

GERMANY

EMN COUNTRY FACTSHEET

2017

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING LATEST STATISTICS

LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

The German Development Agency GIZ and the Federal Employment Agency established a joint operation which aims at setting up information points on regular migration to Germany in countries of origin, known as Information Points for Migration, Vocational Training and Career (DIMAK). Three new Information Points were set up in Ghana, Morocco and Tunisia in 2017.

ECONOMIC MIGRATION

On 1 August 2017, the 'Act to Implement the EU Residence Directives on Labour Migration' entered into force. Among other things, this Act transposed the Directive on Intra-Corporate Transfers ("ICT Directive"; 2014/66/EU), the EU Seasonal Workers Directive (2014/36/EU) as well as the Students and Researchers Directive ((EU) 2016/801).

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

The suspension of the right to family reunification for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection was extended to 31 July 2018 with a view to revising the legal framework for family reunification in 2018.

MANAGING MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Temporary passport controls at German borders were initially extended for a period of three months on 10 February 2017; internal border controls were extended for an additional six months on 11 May 2017. On 11 October 2017, Germany announced that it would continue to carry out temporary passport controls at the

KEY POINTS



Temporary passport controls at German borders were extended for a period of three months on 10 February 2017 and for an additional six months on 11 May 2017. On 11 October 2017, temporary passport controls at the German-Austrian border and for flights from Greece to Germany were extended for a period of six months.



On 1 August 2017, the 'Act to Implement the EU Residence Directives on Labour Migration' entered into force. This transposed the ICT Directive, the EU Seasonal Workers Directive as well as the Students and Researchers Directive into national law.



In order to increase the number of asylum applications reviewed centrally, staff numbers were increased and quality assurance systems were implemented.

German-Austrian border and on flights from Greece to Germany for a period of six months after 11 November 2017.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees underwent an organisational restructuring in June 2017, which resulted among other things in the creation of a so-called Dublin Group within the Federal Authority,

aimed at reassigning responsibilities regarding the Dublin procedures within the Federal authority to improve processing of applications.

Following the Federal Ministry of the Interior's Decree of 15 March 2017, Germany resumed Dublin procedures with Greece. However, since 10 April 2017, transfers to Hungary have been suspended. Germany used transfer flights to transfer persons from Germany to Finland, France, Italy, and Norway, while France, Greece and the United Kingdom used transfer flights to transfer persons to Germany.

Since 1 June 2017, Germany has taken action on requests from Italy to transfer families with minors aged three or older. In this context, arrival centres were introduced in the cities of Bamberg, Deggendorf, Manching, and Regensburg on 1 July 2017.

Standardised and neutral (i.e. non persuasive) information on the possibilities for voluntary return started to be included in all asylum seekers' application materials. This included, for example, information on possible funding, local advice and contact persons.

In order to increase the number of asylum applications procedures reviewed centrally, staff numbers were increased and quality assurance systems were implemented. For example, the collection of data on applicants was optimised by recovering data from the internal memory of mobile devices; by using voice biometrics/recognition; and by collecting biometric photos and fingerprints.

Germany continued to participate in the EU resettlement scheme, aiming to admit a combined number of 1 600 persons during 2016 and 2017, taking the annual national quota of 500 resettlement places into account. In 2016, Germany admitted 1 060 Syrian asylum seekers from Turkey and 155 from Lebanon. In 2017, 22 additional Syrians were admitted from Lebanon and 363 persons were resettled from Egypt. In addition to that, Germany admitted 22 Syrian refugees and their relatives from Lebanon and 2 737 Syrian refugees and their relatives from Turkey in a separate procedure.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Based on the Act to Improve the Enforcement of the Obligation to Leave the Country,¹ which entered into

force on 29 July 2017, the Youth Welfare Office is required to submit asylum applications for all unaccompanied minors without delay if there is reason to believe that they are in need of international protection.²

The Act to Fight Child Marriage entered into force on 22 July 2017. It stipulates that all marriages, including those entered into in third countries, are in principle invalid as long as one of the spouses is under 18 years old at the date of the wedding. The definition of "unaccompanied" minors in Section 42a (1) of the Social Code Book VIII, now also takes into account married minors if they arrive in Germany without a parent or another person with the right of custody.



