



# POLAND 2021

Main developments in migration  
and international protection,  
including latest statistics

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

August 2022



## OVERARCHING CHANGES

An [amendment to the Act on Foreigners](#), and some other acts (adopted in 2021 and entered into force on 29 January 2022) sought to reduce the burden on administrative authorities in relation to proceedings on temporary residence and work permits, and to eliminate existing backlogs.



## LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

An amendment to the Act on Foreigners allowed the Minister of Labour to announce recruitment for activation projects (social integration and employment activation) for foreigners. It was financed from the budget reserves of the Ministry.

## WORK-RELATED MIGRATION

The declaration on entrusting work to a foreigner (a simplified instrument allowing citizens of Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine to enter the Polish labour market) extended the period of work from 6 months to 24 months.

A [specific procedure](#) was established for the termination of proceedings on temporary residence and work permits (initiated before 1 January 2021 and still pending on the date of 29 January 2022) with autonomous grounds for withdrawal and ex post verification. It sought to reduce the significant backlog in processing applications (legislation entered into force on 29 January 2022).

## KEY POINTS



An amendment was introduced to the Act on special solutions related to prevention, counteraction and combating COVID-19, other infectious diseases and crisis situations caused by them, and to some other acts defining the operation of activation programmes for foreigners.



The Act on Foreigners, and some other acts, were amended to reduce the burden on administrative authorities conducting proceedings admitting foreigners to the Polish labour market and to eliminate backlogs.



Activities were carried out to integrate the evacuated citizens of Afghanistan into Polish society and the labour market.

[General time limits](#) were introduced for processing residence permits for the purpose of work (60 days from filing the completed application form and another 90 days from the appeal). Those time limits apply to proceedings initiated and still pending before, as well as initiated after the entry into force of the 2021 amendments to the Act on Foreigners

A [legal framework](#) was established for priority handling of applications for work permits/temporary residence and work permits entitling work for entities on the list of entrepreneurs conducting activities of strategic importance for the economy (legislation entered into force on 29 January 2022).

A [new procedure](#) was established to modify the granting of temporary residence and work permits, including a change in the entity entrusting work to a foreigner. A new rate of stamp duty was imposed on permit changes (PLN 220), while the circumstances that do not require modifications or applying for a new permit were broadened (legislation entered into force on 29 January 2022).

The [requirements](#) to grant a temporary residence and work permit were modified in respect of the monthly remuneration received by a foreigner, and health insurance (legislation entered into force on 29 January 2022).

## FAMILY REUNIFICATION

The [date of submission](#) of an application for a temporary residence permit for the purpose of family reunification was established as the relevant date for assessing whether a family member (within the meaning of the Act on Foreigners) is a minor (legislation entered into force on 29 January 2022).

A [provision](#) was introduced, under which a foreigner granted refugee status or subsidiary protection may be joined by a direct ascendant or an adult responsible for them, if that foreigner, on the date of submitting the application for international protection, was an unaccompanied minor or become unaccompanied after lodging the application, and then reached the age of majority, provided that the application for granting a temporary residence permit was submitted within six months of the date of obtaining refugee status or subsidiary protection (legislation entered into force on 29 January 2022).

Information on routes to and conditions of legal migration

The [presumption](#) was introduced that the obligation to instruct a foreigner about their rights and obligations and the procedure is fulfilled, inter alia, when the authority sends a written instruction recorded in an electronic form to an email address indicated by the foreigner or indicates a website address where the instruction is located, and the foreigner gives written consent to be instructed in one of these forms (legislation entered into force on 29 January 2022).



## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

### LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

[Article 33, paragraph 1a, of the Act on Granting Protection](#) granted an optional basis not to process an application for international protection submitted by a foreigner immediately after an illegal border crossing.

### RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT<sup>1</sup>

An interministerial team was established to assess the situation in Afghanistan in order to coordinate the work of local (self-government) institutions responsible for providing support to the reception and integration of evacuated citizens of Afghanistan.



## MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

No significant developments in 2021.



## INTEGRATION

No significant developments in 2021.



## CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

No significant developments in 2021.



## BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

### BORDER MANAGEMENT

The [Regulation of the President of the Republic of Poland of 2 September 2021](#) on establishing a state of emergency in parts of Lubelskie Voivodeship and Podlaskie Voivodeship, and related implementing acts reflected the particular threat to the security of citizens and public order posed by the situation on the border between Poland and Belarus. The state of emergency lasted until 30 November 2021.

The Minister of National Defence issued a Decision of 15 July 2021 on the use of units and sub-units of Poland's armed forces to assist the Border Guard to protect the border due to large-scale migratory pressure on the Polish-Belarusian border.

The new [regulation](#) of Article 18c in the Act on Protection of the State Border introduced a criminal provision on destroying border infrastructure (e.g. fences, embankments, barriers, or turnpikes).

### VISA POLICY

[Legislation](#) was introduced on the possibility of issuing visas for Belarusian citizens by the Minister of Foreign Affairs through a Visa Decision Centre within the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



## IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

The [National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings 2022-2024](#) was adopted.

