

Adoption of Migration Strategy on regular and irregular migration in Albania

Slovak Experience

Petra Achbergerová

Migration Office, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

Basic facts about the Slovak Republic

- ❑ situated in Central Europe
 - ❑ population over 5,4 million
 - ❑ 1945 - 1989 (Velvet Revolution) - a part of the Czechoslovak Socialistic Republic (borders protected by barbed wire; mainly source country of migrants)
 - ❑ 1993 – separation from the Czech Republic (Velvet Divorce)
 - ❑ Since 2004 – member of NATO and the EU
 - ❑ Since December 2007 - part of the Schengen area
 - ❑ In 2009 adoption of the EURO as the national currency
-

Migration in Slovakia, 2019

The total number of aliens : 143 075 (2.63%)*

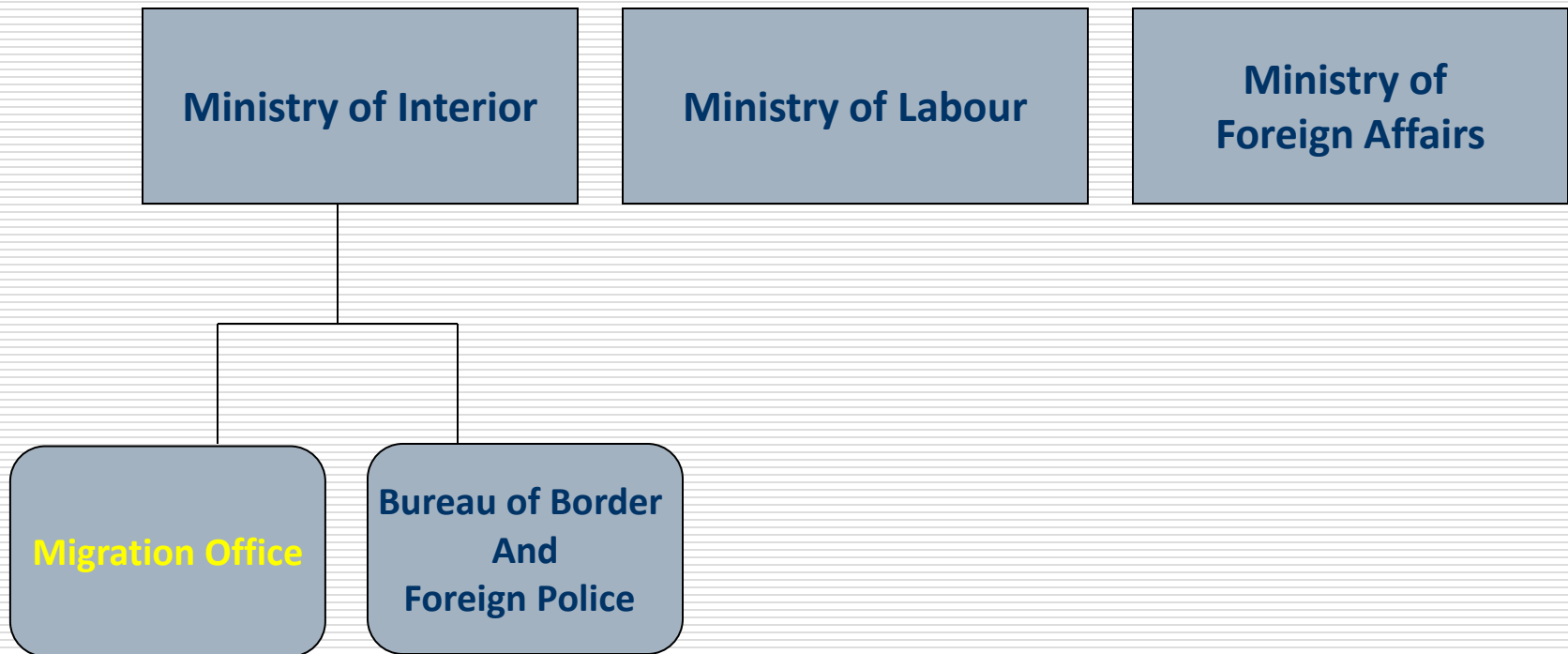
Third - country nationals : 85 827 (1.57%)*

EU citizens : 57 248 (1.05%)*

* the share in total number of population (5 450 421, podľa dát Štatistického úradu z 30.06.2019)



Migration in Slovakia, 2019



Asylum statistics

Year	Asylum seekers	Granted ref. status	Denied ref. status	Provided SP*	Terminated procedure	Granted citizenship
				Denied SP*		
1993-2003	33289	459	1560		28499	154
2004	11395	15	1592		11782	20
2005	3549	25	827		2930	2
2006	2849	8	861		1940	5
2007	2642	14	1177	82	1693	18
2008	909	22	416	646	457	4
				56		
2009	822	14	330	273	460	1
				98		
2010	541	15	180	165	361	3
				57		
2011	491	12	186	104	270	7
				91		
2012	732	32	334	47	383	0
				104		
2013	441	15	124	153	352	7
				34		
2014	331	14	197	49	163	12
				99		
2015	330	8	124	41	148	5
				41		
2016	146	167	82	24	35	3
				12		
2017	166	29	77	13	73	6
				25		
2018	178	5	128	16	69	18
				37		
01.01.2019-31.12.2019	232	9	93	23	178	9
				19		
				33		
	59043	863	8288	765	49793	274
				1583		

