procedures take in practice? If the different stages of the procedure have maximum time periods (e.g., registration, application, etc.) please differentiate. Are certain types of cases prioritised or fast-tracked, and if so, which ones?**

- The Regional Office is required to pass on an application within 30 days to the Ministry of the Interior.
- The Ministry of the Interior has a legally stipulated deadline of 180 days to process an application.
- The Minister of the Interior has a legally stipulated deadline of 120 days to decide on a remonstrance (appeal) if an application is rejected by the first instance authority.

**Q26. What are the costs for the application for citizenship (in €)? Please note that this excludes costs for the translation of documents, trainings for language proficiency, etc. Please specify whether different costs apply to different grounds.**

- No fee is charged for submission of an application for acquisition of citizenship.
- An administration fee of CZK 2,000 (approx. EUR 80) is stipulated for acquisition of citizenship, while for minors this administrative fee is CZK 500 (approx. EUR 20). In special circumstances, the Ministry of the Interior may reduce this fee to CZK 500 (approx. EUR 20) and CZK 100 (approx. EUR 4) for minors.
- The administrative fee for acquisition of citizenship for applicants with asylum status is CZK 500 (approx. EUR 20). In special circumstances the Ministry of the Interior may reduce this fee to CZK 100 (approx. EUR 4).

Fees are also charged for taking examinations in Czech language and Czech civic knowledge for the purposes of acquisition of citizenship. Currently the fee for the Czech Language exam is CZK 3,300 (approx. EUR 132) and CZK 1,600 (approx. EUR 64) for the Czech civic knowledge exam. The examination fees go to the testing institution and do not represent income for the state budget of the CR.

**Q27. Are there any other evidence requirements to be fulfilled for a final decision to be taken on the citizenship application (in addition to those set out above, e.g. language certificate)?**

Applicants must present Czech language and Czech civic knowledge examination pass certificates with their application.

**Q28. To what extent is discretion an element of the procedure/ decision-making process? Is there absolute discretion or conditional discretion?<sup>26</sup>**

The Ministry of the Interior decides on acquisition of citizenship and on assessment of satisfaction of (or potential exemption from) the legally stipulated conditions thereof on the basis of its administrative consideration. The Ministry must verify in the administrative proceedings which legal conditions are met by an applicant and which not, and whether to exempt him/her from satisfaction of such conditions.

The Citizenship Act expressly contains the principle that no legal right to acquire of citizenship exists. This principle may apply even in cases where an applicant proves satisfaction of all of the legally stipulated conditions.

An applicant may appeal against a refusal decision by which his/her application for acquisition of citizenship was rejected in the form of a so-

<sup>26</sup> Absolute discretion means that the state may leave authorities absolute discretion to grant naturalisation to applicants, whether or not they meet the legal requirements. Conditional discretion means authorities only have limited grounds to reject applicants who meet the legal requirements.

called remonstrance which is decided by the Minister of the Interior as the second instance authority. The deadline for appeal is 15 days.

If the Minister confirms the refusal decision, an administrative complaint may be lodged against it, which will subsequently be decided upon by the administrative courts of the CR. However, judicial review of decisions concerning applications for acquisition of citizenship rejected on grounds of state security is precluded.

**Q29. What challenges if any have been experienced regarding the verification of the identity of naturalisation applicants?**

When submitting an application for acquisition of citizenship, the identity of the applicant must be proved beyond any doubt, specifically on the basis of an applicant's valid identification documents (permanent residence permit issued by the CR, passport). If identity is not proven unequivocally, an application cannot be processed.

**Q30. Is there a right of appeal or basis for legal challenge if citizenship is refused? If yes, do the authorities have to provide information about the grounds for refusal?**

Yes.

No.

Decisions concerning rejection of an application for acquisition of citizenship must be reasoned on the part of the Ministry of the Interior, i.e. in its rationale the Ministry of the Interior must specify which legal facts led

to rejection of the application. Only in cases where an application is rejected on the grounds that the applicant presents a threat to state security, its sovereignty and territorial integrity, democratic foundations, lives, health or property, the rationale states that the application was rejected on grounds of a threat to state security without details stating what the concrete threat to state security involves.

The Minister's decision on a remonstrance must be reasoned in the same manner.

