



COUNTRY FACTSHEET: HUNGARY 2013

EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK

1. Introduction

This EMN Country Factsheet provides a factual overview of the main policy developments in migration and international protection in Hungary during 2013, including latest statistics.

2. Legal Migration and Mobility

2.1. PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS

During 2013, Hungary updated information on migration related procedures provided by the website of the **Office of Immigration and Nationality (OIN)**. According to statistics published in the **National Migration Strategy**¹, despite the increased number of third-country nationals living in Hungary over the last thirty years, it is likely that migration towards Hungary, as a destination country, will not continue to grow in the period of 2014-2020².

2.2. ECONOMIC MIGRATION

In 2013, **Hungary adopted the Migration Strategy** and the seven-year strategic document related to the Asylum and Migration Fund of the EU for the period 2014-2020. One of the strategy's utmost priorities is to fostering labour migration, in particular of highly skilled migrants (workers, students and researchers).

Residence and work permits procedures were modified in 2013 through the **Magyary Simplification Program**. Previously, a notification from the employment service certifying a need for work force had to be requested prior to lodging a work permit application. As of 2013, these two requests can be submitted at the same time, reducing relevant deadlines and time needed to obtain the permit. Moreover, based on these legislative changes, all applications for residence permits are to be decided within 21 days. During 2013, Hungary took the

¹ Government Decree No. 1698/2013

² The expected increase in the number of third-country national workers from Asia is likely to be balanced by a decrease in the number of Ethnic Hungarians from neighbouring countries that can now acquire Hungarian citizenship by means of a simplified naturalization.

necessary steps to transpose the Single Permit Directive (2011/98/EU). Thus, as of 1 January 2014, Hungary will apply a **single application procedure** to all third-country nationals coming to the country to work or with other employment rights³.

A swifter management of legal migration has been also pursued by improving information flow towards potential migrants on available legal migration channels and by promoting labour matching. This was reflected in the **Pilot Project 2 within the Prague Process Targeted Initiative**. In the frame of this project, cooperation with countries of origin has been promoted through organisation of workshops, joint expert missions with participating countries, as well as visits to non-EU partner countries and EU countries. In 2013, a **bilateral agreement on Working Holiday Scheme**⁴ (WHS) between Hungary and South Korea entered into force. Hungary completed negotiations on a WHS Agreement with Taiwan (signature foreseen in 2014) and was negotiating WHS Agreements with Australia, Canada, Japan, Argentina, and Chile. Based on information provided by employment authorities, 69% of non-Hungarian nationals were employed irregularly in 2013.

2.3. FAMILY REUNIFICATION

In relation to the implementation of the **EU Blue Card Directive** (2009/50/EC), in July 2013 Hungary approved amendments⁵ **transposing provisions related to family reunification**. In Hungary, **family reunification** is applied both when the family member has already a residence permit and also when s/he is in the process of application. No integration

³ The single application procedure was introduced through Act XCIII of 2013.

⁴ The working holiday program encourages cultural exchange between young adults (aged 18-30/35 years) from partner countries and young Hungarians. During these holidays, they may engage in work or study but the primary reason for the visit is the holiday.

⁵ Act XCIII of 2013 was approved in order to provide full compliance with the EU Blue Card Directive.

requirements⁶ have to be met or proof of previous stay in the territory of Hungary from the sponsor has to be presented.

2.4. INTEGRATION

Following the adoption of the **Migration Strategy for 2014-2020**, the national strategy also envisages a section on integration of migrants. During 2013, several projects aiming to promote migrant labour integration in the country were also financed through the **European Integration Fund (EIF)**. Most projects provided language and mentor programmes for migrants to promote the integration and employability of third-country nationals. Great attention was placed to projects promoting the integration of third-country national students in the education system, such as the project **“Step Together III. – Migrant Children at Schools”** or **“Promotion of non-EU students’ integration”**.

Also, within the framework of the National Migration Strategy, several projects promoting **intercultural dialogue** were implemented. Information campaigns through media and meetings between migrants and local communities were supported. For example, the project **“Lunar New Year 2013”** organised an event to promote a cultural exchange between Hungarian nationals and the Asian community living in Hungary. Some projects, such as **“ColourSchool”** and **“Being different means being the same”**, also focused on the **fight against xenophobia** especially in schools.

2.5. MANAGING MIGRATION AND MOBILITY⁷

During 2013, Hungary was in the process of negotiating two **visa representation agreements** with Poland and Portugal (for the representation of Hungary in Luanda by Portugal). In addition, the National Police started **to set up an automated biometric passport control system** at the Ferenc Liszt International Airport (Budapest).

