

MIGRATION TRENDS 2006–2008

SÖDERKÖPING PROCESS COUNTRIES

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This project is funded by
the European Union



This project is implemented
by the United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees



Swedish Migration Board
is a project partner



The International
Organization for Migration
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Executive summary

The present report is the second edition of a regional overview of the most important trends in regular as well as irregular migration in and among Söderköping Process (SP) countries. The analysis of migration trends has been initiated by the SP countries as an outcome of thematic workshops, which are regularly held in the framework of the Process. It was first decided at the thematic workshop on Migration Trends, held in Vilnius, Lithuania in 2006, to produce a report covering the main migration trends in the region for the period of 2004–2006¹. During the thematic meetings held in 2007, SP countries expressed their interest in having this research continued so as to follow the dynamics of regular and irregular migration and its impact on the region from a cross-border perspective. Thus, this research is tailored to assess the current state of affairs in the field of regular and irregular migration in the SP countries covering the period of 2006, 2007 and the first half of 2008; identifies new emerging trends on a regional scale and puts the data into comparative perspective with the previous study. This will consequently enable the SP countries to address the migration management issues in a more effective manner. The report covers the ten countries that participate in the Söderköping Process: The Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, and Ukraine.

Each SP country contributed and supported the research by providing statistical data which reflects migration trends in their respective countries. The main categories of analysis are data on (1) residence permits, issued per year; (2) foreigners residing in the country by the end or beginning of the year²; (3) emigration and immigration movement³; (4) irregular migrants detained in the territory; and (5) irregular migrants, apprehended at the borders.

Based on the statistical data input supplied by the Governments the research addresses a number of dimensions migration and is also compared with trends identified in the 2004–2006 report, and strives to identify new migration trends and challenges against background of significant changes in European migration processes – the enlargement of the EU (in 2007 as well as in 2004) and the implementation of The Schengen Agreement (in December 2007) in most of the recently acceded EU Member States who are SP countries.

The report is structured in a way that includes sections that review the general background of migration management; this is followed by an analysis of migration data by country, then a summary of 2006–2008 trends in regular and irregular migration in a broader background, and finally provides conclusions.

An overview of key processes in the area of migration management in SP countries reveal that a number of new landmarks have emerged in the migration regime of SP countries as an outcome of EU-related processes and bilateral and multilateral agreements. The anticipated extension of the Schengen Area in December 2007 stimulated the development of an Eastern Partnership within the European Neighbourhood Policy and the facilitation of readmission dialogue.

The review of migration trends by country includes ten SP countries and covers regular migration, including data on emigration, immigration and residence permits, as well as irregular migration. Country subchapters highlight the main trends in specific countries that were noticeable in the analysis of statistical data as well as in a study of information about migration regulation developments. The detailed country review shows common and distinctive trends in the entire SP region and also highlights the different dimensions of regular and irregular migration.

Emigration was a massive trend both in 2004–2006 and in 2007–2008, but it decreased in 2007 in all the reviewed EU member states except Lithuania. On the contrary, emigration from the countries on the Eastern side of the border with EU Member States, Belarus and Moldova increased. The Baltic states, Poland, and Romania belong to the cluster of emigration countries that over the last decade have formed certain ‘traditional’ patterns of migration to particular countries. It remains to be seen how the emigration trends will be shaped by new factors: for example, the global economic recession and lower demand for labour in receiving states may reduce

¹ Pribytkova I., Gromovs J. (2007) Migration Trends 2004–2006. Söderköping Process countries. International Organization for Migration, European Commission http://www.iom.org.ua/img_collection/im118_1.pdf

² I.e. total number of foreigners residing in country with different types of residence permits.

³ According to Eurostat, the recommended time criteria for defining immigration should be a stay of at least one year. However, some countries use shorter time criteria or do not apply this.

emigration levels. It may also intensify return migration; however, it may not be at the same levels to all SP countries and will depend on opportunities available in home countries.

A trend that can be observed when analysing SP countries in 2006–2007, is that countries with higher emigration rates (Lithuania, Moldova, and Belarus) also have higher immigration rates, i.e. countries with increasing emigration also experience an increase in immigration. It is a clear trend that all the SP countries are increasingly becoming destination countries. While, for more than a decade, it was common to observe that these countries were transit countries and countries of origin, now many countries have a positive net migration (Ukraine, Hungary, the Slovak Republic, Moldova, Belarus, and Estonia) or the negative migration net decreased from 2006 to 2007 (in Latvia, Poland, Romania; only in Lithuania has it increased).

The general picture of net migration in SP countries shows that positive net migration prevails, or negative net migration is decreasing. However, in order not to overestimate this trend (or the significance of this indicator), one should keep in mind that large emigration movement may not be fully captured by statistics, and that demographic aging and population decline is still taking place in all SP countries.

The SP countries have established themselves as destination countries for non-EU citizens. While the share of the population living with residence permits is not substantial in most countries (ranging from 0,22 in Romania to 2,04% in Latvia⁴), the number of issued residence permits increased in most countries from 2006 to 2007.

When looking at the main countries of origin, by and large the same patterns of migration prevail both in regular and irregular migration (in other words, part of a migration movement between certain countries goes through the regular channels, while the other part at the same time fills the existing channels of irregular migration). That means that the largest countries in the region adjacent to the SP states, such as the Russian Federation are the main source of both regular and irregular migrants in SP countries. However, Moldova is also among one of the origin countries of apprehended irregular migrants in many reviewed SP countries.

Migrants from the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Belarus comprise the largest groups of foreigners with residence permits in Poland and the Baltic States. Citizens of Romania and citizens of Ukraine form major groups of foreigners with valid residence permits in the Slovak Republic and Hungary.

While it is mainly the countries of the region that 'send' their communities to SP countries, there are also instances of larger immigrant groups from countries beyond Eastern Europe. For instance, citizens of Turkey and citizens of China in Romania, citizens of Turkey in Moldova, citizens of Kazakhstan in Belarus, and citizens of Armenia in Ukraine are among the three foreign communities in these countries.

The formation of these new diasporas seems to have begun before the EU's eastern enlargement in 2004, and the aforementioned communities were already seen in the migration statistics of the 2004–2006 review of the SP countries (it is worth noticing that similar groups of migrants can be observed both in regular and irregular flows). Some of these groups may be a part of labour-related migration that became an increasingly important factor in some SP countries over the reviewed period of 2006–2008.

Most data about countries of origin of irregular migrants show similar tendencies in 2006–2008 as they did in 2004–2005. In the period under review (2006–2008), individuals from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan were among the largest detained groups in Ukraine. Chinese irregular migrants were among the more numerous in Belarus and Romania; Romania has also detained certain numbers of migrants from Turkey. As a new trend, Georgia was noticed as a country from which the number of migrants (apprehended in Belarus, Ukraine, and the Slovak Republic) increased. Similarly, detention of an increased number of migrants from Pakistan and India in the Slovak Republic can be considered to be a new trend.

The volume of irregular migration, captured by national statistics, in the region of SP countries in comparison to previous years is growing, however there are also changes.

Most of the recently strengthened migration management measures across the region were related to the emergence of a large migration management system – the enlarged Schengen Area, and irregular migration seems to be affected by the migration management measures in the following ways:

In comparison to the previous review period (2004–2006), the total number of apprehended or detained migrants in the SP region peaked in 2006 and has been falling since. It may be an indicator of increasingly effective border controls, possibly, as well as, an outcome of preventive measures.

⁴ Estonia's nearly 17% is a special case related to large numbers of ex-Soviet non-citizens.

The flows of irregular migrants attempting to cross borders illegally might be shifting away from the Schengen countries to other routes, such as Romania which saw a slight increase in apprehended irregular migrants in 2007, along with an increased number of apprehended irregular migrants in Ukraine and Moldova. While the numbers of persons apprehended at the borders decreased in Poland and the Slovak Republic from 2006 to 2007, the Slovak Republic still has a volume of apprehended migrants that is high relative to the length of its external border with EU Member States. Uncertainty about irregular migration movement remains with regard to Belarus, which has one of the lowest rates of apprehended irregular migrants, while its neighbouring countries Latvia and Lithuania apprehended more persons in 2007 than in 2006. It must also be mentioned that throughout recent years Ukraine registered an increasing numbers of persons who were not allowed entry into the country.

It should be noticed that due to the economic downturn in many countries, there are powerful factors that may slow down certain migration movement and intensify others. The migration networks that were established during recent years may remain viable and ready to react vividly to any new opportunities, should they appear.

The report also acknowledges an increasing governmental awareness about the need for high-quality data about migration and concludes that future understanding of migration trends at the regional level would improve if it was possible to compare the number of residence permits, work permits, and other indicators that should become more uniform between countries.

I. Introduction

Background and purpose of the study

The aim of this research is to assess the current state of affairs in the field of migration in ten SP countries, and to highlight common and distinct migration trends. This report covers the period of the years 2006 and 2007 and the first half of the year 2008, and is a follow-up to the report *Migration Trends 2004–2006 SP Countries*.⁵

Structure of the report

This report begins with an overview of key processes in the area of migration regulation in SP countries as well as the identification of the main legal developments, including the EU-coordinated processes and bilateral and multilateral agreements.

The review of migration trends by country covers ten SP countries and introduces regular migration, including data on emigration/immigration and residence permits, and irregular migration. Country subchapters highlight the main trends in specific countries that were noticeable in the analysis of statistical data as well as in a study of information about migration regulation developments.

The situation in the SP countries is summarised in a chapter on trends noticeable at a larger picture. “Summarising migration trends” enables one to see one’s country in a broader background, identifies problems of data comparability, and provides a point of reference for the observation of migration trends in the future.

