# LITHUANIA
## EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

**2020**

**MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING LATEST STATISTICS**

## OVERARCHING CHANGES

On 29 October 2020, the Ministry of the Interior laid down a procedure allowing foreigners to acquire the status of an e-resident. Foreigners granted such status receive an electronic identifier and signature, giving them access to the administrative, public, or commercial services provided in Lithuania by electronic (remote) means.

## LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

### WORK-RELATED MIGRATION

An amendment to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens clearly distinguished between cases where a foreigner is required to apply for a work permit (entering under a national visa) and those where a labour market test is required (applications for a temporary residence permit that do not qualify for exemption).

### STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

An amendment to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens stipulated that a foreigner who completes their studies in Lithuania will not be required to have work experience or employment using their qualification if they apply for a temporary residence permit on the ground of employment within two years of completing their studies or vocational training. The Law also stipulated that a foreigner completing their training/studies in Lithuania may be employed and apply for a residence permit on another ground laid down by the Law. The working time restriction (20

## KEY POINTS

- In March 2020, the government imposed a country-wide quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with restrictions and special requirements for cross-border movement.

- The Ministry of the Interior laid down a procedure allowing foreigners to acquire the status of an electronic resident (e-resident) for the purposes of accessing administrative, public, or commercial online services.

- Lithuania set a quota of 32,200 foreigners entering to work in an occupation on the list of shortage occupations and thus exempt from the labour market test.

- Belarusian nationals and their family members were given the opportunity to obtain a six-month multiple-entry national visa under facilitated conditions and with consular fees waived on humanitarian grounds.

hours) applies to foreigners in the first-cycle study programmes only.

### INFORMATION ON ROUTES TO AND CONDITIONS OF LEGAL MIGRATION

The political crisis triggered by the presidential elections in Belarus saw increased enquiries from Belarus nationals on the opportunities for living and working in Lithuania. An information leaflet on key migration issues was prepared in Russian and English for Belarusian nationals and distributed at the border and in migration-related institutions.

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## OTHER MEASURES

The Minister of Social Security and Labour [approved a quota](#) for foreigners entering Lithuania to take up employment in an occupation included on the list of shortage occupations. In 2021, up to 32,200 foreigners can take advantage of the facilitated procedure for employment in various sectors of the economy.

## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

During the asylum procedure, an asylum applicant will be entitled to free specified legal aid which will be available if it concerns the examination of an application for asylum.

In 2020, five persons were resettled from Jordan.

## MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

The State Border Guard Service (SBGS) and the Lithuanian Red Cross Society (LRCS) signed an agreement on cooperation in aiding vulnerable foreigners in Lithuania and ensuring the protection of their dignity and rights. The agreement enabled lawyers appointed by the LRCS to provide legal aid to asylum applicants detained or accommodated in the Foreigners' Registration Centre and those staying at border crossing points or border guard stations. The LRCS Family Links Coordinator will provide family restoration services at the SBGS Foreigners' Registration Centre.

## INTEGRATION

### OVERARCHING DEVELOPMENTS

The [procedure for the integration](#) of those granted asylum was updated. According to the individual integration plan, people granted asylum will receive services tailored to their specific needs. Social benefits will reflect their progress of integration and may remain unchanged or decrease if a person (or a family) demonstrates a manifest (un)willingness to integrate.

### INTEGRATION OF ADULTS

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour signed a cooperation agreement with Mykolas Romeris University. The university undertook to waive tuition fees for some of those granted asylum in Lithuania to study in English or Lithuanian, provided they meet the university's entry requirements.

## INVOLVEMENT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOS)

The SBGS and the LRCS signed an agreement on cooperation in providing assistance to vulnerable foreigners in Lithuania and ensuring the protection of their dignity and rights.

## CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

### ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP

To reduce the number of stateless persons, the Law on Citizenship [was amended](#) to include a provision stipulating that the child of a stateless person lawfully residing in Lithuania is a citizen of Lithuania, regardless of their place of birth, provided that they have not acquired any other citizenship by birth.

### STATELESSNESS

To reduce the number of stateless persons, the Migration Department carried out a census campaign, inviting stateless persons to visit the Migration Department for advice on the acquisition of Lithuanian citizenship. In 2020, 2,158 such information notices were sent, with 139 persons availing of the advice service, 57 lodging applications for citizenship, and 15 becoming Lithuanian citizens.

