AUSTRIA
EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

2019

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING LATEST STATISTICS

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

WORK-RELATED MIGRATION

An amendment to the [Act governing the employment of foreign nationals](#) entered into force in January 2019 to facilitate the employment of skilled migrant workers in Austria. The changes included:

- An alteration to the points system used to grant Red-White-Red cards (RWR cards).[1] English language proficiency was introduced as a criterion, with more weight given to occupational experience and less to age.
- Shortage occupations[2] were broken down by province. It is now possible to issue an RWR card for skilled workers according to the need in a specific region. As of 2019, skilled workers from third countries can apply for an RWR card that is valid for 45 occupations nationwide and 18 additional occupations in specific provinces.
- Introduction of the option to declare third-country nationals with certain types of university-level training 'very highly qualified' and thus eligible for facilitated immigration. In January 2019, a corresponding regulation added university-qualified mechanical engineers, data-processing engineers and business engineers, as well as physicians, to the preferred category of 'very highly qualified' workers.

KEY POINTS

As of 2019, the list of shortage occupations was broken down by province, making it possible to issue a Red-White-Red card for skilled workers, based on the labour market needs in a specific region.

The Federal Agency for Care and Support Services was established. It is expected to provide accommodation and care for asylum seekers by 2020 and counselling services by 2021.

To promote language acquisition, German courses provided to people holding a protection status were expanded to level B1. Remedial German classes for pupils were also introduced.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

The [legal basis](#) for a new Federal Agency for Care and Support Services as a private limited company was published. The Agency will have exclusive responsibility to provide accommodation and care for asylum seekers in the federal reception system. It will also provide legal counselling, return counselling and assistance, as well as human rights observers, interpreters and translators.

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[1] The Red-White-Red card is a points-based immigration scheme for highly qualified third-country national professionals.

[2] Shortage occupations are those for which a maximum of 1.5 employment seekers are registered per vacancy.

The Agency is expected to work at full capacity as of 2021.

The Aliens Police Act 2005 was amended, temporarily suspending the removal of (former) asylum seekers in apprenticeships. In principle, an apprenticeship ends in the event of a final negative decision on an application for international protection. Under certain conditions, however, this amendment provides (former) asylum seekers with the opportunity to complete their apprenticeship in Austria.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

In December 2019, an agreement on child and youth welfare was signed between the federal state and the provinces. The agreement harmonised the child and youth welfare system in Austria, including the care and support of unaccompanied minors. It also stipulated provinces' future responsibility for implementing the mechanisms, minimum standards and services relating to child and youth welfare.

INTEGRATION

INTEGRATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

2019 focused on enhancing the language skills of migrant children and individuals holding asylum or subsidiary protection status.

- Separate remedial German classes and courses have been provided since the 2018/2019 school year to close the classroom gap for those students. The aim is to promote language acquisition by students unable to follow along in class due to inadequate language proficiency.
- The availability of German courses was expanded from level A2 to B1 for individuals aged 15+ who are holding asylum or subsidiary protection status, following an amendment to the Integration Act.

The Austrian government launched targeted measures to improve the employability of third-country national residents, particularly those with international protection status and women with a migration background. These measures included language training, retraining and skills checks.

CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP

As of September 2020, the Act amending the Citizenship Act 1985 will allow direct descendants of individuals persecuted under Austrofascism and National Socialism to acquire Austrian citizenship more easily.

Further changes were the extension of the eligibility period for immediate victims of persecution, from 9 May 1945 to 15 May 1955. The group of individuals eligible under these terms (immediate victims and their descendants) was expanded to include citizens of one of the successor states of the former Austro-Hungarian monarchy, as well as stateless individuals whose main residence was in Austria.

BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

BORDER MANAGEMENT

In order to enhance the interoperability of European information systems, efforts focused on implementing the European Entry/Exit System (EES) in Austria, which is expected to become operational in 2022. The Passenger Information Unit (PIU) was established to evaluate the personal data of air travellers to and from Austria. A new training programme was launched for border police assistants to support border checks, for example at Vienna International Airport.

SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE

The Federal Ministry of the Interior reintroduced temporary controls at the EU internal borders with Hungary and Slovenia, in accordance with the rules of the Schengen Borders Code, effective until 14 May 2020. Due to a further amendment to the relevant legal basis the temporary border controls will be effective until 11 November 2020.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

MIGRANT SMUGGLING AND PREVENTION OF IRREGULAR STAY

The [2018 status report on migrant smuggling](#) noted that cases of irregular migration and irregular residence had decreased in Austria. International networks, information exchange and police cooperation were used to address irregular migration and smuggling of migrants along the Silk Road, in the Western Balkans and the Danube region.

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In March 2019, the Austrian parliament committed to taking firm action to combat trafficking in human beings and urged the government to continue its efforts at national and European level.

Targeted training sessions were held for specific groups of public servants and other stakeholders in regular contact with migrants from third countries, in a bid to improve the identification of (potential) victims of human trafficking. Special counselling centres continued to provide comprehensive assistance to women and men affected by human trafficking.

RETURN AND READMISSION

RETURN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Return continued to be a priority for the Federal Ministry of the Interior, with an emphasis on fostering voluntary return and reintegration measures. Removals focused particularly on those who had been convicted of criminal offences. At international level, 2019 saw active efforts to strengthen bilateral and multilateral relations with third countries, participation in international and EU bodies, and close exchange with other Member States and EU institutions.

Furthermore, the Federal Ministry of the Interior engaged in information provision in transit countries to strengthen voluntary return.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL ACTIONS

In the area of development assistance, national financial contributions supported refugees and internally displaced people in hosting countries. Projects were implemented in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan and Uganda to support direct provision of basic care and assistance for refugees and to help host communities.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

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

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

Austria - 2019

Publication date: July 2020

ℹ GENERAL NOTES

This four-page statistical annex complements the Country Factsheet with relevant migration-related data organised in nine thematic sections. The dashboard-like layout of the annex allows comparability across countries as well as simultaneous visualisation of different indicators.
Whenever data is not available, the relative chart is left blank or indicated with 'N/A'. Data are provided for the latest available year or the latest available four-year period.
The sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value. This is due to rounding and confidence intervals in the original data.
A How to Read guide, describing each chart and reporting the sources, is available on the EMN website.

🎨 COLOUR LEGEND

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

■ data relative to Austria   ▌ data relative to EU

👥 LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) as % of total population (in the country and in the EU)
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)

			Number of TCNs
2016	7.4%	4.1%	639 645
2017	7.7%	4.2%	673 207
2018	7.8%	4.3%	687 452
2019	7.8%	4.6%	692 473
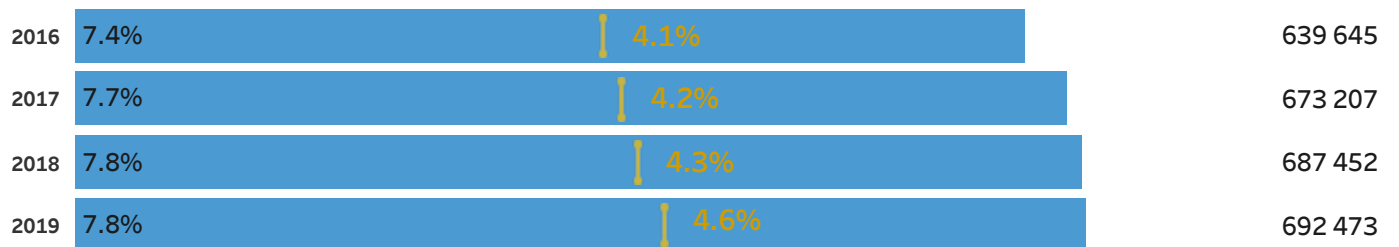
Top 5 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

2015
Syria 8 424 (16.5%)
Serbia 5 288 (10.3%)
Bosnia and Herzegovina 4 520 (8.8%)
Turkey 3 961 (7.7%)
Afghanistan 3 606 (7.0%)

2016
Syria 8 391 (16.8%)
Serbia 5 018 (10.0%)
Bosnia and Herzegovina 4 060 (8.1%)
Turkey 3 939 (7.9%)
Afghanistan 3 673 (7.3%)

2017
Syria 13 058 (23.4%)
Afghanistan 7 688 (13.8%)
Serbia 4 426 (7.9%)
Bosnia and Herzegovina 3 350 (6.0%)
Turkey 2 876 (5.1%)

2018
Afghanistan 7 582 (16.3%)
Syria 5 454 (11.7%)
Serbia 3 956 (8.5%)
Bosnia and Herzegovina 3 504 (7.5%)
Turkey 2 795 (6.0%)

