

SPAIN

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

2019

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING LATEST STATISTICS



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

May 2019 saw the launch of a pilot project on legal migration between Spain and Morocco, “Young generations as change agents”. Funded almost to €2.5 million by the EU’s Mobility Partnership Facility (MPF) through the International Centre for Migration Development Policy (ICMPD), the 21-month project welcomed 98 Moroccan Masters’ students in 20 key economic and social sectors previously selected by Morocco. On completion of their studies, participants will create an entrepreneurial project to be implemented in Morocco. The 10 best projects will receive €10 000 towards their launch, with the remainder supported to access the job market or credit institutions.

The Framework Agreement for the promotion of talent mobility in the Ibero-American space was endorsed at the first meeting of Latin American Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Andorra on 26 November 2019. Countries were invited to sign the Framework Agreement before 31 March 2020.

WORK-RELATED MIGRATION

Order TMS/1277/2019 was approved, regulating the collective management of hiring in origin for 2020 (GECCO Order). Forecasts predicted that up to 20 195 workers would come to Spain from Morocco for the 2019-2020 harvest season. 13 695 had participated in previous years and were automatically selected, thus favouring circular migration, with 6 500 selected *ad hoc*.

KEY POINTS



Several initiatives promoted legal migration channels and work-related migration, enhancing legal, orderly and safe migration, fostering cooperation with other countries, and closing labour market gaps.



Seasonal workers continue to come for the harvest season through a better coordinated procedure and even safer conditions.



The number of asylum applications rose by over 100% compared to 2018, requiring increased decision output while maintaining the quality of decisions.

The season saw enhanced stakeholder coordination, improved selection processes and better monitoring of workers’ conditions.

The ‘VISAR’ initiative offered up to 1 500 job search visas to Spanish descendants living in Argentina, namely medium and highly qualified professionals in marketing, finance, research, technology and computer science. 3 064 applications were received, 1 038 people were selected and about 700 job search visas were granted.

INFORMATION ON ROUTES TO AND CONDITIONS OF LEGAL MIGRATION

Production began on a video for seasonal workers from Morocco for the 2020 harvest season to inform them of their requirements, conditions and rights, in their local language (Arabic – dariya).



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

In 2019, Spain received 118 273 asylum applications, up 112% on 2018. This required restructuring of organisational and human resources at the Spanish Asylum Office (OAR). 651 new vacancies were created, and system management software was upgraded. Additional transparency measures included providing monthly asylum application figures and improving the format of datasets to allow their export and use by third parties.

The number of decisions on asylum cases was five times that of 2018 figures (62 000+ decisions) and policy measures sought to reduce the backlog. 40 000 decisions concerned Venezuelan applicants.

A new and coordinated border procedure applied from the end of November 2018 continuing in 2019, with electronic means to prevent entry as the result of not adopting a decision on the border asylum applications at Madrid and Barcelona airports.

The Spanish Reception System for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection assisted some 27 576 persons each month.

Cooperation with relevant actors continued, such as the Spanish Commission for Refugees (CEAR), ACCEM (state-run non-governmental organisation (NGO)), the Spanish Red Cross and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)). Cooperation with the autonomous communities guaranteed the balanced distribution of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection, and consistent reception conditions.

RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT

In December 2019, the government reiterated its commitment to the resettlement policy. The new National Resettlement Plan was approved, including the

resettlement of 1 200 potential beneficiaries of international protection from third countries to Spain. Spain resettled 737 persons in 2019.

Other relocations stemmed from solidarity with Italy and Malta, as countries of entry for immigrants rescued at sea. Spain was also a country of entry for other groups of migrants rescued at sea and was thus responsible for their reception.



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Royal Decree 631/2019 of 31 October 2019 was approved, regulating the granting of subsidies to the cities of Ceuta and Melilla for the maintenance and improvement of care provided at reception centres for unaccompanied minors. This extra funding assisted these cities with the large number of minors received in recent years due to their proximity to Morocco.



INTEGRATION

INTEGRATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

2019 saw work begin on a new Strategic Plan for the Integration of Immigrants.

The first draft of the revised Comprehensive Strategy against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related intolerance was developed in consultation with civil society organisations and experts. The Strategy aims to promote social cohesion and respond to the current social context, including increases in hate speech, intolerance between some groups, and incorporation of new international commitments.

