

# CZECH REPUBLIC

## EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

# 2019

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING LATEST STATISTICS



## LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

### WORK-RELATED MIGRATION

The amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals (Act No. 326/1999 Coll.) introduced quotas for labour migration by enabling the government to define the total maximum number of applications for residence permits per country. It simultaneously introduced one-year special work visas for employees from third countries in specific economic sectors.

1 September 2019 saw the launch of three new government migration programmes for workers from third countries: Programme Highly Qualified Worker, Programme Qualified Worker (for medium and low-qualified workers), and Programme Key and Research Staff.

On 1 December 2019, the Czech Republic launched a circular migration programme for Ukrainian nationals employed by companies and entrepreneurs in the agriculture, food and forestry industries.

### STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

The amendment transposed Directive 2016/801/EU, on residence for the purposes of research and studies, applying simplified rules for entry and residence of university students and researchers in the Czech Republic. For instance, it introduced long-term residence permits for research scientists and recent university graduates intending to seek employment or start a business in the Czech Republic.

## KEY POINTS



The amended Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic entered into force on 31 July 2019. It responded to the needs of the Czech labour market and transposed the latest EU legislation.



From 2021, an adaption/integration course 'Welcome to the Czech Republic' will be mandatory for selected groups of third-country nationals.



Voluntary returns were considerably enhanced by widening the target group of foreign nationals eligible for the voluntary return programme funded by the Ministry of the Interior.

### INFORMATION ON ROUTES TO AND CONDITIONS OF LEGAL MIGRATION

In 2019, the Ministry of the Interior continued to support the pre-departure information campaign, 'Next Stop the Czech Republic' for non-EU nationals. Since 2013, the project has targeted third-country nationals considering a long-term stay in the Czech Republic. It was developed in cooperation with an NGO founded by immigrants (*Slovo 21*), various ministries, integration centres, the

International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other relevant partners.



## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

In 2019, 12 third countries were added to the national list of safe countries of origin. The time limit was extended for a decision that an application for international protection lodged on the territory of the Czech Republic was manifestly unfounded (the so-called 'accelerated procedure').

### COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

The Czech Republic provided systematic financial assistance to support the asylum, migration and border management systems of countries hosting large refugee communities or transit countries facing a high influx of migrants. Two programmes provided this support, coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior.

Financial support was provided through the 'Programme of the Ministry of the Interior for the Assistance to Refugees in Regions of Origin and Prevention of Large Migration Flows', established in 2015, and also called the 'Aid in Place' programme. In 2019, financial support of CZK 150 million (approximately €6 million) was provided to three main regions: North Africa and the Sahel, the Middle East and Western Balkans. The second programme was MEDEVAC which focuses on providing medical care to vulnerable groups in those countries affected by migration or burdened by a large number of refugees. In 2019, 21 medical teams from eight Czech hospitals assisted 774 patients in Jordan, Lebanon, Senegal and Ghana, as well as provided training 192 members of medical staff at partner hospital in the Ukraine, Morocco, Iraq and Ethiopia.



## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

A new pilot project was designed in 2019, in cooperation with the Office of the Public Prosecutor of Rights. The project focused on developing a non-invasive method to assess the age of unaccompanied minors. The method is based on psychological interview with the concerned person and assessment of other circumstances (personal situation, information on country of origin

etc.). The efficiency of this method is due to be evaluated in 2020.



## INTEGRATION

### INTEGRATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

Based on the amendment to the Foreign Nationals Act the adaption-integration course 'Welcome to the Czech Republic' become mandatory for selected groups of third-country nationals from 2021. This measure should improve the orientation of newly arrived third-country nationals and foster greater awareness of integration measures available through integration centres and NGOs. With the Central Bohemian Region Centre providing full accessibility to all services from 2019, there were a total of 18 integration centres across all regions.

A policy document 'Procedure for Implementing the updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – in Mutual Respect in the Year 2020' was approved by the Government on 16 December 2019. This document will serve as an action plan to implement the policy.