## BORDERS, SCHENGEN, AND VISAS

### BORDER MANAGEMENT

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government [declared a quarantine](#) across the entire territory of Lithuania. The first quarantine lasted from 16 March to 17 June 2020. Cross-border and internal movement was limited, and foreigners were not allowed to enter the country, except in specified cases. On 7 November 2020, a country-wide [quarantine regime was reintroduced](#) to improve the deteriorating epidemiological situation.

### VISA POLICY

From 21 September 2020, Belarusian nationals could apply for a six-month multiple-entry national visa under facilitated conditions. Family members of Belarusian nationals in possession of a national visa or temporary residence permit (spouse or registered partner, minor child/adopted child, including minor

children of the spouse/registered partner) could also obtain a national visa under the same facilitated conditions.

The [government decided](#) not to charge consular fees for processing applications for national visas from Belarusian nationals in cases when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirms that the application is lodged on special humanitarian grounds (e.g. fleeing political repression) or when waiving the fee is in line with the objectives of development cooperation, foreign policy, or national security.

### SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE

Lithuania applied an exemption and allowed nationals of Belarus to enter on humanitarian grounds. Foreigners entering Lithuania from Belarus must apply to a consular post for a Schengen visa and submit information confirming special humanitarian grounds.

## IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

### MISUSE OF LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

On 25 November 2020, the SBGS and the Baltic Institute of Advanced Technology signed an agreement on cooperation and data exchange in the development of innovative technologies between border control staff and scientists. The cooperation aims to improve the reliability and efficiency of checks on travellers. The introduction of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies will optimise document processing, enable updating entry and exit data in real time, accelerate checking procedures, and facilitate the detection of counterfeit documents.

## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

On 12 June 2020, the Minister of the Interior approved [the Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2020–2022](#). The Plan contains 47 measures to combat trafficking in human beings, including prevention, training for professionals, improved coordination at national level and enhanced assistance for victims.

On 20 August 2020, the [Recommendations on the Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, Pre-trial Investigation and Interinstitutional Cooperation](#) were updated to set uniform criteria for the identification of victims of trafficking in human

beings, improve the quality of pre-trial investigation, develop consistent pre-trial investigation practices and coordinate interinstitutional cooperation in providing assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings.

## RETURN AND READMISSION

### MAIN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Foreigners whose period of legal stay in Lithuania expired during the COVID-19 quarantine period (16 March to 17 August 2020) and who were thus unable to leave through no fault of their own were granted a tolerance period of two months from the end of the quarantine. The same extension applied to those for whom a return decision had been taken but the period of voluntary departure expired during quarantine. During the period of tolerance, no new return decisions were taken and no administrative liability for illegal stay was imposed on foreigners who were unable to leave Lithuania during the quarantine.

### COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

On 1 January 2020, the [Protocol between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine](#) Implementing the Agreement between the European Community and Ukraine on the Readmission of Persons entered into force.

On 17 March 2020, the [Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine](#) on Employment and Cooperation in the Field of Labour Migration came into effect. This bilateral agreement strengthens cooperation in protecting the rights and interests of employees and combating illegal work.

## MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

No significant developments in 2020.

## STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex was prepared by the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD) and provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Lithuania on aspects of migration and international protection (2017-2020), 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 - 2020

## GENERAL NOTES

This four-page statistical annex complements the Country Factsheet with relevant migration-related data organised in up to nine thematic sections - depending on data availability. The dashboard-like layout of the annex allows comparability across countries as well as simultaneous visualisation of different indicators.
Whenever data are not available, the relative chart is left blank or indicated with 'N/A'.
Data are provided for the latest available year or the latest available four-year period.
For some indicators, data are rounded in the source. The sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value. This is due to rounding and confidence intervals in the original data.
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
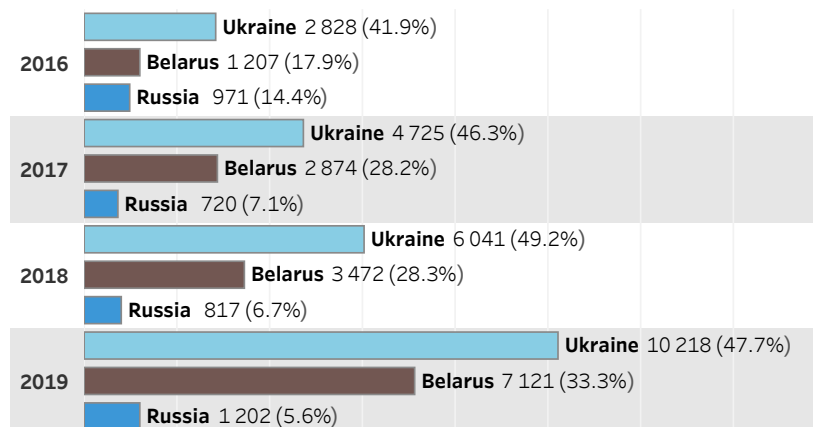
## LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

