REPORT OF THE MIGRATION DIRECTORATE

2023

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1 INTRODUCTION

Multi-layered in nature, migrations are a complex social phenomenon. The nature of today's migration flows is affected by a variety of political, security and socio-economic reasons. In recent years, the European Union (EU) and consequently Slovenia have faced new migration challenges, highlighting the importance of readiness and cooperation in migration management between national and international stakeholders.

The 2023 Report of the Migration Directorate presents the main achievements and statistics relating to legal migration and international protection. The report covers key activities pertaining to policy and legislative changes in the fields of migration, international protection, the use of funding from European funds and the integration of third-country nationals into Slovenian society. In 2023, an important legislative milestone was reached with the adoption of the Act Amending the Foreigners Act, which represents one of the foundations for migration legislation in the Republic of Slovenia. After the adoption of the Act, the employees of the Migration Directorate were actively involved in the preparation and harmonisation of implementing regulations.

Migration Directorate



2 LEGAL MIGRATION

2. 1 LEGISLATION

2. 1. 1 Act Amending the Foreigners Act (ZTuj-2G)

The Act Amending the Foreigners Act (ZTuj-2G (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 48/23) was adopted on 26 April 2023 and entered into force on 27 April 2023. The amendments were aimed at removing administrative obstacles and speeding up procedures for issuing and serving residence permits and residence registration certificates.

The adoption of the Ztuj-2G brought the following key solutions:

- the process of changing employers, changing jobs with the same employer, or working for two or more employers under a valid single residence and work permit has been simplified.
 Administrative units are no longer required to issue decisions on written approval, as a change is possible with the consent of the Employment Service of Slovenia.
- priority consideration is given to requests for the issuance of a single permit for foreigners who
 find employment with public sector employers providing healthcare or education services, in
 public institutes providing institutional care for adults, in special social care institutions for
 adults, in care and work centres and special social care and education centres, in public
 institutes providing family counselling and public social care institutions providing social
 assistance services, and requests when issuing a single permit for foreigners is in the public
 interest of the Republic of Slovenia;
- fingerprints submitted in the process of issuing the first residence permit can also be kept and used in procedures for renewing or issuing a subsequent temporary residence permit;
- the obligation to carry out periodic means-testing ex officio has been abolished;
- the requirement of a written request from the administrative unit to a diplomatic mission or consular post of the Republic of Slovenia abroad to supplement the application with fingerprints has been abolished;
- access to free Slovenian language courses for all categories of foreigners has been reintroduced:
- the possibility of serving extended temporary residence permits, renewed residence registration certificates, permanent residence permits and permanent residence registration certificates by post has been introduced.

2. 1. 2 Act Amending the Foreigners Act (ZTuj-2H)

The Act Amending the Foreigners Act (ZTuj-2H, Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 115/23) was adopted on 7 November 2023 and entered into force on 16 November 2023. The amended Act addresses changes to the condition of knowledge of the Slovenian language in procedures to extend a temporary residence permit for the purpose of



family reunification for family members of third-country nationals. The condition of knowledge of the Slovenian language at A1 level, introduced by the amended Foreigners Act of April 2023 (ZTuj-2G), has been replaced with subsistence-level knowledge, newly defined in the Act. It is a level that allows basic communication in the Slovenian language, limited to simple, predictable, everyday situations in which expression is routine and repetitive. In the course of drafting the strategy for the integration of foreigners who are non-EU citizens into the cultural, economic and social life in Slovenia, it was established that familiarity and understanding of the Slovenian language at the most basic level, i.e. the subsistence level, was sufficient for the needs of initial integration. Foreigners may continue to upgrade their knowledge with high-level classes, including in further integration programmes. Moreover, it was established that the current number of providers on the market was insufficient for the implementation of programmes and examinations at the A1 level.

The criteria for the new subsistence level education programme, including proficiency standards examined in mandatory Slovenian language tests at this level, are set by the Minister responsible for education. Classes and mandatory tests in Slovenian language on the survival level may be implemented by educational institutions or organisations providing officially recognised education programmes for adults or non-formal Slovenian language programmes for adults. Any foreigner eligible to participate in these programmes is also eligible for a one-time free Slovenian language exam.

The latest Act postpones the gradual introduction of the condition of knowledge of the Slovenian language in procedures to extend a temporary residence permit for the purpose of family reunification for family members of third-country nationals, prescribed in the Ztuj-2G in April 2023.

The provisions of the adopted Ztuj-2H bring three milestones for the application of the condition of subsistence-level Slovenian:

- for requests submitted until 30 April 2024, the test in Slovenian language on the subsistence level is not required for extending a temporary residence permit for the purpose of family reunification;
- for requests submitted between 1 May and 31 October 2024, the adult family member requesting the extention of a temporary residence permit for the purpose of family reunification must also provide a certificate of enrolment in a non-formal Slovenian language programme for adults or a certificate of enrolment in an officially recognised educational programme for adults which provides officially recognised educational qualifications; a foreigner is not required to provide a certificate of enrolment in a class if he or she provides a certificate verifying that he or she has successfully passed at least an entry-level exam in Slovenian language;
- for requests submitted from 1 November 2024 onwards, a foreigner requesting the renewal of a temporary residence permit for the purpose of family reunification must provide a certificate verifying that he or she has successfully passed a subsistence-level exam in Slovenian language.

Obtaining a permanent residence permit is still conditional on passing a level A2 exam, as prescribed in the amended ZTuj-2G in April 2023.



Furthermore, the Ztuj-2H also changed or loosened the condition of prior legal residence based on a temporary residence permit for exercising the right to family reunification concerning the sponsor, namely from a two-year to a one-year prior legal residence of the sponsor.

2. 1. 2. 1. Implementing regulations

In 2023, several amendments to implementing regulations were adopted for harmonisation with the amended Ztuj-2G and Ztuj-2H, along with the Order determining the date of application for serving documents in accordance with the provisions of the amended Foreigners Act:

- Rules amending the Rules on the residence registration certificate and residence permit for EU citizens and their family members and family members of Slovenian citizens (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 98/23);
- Rules amending the Rules on the method of issuing residence permits and the certificate
 of rights as a frontier worker, the method for taking fingerprints, the method of indicating the
 permit's termination, and the price of the residence permit card and the certificate of rights
 as a frontier worker (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], No. 98/23);
- Rules amending the Rules on residence permits for Swiss Confederation citizens and their family members (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 98/23);
- Rules amending the Rules on the method of means testing for sufficient funds in procedures for issuing residence permits (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 109/23);
- Rules amending the Rules on residence permits for Swiss Confederation citizens and their family members (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 129/23);
- Rules amending the Rules on the residence registration certificate and residence permit for EU citizens and their family members and family members of Slovenian citizens (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 129/23);
- Order determining the date of application for serving documents in accordance with the provisions of the amended Foreigners Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 134/23);
- Rules amending the Rules on the method of issuing residence permits and the certificate
 of rights as a frontier worker, the method for taking fingerprints, the method of indicating the
 permit's termination, and the price of the residence permit card and the certificate of rights as
 a frontier worker (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], No. 134/23).