Conclusions draw attention to the trends in terms of emigration and to the phenomenon of return migration, point out that SP countries have become destination countries and highlight available insights with regard to immigrant countries of origin, and call, once and again, for improved data collection for the purposes of migration monitoring.

Data sources and methodology

The principle analysis is based on statistical data from state authorities received upon official request for the purposes of this report.⁶ The main categories of received information include data about (1) residence permits, issued per year; (2) foreigners residing in the country by the end or beginning of the year; (3) emigration/immigration; (4) irregular migrants, detained in the territory; and (5) irregular migrants, apprehended at the borders. However, not all countries could provide full data along these categories. Additionally, data on work permits, which was not requested by the governments, is provided where available from other sources, as it provides additional information on trends in immigration and residence of foreigners.

According to Eurostat’s definition, the recommended time criteria for defining immigration should be a legal stay of at least one year. However, as some countries use shorter time criteria or do not apply this, inside this report, immigration is presented as a category separate from the residence of foreigner based on shorter-term permits.

In addition, the following data from Eurostat was used: either as data covering additional dimensions of migratory phenomena or as substitute data in tables where governmental institutions did not provide data to the SP Secretariat directly.⁷ As a rule, all the collected and revised statistical data on immigration/emigration movement and the data published by Eurostat correspond, with the exception of Ukraine (see “Review of migration trends by country”, Ukraine chapter).

⁵ Pribytkova I., Gromovs J. (2007) *Migration Trends 2004–2006 Söderköping process countries*. International Organization for Migration, European Commission http://www.iom.org.ua/img_collection/im118_1.pdf

⁶ Governments of Söderköping Process participating countries were requested by the Secretariat in July 2008 to provide statistical data on regular and irregular migration based on the study *Migration Trends 2004–2006*. Certain of the requested data categories were not available from some countries – for detailed information, please see the section ‘Limitations of the report’ below and see the notes below the summarizing tables that are provided in the Annex.

⁷ Namely, this study used the following Eurostat data: crude emigration rate, crude immigration rate, and net migration plus adjustment. The Eurostat data is rounded up.

Other resources such as information from respective statistical offices (for instance, demographic yearbooks) and other state authorities⁸ of particular countries were also used. Data from international and other organisations⁹, materials from conferences, legal acts, resolutions, etc. were included in the analysis as well. Specific research on issues of migration in a particular country or region is listed in the References.

Practices and challenges in monitoring migration in SP countries

Monitoring of migration becomes increasingly problematic for the countries concerned. A range of differences remain in statistical data between SP countries and differences in the collection methods of national statistical data on migration.

Although methodological difficulties are well known to researchers, the state administrations now also openly acknowledge that imprecision in migration statistics might be too high. For instance, some countries do not provide any official or non-official statistical data on emigration movement (Hungary); and other countries do not have any reliable statistical data both on immigration and emigration (Estonia), etc.

The differences are also seen in definitions describing trends of undocumented migration, residence permits as well as in estimating the number of foreigners with valid residence permits residing in one of the Söderköping Process countries. In some particular cases the comparison of statistical data of migration movement are inefficient: for instance, some countries have not provided statistical data on immigration or emigration trends (Romania, Hungary, the Slovak Republic and Moldova); and some statistical data on international migration is not available.

In other cases, the definitions used in statistics were not unified: in Romania immigration was considered as the number of residence permits issued to foreigners per year, while actual immigration should be considered according to the definition of emigrant/immigrant (i.e. a person who has left the country (or arrived into the country) for a particular period of time); In Hungary, the immigrants were considered as persons possessing different types of residence permits.

Eurostat encouraged countries to adjust data collection, since this agency was attempting to build a comparable data base on international migration. The definitions used in international migration statistics by Eurostat refer to the requirements of the UN Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1, 1998.¹⁰ In the Eurostat data collection, a migrant is defined as a long-term migrant (i.e. a person who establishes his/her usual place of residence in the destination country for 12 months or more).

The Regulation (EC) No 862/2007) of the European Parliament on *Community statistics on asylum and migration*¹¹ also determines that “immigration is the action by which a person establishes his or her residence in the territory of another Member State or third country for a period of at least twelve months”, while “emigration is the action by which a person, having previously been resident in the territory of a Member State, changes his or her country of residence for a period of at least twelve months”.

According to Eurostat, in reality, most Member states use national definitions that do not fully meet the definition. The recommended time criteria (a stay of least one year) for defining immigration in the EU Member states is used by Cyprus, Sweden, and the UK for all immigrants and by Czech Republic, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal and Finland for foreign immigrants with a residence permit. Most SP countries use shorter time criteria or do not apply this.

Consequently, the limitations in the comparison of particular countries occur. Considering these differences in statistical data on international migration, more attention should be given to uniform definitions and the

⁸ Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs; Migration Department; State Employment Agency; Labour Exchange; Centre for Applied Research, etc.

⁹ International Organization of Migration (IOM), European Migration Network, Migration Information Source, CIA – Fact book, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Migration Research Group, International Centre for Policy Studies, The Multicultural Centre Prague (<http://www.mkc.cz/en/home.html>), Migrationonline.cz (<http://www.migrationonline.cz/> – a specialised website of the Multicultural Centre Prague focusing on migration issues in Central and Eastern Europe), the internet site of Söderköping Process (<http://Soderkoping.org.ua/>).

¹⁰ Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Statistics Division. Statistical Papers Series M, No. 58, Rev. 1. United Nations, New York, 1998. http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM_58rev1E.pdf

¹¹ Regulation ((EC) No 862/2007) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on *Community statistics on migration and international protection* <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l14508.htm>

collection methods of statistical data on international migration (immigration/emigration movement, all types of residence permits, and foreigners with valid residence permits living in particular country).

Limitations of the report

The limitations of the report largely emerged in terms of comparability to a previous study of migration trends in SP countries and with regards to arriving at generalisations at the regional level. Due to different definitions and multiplicity of typologies, the comparison to the previous period as well as the identification of regional trends was often constrained or sometimes hardly possible. The limitations by and large depend on the following circumstances.

The data on international migration is often limited and characterised by imprecision:

For instance, since 2000 the migration data in Estonia was not used in the estimation of the population because of the low quality of registration of the place of residence. The study (prepared by Statistical Office of Estonia) “Methodology for collecting data on international migration” is applied for the collection of migration data from 1991 to 2002. Currently data on migration (from 2002) has been collected but not distributed since respective analysis has indicated low reliability of the Population Register data on population, including migration statistics. In many instances, data about Estonia is lacking in this report.

Official or non-official statistical data on emigration movement were not available from Romania, Hungary, the Slovak Republic, and Moldova; Hungarian state authorities explained that Hungary does not have official or non-official data on emigration movement.¹² Data on immigration movement from Ukrainian authorities were also not available.

The definitions of basic migration statistics are not unified:

For instance, in Romania the immigration movement were considered as the number of residence permits issued to foreigners per year; in Hungary, immigration statistics were also based on the number of persons possessing different types of residence permits. Preferably, actual immigration statistics should relate to the definition of an emigrant/immigrant (i.e. person who has left or arrived into the country for a particular period of time).

Differences in defining irregular migration:

Some countries use the definition of illegal migrant or illegal transit migrant; others – irregular migrant. Some of the received data about persons detained in the territory and at the borders were aggregated: Moldova supplied overall data (from 2006 to 2008) on apprehension of undocumented migrants while Hungary provided general data on detention in the territory and apprehension at the borders without specifying separate elements of undocumented migration. Due to these circumstances, the identification of a precise number of irregular migrants (detained in the territory and/or apprehended at the borders in SP countries) as well as precise comparison to the previous report (2004–2006) becomes impossible.

Differences in defining residence permits and registering foreign population:

There are different definitions of residence permit used in SP countries: for instance, (1) a permit to settle; (2) a residence permit for a fixed period; (3) a tolerated residence permit, and (4) a temporary residence permit, etc.

Some countries use definitions such as “number of foreigners residing in ... by the end of the year”; other countries use “number of foreign citizens registered in...”. In some cases there is no precise distinction between the number of foreigners residing in a particular country by the end of the year (i.e. the total number of foreigners) and residence permits issued per year. Also, often the statistics of “the number of residence permits issued per year” has no explanation as to what kind of residence permits they refer to.

¹² Neither the Office of Immigration and Nationality, nor the Hungarian Central Statistical Office.

