



# COUNTRY FACTSHEET: CZECH REPUBLIC 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 the Czech Republic 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

#### 2.1. PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

The Ministry of the Interior runs **three main communication channels** (website, telephone and e-mail hotline) through which it provides information to third-country nationals on possibilities of legal migration to the Czech Republic. In 2012, the government carried out **three additional projects**, all aimed at **providing information** on the residence permit application procedures, e.g.: how to apply for / extend residence permits; how to maintain a legal residence status; as well as information on the validity of the residence, including information on employment, entrepreneurship, social/health insurance etc. Whilst one project focussed in particular on the provision of information prior to departure, another aimed to provide post arrival information. The third project constituted an animated instructional film that was accompanied by a leaflet.

#### 2.2. ECONOMIC MIGRATION

Throughout 2012, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs prepared a **two-year project** that will be launched in 2013 entitled "**Forecasting Skills Needs**". The project aims to analyse and anticipate skills needs **to match labour market demand with the supply of qualified labour**. In 2012, the list of countries whose nationals are eligible for the Czech Republic's Green Card system has been extended. The Green Card combines a residence permit and a work permit in one document which is granted to citizens of particular third countries in order to facilitate residence application procedures. In a similar vein, the

government also runs a project entitled "**Accelerated Procedures for Intra-Corporate Transfers of Foreign Investors' Employees**" which aims to address current needs of employers. With regard to **cooperation with partner/third countries for economic migration**, the Czech Republic participates in Mobility Partnerships with the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, and Armenia and has further indicated interest in joining the negotiated partnership with Azerbaijan. Finally, the Czech Republic leads the **Prague Process** and has taken the lead on a pilot project in relation to circular migration in 2012.

#### 2.3. FAMILY REUNIFICATION

During 2012, there were no changes to existing policies and legislation concerning family migration.

#### 2.4. INTEGRATION

The **National Strategy for the Integration of Immigrants** was updated in 2012. It links immigration to successful integration and introduces new conditions for granting permanent residence permits, for example: in the future, third-country nationals will have to take obligatory orientation courses and are required to have a specific language competency level (level A2) in Czech. Several **integration projects and activities** were carried out in 2012. For example, introductory courses for newly arrived third-country nationals were developed. In the future, these will have to be attended on a compulsory basis. The government also subsidised several "**Emergency Integration Programs**" in eight communities **at local level**. These projects consisted of different courses, e.g. legal and social counselling; language courses; and cultural exchange. Also, in the context of **cooperation with countries of origin**, a pre-departure package to distribute to third-country nationals was developed.

## 2.5 MANAGING MIGRATION AND MOBILITY<sup>1</sup>

The Czech Republic issues **biometric visas** in the North-African countries as well as in the Middle East. It has several bilateral **visa representation agreements** with Spain, Portugal, France and Slovakia. With regard to **border monitoring**, the Czech police undertook three national security actions at different Czech airports and further contributed to the following international border monitoring actions that were coordinated by Frontex<sup>2</sup>:

- BADLER: international police operation aimed to map flows of irregular migration
- Jupiter: international land border operation that aimed to increase security at land borders
- Minerva: external sea border operation that aimed to detect irregular migration from North Africa to Europe
- Poseidon: aimed to increase security on the Greek-Turkish land border and to prevent irregular migration

## 3. International Protection and Asylum

For the further development of the **Common European Asylum System** (CEAS), the Czech Republic actively contributes to the **European Asylum Support Office** (EASO). It has seconded two national experts to work for EASO and has nominated several experts to the EASO Asylum Intervention Pool as well as the EASO Training and Expert Pool. The Czech Republic also participated in various EASO expert meetings on different subject matters in 2012. The Czech Republic translated three European Asylum Curriculum (EAC) modules and carried out several EAC trainings in which more than 60 Czech employees participated.

With regard to the **external dimension**, the Czech Republic implements the MEDEVAC Programme under which it carries out **humanitarian evacuations** in third countries of citizens with medical problems. In 2012, a total of 22 patients with war-related injuries and congenital heart diseases from Libya (7), Myanmar (3) and Syria (12) were transported in order to be treated in Czech hospitals. Finally, 25 Burmese refugees from Malaysia were **resettled** in the Czech Republic.

## 4. Unaccompanied Minors and other Vulnerable Groups

In 2012, a new concept paper on the **“Protection of and Care for Unaccompanied Minors including**

<sup>1</sup> “Managing migration and mobility” refers to the following themes: visa policy, Schengen governance and border monitoring.

<sup>2</sup> See also Section 7 on Irregular Migration.

**asylum seekers”** was adopted which sets out rules with regard to unaccompanied minors in relation to the provision of care and integration. The introduction of this concept paper is a direct result of increasing numbers of minors who need temporary or permanent foster care. In contrast, the number of unaccompanied minors applying for international protection has reduced.

