

Migrants and Refugees in Slovenia 2020

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The overview prepared by:

Albin Keuc

SLOGA, NGO platform for development, global learning and humanitarian aid

Program coordinator:

Povod Institute, on its behalf Robert Križanič

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I. INTRODUCTION

Migrations

Slovenia shows all the signs of a middle-developed European country: it has a rapidly ageing population, relatively low birth rates, negative natural population growth, and a shortage of suitably qualified labour; emigration from the country is increasing, so this “population gap” must be replaced by immigration. Historically, there has been strong immigration from the countries of the Western Balkans, namely the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Immigrants from these countries, which form relatively strong diasporas, provide strong support to immigration. The relatively weak economic situation in the region, political instability, an uncertain future, and weak EU support for any further enlargement of the Union are also contributing factors. In recent years, the immigration of persons applying for international protection in Slovenia has been increasing.

At the same time, we note that until recently Slovenia did not have a real migration policy with elements of integration, although the *Strategy of Economic Migration 2010-2020* was adopted in 2010.¹ This strategy focused mainly on the economic dimensions of immigration needs due to demography, economic effects, demand on the Slovenian labour market, and the context of the European Union’s immigration strategy. Prior to that, the *Resolution on immigration policy* was adopted in 1999 and then in 2002 the *Resolution on the Migration Policy of the Republic of Slovenia*.² Both documents were adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia as a basic instruction for the creation of a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for an effective immigration policy. In 2019, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia emphasized that “migration promotes development, which was already mentioned in the *Resolution on Migration Policy of the Republic of Slovenia* adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia in 2002, which states that migration policy is a thematic area with its own strategy, principles, starting points and rules, forming an integral and flexible entity of the population, economic, socio-cultural and political development of the Republic of Slovenia. The resolution further emphasizes that integration policy or, more precisely, immigration policy towards current and future immigrants, which refers to measures taken by the state and society to ensure favourable conditions for the quality of life of immigrants, including active prevention of discrimination, xenophobia and racism, encourages integration and enables immigrants to become responsible participants in Slovenia’s social development.”³ The resolution refers to the report of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which in its report *Migration and 2030 Agenda* from 2018 states that “the contribution of migrants to sustainable development of the countries of destination and countries of origin can be measured in billions of dollars. The total contribution of migrants to global GDP is 9% of the total product, that is three billion dollars more than if migrants remained in their home countries. In 2017, migrants remitted as much as \$466 billion in receipts to their countries of origin, which is three times all the funds allocated by the international community for official development assistance. On the other hand, migrants spend 85% of their earnings in the host country.”⁴

In 2019, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia quickly prepared and adopted *Strategy in the Field of migration*, which covers not only the areas of economic migration and international protection,⁵ but also the field of integration, mainly due to the so-called illegal migration “coming from the Balkans”. The final product, presented by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia, was adopted in July 2019 and contains all the features of the Ministry of the Interior’s discourse: “There is a strong emphasis on illegal migration, security issues, border protection and asylum procedures, while the majority of migrations in Slovenia actually represent documented economic migrations (i.e. migrant workers, not asylum seekers or illegal migrants)”.⁶ Slovenia is primarily an immigrant country “because of employment and family reunification” and not because of applicants

1 <http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO4>.

2 <http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO20>.

3 Government of the Republic of Slovenia, Answer to the request for supplementing the answer to the parliamentary question of Zmago Jelinčič Plemeniti regarding the Albanisation of Velenje, 29 August 2019.

4 Ibid.

5 Government of the Republic of Slovenia, Strategy of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in the Field of Migration, July 2019, <https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MNZ/SOJ/STR17072019.pdf>.

6 Maja Ladič et al., National Mechanism for the Evaluation of Integration SLOVENIA, Report for 2019 [NIEM National Report 2020], Peace Institute, 2020.

for international protection.⁷

The strategy makes direct reference to the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, sub-objective 10.7: “Facilitate orderly, safe, legal and responsible migration and the mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”. It is pointed out that the planning and implementation of international development cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia is based on the goals of sustainable development of the 2030 Agenda. In both cases, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia is mentioned as the administrator of this area, reporting the costs of providing support to refugees in Slovenia as part of Slovenia’s official development assistance. These costs include living expenses, meals, essential supplies, literacy, teaching assistance, accommodation assistance, health, transport and other temporary support, emergency medical services, information, the provision of free legal aid before the courts, translation and interpretation in international protection proceedings (25% participation), and part of the funds for the provisions of unaccompanied minors.

In accordance with the provisions of the *Strategy for International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Until 2030* from 2018, the Strategy stipulates that the activities of the Republic of Slovenia are aimed at supporting partner countries in achieving their sustainable development goals in four selected areas. These are: (i) decent work, productive employment and sustainable economic development (Sustainable Development Goal 8); (ii) peaceful and inclusive societies and efficient, accountable and transparent institutions (Sustainable Development Goal 16); (iii) sustainable production and consumption patterns, or the circular economy (Sustainable Development Goal 12); and (iv) combating climate change (Sustainable Development Goal 13).⁸ The strategy determines the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia as the executor of this task.

Slovenia encourages the education of students from other countries through exemptions from tuition fees and a scholarship policy.

Second Voluntary National Review of the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Migration

Therefore, it is not surprising that the content of the *Second Voluntary National Review of the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda*,⁹ which describes examples of projects addressing refugee issues is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, supporting the projects of developmental cooperation implemented by NGOs together with development partners in partner countries.

Under the Second Sustainable Development Goal on eradicating hunger, ensuring food security and better nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture, Slovenia supported the “project to increase food security and drinking water supply among refugees and locals near the Ugandan capital in 2017-2019. During the same period, Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls highlights the funding of projects in Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as in Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The projects focused mainly on women’s economic empowerment and independence. Sustainable Development Goal 10 on reducing inequalities between and within countries sets out that many projects are designed in such a way that “when addressing women, inter-sectional forms of discrimination are recognised, thus directly addressing e.g. poor women, rural women and refugee women.” Sustainable Development Goal 11 on the provision of open, safe, durable and sustainable cities and towns highlights activities in primary and secondary schools and in a refugee camp in Jordan, where “young people were made aware of the risks and dangers of mines, safe behaviour among Syrian refugees in Jordan was encouraged, thus contributing to minimizing the number of potential mine casualties upon repatriation.”

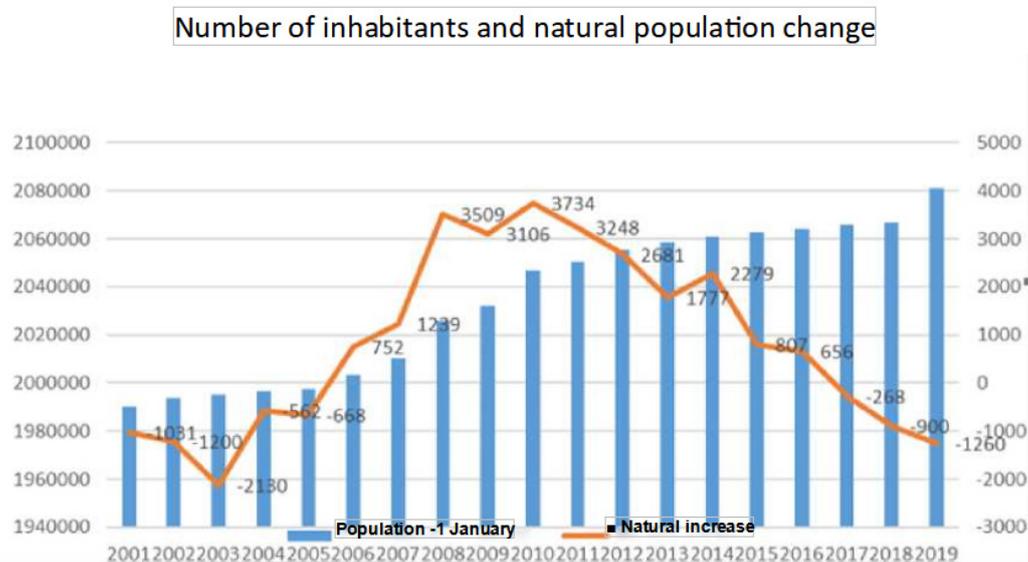
7 Ibid.

8 Government of the Republic of Slovenia, Strategy of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in the Field of Migration.

9 Government of the Republic of Slovenia, Second Voluntary National Review of the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, 2020.

Immigration to Slovenia

Insufficient intensity of facing the challenges of “regular and irregular” migration has caused problems with the actual implementation of the integration processes, which were primarily due to the increase in the number of persons with international protection and the so-called “refugee wave” along the Balkan route from the end of 2015 onwards, even though signs of insufficient integration measures have been seen before. The topic is discussed in this review. For the purpose of illustration, some data is provided below on trends at the level of the population of the Republic of Slovenia.



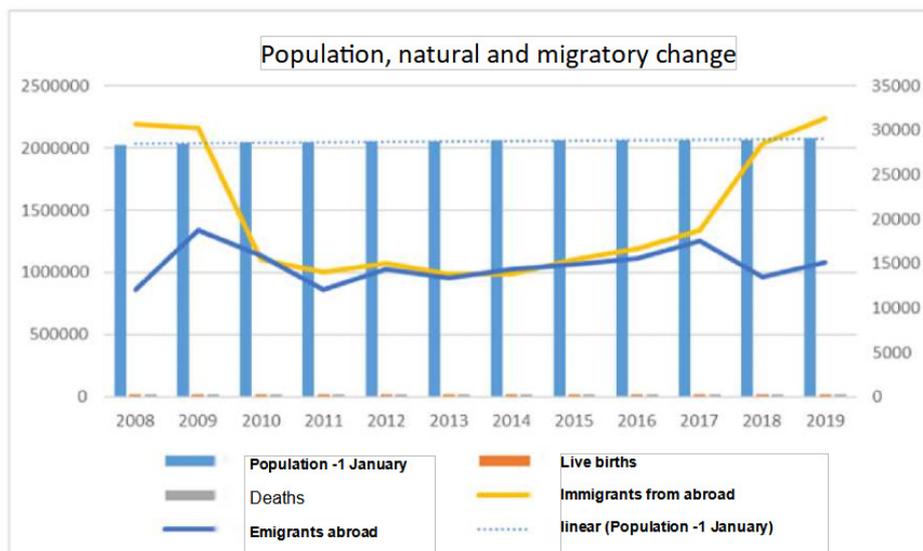
Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS)

In the last nineteen years, the population of the Republic of Slovenia has increased from 1,990,094 to 2,080,908 inhabitants (an increase of 90,814 inhabitants). The last decade has seen a steady decline in natural population growth. The natural increase in Slovenia in 2019, as in 2017 and 2018, was negative and amounted to -1,260.