The Forum for the Social Integration of Immigrants was reactivated.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

Important documents were revised or adopted, such as a Circular by the State Prosecutor's Office on interpretation guidelines for hate crimes as criminal offences (Article 510 of the Penal Code). The Comprehensive Strategy against racism, racial

discrimination, xenophobia and other related intolerance remained under review.

Events included a workshop organised by the European Commission and the Ministry of Labour, Security Social and Migration, 'Workshop on synergies and good practices on tackling anti-muslimism racism and discrimination' and the Final Conference of the European Project 'PROXIMITY' 'Policing against racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance'.

AWARENESS-RAISING ON MIGRATION

In January 2019, the advertising campaign '*Somos Más*' (We are more) was launched to raise awareness and prevent hate speech in social networks. Targeting 14-18-year olds, it was promoted by Google, with the participation of the Ministry of Labour, Security Social and Migration.



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP

During 2019, a total of 98 858 foreigners residing in Spain acquired Spanish nationality, clearing the backlog.

STATELESSNESS

The first half of 2019 saw more files on statelessness resolved (1 242) than in 2018 (930), in line with targets.



BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

VISA POLICY

Spain started to adapt its information system to the new Visa Code Regulation ((EU) 2019/1155). This binding Regulation will be directly applicable as of 2 February 2020.

SCHENGEN GOVERNANCE

During the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 25), controls were reintroduced at the internal borders between 28 November 2019 and 13 December 2019, without incident.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

MISUSE OF LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

Spain's policy of mutual support, trust and consensus, especially with Morocco, reduced the number of total irregular arrivals to Spain by 46.9% in 2019, 51.3% of which by sea.



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In February, the 'National Strategy against Serious and Organised Crime 2019-2023' was published. It included human trafficking among its priorities and indicated the need for a national strategic plan against human trafficking.



RETURN AND READMISSION

RETURN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Projects co-financed by the Asylum and Migration Integration Fund (AMIF) continued. These are implemented by NGOs in respect of particularly vulnerable third-country nationals, verified through the social services of their residence area or by a specialist NGO.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL ACTIONS

Certain cooperation activities aimed to strengthen public policy on the proper management of migration. The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) worked within the framework of the Spain-ECOWAS Migration and Development Fund and the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, in Senegal, Mali and Egypt.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

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

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



GENERAL NOTES

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

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

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

COLOUR LEGEND

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

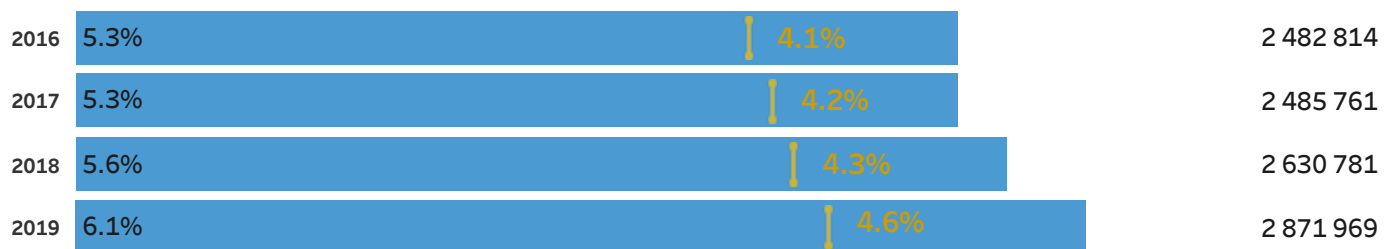
■ data relative to Spain

■ data relative to EU

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

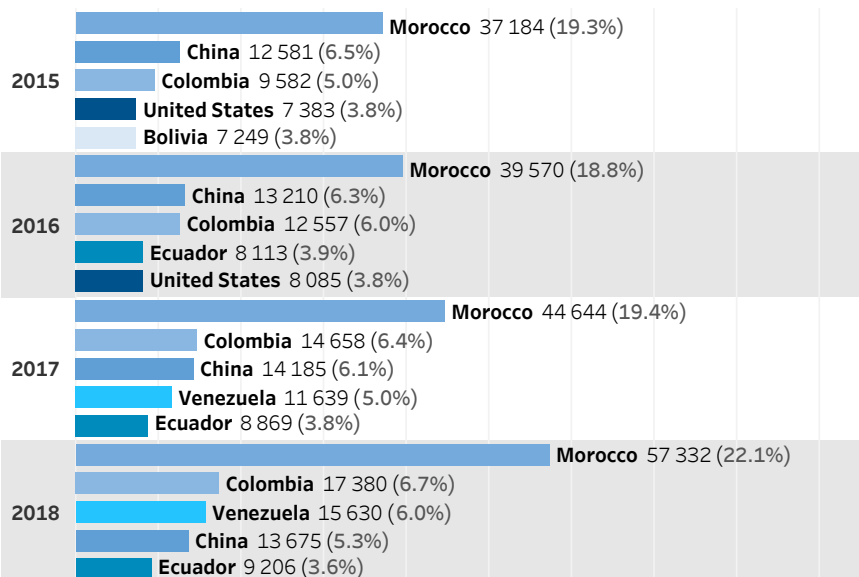
Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) as % of total population (in the country and in the EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctz)