**Q31. What are the most common grounds for a negative citizenship application decision? If possible, please list the top 5 reasons.** Grounds could include insufficient language skills, insufficient period of residence, criminal record, unestablished identity.

- Failure to satisfy obligations arising from legislation.
- Failure to satisfy the condition of amount and source of income.
- Failure to satisfy the condition of length of permanent residence.
- Unsuccessful integration of an applicant in the CR.
- Failure to satisfy the condition of factual stay.

**Q32. Does your Member State organise a citizenship ceremony? If yes, is participation in such a ceremony mandatory or voluntary?**

- Yes.  
 No.

The citizenship oath is taken by the applicants at the Regional Office (in Prague the City District Offices for Prague 1 to 22). The Citizenship Act expressly stipulates that the citizenship oath is taken ceremonially in public. Organisation of the actual citizenship oath ceremony is the responsibility of the Regional Office under condition that the public and solemn nature of this ceremony is observed.

**Support provided during the application process**

**Q33. Does your Member States provide information and/or encourages third-country nationals to consider applying for citizenship?**

- Yes.  
 No.

Detailed information concerning the conditions of acquisition of citizenship and of the administrative proceedings within which applications are processed is available on the Ministry of the Interior website.

Information are also provided on the special Ministry of the Interior information line on which citizenship department staff give an information service.

Information is also available at Regional Offices which are responsible for accepting applications (by in-person visit to the Regional Office or by telephone).

A special website exists ([www.cestina-pro-cizince.cz](http://www.cestina-pro-cizince.cz)) relating to proving knowledge of Czech language and Czech civic life with all of the relevant information concerning the Czech language and Czech civic knowledge exams for the purposes of acquisition of citizenship.

**Q34. Is governmental support provided to applicants during the application process?<sup>27</sup> Have any good practices been identified in your Member State?**

- Yes.  
 No.

See question Q33.

<sup>27</sup> For the purpose of this study, only support under the control of the state should be included here (e.g. websites, telephone hotline), i.e. support by NGOs or private service providers is excluded unless contracted by the state.

**Q35. Does your Member State organise, support or finance integration measures (classes, training, etc.) to facilitate the acquisition of citizenship? If yes, please specify whether these are prescribed by law.**

Yes.

No.

Regional integration centres have been operating since 2009 whose main motivation is to monitor the situation of foreign nationals in the regions and to help municipalities and employers. The centres offer legal and social advice, language courses and cultural activities. 10 of the centres are state-run while the others are run by the regions or non-government organisations and are financed by EU funds (2009–2015: EIF, 2015–2020: AMIF). As of 2020 administration and financing of these centres will be taken over by the state, centres will provide adaptation and integration courses, Czech language courses, socio-cultural integration course and legal advice and will be compulsory for foreign nationals.

## Section 4

### DUAL CITIZENSHIP

**Q36. Is the third-country national required to renounce his/her other citizenship in order to acquire or hold citizenship in your Member State?**

Yes.

No.

Since Act No. 186/2013 Coll. came into effect on 1 January 2014, the Czech Republic fully endorses allowing the existence of dual (or multiple) citizenship. The condition for acquisition of citizenship involving the revocation of the hitherto citizenship of the applicant was enshrined in Czech law until the end of 2013.

**Q37. Is the requirement to renounce dependent on the person's other citizenship and are there exemptions from this requirement, for example for third-country nationals from third countries that do not allow a renunciation of citizenship?**

See answer to Q36.

**Q38. Are there any particular requirements that third-country nationals have to fulfil if they want to acquire or hold the citizenship of your Member State while keeping their other one(s)? If so, which requirements?**

See answer to Q36.

**Q39. Are there any particular restrictions placed on third-country nationals who hold dual citizenship? Does dual citizenship confer fewer rights? (e.g. access to specific types of employment)**

Yes.

No.

Citizens with dual citizenship have the same status as Czech citizens in the CR who have no other citizenship. It applies that if someone is

a citizen of the Czech Republic and another state also considers that person to be its citizen, citizenship of the CR is decisive.

**Q40. If your Member State allows dual/multiple citizenships, have there been any particular benefits or challenges that this policy has brought?**

Yes.

No.

## Section 5

### CITIZENSHIP AND INTEGRATION

**Q41. How does the integration policy of your Member State address the acquisition of citizenship? Is citizenship addressed in your national integration strategy/action plan?**

Yes.