Most of the population growth can be attributed to immigration. According to SORS data, in 2019 the net migration (the difference between the number of immigrants and emigrants in a calendar year) of foreign nationals was the highest since 2009, i.e. 16,213 persons. “On 1 April 2020, Slovenia had 2,097,195 inhabitants, that is 1,300 more than a year earlier. The number of Slovenian citizens decreased in the first quarter of 2020, while the number of foreign citizens increased; their share rose to 7.6%.”¹⁰

These trends are reflected in the area of valid permanent and temporary residence permits, which have been rising sharply over the last decade and more. In 2019, 87,488 permanent residence permits were valid (83,542 in 2018). In the same year, 79,550 temporary residence permits were valid (almost 64,500 permits in 2018).

¹⁰ Barica Razpotnik, on 1 April 2020 in Slovenia 2,097,195 inhabitants or 1,300 more than three months earlier, SORS. Available at: <https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/News/Index/8974>.



Source: SORS

At the end of December 2019, more than 196,470 persons (176,043 in 2018) had a valid residence permit or residence registration certificate in Slovenia - 167,438 of them were third-country nationals. The table below shows the number of permits issued to persons with foreign citizenship for the first ten countries, which together represent 144,302 permits or more than 86% all valid permits. Among the valid temporary residence permits, most are uniform residence and work permits, followed by valid temporary residence permits due to family reunification and study.

Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina hold the majority of valid permits, followed by citizens of Kosovo, Serbia, Northern Macedonia and the Russian Federation. Expectations that immigration from the old EU member states would increase after Slovenia's accession to the EU did not materialize.

Number of permanent and temporary residence permits, top ten countries

	Permanent residence permits	Temporary residence permits	TOTAL
Bosnia and Herzegovina	44993	34512	79505
Kosovo	14841	7089	21930
Serbia	7732	10743	18475
Northern Macedonia	9733	4758	14491
Russian Federation	1104	2252	3356
Ukraine	1291	1993	3284
China	974	408	1382
Montenegro	643	368	1011
United States of America	204	338	542
Thailand	206	120	326

Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia, 2020

International Protection, Asylum

According to the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants, in July 2019 there were 670 persons with recognized international protection (not all of whom live in Slovenia), 312 asylum seekers, mostly accommodated in asylum centre, and 107 pending application.



Source: Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants

In 2019, 3,821 applications for international protection were filed. In the same year, the administrative body granted 85 persons the status of international protection, 128 persons were denied the application, and in 3,273 cases the procedure was stopped.

The figures for the first half of 2020 are similar, with 1,938 applications for international protection filed by July. 72 persons were granted international protection status, applications of 127 persons were rejected, and in 1,063 cases the procedure was stopped (in most cases because the applicants left the territory of the Republic of Slovenia in the meantime).

Institutional Model of Support for Integration

Migration policy is more or less centralized at the level of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia, which is responsible for asylum and migration issues. In accordance with the International Protection Act, persons with international protection have the right to:

- obtain information on the status, rights and obligations of persons with international protection;
- stay in the Republic of Slovenia;
- financial compensation for private accommodation;
- health care;
- social care;
- education;
- employment and work;
- assistance with integration.

In recent years, since the adoption of the *Decree on the Rights and Duties of Refugees in the Republic of Slovenia* in 2004, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia has financed NGO projects and educational services, especially in the areas of assistance in learning the Slovenian language and getting to know the culture, providing school support, raising public awareness of refugee issues and providing assistance in finding accommodation. The government also provided funding to cover the costs of health care, social security, and education.

In addition to the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia, the following are also responsible for the field of integration:

- Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia and social service centres that are direct performers of tasks under the Social Welfare Act (accommodation and treatment of unaccompanied minors, social welfare);

- Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia (health care);
- Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia or the Employment Service of Slovenia, which is the executive organization of the labour market and employment (access to the labour market);
- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia (education and training);
- Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia.

In 2017, a special Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Support and Integration of Migrants (UOIM) was established, which is now responsible for asylum seekers and for people with recognized international protection (refugee status or subsidiary protection). Their total number is around 1,000 in 2020, while there are more than 167,000 immigrants from so-called third countries (non-EU countries). At the same time, it needs to be emphasized that the UOIM is not concerned with the integration of persons from other forms of immigration.

The model also includes a consultative body, the Council for the Integration of Foreigners, which gives opinions and recommendations on national programs important for the integration of foreigners, gives opinions and recommendations and participates in the preparation of laws and other regulations affecting the integration of foreigners. It also monitors the implementation of integration measures, analyses the situation and reports annually to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

Public Opinion and Hate Speech

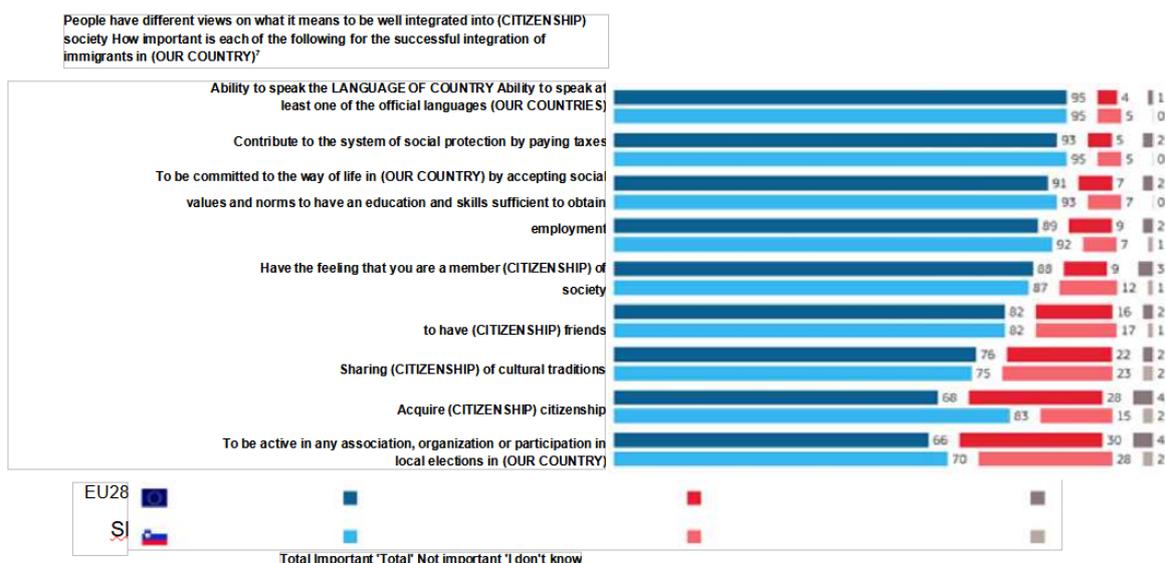
Integration as a two-way process requires a lot of analytical work at the level of monitoring and evaluating real processes and life situations faced by a migrant as well as a local inhabitant, who are in very different positions and situations of power. Due to changes in the perception of migrants and the phenomenon of migration in general, especially due to the “refugee wave” in 2015 and 2016, we witnessed major changes in public discourse, supported by new forms of communication (digital social networks).

According to the Eurobarometer¹¹ from October 2017, the population of Slovenia, similarly to the average in the European Union, points out as very important factors for successful integration:

- a. ability to speak Slovenian;
- b. payment of taxes (contribution); and
- c. acceptance of local social values and norms.

11 European Commission. (2018). *Special Eurobarometer 469. Integration of immigrants in the European Union*. Report October 2017. Available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/survey/getsurveydetail/instruments/special/surveyky/2169>.

Factors contributing to successful integration



Source: Eurobarometer, 2017

It is not surprising, therefore, that socio-political sensitivity is particularly noticeable in the issue of language. The discussion in the National Council in May 2018¹², which raised the issue whether measures for learning the Slovenian language for migrants were adequate (especially concerning Albanian and Macedonian speakers) may be mentioned as a good example. The record shows that the lack of language skills generates a series of life situations that cannot be resolved (usually for formal-legal reasons) at the place of origin, and the situation is even more difficult mainly due to the separation between national and local competencies.

Thus, lack of coordination, fragmentation of decision-making and the gap between the national and local levels directly contribute to the creation of conditions for the spread of the discourse of criminalization of migration¹³ and hate speech.

12 National Council of the Republic of Slovenia, Conclusions on open issues of integration of aliens with permanent or temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia, 16 May 2018. Available at http://www.ds-rs.si/sites/default/files/dokumenti/6ds-7sklep_3_komisij_in_is_lokalcev_integracija_tujcev_lekt.pdf.

13 Veronika Bajt, Mojca Frelj, Crimmigration in Slovenia, Dve domovini - Two homelands, 49/2019, DOI: 10.3986/dd.v0i49.7251.

Most of the data and interpretations based on them date from the pre-pandemic period of Covid-19.

In formulating the recommendations, we relied mainly on the reports of non-governmental organizations on the topic of migration and integration:

- Aida, *Asylum Information Database, Country Report: Slovenia, 2019 update*, PIC;
- Maja Ladič et al., *Nacionalni mehanizem za evalvacijo integracije SLOVENIJA, Poročilo za leto 2016* (National Mechanism for the Evaluation of Integration SLOVENIA, Report for 2016) [NIEM National Report 2018], Peace Institute, 2018;
- Maja Ladič et al., *Nacionalni mehanizem za evalvacijo integracije SLOVENIJA, Poročilo za leto 2019* (National Mechanism for the Evaluation of Integration SLOVENIA, Report for 2019) [NIEM National Report 2018], Peace Institute, 2020;
- *Positions of non-governmental organizations towards the proposal of the Strategy of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in the field of migration*, 26 April 2019;
- InterCap, *Slovenian National Report on Migration, Sustainability and Development Education*, April 2018.

