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EMN
Europska migracijska mreža



Annual Report on Migration and Asylum in the Republic of Croatia 2025

National report

Zagreb

May 2026

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADI-INT - Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Intercultural Inclusion

AMIF - Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union

CDADI - Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion

CKD - Centre for Dialogue Culture

CNZD - Center for Missing and Abused of Children

CRP Sisak - Civil Rights Project Sisak

CSOs - Civil Society Organisations

ECRE - European Council on Refugees and Exiles

EES - Entry/Exit System

EJTN - European Judicial Training Network

EMN - European Migration Network

EMN NCP HR - National Contact Point for EMN in the Republic of Croatia

ERDF - European Regional Development Fund

ERSO - European Reintegration Support Organisation

ETIAS - European Travel Information and Authorisation System for third-country nationals to the Schengen Member States of the European Union

EU RP - EU Reintegration Programme

FRA - European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

FRONTEX - European Border and Coast Guard Agency

HCK - Croatian Red Cross

HPC - Croatian Legal Centre

IMM - Croatian Independent Monitoring Mechanism for the protection of fundamental rights

IOM - International Organisation for Migration

JRS - Jesuit Refugee Service

MDM - Médecins du Monde - Doctors of the World

MPF - Migration Partnership Instrument

MUP - Ministry of the Interior

NPO - National Relief Program

RECAMAS - Return Case Management System

RFL - Restoring Family Links

UNHCR - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund

UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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1. INTRODUCTION

The European Migration Network (hereinafter: EMN) is a network of migration and asylum experts coordinated by the European Commission. The EMN covers all members of the European Union (except Denmark) and observer countries Norway, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Montenegro, Armenia, Serbia and North Macedonia. It consists of National Contact Points (NCPs). In the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of the Interior is the National Contact Point for the Republic of Croatia. National contact points provide information on migration and asylum policies and strategies, coordinate EMN activities and publish various publications.

This is the tenth Annual Report on Migration and Asylum prepared by the National Contact Point for the European Migration Network in the Republic of Croatia.

With the publication of the National Annual Report on Migration and Asylum, EMN NCP aims to provide an overview of the most significant policies and developments of asylum and migration legislation in the Republic of Croatia. The report shall cover the following topics: legal migration, international protection, temporary protection, unaccompanied children and other vulnerable groups, integration, citizenship and statelessness, borders and Schengen, return and readmission, irregular migration and smuggling and the fight against trafficking in human beings. The report shall cover the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025.

Methodology

The 2025 annual report on migration and asylum was prepared by the members of the EMN NCP Croatia team on the basis of common specifications developed by the EMN in order to facilitate comparability between the reports of all Member States. At the same time, the format remained, to some extent, flexible to allow for the production of a report targeting a national audience. The annual report provides an overview of policy, legislative framework and practice developments in 2025. The information presented in the report was provided by members of the National Migration Network from relevant sectors, primarily government bodies, academia and research organisations, as well as non-governmental and international organisations, and part

of the information was collected from publicly published sources. The report also contains the most significant statistics, according to individual thematic areas.

2. MOST IMPORTANT CHANGE IN THE AREA OF ASYLUM AND MIGRATION

In 2025, further development of the legislative and institutional framework continued, in particular through the implementation of amendments to the relevant national legislation. In 2025, two basic laws regulating the area of asylum and migration were amended:

- Foreigners Act¹
- International and Temporary Protection Act².

At national level, discussions continued to focus on migration management, labour market needs and integration of third-country citizens.

The Croatian Parliament adopted the Act amending the Foreigners Act (Official Gazette No 40/25), which entered into force on 15 March 2025. These are the third in a row, amendments to the Foreigners Act, which make large and extensive changes in the area of residence and work of third-country nationals, contain as many as 96 articles.

New legal solutions have extended the maximum duration of stay for holders of residence and work permits for a period of up to three years, with the possibility of changing employer. Seasonal work permits can now be issued for up to nine months, while the stay of digital nomads has been extended from 12 to 18 months. It also extends the validity of the EU Blue Card from two to four years.

With a view to attracting highly qualified IT professionals, it is also possible for persons who do not meet the formal educational requirements but have at least three years of relevant experience in the IT sector to be eligible for an EU Blue Card. EU Blue Card holders have further facilitated labour market mobility by being able to change employers without the need for a new permit and to pursue self-employed or professional activities. The law also enacts a permissible period of unemployment without losing status. At the same time, the obligations and responsibilities of employers employing foreign workers have been increased.

¹ https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2025_03_40_545.html

² https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2025_02_17_161.html

The aim of these amendments is to align labour market needs with the arrival of third-country workers, to improve their integration and protection and to reduce the administrative burden of re-granting permits.

On 11 February 2025, the Amendments to the International and Temporary Protection Act entered into force. This Act amends the provision laying down the maximum duration of temporary protection and leaves the possibility to extend temporary protection beyond 4 March 2025 or for as long as there is a need, which is decided by the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the basis of a decision of the Council of the European Union. In order to align national laws with the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Act also provides for the drafting and adoption of a national strategic planning act for the implementation of the asylum and migration management system, its content and the deadline for its adoption. The Strategic Planning Act is envisaged as a medium-term document setting out specific objectives and measures, building on relevant national, multi-sectoral and sectoral strategies, in order to establish a strategic approach and ensure the capacity to effectively implement the asylum and migration management system. This created the conditions for fulfilling the obligation stemming from Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on asylum and migration management, amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1147 and (EU) 2021/1060 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 604/2013.

Pursuant to the International and Temporary Protection Act, on 24 October 2025, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted the 2030 Migration and Asylum Management Plan³, drawn up in accordance with the Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2024/1351)⁴, as part of the new European Union Pact on Asylum and Migration. The Plan was accompanied by an Action Plan for the implementation of measures until 2027. These documents cover a number of actions and activities focusing on priority areas defined by the new EU legislative framework and the Joint Implementation Plan.

³ [Decision on the adoption of the Migration and Asylum Management Plan of the Republic of Croatia for the period up to 2030 and the implementation of the Action Plan for the period up to 2027](#)

⁴ [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1351 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on asylum and migration management, amending Regulations \(EU\) 2021/1147 and \(EU\) 2021/1060 and repealing Regulation \(EU\) No 604/2013](#)

Key objectives of the Plan include strengthening cooperation with third countries of origin and transit, combating migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, combating the exploitation of foreign workers and reducing illegal employment, effectively managing the return of persons with no right to stay, and ensuring sufficient human, material and technical capacity of the system. Particular emphasis was placed on protecting vulnerable groups, strengthening the resilience and sustainability of reception systems and preventing abuses of asylum procedures, including border procedures.

3. LEGAL MIGRATION

3.1. Changes to the legal framework

3.1.1. Act on Amendments to the Foreigners Act

On 15 March 2025, the Act amending the Foreigners Act (Official Gazette No 40/25)⁵ entered into force.

By implementing this Act, it is ensured that:

- Transposition of Directive (EU) 2021/1883 of 20 October 2021 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment (EU Blue Card Directive)⁶;
- administrative relief for employers and officers of police administrations or police stations;
- more efficient conduct of procedures;
- the protection of third-country national workers; and
- retaining the existing foreign workforce;

while ensuring compliance with all security requirements.

The amendments to the Act reduce the administrative burden for employers, foreign workers and state administrative bodies in order to respond to the needs of the economy for labour in sectors of the economy where there is a lack of domestic labour, with a view to a more efficient and flexible system of employment of foreign workers. The law introduces better regulation of the conditions of employment of foreign workers and better protection of foreign workers.

These amendments to the Foreigners Act have also been made to align with the EU Blue Card Directive, which aims to attract a highly skilled workforce.

Amendments to the Foreigners Act allow residence and work permits to be issued for a period of validity of up to three years (and not up to one year), depending on the duration of the employment contract.

⁵https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2025_03_40_545.html

⁶<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/HR/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021L1883>

A change of occupation with the same employer, as well as a change of employer, do not necessarily require the issuance of a new residence and work permit or the initiation of a full administrative procedure. Instead, this can be carried out within the validity period of the existing residence and work permit, without additional administrative burden.

In the event of termination of employment, the residence and work permit is not revoked but allows the third-country national to remain in the Republic of Croatia and seek a new employer during the period of permissible unemployment, which protects foreign workers and allows employers to employ foreign workers already residing in the Republic of Croatia.

Amendments to the Foreigners Act, with the aim of retaining highly educated third-country nationals, enable a more favourable acquisition of national permanent residence for students who have had five years of uninterrupted temporary stay in the Republic of Croatia, of which at least three years were for the purpose of studying, if they have obtained a qualification of higher education level in the Republic of Croatia and are employed in the Republic of Croatia.

These amendments make it possible to regulate temporary residence for the purpose of immigration and return of Croatian emigrants.

3.1.2. Act on Amendments to the Labour Market Act

The amendments to the Labour Market Act⁷ introduced a special provision for third-country nationals, allowing them to remain in the register of unemployed persons for a certain period after the termination of their employment relationship, provided that their residence and work permit remain valid. This extends the right to register as unemployed to foreign workers, allowing them to access rights and measures similar to those enjoyed by Croatian citizens.

At the same time, the amendments align the labour market system with amendments to the Foreigners Act, which explicitly recognises the period of 60 days of unemployment as part of the legal status of third-country nationals. Linking residence

⁷ https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2024_12_152_2516.html

and labour market status creates a clearer and more secure framework for the transition between employment without the immediate loss of residence rights.

The main objective of these legislative amendments is to increase labour market flexibility and security for foreign workers, taking into account Croatia's growing need for foreign labour. The introduction of a period of 60 days of unemployment prevents the automatic termination of a residence permit in the event of job loss, encourages more dynamic employment and allows workers reasonable time to find new employment.

Furthermore, this measure contributes to aligning with the principles of the European Union on equal treatment and mobility of workers, ensuring a comparable level of social protection for third-country nationals during shorter periods of unemployment. It also contributes to reducing labour shortages in sectors dependent on foreign workers, such as construction and tourism.

3.2. Transposition of the *acquis communautaire*

In 2025, the Act amending the Foreigners Act, which entered into force on 15 March 2025, implemented the new Directive (EU) 2021/1883 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2021 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment and repealing Council Directive 2009/50/EC.

In order to comply with the Directive, the procedure and conditions for issuing an EU Blue Card have been amended and the validity of the Blue Card has been extended from 24 to 48 months. The Blue Card can also be awarded to persons who do not have an educational qualification but who have skills and only in the IT sector, as evidenced by the work experience assessed by the Commission appointed by the Minister responsible for labour.

3.3. Strengthening administrative capacities

Prior to the entry into force of the Amendments to the Foreigners Act, on 7 March 2025, a working meeting was held in Zagreb with representatives of all police administrations

in order to prepare for its implementation. The meeting addressed the new rules that would start to be applied in practice regarding the employment of foreign workers, namely who applies them, to whom they apply, and what the concrete consequences are for employers and foreigners.

In 2025, the project "Procurement of IT equipment for more efficient performance of the tasks of regulating legal residence of third-country nationals" was carried out, and among other things, the Decision on direct allocation of financial resources for the implementation of the project⁸ was adopted and the Agreement on the allocation of direct financial resources for the implementation of the project was signed. The purpose of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of the Interior for more efficient work of officers in police administrations, stations and headquarters of the Ministry of the Interior engaged in regulating the stay of third-country nationals in the Republic of Croatia.

3.4. Number of third-country nationals in Croatia

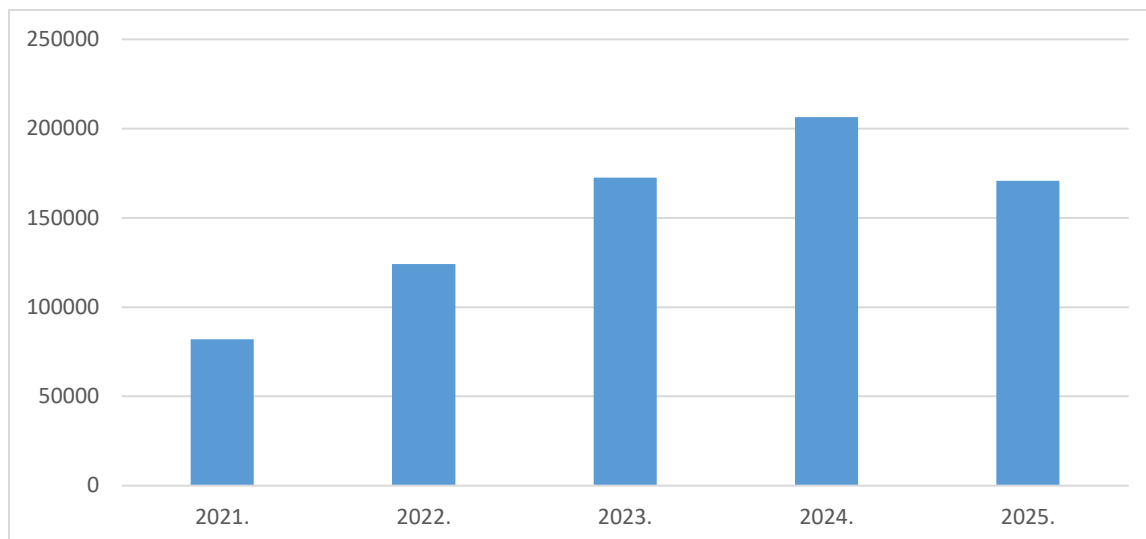
In the Republic of Croatia, **as of 31 December 2025, a total of 148,936 third-country nationals have** regulated foreigners status, of which 13,128 third-country nationals have been granted permanent residence, while 135,808 have regulated temporary residence.

3.4.1. Number of foreign workers

In accordance with the Foreigners Act, a total of 170,723 residence and work permits were issued in the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025.

8

<https://eufondovi.mup.hr/UserDocImages/dokumenti/Odluke%20o%20dodjeli%20financijskih%20sredstava/Odluka%20-%20Nabava%20informati%C4%8Dke%20opreme%204%203%202025.pdf?vel=128555>



Graph 1: Number of residence and work permits issued 2021-2025

Of the total residence and work permits issued, most were issued in the following activities:

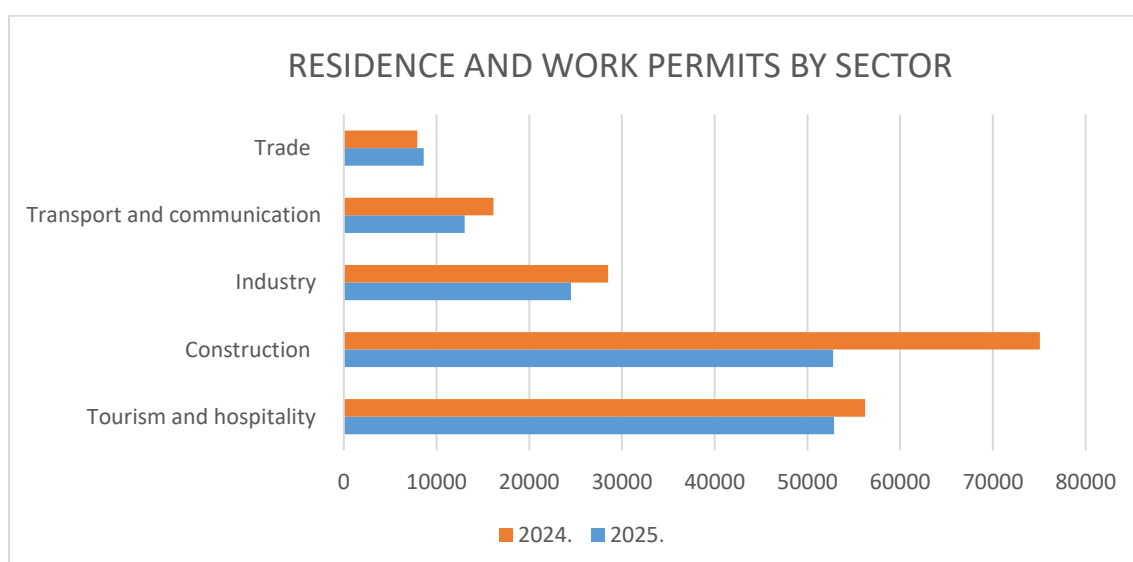
Tourism and Hospitality – 52,858

Construction – 52,776

Industries – 24,479

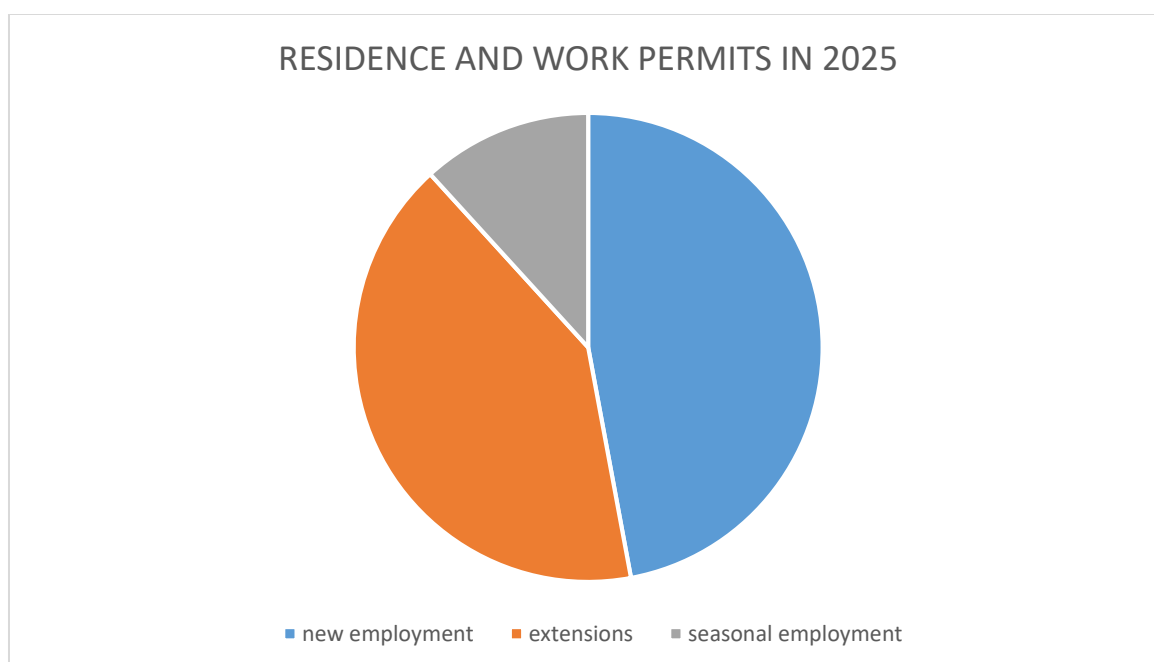
Transport and Communications - 13,039

Trade – 8,601



Graph 2: Residence and work permits by activity 2024/2025

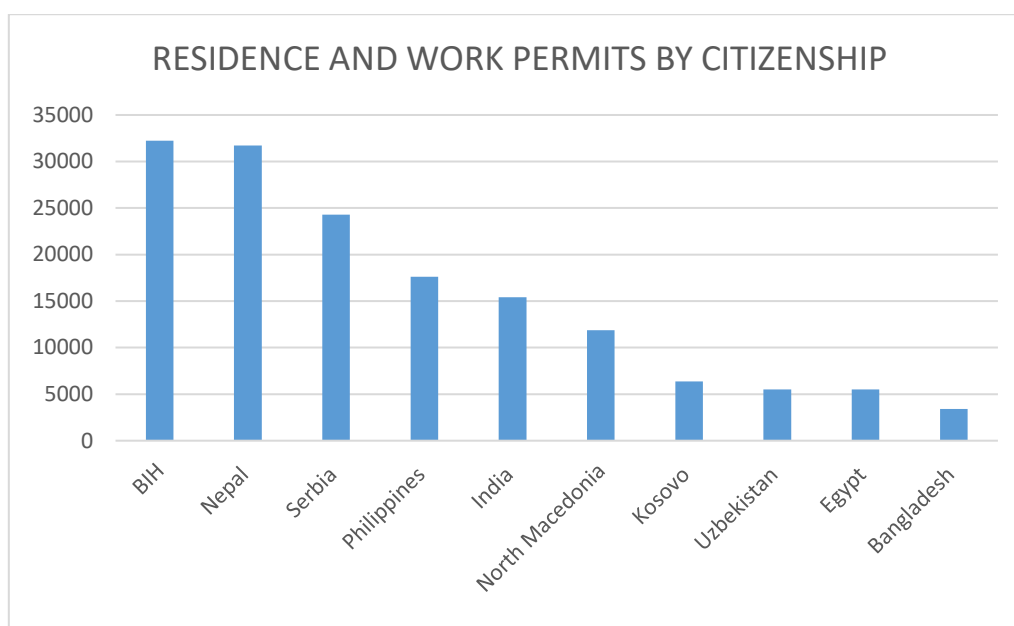
Out of the total number of issued residence and work permits, 80,365 permits were issued for new employment, 70,275 for permit extensions, and 20,083 for seasonal workers.



