



**REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE
MIGRATION OFFICE FOR 2017**

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1 INTRODUCTION

The year 2017 saw some changes in organisation and work of the Migration Office since the Government of the Republic of Slovenia established the Government Office for the Care and Integration of Migrants by means of an ordinance. With the commencement of the Office's operations, certain tasks within the competence of the Migration Office, the provision of material aid and the coordination of implementation of other rights of applicants for international protection, including psychosocial care and the provision of rights and implementation of integration measures of persons granted international protection, were transferred to it.

However, the planning and implementation of migration policy, which includes the areas of regular migration, international protection and integration of foreigners and persons under international protection, the preparation and coordination of measures for implementing migration policy and preparing proposals of normative acts from the field of work of the Office will remain the tasks of the Migration Office, which is part of the Internal Administrative Affairs, Migration and Naturalisation Directorate (DUNZMN).

In 2017, the Migration Office collaborated with other state authorities, Social Work Centres, administrative units, courts, international and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

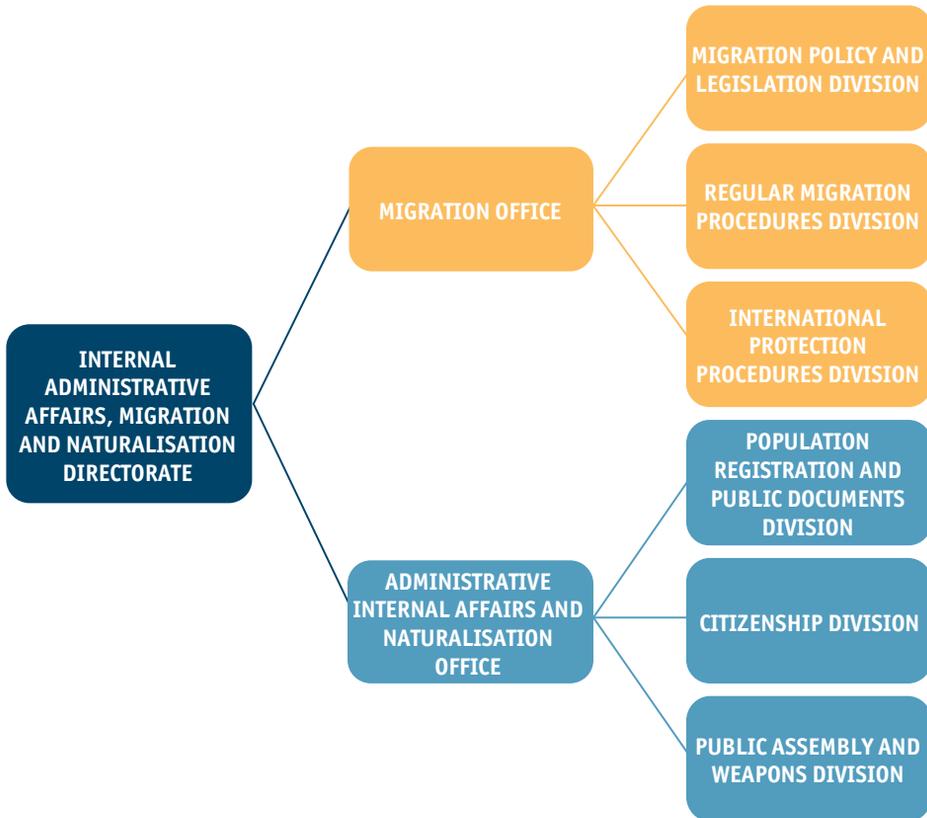
In addition to statistical data, the report presents some of the more important activities carried out by the Migration Office in 2017.

2 MIGRATION OFFICE REORGANISATION

On 2 March 2017, the Government Office for the Care and Integration of Migrants (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 11/17) (hereinafter referred to as: UOIM) was established on the basis of the Act Amending the Aliens Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 5(17) which commenced its work on 1 June 2017. Within the context of its tasks, the UOIM coordinates its work and tasks of other state authorities, international and other organisations in the field of care and integration of migrants, while monitoring migrant issues and provides initiatives and proposals for resolving issues within its field of work.

Since the tasks of providing accommodation and care for applicants seeking international protection and the involvement of persons under international protection have been transferred from the Migration Office to the UOIM, this also necessitated the reorganisation of the Migration Office. The new organisation of the Migration Office entered into force on the day the UOIM commenced work of the UOIM, i.e. as of 1 June 2017. As of that date, the following three divisions, namely the Migration Policy and Legislation Division, International Protection Procedures Division and the Regular Migration Procedures Division were formed.

Figure 1: Organisational chart of Internal Administrative Affairs, Migration and Naturalisation Directorate, valid from 1 June 2017



Source: own

3 ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF DRAFTING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATION

3.1 Amendments and supplements to the Aliens Act

3.1.1 Act Amending the Aliens Act (ZTuj-2D) (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 5/17)

On 26 January 2017, the National Assembly adopted the Act Amending the Aliens Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 5/17) which allows the quick and efficient treatment of aliens who fail to fulfil the conditions for entering the Republic of Slovenia or who are unlawfully on the territory where the proposed measure will be implemented. The Act allows the Government of the Republic of Slovenia to propose, on the proposal of the Ministry of the Interior, to the National Assembly to pass a decision in the case of a changed situation in the field of migration over a period of six months with the possibility of an extension for a further six months, on the utilisation of the measure referred to in Article 10 b of the Act, which pertains to the treatment of foreigners who wish to enter on the territory illegally at border crossing points, as well as foreigners entering the Republic of Slovenia outside the border crossing points. In the event of a changed situation in the field of migration on the basis of a decision passed by the National Assembly, the police will conduct foreigners who do not meet the conditions for entry or foreigners who have illegally entered the territory to the state border and

dispatch them to the country from which they gained illegal entry. The Act gave the power to carry out tasks relating to the accommodation, care and provision of rights to different categories of foreigners (foreigners with temporary admission, applicants seeking international protection and persons under international protection) to the UOIM, and thus also came into conflict with the International Protection Act and the Temporary Protection of Displaced Persons Act.

3.1.2 Act Amending the Aliens Act (ZTuj-2E) (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 59/17)

On 17 October 2017, the National Assembly adopted the Act Amending the Aliens Act, which was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 59/17 and will be applicable as of 1 January 2018. It was necessary to draft such a large-scale amendment to the act, in particular because of the transposition of two directives into the Slovenian legal order, namely Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers (hereinafter referred to as: Directive 2014/36/EU) and Directive 2014/66/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer (hereinafter referred to as: Directive 2014/66/EU). While Directive 2014/36 EU was already partially transposed into Slovenian law by the amendment to the act of 2014, and only a few modifications were needed,

the transposition of Directive 2014/66/EU demanded more work and attention. In fact, this directive has set the objectives of the European Union (EU), which enable multinational companies to make the best use of their human resources and allows easier deployment within affiliated companies, while with the transposition into Slovenian law, our country is also pursuing these objectives. The Directive 2014/66/EU stipulates the conditions for granting a single permit for persons transferred within affiliated companies registered in a third country, the Republic of Slovenia or in another EU Member State. However, a major innovation is the introduction of an intra-EU mobility system, under which a holder of a valid single permit that was issued to a person who was transferred within a company, and which was issued by one of the Member States, may enter and work in another or several EU Member States. In this case, we distinguish between short-term mobility, i.e. a transfer within a corporation which lasts up to 90 days, and long-term mobility, when the transfer lasts longer (more than 90 days).

The modification of section XIII of the act governing the entry and residence of EU citizens and their family members represents another major derogation from the act; this was required because of the EU Pilot imposed by the European Commission against the Republic of Slovenia for an allegedly incorrect transposition of Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the rights of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of Member States (hereinafter referred to as: Directive 2004/38/EC).

