



COUNTRY FACTSHEET: SLOVENIA 2012

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 2012, including latest statistics. It has been prepared in conjunction with the European Commission's 4th Annual Report on Migration and Asylum (2012).

2. Legal Migration and Mobility

In 2012, the Ministry of the Interior undertook an internal reorganisation which resulted in the **establishment of the Internal Administrative Affairs, Migration and Naturalisation Directorate**, following the merger of the Internal Administrative Affairs Directorate as well as the Migration and Integration Directorate. The new Directorate's organisational structure contains two main offices: the Administrative Internal Affairs and Naturalisation Office including Information Services Division, Population Registration and Public Documents Division, Citizenship Division and Public Assembly and Weapons Division and; the Migrations Office including the Migration Policy and Legislation Division, Status Affairs Division and Accommodation, care and Integration Division.

Currently, a modification to the Aliens Act is being prepared to be adopted at the end of 2013, which will transpose provisions of new Directives adopted in the migration area, such as the "Single Application" Directive (2011/98/EU).

2.1. PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

There were no particular policy developments in 2012.

The Ministry of Interior is responsible for a regular distribution of information in the field of immigration and asylum for third-country nationals, who wish to enter, reside or work in Slovenia. All relevant

information is easily available on the specially designed websites.¹

2.2. ECONOMIC MIGRATION

In June 2012, an **analysis was carried out** by the Ministry of Interior concerning the implementation of the **procedures of issuing the EU Blue card** for highly qualified employment. The aim of the analysis was to examine the current national arrangements, potential flaws and irregularities in the EU Blue Card issuing procedure, as well as the implementation of the "all in one place" principle. The findings of the analysis were also considered when transposing the "Single Application" Directive (2011/98/EU) into the new proposal for amending the Aliens Act, which is currently under a public discussion.

2.3. FAMILY REUNIFICATION

As regards the issuing of the temporary residence permit on the grounds of family reunification, the Aliens Act extended the scope and eligibility for family reunification. The right to family reunification is granted not only to a foreigner who has a permanent residence permit, but also to a foreigner who has a temporary residence permit in Slovenia. The right to the immediate reunification with family members who are foreigners is granted to a foreigner with the temporary residence permit regardless of the validity period of the permit, its purpose or reason for residing with the exception of the temporary residence permit issued for seasonal work.

2.4. INTEGRATION

The Migration Office issued a public tender in 2012 in order to select the operators of free Slovenian language courses that include the knowledge on the Slovenian society.

Also in 2012, after analysing the efficiency of integration measures, it was established that, the

¹ www.mnz.gov.si, www.infotujci.si, www.begunci.si and <http://e-uprava.gov.si/e-uprava/>

number of participants in the courses on Slovenian history, culture and constitutional order was low, although a survey among the Slovenian language course participants showed that as many as 64% agree that being familiar with the history and culture is rather an important factor for living in Slovenia. A programme was consequently prepared which unites the courses on Slovenian language and courses on society, called the **Initial Integration of Aliens**. Since November 2012, the programme is performed in 21 (out of 30) locations all over the country.

Among the new developments regarding integration programmes for third-country nationals, it is worth mentioning that several **assistance programmes for the integration of a specific target group of third-country nationals**, i.e. a programme for informing the parents of children enrolled in primary schools as well as programmes for enhancing social inclusion of women and young people were implemented during 2012.

2.5 MANAGING MIGRATION AND MOBILITY²

In 2012, Slovenia initiated the **“One Stop Border Checks”** project with Croatian authorities. The project has been initiated as part of the preparation of Croatia’s accession to the EU. During the same year, a **Schengen evaluation took place** at air and sea borders. An evaluation of performance at air and sea borders, in terms of the Schengen Information System (SIS) and international cooperation has already been undertaken, while the evaluation of performance at external land border is due to take place in second half of 2013.

3. International Protection and Asylum

Along 2012 attention was focused on the **rationalisation** of the work of public servants responsible for conducting the administrative procedures in asylum. Several activities were initiated to perform target training for public servants within European Asylum Support Office (EASO). Under the European Refugee Fund (ERF) 2012 annual programme, the introduction of original language analyses was envisaged.

