

5. Migration flows and trends in the region – in the shadow of giants

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5.1 Introduction

In this chapter we try to describe the absolute number of non-nationals in V4 and in EaP countries, and to compare the situation with figures of neighbouring regions. Non-nationals are defined as citizens of EU or third countries who stay in the territory of a given EU state with a residence permit at a given time.

The scope of the available data we worked with was rather limited. The figures were provided by EASTMIG project partners, namely Dušan Drbohlav and Ondřej Valenta from the Czechia, Magdalena Lesińska from Poland, Vladislav Tolmáči from Slovakia, Áron Kincses from Hungary, Kostyantyn Mezentsev and Grygorii Pidgrushnyi from Ukraine, Ekaterina Antipova, Liudmila Fakeyeva from Belarus, Andrei Crivenco from Moldova and Ioseb Salukvadze from Georgia. We also used the database of Eurostat and the homepage of the Federal Statistical Office of Germany.

5.2 General migration situation of V4 in the EU

Based on the number of foreign citizens in each V4 and EaP states and in some neighbouring countries, main migration flows and trends of the region can be traced and characterized.

20 million foreign citizens (third country and EU citizens living in a country other than their country of origin) lived in the EU in 2012 (Eurostat). The largest foreign population is in Germany (7.7 million), Spain (5.5 million), Italy (4.8 million) and in the United Kingdom (4.8 million) (Figure 1). Most of these migrants are third country citizens, however there is a considerable number of foreigners who originated from the EU (e.g. from Romania or Poland). A higher ratio of non-nationals is typical in smaller countries such as Luxemburg, Switzerland and Cyprus. There are also a large number of non-nationals in Latvia due to the remarkable size of the Russian minority which did not receive Latvian citizenship after the independence from the Soviet Union. A lower ratio of non-nationals characterizes the V4 countries, which shows that these countries are not so attractive for foreign migrants. An exception to this is the Czechia.