3.2 Statutory instruments

In 2017, statutory instruments which further regulate the implementation of the said act were adopted as a result of the amendments to the International Protection Act in 2016. The Decree on the methods and conditions for ensuring the rights of Persons with international protection (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 72/17), the Decree on the relocation of persons admitted to the Republic of Slovenia on the basis of a quota and burden sharing among Member States of the European Union (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 24/17), Rules on the procedure for aliens who wish to apply for international protection in the Republic of Slovenia and on the procedure for accepting applications for international protection (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 29/17), Rules on manners of access of applicants of international protection to refugee counsellors and of the criteria for remuneration and reimbursement of expenses to refugee counsellors (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 22/17), Decree on the implementation of the statutory representation of unaccompanied minors and the method of ensuring adequate accommodation, care and treatment of unaccompanied minors outside the Asylum Centre or a branch thereof (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 35/17), Rules on the remuneration and reimbursement of the expenses of statutory representatives of unaccompanied minors (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 34/17), Decree on the methods and conditions for ensuring the rights of persons with international protection (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 27/17),

Decree on the House Rules of the Integration House (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 22/17) and the Decree on Asylum Centre House Rules (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 24/17).

In order to implement the amendment to the Aliens Act, two rules were adopted in 2017: i.e. the Rules on the content, form, method of issue and expiry of residence registration certificates and residence permits for citizens of EU countries and their family members, as well as family members of Slovenian citizens (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 80/17), and the Rules on the method of issue, content and form of residence permits for citizens of the Swiss Confederation and their family members (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 80/17).

4 ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR RELOCATION OF PERSONS FROM ITALY AND GREECE AND RESETTLEMENT FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

4.1 Activities relating to carrying out the implementation plan for relocation of persons who are obviously in need of international protection from Italy and Greece

In 2015, Italy and Greece faced an emergency situation due to the sudden arrival of a large number of third-country nationals. In response to the situation at hand, the EU Council adopted two decisions which represent the basis for relocating applicants from Italy and Greece to other Member States. The mechanism reflects the principle of solidarity, assistance and burden sharing between Member States.

In 2017, Slovenia continued the procedures for relocating applicants from Italy and Greece seeking international protection, when 7 acceptance undertakings were submitted, namely for 249 persons from Greece and 200 persons from Italy. In fact, 108 people were relocated in 2017: 36 Eritrean citizens and 1 Yemeni citizen were relocated from Italy, while 65 Syrian citizens and 6 stateless persons were relocated from Greece. Since the implementation of relocations up to the end of December 2017, 222 applications were decided on, whereby 205 persons

were granted refugee status and 10 were granted subsidiary protection status; however, 5 applications for international protection were rejected, and in two cases a decision was issued to stop the procedure due to the applicants' voluntary decision to leave the asylum centre. In addition, in one case a decision was taken to terminate the refugee status. Since the implementation of relocation procedures began in Slovenia, from March 2016 until the end of 2017, Slovenia relocated a total of 232 persons, which is 40.9% of the persons to be relocated. Pursuant to the commitments, the Republic of Slovenia should relocate a total of 218 persons from Italy and 349 persons from Greece by the end of 2017.

4.2 Activities relating to implementing the resettlement of persons from third countries

At the European Council meeting at the end of June 2015, the Heads of State and Government decided to relocate 20,000 people to the EU within the context of permanent resettlement. Slovenia has committed itself to the acceptance of 20 persons from third countries, presumably citizens of Syria from Turkey, Lebanon or Jordan. In accordance with the EU–Turkey deal which was adopted in April 2016, it was agreed that 20 Syrian citizens from Turkey would be resettled to Slovenia. On 4 August 2016, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a decision to accept 40 Syrian citizens from Turkey on the basis of a quota, who may be granted refugee status.

At the beginning of May 2017, the Ministry of the Interior appointed a task force to implement the permanent resettlement procedure, to which were appointed internal experts on migration and international protection. The assignments of the task force include the preparation of the procedural rules for implementing the permanent resettlement procedure, including implementation stages and deadlines, and implementing permanent resettlement procedures. In cooperation with the UOIM staff, the task force started the harmonisation of the contents of the framework agreement which the Republic of Slovenia is expected to conclude with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The framework agreement regulates the scope of support that will be provided to the Republic of Slovenia to implementing permanent resettlement by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and is part of the established practice for permanent resettlements from Turkey. By the end of the year, the content of the agreement had been almost completely harmonised. The framework agreement is expected to be signed in the first months of 2018. Upon signing the agreement, the Ministry of the Interior will commence direct work with candidates for permanent resettlement.

During preparations for the implementation of permanent resettlement, the Republic of Slovenia also obtained the EASO's support and joined the EU FRANK project. As part of the support, civil servants of the Ministry of the Interior and the UOIM witnessed how the permanent resettlement has been carried out by other Member States, and two experts visited the Republic of Slovenia to help

design different elements of the selection mission and other parts of the project by providing concrete suggestions and advice.

On the basis of the Government's decisions, the ministry contacted the Representative Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Ankara in August and called for the submission of documentation of a sufficient number of suitable candidates for permanent resettlement who are willing to be resettled to the Republic of Slovenia permanently. By the end of 2017, the ministry had received the documentation of 67 people, i.e. thirteen families.

4.3 Activities of the inter-ministerial working group to coordinate the implementation plan for relocation of 567 persons from Italy and Greece and resettlement of 20 persons from third countries

At the meeting held on 10 March 2016, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted an Implementation Plan for the relocation of 567 persons from Italy and Greece and permanent resettlement of 20 persons from third countries. One of the decisions adopted at the Government meeting required the Ministry of the Interior to set up an inter-ministerial working group to coordinate the implementation of the plan. Therefore, at its 82nd regular meeting on 31 March 2016, the Government adopted a decision establishing the inter-ministerial working group to coordinate the Implementation Plan for the relocation of 567 persons from Italy and Greece and permanent resettlement of 20 persons from third countries.

The Ministry of Public Administration, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning were called upon for the appointment of members of the inter-ministerial working group. The members were appointed to the inter-ministerial working group at the level of Secretaries of State, and Directors-General or directors with decision-making powers who should be familiar with the issues for which the inter-ministerial working group was established. Given that the assignments from the field of accommodation, care and integration of different categories of foreigners were transferred from the Ministry of the Interior to UOIM, the decision establishing the inter-ministerial working group in 2017 was to include representatives of the said office.

The assignments of the inter-ministerial working group include the preparation of a plan for providing accommodation for persons who will be relocated to, and permanently resettled to, Slovenia in accordance with Council Decisions 2015/1523 and 2015/1601; the preparation of a plan for integrating relocated and permanently resettled persons into the labour market and employment; the preparation of a plan for the inclusion of relocated and permanently resettled persons in the education system, and the preparation of solutions for the coordinated implementation of other measures from the Implementation Plan for the relocation of 567 persons from Italy and Greece and the permanent resettlement of 20 persons from third countries.

In 2017, the inter-ministerial working group was convened at 4 meetings held at the Ministry of the Interior, and implemented measures to provide accommodation for relocated and resettled persons, measures for their integration into the labour market and measures for their inclusion in the education system.

5 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROJECT OF ACCOMMODATION AND PROVISION OF CARE FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINORS IN POSTOJNA AND NOVA GORICA

On 28 July 2016, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a decision to provide adequate accommodation and full day care to unaccompanied minors for the period from 1 January 2016 to 31 July 2017 in the form of a pilot project at the Postojna Student Residence Hall and the Nova Gorica Student Residence Hall.

