

Migration trends in the Visegrad Group

A preliminary analysis based on the Eurostat data for 2008-2018

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Summary

The following report demonstrates the results of the preliminary analysis of the migration situation in the Visegrad Group (V4) and the review of the completeness of data on V4 countries in two databases - the Eurostat database and the European Asylum Support Office. Additionally, it presents the perspectives for further analyses. The report has been written by the analytical team from Migration Analytical Centre (MAC) at the Office for Foreigners (UdSC), with the cooperation of the partners from Czechia, Hungary, and Slovakia. The most important conclusions from these analyses are presented below.

The countries of the V4 Group are situated in the geographical proximity in Central Europe. They share common parts of history and are subject to analogous social processes. Demographic stagnation (or even its regression) and the aging of the population taking place in the V4 countries (especially in Poland) mean that we are dealing with an insufficient supply of the domestic labour force, which, combined with the unmet demand for unskilled and low-paid workers, creates a strong reason for the inflow of foreign labour. Currently, the legalization of the stay of foreign workers is mostly aimed at precisely selected groups of migrants, close in a cultural and ethnical way. Temporary and circular migration is preferable, while settlement and obtaining relevant documents like permanent residence card or citizenship of one of the V4 countries is not facilitated by the legal solutions implemented by these countries.

The consequence of such a policy is that in the V4 countries many citizenships are not granted (by naturalization). When it comes to the countries of origin of new citizens, the countries neighbouring a given territory dominate, especially those with a lower standard of living and for which the acquisition of citizenship of one of the V4 countries is associated with benefits in the form of a more open labour market, higher wages or access to a passport EU, which guarantees greater freedom of movement. The absolute favourite when it comes to obtaining citizenship in the V4 countries is Ukraine, whose citizens willingly dominate the statistics in all the countries described.

When it comes to refugee applications, only in the case of Hungary, the migration crisis of 2015 was truly a unique phenomenon. In other countries, the statistics did not record a sharp increase in refugee applications in this period. However, after this period, the number of applications for granting the refugee status decreased in all V4 countries. Moreover, a lot of data in the refugee statistics indicate that in general the V4 countries are still not treated as a destination country for immigration by foreign migrants. Redemptions predominate, which indicates the resignation of foreigners from the intention to stay in the V4 countries and departure - most often to other EU countries. Germany is the main target of further migration for all V4 countries.

There are a few problems with the data that became apparent during the initial analyses of the report. First, the level of explanation for the content of different types of statistics varies greatly. The Eurostat does not explicitly provide information on what is included and what is excluded in each presented variable. Second, some of the data needed are not available. For example, Eurostat does not collect data on subsequent applications. Also, we indicate that some concepts of the Eurostat are misleading, like for example the category of "first permit", where people with a longer break between one and the next permit are also counted. It is a very demanding task to, based on these data, predicate whether the migration to the V4 countries has a more circular or permanent character. Third, the comparison of data from different countries of immigration is difficult due to different concepts for particular groups of statistics. To sum up, there are significant gaps in the scope and complementarity of the currently collected data, which makes it difficult to create a complete picture of migration in the V4 countries.

Our conclusion is that what is necessary, is to create a space that collects comparable data in different thematic areas: international protection, residence permits in a transparent way. The Eurostat database contains a lot of data, but a significant part covers only selected groups of foreigners and concerns the implementation of EU regulations by EU+ countries.

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I. Introduction

1. MAC project and the purpose of the paper

The very dynamic migration situation in the Visegrad Group (V4) countries, Europe, and the world increases the demand for professional and comprehensive analyses that can be quickly obtained. Interior ministers from V4 Group decided to create a joint Migration Crisis Response Mechanism (MCRM) aimed at creating new or strengthening existing links between government institutions responsible for migration. One of the tasks on the list of activities approved on June 12, 2017 - under the MCRM Action Plan - is the development and implementation of an analytical model for information exchange, and the creation of a Migration Analytical Centre (MAC) at the Office for Foreigners (UdSC) in Poland. MAC is to be a platform for cooperation of experts in the field of migration both from public administration units and research centres.

The MAC project – financed from the Polish component of Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) – was launched in October 2019. The project focuses on:

- provision of analyses, both for decision-makers, experts and people who have only recently encountered this issue,
- development and promotion of the best analytical practices in V4 countries to identify further requirements,
- facilitation of the migration data exchange between the parties involved.

European Union already collects a variety of cross-country migration data, within standardised templates, available mostly in the Eurostat database¹ and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO)². Thus, one of the first tasks of the MAC team was to review the completeness of data on V4 countries in these sources, achieved a level of cross-country comparability, and their usefulness for future analyses.

As a result, this report has been written by the MAC analytical team, with the cooperation of the partners from Czechia, Hungary, and Slovakia.

The report is divided into five major parts. The introduction covers the legal bases for migration in V4 countries, methodological description of the data sources, and general demographic trends in the region (Part I). It is followed by three parts summarising the Eurostat and EASO data on various residence permits issued (Part II), international protection (Part III), and decisions issued in connection with illegal stay or entry of third-country citizens (Part IV). The report ends with some preliminary conclusions on the quality of available data, the migration trends observed, and the perspectives for further analyses within MAC (Part V).

There are three annexes attached to the report, with input from all V4 countries. The first one covers the main national legal acts regulating immigration. The following two show transposition of various visas and residence permits – from each country's legal order – into cross-country Eurostat classifications.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database> [access: 07.07.2020].

² <https://easo.europa.eu/analysis-and-statistics> [access: 07.07.2020].

2. Pathways to legal immigration

2.1. Major legal bases

The migration policies of all V4 countries are largely bound by the acts of international law, like for example Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951. As all V4 countries are members of the European Union since 2004, they implement the complex EU legislation in the areas of the reception of asylum-seekers and refugees, legal migration and integration of migrants, irregular/illegal migration and return of illegally staying third-country nationals, as well as related issues, like border management, Schengen zone, visas, international crime, and human trafficking, preventing terrorism, crisis management, large-scale EU information systems for migration management, etc.³

The aims of the policy derive from the EU treaties, but they are achieved by several types of legal act:

- regulations – binding legislative acts, that must be applied in its entirety across the EU, e.g. Regulation no. 862/2007 of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection;
- directives – acts which set out goals that all EU countries must achieve in certain area; individual countries devise their own laws on how to reach these goals, e.g. Directive 2004/38/EC of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States, Directive 2011/98/EU of 13 December 2011 on a single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State, Directive 2014/36/EU of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers, Directive 2009/50/EC of 25 May 2009 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment, Directive 2013/32/EU of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection, Directive 2008/115/EC of 16 December 2008 on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals;
- decisions – binding on those to whom they are addressed (a country, organization) and directly applicable, e.g. Joint EU resettlement programme (Decision no. 281/2012/EU);
- recommendations – suggest lines of action without imposing any legal obligations on those to whom they are addressed, e.g. Council Recommendation 2005/762/EC of 12 October 2005 to facilitate the admission of third-country nationals to carry out scientific research in the European Community;
- opinions – allow the institutions to make non-binding statements, they can be issued by the main EU institutions (Commission, Council, Parliament), the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee, e.g. Establishing a new Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration (EESC Opinion no. REX/478-EESC-2016).

In the process of adjusting legislation to the requirements of the European Union, the Visegrad countries adopted a number of laws that regulated the rules for the legalization of foreigners on their territory. Many of the binding EU legislative acts are directives, which particular member states can implement in a different manner, depending on their legal order. Thus there is no exact correspondence between the migration legal acts in Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. For example, Poland and Hungary have Directive 2004/38/EC (freedom of movement of EU citizens and their non-EU family members) implemented within separate acts devoted to EU citizens, while Czechia

³ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/e-library/documents/categories_en?category=471 [access: 08.07.2020].

included the relevant regulations in the Act on the Residence of Aliens, alongside regulations concerning third-country citizens (the main legal acts on the residence of foreigners in each V4 country are listed in Annex 1).

Some forms of migration have been of greater interest to the EU legislative bodies and regulated in detail by the EU legislation, some remained the competence of member states. Especially in the field of asylum, there are solutions adopted and applied throughout the European Union, as the European Common Asylum System (ECAS). Also, the freedom of movement of member states' citizens and their family members derive from the EU treaties and is secured in the common EU legislation.

More freedom was left to individual countries when it comes to the legalization of the stay of foreigners who do not require protection and who stay outside their country for work, study, family, or other reasons. Labour migration of third-country citizens generally remains a national competence, but the EU legal acts are regulating some specific forms: researchers mobility, Blue Card and other highly skilled migration, seasonal workers' mobility, as well as intra-corporate transfers (ICT). There is also EU-wide legislation on vulnerable groups (victims of trafficking in human beings, unaccompanied minors, foreigners having residence rights for humanitarian reasons). These peculiarities of the EU legal framework significantly affect the methodology of the migration statistics, which we try to investigate in the following chapters.

There are also phenomena in the V4 countries migration laws which emerged by diffusion of some useful concepts from one country to another. An important example is the Hungarian Card, the Pole's Card, the status of a Slovak living abroad – the laws adopted to help national minorities and diasporas abroad to obtain legal residence or access to certain services in their motherlands.

2.2. Visas and residence permits

There are two major types of documents issued by EU member states, which allow non-EU citizens to enter and stay in their territories – visas and residence permits. The distinction between them is somewhat blurry, but usually foreigners can apply for a visa in the consulates of a destination country abroad, and for a residence permit in the ministry of interior, or related institutions, in a destination country. Also, residence permits can often have a longer duration than visas. However, it differs from country to country (more details in Annex 2.2).

For example, embassies of the Czech Republic are only competent to accept the submitted application for a long-stay visa, the authority responsible for its processing is the Ministry of the Interior. The embassy communicates with the applicant during the proceedings, invites him/her to an interview, or to receive a visa. The Ministry of the Interior is also competent for issuing Czech residence permits. Also in Hungary, one institution – National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing – acts as a visa authority and issues residence permits.

In Poland and Slovakia most visas are issued by consuls (reporting to ministers competent in foreign affairs)⁴, while residence permits are issued by the Units of Foreign Police of the Police Force in Slovakia and by voivodes (provincial governors) or by the Head of the Office for Foreigners in Poland. Both voivodes and Head of the Office for Foreigners are supervised by the Minister of Interior and Administration.

⁴ Although also Polish Border Guard and voivodes, as well as Slovak Ministry of Interior, issue visas in certain circumstances (eg. at the state border).

All Visegrad Group members are part of the Schengen zone, which strongly determines their visa policies. Citizens from the majority of non-EU (especially Asian and African) countries are required to hold a visa when travelling to the Schengen Area. The EU has a common list of countries whose citizens must have a visa when crossing the external borders and a list of countries whose citizens are exempt from that requirement (visa-liberated)⁵.

However, even if a country is included to a visa-free regime, it is designed mostly for tourist purposes or visiting family. Non-EU or non-EFTA Citizens willing to undertake work or study in a member state, have to apply for an appropriate visa or residence permit, whether they come from visa-free, or visa-required countries.

When accepting and processing visa application member states follow the EU Visa Code, which sets out the procedures and conditions for issuing visas for short stays and airport transit. Visa Code regulations are further specified in the “Handbook for the processing of visa applications and the modification of issued visas”⁶.

There are the following types of visas:

The “A” airport transit visa is only for citizens of the countries listed in Annex IV to the Community Code on Visas – it entitles them to stay only in the international airport transit area. It does not entitle to enter the Schengen area or leave the airport transit zone.

Visa C – a uniform Schengen visa is valid in the Schengen area and entitling to stay in the territory of all countries in the zone. The length of stay or stays may not exceed 90 days in any 180 days. The types of supporting documents necessary to issue a C visa may vary depending on the country where the visa application is submitted.

National visa type “D” – entitles to enter the territory of a given country and to stay permanently or to several consecutive stays in that territory, which lasts for a total of more than 90 days during the visa's validity and not longer than a year. It also allows moving within the territory of other Schengen States for up to 90 days within 180 days, during the visa's validity period.

A residence permit represents an authorisation issued by the competent national authorities allowing a national of a non-member (non-EU) country (also known as a third-country national) to stay for at least three months on its territory. Data on residence permits are collected with information on the reasons for issuing such permits. The main reasons include employment, family reunification, education, and “other reasons”.

The changes in the number of different residence permits in the individual EU member states reflect the national migration systems’ diversity and the impact of European immigration policy. Other factors, such as the characteristics of nationals of non-member countries, legal frameworks, and the characteristics of countries involved in the immigration process — such as their geographical proximity or language ties — can also be important.

It should be noted that the EU member states are allowed to shape residence regulations and conduct migration policy. They can adopt various specific solutions that are not standardised at the EU level.

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2018/1806 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement.

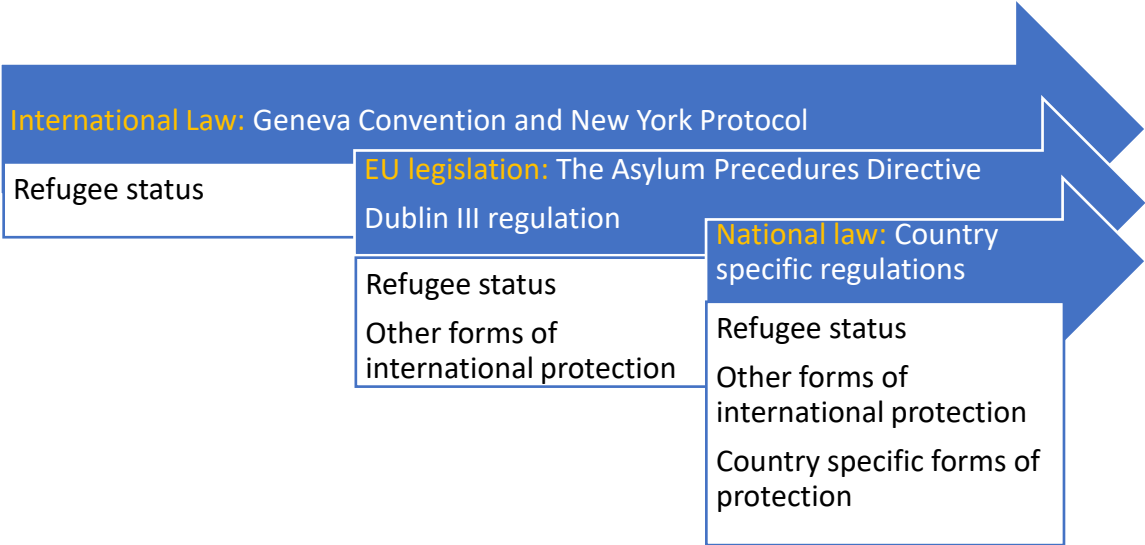
⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/policies/borders/docs/c_2010_1620_en.pdf, as amended [access: 12.08.2020].

Looking at V4 countries, for example, Poland introduced the possibility of the registration of an employer’s declarations on their will to employ a foreigner. A third-country nationals⁷ are allowed to work on this basis for 6 months within the period of 12 months, without the obligation to obtain a work permit. The procedure itself has undergone a number of changes since 2007, when it was introduced, and nowadays it is recognised as an attractive solution for legalizing stay and work in Poland.

2.3. General rules of asylum system in V4

Asylum procedures in the V4 countries are conducted on the basis of uniform regulations, the source of which are documents of international and EU law.

Figure 1. Hierarchy of the law principles in the internal protection procedures in V4 countries.



Source: own elaboration; 20.07.2020.

International obligations – refugee status: The first and key legal document for international protection is the Geneva Convention of 1951 along with the additional New York Protocol of 1967 which are ratified by 145 State parties.

The Geneva Convention defines the term “refugee” and outlines the rights of the displaced, as well as the legal obligations of States to protect them. The core principle is non-refoulement, which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom⁸.

⁷ The list of countries whose citizens can be employed on this basis includes Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine.

⁸ UNHCR The 1951 Refugee Convention: <https://www.unhcr.org/1951-refugee-convention.html> [access: 08.07.2020].

Table 1. V4 countries by the date of access to the Geneva Convention.

Country	Date of access
Czech Republic	11 May 1993
Hungary	14 March 1989
Poland	27 September 1991
Slovakia	04 February 1993

Source: own elaboration; 20.07.2020.

All V4 countries accessed the Geneva Convention soon after the democratic change of governments in 1989. Hungary as the first took over responsibility for refugees, the last was the Czech Republic just after the split of former Czechoslovakia. Signature of these documents meant taking responsibility for the transit traffic of foreigners, who in large numbers began to flow to the countries of the region due to the unsealed borders. For example in the 90s Poland transformed from a typical emigrant country to a transit country, and partly also to a destination country for migrants from other countries and regions.

EU common rules. The Asylum Procedures Directive sets common procedures for the EU member states for granting and withdrawing international protection. It provides people fleeing persecution or serious harm and applying for international protection in the EU with a high level of safeguards and enables member states to operate efficient asylum procedures. The Asylum Procedures Directive was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in 2013 and was to be transposed into Member States' national legislation by July 2015. It repealed Council Directive 2005/85/CE on minimum standards on procedures in the Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status. The Directive creates a coherent system which ensures that decisions on applications for international protection are taken more efficiently and more fairly, by:

- ❖ setting clear rules for lodging applications, making sure that everyone who wishes to request international protection can do so quickly and effectively;
- ❖ setting a time-limit for the examination of applications (in principle six months at the administrative stage), while providing for the possibility to accelerate for applications that are likely to be unfounded;
- ❖ training decision-makers and ensuring access to legal assistance;
- ❖ providing adequate support to those in need of special guarantees – for example, because of their age, disability, illness – including by ensuring that they are granted sufficient time to participate effectively in the procedure;
- ❖ providing clearer rules on appeals in front of courts or tribunals⁹.

All V4 countries are also a part of the EU Dublin Regulations. The Dublin III, which entered into force in 2013, establishes the member state responsible for the examination of the asylum application in case the asylum-seeker has changed the residence during the procedure. The criteria for establishing

⁹ European Commission, Migration and Home Affairs, Asylum Procedure: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/common-procedures_en [access: 08.07.2020].

responsibility run, in hierarchical order, from family considerations to recent possession of visa or residence permit in a member state, to whether the applicant has entered EU irregularly, or regularly¹⁰.

National legislation. The provisions of the Geneva Convention and the Asylum Procedures Directive are fully implemented into the national legislation of the V4 countries. In addition, national legislation sets out in detail the rules for the implementation of international obligations, detailed procedures for examining applications, issuing decisions, the scope of protection for foreigners within the country of stay, as well as the issue of their rights, obligations, and necessary documents.

2.4. Forms of international and national protection

The mentioned above legislation sets the rules for granting international protection in all V4 countries. Due to the fact that national legislation is based on international and EU legal acts, the system of protection of foreigners in V4 countries remains largely unified and operates on similar principles. All forms of international protection are considered under one, single procedure.

Table 2. V4 countries by the bodies responsible for proceedings in the area of international protection.

	Czechia	Hungary	Poland	Slovakia
International Protection under Geneva Convention				
Refugee status	Department for asylum and migration policy (Ministry of the Interior)	Directorate-General for Aliens Policing	Office for Foreigners	Migration Office of the MoI
Other form of international protection				
Complementary (Subsidiary) Protection	Department for asylum and migration policy (Ministry of the Interior)	Directorate-General for Aliens Policing	Office for Foreigners	Migration Office of the MoI
Temporary Protection	Department for asylum and migration policy (Ministry of the Interior)	Directorate-General for Aliens Policing	Office for Foreigners	Temporary shelter Government of the SR
Country specific forms of protection				
Political asylum	Department for asylum and migration policy (Ministry of the Interior)	Directorate-General for Aliens Policing	Office for Foreigners	Migration Office of the MoI

¹⁰ European Commission, Country responsible for asylum application (Dublin): https://www.ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/examination-of-applicants_enunhcr.org/1951-refugee-convention.html [access: 08.07.2020].

Humanitarian status	Department for asylum and migration policy (Ministry of the Interior)	Directorate-General for Aliens Policing	Border Guards	Migration Office of the Mol
Tolerated stay	Department for asylum and migration policy (Ministry of the Interior)	Directorate-General for Aliens Policing	Office for Foreigners/Border Guards	Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the Police Force

Source: own elaboration; 20.07.2020.

The following forms of protection for foreigners exist in the V4 Group:

- **Geneva Convention refugee status:** According to the Geneva Convention, a refugee is a person who is outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence; has a well-founded fear of being persecuted because of his or her race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion; and is unable or unwilling to avail him/herself of the protection of that country, or to return there, for fear of persecution (see Article 1A(2)). People who fulfill this definition are entitled to the rights and bound by the duties contained in the 1951 Convention.

- **Other forms of international protection:**

Complementary (Subsidiary) Protection: is granted to a third-country national who, owing to a real risk of serious harm by:

- death penalty or execution;
- torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- serious and individualised threat to life or health, resulting from common use of violence to the civil population in the situation of international or internal armed conflict;

is outside the country of nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country.

A temporary protection: is granted in the framework of the decision of the EU Council. Temporary protection may be granted in case of the mass arrival of foreigners, who have left their countries of origin because of foreign invasion, war, civil war, ethnic conflicts, a serious violation of human rights. The time framework – not exceeding one year, the possibility to extend up to a further 6 months, max twice times.

National forms of protection: every country may introduce its forms of protection. It may be a humanitarian stay because of family or health reasons. It may be also tolerated stay for persons who cannot be effectively removed from the country. There are also other forms of protection, but in practice, their role is not important to the general picture of the migration flows.

National forms of protection often result from different and dispersed national regulations. In consequence, many different types of permits and documents are issued, which often cannot be distinguished in separate statistics. Due to difficulties in reporting and analysing these data, as well as due to their marginal significance for the general influx of foreigners in the V4 countries, they will not be discussed separately in this study.

3. Data sources

Migration statistics in the EU and its member states are based on administrative decisions (visas, permits issued, denials of entry, etc.) and hence, they strongly reflect the legal arrangements in each country. In the previous chapter, we tried to provide a broad overview of the legal background of the migration in the V4 countries. Inter-state differences of the legal frameworks make a precise presentation of the migration situation in the Visegrad Group a challenging task. Comparisons between many countries require launching a common methodology of data collection, which is provided by Eurostat.

Within the field of “Asylum and managed migration statistics”, Eurostat collects, among others, data on residence permits and asylum. They are stored in the different sections: the first one in the “asylum and managed migration”, the latter in “residence permits”. Each collection has its characteristics and methodology: concepts, definitions and sources.

3.1. Statistical concepts and definitions

Terms and conditions for the collection and compilation of statistics on asylum and managed migration statistics are regulated by Regulation (EC) No 862/2007¹¹. It describes the scope of statistics collected by Eurostat, disaggregation applied, as well as periodicity and schedule of dissemination. Article 4 refers to statistics on international protection and asylum including Dublin procedures, article 6 – to data on residence permits and residence of third-country nationals. Definitions of the statistics collected under this regulation are listed in article 2, however not every thematic area of the data collected is covered to the same extent. Definitions on asylum and Dublin statistics are given very precisely, while there is no reference to the definitions applied in the article concerning the residence permits statistics, e.g. term “application for the international protection” is defined precisely while the definition of the first residence permit is not even mentioned in the definition chapter.

What was very important and influenced the structure of the report, data collected in the asylum field, and the legal migration area were not complementary to each other, due to different approaches in the methodological concepts of the collections.

Residence permits

The two key documents for this collection are Regulation (EC) No 862/2007¹² and Regulation EU 216/2010¹³. The first act specifies data collections that each member state is to deliver to Eurostat, and settles general rules for the residence permits data collection, like scope, disaggregation, the reference and dissemination periods, but does not include definitions or reference to definitions, except for a concept of a long-term resident. The second act includes the categorisation of reasons for issuing residence permits.

¹¹ Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of The European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers.

¹² Ibidem.

¹³ Commission Regulation (EU) No 216/2010 of 15 March 2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection, as regards the definitions of categories of the reasons for the residence permits.

Definitions for the purpose of data collection were established by Eurostat in cooperation with the EU member states. In the next steps, all necessary details were included in the data collection guidelines on the main definitions and methodology available on Eurostat's website¹⁴ and the technical guidelines.¹⁵ The complexity of the concept was presented in the document "Residence permits – a methodological and analytical overview"¹⁶ in the section statistics explained on Eurostat's website.

This chapter encloses information on the definitions applied for the residence permit collection and its features - breakdowns, geographical coverage, information on periodicity, and reference periods as well as observations on data comparability among member states and on data reliability.

Data on residence permits are collected on stocks and flows.

Covered are all the authorisations valid for at least 3 months issued by a member state's authorities allowing a third-country national to stay legally on its territory. The statistical unit for all data refers to the number of people. Figures are broken down by reasons for migration, duration of the residence permit issued, citizenship, age, and sex.

Two key definitions are "first residence permits" which reflect the situation on the inflow of migrants and "permits valid at the end of the year" illustrating stock data.

What is very important, Eurostat does not collect data on all residence permits issued by the country, but only on first permits.

The first permit informs about flows. Based on the Eurostat methodology a residence permit should be regarded as a first permit in the following situations:

- a) when no residence permit was issued by the member state to the person concerned before: the first permit is every permit issued by the member state authority to the third-country national with at least 3 months validity;
- b) when a residence permit was issued by the member state to the person concerned already in the past: the first permit is a permit issued by the member state authority after at least 6 months, since the expiry of the previous permit, irrespective of the year of issuance of the permit and with at least 3 months validity.

Permit valid at the end of the year – stock data on residence permits include all residence permits valid for at least 3 months held by third-country nationals at the end of a reference year (31 December), irrespective if it is the first permit or not.

The data collection on residence permits valid at the end of the year includes not only the first permits but renewed documents as well. The length of validity of the permit refers to the total duration of the valid permit (at the date of issuance). For example, if a 12-month permit was issued on 1st July 2008, at the reporting date (i.e. on 31st December 2008), this permit will be recorded as a permit with a duration of 12 months and more.

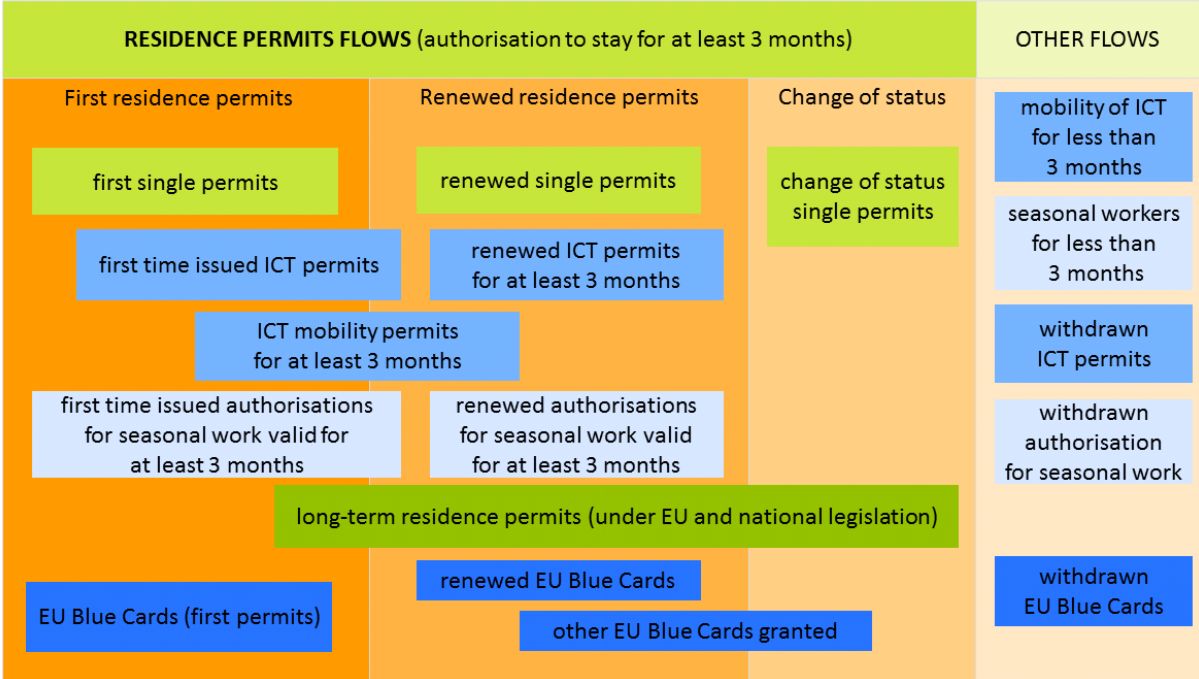
¹⁴ Statistics on residence permits. The main definitions and methodological concepts: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/migr_res_esms.htm#quality_mgmnt1581617326952; Annex 5 [access: 22.07.2020].

¹⁵ Technical guidelines for the data collection under Article 6 of Regulation 862/2007 Statistics on Residence Permits: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/migr_res_esms.htm#quality_mgmnt1581617326952; Annex 8 [access: 22.07.2020].

¹⁶ Residence permits – a methodological and analytical overview. Statistics Explained: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Category:Asylum_and_migration [access: 22.07.2020].

Other classifications used for residence permit statistics. Additionally to collections mentioned above Eurostat obtain statistical information on other flow data on change of immigration status, renewed residence permits and withdrawn residence permits as well as on some specific types of residence permits directly connected with EU directives in the field of the EU asylum and managed migration policy, e.g.: EU Blue Cards (since 2012), single permits (since 2013), seasonal workers (since 2017), intra-corporate transfers (since 2017), long-term permits (stocks since 2008, flows since 2016), students and researchers (since 2019). However, these data have not been analysed in this paper. The diversity and interrelationship of the different data on residence permits are shown in the figure below (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Residence permits issued during the year: breakdown of flows by types of permits.



Source: Residence permits – a methodological and analytical overview. Statistics Explained; 20.07.2020.

In term of **geographical coverage**, the EU-28 member states and EFTA¹⁷ countries are reporting statistics on residence permits, whereas for statistics related to EU Directives only 25 member states report data as Denmark, Ireland, and the United Kingdom are not bound by these Directives and are not subject to their application.

As was mentioned before the following **breakdowns** were applied: reasons for a residence permit (see Table 3), length of validity, citizenship, age, and sex (see Table 4). The general information on the expected breakdowns as well as the categories of reasons for the residence permits were delivered by UE law, the other details on breakdowns were worked out by Eurostat.

¹⁷ European Free Trade Association. Currently: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Table 3. Classification by reasons for issuing residence permits to third-country nationals.

Education	Family reasons	Remunerated activities	Other reasons	Refugee status, subsidiary protection
Study	<p>Person joining an EU citizen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · spouse/partner joining an EU citizen · child joining an EU citizen · other family member joining an EU citizen 	Highly skilled workers	Victim of trafficking in human beings	<p>Two categories excluded from “other reasons category”</p> <p>Applied only to data collection on resident permits valid at the end of the reference period</p>
Other educational reasons	<p>Person joining a non-EU citizen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · spouse/partner joining a non-EU citizen · child joining a non-EU citizen · other family member joining a non-EU citizen 	<p>Researchers</p> <p>Seasonal workers</p> <p>Other remunerated activities</p>	<p>Unaccompanied minors (non-asylum related)</p> <p>Residence only</p> <p>Humanitarian reasons</p> <p>International protection (refugee status and subsidiary protection)</p> <p>For the purpose of reporting about residence permits valid at the end of the year international protection status was excluded from “other category” and placed as two separate categories.</p> <p>Other reasons not specified</p>	

Source: own elaboration based on Residence permits – a methodological and analytical overview. Statistics Explained; 20.07.2020.

Except for specific breakdowns like the reasons for residence permits data is broken by measures applied by Eurostat not exclusively to this data collection: length of validity, citizenship, age, and sex (see Table 4).

Table 4. Other classifications used for residence permit statistics.

Length of validity	From 3 to 5 months, from 6 to 11 months, 12 months or over
Citizenship	Classification on citizenship is based on the ISO-3166 including stateless and unknown nationality and recognised non-citizens*
Age	Five year age groups (0-4; 5-9; 10-14; etc.)
Sex	Female, male, unknown

*A category introduced by Eurostat and used in Eurostat’s population and migration statistics to cover “persons who are not citizens of the reporting country nor any other country, but who have established links to that country including some but not all rights and obligations of full citizenship”.

Source: own elaboration based on Residence permits – a methodological and analytical overview. Statistics Explained; 20.07.2020.

Periodicity and reference periods. Data on resident permits are collected annually and shall be supplied to Eurostat within six months of the end of the reference year. The first reference years depend on the type of data set.

Data comparability among the member states. Data coverage and collecting methodologies are not the same over the EU+¹⁸ countries. Therefore, the reference to national metadata is recommended, before analysing the information. Among V4 countries, Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia have delivered metadata surveys.

Data reliability. If the time gap between the expiry of the previous permit and the start of the validity of the new permit is shorter than 6 months the new permit should be regarded as a renewal (if no change of reason or immigration status) or as a change of status permit (if change in reason or immigration status).

Due to the ununiformed resident permits systems among the EU member states the common approach to the subject was not easy to achieve has resulted in the methodology which can distort reliability the data in the following possible ways:

1. **Double counting** – foreigners who receive two residence permits yearly with the gap over 6 months between the validity period can be counted twice.
2. **Double counting** – furthermore, as administrative events related to first residence permits are recorded at the member state level, the same person can theoretically receive several first residence permits from different member states over a given reference period. Therefore, it implies that possible double counting can occur when aggregating member states' data at the EU level.
3. **Overlooked permits** – presenting stock of permits valid at the end of the year only can cause skipping short term residence permits (e.g. if there is a peak of three months valid residence permit in summer, they will not be included in the following data set).
4. **Overlooked permits** – stock of permits valid at the end of each year omit permits with remaining validity period less than three months (from 31 December).
5. **Overlooked permits** – permits with total validity period less than 3 months are excluded from statistics.

Asylum and Dublin

The second body of data analysed in this paper were asylum statistics, including also Dublin procedures. Unification of procedures and types of decisions regarding asylum member states worked out in a joint approach presented in the Directive 2013/32/EU¹⁹ and established a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) with definitions common for all EU countries. This act made it easier to compare asylum and Dublin data between EU+ countries.

Key document justifying and defining the scope of the collection is Regulation (EC) No 862/2007²⁰ which settles in the article 4 the rules of the asylum data collection like the scope, definitions, disaggregations, the reference and the dissemination periods. Terms regarding asylum procedures

¹⁸ EU and EFTA countries.

¹⁹ Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (recast).

²⁰ Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of The European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers.

used in this article refer to definitions presented in the article 2 of Council Directive 2004/83/EC²¹, for the Dublin statistics definitions are in Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003²² replaced later by Regulation (EU) No 604/2013²³.

The statistical unit for all data refers to the number of people, it means that each person is reported individually. Numbers are related only to third-country nationals, as in this area definitions are based on the European Union regulations mentioned in the paragraph above.

Asylum applicant – refers to a third-country national or stateless person who has lodged an application for international protection or who has been included in such application as a family member in respect of which a final decision has not yet been taken during the reference period²⁴. An application can be submitted on arrival at borders, or from inside the country, irrespective of whether the applicant entered territory legally or illegally.

A first instance asylum application is considered to be closed once a decision has been issued by national authorities. According to Regulation (EC) 862/2007, there are five decision outcomes that should be reported by EU+ countries:

1. Refugee status (as per the 1951 Geneva Convention);
2. Subsidiary protection status;
3. Authorisation to stay based on humanitarian reasons under national law (humanitarian protection)²⁵;
4. Temporary protection status (under EU legislation)²⁶; and
5. A negative decision resulting in the rejection of the application.

Granting humanitarian protection is not harmonised at the EU level and is only reported to Eurostat by 24 of the 32 EU+ countries (Austria, Cyprus, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom). In addition, various forms

²¹ Council Directive 2004/83/EC of 29 April 2004 on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third-country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and the content of the protection granted.

²² Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 of 18 February 2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national.

²³ Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (recast).

²⁴ Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person.

²⁵ Granting humanitarian protection is not harmonised at the EU level and is only reported to Eurostat by 24 of the 32 EU+ countries (Austria, Cyprus, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom). In addition, various forms of humanitarian protection can be granted, separate from the asylum procedure, and thus the positive decisions may not be reported to Eurostat under this indicator. More information on country-level practices is available here: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/2017.1197_-_es_ad_hoc_query_on_humanitarian_protection.pdf [access: 22.07.2020].

²⁶ Based on the Temporary Protection Directive, Regulation 2001/55/EC, this mechanism has not yet been used in EU countries, and therefore, it is not further analysed in this report.

of humanitarian protection can be granted, separate from the asylum procedure, and thus the positive decisions may not be reported to Eurostat under this indicator.

The Dublin III Regulation is the cornerstone of CEAS with the goal of defining a clear and workable method to determine which member state is responsible for the examination of each application for international protection. Its objective is to guarantee that a person in need of protection has effective access to asylum procedures to prevent a situation where no member state is willing to accept responsibility for examining the application. It also aspires to prevent the misuse of the asylum system so that the same person does not submit multiple applications in the several member states with the sole purpose of extending their stay in the territory of a EU+ country.

The Dublin III Regulation establishes a set of criteria to determine the member state responsible for the examination of the asylum application. On the basis of Dublin procedures a member state which finds out that an applicant has previously lodged an application in another member state can issue a **Dublin request** to another member state to take back or to take charge of an asylum applicant. Once the request is positively verified in the receiving member state, the countries may carry out a **Dublin transfer** of the asylum applicant to the member state responsible for conducting his/her asylum procedure. However, the countries are often unable to carry out the transfer.

In terms of geographical coverage, the EU-28 member states and EFTA countries are reporting statistics on asylum and Dublin.

In addition to providing definitions article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 862/2007²⁷ the act indicates also the breakdowns that they have by which data is to be divided, the periodicity and reference periods.

Table 5. Other classifications used for asylum statistics.

Sex	Male, female, unknown, total
Age	0-13, 14-17, 18-34, 35-64, 65 and over, unknown age, total
Citizenship	Only third-country nationals are required, however, in the separate table member states may on voluntary basis provide statistics related to EU-citizens Classification on citizenship is based on the ISO-3166 including stateless and unknown nationality and recognised non-citizens*

*A category introduced by Eurostat and used in Eurostat’s population and migration statistics to cover “persons who are not citizens of the reporting country nor any other country, but who have established links to that country including some but not all rights and obligations of full citizenship”.

Source: own elaboration.

Periodicity and reference periods. The first reference year of asylum statistics was 2008^{28 29}. Monthly and quarterly tables shall be supplied to Eurostat within two months of the end of the reference month, annual tables - within three months of the end of the reference year.

Considering the transmission period, only asylum data sets were able in 2019 for 2019 as they are delivered on a monthly or quarterly basis.

²⁷ Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of The European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers.

²⁸ Technical guidelines for data collection under article 4.1-4.3 of Regulation 862/2007 – statistics on asylum, version 3.0 amended in February 2016.

²⁹ Technical guidelines for data collection under art. 4.4 of the regulation 862/2007 – 'Dublin statistics' version 2.0 amended in January 2015.

Table 6. Periodicity of asylum statistics.

		Periodicity	Aggregations available		
			Monthly	Quarterly	Annual
Asylum 1st instance	Applications	Monthly	V		V
	Withdrawn decisions	Monthly	V		V
	Refugee status	Quarterly		V	V
	Subsidiary protection	Quarterly		V	V
	Temporary protection	Quarterly		V	V
	Tolerated stay	Quarterly		V	V
	Negative	Quarterly		V	V

Source: own elaboration.

Links between Dublin and asylum tables. The reporting practice on the legal basis of the requests regarding the stage of the asylum procedure should match the statistical reporting of the asylum tables (i.e. pending cases, withdrawn applications, and rejected applicants). This is only relevant for taking back requests.

There is no direct link between Asylum and Dublin data collections. For instance, it is impossible to measure how many of the registered outgoing and incoming requests relate to persons who have lodged an asylum application in the reporting country and the other member state involved. A request to take back/take charge always implies that there is at least one asylum application in one member state (for taking back in the requested member state and for taking charge in the requesting member state), but not necessarily in both member states. The Eurostat Dublin data collection is not disaggregated by “asylum applicants (YES/NO)”. From the existing disaggregation by “legal basis of the request” it can be derived to some extent whether the asylum applicant applied or not (including the stage of procedure: pending/withdrawn/rejected), but it does not indicate if they applied in both countries.

A related issue is that even if Dublin and Asylum data could be related, the number of requests to take back/take charge for asylum applicants might not match the number of registered asylum applicants in the Dublin procedure in some states. This is because in some states the Dublin/Eurodac check is carried out before formal registration of the asylum application, which could result in some persons not being registered as asylum applicants if they disappear before the formal registration of their claim.

