

COUNTRY FACTSHEET | JULY 2024

Main developments
in migration and
international
protection, including
latest statistics

POLAND 2023



OVERARCHING AND CROSS-CUTTING CHANGES

On 13 December 2023, the President of the Republic of Poland appointed a majority coalition government following the mid-October parliamentary elections. Marcin Kierwiński became the Minister of the Interior and Administration. On 22 December 2023, Maciej Duszczek was appointed the Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, with responsibility for international issues and migration policy.

An amendment to the Act on Foreigners entered into force on 7 April 2023. As per the amendment, the Commander-in-Chief of the Border Guard took on the tasks of the Head of the Office for Foreigners in relation to illegal migration. Accordingly, it became a higher-ranking authority (review body) for the commanders of the Border Guard Divisions and Border Guard Stations on all matters related to illegal stay or illegal border-crossing.



KEY POINTS

A new government was appointed in December 2023.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Border Guard became a higher-ranking authority (review body) for the commanders of the Border Guard Divisions and Border Guard Stations on all matters related to irregular stay or irregular border-crossing.

An amendment to the Act on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of this State and certain other acts allows citizens of Ukraine whose stay in Poland is considered legal and whose Universal Electronic Population Registration System (PESEL) number has the annotation 'UKR' to apply for a temporary residence permit, which is linked to temporary residence and work permits.



LEGAL MIGRATION

An amendment to the Act on Foreigners entered into force on 24 June 2023, referring to official certification of knowledge of the Polish language. It includes some additional possibilities to confirm the level of required language proficiency (B1), which is a general integration criterion for resident status.

The Act on the posting of drivers in road transport entered into force on 19 August 2023. Drivers posted to work in Poland from European Union (EU) Member States and from non-EU countries were given the right to certain employment conditions at a level no less favourable than those applicable to Polish citizens under Polish law.

An amendment to the Act on the professions of physician and dentist, and certain other acts of legislation entered into force in 2023. It enables third-country national students with repatriate status or a valid Pole's Card to access the compulsory healthcare system in Poland.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

An amendment to the Act on Foreigners and certain other acts entered into force on 7 April 2023. The provisions changed the second instance authority in matters of granting national forms of protection (residence permit for humanitarian reasons and tolerated stay permit). These competences were taken over by the Commander-in-Chief of the Border Guard from the Head of the Office for Foreigners.

Work began to update the Policy for the Protection of Children from abuse in centres for foreigners run by the Office for Foreigners. The document encompasses all employees and co-workers of the Office, establishing standards and procedures to keep children safe.



TEMPORARY PROTECTION AND OTHER MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO RUSSIA'S WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

An amendment to the Act on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine and certain other acts entered into force on 28 January 2023. It regulates the situation of beneficiaries of temporary protection (BoTP) relocating to and from Poland. Should this situation arise, BoTP in another Member State cannot simultaneously be covered by this form of protection in Poland and lose their status in the country.

An amendment to the Act on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of this State and certain other acts entered into force on 28 January 2023. As of 1 April 2023, a new provision allows citizens of Ukraine whose stay in

the territory of Poland is considered legal and whose Universal Electronic Population Registration System (*Powszechny Elektroniczny System Ewidencji Ludności - PESEL*) number is marked 'UKR' to apply for a temporary residence permit. That permit is linked to basic forms of economic activity, such as temporary residence and work permit, EU Blue Card, and temporary residence permits for business activities. The permit is granted under simplified procedures. Granting the permit results in the loss of temporary protection in Poland.

An amendment to the Act on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with an armed conflict on the territory of this State and certain other acts entered into force in 2023. The amendment also introduced partial co-financing of the costs of stay and meals in collective accommodation centres for citizens of Ukraine (with some exceptions). It introduced several changes in relation to unaccompanied minors or children lacking parental care.

It provides a set of solutions for Ukrainian citizens legally residing in Poland who are not covered by the Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55/EC), including:

- A legal basis for the subsidiary granting of a temporary residence permit for a period of one year to a citizen of Ukraine who does not meet the legal and material conditions set out in the provisions of the Act on Foreigners or where there are specific grounds for refusal of a temporary residence permit under general rules (general schemes);
- Extending to 24 August 2023 the legal stay of Ukrainian citizens, e.g. holders of national visas and temporary residence permits (this period was subsequently extended to 4 March 2024 by a further amendment on 14 April 2023).



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

No significant developments to report in 2023.



INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

An amendment to the Act on Higher Education and Science entered into force on 15 February 2023. It enables students from foreign universities who conduct part of their studies in Poland to acquire a Polish Student identity document. A further amendment entitles those students to use a 50% discount for public transportation fares.

In March 2023, the Minister of Development Funds and Regional Policy signed the [Guidelines](#) for the implementation of projects using the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) in regional programmes for 2021–2027. They include principles on the socioeconomic integration of third-country nationals.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

No significant developments to report in 2023.



BORDERS, VISA AND SCHENGEN

Amendments to the Act on Foreigners and to the Act amending the Act on participation of the Republic of Poland in the Schengen Information System (SIS) and Visa Information System and other acts entered into force in 2023. They established the SIS Recast Entry into Operation (EiO) legal framework and successfully rolled out the SIS Recast.

Several regulations were adopted by the Minister of the Interior and Administration on the temporary reintroduction of border controls for persons crossing the State border constituting the internal border. Controls at the border with the Slovak Republic were temporarily introduced on 4 October 2023 and ended on 2 March 2024.

Work began on the preparation of the Polish strategy of Integrated Border Management, in accordance with Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

An amendment to the Act on Foreigners entered into force on 7 April 2023. As per the amendment, the Commander-in-Chief of the Border Guard took on the tasks of the Head of the Office for Foreigners in relation to illegal migration. It thus became a higher-ranking authority (review body) for the commanders of the Border Guard Divisions and the Border Guard Stations on all matters related to illegal stay or illegal border-crossing.

Construction was completed on an electronic barrier on the Polish-Russian border. A tender was initiated for the construction of an electronic dam on the Bug River.

An amendment to the Act on Foreigners and certain other acts entered into force in 2023. As per the amendment, the maximum period for which an entry ban to Poland and other Schengen countries may be imposed was extended from 5 to 10 years.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In September 2023, the Polish Prime Minister signed a new Order on the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial

Committee for Counteracting Trafficking in Human Beings (the Committee was previously established within the Ministry of the Interior and Administration).

An amendment to the Criminal Code entered into force on 1 October 2023, significantly increasing the penalties for trafficking in human beings. According to the new regulations, whomever commits this crime shall be subject to a penalty of deprivation of liberty for a term of 3-20 years. Where those found guilty of trafficking in human beings are proven to have acted with particular aggravation, the punishment may increase to 5-25 years' imprisonment.

Between 16 October and 2 November 2023, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration conducted an information and education campaign. It launched a 30-second online video raising public awareness of trafficking in human beings, particularly forced labour. The campaign reached 2.1 million viewers.

In 2023, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration decided, for the first time, to increase financing for the task of the National Intervention and Consultation Centre for victims of trafficking in human beings (*Krajowe Centrum Interwencyjno-Konsultacyjne dla Ofiar Handlu Ludźmi*, KCIK) by almost 40% (up to PLN 1 500 000/ € 347 400).



RETURN AND READMISSION

An amendment to the Act on Foreigners entered into force on 7 April 2023, changing the second instance authority for matters of return and expulsion of citizens of an EU Member State and their family members. These competences were taken over by the Commander-in-Chief of the Border Guard from the Head of the Office for Foreigners.

An amendment to the Act on Foreigners entered into force in 2023. It introduced changes in the provision of assistance with the voluntary return of a foreigner and the transfer of a foreigner to another EU Member State responsible for considering their application for international protection. Assistance in voluntary return and reintegration is one of the statutory tasks of the Commander-in-Chief of the Border Guard and is solely the competence of that body since 7 April 2023.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

No significant developments to report in 2023.



STATISTICAL ANNEX

The statistical annex available on the next pages complements the Country Factsheet and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Poland on aspects of migration and international protection. It was prepared by Eurostat and it is organised in ten thematic sections, including legal residence, temporary protection, asylum, unaccompanied minors, integration, irregular migration, return and visas. The dashboard-like layout of the annex allows comparability across countries as well as simultaneous visualisation of different indicators.

The data presented in the annex regard third-country nationals, which means persons who are not EU citizens, including stateless persons. The data cover the period 2020-2023. Since 2023 data were not available at the time of publication for certain datasets, in these cases the

period 2020-2022 is covered. Exceptionally, the monthly data on temporary protection covers the period until March 2024. **The data were extracted during April–May 2024. The manuscript was completed in May 2024.**

The Eurostat website is constantly updated. Therefore, it is likely that more recent data will have become available since. An online data code available under each figure can be used to directly access the latest data on [Eurostat's website](#).