After the end of the pilot project, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in July 2017 became acquainted with the evaluation of the pilot project of accommodation of unaccompanied minors in Postojna and Nova Gorica residence halls and acknowledged the project as an example of good practice. The evaluation of the one-year pilot project has demonstrated that it is a step forward in the provision of accommodation and treatment of unaccompanied minors, as well as in their inclusion, integration and socialisation. The evaluation also indicated some deficiencies that need to be addressed in the future. A proposal was made to establish a special transitional centre where unaccompanied minors would be accommodated during the initial stage until their goals and desires were identified. Only after the appropriate assessment that the minor is ready to stay in Slovenia would they be accommodated in one of the residence halls.

The Government decided to continue the project of accommodation of unaccompanied minors in Postojna residence hall until the establishment of an appropriate systemic solution. Furthermore, it ordered the Government Office for the Care and Integration of Migrants, which is systematically responsible for treatment and accommodating unaccompanied minors, to establish a systematic form of accommodation and treatment of unaccompanied minors as a separate unit for comprehensive consideration in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Health by 31 December 2018.

6 STATISTICAL DATA

6.1 Regular Migration

6.1.1 Valid residence permit in 2017

On 31 December 2017, 150,787 foreigners were holders of a valid residence permit or residence registration certificate in the Republic of Slovenia, 91,632 of whom had permanent residence permits and 59,155 had temporary residence permits. It is evident from the data that permanent residence permits are among the highest number of valid residence permits, while single residence and work permits totalling 25,687 rank among the highest number of temporary residence permits, which is followed by family reunification (27,710) and studies (2,491). The majority of foreigners holding residence permits, both with regard to permanent residence permits (43,984) and temporary residence permits (22,721), were citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They are followed by citizens of Kosovo (17,987), Serbia (15,193) and FYR Macedonia (12,926), while there is a significantly smaller number of citizens of the Russian Federation with 3,023 valid residence permits.

Within the context of the European Economic Area (hereinafter referred to as: EEA), as at 31 December 2017, most residence permits or residence registration

certificates in the Republic of Slovenia were, in addition to citizens of the Republic of Croatia (11,387), also held by citizens of Bulgaria (4,670), Italy (3,094) and Germany (1,156). More information is provided in Tables 1 to 4.

Table 1: No. of individual types of valid permits as at 31 December 2017

Permanent residence permits for third-country nationals	Permanent residence permits for EU citizens (EEA and Switzerland)	Temporary residence permits	Residence registration certificates
80,482	11,150	43,950	15,205
91,632		59,155	
150,787			

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Table 2: No. of valid temporary residence permits according to reason or purpose as at 31 December 2017

Reason/purpose	No.
Single residence and work permit	25,687
Family reunification	10,086
Studies	2,444
Other reasons/purposes	5,733
TOTAL	43,950

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Table 3: Overview of the top ten third countries whose nationals held the highest number of valid residence permits in the Republic of Slovenia as at 31 December 2017

Country	Permanent residence permits	Temporary residence permits	Total
Bosnia and Herzegovina	43,984	22,721	66,705
Kosovo	13,530	4,457	17,987
Serbia	7,750	7,443	15,193
FYR Macedonia	9,477	3,449	12,926
Russian Federation	858	2,165	3,023
Ukraine	1,216	1,116	2,332
China	941	338	1,279
Montenegro	638	279	917

Country	Permanent residence permits	Temporary residence permits	Total
United States	192	285	477
Thailand	193	111	304

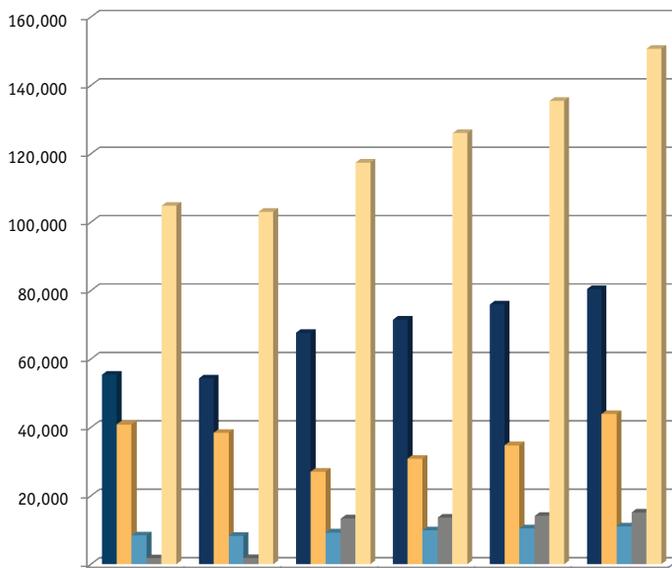
Source: Ministry of the Interior

Table 4: Overview of the top ten EEA countries from which the nationals holding the highest number of valid permanent residence permits for EU citizens and residence registration certificates originate

Country	Permanent residence permits	Residence registration certificates	Total
Croatia	6,882	4,505	11,387
Bulgaria	1,287	3,383	4,670
Italy	602	2,492	3,094
Germany	505	651	1,156
Hungary	152	730	882
Slovak Republic	264	436	700
Romania	181	458	639
United Kingdom	215	407	622
Austria	209	316	525
Poland	143	280	423

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Graph 1: Trends in the number of valid residence permits during the period from 2012 to the end of 2017, including as at 31 December for each year, respectively

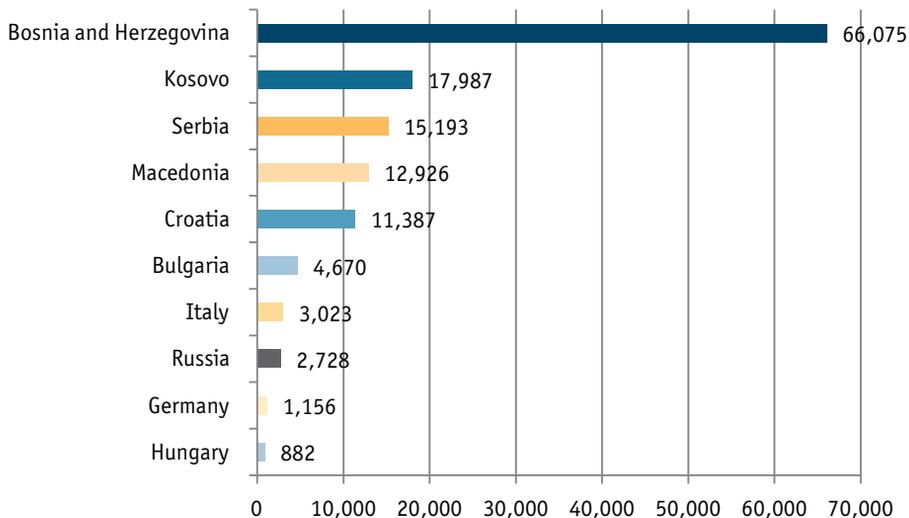


	Y. 2012	Y. 2013	Y. 2014	Y. 2015	Y. 2016	Y. 2017
third country nationals	55,504	54,413	67,737	71,574	76,034	80,482
third country nationals	40,927	38,486	27,103	30,906	34,815	43,950
EEA and Swiss nationals	8,454	8,322	9,284	9,919	10,511	11,150
EEA and Swiss nationals	1,759	1,876	13,382	13,676	14,176	15,205
TOTAL	104,885	103,097	117,506	126,085	135,536	150,787

Source: Ministry of the Interior

An evident upward trend in the number of valid residence permits can still be observed. Since 2012, when something less than 105 thousand residence permits were valid at the end of the year, more than 150 thousand permits were valid as of 31 December 2017, which is a 43% increase in six years. In particular, an increase in the number of citizens from EEA Member States including Switzerland was evident, where the number of valid residence registration certificates increased by two and a half times compared to 2012. In fact, the number of valid residence registration certificates is increasing significantly, whereby the number of permanent residence permits for EU citizens has been increasing steadily, while the number of valid permanent residence permits is increasing with third-country nationals. In recent years, the number of Bulgarian citizens has increased the most in the EEA area, while the number of other EEA and Swiss citizens is relatively constant.