2. 2 STATISTICS

Below is a graphic and tabular display of all data from the official records of the Ministry of the Interior. It should be noted that the chapter on legal migration contains data in the categories of third-country nationals¹ and citizens of the European Union (hereinafter: the EU). All references to the category of EU citizens also include citizens of European Economic Area (hereinafter:

As of 1 January 2021, citizens of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are considered third-country nationals.



EEA) member states and citizens of the Swiss Confederation. Similarly, the category of residence registration certificates for EU citizens in all the tables and charts below also includes residence registration certificates for EEA citizens and residence permits for citizens of the Swiss Confederation.

2. 2. 1. Valid residence permits or residence registration certificates in 2023

On 31 December 2023, 244,416 persons held a valid residence permit or residence registration certificate in the Republic of Slovenia. 121,032 third-country nationals had a valid permanent residence permit and 94,359 had a temporary residence permit. On 31 December 2023, 14,003 EU citizens had a valid permanent residence registration certificate and 15,022 had a residence registration permit.

Table 1: Number of individual types of valid residence permits or residence registration certificates on 31 December 2023

Permanent residence permits for third- country nationals	Permanent residence registration certificates for EU nationals	Temporary residence permits for third-country nationals	Residence registration certificates for EU citizens
121,032	14,003	94,359	15,022
135,035		109,381	
TOTAL: 244,416			

Chart 1: Number of individual types of valid residence permits on 31 December 2023

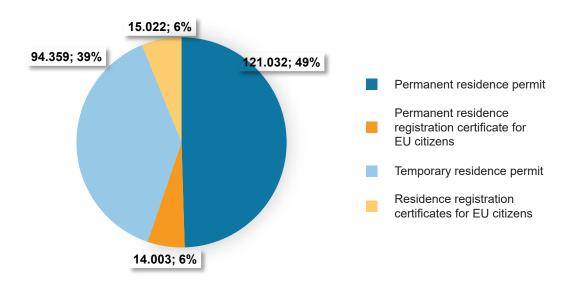




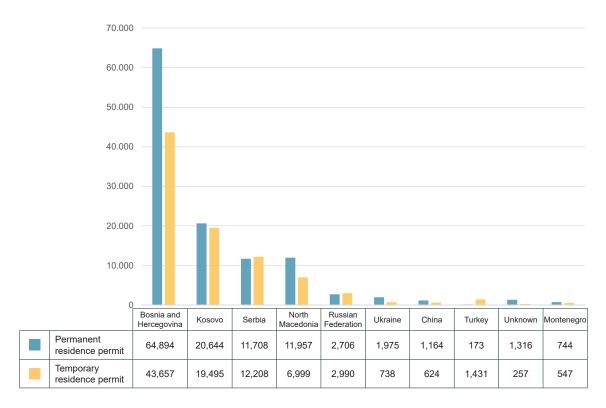
Chart 2: Trend in the number of valid temporary and permanent residence permits on the last day of the year (31 December) from 2017 to 2023



The data shows that, on 31 December 2023, the highest number of valid residence permits were held by nationals of Bosnia and Herzegovina (50%), Kosovo (19%) and Serbia (11%).



Chart 3: Overview of the top ten third countries whose nationals held the highest number of valid residence permits in the Republic of Slovenia on 31 December 2023



Based on the purpose of residence, the highest number of third-country nationals had a valid temporary residence permit due to employment and $work^2 - 66,116$ (70% of all valid temporary residence permits) – followed by family reunification with 17,301 permits (18% of all valid temporary residence permits).

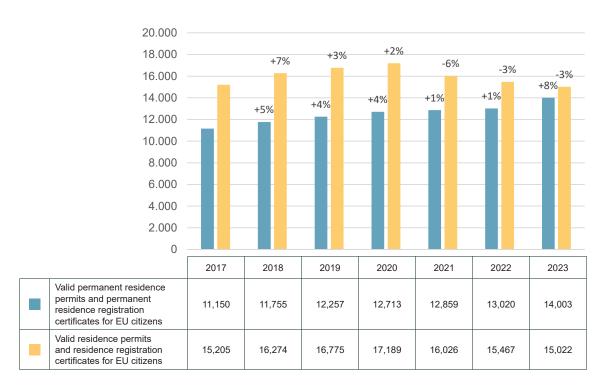
The category Employment or work comprises all single permits (i.e. single residence and work permits for highly qualified employment – the EU Blue Card, for self-employed, seekers of employment or self-employment, trainees, referred workers, intra-corporate transferees, daily migrant workers and seasonal workers) and temporary residence permits issued for the purposes of research, higher education and volunteer work.



Table 2: Number of valid temporary residence permits on 31 December 2023 based on the reason or purpose of residence in Slovenia

Reason/purpose	Number
Employment or work	66,116
Family reunification	17,301
Family reunification – family member of an EU citizen or Slovenian citizen	4,535
Studies	3,763
Other ³	2,644
TOTAL	94,359

Chart 4: Trend in the number of valid residence permits or residence registration certificates issued to EU citizens on the last day of the year (31 December) from 2017 to 2023

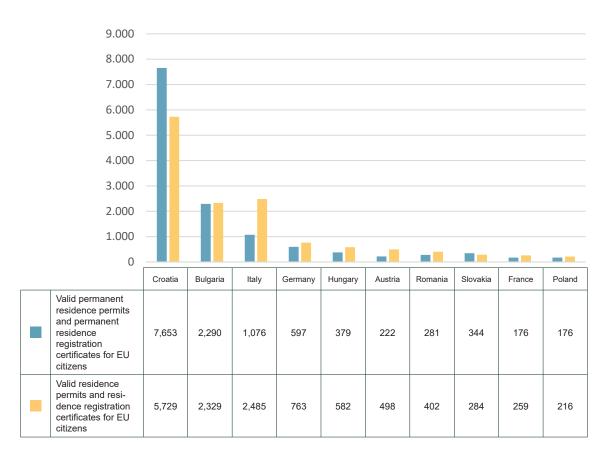


On 31 December 2023, the highest number of valid residence permits issued to EU citizens were held by nationals of Croatia (46%), Bulgaria (16%) and Italy (12%).