### PROMOTING INTEGRATION AT LOCAL LEVEL

Municipalities were actively encouraged and supported to create their own integration strategies. The Ministry of the Interior funded projects in 16 municipalities in order to support integration activities at local level.



## CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

### ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP

As of 6 September 2019, second and third generation descendants of former Czech (Czechoslovak) citizens (as defined in Section 31(1) of Act No. 186/2013 Coll.) were eligible for Czech citizenship, even if they never held Czech (Czechoslovak) citizenship. Those eligible must prove deep ties to the Czech Republic.

### STATELESSNESS

In 2019, a proposal was drafted on the procedure to determine statelessness. This formed part of the proposed amendment to the Asylum Act and Foreign Nationals Act).



## BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

### VISA POLICY

In 2019, the Czech Republic established cooperation with new visa centres in Bhutan, Botswana, Nepal, Qatar, Pakistan and Tajikistan. This resulted in an increase in the number of Schengen visa applications accepted in 2019.

### SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE

The Fifth Report on Implementation of the National Schengen Plan was published in April 2019. It contained the evaluation of performance on various tasks. Preparation began on the Sixth Report on Implementation which will be presented in 2020.



## IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

### MISUSE OF LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

2019 saw a significant increase in abuse of visa-free stays for the purposes of gainful employment, especially by citizens of Ukraine and Moldova.

### MIGRANT SMUGGLING AND PREVENTION OF IRREGULAR STAY

From the beginning of 2019 – and indeed since 2018 – there was increased misuse of transit through Václav Havel Airport in Prague by Armenian citizens intending to lodge applications for international protection. Ministerial Decree No. 428/2010 Coll. stipulated the obligation for Armenian citizens to have an airport transit visa for international airports inside the territory of the Czech Republic and became effective on 11 March 2019.



## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Implementation of the National strategy to combat trafficking in human beings in the Czech Republic (2016–2019) continued in 2019.



## RETURN AND READMISSION

### RETURN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

The role of voluntary returns was substantially enhanced by widening the target group of foreign nationals eligible for the voluntary return programme funded by the Ministry of the Interior. The changes introduced in the amendment to the Foreign Nationals Act were put into practice, resulting in voluntary return of broader groups of foreign nationals in the second half of the year.



## MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### NATIONAL ACTIONS

The Czech Republic provided systematic financial assistance to support the asylum, migration and border management systems of those countries hosting large refugee communities or transit countries facing a high influx of migrants. It also provided support for the stabilisation of refugees. In 2019, projects were implemented in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Egypt, Jordan, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Northern Macedonia, Libya and Tunisia.

### STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex was prepared by the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD). It provides an overview of the latest available statistics for the Czech Republic on aspects of migration and international protection (2016–2019), including legal residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, integration, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics were not available at the time of publication, this is indicated in the Annex as 'N/A'.

A How to Read guide, describing each chart and reporting the sources, is available [here](#).



## GENERAL NOTES

This four-page statistical annex complements the Country Factsheet with relevant migration-related data organised in nine thematic sections. The dashboard-like layout of the annex allows comparability across countries as well as simultaneous visualisation of different indicators.

Whenever data is not available, the relative chart is left blank or indicated with 'N/A'. Data are provided for the latest available year or the latest available four-year period.

The sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value. This is due to rounding and confidence intervals in the original data. A How to Read guide, describing each chart and reporting the sources, is available on the EMN website.

