

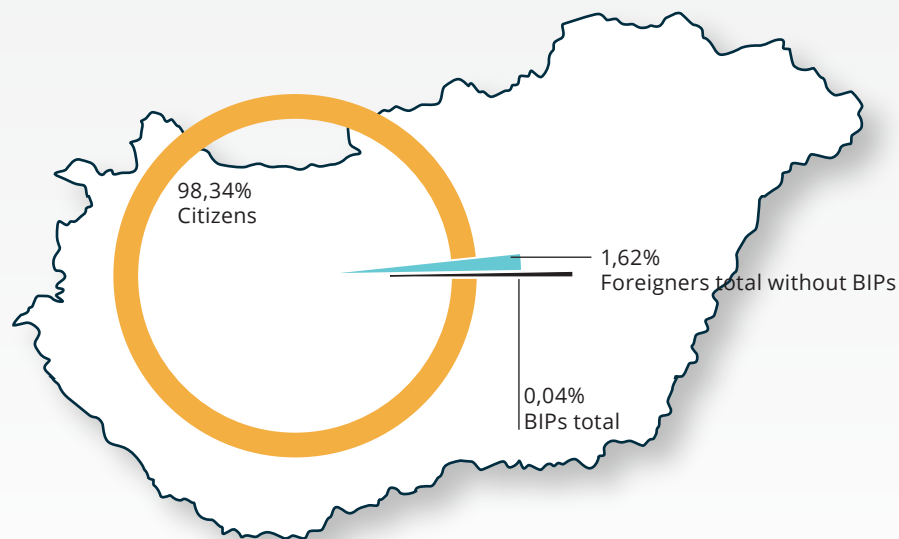


Asylum Seekers and Beneficiaries of International Protection in Hungary (Updated Report)

