

3.4 Slovakia: silent, steady and regulated immigration

Viliam Lauko, Ladislav Tolmáči, František Križan, Anna Mydlová

3.4.1 Legislation and Statistics on International Migration in Slovakia

3.4.1.1 Legislative Context of International Migration

Migration is not a widely discussed topic in Slovak society. The issue of migration is largely restricted to state agencies, preparing the legislation to implement the migration policy and actively working with migrants in the asylum procedure. The Slovak Republic started to create its migration policy since 1993. It accepted the Geneva Convention and the New York Protocol. The first milestone in the development of asylum and migration legislation in Slovakia was the adoption of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, which provides primary laws, freedoms and security also for foreigners in the country. The document entitled Principles of Migration Policy (1993) determined the content, form and methods of dealing with the issue of migration. The concept of the current immigration policy is derived from this document. The entry of Slovakia into the EU necessitated the convergence of Slovak legislation to the EU legislation. Therefore, the current legal standards are the result of the harmonization of the Slovakian migration legislation with EU law.

In recent years, however, the activity of nonprofit organizations has been increasing and new research projects dealing with migration issues have been launched seeking solutions to specific tasks. Since migration in Slovakia is not such a burning issue as in Western Europe and in other developed parts of the world, we still do not pay enough attention to it. In recent years, however, the need to review the situation and intensify the monitoring of migration and its causes arose. Slovakia is not without migration flows, especially after its accession to the EU. It is necessary to actively deal with the issue of immigrants regarding their entry into the country and integration into society. The legal framework is in line with European legal standards, but it is still necessary to improve the implementation of the migration policy according to all European regulations. Raising awareness of citizens concerning issues of migration will facilitate the integration of foreigners into the Slovak society and enhance mutual coexistence without discrimination against any of the parties.

3.4.1.2 Basic documents of the Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic

Slovak asylum law is based primarily on the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its Additional Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. The Slovak Republic joined the Geneva Convention and New York Protocol in 1993 as a suc-

cessor country of Czechoslovakia. Since 1 May 2004 Slovakia has been subject to the Dublin Regulation, which is applicable in all EU countries. Under the Dublin Regulation, the Slovak EURODAC was introduced as a mandatory identification system for asylum seekers in the EU. On 21st December 2007 Slovakia joined the Schengen acquis. In practice, only the country's eastern border with Ukraine is under Border Police control at present.

The basic document for the entire migration policy is Agenda Slovakia, which was accepted in 1993. The document identified the content, form and methods of dealing with the issue of migration. Agenda Slovakia, however, was restricted to the essential requirements arising from international treaties. In 2005, The Concept of Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic broadened and deepened the original document especially with regard to the entry of Slovakia into the EU and the resulting position of Slovakia in the international arena.

In the concept are formulated the basic policies and guiding principles of the migration policy in Slovakia. Six principles can be divided into two groups. The first group is related to the protection of the interests of the Slovak Republic and procedures to ensure the interests of the various parties in the implementation of the objectives and priorities in the field of migration. The second group defines the institutional framework necessary to protect the interests of the Slovak Republic, the coordination of activities in this area and the harmonization of Slovak legislation with European law.

The six guiding principles applicable in migration policy are the following:

- principle of sovereignty – the Slovak Republic reserves the right to protect its national interests and to regulate migration, i.e. the reception, stay and return of foreigners, to maintain social stability, to protect traditional ways of life, based on the economic and social opportunities of the Slovak Republic, while respecting the obligations resulting from international treaties and documents and creating the necessary conditions for stepping up the fight against illegal immigration and terrorism.
- principle of legality –it is based on respect for the Constitution, international treaties and documents, the rights of the European Communities and the European Union and the Slovak legislation governing the matter in question, with emphasis on guaranteeing, observance and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- principle of regulation of legal migration – establishing the statutory procedures for the regulation of migration in accordance with the interests of the Slovak Republic, in particular with regard to the economic, political and cultural stability of the country and the situation in the labour market and the structure of employment
- principle of active participation in the EU –after the accession of the Slovak Republic to the European Union, the emphasis is on providing an integrated policy of asylum and creating long-term solutions to the implementation of this policy in cooperation with international organizations and NGOs.
- principle of non-discrimination –it is to provide equal opportunities for all foreign nationals who reside legally in the territory of the Slovak Republic, excluding the possibility of discrimination and any privileges and benefits to certain individuals.
- principle of flexibility – creating space for innovation regarding the measures and procedures in the field of migration policy.

The final document entitled the Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic was created with a perspective to 2020 and was approved by the government on 31 December 2011. It is the basic document and starting point for building a modern, distinct migration policy in Slovakia. It is a clear expression of readiness and willingness to contribute to the harmonization of national migration policies in the European Union.

3.4.1.3 The legislative framework

The Constitution of the Slovak Republic was the first milestone in the development of asylum and migration legislation in Slovakia. It provides primary law, freedom and security.

The issues of migration in the Slovak legislation are based on two major acts, namely:

- Act no. 404/2011 Z. z. On Aliens and amending certain laws
- Act no. 480/2002 Z. z. On Asylum and amending certain laws

The most important act containing the regulations referring to the residence of aliens in Slovakia is Act. 404/2011 Z.z. On Aliens and amending certain laws (the “Law on Aliens”). This act defines the possibility of legal residence for foreigners and how to obtain a legal status to stay in the Slovak Republic. The stay of EU citizens, who are also foreigners by law, shall be governed by special arrangements. Third country nationals can apply for one of three types of legal residence in the territory of Slovakia – temporary residence, permanent residence and tolerated residence.