INTEGRATION

A number of relevant policy changes were undertaken in order to facilitate integration in 2017, notably:

- Since 1 July 2017, persons who are likely to be granted the right to stay can be issued certificates entitling them to enrol in an integration course within a period of six weeks;
- On 21 June 2017 the Federal Cabinet adopted a revision to the Ordinance on Integration Courses ("*Integrationskursverordnung*") to enable participants to enrol in such courses more quickly and more easily than before, and no later than two months after having been found eligible to enrol. The new enrolment procedure has been tested at arrival centres in 23 different regions;
- Funding for initial orientation courses, which were previously introduced on a ten-month trial basis until the end of June 2017, amounted to some € 40 million in 2017. These initial integration courses will in time be introduced as a permanent service throughout the entire Federal State;
- Promotion of language learning continued through Federal programmes such as "*Sprach-Kitas: Weil Sprache der Schlüssel zur Welt ist*" (Language education in day-care centres: Key to the world). An additional € 100 million in funding will be made available between 2017 and 2020;
- € 410 million of Federal funding for standardised job-related language training was provided in 2017, which aims to give participants occupational German language skills, including levels B1 to C2;
- Together with the Bertelsmann Stiftung, a private foundation, the Federal Employment Agency developed the programme MYSkills to assess skills for

¹ <https://dejure.org/gesetze/AufenthG/48.html>

² Social Code, Book VIII, Children and Youth, Section 42 (2).

30 occupations to improve counselling and labour market integration of persons without formal qualifications;

- Funding for the programme “Integration through qualification (IQ)” was increased by € 19 million in 2017;
- Re-introduction of child care for course participants during the first quarter of 2017, making it easier for families with small children to attend the courses.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

The national project “Container”, which was introduced in 2015, was turned into a cross-country project called “Eurocontainer” in 2017. Under the lead of the German Federal Police, the Austrian Federal Criminal Police and the Czech National Authority for the Suppression of Organised Crime Prague, the project is aimed at combatting smuggling of migrants. The project falls under the EMPACT (European multidisciplinary platform against criminal threats) project, which is led by EUROPOL.



RETURN

In 2017, the Act to Improve the Enforcement of the Obligation to Leave the Country³ was passed and signed into law. The Act provides that an *amendment* may be proposed to the Residence Act and the Asylum Act, inter alia with regard to the detention of persons ordered to leave the territory; the introduction of the possibility to electronically monitor the location of a person who has been ordered to leave and who has been considered a dangerous individual; further sanctions for persons who are ordered to leave but do not cooperate in their identification; as well as the new right of the asylum authority to facilitate identification by retrieving and searching data stored in electronic devices held by asylum seekers.

Furthermore, the Federal Government introduced in 2017 additional financial assistance to asylum seekers who opt for voluntary return. It is possible to submit the application at any time during the asylum procedure, but at the latest within the period set for departure. In this context, two new programmes Starting Aid Plus (“*Starthilfe Plus*”)⁴ and Your Country! Your Future! Now! (“*Dein Land! Deine Zukunft! Jetzt!*”)⁵ were set up with additional funds to enhance voluntary return.

³ <https://dejure.org/gesetze/AufenthG/48.html>

⁴ <http://germany.iom.int/de/starthilfeplus>

⁵ <http://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Anlagen/DE/Downloads/Infothek/Rueckkehr/starthilfeplus-informationsblatt-erweiterung.html>

In addition, a new online information portal on returns went live in mid-May 2017.⁶ It was developed by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees in cooperation with IOM and contains information on nationwide return and reintegration programmes as well as on Länder programmes. Moreover, the contact data of more than 1 400 state and non-state advisory centres are available via the portal.



ACTIONS AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The National Cooperation Strategy on Protecting and Supporting Child Victims of Human Trafficking and Exploitation was presented to ministry officials of nine different Federal States in September 2017. The strategy is designed as a nationwide set of recommendations to develop a new cooperation mechanism.