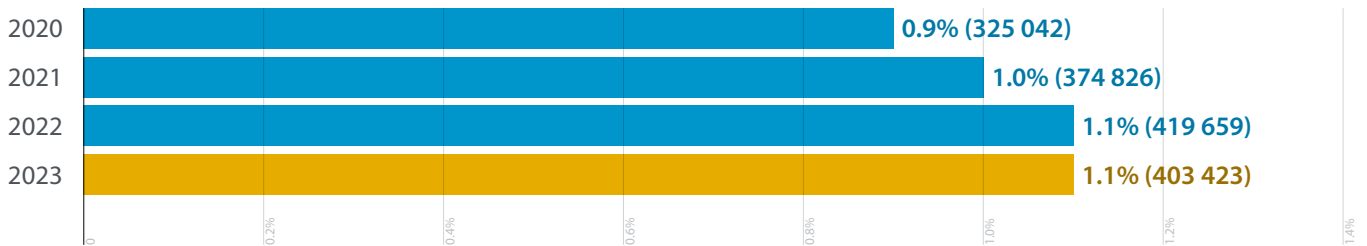
For some indicators, data are rounded at the source. Due to this, in some cases, the sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value.

A 'How to read the statistical annex' guide, describing each individual chart and providing links to the data sources, is available [here](#).

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Third-country nationals, 1 January 2020–2023

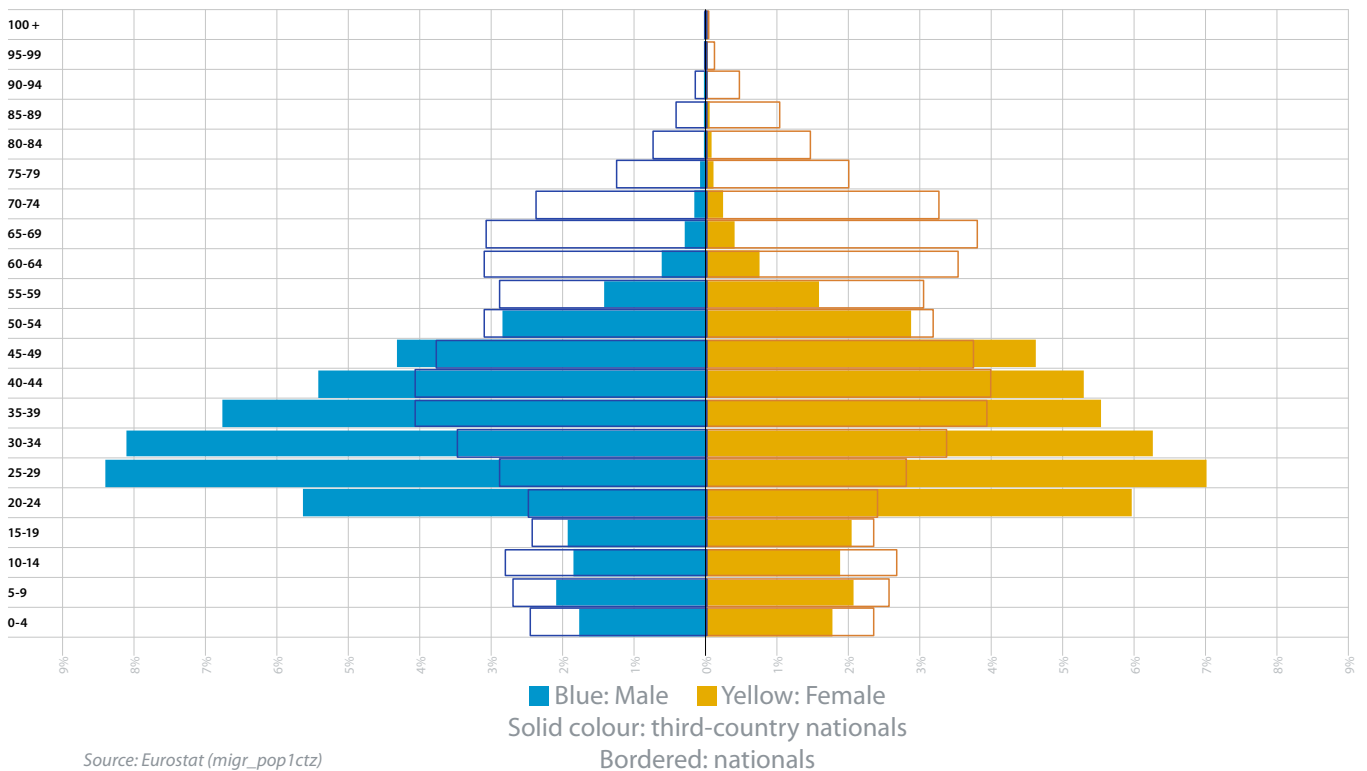
Share of the total population in % (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Age structure of nationals and third-country nationals, 1 January 2023

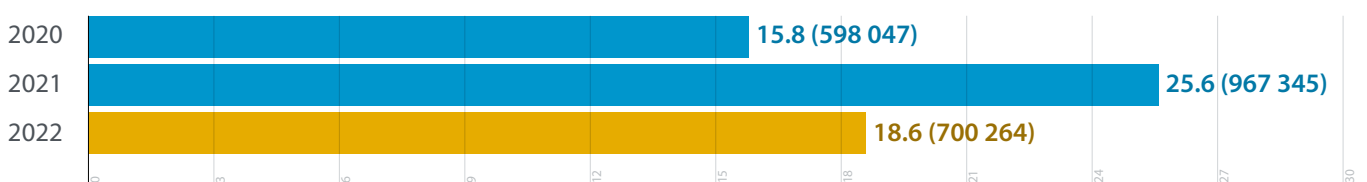
%



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

First residence permits issued to third-country nationals, 2020–2022

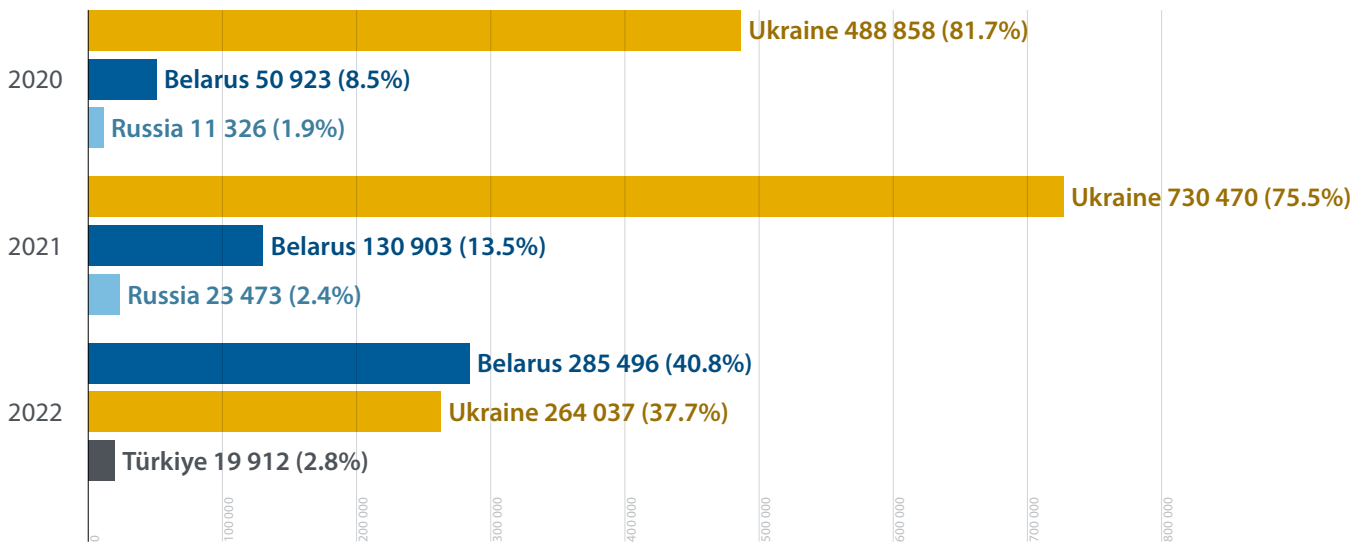
Number per 1 000 people (and the absolute number)



Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_pop1ctz and migr_resp)

Top 3 countries whose citizens received first residence permits, 2020–2022

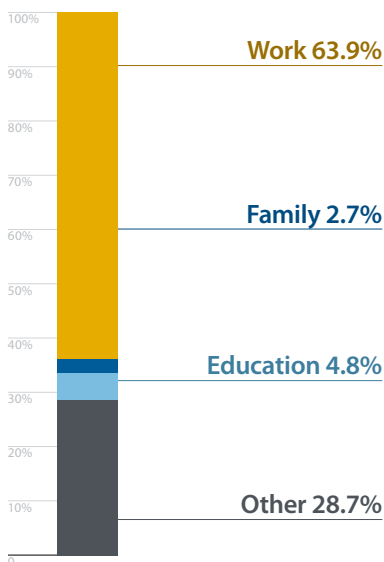
Absolute number (and the share in total number)



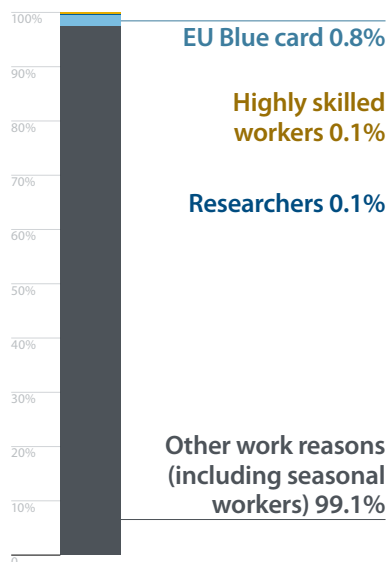
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