The category Other includes residence permits issued to foreigners of Slovenian descent, children of foreigners, EU citizens, refugees and persons with subsidiary protection born in Slovenia, the children of persons with international protection born abroad, victims of domestic violence, human trafficking and illegal employment, in the interest of the Republic of Slovenia or on other reasonable grounds.



Chart 5: Overview of the top ten EU countries whose nationals held the highest number of valid residence registration certificates on 31 December 2023



2. 2. 2. Issued residence permits or residence registration certificates in 2023

In 2023, a total of 87,895 temporary residence permits were issued to third-country nationals and 5,394 residence registration certificates to EU citizens. A total of 16,809 permanent residence permits were issued to third-country nationals and 813 permanent residence registration certificates to EU citizens.

Table 3: Number of issued residence permits or residence registration certificates in 2023

Permanent residence permits for third- country nationals	Permanent residence registration certificates for EU citizens	Temporary residence permits for third- country nationals	Residence registration certificates for EU citizens
16,809	813	87,895	5,394
17,622		93,	289
TOTAL: 110,911			



Chart 6: Number of issued residence permits and residence registration certificates in 2023

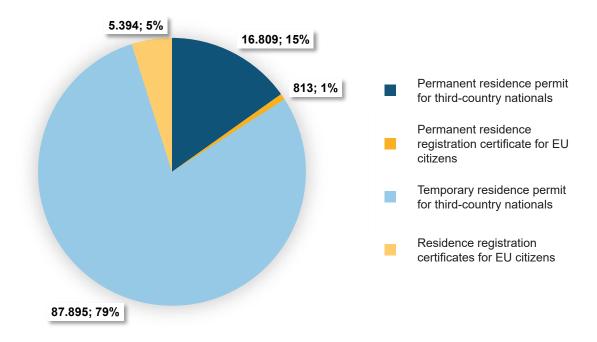


Chart 7: Number of issued temporary residence permits or residence registration certificates between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2023 by type of permit

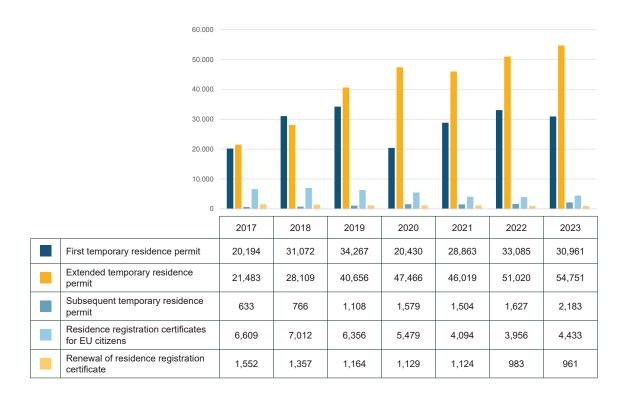




Chart 8: Ratio between first-time and total temporary residence permits issued to third-country nationals between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2023

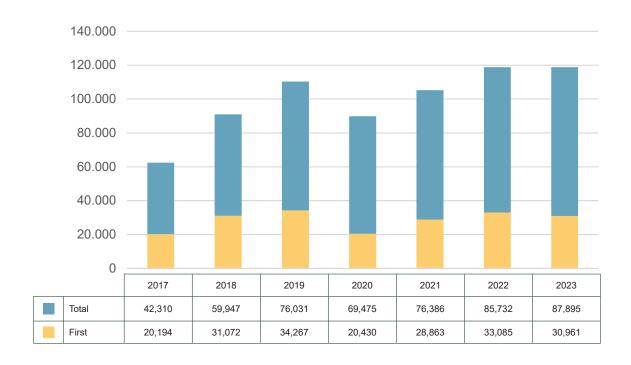


Chart 9: Issued first-time temporary residence permits in 2023 by reason or purpose of residence in the Republic of Slovenia

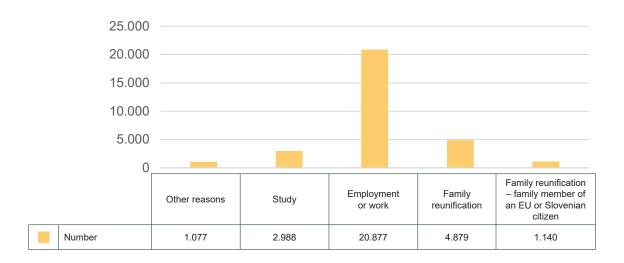
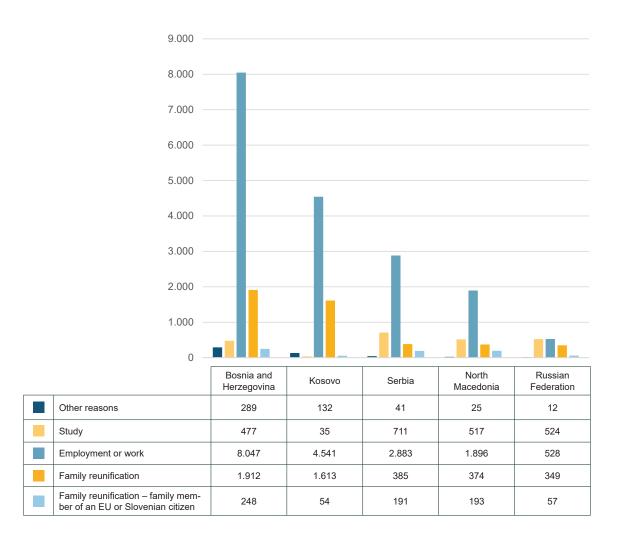




Chart 10: Overview of the top five third countries by the number of nationals issued a first-time temporary residence permits in 2023 by reason or purpose of residence in the Republic of Slovenia



With regard to procedures for issuing residence permits, the administrative units suspended the procedures in 10,501 cases; 561 applications were dismissed, while in 2,050 cases the application for a residence permit/residence registration certificate was rejected.

The table below shows data on suspended procedures, rejected and dismissed applications in 2023 by citizenship.



Table 4: Number of suspended procedures, rejected and dismissed applications in 2023 by citizenship

	EU citizens	Third countries	TOTAL
Suspension	1,857	8,644	10,501
Rejection	28	2,022	2,050
Dismissal	111	450	561
TOTAL	1,996	11,116	13,112

Administrative units also decided in procedures for the termination of 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 citizenship.

