



European Commission

Legal Migration

In April 2014, in Malta, Jean-Claude Juncker presented as part of his election campaign a five-point plan on migration, including a call for Europe to show more political determination when it comes to legal migration. A smart management of migration requires not only a firm policy in addressing irregular flows while ensuring the protection of those in need, but also a proactive policy of sustainable, transparent, and accessible legal pathways. Legal migration can make a valuable contribution to the EU's economic development in the medium and long term, enabling us to respond to skills shortages and to ensure we have a workforce which is strong enough to maintain the European social model for our aging population. Member States are responsible for deciding how many third country nationals they admit for employment, study and research, while EU rules define common admission conditions, procedures and rights for applicants.

MAIN LEGISLATION AND INITIATIVES

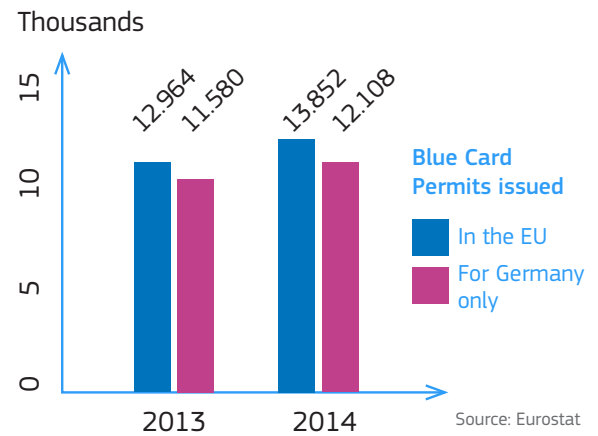
**The Directives apply to all EU Member States except for the United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland.*

BLUE CARD DIRECTIVE



The Directive regulates admission conditions, procedures, and residence rights, including intra-EU mobility, for highly qualified third-country nationals.

Must have: A Higher Education Qualification; At least **3 years** post-secondary education or **5 years** of equivalent professional experience.



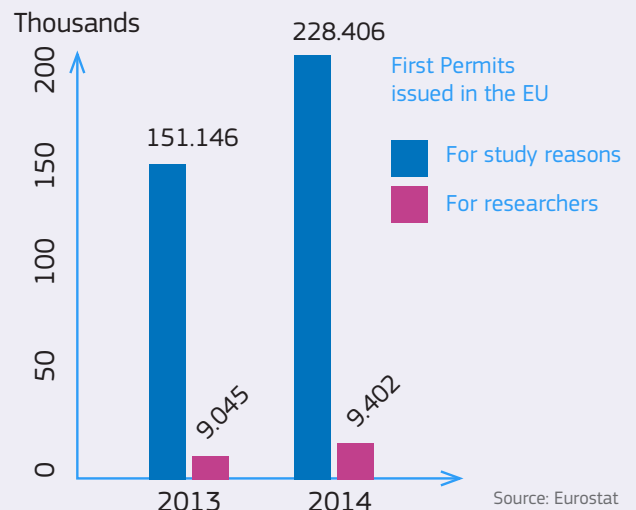
STUDENTS & RESEARCHERS DIRECTIVE



The recently adopted Directive will regulate admission conditions, procedures, and rights for young and talented third-country nationals

Who can apply?

- students
- researchers
- trainees and volunteers covered by the European Voluntary Service



INTRA-CORPORATE TRANSFEREES DIRECTIVE



The Directive makes it easier and quicker for multinational companies to temporarily assign highly skilled employees to subsidiaries situated in the EU through a fast-track entry procedure and a combined work and residence permit.

Member States will need to report on the number of permits issued starting in 2017.

SEASONAL WORKERS DIRECTIVE



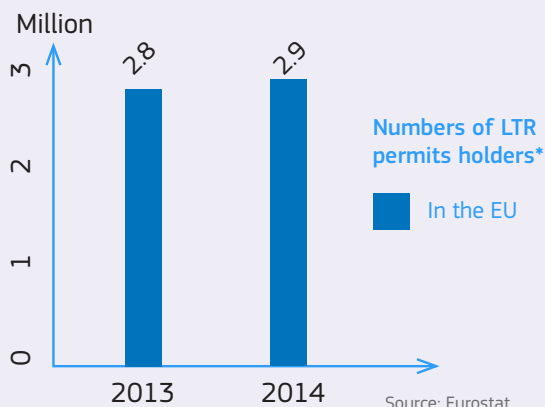
The Directive sets out rules for the entry and stay of seasonal workers from third countries in a Member State for a **maximum period of between 5 and 9 months over any 12 month period.**

Member States will need to report on the number of permits issued to seasonal workers starting in 2017.