Roma integration issues are not addressed in this report. A comprehensive report on this is provided in the contribution:

- Amnesty International, *Slovenia: persisting challenges in Roma integration*, Amnesty International submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review, 34th session of the UPR Working Group, November 2019.¹⁴

14 Amnesty International, *Slovenia: persisting challenges in Roma integration*, Amnesty International submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review, 34th session of the UPR Working Group, november 2019. Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/EUR6804762019ENGLISH.PDF>.

II. MONITORING

1. Social Inclusion of Migrants

Although the government's migration strategy emphasizes the importance of systematic integration of migrants and persons with international protection, this area is still underdeveloped in all areas to claim that Slovenia successfully mitigates their exposure to various risks and vulnerabilities. According to NGOs, the integration of persons with recognized international protection is characterized by poor coherence of various programs in this field and relatively weak coordination of such activities at the local level, which lacks competence (and therefore has less money available).

On the other hand, "regulated" migrants who come to the country with regulated residence permits - which means that they have a demonstrable purpose of living in the country, from work to family reunification - are largely left to themselves or their more or less well-organized diasporas that developed in the environment of internal migration in the Western Balkans or as part of internal migration in the former Yugoslavia.

What both groups have in common is that the state provides them with free programs of Slovenian language classes and of Slovenian society studies. Although the Government of the Republic of Slovenia tenders funds to support activities concerning the integration into society in general, the orientation of displaced refugees and employment support, it is difficult to ensure adequate systematization and sustainability of such projects, which often depend on other co-financiers (especially the European Commission).

Five events from the daily life of a person with international protection are described below, as well as the importance of the degree of social inclusion - finding accommodation, employment, schooling, social and health security.

A. Accommodation - Applicants for international protection status are accommodated at four locations in Slovenia that are functionally divided. There is an asylum home in Ljubljana with three additional branches in Logatec, Ljubljana (Kotnikova) and at the Student Dormitory in Postojna.

Capacity and occupancy of the asylum home

Centre	Capacity	Occupancy (December 31, 2019)
Asylum Home Ljubljana	203	152
Kotnikova Branch	90	77
Logatec Branch	108	19
Student Dormitory Postojna	28	6
Total	429	254

Source: Aida, *Asylum Information Database, Country Report: Slovenia, 2019 Update*

Only single men are accommodated at the Kotnikova Branch, families and couples at the Logatec Branch, and unaccompanied adolescents at the Postojna Student Dormitory. The Ljubljana Asylum Home mostly accommodates single men and some families. Applicants must leave the asylum home following a positive decision of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia, which grants them the status of international protection.

Persons with international protection can exchange cash benefits for free accommodation in so-called integration houses for the first year after obtaining the status. There are three integration houses in Slovenia: in Ljubljana, Maribor and Velenje. All three are managed by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia.

Capacity and occupancy of the asylum home

Integration house	Capacity	Occupancy (December 31, 2019)
Ljubljana	15	3
Maribor	45	26
Velenje	30	0
Total	90	29

Source: Aida, *Asylum Information Database, Country Report: Slovenia, 2019 Update*

People with international protection do not have access to non-profit housing and are left to the market where they compete with other housing seekers. It should be pointed out that they are entitled to a monthly cash benefit for rental costs for a period of 18 months, which under certain conditions can be extended for an additional 18 months. According to Aida¹⁵, in 2019 there were 535 recipients of international protection in Slovenia in private accommodation.

According to NGOs, refugees face major difficulties in finding accommodation. The price of rent, being refused by landlords, arranging written contracts, security deposits or advance payment of one rent fee, opening bank accounts, mutual communication, knowledge of language and mistrust. All of these are critical issues concerning private accommodation. As rents for housing in urban centres are high, people with international protection move to the countryside, where their already weak social contacts suffer even more. On the other hand, some landlords who are aware of the plight of people with international protection are demanding high amounts for unsuitable housing.

Addressing the issue of accommodation after obtaining international protection status was further complicated by the amendment to the *International Protection Act*, which abolished financial assistance upon recognition of status. This, of course, has put refugees at a great disadvantage, as they have to look for alternative accommodation with limited income and have to negotiate with landlords on a very weak basis. That is why help in finding a home is of particular importance.

B. Employment - Despite everything written, job search is one of the key elements of social inclusion. It is happening at the local level, which does not have much competence in this area. In many cases, persons with international protection do not have any documents, which makes it very difficult to prove their qualifications. On the other hand, some basic professions, such as hairdressing, are so standardized that only those with completed education for this profession in Slovenia have access to them. This problem of standardized professions goes beyond this report, but the characteristics of the local labour market are such that they prevent competition through administrative requirements.

Many therefore use the mechanism available to them - six months of on-the-job training. The purpose of this instrument is for the employer to educate and train the worker who would eventually be employed. However, according to NIEM researchers, this does not always happen, nor in most cases. Therefore, undeclared work is very widespread.

A positive step was the decision of the Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia to employ two people to support jobseekers (Ljubljana, Maribor), who offer support to persons with international protection.

C. Education - As it is important to have at least some proven education in order to find a job, people with international protection are in a worse position from the start, as they often do not have such documents or are not recognized by Slovenian employers and educational institutions. If they have the documents, they can submit an application for recognition of their education to the ENIC-NARIC centre¹⁶. In 2017, 12 applications were submitted, in 2018 four, and in 2019 seven. An additional problem is, of course, the inability to speak Slovenian.

It is a little better for children, as primary school in Slovenia is compulsory for everyone and therefore no one can be refused, however, enrolment in secondary school, which is not compulsory, is much

15 Aida, *Asylum Information Database, Country Report: Slovenia, 2019 update*, PIC. Available at: <https://www.asylumineurope.org/reports/country/slovenia>.

16 Available at: <https://www.gov.si/drzavni-organi/ministrstva/ministrstvo-za-izobrazevanje-znanost-in-sport/o-ministrstvu/direktorat-za-visoko-solstvo/enic-naric-center/>.

lower for minors. Therefore, the possibility of taking an exam has been introduced for those who cannot prove that they have passed primary school. If they pass the exam, they can use the certificate as proof of completed primary school. The exam is in Slovenian, but candidates have the right to a translator. According to NIEM, only two people took the exam in recent years (2017-2019), which means that most are not aware of this possibility.

A similar solution with an exam exists at the National Examination Centre¹⁷, where a person who cannot prove that he / she has completed secondary school can take an exam (in Slovenian or English). The certificate can be used for enrolment or for continuing education at tertiary level.

Another factor that discourages people with international protection from further education is its duration, which forces a person who has already lost several years of education to look for a job from the point of view of survival, which further exposes them to lower incomes (due to education level, undeclared work and the like).

Persons with recognized international protection can attend or are entitled to a 300-hour Slovenian language course with the possibility of an additional 100 hours. According to the providers of such training, these programs should be supported by extended programs of social orientation and assistance in integration.

D. Social security - A person with international protection has the right to social protection under the same conditions as citizens. However, things get complicated again at the language level, when it is necessary to communicate with the administrative body regarding the amount of information on the services and providers, inconsistencies between individual parts of the social security system, knowledge of income support procedures and poverty reduction measures. While this shortfall is partly being offset by integration assistance of NGOs and guidance programs, this is not enough to reduce the chances that a person with international protection would not face an increased risk of poverty.

Thus, an individual can receive €402.58 per month, but only if they have no other income. If they have also applied for compensation for the cost of rent, this amount shall be reduced by 15%.

E. Healthcare - Asylum seekers are only entitled to emergency medical care. Persons with international protection have the right to be included in the compulsory health insurance scheme. However, similar to the provision of social security, the absence of social networks, knowledge of the Slovenian language and the specifics of the Slovenian health care system, such as a personal doctor, the need for interpreters and the like, play an important role. Therefore, they often depend on *pro bono* clinics, which are provided by individuals or organizations, especially in urban centres. Toothaches are a special challenge, since they are not considered emergencies in the Slovenian healthcare model.

At the same time, adults are advised to take out additional health insurance, as otherwise the cost of treatment can be very high. This does not apply to children and adolescents up to the age of 18 (or up to the age of 26 in the case of schooling).

The most typical example of the inconsistency of the integration model in Slovenia can be found in the abolition of the one-off financial assistance, which occurred with the change of the legal basis in 2016. This created a situation where people with international protection found themselves in a situation where they were left without social security for several months, until social security procedures were finalised. The condition for financial assistance is permanent residence, therefore a person with international protection must first rent an apartment (but does not have the money for it due to the abolition of the one-time social assistance) or arrange their stay in an integration house (if space is available). Therefore, these individuals are often recipients of humanitarian aid in this interim period.

On the other hand, the orientation program is available only to refugees who have been relocated or moved to Slovenia.

17 Available at: <https://www.ric.si/>.

Recommendations

- Slovenia needs to create a comprehensive system of support for integration, which will work both ways: offering support to immigrants and the local population.
- Establishment of local coordination in the field of integration, which will include all actors in this field (social work centres, employment services, schools, kindergartens, health centres, employers' representatives, etc.).
- Extending the entitlement of immigrants to an intensive orientation program by involving local actors in the field of integration.
- Design of adapted Slovenian language learning programs, especially literacy programs, in the form of individual lessons.
- Development of education for intercultural mediation at the level of the educational program and inclusion in the national professional qualification.
- Establishment of a program for strengthening competencies in the field of intercultural mediation in integration actors at all levels - from national to local.
- Design of community-based programs to support dispersed accommodation opportunities to facilitate the accessibility of integration support instruments.

2. ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS

Economic Integration

With the new strategy in the field of migration, the Republic of Slovenia has determined that the migration policy in the field of economic migration shall ensure in particular:

- Promotion of work-related immigration with the aim of reducing structural disparities in the Slovenian labour market and improving the relationship between insured persons and pensioners.
- Creating conditions for reducing the emigration of Slovenian citizens.
- Promoting the return of emigrated citizens of Slovenia.

At the same time, at the beginning of 2019, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia commissioned a special study entitled *Analysis of Employment of Foreign Workers in Slovenia - What Are the Needs and Where Do They Come From*, which will also be the basis for preparing the *Economic Migration Strategy for 2020-2030*. The study will answer three key questions:

- What part of the increase in employees from abroad is current and how much is cyclical?
- What is the structure of skills of employees who are sought for, or what structural part of employees is replaced by foreign workers and what is the sectoral structure of employment of foreign workers?
- Which countries do foreign workers come from or which countries could skilled workers come from to Slovenia according to expectations?