No.

Acquisition of citizenship is mentioned in the main integration policy document in the CR (*Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic – Mutual Respect*), nevertheless acquisition of citizenship is not specifically cited as a main integration target in strategic and policy documents. This material was adopted by CR government decree in the year 2000 and was subsequently fundamentally updated in the years 2006, 2011 and 2016. Preparation for the Czech language and civic knowledge exams is possible in cooperation with 18 Integration Centres that are distributed throughout the Czech Republic. Support in this area is provided also by certain non-government non-profit organisations.

The aim of integration policy is to support integration as a process leading towards problem-free and mutually beneficial coexistence of the foreign nationals and the majority society, towards building awareness of a feeling of belonging and of joint responsibility for coexistence and building an interconnected and communicating society.

**Q42. Is there any evidence, e.g., from research or evaluation, indicating that the acquisition of citizenship facilitates integration, in particular on the labour market?**

No. In view of the fact that third-country nationals gain extensive rights in the labour market already upon acquiring permanent residence, this matter has not yet been linked with research in the field of citizenship. It is anticipated that acquisition of citizenship of the CR plays no significant role in terms of the labour market.

**Q43. What are the main differences and new rights and duties between being a citizen of your country compared to holding a permanent or long-term residence permit?**

*Please elaborate on the following aspects:*

### a. Participation in regional or national elections.

It may be said that upon acquiring citizenship, third-country nationals gain full voting rights (the right to vote and to be elected) in all types of election. Third-country nationals with permanent residence have the right to vote in municipal council elections.

### b. Access to certain types of employment (jobs that are only open to citizens of your country).

Unlike third-country foreign nationals, Czech citizens may hold all types of public office, including jobs in state service that are limited to persons with Czech citizenship. In the course of systemisation and in the public interest, the government may stipulate an essential requirement for some jobs in state service to be Czech citizenship. The requirement of citizenship may also apply for certain positions in the armed forces.

### c. Other differences/advantages, such as social and economic rights (social security, benefits, allowances, etc.)?

No. Foreign nationals may acquire permanent residence in the Czech Republic after five years of stay, thereby acquiring all social and economic rights to the same scope as citizens of this state. Acquisition of citizenship of the CR brings no fundamental changes in this area.

**Q44. What support is given once citizenship has been granted to support the new citizen in their role as a citizen (e.g. information sessions organised at a local level, other information material)? Are there good practices in place in your Member State?**

Support to foreign nationals is focused mainly on the period before their arrival in the Czech Republic ("*Next Stop the Czech Republic*" project – basic information on the conditions for foreign nationals to stay in the Czech Republic with a warning of the potential risks involved with failure to abide by the law provided to potential immigrants in their country of origin), after arriving in the Czech Republic ("*Adaptation and Integration Courses*" – one-day courses for newly arrived foreign nationals, interpreted into a language that they can understand) and in the course of their stay in the Czech Republic (courses for foreign nationals with long-term or permanent residence, Czech language courses for foreign nationals). After gaining citizenship, support is not fundamentally developed. It is a known practice that municipalities give their new citizens information leaflet with basic practical information concerning the powers of the various authorities.

**Q45. With the acquisition of national citizenship there is also the acquisition of EU citizenship which confers rights such as the freedom to move or reside within the territory of the EU or the right to vote for and stand as a candidate in the European Parliament and municipal elections. What information or other support measures (if any) are given in your country to allow new citizens to enact their role as EU citizens (e.g. signposting to information material on the rights and responsibilities of EU citizens or specific, tailored information)? Is this different/additional to information provided to all citizens on their rights and responsibilities as EU citizens?**

No information material for foreign nationals/new citizens focusing on their newly acquired rights arising from EU citizenship is distributed to new citizens. Any information on the rights and obligations connected with acquisition of EU citizenship is the same as for other citizens of the CR.

**Q46. Are there any indications (e.g. in reports, studies or statistics) that acquisition of citizenship facilitates mobility to other Member States and/or mobility or longer-term migration to non-EU countries?**

Yes.

No.

No, detailed research into this topic has yet to be performed. With acquisition of citizenship of the CR, foreign nationals gain improved mobility and certain studies claim that this is one of the main reasons for their application for citizenship of the CR. In general, however, this concerns simplified travel (e.g. for study outside the CR) than a long-term plan to use citizenship of the CR to make it possible to move to another country.