3.2. Datasets used

For the purpose of this analysis we used the following datasets from Eurostat data base:

In legal migration field:

1. All valid permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship on 31 December of each year for the period 2008-2018, (migr_resvalid);

2. *All valid permits by age, sex and citizenship on 31 December of each year for the period 2008-2018, (migr_resfas);*
3. *First permits by reason, age, sex and citizenship for the period 2008-2018 (migr_resfirst);*
4. *First permits issued for family reasons by reason, length of validity and citizenship for the period 2008-2018, (migr_resfam);*
5. *First permits issued for education reasons by reason, length of validity and citizenship for the period 2008-2018, (migr_resedu);*
6. *First permits issued for remunerated activities by reason, length of validity and citizenship (migr_resocc);*
7. *First permits issued for other reasons by reason, length of validity and citizenship (migr_resoth);*
8. *Population by country of birth at national level, year 2011, (cens_11cob_n).*

In asylum field:

1. *Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data (rounded) for the period 2013-2018. (migr_asyappctza);*
2. *Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex Monthly data (rounded) for the period January-June 2019, (migr_asyappctzm);*
3. *Asylum applications withdrawn by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data (rounded) for the period 2013-2018, (migr_asywitha);*
4. *Asylum applications withdrawn by citizenship, age and sex Monthly data (rounded) for the period January-June 2019, (migr_asywithm);*
5. *First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex Annual aggregated data (rounded) for the period 2013-2018, (migr_asydcfsta);*
6. *First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex Quarterly data for the period January-June 2019, (migr_asydcfstq);*
7. *Incoming 'Dublin' requests by submitting country (PARTNER), type of request and legal provision for the period 2013-2018, (migr_dubri);*
8. *Outgoing 'Dublin' requests for information by receiving country (PARTNER) and legal provision for the period 2013-2018, (migr_dubro);*
9. *Incoming 'Dublin' transfers by submitting country (PARTNER), legal provision and duration of transfer for the period 2013-2018, (migr_dubti);*
10. *Outgoing 'Dublin' transfers by receiving country (PARTNER), legal provision and duration of transfer for the period 2013-2018, (migr_dubto).*

In illegal migration field:

1. *Third country nationals refused entry at the external borders - annual data (rounded) (migr_eirfs);*
2. *Third country nationals found to be illegally present - annual data (migr_eipre).*

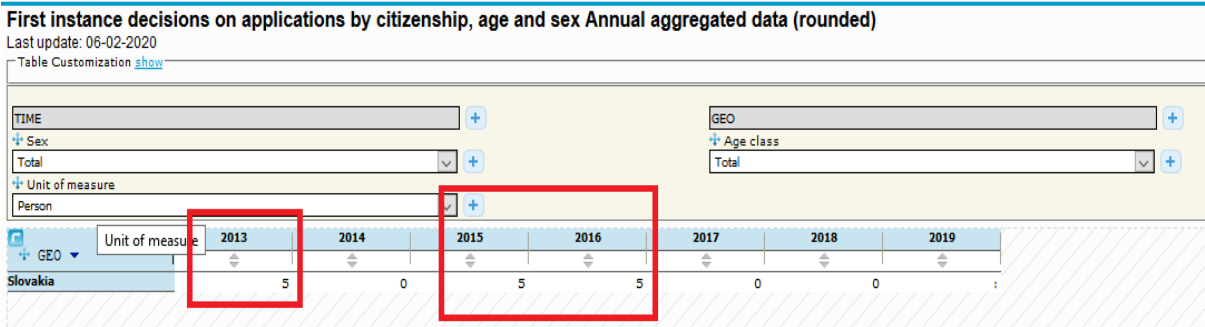
3.3. Rounding

Rounding is a very important feature of the data available in the Eurostat database. On each level of aggregation rounding to the nearest 5 is applied. It means that if the last digit in the number is 1 or 2 it is rounded to 0, while if 3 and 4 – to 5.

That approach results in possible discrepancies while comparing the data on the different digging-in level. This strategy is explainable on the example of refugee status granted in Slovakia in 2013. Although total values for Slovakia inform about 5 status granted that year to asylum applicants in

Slovakia, detailed information about the applicant’s nationality is not available due to dispersion of applicants, because it was rounded to 0.

Figure 3. Discrepancies related to rounding, using the example data on refugee status granted in Slovakia in 2013, 2015 and 2016.



Source: First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex. Annual aggregated data (rounded), Eurostat (migr_asycfst); 20.07.2020.

This kind of discrepancies multiply while using multi disaggregation and cause the differences in total values in comparison to the non-multi disaggregated total values.

However, totals of asylum data broken down by age, sex, and nationality were except few cases slightly different.

Table 7. Discrepancies of the data due to rounding to the nearest 5.

Czechia						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Aggregated total	710	1155	1525	1480	1450	1700
Manually summed disaggregated age	705	1155	1525	1480	1450	1700
Manually summed disaggregated sex	710	1155	1525	1480	1450	1700
Manually summed disaggregated nationality	685	1145	1515	1460	1425	1680
Maximal difference (%)	4%	0,9%	0,7%	1,4%	1,8%	1,2%
Hungary						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Aggregated total	18900	42775	177135	29430	3395	670
Manually summed disaggregated age	18900	42780	177130	29435	3395	675
Manually summed disaggregated sex	14290	42780	177135	29435	3395	675
Manually summed disaggregated nationality	18900	42760	177110	29420	3375	655
Maximal difference	24%	0,0%	0,0%	0,1%	0,6%	3,0%
Poland						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Aggregated total	15245	8025	12190	12305	5055	4115
Manually summed disaggregated age	15245	8025	12195	12300	5050	4115
Manually summed disaggregated sex	15245	8025	12190	12305	5055	4115
Manually summed disaggregated nationality	15215	8015	12185	12275	5030	4105
Maximal difference (%)	0%	0,1%	0,1%	0,2%	0,5%	0,2%
Slovakia						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Aggregated total	440	330	330	145	165	175
Manually summed disaggregated age	440	335	330	145	165	180
Manually summed disaggregated sex	110	330	330	145	170	180
Manually summed disaggregated nationality	445	330	325	120	155	165
Maximal difference (%)	75%	1,5%	1,5%	17,2%	8,8%	8,3%
Total						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Aggregated total	465770	663270	1394670	1293260	735445	669465
Manually summed disaggregated age	464395	661775	1392995	1291600	733885	667700
Manually summed disaggregated sex	459770	663270	1394295	1293260	735440	669465
Manually summed disaggregated nationality	465770	663265	1394640	1293260	735415	669465
Maximal difference (%)	1%	0,2%	0,1%	0,1%	0,2%	0,3%

Source: own elaboration.

3.4. Data completeness

Legal migration

Data on valid permits broken by reason, length of validity, and citizenship on 31st December of each year (migr_resvalid) were generally complete, however, few gaps existed.

Table 8. Reporting countries not transferring data on valid residence permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship on 31 December of each year.

Year	Reporting countries not transferring data
2008	Denmark, Croatia*, United Kingdom, Liechtenstein, Switzerland
2009	Denmark, Croatia*, United Kingdom, Liechtenstein, Switzerland
2010	Denmark, Croatia*, United Kingdom, Liechtenstein, Switzerland
2011	Denmark, Croatia*, United Kingdom, Liechtenstein, Switzerland
2012	Denmark, Croatia*, Liechtenstein
2013	Denmark
2014	Denmark
2015	Denmark
2016	Denmark
2017	Denmark
2018	Denmark

*Croatia entered EU in 2013.

**Since the United Kingdom does not operate a system of residence permits, statistics for the United Kingdom are estimated upon the number of arrivals of non-EU citizens permitted to enter the country under selected immigration categories.

Source: own elaboration.

In general EU+ countries started reporting data on broken by sex, age, and nationality including values in 2010. Dataset on all valid permits by age, sex, and citizenship on 31st December of each year (migr_resvas) included limited information when data was broken by the reporting country. Due to the fact that some EU+ members reported unavailable data, totals were not presented. Countries with missing data for the period 2008-2018 are presented in the table below. In the period 2008-2009, no countries reported data broken by sex as data started to be collected from 2010, V4 countries were bolded. However it is worth to mention, that data broken by sex, age, and nationality are collected on a voluntary basis.

Table 9. Countries no reporting data on all valid permits by age, sex, and citizenship on 31 December of each year broken down by sex or age.

Year	Countries no reporting data broken down by sex or age
2008	All EU+ countries
2009	All EU+ countries
2010	Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, Austria, Finland, United Kingdom**, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Czechia, Hungary
2011	Denmark, Germany, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Malta, Netherlands, Finland, United Kingdom, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Czechia, Hungary
2012	Denmark, Germany, France, Croatia, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Finland, United Kingdom**, Liechtenstein, Hungary, Slovakia*
2013	Denmark, Germany, Cyprus, Malta*, Finland, United Kingdom**, Slovakia*
2014	Denmark, Germany, Cyprus, Malta*, Finland, United Kingdom**, Slovakia*
2015	Denmark, Germany, Malta*, Finland, United Kingdom**, Poland, Slovakia*
2016	Denmark, Germany, Malta*, Finland, United Kingdom**, Slovakia*
2017	Denmark, Germany, Malta*, Finland, United Kingdom**, Slovakia*
2018	Denmark, Germany, Malta*, Finland, United Kingdom**, Luxembourg, Slovakia*

*Breakdown by age: in totals for the specific countries special values “not available” were reported, however in some age categories null values were reported.

** Since the United Kingdom does not operate a system of residence permits, statistics for the United Kingdom are estimated upon the number of arrivals of non-EU citizens permitted to enter the country under selected immigration categories.

Source: own elaboration.

Moreover, there are plenty of missing data in the tables extracted from Eurostat set on first permits issued for remunerated activities by reason, length of validity, and citizenship (migr_resocc). Also, data for Slovakia are unavailable at Eurostat’s migr_resfas and for Czechia missing data on the number of education reasons in 2016 in the same dataset. Set first permits issued for family reasons by reason, length of validity, and citizenship (migr_resfam) recorded following incompleteness: in 2018 there are no data available in Eurostat for most of the reasons in Hungary. Similarly, there are missings in 2008-2009 for spouses/partners.

Countries reporting data to Eurostat are asked to fill the metadata file to deliver more information on quality of data. Among V4 countries only Czechia did not send the questionnaire, other Visegrad Group countries indicated some quality issues on specific data sets used in this analysis. There are three categories of the quality of the data available. They are presented in the table below.

Table 10. Classification of data quality on residence permits disseminated to Eurostat by member states.

Good quality (extensive quality)	Covers all quality requirements, substantial quality checks are performed and very good cooperation exists between institutions.
Sufficient quality (acceptable quality)	Covers minimum requirements, but issues still exist and more information/validation is needed for a better quality assessment and acceptable cooperation issues exist.
Poor quality (inadequate quality)	The data do not meet the minimum requirements or there is not enough information for quality assessment and important cooperation issues exist.

Source: *Residence permits statistics, metadata file from Poland,*
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/EN/migr_res_esqrs.htm; 20.07.2020.

Hungary specified the data quality on stocks and flow as good. Data not available to report are data on highly skilled workers in first permits issued for remunerated activities collection (migr_resocc) and not available is also the information about data accuracy for the set first permits issued for other reasons by reason, length of validity and citizenship (migr_resoth). Moreover, there was no available verification of the data accuracy for valid permits regarding refugee status and subsidiary protection in the all valid permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship on 31st December of each year collection (migr_resvalid), probably data on those two forms of international protection are not included in this data collection.

Poland described the quality of the data on first residence permits and documents valid at the end of the year as sufficient, with a possibility of over coverage caused by double counting, however less than 1%. Unviable data is information on adult children joining the EU/non-EU citizen in first permits issued for family reasons by reason, length of validity, and citizenship collection (migr_resfam). Moreover, for the data set first permits issued for other reasons by reason, length of validity, and citizenship (migr_resoth) for the category residual categories available information include only visas. Poland included also the information about methodological changes between the present reference year and previous year(s), which was the justification of the important changes in figures reported for the present reference year and previous year(s). There is a break in time series in 2018 data reported for first permits caused by (i) free travel-visas for Ukrainian, Georgian and Moldavian citizens, (ii) the increase of the number of Pole's cardholders granted residence permit, and (iii) enter into force of the Seasonal Workers Directive 2014/36/EU. This break in time series refers mainly to the first residence permits issued for “remunerated activities” and for “other” reasons. See Annex 9 in the European metadata file for more information.

Slovakia reported data on first resident permits as good and for valid documents as sufficient. Accuracy issues appeared in the case of stocks and flows. Slovakia explained, that persons, who already left the territory of Slovak Republic, but are not deleted from the IT system yet, might be included, in case of flows it can cover 5% of data collection’s population, in case of stock – 7%.

Asylum

Asylum data presenting asylum applications and outcomes had satisfactory quality. For the data concerning Dublin IN and OUT requests (migr_dubri, migr_dubro) and IN and OUT transfers (migr_dubti, migr_dubto) a lot of values were missing, what resulted in the missing total values for the period 2013 and 2014. Data for those 2 years were summed manually, based on available values. A detailed explanation of missing values is included in the table below.

Table 11. Missing total values for the specific data collections.

Reference period	IN requests	OUT requests	IN transfers	OUT transfers
2013	Czechia, Denmark, Netherlands	Czechia, Denmark, Netherlands	Czechia, Denmark, Netherlands	Czechia, Denmark, Netherlands
2014	Czechia, Spain, Cyprus, Lithuania	Czechia, Spain, Cyprus, Lithuania, Portugal, Finland	Czechia, Spain, Cyprus, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Norway	Bulgaria, Czechia, Spain, Cyprus, Lithuania, Portugal, Finland
2015	Czechia, Spain, Hungary	Czechia, Spain, Cyprus, Lithuania, Hungary, Liechtenstein	Czechia, Spain, Cyprus, Hungary, Sweden, Norway	Czechia, Spain, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary
2016	Czechia, Croatia, Portugal, Iceland	Bulgaria, Czechia, Cyprus, Hungary, Portugal	Czechia, Hungary, Portugal	Bulgaria, Czechia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Portugal
2017	-	-	Czechia	Czechia
2018	Czechia	-	Czechia	Czechia

Source: own elaboration.

Among V4 countries group asylum data there were no gaps for the period 2013-2019, exceptional only Hungary and Slovakia reported some unavailable values in 2013 in data broken by sex and age together.

3.5. Data transformation

For analysis, tables including all available range of data published in the Eurostat's database were downloaded in TSV format to be processed by MS Excel 2016 with add-in MS Power Query. Due to the fact, that the maximal number of rows in MS Excel is 1 048 576, download of full tables was impossible directly to the Excel sheet and numbers of rows had to be limited by filtering data done in MS Power Query. Limitation concerned nationalities to total EU+ countries and V4 countries and age, when applicable.

In the next step, mentioned in point 2.2 sets 1 with 2 as well as 3 to 6 were joined to create files including files including complete data sets on asylum applications and asylum decisions. Data on residence permits had not to be joined. To further data processing pivot tables were used.

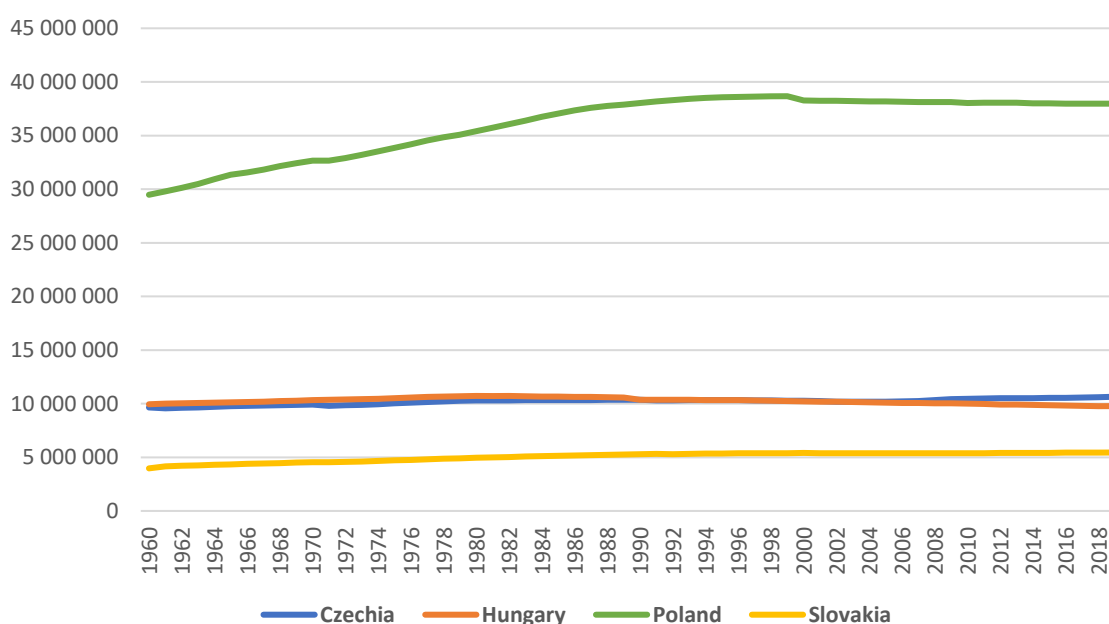
4. General demographic developments in the V4 countries

4.1. Demography of V4 countries

Countries of the V4 Group are situated in the geographical proximity in Central Europe. They share also some common history and they are also subjected to similar social processes. In modern times, this was evident by the simultaneous exit from the Soviet sphere of influence in 1989 and admission to the European Union in 2004.

Similar demographic processes are also taking place in all these countries, albeit with varying intensity (see Chart 1). Poland is the country with the largest population reaching 38 million. In the last 60 years, the population grew in Poland the fastest - in 1960 the population of Poland was 30 million, reaching at the end of the 90s almost 40 million. Currently, the country's population growth is slowly beginning to decline. The population also grew quite quickly in Slovakia. In other countries, the population remains stable - oscillating around 10 million in the Czech Republic and Hungary. Below there are shown main demographic tendencies that have recently taken place in V4 countries without a deeper analysis of the phenomena because it exceeds the scope of the report.

Chart 1. The population growth in the V4 countries, 1960-2018.



Source: own elaboration on the basis of Eurostat database *cens11_cob*³⁰.

However, the age structure of the region's population is changing significantly, with the trajectory of this change almost identical in all four countries. Since the 1960s, the share of the working-age population in the structure of society has increased in all four countries, reaching maximum values in 2004-2014. Since 2014, the number of people of working age has been falling rapidly in all countries described.

³⁰ Population change - Demographic balance and crude rates at national level: https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=demo_gind&lang=en [access: 12.07.2020].

Demographic changes in the V4 countries show two tendencies - the decrease in the working-age population is not compensated by the increased birth rate, on the contrary - in all the countries discussed we observe a decrease in births.

The consequence of demographic change which takes place in V4 countries is shrinking resources of the workforce. Under such circumstances, there is some space to increased migration inflows, especially in the situation of further economic growth.

Net migration rate

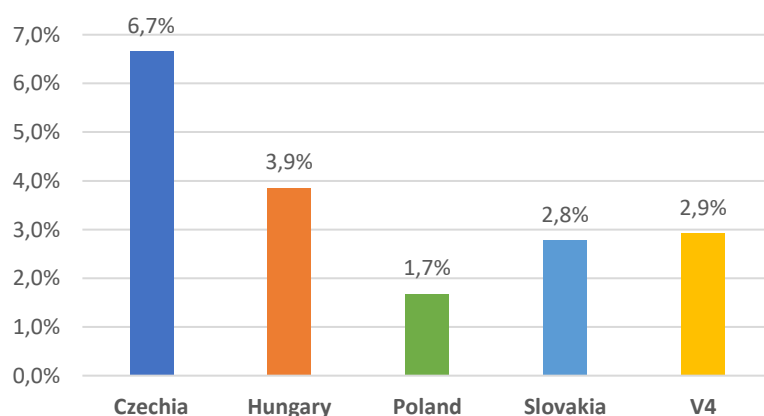
Although the demographic profile of V4 countries is quite similar, V4 countries and their citizens have different approaches to migration issues. In Poland, basically from the beginning of the transformation, and even earlier, emigration has dominated immigration. In Slovakia, emigration was initially higher, but now more people are coming to Slovakia than those who permanently emigrate. In Hungary and especially in the Czech Republic the inflow of immigrants is upward. The Czech Republic is the top country by the net migration rate (per 1,000 people) among the four countries. As of 2015, the net migration rate (per 1,000 people) in the Czech Republic was 1.14 per 1,000³¹.

In the following sections, we present the analyses of how countries try to diminish the generation gap which causes the shrinking workforce and how it influences the migration flows to V4.

4.2. Foreign-born inhabitants in the V4 populations

Throughout the 20th century, all V4 countries faced significant migratory movements. They were stimulated by wars, ethnic conflicts, and borders changes, but also by the larger political entities – i.e. Habsburg Empire and then Czechoslovakia – to which particular V4 countries belonged. The effects of some of those phenomena can still be traced in the demographic profiles of societies under study.

Chart 2. Percentage of the foreign-born inhabitants by country.



Source: Eurostat (*cens11_cob*); 20.09.2019.

According to the results of the national censuses conducted in the V4 countries in 2011, the share of inhabitants born in the territory belonging now to another country, varied between less than 2% in Poland and almost 7% in Czechia (see Chart 2).

According to Eurostat metadata, place of birth is defined as the place of usual residence of the mother at the time of the birth, or, if not available, as the place in which

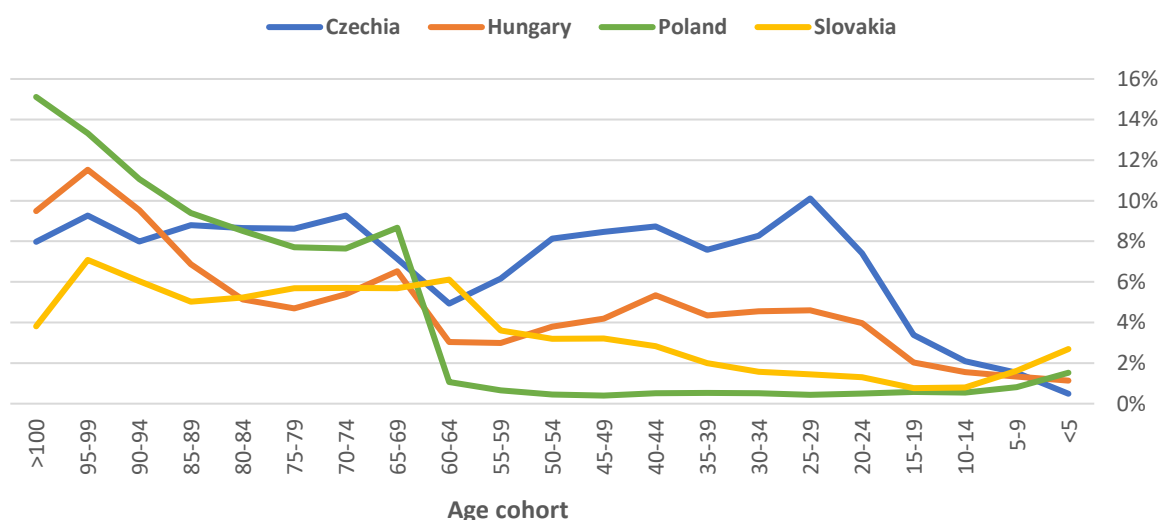
³¹ Human Development Report, 2019 Statistical Update, Latest Update (12/20/2019): <https://knoema.com/HDREPT2019/human-development-report-2019-statistical-update> [access: 12.07.2020].

the birth took place³². Information on the country of birth is based on the international boundaries existing on 1 January 2011.

In all four countries, the proportion of foreign-born inhabitants varied significantly, depending on the age cohort – with the highest values in the oldest cohorts and the lowest percentage in the youngest age groups (see Chart 3).

In Poland, the sharp drop in the percentage of foreign-born was observed between the age cohort 65 and older (born before 1949), and younger generations. In the former group, the share of people born outside the current borders exceeded 8%, in the latter it was below 2%.

Chart 3. Percentage of the foreign-born inhabitants by age cohort in 2011.



Source: National Censuses of 2011, Eurostat (cens11_cob); 20.09.2019.

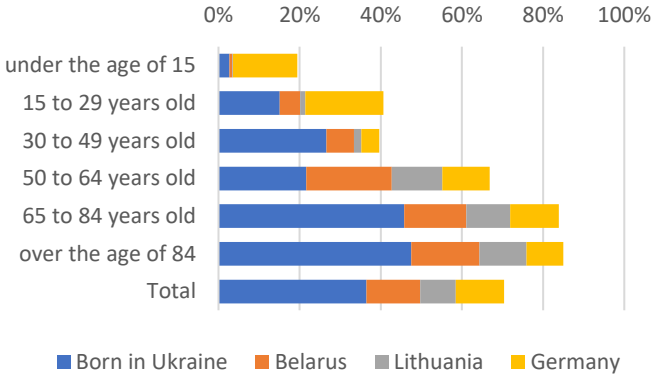
³² https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/cens_11r_esmscs.html [access: 12.07.2020].

Regulation (EU) No 519/2010 requires the data outputs that Member States transmit to the Eurostat to comply with a defined programme of statistical data (tabulation) and with set rules concerning the replacement of statistical data.

Regulation (EU) No 1151/2010 requires transmission of a quality report containing a systematic description of the data sources used for census purposes in the Member States and of the quality of the census results produced from these sources. A comparably structured quality report for all EU Member States will support the exchange of experience from the 2011 round and become a reference for future development of census methodology.

Similar – although not that spectacular – decrease could be observed in the Czech and Hungarian census results. In Poland, this seemed to be connected to the history of the 2nd Polish Republic (1918-

Chart 4. Percentage of people born in Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania and Germany against all the foreign-born residents of Poland, by age cohort.

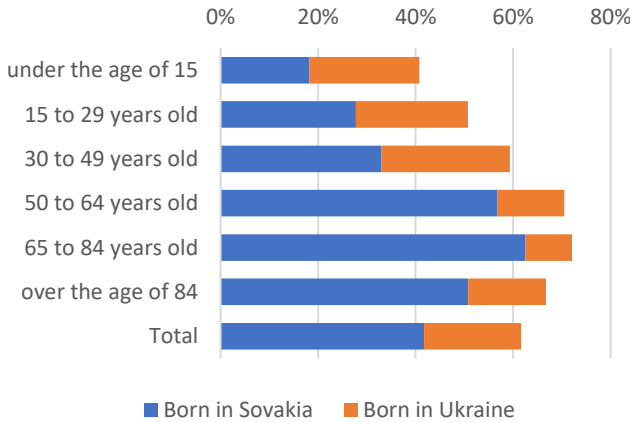


Source: National Census of 2011, Eurostat (cens11_cob); 20.09.2019.

stated, that: *there are no particular reasons for data unreliability for this topic*³³. However, information on place of birth was prepared based on the sample survey.

Quite a different pattern could be observed in the Czech population. A relatively high percentage (above 5%) of the foreign-born residents was recorded across all cohorts aged 20 and older. Given that migration is generally the attribute of the young people in working age and – these data suggest that Czechia has been facing significant inflows of labour migrants throughout all the previous century and that this inflows decreased shortly after the dissolution of Czechoslovakia. Indeed, in 2011 people born in Slovakia accounted for about 42% of all residents of Czechia born abroad. People with the Slovak background were a majority (over 50%) for the age group 50 years and older (see Chart 5). In the age group 15-49 years old they form the plurality (less than 50%, but larger than any other country of origin), but among foreign-born children younger than 15, the most numerous are people coming from Ukraine (22%, comparing to 18% born in Slovakia).

Chart 5. Percentage of people born in Slovakia and Ukraine against all the foreign-born residents of Czechia, by age cohort.



Source: National Census of 2011, Eurostat (cens11_cob); 20.09.2019.

33 Ibidem. Both the definition and the list with the official names of countries are in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1201/2009 of 30 November 2009. This means that in the Polish census information on the country of birth was collected (on the basis of international boundaries existing on 1 January 2011) according to the place in which the birth took place.

In 2011, the Statistical Office of the **Slovak Republic** performed a traditional Population and Housing Census. It shows the reciprocal link to the shared Czecho-Slovak history. The balance of population by country of birth is influenced by the facts below:

1) After the end of World War II the state of Czecho-Slovakia was restored and some Hungarian villages fell to Czecho-Slovakia. Spiš and Orava became part of Poland again. Some municipalities in eastern Slovakia mostly settled by the Hungarian population were also separated from Slovakia and affiliated to the USSR.

2) The emergence of the Iron Curtain in 1945 also caused a decline in foreign migration, which was also reflected in the population structure by country of birth.

Almost 60% of all residents of Slovakia born abroad, had their roots in Czechia – especially those from the generation 30-64 years old. Among the eldest (65 and older) inhabitants of Slovakia with foreign background, over 30% percent were born in Hungary – probably the reminiscence of the mobility and population exchange following the World War I, the Trianon Treaty of 1920 and separation of the territory of Slovakia from the former Kingdom of Hungary (see Chart 6).

The shared history of the nation’s inhabiting the pre-1918 Kingdom of **Hungary** in 2011 was still affecting also the Hungarian census data (see Chart 7). In the oldest generation of the foreign-born Hungarian citizens, the share of people born in the countries which previously (at least partially) belonged to the Kingdom of Hungary – especially Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, Ukraine – reached 86%. Residents born in Romania were constantly – regardless of age cohort – the most numerous category of the Hungarian residents with a foreign backgrounds.

Chart 6. Percentage of people born in Czechia and Hungary against all the foreign-born residents of Slovakia, by age cohort.

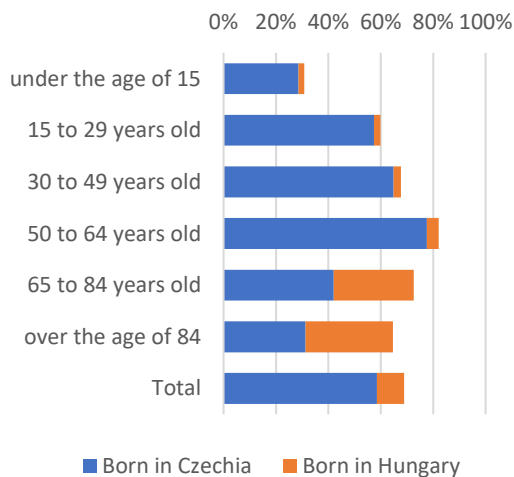
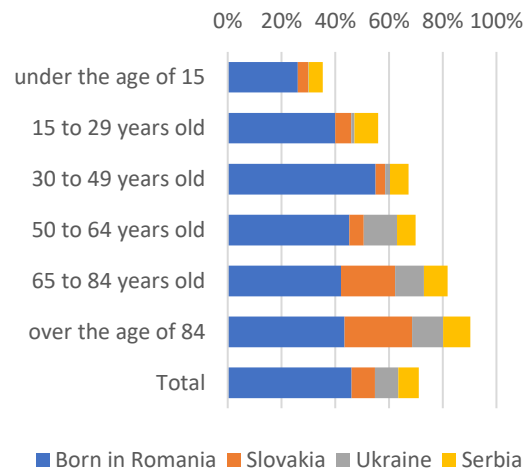


Chart 7. Percentage of people born in Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine and Serbia against all the foreign-born residents of Hungary, by age cohort.

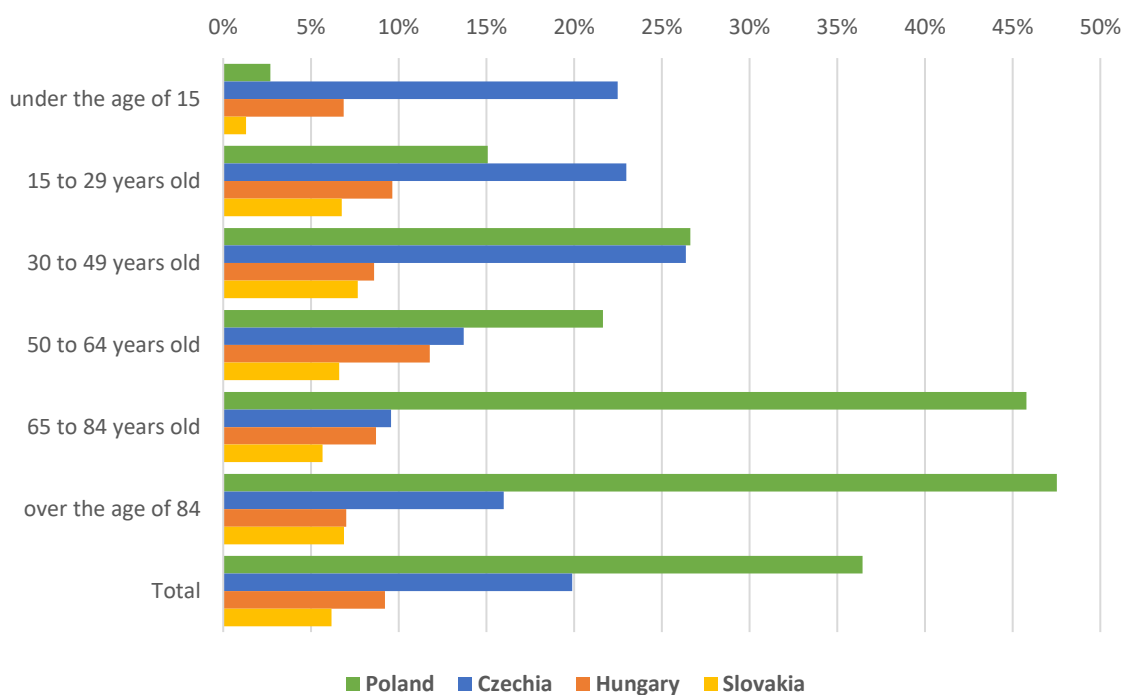


Source: National Census of 2011, Eurostat (cens11_cob).

Source: National Census of 2011, Eurostat (cens11_cob).

People born in Ukraine are important group in all V4 countries and this is also not a new phenomenon, especially in Poland (see Chart 8). Before World War II, a significant part of contemporary Ukraine was part of the Second Polish Republic. During the Yalta conference, it was decided to change the borders of Poland, which resulted in two great migration waves (first in 1994-1946, second in 1955-1959). It is estimated that during these migratory movements, 2 million people came to Poland. They were the Polish population displaced from the territories occupied by the USSR, including Ukraine.

Chart 8. Percentage of people born in Ukraine as a percentage of all the foreign-born residents, by age cohort in each V4 country.



Source: National Census of 2011, Eurostat (cens11_cob); 20.09.2019.

4.3. Further repatriation programmes

In recent years some V4 countries tried to encourage people of their nationalities born abroad to return or resettle to the countries of origin of their ancestors.

The most active in this regard was **Hungary** which directly offered citizenship to people whose parents, grandparents, or other ancestors were Hungarian citizens. The new law was introduced in 2010. There is no requirement for keeping permanent residence in Hungary or for staying in the country, and the applicant can also keep his original citizenship. The application can be taken in a Hungarian consulate and an interview is conducted in Hungarian³⁴. The policy is aimed at Hungarians living in Ukraine, Romania, Slovakia, and Serbia. A big number of around 5 million ethnic Hungarians live beyond Hungary's borders in mentioned countries and could apply for Hungarian citizenship, so this law has created many controversies (when compared to the population of Hungary, which is less than 10 million).

Since the early 90ties, **Poland** tried to introduce repatriation programmes that were aimed at facilitating the return of Polish descendants from ex-USSR countries, especially from Kazakhstan. Due to lack of the proper resources and hardship with the identification of people of Polish origin in need, the programmes did not turn to be an effective tool of repatriation policy. Then in 2005, the idea of Pole's Card was introduced which gave the possibility to get a Polish visa within the free and simplified procedure. However, in the beginning, the document was not very popular among the Polish diaspora. In 2016 the important change was introduced which facilitated not only a contact of the diaspora with Poland and maintaining the Polish culture but also enabled effective repatriation. The procedure of receiving the Card was simplified and the Cardholder could receive automatically the right of

³⁴ <https://helpers.hu/hungarian-citizenship/repatriate-to-hungary-get-citizenship-by-ancestry/> [access: 12.07.2020].

settlement and the Polish citizenship after a year of the stay in Poland. He/she can also work without adequate permission and get a free education. The financial assistance was also granted to some families. The number of issued Pole's Cards increased abruptly. At first, the rules concerning Pole's Card concerned only Polish from ex-USSR countries. From 2019 it has been also available to Poles all over the world.

Czechia and Slovakia have also special provisions for former citizens of specific territories or their co-ethnics although their policy in this regard is not so active. In the case of these countries which created together Czechoslovakia in the past, the flows of both nationalities are meaningful between both countries as it was shown in the previous chapter, however.

4.4. Acquisition of citizenship

Through various means, citizenship acquisition became a tool of repatriation of ethnic diasporas born abroad to their fatherland in all V4 countries. However, the level of citizenship acquisition remains quite low comparing to the other EU countries in the region, the event taking into account the repatriation efforts.

Table 12. The number of citizenship granted from 2010 to 2018 in V4 countries comparing to other countries of the region (Germany and Austria).

GEO/TIME	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Czechia	1 085	1 638	1 753	2 243	5 059	2 619	4 561	3 480	2 317
Germany	104 600	109 594	114 637	111 775	110 610	110 128	112 843	115 421	116 750
Hungary	6 086	20 554	18 379	9 178	8 745	4 048	4 315	2 787	3 508
Austria	6 135	6 690	7 043	7 354	7 570	8 144	8 530	9 125	9 355
Poland	2 926	3 445	3 792	3 933	4 073	3 974	3 684	4 233	5 115
Slovakia	239	272	255	207	234	309	484	645	721

Source: Eurostat (migr_acq); 28.04.2020

In Czechia, most citizenship acquisition concerns neighbouring countries and ex-USSR countries with the exception of Vietnamese nationals. The most numerous nationality is also Ukraine.

Table 13. Czechia. Acquisition of citizenship by former citizenship (2009-2018)

CITIZEN/TIME	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total	1 149	1 085	1 638	1 753	2 243	5 059	2 619	4 561	3 480	2 317
Poland	58	63	190	171	168	107	34	100	57	45
Romania	36	34	73	69	29	316	107	103	65	51
Slovakia	138	140	239	203	139	454	117	575	461	346
Belarus	19	29	39	50	54	135	98	194	131	86

Moldova	24	16	30	25	41	175	56	130	121	70
Russia	68	74	66	183	174	502	308	690	590	448
Ukraine	502	392	497	509	936	2 045	1 042	1 750	1 200	762
Vietnam	44	53	88	81	162	309	268	200	225	95
Armenia	17	23	45	73	49	145	50	39	19	28
Kazakhstan	22	30	48	28	64	133	58	57	54	37
Others	221	231	323	361	427	738	481	723	557	349

Source: Eurostat (migr_acq); 28.04.2020

In Hungary, thanks to the law directed to ethnic Hungarians, the level of the acquisition was relatively high, especially taking into account the general population number. The highest level was reached from 2011 to 2014 just after the new citizenship law was introduced. After this period the number of citizens fell again. The following data confirms that new citizens of Hungary were first of all the beneficiaries of the facilitated track of citizenship acquisition provided for people of Hungarian origin coming from Romania, Ukraine, and Serbia. Apart from that, the main groups of new citizens in the reported period were former citizens of Russia, Egypt, and Vietnam.

Table 14. Hungary. Acquisition of citizenship by former citizenship (2009-2018)

CITIZEN/TIME	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total	5 802	6 086	20 554	18 379	9 178	8 745	4 048	4 315	2 787	3 508
Germany	35	25	55	67	35	59	29	15	38	50
Croatia	25	26	61	50	22	27	15	14	12	17
Romania	3 805	3 939	15 658	14 392	6 999	6 200	2 605	2 874	1 757	2 123
Slovakia	97	97	414	307	202	310	208	282	136	223
Belarus	127	123	2	2	2	5	0	1	1	2
Serbia	672	721	1 678	1 330	647	410	158	144	93	105
Russia	119	111	168	151	97	170	131	119	75	89
Ukraine	558	646	2 189	1 765	894	858	386	365	186	192
Egypt	5	3	2	6	9	81	93	101	119	191
Vietnam	39	75	38	29	15	67	39	36	46	87
Others	320	320	289	280	256	558	384	364	324	429

Source: Eurostat (migr_acq); 28.04.2020

In the case of Poland, the number of citizen acquisitions is steadily growing. Except for Vietnamese, most new Polish citizens came from neighbouring countries or ex-USSR countries, especially from Ukraine and Belarus. It is hard to estimate however to what extent the changes of rules in granting the Pole's Cards have influenced the number of new citizens from ex-USSR because, after 2016, there is no sudden change in statistics as in the case of Hungary. The number is growing slowly and the increase had started earlier, even before the facilitated procedure connected with the Pole's Card was introduced.

In Poland, there is also a much bigger diversity of former nationalities than in other V4 countries. Category "others" contain many various countries' nationals from all over the world however they did not apply for citizenship in big numbers. That is why the category "others" is relatively big.

Table 15. Poland. Acquisition of citizenship by former citizenship (2009-2018)

CITIZEN/TIME	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total	2 503	2 926	3 445	3 792	3 933	4 073	3 974	3 684	4 233	5 115
Germany	47	92	112	171	288	54	55	41	39	66
Sweden	34	61	54	46	150	28	20	13	16	22
Belarus	357	418	375	456	514	537	472	563	759	1 109
Russia	162	215	254	244	199	361	250	236	220	243
Ukraine	877	992	1 086	1 196	1 179	1 743	1 957	1 885	2 397	2 797
Vietnam	64	97	126	150	366	288	220	130	121	126
Armenia	79	101	140	163	248	367	285	181	136	130
Kazakhstan	41	38	43	44	224	35	36	24	36	25
Others	842	912	1 255	1 322	765	660	679	611	509	597

Source: Eurostat (migr_acq); 28.04.2020

The Slovak policy and practice is rather restrictive. Only a few hundred foreigners are naturalized each year but the number is growing. The main nationalities are coming from Czechia, Serbia, and Ukraine.

Table 16. Slovakia. Acquisition of citizenship by former citizenship (2009-2018)

CITIZEN/TIME	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total	262	239	272	255	207	234	309	484	645	721
Czechia	48	45	45	36	24	37	70	105	91	119
Serbia	43	57	53	55	9	5	8	94	124	42

Ukraine	77	44	61	60	63	62	73	77	129	127
Others	94	93	113	104	111	130	158	208	301	433

Source: Eurostat (migr_acq); 28.04.2020

Summary:

The data above shows that V4 countries conduct a rather conservative policy in the area of naturalisation. Citizenship is granted relatively rarely. New citizens of V4 countries have either the same ethnicity as citizens of these countries or at least come from countries directly neighbouring them. The former citizens of Ukraine are most frequently represented in all four countries.

Vietnamese diaspora does not share the same origin or history with Central Europe, but it has been inhabiting these countries for several dozen years and it has already managed to habituate to it. It is relatively numerous in Hungary as well as in the Czech Republic and Poland. According to the above statistics, its representatives constitute a significant percentage of new citizens of the V4 countries. In Hungary, since 2014 there has been also a noticeable increase in the number of Egyptians who have obtained Hungarian citizenship.

Relatively numerous, though not dominant, flows of citizens are also recorded between the V4 countries themselves, although all these countries belong to the EU. In Hungary, Slovak citizens apply for citizenship, in the Czech Republic, Slovak and Polish, and in Slovakia - Czech citizens.

