LITHUANIA
EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

2019

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING LATEST STATISTICS

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

WORK-RELATED MIGRATION

In 2019, Lithuania continued to facilitate work-related migration.

Lithuania introduced the **possibility for a foreigner (defined as a third-country national) to change a job function** with the same employer without obtaining a new residence permit.

Employers included on the list of approved enterprises could assess a **foreigner's qualification** against the requirements of their workplace. All other employers could only do this for **highly qualified professionals.**

Lithuania facilitated conditions of residence on the ground of business and employment for nationals of **Australia, Japan, the United States, Canada, South Korea and New Zealand**. These applicants were issued with a temporary residence permit for up to three years and could immediately bring their family to join them.

Lithuania regulated the **employment of foreigners who enjoy visa-free travel**. They were allowed to take up employment only if they were in possession of a work permit.

To better regulate incoming flows of foreign workers Lithuania decided to **introduce quotas** for foreigners

KEY POINTS

Lithuania implemented a migration management reform that divided migration management functions between the Migration Department and the State Border Guard Service (SBGS).

The Lithuanian Migration Information System (MIGRIS) was launched, with the majority of services for foreigners now available online.

Legal prerequisites were created for foreigners to acquire and use the status of an electronic resident in Lithuania (e-resident).

included on the list of shortage occupation (effective from 01 July 2020).

Lithuania created legal prerequisites for foreigners to acquire and use the status of an electronic resident in Lithuania **(e-resident)**.

STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

Lithuania **facilitated the employment of foreign graduates,** no longer requiring them to undergo the labour market test, irrespective of whether their employment was related to a qualification acquired in Lithuania.

Lithuania introduced the **requirement of academic attainment** for foreign students and established a new ground for refusing to issue or renew a residence permit,

where a student collected less than 40 academic credits within one year and presented no reasons to justify that performance.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

The Constitutional Court decided that **same-sex foreign spouses or partners were entitled to a residence permit** on the ground of family reunification where their spouses or partners were Lithuanian citizens.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

Following the migration management reform, the functions related to asylum procedures that were previously performed by competent police units were transferred to the Migration Department and SBGS.

Lithuania introduced the **right of asylum applicants to take up employment** if authorities failed to take a decision on granting asylum within six months of lodging their application.

RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT

Lithuania **relocated seven foreigners,** following their disembarkation in the seaports of Italy and Malta.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

The foreigners' registration centre opened a **building for vulnerable asylum applicants,** accommodating 15 vulnerable people or persons with disabilities.

INTEGRATION

No significant developments in 2019.

CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP

No significant developments in 2019.

BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

BORDER MANAGEMENT

Lithuania introduced **automated border control gates** at Vilnius airport, allowing quicker border crossing for holders of biometric passports issued by the European Union (EU), European Economic Area (EEA) countries and Switzerland.

VISA POLICY

In cooperation with a selected service provider, Lithuania decided to open new visa centres in **71 countries** where it did not have diplomatic representation.

SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE

Lithuania continued **to upgrade its video surveillance** systems at the external EU borders.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

MISUSE OF LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

The SBGS reported that the introduction of **visa-free travel with Ukraine** increased the inflow of Ukrainian nationals by 35.2% but did not affect the number of applications for asylum. However, the number of illegally staying and illegally employed Ukrainian nationals increased.

The SBGS noted an increase in **misuse of the asylum procedure,** where persons lodged asylum application at border crossing points and were admitted to the territory of Lithuania, before then unlawfully departing to other EU Member States, pending a decision on their application.

The Migration Department and the State Tax Inspectorate agreed to **share data,** allowing migration

authorities to assess whether business activities declared by foreigners were carried out.

Lithuania introduced an **obligation for employers** to inform the Migration Department of the termination of foreigners' employment contracts.

In order to prevent misuse, Lithuania reintroduced the **obligation for posted workers** to obtain a work permit in Lithuania.

