



**REPORT ON THE WORK
OF THE MIGRATION DIRECTORATE FOR 2020**

April 2021

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1 INTRODUCTION

In 2020, the Migration Directorate (MD) was newly founded within the scope of reorganisation of the Ministry of the Interior. The Directorate has three divisions: The Migration Policy and Legislation Division, the International Protection Procedures Division and the Regular Migration Procedures Division.

The tasks of the newly founded Migration Directorate are focused on the planning and implementation of the migration policy, the preparation and harmonisation of proposals of measures to carry out migration policy and the preparation of drafts of normative acts. The competences of the Migration Directorate also include conducting procedures and decision making in administrative matters at first and second instance in the field of residence permits for foreigners, determining financial compensation for people erased from the Permanent population register, granting beneficiary status to indemnification for damage sustained as a result of erasure from the Permanent population register and the recognition of international protection.

This is the Report on the Work of the Migration Directorate for 2020, which highlights key achievements and statistical data on legal migration and international protection. The report also encompasses the most important activities in relation to legislation modifications in the area of migrations, international protection, drawing from European funds, inclusion of third country citizens in Slovenian society. In 2020, the Migration Directorate cooperated with the competent state authorities and civil society organisations. Representatives of the Migration Directorate participated in the preparation of various documents and legislative proposals on legal migrations and international protection within EU institutions, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), the European Migration Network (EMN), the national contact point for integration and partner international organisations.

2 LEGAL MIGRATION

2.1 LEGISLATION

2.1.1 Act Amending the Foreigners Act (ZTuj-2F)

In 2020, the draft of the Act Amending the Foreigners Act (ZTuj-2F) was prepared and sent on 30 September 2020 for consideration to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

The draft considers the occurrence of the complex crisis in migration area especially in the case when a large number of illegal migrants would enter a certain area or several areas of the Republic of Slovenia who would jointly express their intention to apply for international protection. Such situation would mean that state authorities would not be able to carry out their obligations entirely, which would result in the mentioned situation impacting the operation of other systems and subsystems.

The amended act also transposes the Directive (EU) 2016/801 provisions in the Slovenian national legislation. The fundamental goal of the transposition is to simplify the entry of those third-country nationals who enter the EU area for research and study purposes, as well as to enable their and their family members' mobility within the EU.

The act introduces the condition of entry level Slovenian language knowledge (A1 as per the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) for extending the temporary residence permit for family reunification purpose, and the condition of basic level Slovenian language knowledge (A2 as per the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) for the issue of permanent residence permit if the person has resided in the Republic of Slovenia uninterrupted for five years. The scope of (co)financing of integration programmes shall be newly determined. The act also introduces the condition of two-year legal residence of foreigners in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia for acquiring the right to family reunification.

Act further regulates illegal residing foreigners in the Republic of Slovenia. The two-phase act issue regulation shall be changed to a single-phase system. Within this system, the police will directly carry out the decisions of the administrative authorities if the foreigners do not follow their imposition. Uniform measures with regard to deadlines for voluntary departure and the periods of entry prohibition is also regulated. These proposals consider the recommendations of the European Commission, while the decisions on return issued by another Member State are also recognised.

A new system for periodical verification of funds has been introduced on verification of the fulfilment of the condition of sufficient funds that are required for living during the residence permit validity.

The submission of the first temporary residence permit in the Republic of Slovenia shall be enabled, i.e. to those foreign nationals who have provided their fingerprints at the diplomatic representation or consulate of the Republic of Slovenia abroad and who reside here legally. Therefore, a foreigner will not have to return to their country of origin merely due to the submission of the first residence permit.

A new form of residence permit with additional protection elements is planned to reduce the possibility of counterfeiting and misusing permits. The latter is especially in the interest of the Republic of Slovenia, as well as in the interest of residence permit holders. With additional security of biometric permits of third-country nationals, the ministry has also approached the modification and security validation of cards that are being issued to: EU nationals and their family members, Swiss Confederation nationals

and their family members as well as the family members of Slovenian nationals. All updated and security approved cards will be simultaneously issued to foreigners.

The amended act also ensures the implementation of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ L, no. 29, 31 January 2020, p.7) in part that regulates rights in regard to residence and issuance of residence documents to United Kingdom nationals and their family members who legally resided in the Republic of Slovenia on 31 December 2020 and plan to reside in the Republic of Slovenia after that date. Until the enforcement of the amended act the implementation of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union will as of 1 January 2021 be guaranteed through this direct application as an international treaty.

2.2 STATISTICS

2.2.1 Valid residence permits in 2020

Table 1: Number of individual types of valid permits as at 31 December 2020

Permanent residence permit for citizens of third countries	Permanent residence registration certificate (EEA and Switzerland)	Temporary residence permit	Residence registration certificate
93.344	12.713	79.600	17.089
106.057		96.689	
TOTAL: 202.746			

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Table 2: Number of valid temporary residence permits with regard to reason or purpose as at 31 December 2020

Reason/intent	Number
Single residence and work permit	53.840
Family reunification	16.343
Studies	3.472
Other reasons/purposes	1.433
Family member of a Slovenian citizen	3.424
Family member of an EU citizen	1.088
Total	79.600

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Table 3: List of the first ten third countries whose citizens had the highest number of valid residence permits in the Republic of Slovenia as at 31 December 2020

Country	Permanent residence permit	Temporary residence permit	Total
Bosnia and Herzegovina	48.719	43.232	91.951
Kosovo	16.753	11.616	28.369
Serbia	8.527	12.501	21.028
North Macedonia	10.456	5.340	15.796
Russian Federation	1.851	1,950	3.801
Ukraine	1.584	1.129	2.713
China	1.041	475	1.516
Unknown country	1.061	257	1.318
Montenegro	684	438	1.122
United States	229	298	527

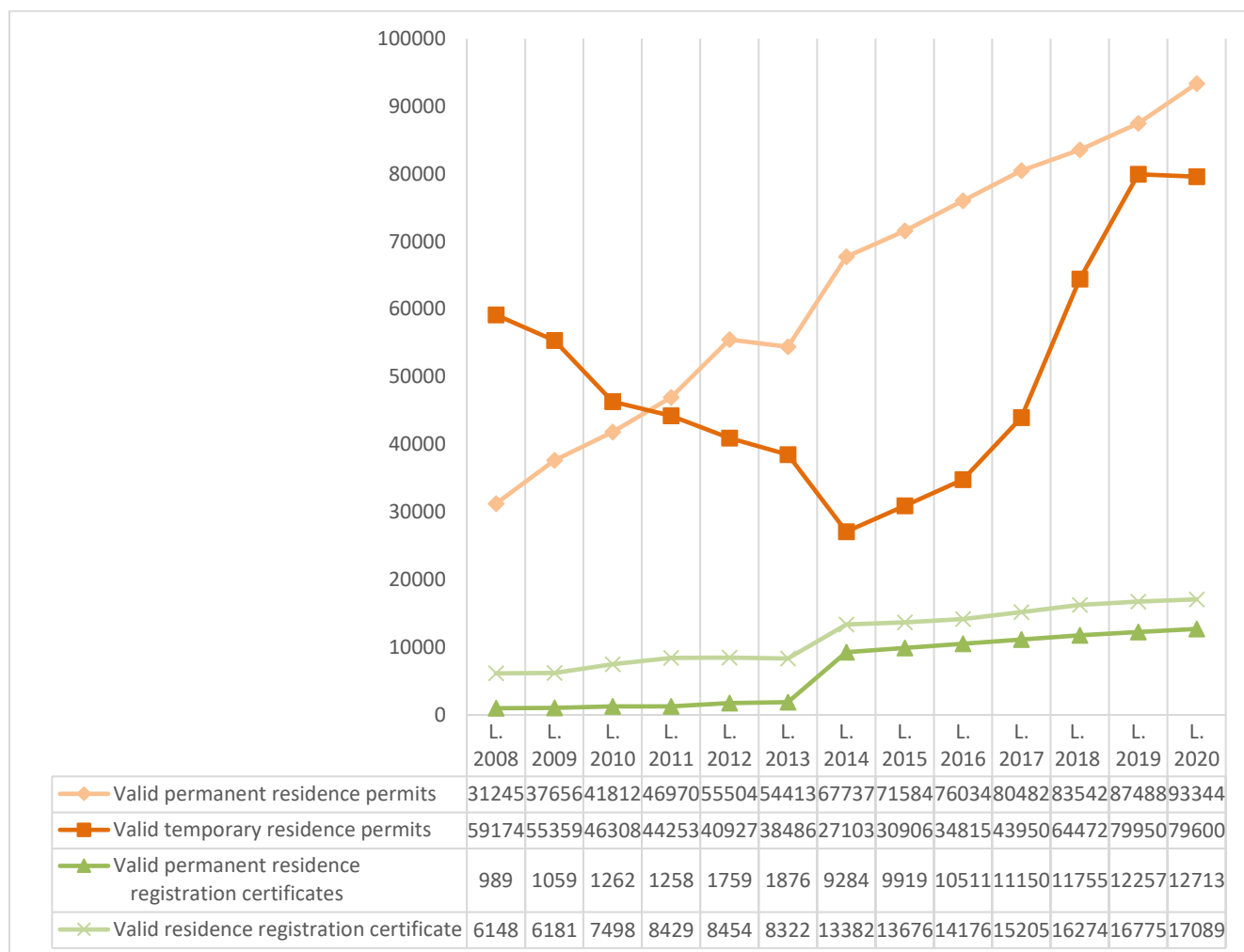
Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Table 4: Table 4: List of ten EEA countries of origin that have the highest number of valid permanent residence registration certificates/permanent residence permits for EU nationals and residence registration certificates for EU nationals

Country	Permanent residence registration certificate/Permanent residence permit	Residence registration certificate	Total
Croatia	7.214	6.256	13.470
Bulgaria	1.802	3.186	4.988
Italy	849	2.736	3.585
Germany	543	683	1.226
Hungary	263	793	1.056
United Kingdom	292	583	875
Austria	212	418	630
Slovakia	317	299	616
Romania	230	366	596
France	150	299	449

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Chart 1: Change in the number of all valid residence permits between 2008 and the end of 2020 with the number as at 31 December of each year



Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

2.2.2 Residence permits issued in 2020

Number of issued residence permits or residence registration certificates in 2020 is indicated in table below.

Table 5: Number of issued residence permits or residence registration certificates in 2020

Permanent residence permit for citizens of third countries	Permanent residence registration certificate for EU nationals (EEA and Switzerland)	Temporary residence permit	Residence registration certificate
6.948	640	69.475	6.608
7.588		76.083	
TOTAL: 83.671			

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Table 6: Overview of the first five countries whose citizens were issued the most residence permits in 2020

Country	Permanent residence permit	Temporary residence permit		TOTAL
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3.347	38.200		41.547
First single permit to reside and work		5.700	14,92 %	
Family reunification – first		3.190	8,35 %	
Kosovo	854	10.607		11.461
First single permit to reside and work		2.390	22,53 %	
Family reunification – first		1.541	14,5 %	
Serbia	683	10.333		11.016
First single permit to reside and work		1.683	16,28%	
Family reunification – first		657	6,35 %	
North Macedonia	500	4.594		5.094
First single permit to reside and work		581	12,64 %	
Family reunification – first		451	9,81 %	
Russian Federation	426	1.629		2.055
First single permit to reside and work		133	8,16 %	
Family reunification – first		146	8,96 %	

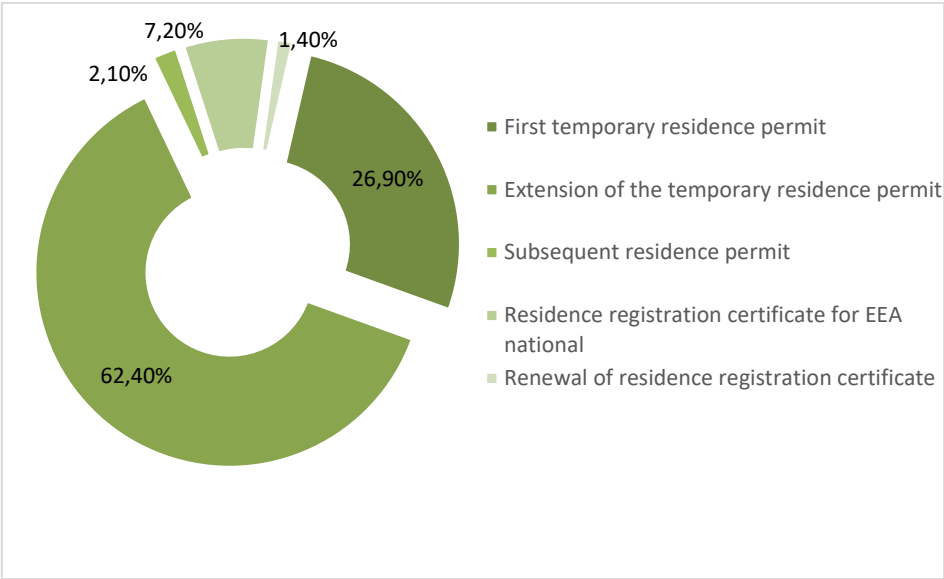
Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Table 7: Overview of issued temporary residence permits by types of permits or residence registration certificates from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2020 by all residence permits issued

Type of permit/certificate	Year 2015		Year 2016		Year 2017		Year 2018		Year 2019		Year 2020	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
First temporary residence permit	11.642	29,61	13.285	31,42	20.194	40,01	31.072	45,48	34.267	41,01	20.430	26,90
Extended temporary residence permit	18.343	46,64	19.731	46,67	21.483	42,57	28.109	41,15	40.656	48,66	47.466	62,40
Subsequent temporary residence permit	415	1,05	497	1,18	633	1,25	766	1,12	1.108	1,32	1.579	2,10
Residence registration certificate for EEA citizens	7.138	18,16	6.744	15,96	6.609	13,09	7.012	10,21	6.356	7,61	5.479	7,20
Renewal of residence registration certificate	1.784	4,54	2.017	4,77	1.552	3,07	1.357	1,98	1.164	1,40	1.129	1,40

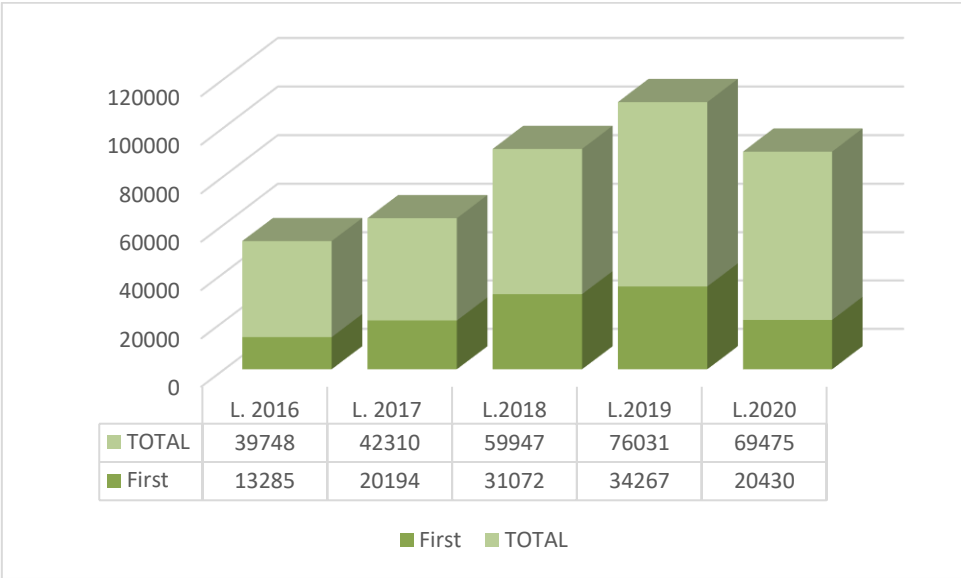
Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Chart 2: Ratio between all temporary residence permits and residence registration certificates issued in 2020



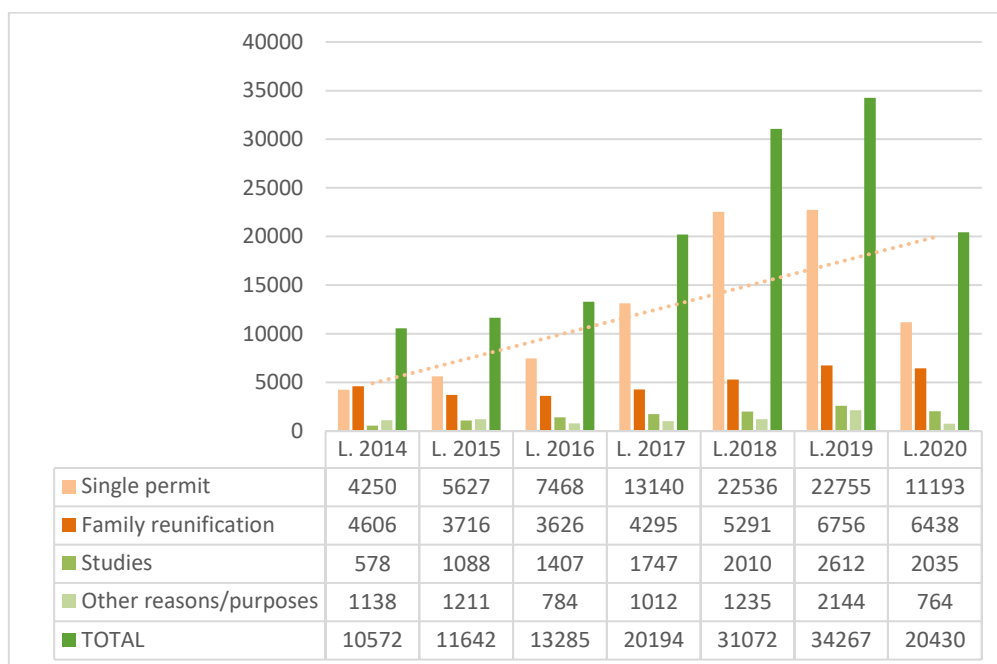
Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Chart 3: Chart 3: Ratio between first temporary residence permits and all issued residence permits issued to citizens of third countries in the past five years



Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Chart 4: First temporary residence permits by reason or purpose issued from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020



Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

The reasons for issuing temporary residence permits in the Republic of Slovenia in 2020 included:

- People transferred within a company (single ICT permit): 7,
- EU Blue Card: 50,
- Research work 33.

2.2.3 Statistical data pursuant to the Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents¹

Tables 8 and 9 show the basic statistical data on the procedure to determine financial compensation and grant beneficiary status on the basis of the Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents (hereinafter: ZPŠOIRSP) in the period from 18 June 2014 to 31 December 2018 (the data were obtained from the record of decisions and payments of financial compensation, which is kept on the basis of Article 24 of the ZPŠOIRSP).

¹ Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 99/13) entered into force on 18 December 2013 and commenced to apply on 18 June 2014.

Table 8: Number of applications to determine financial compensation, applications for beneficiary status and actions

Number of applications to determine financial compensation in administrative procedures	Number of applications for beneficiary status	Number of proposals submitted in initial proceedings to the State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Slovenia for the payment of financial compensation	Number of actions lodged in judicial proceedings
8.182	89	90	381

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Table 9: Number and type of decisions issued in the administrative procedure

	Granted	Refused	Rejected	Suspension
Number of decisions determining financial compensation	5.797	1.988	189	88
Number of decisions granting beneficiary status	7	33	6	20
TOTAL	5.804	2.021	195	108

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Table 10: Total amount of determined compensation (in EUR)

Total amount of compensation determined on the basis of final decisions in administrative procedure	26.538.750,00
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Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

The payment of compensations determined in administrative procedures to beneficiaries has been smooth. Pursuant to the ZPŠOIRSP, administrative units paid beneficiaries a total of EUR 3,977,200.00 in 2014, EUR 5,135,686.22 in 2015, EUR 5,117,622.22 in 2016, EUR 5,178,900.00 in 2017, EUR 4,555,155.00 in 2018, EUR 1,752,844.00 in 2019 and EUR 619,940.02 in 2020. From the entry into force of the ZPŠOIRSP to 31 December 2020, a total of EUR 26,337,347.24 in compensation determined in administrative procedures has been paid. (Source: Ministry of Public Administration, Administrative Units Service).

In addition to applications to determine financial compensation in administrative procedures, 90 proposals for the payment of financial compensation in initial proceedings were filed with the State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Slovenia, and 381 actions for the payment of financial compensation in judicial proceedings were received by courts from the entry into force of the ZPŠOIRSP to 31 December 2020 (the data were obtained from the record of decisions and payments of financial compensation, which is kept on the basis of Article 24 of the ZPŠOIRSP).

The Migration Directorate in cooperation with the Internal Administrative Affairs and Naturalisation Directorate prepared explanations within the competence of both directorates for the Legal Service of the Ministry of the Interior in judicial and initial proceedings in which the erased claim financial compensations pursuant to the ZPŠOIRSP. The Ministry of the Interior must prepare explanations of replies to actions and other applications in their field of work for the State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Slovenia.

2.2.4 Procedures at first and second instances within the competence of the Ministry of the Interior

In 2020, the Ministry of the Interior as the authority of first instance on the basis of paragraph three of Article 51 of the Foreigners Act (hereinafter: ZTuj-2) did not issue any temporary residence permit to a foreigner whose residence in the Republic of Slovenia is in the state's interest. It did not receive any decision from the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, i.e. That the Republic of Slovenia has any interest for the issue of the temporary residence permit to a foreigner.

In 2020, the Migration Directorate as the authority of second instance received 40 appeals against decisions of administrative units, of which:

- 38 appeals in the procedure of the issue or termination of residence permits or residence registration certificates pursuant to the ZTuj-2;
- one appeal in the procedure of the issue of residence permits or special decisions pursuant to the Act Regulating the Legal Status of Citizens of Former Yugoslavia Living in the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: ZUSDDD)²;
- one appeal in the procedure to determine financial compensation or grant beneficiary status pursuant to the ZPŠOIRSP.

In 2020, the Migration Directorate decided on 38 appeals, i.e.:

- on 36 appeals in procedures pursuant to the ZTuj-2;
- on one appeal in procedures pursuant to the ZUSDDD;
- on one appeal in procedures pursuant to the ZPŠOIRSP.

In 2020, the Migration Directorate at the Ministry of the Interior, as the authority of first instance, also received 49 applications to issue residence permits for family reunification with a person under international protection in the Republic of Slovenia filed pursuant to the ZTuj-2, of which 48 applications to issue permanent residence permits for reunification with a foreigner with granted refugee status in the Republic of Slovenia (9 applications of citizens of Eritrea, 8 applications from citizens of Palestine, 7 applications from citizens of Turkey, 6 applications from citizens of Syria, 5 applications from citizens of Afghanistan, 4 applications from citizens of Pakistan, 3 applications from citizens of Iraq, 3 applications from citizens of Sudan, 2 applications from citizens of Iran and one application from a citizen of Lebanon) and one application to issue temporary residence permits for family reunification with a foreigner having subsidiary protection in the Republic of Slovenia (for a citizen of Afghanistan).

In 2020, the Migration Directorate decided on 53 applications to issue residence permits for family reunification with a person under international protection in the Republic of Slovenia, of which 37 applications were granted and residence permits were issued, 8 applications were refused, one application was rejected, while in 7 cases, the procedure was suspended.

² Act Regulating the Legal Status of Citizens of Former Yugoslavia Living in the Republic of Slovenia Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 76/10 – official consolidated text – ZUSDDD).

In 2020, the Ministry of the Interior, the Migration Directorate as the authority of first instance issued 21 passports for foreigners to family members of the person with recognised international protection in the Republic of Slovenia. Passports for foreigners were issued in accordance with paragraph five of Article 98 of ZTuj-2 to family members who also received the residence permit in the Republic of Slovenia and did not have a valid passport, i.e. With the purpose of family member's entrance to the Republic of Slovenia.

In procedures to issue residence permits, administrative units suspended the procedure in 3,820 cases, 192 applications were rejected, while 1,635 applications to issue residence permits/residence registration certificate were refused.

The table below shows data on suspended procedures, and refused and rejected applications in 2020 by citizenship.

Table 11: Number of suspended procedures, and refused and rejected applications in 2020 by type of citizenship

	EEA and Switzerland	Third countries	TOTAL
Suspension	702	3.118	3.820
Refusal	27	1.608	1.635
Rejection	30	162	192
TOTAL	759	4.888	5.647

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Administrative units also decided in procedures to terminate residence permits or residence registration certificates. The table below shows data on the number of terminations and reasons for the termination of permits or residence registration certificates by type of citizenship.

Table 12: Number of terminations and reasons for the termination of permits or residence registration certificates by type of citizenship

Terminations 2020	EEA and Switzerland	Third countries	TOTAL
Acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Slovenia	169	1.492	1.661
Acquisition of permanent residence permit	447	4.774	5.221
Renunciation	199	823	1.022
Emigration from the Republic of Slovenia	4	42	46
Death	89	226	315
Revocation	8	968	976
End of validity	13	186	199
Emigration from the European Union	0	4	4
Failure to meet the conditions for the issue of residence registration certificate	90		90
Subsequent establishment that conditions for the issue of residence registration certificate are not met	1		1
Termination of residence	0	1	1
Punishment in the form of expulsion of a foreigner from the Republic of Slovenia	1	4	5
Acquisition of long-term resident status in another EU Member State		2	2
Acquisition of an EU Blue Card in another EU Member State		2	2
TOTAL	1.021	8.524	9.545

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

3 INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

3.1 LEGISLATION

3.1.1 Act Amending the International Protection Act

In 2020, the draft of the Act Amending the International Protection Act was prepared and sent on 2 December 2020 for consideration to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

The amendments were necessary due to the increasing trend in the number of filed applications for international protection in the Republic of Slovenia and thus due to the burdened international protection system. Within this scope, the amendments follow the following objectives:

- To ensure rapid and effective international protection procedures by eliminating deficiencies that have been shown in the implementation of individual provisions in practice;
- To envisage appropriate sanctions for obstructing the implementation of international protection procedures, not considering the obligations of applicants for international protection, violating the rules of residence at accommodation centres, public peace and order and sanctions for committing offences;
- To determine a clearer legal basis and consequently to enable a more effective implementation of individual law concepts, such as the restriction of movement and repetitive applications that follow the case law;
- To enforce legislative solutions that motivate people with international protection to in their best abilities attend Slovenian language courses, learn about the Slovenian society and participate in other educational and assistance programmes that are conducted within the integration process;
- To ensure additional harmonisation with the European legislation, especially with the elimination of individual deficiencies in the transposition of Directive 2013/32/EU³

Relevant provisions on the possibilities of rejecting an application as unfounded in an accelerated procedure, when the applicant does not qualify for international protection, were supplemented with the purpose of preventing the abuse of international protection procedures. Through amendments, the amending act ensures appropriate legal basis for the competent authority to order the preparation of an expert opinion before the submission of the application for international protection, if there are doubts about the age of the applicant claiming that he is an unaccompanied minor.

The proposal determines that movement can be limited within the scope of the border, airport or port procedure and it shall be decided on the applicant's right to enter the territory of the Republic of Slovenia. The amended act therefore establishes a legal basis for an effective implementation of border procedures in practice. In accordance with the proposed amendments, movement limitation can also be imposed on the applicant. The possibility for an authorised official of the office to order the limitation of movement is also additionally envisaged.

The possibility to file an appeal with the Supreme Court shall be introduced again, especially in cases when the administrative court does not establish a different current situation than the competent authority and when the court changes the competent authority's decision on this basis.

³ Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection.

Within the limits as allowed by the Directive 2013/33/EU, the proposal contains provision that in certain cases eliminates or limits the material conditions for reception (allowance), whereas the decision on abolition or restriction of the latter shall be decided individually and the decision shall consider the applicant's special position and the principle of proportionality.

Extensive and essential amendments are envisaged in the section that refers to the rights and obligations of people with recognised international protection. Ensuring certain rights is conditioned with the signing of the contract on integration activities by a person with international protection, which shall be prepared for each person by the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants, the person with international protection and other competent institutions. The proposal also envisages that the person with recognised international protection can, with their own sufficient funds, cover the proportional part of accommodation in an integration house and some education-related costs.

The provisions in the section on records are also modified with the purpose of harmonising the content with personal data protection legislation.

3.1.2 The decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on accepting minors who are applicants for international protection

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a decision in June, determining that on the basis of burden sharing among the EU member states, four unaccompanied minors who are applicants for international application and under 10 years of age and fulfil the conditions for the recognition of international protection are accepted from Greece.

At the beginning of March 2020, the President of the European Commission dedicated special attention to the protection of unaccompanied minors on Greek islands within the scope of efforts and aid measures of the European Commission to support Greece. The European Commission called upon the relocation of 1,600 unaccompanied minors to other EU member states.

When determining the number, Slovenia considered the special needs of unaccompanied minors under 10 years of age, especially from the aspect of the possibility to ensure appropriate admission conditions that are suitable for accommodating the most vulnerable category of international protection applicants, their care, including staff options, the implementation of the international protection procedure and the abilities for further integration and ensuring the opportunities for their appropriate development in a new environment.

The process of accepting minor international protection applicants was still in progress at the end of 2020.

3.2 ACTIVATION OF THE THIRD PHASE OF THE CONTINGENCY PLAN

In July 2018, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Contingency Plan of the Republic of Slovenia to provide housing and care in the event of an increase in the number of applicants for international protection and the implementation of international protection procedures. The Contingency Plan was drafted for the planning of activities in the event of a sudden or gradual increase in the number of applicants for international protection. It contains agreed scenarios and objectives, defines all necessary measures and authorities, and establishes systems of possible response to a newly arisen exceptional situation. The measures and participation of individual authorities were defined in view of the different extent of increases in the number of applicants.

The activation of the plan is carried out in several phases in view of the number of applicants or applications, and is divided into two parts:

- support and accommodation of applicants for international protection (carried out in two phases: from 420 to 750 applicants and over 750 applicants);
- implementation of international protection procedures (carried out in three phases in view of the number of applications per month in three consecutive months: from 100 to 150 applications, from 150 to 250 applications and from 250 to 400 applications per month in three consecutive months).

In 2020, the procedures for employing new public officials were initiated within the scope of the third phase of the contingency plan. First employments will be carried out at beginning of 2021.

3.3 STATISTICS

3.3.1 Structure of applicants in international protection procedures in 2020

The number of filed applications for international protection continues to increase, as has been the trend for the past few years. 3,548 applications for international protection were filed in 2020, which is slightly less than 8 per cent less than in 2019. This is a 23-per cent increase compared to 2018 and 140-per cent increase compared to 2017. With regard to the ten-year average in the period from 2006 to 2015 (330 applications), there were 975 per cent more applications received.

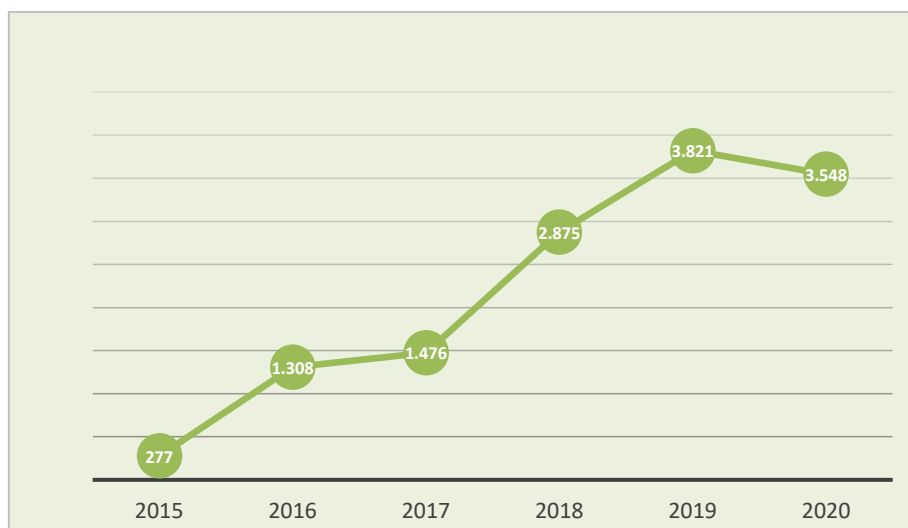
Table 13: Number of applications for international protection in the past six years

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of applications	277	1.308	1.476	2.875	3.821	3.548

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

The chart below shows the change in the number of applications for international protection in the past six years.

Chart 5: Change in the number of applications for international protection in the past six years



Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

The number of applicants from North Africa continued to increase in 2020. Most applicants were from Morocco, since they filed more than one third of all applications and 65 per cent more than in 2019, i.e. 1,226 applications. In 2018, there were only 179 of the aforementioned applications. International

protection applicants from north Africa countries: Algeria, Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia present 48 per cent of all filed applications in 2020. Algerian applicants filed applications in the first half of the year, while there were no such applications filed in the last two months of the year. Many applications were also filed by Moroccans in May, June and July (in average 250 per month), however, in the last three months, that trend turned completely (19 applications filed in November and only 5 in December). The situation is quite opposite for Afghanis and Pakistanis. If 161 Afghanis filed 161 applicants in the first half of the year, there were 590 applications in the second half of the year. Quite similarly, there were 108 applications by Pakistanis in the first half of the year, and 391 applications in the second half of the year.

Table 14: Top ten countries of origin whose citizens filed the most applications for international protection in 2020

Country of origin	Number of applicants
Morocco	1.226
Afghanistan	751
Pakistan	498
Algeria	308
Bangladesh	152
Egypt	147
Iraq	87
Iran	64
Syria	60
Turkey	56

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

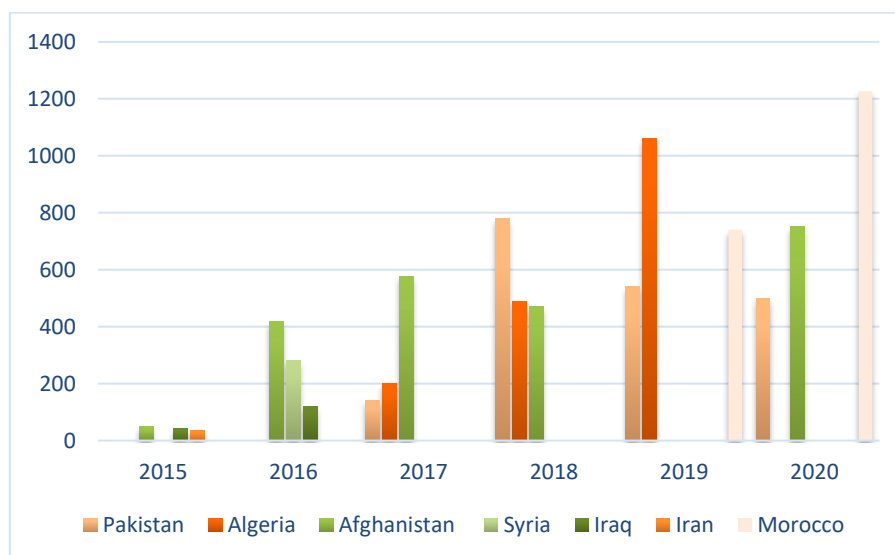
Table 15: Three most common countries of origin in the past six years

Year	Country of origin – number of applications					
2020	Morocco	1.226	Afghanistan	751	Pakistan	498
2019	Algeria	1.060	Morocco	741	Pakistan	540
2018	Pakistan	780	Algeria	488	Afghanistan	470
2017	Afghanistan	578	Algeria	201	Pakistan	140
2016	Afghanistan	419	Syria	281	Iraq	120
2015	Afghanistan	48	Iraq	43	Iran	34

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

The chart below shows the change in the number of applications in the past six years by three most frequent countries of origin.

Chart 6: Change in the number of applications in the past six years by three most frequent countries of origin



Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Among all the applications received, 82 applicants had already filed at least one application for international protection in the Republic of Slovenia.

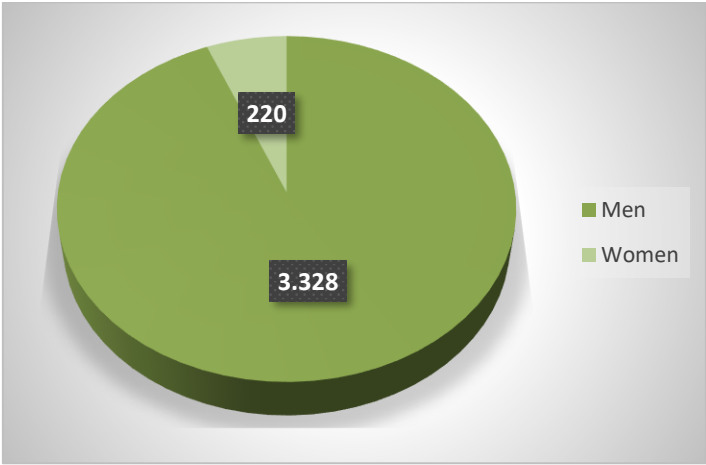
In 2020, applications for international protection were filed by 3,328 men, which is 94 per cent of applications filed, most of whom were citizens of Morocco, and 220 women, which is six per cent of applications filed, most of whom were citizens of Iran. 68 per cent of all applicants were between 18 and 34 years of age.

Table 16: Number of applicants for international protection in 2020 by gender

Men	Women
3.328	220
TOTAL: 3.548	

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Chart 7: Number of applicants for international protection in 2020 by gender



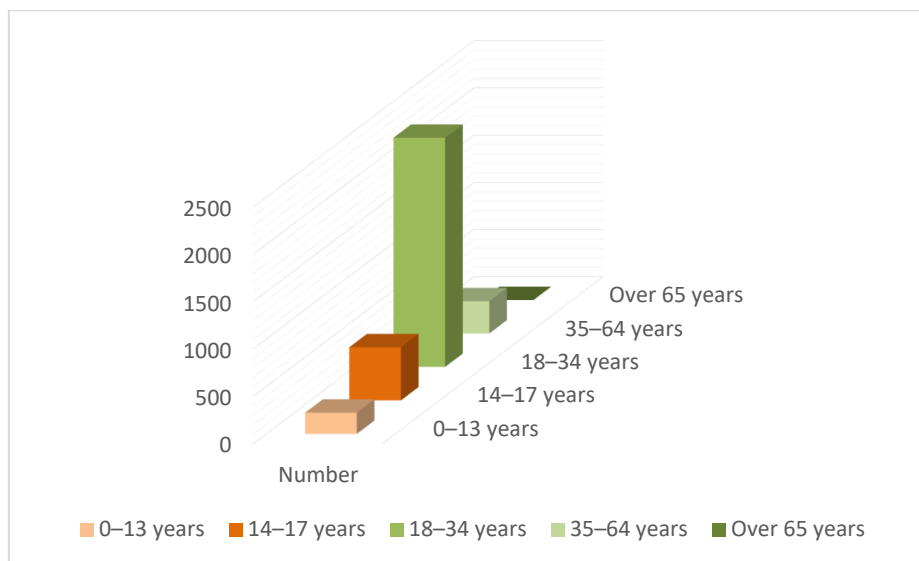
Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Table 17: Number of applicants for international protection in 2020 by age

Age	Number
0–13 years	223
14–17 years	560
18–34 years	2.424
35–64 years	340
nad 65 years	1
TOTAL	3.548

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Chart 8: Number of applicants for international protection in 2020 by age



Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

3.3.2 Structure of applicants who are unaccompanied minors

Table 18: Number of applicants who are unaccompanied minors in 2020 by country of origin

Country of origin	Number of applicants
Afghanistan	205
Pakistan	86
Algeria	5
Morocco	69
Bangladesh	48
Egypt	111
Syria	6
India	2
Côte d'Ivoire	1
Iraq	6
Libya	1
Sudan	1
Nepal	2
Yemen	1
Kosovo	5
Turkey	1
TOTAL	550

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Considering the slight decrease in the number of filed international protection applications in 2020, the number of applications of unaccompanied minors decreased by 20 per cent. The number is the same compared to 2018. 70 per cent of all applicants for international protection who are unaccompanied minors came to the Republic of Slovenia without their parents or other legal representative.

Table 19: Number of applicants who were unaccompanied minors in 2020 by gender and age

Age	Boys	Girls
0–13 years	23	3
14–15 years	97	1
16-17 years	424	2
TOTAL	544	6

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

3.3.3 Decision making in international protection procedures

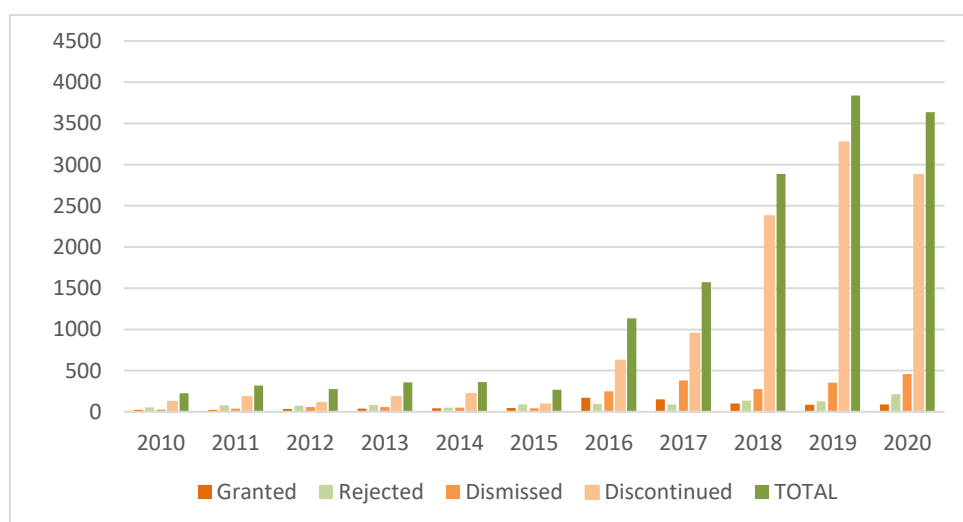
There were more applications resolved in 2020 (3,636) than were filed. There were the most procedure discontinuations (2,875), which presents 79 per cent of all decisions in international protection procedures.

Table 20: Structure of resolved applications for international protection from 2010 to the end of 2020

Type of decision \ Year	Granted	Rejected	Dismissed	Discontinued	TOTAL
2010	23	55	27	120	225
2011	24	78	40	177	319
2012	34	75	57	110	276
2013	37	82	59	177	355
2014	44	51	49	216	360
2015	46	87	44	89	266
2016	170	96	249	621	1.136
2017	152	89	382	949	1.572
2018	102	135	277	2.372	2.886
2019	85	128	352	3.273	3.838
2020	89	215	457	2.875	3.636

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Chart 9: Structure of resolved applications for international protection from 2010 to the end of 2020



Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Due to a slight reduction in the number of applications for international protection filed, the decision-making time was also shortened, meaning that procedures took approximately 288 days in 2020 (328 days in 2019). The decision-making time in all procedures in 2020 took 59 days on average.

3.3.4 Structure of people granted international protection status in 2020

In the period from 1995 to 2020, a total of 992 people were granted international protection in the Republic of Slovenia. In 2020, international protection was granted to 89 people, of which 87 people were granted refugee status and 2 people were granted subsidiary protection status. Most people granted international protection were men. Most international protection statuses were granted to citizens of Turkey (17) and Syria (15).

Table 21: Number of people granted international protection status in 2020 by type of status and gender

Gender \ Type of status	Men	Women	TOTAL
Refugee status	63	24	87
Subsidiary protection status	2	0	2
TOTAL	65	24	89

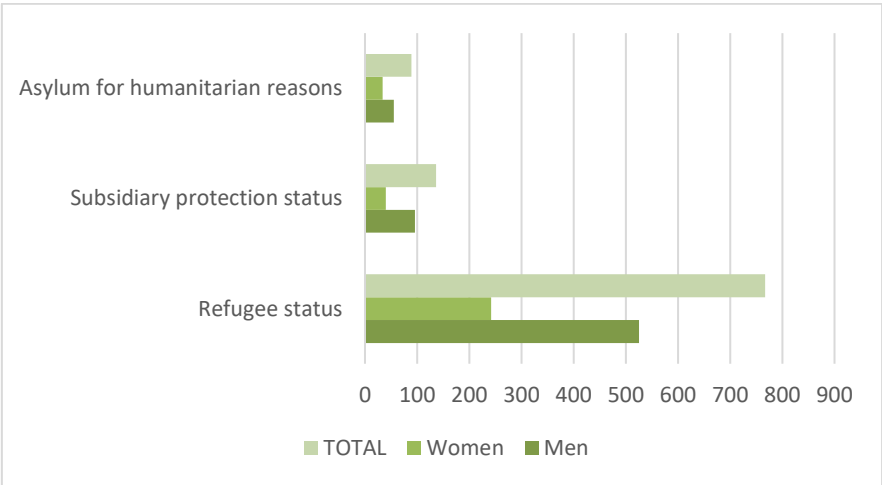
Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Table 22: Number of all people granted international protection from 1995 to the end of 2020 by type of status and gender

Gender \ Type of status	Men	Women	TOTAL
Refugee status	525	242	767
Subsidiary protection status	96	40	136
Asylum for humanitarian reasons ⁴	55	34	89
TOTAL	676	316	992

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Chart 10: Change in the number of people granted international protection status from 1995 to the end of 2020 by type of status and gender



Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

⁴ In March 2006, the Asylum Act abolished asylum for humanitarian reasons and introduced subsidiary protection.

Table 23: Number of people granted international protection in 2020 by country of origin

Country of origin	Number of people under international protection
Turkey	17
Syria	15
Iran	14
Afghanistan	5
Iraq	10
Russia	2
Sudan	1
Nigeria	1
Palestine	11
Sierra Leone	1
Myanmar	1
Morocco	1
Lebanon	1
Eritrea	4
Central African Republic	1
Pakistan	2
Burundi	1
None	1
TOTAL	89

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

4 DRAWING OF FUNDS FROM THE ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND

4.1 DRAWING OF FUNDS FROM THE ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND FOR INTEGRATION PROGRAMMES

In 2020, the Ministry of the Interior provided assistance with integration into Slovenian society for citizens of third countries through various programmes carried out by non-governmental organisations and other providers selected at public tenders. The implementation of programmes is financed by the Ministry of the Interior and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

Crucial integration measures are programmes of free language learning and for the acquisition of knowledge on Slovene society for citizens of third countries, programmes for specific target groups of immigrants which focus on their special needs when integrating into society, programmes of intercultural dialogue, and programmes for awareness raising of the public on the significance of migrations as a development supporting factor.

The table below shows the use of funds for integration programmes in 2020. EUR 660,331.70 were spent, of which 75 per cent or EUR 495,248.77 from the AMIF fund and 25 per cent or EUR 165,082.93 of own funds.

Table 24: Use of funds for integration programmes in 2020

Programme title	Spending in EUR
Initial integration of immigrants	543.116,58
Exam in Slovenian for citizens of third countries	56.620,20
Infotujci website	1.098,00
Organisation of intercultural dialogue centres	59.496,92
TOTAL	660.331,70

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

4.1.1 Initial integration of immigrants

The Initial Integration of Immigrants programme is a state-approved educational programme for adult immigrants to learn Slovenian, which includes content related to life and work in the Republic of Slovenia. It was prepared by the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education. The programme that is intended for citizens of third countries, comprises of an initial (60 hours) and advanced (120 hours) module, which are connected in terms of content and level of difficulty. The content of the modules are topics such as personal identity, housing and life, family and home, work and job, the labour market, health and social security, education, public life, economics, the environment and space, the Slovenian society and Constitution, and Slovenian culture, history and tradition. The programme has been ongoing for six years and has become one of the basic programmes for integration into Slovenian society.

The Initial Integration of Immigrants programme in 2020 was much influenced by the COVID-19 epidemic. The programme was stopped twice due to the actions taken to prevent the spreading of the coronavirus. In the spring, the programme was terminated for two and a half months and then for two months in the autumn. Within the scope of the actions taken to prevent the spreading of the coronavirus, the Ministry of the Interior started adopting annexes to carry out the programme digitally. The parties that carry out the programme welcomed digitalisation and temporarily transferred all their activities connected to programme implementation online.

In 2020, the programme was implemented in 27 places around Slovenia. 1036 persons started the course in 2020, most of which were from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia and Ukraine. All participants originated from 53 different countries. Total value of the course in 2020 amounted to EUR 543,116.58.

4.1.2 Exam in Slovenian

The Ministry of the Interior covers the costs of the first exam in Slovenian for citizens of third countries at the basic level who attend at least 80 per cent of all hours in the Initial Integration of Immigrants programme. In 2020, 442 citizens of third countries passed the exam, on which EUR 56,620.20 were spent. Almost 79 per cent of the participants passed the exam.

4.1.3 Website www.infotujci.si

Since February 2018, foreigners can access the renewed website www.infotujci.si, which contains all information required to live and work in the Republic of Slovenia. The website contains information for foreigners who are in Slovenia and foreigners who are preparing to arrive. The content of the website is adapted to access on mobile devices, i.e., smart phones and tablets. EUR 1,098.00 were spent on the maintenance of the website in 2020.

The website was visited 219,660 times in 2020 and each visit lasted two minutes in average. The majority of users visited the website twice. Most users visited the website through servers in the Republic of Slovenia, and used mobile devices to access it. The most interesting content was dedicated to third-country nationals, especially temporary residence permits, permanent residence permit, the acquisition of Slovenian citizenship and integration in the Slovenian society.

4.1.4 Organisation of Intercultural Dialogue Centres

The Organisation of Intercultural Dialogue Centres projects continued in 2020 in Maribor and Velenje. In Maribor, the project ended on 30 June 2020, in Velenje the programme provider requested for a contract extension due to the COVID-19 epidemic, i.e. Until 15 September 2020.

The key project objectives are to create an aware and informed environment that accepts and encourages the integration of foreigners into Slovenian society and to assist with the integration of foreigners (applicants for international protection, people who are under international protection and citizens of third countries) into the local environment, activate and bring together local residents who are willing to participate in creating an environment open to the integration of foreigners, and to raise awareness of local residents of integration as a two-way process. The total number of participants in both projects was 1,767. 43 different activities were carried out within the scope of the projects.

The Organisation of Intercultural Dialogue Centres projects were carried out in 2020 in Koper, Maribor and Velenje. EUR 59,496.92 were spent on the implementation of the projects in 2020.

4.2 DRAWING OF FUNDS FROM THE ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

In the field of international protection procedures, the Ministry of the Interior, in accordance with the legislation in this field, provides basic procedural guarantees to foreigners who apply for international protection. The Ministry provides information and legal counselling to foreigners in the field of international protection, free legal aid before the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, and translation and interpreting in this procedure. In cooperation with other competent bodies the Ministry also provides training for officials, statutory

representatives of applicants for international protection who are unaccompanied minors and others dealing with asylum-related problems; provides support in procedures to grant international protection, such as expert opinions; and pays statutory representatives for their work in helping unaccompanied minors.

The table below shows the use of funds for international protection in 2020. EUR 527,265.64 were spent, of which 75 per cent or EUR 395,449.23 from the AMIF fund and 25 per cent or EUR 131,816.41 of own funds.

Table 25: Use of funds for international protection projects in 2020

Programme title	Expense in EUR
Providing information and legal counselling to foreigners in the field of international protection	106.230,96
Free legal aid before the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia	89.633,39
Translating and interpreting in international protection procedures	291.127,29
Support in procedures to grant international protection	29.863,56
Transfers according to the Dublin Regulation	10.410,44
TOTAL	527.265,64

Source: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

4.2.1 Providing information and legal counselling to foreigners in the field of international protection

Prior to the application acceptance procedure, the applicant of intent is provided with information on procedures pursuant to the International Protection Act, the rights and obligations of applicants, potential consequences of failure to comply with obligations and non-cooperation with the competent authority, time limits for the exercise of legal remedies, and information on refugee counsellors and non-governmental organisations working in the field of international protection. The project cost 106,230.96 EUR in 2020.

4.2.2 Free legal aid in procedures before the Administrative Court and the Supreme Court

In proceedings pursuant to the International Protection Act before the Administrative Court and the Supreme Court, legal aid is provided by refugee counsellors appointed by the Ministry of Justice for five years. In 2020, 59 people were appointed refugee counsellors. EUR 89,633.39 were spent on this activity in 2020.

4.2.3 Translating and interpreting in international protection procedures

If the person in the international protection procedure does not understand the official language, they are provided with an interpreter for a language they understand in order to follow the proceedings. The assistance of an interpreter is provided upon receipt of the application and personal interviews. In 2020, the Ministry of the Interior had contracts for copyrighted work, work contracts and framework agreements with 36 translators. EUR 291,127.29 were spent on this activity in 2020.

4.2.4 Support in procedures to grant international protection

The Ministry also provides support in procedures to grant international protection, such as expert opinions, to establish the age of applicants who are unaccompanied minors. Statutory representatives of unaccompanied minors are paid for their work in the field of assistance to unaccompanied minors. EUR 29,863.56 were spent on the said measures in 2020.

5 OTHER ACTIVITIES WITHIN EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2020, representatives of the Migration Directorate participated in the preparation of various documents and legislative proposals on legal migration and international protection organised by representatives of the European Union (European Commission, Council of the European Union), EASO, EMN, the national contact point for integration and partner international organisations (UN, OECD, IOM, UNHCR and ICMPD).

In 2020, intensive preparations were implemented for the Slovenian Presidency of the EU Council that will take place in the second half of 2021. Many trainings for public officials were carried out. The key purpose of those trainings was to equip public officials with additional knowledge necessary for the presidency.

5.1 International cooperation

International cooperation of the Migration Directorate was held in 2020 in accordance with the actions adopted to contain the COVID-19 epidemic. Most actions within the scope of international cooperation in 2020 were carried out online.

The public officials of the Migration Directorate in 2020 attended the following international activities: Council of the EU working groups,⁵ project sets in inter-institutional cooperation with Serbia, meetings of the European Migration Network, meetings of the European Integration Network, EURODAC Advisory Board meetings, EUROSTAT meeting with regard to asylum and migration statistics management, EASO meetings at various levels, cooperation in the Recommendation on the operational and technical use of DublinNet project, meeting within the scope of the German presidency with regard to digitalisation of international protection procedures, meeting about the introduction of Blueprint Network – a new platform of the European Commission to monitor data on migrations, meetings of the Strategic Committee for Immigration and Asylum, cooperation in the Working Party on Integration, Migration and Expulsion (IMEX) and meetings of the European Commission's Working Group on the Free Movement of People.

5.2 Close inter-institutional cooperation project

In consortium with Sweden and the Netherlands, the Ministry of the Interior was chosen to collaborate in the close inter-institutional cooperation project entitled “Support to Strengthening Migration and Asylum Management in Serbia” as the junior partner. Cooperation in the project implementation presents the continuation and upgrade of recent activities and follows strategic guidelines of the ministry and national priorities in international cooperation. The project goal is to strengthen the capacities of the Republic of Serbia to implement asylum policies in accordance with international and EU standards.

Seven officials of the Migration Directorate cooperated in the project in 2020, i.e., in eight different components and meetings of the steering committee. Experts implemented the project in Serbia, and all activities were digitalised after the announcement of the epidemic.

⁵ On 23 September 2020, the Commission presented a New Pact on Migration and Asylum, covering all of the different elements needed for establishing comprehensive approach to migration and asylum in the EU. The Migration Directorate employees reviewed the Pact acts in the second half of 2020.

5.3 European Asylum Support Office (EASO)

In 2020, the Migration Directorate cooperated with the EASO. Based on the EASO request, three public officials of the Migration Directorate were referred to work on missions with the purpose of providing support to member states that face the largest migration pressure. The referral of an expert for the Dublin procedure to Rome and an expert for decision making in international protection procedures in Cyprus were not realised due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the referral of the IT expert who was referred to Malta, ended prematurely for the same reason.

5.3.1 Training

Two national training courses were carried out in 2020 on the basis of EASO modules. The national coach for the Dublin Regulation carried out the training for 25 public officials, the national coach for interviewing vulnerable people carried out the training for six public officials.

One public official was trained for a national coach for the procedural directive module and for the fundamental rights and international protection in the EU module. Coach training for searching information about the countries of origin also included one public official of the Migration Directorate

5.4 European Migration Network (EMN)

In 2020, the National Contact Point of the Republic of Slovenia within the EMN cooperated in all key segments of operation of the EMN: international protection, legal migrations, prevention of trafficking in human beings, illegal migration, return and visa policy. SI NCP prepared a content and statistical contribution for the annual report of the Network for 2019 in all mentioned areas, designed an information Factsheet about the country for 2019 and during 2020 sent quarterly reports on progress in the field of migration and asylum.

The COVID-19 epidemic significantly impacted migration field in 2020. The work of EMN was focused in collecting information with regard to the COVID-19 effect on five key segments:

- Managing residence permits and unemployment of migrants;
- International students;
- Providing labour force in key sectors;
- Remittances to third countries and
- voluntary and compulsory returns.

In the aforementioned segments, the EMN collected key information in summer of 2020, and prepared extensive materials with regard to that. When the epidemiological situation worsened in autumn, the collected information was updated and merged in an umbrella output. The latter will be used as material to prepare future responses of the EU to crisis situations.

The National Contact Point also contributed to designing the information about separated and missing migrants and cooperated in the preparation of the draft and the fulfilment of the national contribution for three studies (seasonal workers, data management in asylum procedures, long-term residence of illegal migrants). The National Contact Point also provided answers to 75 inquiries of member states and actively cooperated in the work of several working groups within the EMN.

In 2020, the National Contact Point members attended five NCP meetings, two meetings of the steering board, two round tables (remittances to third countries, sustainable migrations from Africa to Europe),

five national conferences of other member states (Croatia, Germany, Austria, Finland, France) and several meetings of working groups (development of migration vocabulary, informing migrants, educational tool for school children, cooperation with third countries, annual reporting).

The Return Expert Group works within the EMN and is intended as a platform for cooperation and exchange of practices in return/deportation of foreigners. It connects centres for foreigners in member states and has its own working programme. In 2020, the members of the National Contact Point attended two meetings of the REG Group and three workshops (protection of data in return procedures, effective re-integration, use of the non-return principle in asylum procedures and return procedures).

Twinning project with Serbia: Within the scope of the Support to Strengthening Migration and Asylum Management in Serbia Twinning programme, three missions were held in 2020 within the activities of the European Migration Network (EMN) development. The first referred to status assessment of situation in Serbia and presenting the EMN as well as the operation of National Contact Points in Slovenia and Sweden. The other two were intended for the Action Plan for Establishing an EMN National Contact Point in Serbia.

5.5 European Integration Network (EIN⁶)

The operation of the European Integration Network was limited in 2020 due to the epidemic. The first annual meeting in March was cancelled, which is why two virtual meetings were held in July and December. At the meeting in December, the European Commission presented the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion for 2021–2027 and the role of the European Integration Network as the network for exchanging opinions and proposals of member states. The presented action plan promotes the inclusion of all people, recognises an important contribution of migrants to the EU and considers potential obstacles for the participation and inclusion of migrants in the European society. The mentioned action plan is based on the principle that an individual and the hosting community have to strive for inclusive integration. It also determines new actions that upgrade the achievements on the basis of the previous action plan from 2016

⁶ European Integration Network.