



Central European
Digital Media
Observatory



V4 residents' on the impact of immigrants on the development of their country

Coffee Beans

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The sharp increase in asylum applications in some countries of the European Union in 2015 indicated a new trend that will probably be stably present in EU countries. However, the arrival of migrants is only the first stage of this new reality. If migrants remain to live in the territory of the European Union, it is necessary for them to integrate into the local society successfully. However, successful integration is a two-way process that requires active steps not only on the part of foreigners but also on the part of the residents of the host country (1). The way members of host societies perceive the integration of immigrants reflects their overall attitude towards migrants and the outcomes of integration (2). The attitude of the local population towards migrants, therefore, reflects not only their perception of the effectiveness of the integration process of their own country but partly also their willingness to contribute to the effective integration of foreigners.

(1) Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027, European Commission, 2020, pp. 2, Accessible at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0758&qid=1632299185798>

(2) OECD/European Commission (2023), Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2023: Settling In, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/1d5020a6-en>, pp. 142.

Overview of the number of asylum applications in EU countries in 2010-2022

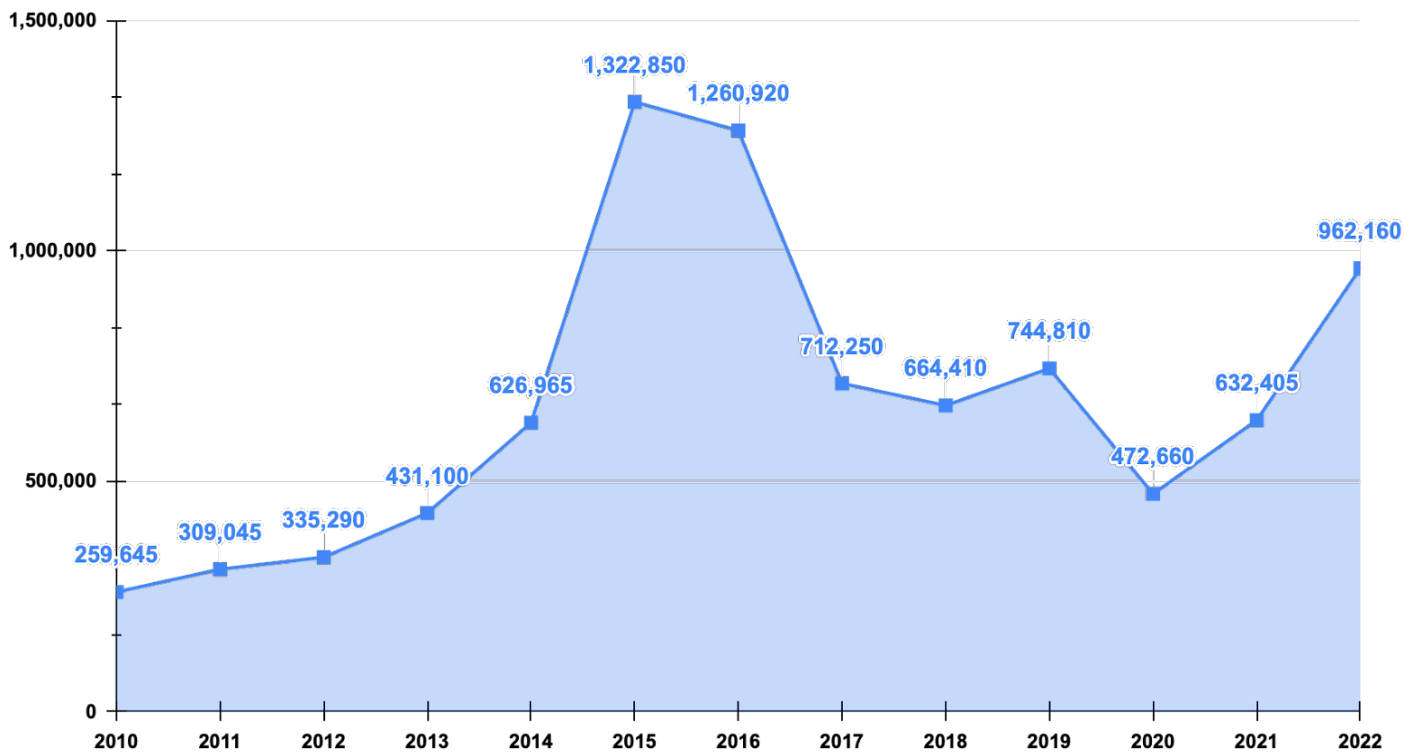


Chart 1: Overview of the number of asylum applications in EU countries in the years 2010-2022. The data for the years 2010-2012 do not include Croatia.

2020 figures do not include the UK. (Source: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/asylum-applications-eu/>)

The general attitude towards immigrants is also measured by one of the World Values Survey (WVS) questions: *Now, we would like to know your opinion about immigrants. How would you evaluate the impact of immigrants on the development of your country?* The results within the V4 countries come from the measurement of the 7th wave of the WVS in the Czech Republic and Slovakia (2022) and from the European Values Study in Poland and Hungary (2017).