Procedures for the recognition, revocation and cessation of international protection rights as well as the obligations of international protection applicants and persons granted international protection are governed by the **International Protection Act**. The latter is fully in accordance with the European Union acquis and other international obligations binding upon Slovenia in this area. The Act was adopted in 2008,

modified in 2010 and came into force in 2011. Finally, Law **amendments were also introduced** into national legislation during 2012, **regarding the procedures for assessing the age of unaccompanied minors**. (See Section 4 for more details on the amendments)

With regard to cooperation with the **European Asylum Support Office**, Slovenian professionals participated in the expert group of the project **“Dublin module update”**, responsible for the preparation of upgrading the contents of the training module.

In addition, several public tenders for the implementation of integration programmes (language learning, learning assistance, psychosocial support, different life situations support, aid in the field of employment) for beneficiaries of international protection have been successfully completed. All programmes were co-financed through ERF.

4. Unaccompanied Minors and other Vulnerable Groups

In November 2012, the Act on modifications and amendments to the International Protection Act entered into force and introduced **new procedures for assessing the age of the persons claiming to be unaccompanied minors**.

At the beginning of 2012, new rules defining in more detail the performance of legal representation of unaccompanied minors took effect. The Ministry of Interior held several meetings in 2012 with the Community of the Centres for Social Work responsible for the training of legal representatives for unaccompanied minors, namely about the costs to be covered for the implementation of training by the Ministry of Interior. During the same year, Slovenia continued cooperation with non-governmental organisations, to implement different programmes co-financed through the European Refugee Fund, particularly on the provision of additional psycho-social assistance and a study to help unaccompanied minors looking applying or under international protection.

5. Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings

Numerous awareness-raising events and projects on the prevention of trafficking in human beings targeting the wider public, as well as high-risk target groups, were organised in 2012. The high-risk target groups (adolescents and workers–migrants) were informed about the dangers of trafficking in human beings through various government projects. Attention was also directed to preventive measures, which included the training of experts who encounter this issue in their work.

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

With regard to international and regional cooperation, a project for more efficient action in the investigation of trafficking in human beings in the region of Southeast Europe proceeded with the **introduction of joint investigation teams**. The project, due to end in 2013, is managed by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Slovenia. Another initiative by the Ministry was to **establish a network of national coordinators for Southeast Europe** based on the informal network of EU national reporters. The meeting of national coordinators in October 2012 was marked by a joint declaration presented at the international conference on the occasion of Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October in Brussels.

6. External Dimension of EU Migration Policy

In line with the **International Development Cooperation Act 70/06** and the Resolution on international development cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia follows the underlined geographic priorities, especially the Western Balkan region.

In 2012, a **programme of bilateral technical assistance** was concluded with individual Western Balkan states. Six projects were implemented, two in Bosnia and Herzegovina, one in Montenegro, Macedonia and Kosovo plus a regional project on fighting against trafficking in human beings.

Based on EU recommendations, **Slovenia started to develop the concept of circular migration**. The **Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the employment of Bosnia and Herzegovina's nationals in Slovenia was ratified** by the National Assembly in 2012. The main purpose of the agreement is a comprehensive arrangement of migrant workers flows from Bosnia and Herzegovina to Slovenia with an emphasis on, inter alia, strengthening a partnership dialogue between the countries, importance of circular migration, reducing the "brain drain" impact and ethnic human resources management.

Within the so called Brdo Process, Slovenia hosted in April 2012 a ministerial conference with ministers responsible for internal affairs from the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia. Representatives of EU agencies and relevant regional organisations were also invited to the meeting.

Within the **implementation of the Prague Process Action plan**, adopted by the ministers in November 2011 in Poznan/Poland, Slovenia participated in September 2012 in the workshop of a pilot project on legal migration and development.

7. Irregular Migration

In 2011, the transposition of the **Return Directive** (2008/115/EC) took place with the amendment of the Aliens Act. The amended Aliens Act led to changes of by-laws and other legal provisions regarding return policy in 2012.