II. Key developments in regulating migration in Söderköping Process countries in 2006–2008

The enlargement of the European Union in 2004 and 2007 has led to a geopolitical shift in Europe that is being regarded by some experts as the greatest factor for migration and the mobility of populations in Europe since the Second World War.¹³ The EU enlargement has moved the external borders of the EU member states eastwards, and Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine have become the new EU neighbours. The borders between the new EU member states and non-EU neighbours have newly shaped migration patterns: the supervision of immigration from these countries has become more vigilant since the management of migration across new borders of the EU member states was upgraded. Nevertheless, the processes of the EU enlargement stimulated new flows of migrants across the borders. Regardless of new national labour migration regulatory measures¹⁴ in the EU member states, including those participating in the Söderköping Process, a significant and increasing number of migrants coming into the all EU countries was noticed. While earlier the destination countries were mainly “old” EU member states, after 2004 and 2007, new member states became not only countries of transit but also countries of destination for migrants from the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, and other countries. “Recent migration in Central and Eastern Europe is characterised by constant transition and transformation. Non-EU countries become EU member states, borders move and change meaning and emigration countries simultaneously witness immigration. Thus, increasing diversity in the movement of people, super-directional migration and as a result super-diverse societies can be observed.”¹⁵

The rise of the number of asylum seekers and undocumented migration movements moving across Europe became more intense as a result of a land-mark event at the end of 2007 – the elimination of internal borders controls due to the enlargement of the Schengen Area. The implementation of the Schengen Agreement has led to a new frame which is intended to make it easier for the EU citizens to move from one member state to another. Consequently, it has also led to a rise in undocumented labour migration movement in most new EU member states and the management of external borders has become an important issue for all EU member states as well as for those neighbouring with new EU member states.¹⁶

After the EU enlargements in 2004 and 2007, member states could enjoy the abolition of border controls inside the EU, while the enlargement of the area covered by the Schengen Agreement for migrants from non-EU member states meant one more obstacle on the route to the West. On 21 December 2008, 6 SP countries (Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and the Slovak Republic) along with Malta, Czech Republic and Slovenia joined the Schengen Area. Romania is expected to have joined by 2011. It is important to note that the Schengen system only covers a short-term visa, whereby a Schengen visa becomes valid for travel inside the entire Schengen Area. Regulations on the issuing of longer term visas and residence permits are still subject to national legislation.

Regardless of the implementation of the Schengen Agreement, the Czech and Polish consulates experienced difficulties in dealing with the increased numbers of visa applications even before the entry of Poland and the Czech Republic into the Schengen Area.¹⁷ However, some of the 2004 accession countries, such as Poland and

¹³ Favell A. The New Face of East-West Migration in Europe. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. Vol. 34, No. 5, Routledge 2008.

¹⁴ Such as the new Economic migration regulation strategy in Lithuania (2007); Concept on labour migration policy in Latvia (2007); The preparation of UK ministers to tighten the immigration rules in 2009 in order to ensure that companies would take jobless British people rather than skilled foreign workers; The restrictions (or transitional periods) for citizens of Romania and citizens of Bulgaria to enter the labour market of “old” EU Member states, etc.

¹⁵ Commentaries 2006: Eleven commentaries from seven different countries on the important events and changes which took place in the field of migration: <http://www.migrationonline.cz/e-library/?x=1977180>
Wallace C., Vincent K. Recent migration from the new European borderlands: <http://www.migrationonline.cz/e-library/?x=2111646>

¹⁶ E.g. The Annual Overview of International Migration in Central and Eastern Europe: Fifteen commentaries from ten different countries on the important events and changes which took place in the field of migration last year (2007) <http://www.migrationonline.cz/centraleasterneurope/2007/>
Commentaries 2006: Eleven commentaries from seven different countries on the important events and changes which took place in the field of migration <http://www.migrationonline.cz/e-library/?x=1977180>

¹⁷ Canek M. Enlargement of the Schengen Area and possible consequences for the visa regime towards Ukrainian citizens. A comparative analysis of the Czech and Polish cases: <http://www.migrationonline.cz/e-library/?x=2054732>
Keryk M. Twelve Polish Visa Factory – Not Yet Profitable!: <http://www.migrationonline.cz/e-library/?x=2056544>
Czech Republic does not belong to Söderköping Process, but the example of Czech Republic was included here as an illustration of the situation after the enlargement of Area.

the Czech Republic, were becoming destination countries already prior to accessing the EU (as witnessed by large numbers of visa applications, especially submitted by people living in Western Ukraine).

The development of the Schengen Area brought many advantages as well as new challenges. The challenges are related to the emergence of what some see as a new dividing line (between EU insiders and the outsiders), to the distribution of costs of managing the newly defined border regimes, and to the presently under-developed measures of integrating migrants. Some experts such as Judith Tóth stated that in relation to the development of the Schengen Area, the emphasis on security has pushed safety measures' social and service costs eastward. While Schengen developments have contributed to strengthening security, the absorption and integration capacity for migrants in new Schengen countries in the CEE remains limited.¹⁸ However, this research covers only the first half of 2008 and particular conclusions on the effects of the enlargement of the Schengen Area can not be made yet.

As has been mentioned, it is important to note that the Schengen visa-regime is not related to regular immigration movement as such, as migrants with short-term visas have no right for long term stay or work. However, it is closely related to irregular labour migration and the shadow economy since migrants can overstay their short-term visas and become irregular migrants or workers in the shadow economy, which is common practice. Moreover, migrants with Schengen visas can freely move across the entire Schengen Area. Due to this factor the Schengen visa-regime is becoming an issue for all members of the Schengen Agreement. Regardless of the afore mentioned issue of collective migration management (i.e. entry into the Schengen Area), immigration regulations remain a question of national competence.

Considering these processes, the ideas and objectives which were raised in Söderköping (Sweden) in 2001 have become as important today as never before. Countries, participating in the Söderköping Process and dealing with issues of better border management and cross-border cooperation have met new challenges of undocumented migration movement. For instance, according to data from the State Border Service of Ukraine, the number of undocumented migrants identified in the first two months of 2007 is almost 2,5 times higher than over the corresponding period of in 2006. In 2006 the number was 2 073 while in 2007 – it is already 5 010. Regarding these challenges, the Söderköping Process enables participating countries do deal with these problems more efficiently.

Besides the formal bilateral, multilateral agreements and other measures, the thematic workshops of SP countries could be mentioned as good examples of more efficient cross-border cooperation. For instance, workshop on (1) Judicial Practice in the field of illegal migration, that took place in Riga from 22–23 May 2008; (2) The Role of NGOs in the Cross-Border Cooperation Process, that took place in Chisinau from 12–13 July 2007; (3) the Analyses of Migration Trends in Eastern and Central Europe, that took place in Vilnius from 5–16 June 2006, etc.

¹⁸ Fifteen commentaries from ten different countries on the important events and changes which took place in the field of migration last year (2007): <http://www.migrationonline.cz/centraleasterneurope/2007/>

III. Legal framework related to regular and irregular migration

EU-coordinated partnerships and agreements

The EU-coordinated agreements with the new neighbouring states, notably Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, have been important steps in the emergence of new landmarks in the migration regime in the region of countries participating in the Söderköping Process. The EU will give strong support to these partners through a specific Eastern dimension within the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).¹⁹ The ENP has already been successful in forging closer relations between the EU and its neighbours while the proposed differentiated approach called The Eastern Partnership should go further on a bilateral and multilateral track. The project was initiated by the EU and presented at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels on 26 May 2008.²⁰ Some of the objectives of the Eastern Partnership are closely related to issues of border management and migration such as the increase of mobility between the EU and its Eastern Partners, an Integrated Border Management Programme, etc. The mobility side would reflect the recent Commission Communication on Strengthening the Global Approach to Migration and the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum, endorsed by the European Council in October 2008²¹. The main tool would be the Mobility Partnership, as identified in the framework of the Global Approach to Migration and is currently being tested in a number of the countries, including the Republic of Moldova.

One of the most important measures reflecting the EU neighbouring countries was the establishment of Common Visa Application Centres. This new measure introduced new forms of co-operation in separating the reception of and the decision on the application. It has been taken up by the Council and Commission Action Plan implementing the Hague Programme on strengthening freedom, security and justice in the EU (presented by Franco Frattini, Commissioner responsible for Freedom, Justice and Security, on 31 May 2006). Under this new measure, in order to facilitate the procedure for the applicant, the EU Member states or a company may take the application and the biometric identifiers and transfer it to the Member states responsible for the decision.²²

The first Common Visa Application Centre in the history of the EU visa policy was opened in April 2007 in Moldova. This Centre facilitates the issuance of visas for Moldovan citizens. Moldova was identified as one of the most relevant countries to launch a pilot project as the accession of Romania and the introduction of the visa obligation for Moldovan citizens created a new situation. With its capacity to receive some 10 000 visa applications per year, the Centre is an essential element in the EU's efforts to address the difficult situation facing Moldovan citizens.²³

One of the most important issues that concerned the considerably long part of the border between the EU and non-EU countries was the signing of the EU-Ukraine Readmission Agreement in 2006 which will fully come into force in 2010. The Agreement regulates the return of undocumented Ukrainian citizens from the territory of EU MS and the return of third country nationals who have transited Ukraine on their way to the West. In March 2007 Ukraine also signed a visa facilitation and readmission agreement with Denmark, and in 2008 with the Russian Federation.²⁴ The latter Readmission Agreement for Ukraine is very important since the majority of undocumented migrants come to Ukraine through the Russian Federation due to the imperfectly secured border between those two countries.

Specific measures were agreed on between the Republic of Moldova and the EU as well: in 2008, the EU adopted a multidimensional decision on Moldova. The decision concerned reflects the country's cooperation with the EU, and puts strong emphasis on the Transnistrian problem settlement. During the same year, the EU and Moldova

¹⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

²⁰ Eastern Partnership http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/eastern/index_en.htm

²¹ http://www.immigration.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Plaquette_EN.pdf

²² European Union: "Common Visa Application Centres" and introduction of biometrics in Visa Information System (VIS) proposed http://www.finfacts.com/irelandbusinessnews/publish/article_10006088.shtml

²³ Opening of a "Common Visa Application Centre" in Moldova <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/153&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

The first EU "Common Visa Application Centre" opens in Moldova <http://www.cerium.ca/The-first-EU-Common-Visa>

²⁴ The law "On Ratification of the Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of Russian Federation on Readmission". The Law is aimed to create legal conditions necessary for coordination and cooperation on issues concerning the prevention of and counteraction to illegal migration and human trafficking.

signed joint declaration on a mobility partnership with the objective of better management of migration, which may lead to the development of bilateral and multilateral temporary and circular labour migration schemes. The Partnership concerned has wide-ranging objectives, including (1) facilitating legal immigration, (2) fighting against illegal immigration (3) promoting capacity building and (4) reinforcing institutional capacity in the Republic of Moldova.

