

# Migration policy of Hungary

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# History of Migration

- Hungarian conquest of the Carpathian Basin (~900)
  - > Avars and Slavs People lived there
- Mongol Invasion (1241-1242)
  - > Destruction of the population and the country
  - > Reconstruction by inviting new Jasz, Kuny and Saxon People.
- Ottoman–Habsburg wars (1526-1699)
  - > Hungary's division into three parts (Habsburg Empire, Ottoman Hungary and Transilvania) → Drastic population decline
  - > Reconstruction (18th century): voluntary and organized immigration
    - → Population growth
    - → Austro-Hungarian Empire as an multicultural state

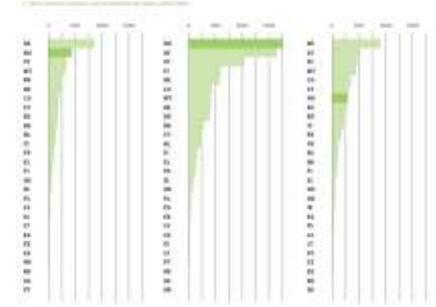
# History of Migration

- World War I and II
  - > Population decline
  - > Treaty of Trianon (1920)
  - > Expulsion of Germans
  - > Forced population exchanges
  - > → Hungary became homogenous state
  - > → Hungarian minorities in the neighbouring countries

# History of Migration

- Communism in Hungary (1949-1989)
  - > 1956 Hungarian Revolution -> Emigration to Western Europe, North America and Australia
  - > Immigrants from the Soviet Block
- After the collapse of Soviet Union
  - > 1990s-2000s: Most migrants from the neighbouring countries, many of them were Hungarians
    - Hungarian Refugees from Romania
  - > 1990s: Visa-free agreements

# History of Migration

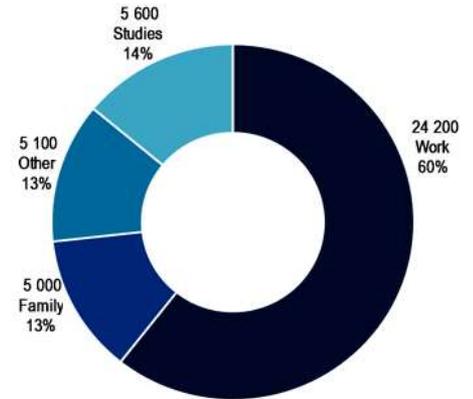


- Accession to the European Union (2004)
  - > Emigration to Western Europe
- Migration Crisis (2015)
  - > Many asylum applications, however, people did not stay but migrated further.
  - > Most people from Kosovo, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
  - > Hungarian Government started its anti-immigration measures.

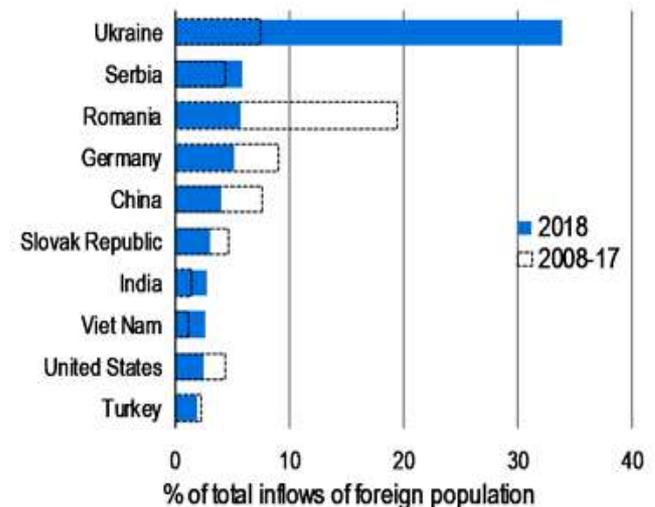
# Immigration to Hungary (2019)

- EU citizens (freedom of movement, settlement and employment)
- Hungarians from the neighbouring countries
- Residence Permits issued by Hungary
  - > People from Ukraine, Serbia, China, Vietnam, India, United States, Turkey, South-Korea, Russia and Mongolia
  - > For work / study / family