## Section 6

### CONCLUSIONS

As of 31 December 2018, a total of 566,931 foreign nationals with legally authorised stay (for a period of over 90 days) in the Czech Republic were on record. Therefore, foreign nationals accounted for about 5.3 % of the population. The proportion of third-country nationals in the total number of inhabitants of the CR accounts for about 3 %. Almost two thirds of third-country nationals are staying in the territory of the Czech Republic on a permanent basis and the number has been rising over the past years. Most third-country nationals come to the Czech Republic for the purpose of conducting gainful activities, followed by a second and third group comprising family reunification and study. The largest third country national group comprises foreign nationals hailing from linguistically close areas and from countries with which the Czech Republic had created and built ties long before the CR joined the EU (Ukraine, Russian Federation, Vietnam).

Act No. 186/2013 Coll. on Citizenship of the Czech Republic, in effect as of 1 January 2014, brought a wide range of changes in the area of acquisition of citizenship of the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic fully endorsed permitting the existence of dual (or multiple) citizenship. On the basis of the available statistics (Annex 2) it is clear, that the number of citizenships granted to third-country nationals has ranged from 2 000 to 5 000 over the past 5 years and any clear trend was seen. Total of **3,762 persons** acquired citizenship of the Czech Republic in 2018, from which **2,935 persons were from third-countries** and

**827 persons came from the EU.** Third-country nationals thus represented almost 80 % of persons, who acquired Czech citizenship in 2018. The majority of them came from Ukraine and Russian Federation (Annex 1).

Czech legislation differentiates **citizenship** from **nationality**. Citizenship is understood as a personal legal relationship of a certain natural person to a certain state. The substance of this legal relationship is a range of rights and obligations arising from the natural person belonging to the state. Contrarily, in the Czech Republic the term nationality is understood as a natural person belonging to a certain nation, while a nation is taken to be a certain community of people characterised usually by common cultural traditions, common historical development, common ethnic and linguistic features thanks to which they differ from other people. In the Czech Republic everybody has the right to decide about his/her own nationality, i.e. it is up to the free will of each natural person with which nationality he/she identifies.

The legal system of the CR differentiates between so-called **classic (general) acquisition of citizenship, special modes of acquisition of citizenship** and **simplified acquisition of citizenship by so-called declaration** (permitted only for certain person categories).

For persons over 15 years of age acquiring citizenship by **classic acquisition (naturalisation)**, acquisition of citizenship takes place by oath of citizenship.

**Special modes of acquisition** of citizenship apply for the following groups of person:

- granting citizenship to persons who, if acquired the citizenship of the Czech Republic, would mean a significant benefit for the Czech Republic from the point of view of science, education, culture and sports, would serve towards meeting the international obligations of the CR or humanitarian purposes, or is in a different state interest,

- granting citizenship to a child whose mother is not a citizen of the CR, an EU state nor homeless, and whose father, a citizen of the CR has been determined as the father on the basis of a affirmative parental declaration of paternity,
- granting citizenship to a child born in the territory of the CR who has not acquired the citizenship of either of his/her parents and at least one of the parents has authorised stay in the Czech Republic for a period of longer than 90 days,
- granting citizenship to a person over 3 years of age found in the territory of the CR where, due to the level of mental capacity or due to medical disability, it proves impossible to determine his/her identity, if it does not become clear within 6 months of being found that this natural person has acquired citizenship of another state.

Where the possibility of simplified acquisition of citizenship by so-called **declaration** exists, a legal right to acquisition of citizenship exists if the conditions stipulate for such declaration are satisfied. The following person categories are permitted to make declaration of acquisition of citizenship:

- former Czechoslovak and Czech citizens who lost their citizenship prior to 1 January 2014 (the law excludes certain groups of former citizens from the declaration option) and then their second and third generation descendants,
- persons who held citizenship of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic until 31 December 1992, but did not retain citizenship of either the Czech Republic or the Slovak Republic thereafter,
- persons who were in the past issued with a document proving Czech citizenship and this document has not been cancelled within the stipulated term,

- so-called second generation migrants who can prove the required length of stay in the CR,
- children entrusted to foster care in the CR.