MAXIMISING DEVELOPMENT IMPACT OF MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

The German government has actively contributed to the process leading up to the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration, which started in April 2017. In this context, Germany and Morocco assumed the co-chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development from 1 January 2017 until 31 December 2018.

Several development policy measures now include migration and development aspects or regard tackling the causes of displacement as a key goal. One of the main implementing bodies of the development policy in Germany, the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), alone implements more than 100 projects on displacement and migration worldwide.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Germany on aspects of migration and international protection (2014-2017), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as “N/A”.

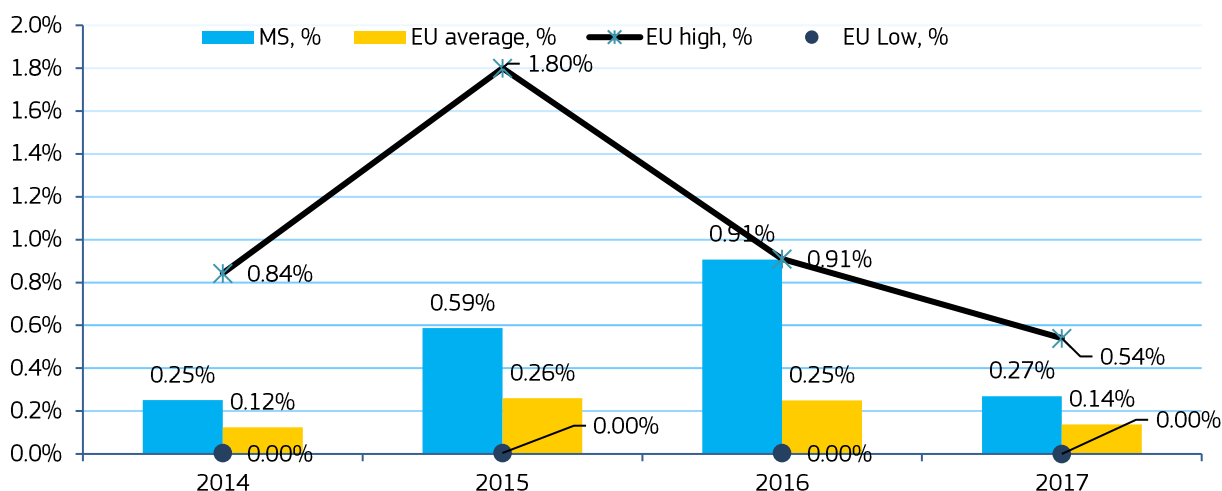
⁶ www.returningfromgermany.de

STATISTICAL ANNEX: MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN GERMANY (2014-2017)



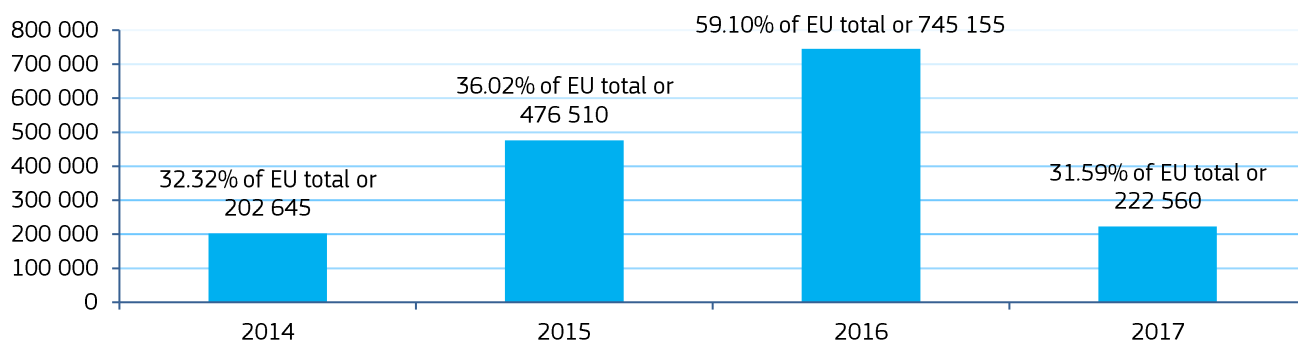
1. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ASYLUM