V4NIEM: Visegrad Countries National Integration
Evaluation Mechanism Report 2019

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

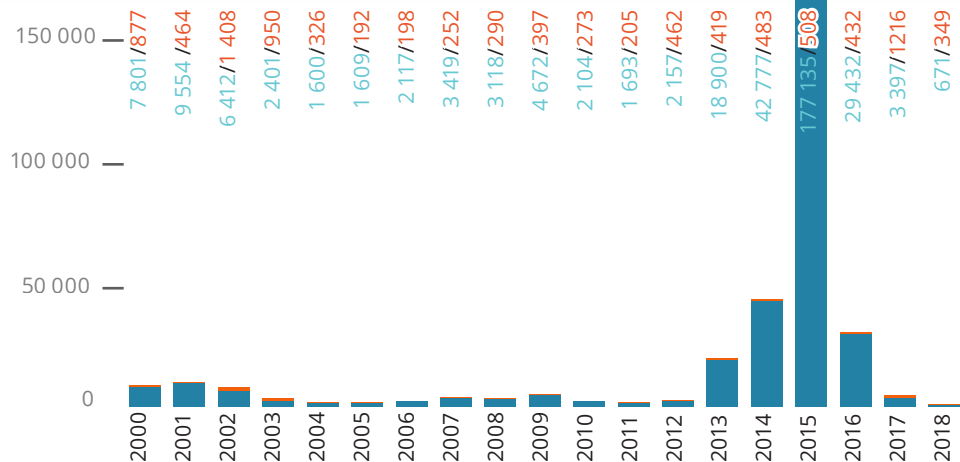
KSH, BMH, BM - 2018



DEVELOPMENT OF NUMBER OF ASYLUM SEEKERS AND BIPS IN HUNGARY

KSH - 2018

Asylum Seekers / Number of granted international protection statuses



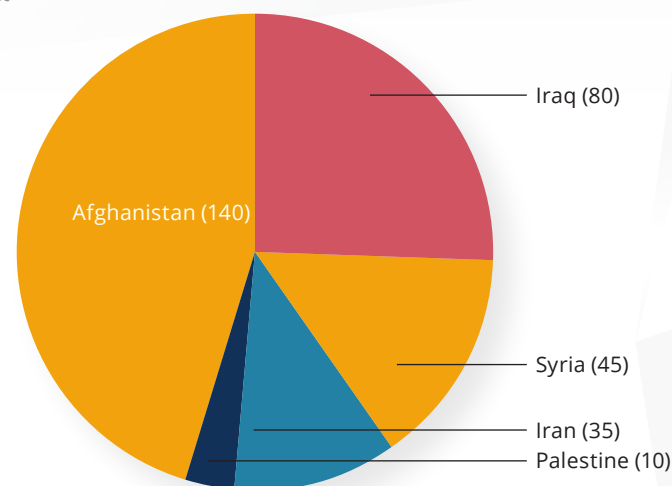
BIPS IN HUNGARY IN 2018

KSH, BMH, BM - 2018



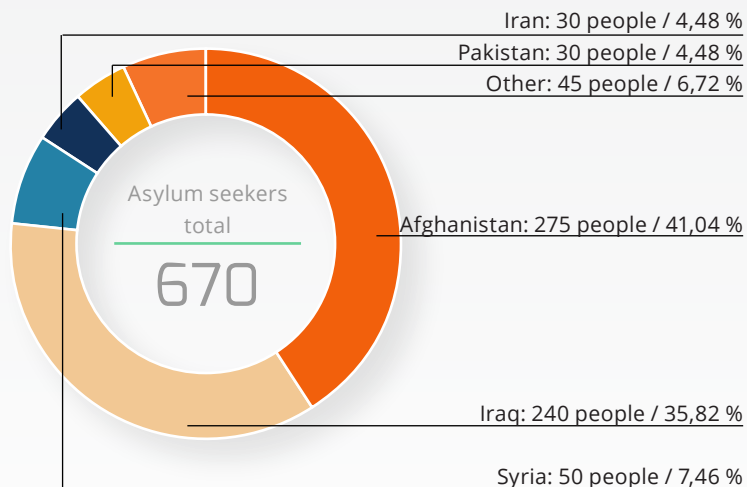
MOST FREQUENT CITIZENSHIP OF BIPS GRANTED PROTECTION IN 2018

Eurostat

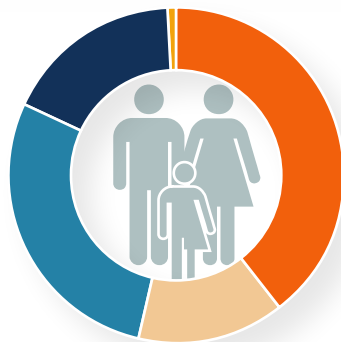


WHO WERE THE ASYLUM SEEKERS IN HUNGARY IN 2018?

Eurostat



- 0 - 13: 265 people / 39,56%
- 14 - 17: 95 people / 14,18%
- 18 - 34: 190 people / 28,36%
- 35 - 64: 115 people / 17,16%
- 65+ : 5 people / 1,74%



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REFUGEE STATUS AND SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION?

ASYLUM

Refugee status is for those who, in their country of origin/usual residence, are subject to persecution due to race or nationality, membership in a specific social group, religious or political conviction, or whose fear of persecution is well-founded. Refugee status can be granted

- to family members of refugees and to children born to refugees in Hungary,
- in exceptional circumstances in the absence of conditions
- to refugees recognised by another state or UNHCR.

It is granted for an indefinite period – mandatory status review every 3 years. As a general rule, refugees are entitled to the same rights as HU nationals, except for participation in (general) elections and employment confined to HU nationals.

SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION (SP)

Subsidiary protection is for those who do not qualify as refugees but are at risk of serious harm if they return to their country of origin and are unable/unwilling to seek protection there.

SP can be granted to

- / children born to beneficiaries of SP in HU
- / family members of beneficiaries of SP, if they applied together/the family member applied with the consent of the beneficiary of SP, before SP was granted.

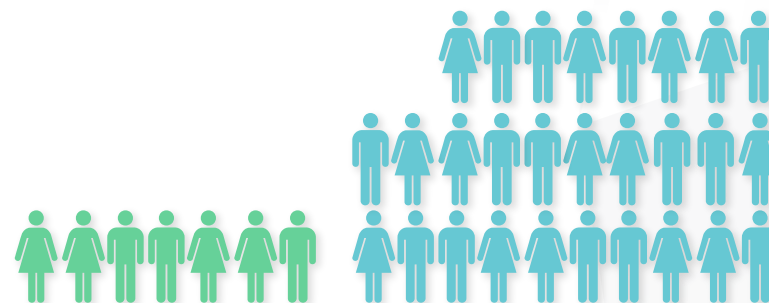
The status is for an indefinite period – mandatory status review every 3 years. Beneficiaries of SP are entitled to the same rights as refugees. The main differences: no access to facilitated family reunification or naturalisation.

