

Slovak Republic – migration overview (with focus on UA citizens)

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Regular migration

By the 30th June 2015, 79 422 citizens of other countries resided in the Slovakia, of which were 31 043 third country nationals. The highest number of residence permits were issued to Czech nationality residents (9 723), followed by Ukrainians (9 000) and Hungarians (7 435). The number of issued residence permits to Ukrainians is growing and from the end of 2013, the growth rate is 23,4%. This can be a consequence of the crisis in Ukraine, however, further analysis is needed. Generally, the number of Ukrainians living in Slovakia is very low compared to other V4 and central European countries.

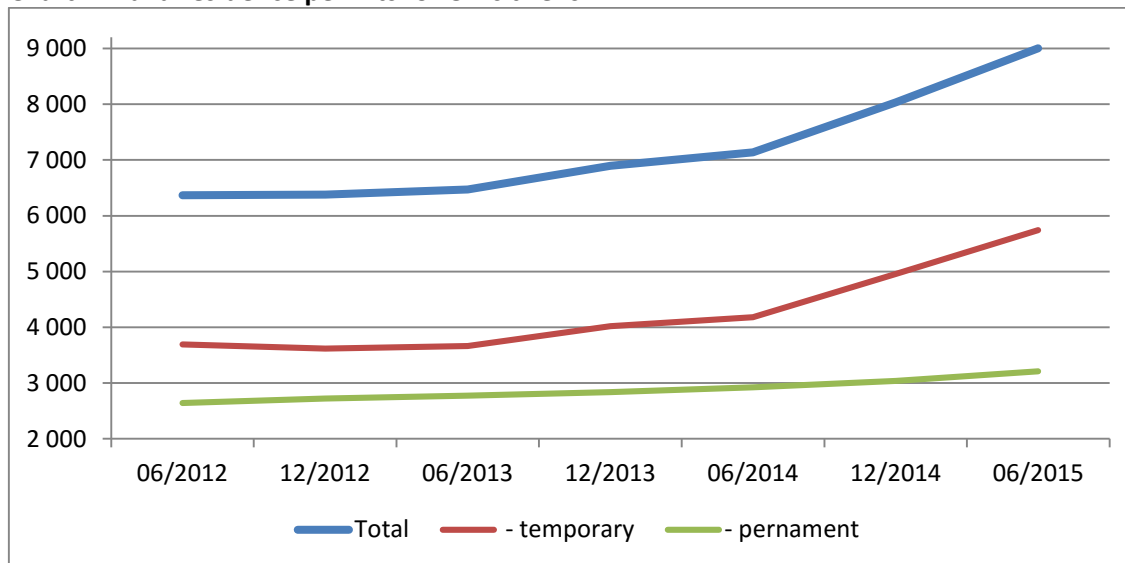
Table 1: Number of valid residence permits of third country nationals in Slovakia (Top 10 countries)

Nationality	2014				2013			
	Total number of permits	Thereof:			Total number of permits	Thereof:		
		Temporary	Permanent	Tolerated		Temporary	Permanent	Tolerated
Ukraine	8 033	4 955	3 040	38	6 898	4 021	2 838	39
Serbia	4 648	4 143	490	15	4 021	3 543	464	14
Russian Federation	2 976	1 395	1 572	9	2 633	1 201	1 426	6
Viet Nam	2 180	528	1 611	41	2 089	539	1 504	46
China	2 024	772	1 250	2	1 926	775	1 149	2
Korea, Republic of	1 557	1 124	433	-	1 528	1 128	400	-
United States of America	903	442	457	4	882	442	436	4
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	715	305	401	9	656	274	372	10
Turkey	464	266	193	5	418	233	179	6
Israel	312	250	62	-	272	217	55	-
TOTAL (all countries)	29 171	16 642	12 297	232	26 157	14 561	11 342	254

Source: Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Slovak Republic (2015).

The permanent residence permits to Ukrainians is growing steadily over the last years, however temporary residence permits started to grow quite rapidly in the 2014.