II. Statistics on residence permits

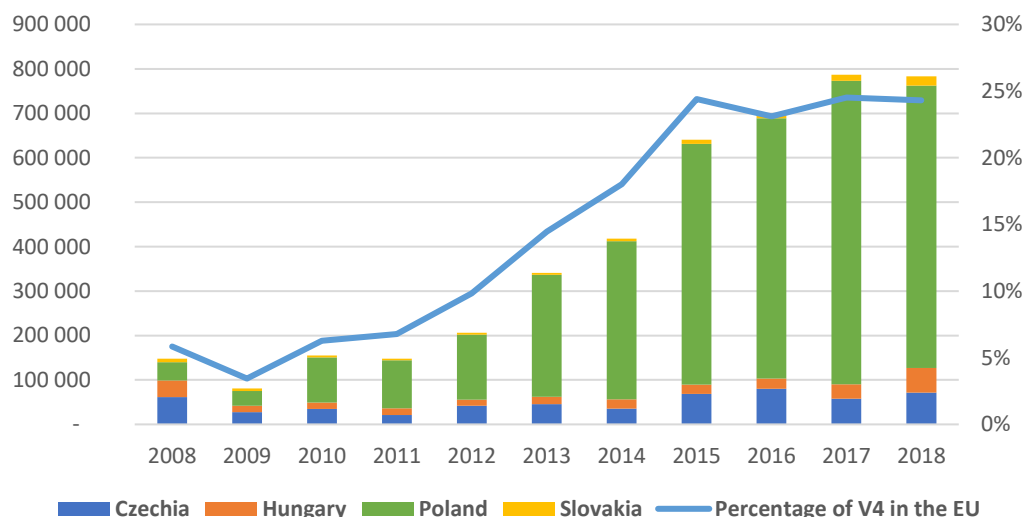
1. In general

After a brief period of decrease – probably caused by the economic crisis of 2007 – the number of first permits issued by the V4 countries, especially by Poland, skyrocketed (see Chart 9). In 2011 the number of first permits issued by all V4 countries amounted to 147.5 thousand. In 2017 it reached 786.9 thousand, which means a 430% increase in just 6 years, and then suddenly ceased to grow in 2018. In the same period number of permits issued by the other EU member states increased from 2 386.9 thousand to 2 438.7 thousand (by 20%). Thus the share of first permits issued by V4 countries against all first permits issued by all EU member states increased from just 3% in 2009, 7% in 2011 to 23-25% from 2015 onwards. In other words, in the second decade of the 21st century, V4 countries developed into one of the major immigration hubs (at least for the third-country nationals) of the EU (see the line at Chart 9).

The increase in the number of first permits was particularly dynamic in Poland – it grew from 108 thousand in 2011 to 683.2 thousand in 2017 (588%). The year 2018 marked a slight decrease (to 635.3 thousand). Since July 2017 Ukrainian citizens were allowed to travel to the Schengen zone without visa for max. 90 days in every 180-days period. This could reduce demand for Polish visas and residence permits, in favour of circular migration with shorter intervals. This, in turn, reveals **a gap in the official statistics – the number of arrivals of third countries citizens might have increased, while the statistics started to decrease** (we elaborate on this issue further on).

Similarly, a rapid increase of the first permits number has been noted in Slovakia – from 3.6 thousand in 2011 to 13.6 thousand in 2017 (578%). Unlike its northern neighbour, in 2018 Slovakia noted an even sharper increase of first permits number – over 21 thousand of them were issued.

Chart 9. First residence permits in the V4 Group by country in the period 2008-2018.



Source: Eurostat (*migr_resfirst*); 08.11.2019.

Somewhat less spectacular, but also very dynamic, was the increase of the first permits number issued by Hungary (14.9 thousand in 2011, 55.7 thousand in 2018), whereas pattern observed in Czechia was more complex. The general trend for the period covered by the Eurostat data was also increasing, but not so rapidly as in the other V4 countries and not linearly. Czechia noted relatively high immigration

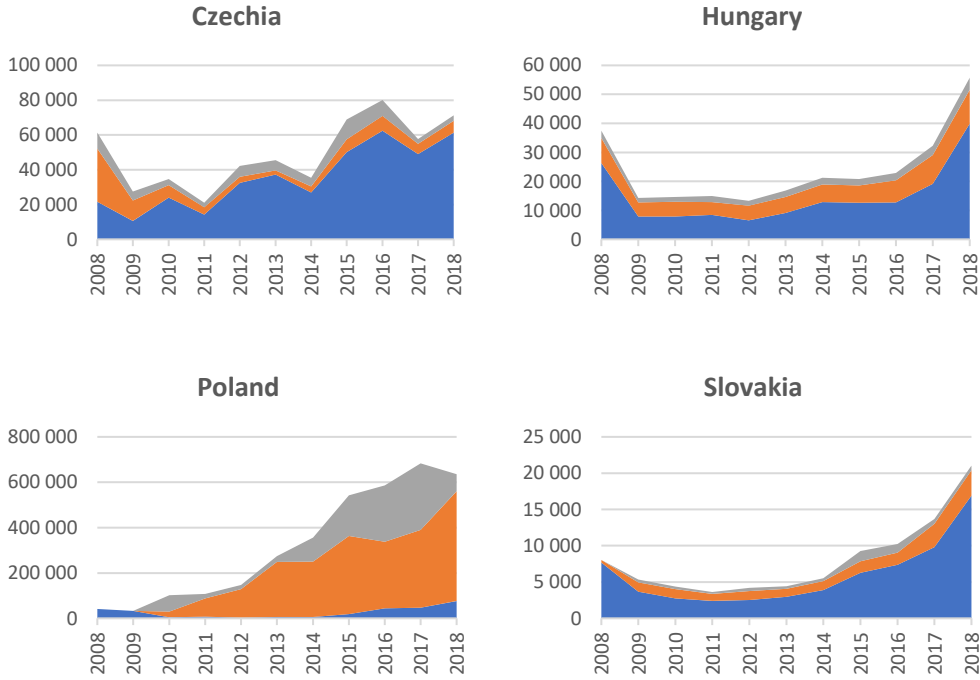
rates already in the first decade of the 21st century. The country issued 61.3 thousand first permits in 2008 (the highest number among the V4 countries at the time), then the numbers fluctuated every few years, with a peak in 2016, when over 80 thousand first permits were issued (see chart 10).

Chart 10 offers also a more detailed insight into the structure of first permits issued by the V4 countries. The Eurostat data reveals that the duration of the first permits varies by country, with the Polish data being the most outstanding. The majority of permits issued in Czechia, Hungary, and Slovakia in the reference period, have been valid for at least one year (which is consistent with the trends prevailing in the EU) and the number of such permits shows the greatest dynamic.

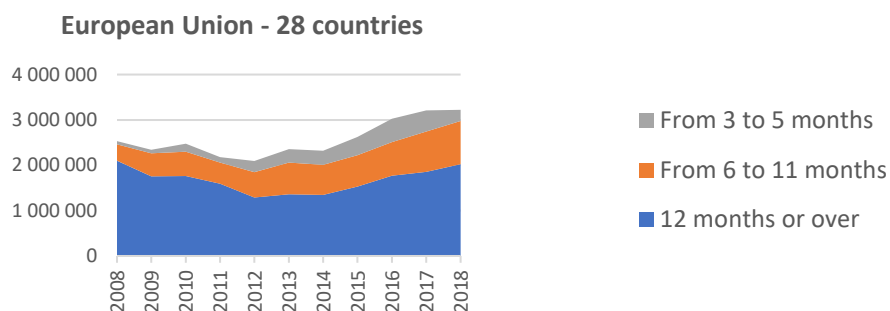
In Poland, although the raw number of such permits is also high (76 thousand in 2018) and growing, they form a small minority of all permits issued – except for the period of 2008-2009, when only first permits valid for a year or longer were reported to Eurostat. In turn, since 2011 vast majority (up to 88% in 2013) of first permits issued by Poland have a duration of 6 to 12 months. Exactly in 2011 Polish government largely expanded the possibility for the citizens of Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine to undertake short-term work in Poland (max. 6 months in every 12 months) only on the basis of a declaration of the future employer of the intention to employ a foreigner³⁵. Earlier they could undertake work on such basis only in agriculture.

In 2016, the share of first permits valid 6 to 12 months dropped slightly below 50%. This coincided with the higher frequency of first permits issued for less than 6 months, which is visible for the period 2014-2017, mostly in Poland, but also in Czechia and Slovakia.

Chart 10. First residence permits in particular V4 countries by duration in the period 2008-2018.



³⁵ Regulation of the Minister of Labor And Social Policy of July 20, 2011 on cases where entrusting work to a foreigner on the territory of the Republic of Poland is permissible without the need to obtain a work permit.

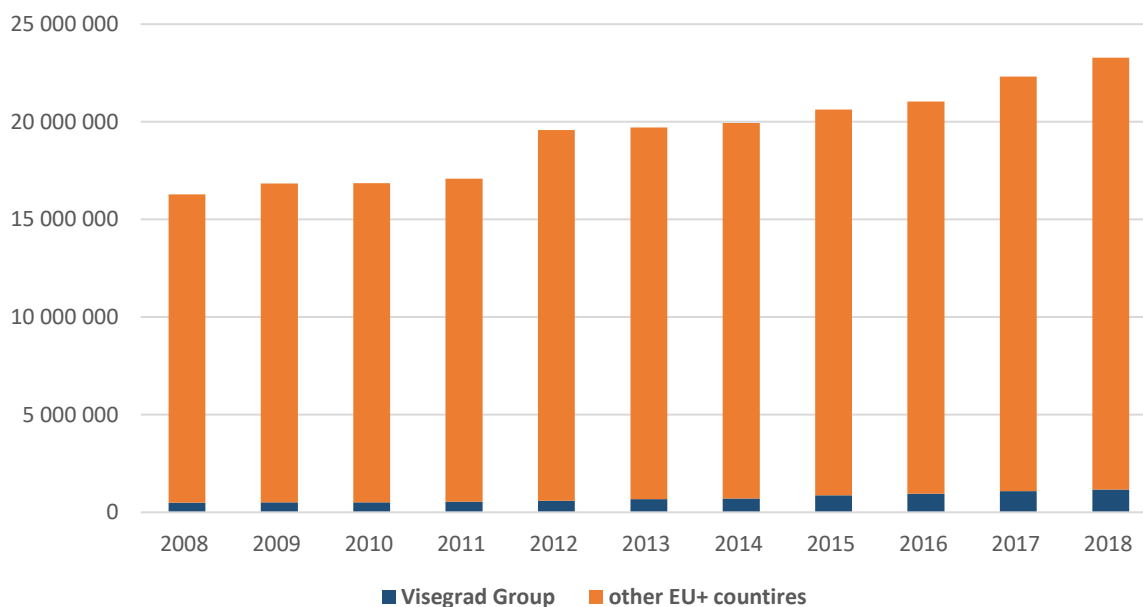


Source: Eurostat (*migr_resfirst*); 08.11.2019.

A growing number of first permits (flow) in the V4 countries coincide with the statistics on permits valid at the end of the year. However, the dynamic of the latter statistics was relatively lower – due to the expiry of some permits. Although the number of first permits issued annually by V4 countries grew 10-fold, the stock of all permits valid at the end of consecutive years “only” doubled – from 507 thousand in 2009 to 1 173 thousand in 2018. Definition and differences between first residence permit and valid residence permit are included in the *Introduction* (see Section 3.1.).

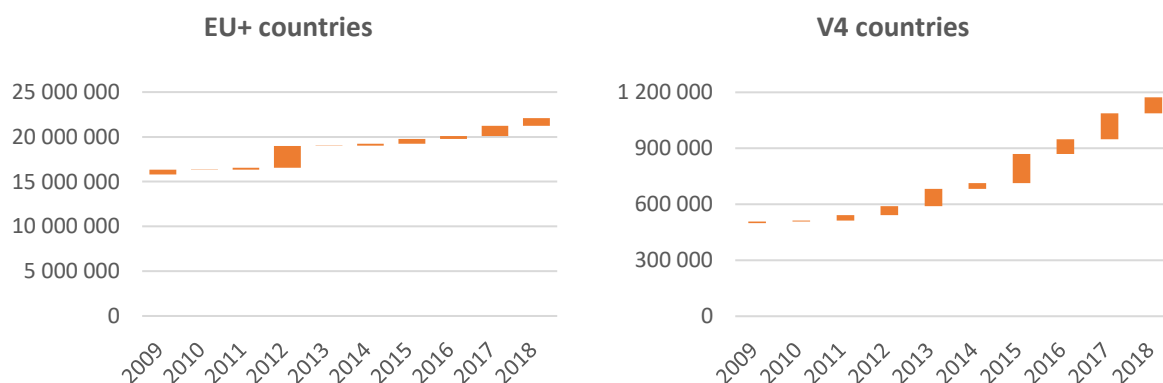
In 2018 number of the permits valid at the end of the year for UE+ countries amounted to 22 million (see Chart 11). On the UE+ level, its volume has tended to grow up gradually since 2008. Usually, the increase has not exceeded 4% of the values reported in the previous year, but in 2011 it was 15% (or 2.5 million) and in 2017 it was 6% (or 1.1 million). In 2013 the number exceeded 19 million and from 2016 for the third consecutive - 20 million. In general for UE+ countries, comparing with state of play for 2008, stock of foreigners with permits valid at the end of the year rose by 40% (or 6.3 million).

Chart 11. Documents valid at the end of the year in the period 2008-2018.



Source: Eurostat (*migr_resvalid*), 5.12.2019.

Chart 12. Growth rate of permits valid at the end of each year.



Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid), 05.12.2019.

The growth for V4 countries followed an upward trend recorded for EU+ countries, however, it was more dynamic at the one hand, and on the other hand – more gradual. Since 2011 increase of the volume of the permits valid at the end of the year has accelerated and fluctuated between 5% and 9%, with exceptions for 2013 (+16% or 92 thousand), 2015 (+22% or 155 thousand) and 2017 (+14% or 137 thousand).

In 2018 1.2 million documents valid at the end of the year were issued by Visegrad Group members, together with equal to 5% of valid documents among the EU+ countries. The valid permits issued by the V4 countries remained only a small minority of all permits valid in the EU, although they share increased from 3% in 2009 (to remind, the share of the first permit increased to ca. 24%).

Hence, the stock of all valid permits at the EU level is to a large extent residual, or – metaphorically speaking – sedimentary, with its values determined mostly by the number of long-term and permanent residence permits.

Within V4 countries Poland accounted for 55% of documents valid at the end of the year, Czechia – for 29%, Hungary – for 11% and Slovakia – for 5%. Per 10 thousand inhabitants it was 184 documents within V4 Group, 319 – in Czechia, the other countries followed at a distance: 170 – in Poland, 134 in Hungary and 116 – in Slovakia. Hungary with a similar population to Czechia marked over twice less density of foreigners with document valid at the end of the year, while Hungary and Slovakia had more or less similar density.

Table 17. Residence permits valid at the end of the year among the Visegrad Countries (per 10,000 inhabitants).

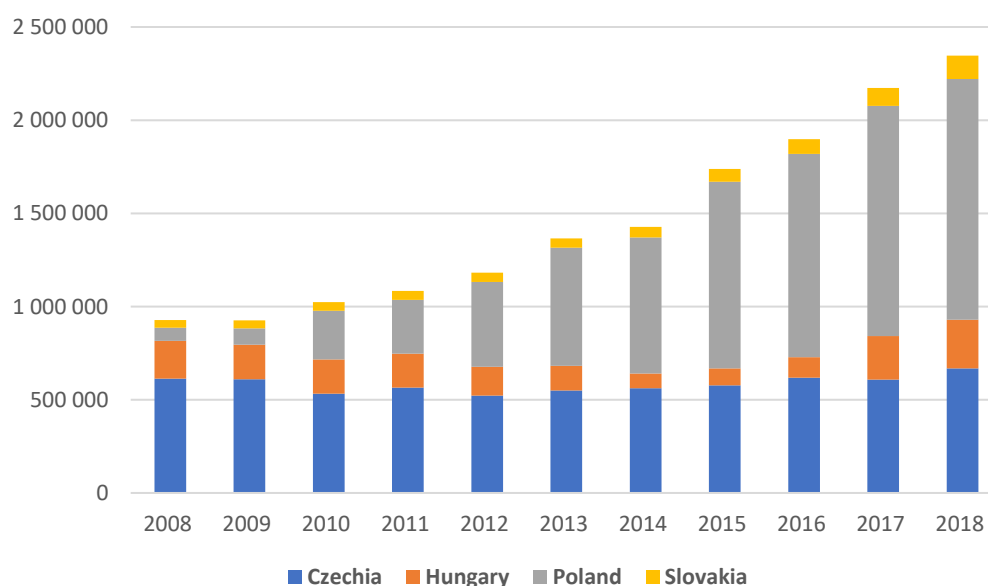
Year	Czechia	Hungary	Poland	Slovakia
2008	-	-	-	-
2009	-	-	-	-
2010	255	91	34	44
2011	270	91	38	43
2012	250	78	60	46
2013	263	67	83	46

2014	268	41	96	53
2015	276	46	132	63
2016	296	56	144	74
2017	291	119	163	89
2018	319	134	170	116

Source: own elaboration

Among the Visegrad countries the most dynamic changes concerned Poland which was ranked third in 2008, in 2010 moved to the second position and since 2013 was the country with the biggest number of residence permits valid at the end of a year. Changes concerned not only the rank but also the absolute values recorded a growth – in 2018 the number of foreigners with a valid residence permit in Poland was nine times higher than in 2008. In contrast, the volume of valid documents in the Czech Republic changed in the reverse direction and dropped from 61% of the total among the V4 countries to 28%, however, the absolute values recorded small variation in the annual statistics.

Chart 13. Documents valid at the end of year issued by V4 countries in the period 2008-2018.



Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid), 05.12.2019.

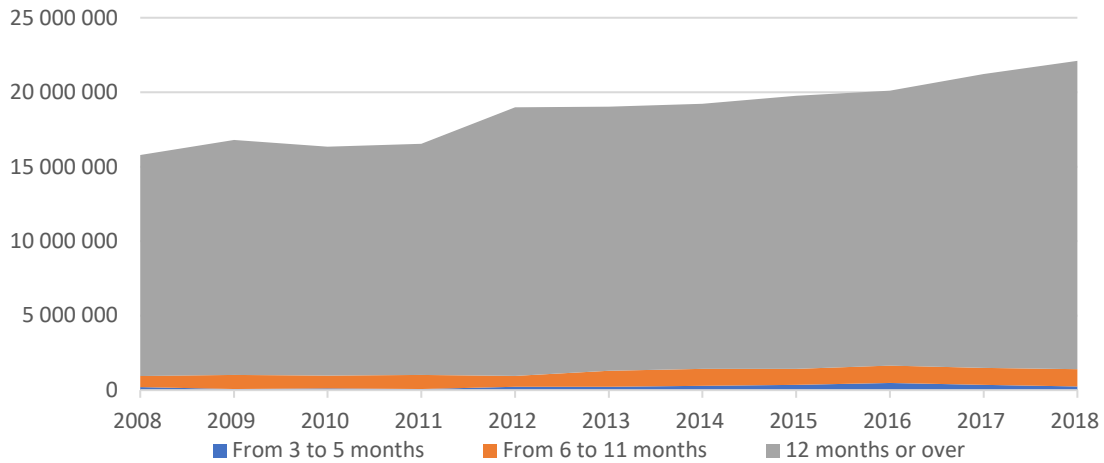
Another situation was recorded in Hungary. In the last ten years' perspective, numbers started to become lower in 2012, plunged in the period 2014-2016, and from 2017 onwards values recorded growth again.

Slovakia, a country with the smallest share of documents valid at the end of the year (4-5%) in the last decade, experienced a gradual increase of the valid permits. In 2018 Slovakia had three times more foreigners with a permit valid at the end of the year than in 2008.

Among the UE+ countries proportion of the residence permits valid at the end of a year broken by its duration remained unchanged, however, the absolute values increased from close 16 million to more than 22 million. The overwhelming majority of valid residence permits valid at the end of the year in

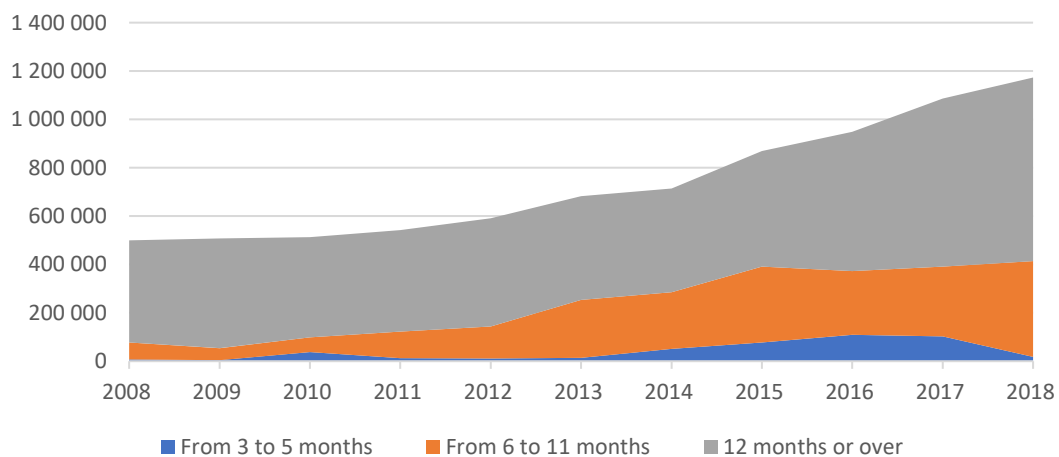
the period 2008-2018 were issued for 12 months or over. In relative values, the percentage of permits valid 12 months or over remained unchanged and ranked between 92% - 95%.

Chart 14. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in the period 2008-2018 by length of validity issued in the UE+ countries.



Source: Eurostat (*migr_resvalid*), 05.12.2019.

Chart 15. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in the period 2008-2018 by length of validity issued in V4 countries.



Source: Eurostat (*migr_resvalid*), 05.12.2019.

The situation in the V4 countries was more dynamic in relation to both relative and absolute values. The number of permits valid at the end of the year rocketed in 2011 and unlikely the EU+ statistics, the number of permits with the validity from 6 to 11 months rose substantially by about 20% compared to 2008. The change of the stock of valid permits with a duration from 6 to 11 months was influenced mostly by Polish numbers. In the relative values, there were visible variations between years, but in general, in the period 2008-2012 the percentage was higher (between 76% and 89%) and in the next year it sunk to the level of 55%-65%.

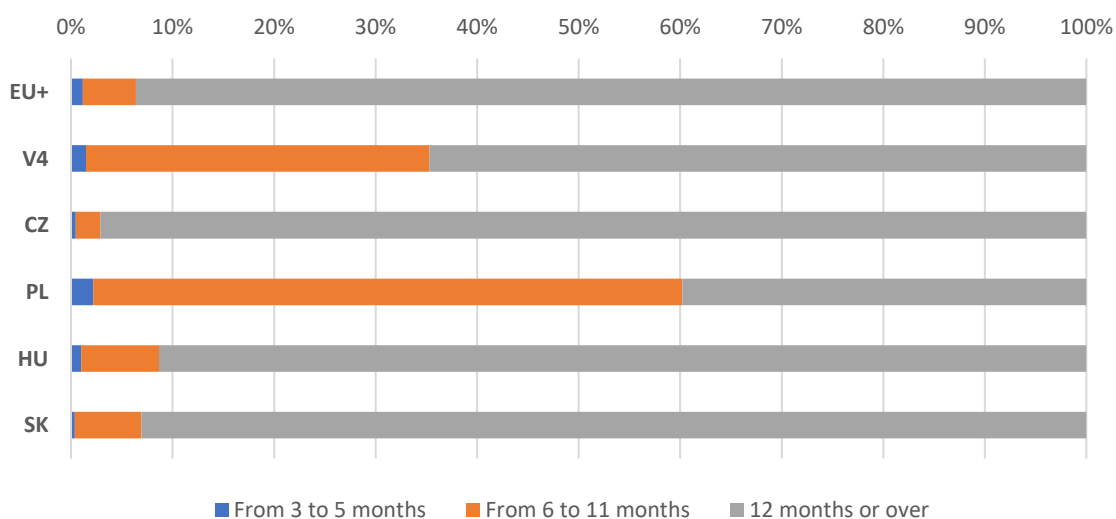
Table 18. Structure of residence permits among EU+ and V4 countries by shares of the validity period.

Duration UE+	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
From 3 to 5 months	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%
From 6 to 11 months	5%	6%	5%	6%	4%	6%	6%	5%	6%	5%	5%
12 months or over	94%	94%	94%	94%	95%	93%	93%	93%	92%	93%	94%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Duration V4	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
From 3 to 5 months	1%	1%	7%	2%	2%	2%	7%	9%	11%	9%	1%
From 6 to 11 months	14%	10%	12%	20%	22%	35%	33%	36%	28%	26%	34%
12 months or over	84%	89%	81%	77%	76%	63%	60%	55%	61%	64%	65%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst); 05.12.2019.

The picture within V4 countries divided by the validity period of the permit is very similar in Czechia, Hungary, and Slovakia, different than in Poland. In the first three countries permits valid 12 months accounted for the maximal 8% of the stock of the permits valid at the end of the year, while in Poland for 58%.

Chart 16. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in 2018 by length of validity in selected countries.



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst); 05.12.2019.

2. Reasons

The first resident permits statistics are broken down, among others, by four main groups of reasons: education, remunerated activities, family, and others. However for reporting data on permits valid at the end of the year international form of protection have been extracted from the “other” data collection: refugee status and subsidiary protection.

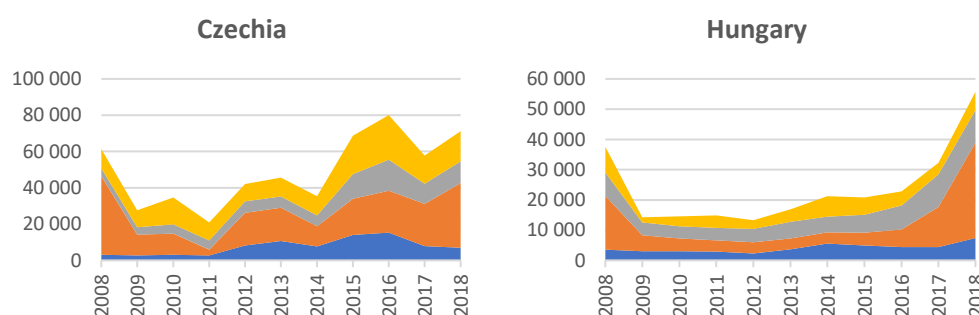
In all V4 countries, the majority of first permits are issued for remunerated activities reasons, and it can be claimed that the actual share may even be larger. E.g., beneficiaries of the Pole’s Card who receive visa/residence permit in Poland are classified under “other reasons”, while their decision to move to Poland may be motivated by professional aspirations. This prevalence of labour immigration in the official statistics is a factor distinguishing the V4 Group against the majority of the EU countries. In the total EU data, the family reasons dominate (see chart 17), and would dominate even more, if V4 countries excluded. There are a few working hypothesis for explaining such a situation.

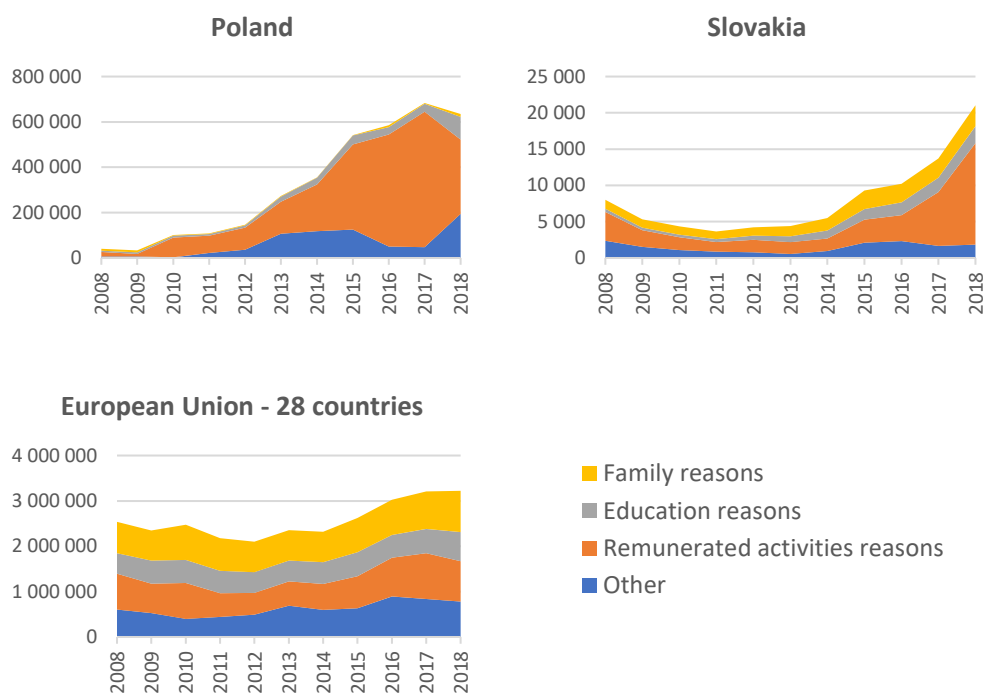
The first one is the following – the labour migrants dominate in the countries where immigration is a relatively new phenomenon, while family reasons prevail in countries with established immigrant communities. This can be supported by the comparison inside the V4 Group – remunerated activities reasons are least prevalent in Czechia, the country which has long been hosting large stock of migrants, and the family reasons are more important in this country than elsewhere in the V4 Group.

The second hypothesis – residence permits for family reasons are less common in the countries facilitating circular migration. Poland issues residence permits with shorter average duration than Czechia, Hungary and Slovakia (see Chart 10), which indicates that it is more in favour of circular migration. Simultaneously, Poland has by far the lowest share of first permits issued for family reasons.

The third hypothesis – family reasons become one of the few grounds (alongside refugee procedures) for obtaining a residence permit in a financially attractive country, when the access of foreigners to the labour market is very limited. This may be the case of the richest EU countries (e.g. Germany), which used to be more open for employment of third country citizens, but currently restrict their access to the labour market.

Chart 17. First residence permits in particular V4 countries by main reason in 2009-2018.





Source: Eurostat (*migr_resfirst*); 08.11.2019³⁶.

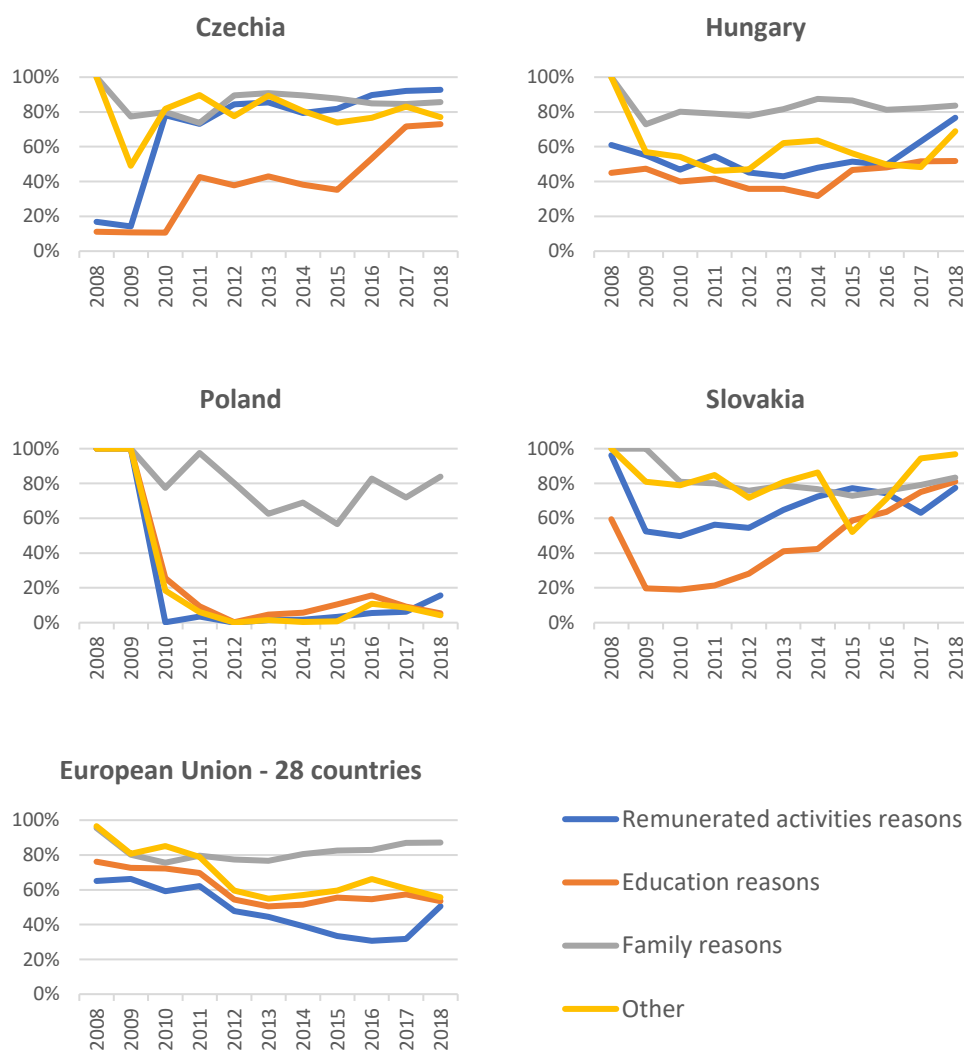
There is a correlation between reasons and duration of first permits (see Chart 18). Permits issued for family reasons tend to have a longer duration, comparing to permits for remunerated activities or education reasons, both in V4 countries and in the EU as a whole. This difference is visible, especially in the Polish data. Since 2010, the majority of first permits issued yearly for family reasons, have a duration exceeding one year, while the overwhelming majority of permits issued for the other kinds of reason have a duration shorter than one year.

Quite a contrary approach can be concluded from the Czech data. The share of first permits valid more than one year issued by Czechia, consequently ranked above the EU average, fluctuating between ca. 70-90%. Only first permits issued for education reasons have had a lower duration until 2017, but in the most recent data over 70% of education, first permits have a duration of at least 12 months. According to the Czech partner, the validity of the permits for education reasons are usually shorter due to practical reasons. Students are enrolled for one academic year and also, they would have to prove coverage for health care insurance for a longer period of stay. Generally, students studying in a foreign language at Czech public universities have to pay tuition fees. Students studying in Czech do not pay tuition fees.

Similar trends can be seen in the Slovak data, while in Hungary the trends were stable throughout the reported period. First permits issued for education reasons had the shortest average duration. Still at 32-52% of first permits issued annually for education reasons by Hungary had a duration of at least one year for the whole period covered by the Eurostat database.

³⁶ EUROSTAT: First permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship (*migr_resfirst*): https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_resfirst&lang=en [access: 12.07.2020].

Chart 18. Percentage of first permits issued for a period of 12 months or longer by reason and country, in the period 2008-2018.



Source: Eurostat (*migr_resfirst*); 08.11.2019³⁷.

It may seem surprising that the vast majority of education permits in Poland have been issued for a period of less than a year, especially since the beneficiaries were mostly students, as depicted on Chart 25. The reasons for issuing a shorter visas may be different, e.g.: a travel only to pass final exams, defence of the thesis, payment of fees for one semester only.

2.1. Remunerated activities

Since 2014, first permits for the remunerated activities reasons issued by the V4 Group, especially Poland, constitute a major part of the total flow into the UE (see Chart 19).

The dynamic increase of the first permits issued for the workers is not the only consequence of the economic development and shortages of the workforce in particular V4 countries, but also legal changes facilitating labour immigration.

³⁷ EUROSTAT: First permits by reason, age, sex and citizenship (*migr_resfas*): https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_resfas&lang=en [access: 12.07.2020].

The evolution of the Polish legal migration legislature was marked by the consecutive amendments facilitating the legal migration of third-country nationals, especially citizens of Eastern European States. First, such a legal change is beyond the horizon of the Eurostat database – like we marked in previous sections, in 2007 Poland introduced a simplified procedure enabling citizens of certain countries – now the list includes Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine – to take up work without previously obtained a work permit, but on the basis of a declaration of intention to entrust work to a foreigner registered by the employer at a county labour office. Those foreigners may work on this basis for a period not exceeding 6 months in the next 12 months.

In 2014, a new Act on foreigners entered into force, which simplified the legalization of foreigners' stay in the Polish territory, i.e.: extended from 2 to 3 years the maximum period for which foreigners may be granted a temporary residence permit; allowed a foreigner to submit an application for a temporary residence permit during a legal stay in Poland, at a convenient time; introduced a uniform procedure for granting work and residence permit (two documents issued previously, have been replaced by one – temporary residence and work permit).

Visa-free travel has been introduced since June 2017 for citizens Ukraine holding biometric passports. On its basis, migrants from Ukraine may enter and stay in Poland for a period not exceeding 90 days in the next 180 days. It is worth noting that this possibility was introduced mostly for people who want to come to Poland as a tourist or visit family/friends, the mere possession of a biometric passport does not entitle to take up a job in Poland – people who use it to come to Poland and decide to work there do it illegally.

In 2018 the new rules for temporary employment of foreigners became effective. An obligation has been introduced to inform offices about the fact of taking up or not taking up work by a foreigner. Previously, the employer was not obliged to do so, so the statistics for 2007-2017 on this subject were definitely overstated. Before 2018, scholars from Centre of Migration Research estimated the actual use of these declarations at around 60% of all of them. Pursuant to the amendment, apart from work permits that may be issued by a voivode, foreigners can also apply for seasonal work permits, which are issued by the county offices for nine months in a calendar year, although this solution has not become as popular as the declarations of employers.

The legal changes facilitating the labour immigration, introduced in 2007, do not seem to have an immediate effect on the data on residence permits. The number of first permits issued by Poland started to grow in 2010 (3 years after introducing the simplified procedure) and boosted only in 2013. Subsequently, on May 2014 Poland introduced the next facilitation for non-EU workers – an unified temporary residence and work permits.

A sudden decrease in the number of first permits for remunerated activities, recorded in 2018, seems to be associated with the introduction of a visa-free regime for Ukrainians holding biometric passports.

Similarly in Slovakia Ukrainian nationals were exempted from visa requirements since 11.06.2017. Slovakia also introduced changes in Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and amending certain Acts as amended. The adoption of legislative measures was aimed at streamlining, speeding up, and making the system governing the entry and residence of third-country nationals more flexible for employment purposes, especially in professions with identified shortages of workforces. These include:

- change in the periodicity of updating the list of jobs with labour shortages from annual to quarterly;
- extending the possibilities for third-country nationals to enter the labour market through temporary employment agencies in the case of shortage professions;

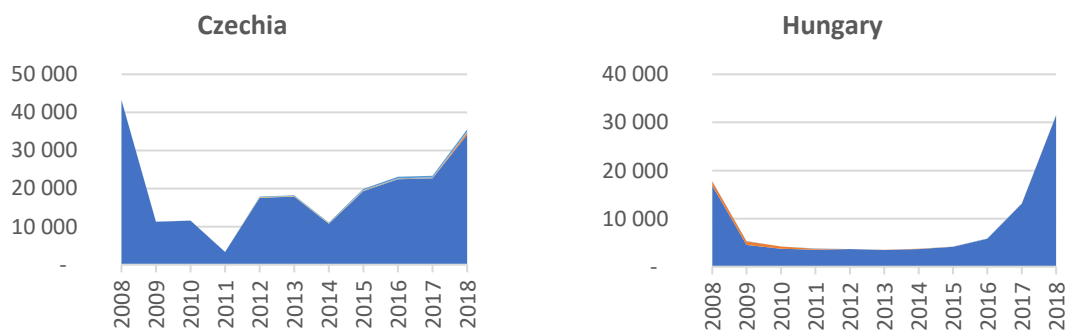
- the modification of the supporting documents submitted to the application, in particular the documents relating to education and documents relating to the secondment of third-country nationals through temporary employment agencies;
- shortening the deadlines for examining applications for seasonal work – not yet reflected in the Eurostat data³⁸.

The Eurostat data on more detailed classification of remunerated activities is not very much informative – both at the EU level and on particular V4 countries level. Most of the categories for which separate data are gathered – researchers, highly skilled workers, and EU Blue Card holders – form a small minority of all first permits owners, although their economic and social impact may be high.

In turn, first permits for the reason for seasonal work were an important part of permits' flow only in Poland and their numbers have been a peculiarly changing year to year, following the changes in the Polish public statistic. Since 2014 Poland has been issuing the vast majority of such permits – in 2014 it was 93.6%, in 2015 – 96.3%, in 2016 – 97.5%, in 2017 – 97.3%. In 2018 the number suddenly dropped to 55,8 thousand (from 525,4 thousand in 2017), but still, Poland issued 65.9% of all UE's first permits for seasonal work. Conversely, from 2014 to 2017 seasonal work was the main reason for the majority of first permits issued by Poland – increasing up to almost 77% in 2017, just to suddenly drop to 8.8% in 2018.

The vast majority of first occupational residence permits in the remaining V4 countries, in the EU as a whole, and even in Poland at some periods, is labelled by Eurostat as “other remunerated activities”, not offering a good insight into the actual reasons for workforce inflow from third countries. For example, the Czech partner informed that stagnation or slight decrease can be observed for stays for business purposes, which cannot be concluded from the Eurostat data.

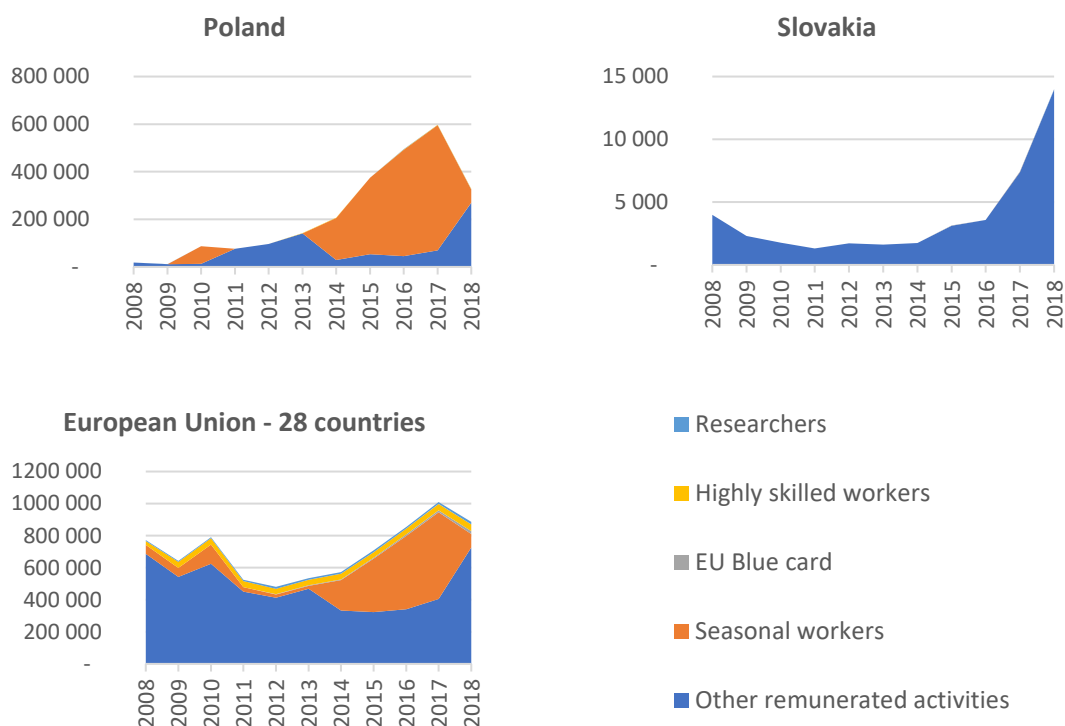
Chart 19. First permits issued for remunerated activities by reason.