A temporary residence permit allows a foreigner to stay in Slovakia for the specific time period which he/she was granted by the police department. It can only be granted for the purpose of business, employment, study, special activities, research and development, family reunification or service in civil forces. Temporary stay falls under the scope of the blue card system of the European Union.

Permanent residence allows a foreigner to remain in the territory of Slovakia for the length of time for which he was granted a residence permit by the police department. The indefinite license can be issued for a third country citizen recognized as a long-term resident of the European Union. The residence permit with an at least 5 year validity shall be issued to a foreigner if: he/she is the spouse of a Slovak citizen or the dependent relative under 18 years of age entrusted to the custody of an alien who is the spouse of a citizen of Slovakia, an unmarried foreigner under 18 years of age.

Tolerated residence is granted for specific reasons (e.g. a minor found in the Slovak Republic, cases, temporary protection) and during its validity the foreigner must not engage in any business activity. This is a relatively rare type of residence awarded in Slovakia as it does not appear to be very attractive to foreigners. The stay for these foreigners can be tolerated in the country for 180 days and the permit can be extended repeatedly.

Act. 480/2002 Z.z. Asylum has undergone certain changes and the present form of the act is the result of an approximation effort taking place before and after accession to the EU. It defines the basic concepts of asylum issues in Slovakia. Asylum seekers are “aliens who declared to the police department that they are seeking asylum or subsidiary protection in the Slovak Republic.” Asylum seekers are subject to an asylum procedure, which can conclude in the granting or the denial of a refugee status in the territory of the

Slovak Republic. In case of asylum it is a permanent permit allowing a foreigner to stay in the country, in case of subsidiary protection it is only a temporary residence for a period of one year, which can be extended again by another year on reasonable grounds. The aim of this entirely new law was to harmonize Slovakian law with the EU legal standards and achieve a standard compliant with that of the EU on granting asylum. The law states that the Ministry shall grant asylum to an applicant who faces persecution on racial, ethnic or religious grounds, political opinion or membership of a particular social group or he/she is persecuted for exercising political rights and freedoms in his/her native country, and in view of these concerns is unable or unwilling to return to that country. There are three institutions involved in the procedure of granting asylum: the Migration Office, the Regional Court in Bratislava and Kosice and the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic.

3.4.1.4 Institutional care for migrants

In Slovakia, state operated, international and non-governmental organizations deal with migrants. In some cases they are linked and they can cooperate with each other. The main bodies in the field of international migration in the Slovak Republic include:

The Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior is the primary administrative body ruling the issues of asylum and providing additional protection to foreigners. A governmental organization is the Ministry of Interior. It was the creator of Act no. 480/2002 Z.z. on the concepts of asylum and migration policy. It is responsible for providing comprehensive care for asylum seekers and refugees. It manages the integration of refugees into society, providing assistance with accommodation, employment, language training, education, social and health security. It collaborates with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and NGOs.

The Bureau of Border and Aliens Police is the most important institution for granting a residence permit in the Slovak Republic. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family is also directly involved in immigration and alien issues. It determines the legal conditions foreigners have to meet in order to join the Slovakian labour market, it is responsible for the issuance of work permits, and it participates in the fight against illegal employment of foreigners. It is responsible for managing the European Social Fund, which is used, among other things, for the integration of migrants (asylum seekers, foreigners). It also deals with the practical issues of the social welfare of foreigners, who can apply for social assistance benefits, similarly to Slovak citizens.

Other state agencies that are involved in the issue of foreign migration and the residence of foreigners in the country are the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Slovak Intelligence Service, the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, and local and regional governments.

International organizations operating in Slovakia monitor the situation of refugees and their access to fair asylum procedures, coordinating the return of migrants to their country of origin or facilitating their integration into society. These include the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Slovak Republic and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

3.4.2 Figures on International Migration in Slovakia

3.4.2.1 General demographic trends

After 1990 a new period started in the development of the Slovak population (Table 1, Fig. 1). It is marked by a strong decline in the growth rate of the population until it came to a complete stop. There are several reasons behind this phenomenon. These include unemployment, social insecurity, the implementation of the consumer lifestyle of developed countries, and, last but not least, the sharp reduction in the construction of residential buildings. These circumstances caused a reduction in marriages, reduced the fertility rate (it first increased, then decreased the number of abortions and thus ultimately reduced natural growth).