First residence permits issued, distribution by reason or type, 2022

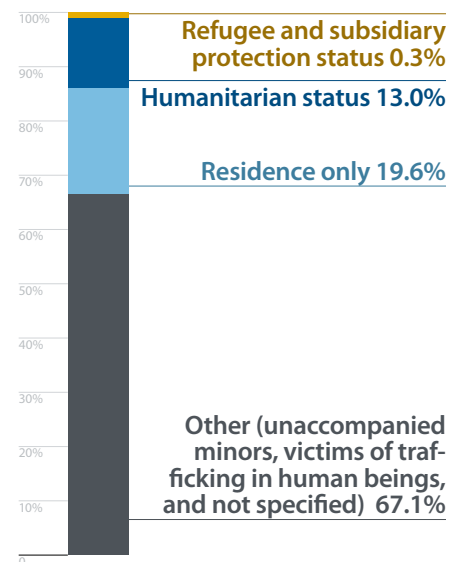
All permits, by reason, %



Work reason, by type, %



Other reason, by detailed reason, %



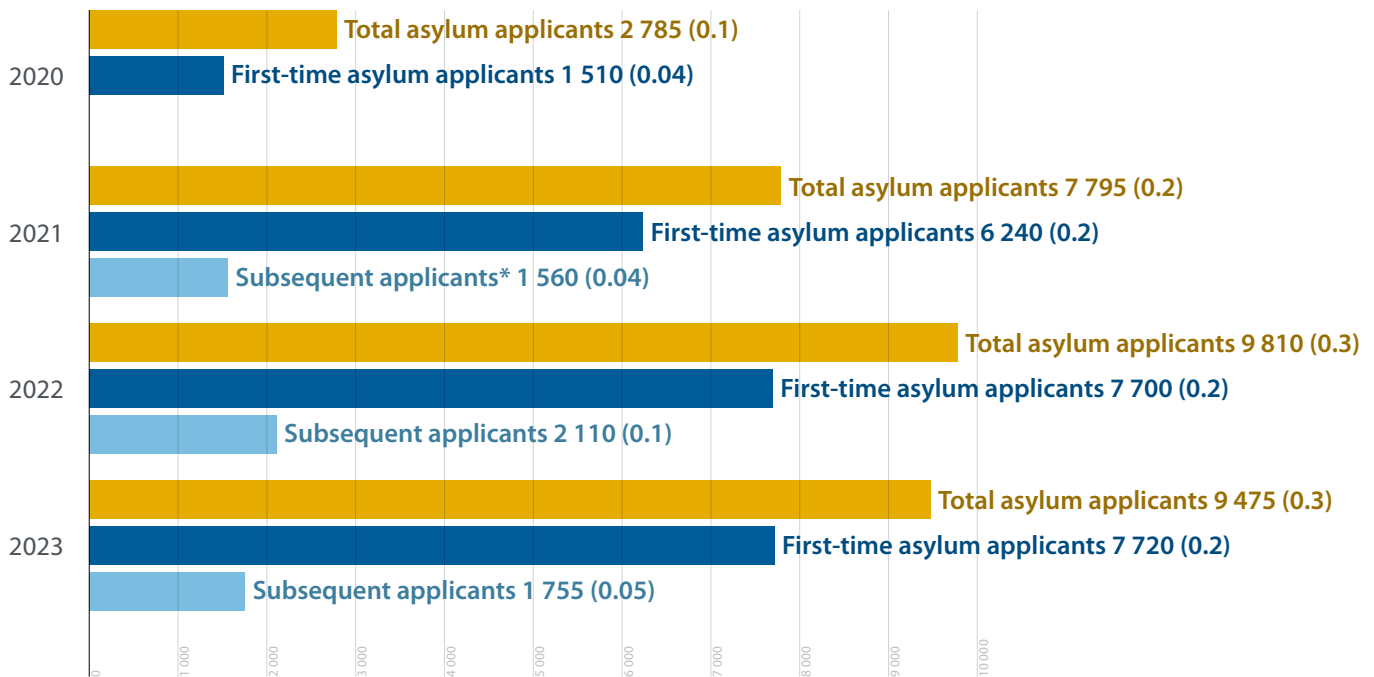
Source: Eurostat (migr_resfirst, migr_resfpc, migr_resocc and migr_resoth)



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

Asylum applicants by type of application, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

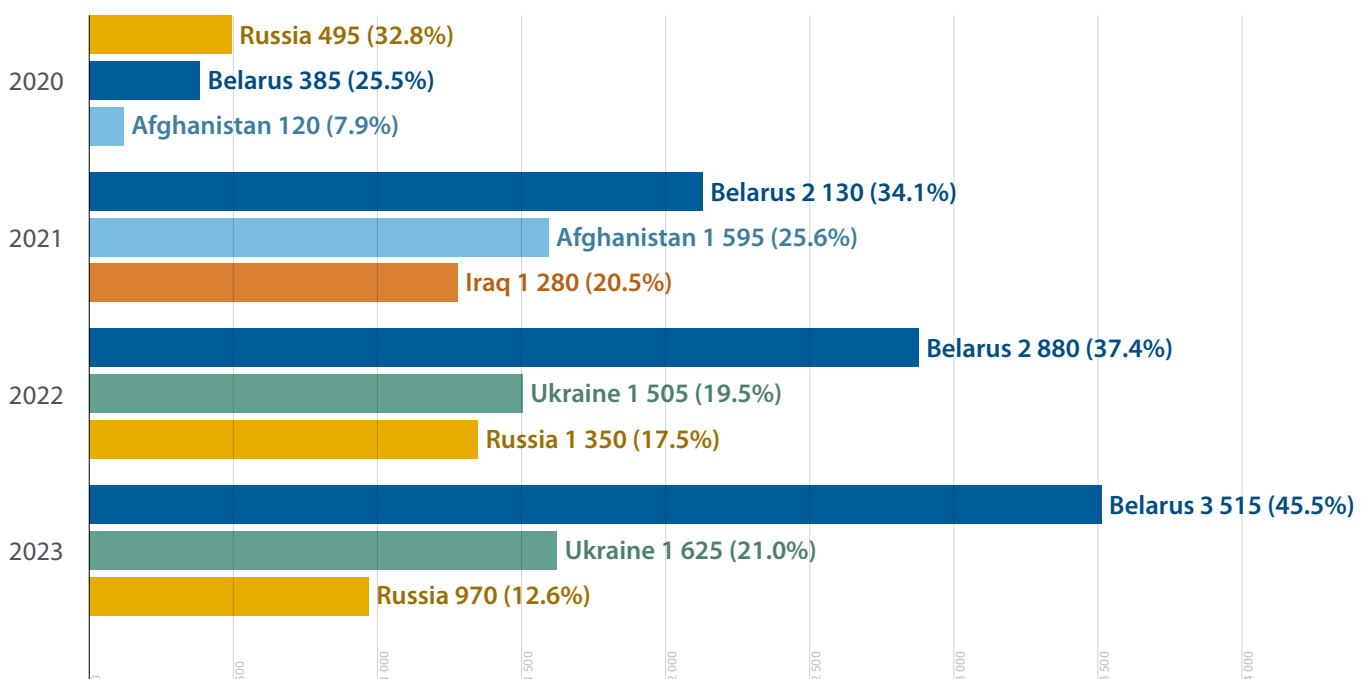


* Data collection from 2021.

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz and migr_asyapp1mp)

Top 3 countries of citizenship – first-time asylum applicants, 2020–2023

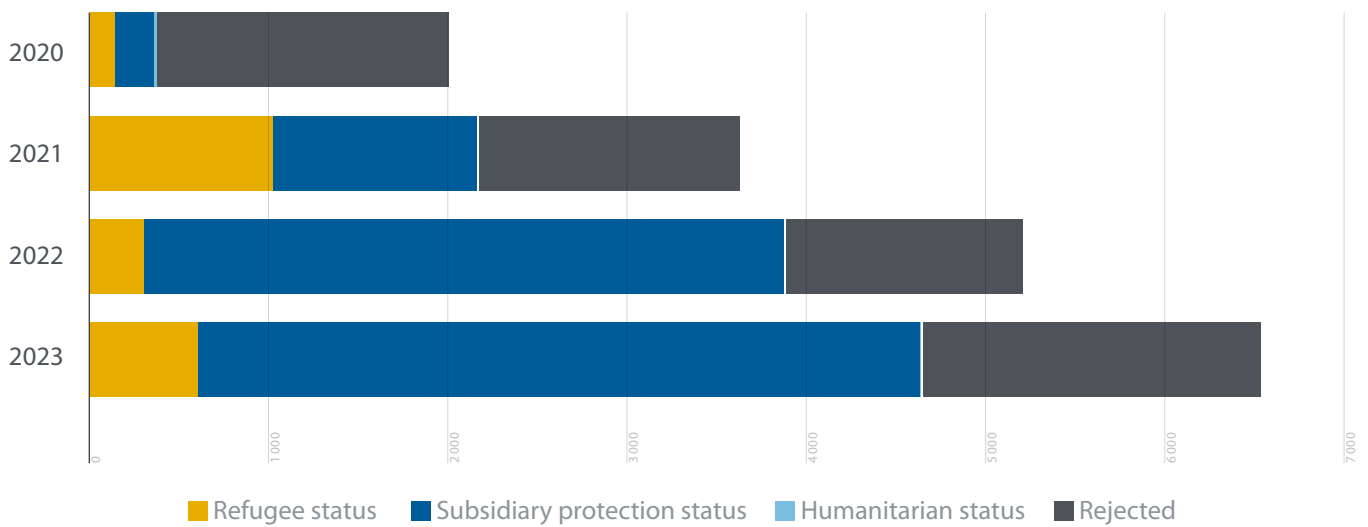
Absolute number (and the share in total number of first-time applicants)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)