³⁸ Moreover, from 01.01.2019 changes in Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners and on Amendments to Certain Acts entered into force:

- shortening the deadline for deciding on an application for temporary residence for the purpose of employment (in the case of shortage professions from 90 to 30 days),
- exempting third countries nationals from the requirement to provide supporting documents in applications for temporary residence for the purpose of employment (e.g. proof of required education, or proof of accommodation in the case of a third-country national who will be employed in international public transport).

As the latest data available in the Eurostat database are from 2018, they do not allow for assessing the influence of those legal changes.



Source: Eurostat: migr_resocc; 08.11.2019³⁹.

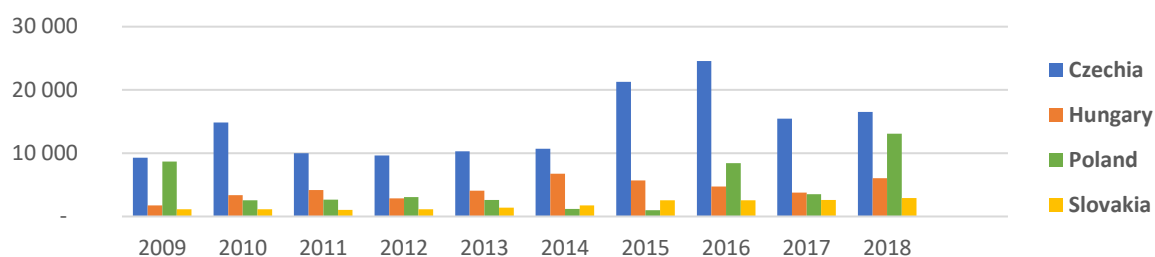
Moreover, there are plenty of missing data in the Eurostat migr_resocc table, presenting the structure of first permits for remunerated activities reasons. The category of highly skilled workers does not apply to the Hungarian and Slovak law. Purpose of stay – Blue Card has been implemented in Hungary since 2011, in the Czech and Slovak Republics since 2012, and in Poland since 2013. Data on seasonal workers are provided by Czechia since 2018 due to the implementation of the respective EU directive. Short time workers may use other channels to come to the Czech Republic than residence permits. They may apply for a short time visa and separate work permits.

2.2. Family

Family reasons are rather marginal justification for the inflow of third-country citizens to the V4 countries – except Czechia – and this is one of the main traits distinguishing them against the majority of EU countries. Among the V4 Group, Czechia has constantly been issuing the largest number of first permits for the family reunification reasons – with the peak in 2016, when 24,6 thousand of such permits were issued (see Chart 20).

³⁹ EUROSTAT: First permits issued for remunerated activities by reason, length of validity and citizenship (migr_resocc): https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_resocc&lang=en [access: 18.07.2020].

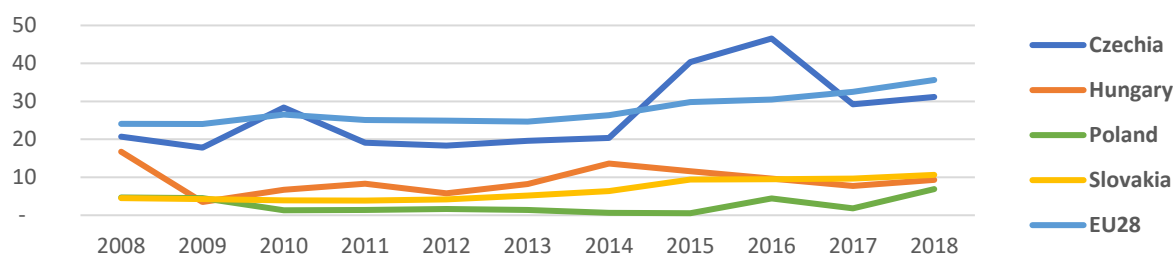
Chart 20. First permits issued for family reasons by country.



Source: Eurostat: migr_resfam; 08.11.2019⁴⁰.

A difference between Czechia and the rest of the V4 Group in the volume of family-based immigration is even sharper if one takes into account the population of the countries. The number of first permits for family reasons issued by Czechia per 10 thousand inhabitants resembles the average for the UE (see Chart 21). This probably can confirm that immigration patterns observed in Czechia are more “mature”, comparing to the other countries of the region – according to the hypothesis that family-based migration is somewhat secondary to the other forms of immigration. The Czech partner explains that the higher number of first permits for family reasons in 2015-2016 is linked to a higher demand for third-country foreign workers, with whom their families reunite on the territory of the Czech Republic. In a few recent years, the situation has stabilized and there have been no such fluctuations.

Chart 21. First permits issued for family reasons on 10 thousand inhabitants by country.



Source: Eurostat: migr_resfam; 08.11.2019⁴¹.

As for Slovakia, there are no data available in Eurostat for the years 2008 and 2010-11 concerning permits granted to children. As the Slovak partner explained – data provided in 2009 were obtained by manual collection, which was introduced only for 2009, due to low numbers.

Many peculiarities can be again observed in the data for Hungary and Poland – especially if disaggregated to particular types of family-based residence permits (see Chart 22). As for Poland, the values for 2016 are significantly overstated due to the possibility of caseworkers to register several legal bases in the IT system simultaneously. This problem was resolved at the end of 2019 where the main legal basis was introduced and instructions to registrars in the system were distributed. It is also worth to mention that unlike other types of residence permits, which in Polish data are mostly visas, first permits for family reasons are mostly Polish residence cards, not visas. Moreover, the Polish IT system for migration management Pobyť v.2 does not allow for entering a type for family relationship (a child, a spouse, another family member) for some kinds of residence permits. Thus, to adjust data

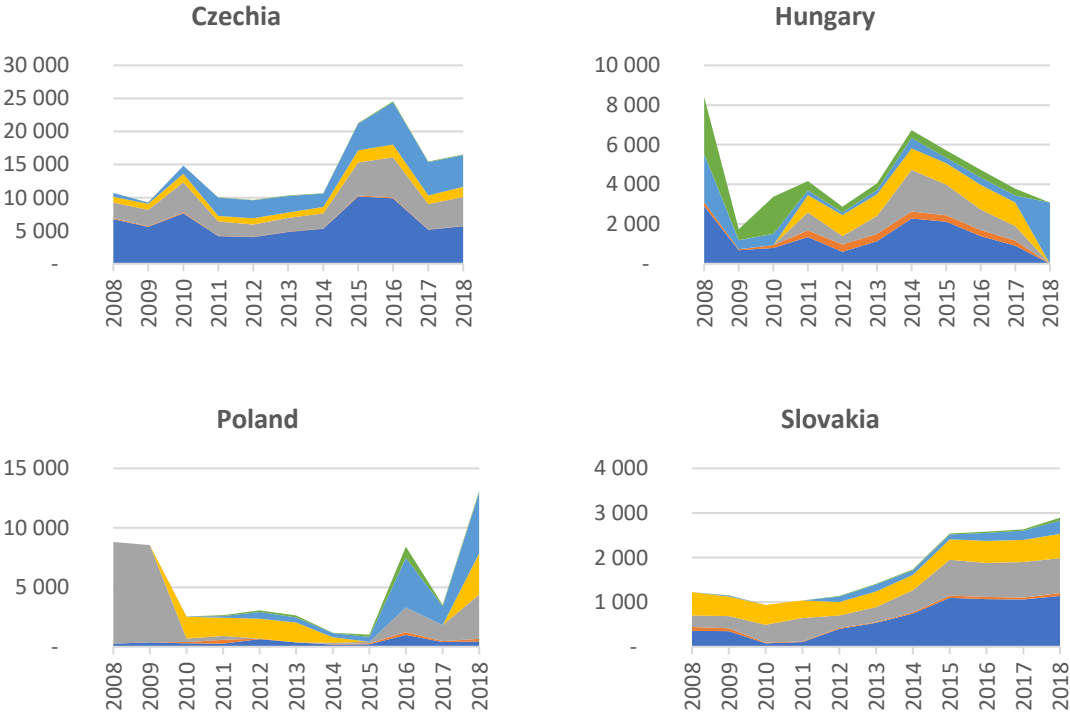
⁴⁰ EUROSTAT: First permits issued for family reasons by reason, length of validity and citizenship (migr_resfam): https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_resfam&lang=en [access: 25.07.2020].

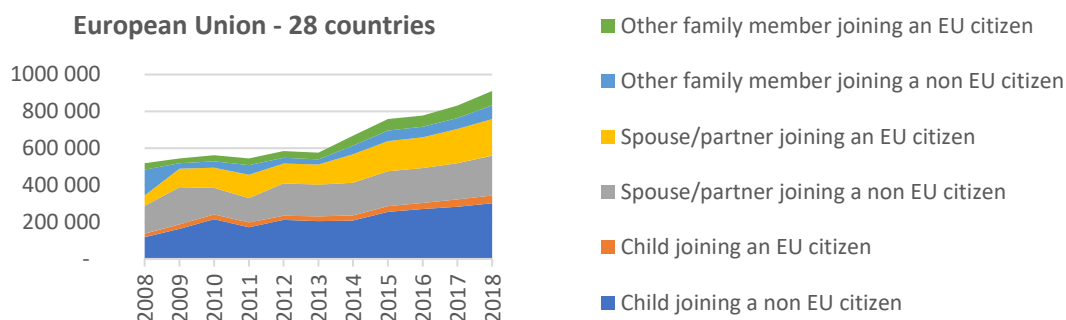
⁴¹ Ibidem.

for the Eurostat classifications of residence permits by reason, some data are classified quite roughly into the Eurostat categories.

E.g. a caseworker reviewing a foreigner’s application can issue a residence permit on the following grounds: an applicant is a family member of a foreigner having a residence permit for the long-term resident of the EU issued by another member state. Such legal grounds the caseworker marks in the System Pobyt when issuing a decision. Note that this legal provision refers to “a family member” without indicating whether the applicant is a child, a spouse, or another family member of a sponsor. Also in System Pobyt, there is no field to enter the type of family relationship. Thus, a statistical analyst preparing data for Eurostat has to deal with the data which cannot be classified into the Eurostat table. The analyst can either remove from the report the foreigners who received their residence permits on this legal grounds, or thrust them somehow into the table. The Polish statistical unit has chosen the second option and third-country citizens receiving residence permits as the family members of the long-term residents of the EU are all reported to Eurostat as “children joining a non-EU citizen”, whether they are children, spouses or another kind of family members. There are more examples of such rough classifications, especially in the family reasons data, which may contribute to the peculiarities of Chart 22.

Chart 22. First permits issued for family reasons by reason and country.

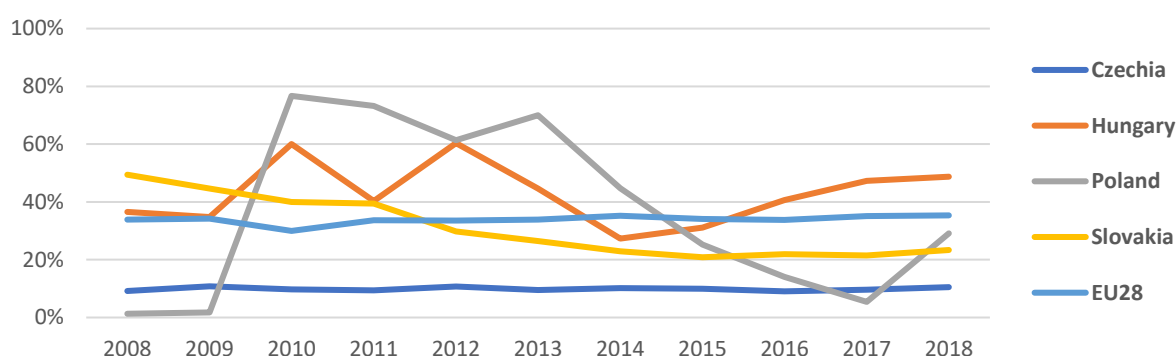




Source: Eurostat: migr_resfam; 08.11.2019⁴².

Some anomalies in the data for the Polish residence permits for the reasons of family reunification can also be explained by the unfortunate use of incorrect legal basis in the report in 2014-2017 – the report was corrected in 2018. This could also contribute to the dramatic changes in the share of permits issued to the family members of EU citizens against all permits issued by Poland for family reasons (see Chart 23).

Chart 23. Share of permits issued to the family members of EU citizens against all permits issued for family reasons.



Source: Eurostat: migr_resfa; 08.11.2019⁴³.

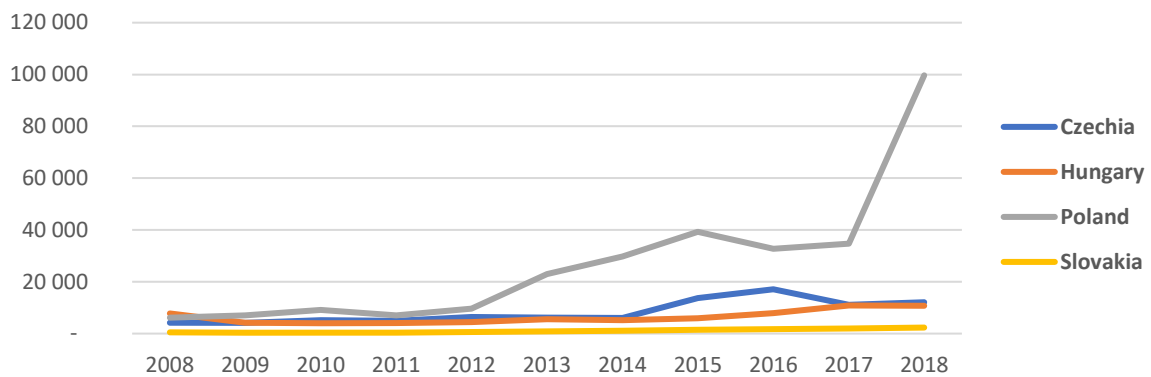
2.3. Education

The statistics on first permits for education reasons may suggest that the V4 countries are gaining prominence as a destination for future students. The sharp increase in the first stays for the purpose of study may be caused by the increased interest in studying in the region, as well as by the current school system and the educational institutions' admission and study criteria.

⁴² Ibidem.

⁴³ Ibidem.

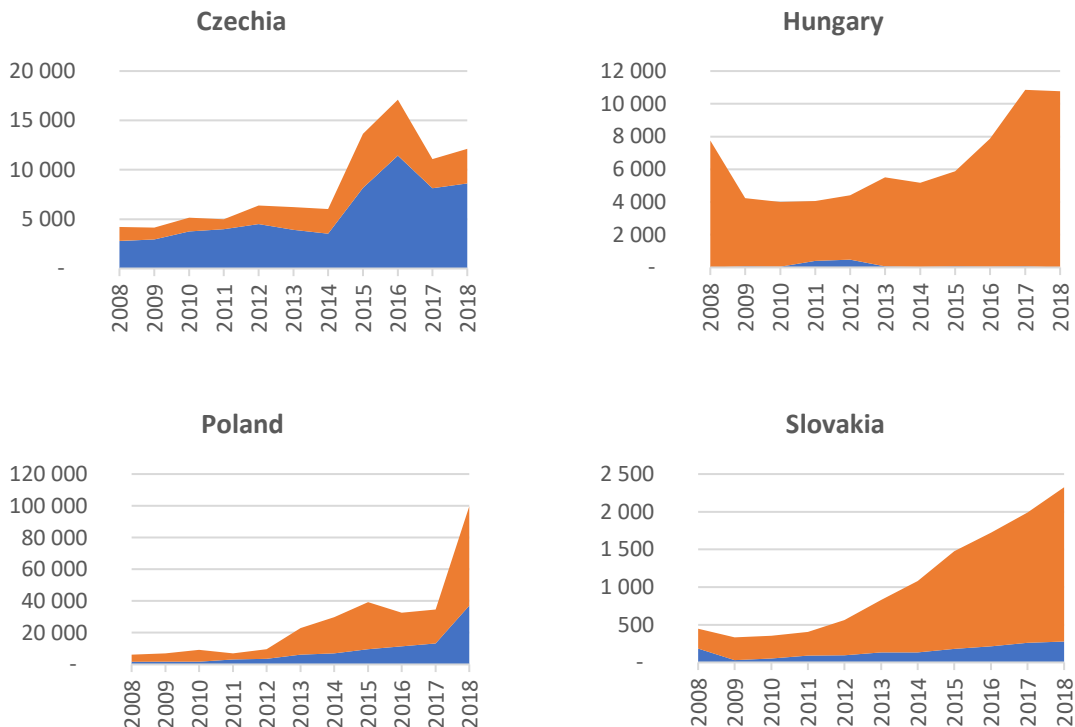
Chart 24. First permits issued for education reasons by country.



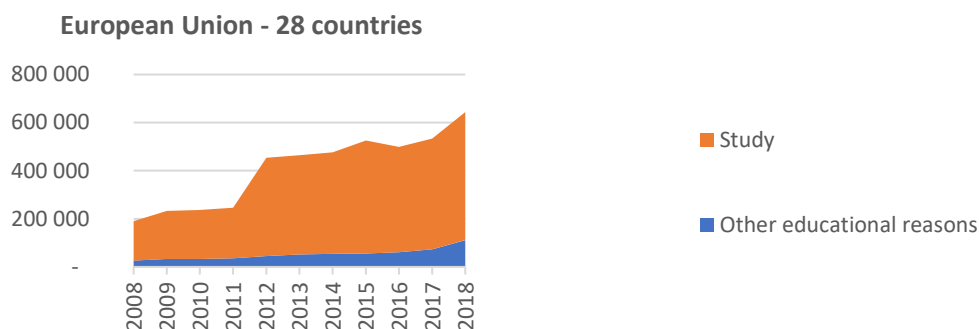
Source: own elaboration on the basis of Eurostat data set: migr_resedu⁴⁴.

The vast majority of educational residence permits have been issued – in the EU and most V4 countries alike – for the reason of undertaking studies. The exception is Czechia, which, according to Eurostat data, has issued more permits for other educational reasons (see Chart 25). The Czech partner explained that other educational activities are all educational activities that do not fall under the definition of study specified by the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic, and that usually other educational activities are language schools. However, another representative of the Czech Ministry of Interior informed, that in the Czech statistics first permits connected to studies in non-state universities are classified under the reason for other educational activities.

Chart 25. First permits issued for education reasons by reason.



⁴⁴ EUROSTAT: First permits issued for education reasons by reason, length of validity and citizenship (migr_resedu): https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_resedu&lang=en [access: 25.07.2020].



Source: Eurostat, *migr_resedu*⁴⁵.

Although the number of the residence permits issued to students from third countries has been dynamically growing, in the 2nd decade of the 21st century those students were still forming a relatively small minority of all students enrolled in tertiary education. Eurostat does not publish direct data on the citizenship of tertiary education students. However, a comparison of the stock of all permits for education reasons valid at the end of the year^{46 47} to the number of students enrolled in tertiary education⁴⁸ may provide some suggestions. As for 2018, there were 110,5 thousand valid permits for education reasons issued by the V4 countries, the vast majority of them for tertiary studies. In the same year, according to Eurostat, there were 2 249,7 thousand of tertiary students in the V4 countries combined. The ratio of those two figures is 0,049 – 0,074 in Hungary, 0,067 in Czechia, 0,042 in Slovakia, and 0,041 in Poland. The ratio for Hungary and Czechia is above the average for the EU (0,062). Even if some of these permits were issued for non-tertiary education, we can speculate that 4 to 7% of university students in particular V4 countries were citizens of countries not belonging to the EU or EEA.

2.4. Other reasons

The category of “other reasons” is very diverse. Moreover, the scope of this category differs across the Eurostat datasets – while in the data on first permits, “other reasons” include refugee status, and humanitarian protection, in the data for the stock of valid permits, refugee status and humanitarian protection are displayed separately.

As was the case with remunerated activities, data on first permits for other reasons is highly ambiguous. On the one hand, a few very specific reasons are distinguished (victims of trafficking in human beings, unaccompanied minors), on the other hand, there is a very broad category of “other reasons not specified”, which can be understood only after the in-depth study of legal bases and metadata files (see Annex 1). This is especially problematic for V4 countries, where “other reasons” are mostly not specified, only in Poland there has been a high number of permits issued for another ambiguous reason – “residence only” (see Chart 26).

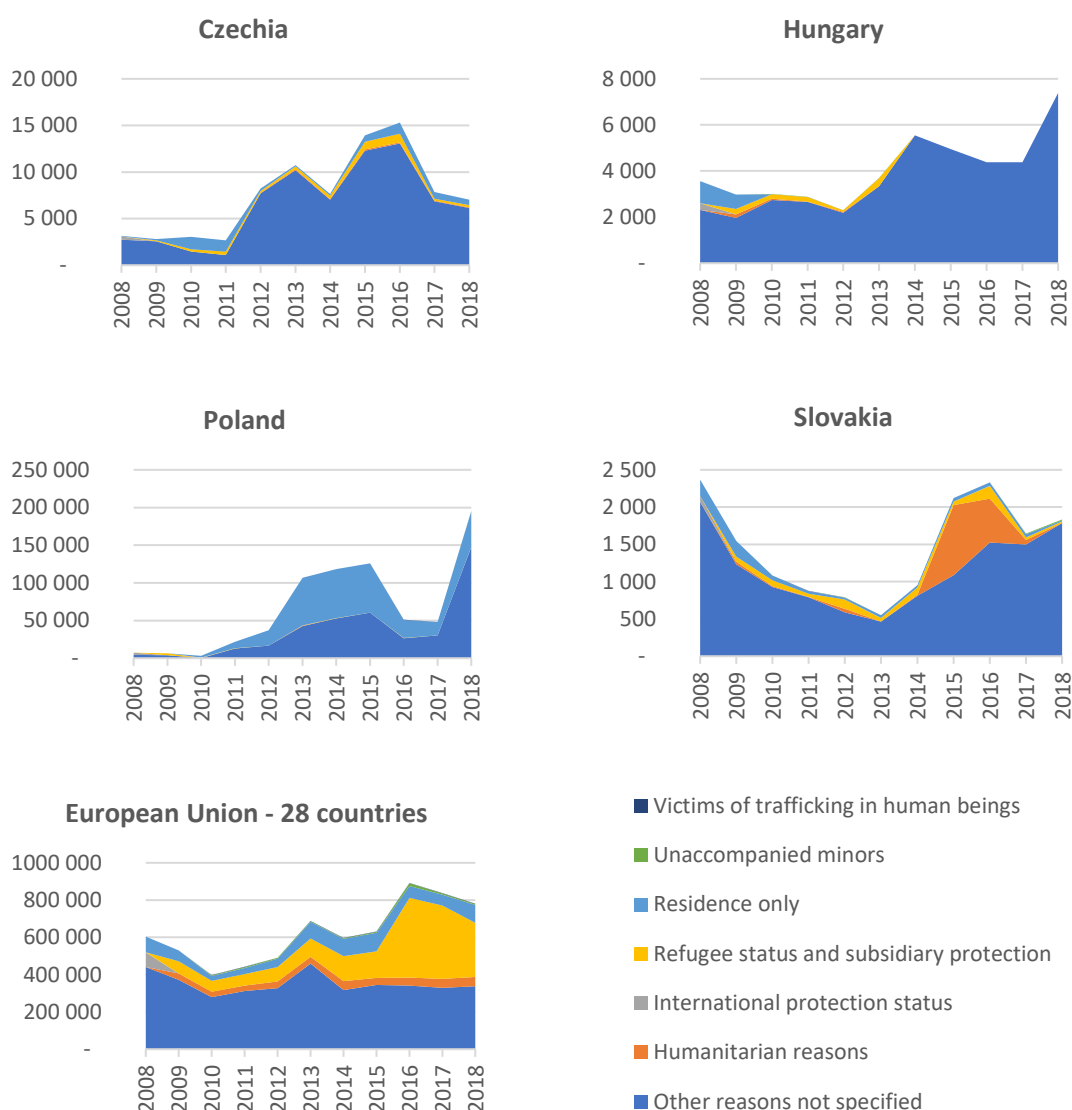
⁴⁵ Ibidem.

⁴⁶ Dataset *migr_resvalid*: https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_resvalid&lang=en [access: 25.07.2020].

⁴⁷ Unfortunately, data on all valid permits do not allow for determining how many of them were issued for the reason of university studies, but comparison with data on first permits displayed on the chart 24 suggest the other levels of education are much less popular.

⁴⁸ Dataset *educ_uoe_enrt01*: https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=educ_uoe_enrt01&lang=en [access: 25.07.2020].

Chart 26. First permits issued for other reasons by reason.



Source: Eurostat, migr_resoth⁴⁹.

“Other reasons not specified” in most V4 countries means visas and permits for tourists, for visiting family or friends, medical treatment, performing official tasks by representatives of a foreign state or international organizations. However, in Poland there are also: participation in sporting events, cultural activities or conferences, participation in a cultural or educational exchange, humanitarian aid, or summer work program, in Hungary: permits for a traineeship, job-searching or entrepreneurship, voluntary service activities, in Slovakia: permanent residence permits for stateless persons or due to security interests of the Slovak Republic, as well as temporary residence permits for third-country nationals who were granted the status of a Slovak living abroad⁵⁰.

Unlike Slovakia, Poland reports permanent residence permits for foreigners of Polish origin or who has a valid Pole's Card under the reason “residence only”, alongside a broad set of other TRPs, i.e. related

⁴⁹ EUROSTAT: First permits issued for other reasons by reason, length of validity and citizenship (migr_resoth): <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do> [access: 26.07.2020].

⁵⁰ For this purpose, according to Slovak national legislation, there is no obligation to prove the purpose of residence (beneficiaries); therefore it is included in the category “Other reasons not specified”.

to complicated cases of family reunification, foreign clergymen and members of the religious orders, illegal migrants taking part in the criminal proceedings, other circumstances justifying his residence in Poland for a period longer than 3 months (see Annex 1). This category also includes residence permits for foreigners who have a residence permit for the long-term resident of the EU issued by another member state and intend to legally stay in Poland, as well as citizens of IS, LI, NO or CH who received a certificate of registering the residence of an EU citizen.

3. Stock of valid permits

In 2018 among EU+, documents valid at the end of the year were issued mostly due to family related reasons (38%) and other reasons (33%), followed by remunerated activities (15%), beneficiaries of protection granted after asylum claim (8%) and education (6%).

Table 19. First residence permits in 2018 by reasons.

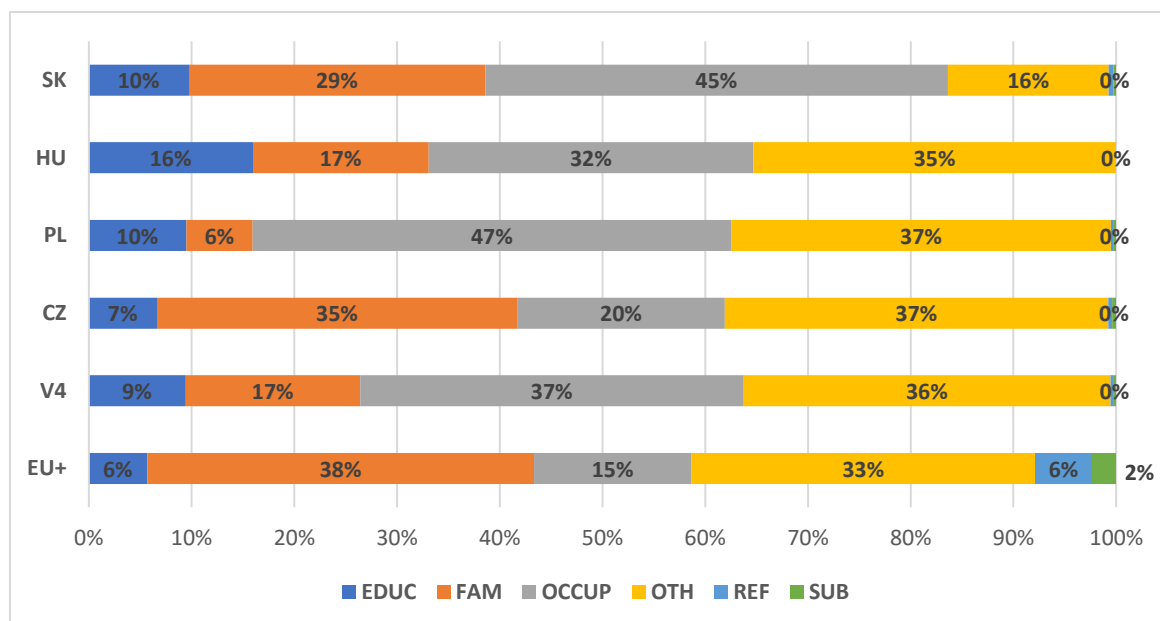
Reason 2018	EU+	V4	CZ	PL	HU	SK
Education	1 262 443	110 583	22 184	61 430	20 897	6 072
Family	8 317 735	199 250	117 291	41 584	22 382	17 993
Remunerated activities	3 391 715	437 816	67 427	300 945	41 346	28 098
Other	7 391 815	419 059	124 692	238 435	46 175	9 757
Refugee status	1 224 117	2 940	1 237	1 415	-	288
Subsidiary protection	518 756	3 409	1 326	1 926	-	157
Total	22 106 581	1 173 057	334 157	645 735	130 800	62 365

Source: Eurostat, *migr_resoth*⁵¹.

The structure of valid permits in 2018 for the V4 Group, classified by reasons, had it is a little bit different characteristics, compared to the EU+ countries in total, as well as within particular countries of V4 Group. In 2018 for V4 Group two main, nearly equal shares of reasons for valid documents issuance were occupation (37%) and other reasons (36%), 17% of foreigners had permits due to family reasons, and 9% - to educational reasons.

⁵¹ EUROSTAT: First permits issued for other reasons by reason, length of validity and citizenship (*migr_resoth*): <https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do> [access: 20.07.2020].

Chart 27. Documents valid at the end of the year in 2018 by reasons.



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst); 05.12.2019.

In the Czech Republic documents valid at the end of the year were issued in relation to family reasons (35%), other reasons (37%), and remunerated activities (20%). The share as well as the number of family related valid permits in Czechia compared to other countries was in 2018 the highest among the V4 Group.

In Hungary, foreigners possessed valid permits mainly due to so-called other reasons (35%) and occupation (32%). A similar situation with the remarkable domination of these two groups of reasons was visible also in Poland, but in the reverted order (47% - remunerated activities and 37% - other reasons). Slovakia was the only V4 country with one dominating reason for valid permits – occupation (45%).

4. Sex and age structure

Eurostat provides data on the sex of beneficiaries of residence permits, however, they are incomplete. As was mentioned in the data ability chapter, data by age and sex are collected voluntarily and are available from the 2010 reference year. Data broken down by sex and age were only partially delivered, so it made them less available for comparison on the EU+ versus V4 Group level as well as within V4 countries. Within the V4 countries group data in the period 2010-2012 and 2015 data was transmitted by two of four countries, from 2013 to 2018 excluding 2015 – by three of four (see Table 20 and Chart 28). There are no data from Slovakia in the migr_resfas table – due to the unavailability of the required reports from the source – IS ECU (Information System on Stay of Foreigners). Czechia and Poland have missing data for certain years and reasons for issuing a permit due to various technical issues. For example, Czech authorities had technical problems with data delivery in 2016 and were not able to provide complete age disaggregation of the first permits data.

Table 20. Data availability on residence permits by age and sex for particular V4 countries; 2010-18.

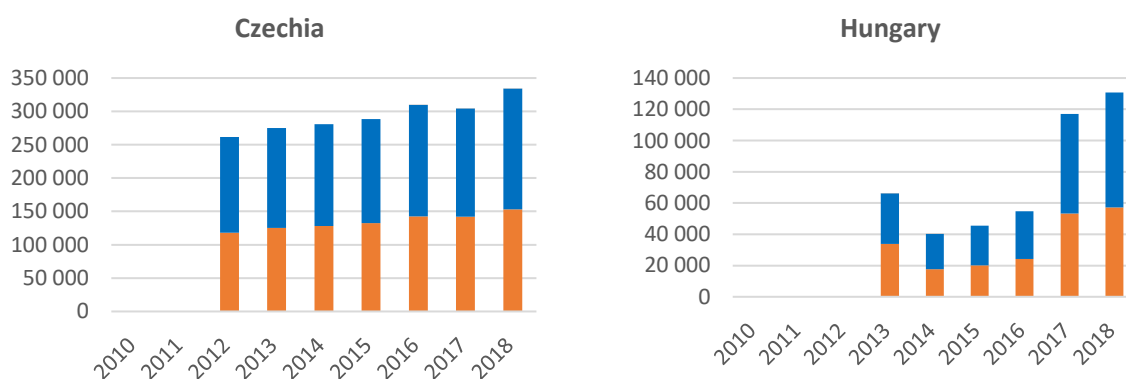
	Czechia	Hungary	Poland	Slovakia
2010	N/A	N/A	V	V

2011	N/A	N/A	V	V
2012	V	N/A	V	N/A
2013	V	V	V	N/A
2014	V	V	V	N/A
2015	V	V	V	N/A
2016	V	V	V	N/A
2017	V	V	V	N/A
2018	V	V	V	N/A

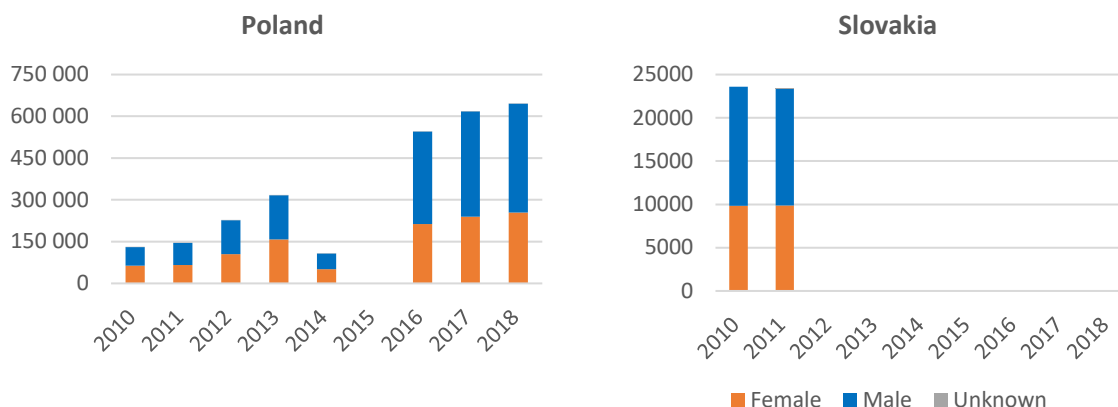
Source: own compilation on the basis of Eurostat data⁵².

Despite gaps, the proportion of gender was in most V4 countries similar over the years. In general, men possessed more valid permits than women, however in Czechia and Hungary the difference was not big, while in Poland the domination started to be more visible from 2016 (see Chart 28). In 2018 the pattern from the past years for V4 countries was repeated – males constituted 60.5% of residence permits' holders in Poland, 56.3% in Hungary, and 54.1% in Czechia.

Chart 28. Valid residence permits at the end of the year for V4 countries, by gender; 2010-2018.



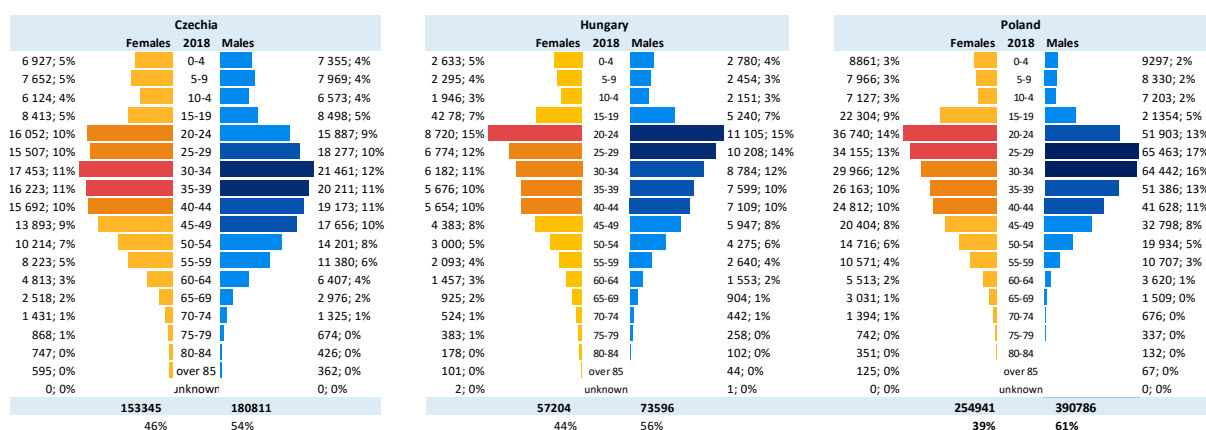
⁵² All valid permits by age, sex and citizenship on 31 December of each year (migr_resvas): https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_resvas&lang=en [access: 20.07.2020].



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfas); 05.12.2019.

The chart below present the age structure of permits valid at the end of 2018 broken by sex. It is to see, that the biggest share of permits valid at the end of the year belonged to citizens aged from 20 to 44. However, each country has its own specific.

Chart 29. All permits valid at the end of 2018 by sex and age of a holder.



Source: Eurostat (migr_resvas); 05.12.2019.

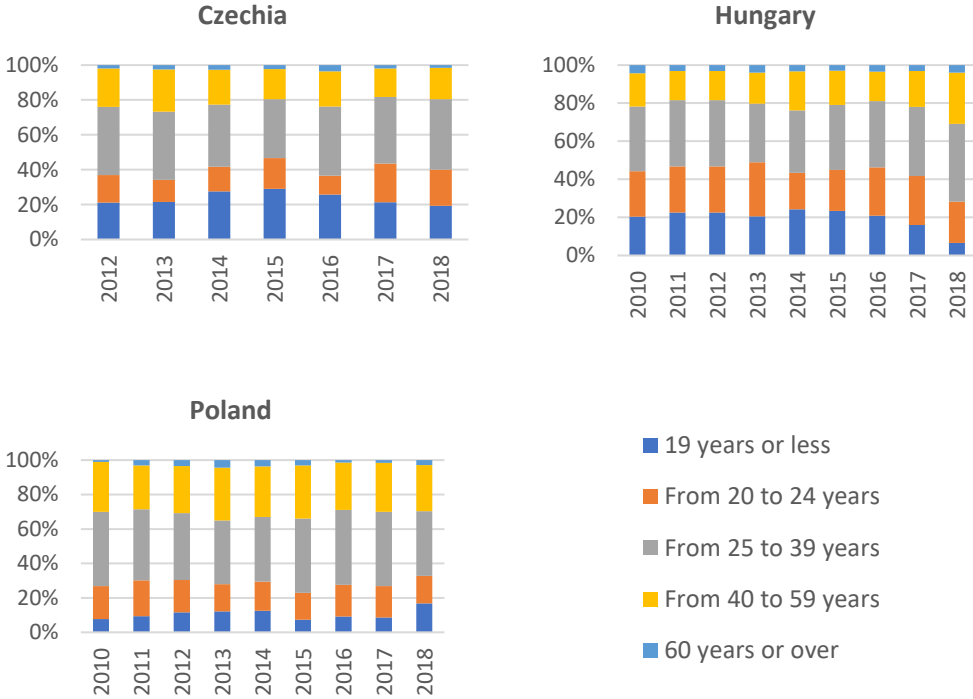
In Czechia some 60% holders of permits valid at the end of 2018 were in age between 20 and 49, percentages were distributed proportionally within all most numerous age groups, the biggest age brackets were 30-34 (12%, 39 thousand) and 35-39 (11%, 36 thousand).

The age pyramid of foreigners in Hungary is shaped a little bit differently. About 60% is composed of foreigners aged 20-44, but the most numerous age brackets were 20-24 (15%, 20 thousand) and 25-29 (13%, 17 thousand), however in case of women visible is the domination of females aged 20-24, while in case of men there are two leading groups: 20-24, 25-29.

In Poland, some 70% of foreigners with the valid document at the end of 2018 were aged as in case of Czechia and Hungary 20-44, but proportion within the biggest groups is distributed disproportionately – the biggest stock of permits valid at the end of 2018 was recorded in the age bracket 25-29 (16%, 100 thousand) and 30-34 (15%, 94 thousand). However, data broken by age show the same trend as in Hungary – the peak of permits valid at the end of 2018 for women lies in the age brackets: 20-24 and 25-29 and for men – 25-29 and 30-34.

The migr_resfas table unfortunately does not allow for calculating the average age of the first permits' holders in particular countries, but the data depicted in Chart 30 allow to say, that it was the lowest in Hungary, higher in Czechia and the highest in Poland. In the reference period in Hungary, almost 50% of first permits were issued to people less than 25 years old, in Czechia, only about 20% were older than 40. While in Poland the shares very young (below 25) and older (over 40) first permits holders were quite similar. This may be connected to the reasons for immigration – in Poland, these are mostly remunerated activities reasons, while in Hungary educational immigration was quite prominent until 2017, when the labour immigration increased and older immigrants became arriving in larger numbers.

Chart 30. Percentage of first permits by age categories and country in the period 2010-2018.

