ANNUAL REPORT
ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM
IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC IN 2018
Annual Report on Migration and Asylum in the Slovak Republic in 2018

Report of the National Contact Point of the European Migration Network for the Slovak Republic

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Bratislava
This report was prepared within the European Migration Network (EMN) which provides up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and international protection in EU Member States and Norway in order to support national and EU and its Member States policymaking. EMN is funded by the European Union and Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

EMN activities are focused on topics related to migration of third-country nationals. The activities are implemented through national contact points in all EU Member States and Norway in coordination with the European Commission (Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs).

The report was elaborated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Bratislava as the coordinator of the EMN National Contact Point for the Slovak Republic. The Slovak EMN National Contact Point comprises Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium, Migration Office, Department of Foreign and European Affairs of the Office of the Minister of Interior), Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (Department of Migration and Integration of Foreigners), Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (Section of Social Statistics and Demography) and IOM.

Reference documents and information from the following central state administration authorities have been used to compile the report: Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic and the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.

This document was produced with the financial assistance by the European Union. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Equally, the opinions presented herein do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Government of the Slovak Republic or of the IOM.

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Preface

The report informs about the most significant changes, developments and activities in the field of migration and international protection in Slovakia in 2018. In the Slovak Republic, the report is a unique publication of its kind which annually maps all areas of migration of third-country nationals.

The report forms part of the EMN Synthesis Report with the same focus which is prepared at EU level, summarising the findings of national reports compiled by EU Member States and Norway on the basis of common specifications. Since 2015, the Synthesis Report fully replaced the European Commission’s Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum. The report feeds also into EASO’s Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the EU 2018 as well as EMN Country Factsheets 2018.

The Synthesis Report and the individual reports of EU Member States and Norway are available in English on the European Commission website www.ec.europa.eu/emn. The report of the Slovak Republic is published in Slovak and English. Both versions are available on the website of the Slovak EMN National Contact Point www.emn.sk.
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List of Abbreviations and References

AE – administrative expulsion
AMIF – Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
ARMA – Annual Report on Migration and Asylum
AVR(s) – assisted voluntary return(s)
AVRR – Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme
BBFP PFP – Bureau of the Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium
BCD PF – Border Control Department of the Police Force
CEAS – Common European Asylum System
COI – country of origin information
Coll. – Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic
COLSAF – Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
DBFP – Directorate of the Border and Foreign Police
DFEA MIO – Department of Foreign and European Affairs of the Minister of Interior Office
DM(s) – diplomatic mission(s)
EASO – European Asylum Support Office
EEA – European Economic Area
EC – European Commission / European Community
EMN – European Migration Network
EP – European Parliament
EU – European Union
EUROSTAT – Statistical office of the European Union
FAD EPS Mol SR – Foreign Aid Department of the European Programmes Section of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
FH – foster home
FPD(s) PF – Foreign Police Department(s) of the Police Force
Frontex – European Border and Coast Agency
ICMPD – International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross
IOM – International Organization for Migration
MEKOMIC – Inter-Ministerial Expert Committee for Labour Migration and Foreigners’ Integration
MIC IOM – IOM Migration Information Centre
Migration Policy – Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic: Perspective until 2020
MoE SR – Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
MoLSAF SR – Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
MO Mol SR – Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
MoS SR – Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
MoFeA SR – Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
MS – Member State(s)
NGO(s) – non-governmental organisation(s)
NUCIM BBFP PF – National Unit to Combat Irregular Migration of the Bureau of the Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium
ODA – official development assistance of the Slovak Republic
OLSAF(s) – office(s) of labour, social affairs and family
PDCA(s) – Police Detention Centre(s) for Aliens
PF – Police Force
PPF – Police Force Presidium
RTVS – Radio and Television of Slovakia
SIS – Schengen Information System
SlovakAid – official development cooperation of the Slovak Republic
SO SR – Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic
SPCSG – socio-legal protection of children and social guardianship
SR – Slovak Republic
TCN(s) – third-country national(s)
UAM(s) – unaccompanied minor(s)
UK – United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
UN – United Nations
UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNRWA – United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
US(A) – United States (of America)
VIS – Visa Information System
V4 – Visegrad Group

Explanations of symbols (not applicable to Table 4 in the Annex):
(·) – Data unavailable.
(-) – Event does not exist.
Methodology and Terms

Methodology and Elaboration

This report is compiled on the basis of common specifications which were prepared by EU Member States and the European Commission. Common specifications for all EU Member States and Norway enable comparability of national reports and their subsequent use for the European-wide EMN annual report and other outputs at EU level.

The report has Part 1, which is prepared for the European Commission and is not publicly available, and Part 2, which as a publication serves the Member States. The publication is based on Part 1 while the text is adjusted to national needs (e.g. in Slovakia, the text is extended by other national activities). The report includes also national statistics including those which are not collected at EU level (through Eurostat or Frontex).

In terms of methodology, the report uses secondary research and has a descriptive nature. The report for Slovakia is based on available expert publications, statistics, legislation, Slovakia’s policy documents, internet sources and media monitoring. Significant sources of information were reference documents and information obtained from the following state administration bodies: MoI SR (namely BBFP PFP, MO MoI SR, Department of Foreign and European Affairs of the Office of the Minister of Interior, Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention of the MoI SR, FAD EPS MoI SR, Public Administration Section of MoI SR and Information Systems Administration Department of the Police Force Presidium), MoLSAF SR, COLSAF SR, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the SR, COLSAF SR, Ministry of Justice of the SR (through FAD EPS MoI SR), General Prosecutor’s Office of the SR (through FAD EPS MoI SR), Statistical Office of the SR and IOM. Materials, publications, and websites of other state, European, international and non-governmental institutions also represent important sources of information. The report also refers to several EMN publications and activities.

Each chapter uses also media releases as sources of information. The text therefore contains links to media references to migration topics and activities carried out by public administration, non-governmental sector and international organisations.

The report was compiled by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Bratislava which is the coordinator of the EMN National Contact Point for the Slovak Republic (SR). The report was reviewed by the experts from the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, and Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. The report was approved by Department of Foreign and European Affairs of the Office of the Minister of Interior.

Terms and Definitions

The expert terms used in this report largely correspond with the definitions in the EMN Migration and Asylum Glossary. In case the definitions from this Glossary cannot be used for some terms, the terms are used pursuant to the national or EU legislation (regulations, directives).

Special attention in this report should be paid to the term alien (foreigner), which under the Slovak legislation, namely Art. 2(2) of the Act on Residence of Aliens, is considered anybody who is not a national of the Slovak Republic. According to the EMN Glossary, an alien (foreigner), in the EU context, is a person who is not a national of an EU Member State, and, in the global context, a person who is not a national of a given State. The Slovak legislation, however, defines an alien who is not a national of an EU Member State as third-country national. In this report, the term alien (foreigner) is therefore mainly used in texts and statistics which are related to or are kept in compliance with the national legislation. In such case, the term alien (foreigner) corresponds with the definition under Art. 2(2) of the Act on Residence of Aliens, and not with the definition in the EMN Glossary.

The term migrant is also used in the report, which, unlike the definition in the EMN Glossary, is used as a synonym of the words alien or third-country national.

Terms irregular and illegal are considered as synonyms in the report and their use depends on the specific context. The Slovak legislation uses the term illegal.

Terms migration crisis, refugee crisis and migration situation are used in the text as synonyms. They refer to the situation since 2015 which occurred in the EU as a result of significant increase of the number of asylum seekers from third countries.

1 IOM as the coordinator of the EMN National Contact Point for the Slovak Republic in cooperation with a news agency has been carrying out weekly media monitoring of migration and international protection issues since 2012. The media monitoring is used for preparing EMN publications.


3 Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Aliens and on changes and amendments to some acts.

4 Under Art. 2(4) of the Act on Residence of Aliens, a third-country national is anybody who is not a national of the Slovak Republic or an EU national. A third-country national is also a stateless person.

5 According to the EMN Asylum and Migration Glossary, migrant is defined as follows: “In the global context, a person who is outside the territory of the State of which they are nationals or citizens and who has resided in a foreign country for more than one year irrespective of the causes, voluntary or involuntary, and the means, regular or irregular, used to migrate. In Asylum and Migration Glossary 6.0 – a Tool for Better Comparability (2018). European Migration Network, p. 232. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/glossary/index_a_en.htm (consulted on 28/3/2019).
Executive Summary

The report informs about the most significant changes, developments and activities in the field of migration and international protection in Slovakia in 2018. In the Slovak Republic, the report is a unique publication of its kind which annually maps all areas of migration of third-country nationals in the context of EU policies and legislation. The report describes also context of migration and asylum policies development, legal migration, international protection including asylum, unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups, integration, citizenship and situation of stateless persons, border control and management, visa practice, irregular migration including migrant smuggling, counteracting trafficking in human beings as well as returns and readmissions. In the annex, the report presents also selected statistics which are not collected at EU level.

In 2018, migration of third-country nationals was a part of the political, media and social discussions in Slovakia again. Politically, attention was given particularly to labour migration from third countries to Slovakia and to the cooperation of V4 countries in migration related issues. In 2018, the SR did not support the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Slovakia adopted the Global Compact on Refugees. The cooperation of V4 countries in migration related issues continued as well as inter-departmental cooperation and implementation of EMN activities in Slovakia.

Apart from ongoing mixed and irregular migration into the EU and the EU’s measures regarding this phenomenon, the Slovak media in 2018 informed mainly about the UN Global Compacts on migration and refugees. These were also a topic of social and political discussion in Slovakia. Among the topics that resonated most in the media were labour migration to Slovakia from third countries, cooperation among V4 countries, and increasing extremism and violence towards foreigners. The last inspired several demonstrations and memorial marches in Slovak cities.

In 2018, the SR continued to feel an increased demand by employers for foreign labour. The discussion was ongoing on political, professional and private sector levels. Related to this fact, the SR adopted the Strategy for Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic and prepared the list of professions with a shortage of labour which were unable to be filled using domestic labour for a long time. The aim is to fill these vacancies in the respective regions with third-country nationals (TCNs) using an accelerated procedure i.e. without the required labour market research.

In 2018, the SR introduced further measures to facilitate employment of TCNs in the SR by means of amendments to Act on the Residence of Aliens and Act on Employment Services. As of 1 May 2018, the obligatory provisions of the European directive on students, researchers, interns and volunteers were transposed into the Slovak legislation. On 7 December 2018, the SR adopted further legislative changes pertaining to labour mobility; apart from other changes starting from 2019, TCNs’ options to enter the labour market through temporary employment agencies will become wider in the case of employment roles with a shortage of labour.

In 2018, the SR again recorded an increase in the number of first-time residence permits and continued to provide Government scholarships for higher education in the SR to Syrian refugees and students from war-affected countries.

The number of asylum seekers in Slovakia remained low in 2018. The Slovak asylum system therefore did not face any challenges in that period. The SR amended the Act on Asylum especially due to the transposition of Art. 31 Par. 3 – 5 of the recast “procedural directive” which are related to the process of assessment of the international protection application. In 2018, the SR also prepared an amendment to Act on Financial Compensation of Serious Physical Disability. Based on the amendment those persons with granted subsidiary protection (not only persons granted asylum) can fulfil the legal requirements for individual financial benefits to compensate for serious physical disability.

The SR did not conduct any relocations, resettlement programmes or humanitarian reception programmes for TCN refugees. However, it continued to allow for a special humanitarian refugee transfer through the territory of the SR which has been conducted in cooperation with UNHCR and IOM since 2009.

In 2018, Amendment to the Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children and on Social Guardianship came into force. The amendment brought about a whole range of changes aiming to improve the quality of delivery of the measures within the socio-legal protection of children and social guardianship (SPCSG) as well as conditions in the SPCSG facilities. The number of registered unaccompanied minors in Slovakia in 2018 remained low. Escapes/disappearances of UAMs remain a pertaining challenge in 2018. The practice also showed the need to build the capacities of the expert team in the Foster Home for UAMs in Medzilaborce, as well as the need for their further education.

In April 2018, MoLSAF SR drafted the fourth interdepartmental Summary Report on the Fulfilment of Objectives and Measures of the Integration Policy of the SR for 2017. Annual evaluation of fulfilment, current challenges and problems at the Slovak labour market showed that the Integration Policy of the SR seems to be obsolete and in a need of a comprehensive update. The Government of the SR therefore cancelled, effective from 2018, the obligation of Ministries to submit to the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family a yearly report on the fulfilment of objectives and measures of the Integration Policy as well as the obligation to submit the Summary Report on the Fulfilment of Objectives and Measures of the Integration Policy for review with the Government of the SR of the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. However, the Integration Policy remains a valid document. The new Strategy of Foreigners Labour Mobility in the Slovak Republic also contains the measures related to the integration of third-country nationals into the labour market.

The deadline for submitting the Integration Programme for Beneficiaries of International Protection in the territory of the SR as a systemic integration measure by the state was postponed until the end of June 2019 by the Prime Minister.

The IOM MIC continued to provide comprehensive legal and labour counselling services as well as language and professional education to foreigners in the SR. Within the Migration Compass project by the Human Rights League, several round table discussions were organized. Foreigners actively participated in them and discussed the status of foreigners in the city and the 2018 municipal elections. The year 2018 also saw the continuation of implementation of several other projects focused on integration on national level, integration of beneficiaries of international protection etc. Several events with participation of both wider public and professionals were organized to support public awareness, increase migration awareness and prevent discrimination, such as a play prepared by the Nová scéna Theatre (Nová scéna Theatre) on the refugee topic.
Executive Summary

Several documents on how to communicate migration to the public were published.

In 2018, the SR did not adopt any changes related to citizenship for third-country nationals. From 20 July 2018, Act on Residence of Aliens reintroduced that a stateless person can obtain permanent residence for 5 years, not for an indefinite period of time as before.

In 2018, the SR prepared a new national border control and management plan entitled “National Strategy of Integrated Border Management for 2019 – 2022”. The document specifies new tasks that the SR will have to perform in the area of integrated European border management in the following period. The SR repeatedly recorded a decrease in the number of visas issued which is connected to the introduction of the visa-free regime with Ukraine effective from June 2017.

Among the measures taken for the border protection, the SR has been implementing a new national project focusing on technical equipment since 2018 and has continued to implement other projects in compliance with the Internal Security (ISF) National Programme. Several measures were adopted, and expert meetings were organized within the cooperation of the BBFP PFP and the State Border Service of Ukraine based on the Plan of Development of Cooperation between the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of Police Force and the State Border Service of Ukraine 2017 – 2018. The new Plan of Development of Cooperation between the BBFP PFP and the State Border Service of Ukraine for 2019 – 2020 was signed in 2018 to deepen the cooperation with Ukraine.

In 2018, the SR did not record a significant increase in the number of irregular migration cases. As in 2017, the development of irregular migration in the territory of the SR was influenced especially by irregular migration of the nationals of the closest third countries – Ukraine and Serbia again in 2018. Regarding the efforts to increase the level and effectiveness of detecting forged and altered documents, the SR adopted several measures related especially to capacity building. The SR strengthened the cooperation with Czech Republic in combating smuggling; negotiations about the new agreement on police cooperation took place. In order to make prevention and capacity building in cooperation with third countries more effective, the SR hosted the experts from Azerbaijan within the Mobilaze project.