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

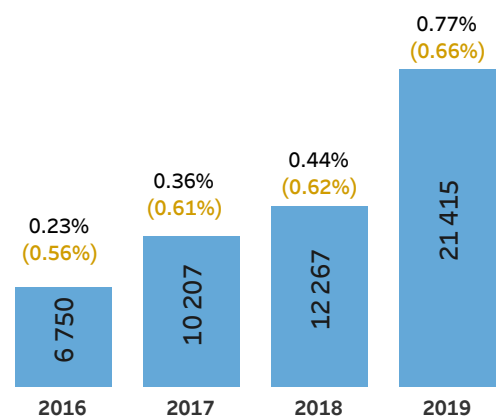| Year | Lithuania | EU | Number of TCNs |
|------|-----------|------|----------------|
| 2017 | 0.5% | 4.2% | 13 313 |
| 2018 | 0.7% | 4.4% | 20 062 |
| 2019 | 1.4% | 4.5% | 38 673 |
| 2020 | 2.0% | 4.9% | 56 459 |

**Top 3 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits**
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

**2016**
- Ukraine 2 828 (41.9%)
- Belarus 1 207 (17.9%)
- Russia 971 (14.4%)

**2017**
- Ukraine 4 725 (46.3%)
- Belarus 2 874 (28.2%)
- Russia 720 (7.1%)

**2018**
- Ukraine 6 041 (49.2%)
- Belarus 3 472 (28.3%)
- Russia 817 (6.7%)

**2019**
- Ukraine 10 218 (47.7%)
- Belarus 7 121 (33.3%)
- Russia 1 202 (5.6%)

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

| Year | Total | % country | (% EU) |
|------|-------|-----------|--------|
| 2016 | 6 750 | 0.23% | (0.56%) |
| 2017 | 10 207 | 0.36% | (0.61%) |
| 2018 | 12 267 | 0.44% | (0.62%) |
| 2019 | 21 415 | 0.77% | (0.66%) |

**First residence permits annually issued by reason in 2019**
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)

Reason:
- Family: 5%
- Education: 6%
- Work: 86%
- Other: 3%
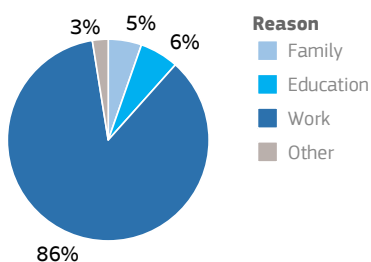
**First residence permits annually issued for work reasons in 2019**
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resocc)

Working reason:
- EU blue card: 1%
- Other: 99%
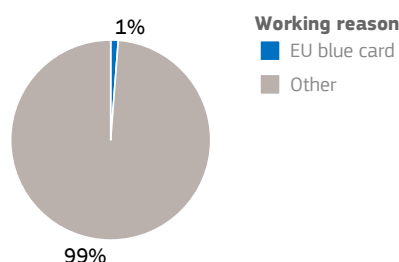
**First residence permits annually issued for 'other reasons' in 2019**
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

Other reason:
- Refugee/Sub.Prot.: 15%
- Humanitarian: 1%
- Not specified: 83%

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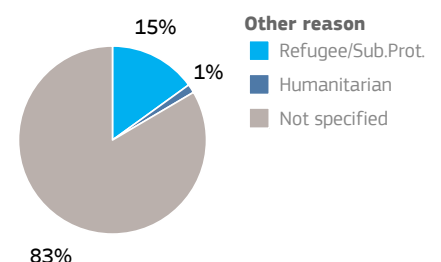
## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

