



# COUNTRY FACTSHEET: CROATIA 2015

## EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK

### 1. Introduction

This EMN Country Factsheet provides a factual overview of the main policy developments in migration and international protection in Croatia during 2015, including latest statistics.

### 2. Common European Asylum System

In 2015, several developments in the asylum system took place in Croatia. The **Act on International and Temporary Protection (Official Gazette No 70/15)** which transposes the EU asylum acquis on international protection and temporary protection entered into force on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015. The act regulates international protection, including asylum and subsidiary protection. Changes introduced through the Act refer to the registration procedure, the access to information and legal counselling, the provision of interpretation as well as provisions concerning reception and detention during the asylum procedure. The time limit for the regular procedure is set at 6 months and the accelerated procedure is 2 months.

The Act has introduced a new category of applicants: those who need reception or procedural guarantees. The identification starts soon after application is made and is ongoing until the decision on the application is taken. This category of applicants cannot be subject to accelerated procedures and procedures on border crossing points. Further provisions refer to definitions of a safe country of origin, safe third country and safe European third country. Through special procedural and reception guarantees, appropriate support shall be provided for applicants in relation to their personal circumstances, amongst other things their age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, serious illness, mental disorder, or as a consequence of torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, for the

purpose of exercising the rights and obligations referred to in this Act.

The procedure of recognising the personal circumstances of applicants shall be conducted continuously by specially trained police officers, employees of the Ministry and other competent bodies, from the moment of the expression of intention to apply for international protection to the of the decision on the application. In addition, the Act led to changes regarding the integration procedure. As of 2015, the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth is responsible to provide refugees and foreigners under subsidiary protection with accommodation.

In terms of **resettlement**, Croatia adopted a Decision on relocation and resettlement of third country nationals and stateless persons in need of international protection (Official Gazette No 78/2015). By this decision Croatia has pledged to accept a total of 550 persons – i.e. 400 persons included in relocation programmes and 150 persons to be resettled in cooperation with UNHCR and IOM in 2016.

In order to enhance cooperation between governmental bodies, the Government has established an **Inter-governmental Working Group on relocation and resettlement of third country nationals and stateless persons in need of international protection**. The main tasks of the working group are: determination of criteria for relocation and resettlement, ensuring free and legal entrance to Croatia and transportation, developing an Operational plan for the acceptance of relocated and resettled persons, coordination, systematic monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Operational plan, cooperation and exchange or information with other authorities and preparation of a proposal for financial assessment.

With regards to developments on the **reception system** for asylum applicants, in September 2015 a

**temporary reception centre** in Opatovac was established. As this temporary centre was not heated, in November 2015 a Winterized Temporary Reception Center in Slavonski Brod was established and Opatovac was closed. A procedure for increasing accommodation capacities in open type centres (in Slavonski Brod and Čepin) is initiated. A new transit reception centre was built in Tovarnik, close to the border with Serbia, and another in Trilj. In order to ensure a first accommodation of entrants via sea, objects for accommodation are ensured in Zadar and Šibenik. The adaptation of similar centres is ongoing in Dubrovnik.

In terms of **support to other Member States**, in December 2015 Croatia deployed its intervention team to Greece on Lesbos until January 2016. The team included six experts who helped with the daily routine as well as introducing valuable procedures for the daily operation of the center.

### 3. Unaccompanied Minors and other Vulnerable Groups

In terms of **reception of UAMs** and other vulnerable groups, the existing reception centre in Ježevo has been extended in order to ensure accommodation of UAMs and other vulnerable persons. The capacity is now 24 persons. This was funded through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) programme.

Legal developments have been introduced through the **Act on International and Temporary protection**. The Act defines a stronger and clearer role of the **social guardian** for unaccompanied minors. The guardian shall be present during the whole procedure. Applications by unaccompanied minors have priority in decision-making. Minors can be detained only in extraordinary circumstances and only if it is possible to place minors separately from adults for the shortest possible duration; the necessity is established through individual assessment. UAMs cannot be subject of an accelerated procedure. However, several exemptions apply here, e.g. if the applicant represents a risk for the national security or public order of the republic of Croatia and where it is possible to apply the concept of a safe country of origin.

## 4. European Policy on Legal migration and Integration

### 4.1. PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

Croatia provides information to third-country nationals through the [website](#) of the Ministry of Interior on the conditions of entry, movement, work and residence.