Figure 1: Asylum applications as a share of the total population in Germany, EU average and EU high and low (2014-2017)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asypptza](#)), data extracted 30.03.18

Figure 2: Number of asylum applications and as a share of the total number of applications in the EU (2014-2017)



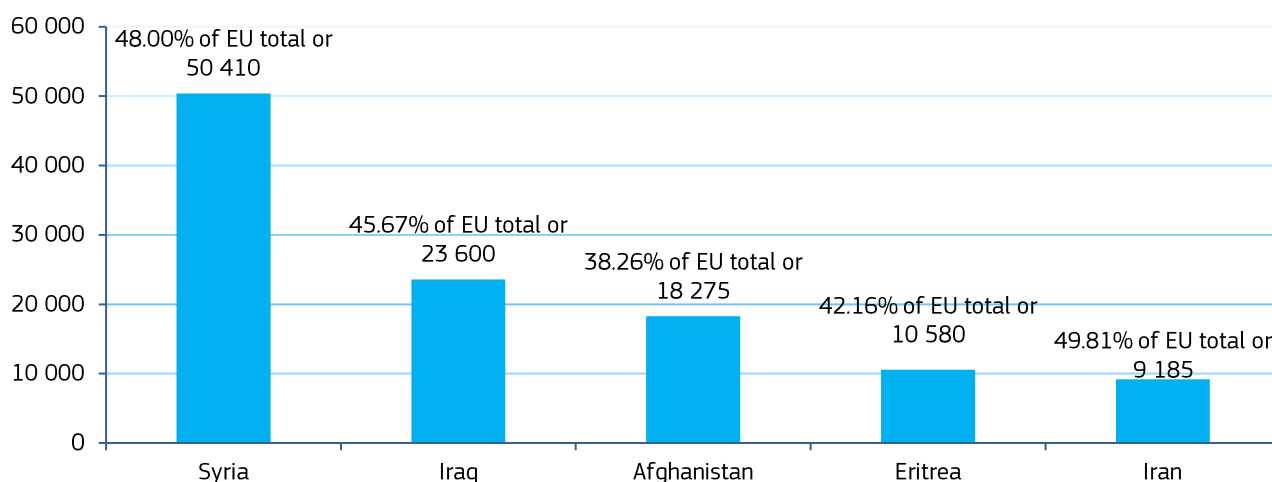
Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asypptza](#)), data extracted 30.03.18

Table 1: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities (2014-2017)

2014			2015			2016			2017		
Nationality	No.	% of total	Nationality	No.	% of total	Nationality	No.	% of total	Nationality	No.	% of total
Syria	41 100	20%	Syria	162 495	34%	Syria	268 795	36%	Syria	50 410	23%
Serbia	27 145	13%	Albania	54 760	11%	Afghanistan	127 830	17%	Iraq	23 600	11%
Eritrea	13 255	7%	Kosovo	37 095	8%	Iraq	97 125	13%	Afghanistan	18 275	8%
Afghanistan	9 675	5%	Afghanistan	31 895	7%	Iran	26 860	4%	Eritrea	10 580	5%
Iraq	9 495	5%	Iraq	31 380	7%	Eritrea	19 100	3%	Iran	9 185	4%

Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asypptza](#)), data extracted 30.03.18

Figure 3: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities as a share of EU totals per given nationality (2017)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyappctza](#)), data extracted 30.03.18

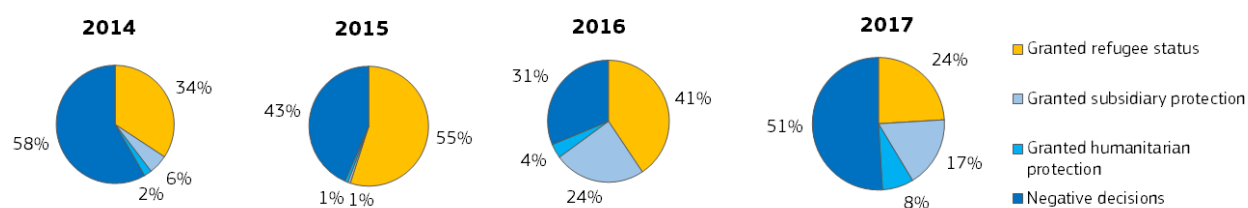
Note: the figure reads as: Germany received 50 410 asylum applications from Syria or 48.0% of all asylum applications launched by Syria in EU in 2017.

