



**EMN ANNUAL REPORT**  
**ON ASYLUM AND MIGRATION POLICY**  
**CZECH REPUBLIC**



**The European Migration Network (EMN)** is an initiative of the European Commission responsible for collecting, exchanging and analysing data and information in the field of asylum and migration among the 27 EU Member States (Denmark is not involved in EMN activities) and Norway.

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

The benefit of the European Migration Network lies mainly in the opportunity to secure and compare comprehensive findings about the situation, development and practice in the fields of asylum and migration in the 27 EU Member States and Norway. The EMN also serves as a platform for obtaining information not only from the state institutions, but it also allows for involving other players from the spheres of science and research and the non-governmental sector.

The Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior has been the national EMN Contact Point in the Czech Republic since 2004. You can find more information on EMN activities in the Czech Republic at [www.emncz.eu](http://www.emncz.eu).

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AC</b>	Accommodation Centre
<b>AIS</b>	Alien Information System
<b>AFAD</b>	Authority for Disaster and Emergency Management of the Republic of Turkey ( <i>Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency</i> )
<b>AMID</b>	Assistance to Manage Internal Displacement in Ukraine
<b>ANACEN</b>	Analytic Centre for Border Protection and Migration
<b>API</b>	Alien Police Inspectorate
<b>APS</b>	Alien Police Service
<b>BPI</b>	Block Against Islam
<b>CEB</b>	Council of Europe Development Bank
<b>ČSSD</b>	Czech Social Democratic Party (Czech abbreviation)
<b>CR</b>	Czech Republic
<b>CZK</b>	Czech crown
<b>DAMP</b>	Department for Asylum and Migration Policy (Ministry of the Interior of the CR)
<b>DAPS</b>	Directorate of the Alien Police Service
<b>DCAF</b>	The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces
<b>EA</b>	Employment Agency
<b>EASO</b>	European Asylum Support Office
<b>EC</b>	European Community
<b>EEAS</b>	European External Action Service
<b>EMN</b>	European Migration Network

<b>EMPACT</b>	European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats
<b>ESIF</b>	European Structural and Investment Funds
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FRONTEX</b>	European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Members States of the EU ( <i>European Border and Coast Guard Agency</i> )
<b>GAMM</b>	Global Approach to Migration and Mobility
<b>HLWG</b>	High-Level Working Group on Asylum and Migration
<b>IA</b>	International airport
<b>IAC</b>	Integration Asylum Centre
<b>ICMPD</b>	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
<b>ILPT</b>	Institute of Language and Professional Training of the Charles University in Prague
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IT</b>	Information Technology
<b>JITs</b>	Joint Investigation Teams
<b>KDU-ČSL</b>	Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People’s Party (Czech abbreviation)
<b>MEDEVAC</b>	Programme of Humanitarian Evacuations of Inhabitants with Health Issues ( <i>Medical Evacuation</i> )
<b>MOBILAZE</b>	Mobility Partnership with Azerbaijan
<b>MoEYS</b>	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
<b>MoFA</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MoI</b>	Ministry of the Interior
<b>MoIT</b>	Ministry of Industry and Trade
<b>MoJ</b>	Ministry of Justice
<b>MoLSA</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
<b>NCUCOC</b>	National Central Unit for Combating Organised Crime
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental non-profit organisation
<b>ODS</b>	Civic Democratic Party (Czech abbreviation)

<b>OSCE</b>	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
<b>OSPOD</b>	Social-legal Child Protection Authority (Czech abbreviation)
<b>PCR</b>	Police of the Czech Republic
<b>RC</b>	Reception Centre
<b>RDE OP</b>	Research, Development and Education Operational Programme
<b>RDP</b>	Regional Directorate of the Police
<b>RDPP</b>	Regional Development and Protection Programmes
<b>SIP</b>	State Integration Programme
<b>SUZ</b>	Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior (Czech abbreviation)
<b>UAM</b>	Unaccompanied minors
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>ÚNK</b>	Dawn – National Coalition (Czech abbreviation)
<b>VIS</b>	Visa Information System
<b>V4</b>	The Visegrad Four
<b>ZDC</b>	Facility for Children-foreigners (Czech abbreviation)
<b>ZÚ</b>	Embassy (Czech abbreviation)



# SUMMARY

The 2016 European Migration Network (EMN) Annual Policy Report on Asylum and Migration provides a summary of the most important developments and changes in the fields of migration, asylum and integration during the year 2016.

## Migration policy strategy of the Czech Republic

On 29 July 2015, the Government of the Czech Republic approved a comprehensive **Migration Policy Strategy of the Czech Republic** in its resolution No. 621. Besides the national security, which is the main theme, the Strategy defines the priorities of the Czech Republic in the fields of integration of foreign nationals, illegal migration and return policy, international protection, external dimension of migration (including development and humanitarian aid), free movement of persons within the EU and the Schengen Area, legal migration and international obligations of the Czech Republic regarding migration. In the same resolution, the *Migration Communication Strategy of the Czech Republic* has been adopted.

## Legal migration and integration

Same as in the previous years, the **upward trend in legal migration** into the Czech Republic continued in the year 2016. On a year-on-year basis, there was a 6.2 % increase of the number of foreign nationals. As of 31 December 2016, **496,413 foreign nationals** were staying legally in the territory of the Czech Republic (for a period over 90 days).

Foreign nationals accounted approximately for **4.7 % of the population**. From among the total registered number of foreign nationals with residence permit in the Czech Republic, 55.1 % of them (273,399 foreign nationals) were staying in the country permanently and 44.9 % of them (223,014 foreign nationals) temporarily<sup>1</sup>. The citizens of Ukraine, Slovakia and Vietnam together accounted for approximately 55.5 % of the foreign nationals with residence permits in the territory of the Czech Republic.

Regarding the number of issued **Schengen visas**, the Russian Federation has remained the key country for the Czech Republic. At present, all Schengen visas issued by the Czech Republic are biometric. The process of introducing biometric data at consulates and external borders (known as VIS<sup>2</sup> roll-out) was completed in February 2016 after five years when the last region – the external Schengen border – was included. In April 2014, the Government of the Czech Republic adopted the **2014 National Schengen Plan for the Period of 2014–2020**. This plan is evaluated on an annual basis and the evaluation is presented in the form of *Report on Implementation of the National Schengen Plan*. In April 2016, the *Second Report on Implementation* was presented, which contained evaluation of the fulfilment of individual tasks, and the preparation of the *Third Report on Implementation* was started, which will be presented in 2017. On 1 August 2016, the **new Act No. 191/2016 Coll., on the Protection of the State Borders of the Czech Republic and on Amendments to Related Acts**, came into force.

In the field of **economic migration**, a new migration project titled ***the System of Special Treatment for Skilled Employees from Ukraine*** was launched on 1 August 2016. The focus of this project

<sup>1</sup> The category includes persons with residence based on visa for more than 90 days, with long-term residence permits and temporary residence permits, which are granted to the EU citizens and their family members.

<sup>2</sup> The Visa Information System

is on medium-level and low-level skilled employees from Ukraine. The applicants included in the procedures are specifically selected employees of specific Czech employers. A total of **1,303 applicants from Ukraine** were **included** in the project during the year **2016**.

Legal migration is closely connected to **integration policy**. The position of the Czech Republic on integration policy is defined in the *Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic*. In 2016, the updated ***Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – In Mutual Respect*** and the ***Procedure for the Year 2016*** were the key documents in the field of integration<sup>3</sup>. Recognised refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection have newly become the target group of integration measures in the year 2016 (beyond the framework of the services of the State Integration Programme for users of international protection)<sup>4</sup>. As part of the foreign national integration policy, emphasis is placed on efficiency of the integration measures, on cooperation with regional and local public administration and on extending the range of entities supporting integration. Particularly the network of Centres to Support the Integration of Third Country Foreign Nationals is the tool for integration of foreign nationals at the regional level. During the year 2016, these centres operated in thirteen regions of the Czech Republic. At the local level, the projects of municipalities are the key tools for integration. Awareness of both foreign nationals and the majority population was supported by means of informational publications, websites and an infoline. In cooperation with NGOs, assistance to foreign nationals was enhanced, including research and education of the employees of the Section for the Residence of Foreign Nationals at the DAMP and the employees of the central government and local governments.

<sup>3</sup> The updated documents *Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – In Mutual Respect and Procedure for Implementing the Updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Year 2016* were adopted in resolution No. 26 of the Government of the Czech Republic, dated 18 January 2016.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/integrace.aspx?q=Y2hudW09Mg%3D%3D>

In the government resolution No. 954, adopted on 20 November 2015, **the new concept of the State Integration Programme (SIP)** for users of international protection **was approved**. Since 1 January 2016, it has brought changes to the system for teaching the Czech language, the stay in an integration asylum centre and to the procedure for securing housing and integration of clients at the level of municipalities and towns. This integration programme is building on already existing assistance to beneficiaries.

Since 1 January 2014, there has been legislation in force, which completely abandoned the principle of single **citizenship** and accepted the possibility of the existence of multiple citizenships. In 2016, the **citizenship** of the Czech Republic was acquired by **5,549 foreign nationals** as a result of the granting of citizenship or based on a declaration.

### **International protection**

In 2016, number of applicants for international protection slightly decreased to **1,478 persons, i.e. there was less of them by 3.1 % in comparison with the previous year**. In spite of the relatively high year-on-year increases in the years 2014 and 2015, the situation in the field of international protection can be deemed to be stable in the long-term perspective. In 2016, the citizens of **Ukraine** (34.3 %), **Iraq** (10.7 %) and **Cuba** (5.8 %) continued to represent the largest groups of applicants. **269 minors** (18.2 % of the total number of applicants) applied for international protection, i.e. the number of such persons was the same as in the previous year.

### **Unaccompanied minors**

As compared to the previous year, the number of unaccompanied children in the Czech Republic significantly decreased. While there were

151 unaccompanied minors in 2015, **there were 55 children** in the territory of the Czech Republic identified as **minors unaccompanied by an adult relative** in 2016. There were 43 third country unaccompanied foreign minors placed in the specialised Facility for Children-foreigners (ZDC) in 2016. From among these persons, 4 persons applied for international protection in the Czech Republic.

### Measures to combat human trafficking

In comparison with the previous year, no major changes have been identified in the human trafficking criminal activities in the year 2016 as concerns the purpose of human trafficking and the modes of operation of the perpetrators of these crimes. In the Czech Republic, this involved particularly using the victims of human trafficking for prostitution and forced labour or some other forms of exploitation. In the long term, a decrease of victims coming from third countries has been registered; conversely, an increase of victims among the citizens of the European Union has been identified. The Police of the Czech Republic **prosecuted (investigated) 23 persons** during the year 2016 and **8 persons** were convicted of human trafficking in the same year. A total of **14 victims of human trafficking (including 2 persons from third countries)** were included in the *Programme of Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking* in 2016.

### International cooperation and projects

In 2016, the Czech Republic continued to build on the activities it started in the previous year. The Czech Republic continued to cooperate with the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the EU Member States (Frontex)<sup>5</sup> and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO)<sup>6</sup>. Among other

<sup>5</sup> European Border and Coast Guard Agency

<sup>6</sup> European Asylum Support Office

things, the Czech Republic participated in the EASO activities through **44 instances of sending national experts** and in the Frontex activities through **joint projects at various sections of the European borders** (Greece, Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Spain, Germany, France).

Cooperation with the main transit and source countries of immigration into the Czech Republic was also being developed, particularly with the countries adjacent to the European Union. At the level of the European Union, the Czech Republic continued to develop and implement the tools of the *Global Approach to Migration and Mobility*, representing the strategic framework of the external migration policy of the European Union (*Prague Process; Mobility Partnerships with Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan; the Assistance to Manage Internal Displacement in Ukraine (AMID) project*).

The Czech Republic also implemented **humanitarian projects** financed from the humanitarian budget of the Ministry of the Interior and focused on the persons and refugees forcibly internally displaced as a result of conflicts and disasters. The Ministry of the Interior continues to focus on stabilising the migration situation. In response to deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in the immediate surroundings of the European Union, associated particularly with the ongoing armed conflict in Syria, the Government of the Czech Republic approved<sup>7</sup> the creation of the permanent ***Programme of the Ministry of the Interior for Assistance to Refugees in Regions of Origin and for Prevention of Large Migration Flows*** in January 2015. In 2015, 100 million CZK were earmarked under this programme for help to countries affected by the massive inflow of refugees. By decision of the Government of the Czech Republic<sup>8</sup>, the aid under this programme was increased to **150 million CZK** for the year 2016.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 19 of 14 January 2015

<sup>8</sup> Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 574 of 13 July 2015

Furthermore, in its resolution of 20 November 2015<sup>9</sup>, the Government of the Czech Republic approved the creation of the ***Permanent Medical Humanitarian MEDEVAC Programme (MEDEVAC)***. Based on this resolution, the **Working Group for the Purposes of Implementation of the MEDEVAC Programme** was set up. In 2016, a total of **27 projects** worth a total of just below **51 million CZK** were implemented. In 2016, the implementation of the programme mainly involved sending medical teams to countries of origin, carrying out humanitarian evacuation of inhabitants with health issues to bring them to the Czech Republic for treatment and educational stays of physicians from areas affected by a humanitarian crisis.

In 2015, the Czech Republic also voluntarily participated in the **re-settlement** project, specifically the joint resettlement scheme of the European Union. As part of this scheme, the Czech Republic agreed to resettle 400 refugees from third countries, displaced in the region of the Near East. During the year 2015, the Czech Republic thus resettled the first 20 persons – 4 families of Syrian refugees with seriously ill children. In **spring 2016**, 89 Iraqi Christians were resettled, **including 32 Iraqi refugees who were resettled from Lebanon within the European Resettlement Scheme and 57 internally displaced Iraqis who were resettled from the Republic of Iraq under the national resettlement programme**. In 2016, the programme for **providing assistance to Czech compatriots with resettlement** also continued. A total of **287 persons**, specifically members of the Czech compatriot communities in Ukraine, arrived during the year 2016 under this programme.

In addition to that, the Czech Republic received within the relocation programme 12 persons with Syrian citizenship from Greece in 2016.

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<sup>9</sup>No. 956

## Illegal migration, human smuggling

In 2016, a total of **5,261 persons** were identified as perpetrators of **illegal migration** in the territory of the Czech Republic. As compared with the previous year, this represented a significant decrease by 3,302 persons (i.e. by nearly 39 %). This number included **222 persons** (i.e. 4.2 %) caught during **illegal migration across the external Schengen border of the Czech Republic** (an airport) and **5,039 persons** (i.e. 95.8 %) exposed as **illegally staying persons**. The highest number of persons caught during illegal migration across the external Schengen border was among refugees under the 1951 Convention (44), followed by citizens of Ukraine (15) and citizens of Albania and Azerbaijan (14 from each country). The highest number of persons identified as illegally staying persons was among citizens of Ukraine (1,552), followed by citizens of the Russian Federation (402) and Kuwait (336). There were **56 persons registered**<sup>10</sup> in connection with **facilitation of an illegal stay or the illegal crossing of borders** in 2016. Last year, **41 persons** were **convicted** of organising and allowing for an unauthorised crossing of the state border or of the crime of facilitating unauthorised stay in the territory of the Czech Republic.

## Returns

In 2016, **818 decisions imposing the obligation to leave the territory of the Czech Republic were issued** (a year-on-year decrease by 68.9 %). This decrease is related to the drop in transit illegal migration.

In 2016, a total of **3,539 foreign nationals with an issued effective decision on administrative expulsion** were registered, which represents an increase by 530 persons (i.e. by 17.6 %) in comparison

<sup>10</sup> By Regional Directorates of the Police of the Czech Republic



with the previous year. The citizens of Ukraine, Moldova and Kuwait were the most heavily represented among foreign nationals with an issued effective decision on administrative expulsion. Administrative expulsion was carried out in the form of forced returns of 207 foreign nationals and 174 administrative expulsions were carried out in the form of assisted voluntary return. The difference between the number of persons who were issued a decision on administrative expulsion and the number of persons in whose case administrative expulsion was carried out stems from the fact that only a part of foreign nationals with an issued decision on administrative expulsion is detained in a facility for detention of foreign nationals<sup>11</sup> with administrative expulsion being subsequently carried out in the form of a forced return or an assisted voluntary return (a small number of non-detained foreign nationals also left the country through assisted voluntary returns). With these forms of returns (forced and assisted ones), the authorities of the Czech Republic have certainty that the foreign nationals with administrative expulsion left the country, and therefore they can include them in the reported statistics. With non-detained foreign nationals with administrative expulsion who have not applied for an assisted voluntary return, it is assumed that they spontaneously left the territory of the Czech Republic based on an order to leave the country. In this category, only the cases of those foreign nationals who requested the Police of the Czech Republic for assistance with obtaining a permission to transit through the territories of other member states as part of their return (transit on land<sup>12</sup>) are statistically monitored. In 2016, programmes of assisted voluntary returns were implemented by the

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<sup>11</sup> If there are legal reasons to detain them in such a facility.

<sup>12</sup> Transit on land is used if the foreign national who was issued the decision on the obligation to leave the territory of the given member state (or the EU, as the case may be) decides to leave the territory on land and will transit through other EU member states in which, however, the foreign national does not have any valid residence or transit permit. Transits on land are essentially based on the recognition of the decision on a return, including the time limit for leaving the territory, by way of exchange of forms between the member states concerned.

International Organisation for Migration and the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior, which was responsible for the voluntary returns of former applicants for international protection.

In 2016, there was a total of 1,278 persons registered on whom an expulsion sentence was imposed by courts in criminal proceedings, which represented an increase by 265 persons (i.e. by 26.2 %). During the reference period, **judicial expulsion was carried out** by the Police of the Czech Republic for **261 foreign nationals** with custodial sentences, which does not indicate any change of trend in comparison with the previous year (an increase by mere 6 persons). The remaining persons had the obligation to leave the country according to their respective time limits for leaving the country.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

The present Annual Report on Asylum and Migration Policy in the Czech Republic (CR) provides a summary of the most important political and legislative changes and the basic statistical data regarding asylum and migration in the territory of the CR for the year 2016.

The report was prepared by the National Contact Point of the European Migration Network in the CR. According to Article 9(1) of the Council Decision 2008/381/EC establishing the European Migration Network, each EMN Contact Point prepares a report on developments regarding asylum and migration in the given country on an annual basis.

The report consists of nine chapters and three annexes. The chapters describe the developments in legal migration and international protection; one chapter is concerned with the issues of unaccompanied minors. The report also contains information on measures against human trafficking and measures against illegal migration. The report also provides an overview of international cooperation and projects and describes the developments regarding returns of foreign nationals to their countries of origin. Each chapter also contains the basic statistical data on the given area. The structure of the report complies with the recommended structure of national reports of separate EMN Contact Points so that it is possible to compare the separate documents and to maintain continuity with the reports prepared in previous years.

The presented report was prepared mainly using the source materials of the Department for Asylum and Migration and Policy of the Ministry of the Interior, which is responsible for the fields of migration, asylum and integration. Other source materials used in preparation of the report included source materials from the Directorate of the Alien Police Service; the Police Presidium; the Department of Security Policy and Crime Prevention of the Ministry of the Interior; the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Justice; the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior; the National Central Unit for Combating Organised Crime; and Facility for Children-foreigners. More detailed information on the methodology is contained in Annex 1; Annex 2 contains a list of sources and literature; Annex 3 contains a list of tables and charts.

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## **1.1 ORGANISATION OF ASYLUM AND MIGRATION POLICY**

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### **Ministry of the Interior (MoI)**

The Ministry of the Interior is the main body responsible for the asylum and migration policy in the CR on a legislative and policy level as well as on an implementation level.

### **Department for Asylum and Migration Policy (DAMP)**

The Department for Asylum and Migration Policy is a unit of the Ministry of the Interior responsible for exercising the powers assigned to the Ministry in the fields of international protection, refugees, entry and residence of foreign nationals, the policy of integration of foreign nationals, the State Integration Programme and Schengen cooperation. This department is a unit of the Ministry for managing the governmental organisation of the Refugee Facilities Administration of the

Ministry of the Interior (SUZ). It submits proposals for establishing or modifying the nature of asylum facilities or facilities for detention of foreign nationals.

### **The Coordination Body for Management of Border Protection and Migration**

The Coordination Body for Management of Border Protection and Migration is an interdepartmental body, which has the authority to take the necessary measures in the fields of migration and the protection of state borders. The Ministry of the Interior leads the activities of the Coordination Body. Cooperation among institutions within the terms of the Coordination Body enables the government bodies to respond flexibly to the current migration situation and contributes to greater flexibility when dealing with specific issues falling within the terms of reference of multiple Ministries. The Coordination Body also serves as a platform for discussion of the future direction of the migration policy. The Coordination Body also manages the activities of the Analytic Centre for Border Protection and Migration, the permanent office of the Ministry of the Interior with a focus on interdepartmental cooperation at the expert level.