Lithuania extended the circumstances under which an **alternative to detention** may be provided. These included foreigners providing assistance in establishing their legal status and entrusting the guardianship of a foreigner to a resident where no family relationship existed between them.

MIGRANT SMUGGLING AND PREVENTION OF IRREGULAR STAY

No significant developments in 2019.

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Lithuania appointed a **special police attaché to the United Kingdom,** with responsibility for human trafficking activities (among other things).

The National Association against Trafficking in Human Beings was established, with the aim of coordinating such work and proposing appropriate solutions to the issue of trafficking in human beings.

RETURN AND READMISSION

RETURN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Lithuania continued to ensure **effectiveness of return**. In 2019, 87% of voluntary returns and 71% of expulsions were implemented.

To streamline the return management process, the **SBGS was given a mandate** to issue decisions on expulsion and to impose entry bans.

Lithuania expanded the groups of third-country nationals eligible for **voluntary return**. Foreigners who unlawfully entered or stayed illegally in Lithuania could be issued a return decision with a voluntary return period if they expressed their willingness for voluntary return and cooperate with the authorities.

Lithuania established a **new ground for detention** of foreigners where they failed to cooperate with the competent authorities during the asylum or return procedure.

COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

The Republic of Lithuania and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam signed the **Agreement on readmission.** With Vietnamese nationals continuing to be the dominant nationality among detained irregular migrants in Lithuania, the agreement was intended to facilitate readmission of Vietnamese citizens.

The Republic of Lithuania and Ukraine signed the implementation protocol for the **Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on readmission.** The Agreement came into effect on 1 January 2020.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL ACTIONS

A state-funded project promoting women's innovative business development in the **Côte d'Ivoire** was implemented.

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 Lithuania 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.

Lithuania - 2019

ℹ️ 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 Lithuania   ▮ data relative to EU
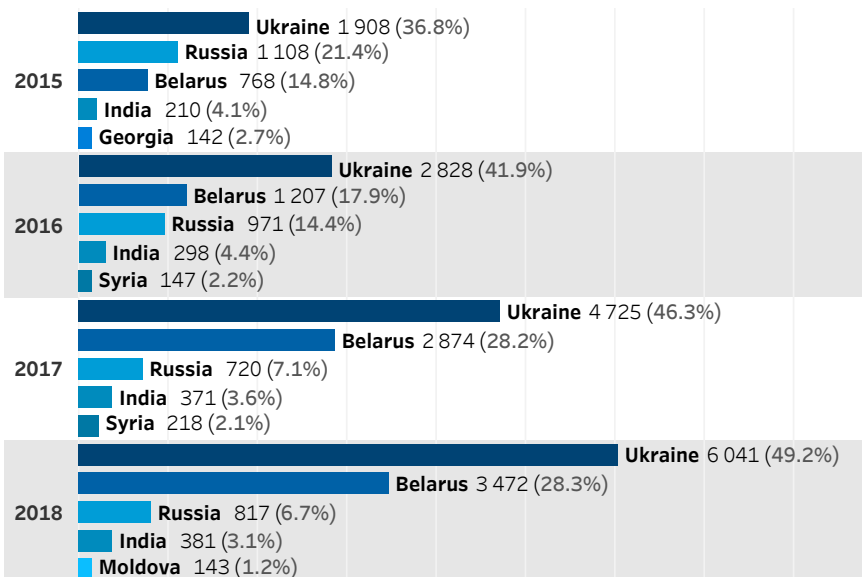
👥 LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

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

Number of TCNs

Year	LT	EU	Number of TCNs
2016	0.4%	4.1%	12 311
2017	0.5%	4.2%	13 313
2018	0.7%	4.3%	20 062
2019	1.4%	4.6%	38 673

Top 5 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

2015
- Ukraine 1 908 (36.8%)
- Russia 1 108 (21.4%)
- Belarus 768 (14.8%)
- India 210 (4.1%)
- Georgia 142 (2.7%)

2016
- Ukraine 2 828 (41.9%)
- Belarus 1 207 (17.9%)
- Russia 971 (14.4%)
- India 298 (4.4%)
- Syria 147 (2.2%)