Third-country nationals most frequently acquire citizenship by classic acquisition.

The most common reasons for refusal to grant citizenship of the CR include: failure to satisfy the conditions of amount and source of income, failure to satisfy the condition of the required length of permanent residence, failure by the applicant to integrate in the CR and failure to satisfy the condition of factual stay.

To the future, the Czech Republic anticipates a positive outlook in the area of integration of third-country nationals due to the introduction of the new obligation of their participation in adaptation and integration courses held at Foreign National Integration Centres. Support of tuition and knowledge of the Czech Republic will be provided for various levels of proficiency and various professional fields, including preparatory courses for the examination required for acquisition of permanent residence or citizenship making this support available in all regions of the CR. It may also be expected in the future an increase in the required level of the Czech language examination for permanent residence in the territory of the CR to the level of A2, which facilitates better integration of third-country nationals with permanent residence in the territory of the CR, their easier orientation in various social situations and their better comprehension of cultural differences in the host country.

**Annex 1.**

How many third-country nationals have acquired the citizenship of your Member State in 2018, differentiated by the 10 main former citizenships of the persons concerned and disaggregated by sex and age groups. This includes all modes of naturalisation, as well as second- and third-generation migrants. Data should be provided to the extent possible based on the Eurostat definitions for dataset migr\_acq; country of citizenship: non-28 EU countries nor reporting country; age definition: age reached during the year.

**Statistics for the Czech Republic are available for TOP 10 including EU citizens (highlighted in blue).**

Country of citizenship		5 years			5–9 years		
		total	male	female	total	male	female
Top 1 country of former citizenship	Ukraine	82	44	38	93	51	42
Top 2 country of former citizenship	Russian Federation	42	23	19	41	20	21
Top 3 country of former citizenship	Slovakia	14	4	10	19	11	8
Top 4 country of former citizenship	Vietnam	27	15	12	30	16	14
Top 5 country of former citizenship	Belarus	14	5	9	9	2	7
Top 6 country of former citizenship	Moldavia	11	4	7	12	5	7
Top 7 country of former citizenship	Romania	7	2	5	5	4	1
Top 8 country of former citizenship	Poland	1	0	1	1	1	0
Top 9 country of former citizenship	Kazakhstan	1	0	1	2	2	0
Top 10 country of former citizenship	Serbia	3	3	0	2	0	2

**Source:** General Administration Department of the Ministry of the Interior

**Annex 1.**

Country of citizenship		10–14 years			15–19 years		
		total	male	female	total	male	female
Top 1 country of former citizenship	Ukraine	73	39	34	54	28	26
Top 2 country of former citizenship	Russian Federation	26	17	9	25	12	13
Top 3 country of former citizenship	Slovakia	14	10	4	10	8	2
Top 4 country of former citizenship	Vietnam	18	7	11	17	7	10
Top 5 country of former citizenship	Belarus	3	2	1	7	4	3
Top 6 country of former citizenship	Moldavia	6	3	3	5	2	3
Top 7 country of former citizenship	Romania	4	4	0	2	0	2
Top 8 country of former citizenship	Poland	1	1	0	0	0	0
Top 9 country of former citizenship	Kazakhstan	3	3	0	3	2	1
Top 10 country of former citizenship	Serbia	2	1	1	3	2	1

**Source:** General Administration Department of the Ministry of the Interior

**Annex 1.**

Country of citizenship		20–24 years			25–29 years		
		total	male	female	total	male	female
Top 1 country of former citizenship	Ukraine	73	34	42	111	43	68
Top 2 country of former citizenship	Russian Federation	14	7	7	60	17	43
Top 3 country of former citizenship	Slovakia	6	2	4	25	7	18
Top 4 country of former citizenship	Vietnam	28	13	15	30	16	14
Top 5 country of former citizenship	Belarus	1	1	0	10	2	8
Top 6 country of former citizenship	Moldavia	7	4	3	9	5	4
Top 7 country of former citizenship	Romania	4	1	3	6	0	6
Top 8 country of former citizenship	Poland	1	0	1	4	0	4
Top 9 country of former citizenship	Kazakhstan	4	3	1	5	3	2
Top 10 country of former citizenship	Serbia	1	1	0	1	1	0