In 2012, legal provisions regarding **detention of illegal migrants** and their rights have been published in National Gazette. The main goal was to adopt and implement the Return Directive and provide safeguards regarding irregular migrants' rights.

Based on the **readmission agreement between EU and Russian Federation**, Slovenia finalised a bilateral protocol with the Russian Federation which entered into force in 2012.

In the beginning of October, Slovenia hosted a study visit of representatives of the Turkish Ministry of Interior, in order to familiarise them with mixed, joint and synchronised patrols at land borders. The visit was organised under the framework of **TAIEX mechanism**.

Slovenia also supported the **Joint Operation Poseidon Land** with six police officers using a mobile thermo vision van. Four police officers were also appointed as members of special team with patrol car and hand held thermo vision device.

8. Provision and Exchange of Information to support Policy Development

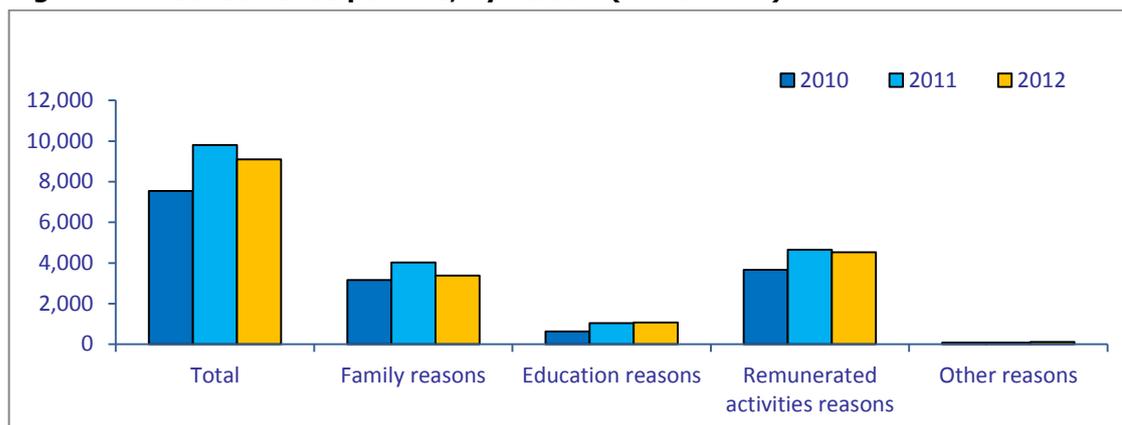
Slovenia actively exchanged information with European entities, including EASO and Frontex. Active information exchange between the governmental authorities responsible for migration and civil society also took place at national level.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Slovenia on aspects of migration and asylum (2010-2012), 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: Immigration and Asylum in Slovenia (2010-2012)

Figure 1: First residence permits, by reason (2010-2012)



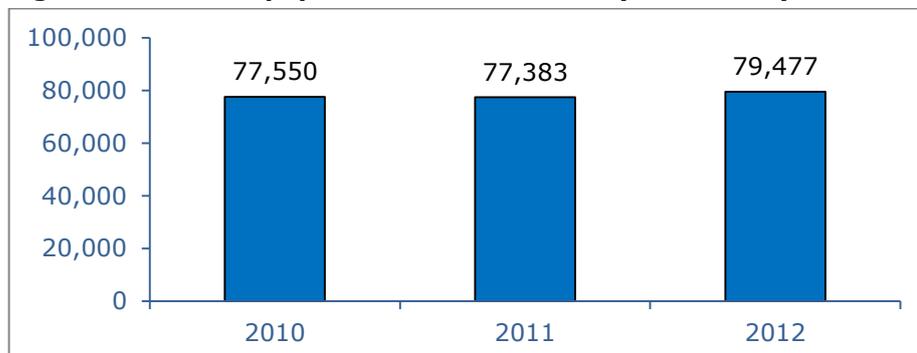
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_resfirst)

Table 1: First residence permits: Top 5 nationalities (2010-2012)