2017
- Ukraine 4 725 (46.3%)
- Belarus 2 874 (28.2%)
- Russia 720 (7.1%)
- India 371 (3.6%)
- Syria 218 (2.1%)

2018
- Ukraine 6 041 (49.2%)
- Belarus 3 472 (28.3%)
- Russia 817 (6.7%)
- India 381 (3.1%)
- Moldova 143 (1.2%)

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

Year	% country	(% EU)	Number
2015	0.18%	(0.45%)	5 178
2016	0.23%	(0.56%)	6 750
2017	0.36%	(0.60%)	10 207
2018	0.44%	(0.61%)	12 267
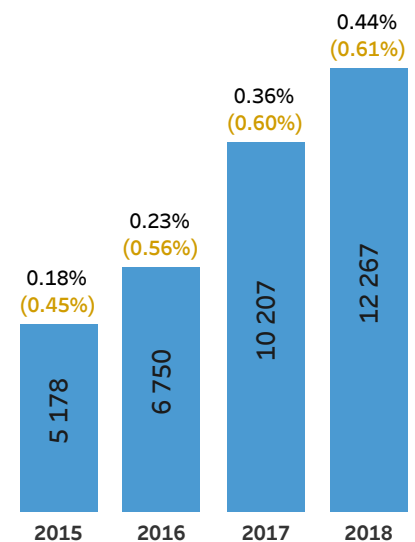
First residence permits annually issued by reason
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

2015
- Family: 25%
- Education: 14%
- Work: 54%
- Other: 7%

2016
- Family: 17%
- Education: 14%
- Work: 60%
- Other: 8%

2017
- Family: 10%
- Education: 10%
- Work: 74%
- Other: 6%

2018
- Family: 8%
- Education: 10%
- Work: 77%
- Other: 5%
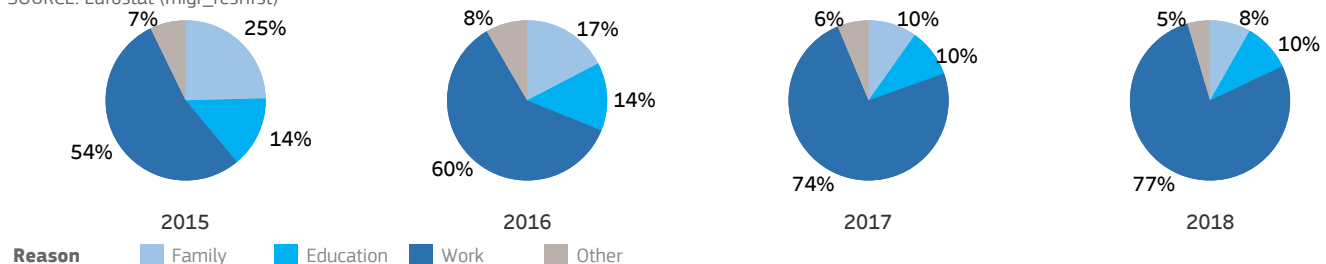
Reason   ▮ Family   ▮ Education   ▮ Work   ▮ Other

Lithuania - 2019

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)

Year	% population (EU %)	Number
2016	0.01% (0.26%)	415
2017	0.02% (0.14%)	520
2018	0.01% (0.13%)	385
2019	0.02% (0.14%)	625
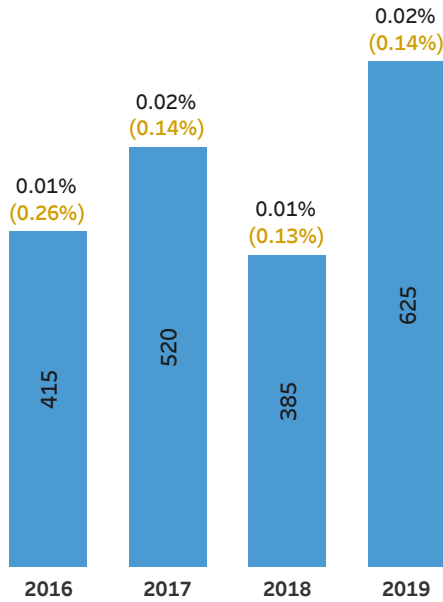
Top 5 nationalities of annual number of first-time asylum applications: number of applications and % of total first-time annual applications
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)

