

# CROATIA

## EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

# 2019

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING LATEST STATISTICS



### LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

#### WORK-RELATED MIGRATION

The annual quota for employment of foreigners was established in 2018 and subsequently amended in 2019. Finally, it was set at 70 100 permits: 44 290 for new employment, 15 000 for extension of existing work permits, 250 permits for intra-corporate transferees (ICT), 9 060 for seasonal workers and 1 500 for strategic investment projects.

From April 2019, employers could apply for residence and work permits for third-country nationals via email.

The annual quota for employment of foreigners for 2020 was set at 78 470 permits: 64 604 for new employment, 12 770 for seasonal workers, 96 for ICT permits and 1 000 for strategic investment projects. An additional 25 000 permits were granted for the extension of existing work permits.



### INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

The Ordinance on meeting the material preconditions for reception was amended, stating that an applicant granted absence from the centre has no right to accommodation and food at the Centre during that absence.

### KEY POINTS



In October 2019, a Commission communication informed the European Parliament and the Council that Croatia had taken the measures necessary to meet all relevant parts of the Schengen *acquis*.



Croatia fulfilled its resettlement quota by resettling 98 Syrians from Turkey (Government Decision, 2017) and adopted a new resettlement quota (100 persons).



The annual quota for employment of foreigners was set at 70 100 permits for 2019.

Reconstruction of the reception centre was finalised and accommodation capacity returned to its usual 600 persons.

Ministry of the Interior (MoI) officials participated in the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) operational plan, supporting Greece, Cyprus and Italy. MoI officials also participated in EASO training.

#### RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT

Croatia fulfilled its resettlement quota under the 2017 Government Decision by resettling 98 Syrians from Turkey.

In February 2019, the government adopted a new Decision on the resettlement of third-country nationals or stateless persons who fulfil the conditions for international protection (Official Gazette 16/2019). This obliges Croatia to accept 100 persons on the basis of resettlement and 50 persons on the basis of participation in other forms of solidarity with other Member States.

## INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL ASYLUM SYSTEM

Based on Regulation on the Internal Organisation of the Ministry of the Interior (Official Gazette No: 70/12/140/13, 50/14, 32/15, 11/17, 129/17, 5/1/, 109/18 and 24/19), the Asylum Department was separated into the International Protection Procedure Section, the Dublin Procedure Section and the Integration Section. All three work together under the framework of the newly formed International Protection Department. The Department for the Reception and Accommodation of International Protection Applicants was established, with two sections: reception centre for international protection applicants in Zagreb, and reception centre for international protection applicants in Kutina.



## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

On 28 February 2019, the Governmental Inter-Agency Committee for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors was established in accordance with the Protocol on the Treatment of Unaccompanied Minors. The Committee comprises representatives of state bodies, international organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

A cycle of inter-ministerial education began, in cooperation with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Four workshops on practical implementation of the Protocol on the Treatment of Unaccompanied Minors were organised and attended by police officers for irregular migration and social workers, as well as childcare professionals.

On 1 January 2019, the new Foster Care Act (Official Gazette 115/18) entered into force, allowing unaccompanied minors to stay in foster families.



## INTEGRATION

The Ministry of the Interior launched a tender under the Asylum and Migration Integration Fund (AMIF), 'Support in the provision of assistance for including persons with granted international protection into Croatian society'. The three-year project will be carried out by the selected civil society organisation and provide tailored support for individuals to exercise the rights guaranteed to them by the Republic of Croatia.

A new active labour market policy measure was developed, targeting Croatian emigrants' descendants, returnees and family members. The measure will last for six months and consists of supervised on-the-job training and (if needed) classes related to workplace and/or Croatian language skills. The main purpose of the measure is integration into the labour market.

The Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities published an amended edition of the 'Guide for integration - basic information for the integration of foreigners into Croatian society'. The guide was translated into English, French, Arabic, Farsi, Urdu and Ukrainian.



## CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

### ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP

On 18 October 2019, the Croatian parliament passed the Act on the amendments to the Croatian Citizenship Act, which will enter into force on 1 January 2020. For third-country nationals legally staying in the Republic of Croatia, the obligation to have full legal capacity to acquire citizenship was removed, while the obligation to respect the legal order of the Republic of Croatia was supplemented by the obligation to meet all the costs of taxes and other government fees, and to have no security obstacles to such citizenship.



## BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

### BORDER MANAGEMENT

Two new border crossing points were built, surveillance systems were set up on the green border and new equipment for border control was procured. Training for border police officers in 2019 included participation of

70 border police officers in 52 profile training sessions/workshops/meetings organised by Frontex.

The Republic of Croatia actively participated in Frontex joint operations carried out in Croatia and other EU Member States and third countries (particularly Greece and Albania).

Over 1 000 mixed patrols were conducted in cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE

In October 2019, the Commission sent a communication to the European Parliament and the Council that Croatia had taken the measures necessary to meet all conditions for the application of all relevant parts of the Schengen *acquis*.



## IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

No significant developments in 2019.



## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

On 1 April 2019, a new Protocol on the integration/reintegration of victims of trafficking in human beings entered into force.

Police officers participated in various related training initiatives, such as a four-day workshop for police officers, heads of staff and their assistants, as well as for judges and representatives of the State Attorney's Office.



## RETURN AND READMISSION

### RETURN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

The project 'Assisted voluntary return' (for which the contract was concluded between the MoI and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on 13 December 2018) was implemented in 2019, with eight assisted voluntary returns carried out by IOM.

On the basis of the Agreement on the monitoring of forced return with the Croatian Law Centre, 64 forced

returns were monitored to ensure that the fundamental human rights of third-country nationals were respected.

A new kitchen and laundry room were constructed at the Detention Centre for Foreigners and equipment was procured for the laundry room, kitchen, gym and exterior design. The upgrade project was completed in November 2019.

The Detention Centre for Foreigners organised two charter flights for the forced return of five Republic of Kosovo nationals. Costs were refunded by the AMIF.



## MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

No significant developments in 2019.

## STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex was prepared by the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography (KCMD). It provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Croatia on aspects of migration and international protection (2016-2019), including legal residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, integration, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics were not available at the time of publication, this is indicated in the Annex as 'N/A'.

A How to Read guide, describing each chart and reporting the sources, is available [here](#).



## GENERAL NOTES

This four-page statistical annex complements the Country Factsheet with relevant migration-related data organised in nine thematic sections. The dashboard-like layout of the annex allows comparability across countries as well as simultaneous visualisation of different indicators.

Whenever data is not available, the relative chart is left blank or indicated with 'N/A'. Data are provided for the latest available year or the latest available four-year period.

The sum of percentages or of individual values might not add up to 100 or to the total value. This is due to rounding and confidence intervals in the original data. A How to Read guide, describing each chart and reporting the sources, is available on the EMN website.

## COLOUR LEGEND

Whenever not specified, the following colour legend is adopted. Colours for multiple nationalities are randomly chosen.

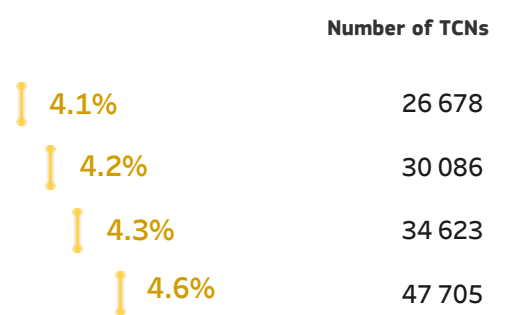
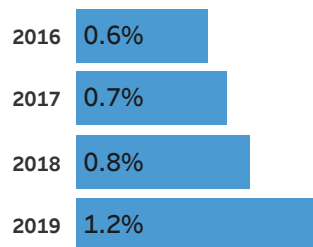
■ data relative to Croatia