In November 2018, the Government of the SR approved the fifth National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2019 – 2023. Its main aim is to introduce a coordinated system to limit the trafficking in human beings. The national programme includes the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2019 – 2023 specifying 21 tasks for the individual stakeholders in the areas of prevention, protection, investigation, and cooperation. In December 2018, the new regulation of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic No. 144/2018 on the Provision of Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking Programme came into force. In relation to third-country nationals or stateless persons, it specifies the processes of aiding assisted voluntary return of human trafficking victims and unaccompanied minors who were placed into the human trafficking victims support and protection programme.

From December 2018, the SR also created the conditions for non-problematic healthcare provision to human trafficking victims with unpaid public health insurance. In 2018, the SR cooperated with Serbia in the prevention of labour exploitation and human trafficking of their citizens in Slovakia. Since September 2018, there was a change in the provider of the free-of-charge National Human Trafficking Victims Helpline 0800 800 818, which became the Slovak Catholic Charity non-governmental organisation. The Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic updated the leaflet for self-identification by human trafficking victims which is available in 6 languages (Slovak, Ukrainian, Romanian, Roma, Chinese, English). In 2018, there were no human trafficking victims from abroad, i.e. from third countries, identified in Slovakia.

In 2018, the number of returns from the territory of the SR slightly increased but there was no significant change in trends. Regarding forced returns, the implementation of the project in compliance with the National AMIF Programme continued. Since 2018, the SR has started to systematically send fingerprints to SIS II after removing initial technical obstacles. Regarding the assisted voluntary returns and reintegration programme implemented by IOM a new website for those interested and for applicants for assisted voluntary returns was prepared.

Introduction

The EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum (ARM) informs about the most important changes, developments and activities in the field of migration and international protection in Slovakia in 2018, while focusing on third-country nationals. The report serves as a basis for European-wide EMN Annual Report which in 2015 fully replaced the European Commission’s Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum. The report will be also a source of information for the EASO’s Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the EU 2018 and EMN Country Factsheets 2018 about developments in different Member States in 2018.

The report describes changes, developments and activities at the legislative, institutional, political and practical levels from 01 January 2018 till 31 December 2018, and sets them into the context of EU policies and legislation. In ten thematic chapters, the report describes context for migration and asylum policy developments, legal migration, international protection including asylum, unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups, integration, citizenship and statelessness, border and control management, visa practice, irregular migration including migrant smuggling, countering trafficking in human beings as well as returns and readmissions. The Annex to the report contains also selected statistics including those which are not collected at the EU level through Eurostat or Frontex, as well as Bibliography.

The chapter Context for asylum and migration policy developments provides a general picture which shaped migration policies and legislation in Slovakia in 2018. This overview describes the relevant political, legislative and institutional developments, (inter-)institutional cooperation, discussions related to measure- and policy-making, media discussions, as well as wider social context that influenced different areas of migration and international protection.

The chapter Legal migration describes the policies, legislation, measures and activities concerning the admission and residence of different groups of migrants, satisfying labour market needs or prevention of social dumping. The chapter is also devoted to migration and mobility management and to provision of information to migrants from third countries on routes to and conditions of legal migration.

The chapter International protection including asylum contains information on the implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), institutional and legislative changes, national and European jurisprudence, intra-EU relocations and resettlement, and other activities.

The chapter Unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups addresses mainly policies, legislation, measures and activities related to admission of and care for unaccompanied minor migrants from third countries.

The chapter Integration focuses on socio-economic integration measures for third-country nationals, including persons granted international protection. It contains also measures related to awareness-raising actions about migration, non-discrimination, integration at local level and on migration as well as integration at the local level and through civic participation of foreigners.

The chapter Citizenship and statelessness is aimed at policies and measures dealing with acquisition and loss of nationality and with status of persons without any citizenship in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

The chapter Borders, Schengen and visas provides information about external border control and management, visa policies and measures aimed at cooperation with third countries in the field of border control and management.

The chapter Irregular migration and migrant smuggling includes information on misuse of legal migration channels, policies and measures against facilitation of irregular migration (smuggling), cooperation with third countries in prevention of irregular migration as well as on the monitoring and identification of migration routes.

The chapter Trafficking in human beings deals with the policies, legislation, international monitoring, national projects, campaigns and other activities, as well as cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels in this field.

The chapter Returns and readmissions follows up on the chapter on irregular migration, and includes information about forced returns and readmissions as well as (assisted) voluntary returns and reintegrations.
The Annex National statistics summarises selected statistics for Slovakia on migration and international protection in 2018 including those which are not collected at EU level through Eurostat\textsuperscript{12} or Frontex agency\textsuperscript{13}. The Annex shows the figures on first residence permits issued, administrative fees for residence permit applications, visas, smuggled persons, reflection periods and residence permits granted to smuggled persons, numbers of smugglers, returns and reintegrations, relocations and resettlements, figures on unaccompanied minors and victims of human trafficking from third countries, reflection periods and residence permits granted to victims of human trafficking, and on the numbers of traffickers.

\textsuperscript{12} Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics (consulted on 28/3/2019).
\textsuperscript{13} Available at: http://frontex.europa.eu/publications/ (consulted on 28/3/2019).

## Context For Asylum and Migration Policy Developments

In 2018, migration of third-country nationals was a part of the political, media and social discussions in Slovakia again. Politically, attention was given particularly to labour migration from third countries to Slovakia and to the cooperation of V4 countries in migration related issues. In 2018, the SR did not support the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Slovakia adopted the Global Compact on Refugees. The cooperation of V4 countries in migration related issues continued as well as inter-departmental cooperation and implementation of EMN activities in Slovakia.

Apart from ongoing mixed and irregular migration into the EU and the EU’s measures regarding this phenomenon, the Slovak media in 2018 informed mainly about the UN Global Compacts on migration and refugees. These were also a topic of social and political discussion in Slovakia. Among the topics that resonated most in the media were labour migration to Slovakia from third countries, cooperation among V4 countries, and increasing extremism and violence towards foreigners. The last inspired several demonstrations and memorial marches in Slovak cities.

### 2.1 Political Development and (Inter)Departmental Cooperation

Politically, attention was given particularly to labour migration from third countries to Slovakia, to the UN documents related to international migration, to the cooperation of V4 countries in migration related issues, and to the relocations within the EU. Migration was only a marginal topic during the Slovak municipal elections which were held in November 2018.
The National Council of the Slovak Republic debated on several occasions the shortage of qualified labour in Slovakia. In 2018, the SR did not support the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted in June 2018. The Global Compacts on Refugees was adopted in November 2018, also the National Council of the Slovak Republic’s Foreign Committee held a session on this topic.

Topic of migration is not among the priorities of the Slovak OSCE Chairmanship, neither are coordination and cooperation in migration within the EU.

In 2018, the migration related interdepartmental cooperation and coordination in Slovakia continued in the following official fora:

- Steering Committee for Migration and Integration of Foreigners which was organized three times in 2018. The 13 March 2018 Committee focused on the migration and asylum related developments, state integration programme, CEAS negotiations status and global compacts. The Committee on 8 June 2018 continued debating these topics and included EMN activities. The 11 October 2018 meeting dealt with migration and asylum developments, the Strategy for Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic, CEAS negotiations status, proposed changes to the Regulation on the European Border and Coast Guard and to the Return Directive as well as with current migration related issues in Slovakia.
- Inter-Ministerial Expert Committee for Labour Migration and Foreigners’ Integration (MEKOMIC) in January 2018 addressed the Strategy for Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic and the integration of foreigners (see 6.1.1). In 2018, changes related to the MEKOMIC statute and a new direction for the committee as an advisory body to the Minister were being prepared.
- EMN National Contact Point in the SR conducted various activities in 2018 including preparing publications, submitting and answering “ad hoc queries”, answering the ad hoc queries of other national contact points, organizing conferences, seminars (such as the 6th EMN Educational Seminar on Migration) and other professional events. Every year such events focus on various topics related to the migration of third-country nationals and are organized mainly by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
- Norwegian Migration Agency (EMN) conducted various activities in 2018 including preparatory meetings and hearing sessions of the Task Force for Migration and the Strategy for Labour Mobility of Foreigners. The activities focus on mixed and irregular migration into the EU and the EU’s measures regarding this phenomenon.
- Slovak National Assembly’s DIMEX Committee debated several occasions the shortage of qualified labour in Slovakia.
- The Ambassador-at-large for migration within MoFEA SR covers mainly the external aspects of migration and its impact on Slovakia from third countries resonated, too. In 2018, attention was given to the issue of increasing extremism and violence towards foreigners in Slovakia, against which several demonstrations and memorial marches were held in Slovak cities.

Some media outputs were debunking myths and explaining disinformation and hoaxes related to several migration topics. In relation to the November 2018 municipal elections, some media informed foreigners about the possibility to vote.

In 2018, the activities of MoFEA SR Task Force for Migration continued, meeting according to the need. Members exchanged current information in their departments with the Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU in Brussels.

The Ambassador-at-large for migration within MoFEA SR covers mainly the external aspects of migration. From 1 September 2017 to 30 October 2018 the role was held by Jaroslav Chlebo. From 7 to 30 November it was held by Jáno Gábor and afterwards it remained vacant until the end of the year. On 1 April 2019, Peter Stano was nominated in this position.

2.2 Migration in Media

Slovak media provided increased interest in migration and international protection in 2018. Apart from ongoing mixed and irregular migration into the EU and the EU’s measures regarding this phenomenon, the Slovak media in 2018 informed mainly on the UN Global Compacts on migration and refugees. They were also a topic of social and political discussion in Slovakia.

The labour migration to Slovakia from third countries resonated, too. In 2018, attention was given to the issue of increasing extremism and violence towards foreigners in Slovakia, against which several demonstrations and memorial marches were held in Slovak cities.

Some media outputs were debunking myths and explaining disinformation and hoaxes related to several migration topics. In relation to the November 2018 municipal elections, some media informed foreigners about the possibility to vote.
3. Legal Migration

In 2018, the SR continued to feel an increased demand by employers for foreign labour. The discussion was ongoing on political, professional and private sector levels. Related to this fact, the SR adopted the Strategy for Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic and prepared the list of professions with a shortage of labour which were unable to be filled using domestic labour for a long time. The aim is to fill these vacancies in the respective regions with third-country nationals (TCNs) using an accelerated procedure i.e. without the required labour market research.

In 2018, the SR introduced further measures to facilitate employment of TCNs in the SR by means of amendments to Act on the Residence of Aliens and Act on Employment Services. As of 5 May 2018, the Amendment to Act on Residence of Aliens was adopted and as of May 2018 the Amendment to Act on Employment Services was adopted. They concerned the three EU directives stated in the table below, alongside the national legal acts which transposed them:

3.1 Statistics and Trends

In 2018, the number of first-time residence permits increased to 20,989 which means more than 50% increase as compared to previous years. The number of permits issued on family grounds was 2,902, for the purposes of education and study 2,324, for the purposes of paid activities 13,956 (which is the biggest increase – from 7,399 in 2017) and for the purposes of other activities 1,807 (see Table 1 in Annex). The increase is caused mainly by TCNs’ interest in residence permits for the purposes of employment which in turn relates to the increased demand for foreign workers with low levels of qualification. Ukrainian and Serbian nationals prevail in this group of labour migrants.

To compare, the SR issued a total of 13,635 first-time residence permits in 2017, 10,304 in 2016 and 9,332 in 2015. Administrative fees for residence applications did not change as compared to 2015 – 2017 (see Table 2 in Annex).

3.2 Transposition of EU Legislation

As a part of the transposition of the EU’s legislation on legal migration, the SR adopted two amendments to national acts. As of May 2017, the Amendment to Act on Residence of Aliens was adopted and as of May 2018 the Amendment to Act on Employment Services was adopted. They concerned the three EU directives stated in the table below, alongside the national legal acts which transposed them:

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43 Information provided by BBFP PFP.
47 Information provided by BBFP PFP.
48 Information provided by BBFP PFP and MoLSAF SR.
03. Legal Migration

3.3 Policies, Legislation and Measures in Economic Migration

In 2018, the SR continued to experience an increased demand by employers for foreign labour. The discussion was ongoing on political, professional and private sector levels.56 The number of foreigners – EU and third countries nationals – working in the SR more than doubled in the last three years.57 The Slovak economy is aided by the workers from Serbia, Ukraine and Vietnam.58 In 2018, the Slovak employment rate was at its historic minimum – it amounted to an average of 5% which means less than 150 thousand unemployed per 5.5 million inhabitants.59 In Western Slovakia, the unemployment rate is even lower. The 2018 labour market situation according to the Association of Industrial Unions was such that 37.6% of companies had to refuse orders due to a shortage of labour.60 More than 1,200 companies in the SR employed people from outside of the EU in 2018. Transportation companies lacked approximately 2,500 drivers last year.61

In this respect, the SR adopted the Strategy for Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic on 10 October 2018.62 It is a key change in legal migration in that year. It aims to make the system regulating entry and residence of TCNs in the territory of the SR for the purposes of employment more effective, fast and flexible, especially regarding the professions with identified lack of available labour. Before 2018, there had not been a comprehensive strategy for planning and managing the managed and regulated labour mobility of foreigners into the Slovak labour market which would cover the needs of the Slovak economy and especially of strategic investors. The Strategy contains the short- and long-term measures for foreigners' labour mobility in order to:

- ensure sustainable economic development and improve the quality of life of both Slovak citizens and foreigners living in Slovakia,
- react to new technologies and labour market changes,
- react to the demographic changes and the related impacts on the social and retirement systems, 
- combat illegal work; working conditions differing for those of Slovak citizens, imposed by employers on foreigners and labour abuse, 
- support the integration of foreigners locally and develop the new integration policy of the Slovak Republic (a long-term measure of the Strategy).

The SR will update the Strategy on a quarterly basis (instead of the originally proposed yearly basis) based on the current labour market situation in the SR. The Strategy contains short-term and extraordinary measures (2018 – 2019), as well as long-term measures (2019 – 2030) which will be regularly updated and subsequently discussed within the MEKOMIC platform.63

In order to deal with the lack of qualified labour, the SR also prepared the list of professions with a shortage of labour which were unable to be filled using domestic labour for a long time.64 If a profession is included in the list, one of the conditions is that the average unemployment rate for the previous calendar year in the given region must be under 5%, whereas the number of TCNs employed in such professions was limited to a maximum of 30% of the overall number of employees. The COLSAF is newly responsible for the creation and quarterly updates to the list which should contain mainly positions for workers with low levels of qualification.

