

NETHERLANDS

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

2020

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING LATEST STATISTICS



OVERARCHING CHANGES

COVID-19 pandemic

From 16 March 2020 onwards, contact with migration services was limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. Identification and registration of third-country nationals was halted and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) ceased carrying out interviews within both asylum and regular migration procedures (with the exception of the border procedure). The Repatriation and Departure Service limited its return counselling services to certain target groups (criminal third-country nationals, third-country nationals causing a nuisance, and detainees). The physical desks of the IND limited their services to urgent cases. Migration services gradually restarted after 28 April 2020.

Covid-19 measures in the asylum procedure

Asylum seekers arriving in the Netherlands were not allowed entry to reception facilities (COA) until 6 April 2020. Reception was temporarily extended for asylum seekers in reception facilities whose right to reception would normally have ended. The period between 16 March and 16 May 2020 was not added to the regular time limit of six months for asylum cases. Asylum procedures resumed gradually from April 2020 and asylum seekers entering the asylum procedure were again accommodated in reception facilities.

The resettlement of refugees in the Netherlands was paused from March 2020. Where decision-making exceeded the legal decision period because there was

KEY POINTS



The COVID-19 pandemic had direct consequences for immigration and asylum procedures from March 2020 onwards.



Several legal and policy developments facilitated the extension of residence rights for UK nationals in the Netherlands from 1 January 2021, following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU).



A task force was introduced to eliminate the backlog of 15,350 asylum applications by the end of 2020.

no possibility for a personal interview, it was considered 'force majeure'. Dublin transfers were temporarily halted and gradually resumed from 1 July 2020.

Legal decision period for asylum applications extended

Due to COVID-19, in May 2020, the maximum legal decision period for asylum applications (six months) was extended by a further six months for cases still within the time limit on 19 May 2020. For cases after 20 May 2020, the regular time limit of six months remained applicable.

All courts in the Netherlands reopened

Due to COVID-19 measures, courts in the Netherlands closed temporarily. In May 2020, all courts in the Netherlands reopened and the IND resumed its presence at hearings. The IND is responsible for legal

representation of itself and other migration authorities in appeal proceedings before the courts, Council of State and international courts.

Measures related to the withdrawal of the UK from the EU

Several legal and policy developments facilitated the extension of residence rights for UK nationals after the withdrawal of the UK from the EU. Under the Withdrawal Agreement, UK nationals and their family members who were legally resident in the Netherlands before 1 January 2021 [could submit an application](#) for a residence document until 30 June 2021.



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

WORK RELATED MIGRATION

No significant changes in 2020.

STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

The criteria were expanded for highly educated migrants seeking high-skilled employment in the Netherlands following their stay on an orientation year residence permit. Previously, only permit holders who found a job during the orientation year qualified for a reduced income requirement when applying for a residence permit following their orientation year. The lowered income requirement applies to anyone who had a residence permit for 'orientation year for highly educated people' and who did not find a job as a highly skilled migrant within their orientation year but find a job as a highly skilled migrant (from abroad) within three years of graduation.



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Introduction of task force

The IND processes applications in their order of entry in the asylum procedure. However, a so-called task force was put in place to eliminate the existing backlog of 15 350 asylum applications by the end of 2020. The task force decided on all asylum applications submitted before 1 April 2020. 'Written interviews' were introduced, in which the applicant voluntarily completed a form containing questions on their motivation. Only certain nationalities and persons capable of filling in the form were allowed to do so.

Measures against asylum seekers causing a nuisance

A small number of asylum seekers are responsible for a disproportionate amount of disruptive and transgressive behaviour (e.g. not complying with reception centre rules, shoplifting, aggression). Following considerable attention in the media and parliament, the Minister for Migration appointed officially designated officers to work on this issue at both national and regional level.



MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Expanded time limit for detention of unaccompanied minors for the purpose of return

On 27 March 2020, the Aliens Act Implementation Guidelines were amended to expand the situations in which unaccompanied minors can be placed in detention for the purpose of return. The time limit on detention was increased from two to four weeks (maximum) in cases where return is likely within that timeframe, as two weeks is too short to determine their identity or to provide adequate care.

Designation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) as an exception group for Brazil

Brazil has been designated a safe country of origin. However, as of 30 September 2020, LGBTI people from Brazil are considered an exception, following a reassessment of the country. Their applications will therefore receive more detailed individual assessments of their safety in Brazil, based on their LGBTI status.



INTEGRATION

OVERARCHING DEVELOPMENTS

Amended Civic Integration Law

The amended Civic Integration Law (*Wet Inburgering 2.0*) is expected to be implemented by 1 January 2022. The proposal for a new Law sought to ensure that those obliged to integrate can learn the Dutch language and participate in Dutch society (through paid employment) faster and better. This will be done through closer systematic involvement of municipalities in the integration process.

Turkish newcomers

The Minister of Social Affairs and Employment reinstated mandatory participation in civic orientation programmes for Turkish newcomers (who were exempt

from this participation since 2011) to improve their integration. The change is expected to be applied when the new Civic Integration Law is implemented in 2022.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

STATELESSNESS

On 21 December 2020, the Stateless Determination Procedure Bill was submitted (*Wet vaststellingsprocedure staatloosheid*) to establish a procedure allowing judges to determine statelessness. Eligible persons residing regularly in the Netherlands can request such a procedure.



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

BORDER MANAGEMENT

On 18 March 2020, an entry ban was implemented to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. From 1 July 2020, the travel ban was eased. For a number of countries travel was initially permitted but later revoked. On 16 July 2020, the travel ban was lifted for partners from third countries in a long-distance relationship with a Dutch national or EU citizen living in the Netherlands, [subject to certain conditions](#). On 11 September 2020, additional exemptions were announced for specific categories, such as [top athletes and business travellers](#). From 29 December 2020, all travellers arriving by plane or ferry in the Netherlands were required to present a negative PCR test.

SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE

The Netherlands gained a land border with the UK in 2020, as border checks for the Eurostar train now take place prior to boarding the train in Amsterdam or Rotterdam. British border guards are authorised to carry out border checks in the Netherlands on the basis of English access conditions. This change resulted from [an agreement signed](#) by the Netherlands with Belgium, France and the UK, and a [bilateral agreement](#) signed with the UK in July 2020.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

No significant changes in 2020.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

A letter to parliament on 18 November 2020, on the progress of the programme 'Together against trafficking in human beings' (*Samen tegen mensenhandel*), stated that liaisons with the special task on trafficking in human beings are placed in Italy (regular liaison) and Poland (September 2020, with accreditation for Hungary). The liaison post in Croatia is currently vacant. Countries along the Western Balkan route, Poland and Italy are source and transit countries for trafficking in human beings and are therefore relevant for the Netherlands.



RETURN AND READMISSION

MAIN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

On 13 May 2020, a legal ground was introduced for detention of asylum seekers in the border procedure during the appeal phase following rejection of an asylum application. A decision of the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State noted that the Netherlands' implementation of the Reception Directive did not provide a legal ground for detention of asylum seekers in the border procedure during this phase.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

No significant changes 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 the Netherlands 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](#).