2010	2011	2012
1. Bosnia and Herzegovina – 2,328	1. Bosnia and Herzegovina – 3,446	1. Bosnia and Herzegovina – 3,581
2. Croatia – 1,121	2. Serbia – 1,480	2. Croatia – 1,649
3. Kosovo – 1,118	3. Croatia – 1,323	3. Serbia – 1,376
4. Serbia – 1,040	4. Kosovo – 1,075	4. FYROM – 793
5. FYROM – 768	5. FYROM – 950	5. Russia – 348

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_resfirst)

Figure 2: Resident population of third-country nationals (2010-2012)



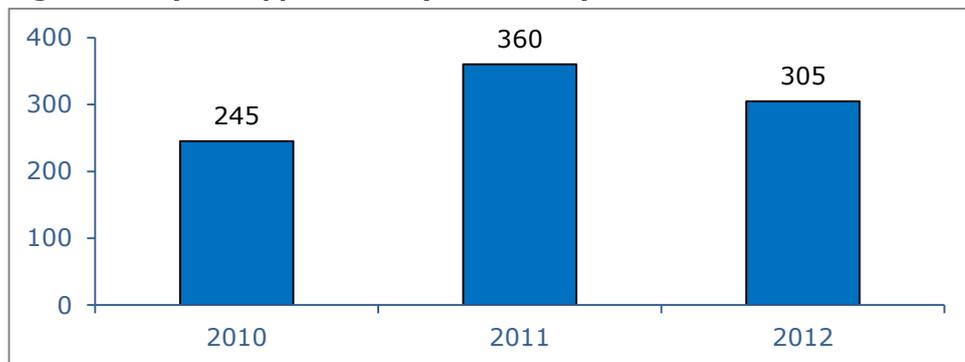
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_pop1ctz)

Table 2: Resident population: Top 5 nationalities (2010-2012)

2010	2011	2012
1. Bosnia and Herzegovina – 39,026	1. Bosnia and Herzegovina – 38,836	1. Bosnia and Herzegovina – 39,255
2. FYROM – 9,087	2. FYROM – 8,817	2. FYROM – 9,079
3. Croatia – 7,775	3. Croatia – 7,738	3. Croatia – 7,966
4. Serbia – 7,115	4. Serbia – 7,561	4. Serbia – 7,317
5. Ukraine – 1,135	5. Ukraine – 7,219	5. Bulgaria – 1,501

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_pop1ctz)

Figure 3: Asylum applications (2010-2012)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza)

Table 3: Asylum applications: Top 5 nationalities (2010-2012)

2010	2011	2012
1. Afghanistan – 30	1. Afghanistan – 65	1. Afghanistan – 65
2. Turkey – 30	2. Turkey – 50	2. Syria – 30
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina – 30	3. Pakistan – 30	3. Algeria – 25
4. Kosovo – 20	4. Tunisia – 25	4. Turkey – 25
5. Serbia – 15	5. Somalia, Kosovo – 20	5. Somalia, Kosovo – 20

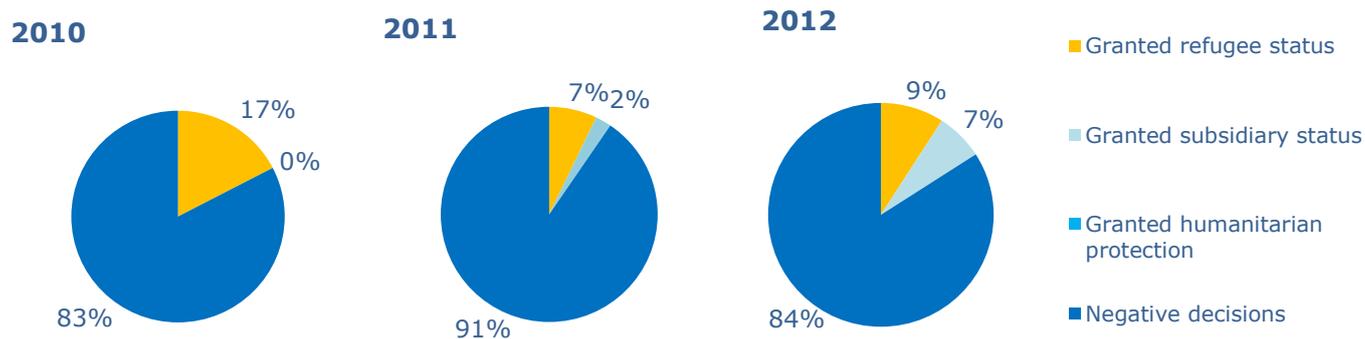
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza)