The **National Coordination Centre** within **EUROSUR** became operational in December 2013 and relevant national authorities completed access to Schengen Information System II (**SIS II**) in April 2013.

3. International Protection and Asylum

During 2013, legislative changes were introduced to improve the national asylum and reception system and to face the increased number in asylum seekers. In line with the [Reception Conditions Directive and Regulation EU/604/2013](#), Hungary introduced a specific legal **regime for asylum detention**. Based

⁶ In Hungary, no such requirements are in place in the course of application for the permanent resident permit. Only within the framework of the naturalization procedure, it is required from applicants to pass a so-called citizenship exam.

⁷ “Managing migration and mobility” refers to the following themes: visa policy, Schengen governance and border monitoring.

on these provisions, detention is exceptional and may only be applied after an individual assessment and “full consideration of alternative options”. In addition, as of July 2013, asylum seekers were entitled to work inside the reception centre within nine months from submitting their asylum application⁸.

Amendments to national legislation regulating the asylum system also aimed to improve asylum seekers’ integration in the country. The new integration measures⁹ are based on **“integration contracts”** that include a tailor-made **“integration package”** with rights, obligations and support available for international protection beneficiaries.

With regard to **resettlement** in 2013, Hungary started its second resettlement exercise targeting Syrian refugees.

4. Unaccompanied Minors and other Vulnerable Groups

In 2013, the number of UAMs increased significantly. The main sending countries remained unchanged (Afghanistan, Kosovo and Bangladesh). In 2013, amendments to legislation applying to UAMs were also approved by the Government, such as the UAM’s right to education and prohibition to be placed in detention. Moreover, the National Police adopted an **age assessment protocol**¹⁰ to better determine the age of UAMs.

5. Actions against Trafficking in Human Beings

In May 2013, Hungary adopted the new **National Strategy against trafficking in Human Beings for 2013-2016**. The strategy includes prevention measures (awareness campaigns and training for officials), coordination measures with relevant authorities and civil society organisations, safe return and reintegration measures as well as an appropriate victim identification, referral and protection system. In 2013, Hungary took part into a **Joint Investigation team** between the Trafficking in Human beings unit of the Hungarian Bureau of Investigation and the Metropolitan Police Service of the United Kingdom. Finally, Hungarian Police and the Dutch Police signed an **Action Plan on operational cooperation** to fight trafficking, involving common investigations, sharing of best practices and personal experiences.

6. External Dimension of EU Migration Policy

Hungary has been actively participating in various forums and partnerships to support the external dimension of EU Migration Policy, such as: the Eastern

⁸ After this period, asylum seekers have access to the labour market under the general rules applying to third-country nationals.

⁹ These measures will be effective as of January 2014.

¹⁰ The protocol will become effective as of January 2014.

Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum, the Salzburg Forum, the EU-Russia dialogue, the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) discussions and the UN High Level Dialogue in New York held in October 2013. In 2013, Hungary, as co-chair of the Budapest Process, continued to be involved in the Budapest Process through a new project **“Support to the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration under the Budapest Process”** that focuses on capacity building in the Silk routes Region. Hungary has been actively participating in the **Prague Process** as well. Within this partnership, Hungary has been leading the Pilot Project “Legal Migration”. Hungary also participated to the **Diaspora Ministerial Conference**, in the frame of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) International Dialogue on Migration, held in June 2013. During the conference, Hungary presented national efforts and results in strengthening national identity of Hungarians living in diaspora¹¹.

7. Irregular Migration

During 2013 Hungary faced a **significant increase in illegal migration flows**, mainly at its external Schengen borders. According to FRONTEX 2012 reports, Hungary is the **second country in terms of apprehended illegal migrants crossing its external land borders**. Hence, one of the utmost priorities of Hungary’s Migration Strategy is combating illegal migration.

Hungary has therefore continued consultations with Serbia and Austria with the aim of fighting smuggling of migrants, trafficking of human beings and illegal migration **by strengthening border control**. Also, in 2013, Hungary applied for funding to extend the **FIMATHU project (Facilitation Illegal Migration effected Austria-Hungary)**¹² against organised criminal activities related to illegal migration; and Hungary also reinforced its **border monitoring system** by purchasing additional surveillance equipment in 2013.

During 2013, there were 393 case of **document forgery** detected in relation to visa supporting documents. Also, in order **to combat and prevent irregular migration through misuse of family reunification, a new criminal offence** called “Abuse by establishing family relationship”, introduced by the new Criminal Code of Hungary¹³ entered into force on 1st July 2013. According to the new penalty, individuals (above the age of eighteen) who, for financial gain, establish a family relationship or provide an official paternity statement, only for acquiring residence, are

to be punished for an offense with a maximum of two years imprisonment.