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

Year	% (EU)	Number
2015	0.60% (0.45%)	51 282
2016	0.58% (0.56%)	50 066
2017	0.64% (0.60%)	55 968
2018	0.53% (0.61%)	46 521
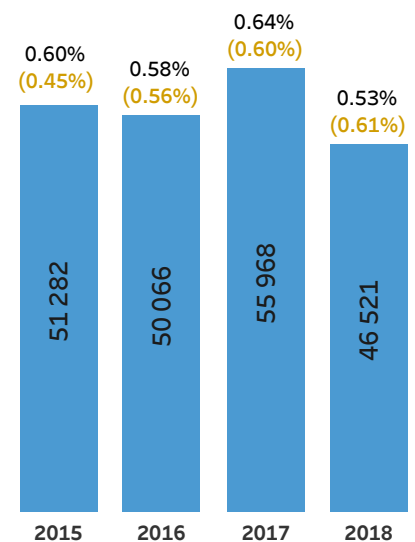
First residence permits annually issued by reason
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

2015: Family 30%, Education 14%, Work 7%, Other 49%

2016: Family 31%, Education 12%, Work 7%, Other 51%

2017: Family 25%, Education 8%, Work 5%, Other 62%

2018: Family 28%, Education 10%, Work 8%, Other 54%

Reason: ■ Family ■ Education ■ Work ■ Other

EMN European Migration Network   KCMD
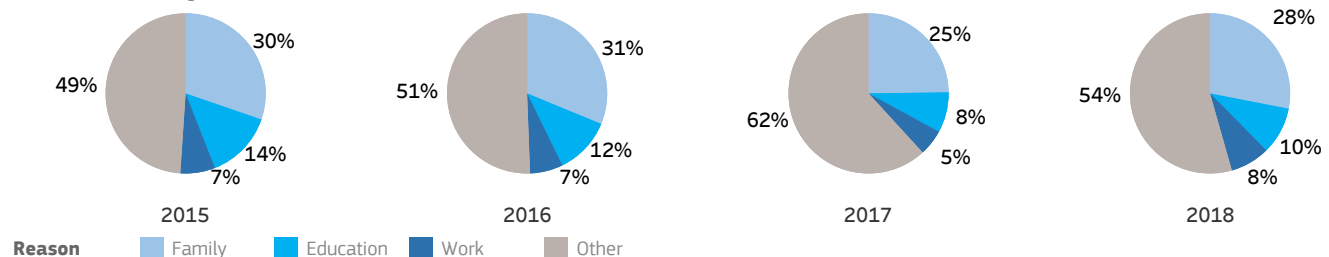
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz)

- 2016: 39 905 — 0.46% (0.26%)
- 2017: 22 470 — 0.26% (0.14%)
- 2018: 11 610 — 0.13% (0.13%)
- 2019: 10 790 — 0.12% (0.14%)

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)

2016
- Afghanistan 11 520 (29%)
- Syria 8 640 (22%)
- Iraq 2 725 (7%)
- Pakistan 2 415 (6%)
- Iran 2 400 (6%)

2017
- Syria 7 255 (32%)
- Afghanistan 3 525 (16%)
- Pakistan 1 445 (6%)
- Iraq 1 345 (6%)
- Nigeria 1 135 (5%)

2018
- Syria 3 300 (28%)
- Afghanistan 1 765 (15%)
- Iran 1 050 (9%)
- Russia 690 (6%)
- Iraq 650 (6%)

2019
- Syria 2 660 (25%)
- Afghanistan 2 515 (23%)
- Iran 655 (6%)
- Somalia 595 (6%)
- Iraq 590 (5%)

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)