Table 4: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2010-2012)

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:			Negative decisions
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
2010	115	25	20	0	N/A	95
2011	215	20	15	5	N/A	190
2012	220	35	20	15	N/A	185

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfsta)

Figures 4-6: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2010-2012)

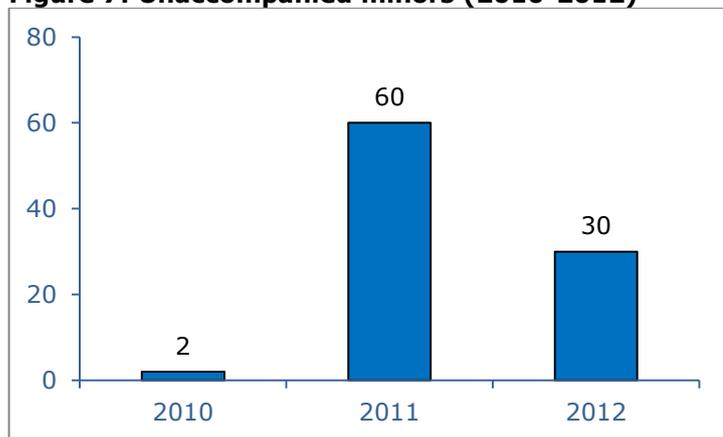


Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfsta)

Table 5: Third-country nationals relocated and resettled (2011-2012)

	2010	2011	2012
Third-country nationals relocated	N/A	N/A	N/A
Third-country nationals resettled	0	0	0

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyresa) and National contributions to EMN Annual Policy Report

Figure 7: Unaccompanied minors (2010-2012)

Source: National contributions to EMN Annual Policy Report

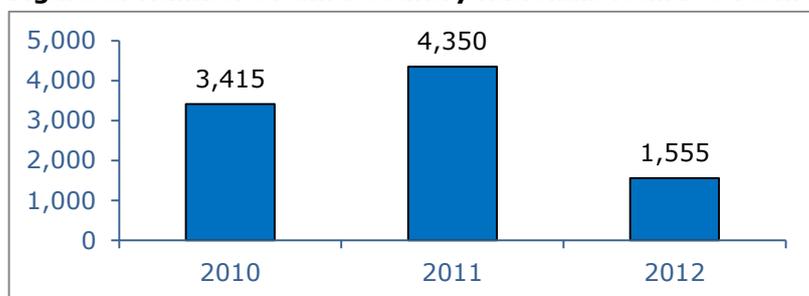
Table 6: Unaccompanied minors (2010-2012)

	2010	2011	2012
Unaccompanied minors (total)	2	60	30
Unaccompanied minors not applying for asylum	N/A	N/A	0
Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants	20	25	60

Table 7: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders (2010-2012)

	2010	2011	2012
Third-country nationals refused entry at external borders	7,845	7,970	7,665

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eirfs)

Figure 8: Number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present (2010-2012)

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eipre)

Table 8: Third-country nationals returned (2010-2012)

	Third-country nationals ordered to leave	Returned as part of forced return measures	Returned voluntarily	Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme
2010	3,415	N/A	N/A	N/A
2011	4,410	N/A	N/A	N/A
2012	2,055	80	N/A	N/A

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eiord) and National contributions to EMN Annual Policy Report

Table 9: Number of visas issued by type (2010-2012)

	2010	2011	2012
Total visas	N/A	N/A	1,259
Schengen visa (short-stay visas)*	50,723	38,123	40,358
National visa	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Commission Staff Working Documents on the Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum; *DG HOME Statistics on Visa Policy website: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/index_en.htm