In 2013, the Hungary-Bosnia and Herzegovina implementing protocol and the protocol between Hungary and Georgia on the implementation of the **“Agreement between the European Union and Georgia on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation”** entered into force. In addition, Hungary continued to promote cooperation with third-countries of transit and origin, for example through the project **“International Exchange of Country of Information – Pakistan”**. The project provided training based on exchange of experiences of experts in the field of return and country of origin information. Finally, Hungary hosted the event **“Irregular Migration peer-to-peer meeting”** in Budapest on 28-29 May 2013 in the framework of the **EU-funded EUROMED Migration III project**¹⁴. The main objective of EUROMED Migration III is to foster cooperation on migratory issues between the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) amongst the South partner countries and also between the South partner countries and EU countries.

8. Provision and Exchange of Information to support Policy Development

Hungary continued to exchange information through the European Migration Network (EMN). Also, in the frame of the **Budapest process**, Hungary participated in the fifth ministerial conference that took place in April 2013 in Istanbul, aimed at promoting exchange of information and cooperation in relation to management of migration flows along the Silk Routes. In addition, the Hungarian Ministry of Interior led the **“Eastern Partnership cooperation in the fight against irregular migration - Supporting the implementation of Prague Process Action Plan”** (EaP-SIPPAP project)¹⁵. Hungary also continued to be an active member of the Salzburg Forum, which in 2013 focused on the significant migratory pressure coming from and through the Balkan region.

STATISTICAL ANNEX

The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Hungary on aspects of migration and asylum (2011-2013), 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”.

¹¹ Outcomes of the conference are available here: http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=2_4&products_id=1013

¹² Project funded through the ISEC programme.

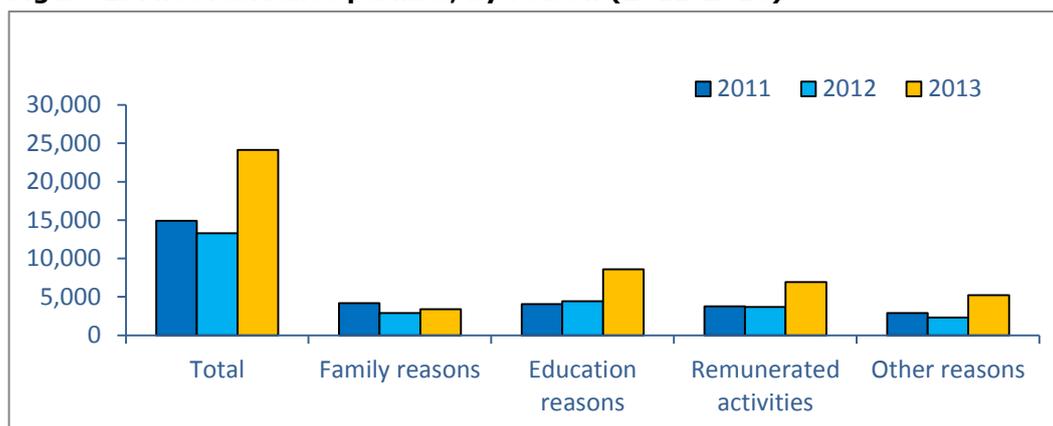
¹³ Act C of 2012- (Art.355)

¹⁴ The project runs from January 2012 until December 2014.

¹⁵ This is an EU funded project, implemented in cooperation with State Border Guard of Latvia, The Border Guard of Poland, General Directorate for European Affairs and International Relations of Romania, Bureau of Border and Aliens Police of the Presidium of the Police Force of Slovakia and International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

Statistical Annex: Immigration and Asylum in Hungary (2011-2013)

Figure 1: First residence permits, by reason (2011-2013)



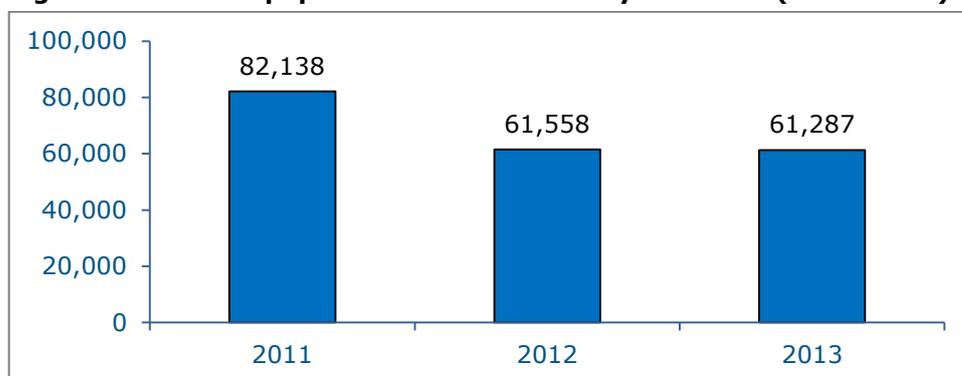
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_resfirst), extracted 4 June 2014; 2013 provisional data obtained from the 2013 APR National Statistical Contributions to the EMN.