### 4.2. ECONOMIC MIGRATION

In 2015, there were no legislative changes concerning the Foreigners Act (Official Gazette, No 130/11, 74/13) regarding the conditions for admission of third-country nationals to the labour market (issuing of residence and work permits and work registration certificates).

A new **Act on regulated professions and on recognition of foreign professional qualifications** came into force in 2015. The Act applies to third country citizens who have acquired professional qualifications abroad and who want to perform certain regulated professions in Croatia<sup>1</sup>. It is based on the Directive 2013/55/EU on recognition of foreign qualification.

In 2016 **Amendments to the Foreigners Act are planned** regarding the transposition of the ICT Directive and the Seasonal Workers Directive.

### 4.3. FAMILY REUNIFICATION

In 2015 there were no new measures in the provisions of the Foreigners Act concerning the approval of temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification.

Further **Amendments to the Foreigners Act** regarding the conditions for family reunification of third-country nationals who are family members of Croatian nationals are planned in 2016.

### 4.4. INTEGRATION

A Decision establishing the learning programme on Croatian language, history and culture for refugees and persons under subsidiary protection that entered into force end of 2014. (Official Gazette, N. 154/14) It was the basis for the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport to sign contracts in 2015 with educational institutions for **Croatian lessons for persons under international protection** in 5 Croatian cities (Zagreb, Velika Gorica, Kutina, Poreč, and Pula).

---

<sup>1</sup> For more information see in Croatian: Act on regulated professions and on recognition of foreign professional qualifications (Zakon o reguliranim profesijama i priznavanju inozemnih stručnih kvalifikacija NN 82/15 - 01.08.2015).

The new Act on International and Temporary Protection guarantees **accommodation** for persons granted asylum or subsidiary protection as well as their family members provided that they do not possess adequate financial resources or other assets which would enable them to finance the accommodation costs independently<sup>2</sup>. This document was drafted by the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth as a competent body for the matter.

Further **amendments to the Social Welfare Act** (Official Gazette 157/13, 152/14 and 99/15) were adopted in September 2015. Persons granted with asylum or subsidiary protection, human trafficking victims as well as their family members who are legally staying in Croatia are entitled to rights in the social welfare system.

Regarding anti-discrimination measures, a new **National Anti-Discrimination Plan (NAP)** for the period 2015-2020 (following the NAP 2008-2013) was prepared during 2015 and is to be adopted by the Government in 2016. The new NAP focuses on strategic areas such as work and employment, education, science, sports, social security, health care, public administration, judiciary, access to housing, public information and the media and access to goods and services. It aims to facilitate the integration of foreigners into the Croatian society. Hence, it includes asylum seekers and persons under international protection as one of its target groups

Further a new 'Action Plan on the Removal of obstacles to the exercises of particular rights in the area of integration of foreigners' is in preparation as a follow up of the 2013-2015 action plan. This plan has the strongest focus on the integration of foreigners in Croatia.

## 5. Managing migration and mobility<sup>3</sup>

In May 2015, a **Regulation on the Visa System** has been adopted, which is in accordance with the Council Regulation (EC) No. 539/2011, the Amendment Regulation (EU) No. 509/2014 of the European Parliament and Council and the amendment Council Regulation No. 539/2011.

Croatia is **preparing to become a member of the Schengen area** and a Schengen evaluation took place in June 2016.

---

<sup>2</sup> The accommodation is regulated by the Ordinance on Modalities and Conditions for Obtaining the Right to Accommodation for Beneficiaries of International Protection and Modalities of their Financial Participation in Accommodation Costs (Official Gazette No 03/16).

<sup>3</sup> "Managing migration and mobility" refers to the following themes: visa policy, Schengen governance and border monitoring.

## 5.1. EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF EU MIGRATION POLICY

*No developments were reported under this area in 2015.*

## 6. Irregular Migration and Return

### 6.1. COUNTERING IRREGULAR MIGRATION CHANNELS

In 2015, 220 cases of misuse of travel documents were recorded. In 2015 a **course for border police officers** was held and total of 49 persons were included. Further, the Police Administration Zagrebačka provided **additional education to police officers** by distributing work material concerning fight against people smuggling to all of its organizational units. A total of 1268 police officers were included within this education.