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 Netherlands



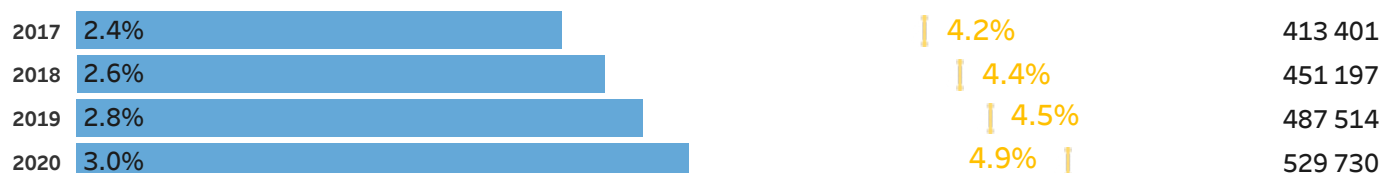
data relative to EU



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

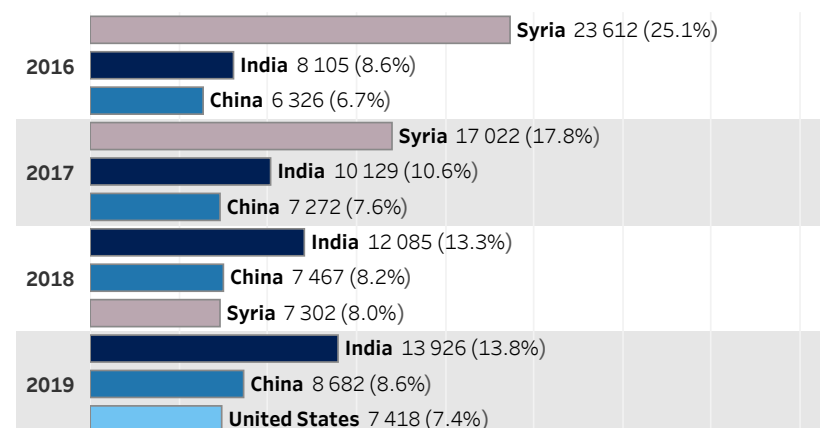
Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) as % of total population (in the country and in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)



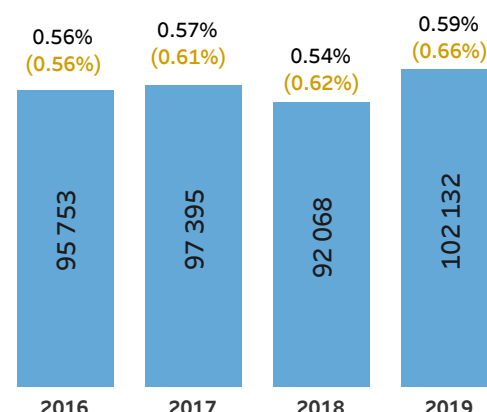
Top 3 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



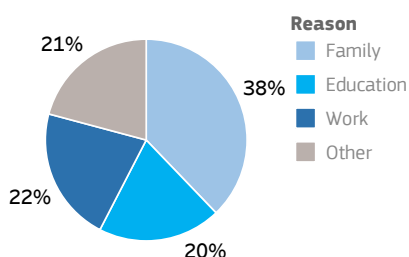
First residence permits annually issued: tot. num. and % of tot. pop. in the country (and EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



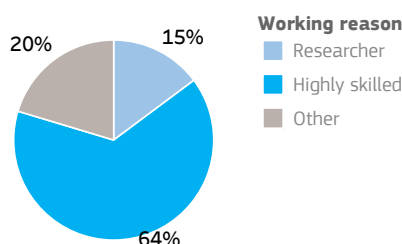
First residence permits annually issued by reason in 2019

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



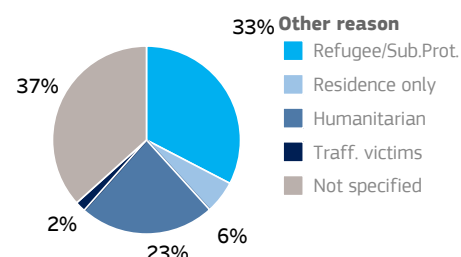
First residence permits annually issued for work reasons in 2019

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resocc)