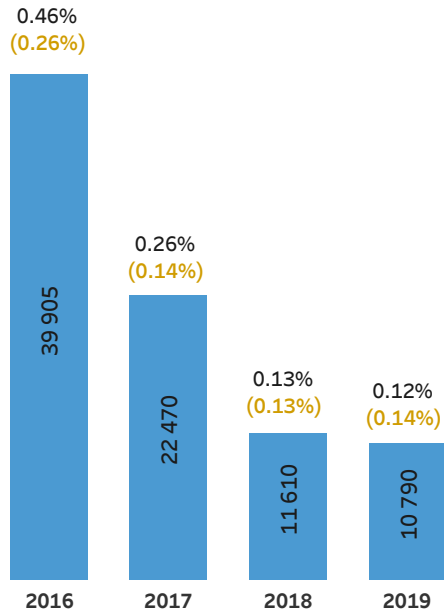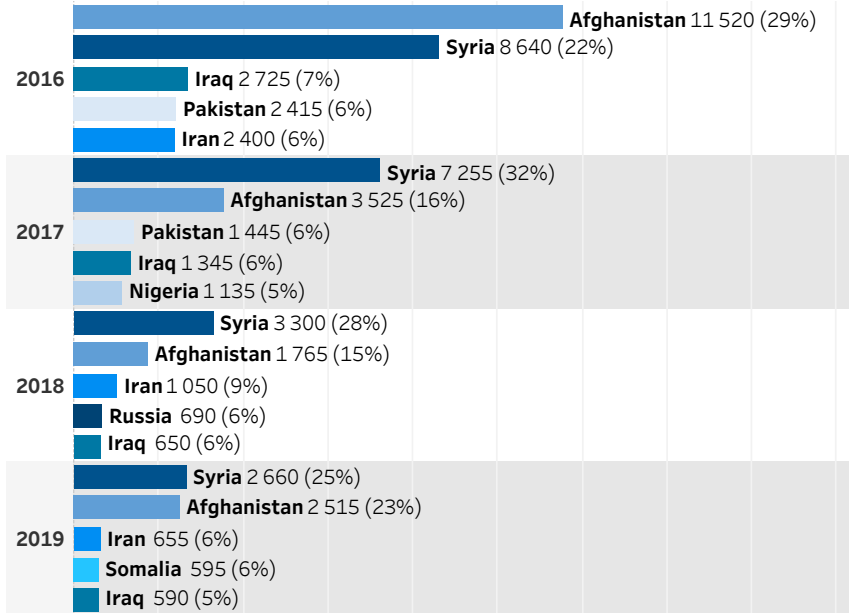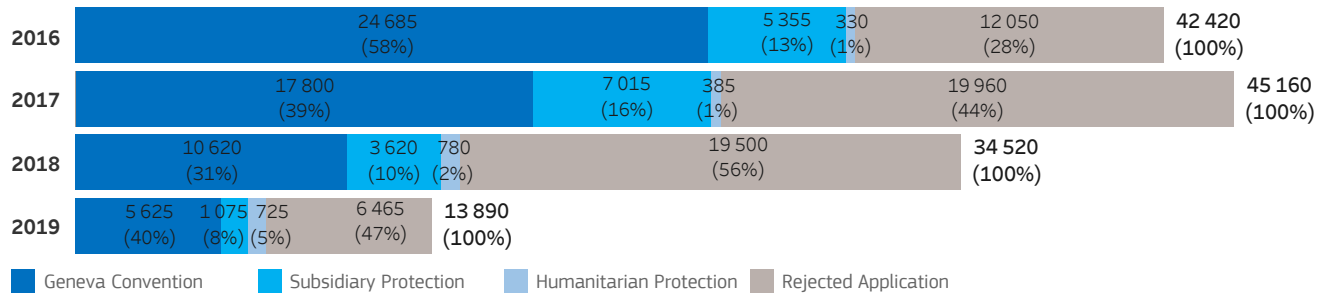| Year	Geneva Convention	Subsidiary Protection	Humanitarian Protection	Rejected Application	Total
2016	24 685 (58%)	5 355 (13%)	330 (1%)	12 050 (28%)	42 420 (100%)
2017	17 800 (39%)	7 015 (16%)	385 (1%)	19 960 (44%)	45 160 (100%)
2018	10 620 (31%)	3 620 (10%)	780 (2%)	19 500 (56%)	34 520 (100%)
2019	5 625 (40%)	1 075 (8%)	725 (5%)	6 465 (47%)	13 890 (100%)

Legend: ■ Geneva Convention ■ Subsidiary Protection ■ Humanitarian Protection ■ Rejected Application

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)

2016
- Syria 18 630 (44%) — 100%
- Afghanistan 7 035 (17%) — 55%
- Iraq 3 235 (8%) — 81%
- Stateless 2 055 (5%) — 98%
- Russia 1 655 (4%) — 43%

2017
- Afghanistan 14 550 (32%) — 41%
- Syria 11 745 (26%) — 99%
- Iraq 4 755 (11%) — 42%
- Iran 1 900 (4%) — 67%
- Somalia 1 860 (4%) — 73%