Table 2: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2014-2017)

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:			Negative decisions
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
2014	97 275	40 560	33 310	5 175	2 075	56 715
2015	249 280	140 910	137 135	1 705	2 070	108 370
2016	631 085	433 905	256 135	153 695	24 080	197 180
2017	524 185	261 620	123 895	89 065	39 655	262 565

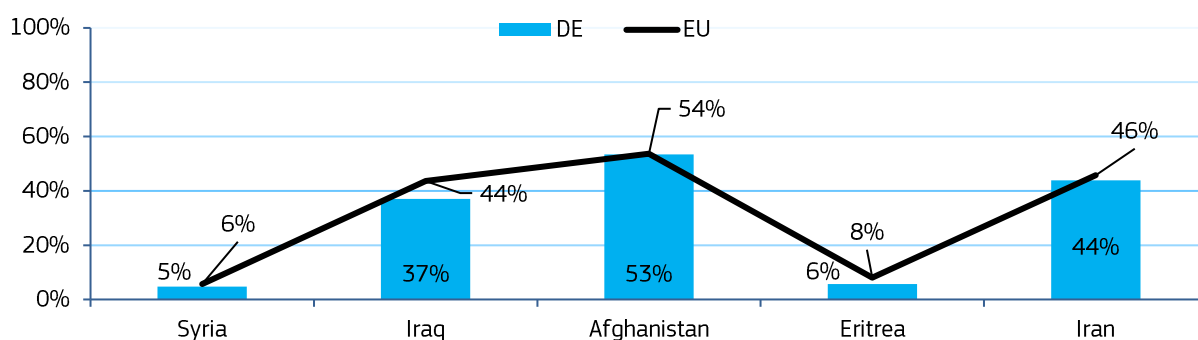
Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asydcfsta](#)), data extracted 30.03.18

Figure 4: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2014-2017)



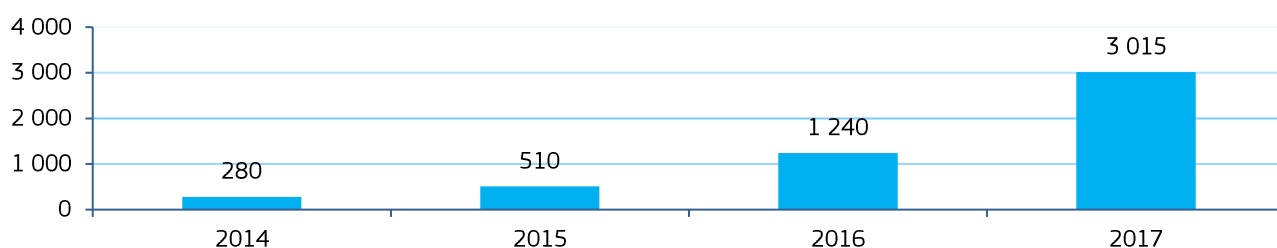
Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asydcfsta](#)), data extracted 30.03.18

Figure 5: Negative decision rate for the top five nationalities of applicants at the first instance in comparison with EU for the same given nationality (2017)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asycfsta](#)), data extracted 30.03.18

Figure 6: Third-country nationals resettled (2014-2017)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_asyresa](#)), data extracted 02.05.18



2. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Figure 7: Unaccompanied minors applying for asylum (2014-2017)

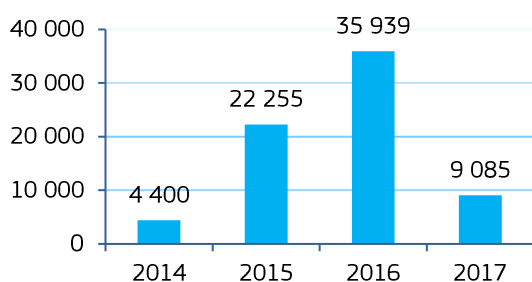


Table 3: Unaccompanied minors (2014-2017)