Graph 2: Overview of the top ten countries, regardless of type of citizenship, whose citizens have the largest number of valid residence permits in the Republic of Slovenia as at 31 December 2017



Source: Ministry of the Interior

6.1.2 Residence permits issued in 2017

In 2017, 57,833 residence permits or residence registration certificates were issued, of which 48,853 were issued to third-country nationals and 8,980 to citizens of the EEA and Switzerland. Renewal of the temporary residence permit represents something less than 51% of the total number of temporary residence permits issued, while the number of first temporary residence permits, which represent almost 48% of all issued residence permits, is also increasing. Compared to 2016, the total number of all temporary residence permits issued increased by some 17%, or a total of 8,530 newly issued permits.

Table 5: No. of issued residence permits or residence registration certificates in 2017

Permanent residence permits for third-country nationals	Permanent residence permit for EU citizens (EEA and Switzerland)	Temporary residence permits	Residence registration certificates
6,543	819	42,310	8,161
7,362		50,471	
57,833			

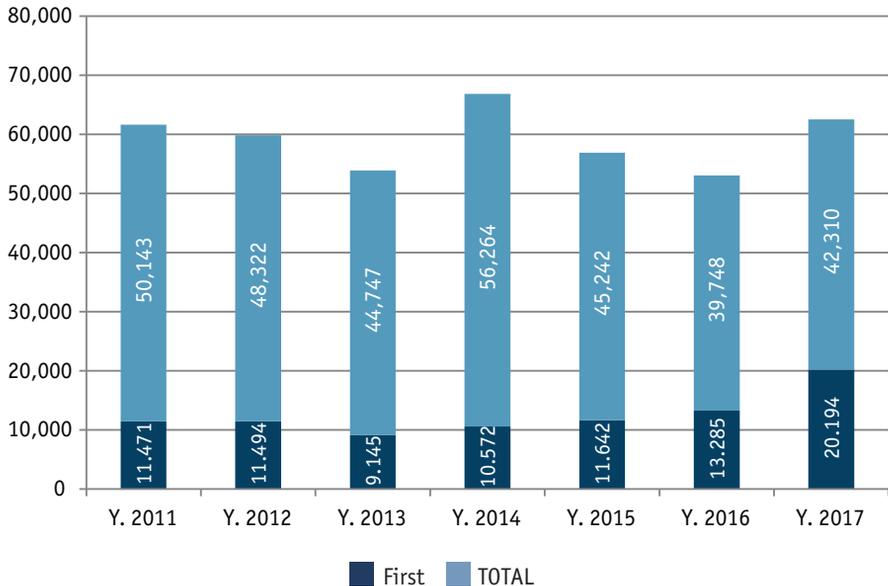
Source: Ministry of the Interior

Table 6: No. of issued temporary residence permits in 2017 by type of permit

Type of permit	No.
First temporary residence permit	20,194
Renewal of temporary residence permit	21,483
Consecutive temporary residence permit	633
Residence registration certificates	6,609
Renewal of residence registration certificate	1,552
TOTAL	50,471

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Graph 3: Trends in the number of issued first permits based on the total of issued permits during the period from 2012 to 2017

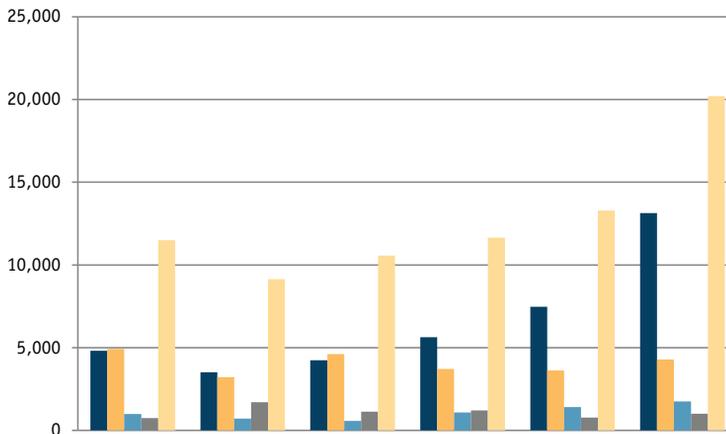


Source: Ministry of the Interior

The graph shows an increase in the number of first residence permits compared to previous years, whereby the highest increase has been recorded in issuing single residence and work permits (see Graph 4), while the number of issued first single permits (13,140) issued in 2017 exceeded the number of renewals

(11,992). Prior to 1 January 2015, the data shown in tables and graphs on the single residence and work permit refer to temporary residence permits issued for employment or work.

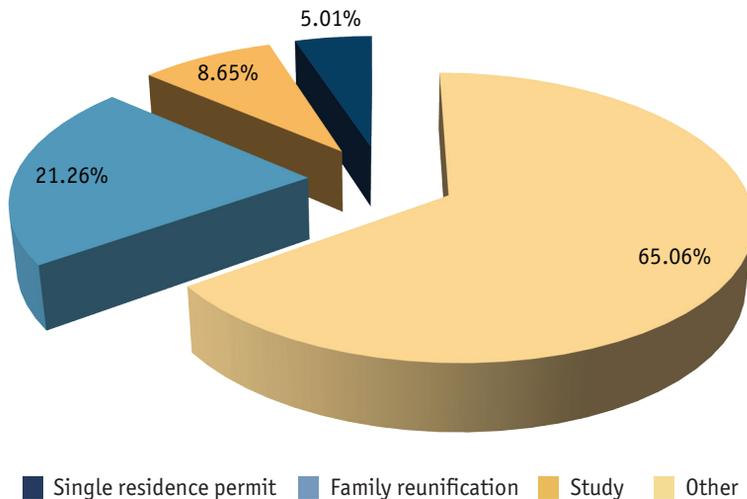
Graph 4: Trends in issued permits for first-time temporary residence based on reason or purpose according to years of issue during the period 2012 to 2017



	Y. 2012	Y. 2013	Y. 2014	Y. 2015	Y. 2016	Y. 2017
Single residence permit	4,812	3,513	4,250	5,627	7,468	13,140
Family reunification	4,927	3,222	4,606	3,716	3,626	4,295
Studies	1,002	711	578	1,088	1,407	1,747
Other reasons	753	1,699	1,138	1,211	784	1,012
TOTAL	11,494	9,145	10,572	11,642	13,285	20,194

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Graph 5: First temporary residence permits based on reason or purpose issued in 2017



Source: Ministry of the Interior

6.1.3 Statistical data according to the Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents (hereinafter referred to as: ZPŠOIRSP) ¹

Tables 7 and 8 show the basic statistical data in the procedures for determining financial compensation and recognition of the status of the beneficiary on the basis of the Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents (hereinafter referred to as: ZPŠOIRSP) in the period from 18 June 2014 to 31 December 2017 (data are obtained from a record that is kept on decisions and payments of financial compensation based on Article 24 of the ZPŠOIRSP).

Table 7: No. of requests to determine financial compensation, applications for recognition of status and lawsuits

No. of claims for the determination of financial compensation during the administrative procedure	No. of applications for recognition of the status of beneficiaries	No. of proposals for payment of financial compensation during the preliminary procedure submitted to the State Attorneys Office of the Republic of Slovenia	No. of lawsuits filed in court proceedings
8,161	85	90	328

Source: Ministry of the Interior

¹ The Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 99/13) which entered into force on 18 December 2013, and was applied on 18 June 2014.