On 10 October 2007 the EU signed a visa facilitation and readmission agreement with Moldova. The readmission agreement set out obligations and procedures for the authorities of both Moldova and EU Member states on when and how to take back people who are illegally residing in the territories covered by the agreement. The agreement concerned covers illegally residing nationals as well as third country nationals and stateless persons being in an irregular situation with a clear link with the requested Party (e.g. visa or resident permit).²⁵

Some other trends, such as the economic growth of new EU member states with increasing disparities in economical development of EU and non-EU member states, labour force shortages and pressure by employers to initiate more liberal labour immigration policies have become more outstanding in 2007 than ever before. These new challenges especially affected Poland, the Slovak Republic and the Baltic States. Governments of these countries (for instance, Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia) have adopted particular instruments and developed strategies for the regulation of labour immigration processes. However, considering the effects of the current global economic crisis that has become especially noticeable in late 2008, the patterns of labour migration as well as general trends of regular and irregular migration may change (please see *Summarising regular and irregular migration in 2006–2008*, Chapter V).

Multilateral and bilateral agreements

From 2006 to 2008 many bilateral and multilateral agreements between SP countries, EU member states and other countries were signed.²⁶ Some of the recent agreements can be mentioned as examples of the regulation of migration and initiatives for improving border management and cross-border cooperation:

- Moldova developed particular bilateral relations with neighbouring countries: for instance, in 2008 new measures (or EUBAM Action Plan for 2009) to improve management of the Moldovan–Ukrainian border were initiated where special attention is given to meet European standards in border management: during the year 2009, the Action Plan will include cooperation in eight areas²⁷ of activities.
- In 2008 Belarus and the Republic of Latvia signed a Joint Action Plan between the State Border Guard Committee of the Republic of Belarus and the State Border Guard of the Republic of Latvia, which offers the opportunity to exchange experiences in the operation of border crossing points, detection and examination of forged documents, and the prevention of border regime violation.
- In 2008 an agreement between Ukraine and the Slovak Republic on border movement was signed, under which Ukrainians from border regions will be able to enter the Slovak Republic without visas. Under this agreement, citizens of Ukraine living in the border regions would need only a permit and passport to cross the Slovak border.
- Ukraine and Hungary signed an agreement on cross-border crossings in 2007 and have signed a border cooperation plan for 2008.
- Latvia and Lithuania reached an agreement on 20 February 2007 to sign a bilateral agreement on the opening of joint border checkpoints.
- In 2007 the government of Ukraine approved decisions on the simplification of visa regimes for Ukrainian nationals crossing the borders of Poland, Romania and Bulgaria, etc.

²⁵ <http://Soderkoping.org.ua/page15941.html>

²⁶ Extensive information about cooperation in migration management is provided on the website of SP secretariat <http://Soderkoping.org.ua/page16746.html>

²⁷ Effectiveness of border guard and customs control at the Moldovan-Ukrainian border; Effectiveness of management and training systems; technical knowledge; as well as infrastructure and equipment; Enforcement measures through prevention and investigation of cross-border crime; Increased customs revenue through evaluating aspects of customs clearance and through assisting the national trade policies of Moldova and Ukraine; Anti-corruption efforts; Integrated border management on the basis of three pillars: intra-agency cooperation, inter-agency cooperation and international cooperation; Contribution to the peaceful settlement of the Transnistrian conflict of the Republic of Moldova; Public information to the citizens and users of border services.

- The September 2008 EU-Ukraine summit decided to launch a dialogue on a mutual visa-free travel regime as a long-term perspective.

These are only a few examples of good practices. There were more initiatives organized in the framework of the Söderköping Process to deal with challenges of new migration movement – including various research, projects, meetings, conferences, etc.²⁸

Some specific programmes were established in individual countries. For instance, Latvia in 2007 adopted a concept on labour migration policy – a draft concept in the Context of Employment, which stipulates the necessity of external labour force influx to Latvia due to the shortage of a domestic labour force; Hungary from 2008 opened the labour market for Romanian workers without any restrictions; in 2007 Romania introduced free of charge visas for Ukrainian citizens travelling to Romania; on 20 July 2007 Poland's government simplified the conditions for the influx of labour from the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Belarus willing to work in Poland; in April 2007, the government of Lithuania adopted a new Economic Migration Regulation Strategy, etc. These developments suggest that the significance of labour migration is increasingly acknowledged and it is emerging as a new dimension of regular migration in a number of SP countries.

Project-based activities

One of the largest projects with regard to the facilitation of large scale border management was the establishment of FRONTEX²⁹ on 1 May 2005 – the EU agency for external border security, which is responsible for the coordination of the activities of national border guards and ensuring the security of the EU border with non member states. The Warsaw-based agency started to operate on 3 October 2005 and was the first EU agency which was situated in one of the 2004–EU-enlargement members (consequently, in August 2008, with regard to the management of external borders, a working agreement between FRONTEX and the Republic of Moldova was also signed³⁰).

Apart from the aforementioned national and bilateral developments, very recent events also provide evidence that the monitoring of external borders has become a primary issue: in February 2008, during a press conference in Brussels the EU Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security Franco Frattini stated “A comprehensive vision for an integrated European border management system for the 21st Century”, where management of EU borders should be implemented through a range of new technologies. This new vision foresees (1) the developments of the border agency FRONTEX, (2) the creation of the European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR), and (3) a new checking system on entry into and exit from the EU based on biometric data.³¹

These established programmes, agreements and resolutions show that cooperation ties among SP countries are close, while the enlargement of the EU in 2004 and 2007 as well as the development of the Schengen Agreement in 2008 show new migration patterns which will create new challenges. They will require new political decisions concerning border management as well as a new approach to regulating national and international migration movement both for new member states, new neighbouring countries, and the whole of Europe.

²⁸ See more at <http://Soderkoping.org.ua/page108.html> (“Thematic workshops” and “Country news”).

²⁹ FRONTEX – European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member states of the EU.

³⁰ <http://Soderkoping.org.ua/page16746.html>

³¹ Georgi F. *Bordering on a Nightmare?, A Commentary on the 2008 “Vision for an EU border Management System”, May 2008:* http://aa.ecn.cz/img_upload/6334c0c7298d6b396d213ccd19be5999/FGGeorgi_CommentaryontheVisionforanEUBorderManagementSystem.pdf

IV. Review of migration trends by country

In this report, countries are reviewed according to their geographical position on a physical map from North to South. Firstly, the countries are reviewed following the Western belt of the SP country region that corresponds to the EU member states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Hungary, and Romania), and then – the Eastern belt, or Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova. This order of the countries is chosen only for the convenience of the review with the purpose of geographical coverage (rather than a typical alphabetical sequence). Where appropriate, Czech Republic and to a lesser extent also Bulgaria are also referred to for a better illustration of migration trends in Eastern and Central Europe. This order of countries has no other meaning and does not reflect any predispositions of the authors; country descriptions can be reordered in any way.

Estonia

Since 2000 the migration data in Estonia was not used in estimating the population because of the low quality of registration of people in the place of residence. The “*Methodology for collecting data on international migration*”³² is used to present data on international migration from 1991 to 2002, but there are no newer calculations available. Currently data on migration is collected but not distributed because the analysis has indicated a low reliability of the Population Register data according to the Official Statistics Act (1997) producing statistics on population, including statistics on migration.

Unfortunately, a comparison with the previous period (2004–2006) is not possible due to the lack of data on migration movement into and from Estonia.

According to the data received from the state authorities of Estonia, net migration in Estonia has remained negative in recent years, but the difference between emigration and immigration is decreasing. The main destination country for Estonian emigrants is Finland, which receives highly larger rates of Estonians than other countries. Other significant destinations are the Russian Federation, Germany and other EU countries. Apart from Estonian citizens, some citizens of the Russian Federation and Finland as well as with persons with undefined citizenship registered that they left the country permanently.

Also, there is a trend that more people come from the Russian Federation to Estonia than leave from Estonia to the Russian Federation (unfortunately no data by citizenship is available). The relative importance of Estonian citizens in immigration is increasing and the decrease of the migration balance probably relates to the increase in the return of Estonian citizens.

Management of migration processes

There are two legal acts which regulate the granting of resident permits in Estonia –the Aliens Act and the Citizen of European Union Act. Two types of residence permits may be issued for third country nationals – (1) a temporary (fixed term) residence permit and (2) a permanent residence permit.

Also it is important to note that the number of aliens who can settle in Estonia on the basis of a residence permit is limited. Estonia has an annual immigration quota for aliens immigrating to Estonia, which was recently raised from 0,05% to 0,1% of the annual number of the permanent population of Estonia.

In order to prevent undocumented migration as well as undeclared employment, Estonia mainly focuses on two issues: (1) the prevention of undocumented migration through visa applicant and residence permit checks; as well as (2) the enforcement of monitoring procedures for undocumented residents and workers.

³² Herm A., Jõeveer J., Senipalu R., Valgma. International migration. Methodology for collecting data on international migration. Statistical Office of Estonia. This document, compiled as a result of the project on methodology of the international migration statistics in Estonia, is the first one that describes the full registration process of aliens and nationals arriving in Estonia on order to reside there and the possibility to collect data on these persons from different sources, and analyses the feasibility of producing international migration statistics on the basis of this data.