## COLOUR LEGEND

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

■ data relative to Czechia

■ data relative to EU

## LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

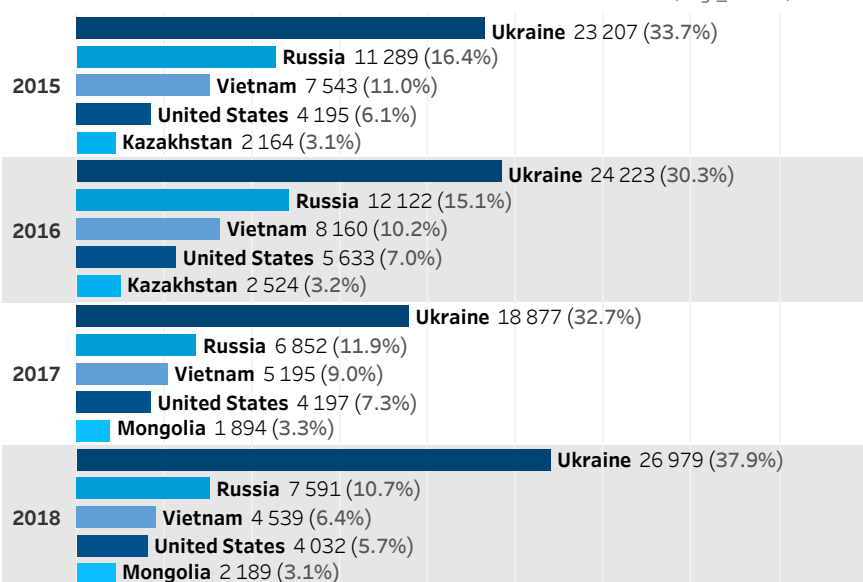
### Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) as % of total population (in the country and in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctz)



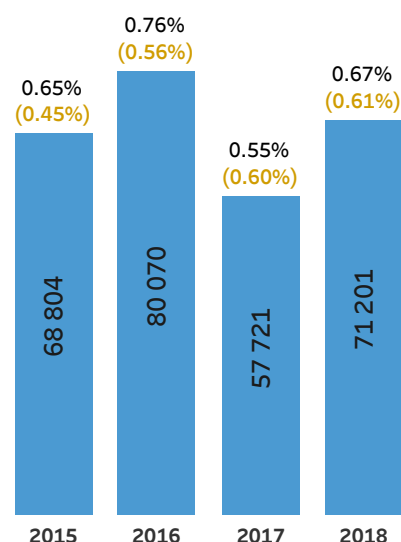
### Top 5 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)



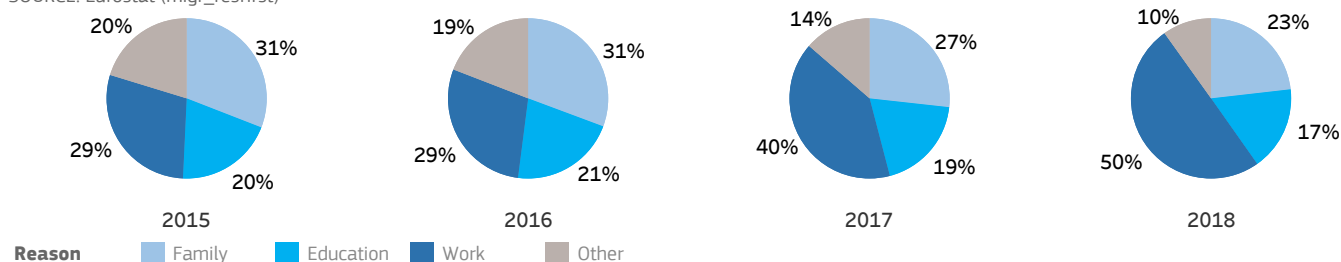
### First residence permits annually issued: tot. num. and % of tot. pop. in the country (and EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)