Table 8: No. and type of decisions issued during the administrative procedure

	Granted	Rejection	Dismissal	Suspension
No. of decisions determining financial compensation	5,784	1,966	175	87
No. of decisions regarding the recognition of the beneficiary's status	7	28	6	20
TOTAL	5,791	1,994	181	107

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Table 9: Specified compensation total (in €)

Total amount of specified compensation based on final decisions during the administrative procedure	26,344,350.00
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Source: Ministry of the Interior

Payments of compensation to beneficiaries specified during the administrative procedure are carried out promptly. On the basis of the ZPŠOIRSP, in 2014, administrative units paid out a total of €3,977,200.00 to beneficiaries, while in 2015 they paid out a total of €5,135,686.22, in 2016 a total of €5,117,622.22 and in 2017 a total of €5,177,339.54. From the entry into force of the ZPŠOIRSP

until 31 December 2017, a total of €19,407,847.98 in compensation specified during the administrative procedure was paid.

During the period from the entry into force of the ZPŠOIRSP until 31 December 2017, in addition to the requirements for determining financial compensation during the administrative procedure, 90 applications were submitted to the State Attorneys Office of the Republic of Slovenia for the payment of financial compensation during the preliminary proceedings, while the courts received 328 lawsuits for the payment of financial compensation in court proceedings (these data were obtained from a record that is kept on decisions and payments of financial compensation pursuant to Article 24 of the ZPŠOIRSP).

In cooperation with the Administrative Internal Affairs and Naturalisation Office, the Migration Office, on the grounds of the responsibility of the Administrative Internal Affairs, Migration and Naturalisation Directorate, prepared explanatory notes for the Legal Service of the Ministry of the Interior in court and preliminary proceedings within the context of which erased persons claimed compensation under the ZPŠOIRSP. The Ministry of the Interior must prepare explanatory notes for the State Attorneys Office of the Republic of Slovenia for responses to the actions and other applications arising from their field of work. In 2017, 280 explanatory notes under the responsibilities of the Administrative Internal Affairs, Migration and Naturalisation Directorate were prepared in relation to responses to lawsuits and other applications in court and preliminary proceedings.

6.1.4 First and second instance procedures under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior

In 2017, pursuant to Article 51 paragraph 3 of the Aliens Act (ZTuj-2), the Ministry of the Interior, as a first instance authority, issued 1 temporary residence permit to a foreigner whose residence in the Republic of Slovenia is in the interest of the Republic of Slovenia.

In 2017, the Migration Office, as a second instance authority, received 153 complaints against decisions of administrative units, of which:

- 83 complaints referring to the procedures for issuing a termination of residence permits or residence registration certificates under the ZTuj-2;
- 29 complaints in the proceedings for issuing permanent residence permits or special decisions under the Act Regulating the Legal Status of Citizens of Former Yugoslavia Living in the Republic of Slovenia (hereinafter referred to as: ZUSDDD)²;
- 39 complaints referring to the proceedings for determining financial compensation or regarding the recognition of the status of the beneficiary under the Act Regulating the Compensation for Damage Sustained as a Result of Erasure from the Register of Permanent Residents (ZPŠOIRSP).

² Act Regulating the Legal Status of Citizens of Former Yugoslavia Living in the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 76/10 – official consolidated text – ZUSDDD).

In 2017, the Migration Office decided on 148 complaints, namely:

- on 78 complaints in proceedings under the ZTuj-2;
- on 31 complaints in proceedings under the ZUSDDD;
- on 39 complaints in proceedings under the ZPŠOIRSP.

In 2017, the Ministry of the Interior, the Migration Office, as a first instance authority, received 87 applications for residence permits for the purpose of family reunification with a person under international protection in the Republic of Slovenia filed on the basis of ZTuj-2. In 2017, the Migration Office decided on 63 applications for residence permits for the purpose of family reunification with a person under international protection in the Republic of Slovenia, of which 23 applications were granted and a residence permit was issued; 26 applications were rejected, while in 14 cases the procedure was suspended.

With regard to the procedures for issuing residence permits, the administrative units suspended the procedures in 2,448 cases; 92 applications were rejected, while in 919 cases the application for a residence permit was rejected.

The table below shows data on suspended procedures, rejected and dismissed applications in 2017 by type of citizenship.

Table 10: No. of suspended procedures, rejected and dismissed applications in 2017 by type of citizenship

	EEA and Switzerland	Third countries	TOTAL
Suspension	564	1,884	2,448
Rejection	42	877	919
Dismissal	19	92	111
TOTAL	625	2,853	3,478

Source: Ministry of the Interior

The administrative units also decided in the procedure for the termination of residence permits. The table below shows data on the number of terminations and reasons for the termination of permits or residence registration certificates by type of citizenship.

Table 11: No. of terminations and reasons for terminating permits or residence registration certificates by type of citizenship

Terminations in 2017	EEA and Switzerland	Third countries	TOTAL
Acquisition of citizenship of the Republic of Slovenia	244	1,052	1,296
Acquisition of permanent residence permit	630	4,757	5,387

Terminations in 2017	EEA and Switzerland	Third countries	TOTAL
Waiver	178	571	749
Resettlement from the Republic of Slovenia	30	215	245
Death	48	86	134
Annulment	5	209	214
Expiry	22	112	134
Resettlement outside the EU area	3	51	54
Non-compliance with the conditions	61		3
Retrospective finding of non-compliance with the conditions for issuing the residence registration certificate	4		4
Expulsion	/	3	3
Acquisition of long-term residence status in another EU Member State		5	5
TOTAL	1,225	7,061	8,225

Source: Ministry of the Interior

6.2 International protection

6.2.1 Structure of applicants in the international protection procedures in 2017

a) Applicants seeking international protection in 2017

In 2017, a total of 1.476 applications for international protection were filed. Compared to 2016, 168 applications for international protection were filed, a 13% increase. Compared to 2015, a 432% increase in applications for international protection has been recorded. In 2017, applications from applicants originating from third countries that have not yet been addressed were filed, namely from Vietnam, Nepal and the United States of America. We note an increase in applications from North Africa, most of which are from Algeria (compared to 2016, a 378% increase was recorded), Libya and Morocco. Among the accepted applications, 38 applicants had already filed at least one application for international protection. These also include the applications of persons who were relocated to the Republic of Slovenia from Italy and Greece.

Table 12: No. of applicants seeking international protection in 2017 by country of origin

Country of origin	No. of applicants
Afghanistan	578
Algeria	201
Pakistan	140
Turkey	102
Syria	94
Iran	60
Kosovo	47
Morocco	43
Eritrea	40
Libya	33
Iraq	19
Tunisia	13
Cuba	12
Palestine	12
Serbia	12
Egypt	8
Nigeria	8
Bangladesh	6
Nepal	5

Country of origin	No. of applicants
Sri Lanka	5
India	4
Russia	4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3
Albania	3
China	3
Mongolia	3
Vietnam	3
Cameroon	2
Senegal	2
Ukraine	2
Armenia	1
Gambia, The	1
Guinea-Bissau	1
Croatia	1
Yemen	1
Congo	1
Lebanon	1
United States of America	1
Stateless	1

Source: Ministry of the Interior

In 2017, 91% of male applicants and 9% of female applicants, most of whom originate from Syria and Afghanistan, applied for international protection. More than half of all applicants were 18 to 34 years old.