Graph 3: Residence and work permits for new employment, renewal and seasonal employment

The maximum number of residence and work permits until 31 December 2025 is issued to nationals of the following countries:

Bosnia and Herzegovina	– 32,225
Nepal	– 31,708
Serbia	– 24,278
Philippines	– 17,629
India	– 15,400
North Macedonia	– 11,856
Kosovo	– 6,355
Uzbekistan	– 5,521
Egypt	– 5,504
Bangladesh	– 3,404



Graph 4: Residence and work permits by citizenship

POLICE ADMINISTRATION	NEW EMPLOYMENT	EXTENSION	SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	TOTAL
Bjelovar-Bilogora	674	626	73	1,373
Brod-Posavina	2,124	2,195	4	4,323
Dubrovnik- Neretva	7,055	3,758	1.740	12,553
Istria	12,839	7,427	4,190	24,456
Karlovac	1,479	1,559	46	3,084
Koprivnica- Križevci	931	1,369	37	2,337
Krapina-Zagorje	1,850	1,977	28	3,855
Lika-Senj	1,708	1,036	1,130	3,874

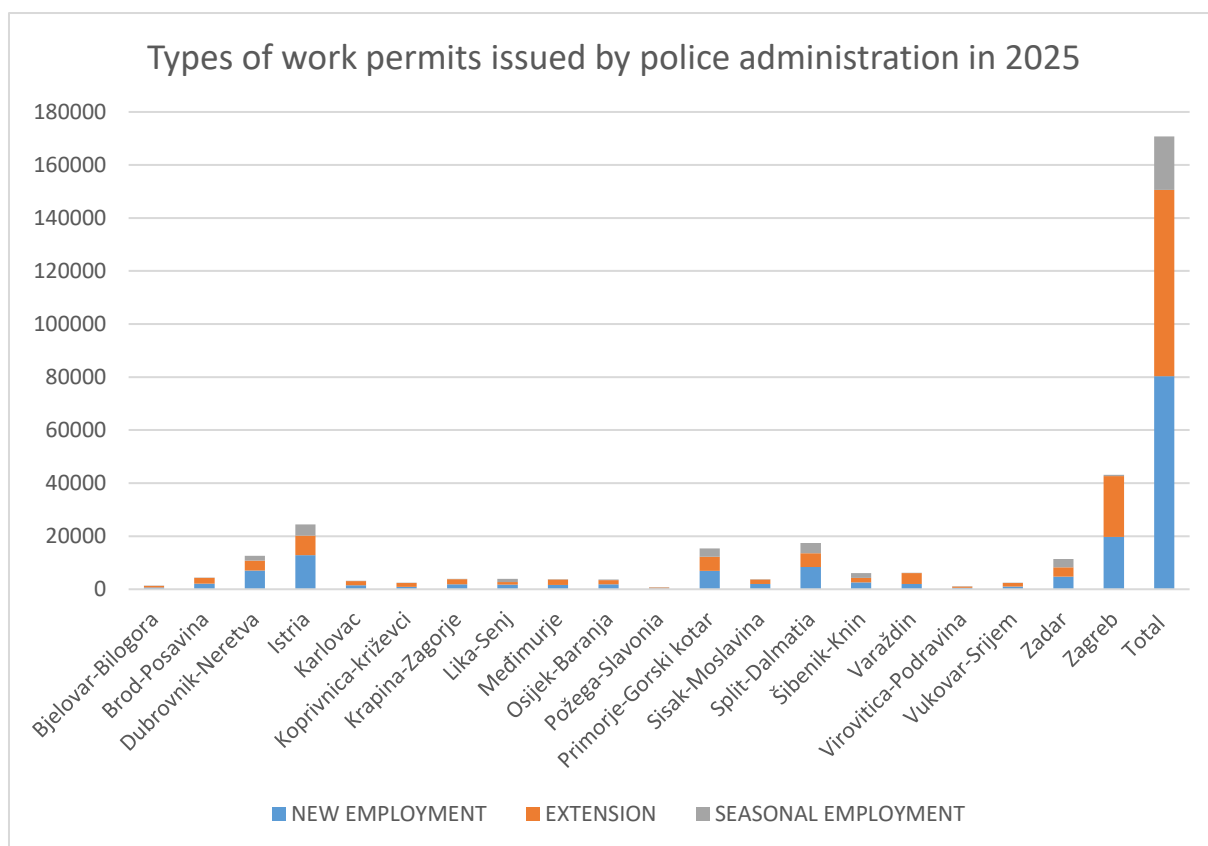
Međimurje	1,585	2,140	45	3,770
Osijek-Baranja	1,881	1,550	214	3,645
Požega-Slavonia	343	329	14	686
Primorje-Gorski kotar	6,996	5,298	3,127	15,421
Sisak-Moslavina	2,043	1,695	57	3,795
Split-Dalmatia	8,352	5,209	3,887	17,448
Šibenik-Knin	2,567	1,714	1,812	6,093
Varaždin	1,953	4,199	17	6,169
Virovitica-Podravina	518	463	23	1,004
Vukovar-Srijem	1,001	1,295	34	2,330
Zadar	4,747	3,497	3,150	11,394
Zagreb	19,719	22,939	455	43,113
TOTAL	80,365	70,275	20,083	170,723

Table 1: Overview of residence and work permits issued in 2025 by police administration

Source: Ministry of the Interior⁹

⁹

<https://mup.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/statistika/2026/1/Mjesečne%20statistike%20prosinac%202025.pdf?vel=470528>



Graph 5: Residence and work permits in 2025 by place of issue

4. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

4.1. Amendment of the legal framework

4.1.1. Act on Amendments to the Act on International and Temporary Protection

The Croatian Parliament, at its session held on 24 January 2025, adopted the Act on Amendments to the Act on International and Temporary Protection¹⁰. In relation to the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2024/1351 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on asylum and migration management, amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1147 and (EU) 2021/1060, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 604/2013¹¹, this Act establishes the obligation to prepare and adopt a national strategic planning act, defines its content, the authority responsible for its adoption, and the deadline for its adoption.

4.1.2. Act on Amendments to the Foreigners Act

The Act amending the Foreigners Act (Official Gazette No. 40/25), which entered into force on 15 March 2025, amended the provisions on family reunification of persons under international protection. In order to address the challenges faced by family members of persons who have been granted international protection in the Republic of Croatia (financial, administrative or logistical reasons), the amendments enable the person who has been granted international protection to submit an application for temporary stay at the competent police administration or police station for their family members who are located outside the Republic of Croatia.

4.1.3. Regulation on Amendments to the Regulation on the Internal Organization of the Ministry of the Interior

At its session held on 12 June 2025, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted a Regulation amending the Regulation on the internal organisation of the Ministry of the Interior¹². This Regulation establishes a new Sector for International

¹⁰ https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2025_02_17_161.html

¹¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/HR/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202401351

¹² https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2025_06_90_1250.html

Protection. The sector comprises three services: the Reception and Accommodation Service for Applicants for International Protection, the International Protection Service and the Dublin Service.

The Dublin Service has been upgraded to a higher organisational level (from department level to service level) and now comprises two units: The Incoming and Outgoing Demands Unit and the Transfers Unit, strengthening the administrative capacity to carry out the Dublin procedure.

The International Protection Service has been reorganised and now comprises four units: Department for International Protection Procedures, Department for Integration, Department for Information and Documentation Affairs and Department for Border Procedures.

In order to carry out work within the Reception and Accommodation Service for applicants for international protection, a third reception center has been established by means of these amendments: shelter for applicants for international protection Dugi Dol, based in Krnjak.

4.2. Number of applicants for international protection and persons granted protection

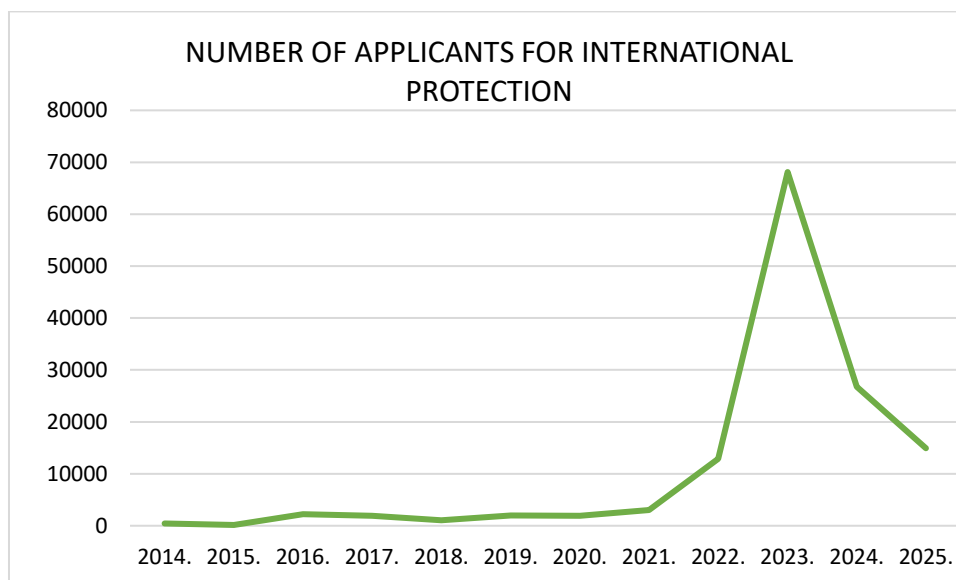
4.2.1. Number of applicants for international protection

In 2025, 14,928 persons who made application for international protection were registered in the Republic of Croatia. 1,184 applications for international protection were lodged. This represents a 44% decrease in the number of applicants compared to 2024 and, with the exception of the record high in 2023, the figures are again approaching the 2022 levels.

Year	NUMBER OF APPLICANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION
2014	453
2015	152
2016	2,234

2017	1,887
2018	1,068
2019	1,986
2020	1,932
2021	3,039
2022	12,872
2023	68,114
2024	26,776
2025	14,928

Table 2: Number of applicants for international protection by year (2014-2025)



Graph 6: Number of applicants for international protection by year

Statistical indicators of applicants for international protection by nationality and gender for the period 01.01. - 31.12.2025.			
COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	M	F	TOTAL
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	1,822	1,405	3,227
TURKEY	1,742	855	2,597
AFGHANISTAN	1,149	216	1,365

EGYPT	1,353	11	1,364
SYRIA	975	278	1,253
BANGLADESH	949	5	954
PAKISTAN	664	6	670
PALESTINE	392	135	527
CHINA	266	219	485
MOROCCO	463	10	473
IRAQ	208	74	282
INDIA	212	38	250
NEPAL	135	75	210
GHANA	124	23	147
IRAN	97	21	118
SRI LANKA	59	23	82
SIERRA LEONE	46	32	78
AZERBAIJAN	44	31	75
JORDAN	52	17	69
ALGERIA	50	3	53
LEBANON	32	18	50
NIGERIA	35	12	47
KUWAIT	42	0	42
SUDAN	40	1	41
MONGOLIA	25	15	40
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	21	17	38
CONGO	23	13	36
SOMALIA	19	15	34
GUINEA	17	14	31
TUNISIA	16	8	24
LIBYA	22	0	22
YEMEN	17	3	20
CAMEROON	11	9	20
UKRAINE	15	3	18
ARMENIA	12	6	18
BURUNDI	12	4	16
SENEGAL	12	3	15

CUBA	5	6	11
IVORY COAST	10	0	10
GAMBIA	10	0	10
UZBEKISTAN	9	1	10
SERBIA	4	4	8
UGANDA	3	3	6
ERITREA	4	2	6
TAJKISTAN	2	4	6
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	3	2	5
MALI	4	1	5
KAZAKHSTAN	5	0	5
TANZANIA	3	1	4
TOGO	3	1	4
ETHIOPIA	2	2	4
BELARUS	1	2	3
ALBANIA	3	0	3
SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC	3	0	3
COMOROS	2	1	3
GREAT BRITAIN	3	0	3
KYRGYZSTAN	1	1	2
MADAGASCAR	0	2	2
KENYA	2	0	2
NORTH MACEDONIA	0	2	2
MOLDOVA	2	0	2
LIBERIA	2	0	2
BURKINA FASO	1	1	2
COLOMBIA	2	0	2
MYANMAR	0	1	1
ECUADOR	0	1	1
GEORGIA	1	0	1
SOUTH SUDAN	1	0	1
TURKMENISTAN	1	0	1
GABON	0	1	1
WITHOUT CITIZENSHIP	1	0	1

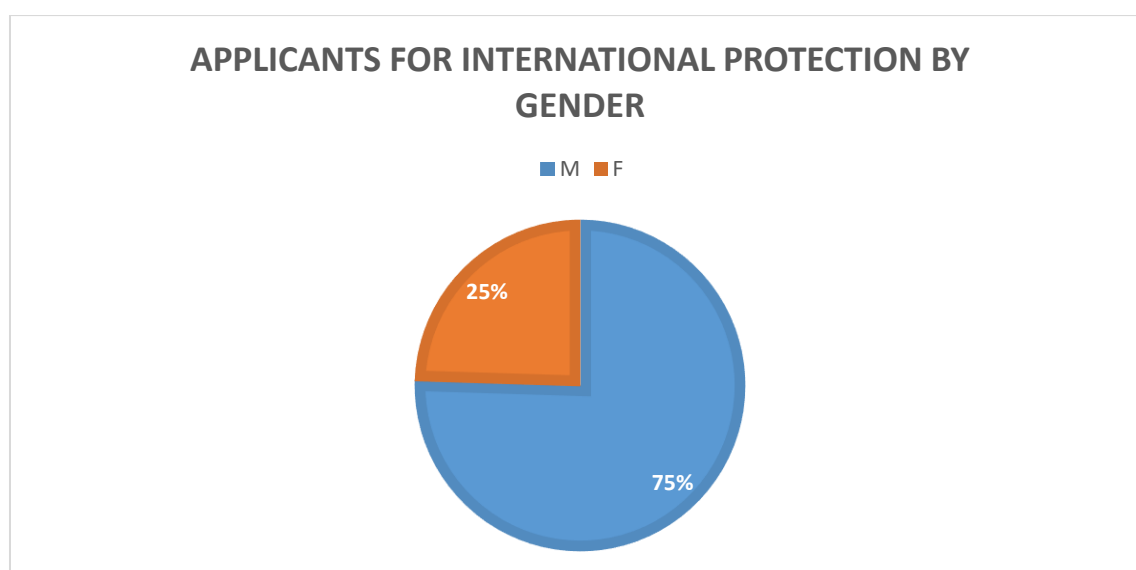
NORWAY	1	0	1
KOSOVO	1	0	1
MONTENEGRO	1	0	1
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	0	1	1
NIGER	0	1	1
TOTAL	11,269	3,659	14,928

Table 3: Number of applicants for international protection in 2025 by nationality and gender

Source:

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fmup.gov.hr%2FUserDocsImages%2Fstatistika%2F2026%2F1%2FWeb%2520statistika%252021.%2520sijecnja%25202026..xlsx%3Fvel%3D20645&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

Most of them are male (75%), most often between the ages of 18 and 34.



Graph 7: Applicants for international protection by gender

According to the most common countries of origin of applicants for international protection, the situation is similar to 2024, i.e. the same five countries of origin accounting for the largest number of applicants; only their ranking has changed.

The most numerous are applicants for international protection from the Russian Federation. Although their numbers are decreasing in absolute numbers (2025, 3,227 and 4,057), they account for 21.62% of the total number of applicants for international protection in 2025. In second place are applicants for international protection from Turkey (2,597), who account for 17,4% of the total number of applicants and who also fall in absolute numbers from 2024 when there were 5,759. It is followed by nationals of Afghanistan (1,365 and 9,14%), Egypt (1,364, also 9,14 %) and Syria (1,253 and 8,4%). Of the top five most common countries of origin, the increase in absolute numbers is recorded only for Egyptian citizens, 67% more than in 2024, when there were 832.

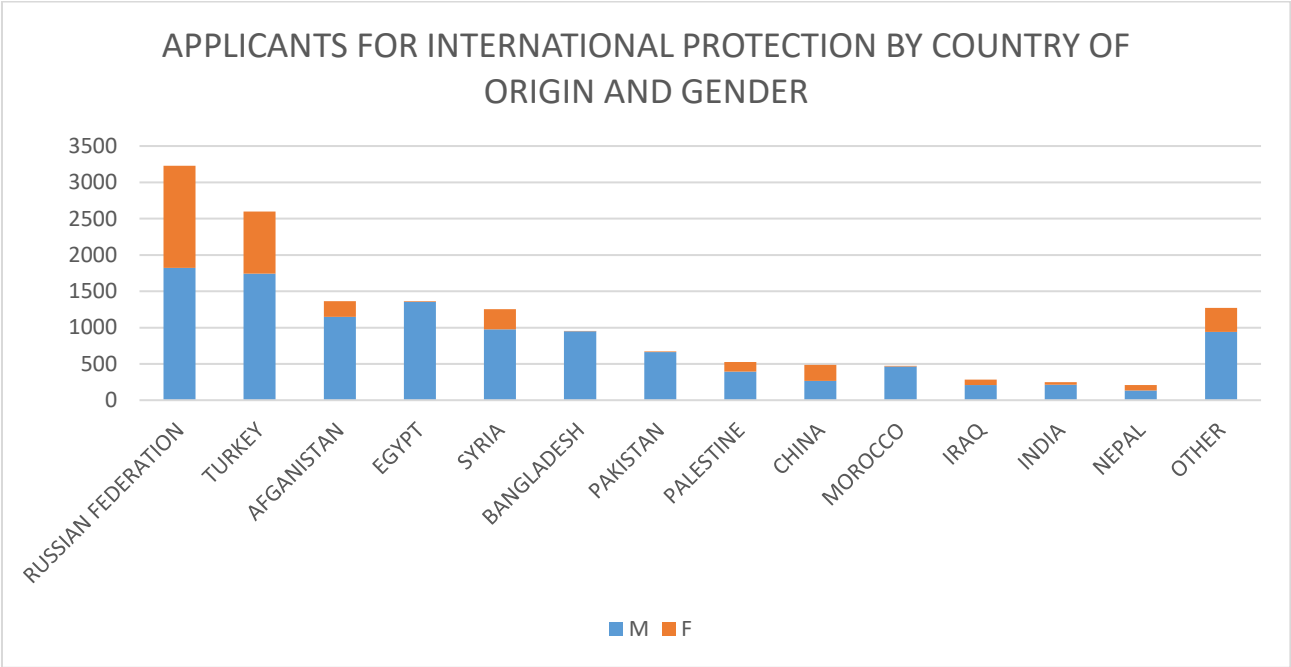


Chart 8: Applicants for international protection by country of origin and gender

4.2.2. International protection granted

In 2025, 25 persons were granted international protection, 24 persons were granted asylum and one person was granted subsidiary protection. According to gender, protection was granted to 8 males and 7 females.