Grants of long-term residence permits  
2018 (Source: Eurostat)



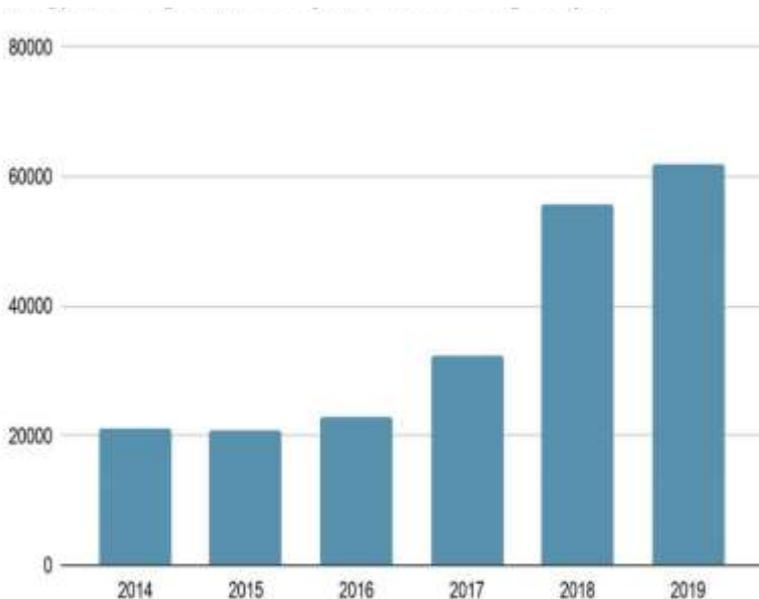
Inflows of top 10 nationalities  
(national definition)



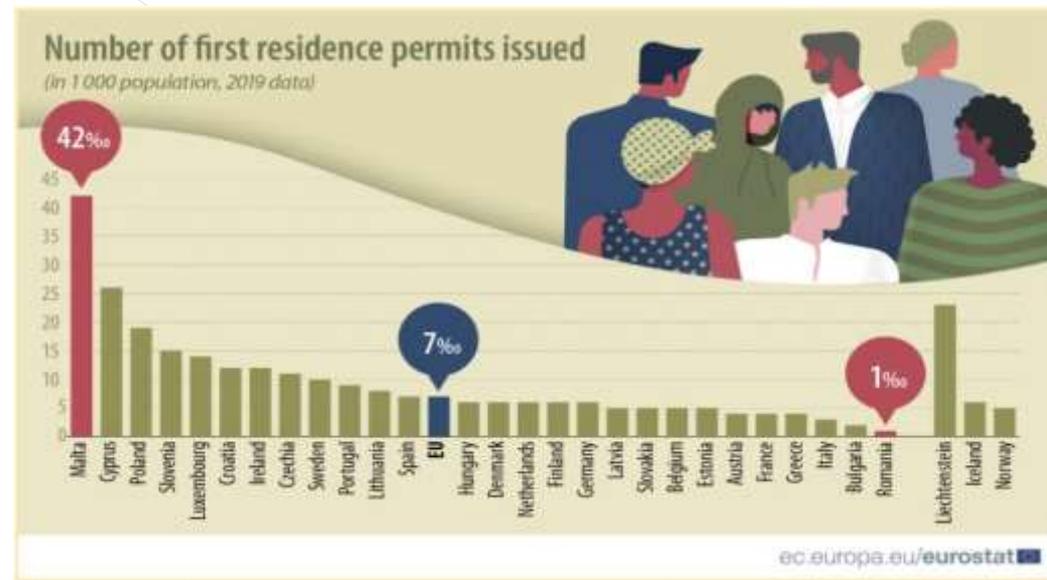
# Today's Migration Trends

- 2020: 2% of non-Hungarian citizen: 1.2% third-country nationals and 0,8 EU citizens.
- Hungary is not a target country for immigration.