Table 13: No. of applicants seeking international protection in 2017 by gender

Male	Female
1,338	138
1,476	

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Table 14: No. of applicants seeking international protection in 2017 by age

Age	No.	Percentage
0 to 13 years	121	8.20
14 to 17 years	391	26.49
18 to 34 years	821	55.62
35 to 64 years	143	9.69
Over 65 years	0	0
TOTAL	1,476	100

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Table 15: No. of minors accompanied by parents or legal representatives, applicants seeking international protection by gender and age

Age	Boys	Girls
0 to 13 years	40	41
14 to 17 years	13	30
TOTAL	53	71

Source: Ministry of the Interior

b) Applicants seeking international protection who in 2017 arrived in Slovenia through relocation procedures from Italy and Greece

The result of crisis management, which resulted in the sudden arrival of third-country nationals in the territories of Italy and Greece, was the adoption of EU Council decisions³, with which EU Member States agreed to the transfer to their territory of applicants seeking international protection who had filed their applications in Italy or Greece. According to both decisions, only applicants from the country for which the share of favourably resolved applications for international protection among all decisions at the first instance are relocated, whereby according to Eurostat data for the Union the average totals at least 75%. In

³ Council Decision (EU) 2015/1523 of 14 September 2015 establishing provisional measures in the area of international protection for the benefit of Italy and of Greece; Council Decision (EU) 2015/1601 of 22 September 2015 establishing provisional measures in the area of international protection for the benefit of Italy and Greece.

2017, this percentage was reached by Syria, Eritrea, Oman, Yemen, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Bhutan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Overseas Territories, Grenada, Guatemala, the Maldives and Burundi. In 2017, citizens of Syria, Eritrea, Yemen and stateless persons (with their last place of residence recorded in Syria) were relocated to Slovenia.

Table 16: No. of applicants seeking international protection who were relocated in 2017 to Slovenia from Italy and Greece by country of origin

Country of origin	No. of applicants
Syria	65
Eritrea	36
Stateless	6
Yemen	1
TOTAL	108

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Table 17: No. of applicants seeking international protection who were relocated in 2017 to Slovenia from Italy and Greece by country of origin and gender

Country of origin \ Gender	Gender		TOTAL
	Male	Female	
Syria	35	30	65
Eritrea	31	5	36
Stateless	4	2	6
Yemen	1	0	1
TOTAL	71	37	108

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Table 18: No. of applicants seeking international protection who were in 2017 relocated to Slovenia from Italy and Greece by age

Age	No.	Percentage
0 to 13 years	29	26.9
14 to 17 years	5	4.6
18 to 34 years	54	50
35 to 64 years	20	18.5
Over 65 years	0	0
TOTAL	108	100

Source: Ministry of the Interior

6.2.2 Structure of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum

Table 19: No. of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in 2017 by country of origin

Country of origin	No. of applicants
Afghanistan	270
Algeria	41
Pakistan	24
Libya	13
Kosovo	12
Syria	7
Morocco	7
Bangladesh	3
Turkey	3
Iraq	2
Eritrea	2
Serbia	1
Palestine	1
Mongolia	1
Iran	1
TOTAL	388

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Table 20: No. of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in 2017 by gender and age

Age	Boys	Girls
0 to 13 years	40	0
14 to 15 years	89	1
16 to 17 years	257	1
TOTAL	386	2

Source: Ministry of the Interior

6.2.3 Structure of persons granted international protection status in 2017

a) Persons with international protection status granted in 2017

During the period from 1995 to 2017, a total of 716 persons were granted international protection in the Republic of Slovenia. In 2017 alone, international protection was granted to 152 persons, 139 of whom were granted refugee status, and 13 granted subsidiary protection status. Most of those granted international protection were male. The highest number of international protection statuses were granted to citizens of Syria (97) and Eritrea (29), respectively.

Table 21: No. of persons granted international protection status in 2017 by type of status and gender

Type of status \ Gender	Gender		TOTAL
	Male	Female	
Refugee status	95	44	139
Subsidiary protection status	6	7	13
TOTAL	101	51	152

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Table 22: Total no. of all persons under international protection by type of status and gender from 1995 to the end of 2017

Type of status \ Gender	Gender		TOTAL
	Male	Female	
Refugee status	348	152	500
Subsidiary protection status	87	40	127
Asylum on humanitarian grounds ⁴	55	34	89
TOTAL	490	226	716

Source: Ministry of the Interior

⁴ In March 2006, the asylum amendment abolished asylum for humanitarian reasons and introduced subsidiary protection.

Table 23: No. of persons under international protection in 2017 by country of origin

Country of origin	No. of persons under international protection
Syria	97
Eritrea	29
Palestine	8
Afghanistan	5
Iraq	5
Iran	3
Cameroon	2
Russia	2
Ukraine	1

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Table 24: Structure of resolved applications for international protection from 2010 to the end of 2017

Type of response Year	Granted	Rejected	Dismissed	Suspension	TOTAL
2010	23	55	27	120	225
2011	24	78	40	177	319
2012	34	75	57	110	276
2013	37	82	59	177	355
2014	44	51	49	216	360
2015	46	87	44	89	266
2016	170	96	249	621	1,136
2017	152	89	382	949	1,572

Source: Ministry of the Interior

b) Persons granted international protection status in 2017 who were relocated to Slovenia from Italy and Greece

In 2017, 130 decisions were issued to applicants seeking international protection who were relocated to Slovenia from Italy and Greece. Refugee status was granted to 85 citizens of Syria, 27 citizens of Eritrea and 6 stateless persons. Subsidiary protection status was granted to 10 citizens of Syria, while in the case of 1 citizen of Iraq a decision was issued to terminate the status, and in the case

of 1 citizen of Syria, a decision was issued to suspend the procedure due to the applicant's voluntary departure from the asylum centre. It should also be noted that decisions were also served on some persons who were relocated in 2016. In addition, not all the applications of persons relocated in 2017 have yet been decided.

Table 25: No. of decisions and type of decision in 2017 for persons relocated to Slovenia from Italy and Greece by citizenship

Country	Type of decision				TOTAL
	Refugee	Subsidiary protection	Suspension	Termination	
Syria	85	10	1	0	96
Eritrea	27	0	0	0	27
Iraq	0	0	0	1	1
Stateless	6	0	0	0	6
TOTAL	118	10	1	1	130

Source: Ministry of the Interior

Table 26: No. of all decisions and type of decision for persons who in 2016 and 2017 were relocated to Slovenia from Italy and Greece by citizenship

Country	Type of decision					TOTAL
	Refugee	Subsidiary protection	Rejection	Suspension	Termination	
Syria	138	10	0	1	0	149
Eritrea	49	0	0	1	0	50
Iraq	12	0	5	0	1	18
Stateless	6	0	0	0	0	6
TOTAL	205	10	5	2	1	223

Source: Ministry of the Interior

7 INTEGRATION INTO SLOVENIAN SOCIETY

In 2017, the Ministry of the Interior provided assistance with integration into Slovenian society both for persons with international protection and for third-country nationals. With the establishment of the UOIM, competence for the area of integration into Slovene society was transferred to the said office. The ministry provides assistance for integration through various programmes implemented by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other contractors selected through public tenders. The implementation of programmes is financed with funds from the Ministry of the Interior and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). With the establishment of the UOIM, the implementation of some programmes was transferred entirely to it.

7.1 Assistance programmes for integration into Slovenian society

- Provision of assistance with integration into Slovenian society for persons under international protection

Integration assistance is based on a personal integration plan that is drafted and implemented on the basis of the individual's needs, knowledge, capabilities and abilities. From the acquisition of the status, a person under international protection enjoys the right to integration assistance for three years.

- Slovenian language course

Persons under international protection are entitled to a 300-hour course in the Slovenian language, and, in justified cases, up to an additional 100 hours. In 2017, Slovenian language courses were conducted by the Cene Štupar Public Institution in Ljubljana and the Maribor Adult Education Centre. In 2017, an additional 117 persons under international protection took part in the courses, 53 of them in Ljubljana and 64 in Maribor. €36,078.15 were spent on the programme.

- Assistance in the integration of persons under international protection

In 2017, the Odnos Association carried out the project „Assistance in the Integration of Persons Granted International Protection“, the goal of which is to provide comprehensive assistance to persons under international protection. Within the framework of the programme, activities were carried out to provide assistance in managing life situations, learning assistance and other integration activities, and measures to increase social inclusion. €160,590.80 were spent on the project.