**Due to the migration situation, the main focus of the activities of the Coordination Body shifted mostly to the governmental level.** Among other things in 2016, the Coordination Body, for example, approved a change of the pilot programme titled *Special Procedures for Highly Skilled Employees from Ukraine* for the purpose of increasing the use of its capacity and adopted a material of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports titled *Strategic Document on the Entry and Residence of Third Country Nationals in the Territory of the CR for the Purpose of Studies and Other Educational Activities*.

## Analytic Centre for Border Protection and Migration (ANACEN)

The Analytic Centre for Border Protection and Migration is a permanent analytical body of an interdepartmental nature controlled by the Ministry of the Interior. ANACEN operates at an expert level; its activities are managed by the Coordination Body for Managing the Protection of State Borders and Migration. The activities of ANACEN take place in several topic-specific fora (Strategy; Migration; Visa; Operations and Security). As part of its activities, it concentrates on monitoring and analysing migration as a comprehensive phenomenon. In this sense, its interdepartmental nature is important because all the bodies involved in the system for managing the protection of state borders and international migration participate in the activities of the Analytical Centre through close cooperation and information exchange<sup>13</sup>, which allows for a flexible and quick response to any problems that arise. Due to the current migration situation in Europe, the Analytical Centre's main focus in 2016 was to monitor and assess the migration flows heading to the territory of the EU with an impact on the CR. In this context, particularly the activity of the **Operations and Security** forum was increased, which also continued to hold meetings **at the directorial level** in addition to the meetings at the expert level. During the year 2016, the Analytical Centre continued to prepare the report titled *Trends and Findings in Migration and the Protection of State Borders* on a monthly basis for the internal purposes of governmental authorities, among which the report is systematically distributed to allow for use of the information contained in the report, if necessary.

<sup>13</sup> The members of the Analytical Centre are delegated representatives of the Ministry of the Interior; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; the Ministry of Industry and Trade; the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; the Ministry of Finance (the General Directorate of Customs); the Police of the Czech Republic and the intelligence services and security forces.

## **Refugee Facilities Administration (SUZ)**

The Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior is an operator of the reception, accommodation and integration asylum centres. In these facilities, SUZ provides particularly accommodation, boarding, psychological, social, educational and consulting services and also provides opportunities for leisure-time activities. Most of these activities also take place in the facilities for detention of foreign nationals, which are also operated by the SUZ. The SUZ also provides services in the Centres to Support the Integration of Foreigners.

## **Alien Police Service and Directorate of the Alien Police Service (DAPS)**

The Alien Police Service is a highly specialised unit of the Police of the CR (PCR), which performs tasks related to detection of illegal migration, application of repressive measures against foreign nationals illegally staying in the territory of the CR in violation of Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the CR, fulfilment of the obligations arising from international treaties and directly applicable legal regulations of the European Community and which addresses the crimes committed in connection with the crossing of state borders and cross-border criminal activities. In relation to the territorial units of the Alien Police, the Directorate of the Alien Police Service serves the functions of a specialised central methodological, managing, expert and analytical and monitoring authority and is also an executive unit of the Police of the CR with a national scope of operation. The bodies, which are directly subordinated to the DAPS, include five inspectorates of the Alien Police at international airports<sup>14</sup>, which ensure the protection of external borders at all international airports

<sup>14</sup> These are: the Alien Police Inspectorate at the Prague Ruzyně International Airport; the Alien Police Inspectorate at the Mošnov International Airport; the Alien Police Inspectorate at the Brno Tuřany International Airport; the Alien Police Inspectorate at the Karlovy Vary International Airport; and the Alien Police Inspectorate at the Pardubice International Airport.

of the CR, the Facility for Detention of Foreign Nationals in Bělá-Jezová and the Reception Centre for Foreign Nationals in Zastávka u Brna. In the territories of individual regions, the departments of the Alien Police, which are embedded in the organisational structures of regional police directorates, perform the tasks related to migration of foreign nationals.

### **The National Central Unit for Combating Organised Crime (NCUCOC)**

The National Central Unit for Combating Organised Crime is the unit of the Police of the CR with a national scope, which also performs tasks in the field of illegal migration, particularly in combating human smuggling. Up until 1 August 2016, the tasks in this field were performed by the Criminal Police and Investigation Service Unit for Detecting Organised Crime, which, as of the aforementioned date and as part of reorganisation of the Police of the CR, was merged with the Unit for Detecting Corruption and Financial Crime to form the new NCUCOC whose Organised Crime Section, Department of Human Smuggling and Illegal Migration is responsible for combating crime groups that perpetrate serious organised crimes in the field of illegal migration, human smuggling, human organ and tissue trafficking and forced labour as well as other forms of exploitation.

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a central administrative body of the CR for foreign policy, which creates concepts and coordinates foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid. It carries out public administration in the matters of permitting the residence of foreign nationals in the territory of the CR who enjoy the privileges and immunities defined by the international law. Through embassies, it carries out public administration in the matters of granting visas pursuant to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals. Within its separate purview, it carries out public administration in the matters of granting short-term visas according to the EU Visa Code.



## Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA)

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is responsible for the policy in the field of employment of foreign nationals. Among other things, it defines the group of entities playing the role of an employer and, in relation to foreign nationals, it defines the criteria governing the entry of separate categories of foreign nationals into the labour market. According to the situation on the labour market, it defines the terms and conditions for permitting employment and is responsible for the legislation governing the employment of foreign nationals in relation to the applicable legal regulations of the European Union and concluded intergovernmental agreements. The MoLSA is also responsible for maintaining the central register of vacant job positions, which can be filled by the holders of an Employee Card or a Blue Card.

**Other institutions, which have their defined terms of reference in the field of asylum and migration, are:** the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT); the Ministry of Justice (MoJ); the Ministry of Finance (MoF); the Ministry of Health (MoH); the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS); the Ministry of Finance (the General Directorate of Customs); the Ministry of Culture (MoC); and the Ministry of Regional Development (MfRD)

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## 1.2 ASYLUM AND MIGRATION LEGISLATION

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Asylum and migration is governed particularly by the following legislation:

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

This Act defines the conditions for the entry of a foreign national into the territory of the CR and the departure of a foreign national from the country; it defines the conditions of the stay of a foreign national in the country and defines the powers of the Police of the CR, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this field of public administration.

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

This Act replaced the former Act No. 216/2002 Coll., on the Protection of the State Borders of the CR and on amendments to some Acts, as amended, which was not fully adequate for the current involvement of the CR in the Schengen cooperation. Building on Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), as amended, this new Act governs the protection of the state borders against unauthorised crossing. It defines the terms and conditions for setting up a border crossing at an international airport, the obligations of the airplane captains and airport operators as well as the rules for temporary re-establishment of the protection of internal borders, offences and administrative torts related to the protection of borders.

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

This Act defines the conditions for the entry and residence of a foreign national who applies for international protection in the territory of the CR and governs the residence of a recognised refugee or a person enjoying subsidiary protection in the country; the proceedings on the granting of international protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection and the proceedings on withdrawal of asylum or subsidiary protection; the rights and obligations of an applicant for international

protection, a recognised refugee and a person enjoying subsidiary protection in the country; the terms of reference of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Police of the CR in this area of the public administration; the State Integration Programme and asylum facilities.

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

This Act defines the conditions for the entry and residence of a foreign national in the territory of the CR for the purpose of provision of temporary protection and the conditions for their departure from the country, and governs the proceedings on the granting and withdrawal of a residence permit for the purpose of provision of temporary protection in the country; the legal status of a foreign national who applies for a residence permit for the purpose of temporary protection and a foreign national who has been granted a residence permit for the purpose of temporary protection, and defines the terms of reference of the Ministry of the Interior and the Police of the CR in this area of the public administration.

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

In accordance with the EU legislation, this Act governs the governmental employment policy the purpose of which is to achieve full employment and to protect from unemployment. Among other things, it also governs the employment of employees from abroad.

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

This Act defines the ways of acquiring and losing the citizenship of the CR, the ways proving and ascertaining the citizenship of the CR and

the ways of issuing certificates on the citizenship of the CR; it governs the maintenance of the register of natural persons who acquired or lost the citizenship of the CR and it governs the offences relating to citizenship.

# 2 DEVELOPMENTS IN ASYLUM AND MIGRATION POLICY

During the year 2016, **there were three partial amendments to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals** adopted. However, these were only minor changes of a predominantly technical nature, which were associated with changes made in other Acts. In the year 2016, the legislative process was still under way in connection with the draft amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals and other related Acts, which is intended to ensure the **transposition of two Union directives** in the national legislation – the 2014/36/EU Directive on seasonal workers and the 2014/66/EU Directive on employees transferred in an intra-corporate transfer. At the turn of the years 2016 and 2017, the draft amendment was presented to the Parliament of the CR.

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## 2.1 POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

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### Political situation in the country

In 2016, elections to a third of the Senate of the Parliament of the CR (27 districts) took place. During the same period, municipal elections also took place.

The government coalition, which was formed by the winning Czech Social Democratic Party (ČSSD), the ANO 2011 movement and the Christian and Democratic Union – Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-ČSL), won

the vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the CR in February 2014. This coalition remained in power throughout the year 2016. Bohuslav Sobotka from ČSSD was the Prime Minister of the CR in 2016.

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## **2.2 LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN 2016**

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In 2016, **legislative activities** were concentrated on amendments to the Acts listed below:

- **Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals** – during the year 2016, there were three partial amendments to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals adopted. These were minor partial changes, which were related to the amendments to other legislation. The first amendment was related to the adoption of Act No. 191/2016 Coll., on the Protection of the State Borders of the CR and on amendments to related Acts. The second amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals was adopted in connection with the adoption of Act No. 298/2016 Coll., which amends some Acts in connection with the adoption of the Act on Services Building Trust for Electronic Transactions, Act No. 106/1999 Coll., on Free Access to Information, as amended, and Act No. 121/2000 Coll., on Copyright, on Rights Associated with Copyright and on amendments to some Acts (the Copyright Act), as amended. And the latest amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals was made together with the adoption of Act No. 456/2016 Coll., amending Act No. 133/2000 Coll., on the Registration of Population and Personal Numbers and on amendments to some Acts (the Population Registration Act), as amended, and other related Acts.
- **Asylum Act** – in the year 2016, a total of two amendments to the Asylum Act were adopted. These were two minor changes, which

were related to amendments to other pieces of legislation. The essence of the first amendment is a reference to Section 6(1) of the Act on Services Building Trust for Electronic Transactions, which defines a specific type of electronic signature, which needs to be used to sign an application in an electronic format. The second amendment has introduced the necessity to label the address of the administrative authority in the information systems using the term “address of the office” in situations, in which the address of a person’s place of residence was cancelled and the address of an administrative authority was registered as the official address of the person’s place of residence.

- **Act on the Temporary Protection of Foreign Nationals** – in 2016, one amendment to the Act on the Temporary Protection of Foreign Nationals was adopted. The term “address of the office” has been introduced same as in the Asylum Act.
- The year 2016 saw continuation of the legislative process relating to the **draft amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals** and other related Acts, which is intended to ensure the transposition of two Union directives into the national legislation – the 2014/36/EU Directive on seasonal workers and the 2014/66/EU Directive on employees transferred in an intra-corporate transfer<sup>15</sup>. The amendment also defines new rules for the entry and residence of foreign nationals for the purpose of business, contains provisions aiming to strengthen the security features of the migration process (particularly a provision governing deviations from the Rules of Administrative Procedure) and also specifies more accurately the rules governing the residence of a family member of a European Union

<sup>15</sup> Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers; and Directive 2014/66/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer.

citizen in order to better correspond to the 2004/38/EC Directive. During the year 2016, an interdepartmental comment procedure was completed and the draft was presented to the government. After the draft amendment to the Act was approved by the government at the turn of the years 2016 and 2017, this governmental bill was presented to the Parliament of the CR.

- At the turn of the years 2016 and 2017, a legislative process was launched in connection with a **draft amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals** and other related Acts, which is intended to ensure transposition of Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing.
- In 2016, preparations of several **amendments to Act No. 435/2004 Coll., on Employment**, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the “Employment Act”) were under way. These amendments will primarily transpose European directives into the national legislation, make changes in agency-based employment of foreign workers and define new measures aiming to protect foreign workers. In 2016, there have been no legislative changes in the Employment Act, which would have a direct impact on employment of foreign nationals.

On 1 August 2016, **Act No. 191/2016 Coll., on the Protection of the State Borders of the Czech Republic and on amendments to related Acts (hereinafter referred to as the State Borders Protection Act)** came into force, which replaced the former Act No. 216/2002 Coll., on the Protection of the State Borders of the Czech Republic and on amendments to some Acts, as amended, which no longer fully corresponded to the current involvement of the CR in Schengen cooperation. Building on Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European



Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), as amended, this new Act governs the protection of the state borders against unauthorised crossing. It defines the terms and conditions for setting up a border crossing at an international airport, the obligations of the airplane captains and airport operators as well as the rules for temporary re-establishment of the protection of internal borders, offences and administrative torts related to the protection of borders.

At the same time, on 1 August 2016, the **Ordinance No. 228/2016 Coll., on Defining the Conditions for Operation of International Airports with Respect to the Protection of Borders**, came into force. This ordinance was issued under the authorisation stated in Section 5(7) of the new State Borders Protection Act. The Ordinance defines more specifically the standards concerning the infrastructure of airports based on the requirements contained in the Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (*Schengen Borders Code*) and in the *Updated Schengen Catalogue Concerning the Protection of External Borders, Return and Readmission of Persons*.

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### 2.3 Debates in the Media

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The topic of migration was a hot topic frequently covered in the Czech media particularly during the first nine months of the year 2016. It was most intensively present in the Czech media outlets in the summer months; starting from autumn 2016, the frequency of coverage of this topic was slowly decreasing. Since October, articles and reports regarding the migration issues continued to appear but not to the previous extent.

**In the media and public debates, attention was paid (to a varying degree) particularly to the following topics:**

- the number of refugees arriving (by ships) in Europe;
- reception of refugees in the CR;
- quotas for mandatory reception of refugees (the relocation and re-settlement mechanism); the option to “buy a way out of” the quotas;
- the situation on the central Mediterranean route and the rescue operations in the Mediterranean Sea;
- the Balkan route;
- the situation in Germany and the German migration policy;
- the impact of migration issues on the exit of the United Kingdom from the EU;
- the joint EU-Turkey declaration on interception of irregular migrants;
- the option of visa liberalisation for Turkey in exchange for the aforementioned declaration;
- the Schengen borders and re-establishment of border checks;
- the establishment of joint border and coast guards at the external Schengen borders;
- the security-related aspects of migration;

- concerns about Islam and migration and other manifestations of xenophobia from countries outside the EU as well as in the EU;
- terrorist attacks related to Islam (put in the context with the migration crisis);
- public opinion polls regarding the migration crisis;
- demonstrations against/in favour of migration/integration/refugees;
- illegal migration;
- legal migration to the CR, particularly migration for work (for example, employment of Ukrainians);
- refugee facilities of the MoI in the CR;
- Christian refugees from Iraq who were granted asylum in the CR and part of whom left for Germany;
- the course of action taken by the Visegrad Four (V4) states on the issue of migration;
- the sending of Czech policepersons to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Slovenia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Greece;
- the measures against migrants in Hungary;
- the migration issues generally in the context of all large political competitions in the year 2016 (for example, the presidential elections in Austria and in the United States of America as well as regional elections in the CR);

- the activities of the CR in connection with the migration crisis abroad (for example, the assistance in Jordan, the MEDEVAC programme, etc.);
- the *National Security Audit* document;
- the granting of international protection in the EU.

During the year 2016, particularly debates, conferences, lectures, demonstrations and other events continued to take place in connection with the topic of migration (organised by non-governmental non-profit organisations (NGOs), think-tanks, universities, scientific institutions, political parties, governmental institutions as well as opponents of migration). However, the amount of such activities in 2016 was notably lower in comparison with the year 2015.

# 3 LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

In the year 2016, a total of **496,413 foreign nationals** were staying in the territory of the CR on a long-term basis (for a period longer than 90 days). Thus, foreign nationals accounted for 4.7 % of the population of the CR. Citizens of Ukraine, Slovakia and Vietnam accounted for approximately 55.5 % of these foreign nationals with residence permits in the territory of the CR.

On 1 August 2016, a new project titled ***Special Treatment Procedures for Skilled Professionals from Ukraine*** was launched. Its focus is on medium-skilled and low- skilled employees from Ukraine.

On 1 August 2016, **Act No. 191/2016 Coll., on the Protection of the State Borders of the CR and on amendments to related Acts**, came into force.

In 2016, the key document in the field of integration was the updated ***Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – In Mutual Respect***, defining the goals of the country's integration policy from a long-term perspective.

**5,549 foreign nationals** acquired the **citizenship** of the CR last year. Among them, 3,897 foreign nationals were granted the citizenship and 1,662 persons acquired the citizenship of the CR based on a declaration.

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### **3.1 FOREIGN NATIONALS WITH RESIDENCE PERMITS IN THE TERRITORY OF THE CR – STATISTICS**

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#### **Numbers of foreign nationals with residence permits in the territory of the CR**

As of 31 December 2016, **a total of 496,413 foreign nationals were legally staying in the territory of the CR (for a period longer than 90 days)**<sup>16</sup>, which represents a 6.2 % increase in comparison with the end of the year 2015<sup>17</sup>. Foreign nationals accounted for approximately 4.7 % of the population of the CR.

As a result of the economic crisis and its impact on the situation on the Czech labour market, there was a partial decrease of the total number of foreign nationals legally staying in the territory of the CR in the period of 2009 and 2010. Since 2011, there has again been a moderate increase of the number of foreign nationals. Up until now, the highest increase since 2011 occurred in the years 2015 and 2016.

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<sup>16</sup> This figure includes foreign nationals with residence permits in the CR, registered in the Alien Information System (AIS). Nevertheless, the actual numbers of foreign nationals legally staying in the territory of the CR may be different because the registered number of foreign nationals does not include the citizens of other EU Member States staying in the CR. The statistical statements only register those citizens of the EU who applied for or who were issued a temporary residence certificate. Those who just exercise their right are not statistically recorded.

<sup>17</sup> 467,562 foreign nationals with residence permits in the CR were registered as of 31 December 2015.

**Table 1:** History of the numbers of foreign nationals with residence permits (for a period longer than 90 days) in the territory of the CR in the period from 2006 to 2016

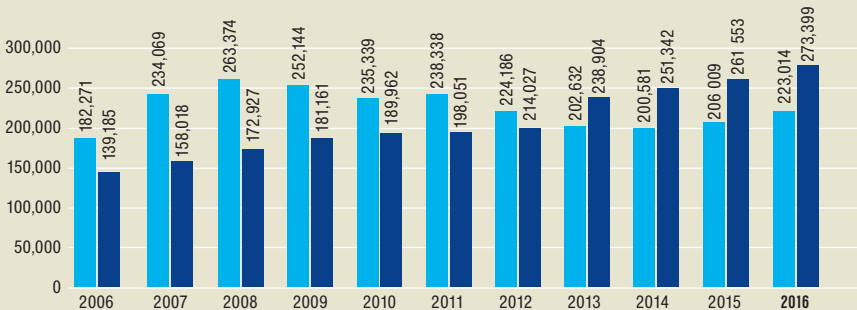
Year (as of 31 December)	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of foreign nationals	321,456	392,087	438,301	433,305	425,301	436,389	438,213	441,536	451,923	467,562	496,413
Year-on-year change	15.5 %	22.0 %	11.8 %	-1.1 %	-1.8 %	2.6 %	0.4 %	0.7 %	2.4 %	3.5 %	6.2 %

Source: DAMP, DAPS

## Permanent and temporary residence

At the end of the year 2016, from among the total registered number of foreign nationals with residence permits in the CR, **55.1 % of them were staying in the country permanently** (273,399 foreign nationals) and **44.9 % of them were staying temporarily**<sup>18</sup> (223,014 foreign nationals).

**Chart 1:** History of the numbers of foreign nationals with temporary residence permits and permanent residence permits in the CR (as of 31 December of the given year)



Source: DAMP, DAPS

■ temporary residence ■ permanent residence

<sup>18</sup> This concerns foreign nationals with long-term visas, long-term residence permits, certificate on temporary residence of a citizen of the European Union or a temporary residence permit of a family member of a citizen of the European Union.

Unlike the previous years, there has been a change in the trend of the residence categories. The number of foreign nationals with permanent residence has been continuously growing for more than 10 years – there was a year-on-year growth by 4.5 % (i.e. by 11,846 persons) in the year 2016. The number of foreign nationals with temporary residence has once again started to rise after several years of continuous decline in 2015 and a year-on-year increase by 8.3 % (i.e. by 17,005 persons) was registered in the year 2016. This new trend is probably caused by the continued decline of the rate of unemployment in the CR during the year 2015 and the related growing demand for new labour force.