Regular migration

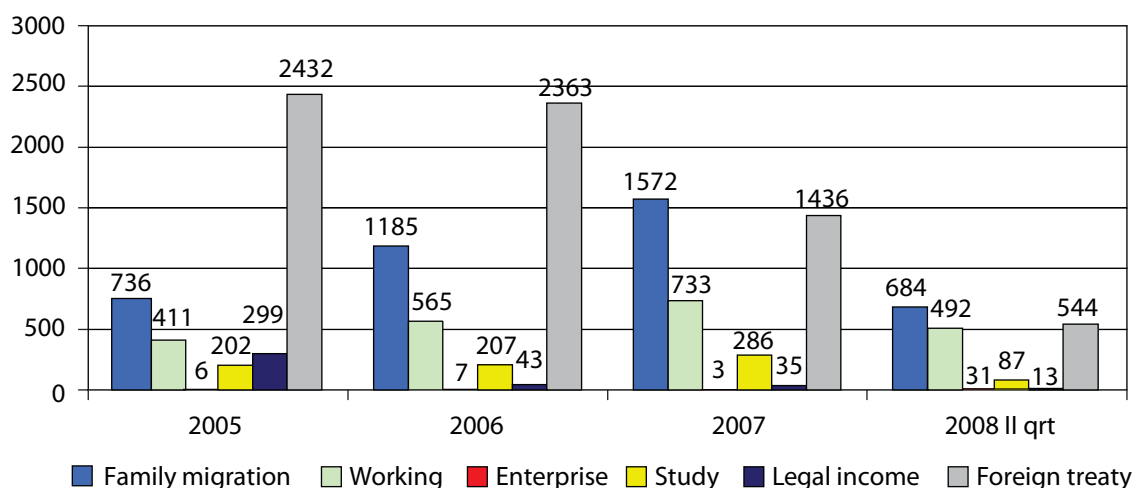
Immigration

According to International Organization for Migration,³³ Estonian migration policy has been stable and restrictive since Estonia gained its independence. There are few immigrant types arriving in Estonia: most of them have arrived from the CIS countries (mainly from the Russian Federation). The majority of migrants which come to Estonia usually come with their spouses and close relatives.

Another major group of migrants which settles in Estonia is labour immigrants³⁴ from Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Currently, the need for a foreign labour force is related to the fast economic growth, which has led to a more active economy and growing employment while emigration processes could be seen as one of the causes for the demand for a labour force. The majority of labour migrants come from Ukraine. In 2007, Ukrainian migrant workers constituted 84% of total number of work permits approved by the Labour Market Board (while citizens of the Russian Federation constituted 4%, citizens of India 2% and Chinese citizens 1%).

As can be seen from the table below, from 2005 the number of issued work permits for foreigners has increased. It shows that Estonia has also become a destination country for economic migrants. Although, the majority of permits issued on the basis of application constitute foreign treaty, family reunion followed by labour migration and studies.

Decisions on Granting Temporary Residence Permit Pursuant to the Aliens Act Broken down by the Basis of Application from 2005 to 2008 II qrt



Source: data from Estonian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Residence permits³⁵

Since data on international migration in Estonia is not accessible, the analysis of migration trends is limited. However, the analysis of statistics shows that there are many residence permits issued where the majority of those with residence permits are from the large non-Estonian population which moved to Estonia during Soviet times and who have remained there.

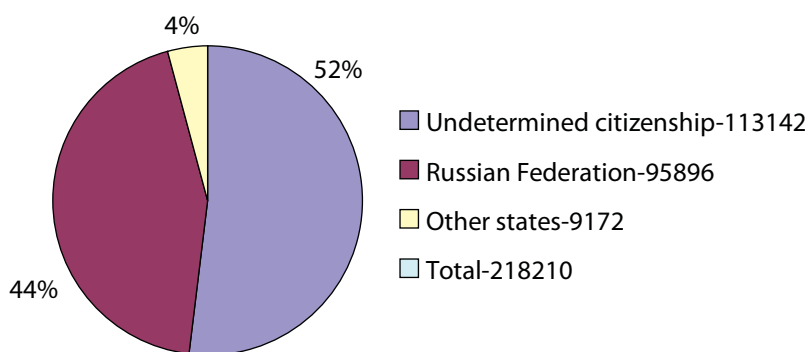
The number of persons with valid residence permits decreased from 243 796 in 2006 to 218 210 in 2008. The majority of persons with undefined citizenship as well as citizens of the Russian Federation had Estonian residence permit. The majority of persons with undefined citizenship are of Russian origin that have stayed in the Republic of Estonia since the collapse of the Soviet Union and have no right to either Estonian or Russian citizenship by birth and have not applied for the citizenship of the aforementioned countries. In addition, a significant number of citizens of Ukraine and Belarus have Estonian residence permit:

³³ International Organization of Migration: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/pid/829>

³⁴ Estonia. Facts and Figures (IOM): <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/pid/829>

³⁵ No data on residence permits issued per year are available.

Valid residence permits by citizenship by 1 of July 2008

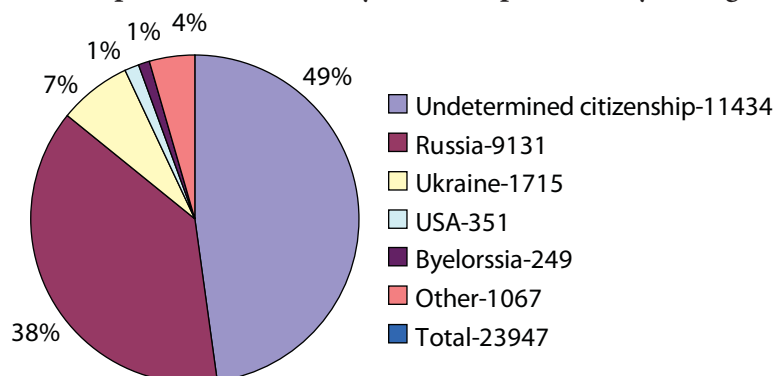


Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Estonian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Temporary residence permits

In 2008 (data as of 1 of July), 23 947 temporary residence permits had been issued in Estonia, where almost half of them, 11 434 for persons with undetermined citizenship and 9 131 for citizens of the Russian Federation. The next biggest groups were citizens of Ukraine (1 715), USA (351) and Belarus (249):

Temporary residence permits in Estonia by citizenship or country of origin as of 1 of July

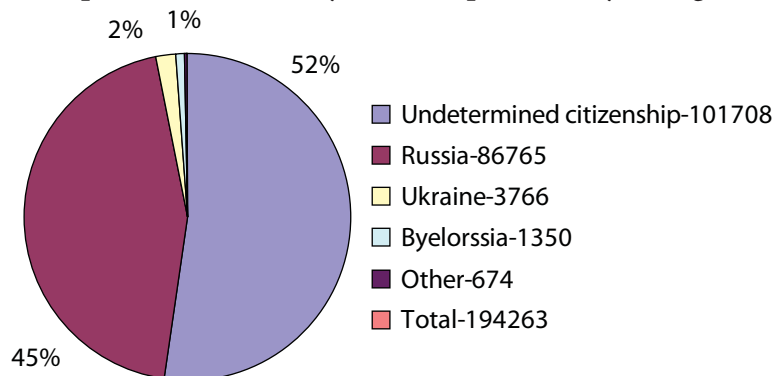


Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Estonian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Permanent residence permits

The number of permanent residence permits issued is much higher than the issuance of temporary ones – 194 263 (data as of 1 of July 2008). Trends of distribution by citizenship are the same: the biggest group which received permits are persons with undetermined citizenship (101 708) followed by citizens of the Russian Federation (86 765), citizens of Ukraine (3 766) and citizens of Belarus (1 350):

Permanent residence permits in Estonia by citizenship or country of origin as of 1 of July 2008



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Estonian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

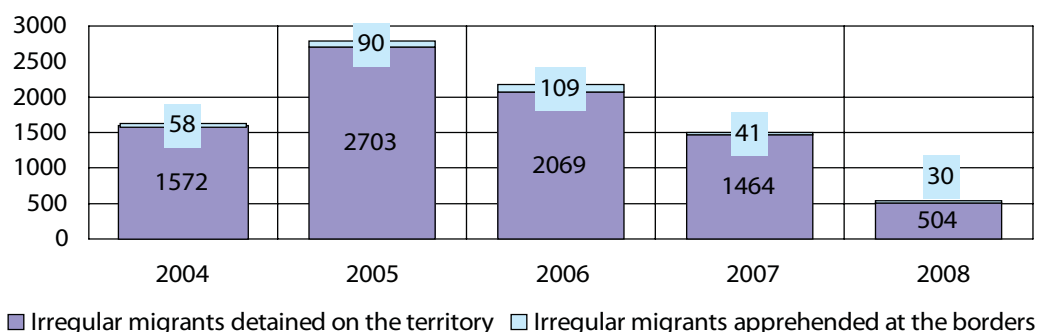
A residence permit for employment is issued for a period of up to two years and it can be extended for up to five years. A residence permit for study may be issued for a period of up to one year but no longer than the estimated duration of the studies. A residence permit for legal income may be issued for up to two years and may be extended by two years, while long-term residence permits may be issued to an alien who has stayed in Estonia permanently on the basis of a temporary residence permit for at least five years.³⁶ Consequently, (as in the other SP countries) the majority of permanent permits are given to those who had had temporary residence permits before.

Irregular migration

The number of persons which were apprehended at the borders more than halved: from 109 in 2006 to 41 in 2007 (30 irregular migrants were apprehended during the first half of 2008). Also it is important to note that the number of apprehended irregular migrants in 2007 was lower than in 2004 (58). According to the statistical data (during the period of 2004–2008), the number of persons concerned increased from 58 in 2004 to 109 in 2006, and decreased to 41 in 2007.