2016
- Syria 165 (40%)
- Russia 50 (12%)
- Iraq 40 (10%)
- Ukraine 30 (7%)
- Afghanistan 30 (7%)

2017
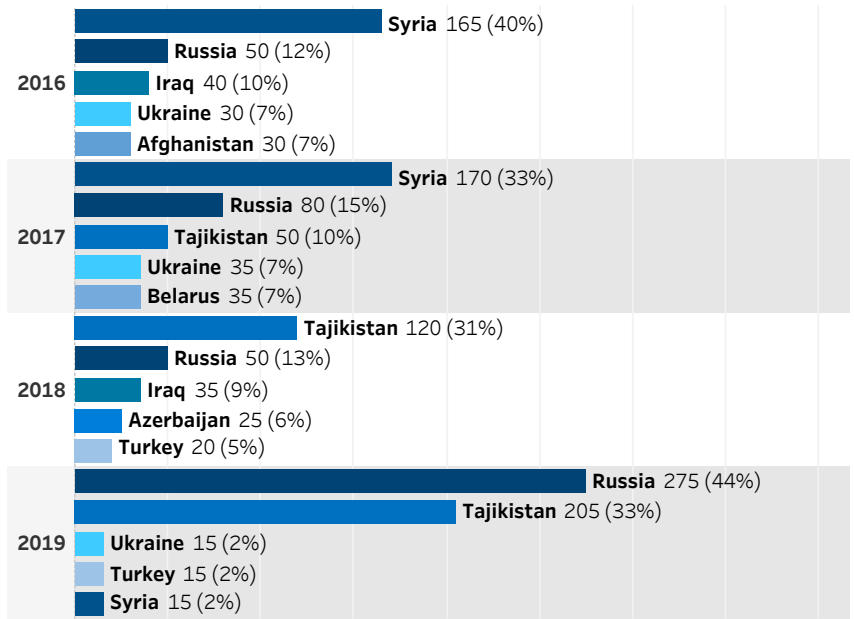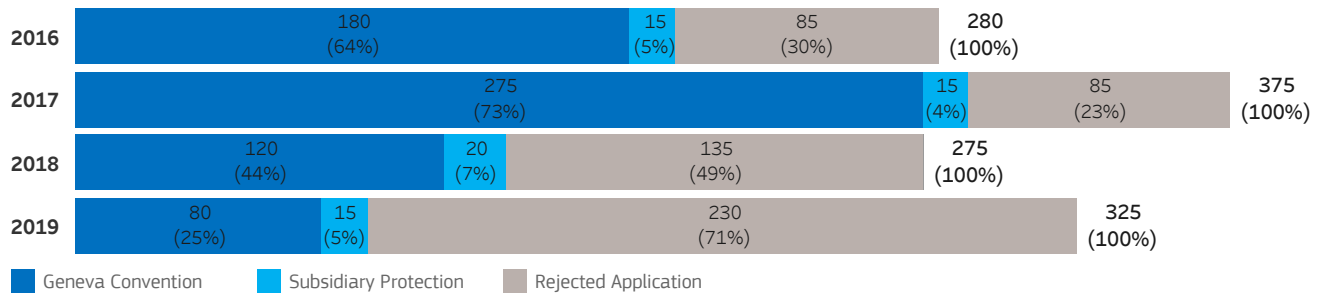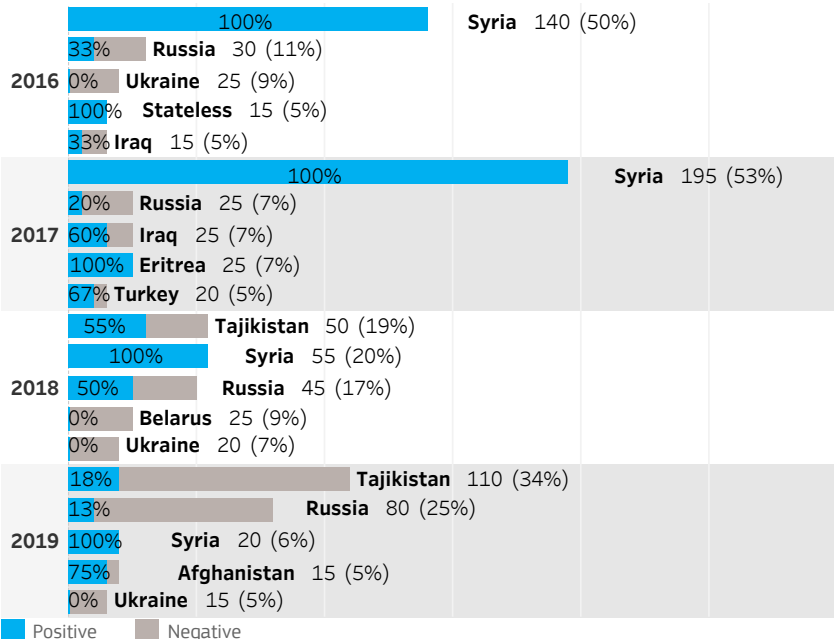- Syria 170 (33%)
- Russia 80 (15%)
- Tajikistan 50 (10%)
- Ukraine 35 (7%)
- Belarus 35 (7%)