<sup>1</sup> Includes Humanitarian Admission Programmes



## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings 2022-2024 was adopted.



## RETURN AND READMISSION

### MAIN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Minister of the Interior and Administration introduced a new [regulation](#) amending the Regulation on the Temporary Suspension or Restriction of Border Traffic at Certain Border Crossing Points. It set out new solutions for returning persons not admitted to the border and instructing them on the obligation to leave Poland.

The new [regulation](#) of Article 303b of the Act on Foreigners, with related amendments to Articles 302, 303, 435, 438, 441 and 443 introduced the procedure for issuing an order to leave Poland to a foreigner intercepted immediately after illegally crossing the external EU border.

### COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

The Implementing Protocol to the Readmission Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Armenia, on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation, of 19 April 2013, was signed.



## MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

No significant developments in 2021.



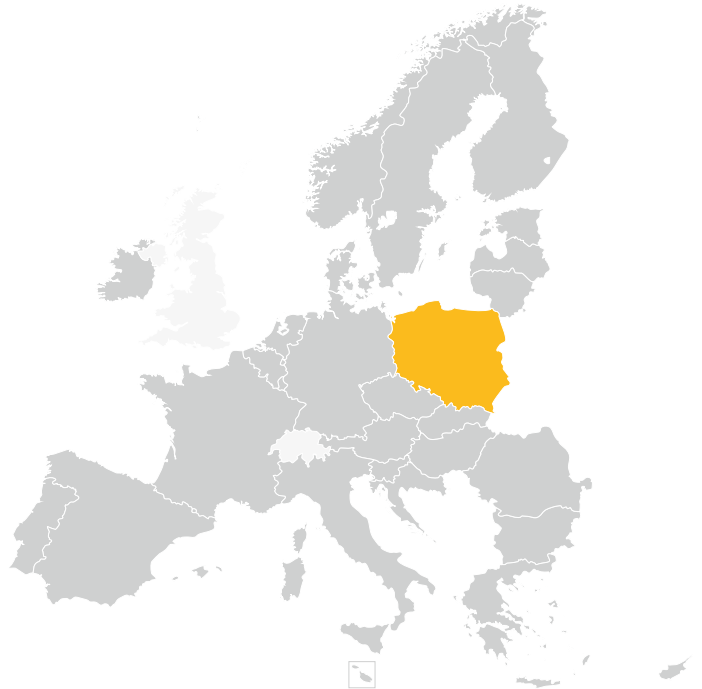
## STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex was prepared by ICF, the European Migration Network Service Provider, with statistics provided by Eurostat. It provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Poland on aspects of migration and international protection (2018-2021), including legal residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, integration, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics were not available at the time of publication, this is indicated in the Annex as "N/A".

# STATISTICAL ANNEX

## ! GENERAL NOTES

This statistical annex complements the Country Factsheet with relevant migration-related data organised in up to nine thematic sections - depending on data availability. The dashboard-like layout of the annex allows comparability across countries as well as simultaneous visualisation of different indicators. Whenever data are not available, the relative chart is indicated with 'N/A'. Data are provided for the latest available year or the latest available four-year period. For some indicators, data are rounded in the source. The sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value. This is due to rounding and confidence intervals in the original data. For this edition, figures for Third Country Nationals refer to 'non-EU27 nor reporting country' across all indicators and years.