**Total/first-time asylum applications; first-time asy app as % of population in the country (and in EU)** SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz)
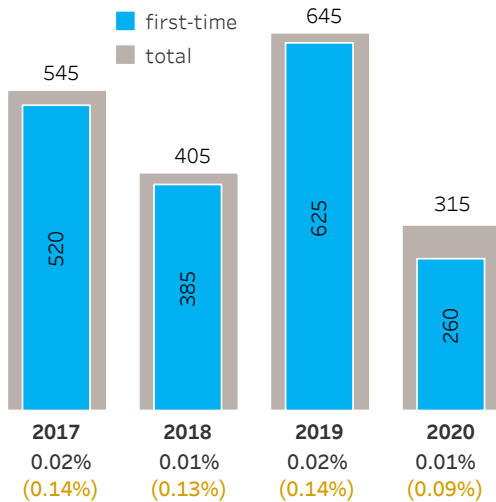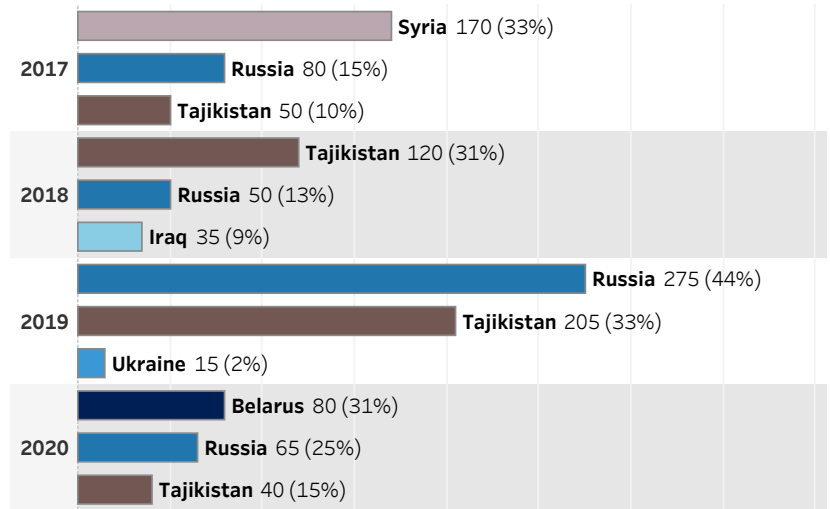
Legend: first-time / total

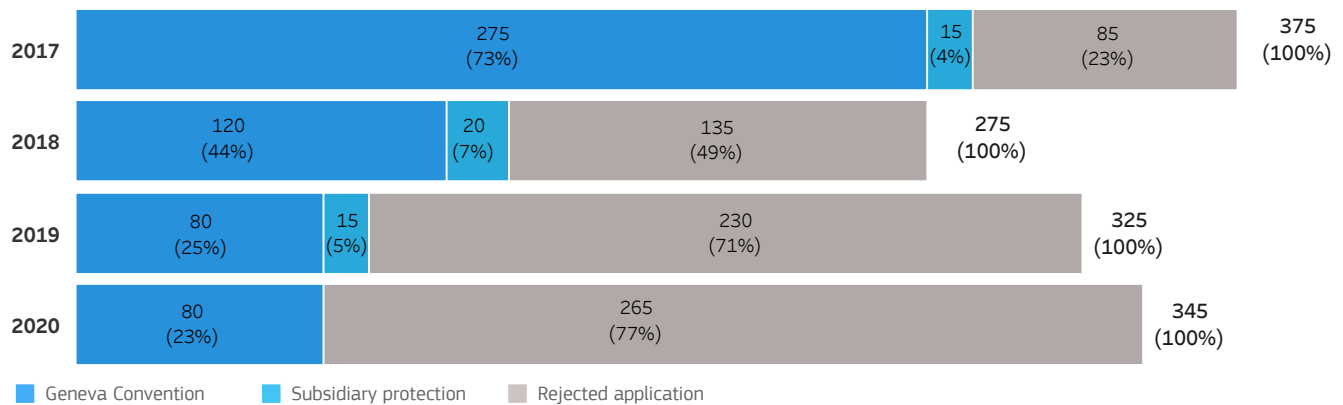| Year | total | first-time | % population | (EU %) |
|------|-------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| 2017 | 545 | 520 | 0.02% | (0.14%) |
| 2018 | 405 | 385 | 0.01% | (0.13%) |
| 2019 | 645 | 625 | 0.02% | (0.14%) |
| 2020 | 315 | 260 | 0.01% | (0.09%) |

**Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-time asylum applications: number of applications and % of total first-time annual applications** SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)
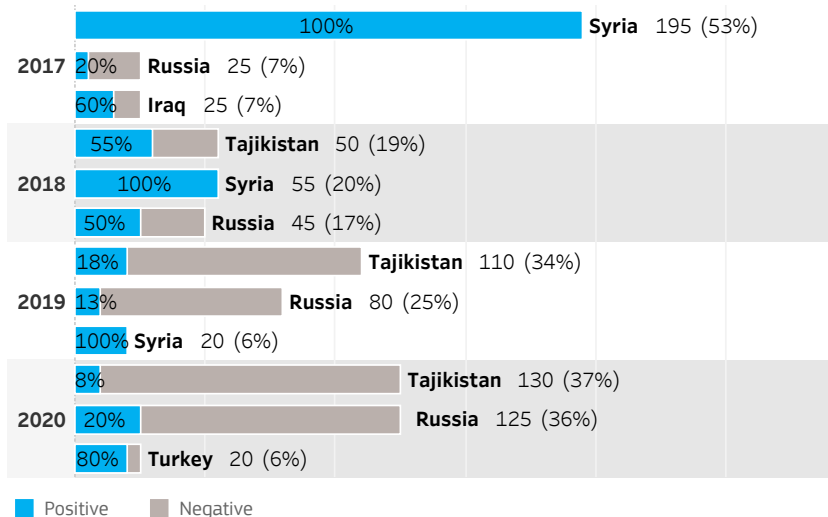
| Year | Nationality | Number (%) |
|------|-------------|-----------|
| 2017 | Syria | 170 (33%) |
| 2017 | Russia | 80 (15%) |
| 2017 | Tajikistan | 50 (10%) |
| 2018 | Tajikistan | 120 (31%) |
| 2018 | Russia | 50 (13%) |
| 2018 | Iraq | 35 (9%) |
| 2019 | Russia | 275 (44%) |
| 2019 | Tajikistan | 205 (33%) |
| 2019 | Ukraine | 15 (2%) |
| 2020 | Belarus | 80 (31%) |
| 2020 | Russia | 65 (25%) |
| 2020 | Tajikistan | 40 (15%) |

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

| Year | Geneva Convention | Subsidiary protection | Rejected application | Total |
|------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------|
| 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%) |
| 2020 | 80 (23%) | | 265 (77%) | 345 (100%) |

Legend: Geneva Convention / Subsidiary protection / Rejected application
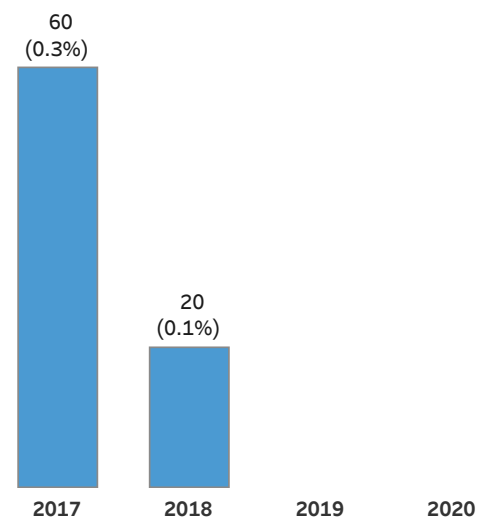
**Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-instance decisions: number of decisions (% of total decisions in the country) and % of positive outcome**
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfsta)

| Year | Nationality | Number (%) | % positive |
|------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| 2017 | Syria | 195 (53%) | 100% |
| 2017 | Russia | 25 (7%) | 20% |
| 2017 | Iraq | 25 (7%) | 60% |
| 2018 | Tajikistan | 50 (19%) | 55% |
| 2018 | Syria | 55 (20%) | 100% |
| 2018 | Russia | 45 (17%) | 50% |
| 2019 | Tajikistan | 110 (34%) | 18% |
| 2019 | Russia | 80 (25%) | 13% |
| 2019 | Syria | 20 (6%) | 100% |
| 2020 | Tajikistan | 130 (37%) | 8% |
| 2020 | Russia | 125 (36%) | 20% |
| 2020 | Turkey | 20 (6%) | 80% |