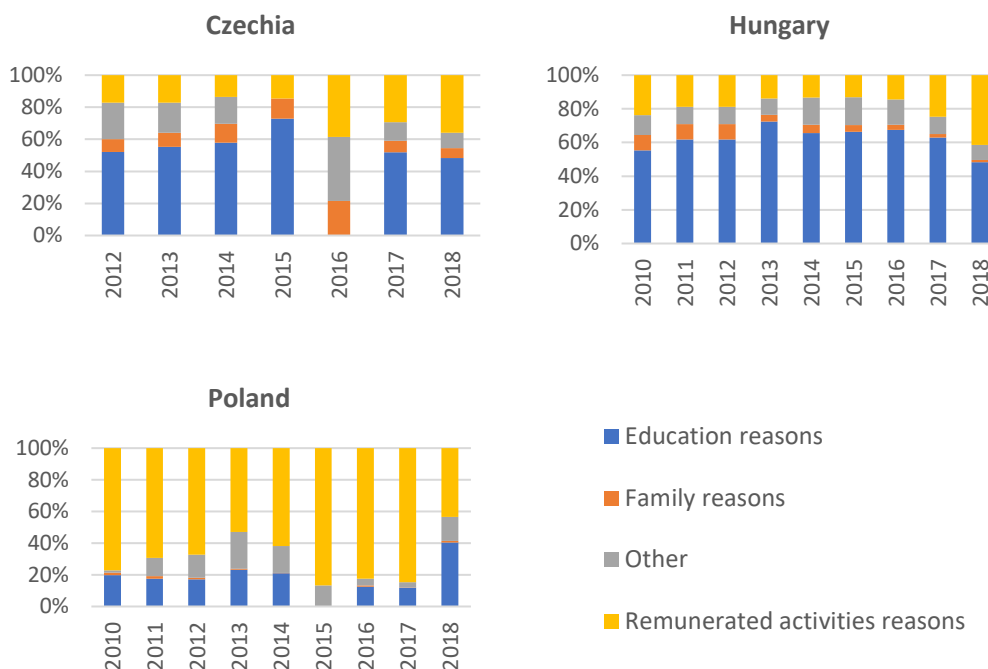


Source: Eurostat (migr_resfas); 15.11.2019.

However, in Poland, even the 20-24 years old first permits' holders, have been arriving mostly for remunerated activities reasons. Only in 2018 the importance of education reasons suddenly grown in this age category (to 40%), and the share of remunerated reasons dropped below 50% for the first time in the reported period, remaining the prime reason (43%) for arriving at Poland for this category of young third-country citizens (see Chart 31).

In Czechia, more than 50% of persons coming for educational reasons are in the 20-24 age group and, conversely, in the selected age group around 55 % of persons come for educational reasons.

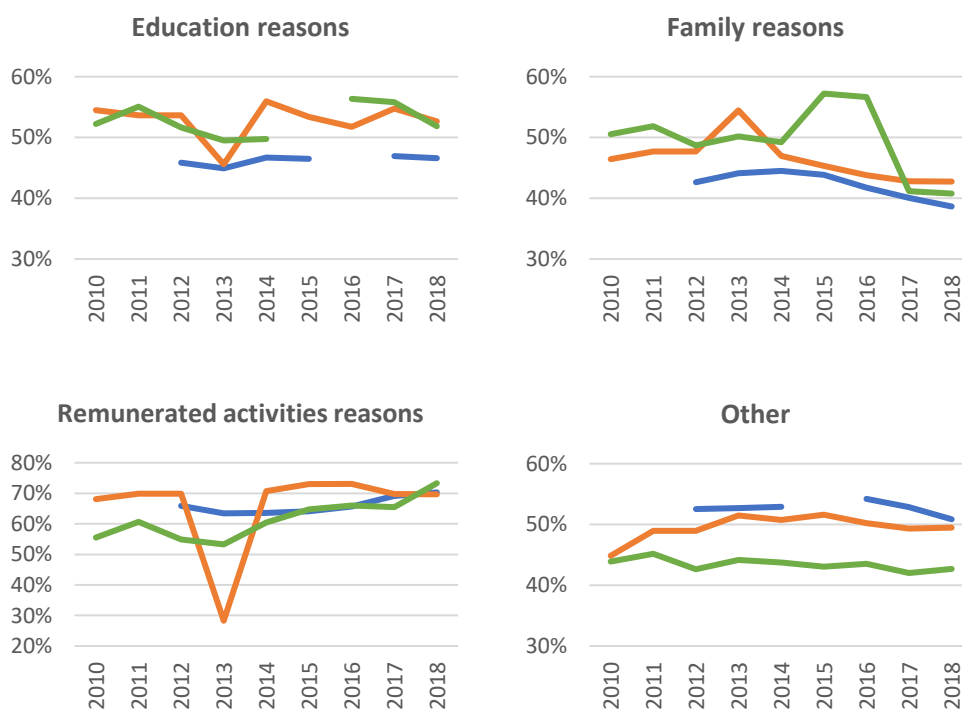
Chart 31. Distribution of first permits issued for the applicants 20-24 years old by reason, in Czechia, Hungary and Poland; 2010-2018.

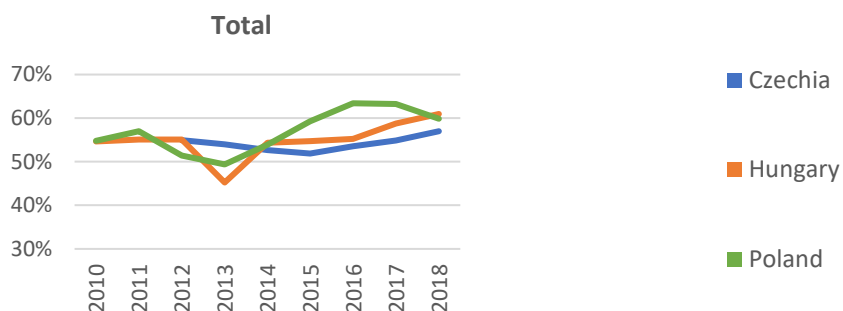


Source: Eurostat (migr_resfas); 15.11.2019.

The proportion of first permits received by men seems to be also correlated with the reason for immigration. Men have constituted the majority among the labour migrants, especially in Hungary, while most first permits for family reasons (particularly in Czechia) and other reasons (especially in Poland) have been issued to women (see Chart 32).

Chart 32. Percent of males among the beneficiaries of first permits by country and reason in the period 2010-2018.





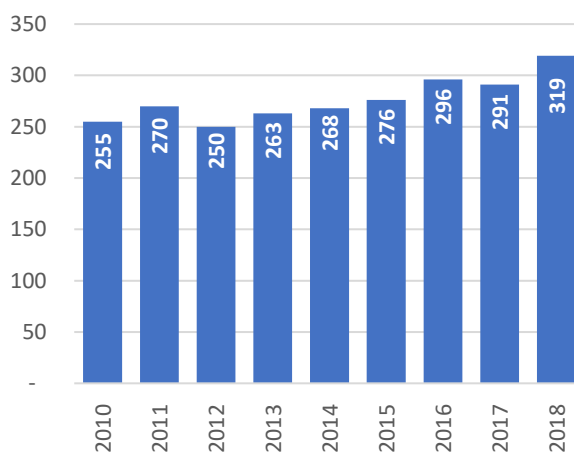
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfas); 15.11.2019.

5. Countries characteristics

5.1. Czechia

Czechia was in 2018 the country with the highest density of resident permits per 10 thousand inhabitants in the V4 Group (see Chart 33 and Table 17).

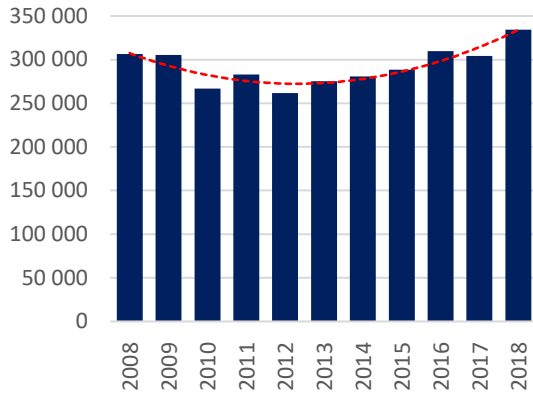
Chart 33. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in Czechia per 10,000 inhabitants.



Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid); 05.12.2019.

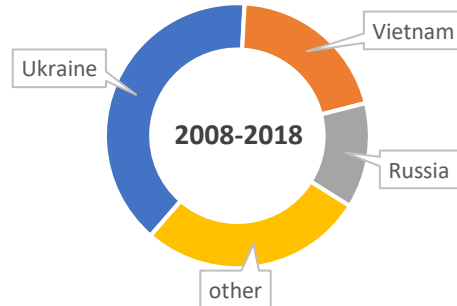
In Czechia, in the period 2008-2018 number of permits valid at the end of the year ranged between 262 thousand and 334 thousand with a trough from 2010 to 2013 (see Chart 34).

Chart 34. Number of permits valid at the end of each year in Czechia.



Source: Eurostat (*migr_resvalid*); 05.12.2019.

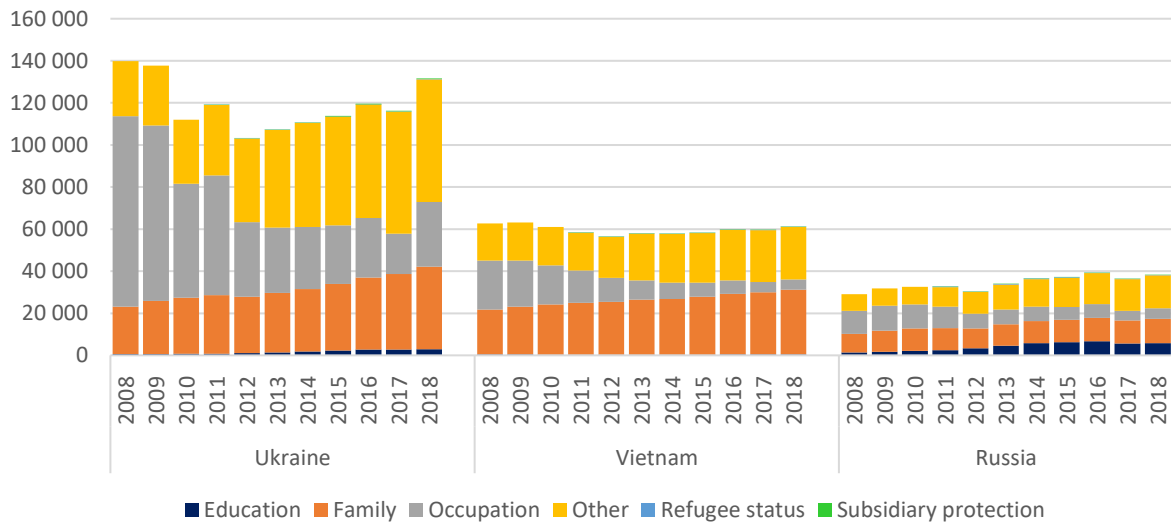
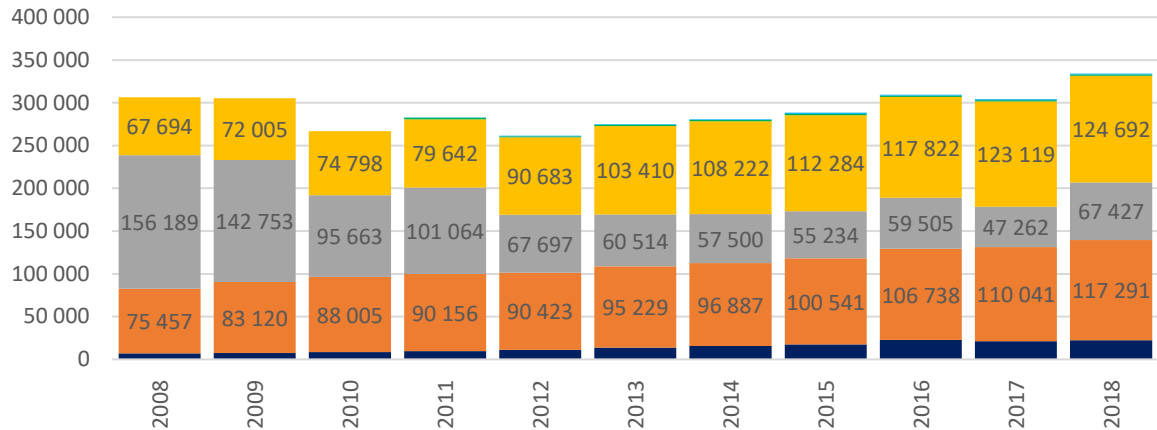
Chart 35. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in Czechia (top nationalities).



Source: Eurostat (*migr_resvalid*); 05.12.2019.

Most of them had a validity period of over 12 months (averagely 93%). The top 3 nationalities, covering some 70% of the stock of permits were Ukraine, Vietnam, and Russia, their share and rank have not varied over time (see Chart 35). The major three reasons of stay were family reasons, occupation, and other reasons (see Chart 36). Contrary to the nationality composition area within the purpose of the stay bracket situation has changed significantly. At the beginning of the analysed period permits valid at the end of the year were issued mostly due to remunerated activities (50%), but since 2009 the share started to decrease gradually (to 20% in 2018). At the same time volume, two other groups: family and other reasons started to grow and in 2018 they are both dominant (35% and 37%, respectively).

Chart 36. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in Czechia by reason.



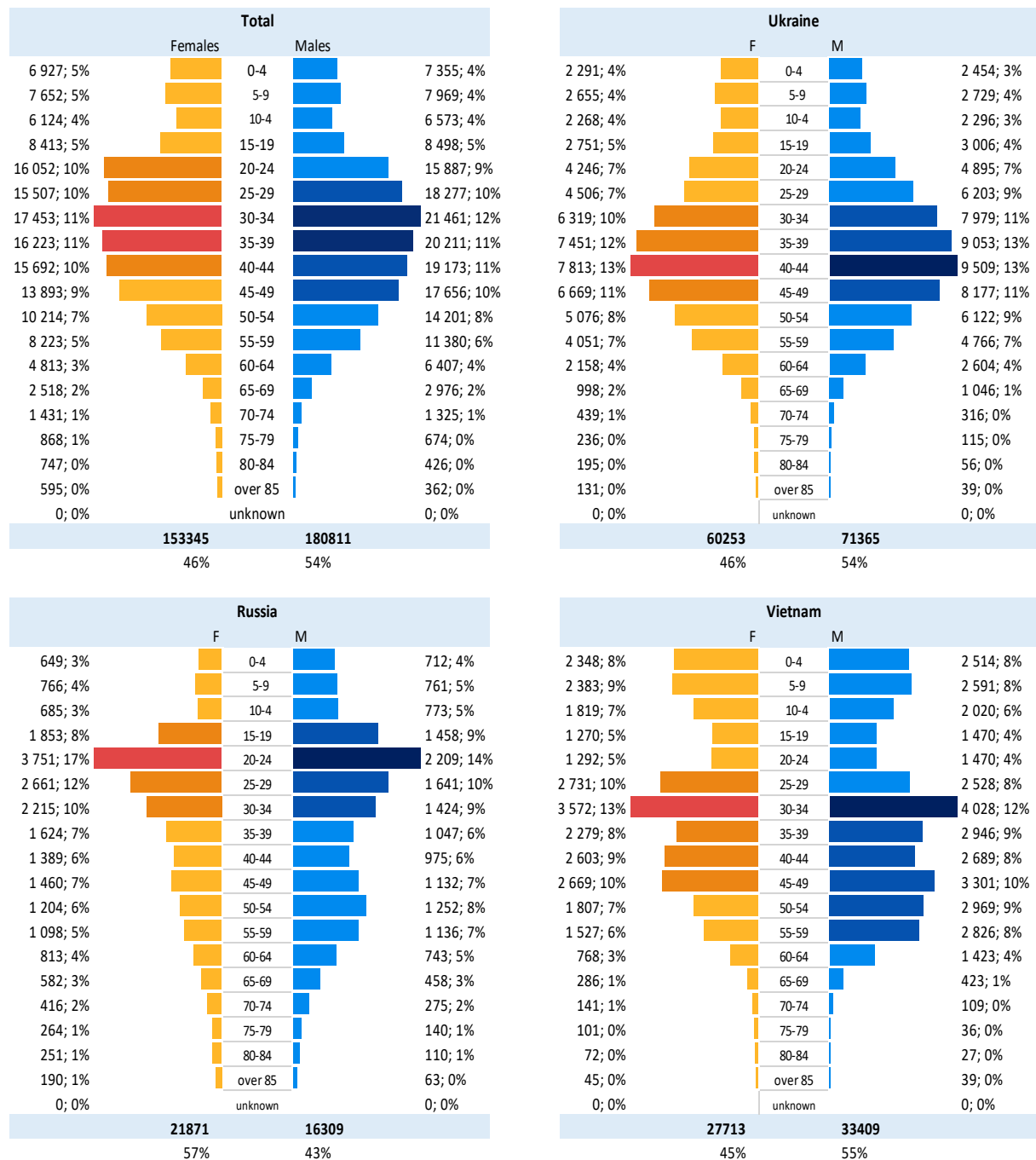
Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid); 05.12.2019.

In the case of top nationalities, trends are generally repeated with some country-specific characteristics. Ukraine, the biggest group had in 2008 the highest share of documents valid at the end of the year in relation to work (65%) which declined steadily throughout the years to some 20% last year. Currently, the leading reason: other reasons account for 44% of the permits valid at the end of the year and it is the highest rate within the top 3 countries. Second biggest nationality – Vietnam was in 2008 balanced between residence permit issued for work, family reasons and the other reasons, but with the timeshare of job related reasons marked a gradual decrease being replaced by family reasons (50%), which become the highest share among top 3 countries, and other reasons (some 40%). Foreigners from Russia were at the beginning, as the Vietnamese balanced between family, occupation, and other reasons. Share of family related permits valid at the end of the year remained unchanged, while other permits skyrocketed from 27% to 41%, and occupation related permits dropped from 38% to 14%, being equal to education related permits.

In Czechia in general the most numerous group of foreigners with a permit valid at the end of 2018 was bracketed 20-49. Age pyramid broken by gender looks for every one of the three leading nationalities in 2018 looks different. Chart for both genders of Ukrainian foreigners was shaped

symmetric, growing significantly in the bracket 30-49 with a peak at 40-44. Chart for Russia has one sharp maximum placed in the bracket 20-24, while in the case of Vietnam foreigners age is more dispersed. There are two main numerous groups: 0-9 and 25-59 with a peak for both genders at 30-34 brackets.

Chart 37. Sex and age structure of the residence permits valid at the end of 2018 holders. Total values and top 3 nationalities.

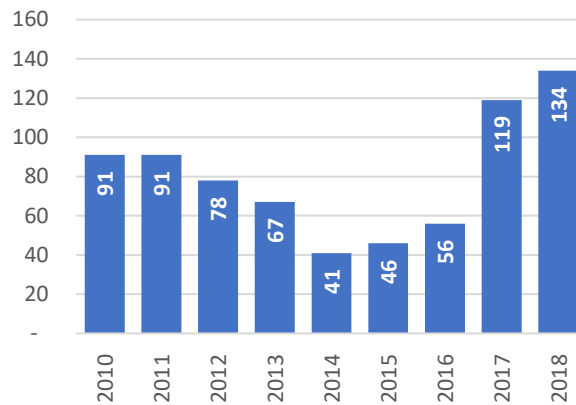


Source: Eurostat (migr_resfas); 05.12.2019.

5.2. Hungary

Hungary was in 2018 the third-country among the V4 Group regarding number of permits per 10,000 inhabitants (see Chart 38 and Table 17).

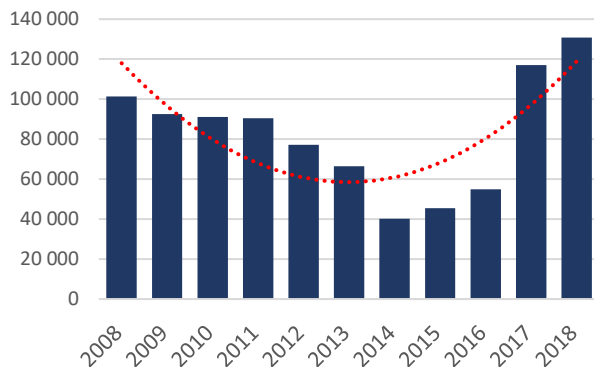
Chart 38. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in Hungary per 10,000 inhabitants.



Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid); 05.12.2019.

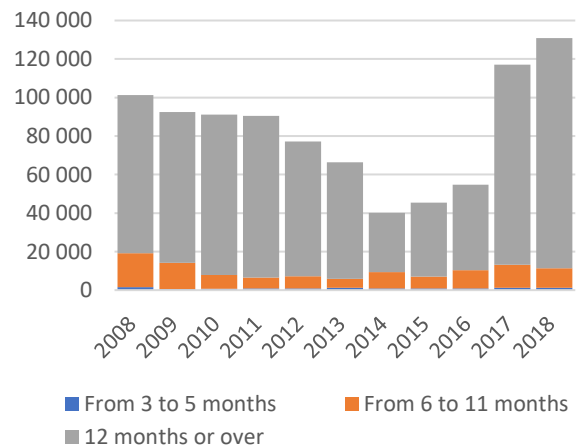
In Hungary, the number of permits valid at the end of each year remained stable in the period 2008-2011, from 2012 to 2016 the decrease was recorded and from 2017 number skyrocketed (see Chart 39). Similar to Czechia most permits were issued for 12 months or longer (see Chart 40).

Chart 39. Number of permits valid at the end of each year in Hungary.



Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid); 05.12.2019.

Chart 40. Number of permits valid at the end of each year in Hungary (by duration).



Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid); 05.12.2019.

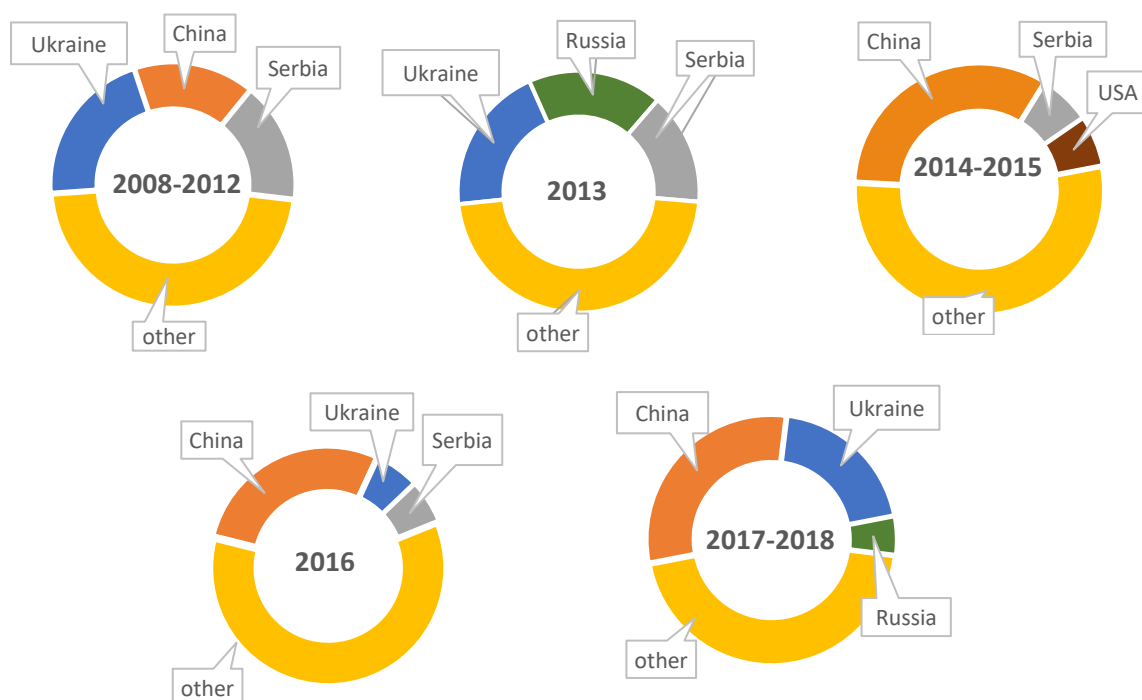
The top nationalities in the period 2008-2018 were China and Ukraine. In the period 2008-2013 third-country in the row was Serbia, replaced in 2013 by Russia, from 2014 to 2016 by the United States of America and from 2017 again by Russia.

Table 21. Residence permits valid at the end of the each year in Hungary (top nationalities).

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
China	16 407	13 961	14 548	15 262	14 273	9 466	11 747	13 911	15 180	37 656	34 853
Ukraine	22 554	22 648	20 379	19 221	13 802	13 149	1 759	2 271	3 428	13 196	26 567
Serbia	16 300	15 438	18 080	15 561	9 864	9 695	2 426	2 861	3 329	4 161	5 434
Other	46 070	40 471	38 082	40 397	39 284	34 069	24 153	26 425	32 877	62 013	63 946
Total	101 331	92 518	91 089	90 441	77 223	66 379	40 085	45 468	54 814	117 026	130 800

Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid); 05.12.2019.

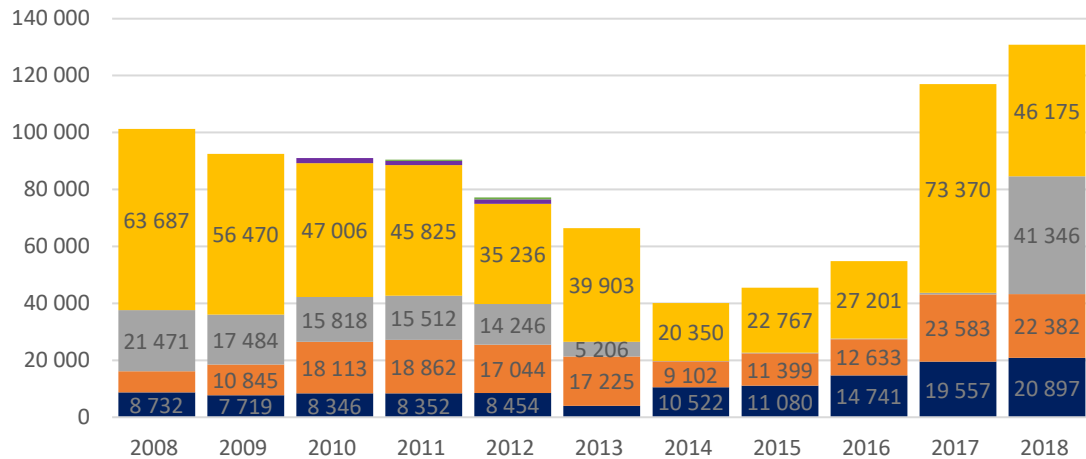
Chart 41. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in Hungary (top nationalities).



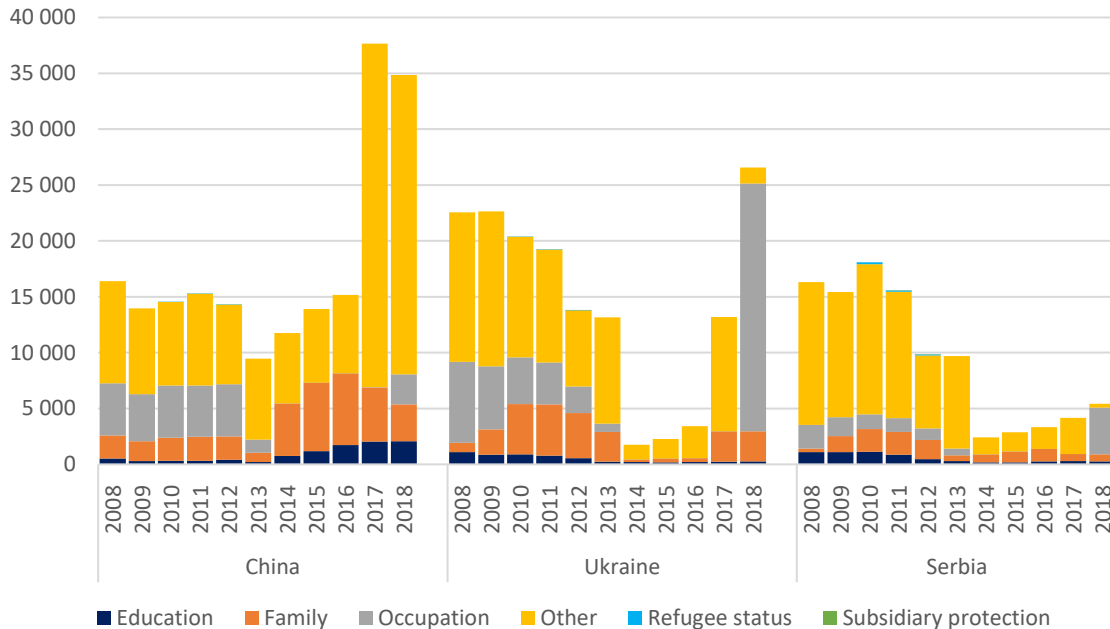
Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid); 05.12.2019.

In the period 2008-2017, the main reason for the stay of foreigners with permits valid at the end of the year were other reasons. In 2018, the situation changed significantly and the share dropped and became equal to the occupation. Position of other reasons: education, family, and occupation changed over the years. Occupation amounted from 2008 to 2012 about 20% of all documents valid at the end of the year, in the period 2014-2017 numbers got very low (less than 1%) and finally in 2018 popped up accounting for some one-third of documents. Education reasons covered about 10% of all valid documents from 2008 to 2012, then in 2013 a drop was recorded, further, to 2016 an increase to about 25%, and in the last two years, the share was about 15%. Family reasons as the purpose of the stay were declared by some 20% of foreigners, excluding the period 2008-2009.

Chart 42. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in Hungary by reason.



Top nationalities



Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid); 05.12.2019.

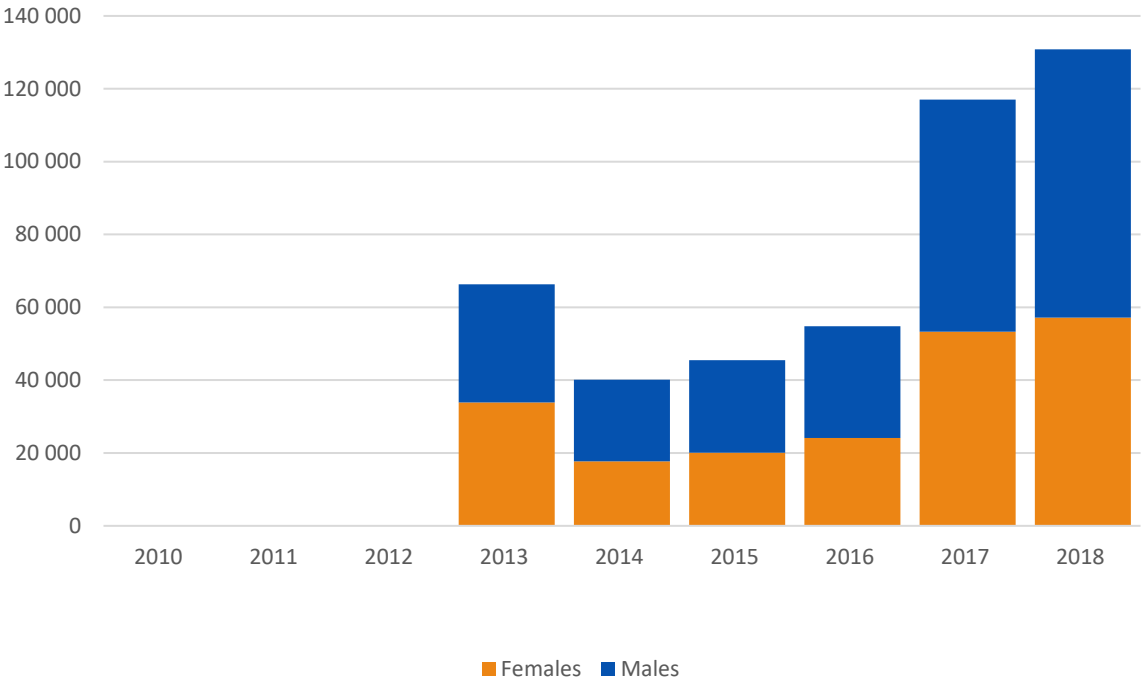
China, Ukraine, and Serbia, the three leading nationalities in Hungary followed this trend in general, but there were differences characteristic for specific countries. In China, other reasons remained as the main purpose of stay fluctuating from some 50% - in the period 2008-2016, excluding 2013 - and 80% - from 2017 to 2018 - of the total stock of documents valid at the end of each year. China was the only one top country that did not experience a sudden decrease in the share of other permits in 2018. In the period 2008-2012, about 30% of documents were related to remunerated activities, until 2018 this reason disappeared from the statistics and popped up in 2018 with an 8% share. Family reasons accounted for about 15% of the stock of permits valid at the end of the year, except the period 2014-2016 when the share rose to about 40%.

In the case of Ukraine, the general trend regarding other reasons as the leading reason for permits valid at the end of the year and its sudden decreases and the outflow to occupation reason in 2018 is repeated. The occupation bracket followed the general trend, it started to decrease from some 30% to 6% from 2008 to 2013, disappeared to 2017, and popped up in 2018 with a share of 83%. The stock of permits valid at the end of the year related to family reasons fluctuated between some 5% and 30%. The peak of it was from 2010 to 2012 and in 2017, otherwise, it was about 10%.

The last country – Serbia repeated the pattern concerning other purposes of residence permits and occupation permits. The family reasons pattern was the same as in the case of China.

With regard to gender, the proportion of men to women was slightly higher, except in 2013 (see Chart 43).

Chart 43. Number of permits valid at the end of each year in Hungary (by gender).



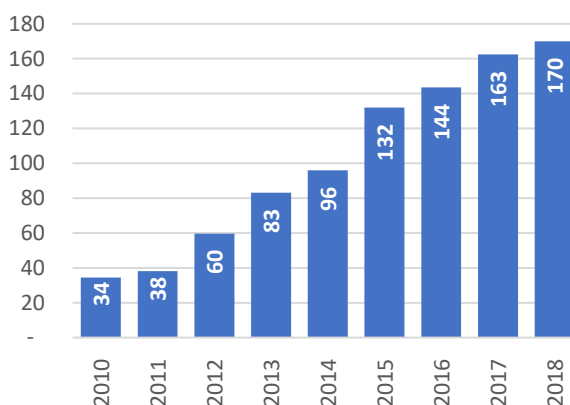
Source: Eurostat (*migr_resfas*); 05.12.2019.

The age pyramids of the total number of permits valid at the end of 2018 for all foreigners and top nationalities broken by sex look different. Some 60% of women and men were aged from 20 to 44. The most numerous female group was 20-24, for men 20-24 and 25-29. The population of Chinese nationals with documents valid at the end of the year was balanced with regards to gender proportion and has its maximum at bracket 30-49 and 0-4. For women, the biggest group were two brackets: 35-39 and 40-44, while for men – 45-49. The chart for Ukraine was shaped in a different way. There was a clear advantage of men over women. Among women the biggest age groups were from 20 to 49, the proportions within this group were evenly distributed, while for men the most numerous were brackets 20-29, with a downward trend. There were hardly any minors, comparing to other top nationalities. The last top one, Russia, has a reverted gender proportion comparing to China – the women prevailed by some 20% and the shape of the pyramid was asymmetrical. Women had the maximum at 20-34, while men – 40-54.

5.3. Poland

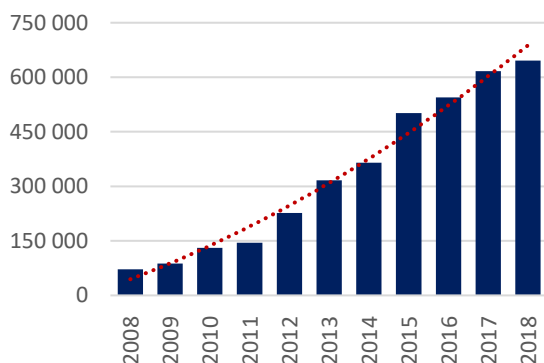
Poland was in 2018 the second country of V4 Group with the biggest density of residence permits valid at the end of the year, however, it followed the first country – Czechia at distance (see Chart 44 and Table 17).

Chart 44. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in Poland per 10,000 inhabitants.



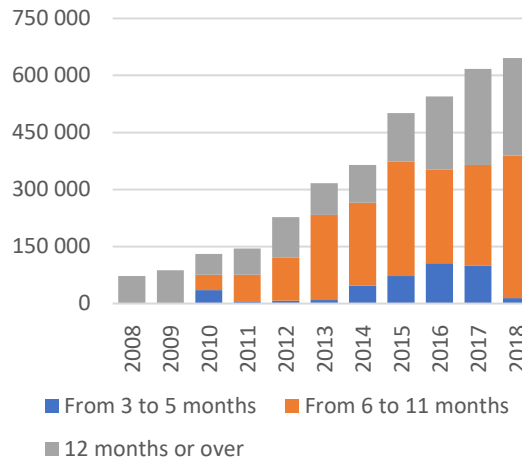
Source: Eurostat (*migr_resvalid*); 05.12.2019.

Chart 45. Number of permits valid at the end of each year in Poland.



Source: Eurostat (*migr_resvalid*); 05.12.2019.

Chart 46. Number of permits valid at the end of each year in Poland (by duration).



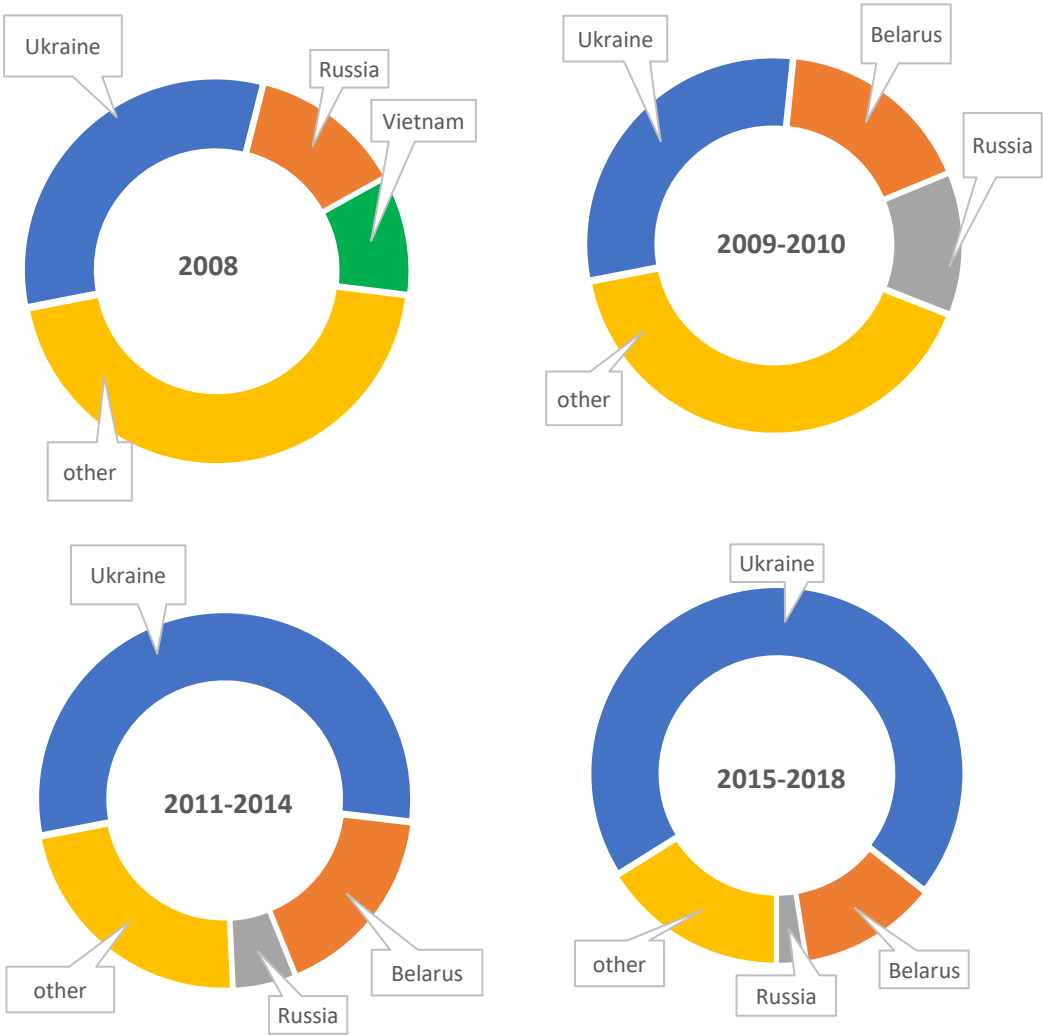
Source: Eurostat (*migr_resvalid*); 05.12.2019.

Poland is a country with a substantial, but irregular increase in the number of permits valid at the end of the year since the first reference year in 2008. It is the only country within the V4 Group, which recorded a 5-fold increase of permits over the period 2008-2018. The vast majority of residence permits fell into one of two validity categories from 6 to 11 months or 12 months or more. The proportions of two mentioned in the previous sentence categories have fluctuated over time. The bigger share of permits valid from 3 to 5 months was visible only in 2010 and from 2014 to 2017.

The leading nationalities in 2008 were Ukraine, Russia, and Vietnam, later in the period 2009-2018 were Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia in various proportions. From 2009 to 2010 Ukraine accounted for

some 30% of permits valid at the end of the year, next were Belarus and Russia, reversing their order in 2010. In the period 2011-2014 Ukraine has become more dominant and covered 55% share of the total number of permits valid at the end of the year. At this time also share of Belarusian nationals tend to rise, while Russian – drop. In the period 2015-2018, the domination of Ukraine increased again and fluctuated between some 65% and 75%. Share of Belarusian valid documents also varied from about 10% to 20%, while the proportion of Russian valid permits remained unchanged.

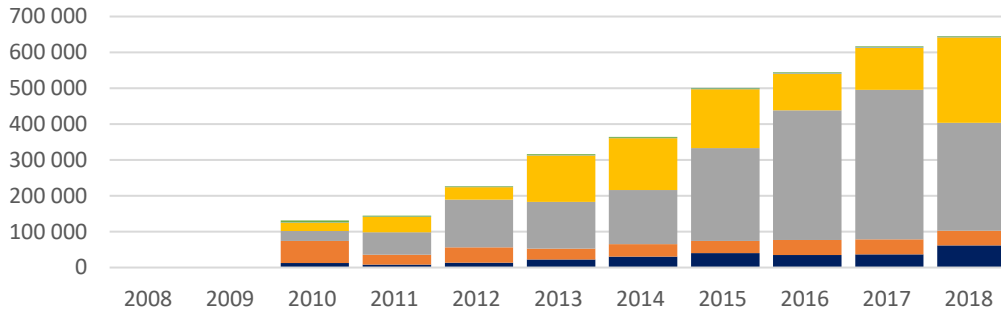
Chart 47. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in Poland (top nationalities).