NUMBER OF BIPS ACCORDING TO TYPE OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION GRANTED IN 2018

KSH - 2018

68
people

281
people



INTEGRATION OF BIPS IN HUNGARY IN 2018

2018 saw the last elements of state activities involved with the integration of BIPs disappear. In 2016, within the framework of dismantling the asylum system, the Asylum Act was amended, eliminating the integration contract and integration support; thus, there are no state integration measures provided anymore. The contracts already concluded before 1 June 2016 were in force until 31 May 2018 (in some cases, where integration support was suspended by the refugee authority, the support was able to be provided even after 31 May 2018).

In the absence of a specific integration strategy and the termination of the integration contract in 2016, the integration of BIPs in Hungary is based on legislation granting equal rights as nationals and on an 'informal social contract' between state authorities and civil society organisations (CSOs).

According to the 'informal social contract, the refugee authority grants international protection and CSOs implement programmes facilitating the integration of BIPs in Hungary. CSOs assist in the most important fields of integration: housing, labour

market, access to social assistance, health care, etc. There are no state-financed Hungarian language courses, but CSOs also provide them free of charge.

The activities of CSOs were mostly financed through EU funds, mainly from AMIF. In January 2018, the government withdrew all calls for tender in the AMIF National Programme without any justification. It has not issued new calls ever since; thus, since July 2018 no EU-funded projects supporting the integration of BIPs were implemented in Hungary.

EUROPEAN COMPARISON OF INTEGRATION

In Hungary, BIPs are not just encouraged but forced by the characteristics of the Hungarian integration system to become independent and self-reliant as soon as possible. Finding housing and employment are essential to this process, and concerning opportunities for BIPs, there are big differences in these areas within the country.

Housing

In Hungary, just like in many Eastern European EU Member States, housing policies are determined by the dominance of the share of the owner-occupied sector as a consequence of mass privatisation before EU accession. Neither the central nor the regional/local governments have started social housing projects, the margin for manoeuvre in social housing is extremely limited, constrained to a small share of flats (still) owned by municipalities or project-based housing programmes implemented by municipalities or CSOs.

This means that newcomers, especially new BIPs face extreme difficulties in obtaining adequate housing. Following their recognition, BIPs may spend thirty days in an open reception centre, during which time—among other tasks, such as obtaining necessary ID, health insurance, and tax documents—they need to find housing opportunities.

Though legislation provides for equal rights and obligations in the field of housing as well, the scarcity of social

housing opportunities and the fact that many local governments require a minimum residence period in their territory so as to access these scarce opportunities result in BIPs leaving the reception centres with only access to homeless shelters.

After the termination of the integration contract in 2016, no state activities remained in the field of housing assistance. Between 2016–18, CSOs and the municipality of Budapest implemented projects co-financed with EU funds (AMIF in particular), the Norway Grants, or other (e.g. church) funds: CSOs provided assistance in finding housing, financial assistance to BIPs, or housing facilities.

Employment

In stark contrast to housing, employment is a field where BIPs can find opportunities to accelerate their integration in Hungary.

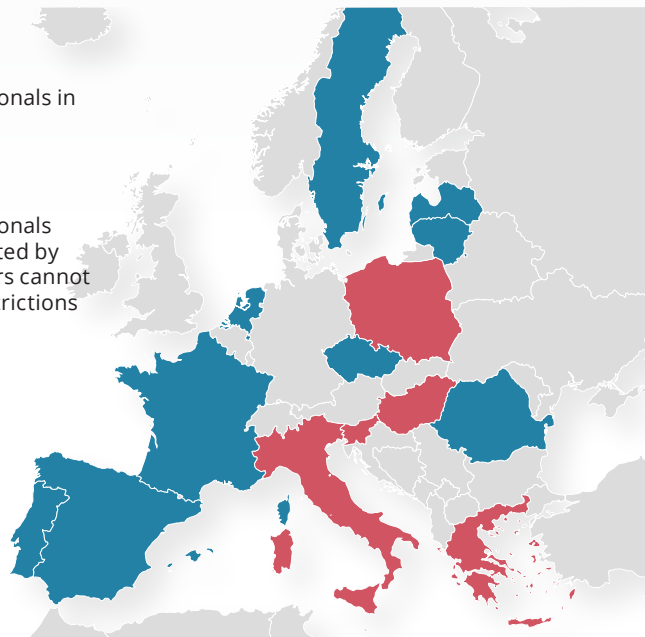
In line with EU legislation, beneficiaries of international protection—with the exception of the core public sector—enjoy equal rights with Hungarian nationals in employment (access to employment, working conditions, etc.). BIPs may be employed without a work permit; the only additional task required from the employee is to provide statistical information to the labour authority on the number of BIPs employed.