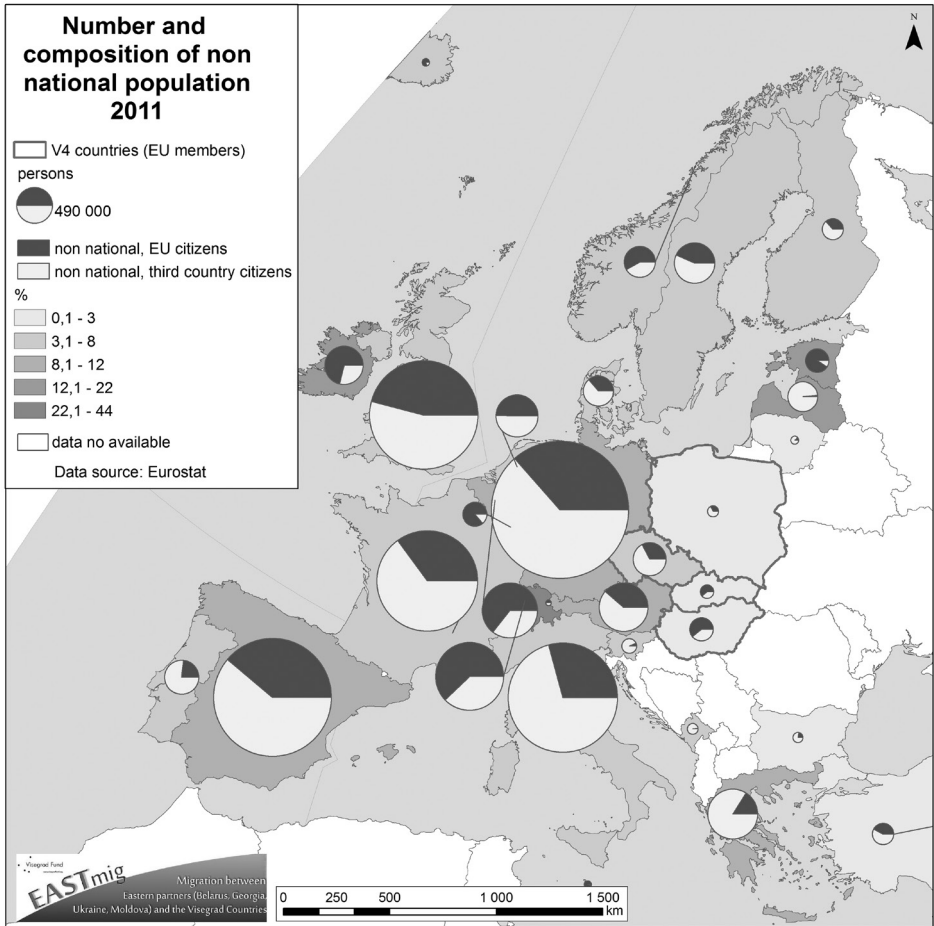


Figure 1. Number of non-nationals in EU and in some other European countries

Since the EU accession, the number of foreign citizens increased rapidly in the Czechia and Slovakia due to the open migration policy. There was also rapid increase in Italy and in Spain mostly because of Romanian immigrants after 2007. While the number of immigrants in the United Kingdom and Scandinavian countries is increasing, the number of foreign citizens declined in Germany and in the Netherlands because many of them received citizenship. The situation is the same in the Baltic states, where the members of the Russian minority gained citizenship (Figure 2).

The Visegrad Countries, due to the political and economic transition and the rapprochement to Western Europe, became host countries by the second part of the 1990s. The new EU member states of Central Europe (Visegrad 4 countries), play only a marginal, intermediary role in intercontinental migration, as most of the migrants arrive from neighbouring countries and regions. 12.7% of the total population of the EU lives in V4

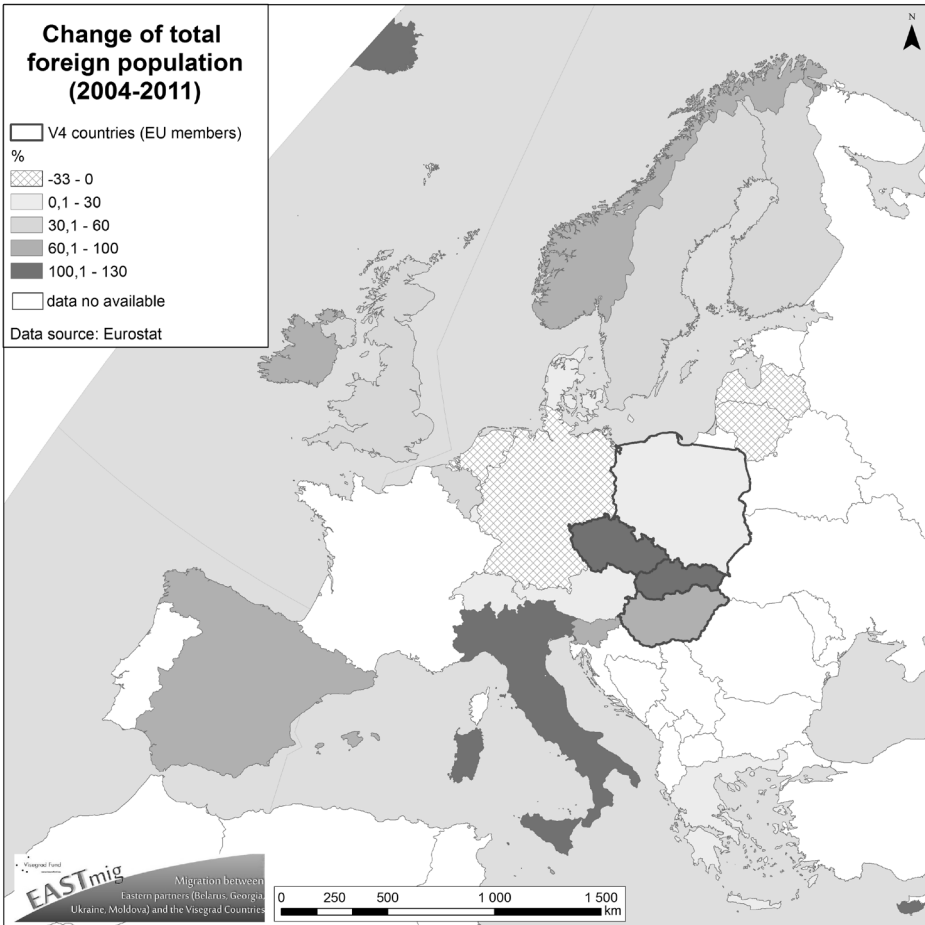


Figure 2. Changes in the number of non-nationals in EU and in some other European countries

countries, but only 3.4% of the total number of foreign citizens staying in the EU lived in V4: 695.2 thousand foreign citizens in 2013, which number has doubled since 2003 (366.5 thousand) (Figure 3). The largest group of foreign citizens lives in the Czechia, 416 thousand people, which accounts for more than half of the total number of foreigners living in the V4. One third, 209 thousand migrants were registered in Hungary and only 5-10% lives in Poland and in Slovakia.