Legend: Positive / Negative

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

| Year | Number (%) |
|------|-----------|
| 2017 | 60 (0.3%) |
| 2018 | 20 (0.1%) |
| 2019 | |
| 2020 | |

# Lithuania - 2020

## ✋ UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

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

| | |
|---|---|
| 2017 | 0 (0.0%) |
| 2018 | 0 (0.0%) |
| 2019 | 0 (0.0%) |
| 2020 | 0 (0.0%) |

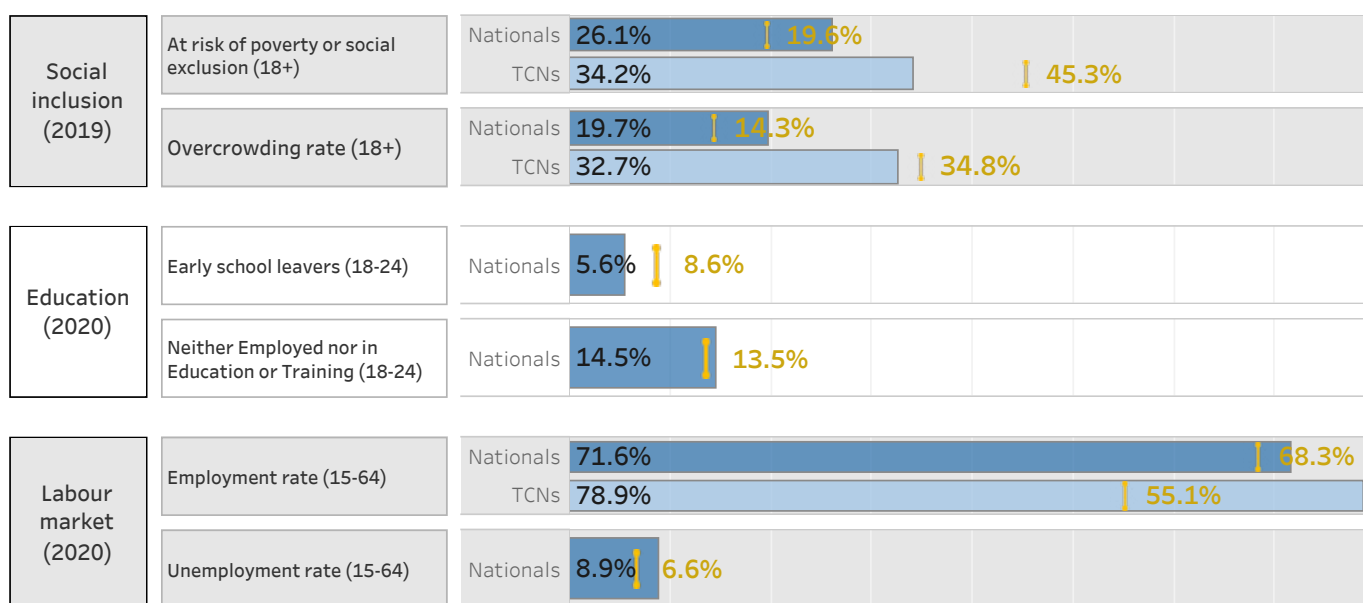**Unaccompanied minors as % of first asylum applications (in the country and in EU)**
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)

| | |
|---|---|
| 2017 | 4.7% |
| 2018 | 3.0% |
| 2019 | 2.2% |
| 2020 | 3.3% |

## 🧩 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 available year.**
SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc_peps05, ilc_lvho15, edat_lfse_01, edat_lfse_23, lfsa_ergan, lfsa_urgan)

| Social inclusion (2019) | At risk of poverty or social exclusion (18+) | Nationals 26.1% | 19.6% |
| | | TCNs 34.2% | 45.3% |
| | Overcrowding rate (18+) | Nationals 19.7% | 14.3% |
| | | TCNs 32.7% | 34.8% |

| Education (2020) | Early school leavers (18-24) | Nationals 5.6% | 8.6% |
| | Neither Employed nor in Education or Training (18-24) | Nationals 14.5% | 13.5% |