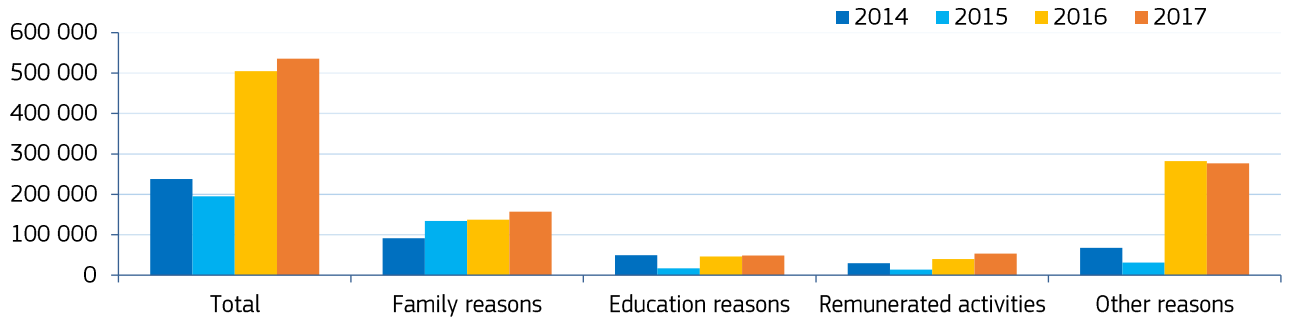
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Unaccompanied minors taken into care by youth welfare offices (total)	11 642	42 309	50 000 (ca.)	
Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants	4 400	22 255	35 935	9 085

Source: Eurostat Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) ([migr_asyunaa](#)), data extracted 04.04.18; EMN NCPs



3. LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Figure 8: First residence permits, by reason (2014–2017)



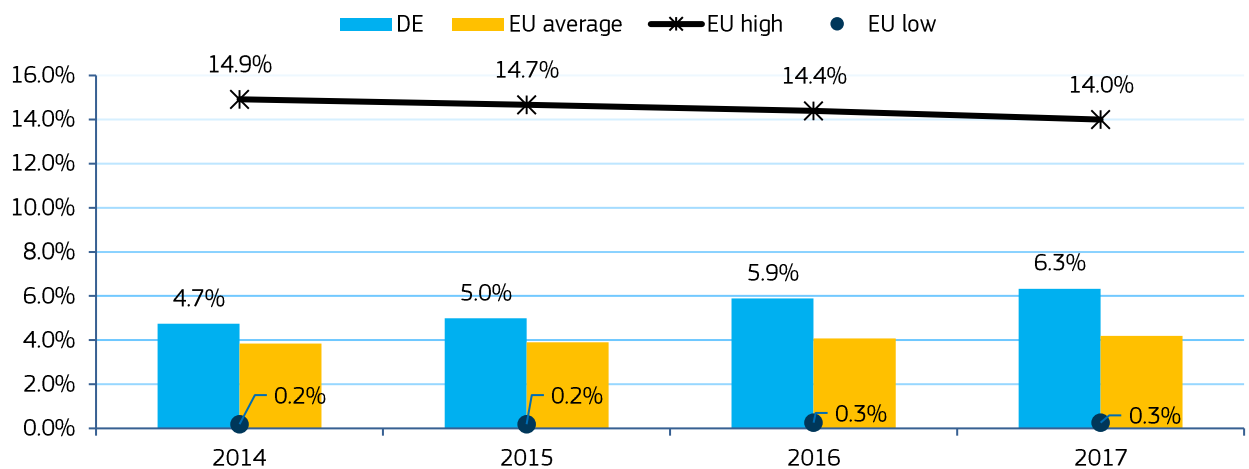
Source: Eurostat ([migr_resfirst](#)), data extracted 17.07.2018.

