



COUNTRY FACTSHEET: SLOVENIA 2016

EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK

1. Introduction

This EMN Country Factsheet provides a factual overview of the main policy developments in migration and international protection in Slovenia during 2016, including latest statistics.

2. International Protection including Asylum

A new **International Protection Act (IPA)**¹ was adopted to transpose the [recast Reception Conditions Directive \(2013/33/EU\)](#) and the [recast Asylum Procedures Directive \(2013/32/EU\)](#) into Slovenian legislation. The Act also introduced the adjustments needed for Slovenia to comply with the [Dublin III Regulation](#).

Concerning the area of **asylum procedures**, the Slovenian Government adopted a **Decree on Safe Countries of Origin**. The Decree requires the Ministry of the Interior to regularly examine the situation in the concerned countries. If the situation in one of the countries considered as safe deteriorates, then the Ministry can propose its removal from the list.

Back in 2015, the Government approved a **Contingency Plan** to provide accommodation and care to applicants for international protection in situations of high influx. The Plan defined the scenarios, goals, necessary measures and authorities responsible for responding to a situation characterised by an increase in the number of asylum applications. The implementation of the Contingency Plan, including the commencement of **relocation** activities, was launched in March 2016.

The Ministry of Interior also developed an Executive Plan, which established a series of measures for all the steps in the process – reception upon arrival, decision on the status, provision of basic procedural safeguards, accommodation and integration into the Slovenian society). The first group of people arrived in May 2016. Up to the beginning of 2017, 124 persons had been relocated in Slovenia, which accounts for 22% of the 567 places pledged.

3. Unaccompanied Minors and other Vulnerable Groups

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia decided that **unaccompanied minors** had to be provided with separate and safe accommodation in students' homes. Attention to their particular vulnerability and their needs is compulsory. As a pilot project, the two student homes located in Postojna and Nova Gorica were used for this purpose between 1st June 2016 and 31st July 2017.

The adoption of the new IPA brought about important changes in relation to the treatment of unaccompanied minor and other vulnerable groups. More generally, the IPA enhanced the guarantees available for **vulnerable persons with special needs**. The competent authorities are now required to examine their asylum applications with due priority (including those of unaccompanied minors). In situations where a vulnerable person receives an order restricting his/her freedom of movement, the authorities should ensure that their health – including their mental health – is protected and guarantee regular monitoring of the situation and the provision of assistance to meet the person's special needs.

At the practical level, an agreement was signed in January 2016 with a psychiatrist for the provision of counselling to applicants for international protection accommodated in the Asylum Centre and its branches.

¹ IPA - ZMZ-1, Off.G. RS no. 22/16

Once a month the psychiatrist held a training course for professionals working in the centres, so that these could identify, assess and deal with any vulnerabilities more easily. In case of emergency, the psychiatrist was available 24 hours a day to offer psychiatric care and treatment, and assess the need for hospitalisation if applicable.

4. Legal Migration and Mobility

4.1 ECONOMIC MIGRATION

No relevant changes reported in 2016.

4.2 FAMILY REUNIFICATION

No relevant changes reported in 2016.

4.3 MANAGING MIGRATION AND MOBILITY²

In 2016, Slovenia continued implementing the partial **outsourcing** of its visa application procedures to external services or **visa facilitation application procedures (VFS)**. This contributed to increase the accessibility of visa-related services and the number of visa applications processes for business visitors, tourists and other short-term stays by third-country nationals. Cooperation with outsourcing partners was extended to Turkey, and six additional locations of VSF were launched.

The **Visa Information System (VIS)** was deployed to all diplomatic consular representations and border crossing points of Slovenia. The European Communication Network "**VisMail**" was also activated to enable the communication amongst the representations and with the relevant central bodies with a high level of information and data security.