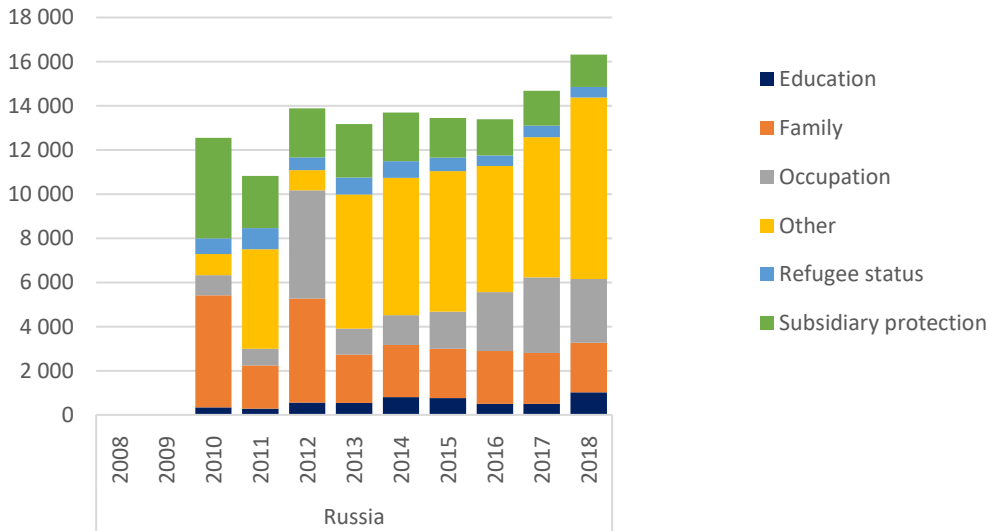
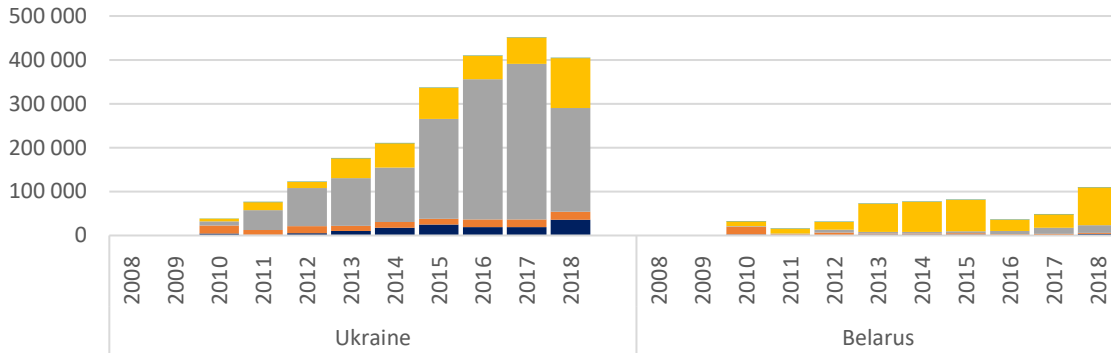
Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid); 05.12.2019.

Data broken by reason started to have been delivered in 2010. In general, except for 2010 the main reason was the occupation, fluctuating between 40% and 70%. The other reason was the second in the row and ranged between approximately 15% and 40%.

Chart 48. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in Poland (by reason).



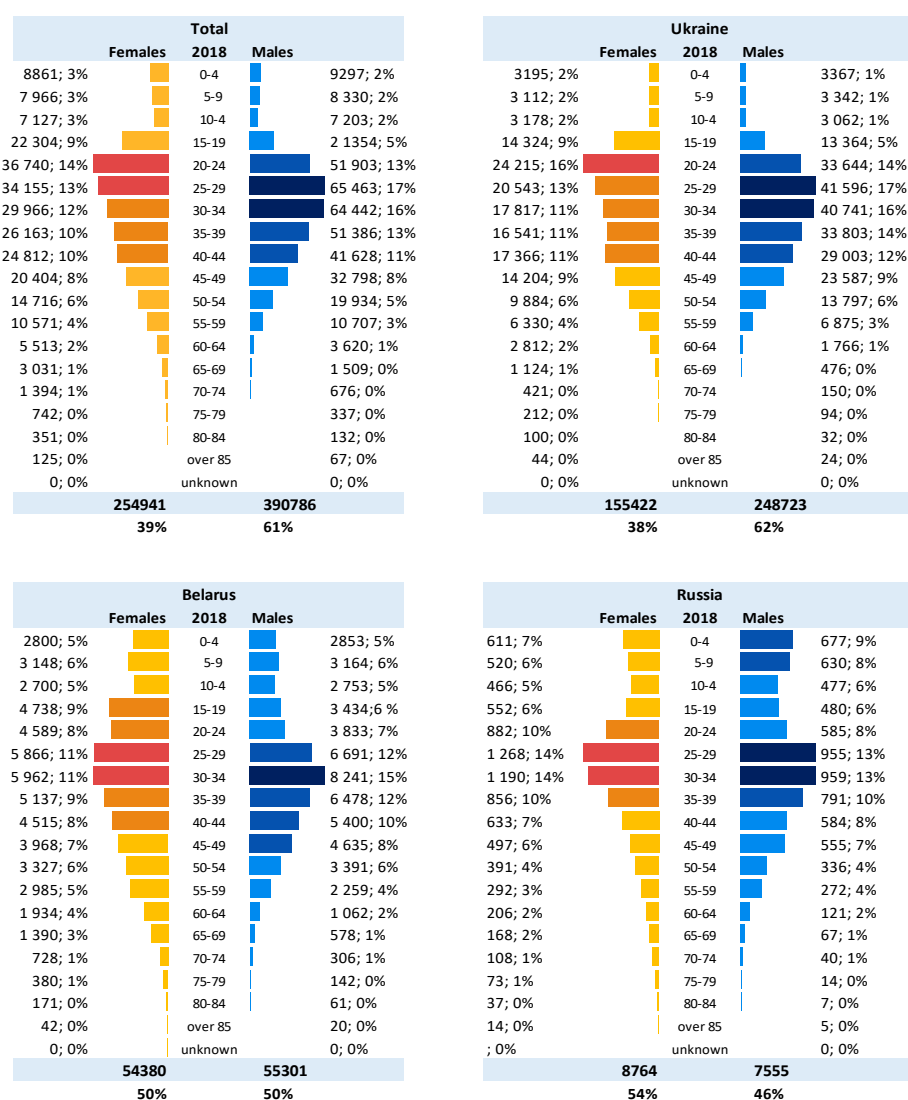
Top nationalities



Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid); 05.12.2019.

With regards to Ukraine, the leading reason was occupation fluctuating between 60% and 80%, except to 2010 when it was about 24%. The other reasons were the second popular purpose of stay, depending on the year approximately between 15% and 30% during the whole reporting period. 2018 was a year with a sharp decrease in the share of the occupation reasons and an increase in the other reasons.

Chart 49. Sex and age structure of residence permits valid at the end of 2018 holders in Poland (top nationalities).



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfas); 05.12.2019.

The age and sex structure of foreigners with document valid at the end of the year in Poland were not balanced – men accounted for 61% of permits valid at the end of 2018. Furthermore, for both women and men, the most numerous groups covered the same age brackets (20-44), however, peaks were differently located: for women it is the age 20-29 and for men 25-34. The biggest age group for women started from bracket 20-24 and decreased gradually, while for men the volume of valid documents grew to 25-29 and 30-34 brackets and further starts to fall.

Nationals of Ukraine covered in 2018 63% of the while foreigners population with valid documents at the end of the year and repeated the gender proportion described for the whole foreign population. For Ukraine age pyramid for both genders was as well not symmetric. For women maximum was located at age 20-24 and further the numbers went down except for age 40-44. For men, the pyramid of the most numerous foreigners was rather a shape of the hill with its maximum at 25-29 and 30-34.

Belarus accounted for 17% of permits valid at the end of the year in 2018. Contrary to general trends and Ukraine, the age pyramid was more or less symmetric. Also, the sex proportions had its individual characteristics, different from general trends: shares of men and women are equal, also the share of

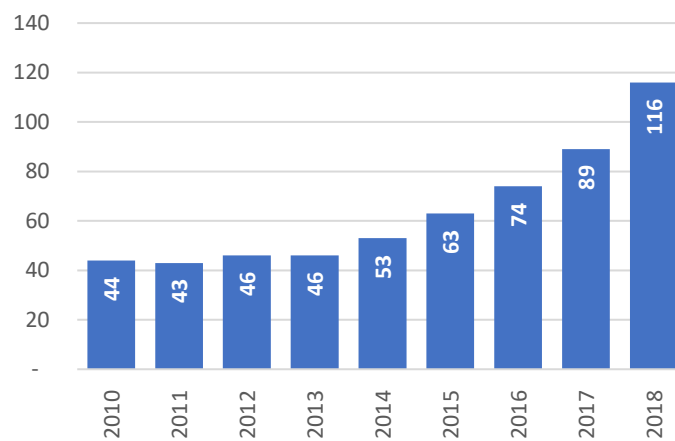
the dominating groups was the same: 57%. Nevertheless, the most numerous age groups for women were 15-55 with a peak at 25-29 and 30-34, while for men the biggest groups were aged 25-49 with a peak at one age bracket – 30-34. One more thing was characteristic of this nationality: the share of young foreigners (under 20). While for foreigners, in general, the share of people under 20 in 2018 was 14% (18%- females, 12%- males), for Belarus it was in general 23%, divided by gender: 25% for females, 22% for males.

The last top 3 countries following the other at distance was Russia, accounting for 6% of documents valid at the end of the year. The gender proportions were similar to Belarus, but with a small prevalence of women (54%). Another similarity was the symmetry of the age pyramid for both genders. The biggest age groups for both, men and women were aged 25-29 and 30-34. For women, other big groups were 20-24 and 25-39, while for men it was 35-39 and 0-9. The trend of the visible presence of nationals under 20, noticed for Belarus, for Russia was even stronger: 25% of women were under 20, while for men it was 30%, in general for both groups it was 27%.

5.4. Slovakia

Slovakia was the last country of the V4 Group regarding the density of permits valid at the end of the year (see Chart 50 Table 17).

Chart 50. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in Slovakia per 10,000 inhabitants.



Source: Eurostat (*migr_resvalid*); 05.12.2019.

Chart 51. Number of permits valid at the end of each year in Slovakia.

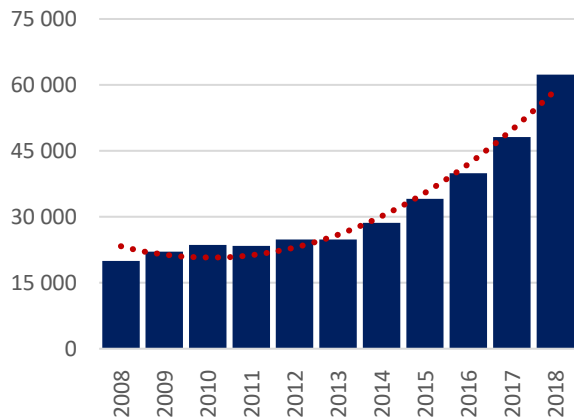
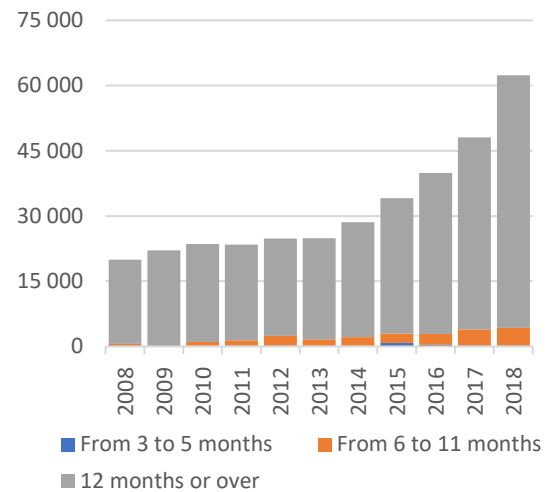


Chart 52. Number of permits valid at the end of each year in Slovakia (by duration).



Source: Eurostat (*migr_resvalid*); 05.12.2019.

The number of permits valid at the end of the year in Slovakia grown very gradually until 2013 and further the increase accelerated in that way, that in 2018 the stock of the permits was three times bigger than in 2008. Over the last 11 years, the country has consistently issued permits for 12 months or over almost exclusively. The share of permits with validity period from 6 to 11 months has never exceeded 10%, the share of permits with validity between 3 to 5 months was very low, less than 2%.

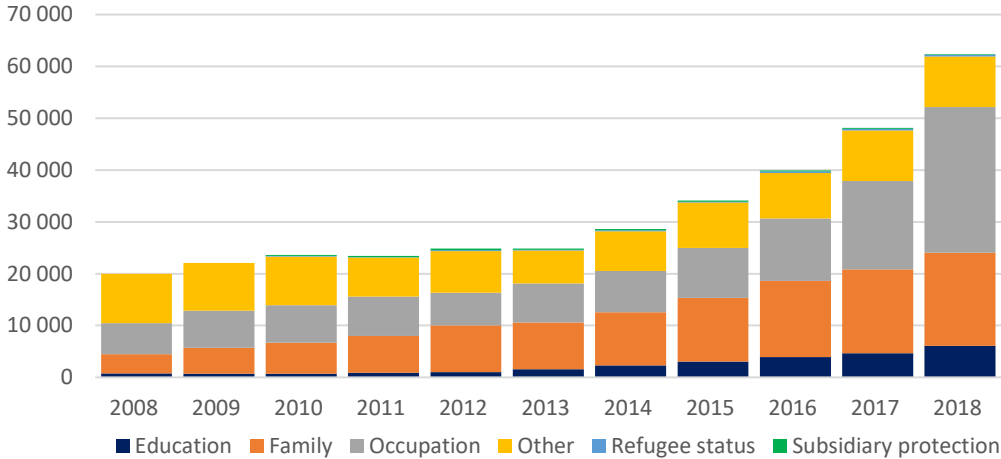
Chart 53. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in Slovakia (top nationalities).



Source: Eurostat (*migr_resvalid*); 05.12.2019.

Regarding nationality composition over the period 2008-2018, there have been no radical changes. In the period 2008-2010 top 3 countries were Ukraine, Serbia, and Vietnam. In the next years, Vietnam was replaced by Serbia as the top third-country. In the period 2011-2015 the share of documents held by the Ukrainian nationals did not exceed 30%, while from 2016 it started to grow and finally in 2018 got close to 40%. The share of citizens of Serbia was fluctuated in the period 20011-2018 between 15% and 22%, in the last two years was never lower than 20%. The proportion of foreigners with document valid at the end of the year from Russia remained stable throughout the whole period from 2008 to 2018 and was about 7% and 10%.

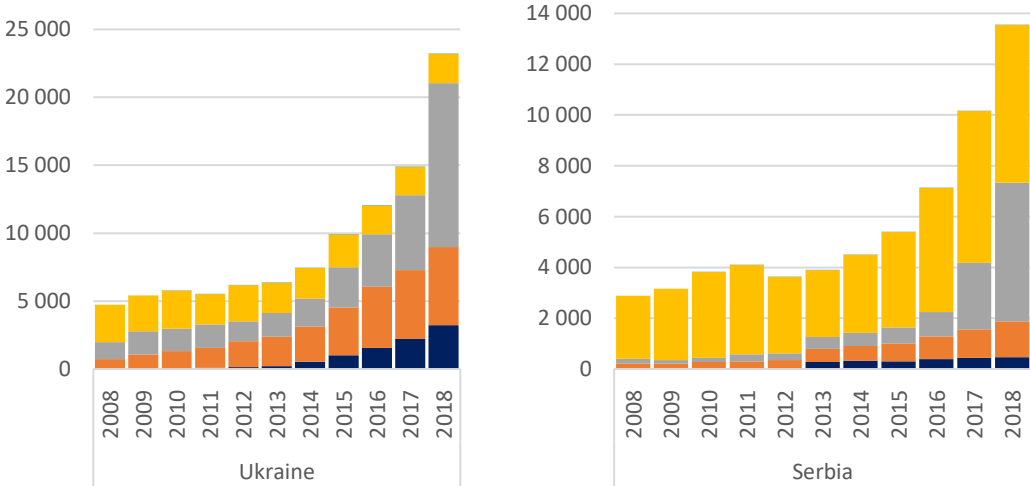
Chart 54. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in Slovakia (by reason).

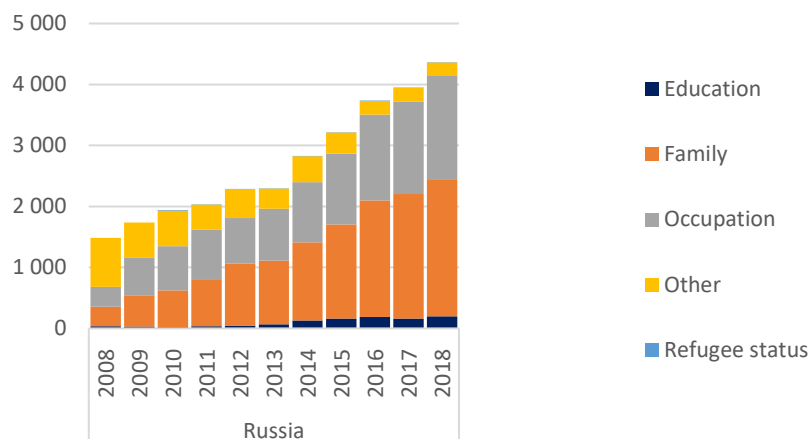


Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid); 05.12.2019.

There were variations among the leading reason for foreigners holding permits valid at the end of the year. In general, the top 3 reasons were family reasons, occupation, and other reasons, changing their order over time. From 2008 to 2010 over 40% documents valid at the end of the year were issued in relation to other reasons, in 2013 all three reasons remained in a balance, period from 2012 to 2016 was marked by the domination of occupation reasons, 2018 was balanced between family reasons and occupation and finally in 2018 occupation became a leading reason with 45% share. Beneficiaries of international protection were represented in negligible share – 1% or less.

Chart 55. Residence permits valid at the end of the year in Slovakia (by reason).





Source: Eurostat (migr_resvalid); 05.12.2019.

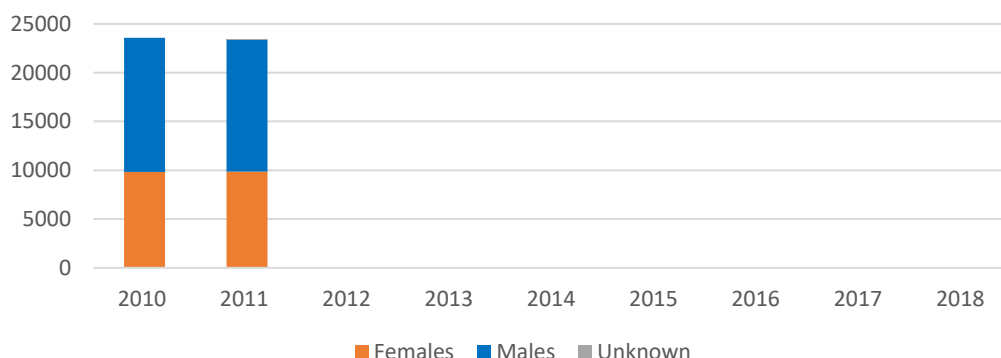
All the top 3 countries recorded an increasing trend in the number of permits valid at the end of the year from 2008 to 2018. In the case of Ukraine and Serbia the stock increased 5 times, Russia recorded five-fold growth.

For Ukraine the leading reason in the period 2008-2012 was another reason, in 2013 there was a balance between family reasons and other reasons, from 2014 to 2016 leading reason was family and in the last two years, it was occupation. From 2015 it was to observe the upward trend regarding documents valid at the end of the year related to education. Ukraine is the only one top 3 nationality recording this pattern.

In the case of Serbia, the leading reason was from 2008 to 2017 other reason, however, the share dropped regularly over time. The flow of the share moved to family reasons and occupation, from 2013 both recorded the increase, the share of each was some 13%. In 2018 two main reasons were to observe- other as the main reason and occupation, which popped up from 14% in 2016 to 40% in 2018.

Regarding Russia, in the period 2008-2010, there was a balance between family, occupation, and other reasons. From 2011 family and occupation remained two leading reasons with a predominance of family reasons from 2012 to 2018.

Chart 56. Number of permits valid at the end of each year in Slovakia (by gender).



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfas); 05.12.2019.

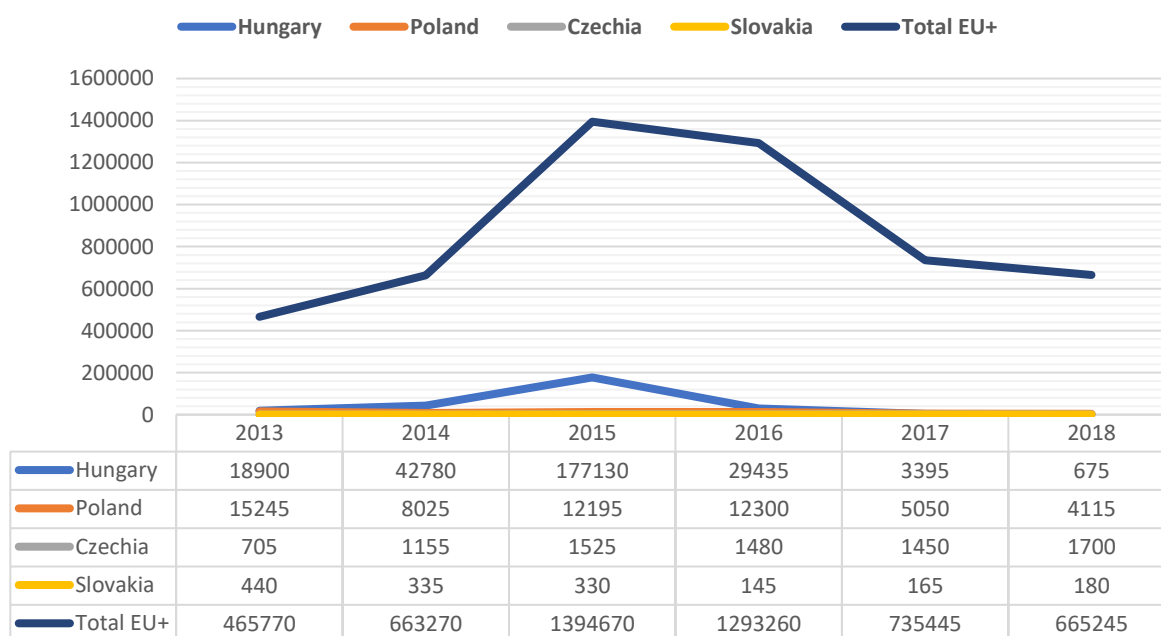
As Slovakia stopped to transfer data on age and gender of foreigners with documents valid at the end of the year, only information for 2010 and 2011 was available. The proportion of men was higher than women (see Chart 57).

III. Recent trends in international protection in V4 countries

1. Applications and decisions issued

The overall inflow of applicants for international protection to the V4 countries in the last five years remains low compared to other EU countries. A larger inflow was recorded only in Hungary during 2014-2016, and in 2015, at the pick of the migration crisis in Europe, a record-breaking, 170 thousand applications for international protection were filed out in Hungary. The other countries of the region: Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia were not affected by the migration crisis and its consequences.

Chart 57. Number of asylum applicants for the V4 Group in the period 2013-2018.

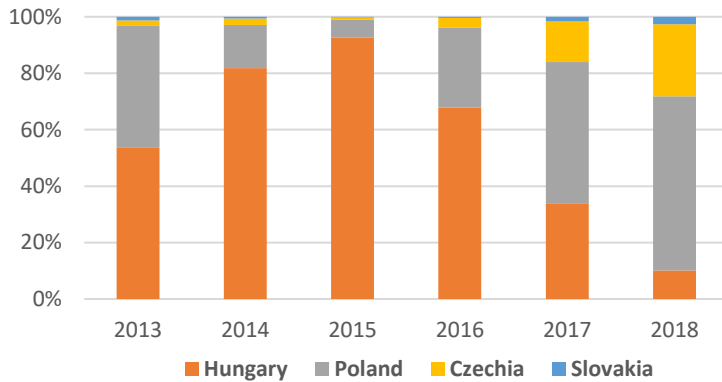


Source: Eurostat (*migr_resfas*); 05.12.2019.

Currently, the inflow of applications for international protection to the countries of the region is stable. In Hungary, it fell to a very low level of several hundred applications per year, which is the result of sealing the borders. In Slovakia and Poland, there was also a decrease in the number of applications by half compared to the period before the migration crisis, but generally, due to low inflow values, the difference is not significant. A different dynamics of asylum-seekers inflow occurs, however, in the Czech Republic, where the number of applications more than doubled comparing 2013 and 2018, although it is still not a large number.

As a consequence of this process, the share of asylum applicants within the whole regional group has been changing during the reported period. Hungary stopped to be a leader in receiving applications and the share of Poland and the Czech Republic is growing (see Chart 58).

Chart 58. Share of asylum applicants by country within the V4 Group in the period 2013-2018.



Source: Own work on the basis of the Eurostat data (migr_resfas); 05.12.2019.

In the V4 countries, as in the entire EU, applicants who dominate in the asylum procedures are people in working age, seeking better jobs, development opportunities, and better living conditions, i.e. people aged 18 to 34. They constitute more than half of all applicants – for the entire EU the percentage of people at this age is about 52%, for V4 countries – 55%. The overwhelming majority are men. In EU countries and the V4, the percentage of men ranged in the years 2013-2018 from 60% to 77%.

The exception to this rule is Poland, where the most numerous group are children under 18 and constitute almost 50% of people covered by applications for international protection. Taking into account also the large percentage of women applying (almost 50% among those covered by asylum-applications), it should be concluded that in Poland the dominant group of people in the procedures are families with small children, not single, young men – as is the case of other countries.

Applicants over the age of 35 form a minority, although in countries such as Czechia and Slovakia they still make up nearly 1/3 of applicants. People over the age of 65 make up a small percentage of all applicants, both in all V4 countries and across the EU.

During the reporting period, both in the entire EU and in the V4 countries, the largest number of applicants for international protection came from citizens of Syria (21% and 23% respectively) and Afghanistan (11% and 21% respectively). However, the total number of Syrians and Afghans in the V4 countries was mainly influenced by the rapid influx of applications during the 2015 migration crisis. Both before this year and in the after it, Russian citizens constituted the dominant group in refugee procedures (approx. 40%). The share of Russian citizens remains unchanged at a similar level, despite the fact that in absolute numbers the inflow from this direction also decreased from 12,920 people in 2013 to 2,810 in 2018.

Although the V4 countries neighbouring one to another, the national diversity of applicants for international protection in these countries is significant.

In Hungary, the dominant nationalities in international protection procedures in 2013-2018 were Syrians (29%) and Afghans (26%). Other highly represented nationalities are residents of Kosovo (19%), Pakistan (8%), and Iraq (5%). While the inhabitants of Kosovo constituted a large group in procedures in Hungary, they did not apply with any of the other V4 countries during the reporting period. The proportions however have changed in 2018 – the largest group of asylum-seekers in Hungary were Afghans, Iraqis, and then Iranian citizens.

In Poland, the main group of applicants in the protection procedures were citizens of the countries of the former USSR, arriving through the eastern border of the country and submitting applications usually directly at the border crossing point. Only to a small extent do foreigners migrate illegally traveling along the southern route from the Mediterranean. In the reporting period, the largest group of asylum-seekers in Poland were Russian citizens. They still dominate procedures, but their

percentage dropped from 84% in 2013 to 66% in 2018. The other numerous groups of applicants were citizens of Ukraine (12%) and Georgia (5%).

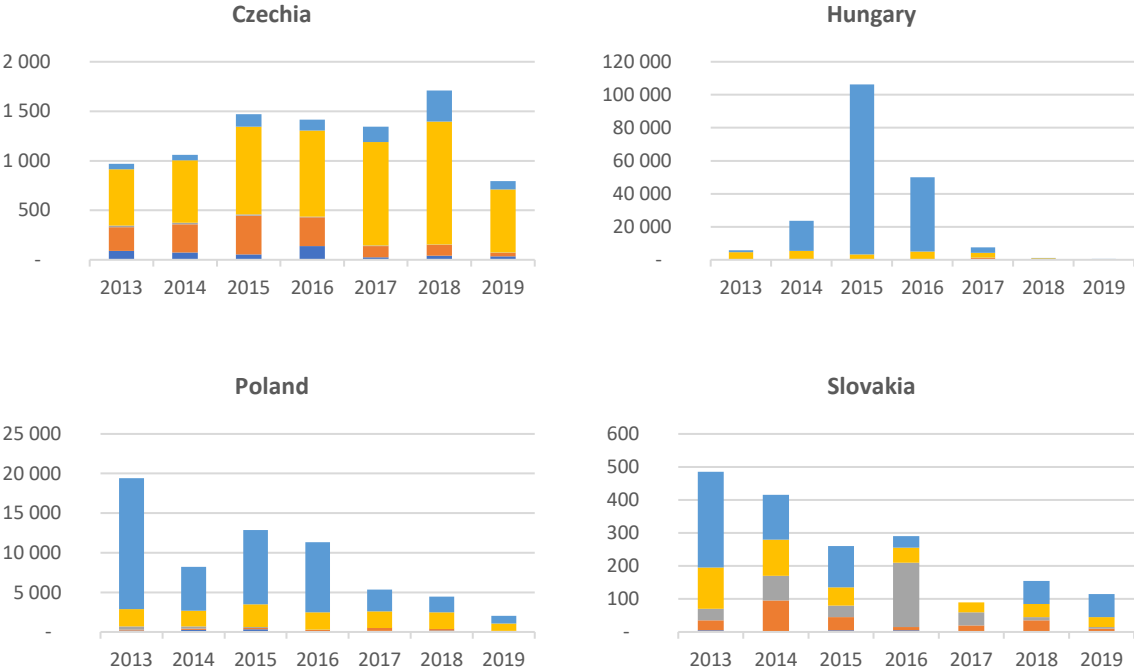
In the **Czech Republic**, Ukrainian citizens apply for protection more often than other nationalities. They constituted 34% of applicants in the last five years, but generally, there is a much greater diversity of asylum-seekers citizenship in the Czech Republic than in Hungary and Poland. A large group, specific to the Czech Republic, are Cubans, who submitted 6% of all applications in the period in question, but it is worth noting that this group is not included in large numbers in the statistics of any other V4 country.

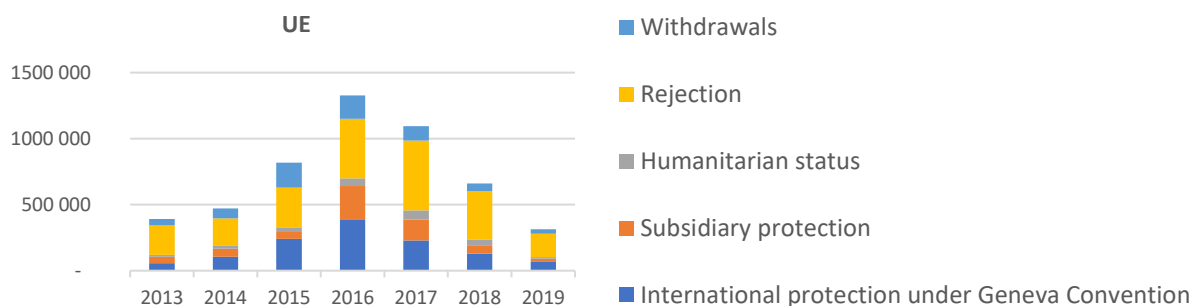
Slovakia is characterized by a small number of applications and a large diversity of the origin of applicants. It is difficult to single out any particular dominant group in terms of their nationality. Most applications were submitted by Afghans, but even they do not exceed 20% of all applications. In addition, the procedures include the citizens of Iraq, Ukraine, Syria, Somalia, Pakistan, Georgia and Vietnam, India, and Iran.

Decision making-process

The persistent feature of the decision-making process in V4 countries, except Czechia, is the high level of applications that are withdrawn during the procedure, mainly as the consequence of absence without leave of the applicants. The percentage is as high as 87% in Hungary, 70% in Poland, 40% in Slovakia and 10% in Czechia. Taking into account the total volume of the influx of refugee-seekers, all together in V4 during the last 5 years 80% applications were withdrawn.

Chart 59. Decisions concluding the proceedings for granting international protection in the V4 Group and the UE, 2013-2019.



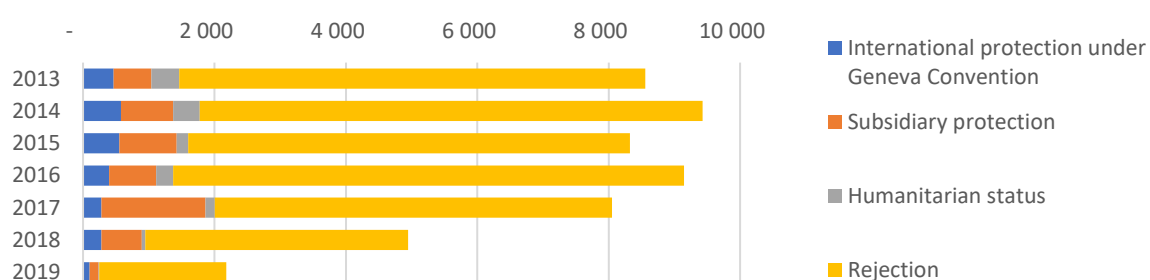


Source: Own work on the basis of the Eurostat data (migr_resfas); 05.12.2019.

The fact is that most V4 Group members are still transit countries for east-west and south-north migration. The phenomenon is the most visible in Hungary and Poland where almost all asylum-seekers finally leave the country of asylum even before the end of the procedure and the least in Czechia where most decisions are negative. This fact highly influences the official and social attitudes to refugee issues, reinforcing the perception of the refugee procedure as a useful tool for abusing immigration law.

Apart from the data related to withdrawn cases, the rejection rate is also high. More than 75% of applications are resolved in a negative way. The most popular type of positive decision is the subsidiary protection which includes persons escaping from violent conflicts.

Chart 60. Decision structure in the V4 Group, excluding withdrawn applications, 2013-2019.



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfas); 05.12.2019.

In the period 2013-2018, Czechia granted refugee status under Geneva Convention to 4 hundred persons from Iraq, Ukraine, Burma/Myanmar, Russia, Syria, Armenia, China, Belarus, Azerbaijan, and to Stateless persons. 1,430 individuals were granted subsidiary protection – mainly citizens of Syria, Ukraine, Cuba, Iraq, and Belarus. Humanitarian status was granted only to 40 persons from Syria, Ukraine, and Armenia. Majority of Ukrainians and Cubans – the most numerous groups in Czech asylum procedures – received a negative decision. A similar approach was taken towards Vietnamese citizens.

In Hungary from 2013 to 2019, 840 persons have been granted the protection under Geneva Convention coming from Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Somalia, Palestine, Iraq, and other countries. Subsidiary protection has been a more popular form of protection, granted to 2,430 individuals from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and other countries. Humanitarian status has been granted to 90 people from Afghanistan, Iraq, Georgia, and Kosovo.

The Hungarian policy and practice in an asylum in the reporting period were highly influenced by the migration crisis in 2015. Before it, one of the most numerous groups in the Hungarian asylum procedures were Kosovars who received mainly negative decisions (72% of all negative decisions in

2014). A significant proportion of the applications was also withdrawn. Then Kosovars stopped applying. During the migration crisis in 2015 large numbers of Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraqi citizens applied for protection in Hungary; however, most of the applications were subsequently withdrawn.

In Poland, 1,195 persons received the refugee status under the Geneva Convention coming mainly from Syria but also Russia, Iraq, Belarus, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Egypt, Iran, and Turkey. A similar number of people, 1,160 received subsidiary protection, mainly citizens of Russia, Ukraine, Iraq, Tajikistan, and Syria. Humanitarian status was granted in 1,660 cases of citizens of former USSR countries like Russia, Georgia, Armenia, and Ukraine.

In Slovakia, refugee status is granted rarely, only 15 cases were solved positively during the last five years. Subsidiary protection is a more popular form of protection with 220 positive decisions for citizens of Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Eritrea, Ukraine, Libya, Sudan, and Iran.

2. Secondary movements of asylum-seekers within EU

The transit nature of the foreigner's inflow to V4 countries has many implications for the migration situation in the region. Its direct consequence is the intensification of secondary movements throughout the EU. The available Dublin procedure data is not complete for all V4 countries over the past 5 years, but it is clear from these data that many applications that were considered as withdrawals or negative decisions are returned to the V4 in the form of Dublin applications. Takeover applications submitted to the V4 countries represented around 14% of all Dublin applications submitted in the EU.

Table 22. IN requests to V4 Group countries in the period 2013-2018 by requesting country.

Country	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Czechia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2 010	n/a	2 010
Hungary	7 756	7 930	n/a	26 740	6 805	2 644	51 875
Poland	10 599	6 600	6 214	9 649	5 421	4 314	42 797
Slovakia	566	425	270	205	358	466	2 290
Total V4	18 921	14 955	6 484	36 594	14 594	7 424	98 972
Other	50 846	63 025	73 069	156 153	125 453	145 286	613 832
TOTAL UE+*	69 767	77 980	79 553	192 747	140 047	152 710	712 804

Source:

For example, in Poland or Hungary, the number of Dublin applications for assuming responsibility for a foreigner exceeded in 2017 and 2018 the number of first applications for protection submitted at the external borders. In Poland, in 2017 the number of applications for international protection accounted for 5,050, while 5,421 applications for assuming responsibility were received from other EU countries. In 2018 4,115 applications for protection were submitted, while the number of Dublin applications was 4,314. In Hungary, these differences are even greater – in 2017: 3,395 applications for protection and 6,805 Dublin applications, and in 2018: 675 applications for protection and 2,644 Dublin applications. In the Czech Republic, only data for 2017 are available and here to the number

of takeover requests exceeds the inflow of applications for protection (2010 and 1,450 applications respectively). In Slovakia, despite the low absolute values, this trend is also visible.

More than half of all Dublin requests directed to V4 countries from 2013 to 2018 were sent by Germany (over 50,803 requests from 98,970 sent in total). Austria and France followed with 17,646 requests and 14,169 requests respectively. Other countries such as Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, the Netherlands or Sweden have sent several hundred inquiries a year over the past few years, which shows that they are not the main destination countries for inflows of asylum-seekers passing through our region.

V4 countries have requested for the transfer of responsibility for a foreigner to another member state, but far less frequently. For 5 years, the V4 countries have sent 8,511 such requests. In the case of the Czech Republic, it lacks data for 2013-2015, and in the case of Hungary for 2015-2016. In general, however, Hungary sends the highest number of such requests, followed by Poland and Slovakia.

Table 23. OUT requests from V4 Group countries in the period 2013-2018 by requesting country.

Country	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Czechia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	516	279	795
Hungary	314	1 815	n/a	n/a	1 785	554	4 468
Poland	132	170	438	333	338	438	1 849
Slovakia	115	102	549	353	211	69	1 399
Total V4	561	2 087	987	686	2 850	1 340	8 511
Other	78 051	89 811	130 137	166 997	163 509	153 987	782 492
TOTAL UE+*	78 612	91 898	131 124	167 683	166 359	155 327	791 003

Source:

Hungary has sent 75% of all inquiries to Bulgaria, which proves that for many asylum-seekers it is the first transit country in the EU. In the case of Slovakia, the most frequently asked country was Hungary (55%). In Poland, the geographical dispersion of requests for transfer of responsibility for a foreigner is much larger and covers almost all EU countries. Most inquiries were directed to Germany (34%), France (11%), Lithuania (8%), Austria, and Belgium (6% each), and Hungary (5%).

Table 24. IN transfers to V4 group countries in the period 2013-2018 by country receiving the request.

Country	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
TOTAL V4	6 872	3 842	1 402	2 780	3 054	2 016	19 966
Czechia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hungary	1 700	1 654	0	0	258	130	3 742
Poland	4 884	1 992	1 274	2 726	2 750	1 792	15 418
Slovakia	288	196	128	54	46	94	806
Total V4	6 872	3 842	1 402	2 780	3 054	2 016	19 966
other	6 648	8 026	19 742	41 448	49 546	50 576	175 986
TOTAL UE+*	13 520	11 868	21 144	44 228	52 600	52 592	195 952

Table 25. OUT transfers from V4 group countries in the period 2013-2018 by country sending the request.

Country	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
TOTAL V4	134	181	365	295	264	135	1 374
Czechia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hungary	32	89	n/a	204	217	53	595
Poland	61	47	17	8	15	67	215
Slovakia	41	45	348	83	32	15	564
Total V4	134	181	365	295	264	135	1 374
other	16 347	14 097	12 983	22 467	26 809	27 551	120 254
TOTAL UE+*	16 481	14 278	13 348	22 762	27 073	27 686	121 628

IV. Illegal migrants

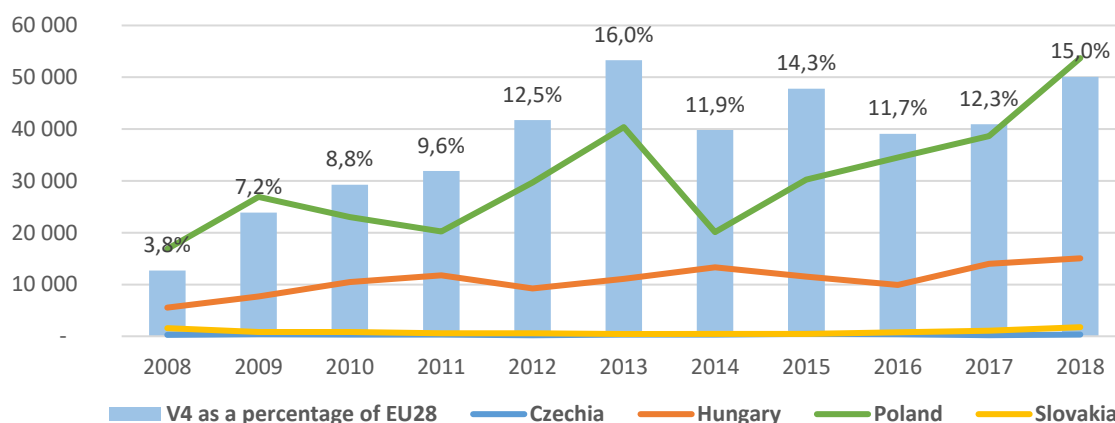
The most difficult question to determine and examine is the scale of illegal migration to V4. This, of course, results from the very nature of this phenomenon, because it is very hard to describe it through the statistics. The foreigner is sometimes able to move around the V4 and EU countries completely avoiding contact with the country's authorities or there are also situations when a foreigner is registered many times, e.g. trying to cross the border illegally or moving from country to country without any documents and authorities repeatedly refuse to enter in one or many countries.