Within the period of 2006 until the first half of 2008, 4 037 undocumented migrants were detained in the territory of Estonia. The number increased from 1 572 in 2004 to 2 703 in 2005 followed by a decrease to 2 069 in 2006 and 1 464 in 2007 (504 persons were detained during the first half of 2008). The number of detained persons in 2007 was lower than in 2004:

Irregular migrants detained in the territory and apprehended at the borders of Estonia, 2004–2008

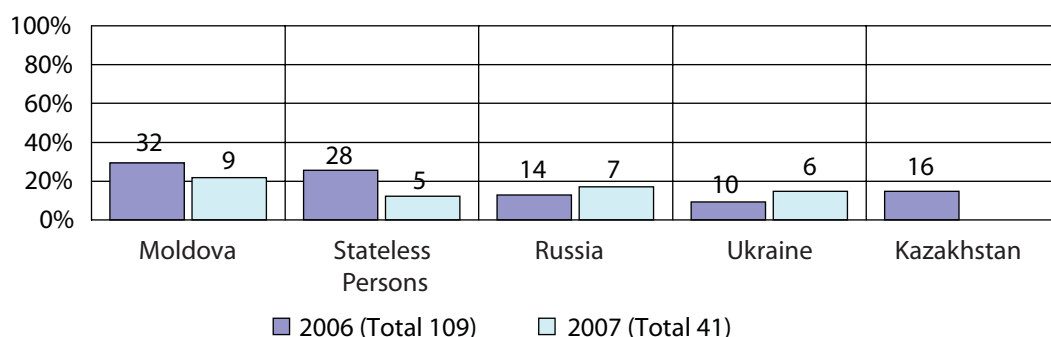


Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Estonian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Apprehension at the borders

The majority of apprehended persons in 2006 came from Moldova. The number of persons concerned decreased from 32 in 2006 to 9 in 2007. The number of apprehended citizens of Kazakhstan decreased as well: in 2006, 16 persons were apprehended while in 2007 and the first half of 2008 – none:

Number of undocumented migrants apprehended at the border of Estonia in 2006–2007



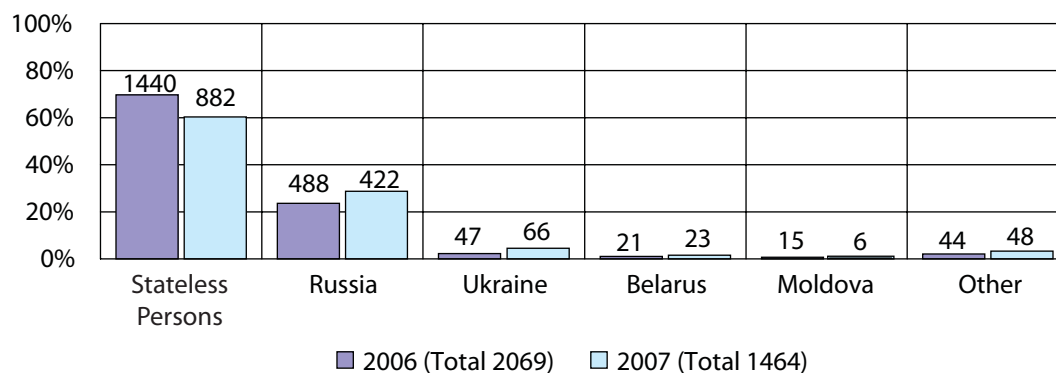
Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Estonian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

³⁶ Information from Estonian Citizenship and Migration Board <http://www.mig.ee/index.php/mg/eng>

Detention in the territory

The majority of detained persons are stateless and are mainly of Russian origin that have stayed in Republic of Estonia since the collapse of the Soviet Union and have not legalised themselves. The second biggest group is Russian citizens, whose number decreased from 587 in 2005 to 488 in 2006 and 422 in 2007; whereby the number of detained persons with citizenship of Ukraine and Belarus increased respectively from 38 in 2005 to 66 in 2007 and from 14 in 2005 to 23 in 2007. The number of detained citizens of Moldova increased from 2 in 2005 to 15 in 2006 followed by a decrease to 6 in 2007. A significant increase in the number of detained citizens of China is also identified: from 2004 to 2006, 2 persons from China were detained while during 2007 the number increased to 10. The same trend is seen regarding detained citizens of Kazakhstan: the number increased from 3 in 2004 to 14 in 2006 followed by a slight decrease to 8 in 2007.

Number of undocumented migrants detained on the territory of Estonia in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Estonian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Latvia

The main migration trends in Latvia can be seen as a decrease in emigration and an increasing in immigration: according to Eurostat,³⁷ net migration in 2007 (per 1 000 persons) in Latvia was 0,3 in comparison to 1,1 in 2006. Also the crude immigration rate (per 1 000 persons) increased from 1,2 in 2006 to 1,6 in 2007, while the crude emigration rate decreased from 2,3 in 2006 to 1,8 in 2007.

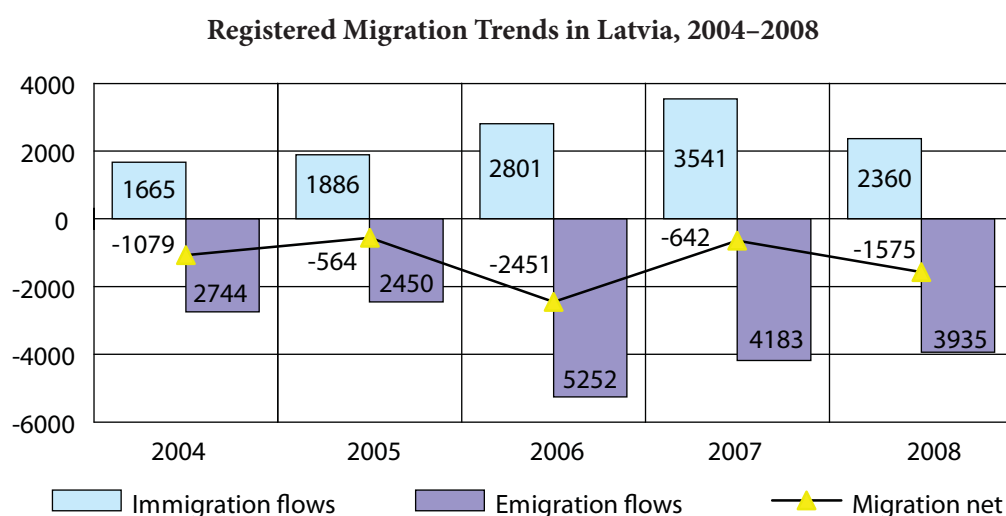
Management of migration processes

Significant emigration movement after the collapse of the Soviet Union had an impact on new immigration patterns and new measures of regulating migration in Latvia in the new century. Since Latvia experienced large emigration movement and these flows became more significant after the EU enlargement in 2004, consequently, the loss of a considerable part of the working population has led to labour force shortages. As well as Poland, in October 2007 Latvia adopted the concept³⁸ on labour migration policy, which stipulates the necessity of an external labour force influx to Latvia due the shortage of a domestic labour force.

Other structural changes were initiated as well: in May 2007 a Planning, Coordination and Control Department was established with the main objectives being the development of internal policy in the field of public order and security, border guarding, border control, irregular migration, citizenship, migration, etc. Considering the development of the Schengen Agreement, Latvia also implemented a range of amendments in Immigration Law in order to fulfil the Schengen's acquis. After the year 2006, 9 legal acts were adopted in national legislation in the regard to the management of migration.³⁹

Regular migration

The comparison of data (2004–2008) shows that immigration movement in Latvia gradually increased from 1 665 in 2004 to 3 541 in 2007 while emigration movement ranged annually: from 2004 to 2005 it decreased; from 2005 to 2006 it increased more than twice and in 2007 it decreased again:



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Latvian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

³⁷ Population and social conditions Eurostat, 81/2008: http://epp.Eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-08-081/EN/KS-SF-08-081-EN.PDF

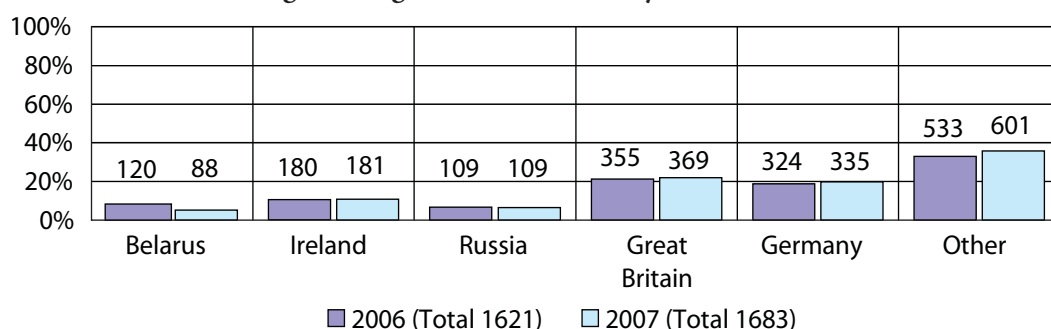
³⁸ The concept had a contradictory assessment in public: according to public opinion surveys, the negative attitude towards the admittance of guest workers to the Latvian labour market was observed (Akule, D. (2008) Migration policy in Latvia: fears, trade-offs and solutions. The material of the conference *Demographic deficit, brain drain and challenged integration: The complexity of migration in the Baltic Sea Region*, Warsaw, 24th April, 2008).