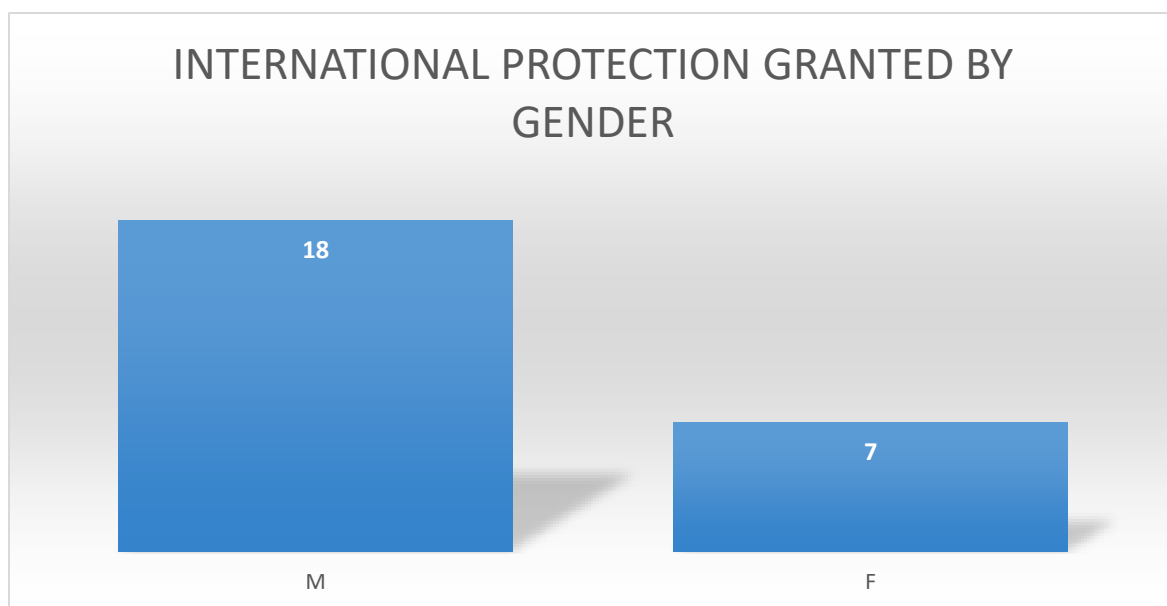
PROTECTION/CATEGORY	2023.	2024.	2025.
---------------------	-------	-------	-------

Asylum	50	71	24
M	27	39	17
0-13	9	16	10
14-17		4	2
18-34	8	17	2
35-64	10	2	3
65>			
F	23	32	7
0-13	8	17	4
14-17		2	
18-34	7	9	3
35-64	8	4	
65 >			
Subsidiary protection	2	9	1
M	2	6	1
0-13		2	
14-17		1	1
18-34			
35-64	2	3	
F		3	
0-13		1	
14-17			
18-34		1	
35-64		1	

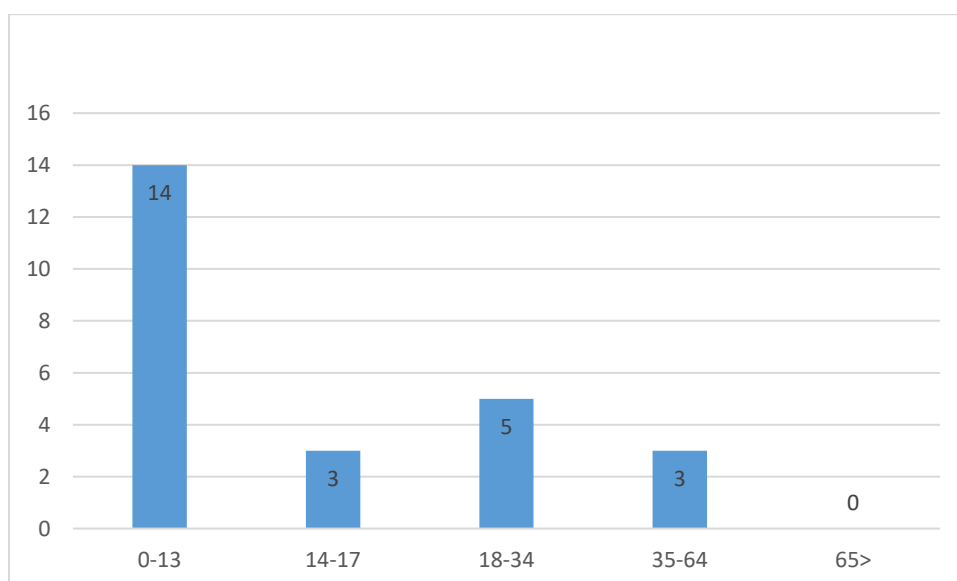
Table 4: Number of persons granted international protection in the Republic of Croatia 2023 - 2025 by age, gender and type of protection

Source:

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fmup.gov.hr%2FUserDocs/Images%2Fstatistics%2F2026%2F1%2FWeb%2520statistics%252021.%2520January%252026.xlsx%3Fvel%3D20645&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>



Graph 9: International protection granted by gender



Graph 10: International protection granted by age

The age structure of persons granted protection differs significantly from that of persons seeking international protection. Among those granted international protection, the most numerous are children up to the age of 13. The reason for this is that the minor child of an asylum seeker and a foreigner under subsidiary protection who has not established his or her own family follows the legal status of a legal

representative who has been granted international protection, on which the Ministry issues a decision. Thus, children of persons under international protection born in Croatia are significantly represented in the number of granted international protections.

PROTECTION	2008.	2009.	2010.	2011.	2012.	2013.	2014.	2015.	2016.	2017.	2018.	2019.	2020.	2021.	2022.	2023.	2024.	2025.	TOTAL
ASYLUM	3	11	5	9	21	7	15	35	83	184	244	158	36	68	21	50	71	24	1045
SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION	3	2	9	4	14	18	9	7	17	27	21	1	6	0	0	2	9	1	150
TOTAL	6	13	14	13	35	25	24	42	100	211	265	159	42	68	21	52	80	25	1195

Table 5: Number of international protection granted by year (2008-2025)

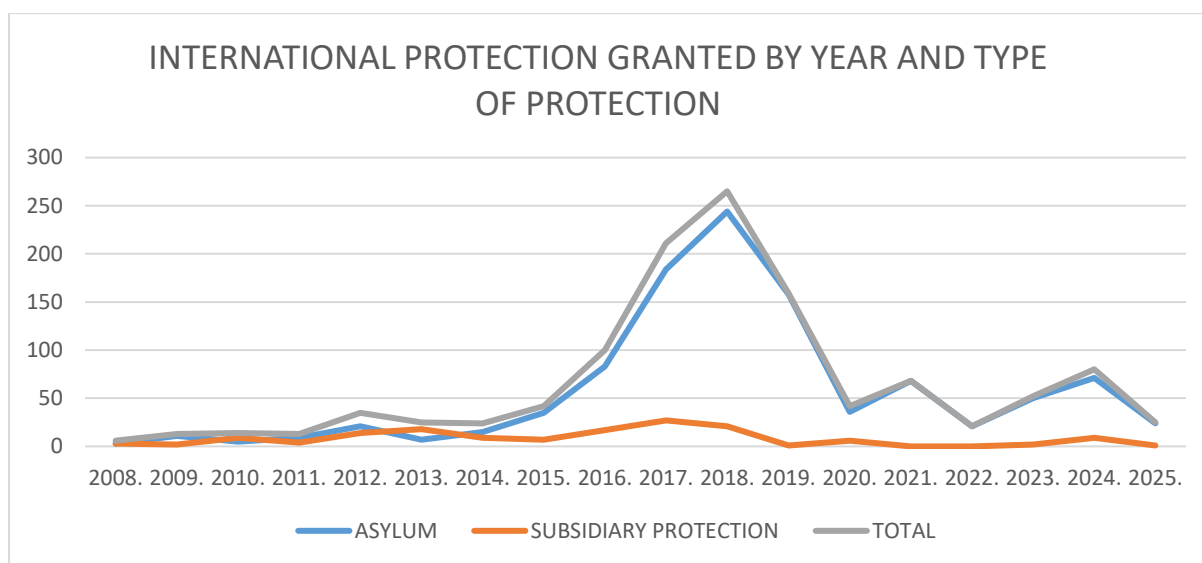


Chart 11: International protection granted by year and type of protection

4.2.3. Dublin procedure

Incoming transfers made from the following Member States:	
COUNTRY	No. of persons
AUSTRIA	149
BELGIUM	49

BULGARIA	1
CZECH REPUBLIC	5
DENMARK	4
FINLAND	8
FRANCE	178
GREECE	
ICELAND	6
ITALY	1
LIECHTENSTEIN	
LITHUANIA	1
LUXEMBOURG	4
HUNGARY	22
GERMANY	572
NETHERLANDS	123
NORWAY	18
POLAND	3
SLOVAKIA	1
SLOVENIA	29
SWEDEN	18
SWITZERLAND	172
TOTAL	1.364

Number of outgoing transfers (from HR):	
STATE	No person
AUSTRIA	1
BULGARIA	1
BELGIUM	
BULGARIA	
CZECH REPUBLIC	

DENMARK	
FINLAND	1
FRANCE	2
ICELANDME	
ITALY	
LITHUANIA	
LUXEMBOURG	
HUNGARY	
MALTA	1
GERMANY	8
NETHERLANDS	
PORTUGAL	2
SLOVENIA	2
SPAIN	4
SWEDEN	1
SWITZERLAND	5
TOTAL	28

Table 6: Number of incoming and outgoing Dublin transfers for the period 01.01.-31.12.2025

Source:

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fmup.gov.hr%2FUserDocs/Images%2Fstatistika%2F2026%2F1%2FWeb%2520statistika%252021.%2520sijecnja%25202026..xlsx%3Fvel%3D20645&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

4.3. Integration of applicants for international protection within the reception system

The Republic of Croatia has introduced integration and inclusion measures for applicants for international protection within the national reception system.

Immediately upon arrival at the shelter, applicants for international protection can participate in the Croatian language and culture learning programme. The Croatian

Red Cross runs this program twice a week for two hours. In addition, the Croatian Red Cross organizes playrooms for children, a gym, an IT workshop and a creative workshop. For children attending school, the Red Cross helps equip for school, organizes homework and learning assistance, and helps involve children in extracurricular and sports activities in the community. These activities depend on the needs and interests of applicants accommodated in reception centers. During their stay in the shelter, the Red Cross seeks to act as a link between applicants who wish to integrate successfully into society and the local population.

Children who have reached the age of 5 are included in the preschool programme in city kindergartens. The preschool education programme for children of applicants lasts two years, unlike children of Croatian citizens for whom it lasts one year. In this way, children of applicants for international protection are given more time to learn the language, socialise and integrate, as well as prepare for primary school attendance. Children who have not received all vaccines, without medical justification, do not have the right to attend the preschool program. Children from 7 to 15 years of age attend primary school, which is mandatory for all children in Croatia. After the age of 15, children continue their secondary education, which is optional. In primary and secondary schools, children first attend preparatory classes of the Croatian language lasting 70 hours. They then take the exam, and if they do not pass, they must attend an additional 70 hours of preparatory classes. Since 2025, schools have been using audio-visual devices that allow students and teachers to translate teaching materials from Croatian into other languages and vice versa.

Applicants for international protection shall have the right to apply for a work permit after three months from the lodging of the application. After that, they can apply to the Croatian Employment Service, where they can participate in a special training programme with an employer who receives subsidies from the Employment Service. The programme is intended for vulnerable groups of unemployed people and lasts up to six months. An applicant for international protection may withdraw from the programme at any time. However, the employer is obliged to repay the subsidies received for the training of the withdrawing worker.

Participation in all these programmes is optional and not subject to sanctions, except for compulsory primary school attendance. If the child does not attend regular primary

school, the school informs social workers in reception and social welfare centers, who take measures within their jurisdiction.

In terms of inclusion in the education system, social workers employed in reception facilities play a key role. They work with county and city offices, kindergartens, schools and transportation companies to organize a city bus to transport children to school. Social workers also assist applicants for international protection in obtaining work permits and generally serve as a coordination mechanism between applicants for international protection, other departments, public institutions, non-governmental organisations and all relevant stakeholders.

4.4. Projects and activities of civil associations in the field of international protection

4.4.1. Red Cross - Project 'Providing psychosocial support and services to applicants for international protection'

In 2025, the Croatian Red Cross continued to carry out activities with applicants for international protection in the Reception Centers for Applicants for International Protection in Zagreb and Kutina as part of the project “Providing psychosocial support and services to applicants for international protection”, co-financed by the European Union and the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia.

The activities carried out included:

reception and accommodation of applicants for international protection (beneficiaries);
providing psychosocial and practical support and assistance to users;

identification of vulnerable groups (children, unaccompanied minors, elderly people, unaccompanied women, persons with physical and mental disabilities, persons who have experienced trauma or torture, potential victims of trafficking in human beings and victims of domestic violence);

the organisation of social, educational and sporting activities;

assistance in the implementation of health programmes (transport and escort in healthcare facilities, translation services, procurement of orthopaedic aids and other supplies);

the involvement of beneficiaries in local community programmes and activities;

Restoring Family Links (RFL) activities.

4.4.2. Project Legal Counselling in the Procedure for Granting International Protection, AMIF (Croatian Legal Centre)

Following a public call for proposals to finance a project in the field of providing legal counseling in the procedure for granting international protection,¹³ the Croatian Legal Centre (HPC) was selected to implement the project 'Legal counselling in the procedure for granting international protection' financed by the European Union Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). Implementation of the project started in October 2025.

The project is aimed at providing legal counselling to applicants for international protection and to special guardians and guardians of unaccompanied children – applicants, in accordance with the International and Temporary Protection Act.

Project activities include:

Production and printing of information material on the ways and conditions of exercising the right to legal advice;

Providing information on rights, obligations and the importance of certain actions in the procedure for granting international protection in group consultations;

Providing general legal information relating to the procedure for granting international protection, the procedure for determining the Member State responsible and the border asylum procedures;

Providing legal information on the right to work and the right to free legal aid;

Provision of legal and procedural information on the granting of international protection in relation to a specific application;

Provide a notification of the stage at which the application for international protection is lodged;

Clarification of the reasons for the rejection of the application and the possibilities for appeal;

¹³ [https://eufondovi.mup.hr/news/public-tender-for-funding-project-in-area-provision-legal advice-in-procedure-approval-international-protection-723/723](https://eufondovi.mup.hr/news/public-tender-for-funding-project-in-area-provision-legal-advice-in-procedure-approval-international-protection-723/723)

Presentation of the project at the Reception Centre for Applicants for International Protection in Zagreb and Kutina and at the locations for the implementation of the border asylum procedure (once a year at each of the listed locations).

The project provides counselling for up to 6,000 applicants for international protection and up to 100 special guardians and guardians of unaccompanied children/applicants for international protection. Also, as part of the project, on-call duty is held twice a week in the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Zagreb and once a week in the Reception Centre in Kutina, and if necessary in the Reception Centre for Foreigners, in institutions where unaccompanied minors are accommodated, in social welfare institutions and at locations for the implementation of the border asylum procedure in accordance with the new Pact on Migration and Asylum.

HPC lawyers started carrying out on-call duty at the Zagreb and Kutina Reception Centres on 15 December 2025.

As part of the project, information materials were created with information related to the implementation of the project and terms of legal counselling and contact information, which were disseminated by reception centres and translated into ten languages (Arabic, Bengali, English, Farsi, French, Nepali, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and Urdu).

Information materials for the Kutina Reception Centre can be found at <http://www.hpc.hr/2026/01/27/information-material-for-project-legal-consultation-in-procedure-approval-international-protection-for-acceptance-in-kutina/> .

Information materials for the Zagreb Reception Centre can be found at <https://www.hpc.hr/2026/01/26/information-material-for-project-legal-consultation-in-procedure-approval-international-protection-for-acceptance-in-Zagreb/> .

4.4.3. Project Access to Territory in Croatia - Legal Support and Capacity Building (UNHCR - Croatian Legal Centre)

The Croatian Legal Centre (HPC) has been continuously operating as an implementing partner of UNHCR in the Republic of Croatia since 2003. In 2025, HPC, as an implementing partner and with the financial support of UNHCR, also implemented the project *Access to Territory in Croatia – Legal Support and Capacity Building*. The aim of the project was to ensure access to basic rights of forcibly displaced persons – potential applicants for international protection, applicants for international protection, persons granted international protection status and foreigners under temporary protection, and to strengthen the capacity of national authorities to apply relevant international, European and national regulations in the field of asylum, migration and human rights protection.

In 2025, as part of this project, we highlight the implementation of the following activities:

- Legal assistance was provided to applicants for international protection (until the start of the *project Legal advice in the procedure for granting international protection* financed by the AMIF Fund, see Heading 5.3.2), as well as to asylum seekers, foreigners under subsidiary protection, foreigners under temporary protection and displaced persons from Ukraine, for a total of 248 persons;
- As part of the support and capacity building activities for officials of the City of Zagreb, during the year, HPC lawyers held on-call duty twice a week in the One-Stop Shop (Welcome Centre) and worked directly with users, providing legal advice and information on rights, obligations and procedural issues;
- The annual *National Report on the Croatian Asylum System for 2024* ¹⁴ has been prepared in English. The report was presented during the second Asylum Coordination (see below);

¹⁴ https://www.hpc.hr/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/National-Asylum-Report-2024_CLC.pdf

- An analysis of *gender-based violence in the international protection procedure – Analysis of the legal and strategic framework at international and national level in Croatia* in English¹⁵ has been prepared;
- In cooperation with the UNHCR and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia, two training sessions were held at the Zagreb Police Academy to strengthen the capacity of border police officers on “*Access to the international protection system and protection of vulnerable groups*” in Zagreb (24 April¹⁶ and 4 June 2025).¹⁷ The program of workshops included lectures and practical exercises on the topics of human rights of migrants, access to the international protection system, recognition and protection of vulnerable groups, techniques of interviewing migrants and responsibilities of police officers in the context of migration. The aim of the workshops was to strengthen the capacity of police officers to identify and respond to the needs of persons seeking international protection. In total, 30 police officers from the Brod-Posavina, Istria, Karlovac, Osijek-Baranja, Primorje-Gorski Kotar, Sisak-Moslavina and Vukovar-Srijem police departments participated in the trainings. Lika-Senj, Split-Dalmatia, Međimurje, Šibenik-Knin, Virovitica-Podravina, Zadar and Zagreb;
- On 11 November 2025, a seminar was organised at the premises of the Judicial Academy for judges of administrative courts and the High Administrative Court and officials of the Ministry of the Interior on the *New Pact on Migration and Asylum and current case-law*¹⁸. In addition to judges of administrative courts, the seminar was attended by officials of the Ministry of the Interior (9 judges and 7 officials of the Ministry of the Interior). During the seminar, the key novelties of the new Pact on Migration and Asylum were presented, with an emphasis on its implementation in the Republic of Croatia and the role of administrative courts in proceedings concerning third-country nationals and applicants for international protection. The lectures were given

¹⁵ <https://www.hpc.hr/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/GBV-in-the-asylum-procedure-1.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.hpc.hr/2025/04/25/održana-radionica-za-policijske-službenike-o-pristupu-sustavu-međunarodne-zaštite-i-zaštiti-ranjivih-skupina/>

¹⁷ <https://www.hpc.hr/2025/06/05/održana-druga-radionica-za-policijske-službenike-o-pristupu-sustavu-međunarodne-zaštite-i-zaštiti-ranjivih-skupina/>

¹⁸ <https://www.pak.hr/maintained-seminar-novi-pakt-o-migration-i-azilu-i-actuality-in-court-practice/>

by experts from the Ministry of Interior. The second part of the programme presents recent case law of the Constitutional Court, the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union;

Long-term cooperation with the Faculty of Political Science and the Faculty of Law in Zagreb continued and the following lectures were held regarding the asylum and migration system for students:

- On January 7, 2025, 16 students participated in the Family Law course for students of the Faculty of Law in Zagreb;
- January 14, 2025 for students of the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb, as part of the Media and Diversity course, a total of 12 students participated;
- On May 15, 2025, a total of 9 students participated for students of the 4th year of the Faculty of Law in Zagreb within the course Administrative Law.

Three Asylum Coordination meetings took place in 2025:

- 26 March 2025 on the topic 'Dublin procedure,' with 26 participants¹⁹;
- On 27 May 2025, the National Report on the Croatian Asylum System 2024 and the activities of the Ministry of the Interior in the context of the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum were presented and 47 participants attended²⁰;
- 20 November 2025 on "Protection of unaccompanied children from the recent practice of asylum system actors" with 28 participants²¹;

World Refugee Day was marked by three activities:

- On 23 June 2025, a panel discussion was held on the system of international and temporary protection, focusing on trends and challenges, aimed at

¹⁹ <https://www.hpc.hr/2025/03/31/perspektive-i-izazovi-dublinskog-postupka-na-prvoj-ovogodisnjoj-koordinaciji-za-azil/>

²⁰ <https://www.hpc.hr/en/2025/05/28/overview-of-the-international-and-temporary-protection-system-in-2024-and-national-implementation-of-the-migration-and-asylum-pact-second-asylum-coordination-meeting-held/>

²¹ <https://www.hpc.hr/2025/11/28/održan-sastanak-koordinacije-za-azil-na-temu-zaštite-djece-bez-pratnje/>

representatives of civil society organisations, experts and public service employees²²;

- a second panel discussion on the same topic was held on 16 June 2025 for students of the Faculty of Law in Zagreb, with a special focus on students involved in the Asylum Seekers and Foreigners Assistance Group within the Legal Clinic²³;
- As a third activity, a campaign was carried out on the social networks Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, with the aim of informing the public about refugee issues and combating stereotypes.

4.4.4. Cooperation Agreement between Médecins du Monde ASBL - Dokters Van De Wereld VZW (Mdm) and HPC

In 2025, HPC concluded a cooperation agreement with MDM by which HPC committed to support MDM in achieving the objectives of the project that MDM implemented in cooperation and with the financial support of UNICEF. Within the framework of the cooperation, HPC lawyer participated as a co-author of the report with recommendations for improving the Ordinance on health protection standards of applicants for international protection and foreigners under temporary protection.

Also, as part of the cooperation, a training plan and content were developed, and on 14 November 2025, the HPC lawyer held a lecture entitled 'Legal framework for persons in migration with an emphasis on the right to health' intended for employees of the MDM and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia who work with persons in migration situations, with the aim of strengthening the capacity to identify vulnerabilities and provide adequate support.

²² <https://www.hpc.hr/2025/06/17/tribina-sustav-međunarodne-i-privremene-zaštite-trendovi-i-izazovi/>

²³ <https://www.hpc.hr/2025/06/18/odrzana-tribina-za-studente-pravnog-fakulteta-u-zagrebu-sustav-međunarodne-i-privremene-zastite/>

4.4.5. Cooperation of the Croatian Legal Centre with the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)

Within the framework of long-standing cooperation with the European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) regarding the so-called Asylum Information Database project, the Croatian Legal Centre has prepared a national report on the international protection system for 2024 containing information on the procedure for granting international protection, reception conditions and rights of applicants for international protection, the detention and rights of persons granted international protection, and the annex related to temporary protection in the Republic of Croatia for 2024.