Slovenia launched its preparatory activities to enable the performance of vulnerability assessments to ascertain the capacity to face threats and challenges at the external borders in accordance with Article 13 of the [European Border and Coast Guard Regulation \(2016/1624/EU\)](#). Slovenia volunteered for the pilot vulnerability assessment, which is due to be done by end September 2017.

5. Integration

The IPA also introduced changes in the field of integration. The Government Office for Support and Integration of migrants is now required to cover the costs related to the **recognition and assessment of qualifications** in cases when a beneficiary of international protection is not able to provide documentary proof of their formal education. The Office also funds the costs of participation three years after the status is granted in general education and primary school.

² "Managing migration and mobility" refers to the following themes: visa policy, Schengen governance and border monitoring.

Beneficiaries include people who do not have their own means of subsistence or people who have not received subsistence in another way.

More generally, in 2016 efforts were made to ensure that beneficiaries of international protection received "literacy assistance" to ensure that they acquired a functional understanding of Slovenian, and that children were able to quickly integrate into the Slovenian education system.

6. External Dimension of EU Migration Policy

Slovenia continued to cooperate with countries along the **Western Balkan route** with a view to coordinate activities to tackle irregular migration.

7. Irregular Migration and Return

7.1 THE FIGHT AGAINST FACILITATION OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION

A number of important investments were made in 2016 to enhance the capacity of Slovenia to control its borders:

- ★ The EUROSUR national Business Manual, which defined the allocation of responsibilities for operating the system within the Slovenian Police, was finalised and implemented.
- ★ The national Passenger Information Unit for the processing of Passenger Name Record (PNR) and Advance Passenger Information (API) data was set up.
- ★ New border control equipment was purchased and installed at border crossing points.

Other relevant developments concerned the presentation of a proposal to amend the 'State Border Control Act' and the negotiation of the amendments to the Aliens Act, which were eventually adopted by the Parliament in January 2017. New provisions (Articles 10a, 10b) of the Aliens Act also contain legal acts in case of the sudden arrival of large numbers of asylum seekers or irregular migrants into Slovenia. However, the new provisions are currently under the assessment of the Constitutional Court but their implementation is not banned during the assessment phase of the latter.

7.3 RETURN OF IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

No relevant changes reported in 2016.

8. Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings

In 2016 the Slovenian Government approved the **Manual on the Identification of, Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings** developed by a group of subject matter specialists. The manual describes the referral protocol for victims of trafficking and the setting up of a Multidisciplinary Working Body (MWB) for each trafficked victim. It defines the term trafficking in human beings, the role and tasks of state authorities, bodies exercising public powers, public service providers, bodies of self-governing local communities and non-governmental and humanitarian organisations in dealing with trafficking in human beings, and it also determines victim assistance and protection measures. In addition, the Manual contains indicators for identifying various forms of human trafficking, such as trafficking for labour exploitation purposes, forced labour and trafficking in children. The Manual also constitutes the basic training material for state authorities that encounter such issues in the course of their work.

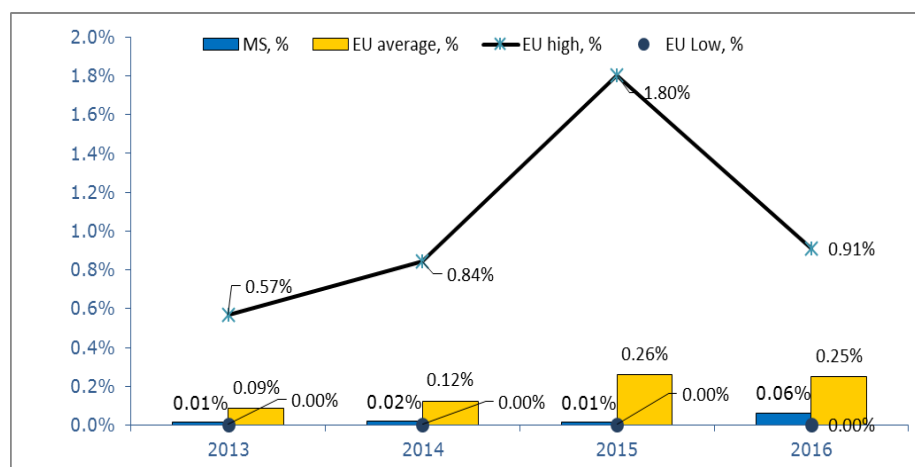
STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Slovenia on aspects of migration and asylum (2012-2016), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as "N/A".