The total number of immigrants in the region began to grow rapidly in V4 in 2006, because of the growth of immigration in the Czechia. However, since 2012 a decline in the total number of foreign citizens can be observed in the region, caused by Hungary's declining immigrant stock. This is due to the simplified naturalization process for ethnic Hungarians, therefore it does not mean a real decline in terms of the resident population.

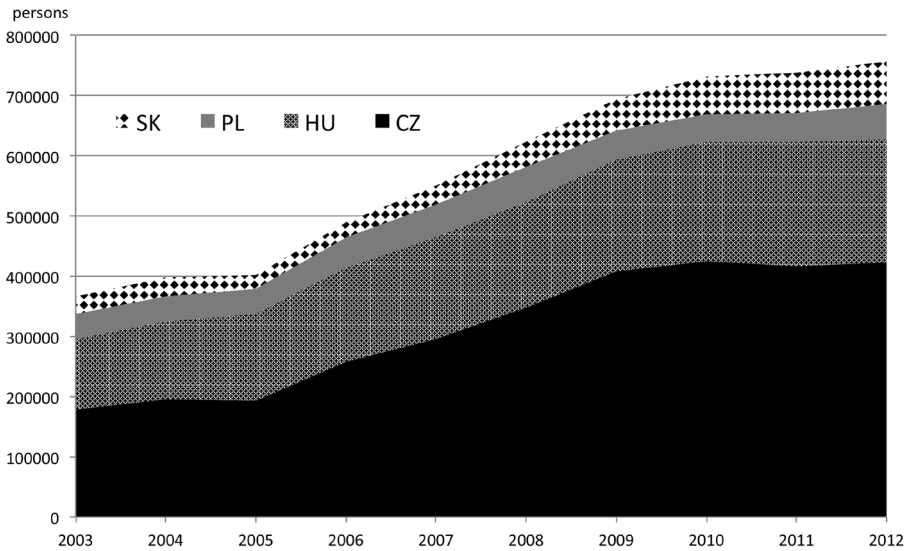


Figure 3. Number of foreign residents in V4 countries (2003-2012)

In the Czechia 4%, in Hungary 2.1%, in Slovakia 1.3% in Poland 0.1% of the total population was foreign citizen in 2012. In comparison, the highest immigrant per domestic citizen ratio in the EU is in Luxemburg (43%), followed by Cyprus (20%).

5.3 Structure of migration in V4 countries

In 2012, the 18.5% of all foreign residents in the V4 country group was from other V4 countries, thus less than one fifth of the migratory flows stayed inside the V4 area. The ratio had been almost the same in 2006 (19.3%). During this time the share of EaP country citizens (Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia) declined rapidly in immigration stock data, from 29.7% to 22.6% between 2006 and 2012, while the number of migrants increased slightly (from 145 to 167.6 thousand). The real increase was due to those who arrived from outside the V4 and EaP countries, mostly from Germany, Russia, Vietnam and China.

The role of other V4 countries as sources for international migration is the lowest in Poland, the role of EaP is the lowest in Slovakia.. Hungary has a special situation in V4, because till 2010 almost 60% of the immigrants were arriving from the neighbouring countries: mostly ethnic Hungarians from Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. 70% of V4 migrants in Hungary are from Slovakia, and they are mainly ethnic Hungarians, and 90% of EaP migrants in the country arrived from Transcarpathia, Ukraine in 2011, also mostly ethnic Hungarians.

Most of the EaP migrants in Poland (40% of total) arrived from Ukraine and Belarus in 2011, which shows a radical change since 2006 (28%). Among V4 countries only in Poland has the role of immigration from EaP increased since the EU accession.

In the case of the Czechia, 19% of all migrants arrived from Slovakia, while 22% of the immigrants in Slovakia arrived from the Czechia. Since the EU accession, the share of Hungarian migrants in Slovakia has been growing and exceeded 13% of the total immigrants by 2011.