Table 1: First residence permits: Top five third-country nationalities (2011 – 2012)

2011	2012	2013
1. Ukraine – 2,014	1. China – 1,507	N/A
2. China – 1,792	2. United States – 1,399	N/A
3. United States – 1,439	3. Ukraine – 1,119	N/A
4. Serbia – 1,075	4. Turkey – 957	N/A
5. Turkey – 890	5. Serbia – 747	N/A

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_resfirst), extracted 4 June 2014

Figure 2: Resident population of third-country nationals (2011-2013)



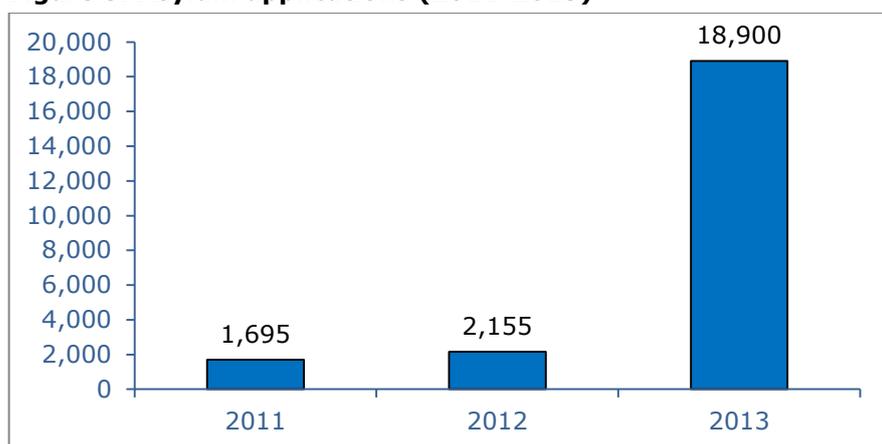
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_pop1ctz), extracted 4 June 2014

Table 2: Resident population: Top five third-country nationalities (2011 -2013)

2011	2012	2013
1.Ukraine – 16,542	1.Ukraine - 15,371	1.China – 11,504
2.China – 11,832	2.China – 12, 074	2.Ukraine – 10,849
3.Serbia – 9,676	3. Serbia – 8,388	3. Serbia – 4,894
4.Russia – 3,498	4.Russia – 3,756	4.Russia – 3,390
5. United States – 3,266	5. United States – 3,384	5. United States – 3,102

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_pop1ctz), extracted 4 June 2014

Figure 3: Asylum applications (2011-2013)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), extracted 4 June 2014

Table 3: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities (2011 – 2013)

2011	2012	2013
1. Afghanistan – 660	1. Afghanistan – 880	1. Kosovo – 6,210
2. Kosovo – 210	2. Pakistan – 325	2. Pakistan – 3,080
3. Pakistan – 120	3. Kosovo – 225	3. Afghanistan – 2,330
4. Syria – 90	4. Syria – 145	4. Algeria – 1,115
5. Somalia – 60	5. Somalia – 70	5. Syria – 975

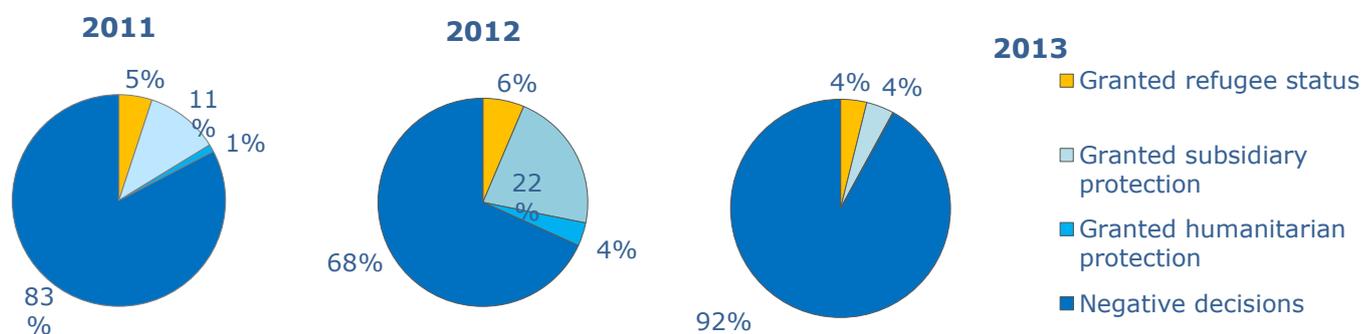
Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyappctza), extracted 4 June 2014