- Financial compensation for accommodation at a private address

Persons under international protection who reside at a private address and do not have their own means of subsistence or whose livelihoods are not otherwise provided are entitled to receive financial compensation for accommodation at a

private address for 18 months from the date of obtaining the status. The period of eligibility for financial compensation may be extended for another 18 months if the persons attend the Slovenian language course for at least 80% of duration. The amount of financial compensation for accommodation at a private address is determined as a percentage of the basic amount of the minimum income from the Act regulating social assistance benefits. In 2017, 192 applicants and their family members received financial compensation, on which €417,201.39 was spent.

- Initial Integration of Immigrants (ZIP)

The programme for third-country nationals comprises a beginner's (60 hours) and intermediate module (120 hours) which are related in terms of topics and level of complexity. The topics dealt with in modules include themes such as personal identity, housing and residence, family and home, jobs and occupation, labour market, health and social security, education, public life, economics, environment and space, Slovenian society and constitutional arrangement, history and tradition. In 2017, the programme was carried out in 29 locations around Slovenia, with 1,364 people starting this course, at a cost of €578,251.56.

- Examination on knowledge of Slovenian language

The Ministry of the Interior covers the costs of taking the first examination of knowledge in Slovenian language both for persons under international protec-

tion, as well as third-country nationals who have attended the ZIP programme for at least 80% of duration. In 2017, the examination was taken by 6 persons under international protection, at a cost of €372.10, and 771 third-country nationals, at a cost of €99,626.71. The examination was successfully completed by some 62% of the participants.

- Orientation programme

The project is intended for persons under international protection who were relocated to the Republic of Slovenia from Italy and Greece. The aim of the project is to enable the beneficiaries to acquire the basics of the Slovenian language and learn about the lifestyle and culture and the organisation of the state. The orientation programme gives beneficiaries the basis and preparation for a subsequent independent life and participation in the Slovenian language learning programme. Each beneficiary is included in the programme for a maximum of three months after obtaining the international protection status, i.e. for up to five hours a day. The activities of the project are carried out in larger or smaller groups or individually and encompass motivation of users for participation in the programme, literacy of persons who are illiterate or exhibit poor literacy in the Latin alphabet, learning the basics of the Slovenian language based on practical experience and simulations of conversations in different situations, assistance in accommodation and introduction to independent life in the integration house, practical presentation of the functioning of various systems, visiting and intro-

duction to institutions. During the implementation of the project, special attention is paid to children and other vulnerable groups. The project is implemented by the Slovene Philanthropy Association, which was selected in a public tender. In 2017, a total of €110,247.14 were disbursed on the implementation of the project.

- The comprehensive assistance programme for the integration of persons under international protection into Slovenian society

The above programme is intended for persons under international protection who are studying and who are recipients of financial social assistance. The programme covers other education costs, such as workbooks, activity days – sports, cultural, natural sciences, technical days, school camp, diploma recognition, etc. In 2017, the total costs of this programme totalled €7,217.56.

7.2 Anniversary of the Initial Integration of Immigrants programme

In 2017, five years had passed since the Ministry of the Interior started co-financing the programme „Initial Integration of Immigrants“, which is a public educational programme for Slovenian language learning for adult immigrants, which includes content from life and work in Slovenia. The programme was designed by the Slovenian Centre for Adult Education.

From the beginning of the implementation in 2012 until the end of 2017, 7411 immigrants had participated in the programme. Most of the participants are citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia and Russia. The programme was attended by citizens of as many as 86 different countries. Some 62% of the participants were women, with the most frequent age of the participants ranging between 31 and 35 years.

The programme, which is co-financed by the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Ministry of the Interior, was carried out by more than 20 educational institutions in 34 locations across Slovenia in the last five years, at a total cost of €3,164,755.61. It has become one of the basic programmes for assistance in integration into Slovenian society. The Ministry of the Interior will continue to make the programme as accessible as possible to immigrants throughout Slovenia.

7.3 www.infotujci.si website

In 2017, the website was visited by almost 18,000 users. 65% of visitors visited the website for the first time, while 35% visited it several times. All in all, there were somewhat more than 67,000 visits to the page. Most of the content was searched in English. The most visited content on the website related to temporary residence permits, work permits, Slovenian language courses and citizenship. Website maintenance cost a total of €1,078.48.

In 2017, the ministry concluded a contract with the selected contractor to redesign the infotujci.si website. The project is 75% funded with support from European Union funds. The value of the project, which includes redesign and a three-year website maintenance contract, totals €18,000.

In 2018, a redesigned www.infotujci.si website will be accessible to foreigners with all the information they need for living and working in the Republic of Slovenia. The website will contain information for both foreigners who already reside in Slovenia and those who are preparing to come to Slovenia. The main purpose of the redesign is the technical and visual update of the website, while some changes will also be made in the content area, e.g. a special section will also provide information for people under international protection. The content of the website will be customised to enable mobile device access by smartphones and tablets.

7.4 A multilingual guide to facilitate communication in health care

Within the framework of projects for assistance in the integration of foreigners into Slovenian society, the Ministry of the Interior co-financed a guidebook to facilitate communication between patients who do not speak Slovenian and health-care workers. The Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Ljubljana and the National Institute of Public Health and the Medical Chamber of Slovenia cooperated on the project. Almost

250 pages of the guidebook are richly furnished with pictograms (thumbnails that facilitate the understanding of questions or instructions) and are collected into four booklets, each of which comprises a part in the Slovene language and a text in one or two other languages. The material was prepared in Slovenian/English/French, Slovenian/Russian/Chinese, Slovenian/Arabic/Farsi and Slovenian/Albanian versions. The guidebook is printed in a limited edition of 250 copies for each version in printable form, and is freely accessible on the web. The Ministry of the Interior allocated €37,402.64 for the project.

7.5 Utilisation of funds for integration programmes in 2017

The table below shows the utilisation of funds for integration programmes in 2017. In addition to the above-mentioned programs, the table also includes the investment upkeep of integration houses and purchasing of equipment, as well as raising the general public's awareness of refugee issues, and more specifically the commemoration of World Refugee Day.

Table 27: Utilisation of funds for integration programmes in 2017

Programme title	Utilisation of funds in €
Slovenian language course for persons under international protection	36,078.15
Exams in Slovenian language for persons under international protection	372.10
"infotujci" website	1,078.48
ZIP	578,251.56
Exam in Slovenian language for third-country nationals	99,626.71
Assistance in the integration of persons with international protection	160,590.80
Financial assistance for private accommodation for persons under international protection	417,201.39
Assistance during the introductory phase for persons relocated to the Republic of Slovenia from Italy and Greece	110,247.14
Dictionary publication aimed at facilitating the communication of migrants with health-care professionals	37,402.64
Upkeep of integration houses and purchasing of equipment	40,521.20

Programme title	Utilisation of funds in €
Raising awareness of the general public concerning the refugee issue – commemorating World Refugee Day	4,096.42
The comprehensive assistance programme for the integration of persons under international protection into Slovenian society	7,217.56

Source: Ministry of the Interior

8 OTHER ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SCOPE OF EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2017, representatives of the Migration Office participated in various training courses in the field of international protection and integration, and participated in the preparation of various documents and legislative proposals in the area of regular migration and international protection that were organised by representatives of EU institutions (European Commission, EU Council), the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), the European Migration Network, the National Contact Points for Integration and partner international organisations (OECD, IOM, UNHCR, ICMPD).