Considering the intensity of the migratory movements between EaPs and V4 countries, the role of the Czechia needs to be highlighted. The role of the V4 and EaP countries declined radically, and yet, 55% of the foreign residents arrived from these countries. Especially EaP has a significant share: 43.5% of the migrants were from these countries in 2006 (Figure 4, 5).

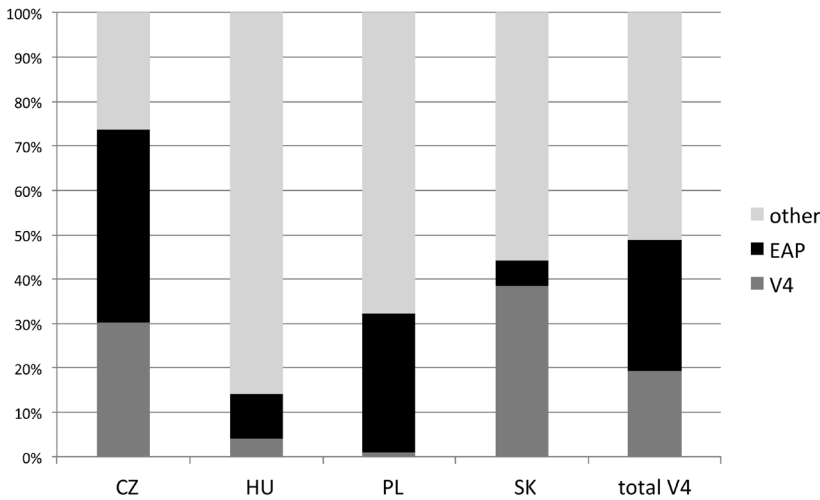


Figure 4. Main source countries of the foreign residents, 2006

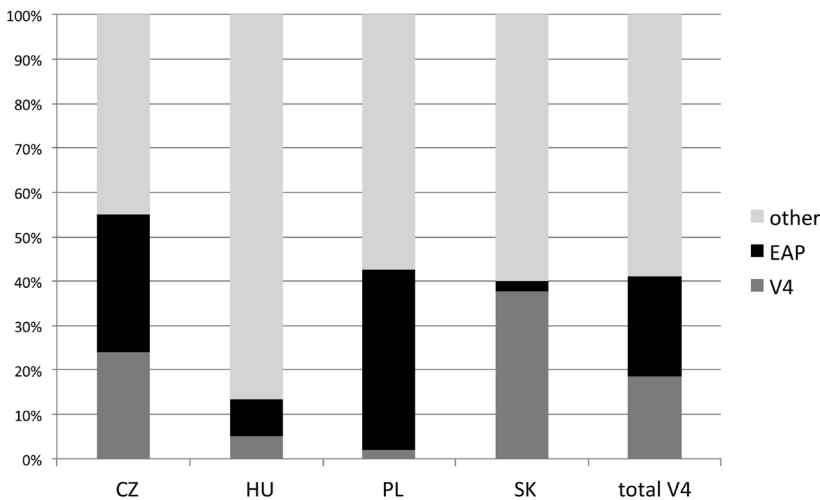


Figure 5. Main source countries of the foreign residents, 2011

5.4 Volume of migration in V4 countries

The largest group of migrants in the V4 countries is the Ukrainian citizens, more than 150 thousand people, $\frac{3}{4}$ of them living in the Czechia. The second largest group is the Slovakian citizens in the Czechia, more than 80 thousand, the third are the Romanian citizens in Hungary, 76 thousand. These data show that most of the migratory movements are realized on an ethnic or on a former territorial base (ethnic Hungarians or the citizens of the former Czechoslovakia), and they are not the result of conscious migration policies. The fourth largest immigrant group in V4 is the Vietnamese, with a stock of 64.5 thousand people, 90% of them live in the Czechia. German citizens (40-45 thousand) are dispersed among V4 countries, half of them live in Hungary. Most of the Polish migrants live in the Czechia, while half of the Chinese population in the V4 country group lives in Hungary (Table 1).