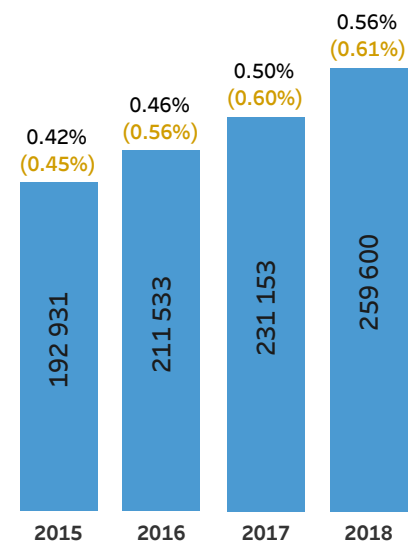
Top 5 nationalities of number of first residence permits annually issued: number of permits and % of total annual permits

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



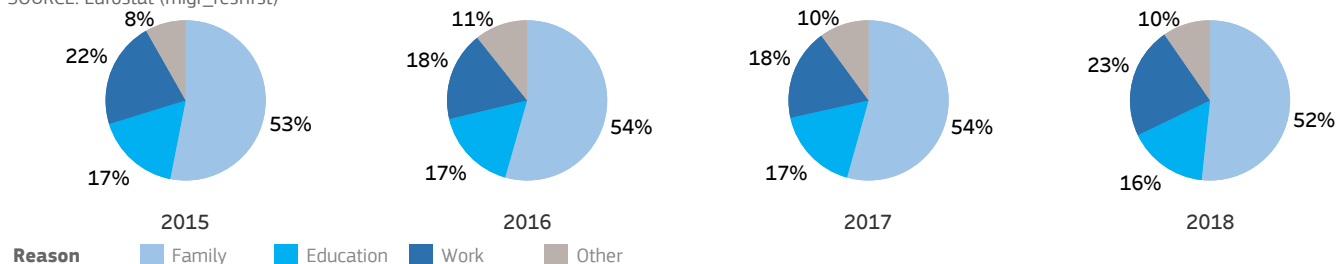
First residence permits annually issued: tot. num. and % of tot. pop. in the country (and EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



First residence permits annually issued by reason

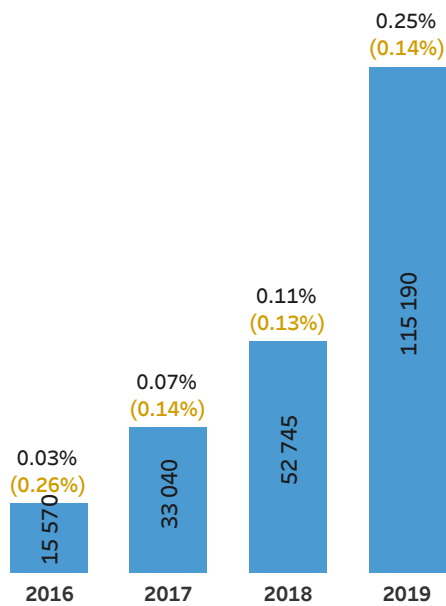
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resfirst)