## 5. Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings

In 2012, a **new three-year national strategy** to combat trafficking in human beings was adopted. The strategy takes on a holistic and multidisciplinary approach and is centred on the following four dimensions: prevention, prosecution, protection and partnership. It introduces an obligation to carry out an evaluation on the national **Programme of support and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings** by 2015.

With regard to **measures to prevent trafficking in human beings and to increase the prosecution of traffickers**, the Czech Republic increasingly focuses, in particular, on detecting and prosecuting labour exploitation. For example, it currently carries out a national project on the identification of labour exploitation and further participates in the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) project on capacity building for combatting trafficking for labour exploitation under which Czech law enforcement authorities have received special trainings. Moreover, amendments to the employment law were introduced in January 2012 that specifically aim to combat trafficking in human beings for the purposes of labour exploitation.

Finally, with regard to **cooperation amongst stakeholders**, the Czech Republic has an **Inter-Ministerial Coordination Group on the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings** which meets twice a year. Furthermore, the Czech Republic is involved in several international projects and cooperates with important source countries (e.g. it has undertaken expert missions to Ukraine and Romania).

## 6. External Dimension of EU Migration Policy

By tradition, the Czech Republic focuses attention on **developmental aspects of international migration**. In the past, many projects were implemented in EU neighbouring countries (e.g. Ukraine, Moldova, Southern Caucasus and Western Balkans) in which **capacity building was combined with social and economic consequences of migration**. In 2012, the government led two projects: a pilot project on circular migration within the EC targeted initiative on implementation of the Prague Process Action Plan (as mentioned also under section

2.2); as well as an EC Targeted Initiative on reintegration under the Migration Partnership with Georgia. Also, the Czech NGO Caritas Prague, in cooperation with the Czech Development Agency, implemented a project that aimed to mitigate negative social consequences of migration in Moldova.

With regard to **remittances**, the government launched interagency discussions in order to formulate future policy solutions of how to make remittance transfer services from the Czech Republic, more transparent and more competitive.

As to **diasporas**, dialogue started in 2012 between the government and the Vietnamese community. Following the discussions, Vietnamese language courses and social counselling will be provided by members of the community who will receive special training from Czech NGOs.

## 7. Irregular Migration

To support the implementation of the EU's **Readmission Agreements**, the Czech Republic has concluded implementing protocols with Moldova, Russia, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia. Negotiations with Ukraine have been finalised in 2012 as well, with negotiations planned in 2013 with Macedonia and in 2014 with Pakistan. Following a Frontex' request, in light of the high number of detected stolen vehicles which came from the Czech Republic, the government deployed two experts to the Slovenian-Croatian border in 2012 in order to detect stolen vehicles. With regard to a growing pressure on the Hungarian-Serbian land border, the Czech Republic intends to deploy further experts in the Western Balkan region in 2013 (e.g. for stolen vehicles and for interrogation of detained migrants).

The Czech Republic has an external air-border only. In relation to **border control operations**, the government operates the "OBZOR" system which automatically processes Advanced Passenger Information (API) data on passengers. In 2012, three 'e-gates' were introduced for automatic checks on passengers who hold biometric passports and are over 18 years of age. To ensure **more effective control of external borders**, the number of staff of the Alien Police Inspectorate will be increased in 2013 at the Czech Republic's international airports. Also, the government introduced new advanced language courses in English and Russian for staff of the Alien Police Directorate. German courses are soon to follow. To facilitate the detection of false documents, officials can receive special training. Special document immigration specialists were deployed in Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, Vietnam and Nigeria in 2012.

As to **Frontex activities**, the Czech Republic participated in a total of ten joint operations, including international air, sea and land border operations.

Finally, the Czech Republic **voluntarily returned** 209 persons in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration and a further 254 third-country nationals through Czech voluntary return programmes. Whilst the majority was returned by air operations, a total of 110 third-country nationals were voluntarily returned via transit by land.