### 6.2. THE FIGHT AGAINST FACILITATION OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION

*No developments were reported under this area in 2015.*

## 7. Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings

In 2015 pursuant to the provisions of the Foreigners Act and the Protocol on procedures during voluntary return of victims of human trafficking, in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth, one minor-victim of human trafficking was returned to the country of origin (Macedonia).

*No further developments were reported under this area in 2015.*

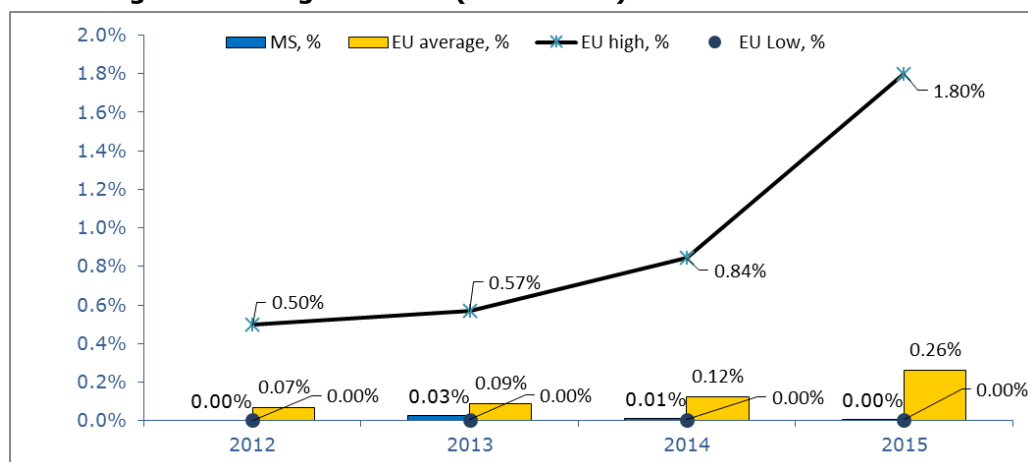
## STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Croatia on aspects of migration and asylum (2012-2015), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as "N/A".

## Statistical Annex: Immigration and Asylum in Croatia (2012-2015)

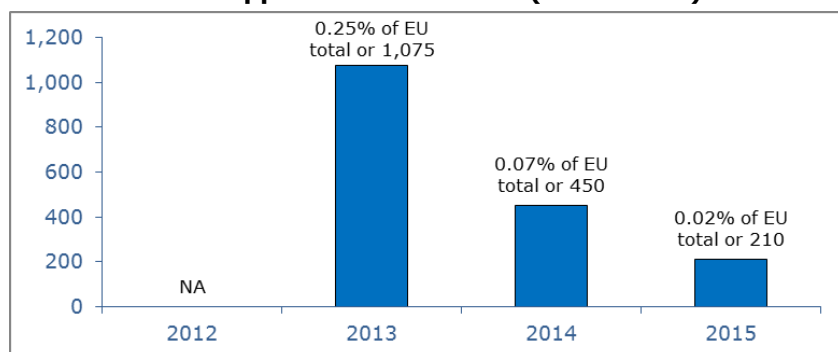
### 1. COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

**Figure 1: Asylum applications as a share of the total population in Croatia, EU average and EU high and low (2012-2015)**



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asyappctza), data extracted 04/07/2016

**Figure 2: Number of asylum applications and as a share of the total number of applications in the EU (2012-2015)**



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asyappctza), data extracted 04/07/2016

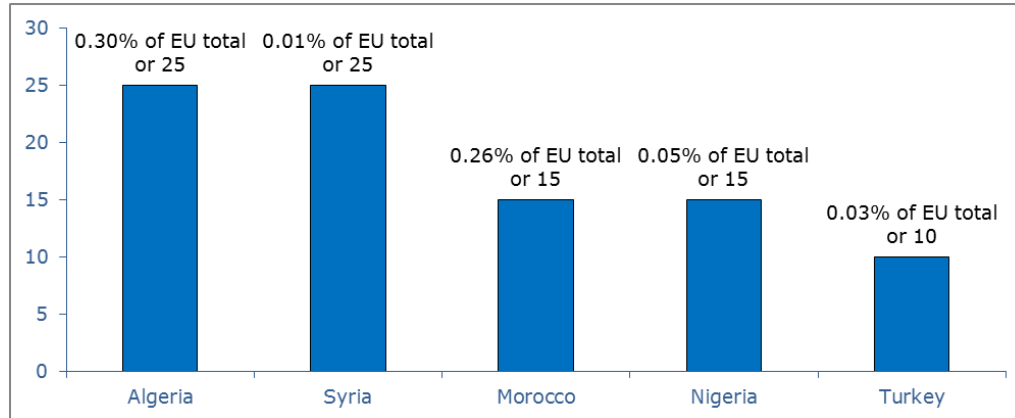
**Table 1: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities (2012-2015)**