### First residence permits annually issued by reason

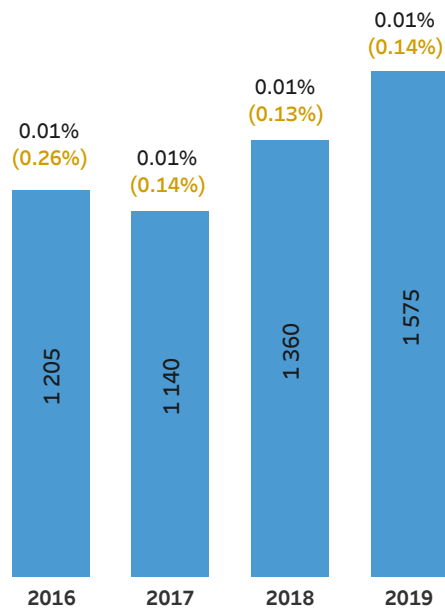
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)



## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

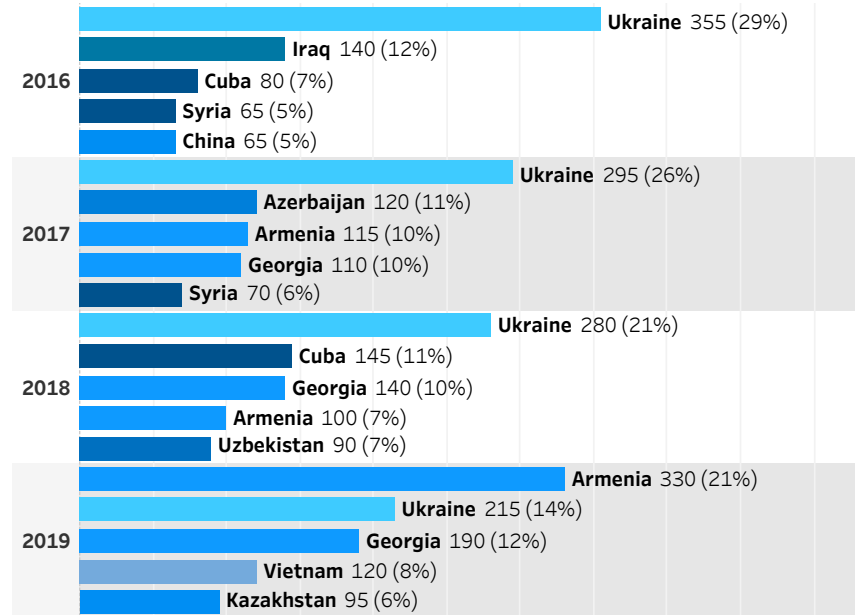
### First-time asylum applications: total num. and as % of population in the country (and in EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyappctza, migr\_pop1ctz)



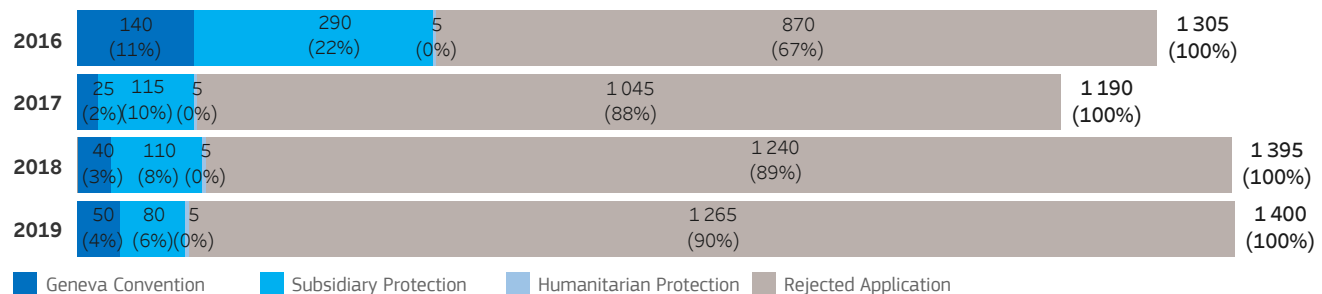
### Top 5 nationalities of annual number of first-time asylum applications: number of applications and % of total first-time annual applications

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyappctza)