Table 1. Selected characteristics of the population of Slovakia in 1991–2011

Year	Number of inhabitants	Density of population per km ²
1991	5 274 000	108
1995	5 364 000	109
2000	5 401 000	110
2005	5 387 000	110
2010	5 431 000	110
2011	5 398 000	110

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic 2013

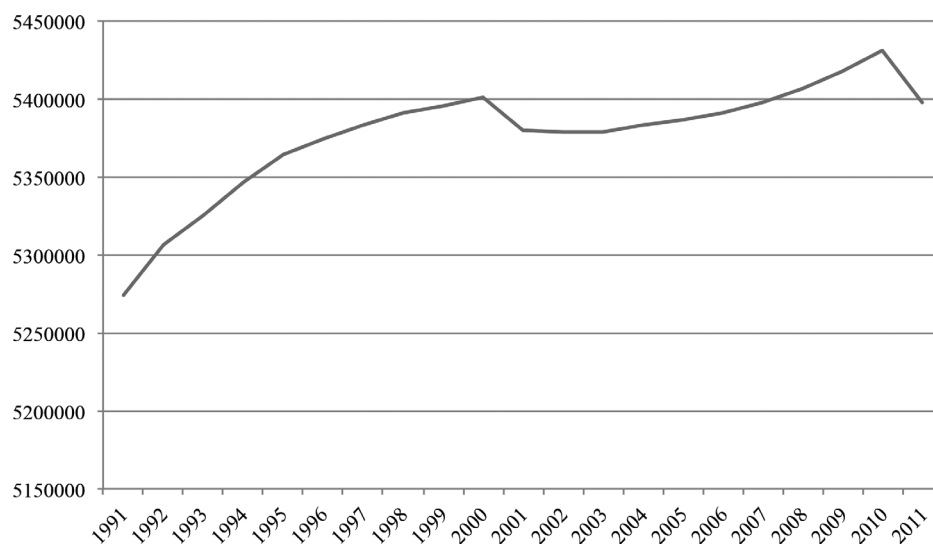


Figure 1. Development of the population of Slovakia in 1991–2011

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic 2013

In 2001, 2002, 2003 the natural growth in Slovakia produced negative values (-0.2 ‰, -0.1 ‰, -0.1 ‰) (Table 1, Fig. 1). The year 2004 was demographically better, when the population decrease halted, and there was a natural growth, albeit small, of around 0.4 ‰. Since then, the natural growth has been slightly positive. In 2004, the natural population increase was 1,895 people, which, added to the 2,874 immigrants caused a total increase of 4,769.

In the context of migration, the number of people annually immigrating into Slovakia is a few hundred or thousand higher than that of those who emigrate from the country. The positive net migration compensates for the natural population decrease during the years of negative natural increase. In 2011, the natural population growth was 8,910 inhabitants and 2,966 new immigrants arrived, which resulted in the total increase of 11,876 inhabitants in Slovakia.

3.4.2.2 The current state of migration in Slovakia

In 2011, the number of immigrants moving to Slovakia was 4,829 while that of emigrants leaving Slovakia was 1,863. In 2011, most immigrants came from Europe, followed by Asia and America. The major sending countries are the Czechia, Hungary, Romania, Germany and the United Kingdom.

According to data from 2011, most Slovakian emigrants left for other countries in Europe and America. These countries are the Czechia, Austria, Germany and the United Kingdom.

The Slovak Republic is primarily a transit country. Slovakia as a member of the EU and a fast-growing, post-communist economy is becoming increasingly attractive as a final destination of migrants. At the same time, however, it is a country from which many people commute to work abroad. These are all challenges which call for the setting up of an efficient migration management, particularly in order to minimize irregular migration and promote desirable migration. Slovakia is the host country for thousands of immigrants. The intensity of their inflow varies, depending on the political changes and economic situation in Slovakia. Although Slovakia is among the economically developed countries, the interest of foreign migrants in Slovakia, compared to other EU countries, is still low. The motives for migration are mainly economic. The arrival of asylum seekers and refugees is dominated by migrants from the developing regions of the world, especially Africa, Asia and such non-democratic states like China, Cuba, Vietnam etc.

3.4.2.3 Figures of legal migration in the Slovak Republic

After entering the country, a foreigner who wishes to stay in the Slovak Republic for some time and for a specific purpose set out in the Law on Aliens is required to apply for a residence permit in any department of the Border and Aliens Police in Slovakia. A residence permit can be temporary, permanent or tolerated. Data on such legal migration are gathered and evaluated by the Border and Alien Police of the Ministry of Interior (hereinafter UHCP), who is responsible for the issuance of residence permits. It also publishes an annual statistical survey of the legal and illegal migration in the Slovak Republic.

A major breakthrough in the development of legal migration in the Slovak Republic was the country's accession to the EU. The number of foreigners with a residence permit in the Slovak Republic nearly tripled between 2004 and 2010 (Fig. 2). While in 2004 the number of foreigners legally living in Slovakia was 22,108, it increased up to 62,584 people by 2010. Slovakia's membership in the European structures resulted in significant changes in terms of quantity of migrants: Every year the number of foreigners increased by 3000-10000 new arrivals. The highest annual increase was recorded in the years 2007-2008, almost 30 %. According to the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, most foreign residents registered in the year 2011 came from the 27 EU states (76 %). Traditionally, the highest representation is mainly from neighbouring countries, namely the Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Austria. Among other EU countries the highest representation is of citizens moving from Germany, Romania, Italy, Bulgaria and the United Kingdom. The strong growth in the number of citizens coming from EU countries is a typical input for the period 2004-2008. The dominance of these citizens in the total number of immigrants has continued till today. Citizens of third countries accounted for 23 % of the total number of foreigners in 2011. The highest number of third country nationals came from Ukraine, Russia, Vietnam, the United States, China, Serbia, the Republic of Korea, Norway and Croatia (not yet an EU member at that time).

In terms of the demographic structure of registered foreigners residing in the territory of the Slovak Republic, the gender distribution showed a dominance of men (more than 59%). In terms of age, the highest number of foreigners was in the 25-59 age groups, which indicates that it can be mainly regarded as labour migration.