Number of new residence permits issued by Hungary



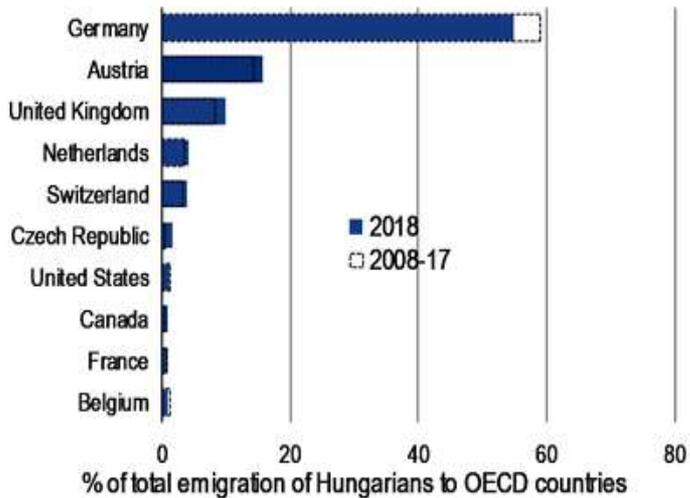
Source: Quibit



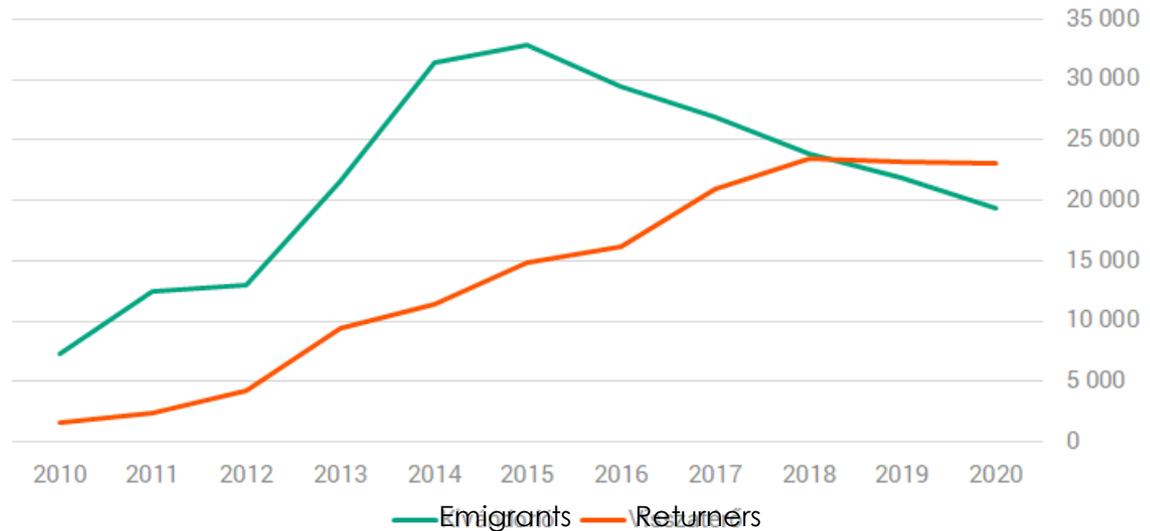
ec.europa.eu/eurostat

# Today's Migration Trends

Emigration of Hungarians to OECD countries  
(national definition)



The International Migration of Hungarians



Source: KSH, Portfolia



Number of Hungarian Emigrants by Target Countries

Ország	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Austria	1 077	2 814	2 762	5 159	7 322	7 843	7 663	7 581	7 200	7 447	7 179
Germany	1 038	3 310	4 243	6 815	10 699	11 248	9 515	8 606	7 224	6 120	5 255
United Kingdom	2 996	3 417	3 328	5 532	7 260	7 169	6 019	4 619	3 516	2 801	1 853
Other	2 207	2 872	2 631	4 074	6 104	6 592	6 228	6 151	5 868	5 532	5 035
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 318</b>	<b>12 413</b>	<b>12 964</b>	<b>21 580</b>	<b>31 385</b>	<b>32 852</b>	<b>29 425</b>	<b>26 957</b>	<b>23 808</b>	<b>21 900</b>	<b>19 322</b>

# International Protection

- ◉ Refugee status: A foreigner who resides outside the country of origin because of persecution or well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political view or special social group membership, and cannot be protected by the country of origin.
- ◉ Subsidiary Protection: A foreigner who cannot be considered as a refugee, but there is a risk that can be seriously harmed if returns to the country of origin.
- ◉ Temporary Protection: For foreigners who need to flee in mass. It is based on the decision of the European Union or the Government.
- ◉ Asylum seeker: A foreigner who applied for one of the above.