2018
- Afghanistan 12 595 (37%) — 34%
- Syria 4 695 (14%) — 98%
- Iraq 3 965 (12%) — 32%
- Iran 3 040 (9%) — 45%
- Russia 1 785 (5%) — 43%

2019
- Afghanistan 3 045 (22%) — 57%
- Syria 2 580 (19%) — 97%
- Iran 1 095 (8%) — 42%
- Russia 990 (7%) — 56%
- Iraq 950 (7%) — 43%

Legend: ■ Positive ■ Negative
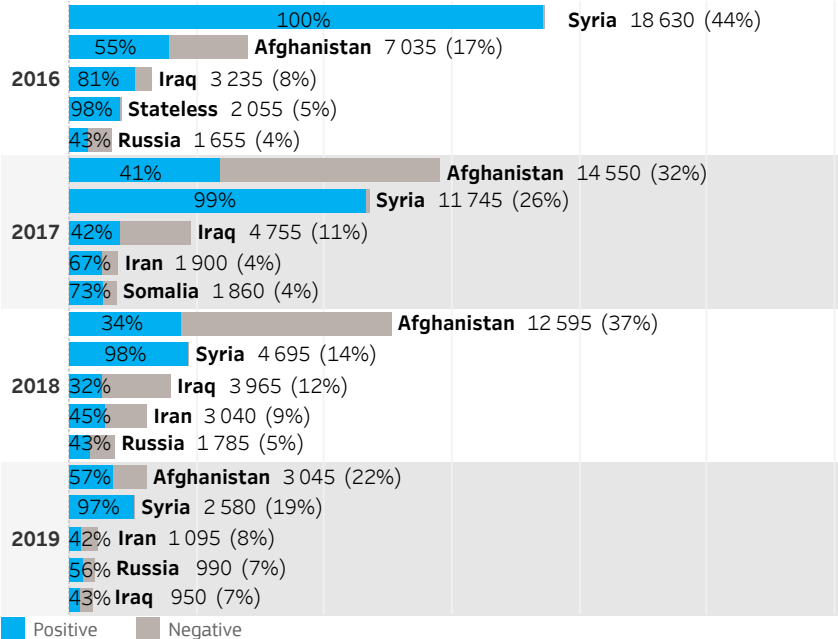
Third-Country Nationals resettled: absolute number and as % of total resettled in EU

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)

- 2016: 200 (2.4%)
- 2017: 380 (2.1%)
- 2018: 0 (0.0%)
- 2019: 0 (0.0%)

Austria - 2019
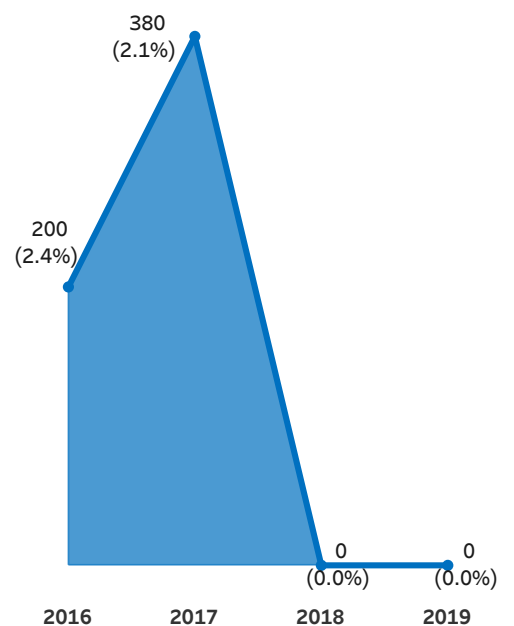
✋ UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied Minors applying for asylum in the country (and % of total applications from Unaccompanied Minors in EU)
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)

Year	Value
2016	3 900 (6.5%)
2017	1 350 (4.6%)
2018	390 (2.3%)
2019	860 (6.1%)