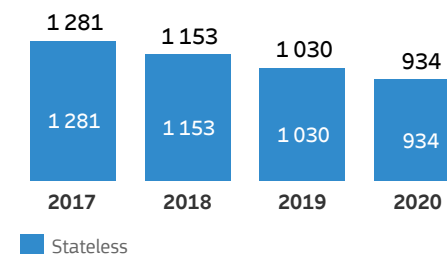| Labour market (2020) | Employment rate (15-64) | Nationals 71.6% | 68.3% |
| | | TCNs 78.9% | 55.1% |
| | Unemployment rate (15-64) | Nationals 8.9% | 6.6% |

## 🛂 CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

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

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2016 | 1.3% | 4.0% | 136 |
| 2017 | 1.3% | 3.0% | 150 |
| 2018 | 0.6% | 2.8% | 105 |
| 2019 | 0.3% | 2.7% | 82 |

**Stateless, unknown citizens and recognised non-citizens (RNC) - where present**
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctza)

| 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 281 | 1 153 | 1 030 | 934 |
| 1 281 | 1 153 | 1 030 | 934 |

■ Stateless

**Top 3 nationalities by number of citizenship acquisition in 2019: absolute number and % of total acquisitions in the country by Third-Country Nationals**
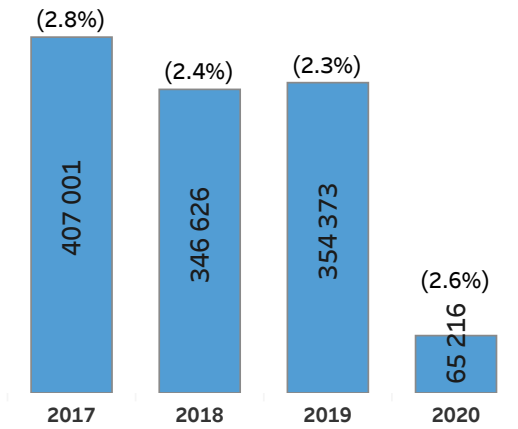SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acq)

2019
**Russia** 36 (44%)
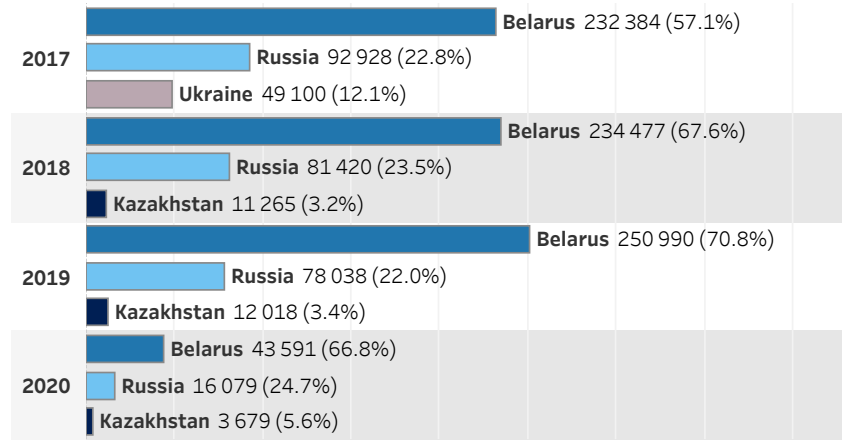**Ukraine** 16 (20%)
**Belarus** 6 (7%)

# Lithuania - 2020
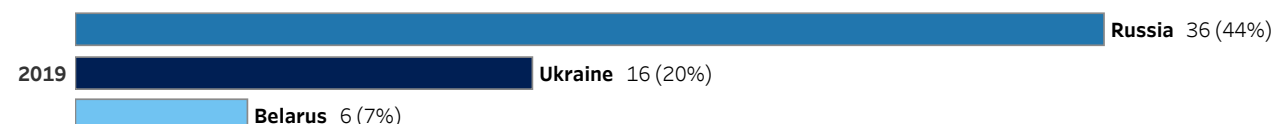
## BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

**Short-term visa issued (% of Schengen)**
SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs

- 2017: 407 001 (2.8%)
- 2018: 346 626 (2.4%)
- 2019: 354 373 (2.3%)
- 2020: 65 216 (2.6%)