2018
- Tajikistan 120 (31%)
- Russia 50 (13%)
- Iraq 35 (9%)
- Azerbaijan 25 (6%)
- Turkey 20 (5%)

2019
- Russia 275 (44%)
- Tajikistan 205 (33%)
- Ukraine 15 (2%)
- Turkey 15 (2%)
- Syria 15 (2%)

Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)

Year	Geneva Convention	Subsidiary Protection	Rejected Application	Total
2016	180 (64%)	15 (5%)	85 (30%)	280 (100%)
2017	275 (73%)	15 (4%)	85 (23%)	375 (100%)
2018	120 (44%)	20 (7%)	135 (49%)	275 (100%)
2019	80 (25%)	15 (5%)	230 (71%)	325 (100%)

Legend: Geneva Convention / Subsidiary 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
- 100% Syria 140 (50%)
- 33% Russia 30 (11%)
- 0% Ukraine 25 (9%)
- 100% Stateless 15 (5%)
- 33% Iraq 15 (5%)

2017
- 100% Syria 195 (53%)
- 20% Russia 25 (7%)
- 60% Iraq 25 (7%)
- 100% Eritrea 25 (7%)
- 67% Turkey 20 (5%)

2018
- 55% Tajikistan 50 (19%)
- 100% Syria 55 (20%)
- 50% Russia 45 (17%)
- 0% Belarus 25 (9%)
- 0% Ukraine 20 (7%)

2019
- 18% Tajikistan 110 (34%)
- 13% Russia 80 (25%)
- 100% Syria 20 (6%)
- 75% Afghanistan 15 (5%)
- 0% Ukraine 15 (5%)

Legend: Positive / Negative

Third-Country Nationals resettled: absolute number and as % of total resettled in EU
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)

Year	Value
2016	25 (0.3%)
2017	60 (0.3%)
2018	20 (0.1%)
2019	—

Lithuania - 2019
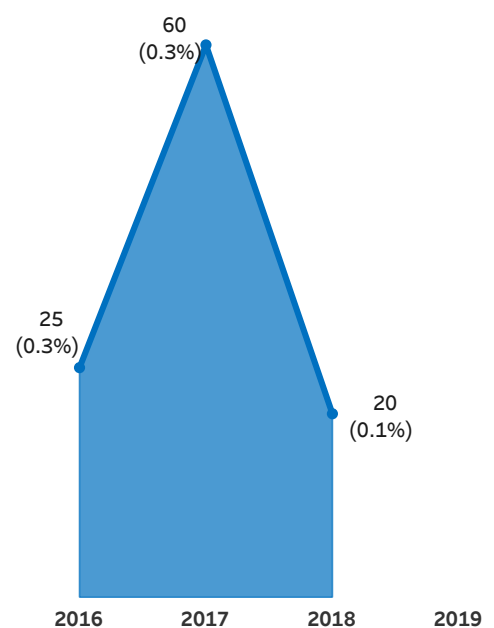
✋ UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