First instance asylum decisions by outcome, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)

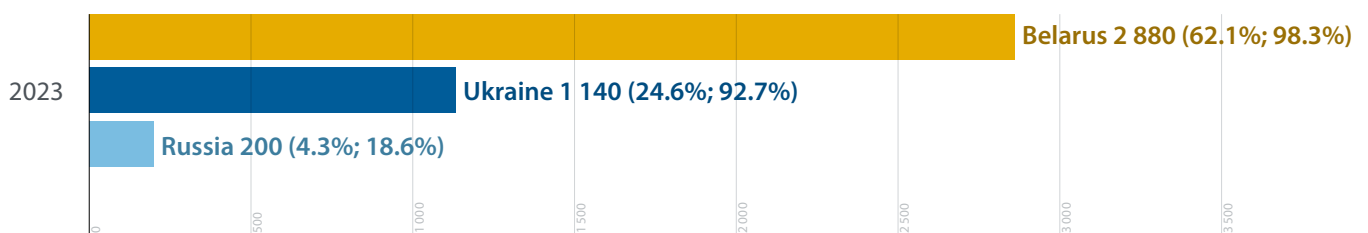


Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2020	135 (6.7%)	220 (11.1%)	15 (0.8%)	1 630 (81.4%)
2021	1 020 (28.2%)	1 135 (31.4%)	0 (0.0%)	1 455 (40.4%)
2022	300 (5.8%)	3 570 (68.8%)	0 (0.0%)	1 320 (25.5%)
2023	600 (9.2%)	4 030 (61.8%)	5 (0.1%)	1 880 (28.9%)

Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta and migr_asydec1pc)

Top 3 countries of citizenship granted positive asylum decisions at first instance, 2023

Absolute number (and the share in total positive decisions; and the recognition rate)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)

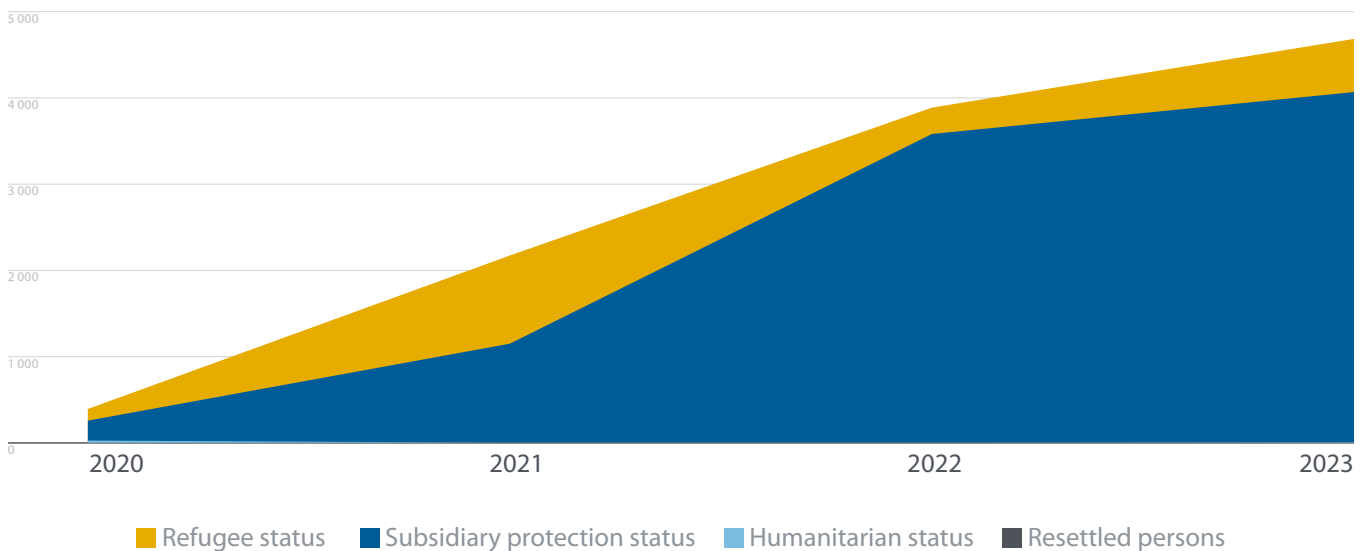
Resettled third-country nationals by sex, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of total resettled third-country nationals)



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)

Number of positive decisions for third-country nationals, by outcome, 2020–2023



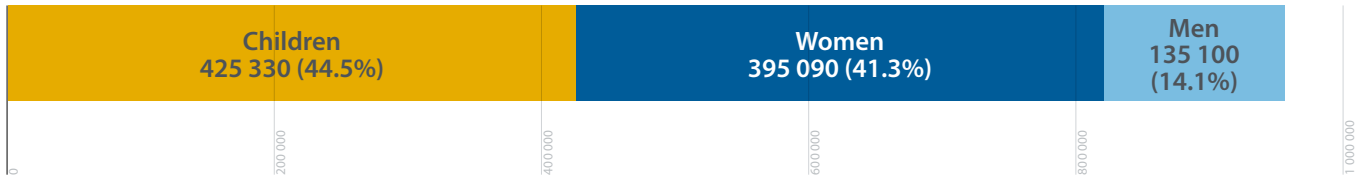
Year	Refugee status	Subsidiary protection status	Humanitarian status	Resettled persons
2020	135	230	25	0
2021	1 020	1 145	0	0
2022	305	3 570	0	0
2023	615	4 050	5	0

Source: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta, migr_asydcfina and migr_asyresa)

TEMPORARY PROTECTION

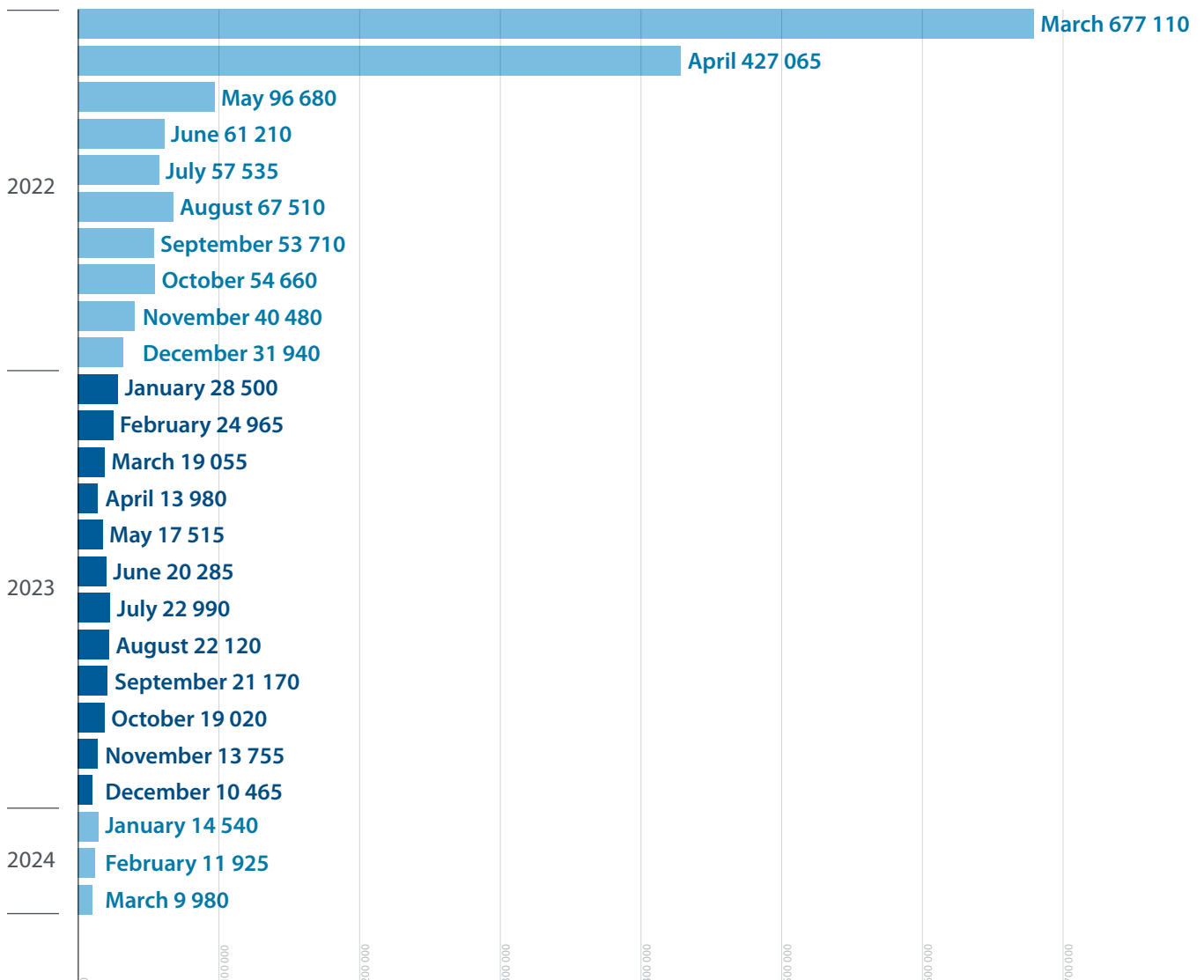
Beneficiaries of temporary protection by age and sex at the end of March 2024