Table 1. Foreign residents in Visegrad Countries (2011)

Foreign resident group	Number (thousands)	Total number in V4 countries	Percentage of total
Ukrainians in Czechia	119	154	77
Slovaks in Czechia	81	89	91
Romanian citizens in Hungary	76	87	87
Vietnamese in Czechia	58	65	89
Russians in Czechia	32	38	84
Germans in Hungary	20	42	48
Polish in Czechia	19	22	86
Germans in Czechia	16	42	38
Chinese in Hungary	12	19	63
Moldavians in Czechia	7.5	8	94
Americans in Czechia	7	10	70
Slovak citizens in Hungary	7	89	8

In comparison to these numbers, we should mention that the total number of V4 citizens residing in EaP countries as accounts for approximately 2 thousand people, half of them are Polish citizens living in Ukraine. The largest number of foreign residents in Ukraine is the Russian citizens, according to official statistics (19.5 thousand in 2011).

At the same time, Germany receives 10% of its migrants from V4 and EaP countries, where a resident population of 787.6 thousand V4 and EaP citizens was counted in 2011. 60% (468 thousand) arrived from Poland, 10% (83 thousand) from Hungary. However, it is worth mentioning that Visegrad countries receive more Ukrainian residents than Germany (123 thousand). The Czechia itself receives almost the same size of Ukrainian migrants as Germany, which shows that the V4 country group is a much more important destination for this nationality than many countries in Western Europe. In the case

of Belarusians, Germany is a much more important destination, 19 thousand Belarusian citizens live there (Table 2).

Table 2. EaP and other foreign residents in Visegrad Countries and in Germany (thousand people) (2011)

Foreign resident group	in V4	in Germany
Ukrainians	154	123
Belarusians	9	19
Moldavians	8	12
Georgians	1	14
...		
Romanians	77	159
Vietnamese	65	85
Russians	38	195
Chinese	19	92
...		
Turks	5	1607
...		
Germans	42	–
V4 citizens	–	620

While Poland and Hungary send a lot of migrants to Western Europe, they receive only a rather low number of migrants from EaP countries, other than Ukrainians. Hungary has more than 200 thousand foreign residents, nonetheless, there are 83 thousand Hungarians in Germany and there are also numerous groups in Austria and in the United Kingdom. Only in the case of the Czechia is the migratory balance more favourable, due to the EaP immigrants (Table 3).

Table 3. Migration “balance” of V4 countries (thousand people) (2011)

V4 countries	receiving from EaP	receiving from Russia, Vietnam, China	sending to Germany
Czechia	131	95	38
Hungary	17	18	83
Slovakia	4	4	30
Poland	23	8	468

To sum up, the Czechia has the largest immigrant population from a global set of countries of origin, while Hungary has immigrants mostly from the neighbouring countries. If illustrated on a map and compared to the immigration flows to Germany, the migration flows between V4 and EaP seem less significant (Figure 6, 7). Although we do not have data on Russian immigration, it is clear that the number of EaP citizens is much higher in the Russian Federation than in the entire EU.