Table 5: Number of terminations and reasons for terminating permits or residence registration certificates by citizenship

Terminations in 2023	EU citizens	Third countries	TOTAL
Acquisition of Slovenian citizenship	188	1,433	1,621
Acquisition of permanent residence permit	401	11,594	11,995
Renunciation	177	1,517	1,694
Emigration from Slovenia	7	78	85
Death	64	252	316
Annulment	1	2,771	2,772
Expiry	6	186	192
Emigration from the EU	0	8	8
Nonfulfillment of the conditions for issuing a residence registration certificate	4		4
Subsequently established nonfulfillment of the conditions for issuing a residence registration certificate	0		0
Revocation of a residence permit	1	4	5
Sanction – expulsion of a foreigner from Slovenia	0	0	0
Acquisition of long-term resident status in another EU Member State		6	6
Acquisition of a Blue Card in another EU Member State		0	0
TOTAL	849	17,849	18,698



2. 2. 3 Statistics according to the Act Regulating Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents⁴

Tables 6 and 7 show the basic statistical data in procedures for determining financial compensation and recognition of the status of a beneficiary on the basis of the Act Regulating Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents (hereinafter: the ZPŠOIRSP) in the period from 18 June 2014 to 31 December 2023 (the data are obtained from a record that is kept on decisions and payments of financial compensation based on Article 24 of the ZPŠOIRSP).

Table 6: Number of applications to determine financial compensation, applications for recognition of the status of a beneficiary and lawsuits

Number of applications for the determination of financial compensation filed in administrative procedures	Number of filed applications for recognition of the status of a beneficiary	Number of proposals for the payment of financial compensation in a preliminary procedure submitted to the State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Slovenia	Number of lawsuits filed in court proceedings
8,048	87	90	383

Table 7: Number and type of decisions issued in administrative procedures

	Granted	Rejected	Dismissed	Suspended
Number of decisions determining financial compensation	5,782	1,957	192	91
Number of decisions regarding recognition of the status of a beneficiary	7	33	7	20
TOTAL	5,789	1,990	199	111

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

Total amount of determined compensation based on	26 720 450 00
final decisions in administrative procedures	26,739,450.00

The Act Regulating Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 99/13) entered into force on 18 December 2013 and has been applicable since 18 June 2014.



The payment of compensation to beneficiaries determined in administrative procedures is carried out promptly. On the basis of the ZPŠOIRSP, administrative units paid out a total of EUR 3,977,200 in 2014, EUR 5,135,686 in 2015, EUR 5,117,622 in 2016, EUR 5,178,900 in 2017, EUR 4,555,155 in 2018, EUR 1,752,844 in 2019, EUR 619,940 in 2020, EUR 288,737 in 2021, EUR 40,740 in 2022 and EUR 28,722 in 2023. From the entry into force of the ZPŠOIRSP until 31 December 2023, a total of EUR 26,695,546 in compensation determined in administrative procedures was paid (source: Administrative Units Service).

During the period from the entry into force of the ZPŠOIRSP until 31 December 2023, in addition to the requirements for determining financial compensation in administrative procedures, 90 proposals were submitted to the State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Slovenia for the payment of financial compensation in preliminary proceedings, while the courts received 383 lawsuits for the payment of financial compensation in court proceedings (the relevant data was obtained from a record that is kept on decisions and payments of financial compensation pursuant to Article 24 of the ZPŠOIRSP).

2. 2. 4 First and second instance procedures within the competence of the Slovenian Ministry of the Interior

In 2023, pursuant to Article 51, paragraph three of the Foreigners Act (ZTuj-2), the Ministry of the Interior, as a first instance authority, issued 2 temporary residence permits to foreigners whose residence in Slovenia is in the country's interest.

In 2023, the Ministry of the Interior, the Migration Directorate, as a first instance authority, also received 101 applications for residence permits for the purpose of family reunification with a person under international protection in the Republic of Slovenia filed on the basis of the ZTuj-2 (an increase from 2022, when 75 applications were filed). Out of the 101 applications filed, 88 were for the issuance of a permanent residence permit for the purpose of family reunification with a foreigner with recognised refugee status in the Republic of Slovenia (38 to citizens of Burundi, 28 to citizens of Syria, 11 to citizens of Afghanistan, 7 to citizens of Cuba, 2 to citizens of Turkey, 1 to a citizen of Ethiopia and 1 to a citizen of Venezuela) and 13 were for the issuance of a temporary residence permit for the purpose of family reunification with a foreigner under recognised subsidiary protection in the Republic of Slovenia (11 to citizens of Afghanistan, 1 to a citizen of Russia and 1 to a citizen of Syria).

In 2023, the Migration Directorate decided on 65 applications for residence permits for the purpose of family reunification with a person under international protection in the Republic of Slovenia, of which 29 applications were granted and a residence permit was issued; 22 applications were rejected, 1 application was dismissed, while in 13 cases the procedure was suspended.

In 2023, the Slovenian Ministry of the Interior, the Migration Directorate, as a first instance authority, also issued 17 passports for foreigners to family members of persons under recognised international protection in the Republic of Slovenia. Passports for foreigners were issued to family members with a residence permit in the Republic of Slovenia and without a valid passport, issued for the purpose of the family member's entry into the Republic of Slovenia pursuant to Article 98, paragraph six of the ZTui-2.



In 2023, the Migration Directorate, as a second instance authority, received 82 complaints against decisions of administrative units, of which:

- 74 complaints referring to procedures for the issuance or termination of residence permits or residence registration certificates under the ZTuj-2;
- 3 complaints referring to procedures for issuing permanent residence permits under the Act Regulating the Legal Status of Citizens of Former Yugoslavia Living in the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter: the ZUSDDD)⁵;
- 5 complaints referring to procedures for determining financial compensation under the ZPŠOIRSP.

In 2023, the Migration Directorate decided on 78 complaints, namely on:

- 70 complaints in procedures under the ZTuj-2;
- 2 complaints in procedures under the ZUSDDD;
- 6 complaints in procedures under the ZPŠOIRSP.

23

Act Regulating the Legal Status of Citizens of Former Yugoslavia Living in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 76/10 – official consolidated version – ZUSDDD).



3 INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

3. 1 ADOPTION OF A NEW CONTINGENCY PLAN

In February 2023, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a new Contingency Plan to provide accommodation and care in the event of increases in the number of applicants for international protection and for the implementation of international protection procedures. The purpose of the Contingency Plan is to plan activities in the event of a sudden or gradual increase in the number of applicants for international protection. The plan contains the set scenarios and targets, defines all the necessary measures and bodies and establishes systems for potential responses to emerging emergency situations. The measures and involvement of individual bodies are specified based on different scopes of an increase in the number of applicants.

The plan's activation is divided into three phases based on the number of applicants or applications in three consecutive months, namely:

Phase 1: 500–900 applications,

Phase 2: 900–1200 applications,

Phase 3: 1200–1500 applications.

In 2023, no Contingency Plan phases were activated.

3. 2 STATISTICS

Below is a graphic and tabular display of all data from the official records of the Ministry of the Interior.