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



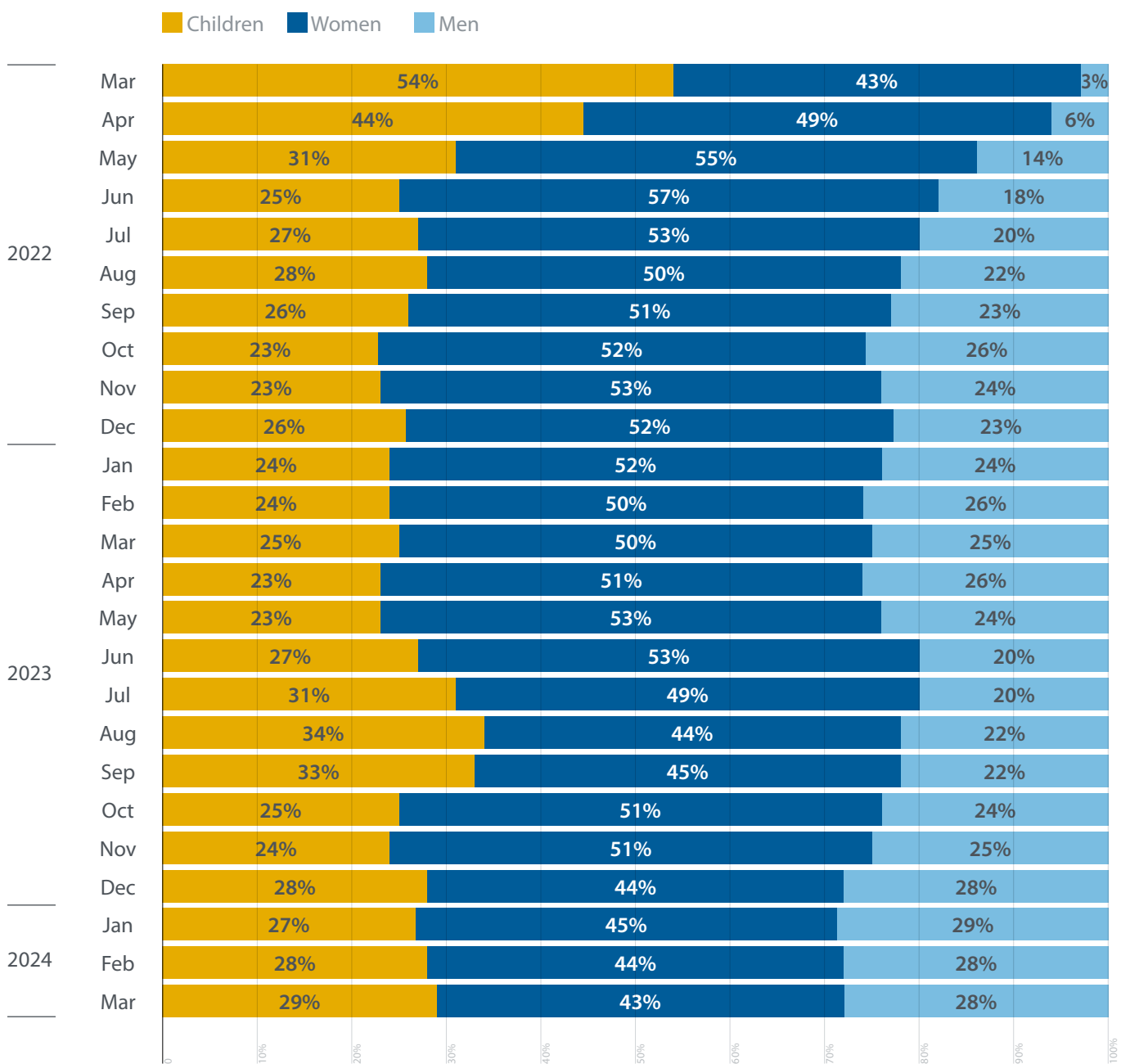
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpsm)

Number of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2024



Source: Eurostat (migr_asytpfm)

Distribution by age and sex of decisions providing temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine due to Russia's invasion, March 2022–March 2024



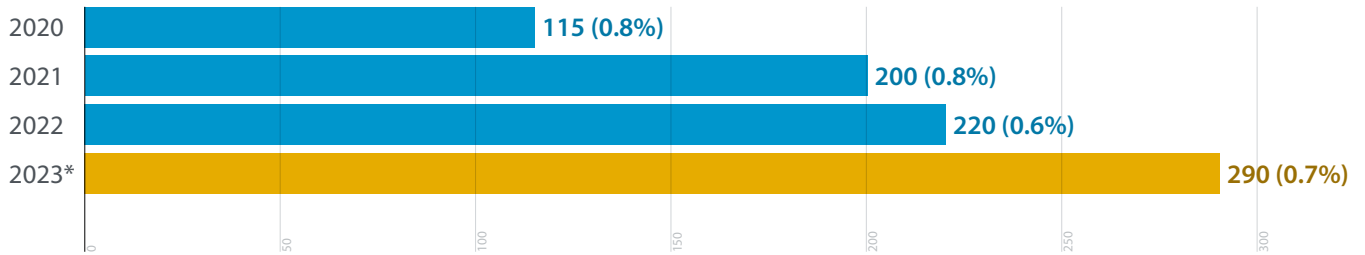
Source: Eurostat (migr_asytprm)



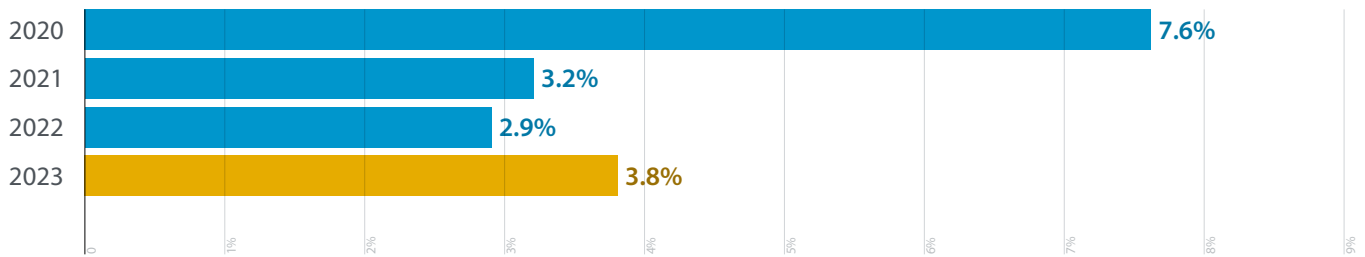
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum, 2020–2023

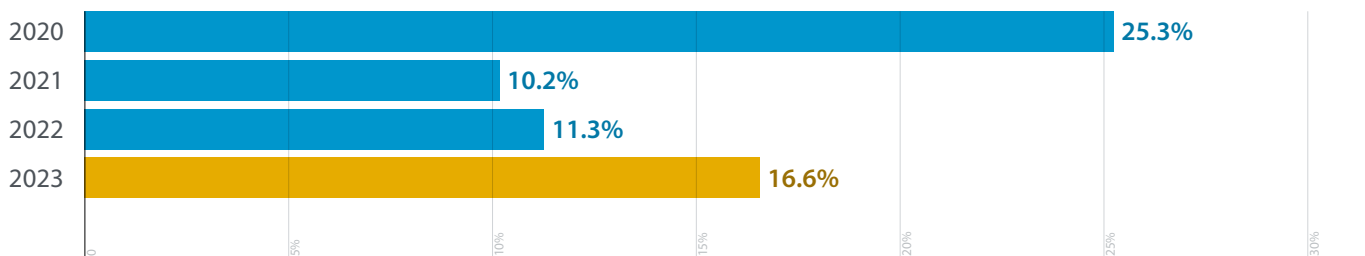
Number (and the share in total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU)



Share of all first-time asylum applicants



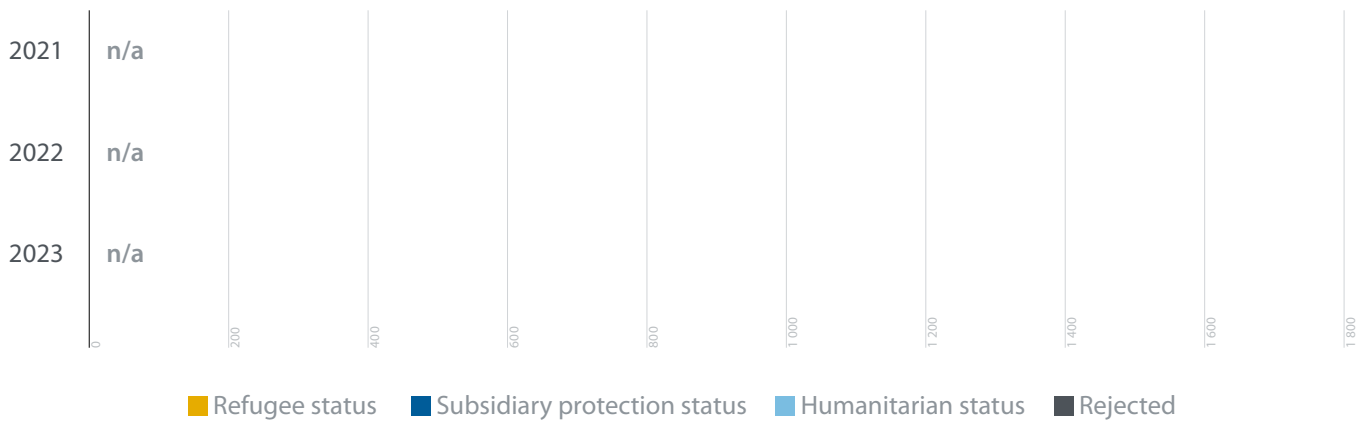
Share of all first-time asylum applicants aged less than 18 years