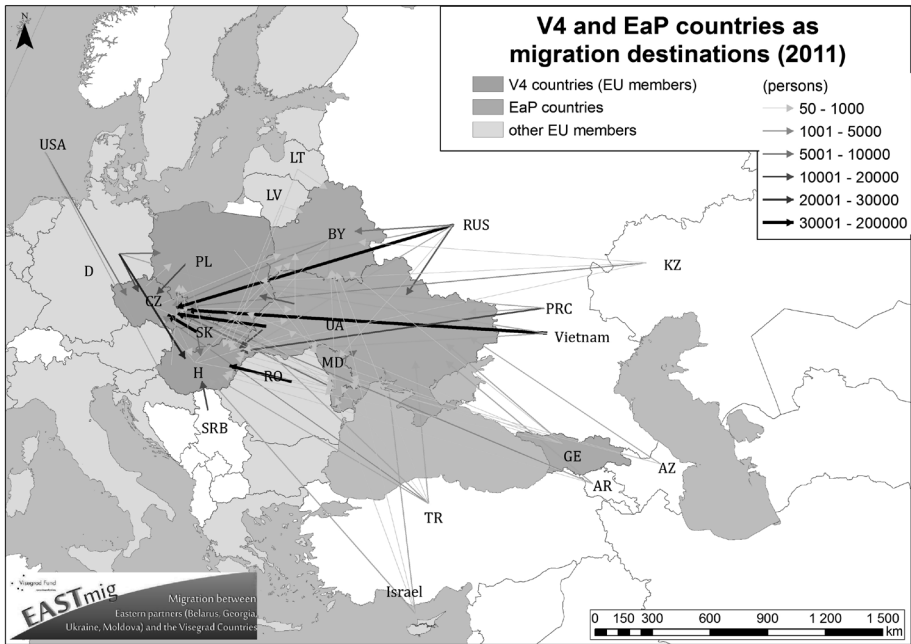


Figure 6. Main sources of immigration in V4 and EaP countries

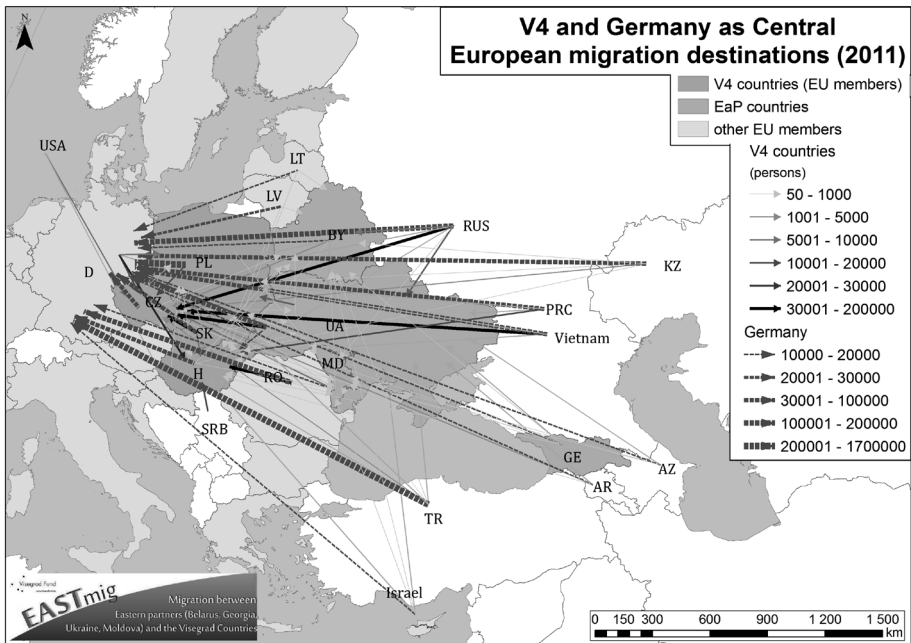


Figure 7. Main source countries of immigration in V4 and the role of these in Germany