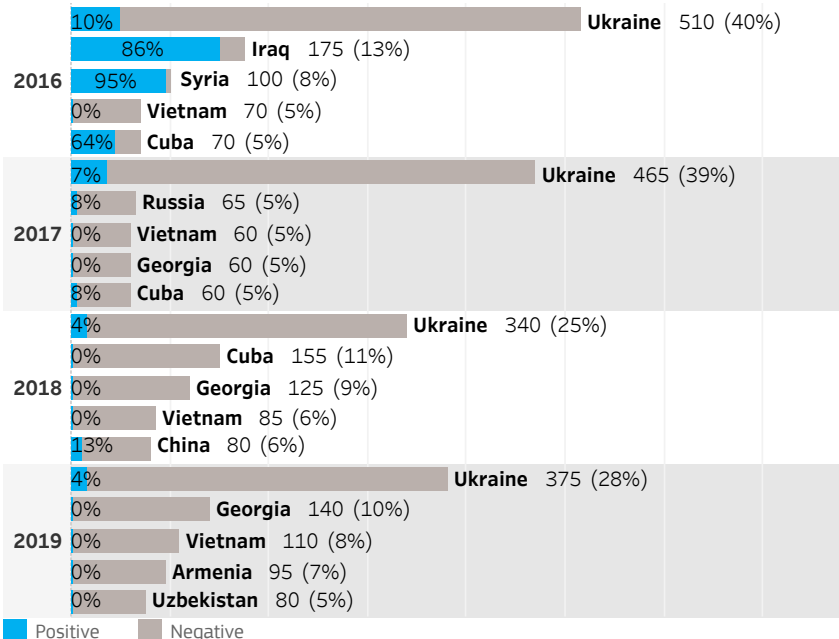
### Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asydcfsta)



### Top 5 nationalities of annual number of first-instance decisions: number of decisions (% of total decisions in the country) and % of positive outcome

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asydcfsta)



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

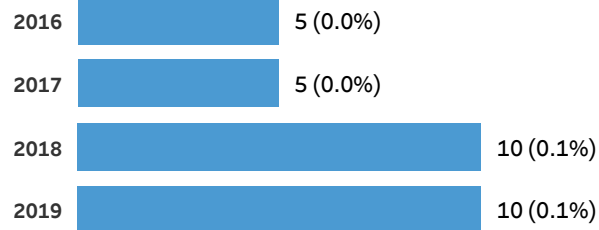
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyresa)

0 or not available

## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

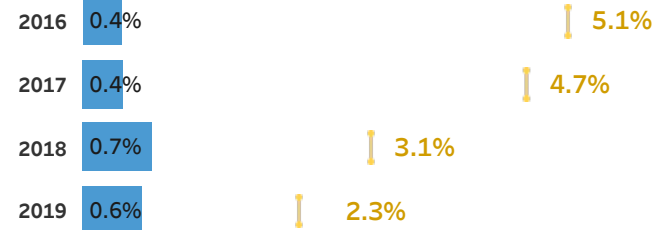
### Unaccompanied Minors applying for asylum in the country (and % of total applications from Unaccompanied Minors in EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyunaa)