Nevertheless, it is mainly the characteristics of the Hungarian labour market that facilitates their access to employment. From 2011 on (following the abolition of remaining restrictions concerning the free movement of citizens of 'new member states' in Western Europe), the mobility of Hungarian nationals in the European Union increased dramatically, which resulted in a large labour demand in Hungary. According to statistics, the number of vacant posts doubled from 2015 to 2018. Unfortunately, there is no statistical data on the number of BIPs employed; however, the experience of CSOs providing BIPs assistance in accessing the labour market underlines that they are able to find employment in a short time.

Despite the opportunities offered by the labour shortage, BIPs face challenges due to their circumstances: They do not speak Hungarian and the majority of Hungarians do not speak foreign languages either. In addition, employees do not have adequate information on the conditions of employing foreigners (including BIPs) or are discouraged by the intercultural difficulties which may emerge in the workplace.

Access to housing and housing benefits

- Equal treatment with nationals in housing benefits
- Equal treatment with nationals in housing benefits inhibited by conditions that newcomers cannot meet or by additional restrictions

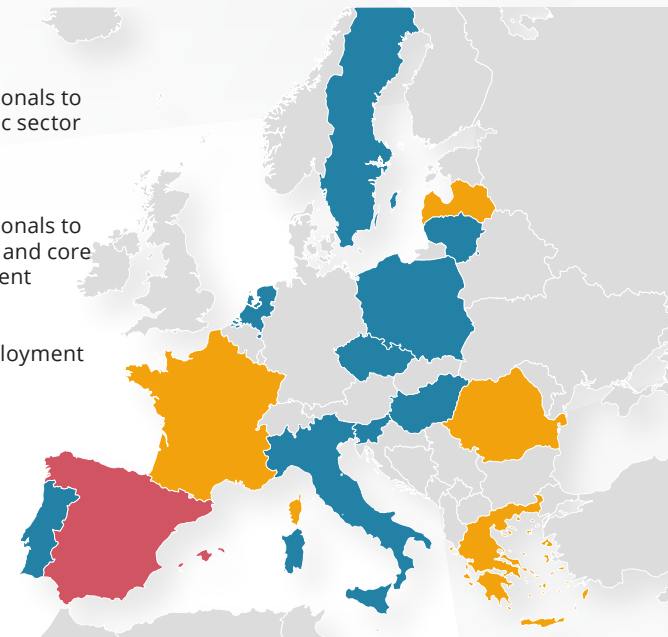


Many projects implemented by CSOs are aimed at reducing these challenges: BIPs receive training, social and legal counselling, as well as tutoring and competence development in Hungarian, facilitating their entry to the labour market. CSOs also initiated and managed internship programmes for BIPs at Hungarian companies.

A good example is the MentoHring project, implemented by the Menedék Association, and which included social and legal assistance, mentoring, occupational group therapy, internship programmes, and an information campaign targeting employees on the legal and practical requirements of the employment of foreigners.

Access to employment

- Equal access as for nationals to private and wider public sector employment
- Equal access as for nationals to private and both wider and core public sector employment
- Unequal access to employment



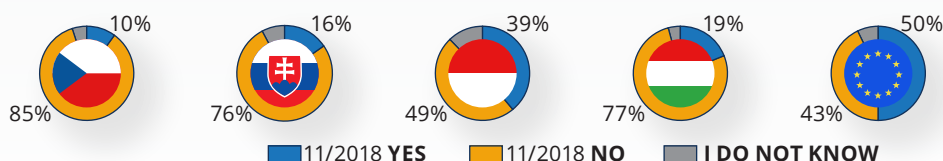
ATTITUDES TO MIGRATION IN V4 ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD EUROBAROMETER

Eurobarometer 84 (11/2015), 87 (05/2017), 90 (11/2018)