The report can be found at https://asylumineurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/AIDA-HR_Temporary-Protection_2024.pdf.

4.4.6. Activities of the Jesuit Refugee Service

In 2025, the Jesuit Refugee Service Croatia provided:

- psychosocial and social support for applicants for international protection;
- support for beneficiaries of international protection in the integration process.

Particular attention was paid to:

- vulnerable groups including women, families and people with traumatic experiences;
- access to rights including housing, education and employment.

4.4.7. CRP Sisak

In 2025 CRP Sisak had 208 cases related to the procedure for granting international protection, of which 2 were representations at the Administrative Court in Zagreb. In 2025, compared to previous years, there was an increase in calls, e-mails and activities, both in the procedures for expressing intent and in the procedures for granting international protection.

5. TEMPORARY PROTECTION

Russia's attack on Ukraine in February 2022 provoked a large migration wave of people fleeing the war and arriving en masse on the territory of neighbouring countries, including the Republic of Croatia.

5.1. Extension of temporary protection

The Temporary protection was first activated on 4 March 2022 by Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 for²⁴ an initial period of one year, until 4 March 2023, after which it was automatically extended for another year until 4 March 2024. As the reasons for temporary protection continued to exist, on 19 October 2023, the Council adopted Implementing Decision 2023/2409²⁵ extending temporary protection for a period of one year, i.e. until 4 March 2025, and then on 25 June 2024, Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/1836 extending²⁶ temporary protection until 4 March 2026.

In accordance with the Council Implementing Decisions, the Government of the Republic of Croatia introduced temporary protection in March 2022 and²⁷ the Decision on the extension of temporary protection in the Republic of Croatia for displaced persons from Ukraine of 29 February 2024 extended²⁸ temporary protection until 4 March 2025.

On 24 January 2025, the Act amending the International and Temporary Protection Act (Official Gazette No. 17/2025) was adopted,²⁹ providing for the possibility of extending temporary protection for displaced persons beyond 4 March 2025, based on an assessment by the Government of the Republic of Croatia and a decision of the Council of the European Union.

²⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/HR/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022D0382>

²⁵ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/HR/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202302409

²⁶ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/HR/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202401836

²⁷ https://hrvatskazaukrajinu.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/HR/odluke/022-03-22-04-77_3-07-03.pdf

²⁸

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fvlada.gov.hr%2FUserDocsImages%2F2016%2FSjednice%2F2024%2FVelja%25C4%258Da%2F289%2520sjednica%2520VRH%2F289%2520-%252020.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

²⁹ [Law on Amendments to the Law on International and Temporary Protection](#)

The adoption of the amendments was driven by the fact that, as a result of the war in Ukraine, the need to provide temporary protection persisted, while the legal provisions in force until then limited the maximum duration of temporary protection to three years, without any possibility of further extension.

The termination of temporary protection would place a significant burden on the asylum system, as, given the duration of the war and the impossibility to return to Ukraine, a large number of persons under temporary protection would apply for international protection. Such developments would pose a serious challenge to the effective functioning of the national asylum system.

Therefore, pursuant to Article 78 Paragraph 4 in conjunction with Article 79 Paragraph 3 of the Act on International and Temporary Protection (Official Gazette Nos. 70/15, 127/17, 33/23 and 17/25), on 27 February 2025, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted a Decision extending temporary protection in the Republic of Croatia for displaced persons from Ukraine (Official Gazette No 70/15, 127/17, 33/23 and 17/25). According to that Decision, the temporary protection introduced by the Decision of 7 March 2022 was extended in accordance with Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2024/1836 of 25 June 2024 until 4 March 2026.³⁰

5.2. Accommodation of persons under temporary protection

At its session held on 27 February 2025, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted a Decision amending the Decision on financing the housing costs of displaced persons from Ukraine in private accommodation, which extended the financing period until 6 March 2026, in accordance with the decision on extending the duration of temporary protection.

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<https://hrvatskazaukrajinu.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/HR/odluke/Odluka%20o%20produljenju%20PZ%20do%202026.pdf>

5.3. Education of people displaced from Ukraine

Ensuring access to education for children displaced from Ukraine is one of the key integration measures implemented by the Republic of Croatia.

5.3.1. Early childhood education and care

The Republic of Croatia has ensured the inclusion of all children displaced from Ukraine in the early childhood education and care system in the regular preschool education and preschool program, i.e. the program of preparation for departure to primary school that is organized in preschool institutions, primary schools or some other institutions.

In 2025, the total is:

- 206 children displaced from Ukraine were included in the regular pre-school programme;
- 12 children participated in preschool programs.

5.3.2. Primary and secondary education

Students from Ukraine, who attend primary school, are usually enrolled in that primary school that belongs to the enrolment area and immediately after enrolment, they are included in regular classes of the corresponding class in which they continue their education.

The enrolment of students from Ukraine in secondary schools is organized according to the existing educational programs, and if there is no educational program in the system of the Republic of Croatia that the student attended in his home country, he has the right to continue education in the most related educational program conducted in the secondary school in which he will be enrolled.

The Ministry of Science and Education adopted the Decision on the enrolment of pupils in the status of persons under temporary protection from Ukraine in the first grade of

secondary school in the school year 2025/2026³¹. Students from Ukraine who do not have documentation of previous education or if it is not possible to prove previous education based on the available documentation, are enrolled in the appropriate class on the basis of a signed statement by the parents.

Every student from Ukraine who enrolls in primary or secondary school has the right to participate in preparatory and supplementary classes of the Croatian language without testing, and at the same time to participate in educational work in classrooms in all subjects according to their capabilities and abilities and to conclude grades and certificates at the end of the school year.

School institutions keep a record of each enrolled student from Ukraine in e-Matica.

In the 2025/2026 school year, a total of 1,693 students from Ukraine were enrolled, of which:

- 1,118 students enrolled in primary school, and
- 575 in high school.

5.3.3. Co-financing of programmes intended for students displaced from Ukraine for the purpose of integration into the education system of the Republic of Croatia

The Ministry of Science, Education and Youth provides funding in the state budget aimed at co-financing a number of different programmes that support the integration of students from Ukraine into the education system in the Republic of Croatia.

In 2025, the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth provided a total of EUR 202,603.19 to co-finance the following programmes for pupils displaced from Ukraine who attend primary and secondary schools in the Republic of Croatia:

- co-financing the costs of participation of students in extracurricular classes (excursions, excursions, field classes, school in nature) and other educational activities,
- co-financing the acquisition of teaching and didactic material and equipment,

³¹ <https://mzom.gov.hr/UserDocImages//dokumenti/lzbieglice//odluka-o-upisu-raseljenih-učenika-u-statusu-osoba-pod-privremenom-zaštitom-iz-ukrajine-u-1-razred-srednje-skole-u-sk-god-2025-2026.pdf>

- co-financing the costs of parental participation for the extended stay and meals programme in the extended stay,
- co-financing of the costs of the parental share for accommodation and food in the student dormitory.

Co-financing of these programmes is carried out in cooperation with schools in such a way that schools submit a request to the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, and the Ministry makes individual decisions on co-financing for each school (certain students participating in one of the above programmes) on the basis of the decisions taken by the Ministry for each school year, which define the criteria and method of co-financing:

- Decisions to co-finance a programme to provide additional support to primary and secondary school students displaced from Ukraine in the school year 2025/2026. (Class: 016-01/25-01/00749; Registration number: 533-07-25-0001, from 1 August 2025)³²,
- Decisions to co-finance extracurricular for primary and secondary school students displaced from Ukraine for the school year 2025/2026. (Class: 016-01/25-01/00749; Registration number: 533-07-25-0002, from 1 August 2025)³³,
- Decisions on the criteria for co-financing accommodation and food in student dormitories for pupils displaced from Ukraine in the school year 2025/2026. (Class: 016-01/25-01/00749; Registration number: 533-07-25-0003, from 1 August 2025)³⁴
- Decisions to co-finance the parental share of the price of the extended stay and subsistence programme for primary school pupils displaced from Ukraine in the school year 2025/2026. (Class: 016-01/25-01/00749; Registration number: 533-07-25-0004, from 1 August 2025)³⁵.

³² <https://mzom.gov.hr/UserDocImages//dokumenti/lzbjeglice/Odluke-2025-2026//odluka-o-sufinanciranju-programa-dodatne-potpore-učenicima-os-ss-iz-ukrajine-2025-2026.pdf>

³³ <https://mzom.gov.hr/UserDocImages//dokumenti/lzbjeglice/Odluke-2025-2026//odluka-o-sufinanciranju-izvanucionicke-nastave-za-os-ss-iz-ukrajine-2025-2026.pdf>

³⁴ <https://mzom.gov.hr/UserDocImages//dokumenti/lzbjeglice/Odluke-2025-2026//odluka-o-kriterijima-za-sufinanciranje-smještaja-prehrane-ud-za-učenike-iz-ukrajine-2025-2026.pdf>

³⁵ <https://mzom.gov.hr/UserDocImages//dokumenti/lzbjeglice/Odluke-2025-2026//odluka-o-sufinanciranju-roditeljskog-udjela-učenicima-os-raseljenima-iz-ukrajine-2025-2026.pdf>

In 2025, the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth provided financial support to over 800 primary and secondary school students displaced from Ukraine who participated in the above-mentioned programmes.

5.4. Vocational education

In 2025, access to vocational training as a measure to support labour market integration continued through the existing adult education system. The voucher system for adult learning managed by the Croatian Employment Service remained accessible to persons under temporary protection, allowing them to participate in training programmes during employment. This measure is implemented as an integrated measure within the existing system.

6. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

6.1. Minor applicants for international protection

6.1.1. Number and structure of unaccompanied applicants for international protection

In 2025, 1,229 unaccompanied minors were registered as applicants for international protection in Croatia. They represent 8% of the total number of applicants.

Statistics on applicants for international protection by age and gender up to 31/12/2025													
Gender / Years	2013.	2014.	2015.	2016.	2017.	2018.	2019.	2020.	2021.	2022.	2023.	2024.	2025.
M	54	10	5	163	251	59	65	169	174	337	1,458	1,914	1,202
0-13 Unaccompanied	0	0	2	15	23	11	3	21	28	12	100	133	41
14-15 Unaccompanied	8	0	1	47	62	13	12	30	40	74	273	295	178
16-17 Unaccompanied	46	10	2	101	166	35	50	118	106	251	1,085	1,486	983
F	1	0	0	1	10	5	5	17	21	99	58	66	27
0-13 Unaccompanied	0	0	0	1	4	2	1	7	6	17	12	13	4
14-15 Unaccompanied	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	5	24	8	11	3
16-17 Unaccompanied	1	0	0	0	5	3	2	6	10	58	38	42	20
TOTAL	55	10	5	164	261	64	70	186	195	436	1,516	1,980	1,229

Table 7: Number of applicants for international protection of unaccompanied minors 2013-2025 by age and gender

Source:

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fmup.gov.hr%2FUserDocs/Images%2Fstatistika%2F2026%2F1%2FWeb%2520statistika%252021.%2520sijecnja%25202026..xlsx%3Fvel%3D20645&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

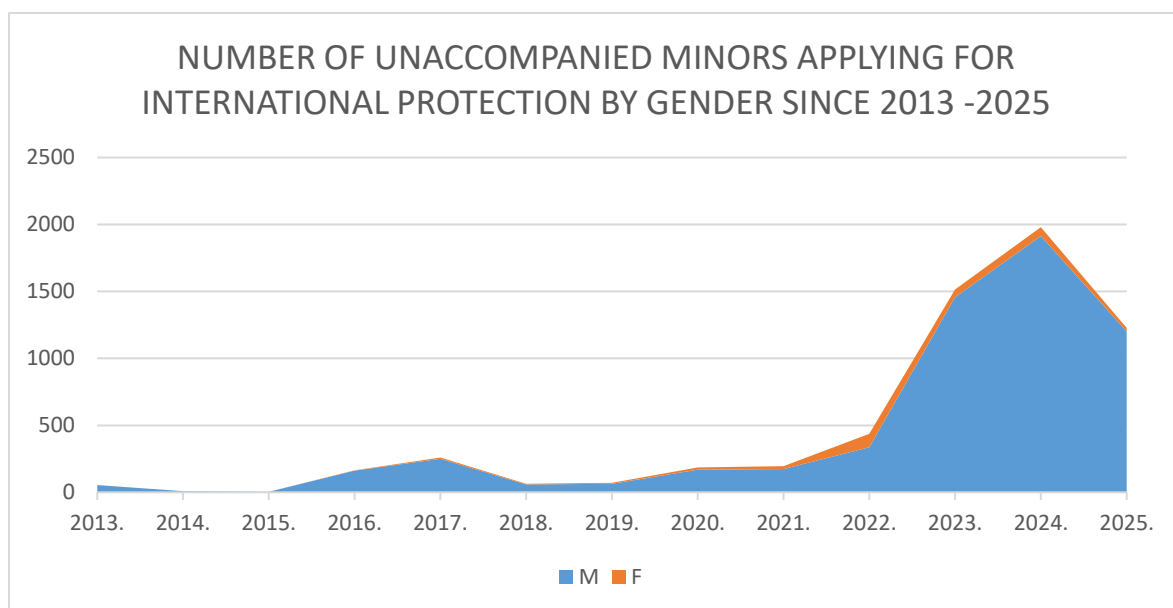
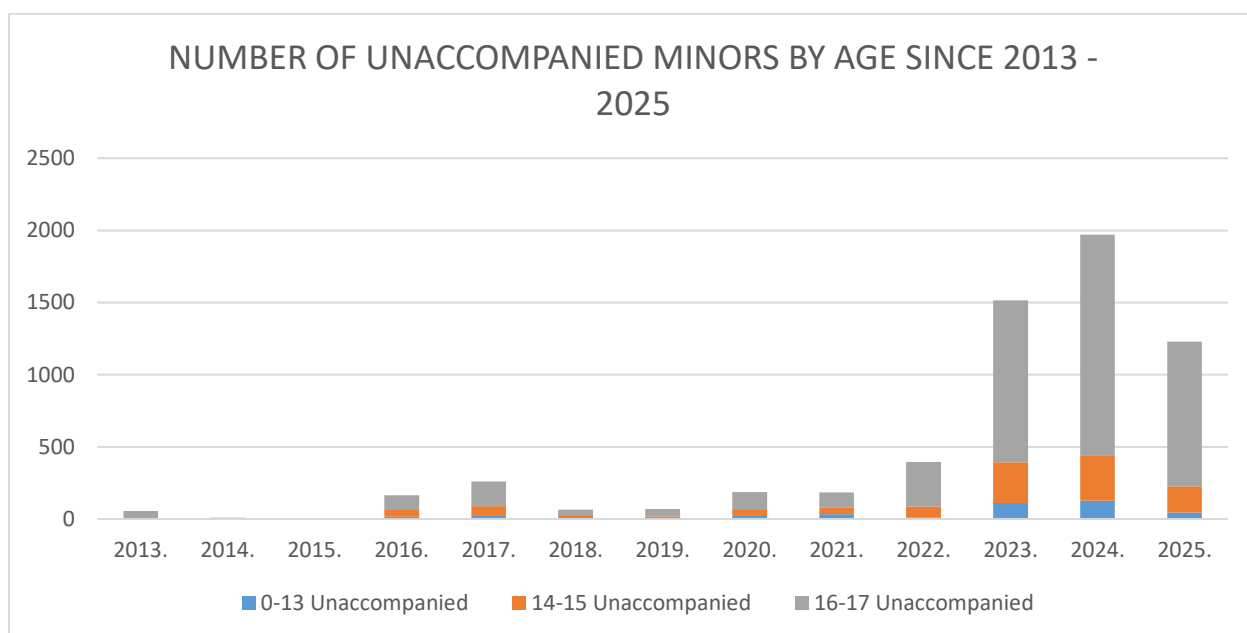


Chart 12: Number of unaccompanied minors applying for international protection by gender since 2013 -2025.

The highest proportion of unaccompanied minors seeking international protection (82%) is between 16 and 17 years old.



Graph 13: Number of unaccompanied minors by age since 2013 -2025.

6.1.2. Reception and accommodation of minor applicants for international protection

Unaccompanied minors, after registering as applicants for international protection at a police administration/police station, are placed in the Reception Centre for Applicants for International Protection in Zagreb or Kutina, in accordance with the expert opinion of a special guardian from the Croatian Institute for Social Welfare. Children under the age of 16 are placed in social institutions or foster families and are appointed a guardian who takes care of their needs and rights. On the basis of the guardian's conclusion on the child's safety, a decision is made on further interventions.

In the reception centre, unaccompanied minors receive full medical care.. They are involved in the Croatian education system and extracurricular activities with the aim of full integration into the local community. They learn the Croatian language and culture and receive full support from humanitarian organisations operating within the shelters, among which the most important is the Croatian Red Cross. Within the organisation of the Croatian Red Cross, there is a Search Service that deals with the tracing of family members of unaccompanied minors or other applicants who are separated from their family members.

In addition to unaccompanied minors, other vulnerable groups include persons deprived of their legal capacity, children, the elderly and infirm, the seriously ill, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, persons with mental disorders, victims of trafficking in human beings, victims of torture, rape or other psychological, physical and sexual violence, such as victims of female genital mutilation.

Special procedural and reception guarantees are provided to all vulnerable groups. This implies adequate support to applicants in relation to their personal circumstances, including age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, serious illness, mental health or the consequences of torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, so that they can exercise their rights and obligations. The applicant shall be provided with special health and psychosocial care, special nutrition, specially adapted accommodation and other guarantees. The procedure for determining the personal circumstances of the applicants concerned shall be carried out continuously by trained police officers, employees of the Ministry

of the Interior and other competent authorities, from the declared intention to apply for international protection to the notification of the decision on their application.

6.2. Education

Regarding the integration and inclusion of migrants in 2025, the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, Sector for Early Childhood and Primary Education continued to carry out activities aimed at the inclusion of third-country national pupils in the education system in the Republic of Croatia. In primary schools, the right to education of pupils who do not know or do not know the Croatian language was ensured, primarily through the organisation of preparatory and supplementary classes of the Croatian language and other forms of professional and pedagogical support.

In accordance with the applicable regulations, for students who start or continue their education in the Republic of Croatia and do not know the Croatian language, preparatory classes of the Croatian language are organized for 70 hours. During preparatory classes, students are not evaluated, but their progress in language learning and socialization is monitored, and according to the assessment of the school, they can be partially included in regular classes.

In case of need, students are allowed an additional 70 hours of preparatory instruction or inclusion in additional Croatian language classes during the school year. The Ministry provides professional guidance and support to schools in the implementation of these activities and cooperates with other competent authorities in the field of integration of migrant children.

6.3. Capacity building in the field of social welfare – project “Supporting children and families in migration in the process of protection and integration in Croatia”

Policy-level development continued with the implementation of the two-year programme “Supporting Children and Families in Migration in the Protection and

Integration Process in Croatia”,³⁶ jointly implemented by UNICEF Croatia and the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration, with the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy as a partner institution. The programme focuses on the integration of children and families in migration, including unaccompanied children, into national welfare, education and protection systems, ensuring timely identification of needs and access to quality mental health and psychosocial protection, care and support.

Key activities in the social welfare system included piloting the position of cultural mediator at the Zagreb-Dugave Community Service Centre; renovation and equipping of premises in four community service centres to improve care for unaccompanied children; strengthening foster care teams and additional training and promotional activities for foster families of unaccompanied children; the development of specialised interventions and tailored materials to empower unaccompanied children in recognising the risk of continuing unsafe travel to the countries of destination, as well as materials and guidance for professionals providing accommodation and care for unaccompanied children in short-term reception conditions; and the development of a multilingual online chat for psychosocial support and counselling, available in seven languages (Croatian, English, French, Turkish, Ukrainian, Pashto and Arabic).

6.3.1. Cooperation Agreement between the Center for Missing and Abused Children (CNZD) and HPC

In 2025, HPC concluded a cooperation agreement with the Center for Missing and Abused Children (CNZD) regarding the education of social welfare professionals who work directly with unaccompanied children. Cooperation was achieved through the *Pathway to Empowerment project: Strengthening the services for children on the move*,³⁷ as part of the umbrella programme “Supporting children and families in migration in the process of protection and integration in Croatia”, funded by the State Secretariat for Migration of the Swiss Confederation and supported by the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy. The project was implemented by

³⁶ <https://www.unicef.org/croatia/SEM>

³⁷ <https://cnzd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/PATHWAY-TO-EMPOWERMENT-STRENGTHENING-THE-SERVICES-FOR-CHILDREN-ON-THE-MOVE-.pdf>

the CNZD in cooperation with UNICEF. As part of this cooperation, the HPC lawyer participated in the development of the content of the training and held a lecture on 12 November 2025 on the 'Legal framework for the protection of unaccompanied minors'.