In the category of temporary residence, foreign nationals from the EU Member States have predominated over third-country nationals since 2013. At the end of the year 2016, EU citizens<sup>19</sup> staying in the territory of the CR in the category of temporary residence accounted for 62 % of the total number of EU citizens. The situation is the opposite with third-country nationals – 67.5 % of them were staying in the territory of the CR in the category of permanent residence. It is still true that foreign nationals from the EU countries most often reside in the CR on a temporary basis while two thirds of third-country nationals reside in the CR on a permanent basis.

### **Citizenship of foreign nationals**

In the historical trends concerning the total numbers of foreign nationals, it is necessary to distinguish between the citizens of the EU Member States<sup>20</sup> and the third-country nationals (foreign nationals from non-EU countries). The **third-country nationals** who accounted for **58 % of foreign nationals residing in the CR on a long-term basis**

<sup>19</sup> The term “citizens of the European Union” means the citizens of the states comprising the European Union as well as the citizens of the states, which are bound by the Agreement on the European Economic Area (i.e. Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland). According to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals, these persons have the same status as the citizens of the Member States of the European Union.

<sup>20</sup> See the footnote above.



at the end of the year 2016 are more numerous. Until the economic crisis, a high increase of third-country nationals was registered. However, a decline in their numbers was seen subsequently. In 2015, in connection with the fading repercussions of the economic crisis, the upward trend in the number of third-country nationals reappeared and continued in the year 2016. However, there has been a **continuous increase of the number of EU citizens**, which has not been impacted by the economic crisis.

The structure of foreign nationals residing in the CR has remained almost unchanged on a long-term basis as concerns their citizenship. **Citizens from one of these three countries – Ukraine (110,245 persons), Slovakia (107,251) and Vietnam (58,080) – accounted for approximately 55.5 % of foreign nationals with residence permits in the territory of the CR<sup>21</sup>.** The other citizenships follow after a relatively large gap.

**Table 2:** TOP 10 citizenships of foreign nationals with residence permits in the CR by residence category (as of 31 December 2016)

Type of residence	Number	Percentage (%)	Year-on-year change (%)	Of which			
				Permanent residence	<i>i.e.</i> %	Temporary residence	<i>i.e.</i> %
<b>Foreign nationals in total</b>	<b>496,413</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>273,399</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>223 014</b>	<b>55.1</b>
among whom the highest numbers of citizens are from:							
Ukraine	110,245	22.2	4.0	81,209	73.7	29,036	26.3
Slovakia	107,251	21.6	5.6	44,799	41.8	62,452	58.2
Vietnam	58,080	11.7	2.0	48,571	83.6	9,509	16.4
Russian Federation	35,987	7.3	2.9	20,763	57.7	15,224	42.3
Germany	21,216	4.3	3.7	4,460	21.0	16,756	79.0
Poland	20,305	4.1	2.3	10,753	53.0	9,552	47.0
Bulgaria	12,250	2.5	11.5	4,516	36.9	7,734	63.1
Romania	10,826	2.2	18.8	2,979	27.5	7,847	72.5
United States of America	8,763	1.8	35.3	3,275	37.4	5,488	62.6
Mongolia	6,804	1.4	13.6	5,007	73.6	1,797	26.4
<b>EU citizens</b>	<b>209,078</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>79,418</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>129,660</b>	<b>62.0</b>
<b>Third-country nationals</b>	<b>287,335</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>193,981</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>93,354</b>	<b>32.5</b>

**Source:** DAMP, DAPS

<sup>21</sup> Data as of 31 December 2016.

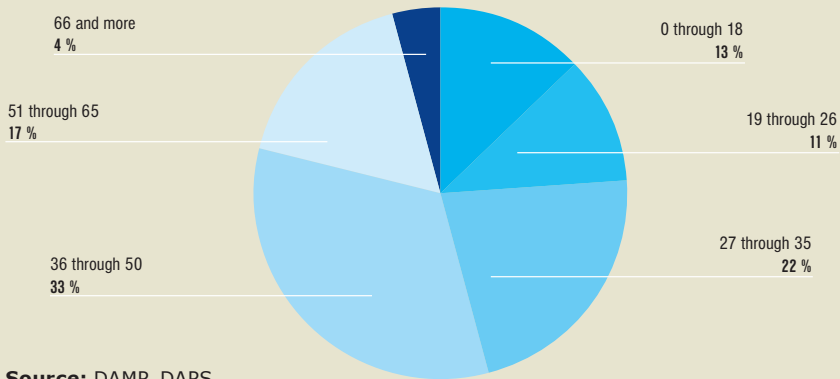
In 2016, the year-on-year growth of the number of foreign nationals with residence permits in the country was registered with persons with citizenships of most of the EU countries. The highest absolute increase was seen with the citizens of Slovakia (+5,662 persons), Romania (+1,710) and Bulgaria (+1,266). For third-country nationals, the highest absolute increase was seen with the citizens of Ukraine (+4,226 persons), United States of America (+2,285) and Vietnam (+1,122).

### **Foreign nationals by gender and age**

Among the foreign nationals with residence permits in the territory of the CR, men continued to predominate in 2016 (279,662 persons, i.e. 56.3 %). However, in the long run, a slightly increasing share of women can be seen (while the share of women among foreign nationals with residence permits amounted to 39.6 % at the end of the year 2007, it reached 43.7 % at the end of the year 2016).

As of 31 December 2016, persons at an economically active age clearly predominated among foreign nationals with residence permits in the territory of the CR. **These foreign nationals at the age of 19–65 years who numbered 408,292 accounted for 82.2 % of the total number of foreign nationals.** On a year-on-year basis, the share of persons in this age range slightly decreased. 65,629 persons younger than 18 years with residence permits in the country were registered at the end of the year 2016, which accounted for 13.2 %.

**Chart 2:** Age structure of foreign nationals with residence permits in the CR (as of 31 December 2016)



**Source:** DAMP, DAPS

### 3.2 ECONOMIC MIGRATION

In 2016, the preparation of several amendments to Acts applicable to economic migration was under way.

It was mainly an amendment to the Employment Act, which brings a major change in the terms and conditions for issue of permits for job agencies to mediate employment, including the introduction of a security deposit, and definition of the obligation of the general manager of the Employment Office of the CR (EA CR) to set up a committee that will be granting permits to mediate employment as an advisory authority. Another change of the legislation concerns the area of administrative penalties.

Another change that is being prepared is a bill that is intended to amend the Employment Act, Act No. 251/2005 Coll., on Inspection of Work, and Act No. 262/2006 Coll., the Labour Code. This bill was prepared for the purpose of transposing Directive 2014/67/EU of the

European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the enforcement of Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services and amending Regulation (EU) No. 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System ("the IMI Regulation"). The goal is to improve the practical implementation of the rules for posting workers in order to prevent fraud and circumvention of rules and to improve cooperation among the national authorities responsible for posting as well as to increase the posted workers' and companies' awareness of their rights and obligations.

The bill amending Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the CR and on amendments to some Acts and other related Acts, also amends the Employment Act, particularly in connection with the transposition of Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers and Directive 2014/66/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer. The amendment to the Employment Act defines a new obligation of the EA CR to provide a foreign national written information on the rights and obligations of a seasonal worker, including the information on the procedure for filing a complaint about a breach of industrial regulations, when the foreign national is issued a work permit. Furthermore, the definition of illegal work will be made more accurate; the terminology will be made consistent; new measures aiming to protect a potential foreign worker will be defined and what is referred to as a "fictitious authorisation" to perform a job when a work permit is renewed will be introduced.

Directive 2014/54/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on measures facilitating the exercise of rights con-

ferred on workers in the context of freedom of movement for workers will be implemented in the legal system of the CR by an amendment to Act No. 198/2009 Coll., on Equal Treatment and on Legal Means of Protection from Discrimination and on amending some Acts (the Anti-discrimination Act). The proposed amendment aims to ensure sufficient protection of the rights of EU citizens and their family members working in a Member State other than their home Member State and defines the instruments to support the practical protection of such rights.

In the year 2016, preparatory legislative work was also being done on an amendment to the Employment Act, which will be a part of the bill amending Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the CR and on amendments to some Acts, as amended, and another related Act. The purpose of the bill is to ensure transposition of Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing. As compared with the current situation, the Directive contains particularly changes concerning facilitation of the access of family members to the labour market, involvement of private scientific institutions and facilitation of mobility inside the European Union for some persons to whom the Directive applies.

### **Projects in the field of economic migration**

Migration projects, which are created and implemented as part of the interdepartmental cooperation of the central governmental authorities, represent an effective tool for supporting migration of selected target groups of third-country nationals, in whose entry into and residence in the territory of the CR the Czech state is interested to an increased degree. The goal of migration projects is to fast-track

the migration procedure by way of processing the applications of the foreign nationals for residence permits and possible work permits on a preferential basis. Foreign nationals are included in the projects by the decision of the relevant authority in charge and according to compliance with the defined criteria.

In the year 2016, a new project with a focus on medium-skilled and low-skilled employees from Ukraine was introduced. On 1 August 2016, the ***System of Special Treatment for Skilled Employees from Ukraine*** project (hereinafter referred to as the Ukraine System) was launched. The applicants included in this project are deliberately selected employees of specific Czech employers. The guarantors<sup>22</sup> who should examine the need for inclusion in the project for each person on an individual basis decide on inclusion of a specific employer in the Ukraine System. For applicants who have been included in the Ukraine System, a time limit has been set for filing an application for an Employee Card directly with the General Consulate in Lvov without any need for booking a date for filing an application in the Visapoint system. These applications are processed within the enhanced systematisation of the General Consulate in Lvov. As early as at the end of the year, the consulate was overloaded due to high level of interest on the part of employers and due to limited staff and technical capacities of the Embassy of the CR in Lvov. Therefore, the quota of 3,800 persons per year was doubled by a Government Resolution of 8 February 2017<sup>23</sup> and the capacities of the MoFA and the MoI were increased. In August and September 2016, the capacity for inclusion in the Ukraine System amounted to 170 persons (for each month). Starting from October

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<sup>22</sup> I.e. the Czech Chamber of Commerce, CzechInvest, the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic, the Confederation of Employer and Business Unions of the CR, the Association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Crafts of the Czech Republic.

<sup>23</sup> Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 105 on the Situation Report on Implementation of the Policy for Increasing the Capacity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic for the Purpose of Processing a Higher Number of Applications for Employee Cards.

2016, the quota for inclusion in the Ukraine System was set at 320 applicants per month. **During the year 2016, a total of 1,303 applicants from Ukraine were included in the project.** In addition to the measures mentioned above, the number of possible registrations in the Visapoint system has been increased since September 2016.

In addition to the above, **the implementation of previously launched projects intended for economic migration** where the administrator was the MoIT (the co-administrators are the MoI, the MoLSA and the MoFA) continued in 2016.

Before the aforementioned project, the project titled ***Special Procedures for Highly Skilled Professionals from Ukraine*** started to operate in 2015. This project is focused on highly qualified employees and specialists from Ukraine who will be performing highly qualified jobs in the territory of the CR in the field of production or services or in the public sector. The participants of this project enjoy preferential treatment when they file an application for an Employee Card or a Blue Card with the embassies of the CR and at Czech consulates abroad because they are not obliged to use the online booking system like other applicants. The quota for this project was set at 500 persons per year but it was planned that more people could be included in the project in the future, if it is evaluated favourably. The administrator of this project is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the co-administrators are the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Industry and Trade). After the pilot project was operated for one year since **November 2015, 45.8 % of the annual quota was filled as of 9 November 2016**, which means that **229 applicants for an Employee Card/a Blue Card as compared to the capacity for 500 persons** were included in the project as of the stated date. Therefore, on 10 May 2016, the Coordination Body for Managing the Protection of the State Borders and Migration extended the target group to include the closest family members of the work

migrants for the sake of improving effectiveness and, on 30 November 2016, approved renewal of the project by one year. At the same time, it approved a change of the project proposed by the Ministry of Health, which consisted in softening the wage conditions for inclusion of applicants with medical professions into the project. A total of 104 companies and 229 job candidates from Ukraine were included in the pilot project. This included 186 technical and other professions and 43 medical professions. The IT professions<sup>24</sup> were in the highest demand; in these professions, a total of 101 candidates were included in the project. The project implemented by the embassy in Kiev met the expectations in terms of the target group and the structure of employees.

Since September 2014, a migration project titled **Facilitation of Procedures for Entry and Stay of Economically Significant Partners** has been implemented, in whose entry and stay in the territory of the CR the Czech state is interested to an increased degree. The administrator in charge of the project is the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Since 2012, another two migration projects concerning economic migration have been under way. These projects are intended for foreign nationals entering the territory of the CR for the purposes of employment or business; they are titled **Fast Track** and **Welcome Package for Investors**. The administrator in charge of these projects is the Ministry of Industry and Trade (the co-administrators are the MoI, the MoLSA and the MoFA).

In 2016, the **Fast Track Project: A Fast Track Procedure for Intra-corporate Transferees and Localised Employees and Statutory Bodies of Foreign Investors** was used by a total of 166 workers from third countries; these particularly included specialists and managers from the field of industry, information technologies and finance.

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<sup>24</sup> Information technology



The highest numbers of candidates were from India (31), Russian Federation (29), Ukraine (17) and Egypt (11).

The project ***Welcome Package for Investors*** largely focuses on the statutory bodies of newcomer companies which are starting to invest in the CR. Managers who will be the employees of a newly incorporated Czech company and key specialists temporarily sent from the foreign parent company to the unit based in the CR can also be included in the project. In 2016, there was a total of 87 applications included in the project (87 applicants and 67 family members), mostly managers and specialists. The highest numbers of applicants were from Ukraine (54), China (16) and the Russian Federation (6).

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### 3.3 FAMILY REUNIFICATION

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There were no major changes in this field in 2016. The percentage of third-country nationals who are staying in the CR for the purpose of family reunification continued to grow.

The third-country nationals who are coming to the CR for the purpose of family reunification can take advantage of a number of integration measures provided by the regional Centres to Support the Integration of Foreigners, NGOs and other partners. Foreign nationals have the opportunity to attend free language courses or adaptation integration welcome courses.

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### 3.4 STUDENTS AND SCIENTISTS

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In Government Resolution No. 621 of 29 July 2015 on the *Migration Policy Strategy of the Czech Republic* and on the *Migration Communication Strategy of the Czech Republic*, the Ministry of Education,

Youth and Sports was tasked with creating a ***Strategic Document on Entry and Residence of Third-Country Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic for the Purpose of Studies and Other Educational Activities***, which proposes a number of legislative, organisational and other measures aiming to facilitate the visa process for foreign university students who are interested in studying in the CR. For this purpose, a taskforce was set up, composed of representatives of the MoEYS, the MoI and the MoFA; the authority in charge of this taskforce is the MoEYS. The document was approved in June 2016.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the representatives of universities, proposed a joint project concerning facilitation of the visa procedure for selected university students, referred to as the ***STUDENT SYSTEM***. The project was approved by the government in June 2017. The Student System provides faster and more efficient processing of a visa application from a foreign student who met the defined conditions. It is intended solely for those who are interested in studies under the accredited study programmes of universities. The goal of the Student System is to create opportunities for increasing the number of foreign students, including the students who fully pay the costs of their studies.

Since 2013, the CR has been implementing a project titled ***Fast Track Procedure for Granting Residence Permits to Foreigners – Foreign Students from Third Countries***, which focuses on student migration of foreign scholarship holders. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports is the administrator of this project. The project's primary goal is to simplify the entry procedure for students who have been admitted to studies in the CR as participants of selected scholarship programmes under international agreements (bilateral or multilateral ones) or decisions by the Government of the CR (developing countries or compatriots abroad). Within the terms of this project, these people

are issued a long-term visa or a long-term residence permit for the purpose of studies in a fast track procedure.

One of these long-term study stays is the special scholarship program of the Government of the CR titled ***New Elites for Syria***, which was approved in 2015. The programme should allow Syrian refugees from Jordan to study at Czech public universities. Originally, the duration of the programme was assumed to be the period of 2015–2021 (1 year of language training at the ILPT<sup>25</sup> and 5 years of the actual university studies); however, experience from the trial operation showed it would be appropriate to extend the programme until the year 2022 (2 years of training at the ILPT and 5 years of the actual university studies). This programme is of humanitarian and developmental nature. Under this programme, the Government of the CR granted 18 scholarships for public universities in the CR to Syrian refugees from Jordan.

In addition to that, the Government of the CR offered a **governmental development scholarship** to another 10 students from Syria in 2016 (these scholarships were provided from the annual quota of development scholarships), with the beginning of the study programme in the CR being in the academic year 2017/2018.

The EURAXESS Czech Republic Network continued its activities in 2016. This project is financed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in cooperation with the Academy of Sciences. Among other things, the EURAXESS Czech Republic Network provides information and assistance to researchers who come to the CR to work here or to those who are moving to work in another EU country. The EURAXESS centres help scientists and their families with planning and relocation abroad and provide assistance in all areas connected with mobility.

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<sup>25</sup> Institute of Language and Professional Training of the Charles University in Prague

Starting from the year 2017, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports will support the international mobility of PhD students, post-graduate students and researchers from among Czech researchers under the Research, Development and Education Operational Programme (RDE OP)<sup>26</sup> under the challenges titled ***International Mobility*** and ***Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions***. The scope of actions to support international mobility will also include the integration of researchers with experience acquired abroad into the Czech research and development system.

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### **3.5 VISA POLICY AND SCHENGEN COOPERATION**

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#### **Visa policy**

Stays of up to 90 days within the Schengen Area are part of the common EU visa policy. Thus, Member States are involved in formulating this policy, which most notably concerns the determination of the third countries whose citizens must have a visa to enter a Schengen state and the countries whose citizens are exempt from this duty. The option to negotiate such agreements on a bilateral basis for holders of diplomatic, service and special passports was left within the national terms of reference.

One of the **goals of the visa policy** is to have the highest possible coverage by consulates in third countries. The option to enter into an agreement with another Member State on representation for issue of short-term Schengen visas serves to this purpose. In 2016, in order to extend the coverage by the consulates for issue of Schengen visas in third countries, the CR entered into new agreements on representation

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<sup>26</sup> The RDE OP is a multi-year theme-specific programme administrated by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, under which it is possible to draw on finances from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in the programme period of 2014–2020.

with Switzerland (since 1 January 2016, the CR has been representing Switzerland in Ulanbatar, Mongolia) and France (France has been representing the CR in Bangladesh since 1 April 2016 and in Cambodia, Uganda and Madagascar since 1 September 2016).

Regarding the number of issued short-term visas, the Russian Federation has remained the key country for the CR. However, the number of applications filed by Russian citizens continued to decrease in the year 2016. Conversely, increase in the number of applications was registered at the consulates in Ukraine, China (the number of applications from China citizens has more than doubled), Turkey and India. The situation has been steadier at other consulates.

An important part of visa policy is the effort to **prevent the possibility to forge visas**. Biometric data (fingerprints), which are submitted in the process of applying for visa and subsequently checked during entry across the external border of any Schengen Area Member State, were chosen as one of the tools for this. The process of implementing biometric data at consulates and external borders is called VIS roll-out and was completed after five years in February 2016 when the last region – the external Schengen border – was included. At present, all Schengen visas issued by the CR are biometric.

In 2014, discussion was opened about the proposed amended text of the **Visa Code** (the crucial legal framework for implementation of the visa policy in the field of short-term Schengen visas), the purpose of which is particularly to improve the efficiency of the process of issuing Schengen visas, while maintaining security criteria. In 2015, the problematic parts of the amendment in preparation were discussed. The CR was involved in amending the Visa Code through its representatives in the forum of the Council's taskforce for visas. **In 2016**, a compromise on the text of the revised Visa Code was achieved at the level of the Council. However, the negotiations with the European

Parliament have not been concluded; the possible inclusion of what is referred as “humanitarian visas” into the framework of the Visa Code remains the contentious issue.

### **Schengen cooperation**

In April 2014, the Government of the CR adopted the *2014 National Schengen Plan for the Period 2014–2020*. This is a basic strategic document for Schengen cooperation and the protection of borders. The plan is evaluated every year and the evaluation is presented in the form of a *Report on Implementation of the National Schengen Plan* alternately to the Coordination Body for Managing the Protection of the State Borders of the Czech Republic and Migration (in the years 2015, 2017 and 2019) and to the government (in the years 2016, 2018 and 2020). This is a continuous process of monitoring compliance with the Schengen standards. In April 2016, the *Second Report on Implementation* was presented, which contained the evaluation of performance of separate tasks, and the preparation of the *Third Report on Implementation* was started, which will be presented to the government in 2017.