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

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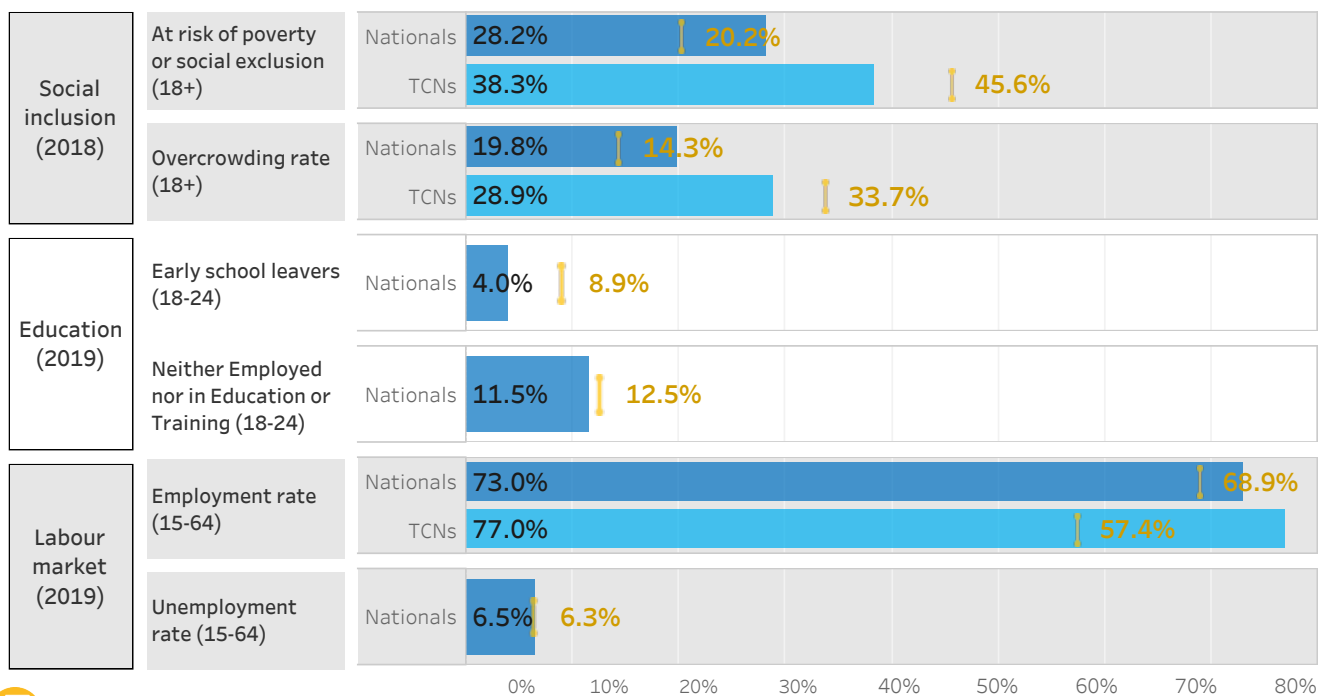SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)