* The total number of unaccompanied minors in the EU used to calculate the share includes 2022 data for Cyprus.
Source: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa and migr_asyappctza)

First instance asylum decisions on applications lodged by unaccompanied minors by outcome, 2021-2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



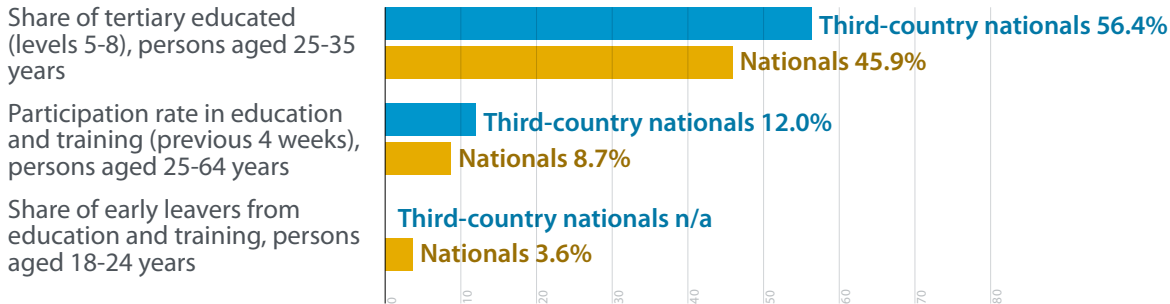
Year	Refugee status number (share of total)	Subsidiary protection status number (share of total)	Humanitarian status number (share of total)	Rejected number (share of total)
2021	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2022	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2023	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: Eurostat (migr_asyumdca)

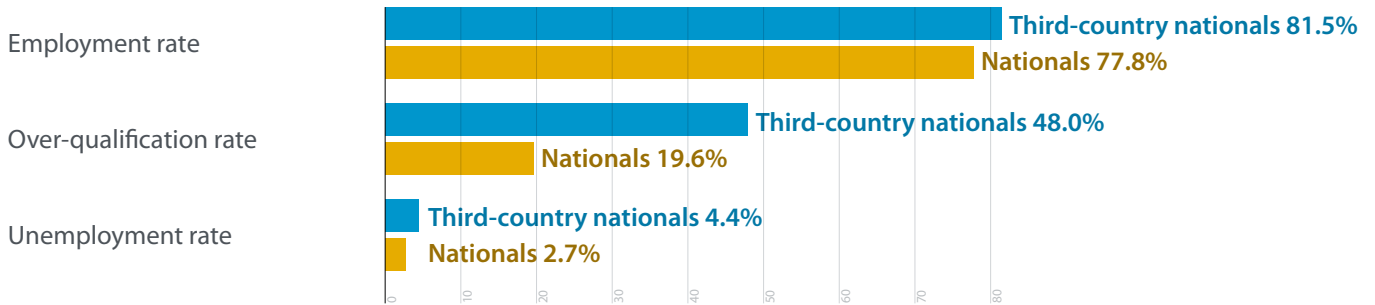


Integration indicators, 2022 or 2023

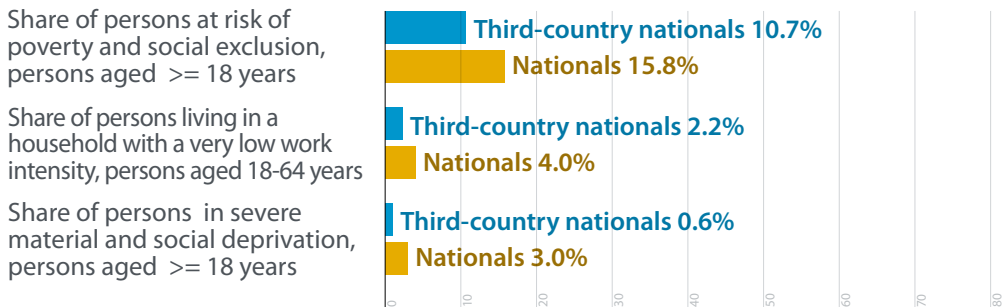
Education, 2023



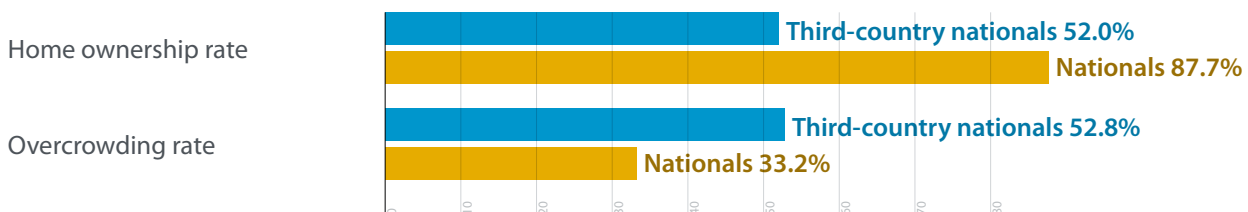
Labour market, persons aged 20-64 years, 2023



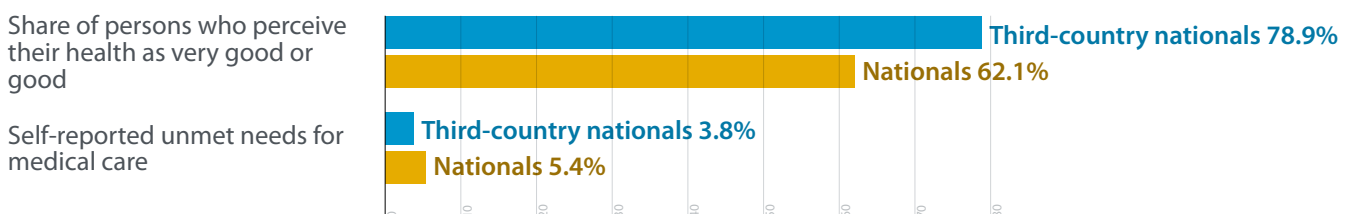
Social inclusion, 2022



Housing, persons aged ≥ 18 years, 2022



Health, persons aged ≥ 16 years, 2022





CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Third-country nationals who acquired citizenship, 2020–2022

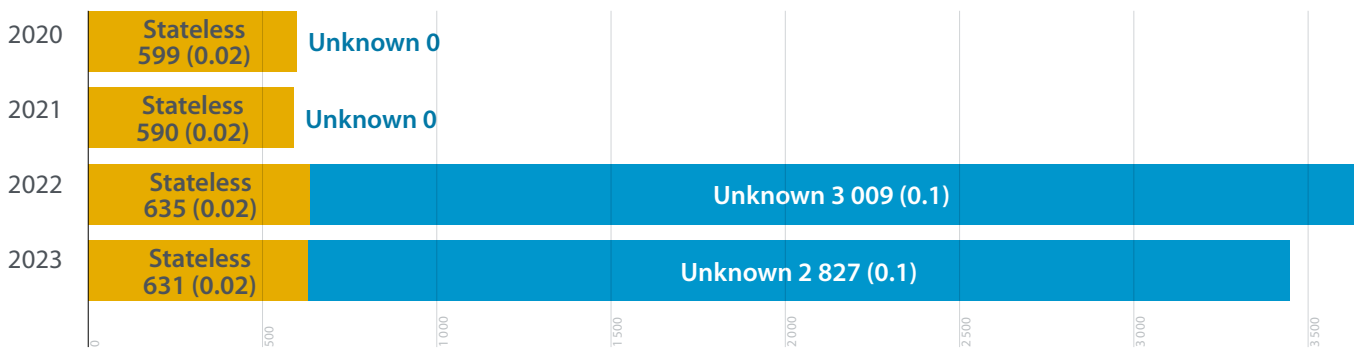
Absolute number (and share of total third-country nationals in the country)



Source: Eurostat (migr_acq and migr_pop1ctz)