## COLOUR LEGEND

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

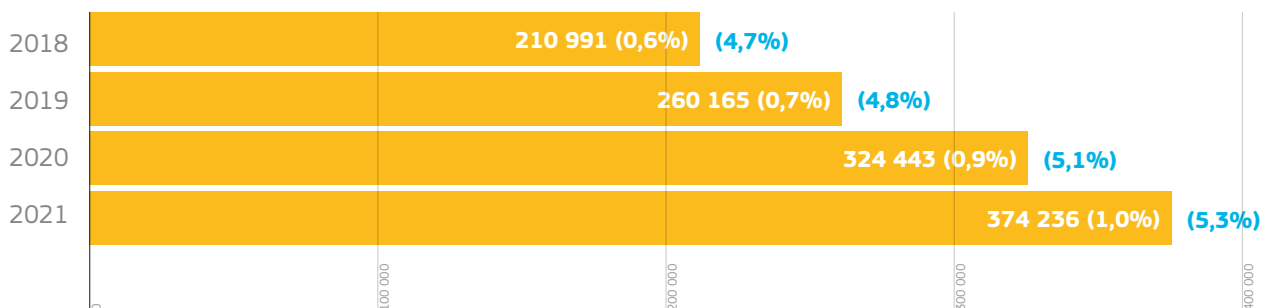
Data relative to Poland

Data relative to EU

## LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctz)



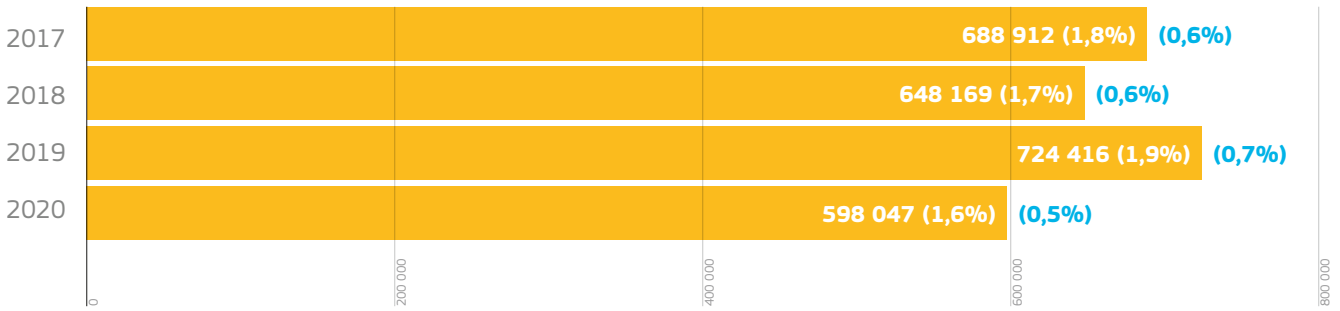
### Top 3 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)



### First residence permits annually issued: total number and % of total population in the country (and in the EU)

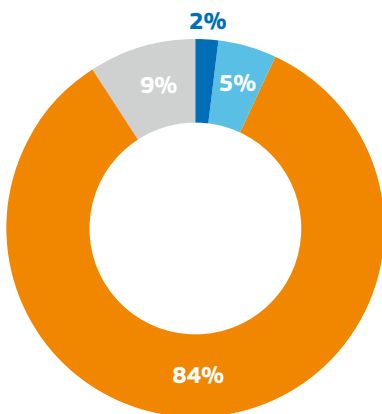
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst, migr\_pop1ctz)



### First residence permits annually issued by reason in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)

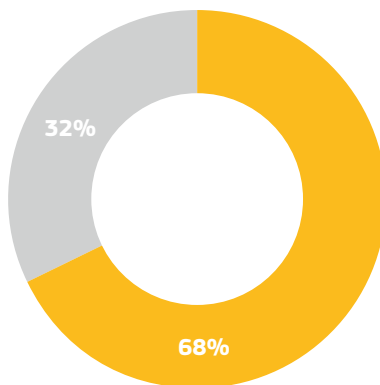
- Family
- Education
- Work
- Other



### First residence permits annually issued for work reasons in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resocc)

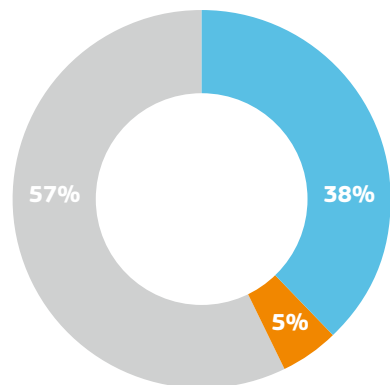
- EU Blue card
- Highly skilled
- Researchers
- Seasonal workers
- Other



### First residence permits annually issued for 'other reasons' in 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resoth)

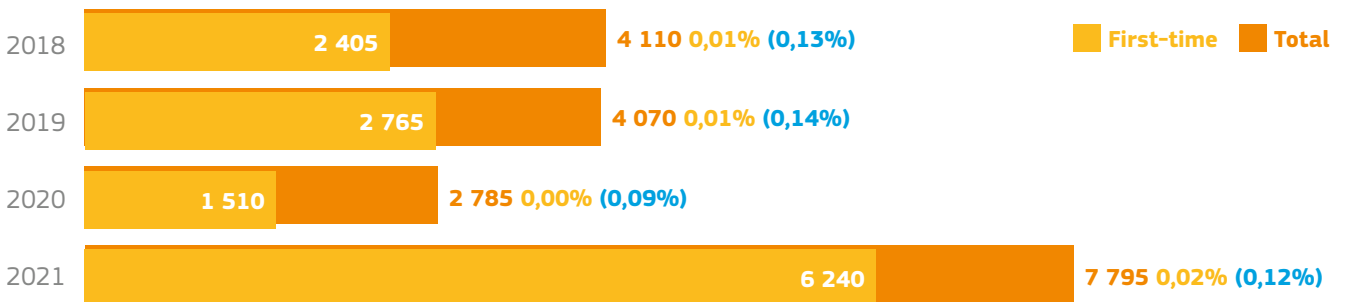
- Refugee/sub prot.
- Residence only
- Humanitarian
- Other



## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

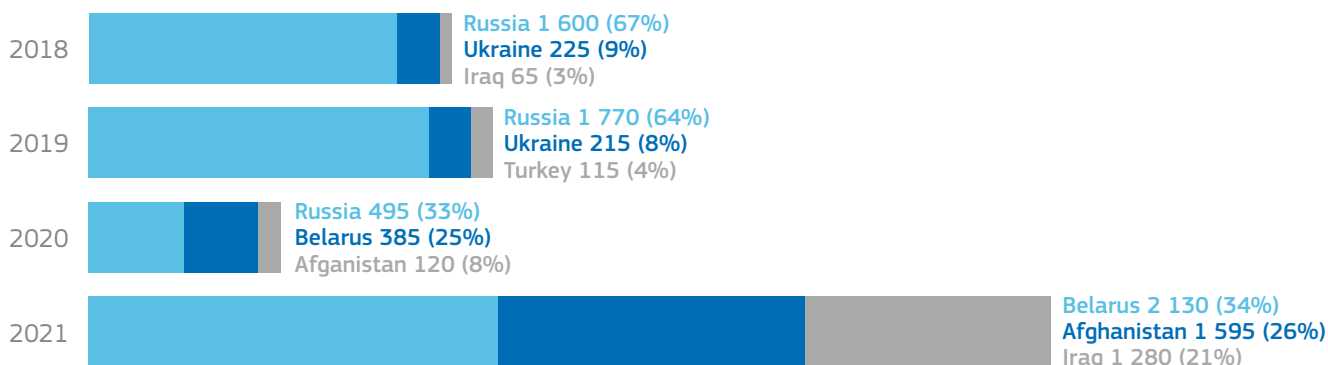
### Total/first-time asylum applications; first-time asylum applications as % of population in the country (and in the EU)

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



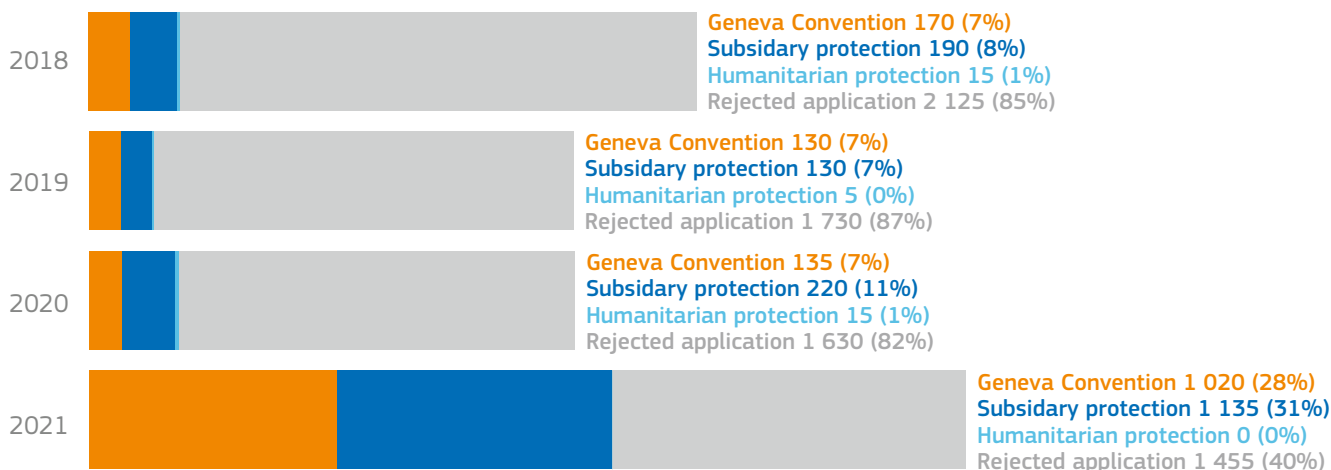
## Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-time asylum applications: number of applications and % of total first-time annual applications

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyappctza)



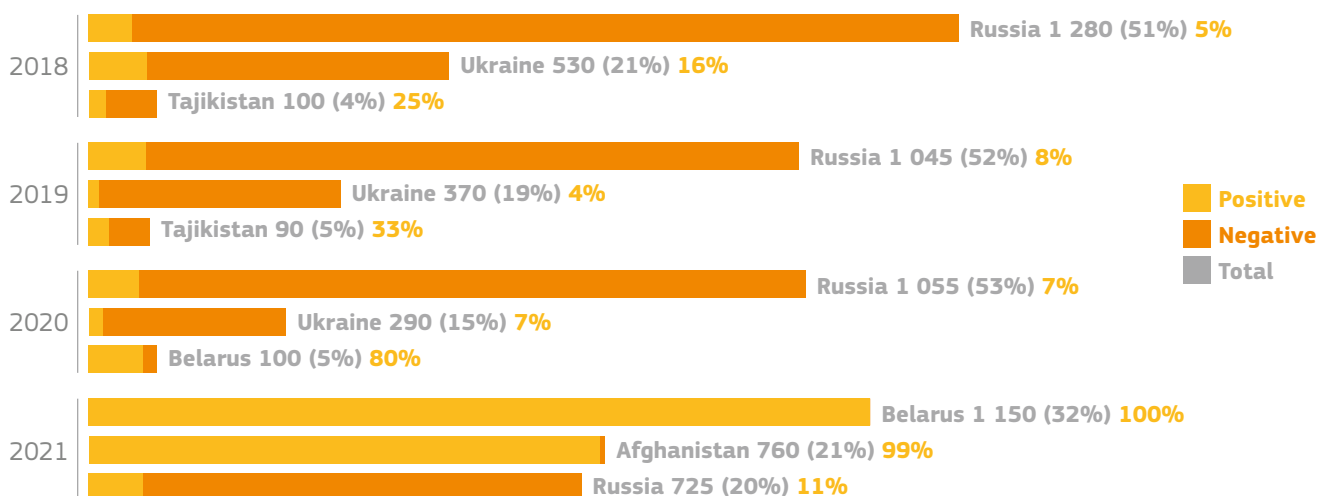
## Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asydcfsta)



## Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-instance decisions: number of decisions (% of total decisions in the country) and % of positive outcomes

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asydcfsta)



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

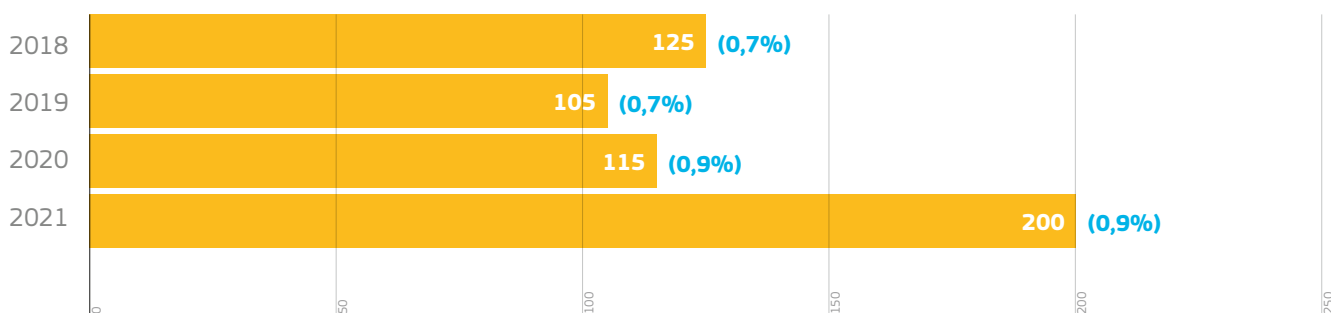
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyresa)



## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

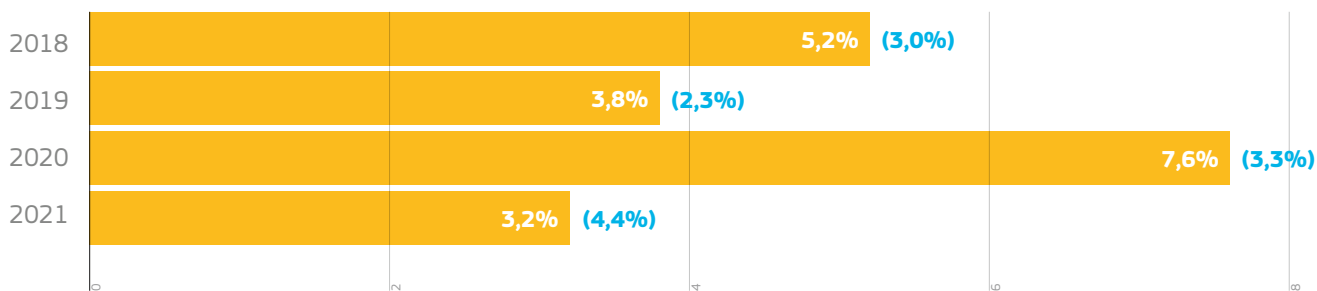
### Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum in the country (and % of total applications from unaccompanied minors in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyunaa)