### EU legislation

| Directive No. 2016/801/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing
| Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Aliens and on changes and amendments to some acts
| Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on changes and amendments to some acts
| Note: Only the part concerning au pairing was not transposed. Its transposition by EU MS was voluntary.
| in effect from 1 May 2018

### Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer

| Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Aliens and on changes and amendments to some acts
| Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on changes and amendments to some acts
| Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on changes and amendments to act some acts
| in effect from 1 May 2017

### Directive on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers

| Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Aliens and on changes and amendments to some acts
| Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on changes and amendments to some acts
| Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on changes and amendments to some acts
| in effect from 1 May 2018

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- ensure sustainable economic development and improve the quality of life of both Slovak citizens and foreigners living in Slovakia,
- react to new technologies and labour market changes,
- react to the demographic changes and the related impacts on the social and retirement systems,
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### EU legislation

| Directive No. 2016/801/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing
| Act No. 108/2018 Coll. on changing and amending Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Aliens and on changes and amendments to some acts
| in effect from 1 May 2017

### Directive on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers

| Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Aliens and on changes and amendments to some acts
| Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on changes and amendments to some acts
| Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on changes and amendments to some acts
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| Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on changes and amendments to some acts
| Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on changes and amendments to some acts
| in effect from 1 May 2017

56 In 2018, some 64 thousand foreigners worked in the Slovak Republic. About 30 thousand come from non-EU countries. They amount to 0.3% of all working people in Slovakia.
58 More than 1,200 companies in the SR employed people from outside of the EU in 2018. Transportation companies lacked approximately 2,500 drivers last year.
62 Information provided by MoLSAF SR.
which were unable to be filled for a long time. The list was created and published on the COLSAF website for the first time in July 2018. The vacancies in the list can be filled by TCNs in an accelerated procedure – without labour market test (i.e. without the obligation to report a vacancy and without the obligatory period of 20 days since reporting the vacancy in order to conduct the labour market test and the possibility to fill the vacancy using domestic labour). The changes were brought about by the 1 May 2018 Amendment to the Act on Employment Services. It also caused the following:

- In order to speed up the process of issuing the “single permits”, the period for reporting vacancies in order to evaluate the labour market situation was shortened from 30 to 20 working days for employers who are interested in employing TCNs based on the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy.
- Employers now can employ TCNs starting from the time of their submission of the application for temporary residence for the purposes of employment by the time the permit is granted, however, for the maximum of 6 subsequent weeks within one calendar year. This period must be devoted to training the employee to work in the particular job. Regarding this category of TCNs, to undertake employment in the SR, it is not an obligation to present the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy corresponding to highly qualified employment, the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy or an employment permit.
- The maximum fine for breaching employer’s obligations when employing an EU MS and TCN under Section 23b of the Act was increased to €100,000.

On 7 December 2018, the SR adopted further legislative changes in compliance with the Strategy for Labour Mobility of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic. Starting from 2019, they will cause the following changes as well as other things:

- frequency of updating the list of professions with a shortage of labour will change from annual to quarterly,
- TCNs’ options to enter the labour market through temporary employment agencies will broaden in the case of jobs with a shortage of labour,
- the obligation to submit supporting documents with an application will be facilitated; this concerns mainly the documents on prior education and the documents related to the temporary assignment of TCNs through temporary employment agencies,
- the periods for evaluation of applications for seasonal employment permits will be shortened to 10 days following the delivery of the application,
- the obligation will be introduced for employers to report vacancies to respective Labour Office and a maximum fine of €300 for not fulfilling this obligation will be defined,
- the assessed length of period during which the ban on illegal employment of TCNs was not breached will be unified.

3.3.1 Admission and Residence of Particular Categories of TCN Migrants in Slovakia

(Highly) Qualified Workers

Effective from 1 May 2018, the following category of TCNs free to enter the labour market was left out of the Act on Employment Services: “third-country nationals who will be employed for a determined period in order to increase their qualifications for the performed employment”. The reason is that the employers used this provision to employ TCNs without a direct connection to the improvement of their qualifications.

Intra-corporate Transferees

In 2018, the SR did not adopt any changes related to intra-corporate transferees.

Seasonal Workers and Workers with Low/Middle Qualifications

Related to the simplification of re-entry of TCNs who perform seasonal employment into the Slovak labour market: the amendment of Act on Employment Services effective from 1 May 2018 modified the condition for issuing the approval of the possibility to fill a vacancy by the respective Labour Office. The deadline for the employer to inform the Office in writing on vacancies, their number and nature was shortened from 30 to 15 working days prior to submitting the application for granting or renewing the temporary residence permit for the purposes of employment.

From May 2018, the obligations were extended for the employers who: employ TCNs with a work permit for the purposes of seasonal employment, employ TCNs in order to train them and employers who receive TCNs deployed to work. The extension concerns the obligation to ensure adequate accommodation and in the case of deployed employees also to present documents proving their deployment. The proof of accommodation is to be annexed to the information form which the employer submits to the respective Labour Office. The scope of authority of the inspection bodies was extended as well: they are authorized to enter accommodation facilities to check the fulfilment of this obligation by the employer.

Entrepreneurs and Investors

In 2018, the SR did not adopt any changes related to entrepreneurs and investors.

Au pairs, Volunteers and Interns

Effective from 1 May 2018, the TCNs in the territory of the SR now can engage in internships after graduating from higher education institutions as compared to the previous status when...
they were allowed to engage in internships only during their university studies.\textsuperscript{74} In 2018, there were no changes related to au pairs and volunteers from third countries in the SR.\textsuperscript{75}

**Students, Researchers and Their Family Members**

Effective from 1 May 2018, the amendment to the Act on Residence of Aliens transposed the obligatory provisions of the 2016/801/EU Directive.\textsuperscript{76} The rules of admission used to be obligatory for students and researchers only and voluntary for pupils, unpaid interns and volunteers. The Directive contains certain improvements, especially regarding the admission procedures, right to equal treatment, right of the students to work during their study, mobility within the EU as well as procedural guarantees. It further defines the conditions of entry and residence for longer than 90 days in the territory of the MS and the rights of TCNs or their family members for the purposes of study, vocational training or voluntary service in the European Voluntary Service. If MS so decide, pupil exchange programmes, educational projects, voluntary activities other than the European Voluntary Service or au pairing are possible, too. The Directive also defines the conditions of entry, residence and rights of researchers and their family members and students in a MS different from that from which first granted the TCN the residence permit based on this Directive.\textsuperscript{77}

In this regards the SR in 2018 defined the mobility rules with the aim to lower the administrative burden and facilitate mobility and residence in the EU MS. In practice this means that those foreigners who plan mobility in the territory of the SR under the Act on Residence of Aliens are not required to have a temporary residence in the SR during the first year after the beginning of their residence, if another EU MS granted them residence previously.\textsuperscript{78} Related to mobility, the transposition of 2016/801\textsuperscript{79} Directive by amended Act on Employment Services (see 3.2) effective from 1 May 2018 modified the entry to the Slovak labour market for the following categories of TCNs who no longer need the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy corresponding to highly-qualified employment, confirmation of the possibility of filling a vacant, and work permit:

- TCNs who perform research and development based on a hosting agreement or whose teaching activity does not exceed 50 days in one calendar year or their family members,
- TCNs whose employment at all employers does not exceed 20 hours a week or a corresponding number of days or months a year, if they are a student of higher education institution who resides in the SR based on mobility.\textsuperscript{80}

Effective from 1 May 2018, the following changes were made after amending the Act on Employment Services:

- The category of TCNs who attend language school was omitted from the legislation; to perform employment in the SR they previously were not obliged to present the confirmation of the possibility to fill a vacancy corresponding to highly-qualified employment, con-

\textsuperscript{74} Information provided by MoLSAF SR.
\textsuperscript{75} Information provided by BBFP PFP.
\textsuperscript{76} Directive No. 2016/801/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council from 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing.
\textsuperscript{77} Information provided by the BBFP PFP.
\textsuperscript{78} Directive No. 2016/801/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing.
\textsuperscript{79} Information provided by MoLSAF SR.
• to consider the introduction of “social dumping” definition into the Slovak legislation.86

The Amendment to Labour Code87 in 2018 introduced an absolute ban for employers to in any way limit the access of employees to information about their salary. Provisions of work contracts, agreements on work outside of the employment or any other agreement between employer and employee which would prevent the employee from disclosing the information on their work conditions including their salary and employment conditions are invalid. The modification aims to prevent the abuse of TCNs who enter the Slovak labour market for social dumping especially as far as their salaries are concerned.88

Effective from 1 May 2018, the following changed in the Slovak Republic:

- The possibility to grant an employment permit to a TCN employed by an employer with its seat outside of the SR who deploys them to work in the territory of the SR (based on agreeing to numbers and professions deployed and the period of their deployment) was cancelled. The modification aims to prevent the abuse of labour shortages for social dumping.
- The employers who employ TCNs in scarce professions for training period (6 weeks at the longest) for the are now also obliged to provide accommodation fulfilling the minimum requirements under a specific regulation. The same obligation is in place for the recipients of service for employees TCNs who are deployed by their employer from another EU MS if the deployment is not longer than 90 days.89

In 2018, BBFP PFP continued to perform regular checks of business entities in cooperation with National Labour Inspectorate and the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in order to detect illegal work and illegal employment. In 2018, they inspected 117 business entities. They checked a total of 2,007 persons out of which 960 were Slovak nationals and 1,047 were foreign nationals – EU citizens and TCNs coming especially from Serbia, Ukraine, Romania and Bosnia and Herzegovina.90

In 2018, Act on Social Economy and Social Enterprises91 was adopted which aims to bring order to social entrepreneurship and clarify its terminology as well as remove the obstacles preventing the development of social economy. At the same time, it should create a favourable business environment for social entrepreneurship in Slovakia. This is a new category of entrepreneurship, previously unknown in Slovak legislation. The cross-sectional act is a key reform to support the integration of disadvantaged job seekers or those unemployed for a long time into the Slovak labour market (including some TCN groups). It applies the positive discrimination principle in public procurement and stems from foreign best practice examples and valid European rules.92

3.5 Further Measures Related to Legal Migration

Brexit

In 2018, the MoLSAF SR was preparing for the unregulated withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) from the EU (so called Brexit) which could have happened as of 29 March 2019:

- BBFP PFP in 2018 prepared an amendment to Act on Residence of Aliens which will define the status of UK nationals after Brexit. The amendment will come into effect in 2019 depending on the date of Brexit.93 The measures are proposed based on adherence to the reciprocity principle towards EU procedures regarding the Slovak nationals in the territory of the UK.94
- A platform “Brexit – informácie pre občanov a podniky [Brexit – information for citizens and businesses]”95 was created at the MoFEA SR website.

In order to improve the overall level of awareness of the state and to evaluate the overall impact of Brexit on Slovak citizens the MoLSAF SR started to prepare an analysis of profiles of citizens living in the UK, including their working and living strategies in the framework of Brexit.95

Population and Housing Census

The SR continued to prepare for the population and housing census which is to be organized in 2021.96 In 2018, negotiations of the SO SR with the BBFP PFP which administers the information system of foreigners’ registration took place. These were related to the possibility to digitalize the foreign migration data transfer.

The results of the census will become a base for understanding the numbers and structure of populations by country of birth, citizenship, age and sex in the period between two censuses.98

3.6 Information on Legal Migration Options and Conditions

State Institutions

In 2018, MoI SR besides informing the foreigners via their website also established direct phone lines99 to BBFP PFP in order to provide information to foreigners.100 The lines are available for individual regions.

In order to improve the work of police officers and increase the comfort of TCNs, in 2018 the BBFP PFP also moved the busiest Foreign Police Bratislava department into new and more suit-
able premises with easy access for disabled. The number of desk posts was increased from 15 to 23. New parking spaces were added. Larger premises also include children’s play areas.111

A new Labour Mobility for Foreigners102 section was created at the MoLSAF SR website. It contains the following categories of information for TCNs and employers:

1. Entry and residence, 2. Employment, 3. Housing, 4. Education. The section also contains updated information on human trafficking and illegal employment. There is also information on asylum and subsidiary protection as well as recommendations for journalists on how to communicate the topic of migration and integration (see 6.4).103

MoLSAF SR published an information leaflet in several languages for the citizens of Serbia, Ukraine, Vietnam, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the “Labour Mobility for Foreigners”104 section of their website. The leaflet contains basic information on whom the foreigners can approach if their employers do not adhere to regulations concerning work contracts or labour legislation. The informational leaflet for the citizens of Serbia is available also at the websites of diplomatic missions of the SR in Serbia106 and of Serbia in the SR107.108

International Organizations and Civic Sector

In 2018, the Danube Compass international website was launched. It provides foreigners with the information on work, arrival and residence, education, everyday life, health and local language courses in the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Germany, Austria, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Serbia. For Slovakia108 it is available in Slovak, English, Ukrainian, Serbian and Vietnamese.109

In 2018, the IOM Migration Information Centre (MIC)110 continued to provide information on the options and conditions of legal migration for both TCNs and the Slovak institutions coming into contact with them.111 In 2018, the MIC offices in Bratislava and Košice provided 6,763 personal, phone or e-mail consultations on residence, family, employment, entrepreneurship, education and citizenship within its comprehensive integration counselling. The services were used by a total of 4,550 clients mainly from Ukraine, Russian Federation, Serbia, India, Iran and USA. After six years of organizing the One-Stop Shops counselling days for foreigners in the IOM premises, in 2018, MIC IOM piloted a new format of four One-Stop Shop counselling days directly in the Bratislava Foreign Police Department. More than 80 visitors used the possibility to obtain counselling from Foreign Police officers, workers of Labour Offices, Trade Licensing Offices and MIC IOM consultants – all present in one place.112

Up to date information for foreigners on living in Slovakia are available in Slovak, English and Russian also at the MIC IOM website www.mic.iom.sk. More than 216,083 persons visited the website in 2018 as compared with 125,193 persons in 2017. Visa Check web application services113 launched by MIC IOM in May 2017 were used by 3,392 clients from 159 countries in 2018. The application provides information to foreigners from any country who want to come to Slovakia and find out if a visa is needed to enter Slovakia and what kind of residence permit is required to study, work or engage in business in Slovakia.114

MIC IOM issued new fact sheets on residence of foreigners containing up to date information on how to proceed when submitting a residence application and on the duties stemming from particular types of temporary and permanent residence of foreigners in Slovakia.115 They also updated the Welcome to Slovakia 2018 booklet which offers a brief overview of basic information on Slovakia. It contains practical advice and information on the duties and obligations for TCNs arising from the legislation of the SR. It provides basic information on residence and employment of foreigners, educational system, healthcare, social security and other important areas of living in Slovakia. It is available in Slovak, English and Russian.116

101 Information provided by the BBFP PFP. Available at: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1886064688090411 (consulted on 04/02/2019).
102 Available at: https://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/informacie-cudzincov/ (consulted on 04/02/2019).
103 Information provided by MoLSAF SR. Available at: https://www.mic.iom.sk/sk/na-stiahnutie/brozury-a-letaky/item/245-nove-vydanie-brozury-vitajte-na-slovensku.html (consulted on 04/02/2019).
104 Available at: https://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/informacie-cudzincov/zamestnavanie-cudzincov/ (consulted on 04/02/2019).
105 Information provided by MoLSAF SR. Available at: https://www.mic.iom.sk/sk/na-stiahnutie/info-karty.html (consulted on 02/04/2019).
107 Information provided by DFEA SDK. Available at: https://www.mzv.sk/web/belehrad (consulted on 04/02/2019).
108 Available at: https://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/informacie-cudzincov/zamestnavanie-cudzincov/ (consulted on 04/02/2019).
109 Information provided by the FAD EPS MoI SR. Available at: https://www.mic.iom.sk/sk/na-stiahnutie/brozury-a-letaky/item/245-nove-vydanie-brozury-vitajte-na-slovensku.html (consulted on 02/04/2019).
110 Information provided by the FAD EPS MoI SR. Available at: https://www.mic.iom.sk/sk/na-stiahnutie/info-karty.html (consulted on 02/04/2019).
111 Source: http://sk.danubecompass.org/?lang=sk (consulted on 04/02/2019).
113 Available at: http://mic.iom.sk/visacheck/en/home/ (consulted on 02/04/2019).
115 Source: https://omi.sk/sk/na-stahnutie/info-karty.html (consulted on 02/04/2019).
The number of asylum seekers in Slovakia remained low in 2018. The Slovak asylum system therefore did not face any challenges in that period. The SR amended the Act on Asylum especially due to the transposition of Art. 31 Par. 3 – 5 of the recast “procedural directive” which are related to the process of assessment of the international protection application. In 2018, the SR also prepared an amendment to Act on Financial Compensation of Serious Physical Disability. Based on the amendment those persons with granted subsidiary protection (not only persons granted asylum) can fulfill the legal requirements for individual financial benefits to compensate for serious physical disability.