6.3.2. Education on the protection of the rights and well-being of unaccompanied children

The specialised training programme 'Education on the protection of the rights and well-being of unaccompanied children', implemented by the Social Welfare Academy in accordance with the Annual Education Plan for 2025, was implemented. The programme aimed at strengthening the capacity of professionals working with unaccompanied children within the social welfare and child protection systems. In this way, the quality and efficiency of guardianship for unaccompanied children has been increased by strengthening the expertise and skills of the relevant staff.

7. INTEGRATION INTO CROATIAN SOCIETY

In 2025, integration in Croatia continued through an integrated public policy approach. Relevant actions were mainly implemented through the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and the Elimination of Discrimination (until 2027)³⁸ and its annual action plans³⁹. This framework applies to all persons, including third-country nationals, while taking into account the needs of individual groups.

The Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia coordinated the preparation of these action plans and reports on their implementation, providing support for the monitoring of measures aimed at preventing discrimination and promoting equality.

In 2025, the Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities continued its work to promote multilevel and multi-stakeholder approaches to integration and inclusion through participation in the **work of the Council of Europe Steering Committee** on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and its Committee of Experts on Intercultural Inclusion (ADI-INT). During this period, ADI-INT adopted a multi-level governance self-assessment tool for intercultural inclusion and improved work on a tool for mutual learning and comparison of practices, with the aim of strengthening cooperation between national, regional and local authorities, as well as civil society organisations.

7.1. AMIF Sinergy project – Ensuring a synergistic approach to the integration of third-country nationals

The integration of third-country nationals has been supported by European Union funding, in particular through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), including the AMIF Sinergy project – Ensuring a synergistic approach to the integration

³⁸

<https://pravamanjina.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/Nacionalni%20plan%20za%20ZPLJP%20razdoblje%20do%202027.pdf?vel=1552914>

³⁹

<https://pravamanjina.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/Akcijski%20plan%20za%20C5%A1tite%20i%20promicanja%20ljudskih%20prava%20za%202025.%20godinu.pdf?vel=1631272>

of third-country nationals, implemented by the Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities.

7.1.1. Work of the Advisory Group

The implementation of the activities of the AMIF Sinergy project continued to strengthen stakeholder engagement, in particular through the **Advisory Group**. The Advisory Group shall be composed of third-country nationals and persons with a migrant background. The Advisory Group works with public institutions and contributes to policy development in line with the EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027.⁴⁰ Each meeting results in a public policy document with recommendations, ensuring that the voices and experiences of migrants are directly involved in shaping integration measures. In 2025, a public policy document on the labour rights of third-country nationals in Croatia was published entitled “The rights of third-country nationals related to employment in the Republic of Croatia”⁴¹.

7.1.2. Local Coordinating Authorities for Integration

Within the AMIF Sinergy project, local coordination bodies for integration in four cities in Croatia (Karlovac, Osijek, Rijeka and Varaždin) were formally established. The work of the authorities is supported by trained experts who help to map local stakeholders, organise capacity-building workshops and draw up coordination protocols to strengthen the protection of rights at the local level. This development supports an integrated approach to integration by strengthening local governance and coordination mechanisms, while addressing the needs of migrants, including beneficiaries of international protection.

⁴⁰ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2020:758:FIN>

⁴¹ <https://ljudskaprava.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/Integration%20policy%20report%20-%20Employment%20-%20Related%20Rights%20of%20Third-Country%20Nationals%20in%20the%20Republic%20of%20Croatia.pdf>

7.1.3. Development of a centralised network of translators

As part of the Synergy project, the Government Office for Human and National Minority Rights has launched the development of a centralised network of translators, a digital system that will enable public authorities to request real-time translation services. This is to provide targeted support aimed at overcoming language barriers faced by third-country nationals.

7.2. New neighbours 2.0 – Inclusion of persons granted international protection in Croatian society

On 24 April 2025, a Grant Agreement was concluded for the implementation of the project 'New Neighbours 2.0 – Inclusion of persons granted international protection in Croatian society' under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund between the Directorate for European Affairs, International Relations and EU Funds of the Ministry of the Interior and the Centre for the Culture of Dialogue - CKD⁴². In accordance with the Addendum to the Agreement, the total value of the project is EUR 1,585,209,52 including VAT, whereby the European Union co-finances the project in the maximum amount representing 90 % of the total eligible costs, while the funds from the participation of the state budget of the Republic of Croatia will provide co-financing in the amount of at least 10 % of the total eligible costs.

The purpose of the project, which will be implemented for 36 months, is to empower persons with international protection and their family members in the process of becoming independent and self-reliant for successful integration into Croatian society. CKD will provide individualized access and direct assistance to persons granted international protection and their family members with the aim of increasing the success of their integration and the exercise of legal rights, will work to strengthen the capacity of public institutions and media representatives and to increase the

⁴² <https://eufondovi.mup.hr/vijesti/odluka-o-dodjeli-financijskih-sredstava-za-provedbu-projekta-novi-susjedi-2-0-uključivanje-osoba-s-odobrenom-medjunarodnom-zaštitom-u-hrvatsko-društvo/742>
<https://eufondovi.mup.hr/vijesti/odluka-o-izmjeni-odluke-o-dodjeli-financijskih-sredstava-za-provedbu-projekta-novi-susjedi-2-0-uključivanje-osoba-s-odobrenom-medjunarodnom-zaštitom-u-hrvatsko-društvo/754>

awareness and sensitization of the local population and the general public. The project presentation conference was held on 13 November 2025 in Zagreb.⁴³

7.3. Integration of foreign workers

Labour market integration continued through existing measures. This includes access to vocational training through the voucher system of the Croatian Employment Service, which is also available to persons under temporary protection. In addition, the amendments to the Foreigners Act of March 2025 made it easier for third-country nationals to access the labour market, for example through longer duration of permits, easier job change and the possibility to stay in Croatia for a certain period after losing their employment.

7.3.1. Project Legal Aid and Information for Foreign Workers, HPC - City of Zagreb

In the period from 1 January to 30 April 2025, the Croatian Legal Centre implemented the project “Legal assistance and information for foreign workers”,⁴⁴ financed by the City of Zagreb. The aim of the project was to improve the information and legal security of foreign workers by providing accessible, understandable and linguistically adapted information about their rights and the possibilities of obtaining protection in the Republic of Croatia.

As part of the project, the following activities were carried out:

⁴³ <https://eufondovi.mup.hr/vijesti/održana-konferencija-predstavljanja-projekta-novi-susjedi-2-0-uključivanje-osoba-s-odobrenom-medjunarodnom-zaštitom-u-hrvatsko-društvo/762>
<https://ccd.hr/projekt-novi-susjedi-2-0-predstavljen-na-sjednici-odbora-za-praćenje-programa-fonda-za-azil-migracije-i-integraciju/>

⁴⁴ <https://www.hpc.hr/2025/04/17/pravna-pomoć-i-informacije-za-strane-radnike/>

- Two informative videos were produced with subtitles in English⁴⁵, Bengali⁴⁶, Hindi⁴⁷, Nepalese⁴⁸ and Filipino.⁴⁹ The video material deals with the topics of law in the field of health system, labour law and family reunification procedures, with the aim of bringing users in a clear and accessible way the key information important for their stay and work in Croatia.
- In addition, the Register of Useful Contacts in the City of Zagreb⁵⁰, which contains contact information of relevant institutions, organisations and services that may be important for foreign workers, has been developed.
- A database of frequently asked questions and answers⁵¹ has also been prepared. Both documents are made in Croatian and English, and at the end of each video there are QR codes that directly connect users to the mentioned documents, which allows easy and quick access to additional content.⁵²
- One of the key project activities was the provision of general legal information and legal advice. Although the project envisaged the provision of services to ten beneficiaries, the interest and need proved to be significantly higher and a total of 44 foreign workers were eventually provided with legal aid.

7.3.2. Pro bono provision of legal assistance to third-country nationals/foreign workers

Over the past few years, HPC has seen a continuous and significant increase in the number of queries from third-country nationals, primarily foreign workers, seeking free

⁴⁵ Family reunification-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfuQM0R4G-0>; Work and health insurance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKblivAWjA>

⁴⁶ Family reunification - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IHMzvn86vl>; bengal; Work and health insurance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5D2ffi8S2Ag>

⁴⁷ Family reunification: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCRIIn-04vr4>; Work and health insurance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WA2KNWivVm8>

⁴⁸ Family reunification- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWVM8x8DVk8>; Work and health insurance: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rZ0581_q_E

⁴⁹ Family reunification- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlSk4cWtJ2E>; Work and health insurance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUA7AFuo4tw&t=19s>

⁵⁰ <https://www.hpc.hr/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Registry-of-useful-contacts-in-the-City-of-Zagreb.pdf.pdf>

⁵¹ <https://www.hpc.hr/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Database-of-QA-for-foreigner-workers.pdf>

⁵² <https://www.hpc.hr/en/2025/04/17/pravna-pomoc-i-informacije-za-strane-radnike-2/>

legal aid. This trend continued throughout 2025, indicating a systemic need for legal protection for this group of users.

In accordance with the provisions of the Free Legal Aid Act, the provision of legal aid to third-country nationals is subject to the existence of a condition of reciprocity. Recognizing this challenge, HPC contacted the Ministry of Justice, Administration and Digital Transformation back in 2024 with a request to publish an official list of reciprocity. Given the extreme sensitivity of the situation and the fact that a large number of queries received constitute a violation of the fundamental rights of foreign workers, which requires urgent action, HPC provided *pro bono* legal assistance to such persons in 2025.

7.3.3. JRS activities

The activities carried out by JRS Croatia included:

- providing foreign workers with information about their rights and obligations;
- support in accessing basic services;
- advocating fair working conditions and preventing exploitation.

There was an increased need in the following areas:

- language learning,
- coping with administrative procedures,
- social integration

7.4. Supporting the protection and integration of children and families in migration in Croatia

As part of the comprehensive two-year programme 'Supporting the protection and integration of children and families in migration in Croatia' (1 December 2023 – 30 November 2025), UNICEF Croatia and the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration involved key stakeholders – the Office of the Ombudsman for Children, Ombudsman, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy, the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth and Ministry of Health – as well as civil society organisations, educational institutions, foster families and community service providers, to support the practical integration of migrant children and their families.

The programme 'Supporting the protection and integration of children and families in migration in Croatia'⁵³ developed a multilingual online chat service run by the Brave Phone, aimed at providing psychosocial support and counselling to migrants, including unaccompanied children, in seven languages (Croatian, English, French, Turkish, Ukrainian, Pašto and Arabic).

The same programme also upgraded the Parenting in Croatia platform, which became available in five languages (Croatian, English, French, Arabic and Ukrainian), providing key information on child health, nutrition and care to parents and carers of children aged 0-8.

As part of a project funded by UNHCR, a workshop on the integration of persons under international and temporary protection for experts providing support at the local level was held in Kutina.

7.5. Project DIDI: Two-way and dynamic integration

Since 1 March 2024, CRP Sisak, in cooperation with the Citizens' Initiative 'My City of Sisak', has been implementing a two-year project, from 1 March 2024 to 28 February 2026, entitled **DIDI: two-way and dynamic integration**, financed by the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy, within which the project was held social gatherings, workshops and education, namely:

On 27 May 2025, in the premises of CRP Sisak, a meeting and social gathering were organised for the purpose of emotional and economic empowerment of the beneficiaries of the project 'DIDI-Two-way and dynamic integration', aimed at supporting the integration into the community of persons granted international protection in the Sisak-Moslavina and Karlovac counties⁵⁴.

⁵³ <https://www.unicef.org/croatia/mediji/hrabri-telefon-pokrenuo-visejezicni-chat>

⁵⁴ <https://www.crpsisak.hr/2025/06/izvjestaj-s-druzenja-s-korisnicima-projekta-didi-dvosmjerna-i-dinamicna-integracija/>

On the same day, a workshop entitled "How to compete better in the labour market"⁵⁵ was held.

On 20 June 2025, World Refugee Day was celebrated in Topusko in association with migrants and foreign workers who pass through the same area and work in that area, as well as with the citizens of Topusko, precisely because it is an area very close to the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina, from where a large number of migrants come to Croatia.

On 6 September 2025, a meeting was held in Karlovac with persons granted international protection⁵⁶.

On 18 September 2025 CRP Sisak participated in the webinar EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) on migration and asylum.

On 9 October 2025, an education entitled 'Understanding and Tolerance to Communion' was held, which was organised as part of the Children's Week 2025, in the Popovača library and reading room, for pupils in the seventh grade of Popovača Elementary School⁵⁷.

On 8 December 2025, an educational workshop was held for students of the elementary school 'Ivo Kozarčanin' in Hrvatska Dubica⁵⁸.

7.6. Activities of the City of Zagreb in the field of integration

7.6.1. Implementation of the Action Plan of the City of Zagreb for the implementation of the Charter of Integrating Cities for 2023 and 2024

As part of the implementation of integration activities, the City of Zagreb launched a public call for expressions of interest of civil society organisations to participate in the implementation of the Action Plan of the City of Zagreb for the implementation of the

⁵⁵ <https://www.crpsisak.hr/2025/06/izvještaj-radionica-kako-bolje-konkurirati-na-tržištu-rada-didi-dvosmjerna-i-dinamična-integracija/>

⁵⁶ <https://www.crpsisak.hr/2025/10/druženje-s-korisnicima-didi-dinamična-i-dvosmjerna-integracija/>

⁵⁷ <https://www.crpsisak.hr/2025/10/edukacija-razumijevanjem-i-tolerancijom-do-zajedništva-didi-dinamična-i-dvosmjerna-integracija/>

⁵⁸ <https://www.crpsisak.hr/2025/12/održana-edukativna-radionica-razumijevanjem-i-tolerancijom-do-zajedništva-u-sklopu-programa-didi-dinamična-i-dvosmjerna-integracija/>

Charter of Integrating Cities for 2023 and 2024⁵⁹, which was extended until the end of 2025.

Through the Public Call, 11 civil society organisations were financed for the implementation of free Croatian language courses, translation and cultural mediation services, women's empowerment, workshops on getting to know the culture and traditions of the Republic of Croatia, raising public awareness about integration, strengthening the competences of city officials, providing learning support and empowering foreigners to access the labour market. A total of EUR 130,000 has been provided for these activities, of which EUR 82,234 is earmarked for the implementation of the Croatian language course.

7.6.2. Croatian language course

The City of Zagreb has provided a free Croatian language course with the possibility of passing the exam and obtaining the certificate of knowledge of the Croatian language required to regulate the status in the Republic of Croatia, continue education or employment. In addition to civil society organisations, the course was conducted by the Callidus Language School, where a total of 172 participants attended the course.

7.6.3. Artistic and cultural programmes

Based on the Special Public Call for Financing Intercultural Programs from the Budget of the City of Zagreb for 2025, funds were approved for 31 beneficiaries, in the amount of EUR 263,000 for financing artistic and cultural programs for a more successful integration of foreigners into society.

7.6.4. Welcome Centre

The *One Stop Shop* has continuously acted as a central point for informing refugees and migrants about their rights, obligations and services provided by the City of Zagreb, in one place and in a language they understand. The Center provides information on

59

<https://www.zagreb.hr/UserDocImages/ljudska%20prava/web/Akcijski%20plan%20GZ%20za%20provedbu%20Povelje%20Integriraju%C4%87ih%20gradova%202023-24.pdf>

services in the areas of social and health care, education, scholarships, learning the Croatian language, free legal aid and intercultural programs and other activities. In addition to officials from the City Office for Culture and Civil Society, the Centre was supported by representatives of partner organisations UNHCR, the Croatian Legal Centre (in terms of providing free legal aid) and the Croatian Red Cross (see more in Heading 7.6.6. *Strengthening the competences of city administration officials in the field of integration*).

On the occasion of the International Day of Migrants, 18 December 2025, the Welcome Centre organised the Open Doors Day. Citizens had the opportunity to get to know the work and services of the Centre, talk to employees and get information about integration, rights and available support to foreign citizens in Zagreb.

In 2025, the Centre registered a total of 325 beneficiaries, confirming its importance in supporting various groups of foreign nationals. The analysis of the gender structure indicates a strong dominance of men, who make up the majority of the Center's user population (230 users). Women are represented with 82 users, while for 13 users no gender data is available.

Users of the Centre come from a wide range of countries, with Ukraine (12,92% of the total population), Nepal (8,31%), Egypt (10,15%), India (8,62%), the Philippines (6,46%), Syria (6,15%) and a number of other countries of origin in smaller percentages. The diversity of countries of origin confirms that the Centre supports a wide range of foreign nationals, including people with different linguistic, cultural and migration backgrounds.

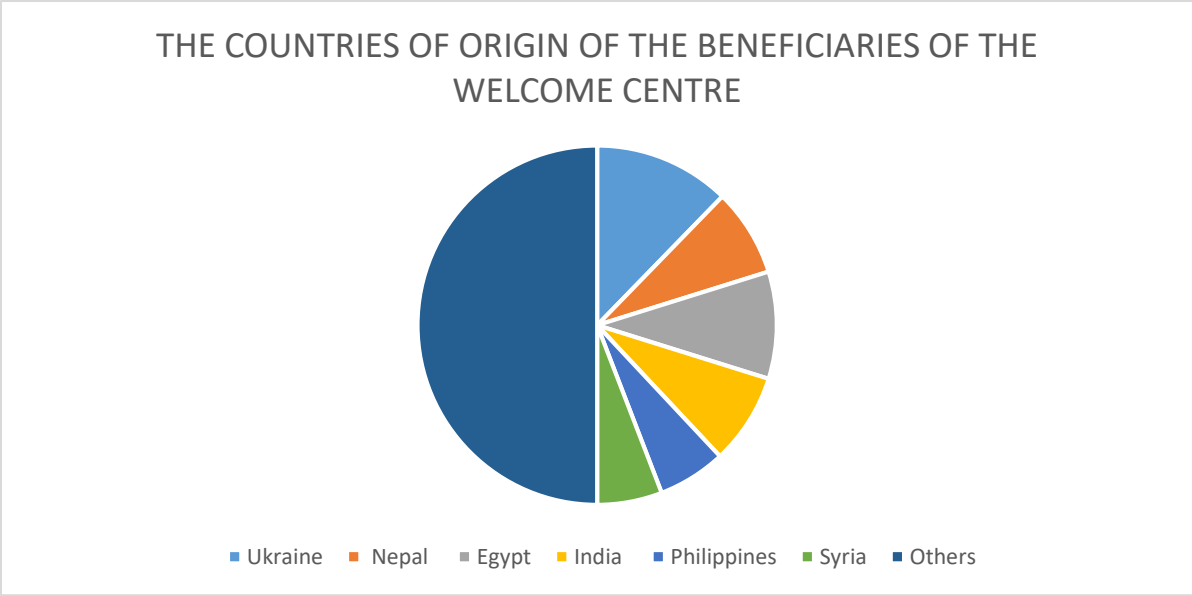


Chart 14: The countries of origin of the beneficiaries of the Welcome Centre

With regard to the legal status of users, the most represented group are persons with a residence and work permit, of whom 50,80% of the total number of users. The next beneficiaries of international protection were 28,60%, followed by beneficiaries of temporary protection (16,60%), while 4% of beneficiaries did not have a defined legal status. The data indicate a significant representation of labour migrants in the overall structure of beneficiaries, but also the presence of vulnerable groups who are in the process of seeking international protection or temporary accommodation.

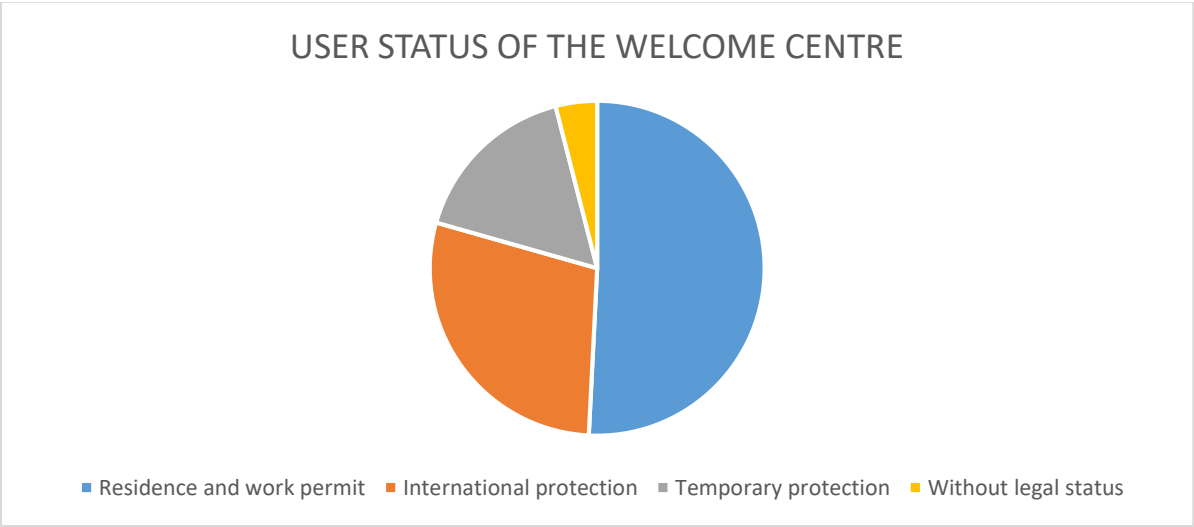


Chart 15: User status of the Welcome Centre

The analysis of the search for user information shows that the largest share of contacts to the Centre was related to the regulation of the employment relationship (24%). The following are requirements to regulate stay and work (19%) and international protection or asylum issues (15%). A significant number of users expressed interest in a free Croatian language course (10%), primary health care (8%) and family reunification (6%). The data indicate that the greatest needs of the Centre's users arise from the issues of labour rights, residence and status provisions, but also from the aspects of social integration and basic support, including language and health assistance.