Monitoring tools of cross-cutting strategies

Slovak cross-cutting strategies relevant for managing regular and irregular migration:

Before the EU accession:

1993 Principles of the Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic

- after gaining the independence, the Slovak Republic adopted its first strategy in this field – duties of the state regarding foreigners as well as the duties of foreigners regarding the Slovak Republic upon entrance to its territory
 - the Police Corps were entrusted with competencies linked to the provision of foreigners agenda and passport service
-

Monitoring tools of cross-cutting strategies

As for managing regular and irregular migration:

After the entry to the EU:

- ❑ 2005 the Strategy of Migration Policy of the SR (reflected the changes needed and related to the EU accession)
 - ❑ 2007 entry to the Schengen System – the protection of the external Schengen border has become a central focus along with the fight against illegal migration and cross-border crime (new – asylum procedures at 3 international airports)
 - ❑ 2011 adoption of the Migration Policy of the SR with the perspective until the year 2020
 - ❑ 2020 update of the Migration Policy
-

Monitoring tools of cross-cutting strategies

- inter-ministerial commission (MECOMIC) under the Ministry of Labour + the Managing Committee for Migration and Integration of Foreigners under the Ministry of Interior

They gather experts from all relevant institutions, NGOs or relevant international organisations.

Minuses: decisions not legally binding, rather of coordinative nature and for the information exchange purposes

Recommendations for the migration management

- Advisable to have an operational umbrella committee that would ensure the swift exchange of information between relevant institutions such as ministries of interior, labour, foreign affairs, health care etc. It would do no harm if this committee would be empowered to endorse binding decisions or at least common understanding of directions to be later reflected in strategies.
 - One of the major problems is sometimes conflicting interests of institutions when it comes to migration; streamlining is recommended.
 - Another possible solution - immigration authority that would cover both asylum and migration issues and would give political leading.
-

Possible challenges while implementing the strategy: on institutional and operational level

- ❑ Clear definition of each state institution responsibilities (understandable by the institutions themselves) as different stakeholders might be involved.
 - ❑ Coordination among different bodies is essential.
 - ❑ Some of the EU funds might become available to support relevant changes needed in the field of migration management.
 - ❑ In our case, the major changes were connected with the reorganisation of the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police Units and setting up the asylum facilities (Humenne), establishment of the Dublin Unit, etc.. Another reorganization of the Border Police was related to the entrance into the Schengen System.
-

Measures to fulfil the Strategy on Migration objectives

- Since 2012 the action plan was introduced with yearly stock-taking what has been and what has not been done. It comprises the detail elaboration of the Migration Policy, with the specific tasks for institutions combined with deadlines.
 - The Migration Office is responsible for the stock-taking exercise and the final outcome is adopted by the government in the form of resolution.
-

EU cooperation in managing migration flow and improving legal and institutional capacities.

- The Slovak Republic was at the end of the 20th century mainly the country of emigration and a transit country for the third-country nationals. With the growth of economic stability there was a small but significant increase of incoming legal economic migrants peaked just before 2008 economic crisis.
 - In the field of illegal migration despite the situation in 2015 the Slovak Republic has a steady saldo. In case of asylum seekers the trend is even decreasing with historical minima reached in last years which underlines the transit character of the clandestine migration via Slovakia.
-

Harmonization process of national legislation with EU acquis – lessons learned

- ❑ Even before the accession to the EU, representatives of the Slovak Republic participated as observers in meetings of the Council and Commission working groups, so we had a good overview of expectations.
 - ❑ Twinning programs – support of the EU accession by the EU experts from different countries.
 - ❑ Following the rulings of the European Court of Justice.
 - ❑ Consider exceptions – as UK, Ireland or Denmark did (to avoid being bound in the field of Justice and Home Affairs); for this reason, they were not bound by relocation decisions.
 - ❑ Find your own way by taking into account and evaluating your own historic experience, structure of competent administrative bodies, existing models and set up the philosophy / vision of future direction in the migration field (e.g. decision by the police corps x civil employees, whether to have collective form of accommodation x to provide the financial support...)
-

Harmonization process of national legislation with EU acquis – lessons learned

- ❑ The both **laws** on Asylum and on the Residence of Aliens had to be substantially **revised** when accessing the EU, which was connected with the need of approximation and transposition of EU law.
 - ❑ The sooner the better - to adopt the national law in accordance with the EU law gradually (e.g. as Croatia).
 - ❑ It would show the willingness of Albania to adhere to the EU values and rules at the same time, which might be taken into account in accession process.
-

Special recommendations

- To communicate on migration regularly and in transparent manner, at the expert level and with the public as well (so it is not the subject of populist desinterpretation and of emotions – as it is witnesses in e.g. V4 countries).

We do school lectures and discussions on migration and asylum, leaflets, UNHCR project – teaching about refugees, theatre play combined with talks afterwards, music and theatre festivals participation, video series on most frequent hoaxes, fast reaction towards misinterpretations and false information is highly recommended...

- It is also advisable to pay the same attention to the integration measures and possibilities for the third country nationals.
-

Faleminderit për vëmendjen tuaj