The SR did not conduct any relocations, resettlement programmes or humanitarian reception programmes for TCN refugees. However, it continued to allow for a special humanitarian refugee transfer through the territory of the SR which has been conducted in cooperation with UNHCR and IOM since 2009.

4.1 Statistics and Trends
In 2018, the number of asylum seekers in the SR remained low. A total of 178 asylum applications was submitted in the SR in that year (155 first-time and 23 repeated applications) as compared to 166 applications submitted in 2017 and 146 applications submitted in 2016. Asylum was granted to 5 persons from Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria and subsidiary protection to 37 persons. The SR decided to stop proceedings in 69 cases, to not grant asylum in 128 cases and to not grant subsidiary protection in 23 cases. In 2018, the most prominent group of asylum seekers were applicants from Afghanistan (31), Iraq (23) and Yemen (20).117

4.2 National Legislation and Common European Asylum System (CEAS)

The Amendment to Act on Asylum came into effect on 20 July 2018.118 The reason for amending it was mainly the transposition of Art. 31 Par. 3 – 5 of the recast “procedural directive” related to the international protection application evaluation procedure.119 Another reason was the need to modify certain provisions of the Act based on practical experience and needs.120

4.2.1 Accessing Asylum Procedure and Receiving Asylum Seekers

The amendment to Act on Asylum effective from 20 July 2018, among other things determined that a participant in a procedure, his/her legal representative or guardian can also be represented in an administrative procedure by a non-governmental organisation which provides foreigners with legal aid. An authorized employee or member of such an organisation with a second level law degree can act on its behalf. This amendment enabled the non-governmental organizations to represent in administrative procedures as legal entities. Before the amendment, the employees or members of non-governmental organisations acted as individuals while representing foreigners in administrative procedures.

In 2018, the Slovak Humanitarian Council non-governmental organization continued to implement the project Effective Services to Asylum Seekers in the SR II, in cooperation with Rovné Municipality.123 Within the project which is supported by the AMIF fund all asylum seekers are provided with various services such as Slovak language teaching, psychological counselling, social work, subsidiary healthcare services, leisure time activities, art therapy, musical therapy etc. Special attention is given to the needs of vulnerable persons.124

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118 Act No. 198/2018 Coll. on changing and amending Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended.
120 Paragraph 3 (incomplete wording): “Member States shall ensure that the examination procedure is concluded within six months of the lodging of the application. (...) Member States may extend the time limit of six months set out in this paragraph for a period not exceeding a further nine months.”
121 Paragraph 4 (incomplete wording): “Member States may postpone concluding the examination procedure where the determining authority cannot reasonably be expected to decide within the time-limits laid down in paragraph 3 due to an uncertain situation in the country of origin which is expected to be temporary.”
123 Information provided by the MD MoI SR.
124 Project SK 2016 AMIF SC 1/1.
125 Information provided by the FAO EPS MoI SR.
4.2.2 Asylum Procedures Including Dublin Procedure

First-Degree Procedures and Special Procedures

The Amendment to the Act on Asylum\(^{126}\) effective from 20 July 2018 modified the deadlines for deciding on asylum which is related to the process of assessment of applications for international protection. It is the following transposition of Art. 31 Par. 3 – 5 of the recast "procedural directive"\(^{127}\):

- a 6-month period was determined for decisions in the asylum procedure and the conditions of extension were defined;
- a possibility to interrupt the asylum procedure was introduced, if it is impossible to provide a decision within the regular deadline due to the uncertain situation in the country of origin of the seeker (the procedure might be interrupted for 6 months at the most and might be interrupted repeatedly but the total time of the interruptions cannot exceed 15 months);
- the maximum possible deadline for decisions in asylum procedure of 21 months was modified in cases when the procedure was interrupted due to the uncertain situation in the country of origin of the asylum seeker. In other cases, the maximum possible deadline for decisions is 18 months (transposition of the deadline from Art. 31). Before the amendment came into effect, the maximum deadline for reaching a decision was not determined.

It was also determined that when assessing asylum applications the MoI SR must request a position on the asylum application not only from the Slovak Information Service but also from Military Intelligence, whereas only applications of asylum seekers older than 14 are assessed. The position (before "the statement") contains agreement/disagreement with granting asylum or subsidiary protection. In preparing their positions, both intelligence services assess the degree of danger the applicant poses to the interests of the SR, of which protection is in their competence. Also, the deadline for sending such position was modified from 10 to 20 days. An unfavourable position is a valid reason for not granting asylum for the purposes of family reunification as well as a reason for not granting subsidiary protection.\(^{128}\)

In 2018, there were no changes in special procedures in Slovakia.\(^{129}\)

Court Proceedings and Decisions on National and European Level

The SR has not recorded any new judgments of national courts or ECHR which would create an asylum-related precedent significantly impacting national policies. As for the decisions issued by the Court of Justice of the EU, the MoI SR takes into consideration the case law in application and practice; however, no specialized policies were adopted.\(^{130}\)

Dublin Proceedings and Transfers

In 2018, the Dublin Centre successfully migrated to new DubliNet domain (electronic communications tool) under the instructions and deadlines of EU LISA (European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice) including new certificates installation.\(^{131}\)

In 2018, the SR did not stop any transfers from any of the states implementing the Dublin Regulation, if the applications of the SR were accepted by the given EU MS and decisions on handover were executable in compliance with valid Slovak legislation.

In 2018, the Dublin Centre in the SR processed a total of 466 applications for determination of responsibility for the assessment of applications for international protection from the MS implementing the Dublin Regulation. There were 47 cases of receiving TCNs to the territory of the SR as the Member State responsible for further proceedings. The Dublin Centre sent 69 applications for taking over the responsibility to other EU Member States and 15 persons were handed over from the territory of the Slovak Republic. The Dublin Centre continued to act also in the cases of TCNs without residence permit allowing the residence in the SR in which case it was possible to apply the Dublin Regulation.\(^{132}\)

Safe Countries and Countries of Origin Information

In 2018, there were no changes in national legislation related to the concept of safe countries. However, MO MoI SR employees participated in preparing chapters of the EASO COI chapters on Iraq and in reviewing the following EASO reports: Afghanistan (Security Report), Iraq (Actors of Protection), Pakistan a Ukraine (MedCoi).\(^{133}\)

The Instruction of MO MoI SR director was prepared and came into effect in 2018. It specifies the procedure for processing the information on country of origin of the asylum/subsidiary protection applicants as well as mutual cooperation between individual MO MoI SR departments. It was written in compliance with relevant EU acquis on asylum and refers to the current EASO Country of Origin Information report methodology and EASO COI guides.\(^{134}\)

In 2018, MO MoI SR employees continued to participate in preparing the new EASO COI Methodology as members of the working group. They also participated in updating the EASO COI training module. Once the updating has been finalized, the MO MoI SR plans to organize a national training event for COI analysts, decision makers and legal representatives.\(^{135}\)

In 2018, the SR processed for MO MoI SR procedural department employees almost 100 national COI requests for information on COI which amounts to approx. 450 individual COI questions for decision makers.\(^{136}\)

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126  By Act No. 198/2018 Coll. on changing and amending Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended. The Act came into effect on 20 July 2018.
128  Information provided by the MO MoI SR.
129  Information provided by the MO MoI SR.
130  Information provided by the MO MoI SR and BBFP PFP.
131  Information provided by the MO MoI SR.
132  Information provided by the MO MoI SR.
133  Information provided by the MO MoI SR.
134  Information provided by the MO MoI SR.
135  Information provided by the MO MoI SR.
136  Information provided by the MO MoI SR.
4.2.3 Rights of Beneficiaries of International Protection

MO MoI SR created a new guidance for persons granted asylum and persons granted subsidiary protection. New guidance contains updated and extended information on integration and on processes which are obligatory for beneficiaries of asylum or subsidiary protection after having been granted a form of international protection (e.g. after birth of a baby).137

The 2018 Amendment to the Act on Financial Compensation of Serious Physical Disablement138 included the persons with granted subsidiary protection into the pool of participants to the legal relations. Based on the amendment persons with granted subsidiary protection (not only persons granted asylum) now also fulfil the legal requirements for individual financial benefits to compensate for serious physical disability.139

In 2018, the Act on Social Economy and Social Enterprises140 was adopted which considers a person granted asylum or foreigner granted subsidiary protection to be a vulnerable person.141

The 2018 Amendment to Act on Asylum142 contributed to better personal data protection for foreigners in the following ways:

• a prohibition on providing the COI with information about a foreigner applying for asylum and about the grounds for this application was extended to those foreigners whose asylum or subsidiary protection in the SR had terminated as well as to former applicants;
• the prohibition on providing the COI with information without consent was extended to all public administration authorities.143

4.2.4 Withdrawal of International Protection

By the Amendment to Act on Asylum144 new reasons for withdrawal or cessation of international protection were introduced in the SR as of 20 July 2018. For asylum the following applies:

• the person granted asylum obtains citizenship of another EU MS or if another EU MS grants asylum to the person based on persecution;
• person granted asylum on humanitarian grounds or for the purposes of family reunification, was granted time-unrestricted residence by another state.

For subsidiary protection the following applies:

• if a TCN who had been granted subsidiary protection in the territory of the SR obtains citizen-

ship of another EU MS and if another EU MS grants them asylum based on persecution or subsidiary protection based on serious harm;
• person granted subsidiary protection for the purposes of family reunification was granted time-unrestricted residence by another state.145

4.2.5 Cooperation with Third Countries

Assistance Through EU and V4 Mechanisms

Within the Mobilize project under the Mobility Partnership between the EU and Azerbaijan a study visit of experts from Azerbaijan on security of documents was organized in Bratislava on 4 – 8 June 2018. The project was being implemented from mid-January 2016 to mid-January 2019 (see 9.3.2).146

The SR continued to focus on the causes of migration and contributed into the EU trust funds in 2018: EUTF Africa (€10.25 mil.), EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis – Madad (€3 mil.), FRIT - EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey (€10,51 mil.). It also participates in the activities funded by these funds:147

Regarding development aid, the SR in cooperation with V4 countries implemented the projects funded by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF for Africa) in 2018. The Libya borders integrated management project (€45 mil.) is a new project in this respect.148

Bilateral Cooperation and Assistance of the SR in Third Countries

Peace building through practical skills in Kenya is a development project by the SAVIO civic associ-
ation implemented through the ODA (SlovakAid) since 2017 (€249,190). Educational courses for refugees and local community were opened near Kakuma refugee camp in the Turkana region. The project aims to increase the number of young people with practical skills in the region. It provides entrepreneurship training to the students, helps graduates with finding jobs and thus improves their possibility to succeed in the labour market. Joint education is to help deescalate tension in the region.149

Regarding humanitarian aid, the SR in 2018 approved 5 projects in Syria and neighbouring Near and Middle East countries in the overall amount of €1,049,281. The call was launched by the Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation (SAMRS) aiming to contribute to stabilizing and improving the living conditions especially of children and young generation living in refugee communities, internally displaced people and those returning to their countries of origin.150
One-Time Contributions through UN Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations

In 2018, the SR provided several one-time financial contributions to UN organisations and non-governmental organisations for humanitarian aid or direct aid to migrant activities in (third) countries:

- financial contribution for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to provide humanitarian aid in Syria (€100,000),
- financial contribution for UNRWA for basic humanitarian needs of Palestinian refugees in Syria (€50,000),
- financial contribution to the UNHCR Voluntary Funds to provide humanitarian aid in Lebanon (€100,000),
- financial contribution to the UNDP to support the efforts of the Global Coalition against Daesh by means of renewing the areas liberated from Daesh in Iraq (€50,000),
- humanitarian financial contribution for Metadrasi-Action for Migration and Development – non-governmental organisation to protect refugees, especially UAMs and to support the reception and integration of migrants in Greece (€5,000).

4.2.6 Asylum System of the Slovak Republic

Intra-EU Relocation Mechanism and Bilateral Activities

The “Nový Horizont 2018” military exercise took place in the Biela hora military training grounds near the city of Michalovce in the Eastern Slovakia between 10 and 12 July 2018. MO Mol SR representatives who are responsible for international protection in Slovakia tested their level of preparedness to deal with refugee crisis situations – registration of refugees, health checks, crisis accommodation – in cooperation with all the other units. The Nový Horizont military exercise has been regularly organized since 2015 by the Ministry of Defense of the SR in cooperation with accommodation – in cooperation with all the other units. The Nový Horizont military exercise has been regularly organized since 2015 by the Ministry of Defense of the SR in cooperation with the Czech Republic is planned and the following part section of the training will be organized in the SR.

By 2018 amendment to Act on Asylum, it was determined that when assessing the asylum applications the MoI SR has to ask for a position on the asylum application not only the Slovak Information Service but also from Military Intelligence as another intelligence service, whereas only applications of asylum seekers older than 14 are assessed (see 4.2.2).

Effectiveness, Quality and Capacity Building

The “Nový Horizont 2018” military exercise took place in the Biela hora military training grounds near the city of Michalovce in the Eastern Slovakia between 10 and 12 July 2018. MO Mol SR representatives who are responsible for international protection in Slovakia tested their level of preparedness to deal with refugee crisis situations – registration of refugees, health checks, crisis accommodation – in cooperation with all the other units. The Nový Horizont military exercise has been regularly organized since 2015 by the Ministry of Defense of the SR in cooperation with UNHCR and IOM since 2009.