3. 2. 1 Structure of applicants in international protection procedures in 2023

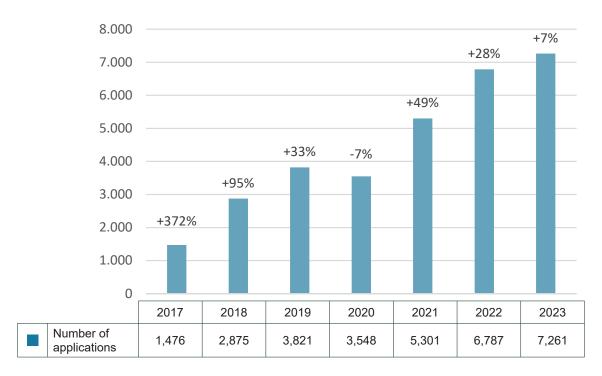
In 2023, the number of filed applications for international protection increased, exceeding the 2022 values in July and August. 919 applications were filed in August, which is the highest number of applications in the last few years. In the last third of 2023, the number of filed applications started to drop, but the values remain above last year's levels. Compared to 2022, 7% more applications for international protection were filed in 2023.

Table 9: Number of applications for international protection in the last seven years

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of applications	1,476	2,875	3,821	3,548	5,301	6,787	7,261



Chart 11: Trend in the number of applications for international protection in the last seven years



In 2023, by far the highest number of applications was filed by citizens of Morocco (79% of all applications filed), while the number of applications filed by citizens of Afghanistan, the biggest group of applicants in 2021 and 2022, decreased. Based on the new trend, the second highest number of applications was filed by the citizens of Algeria (6% of all applications filed), followed by citizens of Pakistan, Russia and India.

Table 10: Top ten countries of origin whose citizens filed the highest number of applications for international protection in 2023

Country of origin	Number of applicants
Morocco	5,760
Algeria	437
Pakistan	131
Russia	118
India	111
Afghanistan	106
Ukraine	92
Tunisia	78
Cuba	70
Syria	48



Chart 12: Top ten countries of origin whose citizens filed the highest number of applications for international protection in 2023

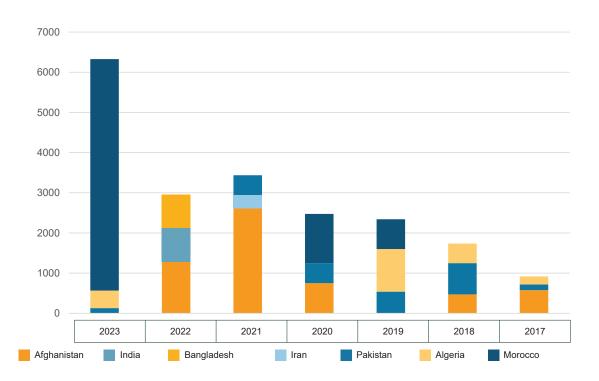


Table 11: Top three countries of origin in the last seven years

Year	Country of origin – number of applications					
2023	Morocco	5,760	Algeria	437	Pakistan	131
2022	Afghanistan	1,279	India	851	Bangladesh	825
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



Chart 13: Trend in the number of applications in the last seven years, top three countries of origin



In 2023, 7,092 men, or 98%, and 169 women, or 2%, applied for international protection. The majority of applicants belonged to the 18–34 age group (84% of all applications filed).

Table 12: Number of applicants for international protection in 2023 by gender

Men	Women			
7,092	169			
TOTAL: 7,261				



Chart 14: Number of applicants for international protection in 2023 by gender

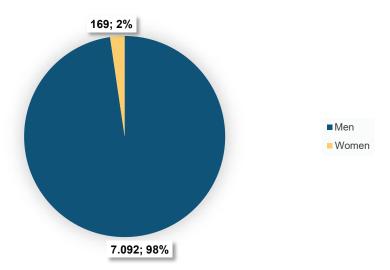


Table 13: Number of applicants for international protection in 2023 by age

Age	Number
0-13 years	91
14-17 years	64
18-34 years	6,186
35–64 years	908
Over 65 years	12
TOTAL	7,261



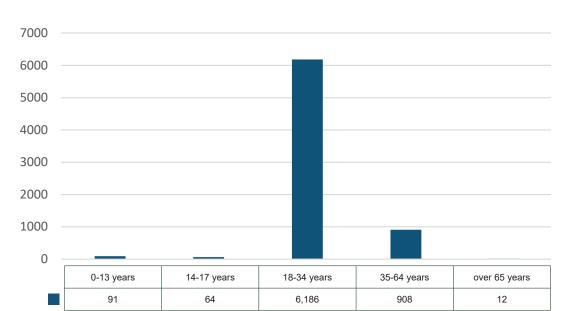


Chart 15: Number of applicants for international protection in 2023 by age

3. 2. 2 Structure of unaccompanied minors seeking international protection

Despite the overall increase in the number of filed applications for international protection, the number of applications filed by unaccompanied minors decreased in 2023 by a total of 81% compared to 2022. Out of all minors seeking international protection (in total, minor applicants filed 155 applications), 30% came to Slovenia without their parents or other legal guardian.

Table 14: Number of unaccompanied minors seeking international protection in 2023 by country of origin

Country of origin	Number of applicants
Morocco	37
Afghanistan	7
Tunisia	1
Syria	1
Palestine	1
Algeria	1
TOTAL	48



Table 15: Number of unaccompanied minors seeking international protection in 2023 by gender and age

Age	Boys	Girls
0–13 years	2	0
14–15 years	4	0
16–17 years	42	0
TOTAL	48	0

3. 2. 3 Decision-making in international protection procedures

In 2023, the trend of voluntary departures from Slovenia continued, resulting in the suspension of 34% of proceedings. There was also an additional increase in the number of applications filed in the reference period where it was established that another EU Member State was responsible for processing them (the Dublin procedure). There were 4,096 such cases, or 85% more than the previous year.

Compared to 2022, consideration on the merits of the case increased by 15%, amounting to only 4.2% of all resolved cases.

Table 16: Structure of resolved applications for international protection from 2010 to the end of 2023

Type of decision Year	Granted	Rejected	Dismissed	Suspended	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
2022	203	141	2,573	3,983	6,900
2023	129	164	4,096	2,285	6,674



Chart 16: Trend in the structure of resolved applications for international protection from 2010 to the end of 2023



Despite a higher number of filed applications for international protection, the consideration of cases on the merits was shorter, with an average duration of proceedings of 115 days in 2023 (148 days in 2022 and 210 days in 2021). The duration of all procedures in 2023 averaged 45 days and was slightly longer than in 2022, when it was 40 days, mainly because the competence of another EU Member State was established.