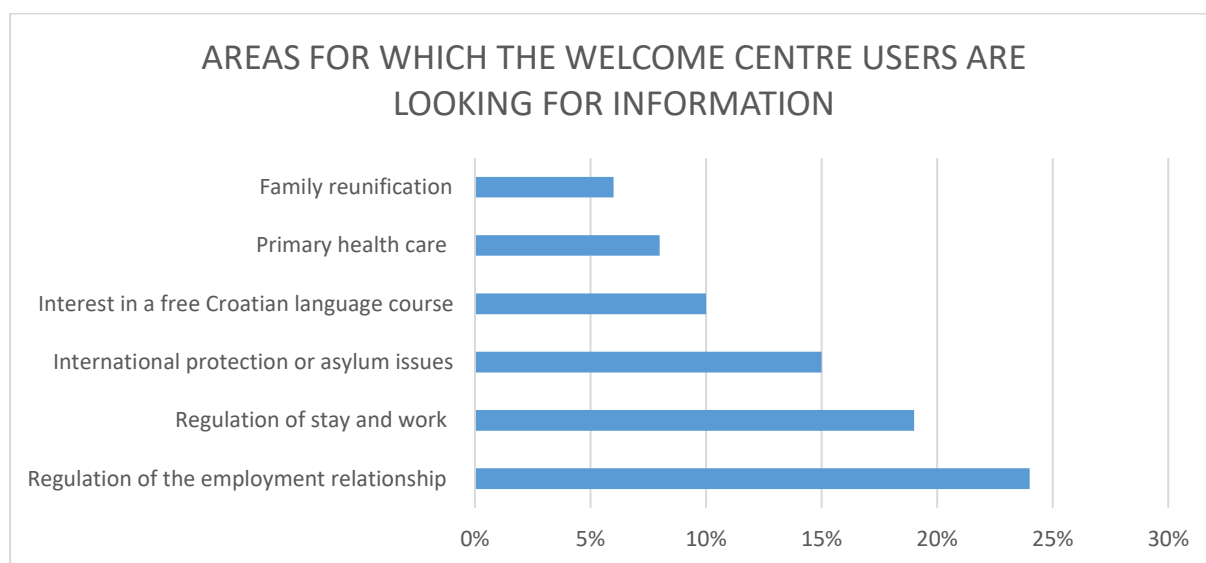


Chart 16: Areas for which the Welcome Centre users are looking for information

7.6.5. Strengthening the competences of city administration officials in the field of integration

On the basis of a cooperation agreement concluded between the City of Zagreb and HPC in 2024 with the aim of strengthening the competences of city administration officials in the field of integration, and in order to improve the provision of services, on 25 March 2025, HPC's lawyer held a workshop *"From fleeing the country of origin to family reunification"*⁶⁰. The workshop presented the basic concepts related to the system of international protection and migration, the procedure for granting

⁶⁰ <https://www.hpc.hr/2025/03/26/održana-radionica-od-bijega-iz-zemlje-podrijetla-do-ponovnog-spajanja-s-obitelji/>

international protection, as well as the rights of applicants for international protection and persons under international protection. The main topic of the workshop was the process of reuniting refugee families, which covered the conditions, the stages of the process, as well as the challenges that arise in this process.

During 2025, the HCK also continued to provide professional support to the employees of the City of Zagreb who work at the Welcome Center (One Stop Shop), which serves as a central information point for foreigners where they can obtain information about the available rights and services provided by the City of Zagreb. During the first six months, the HCK was present three times a week, and once a week during the rest of the year in the centre.

7.6.6. Support to education

In the framework of the Public Call for Financial Aid for the Education of Secondary School Students and Students with International or Temporary Protection, a total of 75 financial aids were awarded in early 2025 in the amount of EUR 2,000.00 to support the education of secondary school pupils and students with International or Temporary Protection.⁶¹

7.6.7. Implementation of the project "ALTERNAL TEACHING - intercultural school lesson"

In 2025, organized by the Ribnjak Cultural Centre, the implementation of the project "ALTErnative Teaching - Intercultural School Class" continued in primary and secondary schools in Zagreb. A total of 63 meetings were held during the year, including 42 lectures in 33 schools (14 primary and 19 secondary schools) with approximately 1,100 participants, and 21 workshops in the Ribnjak Youth Centre with an additional 200 participants. In total, around 1,300 students participated in all activities, having the opportunity to develop intercultural sensitivity, reduce prejudice and contribute to building a fair and inclusive society. This project of the Ribnjak Cultural Centre has been recognized and awarded the prestigious SocialMarie Award

⁶¹ HCK is a member of the Commission for the Award of Educational Support to High School Students and Students with Approved International and Temporary Protection in the City of Zagreb

2025 in Vienna for its contribution to social innovation and inclusion, among more than 400 applications.

7.6.8. Work of the Coordination of the City of Zagreb

Coordination shall ensure the active involvement of relevant stakeholders in the planning, monitoring and implementation of local integration measures, thereby strengthening cooperation and coordination between all actors involved in integration. The members of the coordination are representatives of city administration bodies, public institutions founded by the City of Zagreb, civil society organisations,⁶² religious communities, academia, as well as representatives of migrant groups.

Through the Public Call for Expression of Interest for participation in the work of the Coordination of the City of Zagreb for Integration of Foreigners, new members of the Coordination were selected from among civil society organisations and religious communities and representatives of migrant groups (persons granted international or temporary protection and foreign workers who have a residence and work permit in the Republic of Croatia). The new term of the Coordination consists of a total of 24 members from among city administrative bodies, public institutions owned by the City of Zagreb, civil society organisations, religious communities, academic community and representatives of migrant groups.

7.6.9. Participation in European projects

The City of Zagreb has continuously strengthened its financial, organisational and human capacities for the implementation of integration measures through participation in various European projects. Two EU integration projects were carried out: the "Consolidation, Innovation and Spreading Effective Integration Practices in Europe - CONSOLIDATE" project, implemented in partnership with the EUROCITIES Cities Network, funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Plan

⁶² The CCC is a member of the Coordination of the City of Zagreb for the Integration of Foreigners, within which the Action Plan of the City of Zagreb for the Implementation of the Charter of Integrating Cities for 2023 and 2024 was drafted.

Einstein Academy project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the URBACT IV programme.

As part of the CONSOLIDATE project, an action plan was developed and approved by the European Commission, which includes research and mapping of the needs of migrant communities in urban neighbourhoods, identification and education of contact persons (community connectors), their training for non-formal translation and cultural mediation, development and management of the Welcome Centre's website and social networks, and the production of brochures and other information materials intended for foreign workers and beneficiaries of the Welcome Centre.

Within the project Plan Einstein Academy, in the city district of Novi Zagreb, a local URBACT group (ULG) was established in the Travno Cultural Center, in cooperation with Borders:None, Are You Syrious? and the Zagreb City Libraries, with the aim of involving the local population and people with a migrant background and decentralizing integration activities, including the establishment of the Welcome Center info desk. As the first joint activity, an intercultural music workshop Choir To Go was held, at the Cultural Centre Travno, on 22 November 2025, which encouraged intergenerational connection through music of different cultures. The project is also in the process of developing an investment plan for the further implementation of decentralised integration activities.

The study entitled 'Mapping the Needs of Third-Country Nationals⁶³ in Zagreb', carried out as part of the UNITES (UrbaN InTEgration Strategies through co-design) project, was published with the aim of identifying the needs of foreign nationals, including applicants for international protection, persons granted international or temporary protection and foreign workers with a residence and work permit. The research was conducted through a participatory approach with the participation of representatives of the target group, city administration and civil society organisations active in the field of integration.

The City of Zagreb hosted the Moving Cities Hub "Decentralisation of local integration activities", held on 24 and 25 June 2025 in cooperation with the European Moving Cities Initiative. The event was organized with the aim of exchanging experiences and good practices in the field of decentralization of integration policies, and during the

⁶³ <https://www.zagreb.hr/UserDocsImages/ljudska%20prava/Studija%20-%20Mapiranje%20potreba%20FINAL.pdf>

meeting further directions of development of decentralised activities of the Welcome Centre were defined.

7.6.10. Commemorative activities

International Migrants Day and World Refugee Day were commemorated with the aim of raising public awareness on the topics of migration, integration and solidarity. On these occasions, rich afternoon and evening programs were organized at the Ribnjak Cultural Centre, which included cultural and artistic activities, workshops, traditional food from different parts of the world, all with the aim of sensitizing the public about different cultures.

7.6.11. Programme of the City of Zagreb for the implementation of the Charter of Integrating Cities for the period from 2026 to 2030

At its 6th session held on 16 December 2025, the City Assembly of the City of Zagreb adopted the Programme of the City of Zagreb for the implementation of the Charter of Integrating Cities for the period from 2026 to 2030,⁶⁴ which aims to develop sustainable integration models through available services and intercultural programmes, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. The programme highlighted three specific objectives: inclusive and transparent governance of the integration policy, strengthening the integration capacities of the City of Zagreb and raising public awareness and developing intercultural programmes. Measures and activities will be implemented as part of the Programme implementation plan under preparation.

7.7. Integration of Croatian diaspora

Since its establishment, the Ministry of Demography and Immigration, in accordance with the Act on Amendments to the Act on the Organisation and Scope of State Administration Bodies, on 17 May 2024, has been actively working on improving all the incentive conditions for the return of emigrants to their homeland.

⁶⁴ <https://www1.zagreb.hr/sluzbeni-glasnik/#/app/akt?id=f608c37c-3585-4a36-b72d-858bcdaa8d98>

The Ministry of Demography and Immigration performs tasks related to the creation of conditions for the return and immigration of members of the Croatian diaspora and their inclusion in economic and social life in the Republic of Croatia.

The Ministry of Demography and Immigration actively participated in the drafting of the Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Foreigners Act, which contains the new purpose of temporary stay 'immigration and return of Croatian emigrants', which apply exclusively to Croatian emigrants, descendants of Croatian emigrants and members of their families, accompanied by a certificate from the Ministry of Demography and Immigration.

The main features of the new purpose of temporary residence for the purpose of 'immigration and return of Croatian emigrants' can be highlighted:

- Croatian emigrants and descendants of Croatian emigrants, as well as their family members, do not have to provide proof of secured means of subsistence or proof of health insurance for themselves and their family members in the process of regulating their stay;
- Temporary stay for the purpose of immigration and return of Croatian emigrants is granted for two years (instead of now 1 year) with the possibility of extension, accompanied by a certificate from the Ministry of Demography and Immigration;
- After three years of approved temporary stay for the purpose of immigration and return of Croatian emigrants, with the certificate of the Ministry of Demography and Immigration, they have the right to permanent residence in the Republic of Croatia;
- Based on the authorised stay in the Republic of Croatia, Croatian emigrants, descendants of Croatian emigrants as well as members of their families have the right to employment and self-employment (opening of companies or crafts) without a residence and work permit, the right to education programs, vocational training, education and study;
- Upon approval of their stay, they can immediately apply for admission to Croatian citizenship.

The area of residence regulation is of utmost importance given the planned activities in attracting members of the Croatian diaspora who do not yet have Croatian citizenship, with the aim of demographic revitalization of Croatia.

With regard to employment and self-employment, it can be noted that the Ministry of Demography and Immigration, in the area of improved incentive conditions for the inclusion in the labour market of Croatian emigrants, descendants of Croatian emigrants as well as members of their families, in cooperation with the Croatian Employment Service, has agreed on activities in the part of improving employment mediation as well as the use of the measure BIRAM HRVATSKU, the purpose of which is, inter alia, to encourage the return of active working population from the countries of the European Economic Area, the Swiss Confederation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, North and South America, Australia and New Zealand.

In addition, the Croatian Employment Service also grants aid for self-employment – Measures and aid for self-employment; green/digital.

These measures are granted to unemployed persons to cover the costs for the establishment and start-up of a business entity in the following organisational forms - craft, company, independent activity and institution.

The agreed cooperation between the Ministry of Demography and the Croatian Employment Service provides personalised access to Croatian emigrants, who are assigned special advisers who also help to integrate into the labour market as quickly as possible.

As a recognizable measure of the Ministry of Demography and Immigration, the implementation of the Croatian Language Learning Programme in the Republic of Croatia can be highlighted, which encourages the strengthening of ties with the emigrant community and the homeland, through the award of scholarships to Croatian emigrants, descendants of Croatian emigrants as well as their family members.

By learning Croatian, scholarship holders acquire extremely important language competences for successful inclusion in social and economic life in the Republic of Croatia, and at the same time get acquainted with Croatian culture and strengthen identity and Croatian unity. This encourages the arrival in Croatia and strengthens the stay in the homeland, especially of young people and families who permanently move to Croatia.

Great interest in awarding scholarships for learning the Croatian language has led to an increase in the number of scholarships from 250 to 500.

For the academic year 2025/2026, 500 scholarships were provided with increased monthly support, and interest, especially among young people from the Croatian diaspora, is continuously growing.⁶⁵ The aim of the Croatian Language Scholarship Programme is to encourage the return of emigrant Croats and their descendants to their homeland and their successful integration, and the course is conducted at faculties in Zagreb, Split, Rijeka, Osijek, Pula and Zadar.

Scholarships of the Croatian Language Course in the Republic of Croatia come from different countries with numerous Croatian diaspora, and most of them come from Argentina, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Peru, the USA, Colombia, Australia, Venezuela, Ecuador.

An important contribution to long-term stay is also the Act on Housing Care in Assisted Areas (Official Gazette No 151/2025),⁶⁶ which introduced special provisions for Croatian emigrants, their descendants and family members. The law provides easier conditions and clear criteria for access to housing stock for people wishing to settle permanently in the Republic of Croatia, which further removes obstacles to return and strengthens the security of long-term stay.

The amendments to the Income Tax Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia No 152/2024)⁶⁷ provide for the exemption from income tax of returnees and descendants of Croatian emigrants for a period of 5 years, irrespective of their Croatian citizenship, including persons whose stay in the Republic of Croatia is regulated on the basis of a certificate from the Ministry of Demography and Immigration for the purpose of 'immigration and return of Croatian emigrants', which further encourages their long-term stay and inclusion in the labour market.

⁶⁵

<https://mdu.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/Ministarstvo%20demografije%20i%20useljenci%20C5%A1tva/Odluka%20o%20odjedeli%20stipendija%20za%20u%C4%8Denje%20hrvatskoga%20jezika%20u%20Republici%20Hrvatskoj%20u%20akademskoj%20godini%202025.-2026.%20s%20kona%C4%8Dnom%20bodovnom%20listom%201.pdf>

⁶⁶ https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/članci/službeni/2025_12_151_2250.html

⁶⁷ https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/članci/službeni/2024_12_152_2505.html

Also, these tax benefits apply to citizens who are descendants of Croatian emigrants from overseas and European countries and thus directly improve the stimulating environment for their arrival in the homeland.

This tax relief is aimed at the return of emigrant Croatian citizens to the Republic of Croatia, which will have a direct impact on:

- creating an enabling environment for the return of Croatian emigrants as well as
- demographic survival and fulfilment of pronatal policy goals, which will contribute to the economic development of Croatia, the sustainability of the pension and health system and the vitality of urban and rural areas of the country.

8. CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

In 2025, there were no activities related to the legal regulation of the acquisition of citizenship or the area of statelessness.

The acquisition of Croatian citizenship is regulated by the Croatian Citizenship Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia 53/91, 28/92, 113/93, 130/11, 110/15, 102/19 and 138/2021).⁶⁸

Regarding the topic of statelessness, the figures in Croatia are small. According to the 2021 census, 558 people declared themselves stateless and a further 173 declared that their nationality was unknown. The decrease in the number of cases at risk can be partly attributed to the continuous work of UNHCR and the implementing partner of UNHCR, CRP Sisak, in the community and providing legal advice to the affected population across the country.

In 2025, two stateless applicants for international protection were registered in the Reception Centres in Zagreb and Kutina. They have enjoyed the same rights as applicants for international protection with citizenship.

⁶⁸ <https://sredisnjikatalogrh.gov.hr/središnji-katalog/pravni-propisi/detalji?query=Zakon%20o%20hrvatskom%20dr%C5%BEavljanstvu&cb=2&page=1&id=2601549>

9. BORDERS, VISA AND SCHENGEN

The border police of the Republic of Croatia monitors and protects 3,318.6 km of the border, of which the external border is 2,304.3 km and the internal border is 1,014.3 km.

Although as of January 1, 2023, border control is no longer carried out at the land border with Slovenia and Hungary, the Republic of Slovenia reintroduced a temporary measure of border control with Croatia and Hungary on October 21, 2023. It extended the measure beyond that date, until 21 June 2026, on the grounds that the increased level of security threats in certain European countries requires its further implementation.

9.1. Strategic and legislative framework

The Croatian Parliament adopted the Act amending the Foreigners Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia No 40/25)⁶⁹, which entered into force on 15 March 2025. This Act adds provisions regulating the processing of personal data stored in ETIAS and EES and provides for a decision to be taken in cases where a third-country national does not fulfil the conditions for the rectification or erasure of personal data stored in ETIAS or EES.

On 10 July 2025, the Minister for the Interior, with the prior consent of the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, adopted the Rules amending the Rules on the treatment of third-country nationals.⁷⁰ The Rules shall lay down the forms relating to data protection for EES and ETIAS, as well as the forms relating to ETIAS in the field of refusal of a travel authorisation and annulment and revocation of a travel authorisation issued by an ETIAS National Unit.

At its meeting of 16 September 2025, the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted a conclusion on the acceptance of the XIX report on the implementation of the Integrated Border Management Strategy of the Republic of Croatia for 2024.⁷¹ The

⁶⁹ https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/članci/službeni/2025_03_40_545.html

⁷⁰ https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/članci/službeni/2025_07_102_1414.html

⁷¹

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fvlada.gov.hr%2FUserDocsImages%2F201>

report was prepared by the Interdepartmental Working Group on Integrated Border Management, which monitors the implementation of the Strategy. All activities in 2024 were implemented in line with the established strategic objectives and actions planned in the Action Plan.

9.2. Deployment, upgrading and management of large-scale border management information systems (EES)

Since 12 October 2025, the gradual implementation of the Entry/Exit System (EES) has started in the Republic of Croatia, in accordance with the decision at the European Union level. Since the beginning of its application, the system has been fully technically established, and its application has started at all international border crossing points, as well as at those border crossing points which, pursuant to the Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, are temporarily designated for international traffic.

Gradual application at the border crossing points of the Republic of Croatia meant that the system in the initial phase worked for two hours in a 12-hour shift, i.e. a total of four hours in a 24-hour period. Each following month, the operating time of the system was gradually increased by an additional two hours, with the aim of achieving full operability in the first part of 2026.⁷²

During the border check, from the start of the EES until the end of 2025, a total of 11,616,505 passengers were recorded, with 556,112 files created and 734,192 files verified.

The National Relief Programme (NRP) was also introduced in the Republic of Croatia, pursuant to Article 8d of Regulation (EU) 2016/399,⁷³ and as of 31 December 2025, a total of 48 applications for access to the NRP were registered.

[6%2FSjednice%2F2025%2FRujan%2F116_sjednica_VRH%2F116%2520-%252012b.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](#)

⁷² <https://mup.gov.hr/vijesti-8/hrvatska-medju-najuspješnijima-u-provođenju-europskog-entry-exit-sustava/295076>

⁷³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/HR/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0399>

The introduction of the EES and the NRP represents an important step in modernising and digitalising border control, while increasing security, efficiency and compliance with European standards.

9.3. Continuation of construction and further equipping of road border crossing points at the external border

In accordance with the highest Schengen technical and security standards, the construction and complete equipping of the border crossing point Gornji Varoš, which is the responsibility of the Stara Gradiška Border Police Station, has been completed. The planned opening of the border crossing in December 2025 was postponed to 2026, because the Bosnian-Herzegovinian side did not provide all the necessary conditions and consents for the opening of the border crossing.