■ data relative to EU

## LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

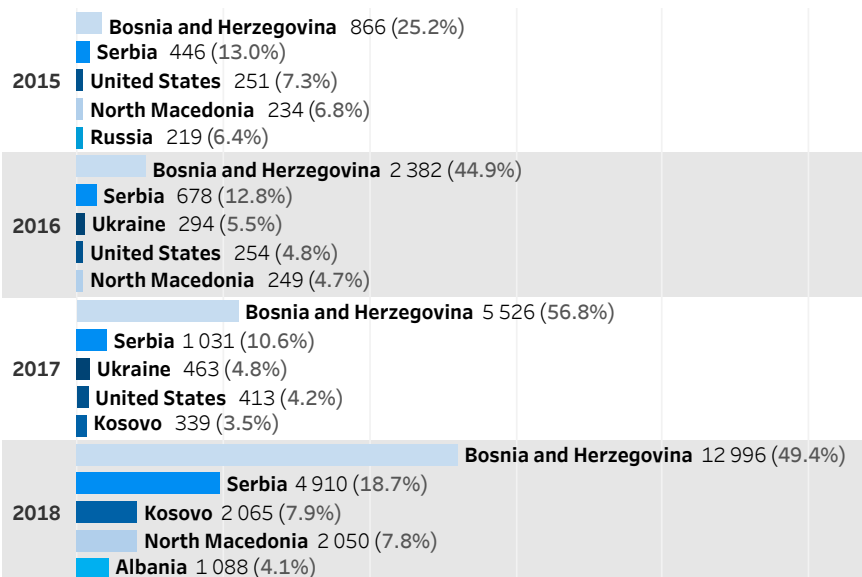
### Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) as % of total population (in the country and in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctz)



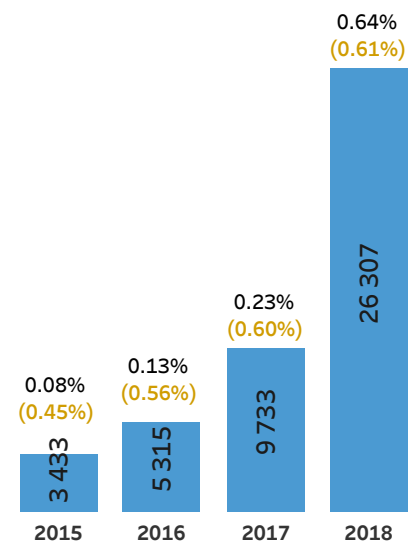
### Top 5 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)



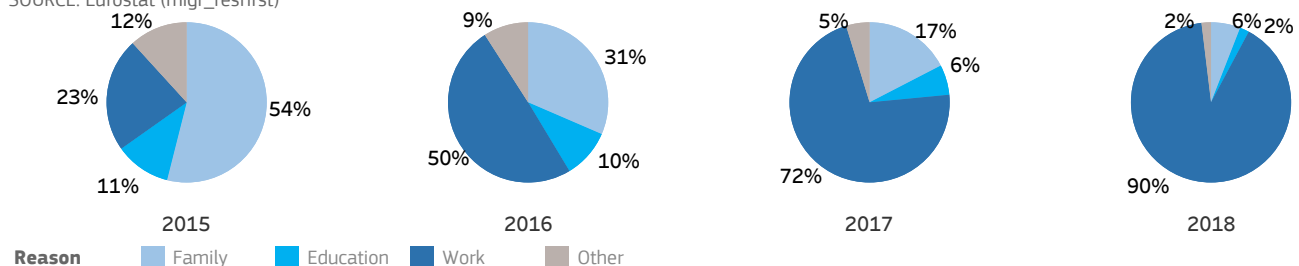
### First residence permits annually issued: tot. num. and % of tot. pop. in the country (and EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)



### First residence permits annually issued by reason

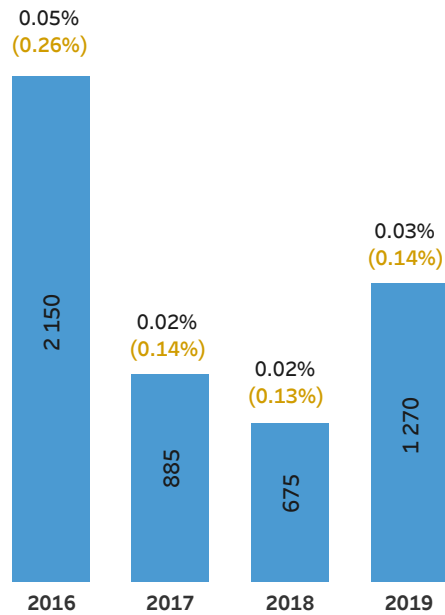
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)



## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

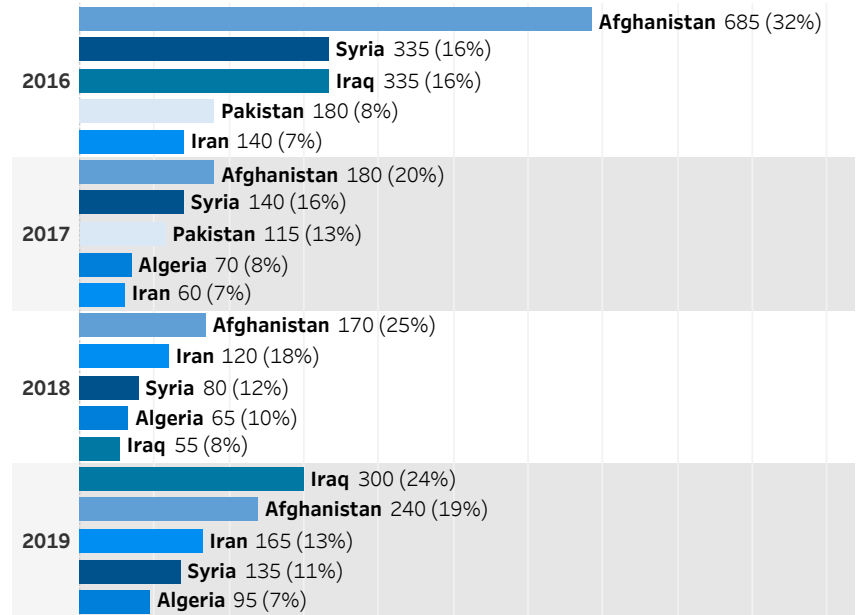
### First-time asylum applications: total num. and as % of population in the country (and in EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyappctza, migr\_pop1ctz)



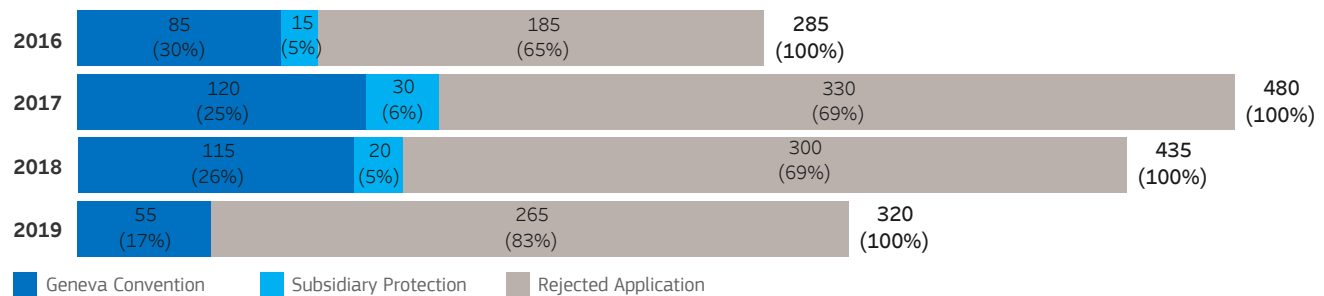
### Top 5 nationalities of annual number of first-time asylum applications: number of applications and % of total first-time annual applications

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyappctza)