Statistical Annex: Migration and Asylum in Slovenia (2013-2016)

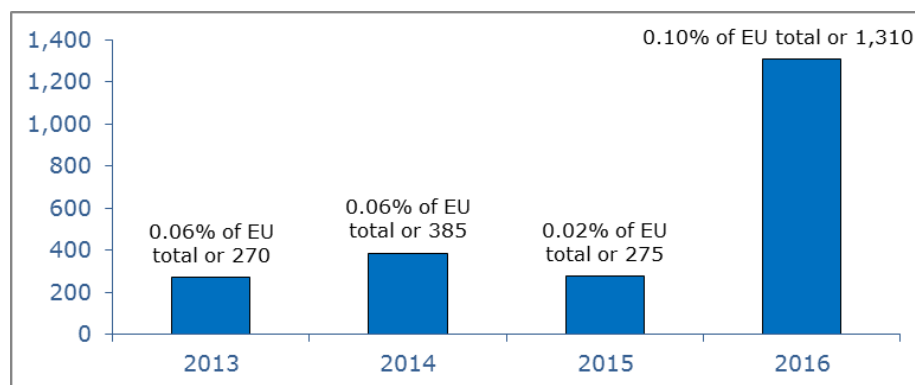
1. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ASYLUM

Figure 1: Asylum applications as a share of the total population in Slovenia, EU average and EU high and low (2013-2016)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 03/08/2017

Figure 2: Number of asylum applications and as a share of the total number of applications in the EU (2013-2016)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#))³, data extracted 03/08/2017

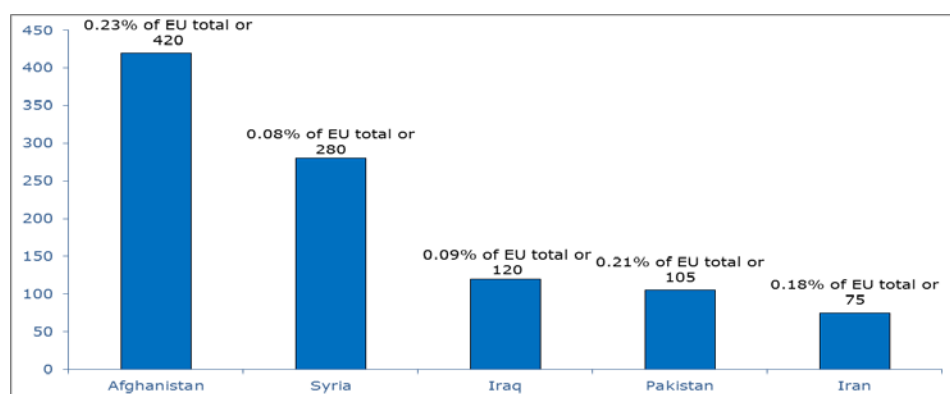
Table 1: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities (2013–2016)

2013			2014			2015			2016		
Nationality	No.	% of total	Nationality	No.	% of total	Nationality	No.	% of total	Nationality	No.	% of total
Syria	60	22%	Syria	90	23%	Afghanistan	50	18%	Afghanistan	420	32%
Kosovo	35	13%	Afghanistan	75	19%	Iraq	45	16%	Syria	280	21%
Algeria Afghanistan Pakistan	20	7%	Pakistan	25	6%	Iran	35	13%	Iraq	120	9%
Russia	15	6%	Kosovo Somalia Iran	20	5%	Kosovo	30	11%	Pakistan	105	8%
Turkey Morocco	10	4%	Ukraine Nigeria	15	4%	Pakistan	25	9%	Iran	75	6%

Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 03/08/2017

³ Figures regarding the total population were extracted from Eurostat ([demo_gind](#))

Figure 3: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities as a share of EU total per given nationality (2016)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 03/08/2017

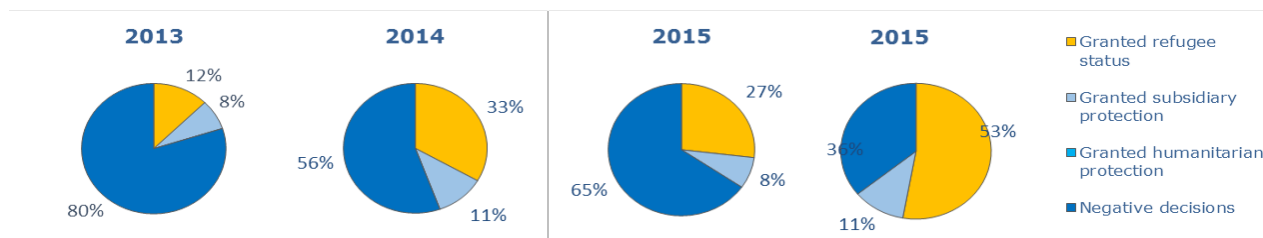
Note: the figure reads as: Slovenia received 420 asylum applications from Afghanistan or 0.23% of all asylum applications lodged by Afghanistan in EU in 2016.

Table 2: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2013-2016)

Year	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:		Humanitarian reasons	Negative decisions
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection		
2013	195	35	25	15	N/A	160
2014	95	45	30	10	N/A	50
2015	130	45	35	10	N/A	85
2016	265	170	140	30	N/A	95

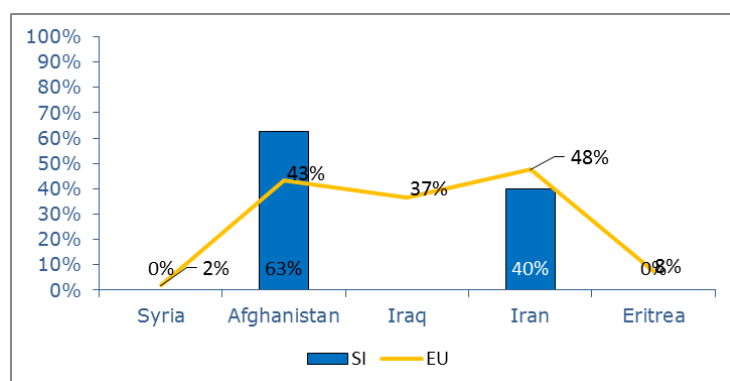
Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asydcfsta](#)), data extracted 03/08/2017

Figures 4-7: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2013-2016)



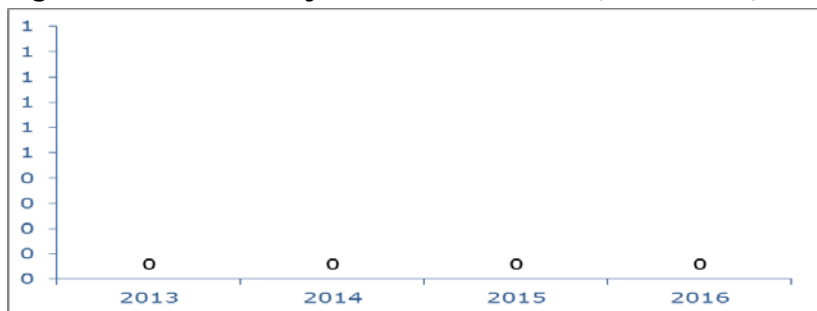
Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asydcfsta](#)), data extracted 03/08/2017

Figure 8: Negative decision rate for the top five nationalities of applicants at the first instance in comparison with EU for the same given nationality (2016)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asydcfsta](#)), data extracted 03/08/2017