First residence permits annually issued for 'other reasons' in 2019

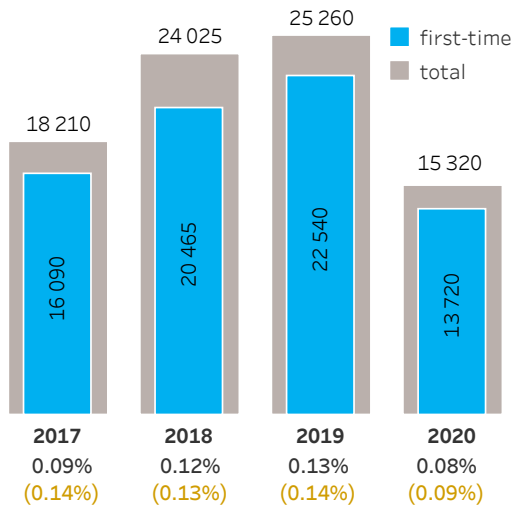
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)



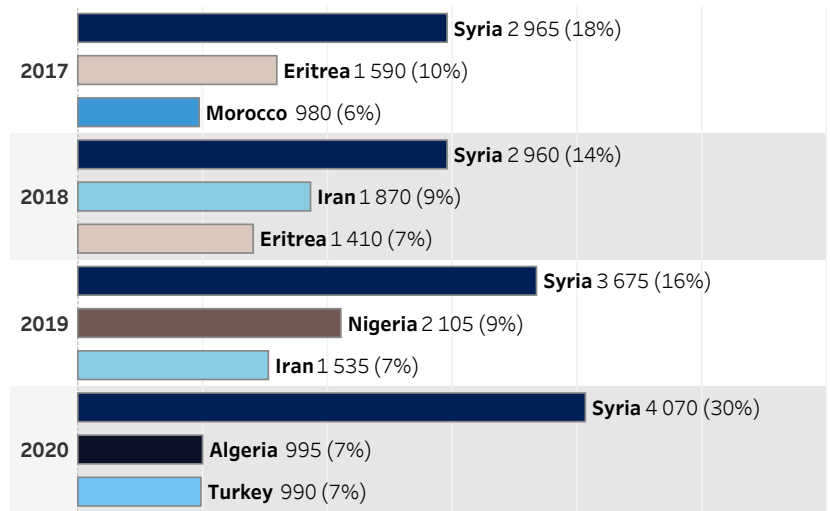


INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

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

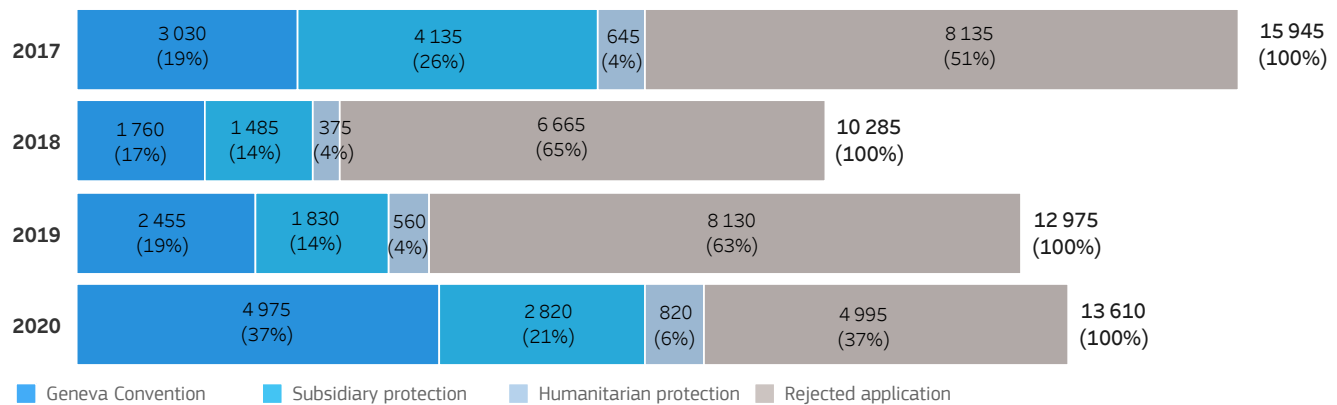


Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-time asylum applications: number of applications and % of total first-time annual applications SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)