The most dynamic component of international migration in the Slovak Republic became immigration for work purposes. The country's accession to the EU radically affected the volume, structure and attributes of the labour force towards better employment and business opportunities. The migration of students has also been an important component of foreign immigration in recent years. In Slovakia, student mobility is a phenomenon

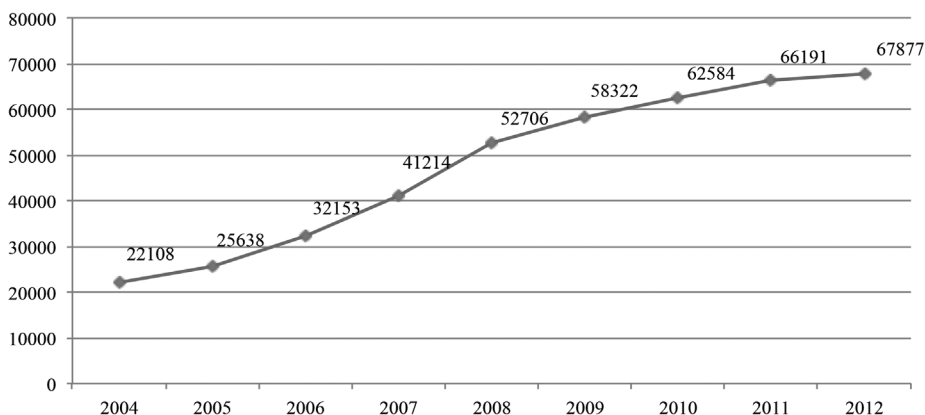


Figure 2. Total number of legal migrants in the Slovak Republic in the period 2004 to 2012
Source: Bureau of Border and Aliens Police of the Ministry of Interior, Annual Reports 2004-2012

which greatly affects the number of legal foreign immigrants granted temporary residence. Another very common reason for applying for a residence permit is family-related.

Until 2008, the number of residence permits issued was increasing (Fig. 3) and its decline started at the time of the global economic crisis. The stagnation of the economy resulted mainly in labour immigration, which led to a sharp fall in the total legal foreign immigration. Since 2011, the number of residence permits issued has started to gradually increase again.

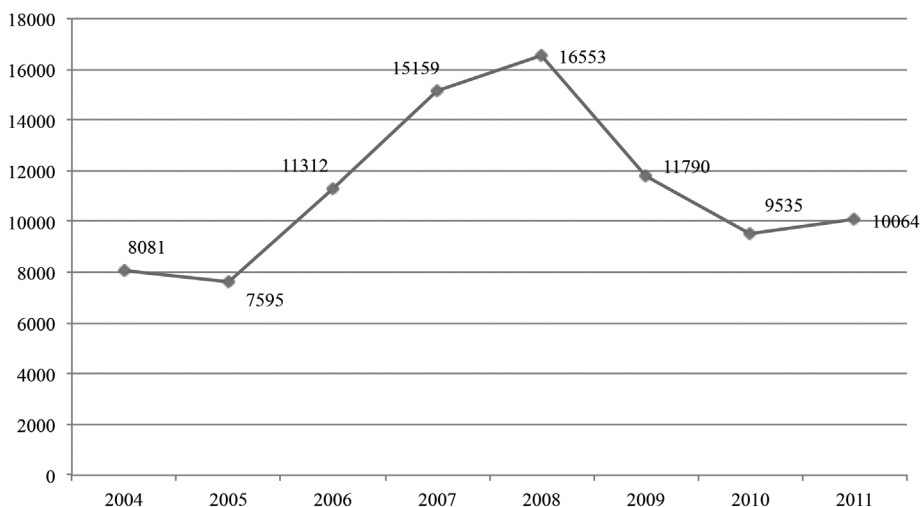


Figure 3. Number of "new" residence permits granted to foreigners in Slovakia between 2004 to 2011

Source: Bureau of Border and Aliens Police of the Ministry of Interior, Annual Reports 2004-2011

Divinský and Mihály et al. (2011) attempted to forecast the development of legal migration in Slovakia based on current immigration trends, the current international situation and future predictions regarding Central Europe. According to the authors, it can be assumed that:

- Until the years 2015-2020, the quantitative and qualitative trends from the previous period will continue in the field of legal immigration.
- The number of foreigners with legal residence in the country will continue to grow every year, at a rate of about 5 to 10%, depending on the economy.
- The number of foreigners in Slovakia in 2015 can reach 100 thousand, i.e. less than 2 % of the total population.
- The proportion of the citizens of EEA countries of the aggregate number of foreigners will be stabilized at around 65%, and the structure of the countries of origin will remain unchanged.
- Legal immigration to Slovakia will remain mostly masculine.
- The proportion of working age immigrants will be 85-90% of the total number.

- The number of foreigners with a residence permit in Slovakia in 2020 can reach about 150,000 people, i.e. approximately 2.7% of the country's total population.
- Slovakia will remain attractive for legal immigrants from third countries, whose number and relative share will rise significantly. Settling the large number of immigrants from culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse backgrounds and ensuring their integration into Slovak society will be challenging tasks for the immigration policy of Slovakia.
- In the years 2020-2025, it is expected that the unification of migrant families will gain significance, as immigrants from third countries will be more widely followed by adults and children (relatives).
- The structure of immigrants will change: the proportion of women and children will increase, while there will be a decrease in the proportion of working age immigrants.