Figure 9: Third-country nationals resettled (2013-2016)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyresa](#)), data extracted 09/05/2017

2. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Figure 10: Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum (2013-2016)

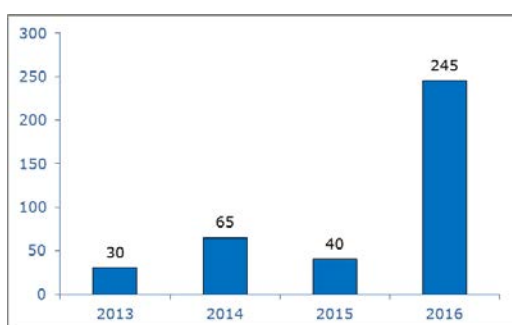


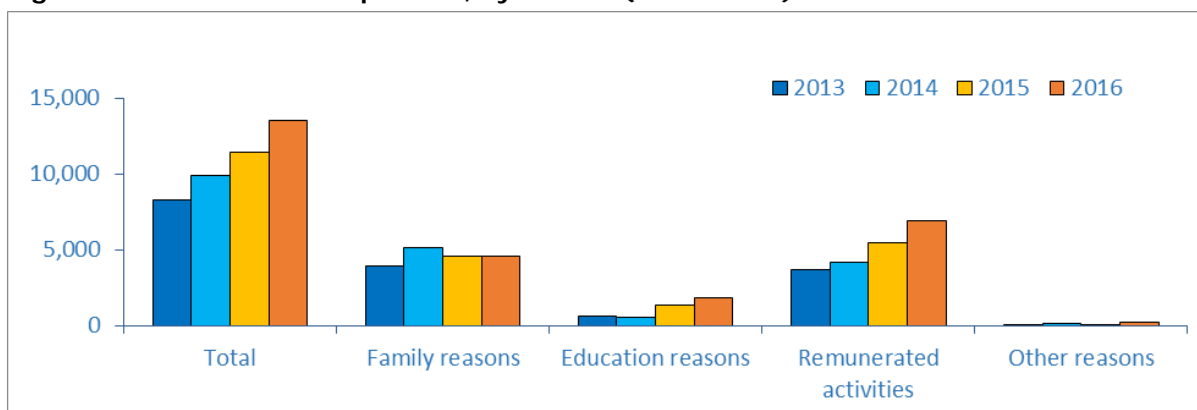
Table 3: Unaccompanied minors (2013-2016)

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Unaccompanied minors (total)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants	30	65	40	245

Source: Eurostat Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) ([migr_asyunaa](#)), data extracted 03/08/2017; EMN NCPs

3. LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Figure 11: First residence permits, by reason (2013-2016)



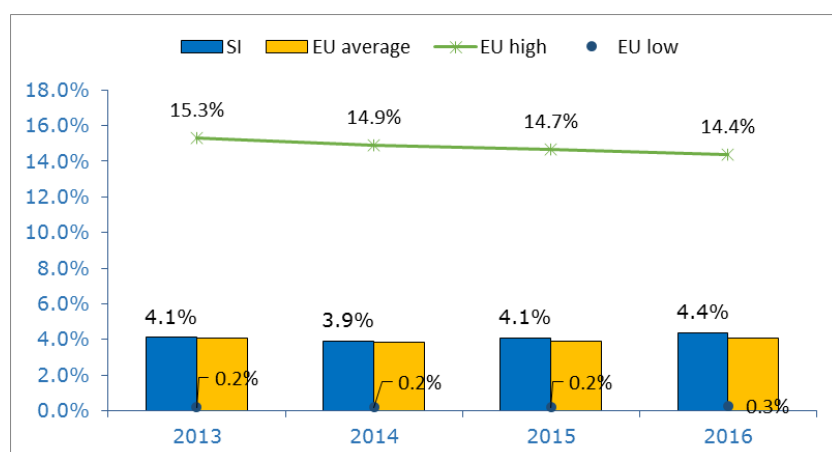
Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#)), data extracted 03/08/2017