**Short-term visa issued in top 3 consulate countries (% of total issued)**
SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs

**2017**
- Belarus 232 384 (57.1%)
- Russia 92 928 (22.8%)
- Ukraine 49 100 (12.1%)

**2018**
- Belarus 234 477 (67.6%)
- Russia 81 420 (23.5%)
- Kazakhstan 11 265 (3.2%)

**2019**
- Belarus 250 990 (70.8%)
- Russia 78 038 (22.0%)
- Kazakhstan 12 018 (3.4%)

**2020**
- Belarus 43 591 (66.8%)
- Russia 16 079 (24.7%)
- Kazakhstan 3 679 (5.6%)

## IRREGULAR MIGRATION

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

**Refused entry at ext. borders**
- 2017: 5 180
- 2018: 5 200
- 2019: 6 085
- 2020: 4 555

**Found to be illegally present**
- 2017: 2 210
- 2018: 2 660
- 2019: 2 440
- 2020: 1 960

**Ordered to leave (OTL)**
- 2017: 2 080
- 2018: 2 475
- 2019: 2 320
- 2020: 1 905

**Returned to third country following an OTL**
- 2017: 1 860
- 2018: 2 110
- 2019: 2 015
- 2020: 1 590
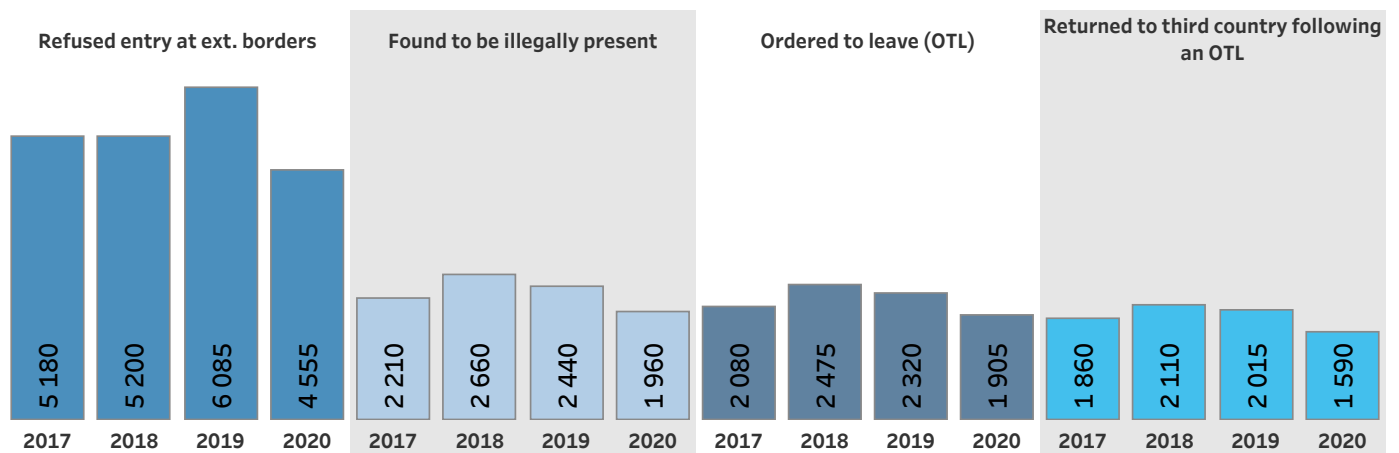
**Top 3 nationalities ordered to leave the country, 2020**
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eiord)
- Ukraine 725 (39%)
- Belarus 355 (19%)
- Russia 150 (8%)
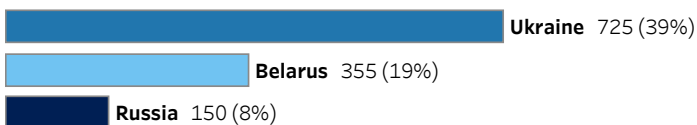
**Top 3 nationalities returned to third countries, 2020**
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirtn)
- Ukraine 635 (40%)
- Belarus 335 (21%)
- Russia 105 (7%)