9.4. Cooperation with Member States and neighbouring third countries

In the framework of border management in 2025, activities were also directed towards the following objectives related to a faster and more efficient exchange of information with Member States, as well as neighbouring third countries:

strengthening operational cooperation with EU Member States

strengthening operational cooperation with neighbouring third countries

9.4.1. Strengthening operational cooperation with EU Member States

Cooperation with Member States took place through the Dolga Vas and Mohač Joint Contact Services, through continuous exchange of information and statistical-analytical data. Cooperation with Member States also took place in bilateral meetings at all levels.

9.4.2. Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of the Interior of the Italian Republic and the Republic of Slovenia

The Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia has signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of the Interior, the General Police Directorate of the Republic of Croatia, the Ministry of the Interior of the Italian Republic, the Public Security Service and the Ministry of the Interior, the General Police Directorate of the Republic of Slovenia on the conduct of joint trilateral patrols at the external border of the Republic of Croatia. This Memorandum agreed on the implementation of joint trilateral patrols at the external border of the Republic of Croatia⁷⁴. The Memorandum was signed with the aim of strengthening cross-border cooperation, combating irregular migration and crime more effectively and raising the level of security at the common external border of the European Union.

The Croatian side has provided the necessary technical and logistical support, including vehicles, equipment and accommodation for visiting police officers. The pilot project was launched for a period of three months, and at the initiative of all parties involved it was extended until 12 December 2025, when it was temporarily suspended due to the obligations of the Italian party regarding the insurance of the Winter Olympics.

9.4.3. Strengthening operational cooperation with neighbouring third countries

Cooperation between the border police of the Republic of Croatia and the border police of neighbouring third countries has been ongoing, in accordance with signed agreements at regional and local level, as well as at border crossing points.

Regular real-time exchanges of information with the joint contact points of third countries were carried out through the established joint contact services: Joint contact

⁷⁴ <https://mup.gov.hr/vijesti-8/nova-gorica-ministri-hrvatske-slovenije-i-italije-o-situaciji-na-granicama/294566>

service Bajakovo - Batrovci and Joint contact centre Nova Sela - Bijača, through which requests for checks on persons, documents, residence or residence of persons and vehicles were processed at the request of police officers of the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

10. ILLEGAL MIGRATIONS AND MIGRANT SMUGGLING

According to Frontex⁷⁵ data , in 2025, nearly 178,000 illegal border crossings were detected at the external borders of the EU, 26% less than in the previous year (2024 – 240,205). This is less than half of the total number recorded in 2023 and the lowest level since 2021.

In 2025, the Central Mediterranean route was the most active migration route to the EU, with numbers similar to 2024, i.e. a slight decrease of 1%. Departures from Libya remained a key factor shaping the movement of migrants towards Italy.

On the Eastern Mediterranean route, the number of detected irregular migrants continued its downward trend (a 27% decrease compared to 2024). Within this route, one corridor stood out: crossings from eastern Libya to the island of Crete have more than tripled, showing that pressure can change quickly even when the broader regional picture suggests a reduction.

The route across West Africa recorded the largest drop, by about two-thirds, driven by a sharp drop in departures from Mauritania, Morocco and Senegal.

Along the Western Balkan route, the number of detected cases also dropped significantly (42%) with increased security measures and close cooperation with Frontex, which is present in the region. This includes launching a new Frontex joint operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in November 2025, and strengthening operational support on the ground.

On the Western Mediterranean route, there was an increase (14%), which is mainly associated with a higher number of departures from Algeria.

Looking at the countries of origin of irregular migrants on all routes, most of them are citizens of Bangladesh, Egypt and Afghanistan. Libya remained the main country of departure for almost all major nationalities that recorded an increase.

⁷⁵ <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/frontex-irregular-border-crossings-down-26-in-2025-europe-must-stay-prepared-lyKpVb>

10.1. Illegal border crossings in 2025

In 2025, the number of illegal migrants in Croatia continued to decline. 16,409 cases of illegal border crossings were recorded, 44% less than in 2024, when 29,294 cases of illegal border crossings were registered.⁷⁶

YEAR	THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSINGS
2018.	8,207
2019.	20,278
2020.	29,094
2021.	17,404
2022.	50,624
2023.	69,726
2024.	29,294
2025.	16,409

Table 8: Number of illegal border crossings in 2018-2025

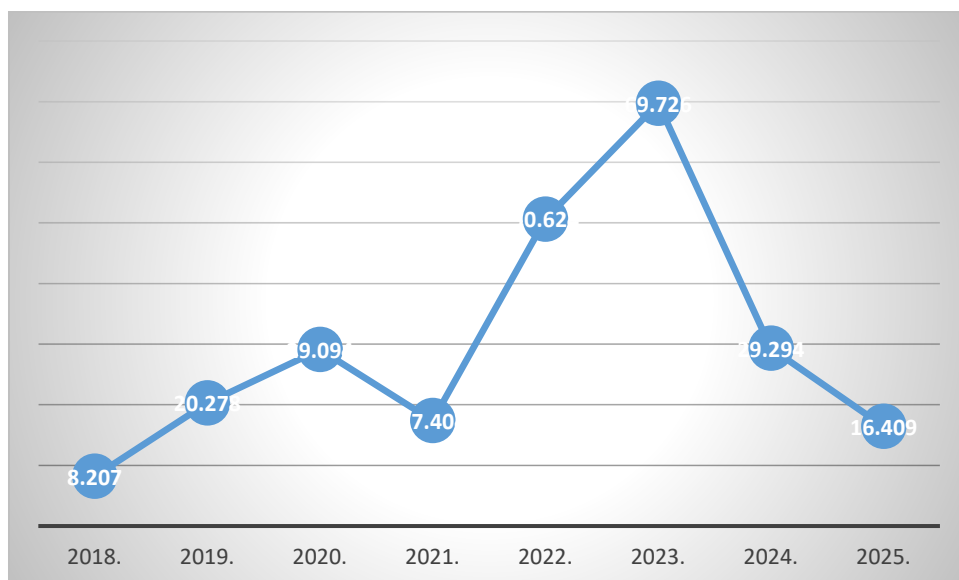


Chart 17: Number of illegal border crossings in 2018-2025

⁷⁶ https://mup.gov.hr/UserDocImages/statistika/2026/5/Statistički_pregled_2025_web.pdf?vel=3446296

Most of them were Turkish citizens, of whom 4,735 (2024 – 8,559), followed by Afghan citizens, of whom 1,753 (2024 – 2,717), and Egyptian citizens, of whom 1,572 (2024 – 827).

Looking at 2024, they remain among the most numerous citizens of Turkey and Afghanistan, while Syrians, who ranked first in 2024, recorded the highest percentage decline of 85.3% (from 8,947 in 2024 to 1,311 in 2025).

Egyptian citizens, on the other hand, recorded the largest increase in absolute numbers, i.e. an increase of 90.1%, from 827 in 2024 to 1,572 in 2025, which placed them in third place. This is the largest percentage increase after Palestine (from 190.6%, or from 203 to 590).

In 2025, the trend of increased number of citizens of the Republic of Turkey, the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation legally entering the territory of the Republic of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina continued, abusing the existing visa regime, after which they continued their illegal movement towards the Republic of Croatia.

Citizenship	Number of illegal border crossings		
	I-XII 2024	I-XII 2025	+ - %
Afghanistan	2.717	1.753	-35,5
Bangladesh	767	984	28,3
Egypt	827	1.572	90,1
India	627	246	-60,8
Iraq	901	360	-60,0
Iran	308	178	-42,2
China	891	1.002	12,5
Morocco	807	571	-29,2
Mongolia	216	44	-79,6
Nepal	363	147	-59,5
Pakistan	874	709	-18,9
Palestine	203	590	190,6
Syria	8.947	1.311	-85,3
Somalia	257	47	-81,7
Turkey	8.559	4.735	-44,7
Other	2.030	2.160	6,4
TOTAL	29.294	16.409	-44,0

Table 9: Illegal border crossings 2024-2025 by citizenship

Source: Ministry of the Interior
https://mup.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/statistics/2026/5/Statistical_pregled_2025_web.pdf?vel=3446296

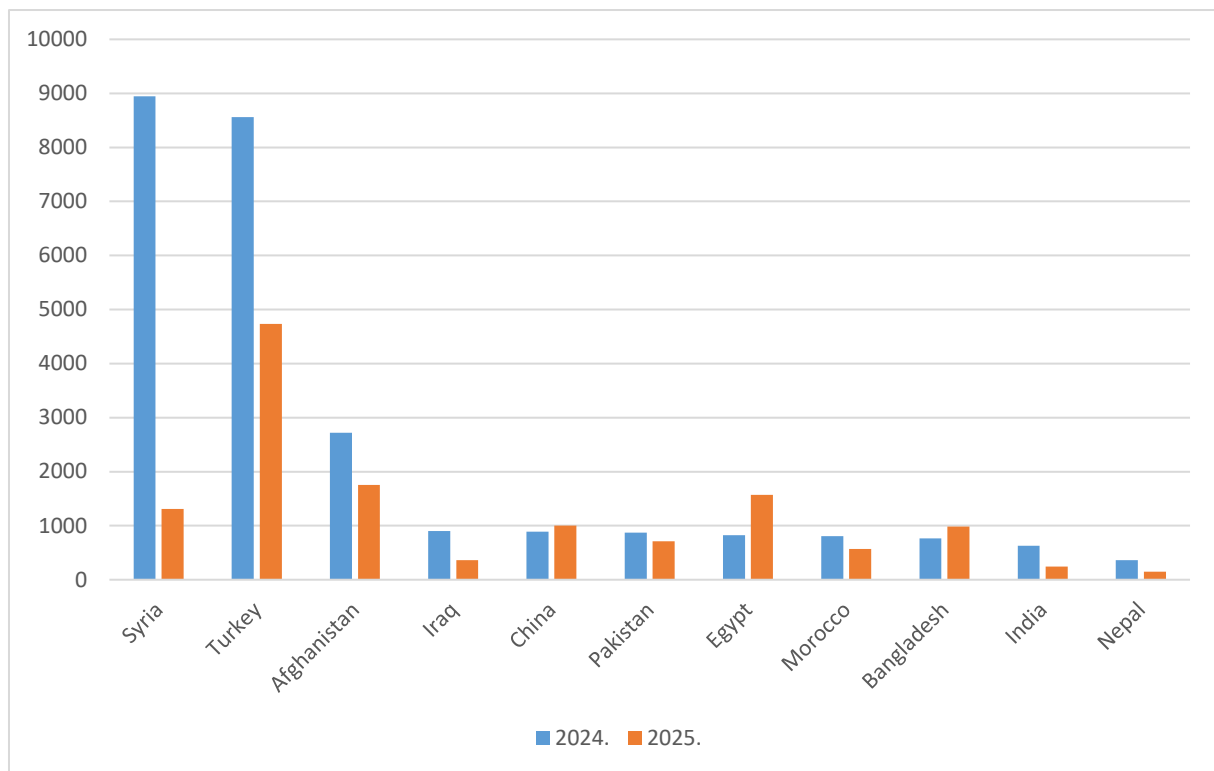


Chart 18: Number of illegal border crossings by nationality 2024-2025

Under the greatest pressure was the Police Administration of Zagreb, and as in 2024 the areas of police administrations of Brod-Posavina, Karlovac and Sisak-Moslavina.

Police Administartive	Illegal border crossings (persons)			Place of run-off			
	2024.	2025.	Trend in %	Illegal crossing of the border line to the point of run-off	Avoidance of border checks towards the point of run-off	Counterfeit and other people's travel documents to the point of arrival	Accepted by the police of another state
Zagreb	6,059	4,129	-31.9	3,982	99	16	32
Split-Dalmatia	2,021	788	-61.0	759	16	13	
Primorje-Gorski kotar	264	432	+63.6	414	6	6	6
Osijek-Baranja	249	85	-65.9	74	7	4	
Istria	172	125	-27,3	125			

Dubrovnik-Neretva	885	998	+12.8	948	19	31	
Karlovac	4,365	2,243	-48.6	2,233	10		
Sisak-Moslavina	3,558	1,475	-58.5	1,464	10	1	
Šibenik-Knin	188	44	-76.6	43	1		
Vukovar-Srijem	1,377	1,069	-22.4	609	360	99	1
Zadar	120	97	-19.2	94	3		
Bjelovar-Bilogora	101	4	-96.0	4			
Brod-Posavina	7,774	3,151	-59.5	3,002	91	58	
Koprivnica-Križevci	37	4	-89.2	4			
Krapina-Zagorje	384	131	-65.9	119	9		3
Lika-Senj	916	1,373	+49.9	1,359	14		
Međimurje	321	95	-70.4	95			
Požega-Slavonia	118	2	-98.3	2			
Varaždin	247	126	-49.0	126			
Virovitica-Podravina	138	38	-72.5	35	3		
TOTAL	29,294	16,409	-44.0	15,491	648	228	42

Table 10: Number of irregular border crossings by police administration in 2024-2025

Source: Ministry of the Interior
https://mup.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/statistics/2026/5/Statistical_pregled_2025_web.pdf?vel=3446296

10.2. Amendments to the Foreigners Act

The Act amending the Foreigners Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia No 40/25)⁷⁷, which entered into force on 15 March 2025, provides for greater links between state bodies and institutions (police administration/posts, tax administration, pension insurance) in order to facilitate checks and the protection of workers and their rights.

⁷⁷ https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/članci/sluzbeni/2025_03_40_545.html

10.3. Implementation of an Independent Monitoring Mechanism for the Protection of Fundamental Rights

In 2025, the Independent Monitoring Mechanism for the Protection of Fundamental Rights (IMM), which has been implemented since 2022, continued until 30 June 2026 on the basis of the Third Appendix to the Agreement on Direct Funding of 13 December 2024 between the Ministry of the Interior and the Directorate for European Affairs, International Relations and European Union Funds.

In 2025, the IMM carried out 53 surveillance missions and 204 surveillance operations, including 49 green border controls and 52 interviews with migrants across Croatia. Monitoring was mostly unannounced in 2025, with only exceptional pre-announcements when operationally necessary.⁷⁸

On 14 January 2025 The Coordination Board of the Independent Monitoring Mechanism provided the Advisory Board of the IMM with an English translation of the Semi-Annual Report of the IMM (July 2024, edited version December 2024), published on the same day on the IMM website. On 30 January 2025, the Coordination Board provided the Advisory Board with an update of the implemented and ongoing activities aimed at improving the normative, methodological and operational framework of the IMM, which addresses many issues later contained in the recommendations of the Advisory Board.

On 25 February 2025, a meeting of the Advisory Board and Coordination Board of the IMM was held in Zagreb, Croatia, where, under the chairmanship of the Frontex Fundamental Rights Office, which is a member of the Advisory Board, the 2024 IMM Report, the draft Recommendations of the Advisory Board of the IMM on the 2024 IMM Report and the Addendum to the Coordination Board were jointly considered.

On 27 March 2025, the Advisory Board prepared the Recommendations of the Advisory Board on the biannual report of the Independent Monitoring Mechanism

⁷⁸ <https://www.nmn.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/IMM%202025%20Annual%20Report.pdf?vel=9510244>

(IMM) of the Republic of Croatia (November 2022) June 2023 December 2023 July 2024).⁷⁹

On 31 March 2025 The Coordination Board of the IMM received the final Recommendations of the Advisory Board of the IMM on the 2024 IMM Report and prepared and published a Reflection on the Recommendations of the Advisory Board of the IMM in 2025.⁸⁰

⁷⁹

https://www.nmn.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/prijevod_PREPORUKE%20SAVJETODAVNOG%20ODBORA_hrv.pdf?vel=179067

⁸⁰

https://www.nmn.hr/UserDocsImages/dokumenti/19.04.%20final%20prijevod_OSVRT%20NA%20PREPORUKE%20SAVJETODAVNOG%20ODBORA_hrv.pdf?vel=347050

11. ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND DISCRIMINATION

11.1. Implementation of strategic documents

In 2025, Croatia continued to ensure equal rights and services for victims of trafficking from third countries, including access to safe return mechanisms. This stems from the continued implementation of the National Referral System.

In 2025, Croatia implemented the Action Plan for Combating Discrimination for 2025⁸¹ and the Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights for 2025,⁸² both adopted under the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Combating Discrimination for the period up to 2027.⁸³

The Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities coordinated the preparation of these action plans and related implementation reports, contributing to the monitoring and reporting of measures aimed at preventing discrimination and promoting equality.

The implementation of measures to prevent discrimination and promote equality continued, including the above-mentioned Anti-Discrimination Action Plan and the Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights for 2025. These measures cover various forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on race, ethnic origin and nationality.

In July 2025, the 2024 Report on the implementation of the National Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and the Elimination of Discrimination for the Period up to 2027 was published⁸⁴.

By decision adopted on 14 October 2025, a Working Group was established to draft the Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights 2026. 2027 and the

⁸¹

<https://ljudskaprava.gov.hr/UserDocImages//dokumenti//Akcijski%20plan%20suzbijanja%20diskriminacija%20za%202025.%20godinu.pdf>

⁸²

<https://ljudskaprava.gov.hr/UserDocImages//dokumenti//Akcijski%20plan%20za%C5%A1tite%20i%20promicanja%20ljudskih%20prava%20za%202025.%20godinu.pdf>

⁸³ <https://ljudskaprava.gov.hr/nacionalni-plan-zaštite-i-promicanja-ljudskih-prava-i-suzbijanja-diskriminacije-za-razdoblje-do-2027-godine/989>

⁸⁴

<https://pravamanjina.gov.hr/UserDocImages/dokumenti/Izvj%C5%A1C4%87e%20o%20provedbi%20NAP-a%20za%202024.pdf?vel=1889749>

draft Action Plan against Discrimination 2026 - 2027 (Class: 004-01/25-02/3; REFERENCE: 50450-01/18-25-46, of 14 October 2025). Pursuant to point V. of the Decision, at its first meeting on 17 October 2025, the Working Party adopted the Rules of Procedure of the Working Party on the Draft Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights 2026 - 2027 and the draft Action Plan against Discrimination 2026 - 2027.⁸⁵

11.2. Amendments to the Criminal Code

At its session on 24 October 2025, the Croatian Parliament adopted the Act amending the Criminal Code (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia No 136/2025).⁸⁶ This Act amends Article 106 of the Criminal Code, which provides for the offence of trafficking in human beings, to expand forms of exploitation (including surrogacy) and to introduce further aggravating circumstances and qualified offences. These amendments aim to strengthen the protection of victims and ensure compliance with EU legislation.

Offence of trafficking in human beings, as referred to in Article 106 of the Criminal Code is supplemented by a new purpose of exploitation – the exploitation of surrogacy (Article 106(1) and (2) of the Criminal Code).

In paragraph 3 of Article 106. Additional aggravating circumstances relating to:
the commission of a criminal offence through the use of serious violence,
serious bodily injury to the victim;

where the use of information and communication technologies has led to the dissemination of images or videos or similar material of a sexual nature involving the victim,

the commission of a criminal offence by a responsible person in the exercise of public authority.

⁸⁵ <https://ljudskaprava.gov.hr/UserDocsImages//RS%20za%20izradu%20NPUR%202026%20-%202027//Poslovnika%20o%20radu.pdf>

⁸⁶ https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2025_11_136_2018.html

11.3. Strengthening the National Referral System

Croatia continued to strengthen the National Referral System through the training of police officers, judicial officials, border police, inspectors and health professionals, as well as through the development of a new training curriculum.

Based on the obligations of the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, the Police and Judicial Academy conducts annual training of police officers and judicial officials (judges and public prosecutors). The lecturers are prominent experts from the police, the judiciary and other competent institutions (representatives of the teams for the identification and assistance of victims of trafficking in human beings). In 2025, 12 police officers (criminal police) and 12 judicial officials were trained to conduct knowledge at operational level, develop a network of coaches and strengthen sustainable training capacities.⁸⁷

The Border Police Directorate conducted seven specialised trainings for border guards, with a total of 46 trained officers. The training was carried out in accordance with the National Police Education Plan and the Action Plan based on the Schengen evaluation, with a focus on the identification of victims, the recognition of forms of exploitation, procedures at border crossing points and the application of the relevant legal framework. At the same time, a new curriculum on trafficking in human beings was developed to establish a network of coaches and strengthen sustainable training capacities. In 2025, four educations/trainings were held for 80 labour inspectors (labour relations inspectors and occupational safety inspectors) and for medical staff. Education/training was organized in Zagreb (2), Osijek (1) and Split (1) in cooperation with the Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities, the Ministry of the Interior, the State Inspectorate and the Ministry of Health.

In order to combat labour exploitation, the victim of which may also be third-country nationals, the Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities, in cooperation with the State Inspectorate, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Health, organised four regional workshops on combating trafficking in human

⁸⁷ <https://policijska-akademija.gov.hr/vijesti/radionica-suzbijanje-trgovanja-ljudima-5513/5513>

beings, with a special emphasis on the identification of early indicators of trafficking in human beings. The workshops targeted labour inspectors, market inspectors and health professionals. A total of 80 participants attended four workshops.