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

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

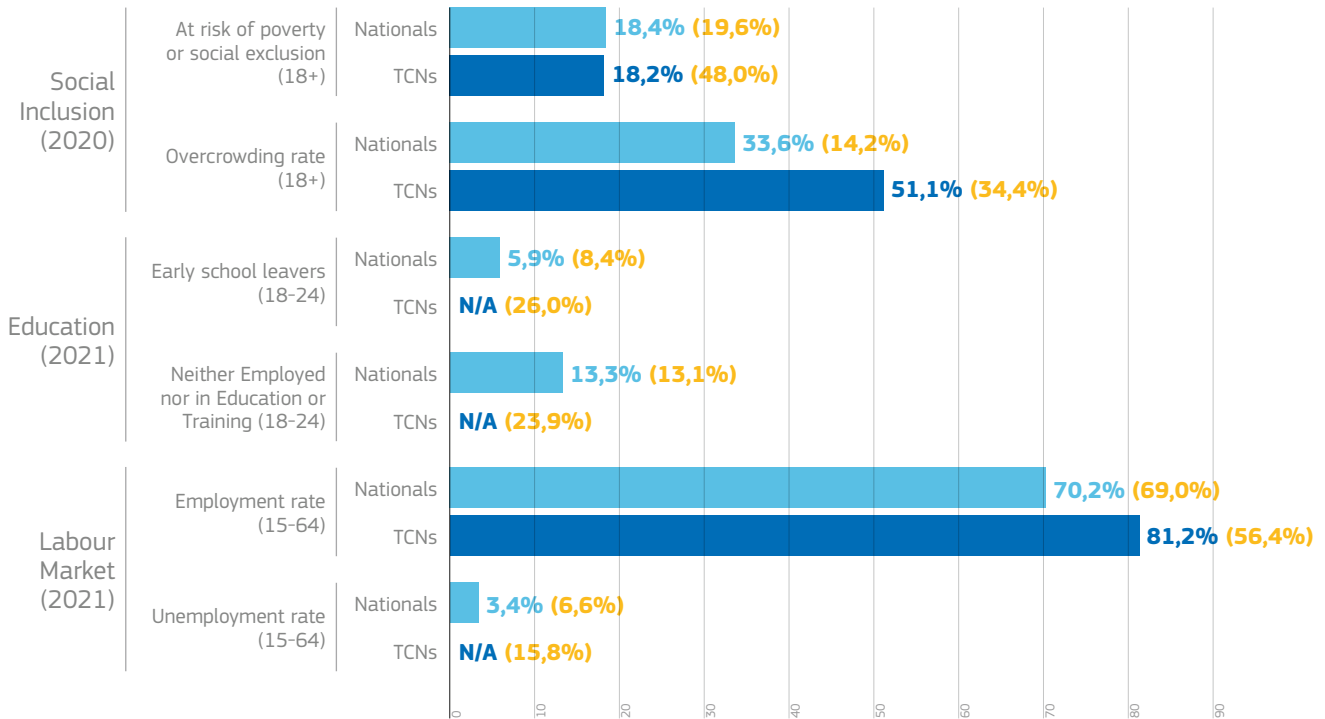




## INTEGRATION

Integration indicators for nationals (light blue) and Third-Country Nationals (dark blue) in the country (when available). The same indicator is provided in yellow for the EU.

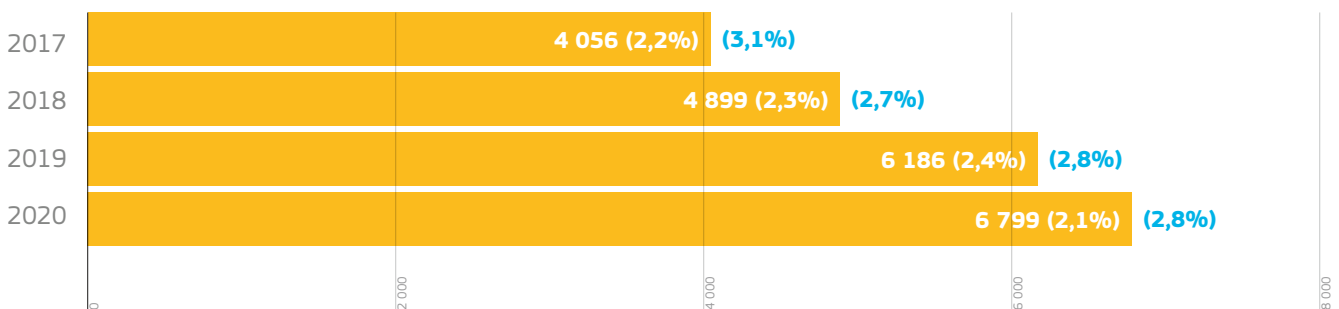
SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc\_peps05, ilc\_lwho15, edat\_lfse\_01, edat\_lfse\_23, lfsa\_ergan, lfsa\_urgan)



## CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

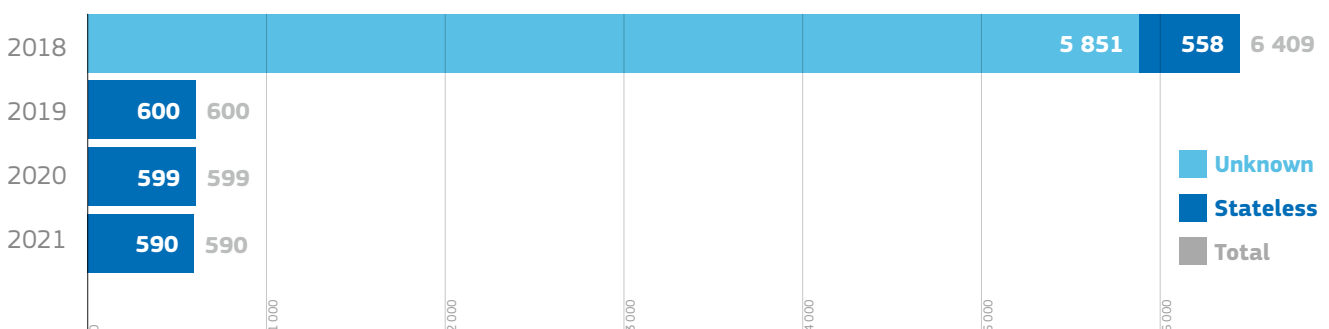
Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute numbers