How would you evaluate the impact of immigrants on the development of your country?				
	CZ	HU	PL	SK
Rather bad	0.9%	25.1%	8.1%	16.8%
Quite bad	15.5%	25.1%	16.3%	24.8%
Neither good nor bad	50.8%	36.3%	45.9%	43.1%
Quite good	23.2%	6.7%	21.6%	12.0%
Very good	9.2%	1.4%	3.5%	1.6%
Did not know / Did not answer	0.4%	5.3%	4.5%	1.7%

Table 1: Overview of respondents' attitudes towards the contribution of migrants to the development of their country (Source: European Values Study 2017 - HU, PL, World Values Survey 2022 - CZ, SK)

After summing up the ratio of negative attitudes towards immigrants, the ranking among the V4 countries is as follows: Hungary (50.2%) and Slovakia (41.6%), followed by Poland (24.4%) and the Czech Republic (16.4%). The measurements do not capture a possible change in attitudes in the context of the arrival of a large number of emigrants from Ukraine. If we divide the answers into age cohorts (up to 29 years, 30-49 years, 50+ years), the answers of the interviewed young people up to 29 years of age are "more moderate" in all the V4 countries listed in Table 1, except for the case of the Czech Republic (16.4% vs. 21.2%).

Now we would like to know your opinion about immigrants. How do you assess the impact of these people on development in our country? (Overview of responses of respondents under 29)

	CZ	HU	PL	SK
Rather bad	2.0%	17.4%	7.6%	15.6%
Quite bad	19.2%	26.9%	11.9%	19.0%
Neither good nor bad	55.6%	36.9%	57.2%	44.2%
Quite good	15.8%	9.7%	18.3%	17.5%
Very good	6.7%	1.9%	2.1%	1.1%
Did not know / Did not answer	0.7%	7.8%	2.7%	1.6%

Table 2: Overview of the attitudes of respondents under 29 years of age towards the contribution of migrants to the development of their country. (Source: European Values Study 2017 - HU, PL, World Values Survey 2022 - CZ, SK)

Datasets:

World Value Survey Wave 7. Inglehart, R., C. Haerpfer, A. Moreno, C. Welzel, K. Kizilova, J. Diez-Medrano, M. Lagos, P. Norris, E. Ponarin & Puranen, B. et al. (Eds.) (2018). World Values Survey: Round Seven - Country-Pooled Datafile. JD Systems Institute & WWSA Secretariat.

EVS/WVS (2022). European Values Study and World Values Survey: Joint EVS/WVS 2017-2022 Dataset (Joint EVS/WVS). JD Systems Institute & WWSA. Dataset Version 4.0.0, doi:10.14281/18241.21