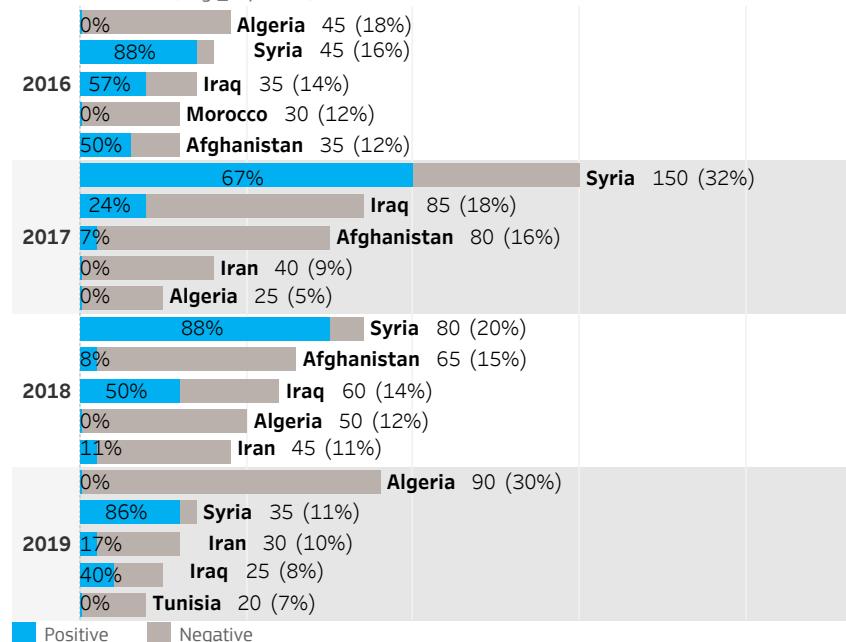
### Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asydcfsta)



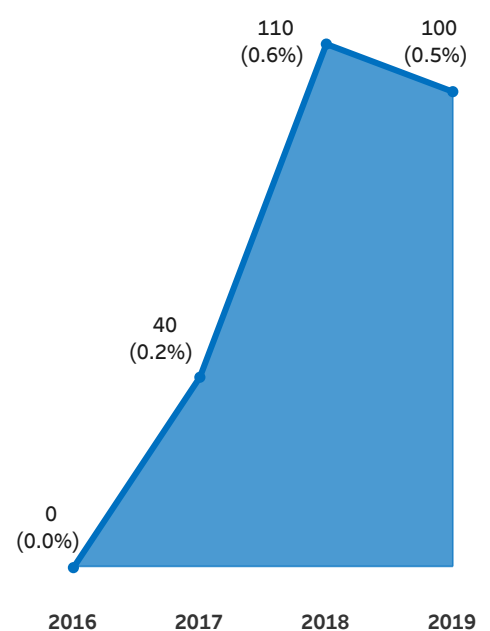
### Top 5 nationalities of annual number of first-instance decisions: number of decisions (% of total decisions in the country) and % of positive outcome

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asydcfsta)



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

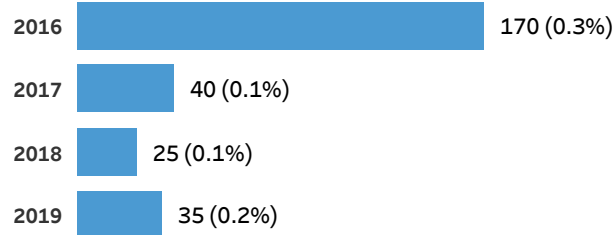
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyresa)



## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

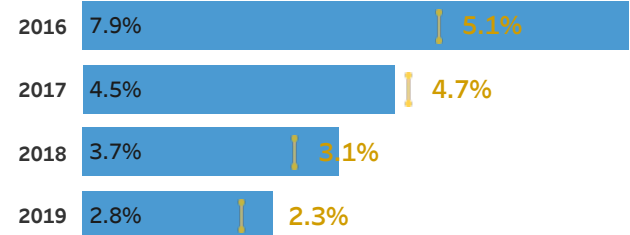
### Unaccompanied Minors applying for asylum in the country (and % of total applications from Unaccompanied Minors in EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyunaa)