According to SORS, the number of employed foreigners has increased by 81% (as at October 2019). Thus, at the end of October 2019, 11% of persons in employment were foreigners or approximately 101,200 persons. Most of them came from Bosnia and Herzegovina (49% or about 49,600 people), followed by citizens of Serbia (13% or about 12,900 people) and Kosovo (9% or about 9,600 people). 96% of these persons were employed and 4% self-employed.

Among working foreigners, 91% finished primary or secondary education - 21% of them have finished primary education, 70% secondary education and 9% higher or tertiary education. Of all those who were in employment at the end of October 2019, 9% finished primary education, 56% secondary education, and 35% higher education or university education.

Among all persons in employment, 55% were men and 45% were women, and among foreigners, 80% were men and 20% were women. Most employed foreigners worked in construction (27%), manufacturing activities (24%), transport and storage (17%) and other miscellaneous business activities (9%).¹⁸

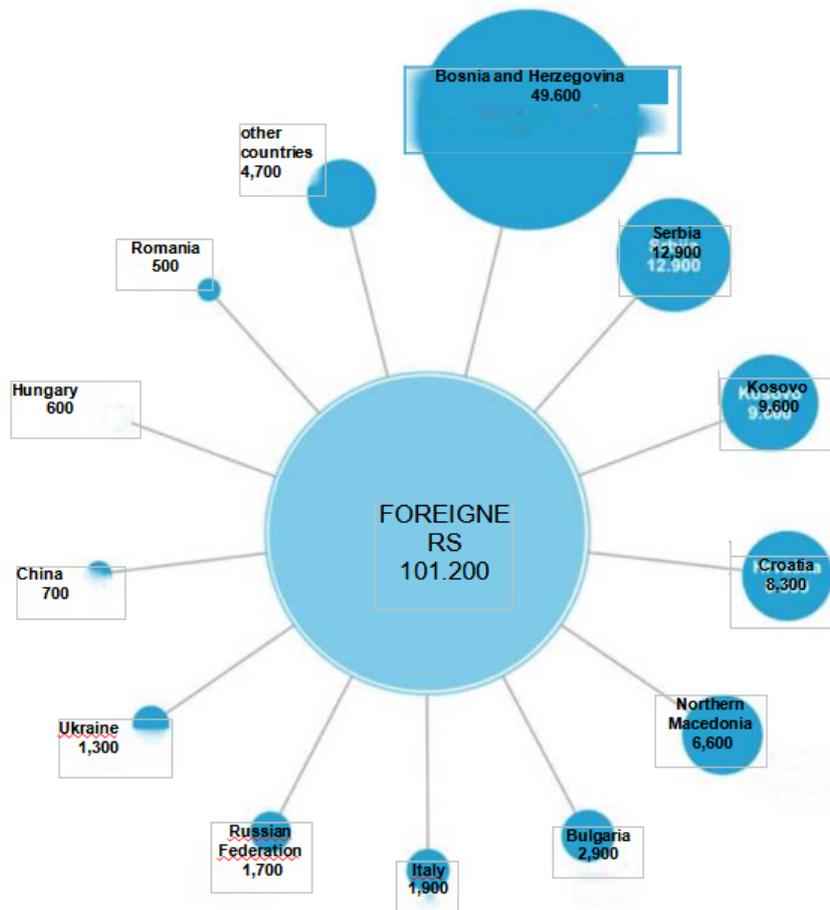
How living circumstances can contribute to different interpretations of legal acts can be seen in the activity of transport, which mostly employs foreign labour. According to the Ministry of Labour, Family and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia, between 25,000 and 35,000 foreigners, that is third-country nationals, work in this industry. "While Slovenian legislation does not require from foreigners who do not actually reside in Slovenia and do not intend to reside here to arrange for their residence, they must arrange it in accordance with the European legislation in order to obtain appropriate permits (A1 certificate). These foreigners formally reside in Slovenia, but work outside Slovenia and actually live elsewhere (in their own country)." Therefore, there are reports of a large number of people at one address, which can become a source of rumours and misunderstandings.¹⁹ In an open economy, companies also operate outside their home country, especially at European

18 Uršula Klanjšek, Number of employed foreigners in October 2019 by 81% higher than five years ago, SORS, 17 December 2019. Available at: <https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/News/Index/8572>.

19 See National Council of the Republic of Slovenia, Conclusions on open issues of integration of aliens with permanent or temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia, 16 May 2018. Available at: http://www.ds-rs.si/sites/default/files/dokumenti/6ds-7sklep_3_komisij_in_is_lokalcev_integracija_tujcev_lekt.pdf. This topic received a lot of attention in the Slovenian media in September 2020, when journalists "discovered" addresses in Slovenia where hundreds of people were registered.

Union level and in the European neighbourhood.

Employed foreigners by citizenship, Slovenia, 31.10.2019



Source SORS

©SORS

Among the most frequently mentioned measures for the integration of migrants and refugees are free programs for learning the Slovenian language and getting to know Slovenian society, which have been running since 2012 on the basis of the publicly valid program *Initial Integration of Immigrants*. In the first five years, more than 6,500 migrants from 86 different countries attended the courses. Most of the participants were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia and Russia, what also coincides with the allocation of issued residence permits. According to *the Migration Strategy*, 63% of all students were women, with the most common age being 31-35 years.

Before the strategy was adopted, local communities did not have any “formal competence to carry out actions in the field of asylum and migration, although integration is actually performed at the level of local communities, and is maintained by various programs or short-term projects of non-governmental sector (largely funded by the government or the European Union).”²⁰

A special category of integration is knowledge and mastery of the Slovenian language, especially when looking for a job. The NEIM report²¹ mentions this as the main obstacle to the employment of refugees or persons with subsidiary protection. The lack of statistics hinders a more detailed insight into the current employment situation of refugees and persons with subsidiary protection. The Employment Service of Slovenia may collect data only on persons who are registered as unemployed at the employment service. After their employment, due to the protection of personal data, they are no longer followed.

20 Maja Ladič et al., Nacionalni mehanizem za evalvacijo integracije SLOVENIJA, Poročilo za leto 2019 (National Mechanism for the Evaluation of Integration SLOVENIA, Report for 2019) [NIEM National Report 2018], Peace Institute, 2020;

21 Ibid.

Although persons with recognized international protection have equal access to employment, this right is only formal. It is very limited by:

- level of knowledge and mastery of the Slovenian language;
- possession of evidence of education and the process of recognition of education;
- a large number of standardized jobs in Slovenia;
- inaccessibility of housing in major regional centres;
- resistance to refugee employment;
- lack of social network;
- readiness to employ women; and
- availability of childcare (during working hours).

Asylum seekers are in an even worse position, as they can only be employed after nine months, and only if they have not received a negative decision within that time. There is an additional problem, namely the unwillingness of some employers to employ persons with international protection.

Remuneration for Work

The NIEM report shows that, in most cases, persons with international protection are employed in low-paid jobs. “In the case of families, especially with more than two children, people have realised that they do not really have a financial benefit compared to unemployment and receiving social transfers (social assistance and child allowance). They could make even more money by working on the black market. This applies to everyone living in Slovenia, not just refugees. The main problem is that wages are too low, especially the minimum wage. Communication between people with international protection and social work centres seems unsatisfactory, as many do not understand all their rights. For example, most of the refugees interviewed were unaware that even if they were employed and receiving a minimum wage, they could still receive some social security / transfers from the state. This problem is especially visible in the first three years after receiving the status, as this is the period when - in addition to social transfers in the case of unemployed - they can also receive financial support for rent (which is a big expense, especially in Ljubljana).”²²

Political Integration

Promoting the political integration of immigrants is an important element of efforts to improve the participation of immigrants in public life, so that we can positively and preventively influence the level of their marginalization and exploitation.

The right to vote is universal and equal, which means that every citizen who has reached the age of 18 has the right to vote and to be elected, regardless of class, ethnicity, race, economy or other affiliation. However, only persons with the status of a citizen may run in elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia. In local elections, everyone has the right to vote only in their municipality, as the right to vote is tied to the inhabitants of the local community. The right to vote in local elections is also held by citizens of other EU Member States with a permanent residence permit and registered permanent residence in the Republic of Slovenia or a certificate of registration of residence and registered temporary residence in the Republic of Slovenia and foreigners with a permanent residence permit and registered permanent residence in the Republic of Slovenia.²³

After many years of efforts by non-governmental organizations, in 2015 three representatives of immigrants were elected to the Council for the Integration of Foreigners for the territory of the countries of the former Yugoslavia (excluding Croatia), for the territory of EU member states and for the territory of all other countries. Unfortunately, the Council for the Integration of Foreigners

22 Since 2007, the minimum wage has increased from EUR 538.53 gross amount of wage to EUR 886.63 in 2019, to EUR 940.58 in 2020, which is EUR 662.15 net.

23 National Electoral Commission, 2020

met very rarely, if at all, and was not renewed in 2020. Judging by the publication on the web portal of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, this council now operates without immigrant representatives.²⁴

In recent years, political proposals to amend the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia have been intensified with the aim to recognise members of ethnic communities of Albanians, Bosnians, Montenegrins, Croats, Macedonians and Serbs as national minorities. These do not currently enjoy the special constitutional protection enjoyed by the Italian, Hungarian and Roma communities. This means that neither the position nor the status of national communities which represent more than 10% of the population of Slovenia are not legally regulated, and the same applies to their cultural and identity rights.

Recommendations

- In addition to enhanced activities for learning the Slovenian language, it is necessary to create special vocational guidance programs and adapted vocational education programs (especially in deficit areas).
- Establishment of a mechanism for raising awareness and informing employers as well as strengthening their competencies for intercultural communication.
- Applicants for international protection must be granted faster access to the labour market, from the current nine months to a maximum of three months after applying, in order to give them the opportunity to work legally and to find employment.
- Carrying out a thorough analysis of the reasons and circumstances that affect the social activation of individuals.