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

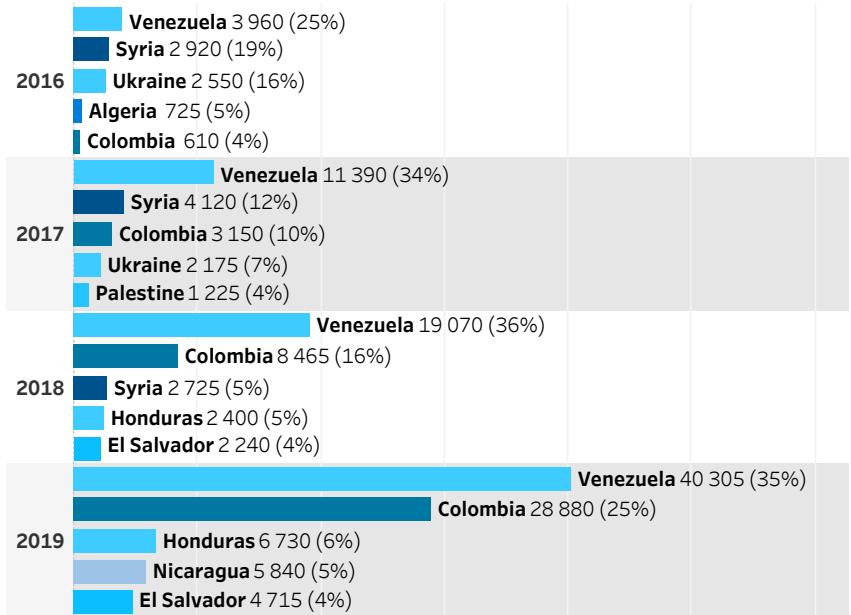
First-time asylum applications: total num. and as % of population in the country (and in EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza, migr_pop1ctz)



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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza)



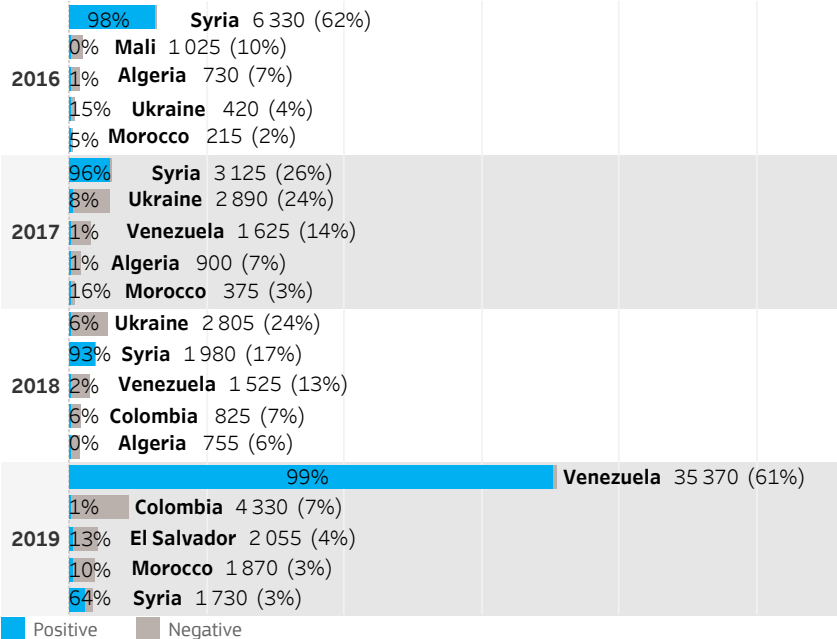
Number of first-instance asylum decisions by outcome (% of total decisions)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfst)



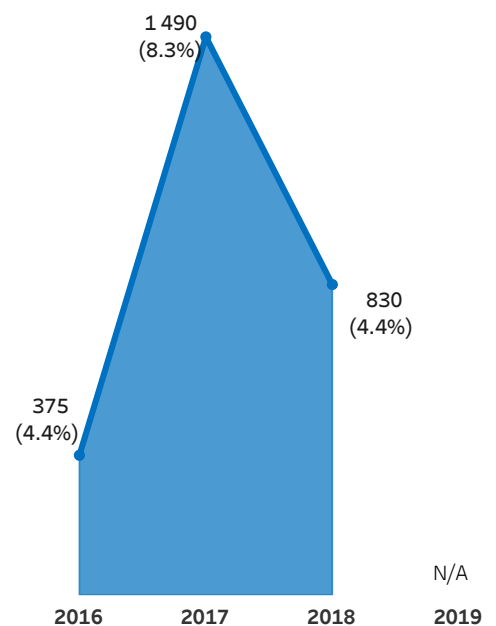
Top 5 nationalities of annual number of first-instance decisions: number of decisions (% of total decisions in the country) and % of positive outcome

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asydcfst)