## 8. Provision and Exchange of Information to support Policy Development

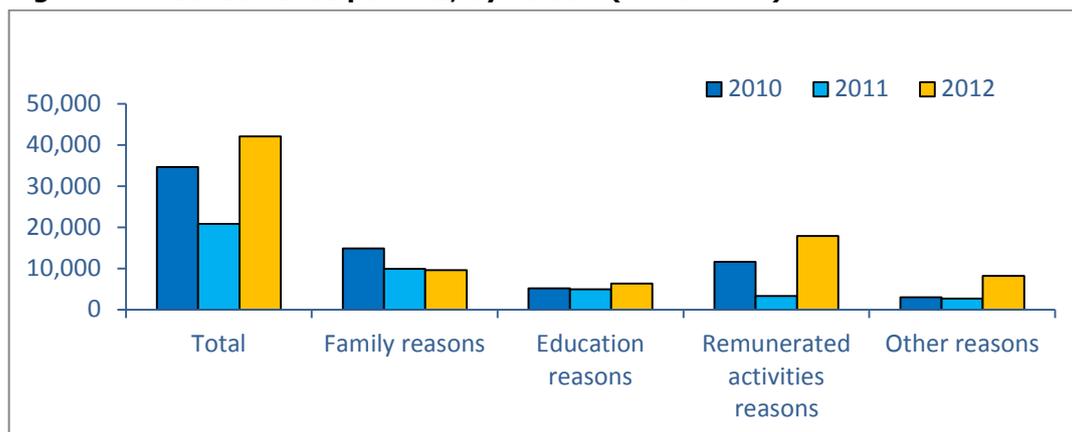
At EU level, the Czech Republic mainly exchanges information with other Member States via the European Migration Network (EMN), the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), Frontex, *General Directors' Immigration Services Conference (GDISC)*, ICMPD and Eurostat. At national level, the EMN National Contact Point maintains a broad national network through which information on migration and asylum is exchanged. National contact points have also been established in the context of the EC Targeted Initiative on Implementation of the Prague Process Action Plan. Moreover, at sub-regional level another network of contact points has been established with the aim to exchange information on transit irregular migration.

### STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for the Czech Republic 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 the Czech Republic (2010-2012)

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



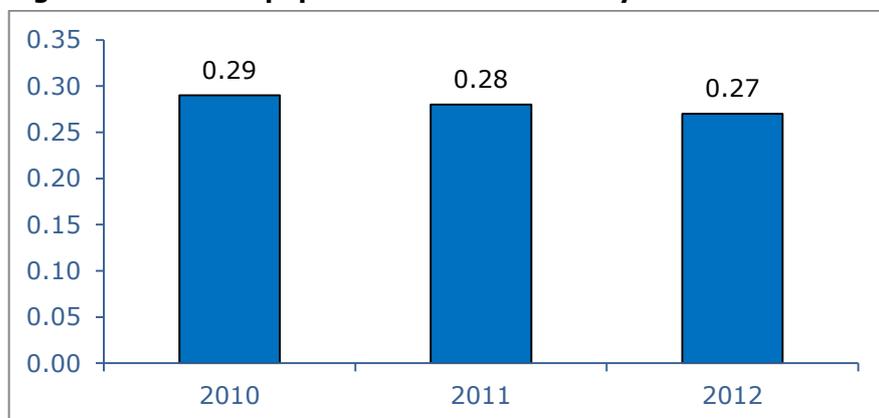
Source: Eurostat (migr\_resfirst)

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

2010	2011	2012
<b>1. Ukraine</b> – 13,679	<b>1. Ukraine</b> – 3,208	<b>1. Ukraine</b> – 18,152
<b>2. Russia</b> – 5,133	<b>2. FYROM</b> – 2,387	<b>2. Russia</b> – 5,211
<b>3. Vietnam</b> – 3,247	<b>3. Russia</b> – 2,109	<b>3. Vietnam</b> – 3,698
<b>4. United States</b> – 2,449	<b>4. Uzbekistan</b> – 1,730	<b>4. United States</b> – 3,052
<b>5. Moldova</b> – 1,228	<b>5. United States</b> – 1,552	<b>5. Kazakhstan</b> – 1,162

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_resfirst)

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



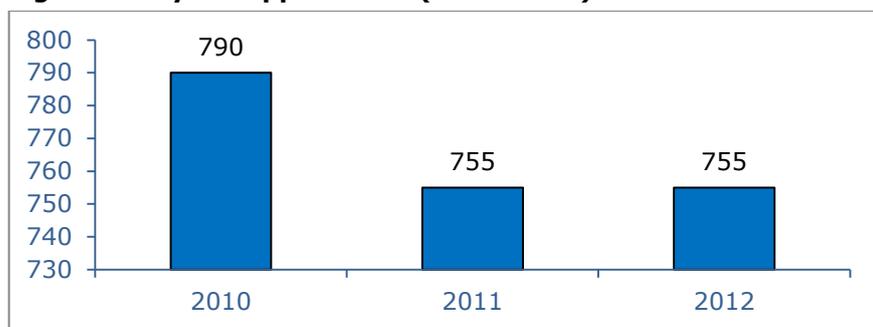
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_pop1ctz)