³⁹ In February 2007, an amendment of Immigration Law was implemented as well. According to the amendment, a foreigner, who is not a citizen of the EEA and is recognized as a victim of human trafficking, has the right to reside in Latvia visa or a residence permit. Also in July 2007 other amendments to the Law concerned came into force in order to enlarge the rights of employees of the Immigration structural units of State Border Guard. In December 2007 an amendment of the same Law was implemented as well. According to the new amendment, if a foreigner commits a crime – an additional penalty can be applied – expulsion from there public of Latvia with the right for state authorities to use force.

Emigration

According to data from the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, in 2006, 5 252 persons emigrated from Latvia while in 2007 the number decreased to 4 183. This significant emigration flow from Latvia could be seen two years after the EU enlargement in 2004: in comparison, 2005 and 2006 the increase in emigration flow was 60,4%. The main destination countries for citizens of Latvia emigrants are Germany, UK and Ireland. The numbers of registered emigrants from Latvia in Ireland increased from 49 in 2004 to 180 in 2006 and 1 052 in 2008.⁴⁰ The number of those who registered their stay in Great Britain increased as well – from 355 in 2006 to 369 in 2007 and 464 as of the 1 of August 2008. The number of those who registered their stay in Great Britain increased as well – from 355 in 2006 to 369 in 2007 and 464 as of the 1 of August 2008. The number of persons who registered their stay in Belarus decreased from 120 in 2006 to 88 in 2007 and 52 as of the 1 of August 2008. The number of those who registered their stay in the USA decreased as well – from 133 in 2006 to 104 in 2007 and 64 until the 1 of August 2008. Unfortunately, it is difficult to compare the two periods (2004–2006 and 2006–2008) due to inaccuracies in data concerning the people who left the country.

Number of Latvian emigrants registered their country of residence abroad in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Latvian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Whilst analysing official emigration movement it is important to note that official statistics do not reflect real migration movement: according to approximate evaluations (by the Ministry of Interior) about 86 000 persons worked or studied in the EU in 2007 and it is about 9% of the total working population in Latvia.⁴¹ The same data is given in the document “On Migration Policy in the context of Employment”⁴² released on 18 January 2007 (not adopted by the Latvian Government yet).

However, significant emigration movement also gave a positive impact: according to the National Bank of Latvia, 268 million LAT (or 526 million USD) were sent to Latvia as remittances in 2006 (which is 2,4% of the national GDP).⁴³

Immigration

Although a Resolution of Government was adopted in 2006⁴⁴ claimed that Latvia is a transit country for the East-West migrants rather than one of destination, it was in 2006 that the biggest increase in immigration⁴⁵ flows in Latvia occurred: the number of immigrants rose by 42,5% in comparison to 2005. The immigration flow in 2007 kept increasing and reached 3 541 persons, – a trend that was the same in Lithuania and Poland and, it is likely that this is related to economic growth and labour immigration.

Due to large emigration movements, the lack of labour force in Latvia has become a significant issue. The labour force shortage can be seen from the statistics:⁴⁶ in 2005 only 505 work permits were issued for foreigners, while in 2006 – more than 1 000, and in 2007 – more than 3 100. The majority of migrants with issued work permits in Latvia by nationality in 2007 were citizens Moldova and citizens of Ukraine (respectively they were 30,9% and 27,2% of the total number of foreigners with issued work permits). The number of citizens of Ukraine, citizens

⁴⁰ Data as of August 2008.

⁴¹ Demographic deficit, brain drain and challenged integration: The complexity of migration in the Baltic Sea Region Warsaw, 24th April, 2008 Akule, D. Migration policy in Latvia: fears, trade-offs and solutions.

⁴² www.pmlp.gov.lv/?_p=70&news__id=1111&news__pos=0&menu__id=70

⁴³ <http://Soderkoping.org.ua/page15104.html>

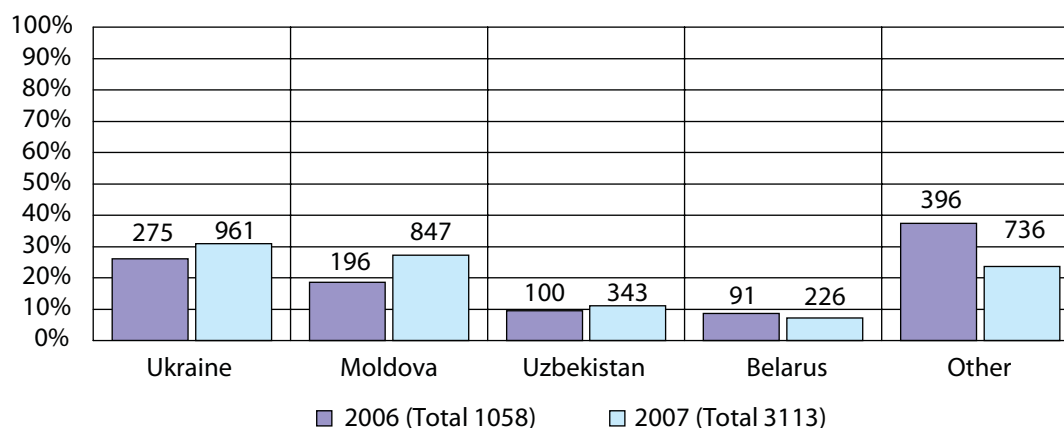
⁴⁴ Vienotās patvēruma un migrācijas vadības sistēmas attīstības programmas 2006–2009 gadam, 2006 02 01, Nr.60.

⁴⁵ No data on immigration by nationality is available.

⁴⁶ State Employment Agency www.nva.lv

of Moldova, citizens of Uzbekistan, and citizens of Belarus with issued work permits in Latvia sharply increased from 2006 to 2007. Citizens of Ukraine, citizens of Moldova and citizens of Uzbekistan form the largest non-neighbouring migrant groups in Latvia with issued work permits:

Work permits issued in Latvia by citizenship in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from the State Employment Agency: www.nva.lv

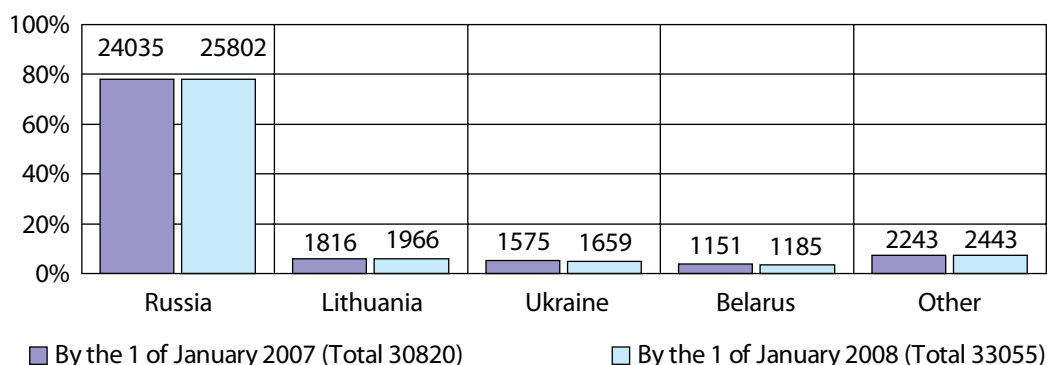
Residence permits

Foreigners with valid residence permits

The main immigrant groups in Latvia on the grounds of arrival are (1) foreign nationals with residence permits due to family reunification, (2) non-citizens who have been granted citizenship in another country and a residence permit in Latvia as well as (3) foreign nationals who have received work permits.

30 820 foreigners with permanent residence permits stayed in Latvia (as of the 1 of January 2007). The majority (24 035) of them were Russian citizens who had stayed in the country after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The same trend could be seen in 2008 when 33 055 foreigners with permanent residence permits stayed in Latvia: the majority of foreigners were Russian citizens as well – 25 802. The other 3 main groups of foreigners with permanent residence permits were citizens of Lithuania, Ukraine and Belarus. The number of persons with permanent residence permits from the countries concerned slightly increased:

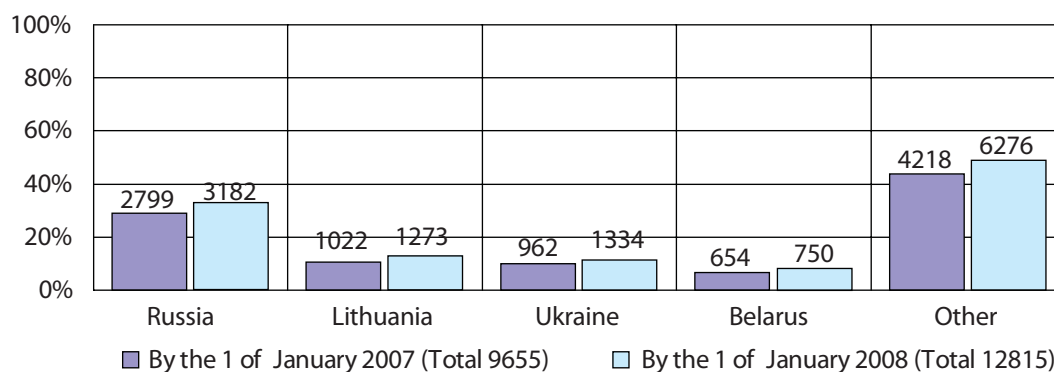
Number of persons staying in Latvia with permanent residence permits as of the 1 of January 2007/2008