**Source:** General Administration Department of the Ministry of the Interior

**Annex 1.**

Country of citizenship		30–34 years			35–39 years		
		total	male	female	total	male	female
Top 1 country of former citizenship	Ukraine	137	48	89	189	65	124
Top 2 country of former citizenship	Russian Federation	114	33	81	94	34	60
Top 3 country of former citizenship	Slovakia	81	27	54	124	45	79
Top 4 country of former citizenship	Vietnam	16	8	8	7	5	2
Top 5 country of former citizenship	Belarus	26	10	10	24	6	18
Top 6 country of former citizenship	Moldavia	18	5	13	20	11	9
Top 7 country of former citizenship	Romania	18	8	10	6	4	2
Top 8 country of former citizenship	Poland	3	3	0	8	3	5
Top 9 country of former citizenship	Kazakhstan	13	6	7	4	1	3
Top 10 country of former citizenship	Serbia	5	3	2	8	6	2

**Source:** General Administration Department of the Ministry of the Interior

**Annex 1.**

Country of citizenship		40–44 years			45–49 years		
		total	male	female	total	male	female
Top 1 country of former citizenship	Ukraine	190	65	125	114	40	74
Top 2 country of former citizenship	Russian Federation	61	26	35	50	22	28
Top 3 country of former citizenship	Slovakia	94	45	49	52	24	28
Top 4 country of former citizenship	Vietnam	5	2	3	7	3	4
Top 5 country of former citizenship	Belarus	24	7	17	8	2	6
Top 6 country of former citizenship	Moldavia	15	5	10	14	3	11
Top 7 country of former citizenship	Romania	9	4	5	2	1	1
Top 8 country of former citizenship	Poland	10	3	7	6	1	5
Top 9 country of former citizenship	Kazakhstan	6	2	4	5	2	3
Top 10 country of former citizenship	Serbia	11	5	6	6	2	4

**Source:** General Administration Department of the Ministry of the Interior

**Annex 1.**

Country of citizenship		50–54 years			55–59 years		
		total	male	female	total	male	female
Top 1 country of former citizenship	Ukraine	72	27	45	41	15	26
Top 2 country of former citizenship	Russian Federation	34	13	21	16	5	11
Top 3 country of former citizenship	Slovakia	23	15	8	14	9	5
Top 4 country of former citizenship	Vietnam	18	16	2	14	9	2
Top 5 country of former citizenship	Belarus	6	1	5	4	2	2
Top 6 country of former citizenship	Moldavia	3	1	2	3	2	1
Top 7 country of former citizenship	Romania	0	0	0	2	1	1
Top 8 country of former citizenship	Poland	2	1	1	4	2	2
Top 9 country of former citizenship	Kazakhstan	3	0	3	3	1	2
Top 10 country of former citizenship	Serbia	1	0	1	3	1	2

**Source:** General Administration Department of the Ministry of the Interior

**Annex 1.**

Country of citizenship		60–64 years			65 and over			TOTAL
		total	male	female	total	male	female	
Top 1 country of former citizenship	Ukraine	19	6	13	42	17	25	1 293
Top 2 country of former citizenship	Russian Federation	13	4	9	18	8	10	627
Top 3 country of former citizenship	Slovakia	3	1	2	14	6	8	493
Top 4 country of former citizenship	Vietnam	2	2	0	15	9	6	234
Top 5 country of former citizenship	Belarus	2	1	1	3	0	3	141
Top 6 country of former citizenship	Moldavia	0	0	0	4	1	3	127
Top 7 country of former citizenship	Romania	1	1	0	7	1	6	73
Top 8 country of former citizenship	Poland	2	0	2	16	5	11	59
Top 9 country of former citizenship	Kazakhstan	1	0	1	3	2	1	56
Top 10 country of former citizenship	Serbia	2	2	0	8	5	3	56

**Source:** General Administration Department of the Ministry of the Interior

**Annex 2.**

How many third-country nationals have acquired the citizenship of your country each year between 2014–2018?

**Total number of granted citizenship to EU and third-country nationals and solely to third-country nationals during 2014–2018**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total (EU+TCNs)	5 144 (this is and indicative number)	2 378	3 884	5 020	3 762
Total (TCNs)	not available	2 020	3 130	3 897	2 935

**Source:** General Administration Department of the Ministry of the Interior

The content of this study  
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