2012			2013			2014			2015		
Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total
NA	NA	NA	<b>Syria</b>	195	18%	<b>Algeria</b>	75	17%	<b>Algeria, Syria</b>	25	12%
NA	NA	NA	<b>Afghanistan</b>	185	17%	<b>Syria</b>	65	14%	<b>Morocco, Nigeria</b>	15	7%
NA	NA	NA	<b>Somalia</b>	135	13%	<b>Pakistan</b>	25	6%	<b>Turkey, Kosovo, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iran</b>	10	5%
NA	NA	NA	<b>Algeria</b>	130	12%	<b>Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Nigeria, Bangladesh</b>	20	4%	<b>Bulgaria, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, Cameroon, Tunisia, Gambia</b>	5	2%
NA	NA	NA	<b>Tunisia</b>	70	6%	<b>Afghanistan</b>	15	6%	<b>The,</b>		

2012			2013			2014			2015		
Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total	Nationality	Nr	% of total
									Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Lebanon		

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asyappctza), data extracted 04/07/2016

**Figure 3: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities as a share of EU total per given nationality (2015)**



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asyappctza), data extracted 04/07/2016

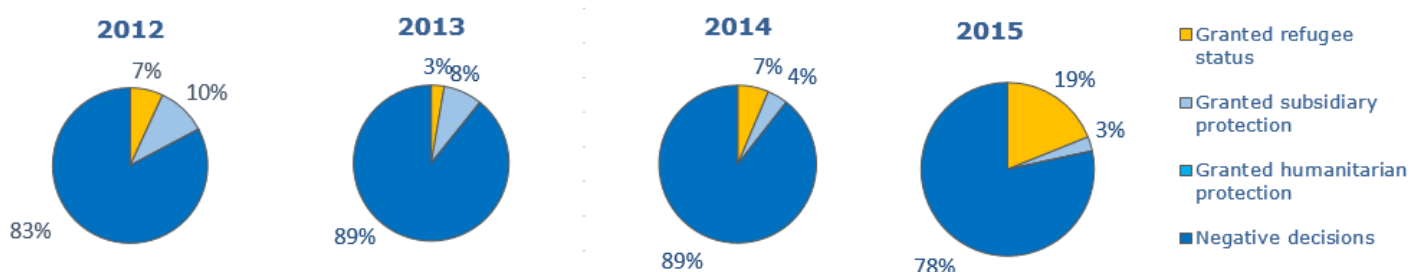
Note: the figure reads as: Croatia received 25 asylum applications from Algeria or 0.30% of all asylum applications launched by Algerians in EU in 2015.

**Table 2: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2012-2015)**

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:		Humanitarian reasons	Negative decisions
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		
<b>2012</b>	140	20	10	15	NA	120
<b>2013</b>	185	25	5	15	NA	165
<b>2014</b>	235	25	15	10	NA	210
<b>2015</b>	185	40	35	5	0	145