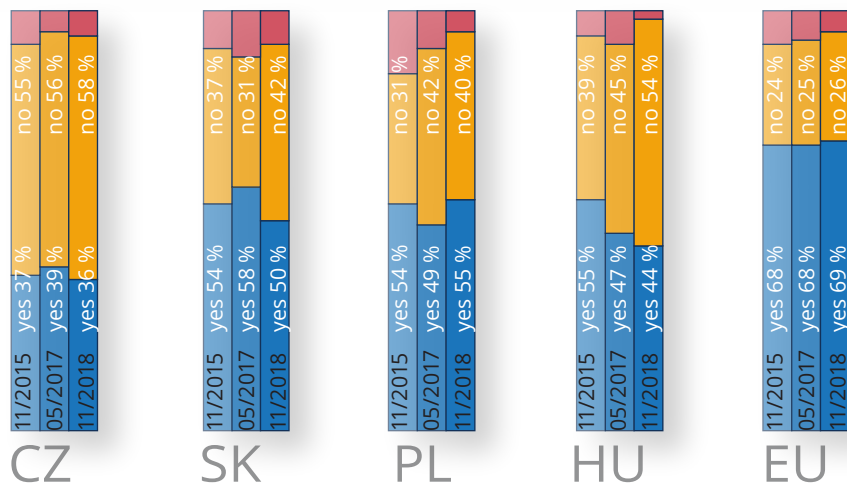
Three years after negative attitudes to migration erupted in the V4 countries, often fuelled by unrealised fears, the Eurobarometer still does not show much change, especially concerning immigration from outside the European Union. Attitudes in the V4 contrast with higher and growing numbers of positively attuned citizens in the majority of EU countries, including those with the highest numbers of asylum seekers. Since 2015, Italy has seen an increase in the share of respondents who see immigration from outside the European Union as positive by 4 percentage points (Germany by 5 pp, and France by 8 pp).

Within the V4, a partial change has occurred in Poland and Hungary. It stems mostly from the more positive views of immigration in the European Union, and in the case of Hungary, also from the change in attitudes following the closure of the Balkan route. On the other hand, the survey shows the attitudes of Czechs getting more negative to all types of migration. Citizens of the V4 also have more negative attitudes than ever to the common European policy on migration despite the end of the mandatory refugee relocation scheme.

DO YOU THINK MIGRANTS CONTRIBUTE A LOT TO YOUR COUNTRY?



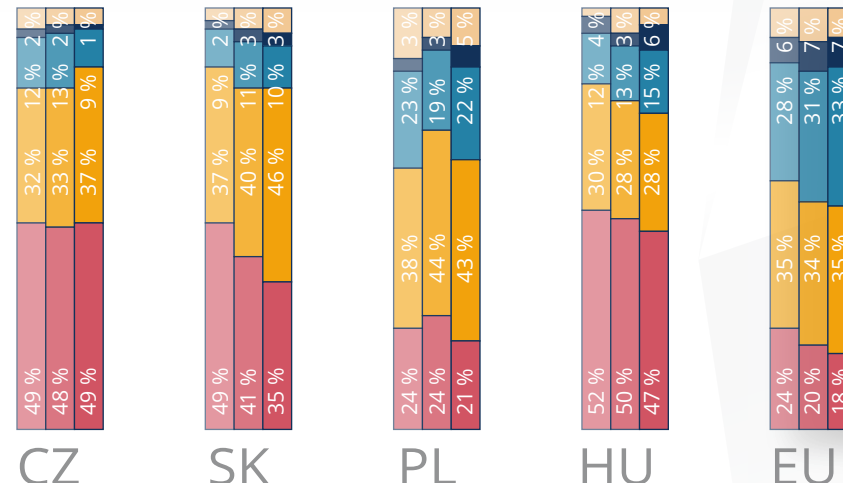
DO YOU AGREE WITH A COMMON EUROPEAN POLICY ON MIGRATION?



WHAT FEELINGS DO THE IMMIGRATION OF PEOPLE FROM OTHER EU COUNTRIES EVOKE FOR YOU?



WHAT FEELINGS DO THE IMMIGRATION OF PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE THE EU EVOKE FOR YOU?



HOW WELL ARE PEOPLE IN THE V4 INFORMED ABOUT MIGRATION?