Table 4: First residence permits: Top five third-country nationalities (2013–2016)

2013		2014		2015		2016	
Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3,064	Bosnia and Herzegovina	4,369	Bosnia and Herzegovina	4,861	Bosnia and Herzegovina	6,330
Serbia	1,338	Kosovo	1,555	Serbia	1,874	Serbia	2,399
Kosovo	1,246	Serbia	1,331	Kosovo	1,612	Kosovo	1,397
FYRM	626	Russia	685	FYRM	818	FYRM	906
Croatia	563	FYRM	562	Russia	531	Russia	472

Source: EMN NCP

Figure 12: Resident population of third-country nationals as a share of total population in Slovenia EU average, EU high and low (2013-2016)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_pop1ctz](#)), data extracted 17/04/2017

4. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

Table 5: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders (2013–2016)

Third country nationals:	2013	2014	2015	2016
Refused entry at external borders	4,780	4,410	4,410	4,455
Found to be illegally present	1,040	1,025	1,025	2,475
Ordered to leave	1,040	1,025	1,025	1,375
Returned following an order to leave	885	840	840	330

Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_eirfs](#)), ([migr_eipre](#)), ([migr_eiord](#)), ([migr_eirtn](#)) data extracted 09/05/2017

Table 6: Third-country nationals returned (2013-2016)

Year	Returned as part of forced return measures	Returned voluntarily	Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme
2013	41	67	20
2014	113	86	16
2015	751	90	20
2016	173	96	61

Source: EMN NCP

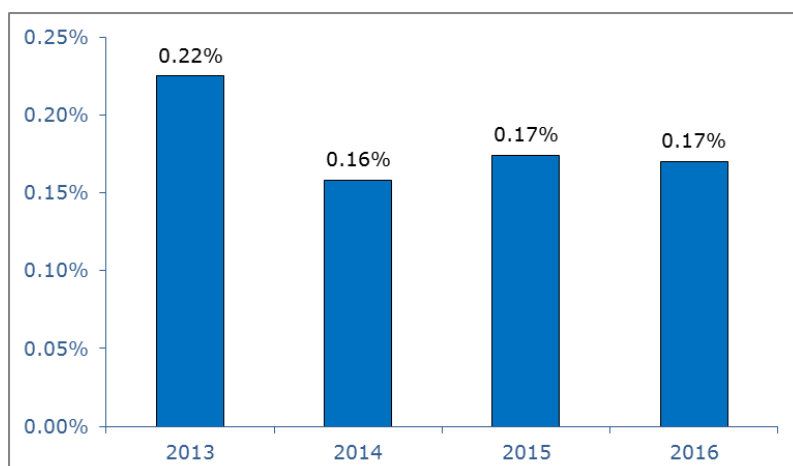
5. SECURING EUROPE'S EXTERNAL BORDERS

Table 7: Number of Schengen visas applications (2013–2016)

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Uniform visas (short-stay visas)	38,885	26,492	26,895	25,876

Source: DG Migration and Home – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Figure 13: Uniform visa applications received in MS as a share of the total number of uniform visa applications in all Schengen states consulates (2013-2016)



Source: DG Migration and Home affairs – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Table 8: Top five countries in which the highest number of visa applications for MS was lodged (2013-2016)

2013		2014		2015		2016	
Countries	Number	Countries	Number	Countries	Number	Countries	Number
Russia	20,706	Russia	11,998	Russian Federation	11,157	Russian Federation	10,225
Ukraine	8,707	Ukraine	5,956	Ukraine	5,614	Ukraine	5,051
Kosovo	4,415	Kosovo	3,693	Kosovo	3,999	Kosovo	3,683
India	897	India	1,097	India	1,755	India	2,022
Turkey	825	China	690	China	911	China	1,018

Source: DG Migration and Home affairs