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

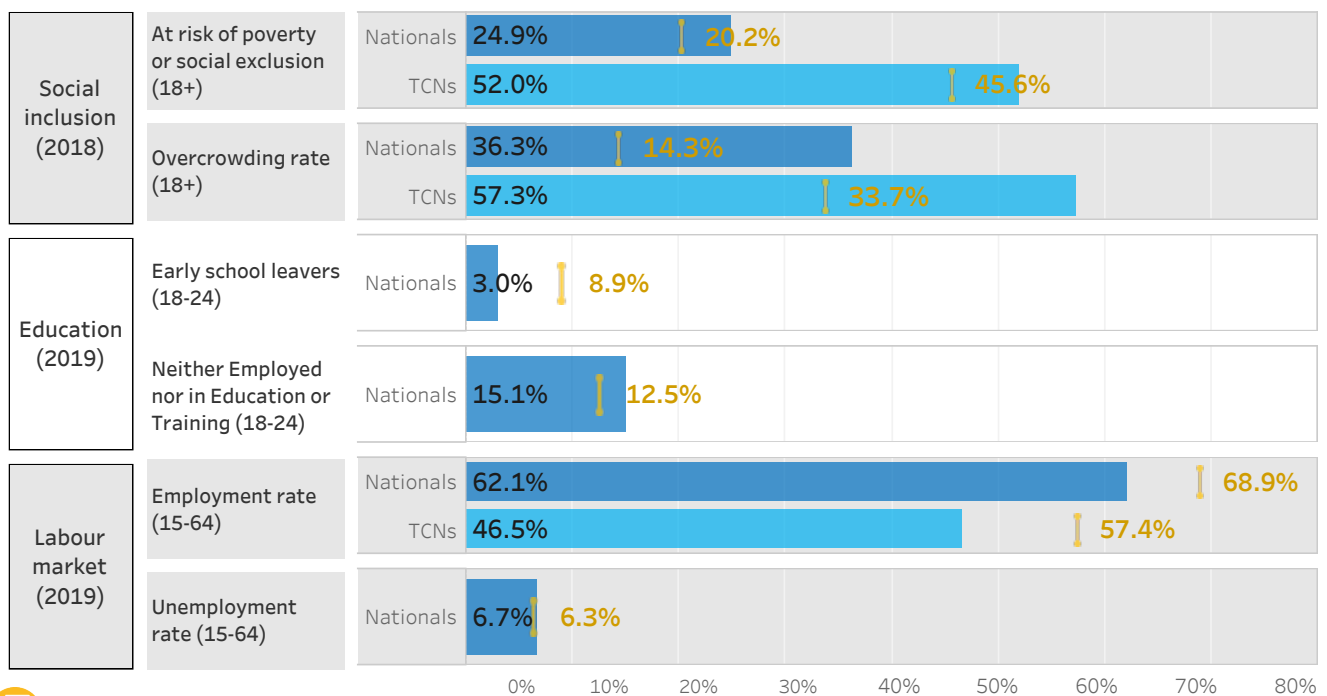
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_asyunaa)



## INTEGRATION

Integration indicators for nationals of the country (blue) and Third-Country Nationals (TCNs - light blue) in the country (when available). The same indicator is provided in yellow for EU. Data are relative to the last year available.

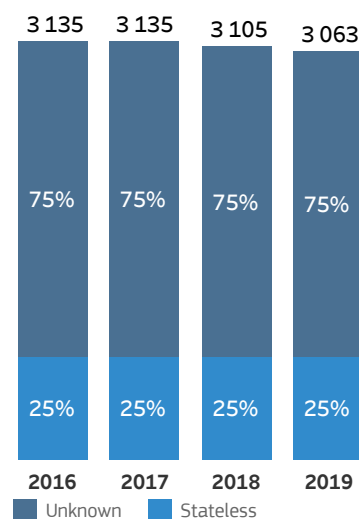
SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc\_peps05, ilc\_lvho15, edat\_lfse\_01, edat\_lfse\_23, lfsa\_ergan, lfsa\_urgan)



## CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

### Stateless, Recogn. Non-Citizens (RNC) and Unknown Citizens

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_pop1ctza)