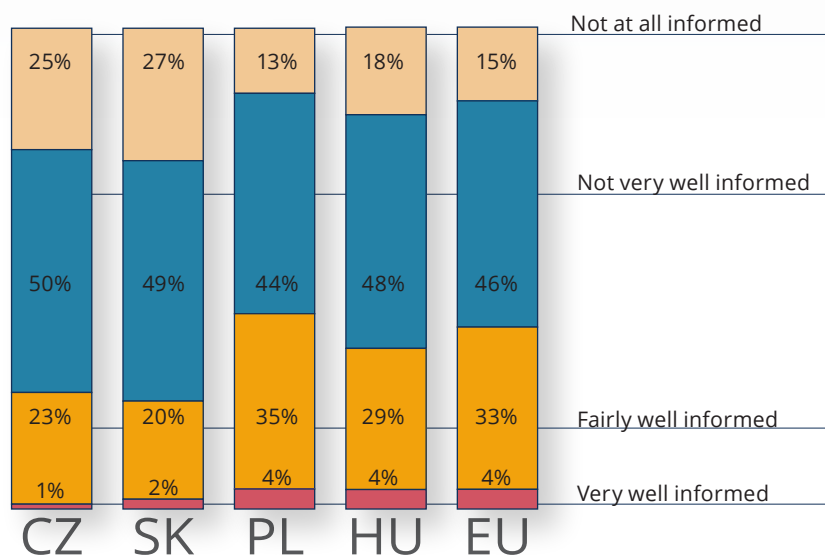
Special Eurobarometer 469 (12/2017)

One of the conditions for society's ability to take qualified political positions is the level of its awareness. Therefore, a special Eurobarometer survey that placed its focus on migration awareness levels among European citizens was conducted. In an answer to a self-assessment question regarding knowledge of immigration and integration related matters, citizens of the V4 (except Poland) admitted to a lower degree of knowledge than the EU average. The relative lack of knowledge showed itself in the inability of respondents to estimate the correct proportion of non-EU immigrants in the total population within their respective countries. The least accurate response came from the citizens of Poland and Slovakia whose estimate exceeded reality by ten times. Lower rates of awareness also lead

to overestimating the ratio of irregular to regular migrants (SE/469 - QA1).

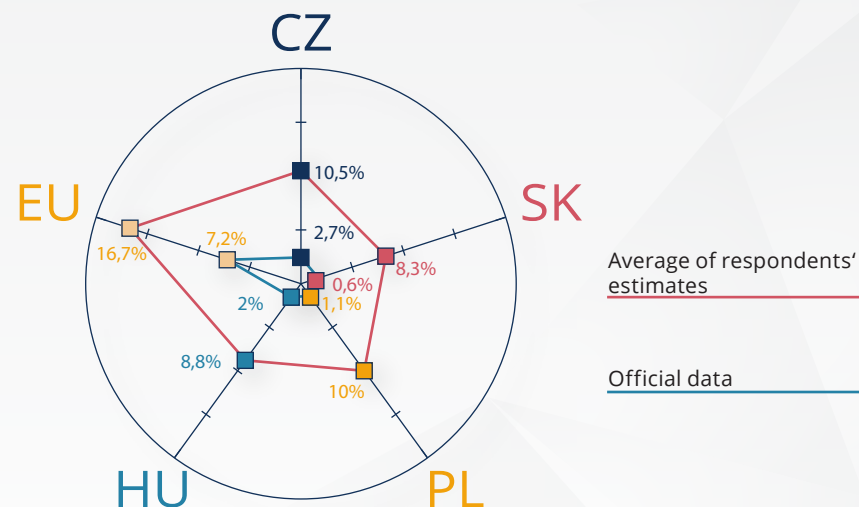
One way towards awareness is regular interaction with foreigners in multiple contexts of everyday life. It is the countries in which interactions are the scarcest where the estimates are the least accurate; instead, opinions are formed by the media and a political environment which tend to overemphasise migration and often in negative contexts, thus feeding the prejudice of a connection between migration and illegality or crime. The surveys also showed that the countries which have the most negative attitudes to immigration from outside the European Union are also the ones with a low intensity of contact between the majority population and immigrants.

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE INFORMED ABOUT IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION RELATED MATTERS?