8.1 Twinning project: Support for the National Asylum System in the Republic of Serbia

In 2017, the twinning project "Support for the National Asylum System in the Republic of Serbia", which commenced in 2015, continued. The leading partner of the project was Sweden, while the Netherlands and Slovenia participated in the project as associated partners. The Ministry of the Interior, through its participation in the project, supported the efforts of the Republic of Serbia in the implementation of reforms necessary to comply with the criteria for rapprochement and accession to the European Union. The project has contributed to strengthening the capacity to implement asylum policies in line with international and

European Union standards, taking into account both the procedures for granting international protection and the conditions for the acceptance and accommodation of applicants seeking international protection and integration, as well as a reduction in the number of unjustified applications for international protection of Serbian citizens in other countries.

In 2017, two public servants of the Migration Office took part in a 5-day mission. The mission pertained to the component "Timely and Suitable Support Mechanisms for the Integration of Persons under International Protection into Serbian Society". Experts examined the legislation, and conducted interviews with Serbian experts of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of the Republic of Serbia. They prepared bases and guidelines for implementing a public tender for the implementation of Serbian language courses for persons under international protection residing in Serbia and familiarisation with the culture.

8.2 European Asylum Support Office (EASO)

In 2017, the Migration Office also actively cooperated with EASO. Through the EASO training system in the field of international protection, four persons were trained to be national trainers for the following substantive matters: acceptance, conducting interviews with children, Dublin III and didactics. One person attended the training on the Common European Asylum System; two persons attended EASO meetings aimed at informing the IDS network through which Mem-

ber States publish and exchange information; one person participated in EASO meetings intended for preparation of the resettlement project implementation throughout the year. Two persons attended regular EASO meetings of National Contact Points in the field of training, reception and trainers.

In October and November, the national trainer for acceptance conducted two training sessions for a total of 16 people (4 from the Migration Office). In the year 2018, national trainer training will be planned in terms of topics of inclusion, the assessment of evidence and the implementation of national training sessions according to the priorities and needs of employees.

In 2017, eleven staff members attended 17 meetings with regard to international protection measures and the debate on the continuation of the establishment of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). They participated in the exchange of expert experience in the field of permanent refugee resettlement, took part in the EASO Management Board's meeting and EASO expert meetings, and also took part in learning about Eritrea as a country of origin.

8.3 Participation in working groups

In 2017, six staff members of the Migration Office participated in 18 working groups on asylum where a debate was held on renewed European legislation in the field of international protection (a proposal for a procedural regulation, a proposal for a reception directive, a proposal for a permanent resettlement de-

cree, amendments to the decree establishing the Eurodac system, etc.), and two staff members also participated in three working groups for integration, migration and expulsion.

8.4 European Migration Network (EMN)

In 2017, the Slovenian National Contact Point carried out numerous activities and tasks within the 2017 – 2018 multiannual EMN programme, which include the preparation of two EMN studies. The study was prepared together with selected contractors and experts from the Ministry of the Interior, the Police, the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thus, the first study "Challenges and practices for establishing applicant's identity in the migration process", and the second "The effectiveness of return of third-country nationals in EU Member States: challenges and good practices linked to EU rules and standards" was prepared by the selected candidate Legal Information Centre (PIC). The study "The changing influx of asylum seekers in 2014–2016: Member State responses" and "(Member) States' Approaches to Unaccompanied Minors Who Are Third-country Nationals Following Status Determination" are in the process of selecting the contractor and are expected to be carried out in the spring of 2018. All studies are co-financed through the European AMIF Fund.

In 2017, the Ministry of the Interior signed an umbrella agreement with the European Commission on co-financing the implementation of the work programme

of the Slovenian National Contact Point, which was previously coordinated with the EMN Work Programme for the period 2017 - 2018. The funds will be allocated, *inter alia*, for the preparation of at least eight studies in the field of management of migration flows, international protection, regular migration, integration, return policy and unaccompanied minors policy. Part of the funds will be allocated to meet the needs of the Slovenian police to establish an EU system for managing the area of return of persons illegally resident on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia (i.e. IRMA⁵). In 2018, the IRMA system will become part of the Frontex Agency's activities, where, in addition to Slovenia, the EU Member States, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, EASO and the European Commission also participate.

In 2017, members of the Slovenian National Contact Point participated in 19 meetings, including the meetings of the EMN Working Group for the Preparation of Study Specifications, within the Return Group (EMN REG), training courses for establishing the IRMA system and two EMN conferences, namely on the renewal of the Common European Asylum System organised by Malta and for attracting foreign talents to the EU organised by Estonia. In October, the first meeting of EMN and OECD was held, with the aim of exchanging information and studies on the reunification of family members of third-country nationals and illegal employment in the EU.

⁵ Irregular Return Management Application (IRMA)

EMN documents are available on the EMN website http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/index_en.htm and the website of the Slovenian National Contact Point <http://emm.si> which is co-financed by EU funds.

8.5 European Integration Network (EIN)

In 2017, two meetings of the contact points of the European Integration Network, which was established in 2016 (the transformation of the National Contact Points for Integration) were held.

The first meeting took place on 28 March 2017 in Brussels. The emphasis of the meeting and follow-up workshops was on the support of local authorities during the so-called influx of refugees, and good practices in this field. In fact, cities have been facing problems of new refugees as a result of the influx of refugees. New immigrants presented a challenge to local authorities in terms of building infrastructure and financing. Cities (Stockholm, Lisbon) have presented some good practices, which were devised through finding the solution to this issue.

The second meeting was organised with the help of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU, and took place in Tallinn, Estonia, on 15 November 2017. Because this was the last meeting in 2017, representatives of Member States reviewed the draft 2018 Annual Programme prepared by the European Commission.

The main theme of the meeting and workshops was the importance of EU values in the process of integration of third-country nationals, whereby the main challenge for the Member States is in how to define national values, while there also occurred a dilemma regarding the implementation of values.

9 DECISIONS OF THE EU COURT OF JUSTICE IN THE FIELD OF MIGRATION OFFICE

In 2017, the EU Court of Justice issued two decisions or interpretations of EU law in relation to legislation that significantly affect the work of the Migration Office.

9.1 C. K. vs. the Republic of Slovenia⁶

With the judgement of 16 February 2017, the Court of Justice of the European Union affirmed the position of the Ministry of the Interior that the discretionary clauses in Article 17 of the Dublin Regulation cannot be interpreted as a right which the applicant can invoke in the proceedings, and that the decision on the use of discretionary clause is in the exclusive jurisdiction of a Member State. In its decision, it explicitly states that the circumstances of the concrete case are not such as to oblige the Member State to use a discretionary clause in the light of the interpretation of Article 4 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

⁶ Judgement of the Court (Fifth Chamber) of 16 February 2017, C. K., H. F., A. S. vs the Republic of Slovenia, C578/16 PPU, EU:C:2017:127.

9.2 A. S. vs. the Republic of Slovenia⁷

In July 2017, the EU Court of Justice in a preliminary decision emphasised that the acceptance of a citizen of a non-EU Member State on the territory of a Member State cannot be determined for a visa, even if that acceptance occurred in extraordinary circumstances marked by the mass influx of displaced persons into the EU. The crossing of the border without complying with the conditions required by the applicable legislation in the Member State concerned must in accordance with the findings of the court necessarily be regarded as "unlawful" within the sense of the Dublin Regulation. The Court of Justice of the European Union has not ruled on the legality or illegality of entry in accordance with the Schengen Code.

It is clear from the judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union that the tolerance of crossing the first Member State by a third-country national without his or her compliance with the conditions which, in principle, must be met in that first Member State to enter that country, does not constitute a legal crossing of the border of that first Member State within the sense of the Dublin Regulation. According to the position taken by the Court of Justice of the European Union, the circumstance that crossing the border occurred in a situation marked by the arrival of an exceptionally large number of third-country nationals seeking to obtain international protection cannot affect the interpretation or application of the first paragraph of Article 13 of the Dublin Regulation.

⁷ Judgement of the Court (Grand Chamber) of 26 July 2017, A.S. vs. the Republic of Slovenia, C-490/16, EU:C:2017:585.

