



SLOVENIA

Migration in Slovenia: the characteristics

Since Slovenia became an EU Member State, its migration policy is in line with the EU migration and asylum policy.

In 2018, according to Eurostat, foreign-born individuals residing in Slovenia, and/or moved to Slovenia at some point of their life, represented 12.1% of the total Slovene population.

A total of 85 % of all foreign-born population living in Slovenia was born in one of the Western Balkan countries, mostly Bosnia and Herzegovina (43 %), followed by Croatia (18%), Serbia (10 %), and North Macedonia and Kosovo (each of them 7 %).

There was an increase of more than 40% in valid residence permits between 2014 to 2018.

Most migrant communities are nowadays concentrated in Ljubljana, and in its industrial and commercial center and suburbs, as well as the cities of Maribor and Koper.

The most common reasons for migration to Slovenia is employment, followed closely by family reunification.

Even though the number of refugees remains low in Slovenia, the public sphere is dominated by security discourse and by the expanding fear of migration and refugees, which is often supported by xenophobic remarks made by politicians.

To learn more about Slovenia and the integration of newcomers, as well as these initiatives, be sure to look at the [research reports of the MAX project!](#)





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Labour market and societal challenges

- ✓ **Overqualification.** Migrant workers are often over-qualified for the position they are holding. Compared to most of the population, non-western migrants are more likely to work in jobs for which they are overqualified. One of the main issues related to overqualification is the recognition of educational diplomas. New procedures have been introduced for people who left their countries without certificates of educational attainment.
- ✓ **Slovenian language.** The Slovene language is hard to learn but essential to be able to fully participate in the labour market and society. The national law requires the knowledge of the language in all work-related communication and documentation, including employment contracts. A special effort has been deliberated by the national authorities for the education of migrant children in Slovenia, since in the last decade the share of foreign-born children has increased.
- ✓ **Transit country.** Slovenia remains a transit country for people on the move to other Western European countries. One of the reasons is the lack of support from certain diaspora networks for people arriving in Slovenia, which would ease the transition into labour market and society. This is especially the case for asylum seeking and refugee communities arriving to Slovenia in past years.

#KeyMessage: Value migrant skills, work and other contributions to society

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