Stateless persons and persons with unknown citizenship, 2020–2023

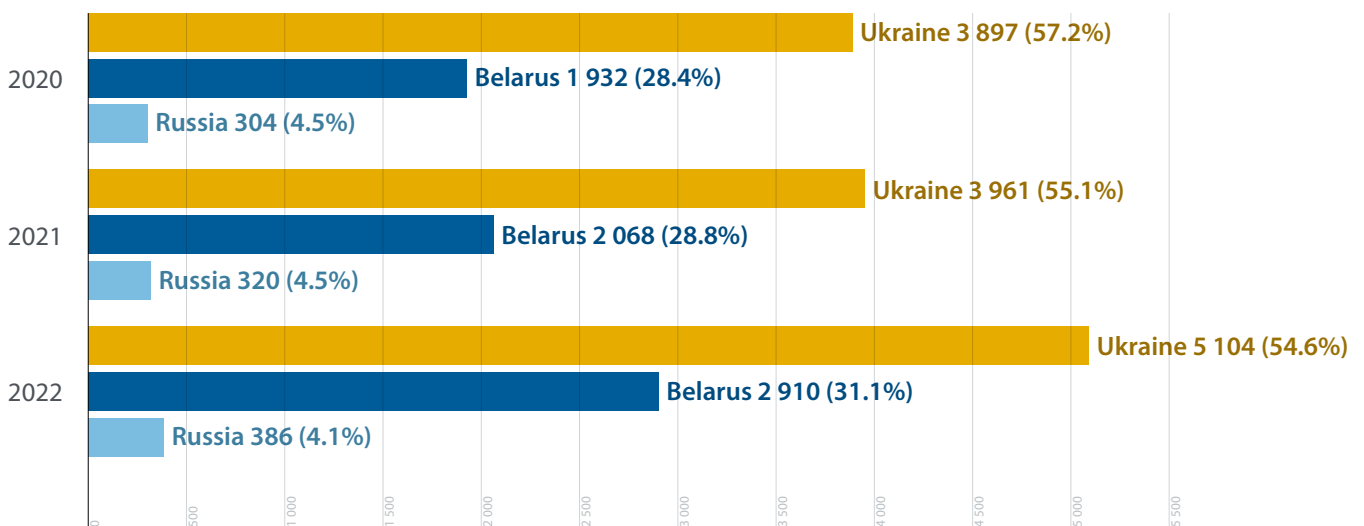
Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)



Source: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

Top 3 countries of previous non-EU citizenships of persons acquiring citizenship, 2020-2022

Absolute number (and the share of all acquisitions by third-country nationals)

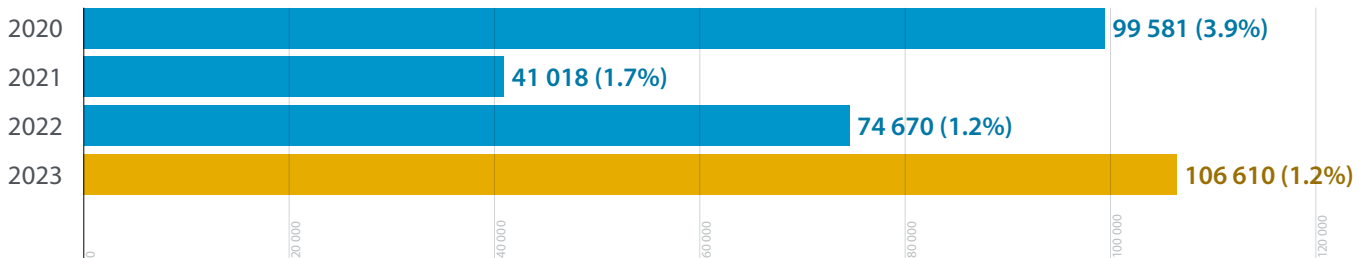


Source: Eurostat (migr_acq)

BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

Schengen uniform short-stay visas issued, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the share of all uniform short-stay visas issued within the Schengen Area)

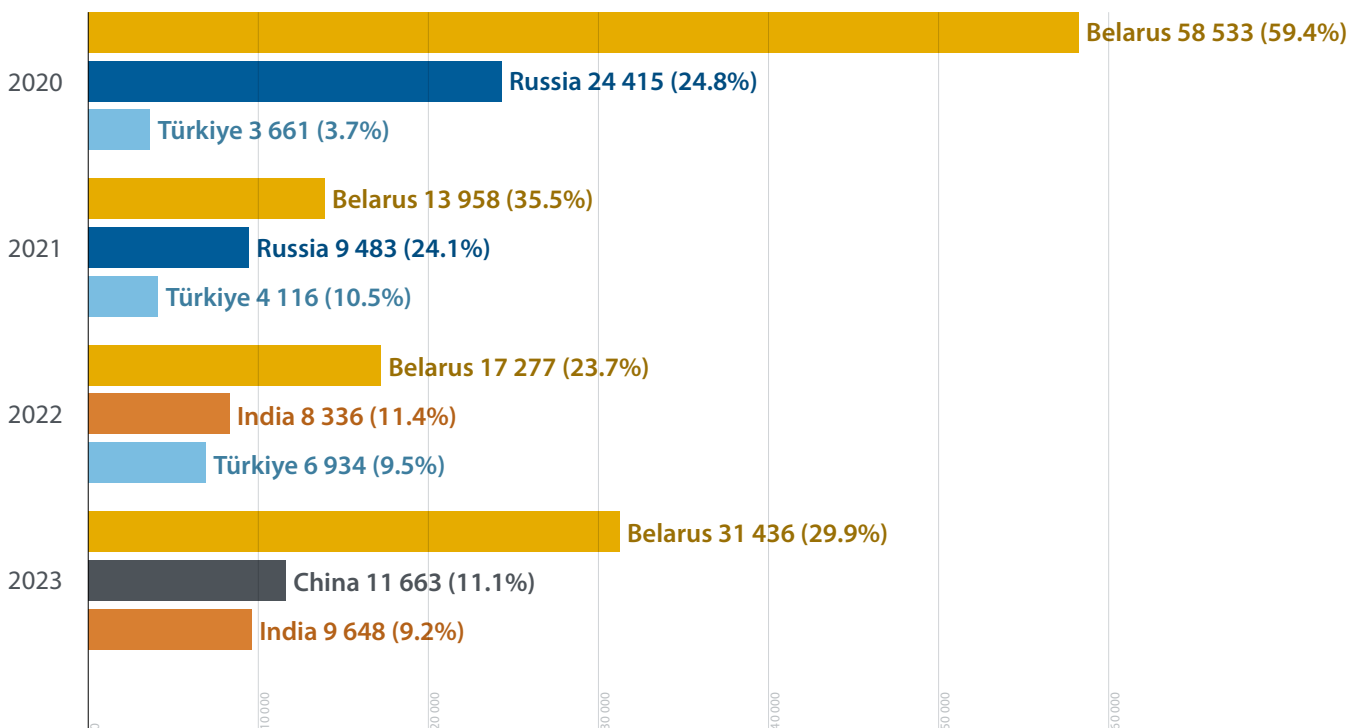


Note: Uniform short-stay visas (C visas) entitle the holder to stay in the territories of all Schengen States for up to 90 days within a 180-day period. Such visas may be issued for the purpose of a single entry or multiple entries.

Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

Three consulate countries in which the most Schengen uniform short-stay visas were issued, 2020–2023

Number of uniform short-stay visas issued (and the share of all uniform short-stay visas issued in consulate countries)



Note: the consulate country might not be the same as the country of citizenship of the visa applicant.

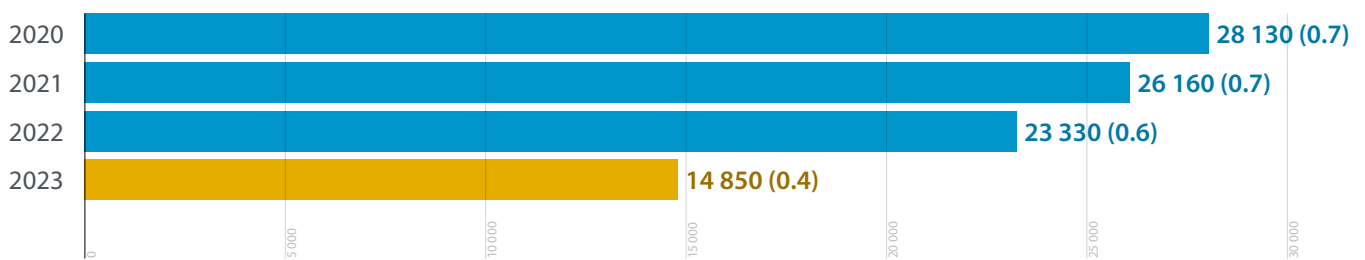
Source: Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

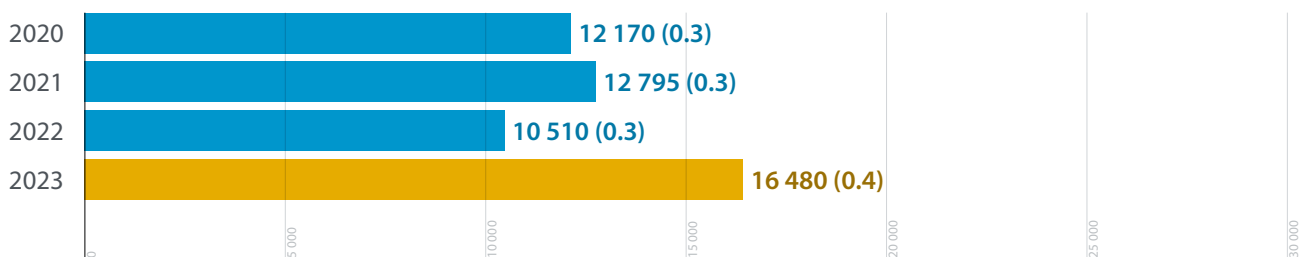
Third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2020–2023