The Eurostat data however let us estimate somehow the dimension of illegal migration.

1. Persons who were denied the EU entry

Three of V4 countries have the external EU border i.e. Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia. Most entry denials are registered in these three countries, especially in Poland. In 2018 over 53,000 people refused entry. In Slovakia - although the number remains small - it has increased significantly over the past 5 years from 435 in 2013 to 1,755 people in 2018.

Chart 61. Number of third-country nationals refused entry at the external borders of a V4 country and their share in total number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present in the European Union, 2008-2018.



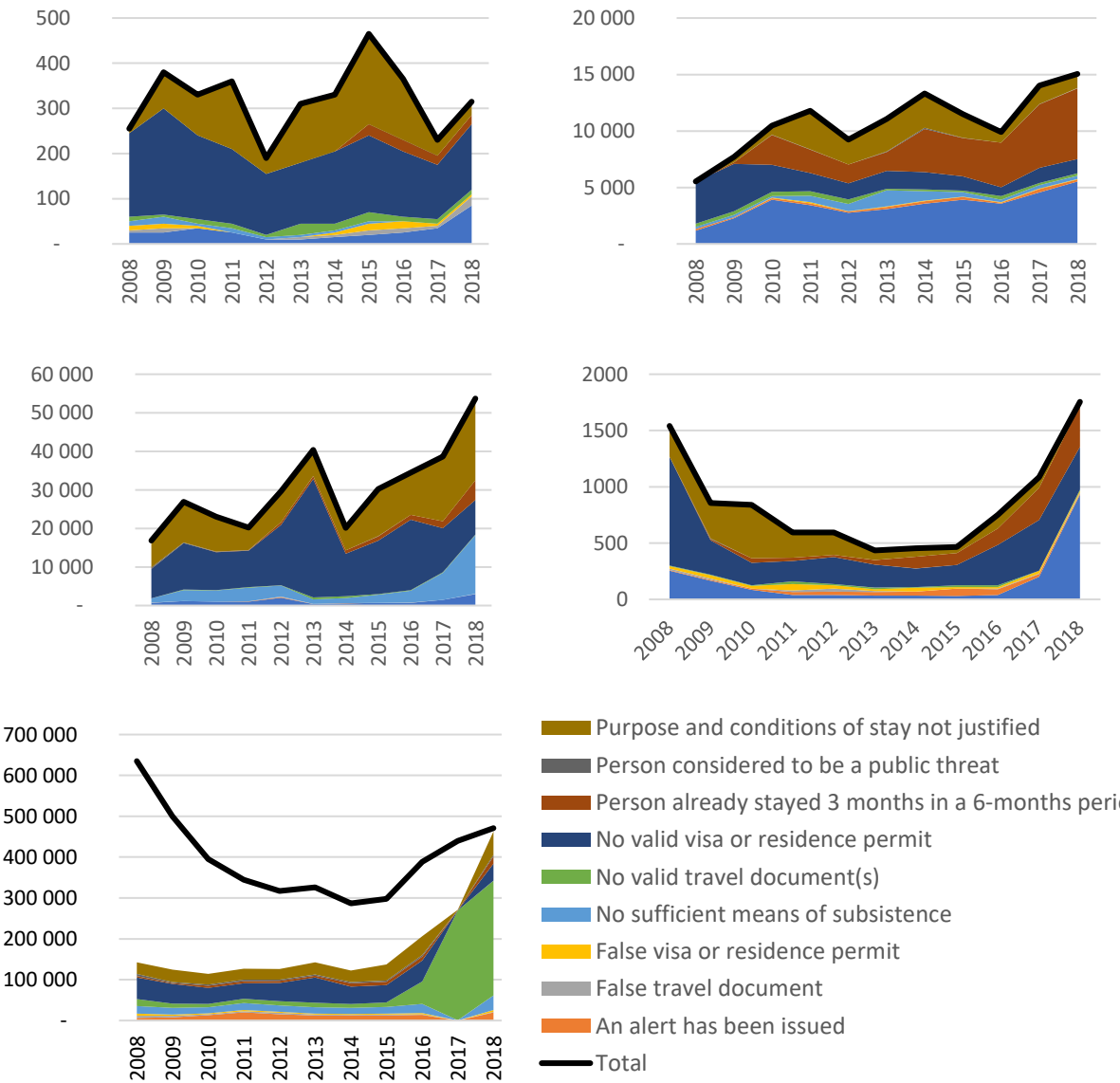
Source: Eurostat (*migr_eirfs*); 06.03.2020⁵³.

In the Czech Republic in 2018, only 315 refusals of entry were issued. The most common reasons for refusing entry were the lack of a valid visa or residence permit and the purpose of entry was not in accordance with the declared. However, in recent years the number of people who have not been admitted because they are being chased by arrest warrants has increased rapidly. In Hungary, in 2018 15,050 people were refused entry. Most of them were not allowed to enter, because they have already exceeded the allowed 3-month stay for 6 months. In addition, security measures were the second statistically significant reason. Persons wanted by arrest warrants constitute a growing percentage of those not admitted.

⁵³Eurostat, Third country nationals refused entry at the external borders - annual data (rounded) [*migr_eirfs*], Latest Update (02/03/2020): https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_eirfs&lang=en [access: 23.07.2020].

In Poland, in 2018 the number of refusals has exceeded 50,000. The most common reasons for refusing entry are the lack of a valid visa or residence permit, the purpose of the stay not in accordance with the declared one, and - to a lesser extent - the lack of financial resources for staying in Poland. Detention and refusal of entry of persons wanted by arrest warrants in Poland did not constitute a large percentage of persons who were refused entry, but in absolute values, this number also increased and amounted to almost 3,000 people in 2018. In Slovakia, as in other countries, there was a rapid increase in the number of people who were refused entry due to their presence on arrest warrants. Another important reason was the lack of a valid visa and residence permit and exceeding the 3-month visa validity period.

Chart 62. Number of third-country nationals refused entry at the external borders of by reason, 2008-2018.



Source: Eurostat (migr_eirfs); 06.03.2020⁵⁴.

⁵⁴Eurostat, Third country nationals refused entry at the external borders - annual data (rounded) [migr_eirfs], Latest Update (02/03/2020): https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_eirfs&lang=en [access: 12.07.2020].

Most people who were denied entry to V4 countries had Ukrainian citizenship (in 2018, Ukrainian citizens received over 42,500 refusals in Poland, 3,840 refusals in Hungary and 1,525 in Slovakia). Other nationalities were: Belarus (in 2018, 4,050 refusals in Poland), Russia (3,710 refusals in Poland in 2018 - a decrease from 15,975 refusals in 2013), Moldova (in 2018 1,860 refusals in Poland and 1,595 refusals in Hungary).

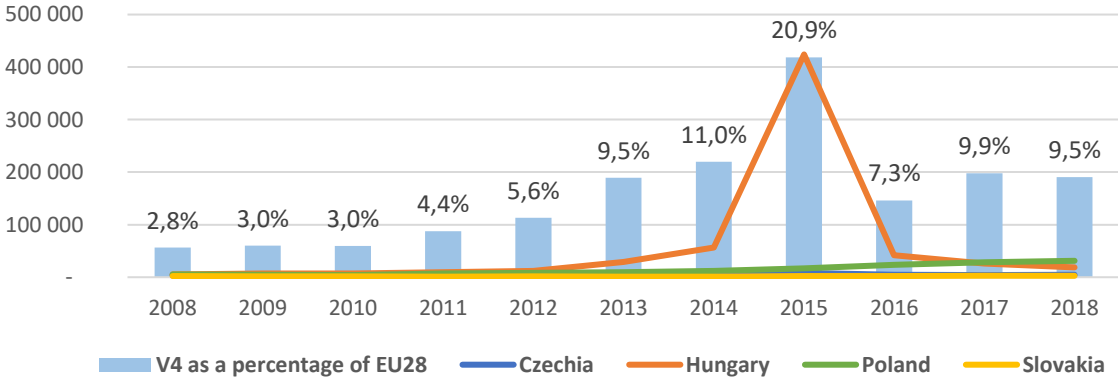
Due to the prosecution of arrest warrants in 2018, entry to the V4 was not allowed primarily to citizens of Ukraine (2,495 in Poland, 1,510 in Hungary, 870 in Slovakia), Moldova (440 in Hungary, 145 in Poland, 15 in Slovakia), Georgia (210 in Hungary, 125 in Poland, 50 in Czechia and 5 in Slovakia), Belarus (120 in Poland and 5 in Hungary), Turkey (in 2018 70 people in Hungary).

2. Third-country nationals found to be illegally present

Every year, V4 countries detain on their territory tens of thousands of foreigners without valid residence permits. The number of irregular migrants has increased over the past 10 years, and the highest value was recorded during the 2015 migration crisis. Most illegal migrants were stopped in Hungary in all the examined years. In 2015 illegal migrants identified in Hungary accounted for as much as 20% of all persons without documents detected in the EU due to so-called “refugee crisis”.

Illegal migration is detected while migrants work without permission, possess false documents, or try to transit illegally the borders.

Chart 63. The number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present by country and their share in total number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present in the European Union, 2008-2018.

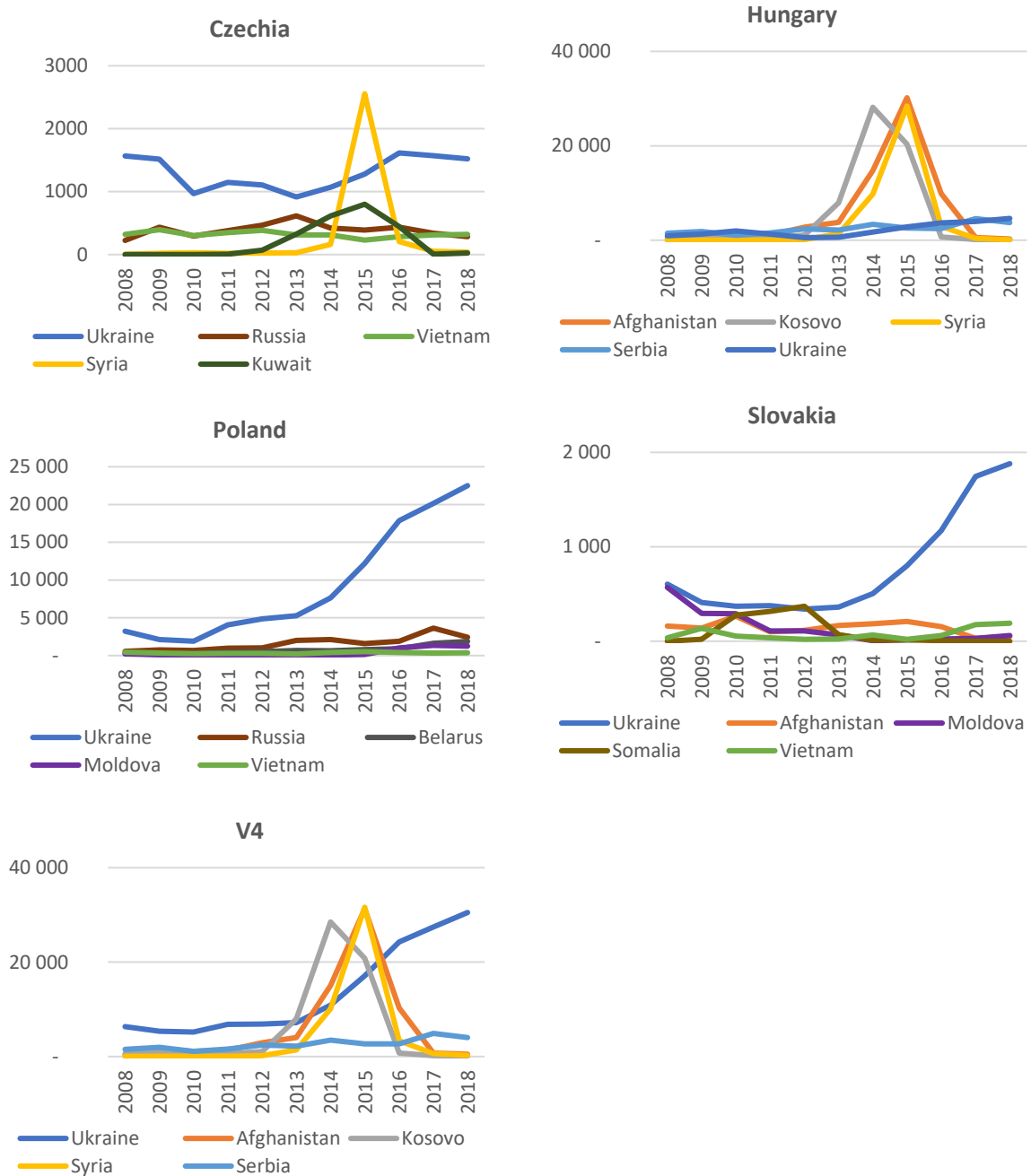


Source: Eurostat (migr_eipre); 06.03.2020⁵⁵.

Detected cases of stay without valid documents in the V4 Group relate to different countries of origin. In the Czech Republic and Hungary, the largest group were Syrian citizens. In Hungary, Afghans and Kosovo residents constituted the biggest problem. In the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia, the largest group of illegal foreigners detected annually are Ukrainian citizens. Apart from that, in the Czech Republic, the Vietnamese, Russians and Kuwait citizens are also a large group. In Poland and Slovakia, countries of origin other than Ukraine constitute a small percentage.

⁵⁵ https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_eipre&lang=en [access: 12.07.2020].

Chart 64. Top 5 citizenships of third-country nationals found to be illegally present in particular V4 countries, 2008-2018.

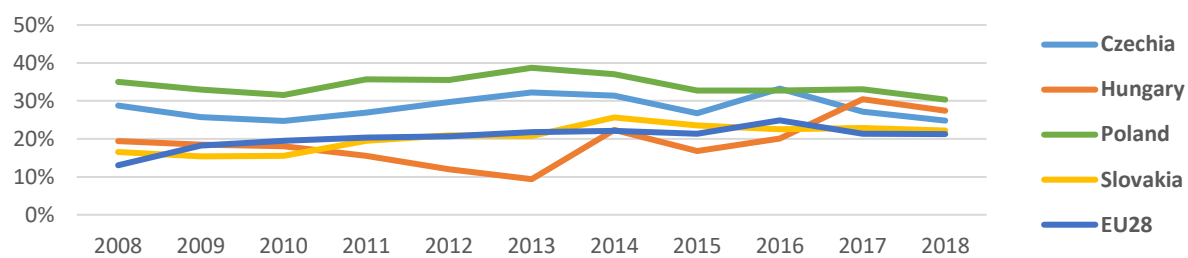


Source: Eurostat (*migr_eipre*); 06.03.2020⁵⁶.

Due to the overall structure of migration to the V4 countries, most of the illegal migrants are men. The largest number of women was revealed in Poland, where they constitute about 30-40% of illegal migrants, while this percentage is also falling.

⁵⁶ https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_eipre&lang=en [access: 10.07.2020].

Chart 65. Percentage of females among third-country nationals found to be illegally present in particular V4 countries, 2008-2018.



Source: Eurostat (*migr_eipre*); 06.03.2020⁵⁷.

⁵⁷ https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_eipre&lang=en [access: 08.07.2020].

V. Conclusion

1. Quality and comparability of the Eurostat data on migration

Our analyses confirm that migration law, at least in Poland, is very complex and evolve quickly, which has an impact on comparability – over time and between countries – of migration statistics. Thus, the attempts by Eurostat to develop common EU methodology for data gathering and display, have proven to be only partially successful. There are plenty, often tangled, legal provisions for issuing a residence permit. We were doing our best to summarize them for this paper, but we are aware that it is still not easy for the reader to grasp the variety of permits and procedures.

Moreover, each country has its own IT system(s) for migration data management, with its own peculiarities. E.g., Polish System Pobytu does not allow for entering a type of family relationship for some kinds of residence permits, and in turn, for a period of time, it allowed the caseworkers to enter multiple reasons for issuing a permit, without indicating which one is the most important. Sometimes so-called human factor leads to mistakes, e.g. in the scripts for computing the statistics, or in the guidelines for the caseworkers entering data into the system, which impacts the reports delivered to Eurostat by particular countries.

The work of national statistical teams preparing data for Eurostat is often hindered by limited financial and staff resources, which may cause certain data or metadata not to be reported. The complex institutional structures complicate the production of comprehensive statistics. Especially in Poland responsibility for migration management is distributed between many institutions: Office for Foreigners, Border Guard, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Voivodship offices, etc. E.g. the majority of residence permits reported to Eurostat are visas – which are in the competence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – while tables on migration statistics are delivered to Eurostat by the Office for Foreigners. Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides the Office for Foreigners with the tables prepared according to the Eurostat methodology, which are later merged with the data produced by the Office and reported to Eurostat. However, the Office does not have an insight into grass-root level data on visas. Thus, when an indicator takes some unexpected values, it is an uneasy task to detect whether the eccentric statistics illustrate a real phenomenon in the migrating population, or maybe it was caused by some other factor of methodological/organizational nature. Such difficulties were very much experienced by the team preparing this paper (see Part II).

Also, the Eurostat methodology itself is not entirely coherent. The comparison of data from different areas of migration, e.g. residence permits and asylum decisions, is difficult due to different concepts for particular groups of statistics. There are also gaps in the currently collected data, in terms of scope and complementarity, which distorts the picture of migration in the V4 countries. On the one hand, some information are not available because Eurostat does not collect them, e.g. it does not collect information on all permits issued in a given calendar year, but only about, so-called, first permits. Eurostat does not collect data on the number of applications for residence permit or subsequent asylum applications. There are no data on permits shorter than 3 months – more commonly issued by some countries (among them Poland) and less often by the other. On the other hand, Eurostat provides much data on the phenomena which are of marginal importance for V4 countries – Blue Card, ICT, researchers mobility (although such statistics are quite recent and tend to be incomplete).

Disputable is the notion of the “first permit”. Into this category, Eurostat includes residence permits issued for people who once had a permit but later had a break longer than 6 months. Such a methodological approach does not facilitate the assessment of the circular migration.

This bearing in mind, we must conclude that the Eurostat database remains the best available – and far the most complete and ambitious – source of cross-country information on the migration flows in the UE and V4. Although the Eurostat tables do not cover all the migratory movements, they certainly allow for tracking the major trends in migratory movements to the EU member states, in the context of demographic evolutions of the hosting societies.

2. Migration trends in the V4 countries

Demographic changes taking place in the V4 countries are typical for developed economies. The emigration pressure is decreasing, and the growing demand for an increased number of the workforce becomes more and more noticeable. The most rapid changes were observed in Czechia and Poland where the ageing of the society, together with massive emigration after accession to the EU in 2004, caused shortages in the labor market. In Hungary and Slovakia emigration have almost balanced immigration for most of the current century. Czechia – economically the most developed country in the V4 – has the longest history of large scale immigration.

Until World War I, all V4 countries were part of larger state bodies – the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and in the case of Poland also Germany, and Russia. As a result of two world wars, the borders of these countries have undergone numerous transformations, causing the movement of people on a large scale. In consequence, all V4 countries have large groups of citizens born in the territory of another country. In Poland and Hungary, this is especially true for the eldest generation. Border changes have also left a large number of ethnic Poles and Hungarians outside the new borders of these countries. Also, the existence of Czechoslovakia (1918-1938 and 1945-1992) resulted in significant migratory flows between Czechia and Slovakia.

Currently, one of the most important attempts to compensate for shrinking of the V4 populations is to attract groups which in the past were belonging to shared state organisms or have the same ethnic origin. Such solutions also try to compensate for the feeling of historical injustice, experienced by many national minorities in the region. Hungary took the most radical move by granting Hungarian citizenship to all interested ethnic Hungarians born abroad. Poland applies a similar policy, but in a weaker form – facilitating residence, work, and study in Poland for people with the Pole's Card. An open question remains whether, after obtaining a Polish or Hungarian passport, these people stay in their old-new homeland or rather decide to re-emigrate to, for example, other EU countries.

Still, it generally remains difficult to acquire citizenship of the V4 countries through naturalization – at least not many such decisions are issued. The new citizens usually come from neighboring countries, especially those with a lower standard of living. So the acquisition of citizenship is often beneficial – granting access to a more open labor market, higher wages, or a passport of the European Union (greater freedom of movement). The absolute leader, when it comes to obtaining citizenship in the V4 countries, is Ukraine, whose citizens dominate the statistics in all the countries described.

Policies of the V4 countries towards residents from outside the UE foster circular and seasonal economic migration, which fill the gaps in some sectors of state economies. The procedures in the V4 countries do not promote permanent residence or granting citizenship. Poland has the most restrictive regulations in this respect. Usually, the residence permits issued are of short duration – the validity of these permits usually does not exceed 12 months. Other countries issue permits for longer periods. In

all V4 countries, there is an increased migration from Ukraine, which dominates practically all types of procedures, except for the refugee status. The Russians also form quite a large group in all these countries.

Statistically, family reunification procedures do not play a major role in the influx of immigrants, while the V4 countries are leading in the EU in issuing residence permits for the reason of work. This phenomenon is particularly visible in Poland and Slovakia. In Hungary, and especially in the Czech Republic, the percentage of permits due to family reunification is closer to the EU average.

The position of the V4 countries towards the 2015 refugee crisis is well known. It is worth noting, however, that it was only in the case of Hungary that this crisis was truly a unique phenomenon. In other countries, the statistics of refugee applications did not record a sharp increase in the discussed period. However, after this period, the number of applications for granting the refugee status decreased in all V4 countries. Thus, the crisis generally tightened borders. Moreover, a lot of data indicate that applicants for international protection do not consider the V4 countries as destination, but rather as a transit area. The procedures are usually discontinued, mostly due to the departure of the applicants to other EU countries. Germany remains the main target of further migration. This country then issues the highest number of requests within Dublin procedures - which are usually accepted in the V4 countries - but often fails to transfer the applicants concerned.

3. Ideas for further research

The analyses which we conducted working on this report indicate that complete harmonization of data is impossible without harmonization of law across the V4/UE. As long as each country has its own system of variously defined permits and visas, there will be no fully comparable cross-country data on migration issues. There is a set of EU-harmonized migration laws, but except for the Common European Asylum System and seasonal work law, they are of narrow scope. An important question is thus – what are the conditions for making the migration law more harmonized at the supranational level? And further on – is it of common interest for the V4 countries to develop such a harmonized legal provisions in the area of immigration?

Given that profiles of immigration flows and demographic problems are similar across the V4, it seems that members of the Group are in the position of competition for the limited resource of migrants from Eastern Europe. The MAC platform may create space for reflection if it is possible and beneficial for the V4 partners to rise above the logic of competition in the area of educational and labour migration.

The scope of information which will be gathered on the MAC platform is a matter of consultations between countries, but our overview reveals a set of gaps in the Eurostat data, which are worth to be filled, i.e.:

- number of all residence permits issued yearly in each V4 country,
- number of persons receiving residence permits,
- number of applications for a residence permit and rejection rates,
- rate of subsequent applications for asylum.

Moreover, the following analyses within the MAC project should deal with the problems of:

- the relation between the true migration rates in each country and number of the permits issued,
- push and pull factors for various forms of migration,
- secondary movements among the legal migrants,

- conditions for a change of circular migration into permanent residence,
- reasons for migration indicated in the applications for a residence permits and the true motivations of applicants,
- the influence of sudden events, like Covid-19 epidemics, on the migrants' attitudes.

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8. Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 of 18 February 2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national.

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Annexes

1. The most important legal acts regulating the stay of foreigners in V4 countries

Czech Republic

- Act No. 326/1999 Coll., On the Residence of Aliens in the Czech Republic and on Amendments to Certain Acts, as amended (*Zákon č. 326/1999 Sb., o pobytu cizinců na území ČR a o změně některých zákonů, ve znění pozdějších předpisů*),
- Act No. 325/1999 Coll., On Asylum, as amended (*Zákon č. 325/1999 Sb., o azylu ve znění pozdějších předpisů*),
- Act No. 435/2004 Coll., On employment, as amended – conditions of work for foreigners (*Zákon č. 435/2004 Sb., o zaměstnanosti, ve znění pozdějších předpisů*),
- Act No. 221/2003 Coll., On Temporary Protection of Foreigners, as amended (*Zákon č. 221/2003 Sb., o dočasné ochraně cizinců ve znění pozdějších předpisů*),
- Act No. 191/2016 Coll., On the Protection of the National Border of the Czech Republic and on Amendment of Related Acts (*Zákon č. 191/2016 Sb., o ochraně státních hranic ČR a o změně souvisejících zákonů*).

Hungary

- Act II of 2007 on the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals 2007. (*évi II. törvény a harmadik országbeli állampolgárok beutazásáról és tartózkodásáról*),
- Government Decree 114/2007 (V. 24.) on the Implementation of Act II of 2007 on the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals 114/2007. (V. 24.) (*Korm. rendelet a harmadik országbeli állampolgárok beutazásáról és tartózkodásáról szóló 2007. évi II. törvény végrehajtásáról*),
- Act I of 2007 on the Admission and Residence of Persons with the Right of Free Movement and Residence 2007. (*évi I. törvény a szabad mozgás és tartózkodás jogával rendelkező személyek beutazásáról és tartózkodásáról*),
- Government Decree 113/2007 (V. 24.) on the Implementation of Act I of 2007 on the Admission and Residence of Persons with the Right of Free Movement and Residence 13/2007. (V. 24.) (*Korm. rendelet a szabad mozgás és tartózkodás jogával rendelkező személyek beutazásáról és tartózkodásáról szóló 2007. évi I. törvény végrehajtásáról*),
- Act CL of 2016 on the Code of General Administrative Procedure 2016. (*évi CL. törvény az általános közigazgatási rendtartásról*).

Poland

- Act of 12 December 2013 on foreigners in Poland (*Ustawa z dnia 12 grudnia 2013 r. o cudzoziemcach*),
- Act of 13 June 2003 on granting protection to foreigners within the territory of the Republic of Poland (*Ustawa z dnia 13 czerwca 2003 r. o udzielaniu cudzoziemcom ochrony na terytorium Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*),

- Act of 14 July 2006 on the entry, residence in and exit from the Republic of Poland of nationals of the European Union Member States and their family members (*Ustawa z dnia 14 lipca 2006 r. o wjeździe na terytorium Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej, pobycie oraz wyjeździe z tego terytorium obywateli państw członkowskich Unii Europejskiej i członków ich rodzin*),
- Act of 20 July 2017 amending the act on employment promotion and labor market institutions, and some other acts (*Ustawa z dnia 20 lipca 2017 roku o zmianie ustawy o promocji zatrudnienia i instytucjach rynku pracy oraz niektórych innych ustaw Dz.U. z 2017 roku, poz. 1543*),
- Act of 7 September 2007 on the Pole's Card (*Ustawa z 7 września 2007 o Karcie Polaka*).

Slovakia

- Constitutional Act No. 460/1992 Coll. Constitution of the Slovak Republic,
- Act No. 404/2011 on Residence of Foreigners and Amendment and Supplementation of Certain Acts (Act of 21 October 2011),
- Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on changes and amendments to some acts,
- Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended. The Act came into effect on 20 July 2018,
- Act No. 40/1993 Coll. on Citizenship of the Slovak Republic, as amended,
- Act No. 112/2018 Coll. on Social Economy and Social Enterprises and on changes and amendments to some acts,
- Act No. 447/2008 Coll. on Financial Benefits for Serious Health Disability Compensation and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended and on changing,
- Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended,
- Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on Social and Legal Protection of Children and on Social Guardianship and on changes and amendments to some acts,
- Strategy for Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic.

2. Transposition of the national forms of residence permits into the Eurostat tables

The two tables below should explain how various forms of residence permits issued by the V4 countries are aggregated to the categories used by Eurostat.

Types of permits by reason

Table 26. Other reasons.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
Remunerated activities reasons				
EU Blue card	Long-term residence permit - Blue Card ⁵⁸	Employment is justified in line with specific guidelines laid down by the relevant legislation, or on grounds of domestic employment policy considerations	<p>- TRP for a foreigner who intends to work in Poland in a profession requiring high qualifications for a period longer than 3 months, if:</p> <p>1) the foreigner:</p> <p>a) is a party to an employment contract or a preliminary employment contract in a profession requiring high qualifications for a period of at least 1 year,</p> <p>b) meets the qualification requirements specified in Act on the principles of recognition of professional qualifications acquired in the EU MS,</p> <p>c) has high professional qualifications,</p> <p>d) has health insurance in Poland,</p> <p>e) has the consent of the competent authority to work, if the profession is particularly regulated;</p> <p>2) an entity employing the foreigner cannot find proper staff at the local labour market;</p>	- for the purpose of highly qualified employment – Blue card

⁵⁸ Information from the site: <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/modra-karta.aspx?q=Y2hudW09NQ%3d%3d>. In case of an application submitted to an embassy, the embassy issues to an applicant a visa for a period longer than 90 days in order to receive the residence card - blue card.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
			3) the annual gross remuneration of the foreigner shall not be lower than the equivalent of 150% of the average annual gross remuneration in Poland.	
Highly skilled workers	The Czech partner provided a link to the Blue Card info ⁵⁹ .		- TRP for a foreigner who conducts legal business activity in Poland, beneficial for the national economy and particularly contributing to the increase of investment, technology transfer, introduction of beneficial innovations or creation of new jobs, and has health insurance ⁶⁰	(no national scheme)
Researchers	Long-term residence for the purpose of "scientific research" for a foreigner who... - has a hosting agreement with a research organisation and intend to temporarily stay	Third-country national who holds a doctoral degree or an appropriate higher education qualification which gives that third-country national access to doctoral programs, who entered the territory of a Member State and is staying there,	<p>Visa for:</p> <p>12) didactic;</p> <p>13) conducting scientific research or development works;</p> <p>- TRP for a foreign scientist arriving to or staying in Poland to conduct scientific research under an admission agreement concluded with a scientific institution approved by the ministry of science, [if all the following conditions are met:</p> <p>1) the foreigner has:</p> <p>a) health insurance</p> <p>b) sufficient financial resources to cover the cost of living and return travel to the country of origin or residence or the cost of</p>	- conducting scientific research or development works

⁵⁹ <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/obcane-tretich-zemi-dlouhodoby-pobyt.aspx?q=Y2hudW09MTA%3d>.

⁶⁰ Since 01.05.2014.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
	<p>in the Czech Republic for more than 3 months, or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is holder of visa for a stay of over 90 days issued for any purpose, except purpose leave to remain visa, seasonal work or extra work visa, or - is holder of long-term residence permit issued by another purpose, - is holder of long-term residence permit issued for the purpose of scientific 	<p>and who is selected by a research organisation for carrying out a research activity for which such qualification is normally required.</p>	<p>transit to the third country which grants the entry authorization, and study costs,</p> <p>c) a statement of the hosting scientific unit, that it will cover the costs of returning the foreigner from Poland, if the foreigner receive decision on the obligation to return, issued solely for the reason of his/her illegal stay in Poland, and this decision is issued at least 6 months before the expiry date of the admission agreement.</p> <p>2) the admission agreement is concluded as an employment contract, work contract, commission contract or other civil law agreement with a scientific unit having its registered office in Poland, and it specifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a title or purpose of scientific research or development works, or their subject, b) obligation of the researcher to participate in scientific research or development works, c) commitment of the scientific unit to provide the scientist with the conditions to fulfil his/her obligation, d) date of commencement and completion or estimated duration of scientific research or development works, e) the salary of the researcher and other conditions of his work, 	

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
	research by another EU MS (except UK, IE and DK), if foreign national submits an application during his/her visa-free regime and if he/she resides in the CzR for more than one year for the purpose of scientific research ⁶¹ .		f) information on planned scientific research or development works in other MS] ⁶² ; - TRP for a foreigner who has a residence permit with the annotation "researcher" , issued by another MS according to Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 of the European Union (if the hosting agreement for the implementation of a research project provides for conducting scientific research also in Poland);	
Seasonal workers	Long-stay Visa for the Purpose of Seasonal Work ⁶³ – a foreign	activity performed in agricultural sectors of employment	Visa for 5a) performing the work referred to in the Act of April 20, 2004 on employment promotion and labor market institutions, for a period not exceeding 9 months in a calendar year;	- performing the seasonal work for max. a period not exceeding

⁶¹ Information from the site: <https://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/third-country-nationals-long-term-residence.aspx?q=Y2hudW09Mw%3d%3d>

⁶² Provisions in brackets since 01.05.2014.

⁶³ Information from the site: <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/sezonni-zamestnavani.aspx>

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
	national may submit the application solely at the embassy of the CzR in the state where he/she is a citizen, or in the state that has issued a his/her travel document or in the state where he/she has a long-stay or permanent residence permit (unless he/she is citizen of a state given in the list of states whose nationals may submit an application for a long-stay visa or a long-stay or permanent		<p>- TRP for a foreigner if the purpose of his/her stay in Poland is to work in a branch of economy, in which there is a much higher demand for labour in certain periods of the year, based on a contract with an entity active in Poland, if the foreigner meets all the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) entered Poland on the basis of a visa for seasonal work issued or an application for seasonal work permit; 2) has a seasonal work permit or an extension of the seasonal work permit, valid for a period exceeding the duration of the visa or visa-free stay; 3) has a source of stable and regular income sufficient to cover the cost of living; 4) has health insurance; 5) has accommodation in Poland; 	180 days during 12 consecutive months

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
	residence permit at any embassy of the Czech Republic (Regulation No. 429/2010 Coll.) ⁶⁴ .			
Other remunerated activities	- Employee card – entitles the foreign national to both reside in the territory of the CR and be employed; it can also exist in the form of a non-dual document, in which case it is basically only a residence permit (for foreign nationals who are still required to have an	<u>Residence permit for the purpose of employment:</u> to third-country nationals, whose purpose of residence is to perform work for or under the direction and/or supervision of others, for remuneration, under employment relationship; or who performs work as the owner or executive	- Visa for: 5) performing work, for a period not exceeding 6 months in the next 12 months, based on the declaration entered in the register on entrusting work to a foreigner; 6) performing work other than specified in items 5 and 5a; 24a) implementation of a temporary residence permit for the purpose of performing work under an intra-corporate transfer; 4) conducting economic activity; (MSZ-4) - permit for an EU citizen – the right of residence for more than 3 months if he/she is an employee or a self-employed person in Poland;	- for the purpose of business – max. for 3 years; - for the purpose of employment – max. for 5 years; - ICT (managing employee or specialist and employee - grantee) - purpose of a specific activity -

⁶⁴ Information from the site: <https://www.mvcr.cz/docDetail.aspx?docid=22082661&doctype=ART>.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
	<p>employment permit or who has a free access to the labour market pursuant to the Employment Act); the job vacancy for which an application card can be filed must come from <i>the central register of job vacancies that can be filled by holders of employee cards</i>, the applicant must prove the professional qualifications for performance of the desired job and fulfil conditions set out in the measure of</p>	<p>officer of a for-profit business association, co-operative society or some other legal entity, in addition to the work actually performed in that capacity.</p> <p><u>Residence permit for the pursuit of gainful activity:</u> to third-country nationals whose purpose of residence is to lawfully perform work in a self-employed capacity for remuneration to engage in any activity in the capacity of being the owner or manager of a for-profit business association, cooperative or some</p>	<p>- TRP for a foreigner who has a work permit or, if a work permit is not required, a written statement by the employer about the intention to employ him/her,</p> <p>- a temporary single residence and work permit granted to a foreigner intending to stay in Poland to work, having health insurance and a source of stable and regular income sufficient to cover the costs of living for himself/herself and dependent family members</p> <p>- a foreigner who has residence permit for the long-term resident of the EU issued by another MS, who intends to legally work in Poland</p> <p>- TRP for a foreigner who has a work permit or, if a work permit is not required, a written statement by the employer about the intention to employ him/her, and who is temporarily delegated to provide services in Poland, by the employer having its registered office on the territory of a MS, IS, LI, NO or CH, entitled to reside and work in the territory of that state, if the sole basis for refusal would be the illegal stay in Poland;</p> <p>- TRP for a foreigner with recognized artistic achievements intending to continue his/her work in Poland,</p> <p>- TRP for a foreigner having the right to work in Poland under the Agreement establishing an association between the European</p>	<p>lecturing, artistic, sporting activity, journalist</p> <p>- for the purpose performing service obligations by civil units of armed forces</p> <p>- third country national who has the status of a Slovak living abroad – (if is stated the main purpose of stay-remunerated activities category)</p>

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
	<p>Ministry of Health on prevention of the spread of infectious illnesses;</p> <p>- Visa for a stay of over 90 days for the purpose of employment (no longer issued);</p> <p>- Long-term residence permit for the purpose of employment (no longer issued);</p> <p>- Green Card (no longer issued).</p>	<p>other legal entity, or as a member of the executive, representative or supervisory board of such entity.</p> <p><u>Residence permit for the purpose of Intra-corporate Transfer:</u> for any third-country national who resides outside the territory of the Member States of the European Union at the time of application for an intra-corporate transferee permit and who is subject to an intra-corporate transfer.</p>	<p>Economic Community and Turkey (Official Journal EC L 217 of 29.12 .1964, p. 3687),</p> <p>Until 30.04.2014: TRP for the purpose of performing work as part of an intra-corporate transfer - granted when the purpose of the foreigner's stay in Poland is to work in the host unit having its registered office in Poland, as a manager, a specialist or an intern, and the following conditions are cumulatively met:</p> <p>1) a foreigner:</p> <p>a) has the qualifications and experience adequate for the unit to which he/she is to be transferred - in the case of work as a managerial staff or specialist - or a university diploma - in the case of work as an intern,</p> <p>b) has formal qualifications and meets other conditions that are required if he intends to work in a regulated profession⁶⁵</p> <p>(c) immediately before the date of the intra-corporate transfer, he was employed within the same enterprise or group of enterprises for a continuous period of at least:</p> <p>- 12 months - in the case of work as managerial staff or specialist,</p>	

⁶⁵ Within the meaning of art. 5 point 4 of the Act of 22 December 2015 on the principles of recognition of professional qualifications acquired in the Member States of the European Union.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
			<p>- 6 months - in the case of work as a trainee employee,</p> <p>d) has health insurance,</p> <p>e) has an accommodation in Poland,</p> <p>f) after the end of the intra-corporate transfer period, will be able to transfer back to his parent employer or another enterprise belonging to the same enterprise group which is established outside the EU;</p> <p>2) the contract, which is the basis for the transfer, specifies:</p> <p>a) the period of transfer of the foreigner within the enterprise,</p> <p>b) the seat of the host entity,</p> <p>c) position of the foreigner in the receiving unit,</p> <p>d) remuneration and other working conditions of the foreigner in the host entity (higher than the income entitling to cash benefits from social assistance to a foreigner and each dependent family member, and not lower than the remuneration of employees who do comparable job in Poland, and not lower than 70% of the average monthly gross salary in the national economy in the voivodship in which the receiving unit is established).</p> <p>2. A foreigner whose purpose of stay in Poland is to undergo internship as part of an intra-corporate transfer, in addition has a</p>	

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
			<p>contract regarding internships at the receiving unit, which specifies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) internship program; 2) duration of the internship; 3) the conditions of supervision over a foreigner during his internship. <p>Since 01.05.2014 instead: permit for the long-term mobility of a manager, specialist or an intern, as part of an intra-corporate transfer – granted when the purpose of the foreigner's stay in Poland is to work in the host unit having its registered office in Poland and the following conditions are cumulatively met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a foreigner: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) has formal qualifications and meets other conditions that are required if he intends to work in a regulated profession⁶⁶, aa) has a residence permit with the annotation 'ICT'⁶⁷, issued by another MS, b) has health insurance, 	

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Referred to in art. 1 clause 2 a of Regulation No. 1030/2002.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
			<p>c) has an accommodation in Poland,</p> <p>d) after the end of the intra-corporate transfer period, will be able to transfer back to his parent employer or another enterprise belonging to the same enterprise group which is established outside the EU;</p> <p>2) the contract, which is the basis for the transfer, specifies:</p> <p>a) the period of transfer of the foreigner within the enterprise,</p> <p>b) the seat of the host entity,</p> <p>c) position of the foreigner in the receiving unit,</p> <p>d) remuneration and other working conditions of the foreigner in the host entity (higher than the income entitling to cash benefits from social assistance to a foreigner and each dependent family member, and not lower than the remuneration of employees who do comparable job in Poland, and not lower than 70% of the average monthly gross salary in the national economy in the voivodship in which the receiving unit is established).</p> <p>- TRP for a foreigner delegated by a foreign employer to work in Poland if the foreigner has:</p> <p>1) a work permit, or a written statement by the employer of the intention to employ him/her;</p> <p>2) health insurance;</p>	

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
			3) a source of stable and regular income sufficient to cover the costs of living for himself/herself and dependent family members; 4) an accommodation in Poland.	
Family reasons				
Child joining a non EU citizen	In this category the Czech partner provided hyperlinks to information on: - visa for a stay of over 90 days (long-term) ⁶⁸ , - and long-term residence permit ⁶⁹ .	<u>Residence permit for the purpose of family reunification:</u> to a family member of a third-country national in possession of a residence permit, immigration permit, settlement permit, interim permanent residence permit,	Visa for: 18a) arrival on the territory of the Republic of Poland as a member of the immediate family of a repatriate ⁷⁰ ; 19a) arrival on the territory of the Republic of Poland as a member of the immediate family of a person residing in Poland on the basis of a permanent residence permit obtained on the basis of the Pole's Card ⁷¹ ; 24) implementation of a temporary residence permit for family reunification ⁷² ;	<u>D - type national visa</u> A family member of a foreigner who was granted asylum or subsidiary protection shall be granted a national visa, if he/she does not threaten the state security or public order.