3. 2. 4 Persons who also sought international protection in another EU Member State

Pursuant to the Eurodac Regulation⁶, the fingerprints of the following categories of foreigners are entered in the Central System since 2004:

- category 1 foreigners who request international protection in a Member State;
- category 2 foreigners apprehended in connection with the irregular crossing of the country's external border who were not returned to another country;
- category 3 foreigners who are staying on the territory of a Member State illegally and for whom the country decides to check whether they had previously sought international protection in another country.

The fingerprints collected in the Eurodac system, which is the basic tool for the implementation of the Dublin Regulation, make it possible to establish whether the applicant had previously sought international protection in another EU Member State or associated country and, in the case of

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



persons apprehended by the Police in connection with unlawful entry into the EU, in which Member State they entered the EU. Dublin procedures carried out between Member States in accordance with Dublin Regulation 604/2013⁷ determine the country responsible for examining the applicant's request for international protection. In 2023, the trend was reversed, as Slovenia received 37% fewer requests in Dublin procedures to assume responsibility for examining applicants in international protection procedures than in 2022. In 2023, Slovenia assumed responsibility for examining requests in 1,006 cases (61%).

Table 17: Responsibility assumed by Slovenia to examine foreigners in international protection procedures between 2020 and 2023

	Persons received 2021	Persons received 2022	Persons received 2023
Positive responses	1,300	1,693	1,006
Carried out	112 (8.6%)	257 (15%)	182 (18.3%)

In 2023, Slovenia sent 140% more requests to other Member States in Dublin procedures to assume responsibility for examining foreigners in international protection procedures than in 2022. In 2023, EU Member States assumed responsibility for examining requests in 4,310 or 96.33% of cases, which is significantly more than in 2022 (71.22%).

Table 18: Responsibility assumed by other EU Member States to examine foreigners in international protection procedures between 2020 and 2023

	Persons transferred 2021	Persons transferred 2022	Persons received 2023
Positive responses	792	1,408	4,310
Carried out	5 (6.9%)	20 (1.4%)	13 (0.33%)

3. 2. 5 Structure of persons granted international protection status in 2023

Between 1995 and 2023, a total of 1,341 persons were granted international protection in the Republic of Slovenia. In 2023, international protection was granted to 129 persons, 74 of whom were granted refugee status, and 55 granted subsidiary protection status. The highest number of international protection statuses were granted to nationals of Ukraine (52) and Syria (28).

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.

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.



Table 19: Total number of persons granted international protection between 1995 and the end of 2023, by type of status and gender

Gender Type of status	Men	Women	Total
Refugee status	621	276	897
Subsidiary protection status	197	158	355
Asylum on humanitarian grounds8	55	34	89
TOTAL	873	468	1,341

Table 20: Number of persons granted international protection status in 2023, by type of status and gender

Gender Type of status	Men	Women	TOTAL
Refugee status	51	23	74
Subsidiary protection status	35	20	55
TOTAL	86	43	129

Table 21: Number of persons granted international protection in 2023 by country of origin

Country of origin	Number of persons under international protection
Ukraine	52
Syria	28
Burundi	14
Russia	13
Afghanistan	4
Turkey	4
Palestine	3
Cameroon	2
Cuba	2
Gambia	2
Venezuela	2
Côte d'Ivoire	1
Nigeria	1
South Sudan	1
TOTAL	129

⁸ In March 2006, the amended Asylum Act abolished asylum on humanitarian grounds and introduced subsidiary protection.



3. 2. 6 Legal remedies filed in international protection procedures

In 2023, 233 actions and 92 appeals against Administrative Court decisions were brought in international protection procedures.

Table 22: Legal remedies filed in 2022 by case type

	Actions brought	Appeals brought
Restriction of movement	4	2
Application for international protection		
- rejected	100	41
- granted		
- dismissed	104	36
- suspended	3	
Request for a subsequent procedure	22	13
TOTAL	233	92

3.3 CASE LAW

In 2023, the majority of case law was decisions pertaining to procedures under 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 (recast) (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, p. 31), the "Dublin procedures". Many decisions also pertained to requests rejected as manifestly ill-founded and dismissed requests for a subsequent procedure in international protection cases. In most of these cases, the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia rejected the actions, upholding the decisions of the Ministry of the Interior. Appeals brought before the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia were largely rejected.

Public employees of the Migration Directorate authorised to represent the Ministry of the Interior in international protection procedures before the Administrative Court and the Supreme Court attended 207 main hearings at the Administrative Court and one at the Supreme Court.

3. 3. 1. Selected case law

 Judgment of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia following the main hearing – Afghanistan – change of circumstances

In a prolonged administrative dispute, following an appeal by the Ministry of the Interior against the judgment of the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia held a main hearing and upheld the appeal, amending the Administrative Court's



judgment by rejecting the action. According to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, the appeal contained substantiated claims that the challenged judgment of the Administrative Court failed to specify why the plaintiff met the conditions for being granted international protection and that merely the general finding that the Taliban took power in 2021 did not constitute grounds for the recognition of subsidiary protection status, as such recognition would also require the examination of the plaintiff's personal circumstances. After the main hearing, aimed at establishing the facts of the dispute, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia found that the plaintiff did not meet the conditions for subsidiary protection.

Several judgments of the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia denying the Ministry
of the Interior the possibility to bring an appeal before the Supreme Court of the Republic of
Slovenia

The decisions of the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia were not uniform and denied the Ministry of the Interior the possibility of appealing to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia only in certain judgments pertaining to Dublin procedures when finding in favour of the plaintiff. It referred to the recent CJEU judgment in E.N., S. S., J.Y. of 30 March 2023. Nevertheless, the Ministry of the Interior filed appeals against such decisions before the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, which accepted them for consideration, finding in several cases that the Administrative Court's interpretation concerning the possibility to appeal was erroneous.