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

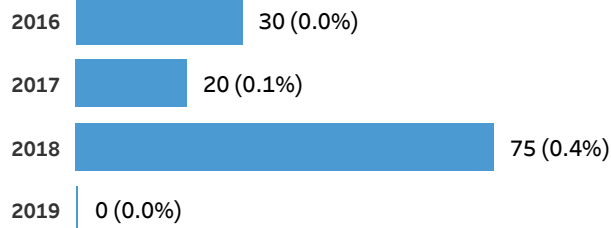
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyresa)



UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

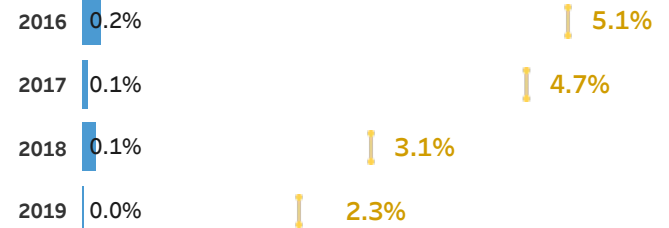
Unaccompanied Minors applying for asylum in the country (and % of total applications from Unaccompanied Minors in EU)

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)



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

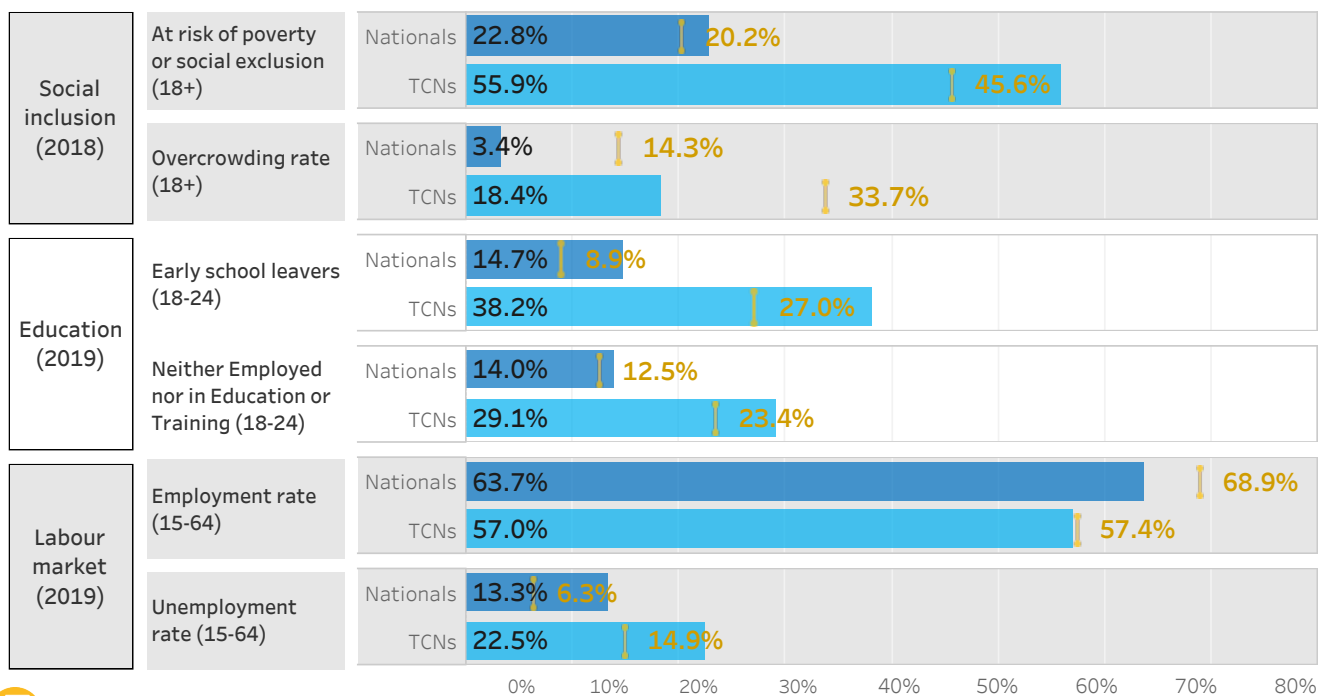
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_asyunaa)