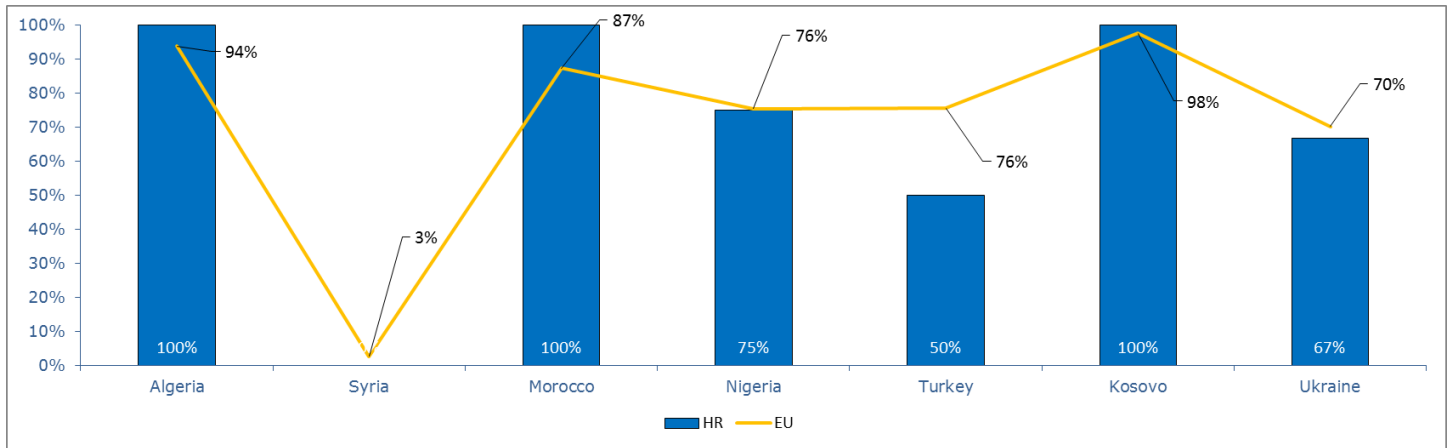
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asydcfst), data extracted 04/07/2016

**Figures 4-7: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2012-2015)**



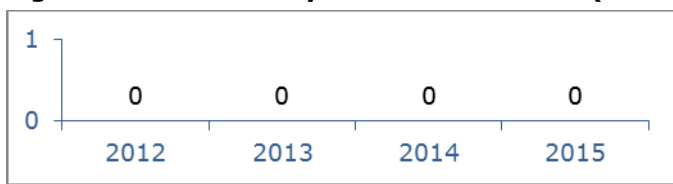
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asydcfst), data extracted 04/07/2015

**Figure 8: Negative decision rate for the top five nationalities of applicants at the first instance in comparison with EU for the same given nationality (2015)**



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asydcfsta), data extracted 04/07/2016

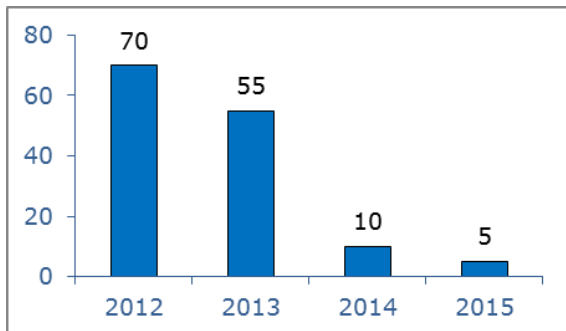
**Figure 9: Third-country nationals resettled (2012-2015)**



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asyresa), data extracted 05/07/2016

## 2. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

**Figure 10: Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum (2012-2015)**



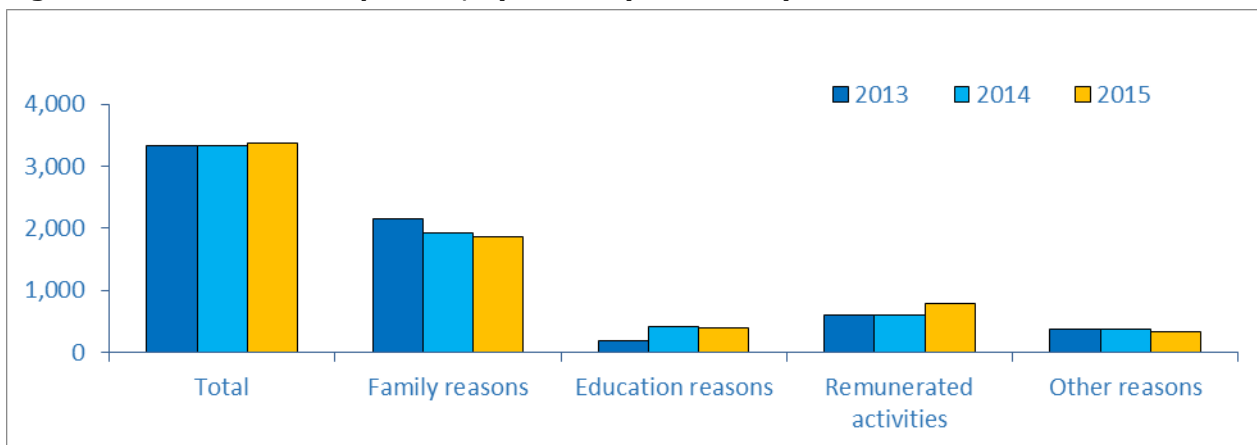
Source: Eurostat Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) [migr\_asyunaa], data extracted 04/07/2016; EMN NCPs