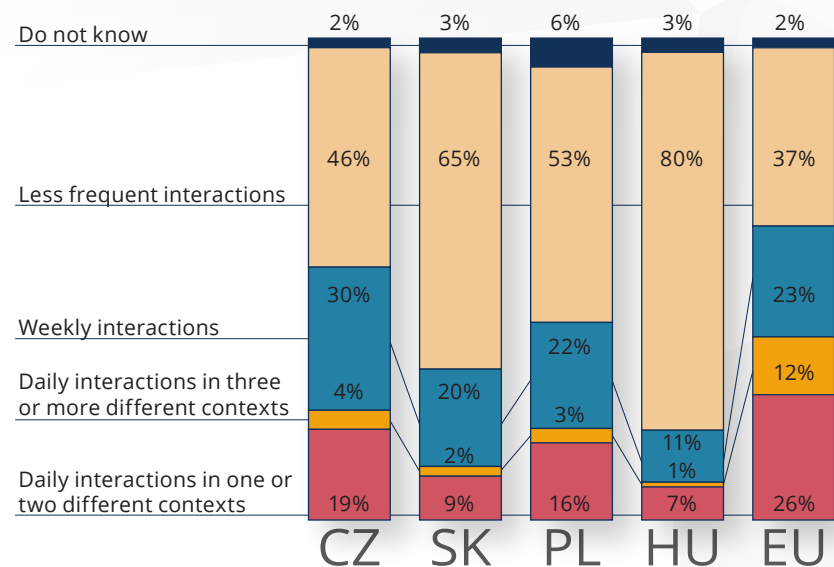


TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, WHAT IS THE PROPORTION OF IMMIGRANTS* IN THE TOTAL POPULATION IN YOUR COUNTRY?

Eurostat / *non-EU immigrants



ON AVERAGE, HOW OFTEN DO YOU INTERACT WITH IMMIGRANTS?



BEYOND QUOTAS...

Controversies in the Hungarian migration policy

2018 was an election year in Hungary, and migration was a central topic in the election campaign. Fidesz-KDNP, with a newly reinforced two-thirds power in parliament, amended inter alia the asylum legislation, introducing a new justification for inadmissibility, which is a hybrid of the first country of asylum and the safe third country concepts. This resulted in dramatically reducing access to asylum—as of July 2018, all applications (except for the application of the former Prime Minister of North Macedonia) have been rejected on inadmissibility grounds. Following the adoption of the amendments, the European Commission started a new phase in the infringement procedure, launched originally in 2015, and referred the case to the European Court of Justice.

In addition, despite strong concerns voiced by civil society and international organisations, the parliament adopted another set of rules within the framework of the 'Stop Soros' package. The amendments introduce a new offence in the Criminal Code on 'facilitating illegal immigration',

including activities such as assisting an asylum seeker in submitting an asylum claim, conducting border monitoring activities, issuing or distributing information leaflets about asylum procedure, or organising a network. The amendments also introduced a special immigration tax with a 25 percent levy targeting entities supporting CSOs by providing financial support for 'an act which supports immigration'. Though, as of this writing, no criminal procedure has been launched nor has the special immigration tax been levied, the European Commission started an infringement procedure against Hungary due to the incompatibility of the new provisions with European legislation.

The public discourse on migration also focused on strengthening border management; nevertheless, the government position was controversial in this regard. The government implemented and strongly supported all activities aimed at strengthening the protection of Hungary's external borders (through the development of a technical border protection device; in

other words, a fence along Hungary's southern borders), as well as those in the European Union and Western Balkan countries (for example, by providing officials and equipment to the Hungarian border police in order to assist the management of North Macedonia's border). Nevertheless, following the adoption of a European Parliament report on the situation in Hungary (the Sargentini Report), the government argued that 'Brussels wants to take away the right of border protection from the Member States' (PM Viktor Orbán, 14 September 2018, Kossuth Radio). For this reason, the Hungarian government was reluctant to support the Commission's proposal concerning the European Border and Coast Guard Agency until the very final stages of the negotiations. In addition, the Hungarian government strongly opposed the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, joining the United States as the second country to refuse both documents.