24 Government of the Republic of Slovenia, Council for the Integration of Foreigners, <https://www.gov.si/zbirke/delovna-telesa/svet-za-vkljucevanje-tujcev/> . Prior to the appointment of the new representatives, the composition of the Council for the Integration of Foreigners was as follows: Mag. Sandi Čurin, President of the Council; Nataša Potočnik, Deputy President of the Council; Tilen Božič, member; mag. Dušan Lužar, member; dr. Jernej Štromajer, member; mag. Petra Culetto, member; mag. Franci Zlatar, member; Dalibor Jugović, member; Sonja Šarac, member; Julija Mesarič, member; Tanja Hodnik, member; Anita Jug Došler, member.

3. LEGAL ROUTES FOR MIGRANTS

As already pointed out, the vast majority of immigrants came to Slovenia legally based on the regulations on residence in the Republic of Slovenia.

In Slovenia, a foreigner may obtain:

- *Temporary residence permit* when they have a demonstrable purpose of residence in Slovenia. If the conditions are met, the permit is issued for a fixed period (maximum one year). It shall be renewed under the same conditions as issued. As a rule, the first permit is applied for abroad at a diplomatic mission or consulate of the Republic of Slovenia.
- *Permanent residence permit*; a foreigner may apply for it after a certain uninterrupted and legal period of residence in Slovenia. It is issued without any limitation of duration and the application does not require the purpose of permanent residence in Slovenia.

Provable purpose may be employment or work, self-employment, seasonal work, daily labour migration, migration, posting, intra-company transfer, EU Blue Card, studies, research and higher education work, family reunification, family reunification for persons with international protection in Slovenia, state interest, long-term residency (LTR) in another EU country, foreigner of Slovenian descent.

At the end of December 2019, more than 196,470 persons (176,043 in 2018) had a valid residence permit or residence registration certificate in Slovenia - 167,438 of them were third-country nationals. Among the valid temporary residence permits, most are uniform residence and work permits, followed by valid temporary residence permits due to family reunification and study.

Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina hold the majority of valid permits, followed by citizens of Kosovo, Serbia, Northern Macedonia and the Russian Federation.

Resettlement and Relocation of Refugees

In 2018, on the basis of the first Framework Agreement between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia and the IOM, 34 Syrian refugees were permanently relocated from Turkey to Slovenia. Between May 2016 and March 2018, 253 asylum seekers arrived safely in Slovenia with the help of the IOM, namely 172 persons from Greece and 81 persons from Italy.²⁵ A basic three-month orientation program was provided for them.

Family Reunification

A person with refugee status or subsidiary protection granted for more than one year may also apply for a residence permit for his/her family members within 90 days of obtaining the status, provided that the family already existed before coming to the Republic of Slovenia.

The following are considered family members:

- spouse, a partner in a partnership or a relationship or a partner with whom a foreigner has been living in a long-term cohabitation;
- minor unmarried children of the foreigner;
- minor, unmarried children of a spouse, a partner in a partnership or a relationship or a partner with whom a refugee has been living in a long-term cohabitation;
- adult unmarried children and parents of a refugee, a spouse, a partner in a partnership or a relationship or partner with whom a refugee has been living in a long-term cohabitation, which a refugee, spouse, a partner in a partnership or a relationship or partner with whom a refugee has been living in a long-term cohabitation according to the law of the country whose citizen it is, is

²⁵ IOM, Key activities and projects 2018-2019, <https://slovenia.iom.int/publication/leaflet-assistance-family-reunification-procedures-provided-iom>.

obliged to maintain;

- parents of a refugee who is an unaccompanied minor.

A person with international protection may be assisted by the Legal Information Center of Non-Governmental Organizations (PIC) in submitting an application for family reunification to the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia. The person must attach to the application documentary evidence proving the family connection and the identity of the family members.

In 2018, 59 applications were submitted for family reunification. 50 applications were submitted by persons with refugee status, nine applications were submitted by persons with subsidiary protection. The administrative body took the decision in 27 cases. Nine persons were issued a permanent residence permit, in nine cases the application was rejected and in nine cases the proceedings were stopped.

In 2019, 38 applications were submitted for family reunification. 31 applications were submitted by persons with refugee status, seven applications were submitted by persons with subsidiary protection. The Ministry adopted 52 decisions. 37 applications were resolved positively.

Scholarships and Exemption from Paying Tuition

The Republic of Slovenia has earmarked €12,316,842 (€9,758,700 in 2018) or almost half of all funds allocated to bilateral development assistance for the exemption and payment of tuition fees and scholarships in 2019 as part of the financing of contents within bilateral development assistance.

Type of bilateral assistance in 2018

	2017		2018		2019	
	Bilateral development assistance (in EUR)	Proportion of available bilateral development assistance (in %)	Bilateral development assistance (in EUR)	Proportion of available bilateral development assistance (in %)	Bilateral development aid (in EUR)	Proportion of available bilateral development assistance (in %)
Exemption and payment of tuition and scholarships	8.704.236	45,39	9.758.700	45,04	12.316.842	49,92

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, other sources

This instrument raises a serious question to what extent the possibility of schooling (due to the exemption from tuition fees) in Slovenia contributes to the brain drain from home countries, especially from the countries of the Western Balkans.

Unaccompanied Minors

For Slovenia, a special challenge among migrants is unaccompanied minors, who by definition are vulnerable people with special needs. In the past, Slovenia did not meet this group of people often, so the support for this group of children was less developed. Therefore, at the system level, a pilot project of accommodation for unaccompanied minors was formed at two locations in the country (Nova Gorica and Postojna).

The new *International Protection Act* prescribed the principle of the best interests of the child and thus introduced additional protection; the law also stipulates that the minors must be given access to leisure activities and play both outdoors and indoors. In student dormitories, children are located in an environment where there are other children as well, and have 24-hour support by professionally trained staff.

According to some reports, there is a need for additional training of staff in student dormitories to work with vulnerable and traumatized children. NGOs are therefore in favour of a community model

of accommodation and support, which includes:

- a. housing communities with a 24-hour presence of professionals;
- b. housing groups that allow partially independent living; and
- c. placement of young children in foster families.

Recommendations

- The basic requirement is to create and strengthen legal routes for immigration on the basis of Objective 5 of the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*.
- Creating a program of community accommodation of unaccompanied adolescents, which will ensure their integration into the education system, prevent early school leaving, promote life skills learning, introduce a mentoring system and the like.
- Establishment of a special support group for the comprehensive treatment of child victims of trafficking, which would provide special accommodation with adapted treatment and suitably qualified staff for this sensitive area. A similar mechanism should be created for victims of torture and for people with mental disorders.
- Carrying out a comprehensive analysis of the effects of the exemptions from tuition fees and scholarships.

4. INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS & DIASPORA

In accordance with the provisions of the *Strategy for International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid* the *strategy of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in the field of migrations* from 2018 stipulates that the activities of the Republic of Slovenia are aimed at supporting partner countries in achieving their sustainable development goals in four selected areas. These are:

- (i) decent work, productive employment and sustainable economic development (Sustainable Development Goal 8);
- (ii) peaceful and inclusive societies and efficient, accountable and transparent institutions (Sustainable Development Goal 16);
- (iii) sustainable means of production and consumption or circular economy (Sustainable Development Goal 12); and
- (iv) combating climate change (Sustainable Development Goal 13).

As part of the financing of contents within bilateral development assistance as part of official development assistance, the Republic of Slovenia allocated €2,216,391 or nine percent of available bilateral development assistance for costs related to the support of refugees and migrants in Slovenia in 2019. In 2018, it allocated €2,073,591 for this purpose, which represented 9.6 percent of the available bilateral development assistance.

Type of bilateral assistance in 2018

	2017		2018		2019	
	Bilateral development aid (in EUR)	Proportion of available bilateral development assistance (in %)	Bilateral development assistance (in EUR)	Proportion of available bilateral development assistance (in %)	Bilateral development aid (in EUR)	Proportion of available bilateral development assistance (in %)
Costs for the support of refugees and migrants in Slovenia	829.936	4,33	2.073.591	9,57	2.216.391	8,98

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, other sources

Distribution of costs for the support of refugees and migrants by ministries and government services 2018

Ministry	Contractor	Purpose	Scope	
			EUR	Share
Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants	Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants	Costs for accommodation, meals, basic aids, literacy, tuition, accommodation assistance, health, transport and other temporary support	1.596.496	77%
MH	Community health centres, hospitals, health care providers	Emergency medical care services	338,732	16%
MI	MI	Information, provision of free legal aid before the courts, translation and interpretation in international protection proceedings (25% own participation)	90,698	4%
MLFSAEO	MLFSAEO	Part of the funds for the support of unaccompanied minors provided by the MLFSAEO	47,665	2%
TOTAL			2,073,591	100%

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Diaspora organizations, especially national communities from the Western Balkans and the former Yugoslav republics, are actively seeking to strengthen their status by amending the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, which would stipulate that the former constituent peoples of Yugoslavia and their communities in Slovenia are equal to minorities (Italians, Hungarians) and the Roma community.

Recommendations

- Form programs to support the work of diaspora organizations and strengthen their competencies to support migrants and persons with international protection.
- Strengthen networking between diaspora organizations and integration policy actors at national, regional and local levels.
- Review the effects of the existing model of refugee support as part of official development aid.

5. MIGRATION FROM THE ASPECT OF GENDER EQUALITY

The composition of the population of Slovenia, as at 1 April 2020 accounted for 1,052,649 men and 1,044,546 women. The percentage of women among Slovenian citizens was 51.2% (this percentage has been declining very slowly for some years); among foreign nationals, there were 33.4% women (after several years of growth, this share has decreased by 1.9 percentage points since 1 January 2018).²⁶ This ratio is even lower in the group of refugees and applicants for international protection.

Statistical data show that in 2018, there were 21,650 foreign nationals among immigrants aged 15 or more. Of these, almost 80% (17,213) were from the former Yugoslavia. Of which there were 21.2% of women, of whom 73.6% were inactive jobseekers, active jobseekers or the unemployed accounted for 2%, and employed 24%. 92.4% of all men were employed. More than 14% women had a tertiary or higher education, while only 2% men achieved such an education. On the other hand, almost 40% of immigrant women had primary or lower education, while only 23.2% men had such education.

If we summarize after the second voluntary review of the implementation of the sustainable development goals from 2020, Slovenia is in ninth place for women and thirteenth for men according to the human development index in the EU. According to the gender equality index monitored by the European Institute for Gender Equality, Slovenia ranks eleventh among EU countries. In 2019, Slovenia scored 68.4 points on the gender equality index, which is higher than the EU average (66.2). Between 2005 and 2017, Slovenia's score improved by 7.5 points. In public life, inequality is reflected in the fact that, despite higher education, women are less likely to hold economic and political decision-making positions, are more often employed in precarious employment, receive lower pay for their work, are more often exposed to sexual harassment and are less employed in so called professions of the future, for example in the field of information and communication technologies and artificial intelligence.