3.4.2.4 Asylum seekers and refugees

The number of asylum seekers rose dramatically in the pre-accession years (2000-2004) (Fig. 4). Interest in Slovakia as a destination country increased due to the possibility of gaining asylum in a new EU member state. During this period, the Slovak asylum legislation approximated the European legal standards. However, Slovakia was not part of the European identity EURODAC database, so asylum seekers could only submit an application in one of the EU member states. In 2005, after Slovakia joined the European area, the number of asylum seekers dropped dramatically, and it continued to fall almost till 2011, which was due to the tighter control of the eastern borders and stricter measures against illegal migration. In 2012, the number of asylum seekers rose slightly.

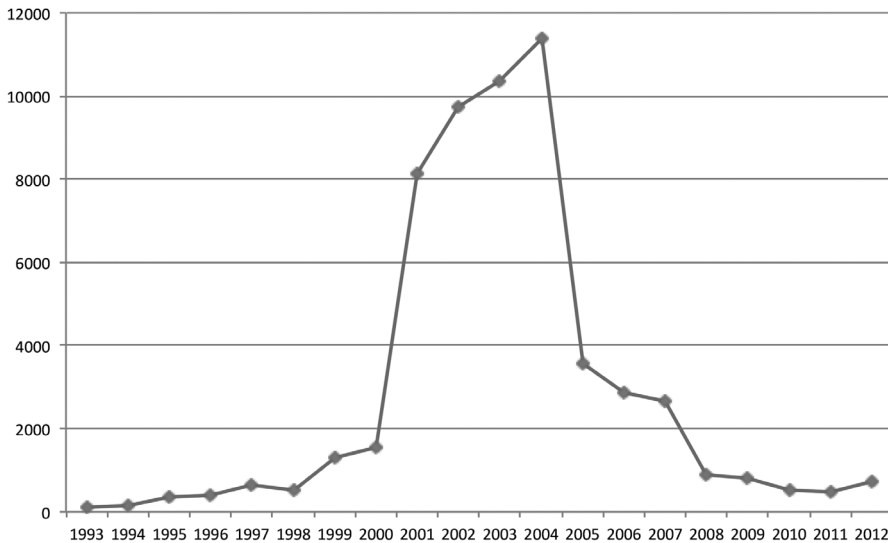


Figure 4. The number of asylum seekers in the Slovak Republic in 1993-2012

Source: Migration Office, Statistical Report for 2012

The majority of asylum seekers in Slovakia arrived from Africa (374 immigrants from 19 different African countries). The second largest group were Asians, while the third were citizens of European countries – last year there were 71 of them and they were from economically less developed parts of Europe (from Belarus, Ukraine, Serbia, Macedonia, Moldova, Russia, but also from Poland and Croatia). As for the country of their origin, the highest number of asylum seekers was ethnic Somali, followed by immigrants from Afghanistan. Afghan people have had family ties in Slovakia since the period of the communist regime, so this explains the reason for choosing Slovakia as their destination country. During the last year, a surprisingly high number of applicants (62) arrived from Georgia.

For migrants from developing countries, the Slovak Republic is less attractive than some countries in Western and Northern Europe.

Figure 5 reflects the age structure of the asylum seekers. The highest number of foreigners seeking asylum is in the age groups 18-25 and 26-39. It is a young and economically active population with the best chance to leave their country of origin and with suitable abilities to succeed in the host country. In both age groups men outnumber women.

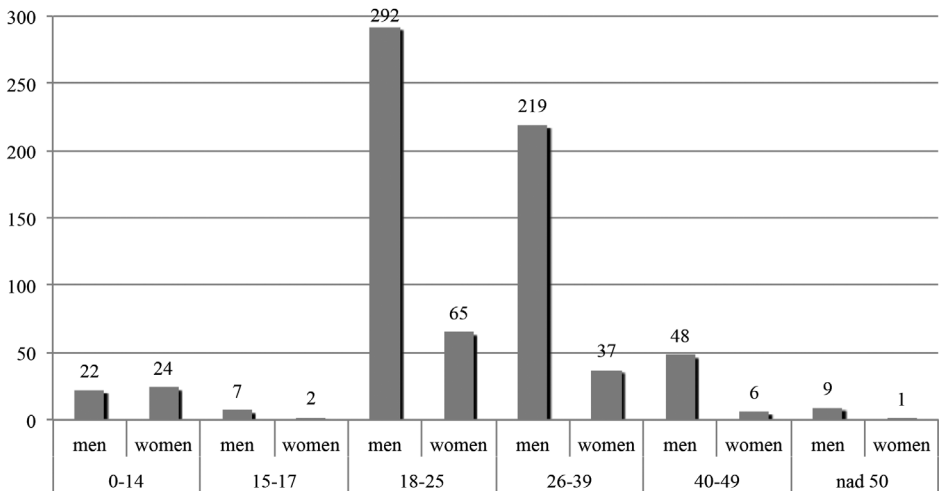


Figure 5. Age structure of asylum seekers in Slovakia in 2012

Source: Migration Office, Statistical Report for 2012

The distribution by gender is generally dominated by men who accounted for more than 82%. Both the age structure and the gender structure is stable, following the same trends that apply for the whole EU. Fleeing is physically and mentally demanding, so those who decide to escape are mostly young and single men. Women usually arrive later, when the men have already established some background for them. Forecasts for the future predict that the number of women will gradually increase.