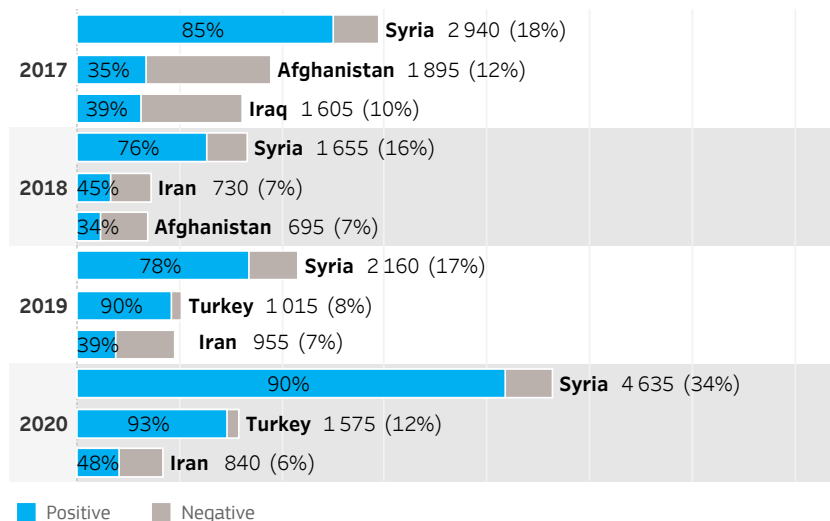
Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfst)



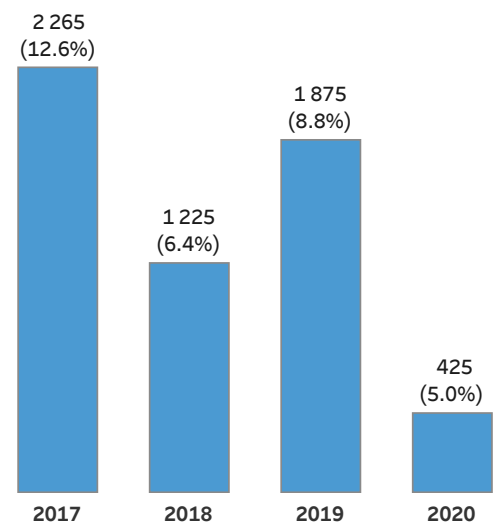
Top 3 nationalities of annual number of first-instance decisions: number of decisions (% of total decisions in the country) and % of positive outcome

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfst)



Third-Country Nationals resettled: absolute number and as % of total resettled in EU

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)





UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

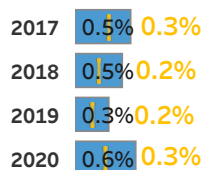
Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum in the country (and % of total applications from unaccompanied minors in EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)



Unaccompanied minors as % of first asylum applications (in the country and in EU)