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

2010	2011	2012
<b>1. Ukraine</b> – 130,933	<b>1. Ukraine</b> – 123,620	<b>1. Ukraine</b> – 117,304
<b>2. Vietnam</b> – 60,753	<b>2. Vietnam</b> – 60,189	<b>2. Vietnam</b> – 58,040
<b>3. Russia</b> – 28,275	<b>3. Russia</b> – 29,629	<b>3. Russia</b> – 29,395
<b>4. Moldova</b> – 9,902	<b>4. Moldova</b> – 8,790	<b>4. Moldova</b> – 7,492
<b>5. Mongolia</b> – 5,598	<b>5. Mongolia</b> – 5,454	<b>5. China</b> – 5,353

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. Ukraine – 115	1. Ukraine – 150	1. Ukraine – 175
2. Mongolia – 95	2. Belarus – 70	2. Syria – 70
3. Belarus – 55	3. Russia – 45	3. Belarus – 55
4. Russia – 50	4. Vietnam – 45	4. Vietnam – 55
5. Turkey – 50	5. Mongolia – 40	5. Russia – 40

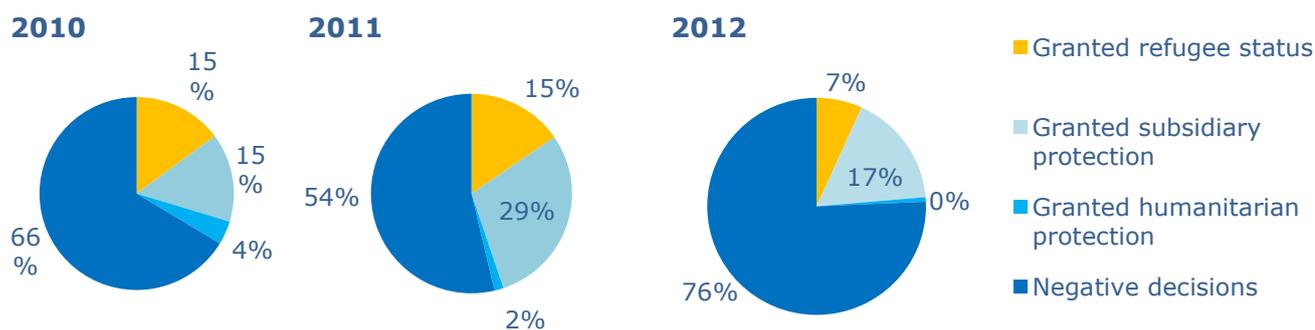
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_asyappctza)

**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	510	175	75	75	20	335
2011	685	320	105	200	10	365
2012	735	175	50	125	5	560

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 (2010-2012)**

	2010	2011	2012
Third-country nationals relocated	N/A	N/A	N/A
Third-country nationals resettled	39	23	25

Source: National contributions to EMN Annual Policy Report

**Table 6: Unaccompanied minors (2010-2012)**

	2010	2011	2012
<b>Unaccompanied minors (total)</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Unaccompanied minors not applying for asylum</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants</b>	4	10	5

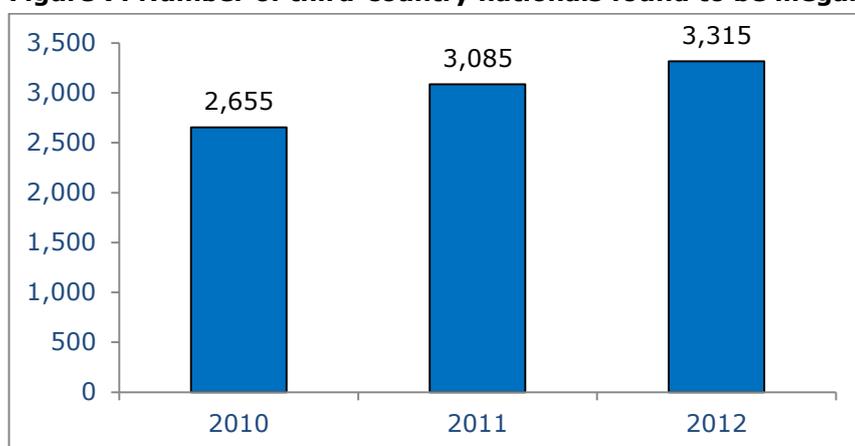
Source: National contributions to EMN Annual Policy Report

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

	2010	2011	2012
<b>Third-country nationals refused entry at external borders</b>	330	360	190

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr\_eirfs)

**Figure 7: 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
<b>2010</b>	2,915	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>2011</b>	2,520	330	225	225
<b>2012</b>	2,375	N/A	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
<b>Total visas</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Schengen visa (short-stay visas)*</b>	519,250	557,465	585,635
<b>National visa</b>	N/A	10,462	N/A

Source: National contributions to EMN Annual Policy Report; \*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](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/visa-policy/index_en.htm)