⁶⁸ <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/vizum-k-pobytu-nad-90-dnu-dlouhodobe.aspx?q=Y2hudW09NQ%3d%3d>.

⁶⁹ <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/obcane-tretich-zemi-dlouhodoby-pobyt.aspx?q=Y2hudW09Nw%3d%3d>.

⁷⁰ No distinction between children or other family members.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
		national permanent residence permit, EC permanent residence permit or residence card or permanent residence card in accordance with specific other legislation; family member of a person with refugee status or who has been granted subsidiary protection status.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TRP for a minor foreigner's child born in Poland, staying in Poland unattended; - TRP for a minor child of a foreigner having TRP, born in Poland; - TRP for a minor child of a foreigner who resides in Poland on the basis of a national visa or TRP, if the child was born during the period of validity of this residence permit, and the foreigner has health insurance, a source of stable and regular income sufficient to cover the costs of living for himself/herself and dependent family members, and accommodation in Poland; - TRP for an adult child of a foreigner residing in Poland on the basis of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) PRP, b) residence permit for EU long-term resident, c) refugee status, d) subsidiary protection, e) subsequent TRPs for at least 2 years f) TRP or a national visa for researchers; g) TRP for long term scientific activity h) temporary residence permit for high-skilled workers, ha) TRP granted for intra-corporate transfer, hb) TRP for the long-term mobility of a managerial staff member, specialist or trainee employee, as part of an intra-corporate transfer, 	<p>Temporary residence permit for the purpose of family reunification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a single child younger than 18 years of age of a third country national and/or his/her spouse; - his/her unattended single child older than 18 years of age or dependent single child older than 18 years of age of third country national or of his/her spouse who cannot take care of him/herself due to long term unfavourable health condition; <p>Permanent residence permit - for five years to a third country national who is a single child younger than 18 years</p>

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
			<p>i) humanitarian status, granted if the adult child have stayed in Poland⁷³ for at least 5 years on the basis of TRP for family reunification, has health insurance, a source of stable and regular income sufficient to cover the costs of living for himself/herself and dependent family members, and accommodation in Poland;</p> <p>- PRP for a child of a foreigner who has a PRP or residence permit for EU long-term resident, remaining under his/her parental authority:</p> <p>a) born after granting the foreign parent a permanent residence permit or a long-term resident's EU residence permit or</p> <p>b) born during the period of validity of the temporary residence permit granted to that foreigner or during the period of the foreigner's stay in Poland for humanitarian reasons or tolerated stay or refugee status or subsidiary protection;</p> <p>- residence permit for a family member of a foreigner having residence permit for the long-term resident of the EU issued by another MS and legally residing in Poland, with whom he/she stayed on the territory of another MS, accompanying him/her in Poland or wanting to join him/her;</p>	<p>of age entrusted into personal care of a third country national who is a spouse of the Slovak Republic citizen with permanent residence in the Slovak Republic territory;</p> <p>or who is a single child younger than 18 years of age of a third country national with permanent residence for five years or child younger than 18 years of age entrusted into personal care of a third country national with permanent residence for five years</p>

⁷³ For cases h) and i) also in another MS.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
Child joining an EU citizen	<p>A visa for a stay of over 90 days (long-term)⁷⁴</p> <p>A temporary residence permit for a family member of an EU citizen⁷⁵</p>	<p><u>Residence card</u>: to the direct descendants of an EEA national and those of the spouse of an EEA national who are under the age of 21 years or are dependents. The EEA national shall intend to engage in some form of gainful employment; or have sufficient resources for themselves and their family members not to become a burden on the social</p>	<p>Visa for:</p> <p>17) joining a citizen of another Member State of the European Union, a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) - parties to the agreement on the European Economic Area or the Swiss Confederation or being with him;</p> <p>24) implementation of a temporary residence permit for family reunification;</p> <p>- TRP for a spouse and dependent child of an EU citizen or of his/her spouse, joining him/her or staying with him/her in Poland, if the EU citizen has:</p> <p>a) general health insurance,</p> <p>b) entitlement to healthcare financed by the government, or</p> <p>c) private health insurance, covering all medical expenses that may arise during a stay Poland;</p>	<p>The right of residence as a family member of EU citizen (Direction 2004/38/ES)</p> <p>Permanent residence permit - for five years to a third country national who is a spouse of the Slovak Republic citizen with permanent residence in the Slovak Republic territory or dependent relative in direct line of the Slovak Republic citizen with permanent residence in the Slovak Republic</p>

⁷⁴ <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/vizum-k-pobytu-nad-90-dnu-dlouhodobe.aspx?q=Y2hudW09NQ%3d%3d>

⁷⁵ <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/prechodny-pobyt.aspx?q=Y2hudW09Mg%3d%3d>

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
		<p>assistance system of Hungary during their period of residence, and have comprehensive sickness insurance cover for health-care services as prescribed in specific other legislation, or if they assure that they have sufficient resources for themselves and their family for such services as required by statutory provisions; or to be enrolled at an</p>	<p>- TRP for a foreigner who is a minor child of a foreigner married to a citizen of Poland holding a TRP for a family member of a citizen of Poland or a PRP for a married to a Polish citizen⁷⁶;</p> <p>- TRP for a foreign child of a Polish citizen or his spouse who is under 21 years of age or who is dependent on a Polish citizen or his spouse⁷⁷, if the Polish citizen resides in Poland and regularly travels another MS to work, and the lack of this permit would prevent him/her from exercising his/her freedom of movement for workers;</p> <p>- PRP for a foreign child of a Polish citizen, remaining under his/her parental authority;</p>	

⁷⁶ Since 01.05.2014.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
		educational institution.		
Spouse/partner joining a non EU citizen	A visa for a stay of over 90 days (long-term) ⁷⁸	<u>Residence permit for the purpose of family reunification:</u> to a family member of a third-country national in possession of a residence permit, immigration permit, settlement permit, interim permanent residence permit, national permanent residence permit, EC permanent residence permit or residence card or permanent residence card in accordance with specific other	<p>Visa for:</p> <p>18a) arrival on the territory of the Republic of Poland as a member of the immediate family of a repatriate;</p> <p>19a) arrival on the territory of the Republic of Poland as a member of the immediate family of a person residing in Poland on the basis of a permanent residence permit obtained on the basis of the Pole's Card;</p> <p>24) implementation of a temporary residence permit for family reunification;</p> <p>- TRP for a spouse or an adult child of a foreigner joining a non EU citizen, who stayed in Poland for at least 5 years on the basis of TRPs to join a non EU citizen,</p> <p>- TRP for a citizen of IS, LI, NO or CH married to a Polish citizen, who received a certificate of registering the residence of an EU citizen for the first time;</p> <p>- TRP for a foreigner leading a family life within the meaning of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, with a citizen of Poland or another EU</p>	<p><u>D - type national visa</u></p> <p>A family member of a foreigner who was granted asylum or subsidiary protection shall be granted a national visa, if he/she does not threaten the state security or public order.</p> <p>Temporary residence permit for the purpose of family reunification:</p> <p>- a spouse, if the married couple is at least 18 years old;</p>

⁷⁸ <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/vizum-k-pobytu-nad-90-dnu-dlouhodobe.aspx?q=Y2hudW09NQ%3d%3d>.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
		legislation; family member of a person with refugee status or who has been granted subsidiary protection status	<p>MS, IS, LI, NO or CH, staying in Poland together with this citizen, if the foreigner has health insurance and a source of stable and regular income sufficient to cover the costs of living for themselves and dependent family;</p> <p>- TRP for a foreigner married to a foreigner residing in Poland on the basis of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) permanent residence permit, b) residence permit for EU long-term resident, c) refugee status, d) subsidiary protection, e) subsequent temporary residence permits for at least 2 years f) temporary residence permit or a national visa for researchers; g) temporary residence permit for long term scientific activity ha) temporary residence permit granted for intra-corporate transfer, hb) temporary residence permit for the purpose of long-term mobility of a managerial staff member, specialist or trainee employee, as part of an intra-corporate transfer, i) humanitarian status <p>and if the foreigner have stayed in Poland⁷⁹ for at least 5 years on the basis of TRP for family reunification, has health insurance and a source of stable and regular income sufficient to cover the costs</p>	

⁷⁹ For cases h) and i) also in another MS.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
			of living for themselves and remaining family members on his dependence, as well as a place of residence in Poland;	
Spouse/partner joining an EU citizen	A temporary residence permit for a family member of an EU citizen ⁸⁰	<u>Residence card</u> : to the spouse of an EEA national, who intends to engage in some form of gainful employment; or has sufficient resources for themselves and their family members not to become a burden on the social assistance system of Hungary during their period of residence, and have comprehensive sickness insurance cover for health-care services as prescribed in specific	<p>- Visa for:</p> <p>17) joining a citizen of another Member State of the European Union, a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) - parties to the agreement on the European Economic Area or the Swiss Confederation or being with him;</p> <p>24) implementation of a temporary residence permit for family reunification;</p> <p>- TRP a foreigner married to a citizen of Poland;</p> <p>- residence permit for spouse or a dependent children of an EU citizen or his/her spouse staying in Poland to study or take professional training, who has a source of stable and regular income sufficient to cover the costs of living for themselves and dependent family members and health insurance;</p>	<p>The right of residence as a family member of EU citizen (Dir. 2004/38/ES)</p> <p>Permanent residence permit - for five years to a third country national who is a spouse of the Slovak Republic citizen with permanent residence in the Slovak Republic territory or dependent relative in direct line of the Slovak Republic citizen with permanent residence in the Slovak Republic</p>

⁸⁰ <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/prechodny-pobyt.aspx?q=Y2hudW09Mg%3d%3d>.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
		other legislation, or if they assure that they have sufficient resources for themselves and their family for such services as required by statutory provisions; or is enrolled at an educational institution.		
Other family member joining a non EU citizen	A visa for a stay of over 90 days (long-term) ⁸¹	<u>Residence permit for the purpose of family reunification:</u> to a family member of a third-country national in possession of a residence permit, immigration permit, settlement permit, interim permanent	- Visa for: 18a) arrival on the territory of the Republic of Poland as a member of the immediate family of a repatriate; 19a) arrival on the territory of the Republic of Poland as a member of the immediate family of a person residing in Poland on the basis of a permanent residence permit obtained on the basis of the Pole's Card; 24) implementation of a temporary residence permit for family reunification;	<u>D - type national visa</u> A family member of a foreigner who was granted asylum or subsidiary protection shall be granted a national visa, if he/she does not threaten the state security or public order.

⁸¹ <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/vizum-k-pobytu-nad-90-dnu-dlouhodobě.aspx?q=Y2hudW09NQ%3d%3d>.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
		<p>residence permit, national permanent residence permit, EC permanent residence permit or residence card or permanent residence card in accordance with specific other legislation; family member of a person with refugee status or who has been granted subsidiary protection status.</p>	<p>- TRP for a foreigner who intends to live as a family member with the migrant employee defined in the European Social Charter</p> <p>- TRP for a family member of a foreigner residing in Poland on the basis of:</p> <p>1) PRP;</p> <p>2) residence permit for EU long-term resident;</p> <p>3) refugee status;</p> <p>3a) subsidiary protection</p> <p>4) subsequent TRP for at least 2 years;</p> <p>5) TRP (since 1.05.2014 also a national visa) for a researcher issued by Poland or by another EU state (if the hosting agreement for the implementation of a research project provides for conducting scientific research also in Poland);</p> <p>6) temporary residence permit for high-skilled workers;</p> <p>since 1.05.2014 also:</p> <p>7) temporary residence permit for long term scientific activity</p> <p>8) temporary residence permit granted for intra-corporate transfer,</p> <p>9) temporary residence permit for the purpose of long-term mobility of a managerial staff member, specialist or trainee employee, as part of an intra-corporate transfer,</p>	<p>Temporary residence permit for the purpose of family reunification:</p> <p>- parent of a third country national or a parent of his/her spouse who is dependent on his/her care and lacks appropriate family support in the country of origin.</p>

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
			<p>10) humanitarian status</p> <p>arriving to or staying in Poland to connect with the family.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - residence permit for a foreigner who is a family member of a Polish citizen or a citizen of another MS, IS, LI, NO or CH other than a spouse, a child or a parent, or the spouse's child or parent, who stays in Poland together with this citizen (if the foreigner has health insurance and a source of stable and regular income sufficient to cover the costs of living for themselves and remaining family members on his dependence) due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) financial dependence b) serious health reasons requiring personal care on the part of that citizen; - TRP for a foreigner who intends to live in Poland as a family member together with a migrant worker or a self-employed foreigner defined in the European Social Charter - TRP for a foreigner whose stay in Poland is necessary for family life according Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms or whose departure from Poland would violate the rights of the child according this convention, and who stays in Poland illegally; 	

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
Other family member joining an EU citizen	<p>A visa for a stay of over 90 days (long-term)⁸²</p> <p>A temporary residence permit for a family member of an EU citizen⁸³</p>	<p><u>Residence card:</u> to the spouse of an EEA national, who intends to engage in some form of gainful employment; or has sufficient resources for themselves and their family members not to become a burden on the social assistance system of Hungary during their period of residence, and have comprehensive sickness insurance cover for health-care services as prescribed in specific other legislation, or if</p>	<p>- Visa for:</p> <p>17) joining a citizen of another Member State of the European Union, a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) – parties to the agreement on the European Economic Area or the Swiss Confederation or being with him;</p> <p>24) implementation of a temporary residence permit for family reunification;</p> <p>- TRP for a foreigner who, due to family ties, intends to join a citizen of PL or another MS, IS, LI, NO, CH, residing in Poland, or stay with him/her,</p> <p>- TRP for a family member joining or staying with in Poland with an EU citizen meeting one of the following conditions:</p> <p>1) employment or a self-employment in Poland;</p> <p>2) sufficient financial resources to support himself and family members in Poland and</p> <p>a) general health insurance,</p> <p>b) entitlement to healthcare financed by the government, or</p>	<p>The right of residence as a family member of EU citizen (Dir. 2004/38/ES)</p> <p>Permanent residence permit - for five years to a third country national who is a spouse of the Slovak Republic citizen with permanent residence in the Slovak Republic territory or dependent relative in direct line of the Slovak Republic citizen with permanent residence in the Slovak Republic</p>

⁸² <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/vizum-k-pobytu-nad-90-dnu-dlouhodobe.aspx?q=Y2hudW09NQ%3d%3d>.

⁸³ <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/prechodny-pobyt.aspx?q=Y2hudW09Mg%3d%3d>.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
		<p>they assure that they have sufficient resources for themselves and their family for such services as required by statutory provisions.</p>	<p>c) private health insurance, covering all medical expenses that may arise during a stay Poland;</p> <p>3) ceased to be an employee or self-employed person, if:</p> <p>a) does not work due to illness or accident, or</p> <p>b) is unintentionally unemployed according to district labour office's register (if the period of previous employment was shorter than 1 year, the EU citizen retains the right of residence for an employee or self-employed person for 6 months from the date of registration in the district labour office);</p> <p>c) undertake vocational education or training;</p> <p><u>since 1.05.2014 also:</u></p> <p>- TRP for a foreigner who is a dependent parent of a Polish citizen or of his spouse, if a Polish citizen resides in Poland and regularly travels another MS to work, and the lack of this permit would prevent him/her from exercising his/her freedom of movement for workers;</p>	
Educational reasons				

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
Long-term residence permit ⁸⁴ Study		<u>Residence permit for the purpose of studies:</u> to third country nationals, who has been admitted to or accepted by a public education institution registered in the public education information system for pursuing full-time course of study in the regular school system or in daytime courses of study under a student relationship in Hungary; or who is pursuing full-time education and training in a State-recognised	<p>- Visa for 9) undergoing first-cycle studies, second-cycle studies or uniform Master's studies or doctoral school education;</p> <p>- TRP for a foreigner who arrives to or stays in Poland to take up or continue full-time university studies or full-time doctoral studies, also if he/she studied in another MS and intends to continue in Poland,</p> <p>- residence permit for a citizen of IS, LI, NO or CH married to a Polish citizen, who received a certificate of registering the residence of an EU citizen for the first time to study or take professional training in Poland and has a source of stable and regular income sufficient to cover the costs of living for themselves and dependent family members and health insurance;</p> <p>since 1.05.2014 also:</p> <p>- TRP for a foreigner who stays in Poland to undertake or continue studies in the unit approved by the minister of interior (unless this unit is exempted from having of approval), and the following conditions are jointly met: 1) the foreigner submit: a) certificate of the unit conducting studies on admission to or continuation of studies, b) proof of payment of the fee (if studies are paid);</p>	<p>Temporary residence permit for the purpose of study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - university - language or professional training for the study at university which is organised by a university in the Slovak Republic <p>Temporary residence permit for the purpose of the Special Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - activities which follow from the programmes of the Slovak Republic government or from the programmes of the European Union, - fulfilment of an obligation of the Slovak

⁸⁴ <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/obcane-tretich-zemi-dlouhodoby-pobyt.aspx?q=Y2hudW09Mg%3d%3d>.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
		institution of higher education or a foreign higher education institution authorised to operate in the territory of Hungary in daytime courses of study; and/or who seeking residence in Hungary so as to attend a course in a higher education institution, which may cover a preparatory course prior to such education.	2) the foreigner has: a) health insurance b) sufficient financial resources to cover the cost of living and return travel to the country of origin or residence or the cost of transit to the third country which grants the entry authorization, and study costs; - TRP for a foreigner who has residence permit for the long-term resident of the EU issued by another MS and intends to undertake or continue studies or vocational training in Poland;	Republic which follows from an international treaty (only with category Study)
Other educational reasons	A visa for a stay of over 90 days (long-term) ⁸⁵	<u>Residence permit for other purposes:</u> to a third-country national who plans to	- Visa for: 10) vocational training;	<u>D - type national visa for</u>

⁸⁵ <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/vizum-k-pobytu-nad-90-dnu-dlouhodobe.aspx?q=Y2hudW09Mg%3d%3d>

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
		<p>stay in the territory of Hungary for a reason other than those specified in Sections 19–27 of the Act on the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals, and fulfils the requirements for the right of residence in Hungary in other respects (e.g. plans to attend a higher education institution that has not been accredited in Hungary, or for the purpose of language learning, etc.).</p>	<p>11) education or training in a form other than that specified in item 9 or 10;</p> <p>13a) undergoing internship;</p> <p>13b) participation in the European Volunteering Program;</p> <p>- TRP for a foreigner who takes part in training and professional internships within the EU programs;</p> <p>- TRP for a foreigner who intends to take up or continue (non-university) education or vocational training in Poland;</p>	<p>third country national, if:</p> <p>he/she is older than 15 years and is accepted for language education at a language school in the extent of minimum 25 lessons per week</p> <p>Temporary residence permit for the purpose of study:</p> <p>- secondary school</p> <p>Temporary residence permit for the purpose of the Special Activity:</p> <p>- traineeship as a part of study outside the Slovak Republic territory or up to two years following the completion of university studies outside the Slovak Republic territory,</p>

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
				- volunteering activities
Other reason				
Humanitarian reasons		<p>residence permit on humanitarian grounds to</p> <p>a) the person recognized by Hungary as a stateless person;</p> <p>b) the person who has been granted refugee status in Hungary;</p> <p>c) on the strength of law, any third-country national who applied to the refugee authority for asylum, or who applied to the refugee authority for any subsidiary form of protection or</p>	<p>Visa for 23) arrival for humanitarian reasons, due to state interests or international obligations;</p>	<p>- Tolerated residence</p> <p>- Permanent residence for five years even without meeting the conditions set out herein, even repeatedly:</p> <p>- for reasons worth special consideration;</p> <p>- to an adult who has been granted a tolerated residence or granted subsidiary protection as an unaccompanied minor for at least three years of study at a school in the Slovak Republic territory;</p> <p>- if necessary for the provision of protection and assistance to a</p>

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
		<p>temporary protection;</p> <p>d) any third-country national who was born in the territory of Hungary who has been removed from the custody of his guardian having custody according to Hungarian law, and also unaccompanied minors;</p> <p>e) for substantial national security or law enforcement reasons - by initiative of the relevant public prosecutor, court, national security or law enforcement agency, or the investigating arm of the National Tax and Customs Authority -</p>		witness according to a special regulation

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
		<p>to any third-country national, or other affiliated third-country nationals on his/her account, who has cooperated with the authorities in a crime investigation and has provided significant assistance to gather evidence;</p> <p>f) by initiative of the court, to third-country nationals who have been subjected to particularly exploitative working conditions, or to third-country national minors who were employed illegally without a valid residence permit or other</p>		

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
		authorization for stay.		
International protection status			Visa for 22) use of temporary protection;	
Refugee status and subsidiary protection				Permanent residence – the Refugee status Temporary residence - Subsidiary protection
Residence only			- TRP for a family member of a foreigner residing in Poland, on the basis of: 1) a TRP; 2) a residence permit for EU long-term resident; 3) refugee status; 3a) subsidiary protection, 4) subsequent TRPs for at least 2 years (immediately before submitting an application for a TRP for family member – had residence permit valid at least 1 year); 5) TRP or a national visa for researchers; 6) TRP for long-term scientific activity; 7) TRP for high-skilled workers;	<u>D - type national visa for</u> third country national, if it is necessary in relation with the granting a residence permit in the Slovak Republic

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TRP for a foreigner staying in Poland on the basis of a TRP for a Polish citizen's spouse, granted if the Polish citizen dies, divorces or separates, and the family member has vital interest to stay in Poland; - TRP for a family member (a child, a parent or a spouse) of a foreigner who had TRP in Poland, granted if the foreigner dies, divorces or separates, and the family member has vital interest to stay in Poland; - TRP for a foreign clergyman, member of the religious order or other person performing religious function in Poland, in a recognised church or religious association; - TRP for a foreigner who is considered a victim of employment without a valid document entitling him/her to stay in Poland and in the particularly abusive conditions (for the duration of a criminal proceedings against the employer); - TRP for a minor foreigner who is considered a victim of employment without a valid document entitling him/her to stay in Poland (for the duration of a criminal proceedings against the employer); - TRP for a foreigner staying in Poland on the basis of a TRC granted for the duration of a criminal proceedings against his/her employer, who intends to continue his stay in Poland, until 	

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
			<p>receiving the overdue salary from the defendant, if this is justified by a particularly important interest of a foreigner,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TRP for a foreigner who stays in Poland illegally if: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Polish law require him/her to appear in person before a Polish public authority; 2) exceptional personal situation requires his/her presence in Poland; 3) an interest of Poland demands it; 4) he/she has been identified as probably a victim of trafficking in human beings; - TRP for a foreigner who proved that there are other circumstances justifying his residence in Poland for a period longer than 3 months; - residence permit for a foreigner who has residence permit for the long-term resident of the EU issued by another MS and intends to legally work or conduct business activity, take up or continue studies or vocational training or prove other circumstances justifying his/her residence in Poland; - residence permit a citizen of IS, LI, NO or CH who received a certificate of registering the residence of an EU citizen for the first time, if the foreigner has health insurance and a source of stable and regular income sufficient to cover the costs of living for themselves and remaining family members on his dependence; 	

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
			<p>since 1.05.2014 also:</p> <p>- PRP for a foreigner of Polish origin or who has a valid <i>Karta Polaka (Pole's Card)</i> and intends to settle permanently in Poland</p>	
Unaccompanied minors			<p>since 1.05.2014</p> <p>- a minor foreigner's child born in Poland and staying in Poland unaccompanied ⁸⁶</p>	<p>Tolerated residence - who is a minor person found in the Slovak Republic territory</p>
Victims of trafficking in human beings			<p>- TRP for a foreign victim of trafficking in human beings⁸⁷ who meets jointly the following conditions:</p> <p>a) stays in Poland,</p> <p>b) cooperates with the authority competent to fight against trafficking in human beings, (since 1.05.2014: or in the case of a minor foreigner – has the status of a victim in criminal proceedings regarding trafficking in human beings),</p> <p>c) terminated contacts with persons suspected of trafficking in human beings,</p>	<p>Tolerated residence – who is the victim of human trafficking,⁶⁹) if he/she is at least 18 years old; a police department or a person authorised by the Ministry of Interior shall inform the third country national about the possibility and conditions for the granting of tolerated</p>

⁸⁶ Since 01.05.2014

⁸⁷ Within the meaning of the Council Framework Decision of 19 July 2002 on combating trafficking in human beings.

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
			- a foreigner staying in Poland illegally, if the authority competent to combat trafficking in human beings states that the foreigner is probably a victim of human trafficking	<p>residence for this reason and about the rights and duties which follow therefrom</p> <p>A tolerated residence shall mean a residence for maximum of 90 days, during which the third country national, who has been the victim of human trafficking and at least 18 years old, decides whether he/she would cooperate with prosecuting authorities, when resolving criminal acts related to human trafficking; however, this period may be extended by 30 days upon the request of the person authorised by the Ministry of Interior</p>

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
Other reasons not specified		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - traineeship job-searching or entrepreneurship - official purposes - visit - medical treatment - voluntary service activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visa for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a tourist; (MSZ-1) 2) visiting family or friends; (MSZ-2) 3) participation in sporting events; (MSZ-3) 7) conducting cultural activities or participating in conferences; (MSZ-7) 8) performing official tasks by representatives of a foreign state authority or international organizations (MSZ-8, DP, SL) 16) medical treatment (MSZ-14) 18) participation in a cultural or educational exchange program, humanitarian aid program or summer work program; (MSZ-16) 	<p>Permanent residence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stateless person, -security interests of the Slovak Republic, <p>Temporary residence for the purpose of specific activity - provision of health care or to accompany a third-country national receiving health care,</p> <p>Temporary residence of a third-country national who is granted the status of a Slovak living abroad. For this purpose, according to national legislation, there is no obligation to prove the purpose of residence (beneficiaries); therefore it is included</p>

Reasons according to the Eurostat classification	Possible reasons and types of permit according to the national legal frameworks			
	CZECHIA	HUNGARY	POLAND	SLOVAKIA
				in the category "Other reasons not specified".

Types of permits by duration

Duration of first permits according to the Eurostat classification	Country	Type of permit	Issuing authority
3 to 6 months	Czechia	<p>A visa for a stay of over 90 days (long-term)</p> <p>An employee card issued for the duration of the employer-employee relationship, for the validity of recognition authority's decision about employment permit or professional work, but not for more than 2 years.</p>	<p>The Embassy of the Czech Republic is only competent to accept the submitted application for a long-stay visa, the authority responsible for its processing is the Ministry of the Interior. The embassy communicates with the applicant during the proceedings, invites him / her to an interview, or invites him / her to receive a visa.</p> <p>https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/vizum-k-pobytu-nad-90-dnu-dlouhodobe.aspx</p> <p>The authority responsible for the decision on an employee card is the Ministry of the</p>

			<p>Interior (Mol). An application for can be submitted:</p> <p>a) at the embassy of the CR with the territorial jurisdiction for the state of which the applicant is a citizen/issued applicant's travel document/applicant have residence. Compliance with this condition is waived for some citizenships;</p> <p>b) in the territory of the CR at an office of the Mol CR, if the applicant is already staying in the territory of the CR on a visa for a stay of over 90 days or on the basis of a long-term residence permit (not entitled to lodge the application are residents staying on the bases of (i) long-term visa issued for the purpose of seasonal work or (ii) leave to remain long-term visa less than 3 years).</p>
	Hungary	<p><u>National visa</u>, for single or multiple entry and for stays in the territory of Hungary for an intended stay of more than ninety days within any one hundred eighty day period under international agreement. The validity period for this type of visa is maximum 5 years.</p> <p><u>Residence permit</u>, for stays in the territory of Hungary for an intended duration of more than ninety days within any one hundred eighty day period. There are various purposes of residence (i.e. studies, family reunification, etc.).</p> <p>Validity by purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - family reunification: four years maximum, and it may be extended by up to four additional years at a time, if the sponsor has an EU Blue Card; ve years maximum, and it may be extended by up to five additional years at a 	<p>National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (visa authority)</p> <p>National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (competent regional directorate of jurisdiction by reference to the place where the accommodation of the third-country national is located)</p>

		<p>time, if the sponsor has an EC permanent residence permit on account of holding an EU Blue Card; or three years maximum – except as provided above –, and it may be extended by up to three additional years at a time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - study: at least one year; corresponds to the duration of training, if it is less than one year; may be extended by at least one or at most by two additional years at a time - traineeship: maximum six months, and it may not be extended; corresponds to the duration of traineeship, if the duration of the training agreement is shorter than six months - job-searching or entrepreneurship: 9 months from the date of submission of the application and may not be extended for the purpose of job-searching or entrepreneurship - employment: may not exceed the term specified in the specialist authority’s assessment, that, however, may be extended up to the time indicated in the specialist authority’s assessment given if the procedure was re-opened - gainful activity: maximum three years, and it may be extended by maximum three additional years at a time - intra-corporate transfer: maximum three years for executive employees and specialists and one year for trainee employees - EU Blue Card: four years maximum, and it may be extended by four additional years at a time - seasonal employment: maximum 6 months, and it may be extended by maximum 6 additional months within a 12-month period - official purposes: shall correspond to the duration of service, training or continuing professional training, not exceeding three years, and it may be extended by the duration corresponding to any extension of the service, training or continuing professional training, not exceeding three years at a time 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - visit: shall correspond to the duration of the commitment fixed in the letter of invitation, not exceeding one year, and it may not be extended for the purpose of visit - research: minimum one and maximum five years - medical treatment: shall correspond to the duration of treatment, not exceeding 2 years, and it may be extended by the duration corresponding to any extension of the treatment, not exceeding 2 years at a time <p>other purposes than mentioned above: maximum five years, and it may be extended by maximum five additional years at a time</p>	
	Poland	<p><u>D - type national visa</u></p> <p>Duration of the national visa depends on the individual circumstances (how much time a foreigner need to achieve the objective of his/her stay in Poland).</p> <p>Maximum duration is 365 days, during which time a foreigner can spend 365 days in Poland.</p> <p>The habit is that first visas are issued for much shorter periods.</p> <p><u>Temporary residence permit</u></p> <p>Duration of the temporary residence permit depends on the individual circumstances (how much time a foreigner need to realize the purpose of the stay in Poland).</p> <p>Most of the types of temporary residence permits issued in Poland can have duration from 3 months to 3 years, with a few exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - temporary residence permit for the reason of internship is issued for a period of up to 6 months (Act for Foreigners Art. 157b, para. 1. 	<p>Ministry of foreign affairs (Polish embassies and consulates abroad),</p> <p>Voivods (province governors),</p> <p>Border Guard</p> <p>Voivods (province governors),</p> <p>Head of the Office for Foreigners</p>
	Slovakia	<u>D - type national visa</u>	

	<p>A national visa shall be granted for residence longer than three months, maximum one year.</p> <p>National visa may be granted:</p> <p>a) for 90 days</p> <p>and if a national visa is to be granted in relation with the granting a residence permit in the Slovak Republic,</p> <p>b) for the duration of the language education at a language school, maximum until 31. July of the relevant school term,</p> <p>c) for the time necessary when a national visa is to be granted to a family member of a foreigner who was granted asylum or subsidiary protection, if he/she does not threaten the state security or public order.</p> <p><u>Temporary residence permit:</u></p> <p>Slovak national legislation does not set a minimum limit on the length of authorized stay.</p> <p>Duration of the temporary residence permit depends on the individual circumstances (how much time a foreigner need to realize the purpose of the stay in Slovakia).</p> <p>Seasonal work</p> <p>- temporary residence permit for the reason of seasonal work is issued for max. a period not exceeding 180 days during 12 consecutive months</p> <p>Tolerated residence:</p> <p>The Units of Foreign Police shall, based on an application of a third country national, grant or extend tolerated residence for the period of duration of the</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs</p> <p>(consulates) Ministry of Interior, if they are staying in the Slovak Republic territory legitimately and the national visa shall be granted in the interest of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p>The Units of Foreign Police of the Police Force</p>
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		grounds for its granting, but for no more than 180 days, unless the legislation provide otherwise.	
6 to 12 months	Czechia	A visa for a stay of over 90 days (long-term) An employee card issued for the duration of the employer-employee relationship, for the validity of recognition authority's decision about employment permit or professional work, but not for more than 2 years.	The Embassy of the Czech Republic is only competent to accept the submitted application for a long-stay visa, the authority responsible for its processing is the Ministry of the Interior. The embassy communicates with the applicant during the proceedings, invites him / her to an interview, or invites him / her to receive a visa. https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/vizum-k-pobytu-nad-90-dnu-dlouhodobe.aspx
	Hungary	<u>National visa</u> <u>Residence permit</u>	National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (visa authority) National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (competent regional directorate of jurisdiction by reference to the place where the accommodation of the third-country national is located)
	Poland	<u>D - type national visa</u> <u>Temporary residence permit</u>	Ministry of foreign affairs (Polish embassies and consulates abroad), Voivods (province governors), Border Guard

	<p>Most of the types of temporary residence permits issued in Poland can have duration up to 3 years, with a few exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - temporary residence permit for the reason of seasonal work is issued for a period of up to 9 months and within one calendar year (can be shorten than 3 months) - temporary residence permit for the reason of volunteering contract work is issued for a period of up to 1 year - temporary residence permit for the reason of intercorporate transfer work is issued for a period of up to 1 year - temporary residence permit for a child or a parent of the Polish citizen (if a Polish citizen resides in the territory of the Republic of Poland and regularly moves from that territory to the territory of another Member State of the European Union in order to perform work in the territory of that State, and the lack of this permit would prevent him from exercising his freedom of movement for workers) is issued for a period of up to 1 year - temporary residence permit for the victims of trafficking in human beings is issued for a period of at least 6 months 	<p>Voivods (province governors), Head of the Office for Foreigners</p>
<p>Slovakia</p>	<p><u>D - type national visa</u></p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (consulates) Ministry of Interior, if they are staying in the Slovak Republic territory legitimately and the national visa shall be granted in the interest of the Slovak Republic.</p>

		<p><u>Temporary residence permit:</u></p> <p>Slovak national legislation does not set a minimum limit on the length of authorized stay.</p> <p>Duration of the temporary residence permit depends on the individual circumstances (how much time a foreigner need to realize the purpose of the stay in Slovakia).</p> <p>ICT</p> <p>- temporary residence permit for the reason of intercorporate transfer work is issued for a period of up to 1 year - in the case of an employee - grantee</p>	The Units of Foreign Police of the Police Force
12 months and more	Czechia	<p>Temporary residence permit max. 2 years</p> <p>https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/obcane-tretich-zemi-dlouhodoby-pobyt.aspx</p> <p>Permanent residence permit after 5 years of temporary residence in the Czech Republic</p> <p>https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/obcane-tretich-zemi-trvaly-pobyt.aspx?q=Y2hudW09Mg%3d%3d</p> <p>An employee card issued for the duration of the employer-employee relationship, for the validity of recognition authority's decision about employment permit or professional work, but not for more than 2 years.</p>	Department of Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic
	Hungary	<p><u>National visa</u></p> <p><u>Residence card:</u> The validity of the residence card of a family member who is a third-country national of an EEA national is determined based upon the duration</p>	<p>National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (visa authority)</p> <p>National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (competent regional directorate of</p>

	of residence of the EEA national. The residence card shall be issued for a maximum period of five years.	jurisdiction by reference to the place where the accommodation of the third-country national is located)
Poland	<p><u>Temporary residence permit</u></p> <p>Most of the types of temporary residence permits issued in Poland can have duration up to 3 years, with a few exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a certificate of registering the residence of an EU citizen issued for citizen of IS, LI, NO or CH married to a Polish citizen, who received a Certificate for the first time have duration longer than 12 months - first temporary residence permits for the reason of university studies is issued for a period of 15 months and if studies are covered by an EU program or multilateral program for intra-EU mobility – for a period of 2 years <p><u>Permanent residence permit</u></p> <p><u>Residence permit for EU long-term resident – at least 5 years of legal residence in Poland</u></p>	Voivods (province governors), Head of the Office for Foreigners
Slovakia	<p><u>Temporary residence permit:</u></p> <p>Temporary residence in Slovakia may be granted by a Units of Foreign Police to a third country national:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) for the purpose of business – max. for 3 years; b) for the purpose of employment – max. for 5 years; c) for the purpose of study – max. for 6 years; 	The Units of Foreign Police of the Police Force

		<p>d) for the purpose of special activity – max. for 2 years (exception – sporting activity for max. 5 years);</p> <p>e) for the purpose of research and development – max. for 2 years;</p> <p>f) for the purpose of family reunification – until the end of the validity of residence of his/her sponsor, max. for 5 years;</p> <p>g) for the purpose of performing service obligations by civil units of armed forces – max. for 5 years;</p> <p>h) who has the status of a Slovak living abroad – max. for 5 years;</p> <p>i) who has the status of a person with long term residence in another member state – max. for 5 years.</p> <p>EU Blue Card</p> <p>- issued to a third country national max. for 4 years</p> <p>ICT</p> <p>- temporary residence permit for the reason of intercorporate transfer work is issued for a period of up to 3 years - in the case of a managing employee or specialist</p>	
Long term permit	Czechia	<p>Long-term residence permit</p> <p>https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/obcane-tretich-zemi-dlouhodoby-pobyt.aspx</p>	Department of Asylum and Migration Policy of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic
	Hungary	<p><u>Interim permanent residence permit:</u> The validity period for an interim permanent residence permit is maximum five years, and it may be extended by maximum five additional years at a time.</p>	National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (competent regional directorate of jurisdiction by reference to the place where

	<p><u>National permanent residence permit:</u> The validity period of a national permanent residence permit is 5 years, and it may be extended by an additional 5 years upon the foreign national's request.</p> <p><u>EC permanent residence permit:</u> The validity period of an EC permanent residence permit is 5 years, and it may be extended by an additional 5 years upon the foreign national's request.</p> <p><u>Permanent residence card:</u> The permanent residence card issued to an EEA national shall be valid indefinitely, together with a valid travel document or personal identification document. The permanent residence card issued to a family member who is a third-country national is valid for 10 years, and it will be renewed by the competent regional directorate automatically every ten years.</p>	<p>the accommodation of the third-country national is located)</p>
	<p>Poland</p> <p><u>Permanent residence permit</u> is granted for an indefinite period for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a child of a foreigner who has been granted a permanent residence permit or a residence permit for EU long-term resident born during the validity of the permit 2) a child of a Polish citizen remaining under his parental authority, or 3) a person of Polish origin intending to settle permanently in Poland 4) is married to a Polish citizen for at least 3 years and immediately before submitting the application he stayed continuously in Poland for a period not shorter than 2 years on the basis of a temporary residence permit 5) is a victim of human trafficking and stayed in Poland on the basis of a temporary residence permit for victims of trafficking in human beings for at least 1 year 	<p>Voivods (province governors), Head of the Office for Foreigners</p>

	<p>6) a person who stayed continuously in Poland for a period not shorter than:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 5 years in connection with granting him refugee status, subsidiary protection or on the basis of a residence permit for humanitarian reasons, or b) 10 years on the basis of a permit for tolerated stay c) 4 years on the basis of a temporary residence and work permit <p>7) a person who has been granted national asylum in Poland</p> <p>9) an owner of a valid Pole's Card who intends to settle permanently in Poland</p> <p><u>Residence permit for EU long-term resident – at least 5 years of legal residence in Poland</u></p>	
<p>Slovakia</p>	<p><u>Permanent residence in Slovakia shall be:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) permanent residence for five years; b) permanent residence of unlimited duration; c) residence of a third country national with acknowledged status of a person with long term residence in the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the “long term residence”) - unlimited duration. <p><u>Permanent residence permit</u></p> <p>A Unit of Foreign Police shall grant permanent residence for five years, if there are no reasons for the refusal of an application according to national legislation, to a third country national:</p>	<p>The Units of Foreign Police of the Police Force</p>

	<p>a) who is a spouse of the Slovak Republic citizen with permanent residence in the Slovak Republic territory or dependent relative in direct line of the Slovak Republic citizen with permanent residence in the Slovak Republic territory;</p> <p>b) who is a single child younger than 18 years of age entrusted into personal care of a third country national who is a spouse of the Slovak Republic citizen with permanent residence in the Slovak Republic territory;</p> <p>c) who is a single child younger than 18 years of age of a third country national with permanent residence for five years or child younger than 18 years of age entrusted into personal care of a third country national with permanent residence for five years,</p> <p>d) who is a dependent child younger than 18 years of age who cannot take care of himself/herself due to long term unfavourable health condition, third country national with permanent residence; or</p> <p>e) if this is in the interest of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p><u>Special Provisions on the Permanent Residence for Five Years</u></p> <p>The Ministry of Interior may grant permanent residence for five years even without meeting the conditions set out herein, even repeatedly</p> <p>a) to a person without any citizenship;</p> <p>b) for reasons worth special consideration;</p> <p>c) to an adult who has been granted a tolerated residence according to national legislation or granted subsidiary protection as an unaccompanied minor for at least three years of study at a school in the Slovak Republic territory.</p> <p>d) if necessary for the provision of protection and assistance to a witness according to a special regulation;</p>	
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	<p>or</p> <p>e) upon a proposal of the Slovak Information Service or Military Intelligence due to security interests of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p><u>Permanent Residence of Unlimited Duration</u></p> <p>A Units of Foreign Police shall grant permanent residence of unlimited duration, upon the application of a third country national, unless there are reasons for the refusal of the application according to national legislation, to a third country national who:</p> <p>a) has had permanent residence for at least four years according to national legislation; or</p> <p>b) who is a child younger than 18 years of age of a third country national with permanent residence for unlimited duration or child younger than 18 years of age entrusted into personal care of a third country national with permanent residence for unlimited duration.</p> <p>The Ministry of Interior may grant permanent residence of unlimited duration even without fulfilling the conditions as specified herein, on the proposal of the Slovak Information Service or Military Intelligence due to security interests of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p><u>Residence permit for EU long-term resident</u></p> <p>A Units of Foreign Police shall grant long-term residence, unless there are reasons for the refusal of an application to a third country national</p>	
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	<p>a) whose stay in the Slovak Republic territory is authorised and continuous during the period of five years immediately prior to the filing of an application;</p> <p>b) whose long term residence has expired according to national legislation; or</p> <p>c) who has had a five-year authorised continuous residence in the territory of member states as a Blue Card holder and has been staying in the Slovak Republic territory as a Blue Card holder for at least two years immediately prior to the filing of an application.</p>	
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