On 1 August 2016, the **new Act on the Protection of the State Borders of the CR and on amendments to related Acts (Act No. 191/2016 Coll.)** came into force. This new Act has replaced the former Act No. 216/2002 Coll. with the aim of ensuring its improved comprehensibility (it should eliminate the provisions, which are not applicable or which are duplicate) in the context of the CR’s membership in the Schengen cooperation partnership. The new Act defines the conditions for establishing a border crossing at an international airport, specifies the obligations of forwarders and airport operators arising from European legislation and non-legislation documents as well as the rules for temporary re-establishment of the protection of internal borders, offences and administrative torts related to the protection of borders.

## 3.6 INTEGRATION; CITIZENSHIP

### Integration

**The share of third-country nationals** in the total number of foreign nationals in the CR in 2016 amounted to approximately **58 %** same as last year; and their **percentage of the total population of the country amounted to 2.6 %**<sup>27</sup>. As of the last day of the year 2016, there were 287,335 legally staying third-country nationals in the territory of the CR<sup>28</sup>.

The basic document of the integration policy of the CR is the *Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic*. In 2016, the key documents in the field of integration were the **updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – In Mutual Respect** (Policy) and **Procedure for the Year 2016**<sup>29</sup>.

The Policy defines the course of action of the CR in the integration of foreign nationals and responds to the developments, new trends and current needs associated with the integration of foreign nationals and the foreign national issues in general. The target group was significantly enlarged in the updated Policy. **As a result, in addition to third-country nationals, the target group of the integration measures has been extended beyond the scope of the State Integration Programme to include recognised refugees and persons enjoying subsidiary protection.** EU citizens have remained a supplementary group in cases in which they are vulnerable to social marginalisation or in cases in which their inclusion is necessary to

<sup>27</sup> As of 31 December 2016 (Source: IS AIS)

<sup>28</sup> Source: IS AIS

<sup>29</sup> The updated documents *Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – In Mutual Respect and Procedure for Implementing the Updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in 2016* were adopted in Resolution No. 26 of the Government of the Czech Republic of 18 January 2016.

resolve their personal critical situation<sup>30</sup>. Besides the still valid priorities of integration, the system for providing information to foreign nationals, specifically to potential migrants in their countries of origin, was being enhanced. The offer of adaptation-integration courses and Czech language lessons has been extended and assistance continued to be provided to foreign nationals at the Residence Units of the DAMP of the Ministry of the Interior, at schools and governmental bureaus. New emphasis has been placed on dissemination of information among the professional community and the general public. Increased attention has been paid to education of the children of foreign nationals because the numbers of children and students from third countries in the CR have been significantly rising.

The three-tier information system for foreign nationals continued to work (that is, even during the year 2016). Pre-departure information (the materials titled *Next Stop – the Czech Republic*) are available to foreign nationals in the **pre-migration stage**<sup>31</sup>. To help the **newcomer foreign nationals** with getting to know the new environment, introductory integration-adaptation courses titled *Welcome to the Czech Republic*<sup>32</sup> were organised and an instruction informational leaflet and a video titled *How to Go about It* were presented. **Foreigners with long-term residence** in the CR are offered integration courses in social-cultural orientation.

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<sup>30</sup> With EU citizens, it is not a matter of immigration but a matter of taking advantage of the free movement of persons within the EU. EU citizens have a guaranteed scope of rights comparable to that of the citizens of the CR; therefore, there are little or no opportunities for certain motivational or sanction tools in the process of their integration. Besides that, it is assumed that the already implemented standards and services intended for EU citizens are available to them.

<sup>31</sup> An informational brochure, a DVD and a check-list, titled *Next Stop – the Czech Republic*, are disseminated through consular offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the embassies of the Czech Republic in the countries of origin of foreign nationals and on the websites of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

<sup>32</sup> A website at [vitejtevcr.cz](http://vitejtevcr.cz) was created for these courses. This website offers information on the courses, including the list of adaptation integration courses currently available.



The Ministry of the Interior is the coordinator of the integration policy; nevertheless, a number of ministries are involved in implementing the *Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals*. Each Ministry is responsible for implementation of the integration policy within its terms of reference. Interdepartmental meetings are held by a board consisting of representatives of the Ministries on a regular basis. Other important partners in implementation of integration measures are the **regional Centres to Support the Integration of Foreigners** (Centres) and **non-governmental organisations** (NGOs). The advantage of these entities is primarily that they are in direct contact with foreign nationals.

**In 2016**, the Ministry of the Interior supported **NGO** projects with the amount of nearly **21 million CZK**<sup>33</sup>. This support was given primarily to projects focusing on direct assistance to foreign nationals in the DAMP Foreigners' Residence Unit, on streetwork, on awareness, on research activities or on projects supporting the foreign nationals' own activities, on education of the employees of the DAMP Foreigners' Residence Units and the employees of the central government and local government, on support of integration activities based on the foreign nationals' own activities, on research into the position of female foreign nationals and on research into integration and, last but not the least, on activities focusing on providing information to the general public. Besides their own independent projects, NGOs also operate as subcontractors or direct partners in the projects of the Centres to Support the Integration of Foreigners or in the projects of municipalities. In November 2016, calls to file applications for subsidies from the state budget for implementation of integration projects of non-governmental non-profit organisations and municipality projects for the year 2017 were published.

<sup>33</sup> There were 24 projects supported under the 2016 *Integration of Foreign Nationals* subsidy programme.

**Centres to Support the Integration of Foreigners**, which actively operated in **13 of the 14 regions of the CR**<sup>34</sup> and serve as information centres for both foreign nationals and the majority population continue to be considered as a significant instrument of the integration policy in regions. The goal of the Centres is to provide consultancy for foreign nationals, courses in the Czech language and facts of everyday life in the CR, to monitor the situation in the region, to support conflict-free relationships between foreign nationals and the majority, to develop civic society and to create and develop regional platforms for integration. The Centres are financed predominantly from the EU funds.

**Institutions of regional and local public administration** are also important partners of the Ministry in the field of integration. Municipalities have the opportunity to draw on finances for implementation of projects designed to support the integration of foreign nationals with the aim of creating their own integration strategy based on their knowledge of local circumstances. The number of municipalities that apply for a subsidy has been rising every year. In 2016, **15 municipalities** and city districts implemented their projects<sup>35</sup>. In 2016, the municipality projects were supported with an amount of more than **12.5 million CZK**.

During the last quarter of 2016, based on the source materials from other Ministries and other entities, the Ministry of the Interior prepared the *Procedure for Implementing the Updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – In Mutual Respect in 2017* and presented this document to the government for discussion.

<sup>34</sup> The Region of South Bohemia, the Region of South Moravia, the Region of Karlovy Vary, the Region of Hradec Králové, the Highland Region, the Region of Liberec, the Region of Moravia-Silesia, the Region of Olomouc, the Region of Pardubice, the Region of Pilsen, the Region of Ústí nad Labem, the Region of Zlín and the Capital City of Prague. The Prague Integration Centre provides services for the Region of Central Bohemia.

<sup>35</sup> Havlíčkův Brod, Karlovy Vary, Teplice, City Districts of Prague 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17 and the City District of Prague-Libuš

The Government of the CR **earmarked an amount of more than 54 million CZK** for implementation of measures supporting the integration of foreign nationals in the year 2016, **which was more than a double of the amount earmarked for the year 2015.**

## Citizenship

On 1 January 2014, Act No. 186/2013 Coll., on the Citizenship of the Czech Republic and on amendments to some Acts (the Czech Republic Citizenship Act) came into force, which governs the acquisition, losing, proving and ascertaining the citizenship of the CR.

**This new legislation has fully abandoned the principle of single citizenship and, conversely, completely allows the existence of double (or multiple) citizenship.** This Act has also simplified the ways of acquiring citizenship for those persons who have been staying in the territory of the CR from the age of ten years and who are referred to as the “second generation of foreign nationals”. In this case, it is possible to make a declaration on acquisition of the citizenship of the CR at the age between 18 and 21 years. On the other hand, the list of conditions for granting citizenship has been extended; for example, proving one’s knowledge of the Czech cultural background is newly required.

The Czech Republic Citizenship Act explicitly provides that there is no legal claim to the citizenship of the CR. The Ministry of the Interior decides on applications for citizenship.

In 2016, the citizenship of the CR was granted to a total of **3,897 foreign nationals**<sup>36</sup>. In 29 cases, this included persons who had been granted international protection in the form of asylum in the CR in the past.

**Table 3:** The number of foreign nationals who were granted the citizenship of the CR in the period 2006–2016

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of foreign nationals who were granted the citizenship of the CR	1,560	1,158	1,190	1,128	1,088	1,653	1,565	2,253	4,915	2,620	3,897

**Note:** This includes the citizens of the Slovak Republic.

**Source:** MoI

The citizenship of the CR was most often granted to the citizens of Ukraine: 1,426 persons (1,052 in 2015); Russian Federation: 558 persons (317 in 2015); Slovakia: 419 persons (110 in 2015); Vietnam: 405 persons (270 in 2015) and Belarus: 131 persons (94 in 2015).

In 2016, the Ministry of the Interior issued **404 rejection decisions** (there were 361 rejection decisions in 2015). A remedy (an appeal) was filed against a rejection decision by 145 applicants, from among whom the rejection decision was overturned by the Minister of the Interior for 17 applicants.

Furthermore, **1,652 foreign nationals** acquired the citizenship of the CR based on one of the **declarations**, which are laid down in the Czech Republic Citizenship Act.

<sup>36</sup> These were the statistics as of 9 February 2017. The Ministry of the Interior will continue to record the individual cases of taking the citizenship oath, which occurred in late 2016, but which were not reported by the regional offices to the Ministry of the Interior by 9 February 2017. As a consequence, these acquisitions of the citizenship of the Czech Republic based on the granting of the citizenship could not have been included in the statistics at the time of preparation of this report.

**Thus, a total of 5,549 persons acquired the citizenship of the CR in 2016, either as a result of having been granted the citizenship or having made a declaration.**

# 4

## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

In 2016, a total of **1,478 foreign nationals** applied for international protection, i.e. 3.1 % less persons than in the previous year. In spite of the relatively high year-on-year increase in the years 2014 and 2015, the situation in the field of international protection can be regarded as stable from the long-term perspective.

The largest group of applicants were the citizens of **Ukraine, Iraq and Cuba**. International protection in the form of asylum was granted to **148 applicants** (most often to citizens of Iraq), **subsidiary protection** was granted in **302 cases** (most often to citizens of Syria).

In 2016, the Czech Republic registered a total of **2,389 cases referred to as "Dublin Cases"**, which represented an increase by 1.3 % in comparison with the year 2015. The most frequently represented citizenships were the citizenships of Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

The integration of persons who were granted international protection is governed by the **State Integration Programme (SIP)**. In a government resolution, its new concept was approved in November 2015. Starting from **1 January 2016**, it brought a change in the system of teaching the Czech language, a change concerning a stay in an integration asylum centre, accommodation and integration of clients at the level of municipalities and towns. **A total of 510 eligible persons entered the SIP in 2016.**

## 4.1 APPLICANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

**In 2016, the number of applicants for international protection decreased to 1,478 persons, which was 3.1 % less than in the previous year.** In spite of the relatively high year-on-year increase in the years 2014 and 2015, the situation regarding international protection can be deemed to be stable from a longer-term perspective. In previous years – since 2004 when the CR acceded to the European Union and when the Dublin Regulation was applied in the country<sup>37</sup> – the numbers of applicants were gradually and significantly decreasing. In 2013, there were 707 applicants, which was the lowest recorded number since the formation of the CR (1993). The situation started to change at the beginning of the year 2014 in connection with the Ukrainian crisis. At the end of the year 2014, there were 1,156 registered applicants for international protection (a year-on-year increase by 63.5 %); in 2015, there were 1,525 foreign nationals who applied for international protection in the CR (a year-on-year increase by 32 %).

### Applications for international protection

In comparison with other EU Member States, the numbers of applicants for international protection in the CR are still below the average. The CR has registered significantly less applicants for international protection than the neighbouring countries Germany, Austria and Poland. In comparison with the other Member States of the European Union, the CR is not the main destination country for applicants for international protection.

**In 2016, a total of 1,478 foreign nationals applied for international protection, i.e. 47 (3.1 %) less persons than in the previous year.**

<sup>37</sup> This regulation defines the criteria for determination of the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection.

**Table 4:** The numbers of applicants for international protection in the Czech Republic in the period 2006–2016

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of applicants	3,016	1,878	1,656	1,258	833	756	753	707	1,156	1,525	1,478
Year-on-year change in %	-25.0	-37.7	-11.8	-24.0	-33.8	-9.2	-0.4	-6.1	+63.5	+31.9	-3.1 %

**Source:** DAMP

From among the total number of 1,478 applications for international protection filed in 2016, **1,215** (i.e. 82.2 %) **applications were filed for the first time** and **263** (i.e. 17.8 %) **were filed multiple times**<sup>38</sup>.

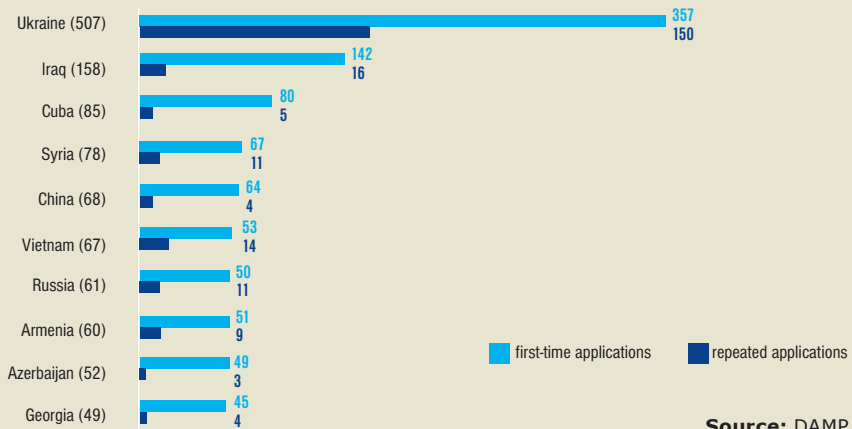
In total, citizens from 55 countries and 21 stateless persons applied for international protection in the CR in 2016. The main source countries of applicants for international protection remained almost the same in 2016 as compared with the year 2015 but there were changes in the order among the TOP 10 ones and Georgia and Azerbaijan entered the TOP 10 while stateless applicants and applicants from Nigeria (29 applications) left the TOP 10. In 2016, the largest group of applicants remained the citizens of **Ukraine who filed 507 applications** (34.3 %). After a fairly large gap, applicants from **Iraq (158)** represented the second largest group and accounted for 10.7 % of the total number of filed applications. The third most frequent citizenship among applicants was the citizenship of **Cuba (85 applications; i.e. 5.8 %)**. Combined, the holders of these three citizenships filed approximately one half of all applications for international protection in

<sup>38</sup> The number of applications filed multiple times has been monitored since the implementation of what is referred to as the "EU Procedure Directive" in the Asylum Act (the amendment to the Act that came into force on 21 December 2007). This is the *Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1 December 2005 on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status*, under which the formerly mandatory two-year time limit for repeated filing of an application for international protection is no longer applied. Thus, foreign nationals can file new applications immediately after a decision not to grant international protection based on the previous application becomes effective.



the year 2016. The TOP 10 of the citizenships of applicants for international protection in 2016 is shown in the following chart.

**Chart 3:** TOP 10 citizenships of applicants for international protection in 2016



The citizens of **Ukraine** have been **the largest group of applicants for international protection** since 2004. In 2016, citizens of Ukraine filed a total of **507 applications**, which represents a decrease by 27.0 % based on a year-on-year comparison. As the reasons for filing their applications for international protection, citizens of Ukraine continue to state particularly their concerns about the unstable security and political situation and their fear of being drafted for military service. With respect to the instability in their country of origin, economic factors were also often cited because the applicants view the CR as a more promising place for life. Some of the applicants have lived in the CR for a longer time (often more than 10 years), and therefore the reasons in the applications filed in 2016 once again included statements that the applicants have no place in Ukraine to return to. Thus, some perceived the obtaining of asylum as an option to legalise their stay in the CR.

Unlike the three previous years, citizens of **Iraq** who filed a total of **158 applications**, which represents a year-on-year increase by 315.8 % (120 applications), represented the second largest group of applicants in 2016<sup>39</sup>. Most applications from Iraqi citizens were fled for the first time. Nearly all these applicants cited the ongoing civil war and the related poor security, political and economic situation in their country of origin as the reason for applying for international protection. Their increased number during the last year is linked to the resettlement programme of the Generace 21 foundation fund, under which 89 Iraqi Christians were resettled to the CR in spring 2016. It needs to be emphasised that in the context of the entire Europe, these are very low numbers of applicants from this country and the CR is not the preferred destination country in this respect.

Citizens of **Cuba** filed the third highest number of **applications**, which totalled **85** (43 applications less, i.e. there was a decrease by 33.6 %), during the year 2016. The most frequently cited reasons for filing an application were particularly disagreement with the political system in Cuba and the poor economic situation in Cuba, same as in the previous years. A smaller group of applicants also cited problems due to their different sexual orientation or transgender identity as the reason.

In 2016, citizens of **Syria** represented the fourth largest group. They filed a total of **78 applications** (56 applications less than last year, i.e. there was a decrease by 41.8 %).

The fifth largest group consisted of citizens of **China** who filed **68 applications** during the year 2016, i.e. 28 applications less than in the preceding year.

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<sup>39</sup> The higher numbers of applicants for international protection from Iraq were mainly linked to the resettlement of 89 Iraqi Christians under the programme of the Generace 21 foundation fund (see the chapter Resettlement, Section 7.2).

**Men continued to predominate among the applicants for international protection** in the year 2016. Their number reached 62.8 % (928 persons). Women accounted for 37.2 % (550 persons).

Last year, a total of **269 minors** were registered among applicants for international protection (i.e. 18.2 % of the total number of applicants), which is the same number as in the preceding year. However, their share in the total number of applicants slightly increased (by 0.8 percentage point). Most minor applicants came from Ukraine (81) and Iraq (54). A total of 61.9 % applications from stateless persons were filed by minors. For example, Afghanistan (51.3 % of applications from minors) was among other countries with a higher percentage of minor applicants in the year 2016.

### Proceedings on granting international protection

In 2016, a total of **1,410 decisions were issued by the Ministry of the Interior in proceedings on granting international protection** and **652 decisions were issued in proceedings to extend subsidiary protection**.

International protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection was granted by the Ministry of the Interior to **450 foreign nationals**. **Subsidiary protection was extended** for another **516 persons**.

**In 2016, international protection in the form of asylum was granted to 148 applicants;** this represented a year-on-year increase by 108.5 %. **Most often,** asylum was granted to citizens of **Iraq (101 cases)**. Asylum was also granted to citizens of Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Syria, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan (5 citizens from each country) who were followed by citizens of the Russian Federation (4), citizens of Armenia and Kyrgyzstan (3 persons from each country), citizens of Myanmar, Somalia and Zimbabwe (2 persons from each country) and

one citizen of Belarus, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan (1 person from each country).

In the same year, **subsidiary protection** was granted in **302 cases**. This represented a year-on-year decrease by 24.3 %. This form of protection was most often granted to citizens of **Syria** (88 persons), **Iraq** (49 persons) and **Ukraine** (46 persons).

During the year 2016, **a total of 530 negative decisions** (i.e. 35.9 %) were issued in proceedings on granting international protection, in which it was decided not to grant international protection or in which an application was rejected as clearly unfounded. Proceedings were discontinued in 430 cases (i.e. 29.1 %).

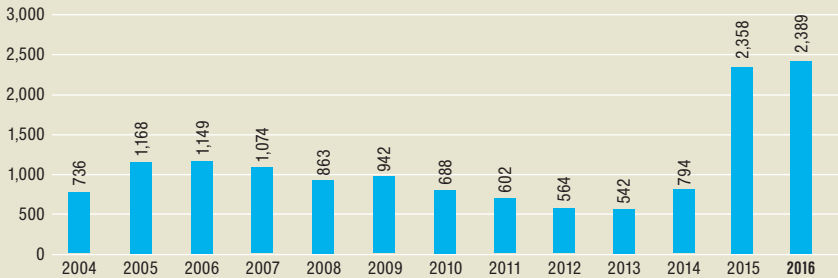
### **Application of the Dublin Regulation<sup>40</sup>**

In 2016, the CR registered a total of **2,389 of Dublin Cases**, which represented **an increase by 1.3 % in comparison with the year 2015**. During this period, **the most represented citizenship was Armenian citizenship** (486 persons), followed by **Georgian citizenship** (423 persons) and **Azerbaijan citizenship** (412 persons).

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<sup>40</sup> The Dublin Regulation, Council Regulation (EC) No. 604/2013, defines the criteria determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection. These criteria include, for example, an issued visa or residence permit, the first application for international protection in the territory of the Member State or family ties.