**Table 3: Unaccompanied minors (2012-2015)**

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Unaccompanied minors (total)	NA	NA	NA	5
Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants	70	55	10	5

## 3. EUROPEAN POLICY ON LEGAL MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

**Figure 11: First residence permits, by reason (2013-2015)**



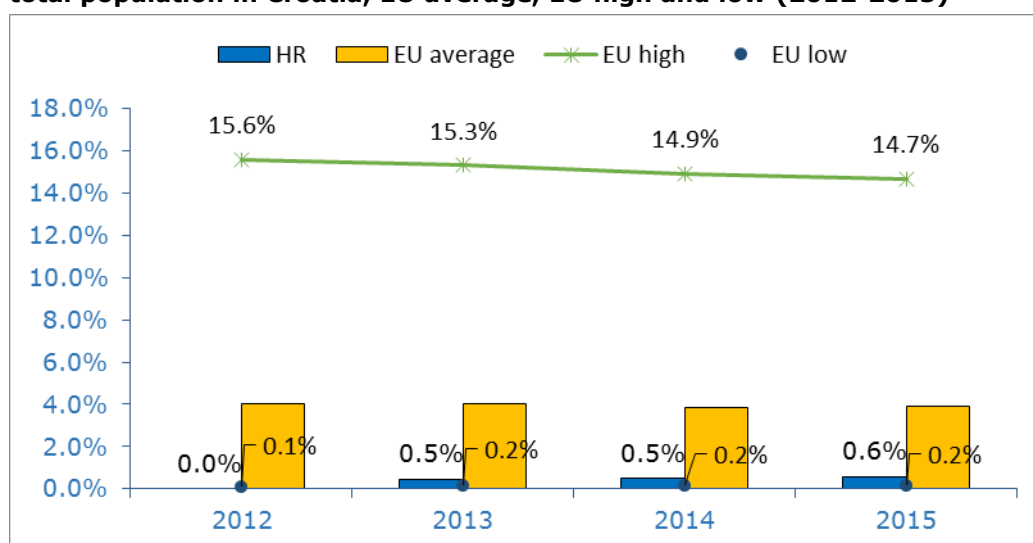
Source: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst), data extracted 04/07/2016

**Table 4: First residence permits: Top five third-country nationalities (2012–2014)**

2012		2013		2014		2015	
Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number
N/A	N/A	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,284	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,002	Bosnia and Herzegovina	866
N/A	N/A	Serbia	430	Serbia	456	Serbia	446
N/A	N/A	FYROM	229	FYROM	261	United States	251
N/A	N/A	United States	204	United States	252	FYROM	234
N/A	N/A	Kosovo	193	Kosovo	195	Russia	219

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_resfirst), data extracted 04/07/2016

**Figure 12: Resident population of third-country nationals as a share of total population in Croatia, EU average, EU high and low (2012-2015)**



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_pop1ctz), data extracted 04/07/2016

#### 4. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

**Table 5: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders (2012- 2015)**

Third country nationals:	2012	2013	2014	2015
Refused entry at external borders	NA	10,015	8,645	9,355
Found to be illegally present	NA	4,150	2,500	3,295
Ordered to leave	NA	4,355	3,120	3,910
Returned following an order to leave	NA	2,530	2,245	1,940

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_eirfs)(migr\_eipre)(migr\_eiord), data extracted 04/07/2016

**Table 6: Third-country nationals returned (2012-2015)**

	Returned as part of forced return measures	Returned voluntarily	Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme
2012	NA	NA	NA
2013	494	850	NA
2014	NA	NA	NA
2015	691	1248	NA

Source: EMN NCPs

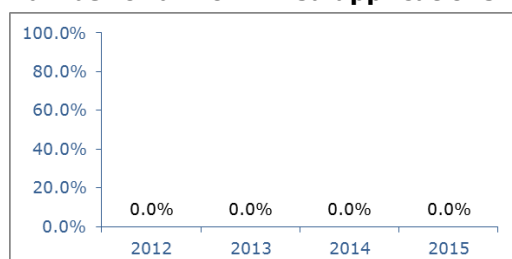
## 5. SECURING EUROPE'S EXTERNAL BORDERS