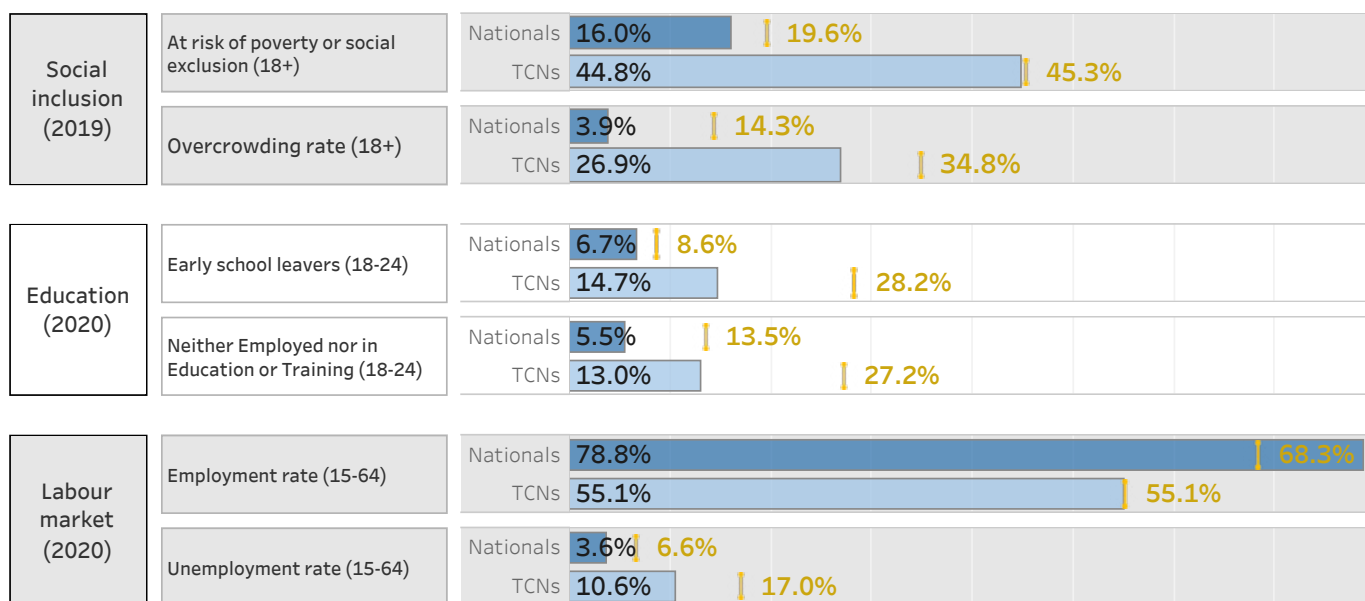
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)



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.

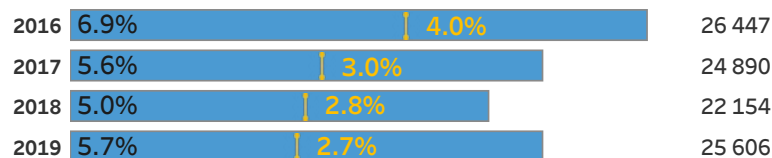
SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc_peps05, ilc_lvho15, edat_lfse_01, edat_lfse_23, lfsa_ergan, lfsa_urgan)



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

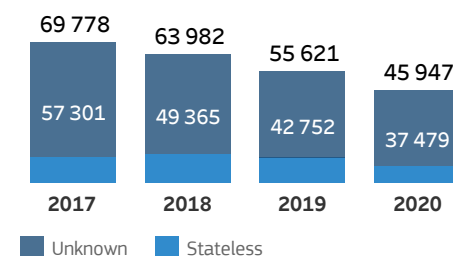
Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute number

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acqs, migr_acq)



Stateless, unknown citizens and recognised non-citizens (RNC) - where present

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctza)



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)