**Chart 4:** History of Dublin Cases in the period from May 2004 to December 2016

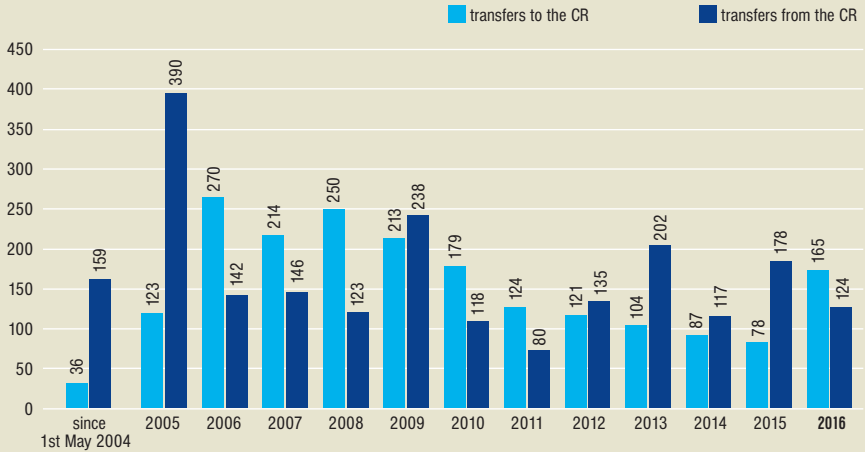


**Note:** In the years 2012 and 2015, applications for information were not included in the statistics of Dublin Cases.

**Source:** DAMP

During the year 2016, **the CR received a total of 1,882 applications** from another Member State (an increase by 187.9 % in comparison with the previous year) **for reception or readmission of an applicant for international protection to the territory of the CR. A total of 165 transfers (an increase by 111.5 %) to the territory of the CR** were carried out last year. The highest numbers of persons were transferred to the territory of the CR from **Sweden** (39 persons), **Germany** (36), **Austria** (36) and **France** (22).

During the same period, **the CR sent a total of 507 applications** to another Member State (a decrease by 70.3 %) **for reception or readmission of an applicant or a foreign national.** During the same period, **a total of 124 transfers (a decrease by 30.3 %) were carried out from the territory of the CR** to another Member State. The highest numbers of persons were transferred from the territory of the CR to **Poland** (33), **Germany** (30) and **Hungary** (16).

**Chart 5:** Transfers carried out from and to the territory of the CR in the period 2004–2016

**Note:** In the years 2012 and 2015, applications for information were not included in the statistics of Dublin Cases.

**Source:** DAMP

## 4.2 ASYLUM FACILITIES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The **Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior** is the operator of reception, accommodation and integration asylum centres. These facilities provide particularly accommodation, boarding, psychological, social, educational and consulting services and they also provide opportunities for leisure time activities. In 2016, the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior provided applicants for international protection and foreign nationals who have been granted international protection with services in a total of eight asylum facilities of three types:

**A reception centre (RC)** serves particularly to accommodate the newly arrived applicants for international protection until the basic initial procedures are completed: establishing identity; commencing pro-

ceedings on granting international protection; the initial interview and welfare investigation; and the required initial medical examination.

It is not possible to freely leave an RC. An RC provides accommodation, food, basic hygiene necessities and medical care. There are social and psychological services available to applicants and applicants can participate in leisure time activities, attend fine arts workshops, etc. RCs are situated in the transit area at the Václav Havel International Airport and in the municipality of Zastávka (Region of South Moravia). As of 31 December 2016, **the total capacity of reception centres was 235 beds.**

**An accommodation centre (AC)** serves particularly to accommodate those applicants who have undergone the required entry procedures in an RC while the proceedings on their application for international protection are under way. Applicants can freely leave the centres or can take advantage of the option to find private accommodation. The services provided are similar to those in an RC. Emphasis is placed on social work combined with leisure time activities. Children's centres, fine arts workshops, libraries, tea rooms, playgrounds and sports equipment are available here and clients can participate in various cultural events and trips. Special attention is paid to vulnerable groups, which include unaccompanied minor applicants; single women with children; seniors; physically, mentally or socially handicapped persons and victims of physical or psychological violence. ACs are situated in Kostelec nad Orlicí (Region of Hradec Králové) and Havířov (Region of Moravia-Silesia).

As of 31 December 2016, **the total capacity of accommodation centres was 383 beds.**

**An integration centre (IAC)** serves to those persons who were granted international protection and who entered the *State Integration Programme* and applied for temporary accommodation in an IAC.

The purpose of the period spent in an IAC (a maximum of 18 months) is particularly to learn the Czech language and to obtain one's own housing and employment. Courses in the Czech language are mandatory for the persons accommodated in an IAC. Money is charged for accommodation in an integration centre. The rights and obligations of persons who were granted international protection on the labour market and in the field of social security and medical care are the same as the rights and obligations of the citizens of the CR. Employees of the centres, along with workers of NGOs, can provide the clients of IACs, if they are interested, with the necessary consultancy and assistance. IACs are situated in Jaroměř (Region of Hradec Králové), Předlice (Region of Ústí nad Labem), Brno (Region of South Moravia) and Havířov (Region of Moravia-Silesia).

As of 31 December 2016, SUZ operated **a total of four integration asylum centres** in which a total of 43 accommodation units are available to recognised refugees (these are filled according to the size and nature of the accommodated families) **with the maximum capacity of 152 beds.**

### **Use of the accommodation capacities in 2016**

In 2016, **a total of 1,295 newly arrived foreign nationals** – applicants for international protection (including new-borns born while the mother was staying in an asylum facility) – came to asylum facilities. The citizens of **Ukraine** (485 persons, i.e. 37.5 %), **Cuba** (84 persons, i.e. 6.5 %) and **Syria** (73 persons, i.e. 5.6 %) most often came to asylum facilities.

On the average, **16 % of the capacity of reception centres** was used. On the average, the extent to which **the capacity of the accommodation centres** was used was **66 %**; these data include only the persons physically staying in these facilities. Applicants for inter-



national protection accommodated in an accommodation centre have the option to leave the centre on a long-term basis at their request. In 2016, this option was used, on the average, by 47 % of the registered applicants for international protection.

SUZ was also transforming the capacity of the integration asylum centres. During the year, the accommodation units in the integration asylum centre in Havířov were being transformed back into an accommodation centre one by one; at the same time, the capacity of the integration asylum centre in Havířov-Šumbark was being increased.

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### 4.3 INTEGRATION OF RECOGNISED REFUGEES AND PERSONS GRANTED SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION

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The integration of persons who were granted international protection is governed by the **State Integration Programme**. With minor changes, the SIP has existed since 1994 and its basic goals have remained unchanged. The programme concentrates on providing persons who were granted international protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection with assistance in their integration into the society, particularly as concerns housing, removal of the language barrier and assistance with entry into the labour market.

In a Government Resolution No. 954 of 20 November 2015, **a new concept of the SIP was approved**. Starting from 1 January 2016, it has brought changes to the system of teaching the Czech language, to accommodation in an integration asylum centre and in ensuring the housing and integration of clients at the level of municipalities and towns<sup>41</sup>. This integration programme builds on the existing assistance

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<sup>41</sup> However, the old system will be retained for those cases, in which accommodation was provided until the end of the year 2015 (an obligation valid for three years, that is, until the end of the year 2018 at the latest).

to eligible persons<sup>42</sup>. The change of the system was related to the expected increase of the number of eligible persons in the programme, that is, spontaneously arriving refugees and persons who will come to the CR under resettlement and relocation programmes.

Foreign nationals can be included in the SIP only at their own request. They enter the programme by filling in an application when international protection is granted to them (or, as the case may be, within one year from the granting of international protection). Participation in the programme is voluntary but its rules are binding on the persons who join the programme.

Integration services for holders of international protection are mediated by a single general provider of integration services throughout the country (hereinafter referred to as the "Provider"). The Provider is responsible for coordinating and ensuring integration services for holders of international protection in cooperation with other entities, which mainly include the Ministries, municipalities, non-governmental non-profit organisations, churches, volunteers and employers concerned and others. The Provider may ensure individual services through a third party on a subcontracting basis. In 2016, the Charity Czech Republic held the role of the Provider of integration services.

In close cooperation with the eligible person and the employees of integration asylum centres, the Provider prepares **an individual integration plan**. This is a basic document describing the integration objectives for the specific person and the course of integration in the following key integration areas: housing, employment, education and removal of the language barrier as well as the welfare and medical areas.

In 2016, a total of **510 eligible persons** joined the *State Integration Programme*.

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<sup>42</sup> A person who was granted international protection in the form of asylum or subsidiary protection and who joined the *State Integration Programme*.

# UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

In 2016, **43 unaccompanied third-country minor nationals** were placed in the specialised Facility for Children-foreigners. From among them, 4 persons applied for international protection in the CR.

In 2016, **a new care system for unaccompanied minors was developed and stabilised**, which the MoEYS adopted in September 2015 due to the growing number of received unaccompanied minors as a result of the migration crisis. New sites were set up under the methodological direction of the Facility for Children-foreigners, which are intended for long-term care of unaccompanied minor foreign nationals.

Regular meetings of what is referred to as the “expert group”, which consists of experts from various Ministries participating in the work with unaccompanied minors continued to be held in 2016.

The Facility for Detention of Foreign Nationals in Bělá-Jezová has been reserved solely for families with minor children and for other vulnerable groups since 2015.

## 5.1 UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

In this field, the CR follows the *Policy for Protection and Care of Unaccompanied Minor Foreign Nationals, Including Applicants for International Protection*, which was adopted in 2012. This policy defined the

rules for treatment of unaccompanied minors (hereinafter referred to as “UAM”) who arrive in the territory of the CR without a legal representative and also defined the system of care and the conditions for the integration of this group.

To take care of unaccompanied minors, the CR has a unique site – the Facility for Children-foreigners (ZDC), which offers a universal and fully professional care of this category of foreign nationals. In cooperation with the MoEYS, the facility successfully and flexibly responds to the current migration situation in the world and the CR, developing the system of work with the UAM as necessary.

In 2016, **a new care system for UAM was developed and stabilised**, which the MoEYS adopted in September 2015 due to the growing number of received unaccompanied minors as a result of the migration crisis. New sites were set up under the methodological direction of the Facility for Children-foreigners, which are intended for long-term care of unaccompanied minor foreign nationals. The current system is primarily based on the right of each client to full direct subsistence, comprehensive diagnostics, education and subsequent integration into the Czech educational system and the Czech society.

In 2016, a new methodological material for the social-legal child protection authorities (OSPOD) was published on the theme of unaccompanied minors. The title of the material is *Methodological Recommendation of the MoLSA for Procedures to be followed by Municipal Offices of the Municipalities with Extended Scope of Authority in Provision of Social-Legal Protection of Unaccompanied Minors*. As compared to the previous versions, the methodological guideline works with updated legislation governing the residence of foreign nationals and asylum and also places greater emphasis on the human-rights dimension.

Within international cooperation, the Facility for Children-foreigners prepared a project, in which the employees of the facility visited organisations working with unaccompanied minors in Italy, in order to mutually exchange experience and acquire enhanced professional skills for performance of their jobs.

The work of what is referred to as the “expert group”, that is, regular work meetings of experts from various Ministries participating in the work with the UAM, is an important element of care of the UAM in the CR. This is a platform organisationally secured by a non-governmental non-profit organisation, which allows for flexibly resolving all the current problems concerning the care of the UAM.

## Statistics

In 2016, **43 third-country children unaccompanied** by an adult relative were placed in the specialised **Facility for Children-foreigners**. Most children (39) did not apply for international protection in the CR (however, from among these children, 11 had already previously applied for international protection in another Member State of the EU). In the previous year, 79 unaccompanied third-country children were placed in this facility (14 of them applied for international protection; 65 of them did not).

**4 unaccompanied minor foreign nationals who were placed in the Facility for Children-foreigners applied for international protection in 2016<sup>43</sup>**. This number represents a decrease in comparison with the previous year 2015, in which 14 unaccompanied minors applied for international protection according to the statistics of the DAMP<sup>44</sup>.

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<sup>43</sup> Source: Facility for Children-foreigners

<sup>44</sup> Source: DAMP. The DAMP has not recorded statistical data on these numbers since 2016.

**Table 5:** The numbers of unaccompanied minors who applied for international protection in the period of 2006–2016

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 <sup>45</sup>
Number of unaccompanied minors applying for international protection	92	56	36	9	4	8	5	2	6	14	4

**Source:** DAMP (for the period of 2006–2015); Facility for Children-foreigners (for the year 2016)

## 5.2 OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS OF PERSONS

As concerns proceedings on granting international protection, the groups referred to as “vulnerable groups” according to Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for reception of applicants for international protection (the Reception Directive) include not only unaccompanied minor foreign nationals and victims of human trafficking but they also include disabled, seniors, pregnant women, single parents with a minor child, persons with mental health problems and persons who were exposed to abuse, rape or any other severe form of psychological, physical or sexual violence. The CR has always paid much attention to the vulnerable groups in proceedings on granting international protection as well as in other procedures.

The CR also concentrates on persons who are at risk of human trafficking and focuses on prevention in this field. For victims of human trafficking younger than 18 years, the CR has a special system of assistance in place, which is within the terms of reference of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The topic of human trafficking is covered in greater detail in Chapter 6.

<sup>45</sup> This number may not be complete for the CR; this is the number of children who were placed in the Facility for Children-foreigners and applied for international protection in this facility in 2016.

During the migration wave in summer 2015 when a larger number of families with minor children were arriving irregularly in the territory of the CR, the Facility for Detention of Foreign Nationals in Bělá-Jezová was newly reserved solely for families with minor children and other vulnerable groups. Outdoor and indoor equipment and furnishing was adapted to the special needs of these foreign nationals. In the same way, this facility was intended for vulnerable groups in the year 2016. Other migrants then could be placed in three other detention facilities – Vyšní Lhota, Balková and Drahonice<sup>46</sup>.

Increased attention continued to be paid to the integration of foreign nationals in vulnerable positions, particularly children of foreign nationals and young people, foreign women and seniors.

In its Resolution No. 956 of 20 November 2015, the Government of the CR approved the establishment of the MEDEVAC Permanent Medical Humanitarian Programme. This programme was implemented in 7 countries in 2016. For more information about this programme, see Chapter 7.2.

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<sup>46</sup> The operation of this facility was terminated at the end of the year 2016 and the entire facility was handed over back to the Prison Service.

# MEASURES AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In 2015, **23 persons** were prosecuted for human trafficking and 8 persons were convicted in the same year of this crime. In the long-term, the CR has witnessed a decrease in the number of victims coming from third countries and, conversely, an increase in the number of victims from among EU citizens.

In 2016, the ***National Strategy of Combatting Human Trafficking in the Czech Republic for the Period 2016–2019*** was approved. This document defined a total of 13 strategic tasks/priorities. Beyond the priorities, this strategy defines cross-section priorities for the approach to the issues of human trafficking, specifically a gender-specific approach to the victims of human trafficking, and an especially sensitive approach to those victims who were subjected to particularly serious means of coercion, as well as a specific approach to victims in a more vulnerable position such as persons from socially marginalised locations and migrants.

In 2016, a total of **2 victims of human trafficking from among third-country nationals** (in addition to 12 persons from the EU countries) were included in the special ***Programme for Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking*** operated by the Ministry of the Interior.



The CR is aware of the importance of combat against human trafficking. It follows what is referred to as **4 P: prevention, providing support for victims, prosecution of perpetrators and partnership**. In its Resolution No. 360 of 27 April 2016 on the National Strategy of Combatting Human Trafficking in the Czech Republic for the Period of 2016–2019, the Government of the CR approved the ***National Strategy of Combatting Human Trafficking in the Czech Republic for the Period of 2016–2019*** (this is the fifth strategic document in this field; hereinafter referred to as the “Strategy”) and tasked the members of the Government of the CR to carry out the measures arising from the Strategy, which fall within their purviews. At the same time, the Government tasked the Minister of the Interior to present a draft of the National Strategy of Combatting Human Trafficking in the Czech Republic for the following period, including the evaluation of the Strategy, to the government by 31 March 2020. The Strategy, as well as the annual Report on the Human Trafficking Situation in the Czech Republic, contains detailed evaluation of the situation and performance of partial tasks. In its measures, the 2016–2019 National Strategy concentrates particularly on developing the mechanisms aiming to identify victims and to subsequently prosecute the perpetrators of crimes of human trafficking.

In the context of the priorities mentioned above, several key tools for their achievement were identified, particularly the following ones: 1) To increase the sensitivity of the involved actors and the general public to the issue of human trafficking and the related improved identification of victims; 2) to systematically educate and increase general awareness of this crime, its forms and the system for assisting victims. In the context of the occurrence of the forms of human trafficking, which only occur sporadically in the territory of the CR, and the forms, for which there is no working experience with interpretation of the laws, another key tool is to 3) coordinate the course of action in the combat against these “new” forms of human trafficking. Last

but not the least, one of the tools is 4) to strengthen cooperation not only on a multidisciplinary level but on all levels (with special focus on strengthening the regional level).

According to the Act on Victims of Crimes (No. 45/2013 Coll.), victims of human trafficking are considered to be an especially vulnerable group of persons, which need to be treated in a sensitive and special manner. The National Reference Mechanism is configured accordingly.

In 2003, the CR proposed a special ***Programme of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic for Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking*** (the Programme). Since 2008, the Programme was changed several times due to implementation of updated internal regulations. Thanks to the updates, the process of legalisation of the stays of potential victims was speeded up. The Department of Security Policy and Crime Prevention of the Ministry of the Interior continued to implement this Programme in 2016. The Programme is a measure created to provide victims of human trafficking with support and appropriate protection based on individual risk assessment. It is intended for victims of human trafficking older than 18 years and not only for third-country nationals. The victims included in the Programme are automatically given a 60-day period for reflection (referred to as the "reflection period"), during which cooperation with the law enforcement authorities is not required. During this period, steps are taken to motivate the victim and support the victim's cooperation in exposing and punishing the perpetrators. Victims in the Programme are guaranteed suitable and adequate accommodation, medical care, legal assistance, lawyer services, psychological-social services and retraining. The Programme properly protects victims in the procedural position of witnesses who cooperate with the law enforcement authorities. The main partners of the Programme are a specialised NGO and the Police of the CR. The Programme also includes voluntary (free of charge)

returns of the victims to their countries of origin, which are ensured through the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Besides the social services provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, this Programme is the most significant tool for helping and protecting victims. In 2016, a total of **14 probable victims of human trafficking (including 2 persons from third countries)** were included in the Programme. This represents an increase in comparison with the year 2015, in which 4 victims were included in the Programme. The victims came from Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. There were nine cases of labour exploitation and five cases of human trafficking for sexual exploitation. **Since 2003, a total of 204 probable victims of human trafficking were included in the Programme.** In the last 4 years, victims from the EU countries have predominated who have been trafficked for labour exploitation. The data on the persons in the Programme do not reflect the overall situation regarding human trafficking in the CR. It is necessary to perceive the Programme as one of the possible measures for victims of human trafficking. For victims of human trafficking who are younger than 18 years, the CR has a specialised assistance system in place, which is within the terms of reference of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

During the year 2016, no major changes occurred regarding the extent of support and protection provided for these persons.

Cooperation of the involved entities contributes to effective combat against human trafficking. Two meetings of the **Interdepartmental Coordination Taskforce for Combatting Human Trafficking** were held in 2016. This coordination taskforce serves as a platform for exchange of information among the members of the interdepartmental taskforce and for coordination of activities in the combat against human trafficking at the national level. The members of this taskforce, which include governmental as well as non-governmental organisa-

tions, provide input for the annual report on the situation of human trafficking in the CR<sup>47</sup>.

The CR also cooperates with significant source countries and international organisations (OBSE<sup>48</sup>, ICMPD<sup>49</sup>, DCAF<sup>50</sup>, etc.). It also actively participates in the sessions of the platform of National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms, which are organised by the European Commission and the EU Member State holding the presidency twice a year. In the field of police cooperation, Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) are used abundantly and there is also cooperation within the established platforms such as EMPACT<sup>51</sup>/ETUTU<sup>52</sup>.

## Statistics

In the long-term, there has been a decrease in the number of victims coming from third countries and, conversely, there has been an increase in the number of EU citizens.

In 2016, **23 persons** were **prosecuted** by the Police of the CR and **8 persons** were **convicted** of human trafficking in the same year.

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/obchod-s-lidmi-dokumenty-924305.aspx>

<sup>48</sup> *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe*

<sup>49</sup> *International Centre for Migration Policy Development*

<sup>50</sup> *The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces*

<sup>51</sup> *European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats*

<sup>52</sup> ETUTU was created as a sub-project of EMPACT in 2012 and its goal is to combat human trafficking in connection with the citizens of Nigeria. The leading state of this project is Germany.