In 2025, representatives of the State Attorney's Office participated in the following educational programmes related to the topic of trafficking in human beings: Workshop on "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings" organized by the Judicial Academy in cooperation with the Police Academy,⁸⁸ on 27-28 November 2025 in Zagreb, participated as lecturers and participants; The workshop "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings" organized by the Judicial Academy, on 24 October 2025, in the Regional Centre Split, participated as lecturers and participants; Workshop "Promoting the fundamental rights of victims in the case law of Croatian courts and the European Court of Human Rights", 13 February 2025 in Zagreb, 21 February 2025 in Osijek, 5 March 2025 in Rijeka, 17 March 2025 in Split. European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) seminars: "Asset confiscation and confiscation", Brussels, 18-19 March 2025, "Asset confiscation, confiscation and management of proceeds of crime in the EU in practice", Naples, 20-21 November 2025.

11.4. International cooperation

The National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and officials of the Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities participated in the meetings of the Network of National Coordinators and equivalent mechanisms. The National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings also participated in the work of the Network of National Coordinators for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of South East Europe, through which National Coordinators exchange experiences and good practices, both with the Member States of the European Union and with third countries involved in the activities of the Network.

In 2025, the Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities, in cooperation with UNODC, organized an international conference on the fight against trafficking in human beings, which brought together representatives of EU Member States,

⁸⁸ <https://www.pak.hr/radionica-na-temu-suzbijanja-trgovanja-ljudima-održana-u-policijskoj-akademiji/>

members of the network of National Coordinators of South East Europe and representatives of non-governmental sectors.⁸⁹ The conference was held in Dubrovnik on 26 and 27 March 2025.

11.5. Victims of trafficking in human beings as applicants for international protection

A victim of trafficking in human beings who is an applicant for international protection shall be placed in a reception centre for applicants for international protection in Zagreb or Kutina following a registration procedure at a police administration or police station. Upon arrival at the reception centre, the victim receives full medical care. Medical workers may also discover that the applicant is a victim of trafficking in human beings. He or she undergoes preliminary medical examinations and receives professional psychosocial support if he or she wants and needs such support. If necessary, an examination with a psychiatrist specialist is also organized. During their stay, victims can participate in various workshops and classes of learning Croatian language and culture organized by the officials of the Croatian Red Cross employed at the Reception Centre. They can also participate in various activities aimed at full integration into the local community. They receive full support from humanitarian organisations and associations dealing with the protection of victims of trafficking in human beings.

In addition to identification by the police or medical workers, information on a victim of trafficking in human beings is collected during the lodging of an application for international protection, when the applicant has the opportunity to talk in a safe environment.

⁸⁹ <https://ljudskaprava.gov.hr/vijesti/medjunarodna-konferencija-u-dubrovniku-regionalna-suradnja-i-suvremena-tehnologija-u-fokusu-borbe-protiv-trgovanja-ljudima/1266>

12. RETURN AND READMISSION

12.1. Improving the legal framework

The Act amending the Foreigners Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia No 40/25), which entered into force on 15 March 2025, introduced provisions further clarifying when the conditions for the restriction of movement for the purpose of carrying out forcible removal are met. These provisions stipulate that activities for the purpose of forcible removal are ongoing when actions are taken to identify third-country nationals, obtain travel documents and travel documents (visas, medical documentation, travel ticket), organise transport and other actions taken for the purpose of forcible removal. It is clarified that forcible removal activities are carried out with due diligence when such actions are taken without undue delay.

The Amendments to the Act also stipulate that the return decision must specify the country of return.

The implementation of the *principle of non-refoulement* has been improved by providing that an appeal against a return order has suspensive effect where the enforcement of such an order could undermine *the principle of non-refoulement*.

12.2. Participation in the EU Reintegration Programme (EURP)

In 2025, Croatia continued its participation in the European Union Reintegration Programme (EURP), through which 55% more persons were returned in 2025 than a year earlier (622 persons were returned in 2025 and 402 persons in 2024). The most common countries of return are Turkey, Nepal, India, Albania, Uzbekistan and Egypt.

This program provides advice on the possibility of return, organisation of the return itself and obtaining and using reintegration assistance as well as immediate assistance with return (post-arrival and post-return assistance). Frontex return experts deployed in Croatia assist the Croatian authorities in conducting consultations and organising returns. Consultations are carried out mainly in reception centres for foreigners (Ježevo Reception Centre for Foreigners, Trilj Transit Reception Centre for Foreigners,

Tovarnik Transit Reception Centre for Foreigners) and in reception centres for applicants for international protection in Zagreb and Kutina⁹⁰. If necessary, counselling is also carried out in other places, such as police administrations or stations, hospitals or other health institutions, homes for unaccompanied children.

To strengthen the capacity of Croatian experts in return counselling, Frontex conducted training for 14 police officers on 5-9 May 2025.

12.3. Readmission

Cooperation between the competent authorities of the Republic of Croatia and the countries of transit and origin, in order to establish identity and obtain travel documents or passports necessary for return, is a very important precondition for the effective return of third-country nationals staying illegally in the Republic of Croatia.

The Republic of Croatia has the most intensive cooperation in the field of return with neighbouring third countries, with which it also has an external land border, the Republic of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. Returns to these countries shall be carried out on the basis of bilateral readmission agreements or readmission agreements concluded at the level of the European Union.

Under the readmission agreements, returns to neighbouring EU countries, Slovenia and Hungary, are also being implemented.

In 2025, 4,723 foreigners were forcibly removed from the Republic of Croatia, of which 2,516 were returned on the basis of readmission agreements.

In 2025, 2,369 persons were returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina under the readmission agreement (2024 – 2,801 persons) and 5 persons were accepted from Bosnia and Herzegovina (2024 – 2 persons).

⁹⁰ In 2025, 130 applicants for international protection placed in reception centres in Zagreb and Kutina voluntarily returned to their countries of origin through this programme, mostly citizens of Turkey (72%) and Syria (17%). In the vast majority, these applicants for international protection were returned to Croatia from the member states of the European Economic Area, in accordance with the Dublin procedure (86%).

The Republic of Croatia applies the EU agreement with the Republic of Serbia, and 108 persons were returned to the Republic of Serbia in 2025 (2024 – 231 persons), while no persons were admitted (2024 – 2 persons).

In accordance with the Readmission Agreement, 2 persons were returned to the Republic of Slovenia in 2025 (2024 – 3 persons) and 19 persons were accepted (2024 – 38 persons).

33 persons were returned to Montenegro under the readmission agreement (2024 - 8 persons) while there were no accepted persons, as in 2024.

Under the Treaty on the Reception of Persons at the Common State Border with Hungary, 31 persons were admitted (2024 - 25), no persons were returned to Hungary between 2020 and 2025.

RECEPTION AND RETURN FOR I-XII.2024/2025						
State of Readmission	RECEPTION		+ - %	RETURN		+ - %
	I-XII 2024	I-XII 2025		I-XII 2024	I-XII 2025	
BiH	2	5	150,00%	2.801	2.369	-15,42%
Montenegro	0	0		8	33	312,50%
Hungary	25	31	24,00%	0	0	
Slovenia	38	19	-50,00%	3	2	-33,33%
Serbia	2	0	-100,00%	231	108	-53,25%
Other countries	7	16	128,57%	26	4	-84,62%
TOTAL	74	71	-4,05%	3.069	2.516	-18,02%

Table 11: Reception and return on the basis of readmission agreements towards states

	RECEPTION				RETURN		
STATEMENT	I -XII 2024 .	I - XII 2025	+ - %		I – XII 2024	I - XII 2025	+ - %
Turkey	8	3	-62,50%	Turkey	1130	1102	-2,48%
China	2	2	0,00%	China	145	272	87,59%

Syria	6	6	0,00%	Syria	1016	146	-85,63%
Egypt	2	3	50,00%	Egypt	15	180	1100,00%
Afghanistan	3	1	-66,67%	Afghanistan	241	229	-4,98%
Morocco	2	1	-50,00%	Morocco	32	102	218,75%
Bangladesh	0	1		Bangladesh	94	61	-35,11%
Palestine, occupied territory				Palestine, occup.ter.	20	69	245,00%
Iraq	7	8	14,29%	Iraq	102	49	-51,96%
Nepal	7	27	285,71%	Iran	15	50	233,33%
Other	37	19	-48,65%	Other	259	256	-1,16%
TOTAL	74	71	-4,05%		3.069	2.516	-18,02%

Table 12: Reception and return on the basis of readmission agreements according to nationality

12.4. Conducting observation of forced removals

In order to ensure that refoulement is carried out with respect for all human rights and in accordance with the common standards and procedures of the Member States in relation to the return of illegally staying third-country persons, the Ministry of the Interior shall ensure that forced removals are observed.

In June 2025, the Ministry of the Interior concluded a contract with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to carry out the observations, and the implementation of the project is funded by the AMIF. The purpose of the project is to ensure the monitoring of forced removals, which entails continuous and independent monitoring of the implementation of forced removals to determine whether forced removals of third-country nationals from the EEA are carried out in a manner that respects their fundamental human rights.

12.5. Implementation of the project "Improving business processes according to the RECAMAS model"

In 2025, the Ministry of the Interior, in cooperation with Frontex, implemented the first phase of the project 'Improving business processes according to the RECAMAS model'. With the implementation of the project, the national database was expanded and harmonised according to the Frontex RECAMAS model and new functionalities were enabled that will improve return jobs.

Statistical annex

Statistical indicators of persons granted international protection in the Republic of Croatia until 31 December 2025

TYPE OF PROTECTION	2006	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
ASYLUM	1	3	11	5	9	21	7	15	35	83	184	244	158	36	68	21	50	71	24	1,046
<i>M</i>	0	3	6	4	5	15	4	11	31	50	133	156	91	22	39	11	27	39	17	664
0-13			3		1	3	2		3	7	33	43	31	8	15	8	9	16	10	183
14-17			1	1	1	3				5	4	14	8	1	8			4	2	52
18-34		3	1	3	1	4		8	21	29	81	67	26	10	8	3	8	17	2	292
35-64			1		2	5	2	3	7	9	15	32	26	3	7		10	2	3	127
65>															1					1
<i>F</i>	1	0	5	1	4	6	3	4	4	33	51	88	67	14	29	10	23	32	7	382
0-13			3		3	2	2	1	1	15	22	35	25	5	10	8	8	17	4	161
14-17						1				1	2	14	5		4	1		2		30
18-34	1			1	1	3		3	2	15	17	17	17	5	7	1	7	9	3	109
35-64			2				1		1	2	10	21	19	4	8		8	4		80
65>												1	1							2
Subsidiary protection	0	3	2	9	4	14	18	9	7	17	27	21	1	6	0	0	2	9	1	150
<i>M</i>	0	3	2	6	3	8	10	9	5	11	17	10	1	4	0	0	2	6	1	98
0-13				1		2	3			3	5	4		1				2		21
14-17				2	1	1	1	1		2	3	2	1					1	1	16
18-34		3	2	1	2	2	6	7	3	6	5			2						39
35-64				2		3		1	2		4	4		1			2	3		22
<i>F</i>	0	0	0	3	1	6	8	0	2	6	10	11	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	52
0-13				1		2	3		1	1	2	7		2				1		20
14-17							2				4									6
18-34				2	1	2	2			2	3	2						1		15
35-64						2	1		1	3	1	2						1		11

Source: Ministry of Interior

Statistical indicators of applicants for international protection by nationality and gender for the period 01.01. - 31.12.2025.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	M	F	TOTAL
RUSSIA FEDERATION	1.822	1.405	3.227
TURKEY	1.742	855	2.597
AFGHANISTAN	1.149	216	1.365
EGYPT	1.353	11	1.364
SYRIA	975	278	1.253
BANGLADESH	949	5	954
PAKISTAN	664	6	670
PALESTINE	392	135	527
CHINA	266	219	485
MOROCCO	463	10	473
IRAQ	208	74	282
INDIA	212	38	250
NEPAL	135	75	210
GHANA	124	23	147
IRAN	97	21	118
SRI LANKA	59	23	82
SIERRA LEONE	46	32	78
AZERBAIJAN	44	31	75
JORDAN	52	17	69
ALGERIA	50	3	53
LEBANON	32	18	50
NIGERIA	35	12	47
KUWAIT	42	0	42
SUDAN	40	1	41
MONGOLIA	25	15	40
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	21	17	38
CONGO	23	13	36
SOMALIA	19	15	34
GUINEA	17	14	31
TUNISIA	16	8	24
LIBYA	22	0	22

YEMEN	17	3	20
CAMEROON	11	9	20
UKRAINE	15	3	18
ARMENIA	12	6	18
BURUNDI	12	4	16
SENEGAL	12	3	15
CUBA	5	6	11
IVORY COAST	10	0	10
GAMBIA	10	0	10
UZBEKISTAN	9	1	10
SERBIA	4	4	8
UGANDA	3	3	6
ERITREA	4	2	6
TAJKISTAN	2	4	6
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	3	2	5
MALI	4	1	5
KAZAKHSTAN	5	0	5
TANZANIA	3	1	4
TOGO	3	1	4
ETHIOPIA	2	2	4
BELARUS	1	2	3
ALBANIA	3	0	3
SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC	3	0	3
COMOROS	2	1	3
GREAT BRITAIN	3	0	3
KYRGYZSTAN	1	1	2
MADAGASCAR	0	2	2
KENYA	2	0	2
NORTH MACEDONIA	0	2	2
MOLDOVA	2	0	2
LIBERIA	2	0	2
BURKINA FASO	1	1	2
COLOMBIA	2	0	2
MYANMAR	0	1	1

ECUADOR	0	1	1
GEORGIA	1	0	1
SOUTH SUDAN	1	0	1
TURKMENISTAN	1	0	1
GABON	0	1	1
WITHOUT CITIZENSHIP	1	0	1
NORWAY	1	0	1
KOSOVO	1	0	1
MONTENEGRO	1	0	1
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	0	1	1
NIGER	0	1	1
TOTAL	11,269	3,659	14,928

Source: Ministry of Interior

Statistics on applicants for international protection by age and gender up to 31/12/2025																		
Gender/Years	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL
M	21	38	194	69	54	10	5	163	251	59	65	169	174	337	1.458	1.914	1.202	6.183
0-13 Unaccompanied	3	0	3	0	0	0	2	15	23	11	3	21	28	12	100	133	41	395
14-15 Unaccompanied	4	6	18	11	8	0	1	47	62	13	12	30	40	74	273	295	178	1072
16-17 Unaccompanied	14	32	173	58	46	10	2	101	166	35	50	118	106	251	1.085	1.486	983	4.716
F	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	1	10	5	5	17	21	99	58	66	27	314
0-13 Unaccompanied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	1	7	6	17	12	13	4	67
14-15 Unaccompanied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	5	24	8	11	3	58
16-17 Unaccompanied	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	5	3	2	6	10	58	38	42	20	189
TOTAL	21	38	197	70	55	10	5	164	261	64	70	186	195	436	1.516	1.980	1.229	6.497

Source: Ministry of Interior

Incoming transfers carried out from the following Member States:

NATIONALITY	NO. OF PERSONS
AUSTRIA	149
BELGIUM	49
BULGARIA	1
CZECH REPUBLIC	5
DENMARK	4
FINLAND	8
FRANCE	178
GREECE	
ICELAND	6
ITALY	1
LIECHTENSTEIN	
LITHUANIA	1
LUXEMBOURG	4
HUNGARY	22
GERMANY	572
NETHERLANDS	123
NORWAY	18
POLAND	3
SLOVAKIA	1
SLOVENIA	29
SWEDEN	18
SWITZERLAND	172
TOTAL	1364

Number of outgoing transfers (from HR)	
NATIONALITY	NO. OF PERSONS
AUSTRIA	1
BULGARIA	1
BELGIUM	
CZECH REPUBLIC	
DENMARK	
FINLAND	1
FRANCE	2
ICELAND	
ITALY	
LITHUANIA	
LUXEMBOURG	
HUNGARY	
MALTA	1
GERMANY	8
NETHERLANDS	
PORTUGAL	2
SLOVENIA	2
SPAIN	4
SWEDEN	1
SWITZERLAND	5
TOTAL	28

Source: Ministry of Interior

Citizenship	Number of illegal border crossings		
	I-XII 2024	I-XII 2025	+ - %
Afghanistan	2.717	1.753	-35,5
Bangladesh	767	984	28,3
Egypt	827	1.572	90,1
India	627	246	-60,8
Iraq	901	360	-60,0
Iran	308	178	-42,2
China	891	1.002	12,5
Morocco	807	571	-29,2
Mongolia	216	44	-79,6
Nepal	363	147	-59,5
Pakistan	874	709	-18,9
Palestine	203	590	190,6
Syria	8.947	1.311	-85,3
Somalia	257	47	-81,7
Turkey	8.559	4.735	-44,7
Other	2.030	2.160	6,4
TOTAL	29.294	16.409	-44,0

Police Administrative	Illegal border crossings (persons)			Place of run-off			
	2024.	2025.	Trend in %	Illegal crossing of the border line to the point of run-off	Avoidance of border checks towards the point of run-off	Counterfeit and other people's travel documents to the point of arrival	Accepted by the police of another state
Zagreb	6,059	4,129	-31.9	3,982	99	16	32
Split-Dalmatia	2,021	788	-61.0	759	16	13	
Primorje-Gorski kotar	264	432	+63.6	414	6	6	6
Osijek-Baranja	249	85	-65.9	74	7	4	
Istria	172	125	-27.3	125			
Dubrovnik-Neretva	885	998	+12.8	948	19	31	
Karlovac	4,365	2,243	-48.6	2,233	10		
Sisak-Moslavina	3,558	1,475	-58.5	1,464	10	1	
Šibenik-Knin	188	44	-76.6	43	1		
Vukovar-Srijem	1,377	1,069	-22.4	609	360	99	1
Zadar	120	97	-19.2	94	3		
Bjelovar-Bilogora	101	4	-96.0	4			
Brod-Posavina	7,774	3,151	-59.5	3,002	91	58	
Koprivnica-Križevci	37	4	-89.2	4			
Krapina-Zagorje	384	131	-65.9	119	9		3
Lika-Senj	916	1,373	+49.9	1,359	14		
Međimurje	321	95	-70.4	95			
Požega-Slavonia	118	2	-98.3	2			
Varaždin	247	126	-49.0	126			
Virovitica-Podravina	138	38	-72.5	35	3		
TOTAL	29,294	16,409	-44.0	15,491	648	228	42

Source: Ministry of Interior

NUMBER OF WORK PERMITS ISSUED BY ACTIVITY

ACTIVITIES	2025-31-12
HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM	52,858
CONSTRUCTION	52,776
INDUSTRY	24,479
TRAFFIC AND CONNECTIONS	13,039
TRADE	8,601
TOP 5 ACTIVITIES	151,753
TOTAL	170,723

Source: Ministry of Interior

NUMBER OF WORK PERMITS ISSUED BY CITIZENSHIP

CITIZENSHIP	2025-31-12
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	32,225
NEPAL	31,708
SERBIA	24,278
PHILIPPINES	17,629
INDIA	15,400
NORTH MACEDONIA	11,856
KOSOVO	6,355
UZBEKISTAN	5,521
EGYPT	5,504
BANGLADESH	3,404
TOTAL TOP 10 CITIZENSHIPS	153,880
TOTAL	170,723

Source: Ministry of Interior

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON RESIDENCE AND WORK PERMITS ISSUED IN 2025 ACCORDING TO
POLICE ADMINISTRATION**

POLICE ADMINISTRATION	NEW EMPLOYMENT	EXTENSION	SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT	TOTAL
Bjelovar.Bilogora	674	626	73	1,373
Brod-Posavina	2,124	2,195	4	4,323
Dubrovnik- Neretva	7,055	3,758	1.740	12,553
Istria	12,839	7,427	4,190	24,456
Karlovac	1,479	1,559	46	3,084
Koprivnica- Križevci	931	1,369	37	2,337
Krapina-zagorje	1,850	1,977	28	3,855
Lika-Senj	1,708	1,036	1,130	3,874
Međimurje	1,585	2,140	45	3,770
Osijek-Baranja	1,881	1,550	214	3,645
Požega-Slavonia	343	329	14	686
Primorje-Gorski kotar	6,996	5,298	3,127	15,421
Sisak-Moslavina	2,043	1,695	57	3,795
Split-Dalmatia	8,352	5,209	3,887	17,448
Šibenik-Knin	2,567	1,714	1,812	6,093

Varaždin	1,953	4,199	17	6,169
Virovitica- Podravina	518	463	23	1,004
Vukovar-Srijem	1,001	1,295	34	2,330
Zadar	4,747	3,497	3,150	11,394
Zagreb	19,719	22,939	455	43,113
TOTAL	80,365	70,275	20,083	170,723

Source: Ministry of Interior