Unaccompanied Minors as % of first asylum applications (in the country and in EU)
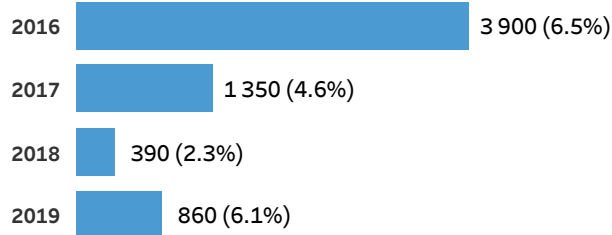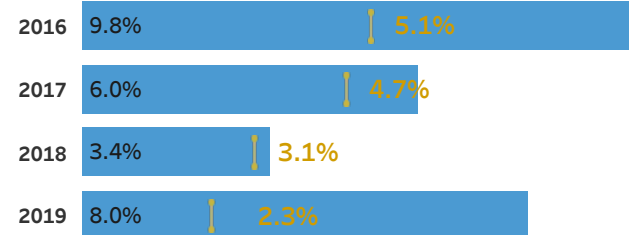SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)

Year	Country	EU
2016	9.8%	5.1%
2017	6.0%	4.7%
2018	3.4%	3.1%
2019	8.0%	2.3%

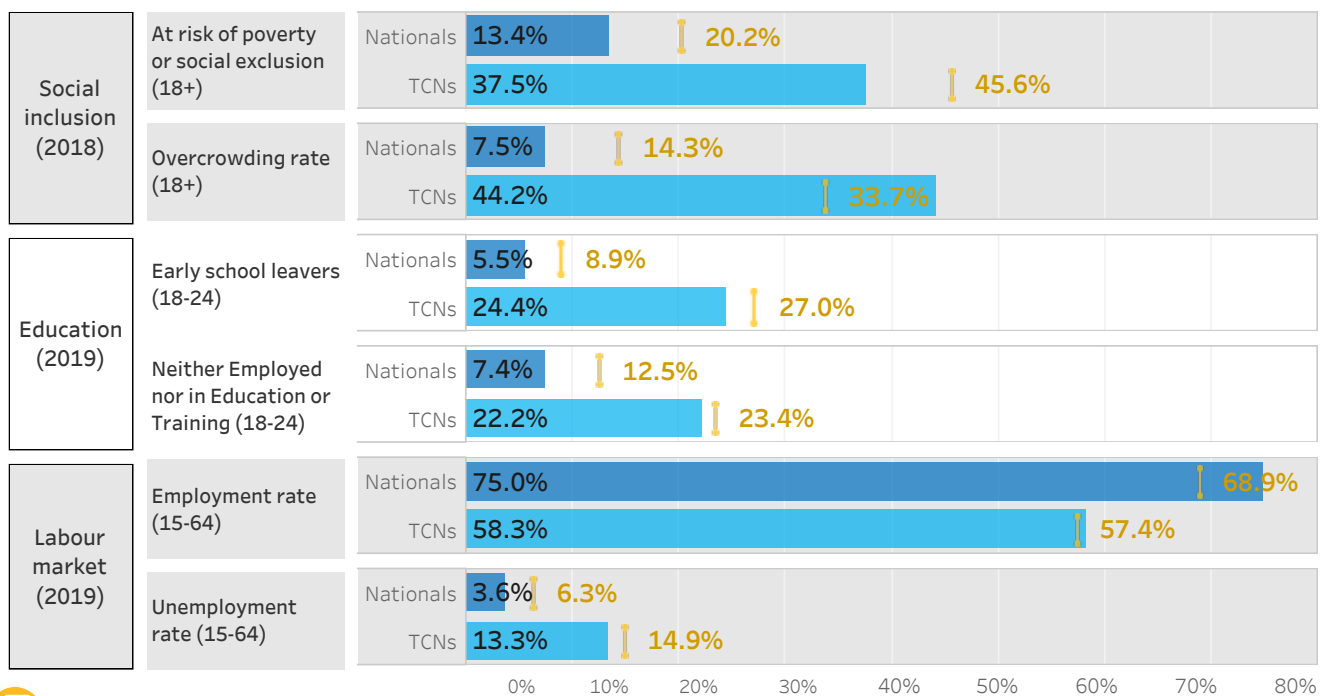## 🧩 INTEGRATION

Integration indicators for nationals of the country (blue) and Third-Country Nationals (TCNs – light blue) in the country (when available). The same indicator is provided in yellow for EU. Data are relative to the last year available.
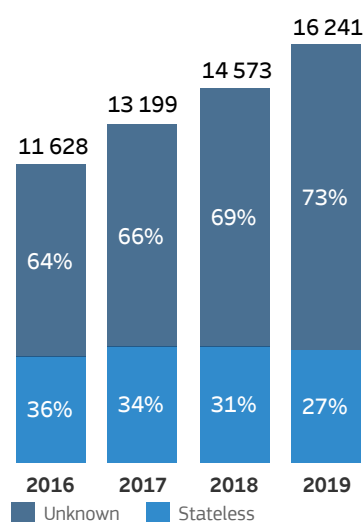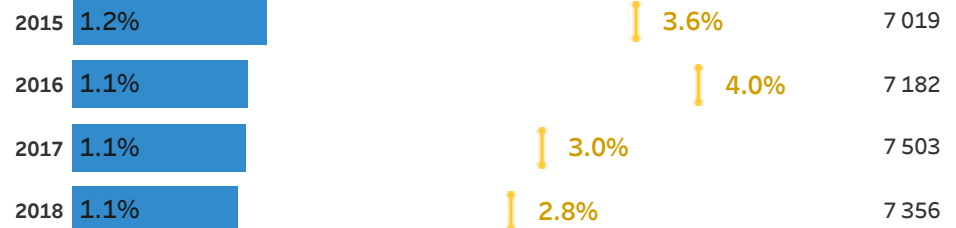SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc_peps05, ilc_lvho15, edat_lfse_01, edat_lfse_23, lfsa_ergan, lfsa_urgan)

Category	Indicator		Country	EU
Social inclusion (2018)	At risk of poverty or social exclusion (18+)	Nationals	13.4%	20.2%
		TCNs	37.5%	45.6%
	Overcrowding rate (18+)	Nationals	7.5%	14.3%
		TCNs	44.2%	33.7%
Education (2019)	Early school leavers (18-24)	Nationals	5.5%	8.9%
		TCNs	24.4%	27.0%
	Neither Employed nor in Education or Training (18-24)	Nationals	7.4%	12.5%