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



Stateless, unknown citizens and recognised non-citizens (RNC) - where present

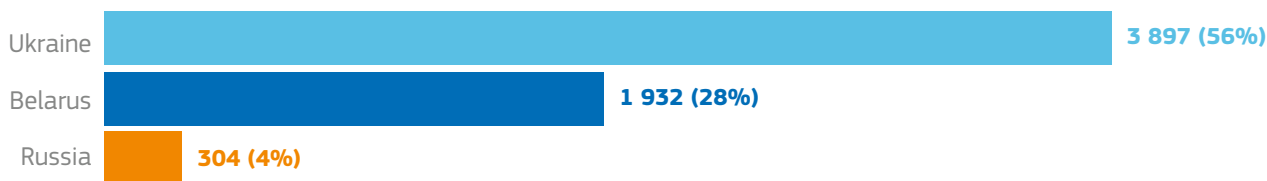
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctza)





## Top 3 nationalities by number of citizenship acquisition in 2020: absolute number and % of total acquisitions in the country by Third-Country Nationals

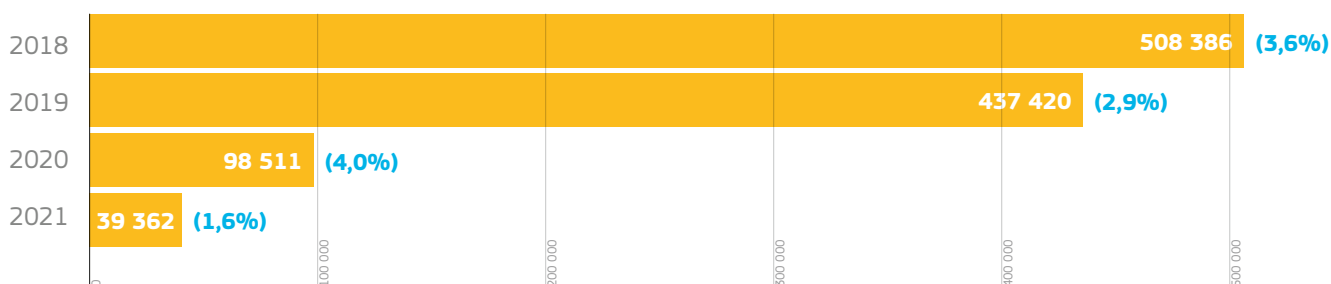
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_acq)



## BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

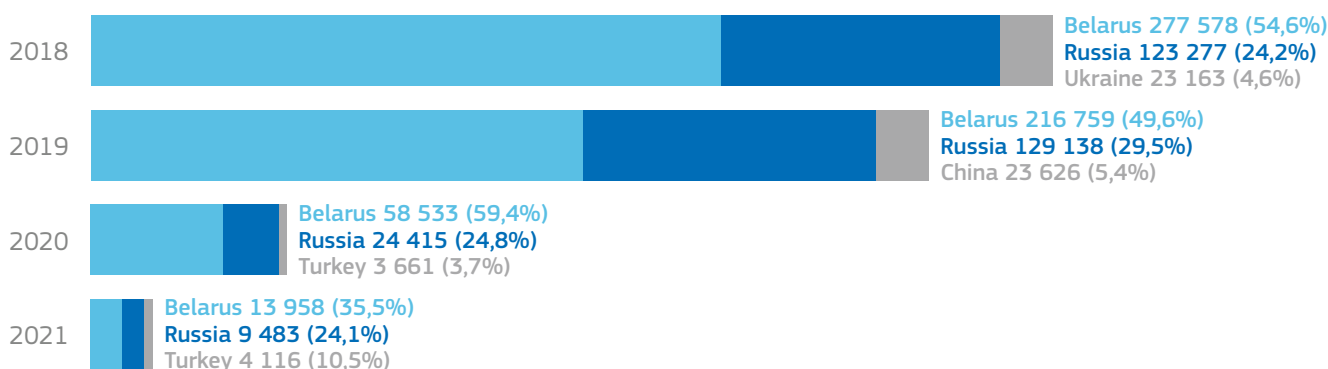
### Short-term visa issued (% of Schengen)

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



### Short-term visa issued in top 3 consulate countries (and % of total issued)

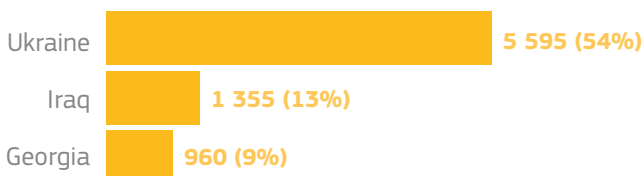
SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