**Table 7: Number of Schengen visas applications (2012–2015)**

	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Uniform visas (short-stay visas)</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA

Source: DG Migration and Home – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

**Figure 13: Uniform visa applications received in Croatia as a share of the total number of uniform visa applications in all Schengen states consulates (2012-2015)**



Source: DG Migration and Home affairs – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

**Table 8: Top five countries in which the highest number of visa applications for Croatia was lodged (2012-2015)**

2012		2013		2014		2015	
Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

## 6. ASYLUM AND MIGRATION EU FUNDING SOURCES (2007-2013 AND 2014-2020)

**Table 9: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) allocation in euro per area**

Areas	AMIF 2014-2020
<b>Asylum</b>	6,882,991
<b>Legal Migration and Integration</b>	4,283,450
<b>Return</b>	4,000,000
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	1,942,359
<b>Special cases (resettlement/transfer)</b>	NA
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,133,800</b>

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

**Table 10: Internal Security Fund (ISF) allocation in euro per area**

Areas	ISF 2014-2020
<b>ISF Borders</b>	35,609,771
<b>ISF SA Frontex</b>	NA
<b>ISF SA Consular cooperation</b>	NA
<b>ISF Borders Emergency Assistance</b>	NA
<b>ISF Police</b>	19,095,426
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54,705,197</b>

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs



**Table 11: SOLID funds allocation in euro and share of total funds allocated to Croatia (2007-2013)**

<b>SOLID FUNDS</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>European Refugee Fund (ERF)</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	85,717 (0.1%)	<b>85,717</b> <b>(0.01%)</b>
<b>European Return Fund (RF)</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,804,941 (1%)	<b>1,804,941</b> <b>(0.3%)</b>
<b>European Fund for the Integration of TCN (EIF)</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	317,358 (0.2%)	<b>317,358</b> <b>(0.04%)</b>
<b>External Borders Fund (EBF)</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	N/A	<b>N/A</b>

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

## 7. INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT TO DETECT EMPLOYMENT OF IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

**Table 12: Number of Inspections carried out to detect employment of irregular migrants and share of number of inspections in total number of employers, by risk sector**

Risk sector	2014		2015	
	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</b>	NA	NA	1,293	14.2
<b>Mining and quarrying</b>	NA	NA	18	3.79
<b>Manufacturing</b>	NA	NA	2,466	7.35
<b>Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply</b>	NA	NA	109	8.08
<b>Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities</b>	NA	NA	287	22.28
<b>Construction</b>	NA	NA	2,476	7.36
<b>Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles</b>	NA	NA	2,769	2.86
<b>Transportation and storage</b>	NA	NA	459	3.11
<b>Accommodation and food service activities</b>	NA	NA	1,378	5.41
<b>Information and communication</b>	NA	NA	100	1.01
<b>Financial and insurance activities</b>	NA	NA	118	4.92
<b>Real estate activities</b>	NA	NA	35	0.45
<b>Professional, scientific and technical activities</b>	NA	NA	262	0.71
<b>Administrative and support service activities</b>	NA	NA	95	0.89
<b>Public administration and defence; compulsory social security</b>	NA	NA	75	0.66
<b>Education</b>	NA	NA	181	4.28
<b>Human health and social work activities</b>	NA	NA	582	5.77
<b>Arts, entertainment and recreation</b>	NA	NA	229	0.91
<b>Other service activities</b>	NA	NA	4,217	7.44
<b>Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use</b>	NA	NA	6	10.34
<b>Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies</b>	NA	NA	6	11.11

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs

**Table 13: Number of inspections in which irregular migrant workers were detected (I) and number of irregular migrant workers detected (IWD)**

RISK SECTOR	2014		2015	
	I	IWD	I	IWD
<b>Agriculture, Forestry &amp; Fishing</b>	<i>N/I</i>	<i>N/I</i>	14	17
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<i>N/I</i>	<i>N/I</i>	3	4
<b>Construction</b>	<i>N/I</i>	<i>N/I</i>	10	24
<b>Wholesale &amp; Retail trade: repair of motor vehicles &amp; Motorcycles</b>	<i>N/I</i>	<i>N/I</i>	4	9
<b>Accommodation and food service activities</b>	<i>N/I</i>	<i>N/I</i>	5	5

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs