

REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE MIGRATION DIRECTORATE FOR 2021



Issued by: Ministry of the Interior **Prepared by:** Migration Directorate **Translation:** Zlatko Midžič – PSD d. o. o. **Design:** Ana Vidmar, Administrative Operations Service Source of world map on page 29 (graph 12): Vecteezy.com Ljubljana, May 2022

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Report on the Work of the Migration Directorate for 2021 presents key achievements and statistical data on legal migration and international protection. The report covers the key activities in relation to changes to policies and legislation in the field of migration, international protection, use of funds from European funds and inclusion of third-country nationals in Slovenian society. Important milestones in the field of legislation in 2021 were the adoption of the Act Amending the Foreigners Act and the Act Amending the International Protection Act, as both Acts form the basis of the migration legislation of the Republic of Slovenia. After the Acts were adopted, the employees of the Migration Directorate actively participated in the drafting and coordination of implementing regulations.

In the first half of 2021, the public officials of the Migration Directorate were actively preparing for the implementation of the Presidency of the Republic of Slovenia to the Council of the EU project. The implementing part followed on 1 July 2021, in which the employees of the Migration Directorate, together with the employees of the Permanent Representation to the EU, intensively participated in the process of coordination and drafting of complex legislative proposals in the field of migration and international protection. At the end of the Presidency, Nataša Potočnik, the Director General of the Migration Directorate, said in a statement: "I believe that in the last six months we made an important contribution to a better understanding of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. We wish successful work to our successors, our French counterparts, as we need appropriate solutions to tackle the migration challenges in the EU within the shortest possible time."



2 LEGAL MIGRATION

2.1 LEGISLATION

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

After lengthy inter-ministerial coordination, the Act Amending the Foreigners Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 57/21; ZTuj-2F; hereinafter referred to as: Act) was passed in the National Assembly on 30 March 2021 and published in the National Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia on 12 April 2021, and entered into force on 27 April 2021. The provisions of the newly passed Act became applicable on 26 May 2021.

The Act transposes into national law the provisions of Directive (EU) 2016/801, the fundamental goal of which is to simplify the entry of those third-country nationals who enter the EU area for research work and studies, as well as to enable their mobility, and that of their family members, within the EU.

The Act also introduces some other changes related to improvement of security features of residence permit cards and residence registration certificates, and introduces certain changes in the field of conditions for the issuance of residence permits (the manner of demonstrating sufficient means of subsistence and verification of compliance with this condition; the condition of knowledge of the Slovenian language for the extension of a temporary residence permit and the issuance of a permanent residence permit for certain categories of foreigners, and the elimination of certain administrative barriers relating to the service of residence permits).

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 29, 31 January 2020, p. 7) in the part governing rights relating to residence and the issuance of residence documents to citizens of the United Kingdom and their family members who legally resided in the Republic of Slovenia on 31 December 2020 and continue to reside in the Republic after that date. From 1 January 2021 until 26 May 2021, when the amended Act became applicable, the implementation of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU was ensured by its direct application as an international treaty. The one-year transitional period during which the aforementioned beneficiaries of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU had to apply for new permit or replace their old permits with a new biometric residence permit expired on 31 December 2021. The Ministry of the Interior published information about the obligation to apply and the conditions for the issuance of new residence permits throughout 2021 on a dedicated website for Brexit¹ and through press releases on the Ministry's website² and profiles on social networks (Facebook, Twitter), while information was also provided by all administrative units in the Republic of Slovenia and the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Ljubljana. In December 2021, the Ministry of the Interior also sent an individual notice to those citizens of the United Kingdom and their family members who had not yet applied, inviting them again to apply. Those who did not submit their applications

¹ https://www.gov.si/en/registries/projects/brexit/

² https://www.gov.si/drzavni-organi/ministrstva/ministrstvo-za-notranje-zadeve/

by the end of 2021 may do so after the deadline, but the administrative unit must establish in accordance with the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU³ whether the reasons given for an application missing the deadline are justified.

2.1.1.1. Implementing regulations

In 2021, the employees of the Migration Directorate participated in the drafting and coordination of the following adopted implementing regulations:

Decree amending the Decree on ways and scope of providing programs of support for integration of third-country nationals (EVA 2021-1711-0019), published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia on 7 May 2021.

The Decree regulates the possibility of reimbursement of the costs of courses for third-country nationals who are repatriated persons, although in a limited amount that equals the amount allocated by the Ministry of the Interior for Slovenian language courses for other beneficiaries who are third-country nationals in a certain area in the Republic of Slovenia.

Rules on the manner in which a residence permit and a certificate of frontier worker rights is issued, the method of fingerprinting, the manner in which termination of a residence permit is indicated and the price of a residence permit and a certificate of frontier worker rights.

These are the new Rules that entered into force and became applicable on the same day that the amended Foreigners Act became applicable. The new features are mainly in the Annexes to the Rules, in which some forms of applications for the issuance or renewal of residence permits (Annex 1 to the Rules) and forms of certificates of application (Annex 2 to the Rules) have been amended and supplemented as new forms have been introduced due to the introduction of some new types of residence permits. Information on the protection of personal data is included in all forms of applications for the issuance or renewal of residence permits on the basis of the recommendation of the Information Commissioner of the Republic of Slovenia in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (OJ L 119, 4 May 2016, p. 1).

Rules amending the Rules on the Passport for Foreigner Form and the method of taking fingerprints (EVA 2019-1711-0031),

The Rules determine a new form of application for the issuance of a passport for a foreigner for family members of persons who have been granted international protection in the Republic of Slovenia. It was submitted to be co-signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the end of 2021.

Proposals for changes to two implementing regulations were drafted at the beginning of November 2021 because additional blanks used in the issuance of cards to citizens of the Swiss Confederation and their family members, EU citizens and their family members and family members of Slovenian citizens were ordered, and new blanket prices were offered:

³ Article 18(1)(d)



- Rules amending the Rules on the method of issuance and the content and form of residence permits for citizens of the Swiss Confederation and their family members (EVA 2021-1711-0094) and
- Rules amending the Rules on the content, form, method of issuance and expiry of residence registration certificates and residence permits for citizens of EEA countries and the family members thereof as well as for family members of Slovenian citizens (EVA 2021-1711-0095).

The same price was achieved following extensive additional negotiations with the potential bidder, so there was no need to adopt changes to the mentioned implementing regulations.

2.2 STATISTICS

Presented below in tables and graphs is all the relevant data from the official records of the Ministry of the Interior.

2.2.1 Valid permits and residence registration certificates in 2021

On 31 December 2021, 215.815 foreigners had a valid residence permit or a residence registration certificate in the Republic of Slovenia. Of these, 98.925 third-country nationals had valid permanent residence permits and 88.005 had valid temporary residence permits. On 31 December 2021, citizens of the European Union (general note: here and in all subsequent references the term EU takes into account citizens of the European Economic Area and citizens of the Swiss Confederation) had 12.859 valid permanent residence registration certificates and 16.026 residence registration certificates (general note: in all subsequent tables and graphs, the term EU takes into account registration certificates for EEA citizens and residence permits for citizens of the Swiss Confederation).

Permanent residence permit for third – country nationals	EU citizens - perma- nent residence regis- tration certificates	Temporary residence permit for third- country nationals	EU citizens - residence registration certificates	
98.925	12.859	88.005	16.026	
111.	.784	104	.031	
TOTAL: 215.815				

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





Graph 1: Number of individual types of valid permits and certificates as of 31 December 2020

Despite the number of valid temporary residence permits for third-country nationals decreased in 2020 for the first time since 2014, by 0.4%, an increase in the number of valid temporary residence permits was recorded in 2021, by 11% compared to 2020. The number of valid permanent residence permits of third-country nationals in the Republic of Slovenia increased in 2021 by 6% compared to 2020.



Graph 2: Trend in the number of valid residence permits for third-country nationals



Considering the purpose of residence of third-country nationals, it appears that most third-country nationals had a valid temporary residence permit for employment and work – 60.000, with the purpose of family reunification accounting for 17.815.

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

Reason/intent	Number
Single residence and work permit	60.795
Family reunification družine	17.815
Family member of a Slovenian citizen	3.445
Study	2.531
Other reasons/purposes	2.371
Family member of an EU citizen	1.048
TOTAL	88.005

In 2021, the number of valid residence registration certificates for the EU citizens decreased by 6% compared to 2020. The latter represents the first drop in the number of valid residence registration certificates since 2013. The number of valid permanent residence registration certificates increased in 2021 by 1% compared to 2020.



Graph 3: Trend in the number of valid residence registration certificates for EU citizens



Table 3 shows that as of 31 December 2021, the largest number of valid residence permits was held by citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina (52%), Kosovo (18%) and Serbia (12%).

Table 3: List of the top ten third countries in terms of the number of their citizens with valid residence permits in the Republic of Slovenia as of 31 December 2020

Country	Permanent residence permit	Temporary residence permit	Total
Bosnia and Herzegovina	51.379	45.781	97.160
Kosovo	17.364	16.304	33.668
Serbia	9.315	12.505	21.820
North Macedonia	10.833	5.412	16.245
Russian Federation	2.225	1869	4.094
Ukraine	1.752	978	2.730
China	1.091	417	1.508
Unknown country	980	333	1.313
Montenegro	695	496	1.191
United Kingdom	313	647	960

The EU Member States whose citizens represented the largest proportions in terms of valid permits held are Croatia (46%), Bulgaria (17%) and Italy (13%).

Table 4: List of the top ten EU Member States in terms of the number of their citizens with valid

 residence registration certificates

Country	Permanent residence registration certificate	Residence registration certificate	Total
Croatia	7.277	5.999	13.276
Bulgaria	1.942	2.943	4.885
Italy	949	2.769	3.718
Germany	558	716	1.274
Hungary	299	680	979
Austria	217	450	667
Slovakia	327	289	616
Romania	235	346	581
France	159	277	436
Poland	166	206	372



2.2.2 Issued permits and residence registration certificates in 2021

In 2021, a total of 76.386 temporary residence permits were issued to third-country nationals and 5.218 residence registration certificates to EU citizens. 7.731 permanent residence permits were issued to third-country nationals and 647 permanent residence registration certificates to EU citizens.

Permanent residence permit	Permanent residence registration certificate	Temporary residence permit	Residence registration certificate		
7.731	647	76.386	5.218		
8.378 81.604					
TOTAL: 89.982					

Table 5: Number of issued residence permits or residence registration certificates in 2021



Graph 4: Number of issued residence permits or residence registration certificates in 2021



In 2021, the largest number of permits was issued to citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina (52%), Kosovo (18%) Serbia (13,7%), North Macedonia (6%) and the Russian Federation (2.5%).

Graph 5: List of the top five countries in terms of the number of their citizens with issued residence permits







Graph 6: Overview of issued temporary residence permits by types of permits or residence registration certificates from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2021 by all residence permits issued

Graph 7: Ratio between all temporary residence permits and residence registration certificates issued in 2021







Graph 8: Ratio between the issued first temporary residence permits and all residence permits issued to third-country nationals in the past six years

Graph 9: First temporary residence permits by reason or purpose issued from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2021





The reasons for issuing temporary residence permits in the Republic of Slovenia in 2021 included:

- people transferred within a company (single ICT permit): 15,
- EU Blue Card: 92,
- research work: 69.

Graph 10: List of the top five countries in terms of the number of citizens with first temporary residence permits issued in 2021: overview by purpose of family reunification and single residence and work permit



2.2.3 Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents⁴

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 referred to as: ZPŠOIRSP) in the period from 18 June 2014 to 31 December 2021 (data obtained from the record of decisions and payments of financial compensation, which is kept on the basis of Article 24 of the ZPŠOIRSP).

⁴ The 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 has been applicable since 18 June 2014.



Table 6: Number of applications to determine financial compensation, applications for beneficiary status and actions

Number of applications to determine financial compensation in an administrative procedure	applications to Number of etermine financial applications to be compensation in granted beneficiary of in administrative status procedure		Number of actions lodged in judicial proceedings
8.043	89	90	383

Table 7: Number and type of decisions issued in the administrative procedure

	Granted	Refused	Rejected	Suspension
Number of deci- sions determining financial compen- sation	5.777	1.957	190	91
Number of decisions granting beneficiary status	7	33	6	20
TOTAL	5.784	1.990	196	111

Table 8: Total amount of determined compensation (in EUR)

Total amount of compensation determined on the
basis of final decisions in administrative procedure26.702.450,00

The payment of compensations determined in administrative procedures to beneficiaries has been smoothly administered. Pursuant to the ZPŠOIRSP, administrative units paid the 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 5.178.899,54 in 2017, EUR 4.555.154,50 in 2018, EUR 1.752.844,28 in 2019, EUR 619.940,02 and EUR 288.736,66 in 2021. From the entry into force of the ZPŠOIRSP to 31 December 2021, a total of EUR 26.626.083,44 in compensation determined in administrative procedures has been paid (Source: Ministry of Public Administration, Administrative Units Office).

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 383 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 2021 (data obtained from the record of decisions and payments of financial compensation, which is kept on the basis of Article 24 of the ZPŠOIRSP).



2.2.4 Procedures at the first and second instance within the competence of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia

In 2021, the Ministry of the Interior issued as the authority of first instance on the basis of paragraph three of Article 51 of the Foreigners Act (hereinafter referred to as: ZTuj-2) 25 temporary residence permits to foreigners whose residence in the Republic of Slovenia is in the country's interest.

In 2021, the Migration Directorate as the authority of second instance received 60 appeals against decisions of administrative units, of which:

- 58 appeals in the procedure of the issue or termination of residence permits or residence registration certificates pursuant to the ZTuj-2;
- two appeals in the procedure of the issuance of residence permits or special decisions pursuant to the Act Regulating the Legal Status of Citizens of the Former Yugoslavia Living in the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter referred to as: ZUSDDD);⁵

In 2021, the Migration Directorate decided on 52 appeals, i.e.:

- on 51 appeals in procedures pursuant to the ZTuj-2;
- one appeal in procedures pursuant to the ZUSDDD;

In 2021, the Migration Office at the Ministry of the Interior, as the authority of first instance, received 72 applications for the issuance of a residence permit for family reunification with a person under international protection in the Republic of Slovenia, filed pursuant to the ZTuj-2, of which 70 applications for the issuance of a permanent residence permit for reunification with a foreigner with granted refugee status in the Republic of Slovenia (44 applications by citizens of Afghanistan, 14 applications by citizens of Syria, 9 applications by citizens of Palestine, 2 applications by citizens of Turkey and 1 application by a citizen of Morocco) and two applications for the issuance of a temporary residence permit for family reunification with a foreigner with granted subsidiary protection in the Republic of Slovenia (for 2 citizens of Eritrea).

In 2021, the Migration Office decided on 64 applications for the issuance of residence permits for family reunification with a person under international protection in the Republic of Slovenia, of which 45 applications were granted and residence permits were issued, 2 applications were refused, while the procedure was suspended in 17 cases.

In 2021, the Migration Directorate at the Ministry of the Interior, as the authority of first instance, also issued 15 passports for foreigners to family members of persons with granted international protection in the Republic of Slovenia. Passports for foreigners were issued to family members who were issued a residence permit in the Republic of Slovenia and did not have a valid passport issued for the purpose of entry of a family member to the Republic of Slovenia in accordance with paragraph six of Article 98 of ZTuj-2.

⁵ Act Regulating the Legal Status of Citizens of the Former Yugoslavia Living in the Republic of Slovenia Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 76/10 – official consolidated text – ZUSDDD).



In 2021, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia issued as the authority of first instance on the basis of paragraph three of Article 51 of the Foreigners Act (hereinafter referred to as: ZTuj-2) 25 temporary residence permits to foreigners whose residence in the Republic of Slovenia is in the country's interest.

In procedures to issue residence permits, administrative units suspended the procedure in 5.361 cases, 307 applications were rejected, while 1.816 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 9: Number of suspended procedures and rejected and refused applications in 2021 by type of citizenship

	EU citizens	Third countries	TOTAL
Suspension	912	4.449	5.361
Refused	29	1.787	1.816
Rejected	69	238	307
TOTAL	1.010	6.474	7.484



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

Terminations 2021	EU citizens	Third countries	TOTAL
Acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Slovenia	178	1.571	1.749
Acquisition of permanent residence permit	414	5.588	6.002
Renunciation	147	689	836
Emigration from the Republic of Slovenia	6	81	87
Death	86	258	344
Annulment	0	944	944
End of validity	5	112	117
Emigration from the European Union	0	12	12
Failure to meet conditions for the issue of residence registration certificate	21		21
Subsequent establishment that conditions for the issue of residence registration certificate are not met	0		0
Termination of residence	0	1	1
Punishment in the form of expulsion of a foreigner from the Republic of Slovenia	0	1	1
Acquisition of long- term resident status in another EU Member State		3	3
Acquisition of an EU Blue Card in another EU Member State		0	0
TOTAL	857	9.260	10.117



3 INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

3.1 LEGISLATION

3.1.1 Act Amending the International Protection Act

The Act amending the International Protection Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 54/21; ZMZ-1A; hereinafter referred to as: Act) was passed in the National Assembly on 26 March 2021 and published in the National Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia on 9 April 2021, while it entered into force on 9 May 2021. Due to the extensiveness of the proposed amendments, the Act became applicable six months after its entry into force, on 9 November 2021.

3.1.1.1. Implementing regulations

In 2021, the employees of the Migration Directorate participated in the drafting and coordination of the following implementing regulations:

- Rules on the access to refugee counsellors, remuneration and reimbursement of the expenses of refugee counsellors, and criteria for calculating the reimbursement of the expenses from the person with sufficient own means (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 162/21),
- Rules on the remuneration and reimbursement of the expenses of statutory representatives of unaccompanied minors (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 167/21),
- Rules on the procedure for aliens who wish to apply for international protection in the Republic of Slovenia and on the procedure for accepting applications for international protection (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 64/11 and 173/211),
- Decree on the implementation of the statutory representation of unaccompanied minors and the method of ensuring adequate accommodation, care and treatment of unaccompanied minors,
- Decree amending the Decree on the relocation of persons admitted to the Republic of Slovenia on the basis of a quota and burden sharing among Member States of the European Union (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 167/21).

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. The plan contains agreed scenarios and objectives, defines all necessary measures and authorities, and establishes systems of possible response to new emergency situations. The measures and participation of individual authorities were defined in view of the different 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 stages: 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 2021, procedures for employing new public officials were implemented as part of the third phase of the Contingency Plan.

3.3 STATISTICS

Presented below in tables and graphs is all relevant data from the official records of the Ministry of the Interior.

3.3.1 Structure of applicants in international protection procedures in 2021

The number of applications for international protection has been increasing in recent years. In 2021, there was a significant increase in applications for international protection. The first half of the year showed a decline in the number of applications compared to the previous year, but this trend completely reversed in the second half. While an average of 212 applications were submitted per month in the first half of the year, there were as many as 672 in the second half. 5,301 applications for international protection were filed in 2021, which is almost 50% more than in 2020 and 100% more than the average of the last five years.

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of applications	1.308	1.476	2.875	3.821	3.548	5.301

Table 11: Number of applications for international protection in the past six years





Graph 11: Change in the number of applications for international protection in the past six years

The trend of countries from which applicants for international protection come also changed in 2021. By far the largest number, as many as 50%, were citizens of Afghanistan, followed by citizens of Pakistan (9%) and Iran (6%).

Table 12: Top ten countries in terms of the number of applications for international protection filed by their citizens in 2021

Country of origin	Number of applicants
Afghanistan	2.614
Pakistan	493
Iran	331
Turkey	279
Bangladesh	267
Iraq	256
Могоссо	175
Egypt	107
Algeria	106
Syria	92





Graph 12: List of the top ten countries in terms of the number of applications for international protection filed by their citizens in 2021

Table 13: Three most frequent countries of origin in the past six years

Year	Country of origin – number of applications					
2021	Afghanistan	2.614	Pakistan	493	Iran	331
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







Graph 13: Change in the number of applications in the past six years by three most frequent countries of origin

Among all applications received in 2021, there were 81 applicants who had already filed at least one application for international protection in the Republic of Slovenia prior to that year. In 2021, applications for international protection were filed by 4.141 men, which is 78% of applications filed (most of them were citizens of Afghanistan), and 1,160 women, which is 22% of applications filed (most of whom were citizens of Afghanistan). 68% of all applicants were between 18 and 34 years of age.

Table 14: Number of applicants for international protection in 2021 by gender

Men	Women	
4.141	1.160	
TOTAL: 5.301		





Graph 14: Number of applicants for international protection in 2021 by gender

Table 15: Number of applicants for international protection in 2021 by age

Age	Number
0–13 years	973
14–17 years	908
18–34 years	2.634
35–64 years	766
over 65 years	20
TOTAL	5.301







3.3.2 Structure of applicants who are unaccompanied minors

Given the increase in the number of filed international protection applications, the number of applications by unaccompanied minors also increased in 2021, by 42%. Of all minors who applied for international protection, 42% came to the Republic of Slovenia without their parents or other legal representative, which is significantly less than in previous years (70% in 2020 and 80% in 2019)

Country of origin	Number of applicants
Afghanistan	449
Pakistan	80
Bangladesh	65
Egypt	66
Могоссо	19
Kosovo	21
Algeria	5
Eritrea	1
Ethiopia	1
Gambia	5
Ghana	1
Guinea	3
Guinea-Bissau	1
Iraq	8
Iran	10
Cameroon	1
Kuwait	1
Mali	2
Senegal	3
Sierra Leone	1
Syria	4
Somalia	19
Sri Lanka	1
Turkey	1
Turkey	14
TOTAL	782

Table 16: Number of applicants who are unaccompanied minors in 2021 by country of origin



Age	Boys	Girls
0–13 years	25	1
14–15 years	115	7
16-17 years	627	7
TOTAL	767	15

Table 17: Number of applicants who were unaccompanied minors in 2021 by gender and age

3.3.3 Decision making in international protection procedures

The trend of applicants leaving the Republic of Slovenia of their own will continued in 2021, as a result of which 69% of resolved procedures were stopped. An increase was recorded in applications for which it was later established that another EU Member State is responsible for their processing. There were as many as 1.390 such cases, or 200% more than in the previous year. In view of the above, there was less substantive decision-making in the year (only 3% of resolved applications) and, consequently, 17 international protection statuses were recognised.

Type of solution 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
2021	17	156	1.390	3.445	5.008

Table 18: Structure of resolved applications for international protection from 2010 to the end of 2021





Graph 16: Structure of resolved applications for international protection from 2010 to the end of 2021

Despite the increase in the number of filed applications for international protection, the decisionmaking time was reduced, because of which these procedures continued for an average of 210 days in 2021 (288 days in 2020 and 328 days in 2019). The decision-making time in all procedures in 2021 took 26 days on average.

3.3.4. Persons who also applied for international protection in another EU Member State

In accordance with the Eurodac Regulation⁶ fingerprints of the following categories of foreigners have been entered into the Eurodac Central Fingerprint System since 2004:

- 1. Category foreigners who apply for international protection in a Member State,
- 2. Category foreigners who are arrested for illegally crossing the state border and not returned to second state,

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 603/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on the establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of fingerprints for the effective application of Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in a Member State by a third-country national or a stateless person and on requests for a comparison with Eurodac data by Member States' law enforcement authorities and Europol for law enforcement purposes, and amending Regulation (EU) No 1077/2011 establishing a European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice.



 Category – foreigners who illegally reside in the territory of an EU Member State; the state decides to check whether they may have previously applied for international protection in another country.

Based on the fingerprints collected in the Eurodac database, which is the basic tool for implementing the Dublin Regulation, it can be determined whether an applicant had previously filed an application in another EU Member State or associated Member State and, in the event that they were arrested by the police for improper entry into the EU, in which Member State they entered the EU. It is, meanwhile, determined in the proceedings conducted between Member States in accordance with the Dublin Regulation 604/2013⁷ which country is responsible for processing the applicant's application for international protection. In 2021, the Republic of Slovenia received as part of the Dublin proceedings 63% more requests to assume responsibility for the processing of applicants in the procedure for the recognition of international protection than in 2020. In 2021, Slovenia confirmed responsibility for the processing applications in 1.300 cases (62%).

Table 19: Assumption of responsibility by the Republic of Slovenia for the processing of foreigners in the procedure for the recognition of international protection in 2021 and 2020

	Persons admitted 2020	Persons admitted 2021
Positive replies	882	1.300
Implementation	84 (9,5 %)	112 (8,6 %)

In 2021, the Republic of Slovenia sent 5.6% fewer requests to other Member States to assume responsibility for the processing of applicants in the procedure for the recognition of international protection than in 2020. In 2021, the EU Member States assumed responsibility for the processing of applications in 792 cases (58.6%), which is an increase of 153% compared to 2020.

Table 20: Assumption of responsibility by other EU Member States for the processing of foreigners in the procedure for the recognition of international protection in 2021 and 2020

	Persons transferred 2020	Persons transferred 2021
Positive replies	313	792
Implementation	6 (1,9 %)	5 (6,9 %)

Transfers of persons between March 2020 and September 2021 declined as Dublin transfers were suspended due to the Covid-19 epidemic in almost all Member States.

⁷ Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in a Member State by a third-country national or a stateless person



3.3.5 Structure of people who were granted international protection status in 2021

In the 1995-2020 period, a total of 1.009 people were granted international protection in the Republic of Slovenia. In 2021, international protection was granted to 17 persons, all of whom were granted refugee status. The people who were granted international protection were mostly men. The most international protection statuses were granted to citizens of Afghanistan (4) and Syria (4).

Table 21: Number of people with granted international protection status in 2021 by type of status and gender

Gender Type of status	Men	Women	TOTAL
Refugee status	15	2	17
Subsidiary protection status	0	0	0
TOTAL	15	2	17

Table 22: Number of people with granted international protection in 2021 by country of origin

Country of origin	Number of persons under international protection	
Afghanistan	4	
Syria	4	
Iran	3	
Cameroon	1	
Iraq	1	
Palestine	1	
Serbia	1	
Somalia	1	
Turkey	1	
TOTAL	17	

Table 23: Number of all people with granted international protection from 1995 to the end of 2021 by type of status and gender

Gender Type of status	Men	Women	TOTAL
Refugee status	540	244	784
Subsidiary protection status	96	40	136
Asylum for humanitarian reasons ⁸	55	34	89
TOTAL	691	318	1.009

⁸ In March 2006, the Asylum Act abolished asylum for humanitarian reasons and introduced subsidiary protection.


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

Between 1 January 2021 and 26 May 2021, when the Act amending the Foreigners Act became applicable, the Ministry of the Interior provided assistance in the integration into Slovenian society for third-country nationals through various programmes carried out by non-governmental organisations and other providers selected by public tender. The implementation of programmes was financed with the funds of the Ministry of the Interior and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). On the day when the Act amending the Foreigners Act became applicable, 26 May 2021, the responsibility for integration was transferred from the Ministry of the Interior to the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants.

Crucial integration measures are programmes of free language learning and for the acquisition of knowledge 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 spending of funds for integration programmes as of 26 May 2021. EUR 320.463,50 was spent, of which 75% or EUR 240.347,63 was from the AMIF fund and 25% or EUR 80.115,88 of own funds.

Programme title	Spending in EUR
Initial integration of immigrants	282.271,40
Exam in Slovenian for citizens of third countries	37.917,60
Infotujci website	274,50
TOTAL	320.463,50

Table 24: Use of funds for integration programmes in 2021



Graph 17: Spending of funds for integration programmes in 2021



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, intended for third-country nationals, comprises 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 was much influenced by the Covid-19 epidemic in 2021. In accordance with adopted measures, activities were conducted in the virtual environment during the ban on public assembly.

In 2021, the programme was implemented in 23 places around Slovenia. The course was attended by 1.244 people in 2021, most of whom were from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia and Ukraine. The participants originated from 53 different countries. Total value of the course in 2020 amounted to EUR 282.271,40.

4.1.2 Exam in Slovenian

The Ministry of the Interior covers the costs of the first exam in Slovenian at the basic level for citizens of third countries who attend at least 80 per cent of all hours in the Initial Integration of Immigrants programme. In 2021, 297 third-country nationals took the exam, which cost EUR 37.917,60. The exam was passed by 235 or 79% of the participants.

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 for access by mobile devices, i.e. smart phones and tablets. EUR 274,50 was spent on the maintenance of the website in 2021.

In the period from 1 January 2021 to 26 May 2021, the infotujci.si website was visited by 12.202 users who stayed on the website for an average of two and a half minutes. The majority of visitors (89%) accessed the website through the direct link to the website, and 10% of visitors were referred to the website through government websites. Users spent most of the time on the content related to the acquisition of Slovenian citizenship, temporary residence permits for highly-qualified employees and integration into Slovenian society.



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 relevant legislation, 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 of the Ministry of the Interior, 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 legal representatives for their work in helping unaccompanied minors.

The table below shows the use of funds for international protection in 2021. EUR 407.773,41 was spent, of which 75% or EUR 305.830,06 was from the AMIF fund and 25% or EUR 101.943,35 of own funds.

Programme title	Spending in EUR
Free legal aid before the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia	67.873,28
Translating and interpreting in international protection proce- dures	259.778,26
Support in procedures to grant international protection	70.404,37
Transfers under the Dublin Regulation	9.717,50
TOTAL	407.773,41



Graph 18: Use of funds for international protection projects in 2021

Table 25: Use of funds for international protection projects in 2021



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

Pursuant to the International Protection Act, support and legal aid in proceedings before the Administrative Court and the Supreme Court is provided by refugee counsellors appointed by the Ministry of Justice for five years. 59 people have been appointed refugee counsellors. EUR 67.873,28 was spent on this activity in 2021.

4.2.2 Translating and interpreting in international protection procedures

When a person does not understand the official language in international protection proceedings, they are provided with an interpreter for a language they understand so that they can follow the proceedings. The assistance of an interpreter is provided upon receipt of the application and personal interviews. In 2021, the Ministry of the Interior had contracts for copyrighted work, work contracts and framework agreements with 36 translators. EUR 259.778,26 was spent for this activity in 2021.

4.2.3 Support in procedures to grant international protection

The Ministry 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 70.404,37 was spent for the mentioned measures in 2021.



5 OTHER ACTIVITIES AS PART OF EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2021, representatives of the Migration Directorate participated in the drafting 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), the European Asylum Support Office – EASO, the European Migration Network, the national contact point for integration and partner international organisations (UN, OECD, IOM, UNHCR and ICMPD).

Preparations for the Presidency of the Republic of Slovenia to the Council of the EU project took place in the first half of 2021. The implementing part followed on 1 July, in which the employees of the Migration Directorate actively participated in the drafting and coordination of proposals for legislative acts.

5.1 Close inter-institutional cooperation project

The Ministry of the Interior, in a consortium with Sweden and the Netherlands, 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. Participation in the implementation of the project means the continuation and upgrading of recent activities and takes into account the strategic guidelines of the Ministry and national priorities in international cooperation. The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of the Republic of Serbia to transpose asylum policies in accordance with international and EU standards. The project was originally planned to be implemented until 30 September 2021, but the implementation of activities was delayed due to the epidemic, so the European Commission approved the extension of the project until the end of 2021.

Participating in the project in 2021 were ten civil servants of the Migration Directorate who took part in the development of twelve different sets of content, in meetings of the steering committee and in the final conference of the project. Due to the measures to curb the epidemic, the experts carried out work on the project partly in Serbia and partly virtually.

5.2 European Asylum Support Office (EASO)

The Migration Directorate also cooperated with the EASO in 2021. In response to the EASO request, in 2021 three public officials of the Migration Directorate were deployed to missions with the purpose of providing support to Member States facing the greatest migratory pressures. An expert for the registration of applications for international protection was sent to a mobile unit in Italy, an expert for the Dublin proceedings was sent to the Dublin office in Italy and an expert for deciding on applications for international protection was sent to Cyprus.



5.2.1 Training

Three training sessions based on EASO modules were planned in 2021. Part of the training for the "Interviews with Vulnerable Persons" module was conducted online, and the part of the module that should have taken place in person was not carried out due to the epidemiological situation. Training was planned for the Dublin Regulation, intended primarily for public officials who dealt with the mentioned Regulation during the Presidency of the Council of the EU, and related acts. The module was not fully implemented due to other commitments of public officials during the Presidency. The evidence assessment module was also implemented only in the part that takes place online, while the part that takes place in person will be implemented in 2022 due to other obligations of the participants.

5.3 European Migration Network (EMN)

The Slovenian national contact point in the European Migration Network (EMN SI NCP) was given an enhanced role in 2021. The EMN SI NCP organised the conference "Preparedness of the European Union for future migration flows" as part of the Presidency of the Council of the EU, which took place on 5 and 6 October 2021 in Ljubljana. The participants were addressed by Aleš Hojs, the Slovenian Minister of the Interior, and Ylva Johansson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs.

The central topic of the conference topic, migration management, was presented through four panels:

- review of the migration situation in the Western Balkans in 2021,
- forecasting of migration flows,
- preparedness of the EU in the field of reception and return of migrants,
- review of new regulations for governing cross-border migration.

The conference was attended by representatives of the European Commission, EASO, Frontex, IOM, OECD, FRA, national and international experts in the field of migration and asylum, representatives of national contact points of the EMN and international and regional governmental and non-governmental organisations in the field of migration and asylum. In accordance with measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19, the number of attendees was limited to seventy. An audio and video broadcast of the conference was organised, enabling an additional 211 people to watch the two-day event.

5.4 European Integration Network (EIN)

In March 2021, a meeting was held of the contact points of the European Integration Network, which was established in 2016 with restructuring of national contact points for integration. With the restructuring of the national contact points for integration into contact points of the European Integration Network, the European Commission wanted to achieve an in-depth exchange of information in the broad area of the integration of refugees and third-country nationals.



The meeting was dedicated primarily to the issue of migrants and the epidemic. A greater impact of the epidemic on migrants has been detected in several areas: employment, health and education. The epidemic has hit vulnerable groups of populations in the EU the hardest, including migrants (especially women and children). The epidemic has only deepened the already existing vulnerability. The Member States will also need to take additional measures to allow migrants to access services during the epidemic.

In accordance with the entry into force of the amended Foreigners Act, as part of which the competence for the support and integration of migrants was transferred from the Ministry of the Interior to the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants (OSIM), Slovenia's membership in the EIN is continued by a representative of the OSIM.



6 PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

6.1 IMEX WORKING GROUP (INTEGRATION)

The Working Group on Legal Migration – Integration consisted of four public officials from the Ministry of the Interior and one representative at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia in Brussels.

In November 2020, the European Commission published the Action Plan for Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027. On 10 February 2021, the Working Group drafted coordinated guidelines for the Action Plan and published it on the EU-Portal. At the beginning of March 2021, members of the Working Group attended an informal meeting chaired by the Portuguese Presidency to exchange views of the Member States on the impact of the pandemic on integration and on the Action Plan. In mid-April, the Portuguese Presidency held an informal ministerial conference on integration and the impact of the pandemic on migrants and their access to the labour market. On 18 May 2021, the last meeting of the Working Group under the Portuguese Presidency focused on the integration of young people with a migrant background and on the financing of integration programmes under the Multiannual Financial Framework.

On the day when the Act amending the Foreigners Act became applicable, 26 May 2021, the jurisdiction for integration was transferred from the Ministry of the Interior to the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants, while integration was not a priority under the programme of the Presidency of the Republic of Slovenia of the Council of the EU.

6.2 IMEX WORKING GROUP (RECEPTION)

The Working Group on Legal Migration – reception consisted of four civil servants from the Ministry of the Interior and one representative of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia in Brussels.

The entire period of the Portuguese Presidency was devoted to political agreement on the recast of the Blue Card Directive, which lays down the conditions for the entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment. A series of technical meetings were held at the level of advisers in the field of justice and home affairs, and bilateral meetings with the Portuguese Presidency, while Slovenia was also present at political trialogues at the invitation of the Portuguese Presidency. Over 20 compromise proposals were reviewed and amended. A compromise proposal was agreed at the political trialogue on 17 May 2021. During the Slovenian Presidency, it was necessary to provide a translation and review of the text. Directive (EU) 2021/1883 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment, and repealing Council Directive 2009/50/EC was signed on 20 October 2021, and transposition into national legislation must be completed by 18 November 2023.



A meeting of the Working Group was held on 1 March 2021 under the Portuguese Presidency, at which the Member States exchanged views on the need to revise Directive 2011/98/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on a single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State and Council Directive 2003/109/EC of 25 November 2003 concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents. Results of a public consultation on legal migration held by the Commission at the end of 2020 and an overview of the state/development of the Talent Partnerships concept were also presented.

During the Presidency, the Working Group conducted regular communication with the Commission regarding the announced legislative proposals. The Commission failed to provide material for discussion during the Slovenian Presidency, so there was no meeting of the Working Group during the Slovenian Presidency.

6.3 WORKING GROUP ON ASYLUM

The Working Group on Asylum consisted of eight public officials from the Ministry of the Interior who coordinated the work with five representatives of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia in Brussels. A total of 36 meetings of the Working Group were held, 13 of which were held under the auspices of the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU. During the Portuguese Presidency, the first reading took place of the Commission's proposal for an Asylum and Migration Management Regulation, of amended Council Directive 2003/109/EC and of the proposed Regulation (EU) XXX/XXX [Asylum and Migration Fund] (hereinafter referred to as: AMMR) and the second reading took place of the amended proposal of a Regulation establishing a common procedure for international protection and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU (hereinafter referred to as: APR). During this time, representatives of the Slovenian delegation in the Working Group on Asylum examined both proposals and prepared interventions and written comments on the discussed articles from both proposals.

Bilateral meetings with other Member States and the drafting of a compromise proposal by the AMMR, based on comments received from the Member States during the first reading of the proposal and their written contributions, started even before the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The drafting of the compromise proposal required numerous meetings, including coordination with representatives of the General Secretariat of the Council, the Council Legal Service and representatives of the European Commission. Also prepared was the compromise proposal of the APR and the compromise proposal of the Amended proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of biometric data for the effective application of Regulation (EU) XXX/XXX [Regulation on Asylum and Migration Management] and of Regulation (EU) XXX/XXX [Resettlement Regulation], for identifying an illegally staying third-country national or stateless person and on requests for the comparison with Eurodac data by Member States' law enforcement authorities and Europol for law enforcement purposes and amending Regulations (EU) 2018/1240 and (EU) 2019/818, with discussion on the latter continuing at a higher level.



All three compromise proposals were presented to the Member States during the meetings of the Working Group during the Slovenian Presidency, with extensive explanations of all proposed changes and answers to possible questions from Member States being provided. During the last meeting of the Working Group under the auspices of the Slovenian Presidency, a summary of the work was presented to the Member States and key open issues in the AMMR and APR proposals were raised. Significant progress at the expert level has been made as part of the Eurodac Regulation, although it showed in early December 2021 that there was insufficient political support among the Member States to confirm the mandate to start negotiations with the European Parliament. In order for the work on this dossier to be completed, the Slovenian Presidency submitted a progress report to COREPER that will serve as a basis for further work of the future Presidency.

The main challenge was the measures related to Covid-19, as the working group could not meet in person in 2021. Nevertheless, representatives of the Slovenian delegation met in person in Brussels during the Slovenian Presidency, which was required for easier management of the Working Group during sessions and coordination with the General Secretariat of the Council, the Council Legal Service and the European Commission.