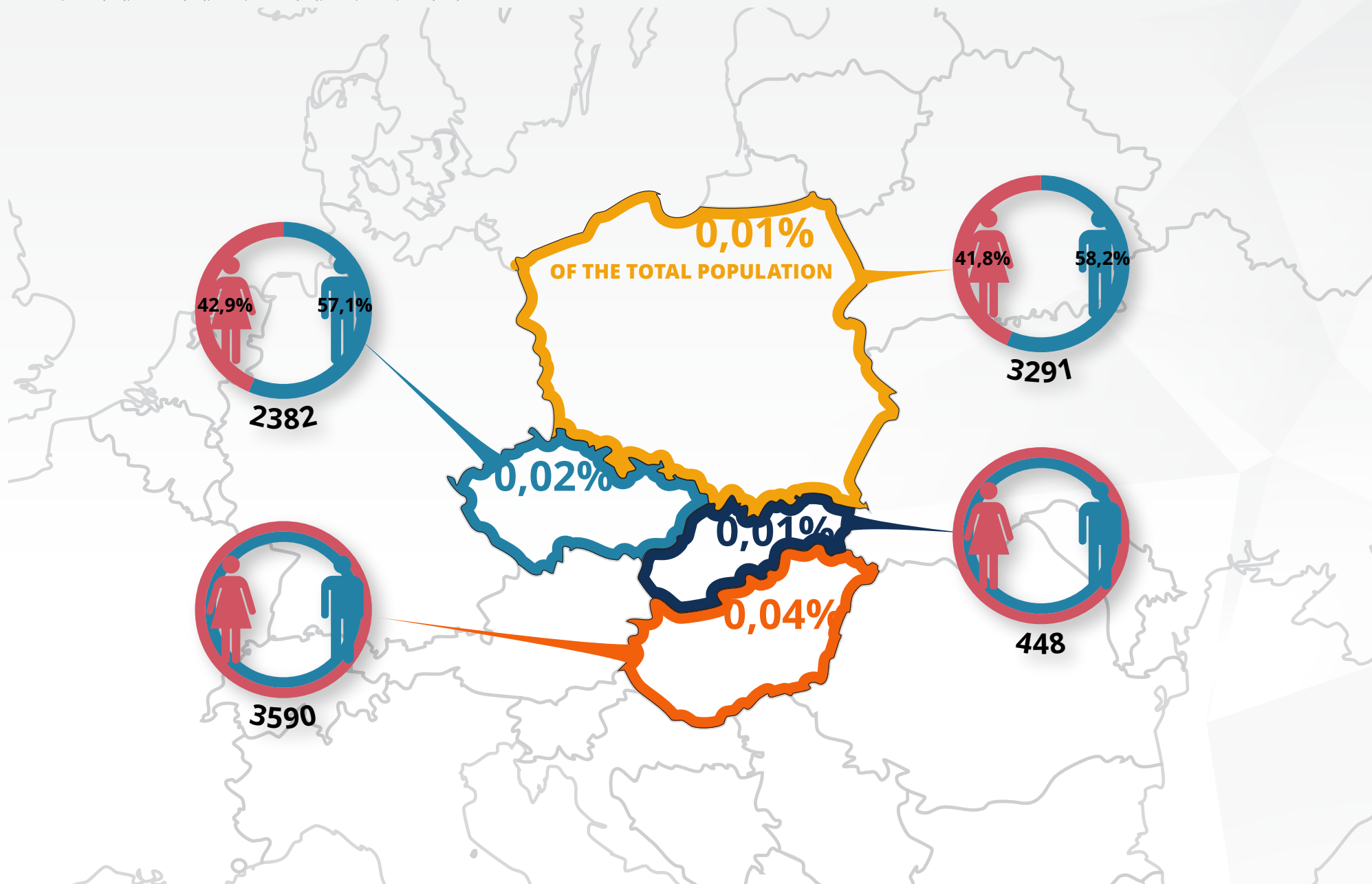
Putting migration at the centre of political discourse had more progressive results

as well. Already during the 2015 refugee crisis, the government had highlighted the importance of providing support as close to the crisis areas as possible. For several years this has been a priority only in words. In 2017, however, the government started the Hungary Helps Programme, a framework programme centralising Hungary's international humanitarian activities addressing poverty reduction, promoting human and minority rights, and strengthening international stability. The principles of the programme are identifying the root causes of the problems, creating conditions to remain in the country of origin, maintaining the religious and ethnic diversity of crisis regions, and more controversially, supporting Christian communities. The Stipendium Hungaricum (Hungarian scholarship) programme is also implemented within the Hungary Helps framework, awarding scholarships in Hungary for more than 4,100 students from fifty one countries in the 2018-19 academic year. According to the OECD, in 2018, Hungary (after New Zealand) was the country with the biggest increase in official development assistance outflows (up 20.7 percent).

BENEFICIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN V4 COUNTRIES IN 2018

MV ČR, ČSÚ (CZ); MV SR (SK); GUS, UDSC (PL); KSH, BMH, BM (HU) - 2018

V4





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