In 2018, the wage gap between men and women in Slovenia was relatively low, at 8.7% (while at European level it was 16%). On the other hand, 87% of female students are enrolled in the field of education, 76% in health and social security and 66% in the social sciences, while only 15% of female students are enrolled in the field of information and communication technology. The percentage of women in management positions has been gradually increasing since 2012. In Slovenia, the share of women in management positions currently reaches 26.6%, which is more than the European average 18.6%.²⁷

The *Strategy for International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid until 2030*, which builds on the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, defines gender equality as one of two cross-cutting issues (the other is environmental protection). The strategy stipulated that Slovenia would:

- (i) include gender equality in the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of individual activities and development cooperation as a whole;
- (ii) seek to support measures in favour of gender equality when deciding on development cooperation activities;
- (iii) support the integration of gender equality into the system of values, mission and governance of all development and humanitarian stakeholders; and
- (iv) promote the integration of environmental impact assessment and gender equality into the planning and implementation of development activities.

²⁶ Barica Razpotnik, on 1 April 2020 in Slovenia there were 2,097,195 inhabitants or 1,300 more than three months earlier, SORS, 30 July 2020. Available at: <https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/News/Index/8974>.

²⁷ Government of the Republic of Slovenia, Second Voluntary National Review of the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, 2020. Available at: https://slovenia2030.si/files/VNR2020_Slovenia-SI.pdf.

From the point of view of the goal of sustainable development no. 5 it is important that the *Migration Strategy* is also linked to this. Increased migration in recent years has revealed additional exclusion factors for women who immigrated to Slovenia from other linguistic and cultural backgrounds for work, family reunification or as refugees:

- social exclusion and socio-economic marginalization;
- isolation of women coming from other cultural backgrounds;
- the existence of various systemic and practical barriers;
- lack of a community approach; and
- lack of proper cooperation and networking of stakeholders.

Therefore, in particular, non-governmental organizations have prepared and implemented quite a few projects on the topic of reducing these differences.

In this area, social activation programs are important, within which projects are financed by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia and co-financed by the European Union from the European Social Fund on the basis of the *Operational Program for European Cohesion Policy 2014-2020*, 9th priority axis “Social inclusion and poverty reduction”, 9.1 investment priorities “Active inclusion, including the promotion of equal opportunities and active participation and the improvement of employability”, 9.1.2 specific objective “Empowering target groups to move closer to the labour market”. The target group is adult women coming from other cultural backgrounds who have language barriers and possess a permanent residence permit in Slovenia or have a Slovenian citizenship and are beneficiaries of social assistance benefits in cash or on the basis of the *Labour Market Regulation Act* (LMRA) entered in the register of unemployed persons or on the basis of LMRA entered in the register of persons who are temporarily unemployed or inactive persons with complex social issues.

SORS also reports that the mothers of 2,183 children who were born in 2019 in Slovenia (or the mother of every ninth child) were foreign nationals. “Most of them were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina (40%); followed by Kosovo citizens (18%); there were 254 citizens of EU Member States (12%). Foreign citizens who gave birth in Slovenia in 2019 were on average 29.5 years old at the time of the child’s birth, or 1.8 years younger than Slovenian citizens who gave birth in 2019.”²⁸

Sexual Violence and Gender-Based Violence

As part of the *Protect* project, the IOM office in Ljubljana carried out a mapping of existing support services in the field of gender-based sexual violence for refugees and migrants. They identified key gaps and challenges which were identified by service providers in their practical work with refugees and migrants. “Although there is no publicly available aggregate data, service providers generally identify sexual and gender-based violence as the predominant problems in the migrant community, with domestic violence and trafficking in unaccompanied children being identified as key risks. The following key challenges have been identified in identifying and providing assistance to victims of sexual and gender-based violence in Slovenia:

- lack of continuous support due to the mostly transit nature of applicants for international protection and refugees in Slovenia;
- language barrier between migrants and assistance providers, in particular those who specialize in assisting in cases of sexual and gender-based violence;
- lack of specialized assistance for children, in particular the lack of suitable accommodation for children who are victims of trafficking;
- limited access to beneficiaries of international protection that could need assistance when they live in private accommodation and no longer participate in integration programs;

28 Martina Žnidaršič, The number of live births in 2019 less than 20,000, SORS, 2020. Available at: <https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/News/Index/8908>.

- the project nature of the aid.”²⁹

Recommendations

- Establishing permanent support programs for (1) development of social, language and communication skills, (2) raising functional competencies for active solving of social problems (computer literacy), (3) raising motivation and empowerment for entering the labour market, (4) raising or acquiring work competencies, i.e. useful knowledge, skills and abilities to improve the possibilities of entering the labour market.
- Strengthening the capacity and support environment for the participation of actors in the local or regional environment.
- Strengthen activities to reduce sexual violence for refugees, in line with IOM findings.

²⁹ IOM, PROTECT - Prevention of gender - based sexual violence against migrants and strengthening victim support, 2019. Available at: <https://slovenia.iom.int/publication/mapping-report-sexual-and-gender-based-violence>.

III. CONCLUSIONS

The review provided an overview of developments in the field of integration of migrants and persons with international protection. It builds on the comprehensive monitoring of this field, especially for the field of asylum, which is carried out by various non-governmental organizations within the framework of various projects financed by the Republic of Slovenia and the European Commission. On the other hand, NGOs are the ones that carry out a lot of supportive integration activities. The general observation is that still a lot has to be done in the field of integration as a two-way process. There are many moments and elements that affect the success and efficiency of integrations, and in a way, they indicate a significant fragmentation of activities and the absence of a stronger coordinating function. Therefore, it is extremely important to include all actors and stakeholders who have something to contribute in the decision-making processes in Slovenia. Only in this way the 2030 Agenda, which sets out a series of goals and sub-goals in the field of migration, as well as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, will actually come to life as a reference point for ensuring that we act accordingly. Action and planning take place at a more pragmatic level of providing minimum standards of support for as many people as possible.

The following is a collection of recommendations based on requests expressed by NGOs in various forms in the past. For the effective integration of migrants and persons with international protection, the following recommendations need to be implemented:

- Slovenia needs to create a comprehensive system of support for integration, which will work both ways: offering support to immigrants and the local population.
- Establishment of local coordination in the field of integration, which will include all actors in this field (social work centres, employment services, schools, kindergartens, health centres, employers' representatives, etc.).
- Extending the entitlement of immigrants to an intensive orientation program by involving local actors in the field of integration.
- Design of adapted Slovenian language learning programs, especially literacy programs, in the form of individual lessons.
- Development of education for intercultural mediation at the level of the educational program and inclusion in the national professional qualification.
- Establishment of a program for strengthening competencies in the field of intercultural mediation in integration actors at all levels - from national to local.
- Design of community-based programs to support dispersed accommodation opportunities to facilitate the accessibility of integration support instruments.
- In addition to enhanced activities for learning the Slovenian language, it is necessary to create special vocational guidance programs and adapted vocational education programs (especially in deficit areas).
- Establishment of a mechanism for raising awareness and informing employers as well as strengthening their competencies for intercultural communication.
- Applicants for international protection must be granted faster access to the labour market, from the current nine months to a maximum of three months after applying, in order to give them the opportunity to work legally and to find employment.
- Carrying out a thorough analysis of the reasons and circumstances that affect the social activation of individuals.
- The basic requirement is to create and strengthen legal routes for immigration on the basis of Objective 5 of the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*.
- Creating a program of community accommodation of unaccompanied adolescents, which will ensure their integration into the education system, prevent early school leaving, promote life skills learning, introduce a mentoring system and the like.
- Establishment of a special support group for the comprehensive treatment of child victims

of trafficking, which would provide special accommodation with adapted treatment and suitably qualified staff for this sensitive area. A similar mechanism should be created for victims of torture and for people with mental disorders.

- Carrying out a comprehensive analysis of the effects of the exemptions from tuition fees and scholarships.
- Form programs to support the work of diaspora organizations and strengthen their competencies to support migrants and persons with international protection.
- Strengthen networking between diaspora organizations and integration policy actors at national, regional and local levels.
- Review the effects of the existing model of refugee support as part of official development aid.
- Establishing permanent support programs for (1) development of social, language and communication skills, (2) raising functional competencies for active solving of social problems (computer literacy), (3) raising motivation and empowerment for entering the labour market, (4) raising or acquiring work competencies, i.e. useful knowledge, skills and abilities to improve the possibilities of entering the labour market.
- Strengthening the capacity and support environment for the participation of actors in the local or regional environment.
- Strengthen activities to reduce sexual violence for refugees, in line with IOM findings.