In 2018, three SR national trainers were trained for the following EASO modules: Interview Techniques and Resettlement.

In July 2018, within the regular EASO Informational Day the MO Mol SR employees were informed about various EASO guidelines and materials which they can use in their work to improve the quality of the tasks they fulfil.

The internal decision-making quality control at the MO Mol SR procedural department has continued.

4.3 Relocation and Resettlement Programmes

4.3.1 Intra-EU Relocation Mechanism and Bilateral Activities

In 2018, the SR did not join any European or bilateral relocation activities (see Table 7 in Annex).

4.3.2 Resettlement and Humanitarian Admission Programmes

The SR did not conduct any resettlement programmes or TCN refugee’s humanitarian admission programmes (see Table 8 in Annex) apart from a special humanitarian refugee transfer through the territory of the SR which has been conducted in cooperation with UNHCR and IOM since 2009.

Two national trainers (MO Mol SR employees) were trained for the field of “Resettlement” within the EASO Module.

151 Information provided by MoFEA SR.
152 Information provided by the MO MoI SR.
153 By Act No. 198/2018 Coll. on changing and amending Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended. The Act came into effect on 20 July 2018.
154 Information provided by the MO MoI SR.
In 2018, Amendment to the Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children and on Social Guardianship came into force. The amendment brought about a whole range of changes aiming to improve the quality of delivery of the measures within the socio-legal protection of children and social guardianship (SPCSG) as well as conditions in the SPCSG facilities.

The number of registered unaccompanied minors in Slovakia in 2018 remained low. Escapes/disappearances of UAMs remain a pertaining challenge in 2018. The practice also showed the need to build the capacities of the expert team in the Foster Home for UAMs in Medzilaborce, as well as the need for their further education.

5.1 Unaccompanied Minors

5.1.1 Statistics and Trends

The Slovak Republic did not register an important increase in the number of UAMs in 2018, similarly to 2017 (see Table 9 in Annex). 17 UAMs (most prominently of Afghan nationality followed by Pakistani) were intercepted during illegal state border or residing illegally in the SR.

The Amendment to the Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children and on Social Guardianship brought a transformation of the foster homes, crisis centres and resocialization facilities into the Children and Family Centres which will provide care according to the clearly specified programme of the centre in question. These changes concern also the Foster Home for UAMs in Medzilaborce which changed to a Children and Family Centre with specialized groups for UAMs as of 1 January 2019. Fewer children in individual groups, more staff and better professional capacity will contribute to improved protection and care of the UAMs.

The aforementioned legislative and organizational changes alongside the previous legislation created suitable conditions for further improvement and extension of caring for UAMs. The mentioned legislation means that after entering the asylum procedure an UAM is not transferred into a MoI MO SR reception centre or accommodation centre in which all the asylum seekers remain and receive care during their asylum procedure but will now stay in the FH for UAMs.

If an UAM becomes an adult during the asylum procedure, s/he continues to be processed as a minor. An UAM after reaching adulthood can request to remain in the FH after the end of institutional care until they aged 25 while the contribution towards becoming independent is also provided to an UAM who was placed into the FH and attained adulthood there.

One of the persisting challenges for the SR is the high escape rate of UAMs. Despite the fact that in recent years there was a decrease in the number of UAMs absconding from the FH, this problem still persists: out of 26 UAMs placed in FH Medzilaborce in 2018, 9 UAMs (out of them 4 were asylum seekers) voluntarily left to an unknown destination.

In 2018, the SPCSG bodies registered a total of 27 UAMs (2 of them girls). Based on court decisions on urgent measures, 19 new UAMs were placed in the FH for UAMs in Medzilaborce in 2018. In 2018, 10 UAMs applied for asylum, as compared with 11 UAMs in 2017, 2 UAMs in 2016, 3 in 2015 and 11 in 2014. The FH for UAMs in Medzilaborce cared mainly for UAMs from Afghanistan (10), Pakistan (4), Vietnam (2), Belarus (1), Lithuania (1) and Germany (1) in 2018. The FH provided care to a total of 26 UAMs (2 of them girls). However, 9 of them voluntarily left the FH to an unknown location.

The number of UAMs not seeking asylum in the FH Medzilaborce decreased to 16 in 2018 as compared to 19 in 2017, 31 in 2016, 23 in 2015 and 10 in 2014 (see Table 9 in Annex).

5.1.2 Policies, Legislation and Measures

The Amendment to the Act on SPCSG brought a transformation of the foster homes, crisis centres and resocialization facilities into the Children and Family Centres which will provide care according to the clearly specified programme of the centre in question. These changes concern also the Foster Home for UAMs in Medzilaborce which changed to a Children and Family Centre with specialized groups for UAMs as of 1 January 2019.

Fewer children in individual groups, more staff and better professional capacity will contribute to improved protection and care of the UAMs.

One of the persisting challenges for the SR is the high escape rate of UAMs. Despite the fact that in recent years there was a decrease in the number of UAMs absconding from the FH, this problem still persists: out of 26 UAMs placed in FH Medzilaborce in 2018, 9 UAMs (out of them 4 were asylum seekers) voluntarily left to an unknown destination.

164 Information provided by the MO MoI SR.
166 Information provided by MoLSAF SR.
167 Information provided by MoLSAF SR.
169 Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on Social and Legal Protection of Children and on Social Guardianship and on changes and amendments to some acts.
170 Act No. 61/2018 Coll. which changes and amends the Act No. 305/2005 on Social and Legal Protection of Children and on Social Guardianship and on changes and amendments to some acts.
171 Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on Social and Legal Protection of Children and on Social Guardianship and on changes and amendments to some acts.
172 Information provided to an UAM who was placed into the FH and attained adulthood there.
173 Information provided by the MO MoI SR.
The problem of placing those UAMs whose minority status is not sufficiently and clearly determined persists. In 2018, 19 new UAMs were placed into the FH for UAMs. In 6 cases it was necessary to request bone examination to determine their age. Thanks to the more effective operational cooperation with PF departments and the BBFP PFP (with whom the processes for age determination already at first capture of foreigners in the territory of the SR were agreed) there were no cases of UAMs older than 18 placed into the FH for UAMs in 2018.

Regarding the protection of UAMs’ rights, the SPCSG authority acts as carer or guardian and represents them in legal and other procedures as well as before and after entering the asylum procedure. According to data as of 31 December 2018, the SPCSG authority acted as the carer for 11 new UAMs and as guardian for 14 UAMs. They also implemented the measures related to searching for parents or other family members of UAMs in order reunite them and the measures related to returning the UAMs into their country of origin or moving to a third country. SPCSG measures implemented for UAMs include also their protection against human trafficking. Out of the 26 UAMs, three Romanians were identified as victims of human trafficking. They were provided specific care under the Human Trafficking Victims Assistance Programme and in November 2018 their return to their country of origin was organised.

The distribution of the “Môj život na Slovensku [My Life in Slovakia]” brochure for UAMs continues. It contains information on their rights and duties and is available in Slovak, English, Romanian, Russian, Dari and Hindi.

MIC IOM continued to provide counselling to UAMs in SPCSG facilities in 2018. IOM MIC services included mainly the Slovak language courses and individual legal counselling for UAMs.

Regarding education, capacity building, and methodical activity related to the care for UAMs, the following activities were conducted:

- As a part of the external education, employees of the FH for UAMs in Medzilaborce participated in 2 expert education events focused on also improving the quality of work with minors and young adults (EMN Educational Seminar on Migration in Bratislava and educational training for social workers and psychologists organized in cooperation with the MO MoI SR and UNHCR in Bratislava).
- The COLSAF regularly informs the employees of various SPCSG institutions and FH for UAMs about current issues related to the provision of well-rounded care for UAMs. In 2018, three working meetings were organized under the auspices of the COLSAF. They focused on educating the employees of Labour Offices on how to implement the SPCSG measures including the topic of UAMs.

Practical experience showed the need for strengthening the capacities of the professional team of FH for UAMs in Medzilaborce by hiring a special needs teacher and a mediator/educational activity coordinator, as well as by continuous education. Personnel and professional capacity building are planned in relation to the conceptual intentions within the transformation process of foster homes from 1 January 2019.

5.2 Other Vulnerable Groups

There was no new development of policies or legislation for vulnerable migrant groups in 2018. Within the efforts to improve care for vulnerable groups and UAMs, an MO MoI SR employee participated in the preparation of an EASO training module focusing on vulnerable groups. The module will be a practical educational aid for people working in the field of admission of asylum seekers in EU MS. Translation of the module into Slovak is planned after its completion and the relevant employees of Slovak institutions will participate in a training session.
Integration

In April 2018, MoLSAF SR drafted the fourth interdepartmental Summary Report on the Fulfilment of Objectives and Measures of the Integration Policy of the SR for 2017. Annual evaluation of fulfilment, current challenges and problems at the Slovak labour market showed that the Integration Policy of the SR seems to be obsolete and in a need of a comprehensive update. The Government of the SR therefore cancelled, effective from 2018, the obligation of Ministries to submit to the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family a yearly report on the fulfilment of objectives and measures of the Integration Policy as well as the obligation to submit the Summary Report on the Fulfilment of Objectives and Measures of the Integration Policy for review with the Government of the SR. However, the Integration Policy remains a valid document. The new Strategy for Foreigners Labour Mobility in the Slovak Republic also contains the measures related to the integration of third-country nationals into the labour market.

The deadline for submitting the Integration Programme for Beneficiaries of International Protection in the territory of the SR as a systemic integration measure by the state was postponed until the end of June 2019 by the Prime Minister.

The IOM MIC continued to provide comprehensive legal and labour counselling services as well as language and professional education to foreigners in the SR. Within the Migration Compass project by the Human Rights League, several round table discussions were organized. Foreigners actively participated in them and discussed the status of foreigners in the city and the 2018 municipal elections. The year 2018 also saw the continuation of implementation of several other projects focused on integration on national level, integration of beneficiaries of international protection etc. Several events with participation of both wider public and professionals were organized to support public awareness, increase migration awareness and prevent discrimination, such as a play prepared by the Nová scéna Theatre [New Stage Theatre] on the refugee topic. Several documents on how to communicate migration to the public were published.

6.1 Integration of Third Country Nationals

6.1.1 Policies and Legislation

The Government of the SR adopted the Strategy for Foreigners Labour Mobility in the Slovak Republic by the Resolution of the Government of the SR No. 473 of 10 October 2018 (see 3.3). The most important measures of the Strategy related to the integration of TCNs into the labour market are the following:

- Elaboration of local integration strategies as an important tool to preserve social coherence, prevent conflicts, segregation and ghettoization as a part of updating the “Integration Policy of the SR”.
- Creation of conditions to implement the integration policy on regional and local level (e.g. by organizing events, conferences and seminars).

In April 2018, MoLSAF SR drafted the fourth interdepartmental Summary Report on the Fulfilment of Objectives and Measures of the Integration Policy of the SR for 2017. However, yearly evaluation of fulfilment, current challenges and problems at the Slovak labour market showed that the Integration Policy of the SR seems to be obsolete and in a need of a comprehensive update. The cooperation with MoLSAF SR was ensured through the MEKOMIC meetings. Representatives of all self-governing regions in the SR, Association of Slovak Towns and Cities and The Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia were invited to the meetings. Participation was ensured via IOM, too. At MEKOMIC meetings, MoLSAF SR every year makes an appeal to all the subjects obliged to participate in the integration process to more effectively fulfil the tasks set in the Integration Policy of the SR approved by the Government of the SR. At the last MEKOMIC meeting 30 January 2018, the Ministry appealed to self-governing regions to higher rate of active participation and taking more initiative (see 2.1).

Given the abovementioned developments, the Government of the SR therefore cancelled (by the Resolution of the Government of the SR No. 405), effective from 5 September 2018, the obligation of Ministries to submit to the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family a yearly report on the fulfilment of objectives and measures of the Integration Policy as well as the obligation of the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family to submit the Summary Report on the Fulfilment of Objectives and Measures of the Integration Policy for review with the Government of the SR. However, yearly evaluation of the fulfilment of the obligations of TCNs into the labour market are the following:

183 The entities responsible for this measure are cities, municipalities and self-government regions in cooperation with the MoLSAF SR.
184 Ibid.
187 By the Inter-Departmental Expert Commission on Labour Migration and Integration of MoLSAF SR.
188 Under the Resolution of Government of the Slovak Republic No. 45 from 2014.
the SR. However, the Integration Policy of the SR remains a valid document. Given the above, MoLSAF SR did not prepare the Summary Report on the Fulfilment of Objectives and Measures of the Integration Policy of the SR for 2018 – not even for the internal use of the Ministry.\(^{190}\)

In 2018, the National programme for the development of education (2018 – 2027) was adopted. One of the measures within the part on “Internationalization” is to create a strategy for higher education internationalization which includes the support of (foreign students) integration in higher education environment (see 3.3.1).\(^{190}\)

### 6.2 Integration of Beneficiaries of International Protection

#### 6.2.1 Policies and Legislation

As far as legislation is concerned, as of 1 July 2018, the Amendment to the Act on Financial Compensation of Serious Physical Disability\(^{200}\) was adopted which extended the pool of participants to the legal proceedings to also persons granted subsidiary protection based on the Act on Asylum\(^{201}, 202\).

The deadline for submitting the Integration Programme for Beneficiaries of International Protection in the territory of the SR as a systemic integration measure by the state was postponed until the end of June 2019 by the Prime Minister.

#### 6.2.2 Measures to Support Integration

In 2018, the civic association Marginal in cooperation with the civic association Adra continued to implement the STEP 3 project with the main aim of supporting the integration of beneficiaries of international protection in the SR. The project ensures the access of the target group to integration services such as counselling, legal and social aid, help with finding housing etc. In 2018 support was provided to clients in 398 cases.\(^{203}\) The project ensures that the target group has access to education (including Slovak language courses and retraining courses) and to conditions to obtain and maintain a job.\(^{204}\) In 2018, 75 persons received such help. The number of children included in education at elementary, secondary and tertiary education institutions was 31.\(^{205}\)

The IOM as the coordinator of the EMN National Contact Point in the SR in cooperation with the MO Mol SR organized an EMN small-scale meeting on “Prevention of the Unsuccessful Integration of Persons Granted International Protection” on 19 – 20 April 2018. The meeting was attended by representatives of selected bodies working with asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection in the SR. The main aim was to present the activities, experience and challenges from the work of the MO which its employees encounter when working with beneficiaries of international protection. The event also aimed to discuss and open cooperation among representatives of public administration, educational institutions, non-governmental organisations and other competent players in the prevention of unsuccessful integration.\(^{206}\)

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189 Information provided by the MoLSAF SR within the ad hoc EC question on integration monitoring which was submitted in December 2018.
189 (SK 2016 AMIF SC2.1/1) project.
189 Information provided by IOM MIC.
189 Information provided by the IOM Office in the SR.
189 (SK 2016 AMIF SC2.1/1) project.
189 The courses are organized in the FH for UAMs in Medzilaborce.
189 Information provided by the IOM Office in the SR.
189 (SK 2018 AMIF SC2.1/1) project.
189 The project will end on 30 September 2019.
189 Information provided by FAD EPS MoI SR.
189 Act No. 447/2008 Coll. on Financial Compensation of Serious Physical Disablement and on changes and amendments to some acts, as amended (Section 3 Paragraph 1, Point 3d).
200 Section 7a Paragraph 1 of Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts.
201 Information provided by the MoLSAF SR.
202 Information provided by FAD EPS MoI SR.
203 (SK 2016 AMIF SC2.1/1) project. The project will continue until 31 December 2019.
204 Information provided by FAD EPS MoI SR.
6.3 Integration on Local Level and Civic Participation of Foreigners

In November 2018, municipal elections took place in Slovakia. Foreigners with permanent or temporary residence in the SR can vote for representatives in self-governing bodies of towns and cities. In this regard, the Slovak Spectator published an article on how foreigners can participate in the elections.