## IRREGULAR MIGRATION

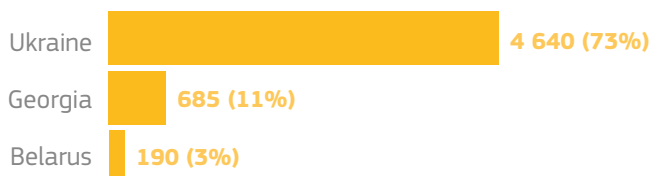
### Top 3 nationalities ordered to leave the country in 2021, in absolute number and as a share of all nationalities ordered to leave in the country

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eiord)



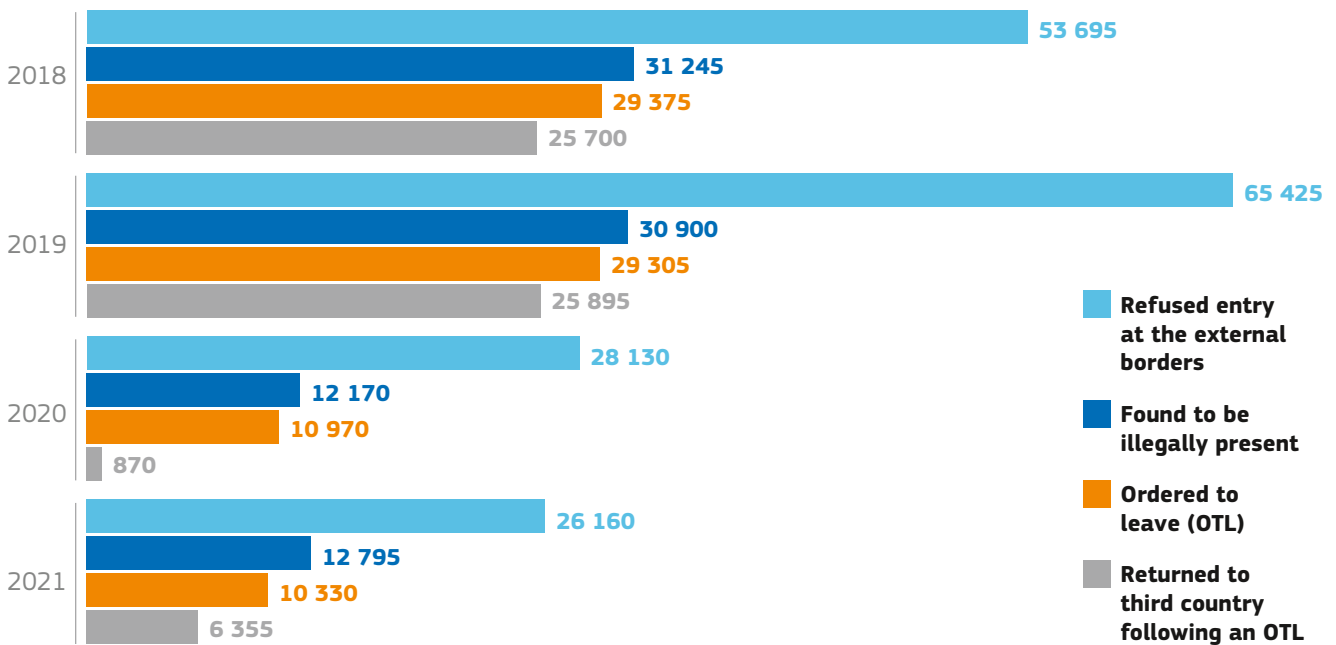
### Top 3 nationalities returned to third country in 2021, in absolute number and as a share of all nationalities ordered to leave in the country

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eirtn)



## General statistics on irregular migration

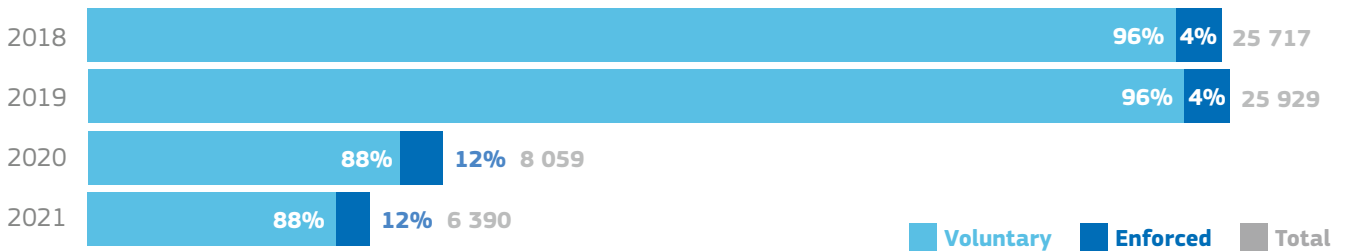
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eirfs, migr\_eipre, migr\_eiord, migr\_eirtn)



## RETURN AND READMISSION

### Number of Third-Country Nationals who left the territory by type of return (in %) and total returns

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eirt\_vol)



## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

### Number of first residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resoth)