The Slovak Republic, which, in the past, experienced illegal emigration as a socialist country, is not currently attractive enough for foreign migrants as a target country. But it

cannot be stated that it would not attract migrants at all. However, Slovakia is not facing such an influx of immigrants as other economically developed European countries. The migrants mainly stay in Slovakia just with a temporary residence permit for the purpose of work, business and study. A significant percentage of the requests for permanent residence and citizenship is aimed at family reunification. The number of foreigners who chose Slovakia as the ultimate country in the hope for a better life is lower. Most migrants from third countries are economic migrants and stay in Slovakia for a temporary period and later move on to another, more developed country in the European Union. In the future it will be necessary to alleviate the current migration rules in line with European standards, because the ageing population and the demands of the labour market will require a massive inflow of non-nationals.

3.4.2.5 Development of the number of foreign citizens living in Slovakia in 2004-2011

The evolution of the number of foreign citizens living in Slovakia in 2004-2011 shows that the number of residing foreign citizens is closely related to the number of foreign residents with habitual residence (Figure 6). The lowest number of foreign residents with permanent residence was 4,460 in 2004 (when Slovakia joined the EU), and then gradually went up to 8,765 by 2008, when it reached its highest number. Since then, it gradually declined again reaching 4,829. The number of foreign residents with habitual residence – 10,390 in 2004 went down to 9,410 in 2005, but then grew again after 2008, when it reached a peak with 17,820 and then also declined after 2011, dropping to 4,829.

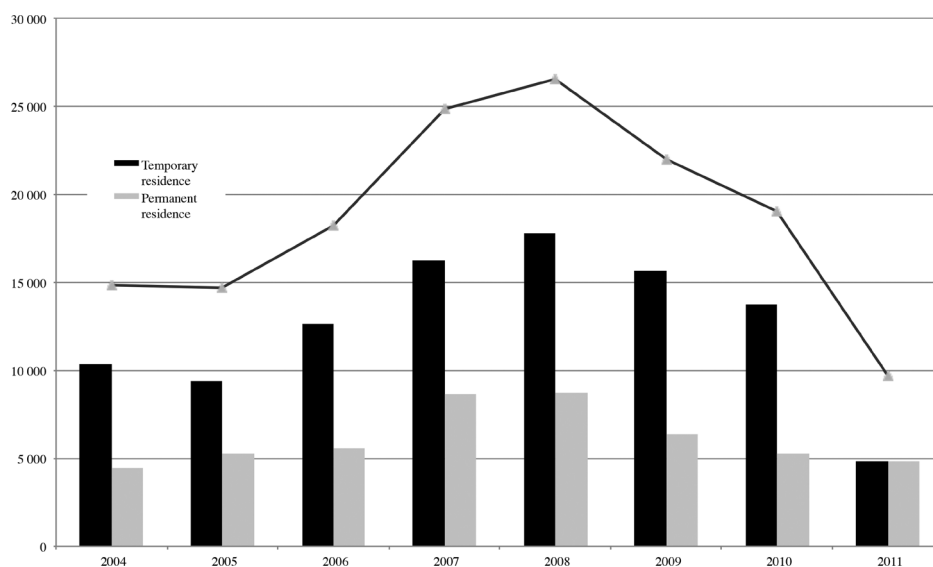


Figure 6. Development of the number of foreign citizens in Slovakia, 2004-2011

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.

Note: the figures are of 31st December of the respective year

The trend of the decrease in the number of foreign residents living in Slovakia is quite visible when taking into account the 5 countries with the most numerous immigrants (Table 2) in 2008-2011. (Figure 7). Particularly noteworthy is the number of Romanians in 2008, which Divinský (2009, p. 39) attributes to Romania's accession to the EU in 2007.

It is interesting to note that Bulgaria, which also joined the EU in that year, is the only country from where the number of immigrants has increased despite the economic crisis since 2008, although it is only a slight rise.

The Czechia had logically the largest share of foreign immigrants (16.5%) in 2011. This can be attributed to a long history of not only economic but also social relations, originating from the former common state (Table 3). Besides the close interrelationship, the cultural proximity and linguistic similarity between the two countries is also of great importance.

The second highest number of immigrants in 2011 was those, who came from Hungary (14.0%). The fact that Slovakia shares the longest border with Hungary, with Hungarian nationals living along the border, often causes Hungarian immigrants to come to Slovakia to join their family members and other relatives, their move made easy by speaking a common language. In the border areas Hungarian immigrants have an option to use Hungarian schools, cultural and other institutions.

Table 2. Top 5 immigrant groups in Slovakia

Year	Type of residence	Czechia	Hungary	Romania	Germany	Bulgaria	Total
2008	temporary	1400	1108	2300	1146	450	17820
	permanent	1405	924	924	902	352	8765
	Total	2805	2032	4433	2048	802	26585
2009	temporary	1633	1065	840	594	208	15643
	permanent	1440	806	806	517	126	6346
	Total	3073	1871	1426	1111	334	21989
2010	temporary	1214	1082	915	452	248	13770
	permanent	1160	708	708	355	136	5272
	Total	2374	1790	1331	807	384	19042
2011	temporary	600	662	458	191	205	4829
	permanent	989	691	691	188	210	4829
	Total	1589	1353	923	479	415	9658
	Share ¹	16,50%	14,00%	9,60%	5,00%	4,30%	

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak republic 2013.