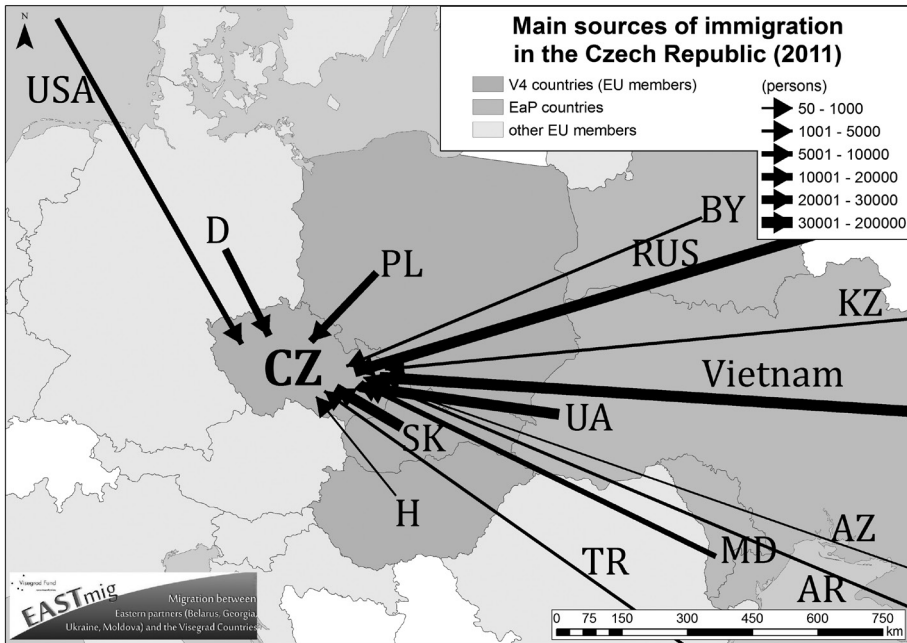


Figure 8. Immigration to the Czechia – a wider global set with large numbers

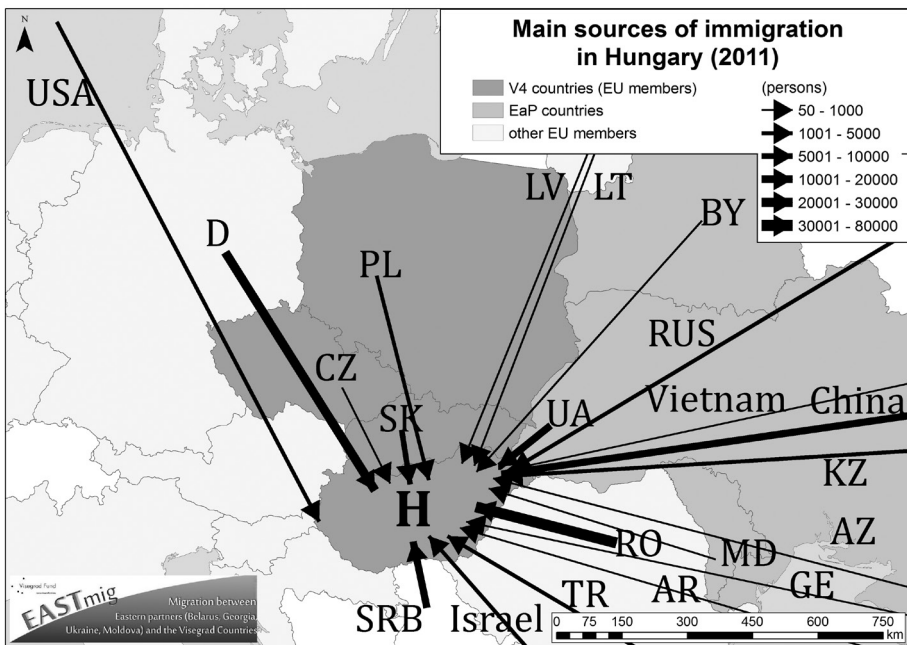


Figure 9. Immigration to Hungary – a regional migration gravity pole

Based on data on immigration to the Czechia, Hungary and Poland, three different migration patterns can be observed: the Czechia is the most open for migration both regarding the number of migrants and their country of origin. Poland plays an important role in east-west migratory movements, while Hungary can be considered a country of limited regional importance, mainly attractive for ethnic Hungarians living in the neighbouring countries (Figure 8, 9, 10).

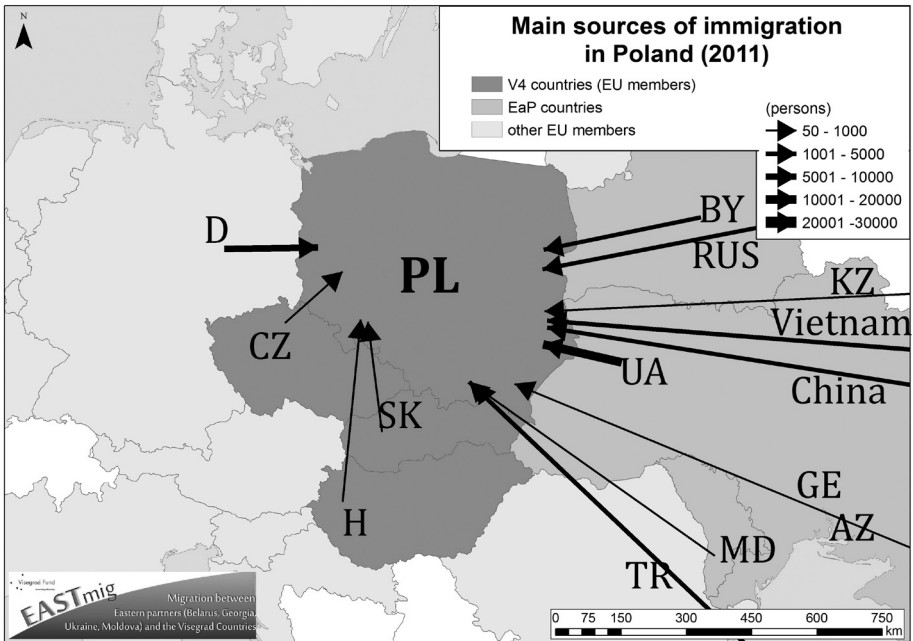


Figure 10. Immigration to Poland – east-west movements