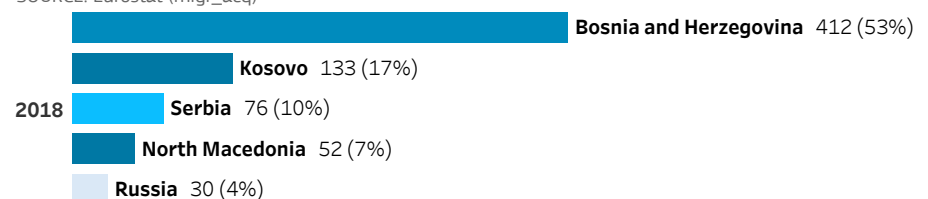
### Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute number

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_acqs, migr\_acq)



### Top 5 nationalities by number of citizenship acquisition in 2018: absolute number and % of total acquisitions in the country by Third-Country Nationals

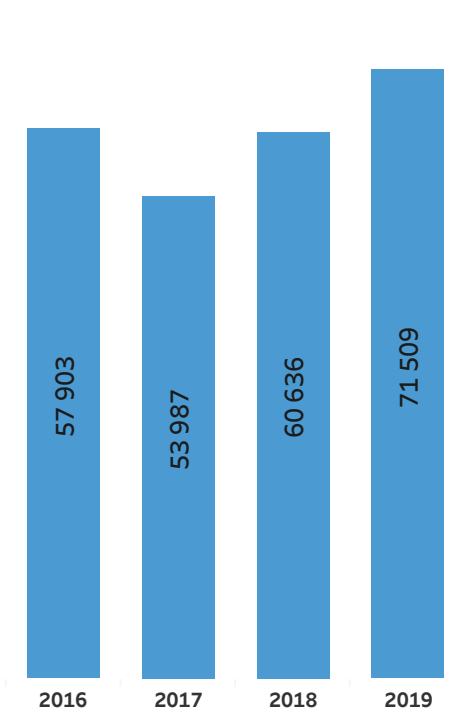
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_acq)



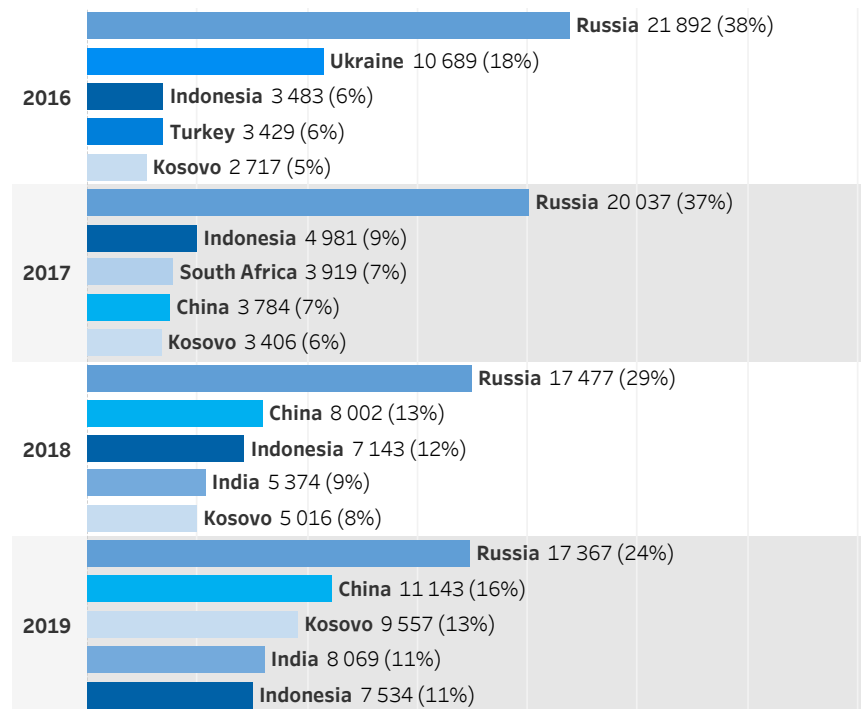
## BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

SOURCE: DG Migration and Home Affairs (complete statistics on short-stay visas applications to Schengen States)

### Lodged short-term Visa app.



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



## IRREGULAR MIGRATION

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eirfs, migr\_eipre, migr\_eiord, migr\_eirtn)



## TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_resoth)

0 or not available

## RETURN AND READMISSION

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr\_eirt\_vol)