		TCNs	22.2%	23.4%
Labour market (2019)	Employment rate (15-64)	Nationals	75.0%	68.9%
		TCNs	58.3%	57.4%
	Unemployment rate (15-64)	Nationals	3.6%	6.3%
		TCNs	13.3%	14.9%

🌐 CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

Stateless, Recogn. Non-Citizens (RNC) and Unknown Citizens
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctza)

Year	Total	Unknown	Stateless
2016	11 628	64%	36%
2017	13 199	66%	34%
2018	14 573	69%	31%
2019	16 241	73%	27%

■ Unknown ■ Stateless

Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute number
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acqs, migr_acq)

Year	Country	EU	Absolute
2015	1.2%	3.6%	7 019
2016	1.1%	4.0%	7 182
2017	1.1%	3.0%	7 503
2018	1.1%	2.8%	7 356

Top 5 nationalities by number of citizenship acquisition in 2018: absolute number and % of total acquisitions in the country by Third-Country Nationals
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acq)

2018:
- Bosnia and Herzegovina 1 032 (14%)
- Turkey 828 (11%)
- Serbia 625 (8%)
- Kosovo 586 (8%)
- North Macedonia 453 (6%)

Austria - 2019
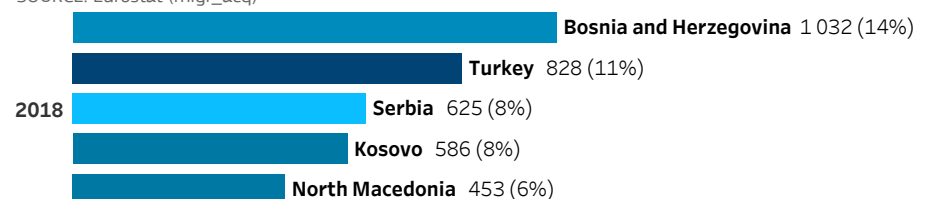
BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

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

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

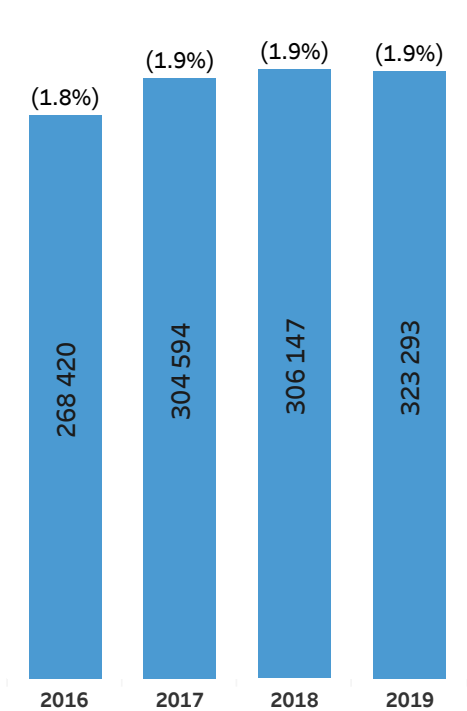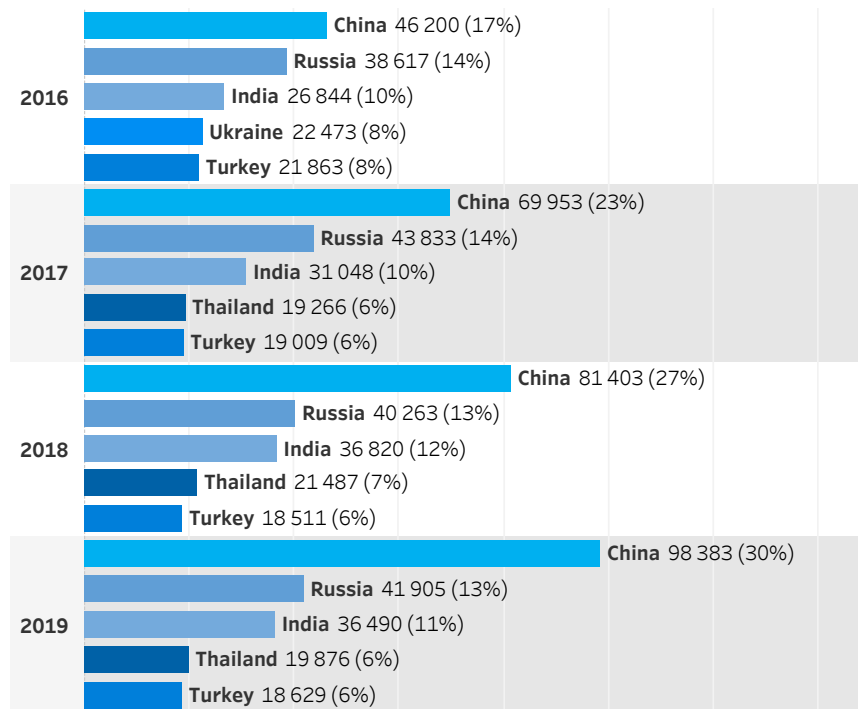| Year	Value	(%)
2016	268 420	(1.8%)
2017	304 594	(1.9%)
2018	306 147	(1.9%)
2019	323 293	(1.9%)

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

2016
- China 46 200 (17%)
- Russia 38 617 (14%)
- India 26 844 (10%)
- Ukraine 22 473 (8%)
- Turkey 21 863 (8%)

2017
- China 69 953 (23%)
- Russia 43 833 (14%)
- India 31 048 (10%)
- Thailand 19 266 (6%)
- Turkey 19 009 (6%)

2018
- China 81 403 (27%)
- Russia 40 263 (13%)
- India 36 820 (12%)
- Thailand 21 487 (7%)
- Turkey 18 511 (6%)

2019
- China 98 383 (30%)
- Russia 41 905 (13%)
- India 36 490 (11%)
- Thailand 19 876 (6%)
- Turkey 18 629 (6%)

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord, migr_eirtn)

Refused entry at ext. borders

Year	Value
2016	460
2017	740
2018	400
2019	770

Found to be illegally present

Year	Value
2016	49 810
2017	26 660
2018	18 840
2019	16 090

Ordered to Leave (OTL)

Year	Value
2016	11 850
2017	8 850
2018	10 690
2019	13 960

Returned following an OTL

Year	Value
2016	6 095
2017	6 115
2018	7 405
2019	7 400

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of residence permits issued to victims of Trafficking in Human Beings
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

0 or not available

RETURN AND READMISSION

Number of Third-Country Nationals who left the territory by type of return
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirt_vol)

Year			Total
2016	N/A		
2017	Enforced 27%	Voluntary 73%	6 115
2018	Enforced 67%	Voluntary 33%	7 405
2019	Enforced 35%	Voluntary 65%	7 400

Legend: Enforced | Voluntary | Other