RTVS (Radio and Television of Slovakia) informed via its website and the international channel Slovak International about the municipal elections, the possibility to vote for foreigners, the competences of individual self-government bodies in municipalities and other practical information in several episodes.

Within the Migration Compass project, the Human Rights League prepared a mobilization campaign for foreigners within which the Foreigners' guide to voting in Bratislava video guide was published. It explains how foreigners can vote in municipal elections in Slovakia.

As a part of the same project the Human Rights League also organised two round table discussions in Bratislava on civic participation of foreigners. The participants of the first meeting discussed living and needs of foreigners in Bratislava as well as municipal elections. Outputs are published at the Human Rights League website. The participants of the second meeting shared their ideas and proposals as to more effective integration of foreigners in Bratislava. The meeting resulted in recommendations of participants summarized in three areas: making foreigners in the city more visible, expectations of foreigners from the city/self-government regarding language education and the services beneficial to foreigners living in the city.

Within the INTEGRA project in which five EU countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovakia, Italy) participate, the ETP Slovakia non-profit organisation which is active in the city of Kosice published the City Integration Audit Toolkit which contains the tools for the self-assessment of the city and for recording the progress in long-term integration of foreigners in the city.

In 2018, the implementation of the Kapacity project – the support of migrant integration on the local level – continued. It is implemented by the Human Rights League and the Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture, civic association Marginal, Milan Šimečka foundation and 4 self-governments. In this regard, the Slovak Spectator published an article on how foreigners can vote for representatives in self-governing bodies of towns and cities. In this regard, the Slovak Spectator published an article on how foreigners can vote for representatives in self-governing bodies of towns and cities.

6.4 Improving Awareness on Migration and Non-Discrimination

Regarding the improvement of professional and general public awareness on migration in the SR and the prevention of discrimination, several events were organised, and publications/documents published.

The IOM as the coordinator of the EMN National Contact Point in the SR organized the Migration Caused by Climate Change discussion evening within the EMN Educational Seminar on Migration 2018. The discussion was preceded by a screening of the documentary film Anote's Ark. The discussion participants included Kanta Kumari Rigaud, environmental expert from the World Bank Group, Jeffrey Labovitz from the IOM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa in Kenya, and researcher Alexander At from the Global Change Research Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

The New Stage Theatre in Bratislava in cooperation with the MO Mol SR prepared a play called Domov, kde je ten tvôj? [Home, where is yours?] about refugees. The play is based on the successful novel by Danish author Janne Teller which was translated into several languages and modified into theatre plays for young people in several countries. The aim of the adaptation is to educate and the main, although not exclusive target groups are the students of elementary and secondary schools in Slovakia. The play is followed by a discussion with the audience and the MO Mol SR representatives about various topics related to asylum and migration.

In March 2018, the city quarter of Bratislava – Rača organised a seminar within the YOUMIG (Youth Migration) project funded by the INTERREG Danube Transnational Programme which focuses on improving institutional capacities and strengthening cooperation during dealing with the impact of youth migration from the Danube region. During the seminar, the results of local and international development analysis focusing on migration trends on the local level as well as a qualitative research of migration trends were presented. Proposals of pilot activities and measures to support the integration of foreigners in the Rača city quarter (such as the creation of One Stop Shops – single contact points for foreigners in Rača) were also presented.

In December 2018, the Nitra municipality approved a project plan of the Nitra Community Foundation which concerns the establishment of the Integration and Community Centre in Nitra aiming to create the first contact point for economic migrants with permanent residence outside of the city. Nitra will thus become the first county town in Slovakia providing comprehensive integration services to foreigners on the local self-government level.

In December 2018, municipal elections took place in Slovakia. Foreigners with permanent or temporary residence in the SR can vote for representatives in self-governing bodies of towns and cities. In this regard, the Slovak Spectator published an article on how foreigners can participate in the elections.

RTVS (Radio and Television of Slovakia) informed via its website and the international channel Slovak International about the municipal elections, the possibility to vote for foreigners, the competences of individual self-government bodies in municipalities and other practical information in several episodes.

Within the Migration Compass project, the Human Rights League prepared a mobilization campaign for foreigners within which the Foreigners' guide to voting in Bratislava video guide was published. It explains how foreigners can vote in municipal elections in Slovakia.

As a part of the same project the Human Rights League also organised two round table discussions in Bratislava on civic participation of foreigners. The participants of the first meeting discussed living and needs of foreigners in Bratislava as well as municipal elections. Outputs are published at the Human Rights League website. The participants of the second meeting shared their ideas and proposals as to more effective integration of foreigners in Bratislava. The meeting resulted in recommendations of participants summarized in three areas: making foreigners in the city more visible, expectations of foreigners from the city/self-government regarding language education and the services beneficial to foreigners living in the city.

Within the INTEGRA project in which five EU countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovakia, Italy) participate, the ETP Slovakia non-profit organisation which is active in the city of Kosice published the City Integration Audit Toolkit which contains the tools for the self-assessment of the city and for recording the progress in long-term integration of foreigners in the city.

In 2018, the implementation of the Kapacity project – the support of migrant integration on the local level – continued. It is implemented by the Human Rights League and the Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture, civic association Marginal, Milan Šimečka foundation and 4 self-governments. In this regard, the Slovak Spectator published an article on how foreigners can vote for representatives in self-governing bodies of towns and cities.

6.4 Improving Awareness on Migration and Non-Discrimination

Regarding the improvement of professional and general public awareness on migration in the SR and the prevention of discrimination, several events were organised, and publications/documents published.

The IOM as the coordinator of the EMN National Contact Point in the SR organized the Migration Caused by Climate Change discussion evening within the EMN Educational Seminar on Migration 2018. The discussion was preceded by a screening of the documentary film Anote's Ark. The discussion participants included Kanta Kumari Rigaud, environmental expert from the World Bank Group, Jeffrey Labovitz from the IOM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa in Kenya, and researcher Alexander At from the Global Change Research Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

The New Stage Theatre in Bratislava in cooperation with the MO Mol SR prepared a play called Domov, kde je ten tvôj? [Home, where is yours?] about refugees. The play is based on the successful novel by Danish author Janne Teller which was translated into several languages and modified into theatre plays for young people in several countries. The aim of the adaptation is to educate and the main, although not exclusive target groups are the students of elementary and secondary schools in Slovakia. The play is followed by a discussion with the audience and the MO Mol SR representatives about various topics related to asylum and migration.
The MIC IOM organised two public discussions in Žilina and Trnava titled *Aj my sme tu doma* [This is our home, too]. The guests from Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia helped the public to understand the cultures of people from various parts of the world. Short movies about stories of foreigners living in Slovakia were also a part of the event.223

In order to build capacities and better prepare the public administration representatives to communicate with the public, the IOM as the coordinator of the EMN National Contact Point in the SR in cooperation with the MO Mol SR organised a *small-scale meeting on addressing the topic of migration to the public.* The aim of the meeting was to discuss the possibilities, methods and strategies of communication with the public when there is hate, aggression or the emergence of conspiracy theories related to migration and refugees. The meeting was organized for the public administration representatives.224 225

As a reaction to the current topics related to asylum and migration which resulted from public discussions, the MO Mol SR published the *Utečenci, migranti, azylanti* [Refugees, migrants, persons granted asylum] informational leaflet. It is for both professional and general public and provides the information necessary for understanding basic migration related terms. Mol SR wants to prevent the misinterpretation of terms such as refugee, asylum seeker or migrant. Apart from the lay public, journalists are one of the target groups as well.226

The IOM in cooperation with MoLSAF SR and the Human Rights League drafted the *“Migration and integration in media – recommendations for journalists”* document aimed at a responsible formation of public opinions on migration and integration. The recommendations for journalists were presented in May 2018 in Bratislava during the EMN working breakfast. Representatives of the MO Mol SR and the Mol SR Committee to prevent and eliminate racism, xenophobia and antisemitism attended the event. The meeting also contained a discussion on the needs and obstacles when communicating these topics and the importance of using correct terms. The recommendations for journalists are available at the EMN in the SR website227.228

The *Uletenci* comic book published by the Human Rights League is another interesting publication intended especially for children (from approx. 10 years of age), young people and their parents, teachers and the public. The book contains five stories of young people from various countries (Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Ethiopia and Iraq) who despite obstacles want to build a new home for themselves in Slovakia.229

In order to fight disinformation, the Slovak Security Policy Institute published the *Teachers against disinformation II.* methodical guidance which loosely follows up on the 2017 *Teachers against disinformation I.* The experts address issues such as myths and facts about migration and basic migration related terms.230

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223 Information provided by IOM Office in the SR.
225 Information provided by the IOM Office in the SR.
In 2018, the SR did not adopt any changes related to citizenship for third-country nationals. From 20 July 2018, Act on Residence of Aliens reintroduced that a stateless person can obtain permanent residence for 5 years, not for an indefinite period of time as before.

### 7.1 Citizenship

Granting and loss of state citizenship of the SR is governed by the Act No. 40/1993 Coll. on the Citizenship of the Slovak Republic. The most recent amendment came into force on 1 January 2019. The decisions on granting and losing the state citizenship are made by the MoI SR.

Citizenship of the SR can be acquired in several ways. If it concerns a child, it is acquired by birth or adoption. If it concerns an adult – a foreigner who is not a Slovak citizen, the citizenship is acquired by naturalization. Citizenship of the SR can be granted to applicant who is not a citizen of the SR and whose uninterrupted permanent residence in the territory of the SR has been at least 8 years preceding the submission of the application for the citizenship of the SR. The citizenship of the SR may be granted earlier than after 8 years of residence, e.g. in cases when the applicant is a spouse of a Slovak citizen or a person granted asylum. The applications for the citizenship of the SR are submitted personally – either at the District Office in the place where the self-governing region resides (at the Department of General Internal Administration) depending on the (last) permanent residence of the applicant in the SR or at a diplomatic mission or a consular of the SR abroad. A citizen of the SR may only have one citizenship granted (apart from several exceptions). If the citizenship was acquired before 17 July 2010, the Act does not apply.

### 7.2 Situation of Stateless Persons

From 20 July 2018, Act on Residence of Aliens reintroduced the law that a stateless person can obtain permanent residence for 5 years, not for an indefinite period of time as before. A stateless person may be granted permanent residence for 5 years as before without fulfilling the conditions defined in the Act if they prove that they do not have a citizenship of the state a) where they were born, b) where their previous domicile or residence was and c) whose citizenship their parents and other family members have.

The fact that a stateless person can be administratively expelled only if their activities threaten state security or public order still applies as well as the fact that the obstacles to administrative expulsion do not apply to them.

The SR is a signatory of the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954) and of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (1961). According to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, a stateless person is “a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law”. The Slovak Act on Residence of Aliens incorporated the definition and is using it.  

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8.1 Statistics and Trends

The SR again recorded a decrease in the number of visas issued. In 2018, it amounted to 28,343 as compared with 43,641 visas in 2017239, 63,553 visas in 2016240 and 76,177 visas in 2015241 (see Table 3 in Annex).242 The ongoing recent decrease is caused in particular by the introduction of the visa-free regime with Ukraine effective from 11 June 2017 for those citizens of Ukraine who are holders of biometric passports243. All types of visas in Slovakia are issued with biometric data.244

8.2 Measures to Control Borders

In 2018 SR has prepared a “National Strategy of Integrated Border Management for 2019 – 2022”245 which serves as a new border control and management plan. This document sets tasks for the SR in the area of building the integrated European border management for the following period.246

In 2018, several measures of border control were adopted in the SR. These concerned especially the implementation of projects within the ISF and practical field measures.

In 2018, the implementation of the Addition and replacement of automotive equipment for the performance of border surveillance at the external land border of the EU in the SR project started247. Its aim is to provide conditions for a more effective performance of the tasks by the border control and border surveillance at the external borders of the Schengen Area. It is also supposed to help effective performance of specific operational, tactical, and police actions in the area of irregular migration by modernising the technical equipment at the Border Control Department of the Police Force in Sobrance (DBFP) and the Emergency Intervention Unit of the Police Force (EUI PF) DBFP Sobrance.248

In 2018, the implementation of the following projects continued in accordance with the National Programme (ISF), specific objective 2 Borders:

- Development of border control capacities by helicopter purchase249
- Purchase of the means of transport for specialized units of Financial Administration250
- Renewal of technical equipment for the second and third lines of documents control251

242 Information provided by BBFP PFP.
243 Regulation (EU) 2017/850 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (Ukraine).
246 Information provided by BBFP PFP.
247 Beneficiary: BBFP PFP.
248 Information provided by FAD EPS MoI SR.
249 The project SK 2015 ISF SC2 NCE A1 is implemented by the beneficiary: Flying Service of the Ministry of Interior of the SR.
250 The project SK 2016 ISF SC2 NCE A2 is implemented by the beneficiary: Financial Directorate of the SR.
251 The project SK 2017 ISF SC2 NCE A2 is implemented by the beneficiary: Criminal Investigation and Expertise Institute of the Police Force.
Further Activities

Regarding the capacity building which aims to improve the necessary level of knowledge and practical experience of BBFP PFP departments, an order of the BBFP PFP Director is issued every year to implement further education of Border and Foreign Police members.

In 2018, the implementation of the Education of Border Control and Alien Police Members in English, Russian, and Ukrainian Languages project under the specific objective 2 Borders also continued.

BBFP PFP in cooperation with the Fire and Rescue Force, MO MoI SR, Slovak Red Cross, and other state and local government authorities participated in the military training Nový Horizont 2018 [New Horizon 2018] which was held at the Biela Hora training ground near Michalovec in the Eastern part of Slovakia between 10 and 12 July 2018 and focused on capacity building and practical field work. It has been organised by the Ministry of Defence of the SR since 2015 in cooperation with other institutions (see 4.2.6).

8.3 Cooperation with Third Countries on Border Control

Operational cooperation between the operational and search border unit of Ukraine and the National Unit to Combat Irregular Migration (NUCIM BBFP PF) was ongoing in 2018 based on the Plan of Development of Cooperation between the BBFP and the State Border Service of Ukraine for 2017 – 2018 (hereinafter the Plan 2017 – 2018).