Absolute number (and the number per 1 000 people)

Persons refused entry



Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

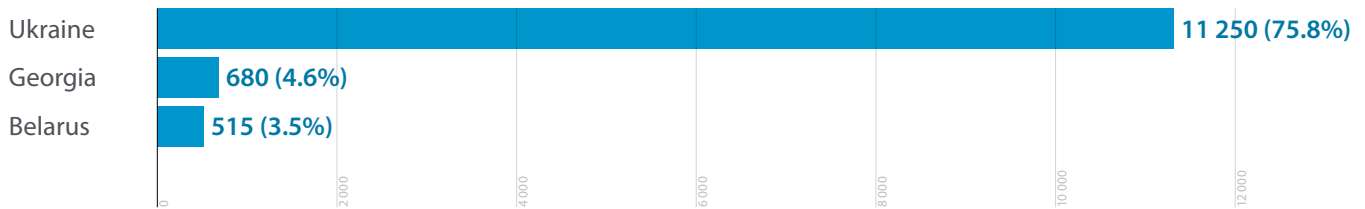


Source: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord, migr_eirtn, demo_gind and migr_eilpop)

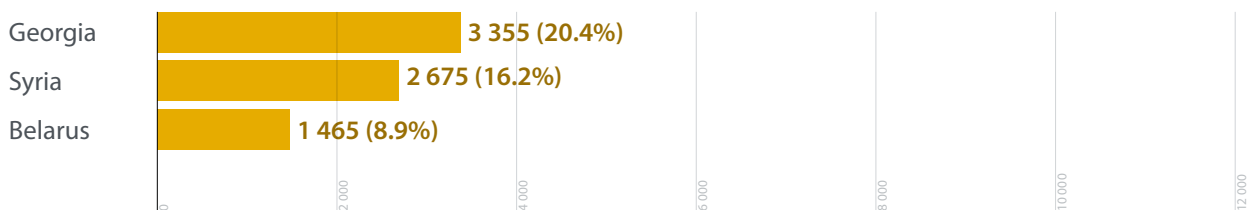
Top 3 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals subject to immigration law enforcement, 2023

Absolute numbers (and the shares in the respective totals)

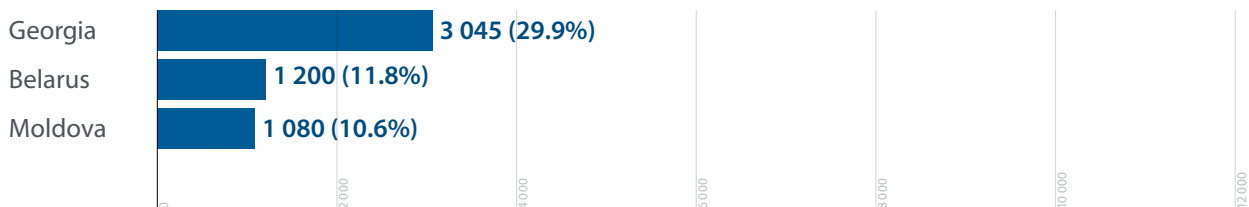
Persons refused entry



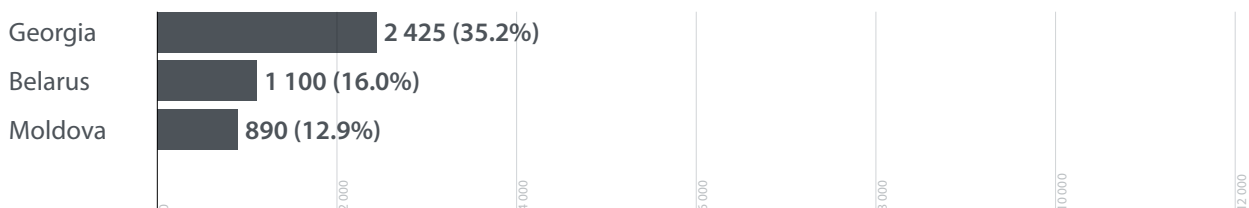
Persons found to be illegally present



Persons ordered to leave



Persons returned to a third country

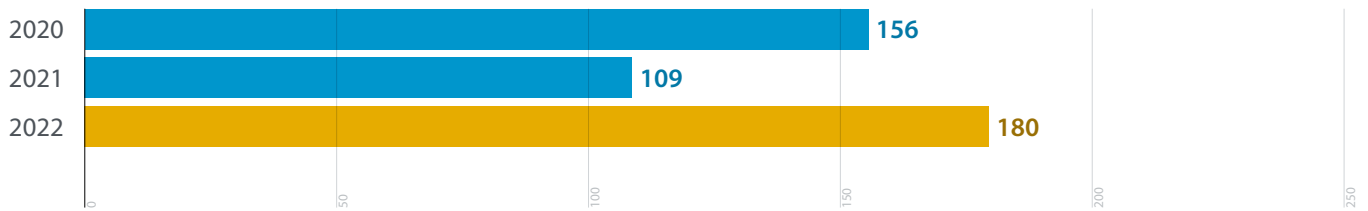


Source: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord and migr_eirtn)



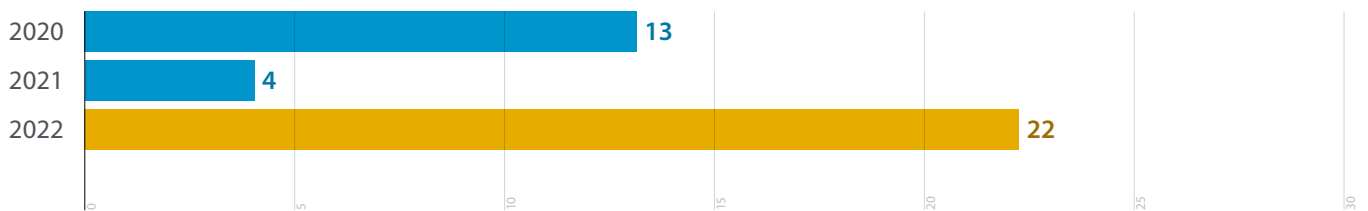
TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of third-country nationals victims of trafficking in human beings, 2020-2022



Source: Eurostat (crim_thb_vctz)

Number of first residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings, 2020-2022

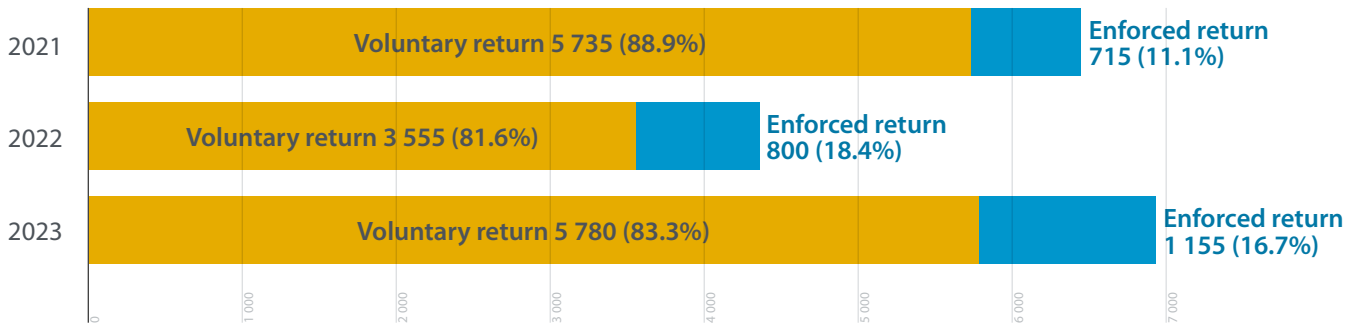


Source: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

RETURN AND READMISSION

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of return, 2021–2023

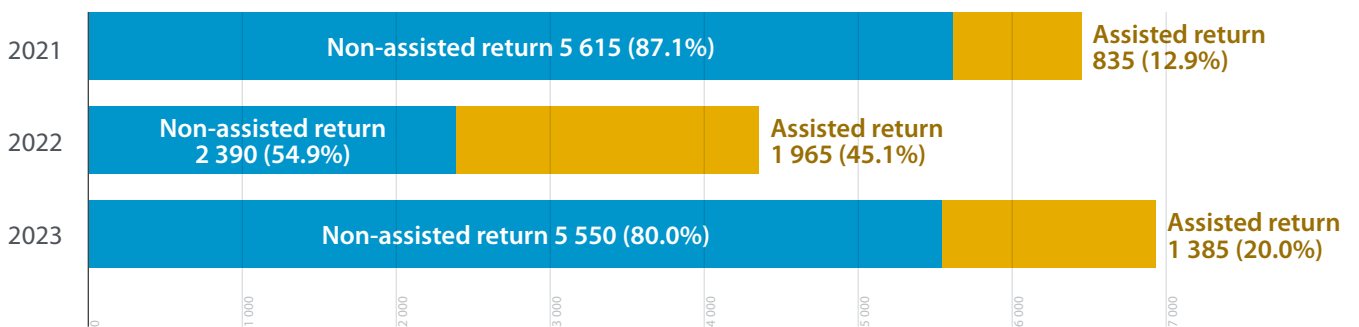
Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat (migr_eirtn1)

Third-country nationals who left the territory, by type of assistance received, 2021–2023

Absolute number (and the share of the total)



Source: Eurostat (migr_eirtn1)