INTEGRATION

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

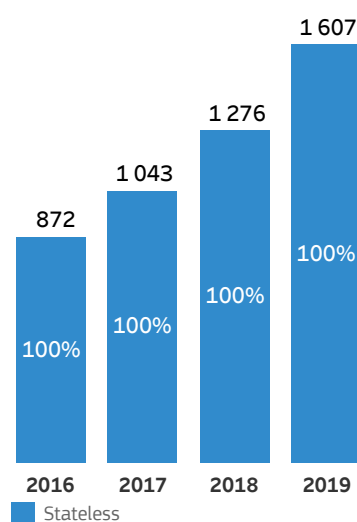
SOURCE: Eurostat (ilc_peps05, ilc_lvho15, edat_lfse_01, edat_lfse_23, lfsa_ergan, lfsa_urgan)



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

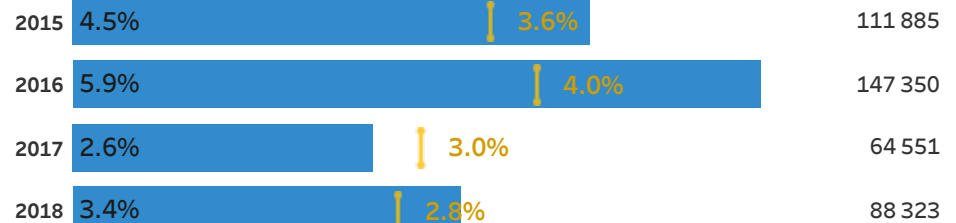
Stateless, Recogn. Non-Citizens (RNC) and Unknown Citizens

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_pop1ctza)



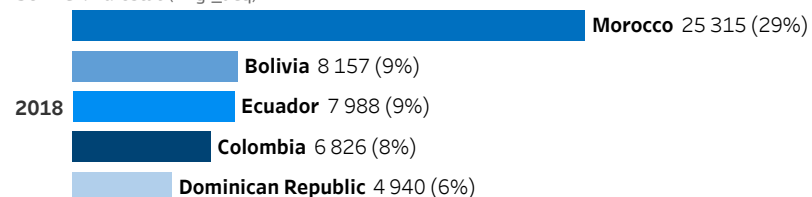
Third-Country Nationals who have acquired citizenship as a share of total Third-Country Nationals (in the country and in the EU) and in absolute number

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acqs, migr_acq)



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

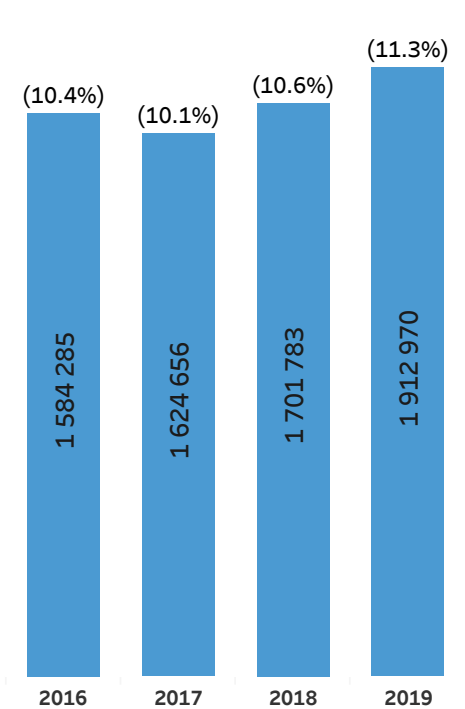
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_acq)