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

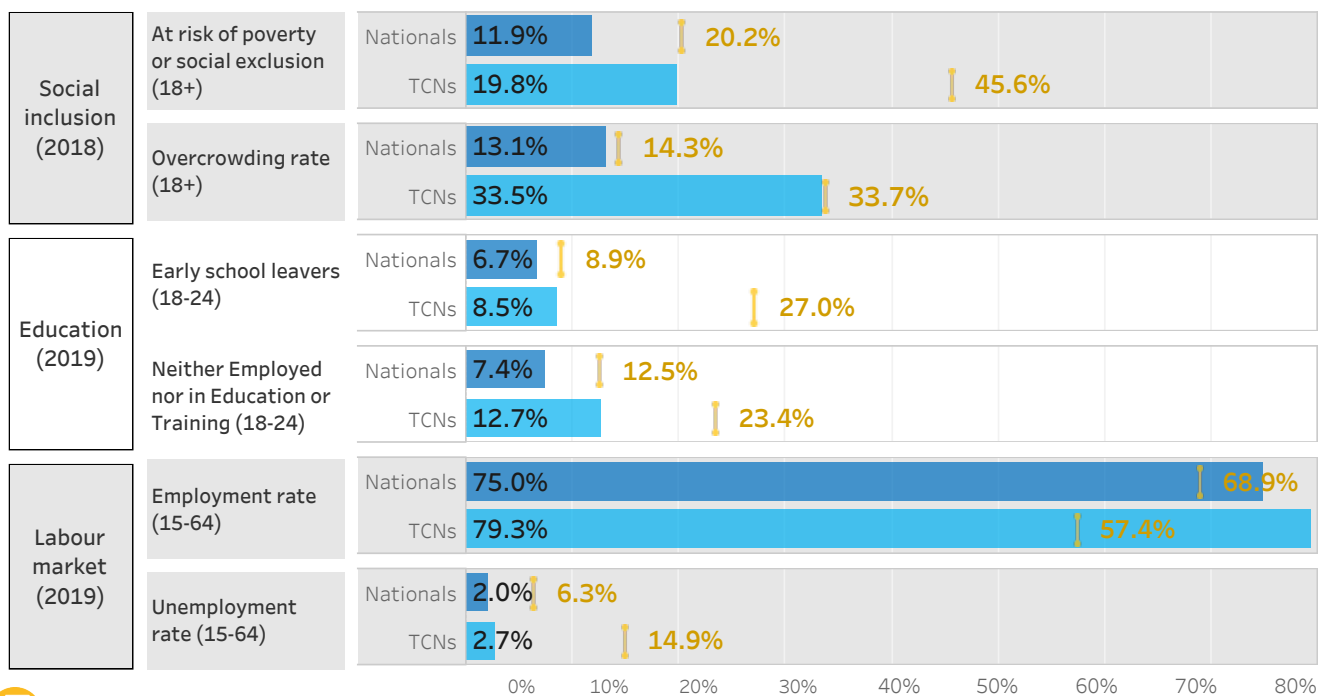
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyunaa)



## INTEGRATION

Integration indicators for nationals of the country (blue) and Third-Country Nationals (TCNs - light blue) in the country (when available). The same indicator is provided in yellow for EU. Data are relative to the last year available.

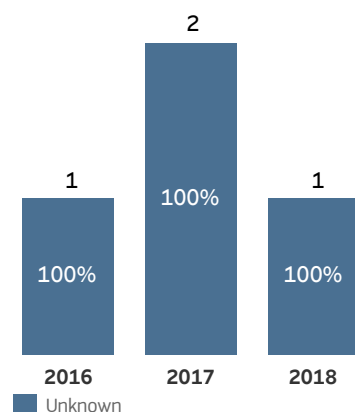
SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc\_peps05, ilc\_lvho15, edat\_lfse\_01, edat\_lfse\_23, lfsa\_ergan, lfsa\_urgan)



## CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

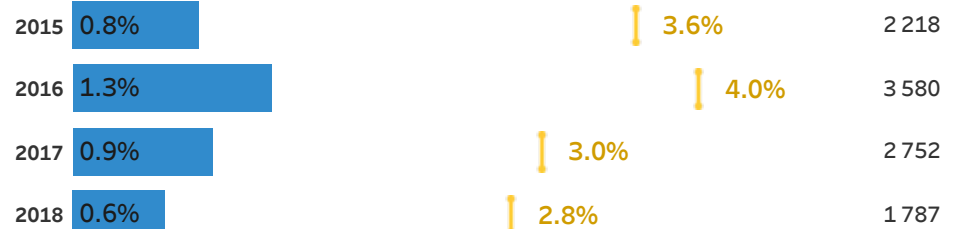
### Stateless, Recogn. Non-Citizens (RNC) and Unknown Citizens