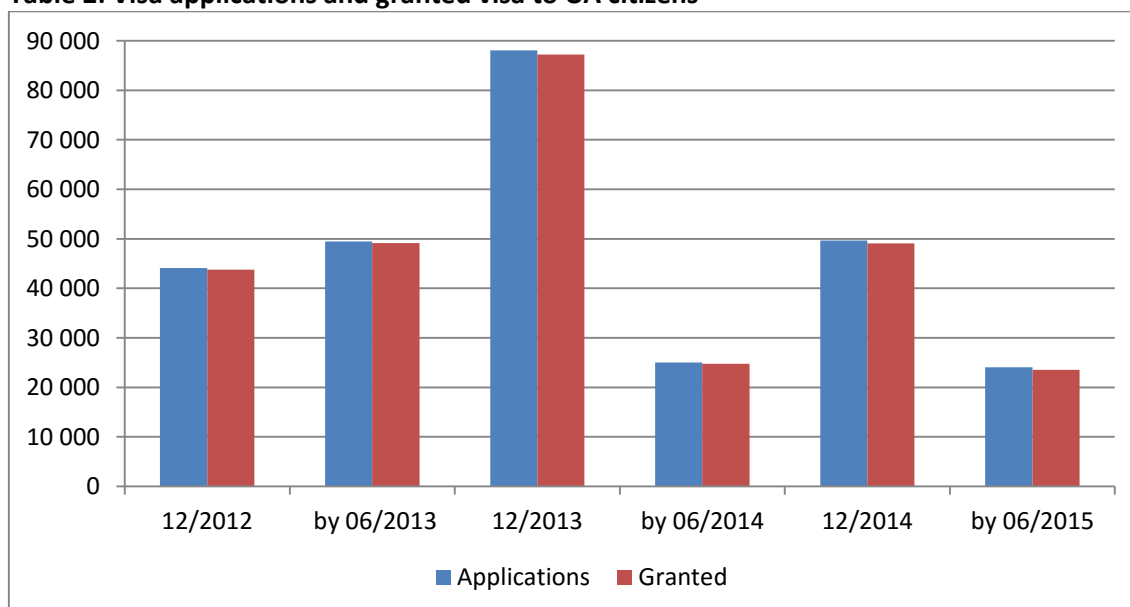
Chart 1: Valid residence permits for UA citizens



Source: Author based on the data from the Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Slovak Republic (2015).

However, strange situation is happening in the visa application. For many years, Ukrainians are the most applicants for the Schengen visa at the Slovak consulates, representing almost 50% of the applications and granted visas. In the first half of 2015, 24 030 Ukrainians applied for the visa, mostly for the C type (23 903 applications). In total Slovak consulates in the World received 40 351 visa applications in first 6 months of the 2015. Total granted visa were 39 303, of which 23 517 to Ukrainians. Refusal rate to Ukrainians was 2,18%, that is higher than previous years (1% average for 2012-2014). Generally, Slovakia liberalised (in line with the EU) its visa policy towards Ukraine in 2013 that resulted in high growth of visa applications, reaching 88 095 applications and 87 206 granted visas in 2013 – the highest number ever. In 2014, there is a sharp decrease of visa applications and granted visas and the same trend continues in the year 2015.

Table 2: Visa applications and granted visa to UA citizens



Source: Author based on the data from the Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Slovak Republic (2015).

Irregular migration

Ukrainians constitute a substantial part of the irregular migrants to Slovakia, mostly staying over granted period and being caught at their way back home at the border crossing point, leaving the Schengen area. There are only few being apprehended while illegally crossing the border. In the first half of 2015, 344 Ukrainians were apprehended and accused of illegal migration, of which 220 were apprehended at the BCPs at the exit from the Slovakia to Ukraine. 87 were apprehended inland and 5 were returned from other EU member states. 32 UA citizens were apprehended for illegal border crossing (only 2 at green border, 29 at BCPs and 1 at the airport). In total, 943 illegal migrants were apprehended in the first half 2015.

Comparing to previous years (see Table 3 below), there is slight increase of irregular migration in general, and for Ukrainians as well.

Table 3: Illegal migration in the territory of the SR (UA citizens) in 2012-2014

2014		Illegal State Border Crossing			Illegal stay			
	TOTAL	land border: between BCPs	land border: at BCPs	airports	inland	at internal borders	at the BCP at exit from the SR	returned from other MS
Ukraine	550	10	37	-	159	-	333	11
TOTAL (all countries)	1 304	189	42	9	634	0	351	79
2013		Illegal State Border Crossing			Illegal stay			
	TOTAL	land border: between BCPs	land border: at BCPs	airports	inland	at internal borders	at the BCP at exit from the SR	returned from other MS
Ukraine	393	44	35	-	101	-	209	4
TOTAL (all countries)	1 091	351	44	3	424	0	224	45
2012		Illegal State Border Crossing			Illegal stay			
	TOTAL	land border: between BCPs	land border: at BCPs	airports	inland	at internal borders	at the BCP at exit from the SR	returned from other MS
Ukraine	380	14	39	-	94	-	232	1
TOTAL (all countries)	1 479	514	139	5	513	2	274	32

Source: Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Slovak Republic (2015).

Ukrainians, generally, are not applying for asylum in the Slovakia in high numbers, even slight increase is vivid in the last year and half. In 2014, they represented only 7,3% of asylum applicants, while in the first half of 2015 the share increased to 12,8%.

Table 4: Asylum applications submitted

	by 06/2012	2012	by 06/2013	2013	by 06/2014	2014	by 06/2015
Ukraine	6	7	12	14	5	24	14
TOTAL (all countries)	276	730	232	441	155	328	109

Source: Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Slovak Republic (2015).