In 2018, a meeting of chief border plenipotentiaries of Slovakia and Ukraine took place within the cooperation between the BBFP PFP and the State Border Service of Ukraine. The meeting focused on evaluating the situation along the Slovak-Ukraine state border. Fulfilling the commitments stemming from bilateral and international agreements regarding the state borders was underlined. Both countries strive to use the border and plenipotentiary activities to maintain and deepen bilateral relations in order to strengthen integrated security along the Slovak-Ukraine state border and to prevent irregular migration.

Regarding the fulfilment of measures stemming from the Plan 2017 – 2018, several expert meetings were organised in the SR and Ukraine. These focused e.g. on common evaluation of mutual information exchange regarding irregular migration statistics, joint evaluation of threats posed by irregular migration in 2018 along the Slovak-Ukraine state border as well as the exchange of statistical and analytical information. Operational cooperation of partner departments concerned mainly the exchange of information about breaches along the Slovak-Ukraine state border and about the open cases of the crimes of smuggling and human trafficking.

A new Plan of Development of Cooperation between the BBFP PFP and the State Border Service of Ukraine for 2019 – 2020 was signed in 2018 to deepen the cooperation with Ukraine and intensify development.

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Macedonia on the Creation of Joint Patrols in the Republic of Macedonia Territory within the Joint Operations and Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Interior of the Serb Republic on Joint Patrols in the Serb Republic Territory within the Joint Operations concluded in 2016, the SR deployed 60 police officers to Macedonia and 40 police officers to Serbia in 2018.
In 2018, the SR did not record a significant increase in the number of irregular migration cases. As in 2017, the development of irregular migration in the territory of the SR was influenced especially by irregular migration of the nationals of the closest third countries – Ukraine and Serbia again in 2018. Regarding the efforts to increase the level and effectivity of detecting forged and altered documents, the SR adopted several measures related especially to capacity building. The SR strengthened the cooperation with Czech Republic in combating smuggling; negotiations about the new agreement on police cooperation took place. In order to make prevention and capacity building in cooperation with third countries more effective, the SR hosted the experts from Azerbaijan within the Mobilaze project.

9.1 Statistics and Trends

The SR again recorded a relatively low irregular migration rate. In 2018, the number of cases of irregular migration increased only slightly (2,819 as compared to 2,706 in 2017). Regarding the number of cases of unauthorized state border crossing: the percentage ratio as compared to previous year increased by 40% but the total number of cases in 2018 was 348 (as compared to 248 in 2017). These mostly concerned the nationals of Vietnam (168), Ukraine (60) and Turkey (27). Unauthorized residence in the territory of the SR was detected in 2,471 cases of which 1,873 were Ukrainian nationals. Out of the overall number of detected irregular migration cases in 2018 (2,819), 1,934 concerned Ukrainian nationals, 207 Serbian nationals and 201 Vietnamese nationals. In 2018, the law enforcement authorities detained 152 persons on suspicion of smuggling. (See Tables 4 and 5 in Annex for smuggling related statistical data).261

9.2 Measures to Prevent Misuse of Legal Migration Channels

9.2.1 Forged or Altered Travel Documents

During 2018, new measures in order to increase the effectiveness of identifying false and altered documents were prepared for the year 2019. These were related to replacement of technical equipment for document examination. New measures also included enhancing theoretical and practical knowledge in the area of forged and altered document identification. These were especially profiling courses, pre-dispatch preparation for document consultants, specialised training focused on current trends in document forgery and alteration, specialised internships for second-line police officers in the specialised workplace of the BBFP PFP.262

9.3 The Fight Against Smuggling and Prevention of Irregular Migration

9.3.1 The Fight Against Smuggling

In 2018, negotiations between the SR and the Czech Republic on concluding a new agreement regarding police cooperation took place; this cooperation would focus on the response to the new phenomena in cross-border criminal activity, mainly in the areas of irregular migration and combating property and drug crime. As part of this cooperation, information exchange between the SR and the Czech Republic is to be enhanced along with capacity building and common educational activities for the Slovak and Czech Police.263

9.3.2 Cooperation with Third Countries in the Prevention of Irregular Migration

In 2018, SR within the Mobilaze project264 focused on the implementation of mobility partnership with Azerbaijan, welcomed in Bratislava in June 2018 experts from Azerbaijan coming for a study visit regarding document security. The MO MoI SR as the partner of the MOBILAZE project organised the study visit in cooperation with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).265

9.3.3 Monitoring and Identification of Irregular Migration Routes

In 2018, BBFP PFP did not introduce any new forms or methods of monitoring or identifying irregular migration routes. In terms of irregular migration route monitoring and trafficking at

261 Information provided by BBFP PFP and DFEA MIO.
262 Information provided by BBFP PFP.
264 The implementation partner of the project is the MO MoI SR.
the territory of the SR, a significant decrease in irregular migration pressure at the crossing from Hungary to Slovakia was observed in 2018. Other routes of irregular migration and trafficking at the territory of the SR remain unchanged.266

266 Information provided by BBFP FPF.

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Trafficking in Human Beings

In November 2018, the Government of the SR approved the fifth National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2019 – 2023. Its main aim is to introduce a coordinated system to limit the trafficking in human beings. The national programme includes the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2019 – 2023 specifying 21 tasks for the individual stakeholders in the areas of prevention, protection, investigation, and cooperation. In December 2018, the new regulation of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic No. 144/2018 on the Provision of Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking Programme came into force. In relation to third-country nationals or stateless persons, it specifies the processes of aiding assisted voluntary return of human trafficking victims and unaccompanied minors who were placed into the human trafficking victims support and protection programme.

From December 2018, the SR also created the conditions for non-problematic healthcare provision to human trafficking victims with unpaid public health insurance. In 2018, the SR cooperated with Serbia in the prevention of labour exploitation and human trafficking of their citizens in Slovakia. Since September 2018, there was a change in the provider of the free-of-charge National Human Trafficking Victims Helpline 0800 800 818, which became the Slovak Catholic Charity non-governmental organisation. The Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic updated the leaflet for self-identification by human trafficking victims which is available in 6 languages (Slovak, Ukrainian, Romanian, Roma, Chinese, English). In 2018, there were no human trafficking victims from abroad, i.e. from third countries, identified in Slovakia.
10.1 Statistics and Trends

There was one TCN272 identified as a human trafficking victim in Slovakia in 2018 (see Table 10 in Annex).244 In 2018, the members of NUCIM BBFP PFP in cooperation with the National Labour Inspectorate and COLSASF continued in their regular common inspections of business entities to identify illegal labour, illegal employment, and potential human trafficking victims (see 3.4).267

In 2018, based on the statistical data of the ISAD PFP, General Prosecutor’s Office of the SR and MJ SR, a total of 53 persons were arrested as suspicious in relation to the crime of trafficking273, 8 persons were sentenced (see Table 11 in Annex).277

10.2 Legislation, Policies and International Monitoring

On 6 November 2018, the Government of the SR272 approved the fifth National Programme to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2019 – 2023. Its main aim is to introduce a coordinated system to limit the trafficking in human beings. Its focus is to enhance the existing tools verified by years of practice and to introduce new tools to combat human trafficking, which will respond to the new trends in this type of criminal activity273.

The national programme includes the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2019 – 2023 specifying the tasks for the individual stakeholders in the areas of prevention, protection, investigation, and cooperation.274 It includes a total of 21 tasks whose necessity resulted from practice as well as the relevant EU standards. They also reflect the recommendations of the monitoring mechanisms pertaining to the Council of Europe (Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings) or the US (TIP – Trafficking in Persons Report).275 According to the last TIP Report published annually by the US Department of State the SR is eight time among the Tier 1 states; i.e. among countries which fully meet the minimum standards for elimination of human trafficking in 2018. The US Department of State recommends in the Report to enhance investigation, prosecution, and conviction of traffickers. It points to insufficient identification of foreign human trafficking victims, inadequate legal assistance for human trafficking victims and lack of their protection from prosecution for crimes which they committed as a result of being subjected to trafficking.276

On 10 December 2018 the new regulation of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic No. 144/2018 on the Provision of Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking Programme came into force. In relation to TCNs or stateless persons, it specifies the processes of aiding assisted voluntary return of human trafficking victims and unaccompanied minors who were placed into the human trafficking victims support and protection programme.277

10.3 Identification of Third-Country Victims, Provision of Information and Support

In 2018, IC Mol SR updated the leaflet on self-identification for human trafficking victims in six languages (Slovak, Ukrainian, Romanian, Roma, Chinese, English)278, which was distributed among workers and foreigners in reception, accommodation, and detention centres. It was also distributed in places where they came into contact with authorities, specifically the FPDs.279

In cooperation with the Serbian national coordinator for combating human trafficking, the SR distributed information materials (in the Serbian language) regarding employing Serbian nationals in Slovakia to the Serbian national institutions in 2018279,280.

Further activities (including those in 10.4) did not focus specifically on the target group of human trafficking victims who are TCNs. As some of them are of a general nature/can be applied and used for all victims of human trafficking regardless of their nationality, a summary of some of them follows:

Since September 2018, there was a change in the provider of the free-of-charge National Human Trafficking Victims Helpline 0800 800 818 which became the Slovak Catholic Charity non-governmental organisation.281 Information helpline on human trafficking and safe travel was provided in 2018 also by IOM.282

In 2018, the IC Mol SR continued the campaign entitled Dobré rady pred vycestovaním za prácu do zahraničia [Good advice before travelling abroad for work] in cooperation with regional EU-Ropean Employment Services (EURES) posts at labour offices across Slovakia.283 The IC Mol SR

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267 Summary statistical data on human trafficking victims in Slovakia for 2018 were not available at the time of drafting this report.
268 Information provided by IC Mol SR.
269 Information provided by NUCIM BBFP PFP.
271 Information provided by DFEA MIO.
274 Information provided by NUCIM BBFP PFP and IC Mol SR.
277 Information provided by IC Mol SR.
10. Trafficking in human beings

In March 2018 in a short film competition on the topic of modern slavery (Unchosen Modern Slavery Film Competition), the Slovak film entitled Ivan received the “Best international film on modern slavery” award. The film, created by a non-governmental organisation connected to the Slovak Catholic Charity, presents the authentic testimony of Ivan, a victim of human trafficking. After terrible experiences in Slovenia where he was exploited for forced labour, he was liberated and returned home to Slovakia.

In 2018, BBFP PFP organised a specialised re-qualification course for the NUCIM BBFP PFP members from the operational and search unit with the aim of learning how to apply the generally applicable rules and experience on prevention and assistance possibilities and following procedures.

10.4 Raising Awareness and Improving Professional Skills

Courses, Trainings and Manuals

In 2018, BBFP PFP organised a specialised re-qualification course for the NUCIM BBFP PFP members from the operational and search unit with the aim of learning how to apply the generally applicable rules and experience on prevention and assistance possibilities and following procedures.

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In March 2018, the IOM organised five basic and advanced teacher trainings in Trnava, Liptovský Mikuláš, Piešťany, Poprad and Banská Bystrica. A further 96 experts were trained who work with groups at risk in their practice: prevention staff from the Police Force, social workers, EU-RES counsellors, professional employees of foster homes, educational-psychological counselling and prevention centres and other employees from various Slovak cities. Using the information obtained in the training, the updated training manual Human Trafficking Prevention and updated SAFE Travel & Work Abroad smartphone application they can now better prevent human trafficking of individuals or groups. The application is available at Google Play and App Store as well as on the www.safe.iom.sk website.

DBFPs in Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, and Sobrance, who come into contact with TCNs, about identification of human trafficking victims, and about an obligation to inform them on the assistance possibilities and following procedures.

In 2018, IC MoI SR organised training sessions for several professional groups as a part of national reference mechanism development. Their aim was to deepen the knowledge and build capacity regarding human trafficking and to develop a national reference mechanism in such a way as to adequately help the victims and efficiently facilitate detecting crimes of human trafficking. To achieve this aim, teachers from elementary, special needs, vocational and grammar schools and employees from re-education centres and centres for educational-psychological counselling and prevention who are responsible for the prevention of crime at schools were present at the training sessions (a total of 90 people).

In March 2018, the IOM organised five basic and advanced teacher trainings in Trnava, Liptovský Mikuláš, Piešťany, Poprad and Banská Bystrica. A further 96 experts were trained who work with groups at risk in their practice: prevention staff from the Police Force, social workers, EU-RES counsellors, professional employees of foster homes, educational-psychological counselling and prevention centres and other employees from various Slovak cities. Using the information obtained in the training, the updated training manual Human Trafficking Prevention and updated SAFE Travel & Work Abroad smartphone application they can now better prevent human trafficking of individuals or groups. The application is available at Google Play and App Store as well as on the www.safe.iom.sk website.

In terms of international police cooperation in 2018, NUCIM BBFP PFP attended multiple operational meetings with police forces of neighbouring and third countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom) as well as the annual police conference of the Slovak National Police. They attended the police conference in Poland and discussed cooperation issues and methods to detect and prevent human trafficking in Slovakia. The police conference was attended by representatives of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak National Police, the Ministry of内饰ory of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of the Interior of the Hungarian Republic, the Ministry of the Interior of the Polish Republic and the Ministry of the Interior of the United Kingdom. The representatives discussed the methods and possibilities of cooperation in the prevention and detection of human trafficking in Slovakia and the region. The representatives agreed that they would continue their cooperation and would discuss the possibilities of cooperation in the prevention and detection of human trafficking in Slovakia and the region.

293  Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGEX9dPwQtU&feature=youtu.be (consulted on 22/01/2019).
298  Information provided by NUCIM BBFP PFP.
300  Information provided by IC MoI SR.
303  Information provided by IC MoI SR.
306  Available at: https://www.cvek.sk/okruhly-stol-k-teme-pracovnej-migracie-z-ukrajiny/ (consulted on 28/03/2019).
307  Available at: https://www.cvek.sk/okruhly-stol-k-teme-pracovnej-migracie-z-ukrajiny/ (consulted on 28/03/2019).
309  Information provided by IC MoI SR.
310  Information provided by IC MoI SR.
311  Available at: https://www.cvek.sk/okruhly-stol-k-teme-pracovnej-migracie-z-ukrajiny/ (consulted on 28/03/2019).
312  Available at: https://www.cvek.sk/okruhly-stol-k-teme-pracovnej-migracie-z-ukrajiny/ (consulted on 28/03/2019).
313  Available at: https://www.cvek.sk/okruhly-stol-k-teme-pracovnej-migracie-z-ukrajiny/ (consulted on 28/03/2019).
315  Information provided by IC MoI SR.
10. Trafficking in human beings

gary, Ukraine) when operational information potentially leading to identification of human trafficking was available.308

During 2018, MO MoI SR regularly participated in posting national experts to EASO Asylum Support Teams with the aim to provide information to persons applying for asylum in EU MS. While informing them, vulnerable persons were also identified i.e. also persons who might have been human trafficking victims.309

Through NUCIM BBFP PFP, the SR also participated in the EUROPOL Joint Action Days held in May 2018 on labour exploitation, in July 2018 on sexual exploitation of children and in September 2018 on sexual exploitation as such. The action days focus on individual forms of exploitation and their aim is also to conduct checks of business entities in Slovakia in order to detect crimes of human trafficking and identify the victims of such trafficking.310

10.5.2 Cooperation with Third Countries

In 2018, the SR cooperated with the Republic of Serbia in the prevention of labour exploitation and human trafficking of their citizens in Slovakia (see 10.3).