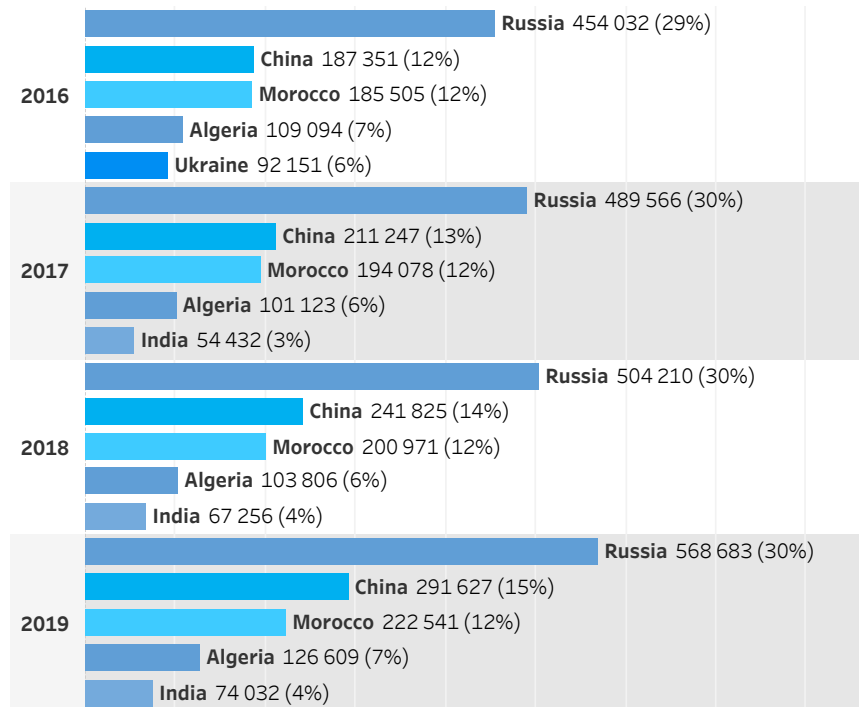
BORDERS, SCHENGEN AND VISAS

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

Lodged short-term Visa app. (% of Schengen)

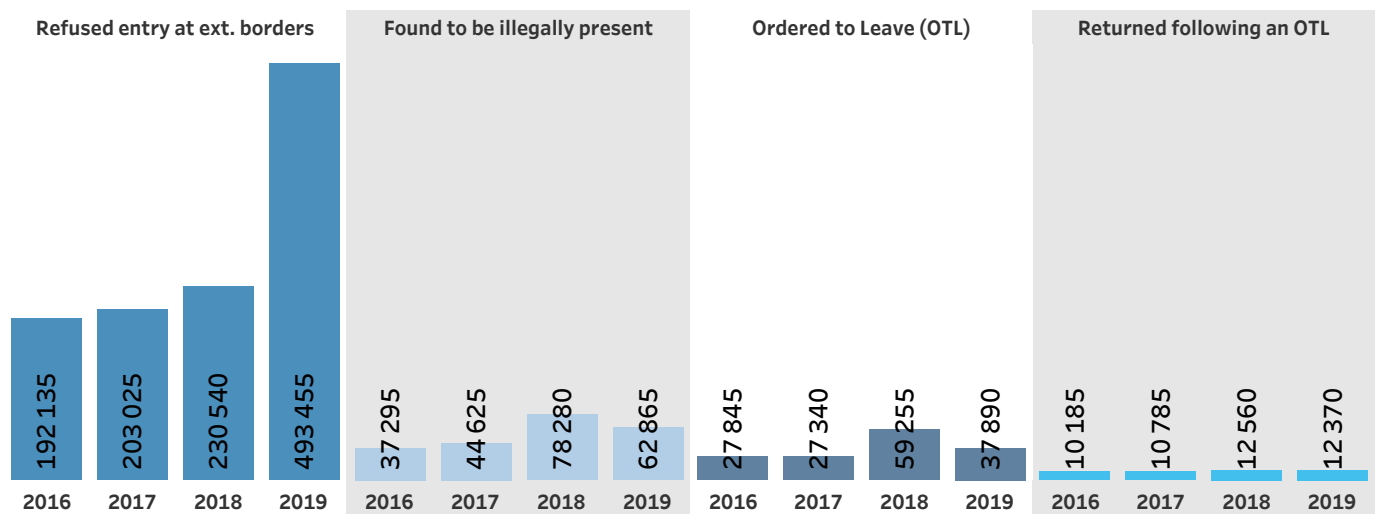


Lodged short-term Visa applications in top 5 consulate countries (% of total app.s)



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

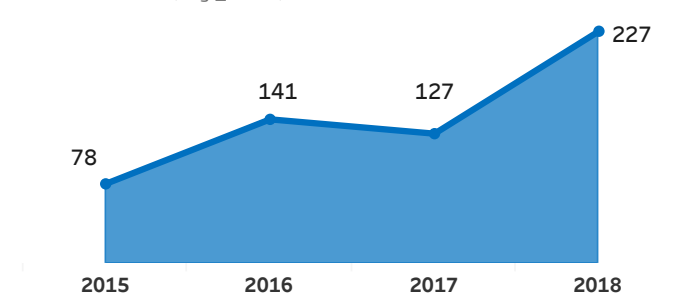
SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirfs, migr_eipre, migr_eiord, migr_eirtn)



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_resoth)



RETURN AND READMISSION

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

SOURCE: Eurostat (migr_eirt_vol)