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.

Note: the figures are of 31 December of the respective year

¹ Share from the total number of foreign citizens

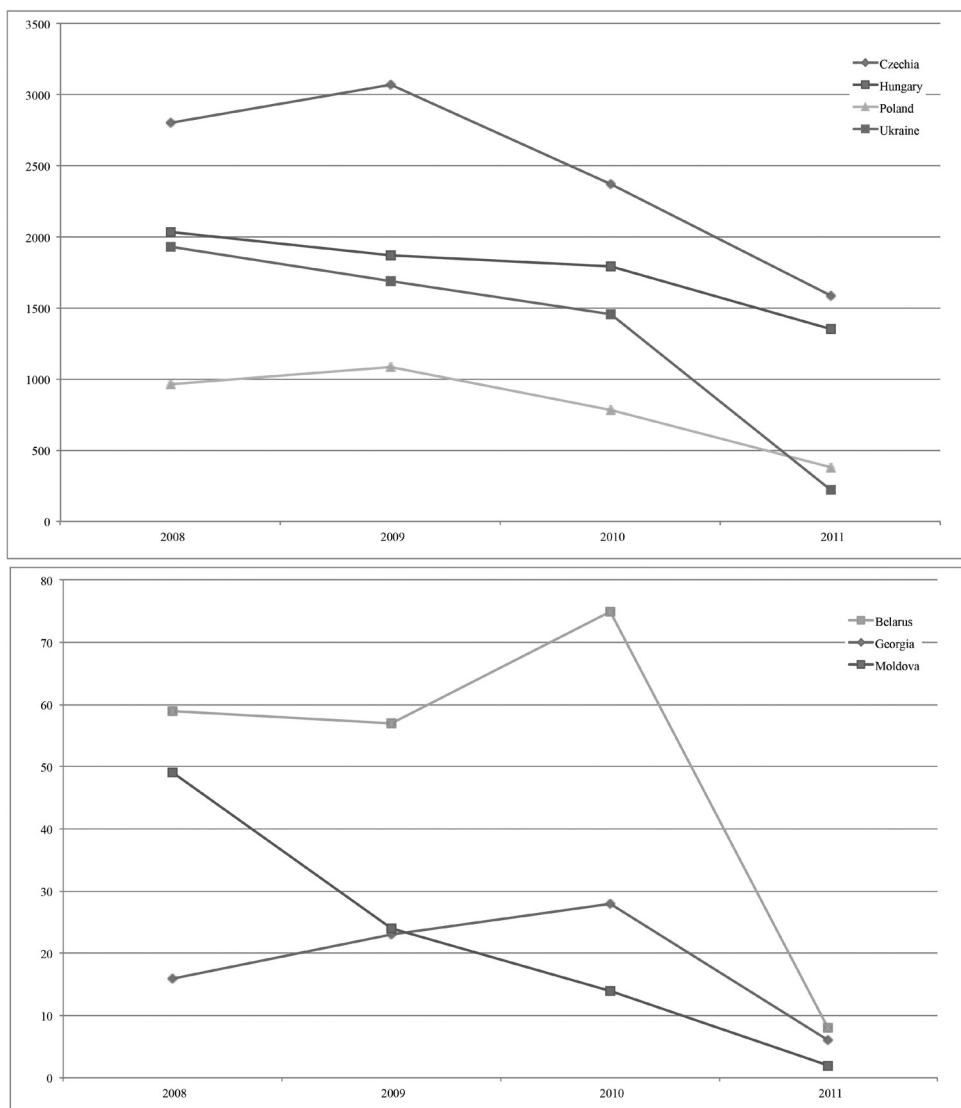


Figure 7. The number of foreign citizens from V4 and EaP in Slovakia (2008-2011)
Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.

In 2011, citizens of Romania ranked third in the list of countries sending the most immigrants into Slovakia (9.6%). A high proportion of immigrants of Romanian nationality were influenced by the worse economic conditions in the home country, which is reflected also in the fact that they accepted such unattractive and unskilled labour opportunities, as for example mining.

Table 3. Number of foreign citizens from V4 and EaP countries as of 31st December 2011

Citizenship	Total number	Share ¹	Type of residence			
			temporary	permanent	temporary	permanent
			Numbers		Percentage	
Czechia	1589	16,50%	600	989	12,40%	20,50%
Hungary	1353	14,00%	662	691	13,70%	14,30%
Poland	381	3,90%	190	191	3,90%	4,00%
Ukraine	221	2,30%	105	116	2,20%	2,40%
Belarus	8	0,08%	4	4	0,08%	0,08%
Georgia	6	0,06%	3	3	0,06%	0,06%
Moldova	2	0,02%	1	1	0,02%	0,02%
Total no. of foreign citizens	3560	36,90%	1565	1995	32,40%	41,30%

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.

¹ Share from the total number of foreign citizens in Slovakia

Although Poland is a neighbouring country and a member of the EU, its share of immigrants is significantly lower than that of the countries mentioned before (3.9%). Surprisingly, it is even smaller than the proportion of German immigrants (5%) and also that of Bulgarians (4.3%).