IV. ANNEX

Population and natural population change by: YEAR, MEASUREMENTS			
	Population - January 1	Natural increase	Natural increase per 1,000 inhabitants
2001	1990094	-1031	-0,5
2002	1994026	-1200	-0,6
2003	1995033	-2130	-1,1
2004	1996433	-562	-0,3
2005	1997590	-668	-0,3
2006	2003358	752	0,4
2007	2010377	1239	0,6
2008	2025866	3509	1,7
2009	2032362	3106	1,5
2010	2046976	3734	1,8
2011	2050189	3248	1,6
2012	2055496	2681	1,3
2013	2058821	1777	0,9
2014	2061085	2279	1,1
2015	2062874	807	0,4
2016	2064188	656	0,3
2017	2065895	-268	-0,1
2018	2066880	-900	-0,4
2019	2080908	-1260	-0,6

Source: SORS, SiStat Database

[Home page](#) >> [Demographic and social field](#) >> [Population](#) >> [Basic population data](#) >> [Population and natural population change, annually](#) >> [Population and natural population change, Slovenia, annually](#)

POPULATION, NATURAL AND MIGRATION MOVEMENT, SLOVENIA annually

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Population - January 1	2025866	2032362	2046976	2050189	2055496	2058821	2061085	2062874	2064188	2065895	2066880	2080908
Live births	21817	21856	22343	21947	21938	21111	21165	20641	20345	20241	19585	19328
Deaths	18308	18750	18609	18699	19257	19334	18886	19834	19689	20509	20485	20588
Immigrants from abroad	30693	30296	15416	14083	15022	13871	13846	15420	16623	18808	28455	31319
Emigrated abroad	12109	18788	15937	12024	14378	13384	14336	14913	15572	17555	13527	15106

Source: SORS, SiStat Database

APPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA, as at July 2020

YEAR	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS - total	APPLI-CATION - RE-EXAMI-NATION	RE-EXAMI-NATION	CASES RE-SOLVED	RECOGNI-ZED STATUS	REJECTED APPLICA-TIONS	STOPPING THE PRO-CEDURE	DISMISSED APPLICA-TIONS	SAFE THIRD COUNTRY	MIGRANT CRISIS	RESETTLE-MENT	RELOCA-TION
1995	6	/	/	17	2	4	10	1	/			
1996	35	/	/	26	0	0	5	21	/			
1997	72	/	/	51	0	8	15	28	/			
1998	337	/	/	82	1	27	13	41	/			
1999	744	/	/	441	0	87	237	117	/			
2000	9244	/	/	969	11	46	831	0	81			
2001	1511*	/	/	10042	25	97	9911	9	0			
2002	640	/	60	739	3	105	619	12	0			
2003	1101	35	45	1166	37	123	964	17	25			
2004	1208	35	70	1125	39	317	737	20	12			
2005	1674	77	160	1848	26	661	1120	38	3			
2006	579	61	339	901	9	561	228	43	0			
2007	434	39	56	576	9	276	238	53	0			
2008	260	18	52	325	4	145	164	12	0			
2009	202	15	22	228	20	89	96	23	0			
2010	246	35	31	239	23	55	120	27	14			
2011	358	51	19	392	24	78	177	40	73			
2012	304	43	21	328	34	75	110	57	52			
2013	272	31	23	374	37	82	177	59	19			
2014	385	27	23	360	44	51	216	49	0			
2015	277	18	22	265	46	87	89	44	0	141		
2016	1308	7	44	1136	170	96	621	249	0	1184		124
2017	1476	20	51	1572	152	89	949	382	0	0		108
2018	2875	40	27	2886	102	135	2372	277	0	0	40	21
2019	3821	39	56	3838	85	128	3273	352	0	0	0	2
2020	1938	24	22	1548	72	127	1063	290	0	0	0	0

The number of applications is the sum of all them together (first + repeated), of which there were repeated - no. in the second column

Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia

VALID RESIDENCE PERMITS IN 2019 - CITIZENS OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA AND THE SWISS CONFEDERATION

VALID RESIDENCE PERMITS IN 2019 - CITIZENS OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA AND THE SWISS CONFEDERATION																											
	31.01.2019		28.02.2019		31.03.2019		30.04.2019		31.05.2019		30.06.2019		31.07.2019		31.08.2019		30.09.2019		31.10.2019		30.11.2019		31.12.2019		TOTAL		
	PPSP *	PPP**	PPSP	PPP		PPSP	PPP																				
Austria	210	337	210	332	210	332	210	332	209	330	208	332	210	327	210	327	210	323	210	323	211	325	212	324			536
Belgium	40	84	39	84	39	82	39	90	39	92	39	90	37	74	37	74	37	76	37	75	37	83	36	87			123
Bulgaria	1486	3463	1603	3544	1517	3567	1536	3579	1532	3577	1532	3589	1593	3568	1618	3525	1645	3502	1658	3520	1676	3531	1692	3492			5184
Cyprus	1	17	1	17	1	16	1	20	1	21	1	21	1	17	1	16	1	16	1	14	1	15	1	15			16
Czech Republic	112	160	112	111	104	146	111	165	111	174	113	166	113	104	113	109	114	107	115	128	114	161	115	163			278
Denmark	21	36	21	34	21	33	21	34	21	33	21	32	21	29	21	30	21	29	21	30	21	25	20	25			45
Estonia	8	27	8	24	8	21	8	25	8	25	8	25	8	24	8	26	8	27	8	28	8	28	8	29			37
Finland	17	45	18	27	19	33	19	43	19	50	19	48	19	34	19	33	19	29	19	24	20	27	20	27			47
France	139	337	138	332	140	344	140	359	140	364	141	344	140	272	142	261	143	248	144	253	144	280	145	287			432
Greece	22	66	22	64	22	78	22	87	22	91	22	91	22	75	22	76	22	71	22	70	23	75	23	73			96
Croatia	7063	5218	7083	5300	7080	5413	7089	5484	6983	5562	7017	5631	7095	5653	7098	5685	7104	5669	7100	5655	7105	5733	7097	5815			12912
Ireland	32	50	32	50	32	52	31	54	32	54	33	51	33	52	33	49	33	43	33	43	33	45	33	48			81
Iceland	1	3	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	5	2	5	2	5	2	6			8
Italy	690	2539	700	2529	709	2509	713	2504	714	2524	718	2545	730	2512	743	2478	759	2488	770	2484	775	2504	782	2528			3310
Latvia	20	41	19	47	20	48	20	52	19	55	19	53	20	48	20	50	20	49	20	48	20	48	20	49			69
Liechtenstein		2		2		2		2		2						2		2		2		2		2			2
Lithuania	20	44	20	32	20	35	20	40	19	42	19	42	20	30	20	31	20	32	20	33	20	35	20	38			58

Luxembourg		6		6		5	2	4	2	4	1	4	1	4	1	4	1	4	1	4	1	4	1	4	5
Hungary	201	807	204	809	205	828	207	833	190	833	190	838	217	838	218	847	223	851	229	843	231	839	232	845	1077
Malta	2	8	2	6	2	5	3	5	3	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	6	4	7	11
Germany	517	671	520	612	519	604	518	607	522	616	523	611	522	576	523	568	522	569	524	591	524	635	525	643	1168
Netherlands	131	138	135	129	135	134	135	132	136	136	136	136	137	126	137	126	137	125	137	128	138	139	140	146	286
Norway	7	24	7	24	7	24	7	25	7	24	7	23	7	20	8	19	8	20	9	20	9	20	9	19	28
Poland	147	216	147	191	147	208	149	219	149	215	150	217	150	177	151	174	150	174	150	191	149	227	148	230	378
Portugal	26	105	26	67	26	82	27	101	27	104	27	107	27	66	27	68	27	67	28	74	28	103	28	115	143
Romania	196	430	198	394	200	415	200	437	188	429	188	422	192	422	202	419	204	430	207	420	207	434	208	436	644
Slovakia	282	370	291	349	290	362	291	372	284	377	284	376	290	360	291	348	296	344	295	346	298	363	298	361	659
Spain	61	370	62	286	62	286	62	307	62	307	62	282	62	162	62	141	62	139	62	219	65	306	65	331	396
Sweden	36	53	36	54	36	55	36	59	36	60	36	60	36	59	36	59	36	57	36	57	36	60	37	61	98
United Kingdom	225	486	228	492	238	496	249	499	253	501	258	504	261	507	261	501	264	503	268	512	269	506	269	516	785
																									0
Switzerland	68	50	68	49	68	51	68	50	68	50	67	53	65	54	65	57	65	54	65	55	65	54	65	55	120
TOTAL	11781	16203	11951	16000	11878	16268	11935	16522	11797	16659	11844	16700	12034	16197	12092	16110	12157	16058	12195	16200	12234	16618	12257	16775	29032
			27951		28146		28457		28456		28544		28231		28202		28215		28395		28852		29032		

* PPSP - CERTIFICATE OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE REGISTRATION AND PERMIT OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE FOR NATIONALS OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION
 / **PPP - RESIDENCE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE AND TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR NATIONALS OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION

VALID LICENSES IN 2019 - THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS

VALID LICENSES IN 2019 - THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS							
	31.10.2019		30.11.2019		31.12.2019		31.12.2019
	PRP	TRP	PRP	TRP	PRP	TRP	TOTAL
Afghanistan	16	5	16	6	17	8	25
Albania	75	144	75	145	76	140	216
Algeria	11	13	11	13	11	12	23
Angola	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Argentina	17	34	17	33	17	33	50
Armenia	7	3	7	3	7	3	10
Australia	50	36	50	36	50	36	86
Azerbaijan	3	20	3	24	3	23	26
Bahrain				1		1	1
Bangladesh	7	24	7	29	7	27	34
Barbados		1		1		1	1
Belize		3		3		3	3
Belarus	98	88	98	85	98	96	194
Benin	1		1	1	1	1	2
Botswana	1		1		1		1
Bolivia	2	1	2	1	2	1	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	46324	41388	46517	42154	46712	42893	89605
Brazil	74	97	75	102	75	101	176
Burkina Faso	4	2	4	2	4	2	6
Burundi		1		1		1	1
Chad	1		1		1		1
Chile	6	12	6	11	6	9	15
Montenegro	644	345	642	402	647	445	1092
Dominican Republic	150	31	150	31	150	32	182
Egypt	68	56	67	58	69	60	129
Ecuador	6	5	6	5	6	5	11
Eritrea	14		19		19		19
Ethiopia	4	2	4	2	4	2	6
Fiji	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
Philippines	97	78	97	80	98	81	179
Gabon		1		1		1	1
Gambia	16	7	16	8	17	8	25
Ghana	14	8	14	8	14	9	23
Georgia	5	14	5	13	5	14	19
Guyana	1		1		1		1
Guatemala		5		5		5	5
Guinea	3		3		3		3
Guinea-Bissau	1	2	1	2	1	2	3
Haiti	2		2		2		2
Honduras	3	1	3	1	3	1	4
Hongkong		6		6		6	6
India	101	176	101	191	101	203	304
Indonesia	32	23	32	24	32	23	55
Iraq	19	6	19	6	19	7	26