0 or not available

0 or not available

🧩 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)

|			
Social inclusion (2018)	At risk of poverty or social exclusion (18+)	Nationals	28.2% — 20.2%
		TCNs	38.3% — 45.6%
	Overcrowding rate (18+)	Nationals	19.8% — 14.3%
		TCNs	28.9% — 33.7%
Education (2019)	Early school leavers (18-24)	Nationals	4.0% — 8.9%
	Neither Employed nor in Education or Training (18-24)	Nationals	11.5% — 12.5%
Labour market (2019)	Employment rate (15-64)	Nationals	73.0% — 68.9%
		TCNs	77.0% — 57.4%
	Unemployment rate (15-64)	Nationals	6.5% — 6.3%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80%

🌐 CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

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

Year	Value	%
2016	1 422	100%
2017	1 281	100%
2018	1 153	100%
2019	1 030	100%

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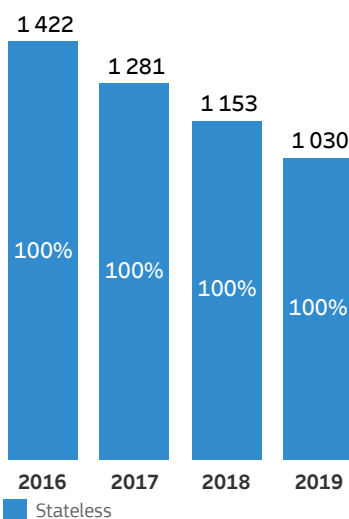
Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute number
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acqs, migr_acq)

Year	Country	EU	Absolute
2015	1.0%	3.6%	126
2016	1.3%	4.0%	136
2017	1.3%	3.0%	150
2018	0.6%	2.8%	105
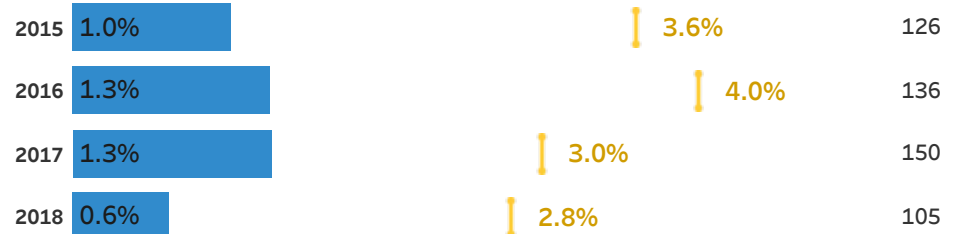
Top 5 nationalities by number of citizenship acquisition in 2018: absolute number and % of total acquisitions in the country by Third-Country Nationals
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acq)

2018
- Russia 32 (30%)
- Belarus 24 (23%)
- Ukraine 17 (16%)
- Turkey 7 (7%)
- Armenia 6 (6%)