Two judgments of the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia ordering the Ministry
of the Interior to obtain and study in any event the relevant country information before issuing
a Dublin decision (establishing systemic deficiencies)

At the end of 2023, the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia reached two judgments in favour of the plaintiff indicating that, when establishing systemic deficiencies in an EU country, concretely Croatia, it was not enough to refer to the Slovenian case law finding that Croatia has no systemic deficiencies. Even if the applicant did not assert or specify any problems with access to or the asylum procedure itself, the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia is of the opinion that the reasoning of the Dublin decision must be based on and include the relevant and current information. The Ministry of the Interior does not agree with this interpretation, arguing that the applicant must first present and explain in his or her statements why they think that Croatia's asylum system is deficient. In the absence of such claims, the Ministry of the Interior believes that there is no need to obtain current information and that it suffices to refer to the Slovenian case law which, as indicated, did not establish any systemic deficiencies in the Republic of Croatia that would impede the implementation of the Dublin Regulation. As a result, both judgments of the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia were challenged by the Ministry of the Interior before the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, which upheld the appeals, thereby setting aside the relevant judgments and remanding the cases for reconsideration. According to the Supreme Court judgments, the nature and gravity of inhumane treatment that the applicant faces due to his or her transfer to another Member State in the reception procedure under the Dublin III Regulation must be assessed based on the information about the asylum system's deficiencies based on the circumstances in which the applicant would find him- or herself after transfer. This means that, in the case in question, the (only) relevant systemic deficiencies in the asylum procedure are those pertaining to the treatment of applicants for international protection



and not deficiencies pertaining to other actions of Member State bodies. In terms of substantive law, the only relevant indications are the applicant's claims concerning the behaviour of asylum centre employees and the deficiencies in the applicants' accommodation. In order to establish the obligation to check the current information about the state of Croatia's asylum system, the actions specified in the applicant's statement must achieve the minimum ratio of gravity, which is relative and depends on the circumstances of the concrete case.



4 TEMPORARY PROTECTION

4. 1 LEGISLATION

The temporary protection introduced in 2001 was first activated in 2022 with Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022 establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC⁹, and having the effect of introducing temporary protection, and the activation of Directive 2001/55/EC, namely for one year until 4 March 2023. Under Directive 2001/55/EC, temporary protection may be extended for six months up to two times; following the decision of the European Commission on its extension, temporary protection was automatically extended on 4 March 2023 in Slovenia, namely for two six-month periods until 4 March 2024.

As the European Commission established that reasons for temporary protection persist, it proposed Council Implementing Decision of 19 September 2023 extending temporary protection as introduced by Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 with the aim of extending temporary protection introduced by the Implementing Decision for another year, namely until 4 March 2025.

On 19 October 2023, the EU Council adopted Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2409 extending temporary protection as introduced by Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382¹⁰, which entered into force on 13 November 2023. In line with this decision, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia drafted a decision at the end of 2023 aimed at extending temporary protection in Slovenia until 4 March 2025.

In order to ensure the efficient implementation of temporary protection in Slovenia, the Migration Directorate also prepared numerous guidelines for the work of the administrative units, which are competent to reach decisions in temporary protection procedures under the Temporary Protection of Displaced Persons Act (the ZZZRO).

4. 2 STATISTICS

Under the ZZZRO, 1,763 applications for temporary protection were filed between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023. Of these, 767 (44%) were filed by men and 996 (56%) by women. A total of 794 applications for temporary protection were filed by people in the 35–64 age group, which is the biggest category by the number of filed applications. In this age group, 449 or 56% of applications were filed by women and 345 or 44% by men.

During this period, administrative units resolved 1,774 applications, granting temporary protection to 1,674 people.

Ocuncil Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for providing temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof

¹⁰ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023D2409



5 RESETTLEMENT

On 1 December 2022, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia decided to accept 50 citizens of Syria or Afghanistan from Turkey, who can be granted refugee status. This was followed by drafting the implementation plan, specifying the priority categories, i.e. families, single mothers, single women and up to five unaccompanied minors, mainly victims of this year's earthquake in Turkey.

The project was a collaboration between the Ministry of the Interior and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, whose documentation provided the basis for interviews with refugees in Turkey on the fulfilment of conditions for the recognition of refugee status in Slovenia and their security screening. This led to the final selection of 50 persons who fulfilled all the prescribed conditions and would be granted refugee status immediately upon their arrival in Slovenia.

The first group of 23 Syrian nationals (four families and one individual) arrived in Slovenia on 14 December 2023. The second group of 27 Afghani nationals are expected at the end of January 2024. They will be placed in accommodation of the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants.



6 USE OF FUNDING FROM THE ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND

6. 1 USE OF FUNDING FROM THE ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

In international protection procedures, the Ministry of the Interior provides the fundamental procedural guarantees to foreigners seeking international protection in accordance with the relevant legislation. This includes providing foreigners with information and legal counselling relating to international protection, free legal aid before the Administrative Court and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia, and translation and interpreting services in the procedure. In collaboration with other competent authorities, the Ministry of the Interior also provides training for public employees, the legal representatives of unaccompanied minors seeking international protection and other people engaged in asylum matters, ensures support in international protection procedures, such as various expert opinions, and pays remuneration to legal representatives for their work in assisting unaccompanied minors.

The table below shows the use of funds for international protection projects in 2023. EUR 84,836.08 was used, of which 75% or EUR 63,627.06 from the AMIF and 25% or EUR 21,209.02 from own funds.

Table 23: Use of funds for international protection projects in 2023

Programme name	Use in EUR	
Legal counselling and other support in international protection procedures	9,855.11	
Translation and interpretation in international protection procedures	68,058.52	
Support in international protection procedures	6,922.45	
TOTAL	84,836.08	



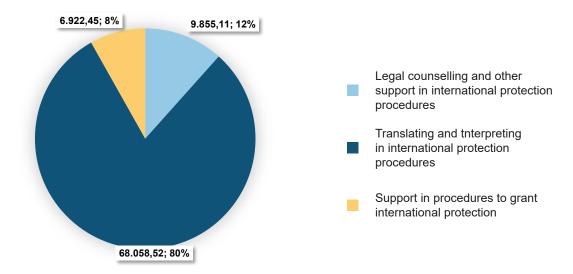


Chart 17: Use of funds for international protection projects in 2023

6. 1. 1 Legal counselling and other support in international protection procedures

Pursuant to the International Protection Act, support and legal aid in proceedings before the Administrative Court and the Supreme Court are provided by refugee counsellors appointed by the Ministry of Justice for a period of five years. There are currently 43 refugee counsellors. In 2023, EUR 9,855.11 was used to cover the costs of this activity.

6. 1. 2 Translation and interpretation in international protection procedures

If a person does not understand the official language in the international protection procedure, he or she shall receive the services of an interpreter for a language they understand in order to be able to follow the procedures. The assistance of an interpreter is provided upon the receipt of an application and personal interviews. In 2023, the Ministry of the Interior had copyright and work contracts and other framework agreements concluded for this purpose. In 2023, EUR 68,058.52 was used to cover the costs of this activity.

6. 1. 3 Support in international protection procedures

The Ministry ensures support in international protection procedures, including expert opinions, for example in establishing the age of unaccompanied minors. The legal representatives of unaccompanied minors receive remuneration for their assistance. In 2023, EUR 6,922.45 was used to cover the costs of these measures.