In May 2018 in Belgrade, the SR participated in a multidisciplinary seminar organised by the Council of Europe on supranational cooperation in prevention of and combating human trafficking. Five experts from the countries of origin pertaining to the foreign victims identified in Serbia and possible exploitation countries of Serbian victims, specifically Albania, Austria, SR, Slovenia, and Macedonia, informed the participants about specific cases and verified procedures in the area.311 The participants heard about the cooperation of the SR with the Republic of Serbia and they were also notified about the information materials published by the Slovak and Serbian embassies with the aim of preventing possible illegal employment of TCNs in Slovakia.312 The seminar was attended by representatives of state authorities including police, diplomatic, and consular officers, social workers as well as civic society stakeholders, and international organisations.313

The Embassy of the US in cooperation with the Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic organised a training session on Tackling the crime of human trafficking in May 2018. The topics included the categorisation of human trafficking cases, their severity, working with victims during the criminal proceedings, and investigation of human trafficking in the context of joint investigation teams creation. The training session was intended for judges, higher court officers, prosecutors and investigators investigating the crimes of human trafficking. The session was led by a US judge and prosecutor.314

In 2018, the SR did not participate in any joint investigation teams with third countries.315

308 Information provided by NUCIM BBFP PFP.
309 Information provided by MO MoI SR.
310 Information provided by NUCIM BBFP PFP.
311 Source: https://www.minv.sk/?aktuality-obchodovanie-s-ludmi&sprava=multidisciplinarny-seminar-o-nadnarodnej-spolupravci-v-preven-
cici-a-boji-proti-obchodovaniu-s-ludmi (consulted on 22/01/2019).
312 Information provided by IC MoI SR.
313 Source: https://www.minv.sk/?aktuality-obchodovanie-s-ludmi&sprava=multidisciplinarny-seminar-o-nadnarodnej-spolupravci-v-preven-
cici-a-boji-proti-obchodovaniu-s-ludmi (consulted on 22/01/2019).
314 Information provided by NUCIM BBFP PFP.
315 Information provided by NUCIM BBFP PFP.

11. Return and Readmissions

In 2018, the number of returns from the territory of the SR slightly increased but there was no significant change in trends. Regarding forced returns, the implementation of the project in compliance with the National AMIF Programme continued. Since 2018, the SR has started to systematically send fingerprints to SIS II after removing initial technical obstacles. Regarding the assisted voluntary returns and reintegration programme implemented by IOM a new website for those interested and for applicants for assisted voluntary returns was prepared.

11.1 Statistics and Trends

In 2018, the SR recorded a slight increase of the number of returns from the SR. However, it is not a change in the trend yet. In 2018, the SR returned 430 persons within the forced return measures, 1,667 persons chose voluntary return (especially Ukrainians) while 80 migrants used assisted voluntary return through IOM (see Table 6 in Annex).316

11.2 Forced Returns

In accordance with the National AMIF Programme and its specific objective 3 Return, implementation of the following projects focused on quick, sustainable, and effective return continued in 2018:317

316 Information provided by BBFP PFP and the IOM Office in the SR.
317 Information provided by FAD EPS MoI SR.
In 2018 monitoring of forced returns was performed in the same way as before, however, from 1 March 2018, a change in financing of the monitoring-related costs was made. Persons performing monitoring do so based on a “performance contract” and the costs are funded from the MoI SR budget.321

Since 2017, the SR has been preparing to systematically send fingerprints to SIS II. Before they were provided on an ad hoc basis. However, after creating technical conditions for inserting data on a national level sending of data was postponed to 2018 due to technical issues in the SIS II central system (related to inserting the NIST format). After removing the technical issues in the SIS II central system and based on the agreement with the SIRENE national central office, systematic sending of fingerprints into SIS II started on 24 April 2018.322

11.3 Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration

In 2018, the SR again implemented assisted voluntary returns (AVR) through the IOM project entitled Voluntary return and reintegration in the country of origin following the previous projects (see Table 6 in Annex).323

In 2018, IOM Bratislava began developing a new website for persons interested in and applying for AVR into their country of origin. The website will provide contacts, information on return services provided, target groups, and frequently asked questions regarding voluntary return. Within the project an increase in the percentage of migrants who were not detected by the Foreign Police or stayed outside of the MoI SR centres was detected. From 2010 to 2017, this number represented 20% of the total number of migrants returned at maximum. In 2018, the number rose to 51%.324

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Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on Social and Legal Protection of Children and on Social Guardianship and on changes and amendments to some acts.
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The Annex contains selected migration and international protection statistics for 2018 which are not collected at EU level through Eurostat325 or Frontex agency326.

National statistics for Slovakia are available mainly in the annual statistical overviews of BBFP PFP327 (legal and irregular migration, returns), annual statistical reports of MO Mol SR328 (international protection including UAMs applying for asylum), statistics of COLSAF329(employment of foreigners, UAMs not applying for asylum), MoFEA SR330(visa) and SO SR331 (demographic data and international protection). Summary of the basic statistical data on migration and international protection in Slovakia provide annual EMN Country Factsheet332 or the website of the IOM Office in the SR333.

### Table 1: First residence permits issued by the Slovak Republic to third-country nationals in 2018 by reason334 and gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Family formation and reunification (family reasons)</th>
<th>Education and study</th>
<th>Remunerated activities</th>
<th>Other335</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>20 989</td>
<td>2 902</td>
<td>2 324</td>
<td>13 956</td>
<td>1 807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BBFP PFP. Note: Data are processed in a way and in line with subdivision as provided to Eurostat according to Regulation (EC) No. 1004/2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection, as regards the definitions of categories of the reasons for the residence permits and are divided into four categories:

1. Family formation and reunification, 2. Education and study, 3. Remunerated activities, and 4. Other reasons.

Reasons for issuing residence are in accordance with the respective EU legislation (Commission Regulation (EU) No. 216/2010 of 15 March 2010 implementing Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community statistics on migration and international protection, as regards the definitions of categories of the reasons for the residence permits) and are divided into four categories:

1. Family formation and reunification, 2. Education and study, 3. Remunerated activities, and 4. Other reasons.

National types of reasons for residence permits are divided into these four categories.

Annex: National Statistics

Reason of Residence

Female : : : : :

Total 2 902 2 324 13 956 1 807

Male : : : : :

Female : : : : :

Total 13 956 1 807
This data can, however, slightly differ from official data for 2018 to be processed and validated in April/May 2019 and subsequently provided to Eurostat.

Table 2: Administrative fees of applications for residence permits in the SR in 2018 by type, purpose and length of the residence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and purpose of residence</th>
<th>Maximum length of the residence (in months)</th>
<th>Cost of the permit (in EUR)*</th>
<th>Cost of the permit at the Slovak diplomatic mission</th>
<th>Fee for the issuance of the residence card**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temporary residence for the purpose of family reunification (Directive 2003/86)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>132.50 EUR</td>
<td>135 EUR</td>
<td>4.50 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary residence for the purpose of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service (Directive 2004/114)</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>0 EUR (for the purpose of studies)</td>
<td>0 EUR (for the purpose of studies)</td>
<td>4.50 EUR (for the purpose of studies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term residence (Directive 2003/119)</td>
<td>Indefinite period</td>
<td>165.50 EUR</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.50 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary residence for the purpose of scientific research (Directive 2005/71)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0 EUR</td>
<td>0 EUR</td>
<td>4.50 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary residence for the purpose of highly qualified employment (EU Blue Card) (Directive 2009/50)</td>
<td></td>
<td>165.50 EUR</td>
<td>170 EUR</td>
<td>4.50 EUR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Type and purpose of residence | Maximum length of the residence (in months) | Cost of the permit at the police department | Cost of the permit at the Slovak diplomatic mission | Fee for the issuance of the residence card** |

Temporary residence for the purpose of seasonal employment (Directive 2014/36) | 6 (180 days) | 33 EUR | 35 EUR | 4.50 EUR |
Temporary residence for the purpose of intra-corporate transfer (Directive 2014/66) | 36 | - | - | - |
Tolerated stay for victims of human trafficking (Directive 2004/81) | 6 (180 days) | 0 EUR | 0 EUR | 0 EUR |
Temporary residence for the purpose of employment – single permit to reside and work (Directive 2011/98) | 60 | 165.50 EUR | 170 EUR | 4.50 EUR |
Other national permits | - | - | - | - |

Source: BBFP PFP.
*The fees listed in the table are based on the Act No. 145/1995 Coll. on Administrative Fees.
**Residence card cost is paid in all above-mentioned applications for residence irrespective of place of their submission (FPD PF or diplomatic mission of the Slovak Republic). The cost is in both cases paid at the FPD PF.
Table 3: Visas issued by the Slovak Republic to third-country nationals in 2018 by type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visa</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>(Schengen) short stay visas (A and C and LTV types of visa)</th>
<th>National visas (D type of visa)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>28,343</td>
<td>25,681</td>
<td>2,662</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MoFEA SR (based on the Microcomp data from the NMS system).
* Out of the total number, MoI SR issued 26 visas.

Note: Number of visas issued may differ from data contained in the BBFP PFP’s publication Statistical Overview of Regular and Irregular Migration in the Slovak Republic in 2018. At the time of publishing of the overview, the number of processed visas in the system did not have to mirror the printed, i.e. issued visas.

Explanations:
- A type of visa – airport transit visa
- C type of visa – tourist visa
- D type of visa – national visa
- LTV visa – visa with limited territorial validity

Table 4: Smuggled persons in the SR – selected indicators in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Third-country nationals identified as smuggled persons</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>:</td>
<td>:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection periods provided to smuggled persons</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence permits granted to smuggled persons</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BBFP PFP.

Table 5: Smugglers in the SR – selected indicators in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Smugglers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrested as suspects / criminally prosecuted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>152*/99**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convicted under Art. 355 of new Criminal Code No. 300/2005 Coll.</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convicted under Art. 356 of new Criminal Code No. 300/2005 Coll.</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convicted under Art. 171a of old Criminal Code No. 140/1961 Coll. (by nature of criminal offence)</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BBFP PFP, General Prosecutor’s Office of the SR and Ministry of Justice of the SR.

* The total number of persons suspected from the criminal offence of migrant smuggling.
** The number of persons indicted on charges of migrant smuggling (out of the total number). In 2018, 82 persons were prosecuted in custody.

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336. According to the Art. 355 and Art. 356 of the Act No. 300/2005 Coll. Criminal Code, smuggling is defined as follows:
§ 355: Any person who organises illegal crossing of the state border of the SR, or a transfer through its territory, for a person who is neither a citizen of the SR nor a person with permanent residence in the territory of the SR, or who enables such activity or aids and abets it with the intention of obtaining financial or other material benefit.
§ 356: Any person who, with the intention of obtaining financial or other material benefit for himself or another either directly or indirectly, enables or helps a person, who is neither a citizen of the SR or of another EU MS or a citizen of a contracting state of the Agreement on the EEA nor a person with permanent residence in the territory of the Slovak Republic, to stay or get an illegal job in the territory of the SR or of other EU MS or a contracting state of the Agreement on the EEA, shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of two to eight years.
Table 6: Third-country nationals returned from the SR in 2018 by type, nationality and country of return

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Returned as part of forced return measures*</th>
<th>Returned voluntarily (incl. AVR)**</th>
<th>Returned voluntarily within the AVR Programme</th>
<th>Reintegrated within AVR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Nationalities

1. Ukraine (155)
2. Vietnam (163)
3. Serbia (23)
4. Turkey (18)
5. Afghanistan/Iraq (18)

The indicated list of countries is not exhaustive.

Top Countries of Return

1. Ukraine
2. Serbia
3. Macedonia
4. Albania/Afghanistan/Moldova
5. Georgia

The indicated list of countries is not exhaustive.

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Source: BBFP PFP and IOM Office in the SR.

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Table 7: Third-country nationals relocated to the SR in 2018 by gender, country of origin and EU Member State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Minor</th>
<th>Country of origin of relocated TCNs</th>
<th>Relocations made from EU Member State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: MO MoI SR.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8: Third-country nationals resettled to the Slovak Republic in 2018 by original hosting country and gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original hosting country/gender</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MO MoI SR.

Note: SR carries out through its territory resettlement activities to other third countries (see Chapter 4). Program humanitarian transfer of refugees through the territory of the SR is carried out based on trilateral agreement between the Slovak Government, UNHCR and IOM.

Table 9: Unaccompanied minors in the Slovak Republic in 2018 by legal status and gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied minors not applying for asylum</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MO MoI SR and COLSAF.
Annex: National Statistics

Table 10: Human trafficking victims from third countries in the SR – selected indicators in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TCNs presumed to be victims of trafficking in human beings (identified victims)(^{339})</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 years of age or more</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 18 years of age</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form of exploitation(^{340})</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual exploitation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour exploitation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship (top 3 countries)</td>
<td>Confidential data</td>
<td>Confidential data</td>
<td>Confidential data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCNs identified as victims of trafficking in human beings (presumed victims)(^{341})</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 years of age or more</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 18 years of age</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form of exploitation(^{342})</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual exploitation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour exploitation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection periods granted*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BBFP PFP and Information Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Crime Prevention of the MoI SR.

\(^{339}\) Identified victims are those who have been formally identified by the relevant authority (i.e. the national person/body authorised to formally identify victims).

\(^{340}\) More than one form of exploitation may be associated with each victim, therefore the statistics presented in this section may not necessarily agree with the overall totals entered above.

\(^{341}\) Presumed victims are persons who fulfil the definition of victim of trafficking in human being, as outlined in Directive 2011/36/EU, but whom have not been formally identified by the relevant authorities (i.e. the national person/body authorised to formally identify victims).

\(^{342}\) More than one form of exploitation may be associated with each victim, therefore the statistics presented in this section may not necessarily agree with the overall totals entered above.

Table 11: Traffickers of human beings in the SR – selected indicators in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Traffickers of human beings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrested as suspects/prosecuted in custody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>53/26*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: BBFP PFP, General Prosecutor’s Office of the SR and Ministry of Justice of the SR.

\(^{*}\) 53 persons were listed as arrested as suspected of given criminal charges in 2018; 26 persons were prosecuted for trafficking in human beings in custody in 2018.

\(^{**}\) According to the § 179 of the Criminal Code No. 300/2005 Coll. According to the old Criminal Code there was no person convicted in 2018.