From non-EU countries, Ukraine has a significant number of immigrants (2.3%). Other countries affected by immigration to Slovakia are Belarus, Georgia and Moldova, but they account for a very low percentage of immigrants (0.08%, 0.06% and 0.02%, respectively).

3.4.2.6 Population residing in the territory of the Slovak Republic by nationality

According to statistical data, altogether 5,410,836 inhabitants lived in Slovakia. 5,337,911 of these were Slovak citizens, 1,553 had no citizenship and 24 belonged to some other nationalities. It means that 71,348 residents of non-Slovak nationality lived in Slovakia, representing 1.32% of the total population.

Among them, the highest number was the 14,744 people of Czech nationality -, representing up to 20.7 % of the population with non- Slovak citizenship. The second most populous group were the Hungarians with 9,920 people, representing 13.90%, while the third place was taken by migrants from Poland (another neighbouring country of Slovakia) with 7,005 people (9.81%).

The next place in the order of foreign residents was taken by Romania, which is not a neighbouring country.. The inflow of Romanian migrants was the highest after Slovakia joined the EU, with a peak in 2008. Their total number at the end of 2012 was 5,962, which accounted for 8.36% of all foreign residents (figure 8).

Citizens of Ukraine came sixth, whose greater representation was prevented by the fact that Ukraine is not a member of the EU. The number of legally registered Ukrainians was 3,915, representing 5.49%.

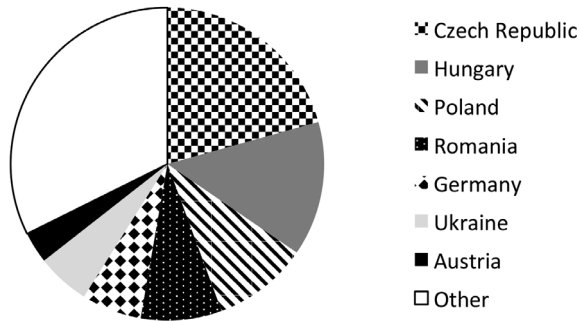


Figure 8. The proportion of permanent residents in Slovakia by citizenship of all residents with other than Slovak nationality
Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.

3.4.2.7 Spatial distribution of immigrants and their employment in Slovakia

Figure 9 shows the spatial distribution of immigrants in Slovakia in 2012. Values are calculated as the number of immigrants / population in the district x 10,000.

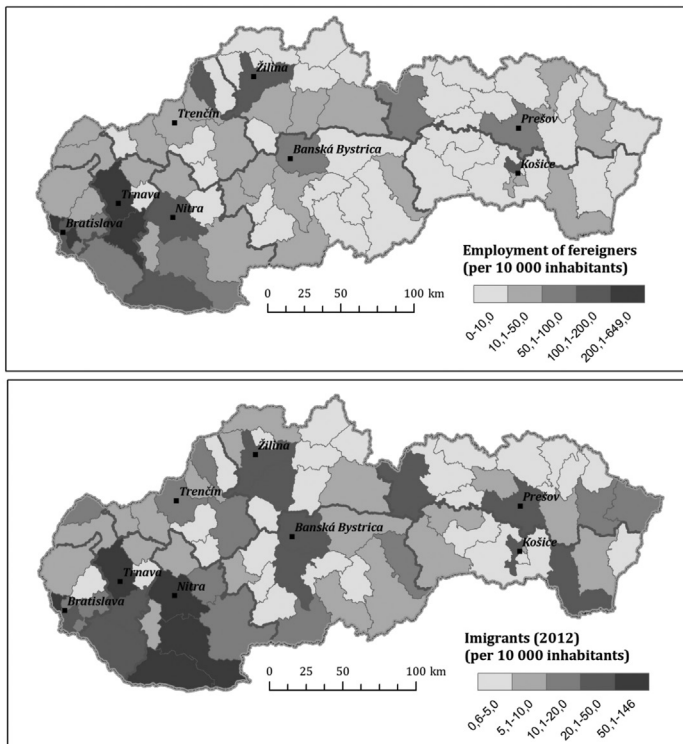


Figure 9. Selected indicators of the spatial distribution of immigrants in Slovakia in 2012
Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

The spatial distribution of immigrants shows some major differences. Immigrants have the highest representation in the western region, where their presence reaches the highest values. This is typically the case in the districts of Nitra (145.99), Nové Zámky (107.15), Komárno (79.06) Bratislava IV (78.50) and Trnava (58.33). Furthermore, the increased presence of immigrants can be observed in regional cities and their surroundings.

The representation of immigrants in the various districts of Slovakia is largely linked to employment opportunities. Most of the available vacancies are in the western and northwest part of the country. The largest share of employment for foreign residents can be observed in the districts that have greater opportunities for overall employment, particularly with foreign investors. Such districts include Bratislava Trnava (649.08 – maximum value) with the largest company PSA Peugeot Citroën, Galanta (283.99) with Samsung Display Slovakia, Nitra district (196.41) with Foxconn Slovakia, Komárno district (188.83) with Rieker shoes, Púchov (130.95) with Continental Matador Truck Tires, district Žilina (112.44) with KIA Motors Slovakia.

On the other hand, the lowest proportion of employed foreign residents is in counties that do not have enough job opportunities and have been suffering from high unemployment for a long time. These are primarily districts in central and eastern Slovakia.

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