Iran	30	102	30	110	30	115	145
Israel	17	41	19	39	19	40	59
Jamaica	6	2	6	2	6	2	8
Japan	55	47	55	48	55	50	105
Yemen	1	4	1	6	1	6	7
Jordan	14	14	14	13	14	14	28
Republic of South Africa	7	70	7	71	7	70	77
Cambodia	3		3		3		3
Cameroon	8	4	8	5	8	5	13
Canada	49	63	49	64	49	66	115
Kazakhstan	57	109	58	124	58	127	185
Kenya	16	7	17	7	17	7	24
Kyrgyzstan	4	3	4	6	4	7	11
China	1007	550	1010	540	1014	559	1573
Colombia	30	27	31	28	31	30	61
Comoros	1		1		1		1
Congo		1		1		0	0
Congo (Democratic Republic)	6	2	6	2	6	3	9
South Korea	13	38	13	39	13	41	54
Kosovo	15559	10469	15664	10652	15765	10934	26699
Costa Rica	3	1	3	1	3	1	4
Cuba	50	27	50	27	50	27	77
Kuwait		2		2		2	2
Laos	2	1	2	1	2	1	3
Lebanon	5	10	5	9	5	9	14
Liberia	1	2	1	2	1	2	3
Libya	3	16	3	16	3	16	19
Madagascar	5	7	5	7	5	7	12
Malawi		2		2		2	2
Maldives		13		11		13	13
Malaysia	3	6	3	6	3	6	9
Mali		2		2		2	2
Morocco	15	20	17	20	17	21	38
Mauritius	6		6		6		6
Mexico	30	41	31	39	31	41	72
Myanmar						0	0
Moldova	227	58	227	54	225	54	279
Monaco						0	0
Mongolia	1		1		1		1
Mozambique	3	1	3	1	3	1	4
Namibia		1		1		1	1
Nepal	5	12	5	18	5	19	24
Niger						0	0
Nigeria	50	35	50	37	52	34	86
Nicaragua	1	4	1	4	1	4	5
New Zealand	10	7	10	9	10	9	19
Oman	1		1		1		1
Pakistan	13	27	13	29	13	32	45

Palestine	11	7	11	4	11	4	15
Panama	2	1	2	1	2	1	3
Papua New Guinea	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Paraguay	3	2	3	2	3	2	5
Peru	29	12	29	12	29	13	42
Puerto Rico				1		1	1
Ruanda	1	2	1	2	1	2	3
Russian Federation	1393	2119	1417	2184	1445	2202	3647
Saint Kitts in Nevis		1		1		1	1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines						0	0
Salvador	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
San Marino	1		1		1		1
Saudi Arabia		3		3		3	3
Senegal	2		2		2		2
Northern Macedonia	10008	4897	10025	5262	10039	5505	15544
Sierra Leone		1		1		1	1
Singapore	1	2	1	2	1	2	3
Syrian Arab Republic	28	12	28	11	28	11	39
Ivory coast	1		1		1		1
Somalia		1		1		1	1
Serbia	7996	13077	8012	13319	8043	13386	21429
Sudan	3	1	3	1	3	1	4
Sri Lanka	7	8	7	9	7	10	17
Tajikistan	1	2	1	3	1	3	4
Thailand	216	152	216	152	216	163	379
Taiwan, Province	14	12	14	13	14	13	27
Tanzania	1	2	1	2	1	2	3
Togo		1		1		1	1
Trinidad and Tobago	4	1	4	1	4	1	5
Tunisia	49	31	48	32	49	35	84
Turkey	89	201	90	218	91	220	311
Turkmenistan	1		1		1	1	2
Uganda	2	2	2	2	2	2	4
Ukraine	1375	1194	1389	1229	1397	1256	2653
Uruguay	2		2		2		2
Uzbekistan	12	22	12	23	12	21	33
Venezuela	20	27	21	26	21	26	47
Vietnam	13	14	13	13	13	15	28
Zambia	2	5	2	5	2	4	6
United States of America	218	334	220	334	218	361	579
Cape Verde	2	1	2	1	2	1	3
Zimbabwe	5	1	5	1	5		5
TOTAL	86710	76639	87096	78425	87488	79950	167438
	163349		165521		167438		

*PRP - PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT

**TRP - TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMIT

Immigrants aged 15 or more by: SEX, COUNTRY OF PREVIOUS RESIDENCE, YEAR, CITIZENSHIP, ACTIVITY STATUS

		2018				
		Foreign nationals				
		Immigrants aged 15 or more - TOTAL	Active - total	Employed	Unemployed	Non-Active - total
Men	- Countries formed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia - TOTAL	13566	12785	12545	240	781
	- EU countries - TOTAL	1937	1370	1324	46	567
	- Other European countries - TOTAL	380	280	276	4	100
	AFRICA	93	65	31	34	28
	ASIA	252	173	149	24	79
	NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA	66	31	29	2	35
	SOUTH AMERICA	23	13	12	1	10
	AUSTRALIA AND OCEANIA	14	8	7	1	6
Women	- Countries formed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia - TOTAL	3647	964	877	87	2683
	- EU countries - TOTAL	904	419	381	38	485
	- Other European countries - TOTAL	382	166	155	11	216
	AFRICA	31	12	5	7	19
	ASIA	244	135	109	26	109
	NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA	72	21	18	3	51
	SOUTH AMERICA	34	12	6	6	22
	AUSTRALIA AND OCEANIA	5	3	3	0	2

Source: SORS

Immigrants aged 15 or more by: SEX, COUNTRY OF PREVIOUS RESIDENCE, YEAR, CITIZENSHIP, EDUCATION

		2018		
		Foreign nationals		
		Elementary school or less	Secondary school	University
Men	- Countries formed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia - TOTAL	3150	10100	316
	- Other European countries	88	126	166
	AFRICA	47	36	10
	ASIA	58	110	84
	NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA	11	28	27
	SOUTH AMERICA	7	8	8
	AUSTRALIA AND OCEANIA	4	7	3
Women	- Countries formed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia - TOTAL	1455	1672	520
	- Other European countries	145	96	141
	AFRICA	14	10	7
	ASIA	85	91	68
	NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA	29	23	20
	SOUTH AMERICA	16	7	11
	AUSTRALIA AND OCEANIA	3	1	1

Source: SORS

Interstate relocations by: MOVEMENTS, AGE GROUPS, YEAR, CITIZENSHIP, SEX

		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
		Foreign nationals		Foreign nationals		Foreign nationals		Foreign nationals		Foreign nationals	
		Men	Women								
Immigrants from abroad	Age groups - TOTAL	7603	5062	8764	4996	10308	5212	17612	6489	20293	7267
	0-4 years	334	278	286	260	314	259	380	378	460	390
	5-9 years	369	312	311	307	374	322	463	386	509	446
	10-14 years	379	279	326	280	311	316	438	406	424	426
	15-19 years	486	375	530	414	502	431	736	468	850	532
	20-24 years	807	703	1042	752	1420	768	3153	966	3921	1204
	25-29 years	1103	782	1223	746	1587	745	2942	914	3517	1049
	30-34 years	1013	669	1179	597	1503	619	2559	788	3002	821
	35-39 years	906	512	1120	495	1256	489	2199	637	2508	802
	40-44 years	676	427	888	405	1090	456	1830	537	1976	600
	45-49 years	597	270	764	273	824	332	1292	372	1404	404
	50-54 years	425	166	506	189	564	178	840	268	921	240
	55-59 years	254	106	289	96	302	117	426	139	464	137
	60-64 years	111	61	132	58	125	76	185	89	185	76
	65-69 years	66	43	79	48	83	39	87	57	75	58
	70-74 years	34	19	43	24	24	27	42	32	33	33
	75-79 years	20	25	33	22	21	22	28	19	36	18
	80-84 years	14	15	5	18	6	12	9	15	6	18
	85+ years	9	20	8	12	2	4	3	18	2	13

Source: SORS

GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

[...]

OBJECTIVE 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration

21. We commit to adapt options and pathways for regular migration in a manner that facilitates labour mobility and decent work reflecting demographic and labour market realities, optimizes education opportunities, upholds the right to family life, and responds to the needs of migrants in a situation of vulnerability, with a view to expanding and diversifying availability of pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration. To realize this commitment, we will draw from the following actions:

- a. Develop human rights-based and gender-responsive bilateral, regional and multilateral labour mobility agreements with sector-specific standard terms of employment in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, drawing on relevant ILO standards, guidelines and principles, in compliance with international human rights and labour law.
- b. Facilitate regional and cross-regional labour mobility through international and bilateral cooperation arrangements, such as free movement regimes, visa liberalization or multiple country visas, and labour mobility cooperation frameworks, in accordance with national priorities, local market needs and skills supply.
- c. Review and revise existing options and pathways for regular migration, with a view to optimize skills matching in labour markets, address demographic realities and development challenges and opportunities, in accordance with local and national labour market demands and skills supply, in consultation with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders.
- d. Develop flexible, rights-based and gender-responsive labour mobility schemes for migrants, in accordance with local and national labour market needs and skills supply at all skills levels, including temporary, seasonal, circular, and fast-track programmes in areas of labour shortages, by providing flexible, convertible and non-discriminatory visa and permit options, such as for permanent and temporary work, multiple-entry study, business, visit, investment and entrepreneurship.
- e. Promote effective skills matching in the national economy by involving local authorities and other relevant stakeholders, particularly the private sector and trade unions, in the analysis of the local labour market, identification of skills gaps, definition of required skills profiles, and evaluation of the efficacy of labour migration policies, in order to ensure market responsive contractual labour mobility through regular pathways.
- f. Foster efficient and effective skills-matching programmes by reducing visa and permit processing timeframes for standard employment authorizations, and by offering accelerated and facilitated visa and permit processing for employers with a track record of compliance.
- g. Develop or build on existing national and regional practices for admission and stay of appropriate duration based on compassionate, humanitarian or other considerations for migrants compelled to leave their countries of origin, due to sudden-onset natural disasters and other precarious situations, such as by providing humanitarian visas, private sponsorships, access to education for children, and temporary work permits, while adaptation in or return to their country of origin is not possible.
- h. Cooperate to identify, develop and strengthen solutions for migrants compelled to leave their countries of origin due to slow-onset natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation, such as desertification, land degradation, drought and sea level rise, including by devising planned relocation and visa options, in cases where adaptation in or return to their country of origin is not possible.
- i. Facilitate access to procedures for family reunification for migrants at all skills levels through appropriate measures that promote the realization of the right to family life and the best interests of the child, including by reviewing and revising applicable requirements, such as on income, language proficiency, length of stay, work authorization, and access to social security and services.
- j. Expand available options for academic mobility, including through bilateral and multilateral agreements that facilitate academic exchanges, such as scholarships for students and academic professionals, visiting professorships, joint training programmes, and international research opportunities, in cooperation with academic institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

[...]