Table 4: First residence permits: Top five third-country nationalities (2014–2017)

2014		2015		2016		2017	
Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number
Syria	29 757	Syria	26 383	Syria	221 440	Syria	140 325
Turkey	18 934	Turkey	18 599	Iraq	29 701	Afghanistan	52 824
China (incl. Hong Kong)	14 603	India	9 597	Turkey	18 043	Iraq	46 750
India	11 863	Russia	9 054	Eritrea	15 553	Turkey	19 349
United States	11 722	Kosovo	8 260	China (incl. Hong Kong)	14 031	Iran	17 312

Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_resfirst](#)), data extracted 17.07.2018

Figure 9: Resident population of third-country nationals as a share of total population in Germany, EU average, EU high and low (2014–2017)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_pop1ctz](#)), data extracted 30.03.18



4. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

Table 5: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders (2014–2017)

Third country nationals:	2014	2015	2016	2017
Refused entry at external borders	3 605	3 670	3 775	4 250
Found to be illegally present	128 290	376 435	370 555	156 710
Ordered to leave	34 255	54 080	70 005	97 165
Returned following an order to leave	21 895	55 340	75 815	47 240

Source: Eurostat migration statistics ([migr_eirfs](#))([migr_eipre](#))([migr_eiord](#))([migr_eirtn](#)) data extracted 02.05.18

Table 6: Third-country nationals returned (2014–2017)

Year	Returned as part of forced return measure	Returned voluntarily	Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme
2014	13 851	n/i	13 574
2015	22 369	n/i	35 514
2016	26 654	n/i	54 006
2017	25 673	n/i	29 522

Source: EMN NCPs



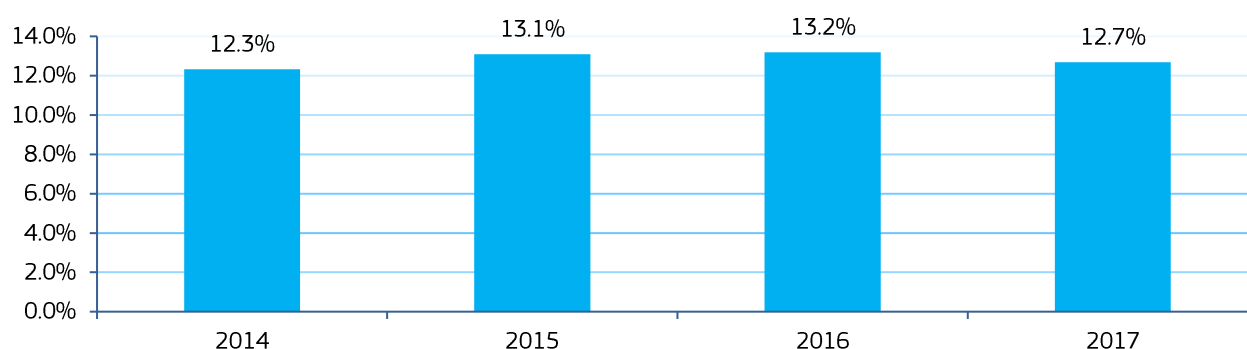
5. SECURING EUROPE'S EXTERNAL BORDERS

Table 7: Number of Schengen visas applications (2014–2017)

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Uniform visas (short-stay visas)	2 061 137	2 022 870	2 004 235	2 049 055

Source: DG Migration and Home – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Figure 10: Uniform visa applications received in Germany as a share of the total number of uniform visa applications in all Schengen states consulates (2014–2017)



Source: DG Migration and Home Affairs – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Table 8: Top five countries in which the highest number of visa applications for Germany was lodged (2014-2017)

2014		2015		2016		2017	
Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number
Russian Federation	427 880	China	362 132	China	395 241	China	406 962
China	316 197	Russian Federation	298 449	Russian Federation	263 126	Russian Federation	300 303
Turkey	196 941	Turkey	222 208	Turkey	234 187	Turkey	241 990
India	109 730	India	121 002	India	142 860	India	153 961
Ukraine	101 867	Ukraine	97 907	Ukraine	104 257	Ukraine	54 434

Source: DG Migration and Home Affairs