7 OTHER ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SCOPE OF EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2023, representatives of the Migration Directorate participated in the preparation of various documents and legislative proposals in the area of legal migration and international protection that were organised by representatives of EU institutions (the European Commission, the EU Council), the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), the European Migration Network, the National Contact Points for Integration and partner international organisations (OECD, IOM, UNHCR and ICMPD).

7. 1 THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR ASYLUM (EUAA)

As the official EUAA Contact Point, the Migration Directorate attends Management Board (senior officials) meetings and is in regular contact with the EUAA as part of various consultation groups and networks covering the relevant elements of the asylum and reception systems (the Network of Reception Authorities, the Network of Dublin Units, the Third-country Cooperation Network, the Statistics Network, the Vulnerability Experts Network, the IDS Advisory Group, the Monitoring Advisory Group) and other programmes (IDS, Query, Case Law).

In 2023, the public employees of the Migration Directorate responded to a total of 53 Member State and EUAA questionnaires, contributed to the annual report and helped overview and draft other relevant documents, guidelines, recommendations and tools.

7. 1. 1 Education

In 2023, two public employees of the Migration Directorate took part in EUAA training modules, namely Applicants with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expression or sexual characteristics, Victims of gender-based violence, Introduction to coaching and Resettlement. The national expert on the Dublin Regulation participated in the training of foreign national trainers for this module.

As part of the Operational Plan signed by the Ministry of the Interior with the EUAA, international protection and reception training courses were organised for public employees of the Migration Directorate, the Government Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants, the Police, other ministries and NGO representatives. Four public sector employees of the Migration Directorate were trained to become national trainers for specific modules: one person for Human trafficking, one for the Dublin Regulation, two for Interviewing vulnerable persons and three for Interviewing children. Furthermore, 21 public employees of the Migration Directorate participated in the modules Introduction to vulnerability and Working with an interpreter, and along with three national trainers, six additional trainers in the module Interviewing children. One public employee participated in the module Communication with children in reception and three in the module Communication with children.



7. 2 EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK (EMN)

In 2023, the Slovenian National Contact Point (SI NCP) provided 56 answers to a total of 57 queries. The NCP published two ad-hoc queries, namely on the status of foreigner during the renewal of a temporary residence permit and on checking the condition of sufficient means of subsistence. It also contributed to the EMN's quarterly reports, the Annual Report on Migration and Asylum, and the annual report Children in Migration.

In 2023, the SI NCP provided national information to eight informs from 2022 and 2023 (six were issued) and three studies from 2022 and 2023 (two were issued). Informs issued in 2023:

- Organising flexible housing in the context of international protection;
- Prospects for displaced persons in non-EU first reception and transit countries;
- Accompanied children's right to be heard in international protection procedures;
- Displacement and migration related to disasters, climate change and environmental degradation;
- · Statelessness in the European Union, Norway and Georgia;
- · Resettlement, humanitarian admission and sponsorship schemes;

Studies issued in 2023:

- Integration of applicants for international protection in the labour market;
- Contingency planning in EU countries.

All materials and their translations were published on the NCP's website www.emnslovenia.si. The key translated EMN materials were printed and distributed among relevant national experts to ensure the latest, objective, reliable, appropriate and comparable information on migration and asylum by subfield.

In 2023, NCP members attended eight regular EMN NCP meetings. The meetings were aimed at overviewing and coordinating current and planning future EMN activities. A representative of the Steering Board attended four meetings of the EMN Steering Board, which, among other things, adopted the guidelines for the EMN's present and future operation.

7. 2. 1 Destination Europe

In 2023, the SI NCP prepared the Slovenian version of the interactive learning and training tool Destination Europe, developed by the European Commission to raise awareness of migration among young people. The tool is designed as an interactive platform stimulating discussion on migration. The aim of the tool is to acquaint its users with the migration policy based on hypothetical scenarios, and the users take on the roles of various actors on the local, national and EU levels.

The NCP provided 180 hard copies of the tool in Slovenian and sent them to ten faculties and 27



high schools across Slovenia and one copy to the Ministry of Education. After receiving positive feedback on the tool, the NCP, in cooperation with other EMN NCPs, provided 14 copies in English and one copy in French and German, respectively, for the needs of various educational institutions in Slovenia.

7. 3 GENERAL DIRECTORS' IMMIGRATION SERVICES CONFERENCE – GDISC¹¹

In 2023, part of the GDISC informal network, the Slovenian National Contact Point within the Migration Directorate, provided answers to 17 ad hoc queries from the network's member states on legal migration and international protection. The employees of the Migration Directorate attended the following meetings of mini informal networks operating within the GDISC: two meetings of the network dealing with migration prognoses, trend analyses and forecasting¹², two meetings of the Legal Network¹³, two meetings of the IT Network¹⁴ and one meeting of the working group on legal migration (newly established in 2023)¹⁵. These mini networks are valuable platforms for sharing information and building a database of knowledge on specific topics.

7. 4 PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNCIL OF THE EU WORKING GROUPS

The EU Council's operations are supported by the Permanent Representatives Committee of the EU Member State Governments (the "Coreper") and the Council preparatory bodies, comprising more than 150 highly specialised working groups and committees.

In performing their tasks, the employees of the Migration Directorate participate in two working groups, namely the Asylum Working Party and the Working Party on Integration, Migration and Expulsion.

The Asylum Working Party examines issues associated with the Common European Asylum System, aimed at establishing an area of high protection standards, solidarity based on common, fair and efficient asylum procedures, an equivalent level of reception conditions and the uniform status of beneficiaries of international protection.

The Working Party on Integration, Migration and Expulsion examines issues associated with EU entry and exit and integration, including the framework for legal entry and residence in the EU, issues related to the refoulement of persons illegally residing in the EU and issues related to the integration of non-EU nationals living and/working in the EU.

¹¹ GDISC – General Directors' Immigration Services Conference

¹² Prognosis Network

¹³ Legal Network

¹⁴ IT Network

¹⁵ Legal Migration Working Group



7. 4. 1 WORKING PARTY ON INTEGRATION, MIGRATION AND EXPULSION (IMEX) – ADMISSION

In 2023, seven meetings of the IMEX Working Party were held to consider two proposed directives, namely the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council 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 the Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents.

7. 4. 2 ASYLUM WORKING PARTY

In 2023, the employees of the Migration Directorate attended six meetings of the Asylum Working Party, discussing the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on asylum and migration management and amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC and the proposed Regulation (EU) XXX/XXX [Asylum and Migration Fund], statelessness, the asylum situation in the EU and the convergence of asylum systems.

In collaboration with the European Affairs and International Cooperation Service and the Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels, the employees also drafted numerous opinions for meetings of Justice and Home Affairs advisors and other relevant meetings.