**Table 6:** The number of persons prosecuted for and convicted of human trafficking in the period of 2012–2016

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of persons prosecuted for human trafficking*	31	25	16	12	23***
Number of persons convicted of human trafficking**	11	20	6	19	8

Source: \* The Police Presidium; \*\* The Ministry of Justice

\*\*\* In 2016, there was an extensive reconstruction of the Crime Tracking Statistical System carried out; therefore, it is not possible to compare the number of persons prosecuted for human trafficking in that year with the numbers from previous years.

### Crime of human trafficking in relation to foreign nationals

The crime of human trafficking did not see any major changes in 2016 as compared with the previous year. It was not proved in 2016 that illegal migrants were subjected to human trafficking. The cases of human trafficking involved mainly forcing the victims of human trafficking to prostitution and to forced labour.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PROJECTS CONCERNING MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

Based on a decision of the Government of the CR, the support under the ***Programme of the Ministry of the Interior for Assistance to Refugees in Regions of origin and for Prevention of Large Migration Flows*** was increased to **150 million CZK** for the year 2016. The assistance and support, which is complementary to the provision of humanitarian aid abroad within the purview of the MoFA, is directed particularly to third countries with the purpose of providing refugees with direct support as well as providing support for building capacities for dealing with the issues of refugees and migration in the host states.

Furthermore, **emergency foreign aid** in the amount of **45 million CZK** (technical and material aid to countries affected by the migration and refugee crisis and assistance in the protection of borders) was provided **from the budget of the Ministry of the Interior** in 2016.

In its Resolution No. 956 of 20 November 2015, the government approved establishment of the MEDEVAC Permanent Medical Humanitarian Programme (**MEDEVAC**). Based on this resolution, the **Taskforce for Implementing the MEDEVAC Programme** was created. In 2016, a total of **27 projects** worth just below **51 million CZK** were implemented. In 2016, the programme was implemented in 7 countries, specifically in Jordan, Republic of Iraq – Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Cambodia, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal and Ukraine.

In 2015, the Czech Republic decided to voluntarily participate in the common resettlement scheme of the EU, within which it pledged to resettle 400 refugees from third countries displaced in the region of Near East. The Czech Republic resettled the first **20 persons with Syrian citizenship** during the year 2015. In spring 2016, 89 Iraqi Christians were resettled in this manner, including **32 Iraqi refugees** who were resettled from Lebanon under the European Resettlement Scheme and **57 internally displaced Iraqis** who were resettled from the Republic of Iraq under the national resettlement programme.

During the year 2016, a total of **287 members of Czech compatriot communities in Ukraine** arrived in the CR under the *Programme for Providing Assistance to Czech Compatriots*.

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## 7.1 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PROJECTS

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The international cooperation of the CR in migration-related issues strongly grew in 2016 as compared with the previous years, particularly in connection with the deteriorating security and migration situation in the immediate surroundings of the EU and the related migration crisis in the EU.

Within the relations with the Member States of the European Union and the Schengen Area, the CR cooperated mainly at the level of bodies of the European Union, including their agencies such as Frontex and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). It also concentrated on strengthening the practical and operational cooperation in all aspects of migration, asylum and the protection of state borders on a bilateral level as well as on a multilateral and Union level.

Development of cooperation with the main transit and source countries of immigration into the CR continued, particularly with the countries adjacent to the European Union. At the level of the European Union, the CR continued its participation in the development and implementation of the instruments of the *Global Approach to Migration and Mobility* (GAMM) representing a strategic framework of the external migration policy of the European Union. The development of the eastern and south-eastern dimension of the *Global Approach to Migration* was of fundamental importance to the CR; this was carried out primarily through the *Prague Process*, which represents the main multilateral migration dialogue.

In September 2016, the third ministerial conference of the *Prague Process* was held, which gave the process a political mandate for the following 5 years (2017–2021). The dialogues with eastern partners within the *Eastern Partnership* and participation in the bilateral *Partnerships for Mobility with Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan* are also of key importance to the CR.

In order to implement its priorities regarding asylum and migration, the CR closely cooperated with international organisations, particularly with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The CR cooperated with the ICMPD within the *Prague Process* and in implementation of the projects within the *Partnership for Mobility with Azerbaijan*. The cooperation with the UNHCR is oriented on assistance to refugees in their countries and regions of origin and on resettlement.

Together with representatives of Poland and other states, the Ministry of the Interior continued to develop the *Prague Process*, the main multilateral migration dialogue of the EU, with the eastern and south-eastern neighbours of the EU, particularly through the *Targeted Initiative* for implementation of the Prague Process Action Plan. In addition



to that, projects with third countries, in which the CR participated as a partner, were taking place.

### **Prague process**

The *Prague Process* was founded at a ministerial conference that was held in Prague on 28 April 2009. It is an intergovernmental, state-controlled dialogue on migration, the participants of which are 50 states, institutions of the European Union and selected international organisations. During this conference, the attending states adopted a *Common Declaration on Migration* regarding the principles and measures supporting close cooperation in the field of migration.

The *Action Plan of the Prague Process for the Period of 2012–2016* was adopted during the second ministerial conference of the *Prague Process* in Poznan, Poland, in 2011. This Action Plan outlines 22 specific activities in 6 topic-specific areas, which were to be implemented during the given period. During the years 2012–2016, the CR and another six leading states implemented an initiative co-financed by the European Union and titled *Targeted Initiative of the Prague Process*. The project was led by Poland together with the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden. The steering group of the *Targeted Initiative of the Prague Process*, which also included representatives of the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) held regular meetings, particularly in Brussels in connection with the meetings of the High-Level Working Group on Asylum and Migration (HLWG). In the years 2012–2016, there were seven pilot projects implemented, which had been prepared in accordance with GAMM, with focus on combat against illegal migration (exchange of experience with entering into readmission agreements; establishing identity and nationality of irregular migrants), support of legal migration and migration and development (work-related and circular migration; international mobility of students) and asylum and international protection (assuring the quality of asylum procedure; using

the judiciary in asylum procedure). The CR, along with Hungary, led the projects concerning legal migration (specifically focused on work-related and circular migration as well as on student mobility).

Since its beginnings, the *Prague Process* has been working to create a knowledge database of migration issues and the priorities of the participating states. For this purpose, a set of migration profiles was created (and an interactive online map of migration flows). At the meetings of the executive officials of all the participating countries, a decision was made, based on the favourable results of the evaluation of the implementation of the Action Plan, to continue the *Prague Process* and to set goals for its implementation for the forthcoming years (2017–2021). To this end, the third ministerial conference of the *Prague Process* was held in Bratislava on 19 and 20 September 2016 during the Slovak presidency of the EU. The purpose of this conference at the level of ministers responsible for migration issues was to approve procedures and priorities for future periods.

As part of implementation of the *Targeted Initiative*, implementation of three pilot projects prepared in accordance with GAMM, with focus on combat against illegal migration, on support of legal migration and on asylum, was completed in 2016. The CR led the project concerned with the issues of legal migration (with a specific focus on student migration). As part of this project, the concluding workshop took place in Prague in February 2016. The result of the project is creation of a manual for student mobility.

### **MOBILAZE project with Azerbaijan**

In 2015, the *MOBILAZE*<sup>53</sup> project was launched in cooperation with Azerbaijan. This project is divided into five components: a) monitoring and analysing migration movements; b) management of work-related

migration; c) combat against illegal migration; d) asylum policy; e) returns and reintegration. The Azerbaijan State Migration Service, the Border Guard Service, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education, the Baku State University, regional and local authorities, non-profit organisations as well as private persons are involved in this project. In June 2016, the CR hosted an educational visit of the representatives of the Border Guard Service as part of the third component with focus on securing travel documents.

### **AMID project in Ukraine**

*The project of Assistance to Manage Internal Displacement (AMID) in Ukraine* was financed by the CR and implemented by the ICMPD from November 2015 to the end of September 2016. As part of the project, three round tables took place in Kiev with the leading experts in the field according to the needs of the Ukraine partners. The topic of the first meeting was national policy and strategic planning in relation to internally displaced persons. The topic of the second meeting was communication of the governmental structures with the media and the third meeting concerned the management of statistical data.

### **European Asylum Supporting Office (EASO)**

In 2016, the key activities of the EASO included particularly the operational and technical support of the asylum systems in selected EU Member States – primarily in Greece and Italy. The activities of the EASO were mainly concentrated on increasing the capacities of Italy and Greece for registration of the arriving migrants through the concept of registration centres referred to as hotspots; supporting Member States in implementation of the Dublin Regulation; collecting and analysing data; and increasing the reception capacities of Member States. As a new activity related to the March 2016 declaration of the EU and Turkey, the EASO was providing assistance in proceedings on interna-

tional protection, that is, in conducting interviews about admissibility and eligibility of applications for international protection filed by persons who arrived by sea to Greek islands from Turkey after 20 March 2016.

The CR participated in the activities of the EASO not only by attending the meetings of the Board and many expert meetings concerning the aforementioned partial activities of the office but also by sending national experts, which the CR nominated and sent to Italy and Greece in 2016 in connection with the implementation of the aforementioned activities of the EASO. In 2016, the CR provided a total of 44 experts for these activities.

In 2016, the EASO continued to carry out its duties regarding the support of Member States in harmonising the Common European Asylum System, particularly in implementing a common training system in the area of asylum, improving the quality of asylum facilities or harmonising the preparation of information on countries of origin.

On 4 May 2016, the European Commission presented a draft regulation on the European Union Agency for Asylum. The draft regulation is a part of the overall revision of the legal instruments of the Common European Asylum System but it also responds to the need to revise and update the current mandate of the EASO based on the experience from its activities performed up until now.

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## **7.2 HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS; RESETTLEMENT; RELOCATION**

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### **Providing assistance to countries affected by the mass inflow of Syrian refugees in 2016**

The CR is not among the destination countries of Syrian asylum seekers. In spite of that, it monitored the critical situation in Syria and related

migration movements with grave concerns because it is obvious that it is a humanitarian tragedy, which has very serious impacts on the migration and asylum situation in the European Union. The Czech Republic's priority was primarily to stabilise the situation of Syrian refugees on the site of their current stay.

In connection with further destabilisation of the situation in the region of the Near East in 2014 and in response to deterioration of the security and migration situation in the immediate surroundings of the EU, related particularly to the ongoing armed conflict in Syria, the Government of the CR approved the creation of a permanent ***Programme of the Ministry of the Interior for Assistance to Refugees in Regions of Origin and for Prevention of Large Migration Flows*** in January 2015. In autumn of the same year, the government approved the more general *Policy of the Ministry of the Interior for Assistance to Refugees and States under Strong Migration Pressure*, which formulates the general framework within which the Ministry of the Interior is carrying out and will carry out its future activities relating to the external dimension of migration, particularly providing assistance to refugees and the states, which are under strong migration pressure.

Assistance and support under this programme, which is complementary to the humanitarian aid provided to foreign countries within the purview of the MoFA, is oriented particularly on third countries with the aim of providing direct support for refugees as well as providing support focused on building capacities for refugee management and migration in the host states.

Thus, implementation of the activities based on this Policy enables the CR to get involved more actively in the solidary joint activities of the EU aimed to provide direct assistance to refugees in their countries of origin or in the adjacent regions, which host large refugee populations, as well as direct assistance to the affected states. Such solution has

subsequent positive impact on the migration flows heading to the EU, provides the necessary protection and livelihoods for refugees who, at the same time, do not lose contact with their homes during the conflict or the catastrophe and do not have to undertake the risky and exhausting trip to safety in Europe.

The budget of the aforementioned programme for the year 2015 was 100 million CZK. For the year 2016 the aid was increased to 150 million CZK by a decision of the Government of the CR. In 2016, the following activities in **4 priority areas** were financed under this programme:

### **Priority 1 – THE REGION OF THE NEAR EAST AND TURKEY**

#### **Jordan**

- 40 million CZK to support the UNHCR in development of the Azraq refugee camp – to build a sufficient infrastructure with adequate capacity
- 10 million CZK to increase national capacities for assisting refugees

#### **Iraq**

- 20 million CZK to support the UNHCR in development of the Kawergosk refugee camp

#### **Turkey**

- 5 million CZK to support management of the humanitarian and migration situation in the territory of Turkey

### **Priority 2 – THE REGION OF WEST BALKAN**

#### **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

- To enhance the migration system (20 million CZK to support the Macedonian Ministry of the Interior in increasing capacities for the administration and protection of borders)

**Bulgaria**

- To support Bulgaria in enhancing the system for the protection of borders (particularly the ones with Turkey and Serbia) and the asylum migration system (a total of 20 million CZK)

**Serbia**

- To enhance the border protection management system (20 million CZK: 14.3 million CZK from the budget of the Programme of the Ministry of the Interior for Assistance to Refugees in Regions of Origin and for Prevention of Large Migration Flows + 5.7 million CZK from the budget of the DAMP)

**Greece**

- To support the protection of the external borders of the EU and to manage the humanitarian and migration situation (5 million CZK)

**West Balkan**

- To support the reception and transit centres on the West-Balkan migration route (in April 2016, the Ministry of the Interior transferred a financial donation of 2.5 million CZK to the Migrant and Refugee Fund of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) to support activities in the entry and transit countries on the West-Balkan migration route)

**Priority 3 – THE REGION OF NORTH AFRICA AND THE AFRICAN HORN****African Horn RDPP<sup>54</sup>**

- To co-finance the Regional Development and Protection Programmes for the African Horn (the CR donated 10 million CZK)

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<sup>54</sup> *Regional Development and Protection Programmes*

## **Priority 4 – UKRAINE**

### **Ukraine**

- To support implementation of the project to stabilise the situation of internally displaced persons in Ukraine (3.2 million CZK for the project activities of the AMID project, which was led by the Ministry of the Interior of the CR and implemented with the support from the ICMPD)

### **Emergency international aid from the budget of the Ministry of the Interior**

This is a technical and material aid to countries affected by the migration and refugee crisis and assistance in the protection of borders.

### **Iraq**

#### **Mosul**

- The objective of a financial donation of 10 million CZK from the budget of the DAMP of the Ministry of the Interior of the CR was to provide immediate humanitarian support to the people living in the affected area and to prevent a mass movement of persons from the region (for example to Turkey) and a possible mass immigration wave to Europe.

### **Greece**

- Material support for the Greek government to manage the current migration and humanitarian situation

In early December 2016, 20 million CZK were transferred as a financial donation to the Greek Ministry of the Interior and Administrative Reform



## Syria

- Provision of a financial donation to the Caritas Internationalis, an international organisation, to help people in Aleppo, Syria (a the financial donation of 5 million CZK will be used mainly for medical aid, more specifically to build a new hospital – a Jesuit Refugee Service clinic – in Aleppo)

## Turkey

- Support building on a previous donation; the recipient was once again the Authority for Disaster and Crisis Management of the Republic of Turkey – AFAD<sup>55</sup> (the financial donation of 10 million CZK will be used to directly support Syrian refugees in the Turkish territory)

## The Programme of Humanitarian Evacuations of Inhabitants with Health Issues – MEDEVAC Programme<sup>56</sup>

The intensity of local armed conflicts has been increasing in recent years and has had consequences of a global scope. The amount of active conflicts in the world and the increase of their internal intensity have dramatic impacts on the global community.

The MEDEVAC Programme is primarily intended for vulnerable groups of population – civilians (women, children and the elderly) who have a serious medical condition (traumatic injuries – war injuries or injuries caused by natural catastrophes; chronic treatable diseases threatening the life of the patient – such as heart diseases, burns, etc.) and it is not possible to provide them with treatment in the local environment.

On 20 November 2015, the Government of the CR approved<sup>57</sup> establishment of the ***Permanent Medical Humanitarian Programme***

<sup>55</sup> *Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency*

<sup>56</sup> *Medical Evacuation*

<sup>57</sup> Resolution No. 956

**MEDEVAC** (hereinafter referred to as the “MEDEVAC Programme”). Based on this resolution, the Taskforce for Implementing the MEDEVAC Programme was created, consisting of the representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence (the General Staff of the Army of the CR) and the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The first meeting of the Taskforce for Implementing the MEDEVAC Programme was held at the Ministry of the Interior on 22 February 2016. The annual framework priorities of the MEDEVAC Programme were approved and the individual activities and projects planned for the year 2016, including the proposed budget, were approved.

In 2016, implementation of the MEDEVAC Programme took place through the following activities and projects, which involved sending medical teams abroad, carrying out medical humanitarian evacuation of persons to be treated in the CR, training medical staff and, newly, sending financial donations abroad to support and develop medical infrastructure in countries affected by war, humanitarian or natural catastrophes.

The programme was implemented in **7 countries**, specifically in Jordan, Iraq – the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Ukraine, Cambodia, Kenya, Morocco and Nepal with the participation of a total of 7 Czech hospitals.

### **Summary of the implementation of the MEDEVAC Programme in 2016:**

- 15 medical teams were sent abroad;
- 622 expert surgeries were carried out abroad;
- more than 800 expert examinations with diagnostics were carried out;

- 231 non-invasive procedures – injections into knee joints – were carried out;
- 3 reconnaissance trips abroad were made to prepare the future missions of the MEDEVAC Programme in the given country (Iraq – the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Morocco, Jordan);
- 2 visits of foreign physicians to the CR as part of the preparations for the future missions;
- 3 medical humanitarian evacuations of persons to be treated in the CR from Ukraine and Kenya (5 patients, including 3 children + 3 persons as accompanying legal guardians);
- 2 internships of medical staff from areas affected by a humanitarian crisis in Czech hospitals within the direct purview of the Ministry of Health (16 persons from Kenya and Iraq – the Kurdistan Region of Iraq);
- the conference Prague Surgery Days – one day was dedicated to the MEDEVAC Programme;
- financial donations amounting to 11.5 million CZK for equipment of hospitals and training of physicians in Ukraine, Lebanon and Iraq.

A total of **27 projects worth a total of 50,815,663.11 CZK** were implemented under the MEDEVAC Programme in 2016.

## Relocation

Under Council Decision (EU) 2015/1523 of 14 September 2015, the EU Member States voluntarily agreed to receive 40,000 persons under the relocation programme, i.e. 24,000 persons from Italy and 16,000 persons from Greece. According to the voluntary pledge, the CR was initially supposed to receive **1,100 persons from Italy and Greece**. Subsequently, under Council Decision (EU) 2015/1601, adopted by a qualified majority on 22 September 2015, the EU Member States were assigned relocation quotas for receiving additional 66,000 persons, i.e. 15,600 persons from Italy and 50,400 persons from Greece. In spite of the CR having voted against this decision, an obligation to relocate additional **1,591 persons from Italy and Greece** was imposed on the CR. Thus, the CR was supposed to receive a total of **2,691 persons** from Italy and Greece under the relocation programmes. In 2016, the CR received 12 persons with Syrian citizenship from Greece under the relocation programme.

The implementation of relocations from both Italy and Greece is still lagging behind in all respects and the actual implementation is very slow. The deadline for fulfilling the relocation quotas is 26 September 2017. Thus, the Member States are supposed to receive a total of **106,000 persons from both countries**<sup>58</sup>. After more than a year has passed from the launch of the relocation mechanism, there were 9,974 persons (2,654 persons from Italy and 7,320 persons from Greece) relocated as of the end of the year 2016, which indicated a 6% success rate.

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<sup>58</sup> The original quota was 160,000 persons from Greece, Italy and Hungary. The actual number was lowered by 54,000 persons who were intended for Hungary. Hungary waived this quota because it did not have such a high number of applicants for international protection in its territory (most applicants left the Hungarian territory during the proceedings on international protection). Therefore, the quota for Hungary was moved to the 1:1 resettlement programme under the agreement between the EU and Turkey.

## Resettlement

Resettlement is a humanitarian tool for providing assistance to refugees who have found themselves in a highly vulnerable position in third countries of first displacement as a result of involuntary displacement. In principle, the selection of a person to be resettled is determined according to a UNHCR's pre-selection of persons in need of international protection and according to the subsequent determination of the receiving country, including security screenings and verification of the integration potential. Along with the humanitarian aspect of assisting the most vulnerable persons, it is also a tool for supporting those states, which host large refugee populations in their territories and do not have sufficient reception and integration capacities.

The CR pledged to implement a resettlement programme in 2008 by adopting the *Policy of the National Resettlement Programme*<sup>59</sup>.

In 2015, the CR decided to join voluntarily the common **European Resettlement Scheme**, under which it made an offer to **resettle up to 400 third-country refugees** displaced in the region of the Near East from July 2015 to July 2017. Subsequently, based on Government Resolution<sup>60</sup> of 14 December 2015, the CR approved the resettlement of a total of 153 Iraqi Christians to the CR at the request of the Generace 21 foundation fund. In spring 2016, **89 Iraqi Christians** were resettled in this manner, including **32 Iraqi refugees** resettled from Lebanon under the European Resettlement Scheme and **57 internally displaced Iraqis** resettled from the Republic of Iraq under the national resettlement programme. All persons were granted international protection. Nevertheless, 25 resettled persons left the CR for Germany after just below two months from when they had

<sup>59</sup> Government Resolution No. 745 of 27 June 2008

<sup>60</sup> No. 1052

<sup>61</sup> No. 307

obtained asylum in the CR. Another 31 Iraqi citizens expressed their wish to return to their homeland and, consequently, they waived the international protection granted in the CR. The resettlement of refugees from Iraq to the CR under the programme of the Generace 21 foundation fund was terminated early by Government Resolution<sup>61</sup> of 7 April 2016.