Table 4: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2011-2013)

	Total decisions	Positive decisions	Of which:			Negative decisions
			Refugee status	Subsidiary protection	Humanitarian reasons	
2011	895	155	45	100	10	740
2012	1,100	350	70	240	40	750
2013	4,545	360	175	185	5	4,185

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfstz), extracted 4 June 2014

Figures 4-6: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2011-2013)

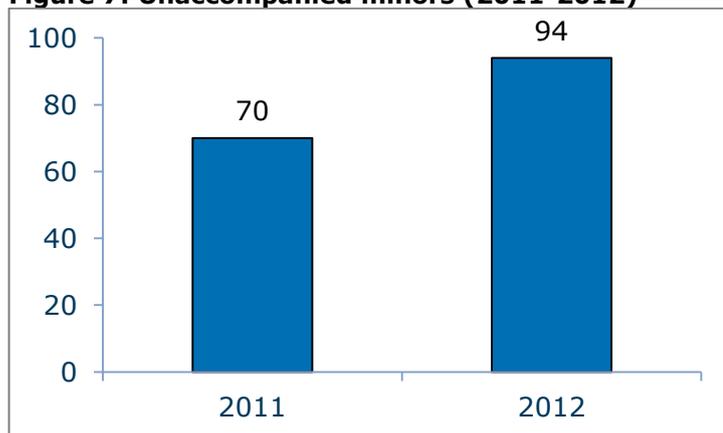


Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydcfstz), extracted 4 June 2014

Table 5: Third-country nationals relocated and resettled (2011-2013)

	2011	2012	2013
Third-country nationals relocated	0	0	N/A
Third-country nationals resettled	0	0	0

Figure 7: Unaccompanied minors (2011-2012)



Source: National contributions to EMN Annual Policy Report and EMN, A Descriptive Analysis of the Impacts of the Stockholm Programme 2010-2013

Table 6: Unaccompanied minors (2011-2013)

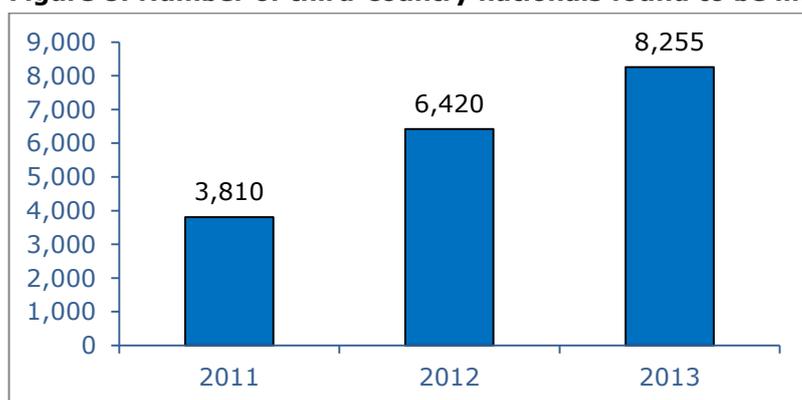
	2011	2012	2012
Unaccompanied minors (total)	70	94	N/A
Unaccompanied minors not applying for asylum	N/A	N/A	14
Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants	60	185	380

Table 7: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders (2011 – 2013)

	2011	2012	2013
Third-country nationals refused entry at external borders	11,790	9,240	11,055

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eirfs)

Figure 8: Number of third-country nationals found to be illegally present (2011 – 2013)



Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eirfs), extracted 4 June 2014

Table 8: Third-country nationals returned (2011-2013)

	Third-country nationals ordered to leave	Returned as part of forced return measures	Returned voluntarily	Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme*
2011	6,935	890	410	365
2012	7,450	1,011	N/A	414
2013	5,940	4,067	N/A	353

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eiord), extracted 4 June 2014 and Commission Staff Working Document - Accompanying the 5th Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum 2013; * Information provided by EMN NCP

Table 9: Number of visas issued by type (2011 – 2013)

	2011	2012	2013
Schengen visa (short-stay visas)	278,018	315,490	343,765
National visa	6,790	5,971	9,593

Source: EMN, A Descriptive Analysis of the Impacts of the Stockholm Programme 2010-2013