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctza)



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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_acqs, migr\_acq)



### Top 5 nationalities by number of citizenship acquisition in 2018: absolute number and % of total acquisitions in the country by Third-Country Nationals

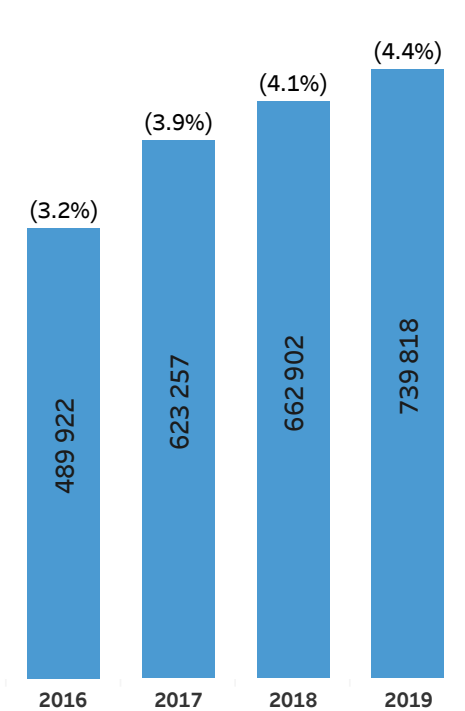
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_acq)



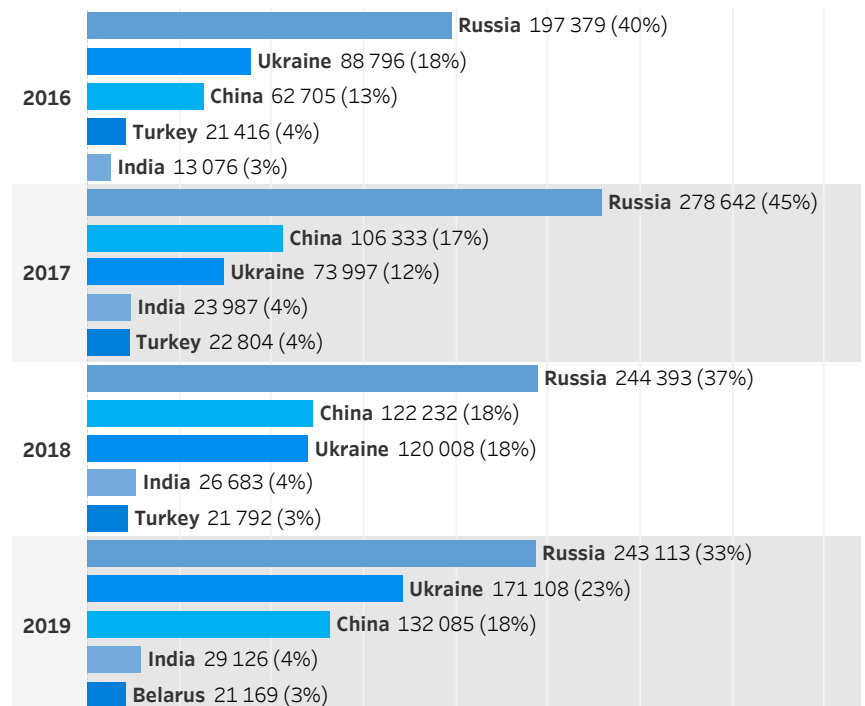
## BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs (complete statistics on short-stay visas applications to Schengen States)

Lodged short-term Visa app. (% of Schengen)



Lodged short-term Visa applications in top 5 consulate countries (% of total app.s)



## IRREGULAR MIGRATION

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eirfs, migr\_eipre, migr\_eiord, migr\_eirtn)



## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of residence permits issued to victims of Trafficking in Human Beings

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resoth)

0 or not available

## RETURN AND READMISSION

Number of Third-Country Nationals who left the territory by type of return

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eirt\_vol)