The deadline for fulfillment of the resettlement obligations of the Member States, arising from the European Resettlement Scheme, is July 2017. Thus, Member States are supposed to receive a total of 22,504 persons from third countries. As of 5 December, a total of 13,887 persons were successfully resettled under the scheme. If all the resettlement obligations are fulfilled, Member States can use the non-allocated relocation quota of 54,000 persons (this means a quota of 1,281 persons for the CR).

With regard to the revision of the Common European Asylum System, which responds to the migration crisis that began in 2015, the European Commission presented a draft regulation for creation of a structured and permanent Union resettlement framework on 13 July 2016. This draft began to be discussed at the Council meetings in late 2016; the CR emphasises particularly the principle of voluntariness of participation.

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### **7.3 ASSISTANCE TO COMPATRIOTS**

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The **Programme for Providing Assistance with the Resettlement of Czech Compatriots** continued in 2016. The implementation of this programme was made possible by adoption of the Government Resolution of 8 December 2014<sup>62</sup>, in which the government approved new governmental policies for relocating persons with proven Czech origin (compatriots) living abroad.

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<sup>62</sup> No. 1014

A total of 66 million CZK was earmarked from the state budget for implementation of the programme in 2015 and due to considerable savings in 2015, this amount allowed for implementing the programme in 2016 without any need to increase the budget.

Participation in the programme does not mean that its participants will automatically receive permanent residence permits. However, the programme simplifies the whole procedure because the state assumes responsibility for ensuring accommodation and finances for the stay. However, these benefits are only provided for persons, in whose case such assistance is substantiated, that is, for persons from endangered areas or for those members of Czech compatriot communities who are disadvantaged medically, socially, economically or in some other way.

**A total of 287 persons**, solely members of Czech compatriot communities in Ukraine, were resettled to the CR during the year 2016. They were mainly members of the compatriot communities from the Zaporozhye, Odessa and Zhitomir Regions as well as from the Donetsk and Luhansk Regions. By the end of the year, 190 people from this group found a permanent place of residence and job and became completely self-sufficient, whereby the purpose of this programme was accomplished. The rest of the resettled compatriots will be moving to their places of permanent settlement in early 2017. The highest number of compatriots settled in the territory of the Pilsen Region, in Prague and in the Region of Central Bohemia and the Region of South Moravia. **The Caritas of Archdiocese of Prague** which ensures direct work with clients continued to be a partner of the Ministry of the Interior in implementation of this programme in 2016.

**A total of 512 persons have been resettled to the CR since the launch of the programme in 2015.**

In accordance with the aforementioned Government Resolution, the programme is open to members of Czech compatriot communities regardless of their countries of origin; nevertheless, **only the citizens of Ukraine expressed their interest in participating in the programme by the end of the year 2016**. The programme will continue in the year 2017 and, due to the demand from clients, in the following years.

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## **7.4 INTERNATIONAL POLICE COOPERATION**

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### **Involvement of the Police of the CR in the activities of the Frontex agency**

The Police of the Czech Republic (PCR) significantly increased its representation in the operational activities of the Frontex Agency<sup>63</sup> in 2016. A total of **157 policepersons** were sent to all three types of external borders of the EU – land borders, sea borders and air borders. Besides human resources, the PCR also provided technical equipment (patrol vehicles and vehicles equipped with thermal imaging technology). The policepersons of the CR were sent mainly to Greece and Italy where they operated in the hotspots. There, they performed tasks associated predominantly with registration, collection of information and establishment of the identity of detained migrants. The policepersons of the CR were sent to Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary and various international airports in the European Union in order to provide the protection of external borders. In that capacity, their focus was more on carrying out border checks (particularly on checking travel documents), guarding the land borders and possibly carrying out specific activities at international airports.

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<sup>63</sup> *European Border and Coast Guard Agency*



On 6 October 2016, the new (EU) Council Regulation on the European Border and Coasts Guard became effective. With this document, the Frontex Agency obtained a new mandate, predominantly in the field of activities involving returning illegal migrants to their countries of origin, assessing the vulnerability of Member States and establishing more intensive cooperation with third countries and international organisation. The new regulation also plans for increasing operational activities and for their multi-purpose nature. The PCR is active in the following three areas:

- Return activities – the CR nominated 6 specialists in escorting people by air for the team of the European Border and Coast Guard and 2 persons engaged in monitoring return activities (Office of the Public Defender of Rights). They became actively involved in early 2017.
- Assessment of vulnerability – the goal is to assess the readiness of individual states to carry out border checks in all their aspects. The representatives of the DAPS actively attend regular meetings and participate in implementation of the approved methodology. An integral part of this activity is collection of data and information necessary for an objective assessment.
- Cooperation with third countries – the PCR started to send officials to third countries (in the position of observers, for the time being) which are of key importance from the CR's point of view, such as Ukraine.

Significant increase of regular and ad-hoc meetings and workshops organised by Frontex is also associated with the ambitions mentioned above. This fact places increasing demands on both the Department of International Police Cooperation of the Police Presidium of the CR (the Frontex National Contact Point) and on the specialised units of the DAPS whose representatives also participate in the meetings very actively.

The PCR also joined the pilot project of the Frontex Agency, which concerns the provision or exchange of information between the Common Centres of Police and Customs Cooperation and the Focus Offices of the Frontex Agency at the land border crossings on external borders.

### **Cooperation with the neighbouring states**

Cooperation with the neighbouring states is based on bilateral agreements on police cooperation (in addition to the standard mechanisms of cooperation on the EU level). On a general level, the agreements allow for cooperation in combat against crime and the protection of the public order through exchange of information, the work of liaison officers, collaboration in implementation of various measures, exchange of experience and cooperation in education. At the same time, they lay down specific forms of cooperation such as establishment of joint worksites, cross-border pursuit or implementation of joint form of deployment (such as joint patrols, joint check groups, joint search groups, support of the officials from the other state). The terms and conditions of the application of these specific forms of cooperation slightly vary in the agreements with the individual neighbouring states. In 2016, a new agreement on police cooperation with Germany became effective (on 1 October 2016) and an amendment to the agreement on police cooperation with Austria became effective (on 1 May 2016). In these documents, the existing instruments of cooperation (such as joint forms of deployment and cross-border pursuit) were updated and new options of cooperation were laid down (cooperation in the area of torts, extradition of persons and escorted transit of persons).

Besides information exchange, the most frequently used forms of cooperation include joint patrols. Joint patrols can be carried out with all the neighbouring states and the scope of powers of the policepersons when operating in the territory of the other state is defined differently. The agreement on police cooperation with Germany provides

the widest possibilities in comparison with the other states because it exceeds the regional nature of this instrument (as a rule, a joint patrol can be carried out in the entire territory of the signatory state, not only in border areas) and extends the powers of the operating policepersons. For other neighbouring states, the nature of a joint patrol has remained on a regional basis and the powers of policepersons are limited. The focus of the joint performance is in accordance with the subject matter and purpose of the international agreements on police cooperation in combatting cross-border crime (checking persons and vehicles; focus on specific types of crime – drug addition, car crime), preventive measures aiming to ensure the public order and security (for example, cultural, social and sports events, road traffic safety), issues concerning foreign nationals (detecting illegal migration, checking the residence arrangements of foreign nationals), etc.

In connection with the new agreement on police cooperation with Germany becoming effective, a coordination training of the security forces of the two states took place with a particular focus on the modernised tools of cooperation under this agreement (for example, cross-border pursuit, joint management of an action, support of policepersons from the other state, escorted transit).

On regional levels, each form of cooperation is trained on a regular basis (particularly cross-border pursuit, cross-border monitoring, actions of riot police units).

### **Cooperation with other states**

During the year 2016, the CR continued its involvement in the activities related to combat against illegal migration on what is referred to as the "Balkan Route". Police contingents were sent to Hungary, Slovenia, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In these countries, policepersons were helping local forces by participating in

joint patrols in connection with the migration crisis, particularly to guard borders, carry out other preventive activities as well as protect the public order. A total of 319 policepersons were sent in 2016.

### **Other areas of cooperation**

On 31 March 2016, a special meeting of the police chiefs of the states of Salzburg Forum was held in Sofia, Bulgaria. The content of the meeting was a discussion about the current trends in migration and possible further steps in connection with implementation of the Conclusions of the European Council of 17 and 18 March 2016 and the EU-Turkey Declaration of 18 March 2016.

On 12 and 13 October 2016, the police chiefs of the states of Salzburg Forum (Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Austria, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) and other invited guests, specifically the representatives of Germany, Interpol and Europol, met in Mikulov under the Czech presidency of Salzburg Forum. The first part of the meeting was concerned with combat against terrorism and a way of improving the efficiency of the flow of information and information system management. The second item on the agenda was the topic of combat against illegal migration and increasing the intensity of exchange of information on forged and altered travel documents. The focus of the final part of the meeting was on the importance of a global approach and the role of Interpol in combat against terrorism and illegal migration.

Among other things, a meeting of the directors of alien police forces of the **Visegrad Four (V4<sup>64</sup>) states** was held in 2016 where the migration developments up until that point were discussed and further goals of cooperation were set.

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<sup>64</sup> Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

In response to the migration crisis and the risk of a massive migration flow along what is referred to as the “Balkan Route” and in order to verify the readiness of the PCR to perform tasks to secure internal order and security and the protection of borders, a coordination training simulating re-establishment of the internal borders along the state borders shared with Germany took place in 2016 (a similar training took place in 2015 for the state borders with Austria).

# 8 ILLEGAL MIGRATION; HUMAN SMUGGLING

In 2016, there were **5,261 persons** identified as perpetrators of **illegal migration** into the territory of the Czech Republic, which represents a decrease by nearly 39 % in comparison with the previous year. Among them, 4.2 % of foreign nationals were exposed when they were perpetrating illegal migration across the external Schengen border of the Czech Republic (airport) and 95.8 % during illegal stay. Most of the illegally staying persons came from Ukraine, the Russian Federation and Kuwait.

In connection with facilitation of illegal stay or the crossing of border, **56 persons** were registered in 2016. There were **41 persons** convicted of organising and facilitating the illegal crossing of the state border and of the crime of facilitating illegal stay in the territory of the Czech Republic.

In 2016, there was predominantly transit illegal migration. The persons who illegally entered our country intended to continue to travel to other Schengen countries.

An important role in monitoring the migration in the territory of the CR, including all the related phenomena, is played by the Analytic Centre for Border Protection and Migration (for more information, see Chapter 1.1). In 2016, this Centre concentrated particularly on monitoring and evaluating the migration flows heading to the territory of the EU with an impact on the CR. In this context, the activity of the

Operation and Security forum was increased; in addition to expert meetings, this forum started to hold meetings at the directorial level every week.

## 8.1 ILLEGAL MIGRATION INTO THE TERRITORY OF THE CR

Since 2008 (after accession to the Schengen Area in December 2007), two basic categories of illegal migration into the territory of the CR have been monitored:

**1. Illegal crossing of the external Schengen border in the CR** – in this category, foreign nationals who illegally crossed or attempted to illegally cross the external Schengen border (airport) of the CR are monitored.<sup>65</sup>

**2. Illegal stay** – this category registers those foreign nationals who are identified in the territory of the CR, including the transit area at airports, as persons violating the conditions for the stay of a foreign national defined by the law.

In the evaluation of the long-term trend in illegal migration after the accession of the CR to the Schengen Area, the year 2015 saw the historically highest annual number of irregular immigrants. That year was strongly affected by a migration wave when the numbers of foreign nationals transiting across the territory of the CR increased. In the year 2016, there was a significant decrease by nearly 39 %. The lower number of detained irregular migrants in the territory of the CR was a result of, among other things, the opening of the border crossings between Hungary, Austria and the Federal Republic of Germany. A complete radical change in the situation occurred when what is referred to as the “Balkan Route” was closed when the Greek-Macedonian border

<sup>65</sup> The external Schengen border only consists of an air border.

was tightly sealed. The measures (such as political measures, changes in asylum conditions, etc.) taken by countries on the migration routes represented an additional factor.

Although it has been becoming apparent in recent years that the CR is becoming the destination country for many foreign nationals, it still continues to be a transit country in the European context. Particularly in the global migration wave, which started in late 2014, culminated in 2015 and was gradually subsiding in 2016, the territory of the CR has been abundantly used by foreign nationals also as a transit area for illegal migration particularly to Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Scandinavian countries.

## Statistics

In 2016, there were **5,261 persons**<sup>66</sup> identified at **illegal migration into the territory of the CR** which represented a significant decrease in comparison with the year 2015, specifically by 3,302 persons (i.e. by 38.6 %). From among them, **222 persons** (i.e. 4.2 %) were identified when **illegally migrating across the external Schengen border of the CR**<sup>67</sup> and **5,039 persons** (i.e. 95.8 %) were identified during their **illegal stay**.<sup>68</sup>

There were **411 persons** (i.e. 7.8 % of the total number of 5,261 persons exposed as perpetrators of illegal migration) **repeatedly** exposed<sup>69</sup> as perpetrators of illegal migration in the CR. This represented a decrease by 171 persons (i.e. -29.4 %) in comparison with the year 2015.

<sup>66</sup> Source: The PCR

<sup>67</sup> Since the external Schengen border only consists of an air border, the persons that perpetrated illegal migration across the external Schengen border are only registered with the "Directorate of the APS", into which 5 inspectorates of alien police at international airports were organisationally integrated in 2008.

<sup>68</sup> The category of an illegal stay also includes illegal migration of persons transiting across our territory on land or across an internal Schengen border to other European countries, which is referred to as "illegal transit migration".

<sup>69</sup> The persons in the database "Illegal Entry and Residence of Persons" are checked for the current year and for the previous year.



During illegal migration across the external Schengen border, the detained persons were most often refugees according to the Convention of 1951 (44), followed by the citizens of Ukraine (15), Albania and Azerbaijan (14 from each country). During illegal stay, the highest number of exposed perpetrators were among the citizens of Ukraine (1,552), followed by the citizens of the Russian Federation (402) and Kuwait (336).

**Third-country nationals** accounted for 97.1 % of the total number of persons who were identified as perpetrators of illegal migration in the reference year (in absolute numbers, there were 4,887 third-country nationals illegally staying in the country, and 221 persons who perpetrated an illegal crossing across the external Schengen border). The share of the **citizens of the European Union** was 2.9 % (in absolute numbers, there were 152 citizens of the European Union illegally staying in the country and 1 person identified as a perpetrator of an illegal crossing of the Schengen border).

**Table 7:** Illegal migration in the CR – the year 2016 – TOP 10 by category

Illegal migration in the Czech Republic					
Illegal stay	Persons identified	i.e. %	Illegal migration across the external Schengen border	Persons identified	i.e. %
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,039</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>100.0</b>
			of which citizens of the CR	1	0.0
			Foreign nationals	221	100.0
of which EU citizens	152	3.0	of which EU citizens	1	0.5
third-country nationals	4,887	97.0	third-country nationals	221	99.5
of which top 10 citizenships			of which top 10 citizenships		
Ukraine	1,552	30.8	1951 Convention refugee	44	19.8
Russian Federation	402	8.0	Ukraine	15	6.8
Kuwait	336	6.7	Albania	14	6.3
Vietnam	269	5.3	Azerbaijan	14	6.3
Afghanistan	155	3.1	Russian Federation	12	5.4
Syria	153	3.0	Turkey	10	4.5
Saudi Arabia	142	2.8	China	10	4.5
Moldova	134	2.7	Egypt	6	2.7
China	132	2.6	India	6	2.7
Iraq	109	2.2	Syria	5	2.3

Source: DAPS

As regards citizenship, the citizens of Ukraine have been steadily the largest group of persons exposed as perpetrators of illegal migration since 2008; however, there was a change in 2015 due to the large migration wave and the citizens of Syria were most often exposed as perpetrators of illegal migration. After the migration wave subsided, the **citizens of Ukraine** returned to their first position in 2016 (1,567 persons, i.e. 29.8 %). The following positions in the statistics were occupied by the citizens of the **Russian Federation** (414 persons, i.e. 7.9 %), **Kuwait** (338, i.e. 6.4 %), **Vietnam** (272, i.e. 5.2 %), **Syria** (158, i.e. 3.0 %). In the two categories of illegal migration (illegal stay and illegal migration across the external Schengen border), the representation of citizenships is different. In the category of illegal stay, the citizens of Ukraine hold the 1<sup>st</sup> position, while 1951 Convention refugees are the largest group in the category of illegal migration across the external Schengen border.

According to a year-on-year comparison, **the share of children** (less than 18 years old) identified as irregular immigrants **decreased**. While the share of children in the total number was 17.4 % in 2015, it was **10.1 % in 2016**. This lower share corresponds to the situation, in which the wave of transit illegal migration, during which whole families (sometimes even multiple families) were exposed, subsided in 2016. Some children were identified as being unaccompanied by an adult relative (55 children in 2016, 151 children in 2015). The situation of these children was addressed in cooperation with the social-legal child protection authority (OSPOD).

With respect to structure by gender, the share of illegally staying men (68 %) was higher in comparison with women. With respect to structure by age, persons aged 26–35 years (32 %) and 36–45 years (20 %) predominated.

## 8.2 FACILITATION OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION

**After the illegal migration wave subsided in 2016, the trend in facilitation of migration reverted to facilitation of illegal stay in the territory of the CR being the predominant type of activity.**

In the previous year, facilitation of illegal migration across the state border predominated in connection with illegal migration. This was mainly transit illegal migration. The persons who illegally entered our territory intended to move on to other Schengen countries.

The category of **facilitation of illegal crossing of the state borders of the CR** saw a significant decrease in 2016. **191 persons** were identified as having used the services of human smugglers (the human smuggler was directly caught) in 2016<sup>70</sup>, which represents a decrease by 583 persons (i.e. by 75.3 %) in comparison with the previous year. These persons only illegally transited across the territory of the CR; therefore, the CR was not their destination country. The decrease of illegally transiting persons and the related decrease of human smugglers is directly related to the closure of what is referred to as the "Balkan Route", various measures on the borders (such as erection of fences, creation of transit zones for refugees, etc.), asylum conditions of states or political declarations of the destination countries, etc.

**Facilitation of illegal stay in the territory of the CR** is carried out particularly in the form of a **sham marriage**<sup>71</sup>, **misuse of the af-**

<sup>70</sup> Source: DAPS

<sup>71</sup> The female citizens of the CR enter into marriage in the territory of the CR or abroad (particularly in Tunisia and Egypt) with foreign nationals for financial remuneration. Subsequently, the foreign national applies for temporary residence in the territory of the CR for the pretended purpose of family reunification and arrives in the Czech Republic with the short-term visa granted for the family purposes. When exposing this trend, the alien police cooperates most often with the embassies in Nigeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Germany, Morocco, Poland, United Kingdom and Spain where the highest numbers of sham marriages occur.

**firmative declaration of parents on determination of paternity<sup>72</sup> or procurement of forgeries of various certificates necessary for the stay.**

Some foreign nationals try to legalise their stay in the territory of the CR by circumventing the immigration legislation. In 2016, the information was once again confirmed that foreign-language crime groups operate in the territory of the CR, which participate in the production and distribution of forged or altered personal documents designed to legalise the residence of migrants who are already found in the territory of the CR and other European states. The documents concerned are sent via messengers or forwarding companies to third countries, from which irregular migrants try to get to Europe with these documents. In some cases, authentic Czech documents are sent abroad where they are altered and further distributed by crime groups. The activity described above is particularly dominated by Arabian, Bulgarian, Armenian and, recently, Romanian communities.

Other misused instruments continue to include **an invitation** of a person. For third-country nationals, an invitation is the fastest and least demanding way of entering the Schengen area. The financial means for accommodation and compliance with other requirements for the granting of a residence permit in the country are documented and provided by the inviting person. With the subsequently granted Schengen visa issued by an embassy, the foreign nationals can enter the Schengen area via any signatory state and can subsequently depart via a different signatory state, without the police of the state, which issued the visa, becoming aware of this.

<sup>72</sup> One of the forms of misuse is a situation in which a foreign national arranges to be written in the birth certificate of a child who is the citizen of the CR as a parent and subsequently applies for residence for the purpose of family reunification with a citizen of the CR. Other methods of misuse involve a citizen of the CR arranging to be written in the birth certificate of a child who is a foreign national as the child's parent or a foreign national arranging to be recorded as the parent of a child born to a foreign national who already has permanent residence in the territory of the CR.