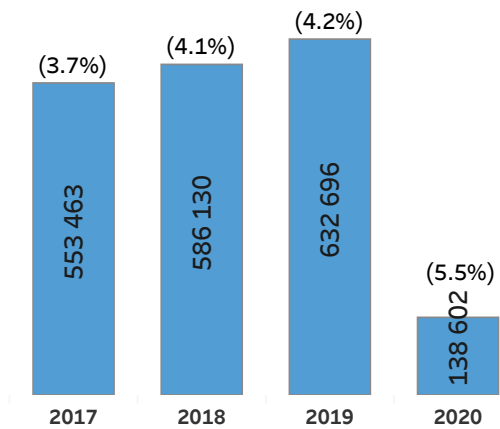




BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

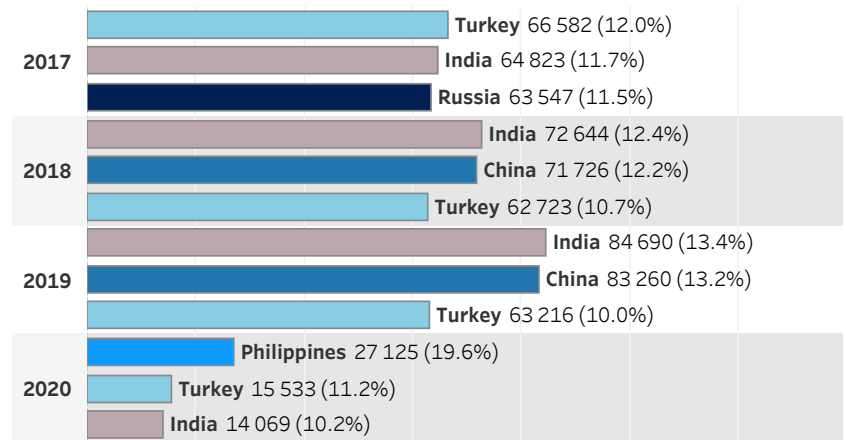
Short-term visa issued (% of Schengen)

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



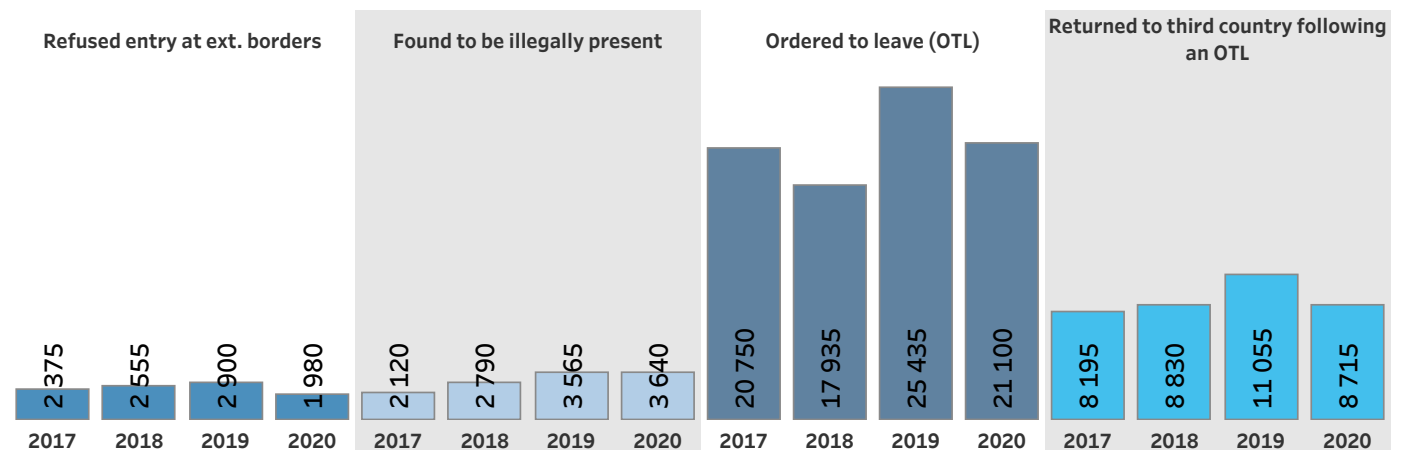
Short-term visa issued in top 3 consulate countries (% of total issued)

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

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



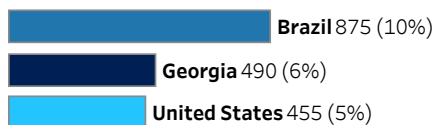
Top 3 nationalities ordered to leave the country, 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eiord)



Top 3 nationalities returned to third countries, 2020

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirtn)



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Number of residence permits issued to victims of trafficking in human beings

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)