LONG-TERM RESIDENTS DIRECTIVE



The Directive allows Member States to grant long-term resident status to third-country nationals, including beneficiaries of international protection, who have resided legally and continuously in a Member State for 5 years and who fulfil a set of other conditions - such as stable and regular resources.



* No report from HR for 2013 and 2014, no report from NL for 2014.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION DIRECTIVE



The Directive regulates admission conditions, procedures, and residence rights for family members of third-country nationals residing in an EU Member State.

Who can benefit from family reunification: spouse, under-age children and the children of the spouse.

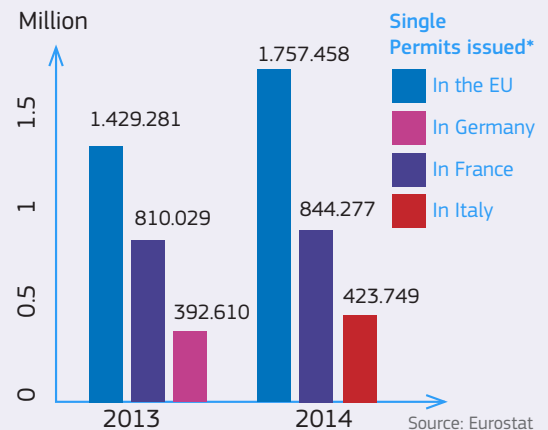
EU States may also authorise reunification with an unmarried partner, adult dependent children, or dependent older relatives.

SINGLE PERMIT DIRECTIVE



Single application procedure and a single permit combining work and residence for third country workers. It provides for a set of common rights to be granted (e.g. equal treatment with nationals as regards working conditions, access to certain social security benefits).

Who can benefit: Third country workers living in an EU Member state, or applying for work and residence there. Other third country nationals admitted for other purposes (e.g. family reunification) but who have the right to work.



*Data is not complete for all EU-25 Member States. For 2013 data was reported by DE, EE, FR, HR, LU, PL, IT, RO, SK, SE. In addition to these states, also BG, CZ, FI, IT, HU, LV, MT and NL reported for 2014.

GLOBAL APPROACH TO MIGRATION AND MOBILITY (GAMM)



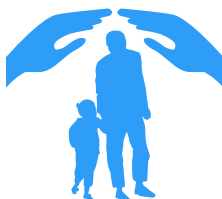
Third countries wishing to cooperate with the EU to:

- organise legal migration
- foster well-managed mobility,
- prevent and combat irregular migration
- eradicate trafficking in human beings
- maximise the development impact of migration and mobility and promote international protection

7 Mobility Partnerships have been signed so far with the following countries: **Cape Verde, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Morocco, Azerbaijan, and Tunisia.**

This framework defines how the EU conducts its policy dialogues and cooperation with non-EU countries, based on clearly defined priorities and embedded in the EU's overall external action, including development cooperation.

EU RESETTLEMENT SCHEME



Resettlement is the transfer of non-EU national or stateless persons, who have been identified as in need of international protection, to an EU state where they are admitted either on humanitarian grounds or with the status of refugee.

In 2015 the Commission proposed the first ever EU-wide resettlement scheme, whereby Member States committed to offer over 22,504 places to those in need of international protection, with a primary focus on victims of the civil war in Syria residing in its neighbouring countries. Member States also agreed to continue working on the development of a humanitarian admission scheme for Syrian refugees in Turkey.

Next Steps

To address the challenges of the refugee crisis in the short term, and to better position the EU to fill skills gaps and protect our social model in the long term, the Commission will present a number of reforms on legal migration routes to Europe and integration policies:

- **A structured resettlement scheme:** The Commission intends to present a framework in 2016 for a structured and coordinated EU approach to resettlement. This proposal will put in place a horizontal mechanism for launching targeted EU resettlement initiatives;
- **A reform of the Blue Card Directive** to provide for more flexible admission conditions, improved admission procedures and enhanced rights;
- **An EU Action Plan on Integration:** The Commission will step up its action in support of Member States on the integration of third country nationals, through different policy tools;
- **Measures to attract and support innovative entrepreneurs,** including start-ups from third countries;
- **A full review of the existing legal migration rules** to identify potential inconsistencies and gaps. The Commission will also explore the viability of international examples of pre-screening mechanisms creating pools of candidates;
- **Pursuing close cooperation with third countries,** including through the development of comprehensive and tailor-made packages of incentives for third countries to ensure effective returns and readmission.