As concerns facilitation of illegal stay, there is an investigation under way into a matter of **schools and educational institutions founded for pretended purposes**. At present, this trend has been observed in the communities of the citizens of India and Bangladesh but there are also citizens of other states (Ukraine, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, etc.) among the persons using this system.

In connection with residence permits for the purpose of studies, the officials of the National Central Unit for Combatting Organised Crime uncovered an international organised group, which arranged a problem-free course of **nostrification examinations** (recognition of the achieved level of foreign education by the national authorities) for a large amount of applicants (predominantly from the post-Soviet republics) against payment in several regional capitals of the CR. The members of this group also provided forged Polish and Norwegian visas. In connection with the procedure for granting permanent residence permits, there have also been crimes committed in the process of taking **language examinations** (foreign nationals taking irregular examinations where the main trends consist in replacing persons, cheating during the examinations and circumventing the examination system by bribing the examiners).

In 2016, **an illegal practice in work-related migration** has become considerably widespread. This practice consists in pretended temporary transfer of third-country nationals who are holders of residence permits issued by other Member States to the CR for the purpose of alleged provision of services by the employer based in the other state. The problem concerns mainly the citizens of Ukraine who obtained Polish visa. The organisers of this migration model misuse the ignorance of laws on the part of Ukraine workers and Czech employers. The authorities of the CR with the auditing powers in this field imposed sanctions for this practice in accordance with the valid legislation. The matter was repeatedly discussed with the Polish authorities who

have the substantive jurisdiction over this. Information exchange with the Polish partners is taking place for the purpose of verifying the facts concerning the cases in which the citizens of Ukraine were transferred to the CR.

## Statistics

In connection with **facilitation of illegal stay or crossing of border, there were 56 persons registered in 2016**<sup>73</sup>. In comparison with last year, there was a decrease by 112 persons (i.e. by 66.7 %). In 2016, there were **41 persons convicted of organising and facilitating an illegal crossing of the state border and of the crime of facilitating unauthorised stay in the territory of the CR**<sup>74</sup>.

**Table 8:** Facilitation of an illegal stay or a crossing of border – comparison between the years 2015 and 2016

Annual period	1.1.-31.12. 2015	i.e. %	1.1.-31.12. 2016	i.e. %	Change as compared with the previous period	
					in [ %]	Absolute number
Total number of persons*	168	100.0	56	100.0	-66.7	-112
by method of facilitating illegal migration						
sham marriage and organisation thereof	15	8.9	23	41.1	53.3	8
sham paternity and organisation thereof	9	5.4	10	17.9	11.1	1
sham invitation and organisation thereof	4	2.4	2	3.6	-50.0	-2
facilitation of an illegal crossing of the state border	118	70.2	13	23.2	-89.0	-105
other facilitation of illegal stay**	22	13.1	8	14.3	-63.6	-14

**Source:** DAPS

**Explanatory note:** \*The persons registered by the Regional Directorates of the Police of the CR; this includes the persons who have been criminally prosecuted as well as the persons who only filed an explanation regarding the case and the case was dismissed

\*\* For example, procurement of visas or forged documents

<sup>73</sup> Source: Alien Police Departments of the Regional Directorates of the Police of the Czech Republic. The persons who facilitate illegal state and their activity contains an element of organisation are investigated by the Unit for Combating Organised Crime.

<sup>74</sup> Source: Ministry of Justice of the CR

# 9 RETURNS

In 2016, a total of 4,411 administrative return decisions were issued. This included **818 decisions on imposition of the obligation to leave the country**. According to a year-on-year comparison, there was a decrease by 68.9 %. In addition to that, a total of **3,593 effective decisions on administrative expulsion** were registered, which represents an increase by 17.6 % in comparison with the previous year.

The largest groups of foreign nationals who were issued an enforceable decision on administrative expulsion were the citizens of Ukraine, Moldova and Kuwait. Administrative expulsion in the form of forced return was executed for 207 foreign nationals.

In the area of voluntary returns, **the International Organisation for Migration and Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior** implement their **programmes of assisted voluntary returns for the Ministry of the Interior of the CR** under a contract. During the year 2016, a total of 331 voluntary returns of third- country nationals were registered (including those who departed spontaneously at their own expense and whose return was confirmed).

**The return policy** also forms an integral part of the migration policy. Like the other EU countries, the CR always prefers the option of a voluntary return to a forced return.

## 9.1 ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION ON RETURN

In 2016, a total of **4,411 administrative return decisions were issued**. An administrative return decision may have the form of a decision on an obligation to leave the country or a decision on administrative expulsion.

### Decision on an obligation to leave the country

In the past, foreign nationals who were found to be irregular migrants were usually punished by a decision on administrative expulsion. In December 2010, the legislation transposing what is referred to as the “**Return Directive**”<sup>75</sup> became effective. This Directive governs the procedures of the EU Member States for returns and overwhelmingly prefers returning third-country nationals on a voluntary basis. A decision on an obligation to leave the country is always issued when no grounds for issuing a decision on administrative expulsion are found. If this decision is issued to a foreign national, then expulsion by a governmental authority should take place only if the foreign national fails to comply with his obligation to leave the country voluntarily. In 2016, **a total of 818 decisions on imposition of an obligation to leave the country were issued**<sup>76</sup>. According to a year-on-year comparison, there was a marked decrease by 1,812 decisions (i.e. -68.9 %). This decrease in numbers was related to the decline in transit illegal migration.

### Decision on administrative expulsion

Administrative expulsion is an administrative decision by which the stay of the foreign national in the country is terminated, the time limit for leaving the country is set and the period of time for which the for-

<sup>75</sup> Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning irregularly staying third-country nationals.

<sup>76</sup> Source: DAPS



foreign national cannot be permitted to enter the territories of the European Union Member States is defined. The period for which the foreign national cannot be permitted to enter the territories of the European Union Member States is set by the Police of the CR according to precise conditions defined by the law.

In 2016, a total of **3,539 foreign nationals who were issued with an enforceable decision on administrative expulsion** were registered, which represents an increase by 530 persons (i.e. by 17.6 %) in comparison with the previous year. Same as in 2015, the largest group of foreign nationals who were issued with an enforceable decision on administrative expulsion consisted of the citizens of Ukraine (2,045 persons; i.e. 57.8 %). After a large gap, they were followed by the citizens of Moldova (295 persons, i.e. 8.3 %), Kuwait (199 persons, i.e. 5.6 %), Vietnam (117 persons, i.e. 3.3 %), and the Russian Federation (116 persons, i.e. 3.3 %). In total, these TOP 5 citizenships accounted for approximately 80 % of the total number of persons for whom an enforceable decision on administrative expulsion was issued in 2016.

In 2016, **3,593 enforceable decisions on administrative expulsion** were registered (multiple decisions can be issued to a single person over the given period of time).

Same as last year, **breach of the residence conditions** was the main reason for issuing decisions on administrative expulsions in 2016 (2,244 cases, i.e. 51.8 % of the total number of reasons) and there was a year-on-year decrease by 23.1 %. This was followed by violations of the Employment Act (1,463 reasons, i.e. 33.8 %), where the highest year-on-year increase in the number of reasons by 779 (i.e. by 113.9 %) was observed. Other categories of reasons were presentation of an irregular document during a border check or a residence check (272 reasons, i.e. 6.3 %), a failure to comply with a decision on expulsion (206 reasons, i.e. 4.8 %) and other reasons (146 reasons, i.e. 3.4 %).

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## 9.2 EXECUTION OF A DECISION ON RETURN

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### Voluntary returns

At the national level, voluntary returns are currently governed by the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic where Sections 123a et seq. provide for the possibility of a foreign national (a third-country national) to apply for a voluntary return. Voluntary repatriation is also governed by the Asylum Act; pursuant to its Section 54a, the Ministry of the Interior may bear the costs associated with a voluntary return, if it is in the public interest.

As concerns voluntary returns, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior (SUZ) implement their separate **programmes of assisted voluntary returns** for the Ministry of the Interior of the CR under a contract. In its programme, the IOM focuses particularly on those foreign nationals to whom a decision on administrative expulsion was issued. Under its programme, SUZ provides assistance with voluntary departure for the country of origin for failed applicants for international protection.

Besides the possibility to use one of the working programmes of assisted voluntary returns, former applicants for international protection or foreign nationals on whom administrative expulsion was imposed can leave the country spontaneously at their own expense. In this category, only those cases are statistically monitored, which concern foreign nationals who asked the Police of the CR for help with obtaining a permit to transit across the territories of other Schengen states – particularly Poland – as part of their return.

During the year 2016, there were a total of **331 voluntary returns** of third-country nationals who had to leave the territory of the CR. In

this category of foreign nationals, a total of **174 assisted voluntary returns of foreign nationals on whom administrative expulsion was imposed** were carried out; **a total of 64 assisted voluntary returns of persons who applied for international protection in the past** were carried out; and **93 foreign nationals** who had the obligation to leave the territory of the CR **applied for assistance with their spontaneous departure**. Among these returnees, the largest groups were the citizens of **Ukraine, Moldova, Vietnam and Iraq**.

**a) Voluntary returns of applicants (after withdrawal of application) / failed applicants for international protection, which were carried out by the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior of the CR**

The time limit (after final termination of proceedings on international protection or after withdrawal of an application for international protection), within which it is possible to apply for repatriation – a voluntary, dignified and safe return to the country of origin or a third country, paid from the state budget, is precisely defined in the provision of 54a of Act No. 325/1999 Coll., the Asylum Act. However, the claim to a voluntary return does not arise automatically. Each application is examined individually. The Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior bears the costs of repatriation, taking into account whether the foreign national meets the conditions defined in Section 54a of the aforementioned Act, taking into account the opinion of the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy, the applicant's financial standing, the degree of cooperation provided by the foreign national, and also takes into account the medical and mental condition, family and social situation and other factors.

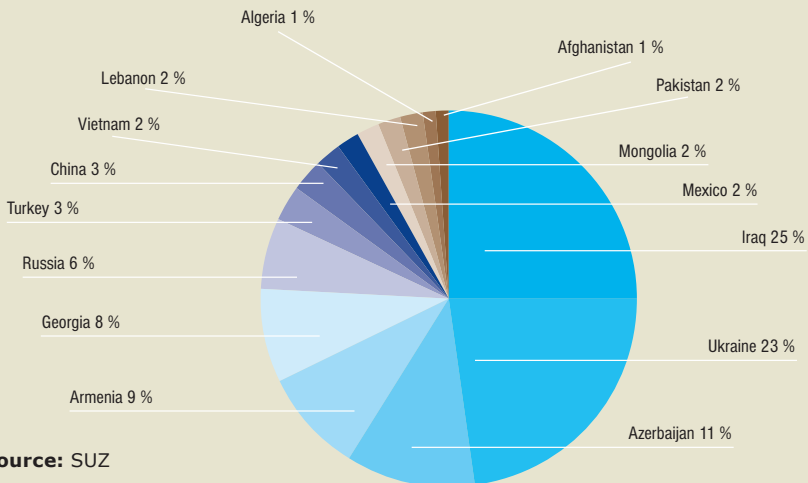
When carrying out a voluntary return, SUZ provides applicants with a free air ticket or another type of ticket to the destination country,

direct assistance with the departure, consultancy and, if it is not possible to ensure transportation of the client to the destination chosen by the client, a financial contribution for transport to the requested destination can be paid to the client. The Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior can also provide other necessary assistance, which will result in a successful return of the foreign national.

If necessary, SUZ cooperates with the IOM when carrying out repatriations. For the sake of the protection of the personal data of applicants for international protection, SUZ does not come into direct contact with the foreign authorities of the country of origin.

In 2016, SUZ processed a total of **81 applications** for voluntary return, of which **64 returns** were **carried out** and clients returned to their requested destination countries. The destination countries most frequently requested were **Iraq** (16 persons), **Ukraine** (15 persons), **Azerbaijan** (7 persons), **Armenia** (6 persons) and **Georgia** (5 persons).

**Chart 6:** Repatriations carried out in 2016 by country of return (voluntary returns by country of return in 2016)



Source: SUZ

## **b) Voluntary returns of third-country nationals to whom a decision on return was issued, carried out by the International Organisation for Migration**

In the area of voluntary returns, the Ministry of the Interior has had a long-term cooperation with the IOM, which ensures, under a contract, not only the actual implementation of a voluntary return but also all the related consultancy and assistance, which is necessary for successful implementation of a return. The services provided by the IOM include providing the foreign nationals held in facilities for detention of foreign nationals with information on voluntary returns and, more importantly, providing foreign nationals who are under the obligation to leave the territory of the CR and who have not been detained with consultancy regarding returns. In connection with consultancy regarding returns, the foreign nationals concerned are also provided with assistance in communication with the embassies of their countries of origin, most often in connection with obtaining a substitute travel document. If necessary, the foreign nationals who are being returned are also provided with transit and post-arrival assistance.

In 2016, voluntary returns were carried in cooperation with the IOM for a total of **174 persons**<sup>77</sup> (a year-on-year increase by 29 persons). Voluntary returns with IOM were most often carried out for the citizens of Ukraine (92 persons) and Vietnam (16 persons).

### **Forced returns**

Based on a final and enforceable decision on administrative expulsion, the governmental authorities carried out forced returns for **207 foreign nationals** in 2016, which represents an increase by 35 persons in comparison with the same period of last year. The reason for the difference between the number of persons who were issued a decision

<sup>77</sup> Source: DAPS

on administrative expulsion (3,539) and the number of persons who were actually expelled (207) is that only a part of the foreign nationals who were issued a decision on administrative expulsion is detained in the facility for detention of foreign nationals (they are detained if there are legal reasons for their detention in the facility for detention of foreign nationals) with subsequent implementation of administrative expulsion. With other foreign nationals, it is assumed that they will leave the territory of the CR on their own.

Administrative expulsion was most often carried out for the citizens of Ukraine (105 persons) who accounted for half of the total number of foreign nationals in whose case administrative expulsion was carried out. According to a year-on-year comparison, the largest change concerned the citizens of Ukraine in whose case there was an increase by 71 persons (i.e. by 208.8 %). In the statistics of the administrative expulsions carried out, the citizens of Vietnam (20 persons) and Moldova (11) also accounted for large shares.

One of the tools for effective implementation of a forced return of a person to their country of origin is **a transfer under a readmission agreement**. The CR is engaged in negotiating bilateral readmission agreements and also participates in the work of the European Commission in the negotiations of EU readmission agreements with selected third countries.

As regards **bilateral readmission agreements**, the CR was a party to such agreements with the following 16 states as of 31 December 2016: Germany, Poland, Austria, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Moldova, Vietnam, Canada, Armenia, Switzerland, Kosovo and Kazakhstan. As of 1 June 2016, **the readmission agreement with Kazakhstan**, which had been signed as early as in 2011, **became effective**. At present, readmission agreements between the Czech Republic and **Mongolia and Uzbekistan** are under

negotiation. However, there was no progress towards the signing of these agreements in 2016.

During the year 2016, the Ministry of the Interior of the CR also worked on preparation of the template text for a memorandum of understanding on returns. This memorandum will be offered to those states where execution of a more binding readmission agreement is problematic (such as Afghanistan) or, in some cases, even to those states, with which visa-free or a limited visa-free agreement is being negotiated.

Besides bilateral readmission agreements, there are also **EU readmission agreements**. In 2016, the EU did not conclude any new readmission agreement. As of 31 December 2016, 17 EU readmission agreements were still in effect with the following states: the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Macao, Pakistan, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Cape Verde.

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### 9.3 EXPULSION SENTENCE IMPOSED BY COURTS

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If a foreign national fails to respect a decision on administrative expulsion, this action of the foreign national may be qualified as a crime of thwarting the execution of an official decision. However, in practice, this instrument is usually used only for the second or subsequent breach of/failure to comply with the imposed obligation.

A sentence of expulsion from the territory of the CR<sup>78</sup> is imposed by courts on those perpetrators who are not citizens of the CR as a separate sentence or alongside another sentence pursuant to Act

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<sup>78</sup> Information on the sentence of expulsion is stated in the material as information supplementary to the information on the foreign nationals expelled under an administrative decision.

No. 40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code, as amended, if the security of people or property or another public interest requires so. An expulsion sentence can be imposed as a separate sentence, if imposition of another sentence is not necessary due to the nature and gravity of the perpetrated crime and the person and circumstances of the perpetrator. A court can impose an expulsion sentence for one through ten years or for an indefinite period of time.

**Chart 7:** The number of persons who were sentenced to expulsion in the period of 2006–2016



**Source:** Ministry of Justice

In 2016, there was a total of **1,278 persons on whom courts imposed expulsion sentences in criminal proceedings**, which represented an increase by 265 persons (i.e. by 26.2 %). This category was dominated by 3 citizenships, specifically by the citizens of **Ukraine** (341 persons, i.e. 26.7 %), **Slovakia** (181 persons, i.e. 14.2 %) and **Romania** (154 persons, i.e. 12.1 %). These three citizenships accounted for approximately 50 % of the total number of persons on whom expulsion sentences were imposed.

During the reference period, **judicial expulsion was executed for 261 foreign nationals** with unconditional prison sentence, which indicates no change of trend in comparison with the previous year (an increase by merely 6 persons). With respect to citizenships of these



persons, they were once again mainly citizens of **Slovakia** (93 persons, i.e. 35.6 %), **Ukraine** (31 persons, i.e. 11.9 %) and **Vietnam** (28 persons, i.e. 10.7 %). The remaining persons had the obligation to leave the country according to the time limit for their departure.

# ANNEXES

## ***Annex 1: Methodology and Definitions***

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

Statistical data were taken particularly from the information systems of the Police of the CR, the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior and the Facility for Children-foreigners.

To a large degree, information and data from the working version of the Report on the Situation in Migration and the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic in 2016<sup>79</sup> and from the

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<sup>79</sup> This report is prepared by the Ministry of the Interior on an annual basis.

reports and studies of the European Migration Network in the areas concerned were used. Particularly the national contribution (Technical Part 1) to the synthesis EMN Annual Policy Report for the year 2016, which the Czech National Contact Point of the EMN prepared in early 2017, was used.

For the purposes of this report, the analysis of press articles concerned with asylum and migration in 2016 was also used.

The terminology was used in accordance with the national practice and legislation. Definitions of terms contained in the third edition of the EMN Asylum and Migration Glossary were also used.

## ***Annex 2: List of Sources and Literature***

### **SOURCES**

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

### **LITERATURE**

The MoI of the CR, the Report on Situation in Migration and the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic in 2016

EMN, 2016 EMN Annual Policy Report, Annex 1, national contribution from the Czech EMN Contact Point

EMN, Specification of Requirements for the 2016 EMN Annual Policy Report

EMN, Asylum and Migration Glossary, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

**LEGISLATION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1 December 2005 on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status

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

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

Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (the Procedure Directive)

Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers

Directive 2014/54/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on measures facilitating the exercise of rights conferred on workers in the context of freedom of movement for workers

Directive 2014/66/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer

Directive 2014/67/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the enforcement of Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System

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

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

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

Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 745 of 27 June 2008 on the Policy of National Resettlement Programme and on Resettlement of a Group of Burmese Refugees from Malaysia under a Pilot Resettlement Programme

Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 99 of 9 February 2011 on the Updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic and on Proposal of Further Course of Action in 2011

Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic of 8 December 2014 on the Principles of the Policy of the Government of the Czech Republic in Relation to the Resettlement of Foreign Nationals with a Proven Czech Origin (Compatriots) Living Abroad

Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 19 of 14 January 2015 on the Creation of the Programme of the Ministry of the Interior for Assistance to Refugees in the Regions of Origin and for Prevention of Large Migration Flows

Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 574 of 13 July 2015 on Measures in Connection with the Migration Situation in the European Union and in the Czech Republic, Building on the Conclusions of the European Council of 25 and 26 June 2015

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

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

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

Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 1052 of 14 December 2015 on the Resettlement of 153 Iraqi Citizens from the Republic of Iraq and Lebanon to the Czech Republic at the Request of the Generace 21 Foundation Fund

Government Resolution No. 26 of 18 January 2016 on the Updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals – In Mutual Respect and on Procedure for Implementing the Updated Policy for the Integration of Foreign Nationals in 2016

Government Resolution No. 307 of 7 April 2016 on the Early Termination of Implementation of Government Resolution No. 1052 of 14 December 2015 on the Resettlement of 153 Iraqi Citizens from the Republic of Iraq and Lebanon to the Czech Republic at the Request of the Generace 21 Foundation Fund

Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 360 of 27 April 2016 on the National Strategy of Combatting Human Trafficking in the Czech Republic for the Period of 2016 through 2019

Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 105 of 8 February 2017 on the Situation Report on Implementation of the Policy for Increasing the Capacities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic for the Purpose of Processing a Higher Amount of Applications for Employee Cards



The Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code)

Updated EU Schengen Catalogue concerning the protection of external borders, return and readmission of persons

## **INTERNET SOURCES**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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