# Illegal Migration

- Three types of illegal migration
  - > 1. Irregular border crossing
  - > 2. Arriving and staying legally, but exceeding the period of legal stay.
  - > 3. Coming as a tourist, but purposing to stay illegally.
- Acts against illegal migration: voluntary of forced return, fight against organized crime (e.g. human smuggling and trafficking)
- Border fence at the Serbian-Hungarian border (2015)
- Criminalization of irregular border crossing (2015)
- Criminalization of helping refugees (2018)
- Militarization of migration-related institutes
- „National Security Strategy”

# National Directorate- General for Aliens Policing

- Former names
  - > Immigration and Citizenship Office (2000-2017)
  - > Immigration and Asylum Office (2017-2019)
- Under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior.
- Responsibilities:
  - > Tasks related to entry, residence, settlement, asylum, immigration, citizenship, alien administration
  - > Decision about illegal migrants and foreigners who violated the law + Organise and, if necessary, enforce their leave
  - > Cooperation with other authorities of the Schengen states and other migration related international institutions.

# Legislation

- Asylum Law
  - > Restrictions on asylums
  - > Transit zones (2016-2020)
  - > Difficult submission procedure
  - > High rejection rate (80-90%)
- Integration Law
  - > The EU funded projects before 2015
  - > Support system for refugees by the government (2014-2016)
  - > Today, Hungary has no integration program
  - > Participation in labour market is relatively high
- Citizenship law
  - > Citizenship for Hungarians living in another countries (from 2010)
- Anti-discrimination law
  - > Equal Treatment Authority lost its independence → became a department of the Ombudsman's Office (from 2021)

# Hungarian Government's anti-immigration discourse

- Campaigns against migration
  - > Government-friendly Media : Anti-immigrant messages in the news on a daily basis
  - > National consultation about migration (2015) and about the „Soros-plan” (2017), and a referendum (2016, invalid)
- Anti-immigrant message
  - > Media representation of migration: migration as a threat to Hungarian people and nation, and European civilization; lack of discourse on human rights, cultural recognition and humanitarianism. threat to national security, whether as an abstract threat (embodiment of different cultures), a health threat (epidemic), a criminal threat (violent, aggressive crowds) or a security threat (invasion of Hungary and Europe).
  - > „Soros-Plan”: George Soros want to import one million Non-European migrant to the EU with the help of Brussels, and his aim is to destroy Europe's traditional culture and identity.

# Conflicts between the Hungarian Government and European Union

- Hungary and the Visegrad Group against the common asylum and migration policies and the quotas initiated by the European Union.
- European Union: Hungary is not safe for migrants because of the bad treatment and the transit zones, moreover, Hungarian government violates the human rights and the rule of law.
- NGOs: as there are no state institutes and strategies for migration, the role of NGOs became crucial, but they do not receive extra support from international actors.

# Recent Challenge

- People fleeing from Ukraine
  - > 630.000 people fled to Hungary (April 22)
  - > 16.000 people received temporary protection (April 22)
- Types of people fleeing from Ukraine to Hungary
  - > Hungarian Citizens living in Ukraine (based on a recent decision, they have same rights as the people with temporary protection)
  - > Ukrainian Citizens (the only group who officially eligible for temporary protection, if they have Ukrainian Citizenship and fled from Ukraine after the war started.)
  - > Citizens of Other Countries (apart from special cases, they must leave Hungary)
- Government's standpoint
  - > Ukrainian People are welcomed
  - > Critics against the Government
- Labour shortage in Hungary -> Many job opportunities
- Hungary as transit country