Lithuania - 2019
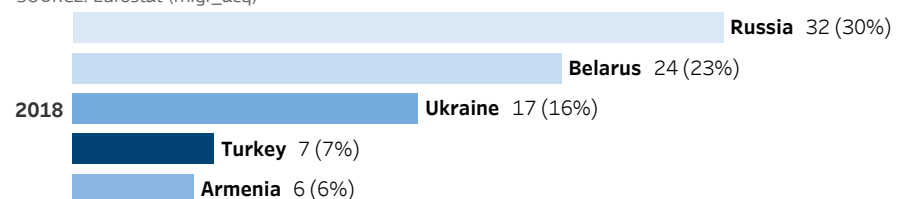
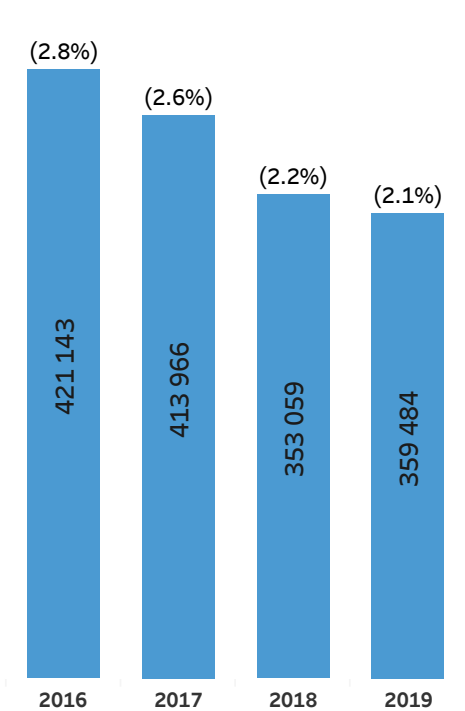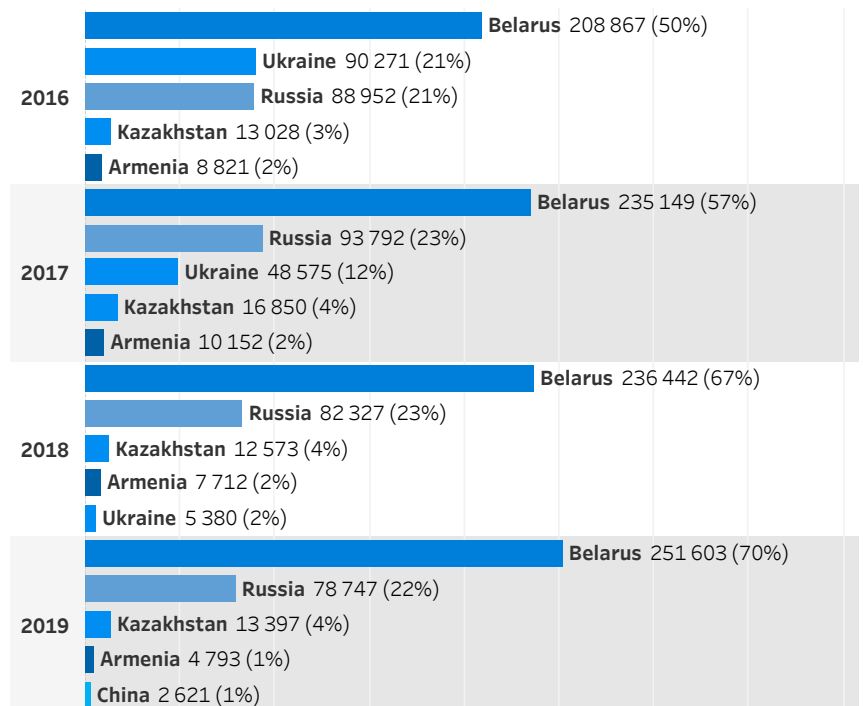## BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

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	421 143	(2.8%)
2017	413 966	(2.6%)
2018	353 059	(2.2%)
2019	359 484	(2.1%)

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

2016
- Belarus 208 867 (50%)
- Ukraine 90 271 (21%)
- Russia 88 952 (21%)
- Kazakhstan 13 028 (3%)
- Armenia 8 821 (2%)

2017
- Belarus 235 149 (57%)
- Russia 93 792 (23%)
- Ukraine 48 575 (12%)
- Kazakhstan 16 850 (4%)
- Armenia 10 152 (2%)

2018
- Belarus 236 442 (67%)
- Russia 82 327 (23%)
- Kazakhstan 12 573 (4%)
- Armenia 7 712 (2%)
- Ukraine 5 380 (2%)

2019
- Belarus 251 603 (70%)
- Russia 78 747 (22%)
- Kazakhstan 13 397 (4%)
- Armenia 4 793 (1%)
- China 2 621 (1%)

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

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

Refused entry at ext. borders

Year	Value
2016	4 575
2017	5 180
2018	5 200
2019	6 085

Found to be illegally present

Year	Value
2016	1 920
2017	2 210
2018	2 660
2019	2 440

Ordered to Leave (OTL)

Year	Value
2016	1 740
2017	2 080
2018	2 475
2019	2 320

Returned following an OTL

Year	Value
2016	1 550
2017	1 860
2018	2 110
2019	2 030

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of residence permits issued to victims of Trafficking in Human Beings

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

RETURN AND READMISSION

Number of Third-Country Nationals who left the territory by type of return

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirt_vol)

0 or not available

0 or not available