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Latvian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Foreigners with temporary residence permits which were staying in Latvia as of the 1 of January (2007–2008) also increased: in 2007, 9 655 foreigners with temporary residence permits were staying in Latvia while in 2008 it was 12 815. The majority (2 799 and 3 182 respectively) of foreigners were Russian citizens. The other three biggest groups remain the same: citizens of Lithuania, Ukraine and Belarus. The number of citizens of the Russian Federation, Lithuania, Ukraine and Belarus residing in Latvia with permanent residence permits has increased:

Number of persons staying in Latvia with temporary residence permit as of the 1 of January 2007/2008

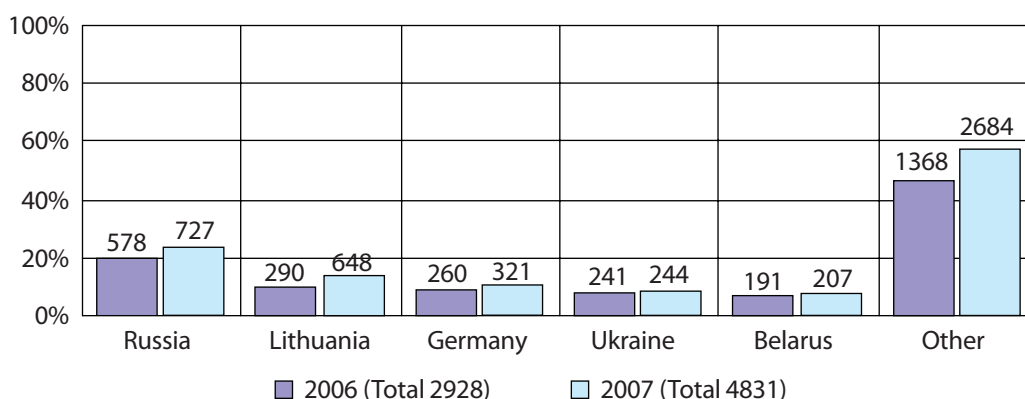


Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Latvian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Number of residence permits issued per year

The number of first time issued *temporary residence* permits in Latvia sharply increased from 2 928 in 2006 to 4 831 in 2007. The majority of foreigners with issued permits by citizenship were citizens of Russian Federation (578 and 727 respectively); Belarus (191 and 244); Lithuania (290 and 321). The number of temporary residence permits issued for citizens of Moldova and Ukraine increased sharply from 123 to 514 and from 241 to 648:

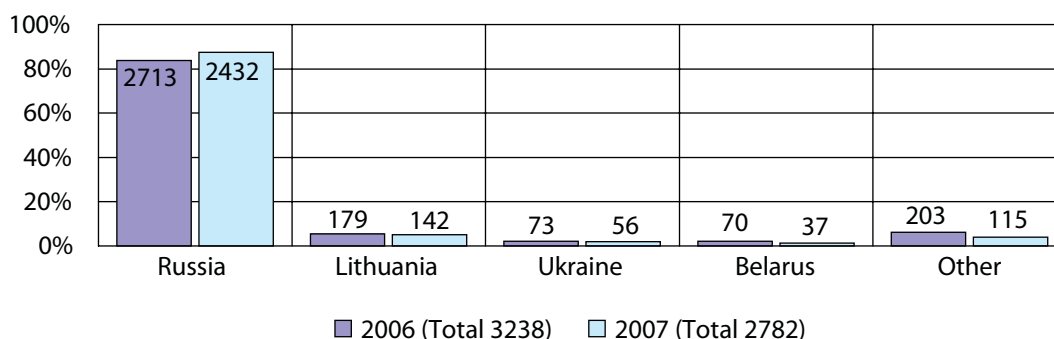
Number of first time issued permissions for temporary residence in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Latvian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

The number of first time issued *permanent residence* permits decreased from 3 238 in 2006 to 2 782 in 2007. The majority of foreign citizens with issued permanent residence permits were citizens of the Russian Federation (2 713 and 2 432); Lithuania (179 and 142) and Ukraine (73 and 56):

Number of first time issued permissions for permanent residence in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Latvian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

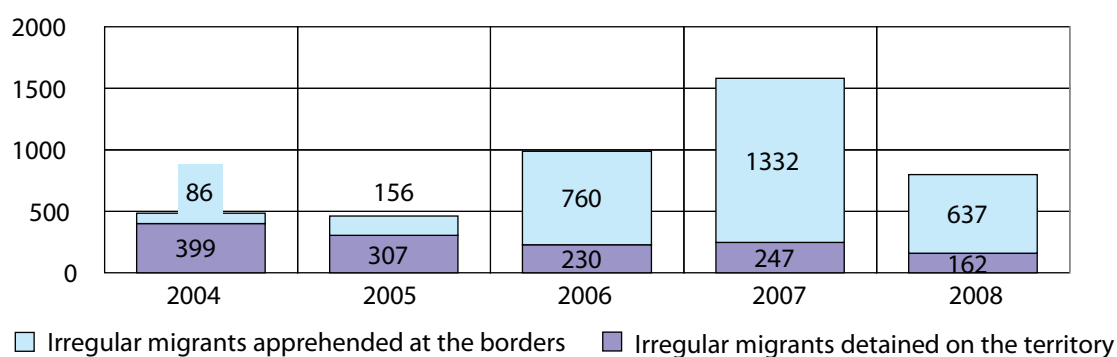
Irregular migration

Apprehension at the borders

The number of apprehended undocumented migrants at the borders decreased in most of the new Schengen member states, except in Latvia: during the period of 2004–2005 the number of apprehensions of foreigners at the borders of Latvia increased from 86 to 156 respectively. The number concerned during the period of 2006–2007 also almost doubled – from 760 to 1 332. Considering this trend it is important to note that in 2007 Latvia tightened its rules to prevent undocumented migration: the Parliament of Latvia increased the responsibilities of the Border Guards in order to deal with undocumented migration more efficiently.⁴⁷

The analysis of statistical data during the period from 2004 to 2008 shows shifting trends: the number of detained irregular migrants on the territory of Latvia decreased in 2005 (in comparison to 2004), while the number concerned increased in 2007 (in comparison to 2006). Regarding data on apprehensions at the borders, a sharp increase is identified: from 86 in 2004 to 1 332 in 2008:

Irregular migrants detained in the territory and apprehended at the borders of Latvia, 2004–2008



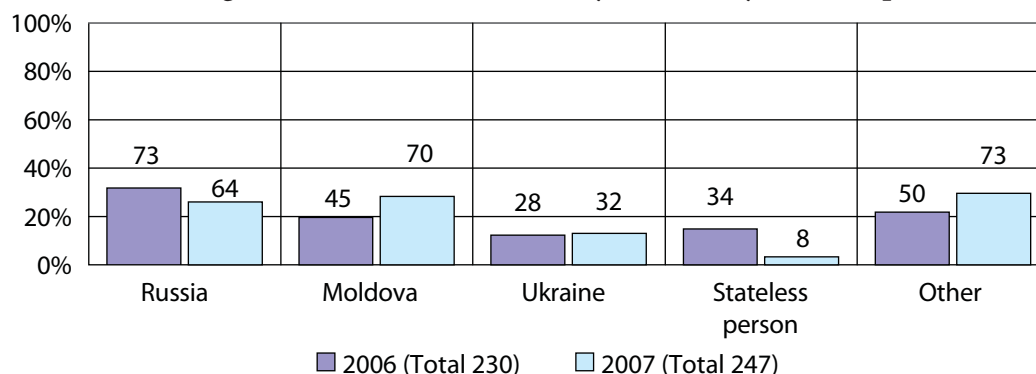
Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Latvian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Note: the data on apprehensions of undocumented migrants at the borders of Latvia by citizenship is not available.

Detention in the territory

The majority of detained persons were citizens of the Russian Federation, Moldova and Ukraine: respectively 73, 45 and 28 in 2006; 64, 70 and 32 in 2007. The number of detained Russian citizens decreased from 120 in 2004 to 64 in 2007 while Moldovan citizens increased from 10 to 70. The number of detained Ukrainians decreased from 64 in 2004 to 28 in 2006 followed by a slight increased to 32 in 2007:

Undocumented migrants detained on the territory of Latvia by citizenship in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Latvian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

According to the Latvian Office of citizenship and migration affairs, citizens of Ukraine and Moldova try to use the Republic of Latvia as a transit country on their way to Western Europe using false Lithuanian passports⁴⁸.

⁴⁷ Considering bilateral relations between Söderköping process countries it is important to mention that in February 2007, Latvia and Lithuania reached an agreement to sign a bilateral agreement on the opening of joint border checkpoints.

⁴⁸ Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs. European Migration Network. Annual Report on Asylum and Migration for Latvia. Reference year 2005. September 2007, Riga, p. 18.

Lithuania

Economic emigration continues to be the dominant migration pattern in Lithuania (despite a certain slowing down and an increase in immigration). High emigration brought new challenges such as labour force shortages and labour immigration of third country nationals, as has also stimulated new measures of regulation of migration movement.

Management of migration processes

In light of large emigration movements and labour force shortages, a new Economic migration regulation strategy was adopted by the Government in April 2007. The main aim of the strategy is to reduce negative migration net to zero by 2012, to focus on remigration processes and regulation of labour immigration from third countries (i.e. to facilitate immigration requirements for qualified labour migrants from third countries).

Until the end of 2006, to obtain a work permit for non-EU nationals in Lithuania was difficult. In 2006, the Government of Lithuania simplified the procedures of issuing work and residence permits for immigrants in those professions where trends of labour force shortages are seen. It was expected that these changes will result in an increase of labour immigration to Lithuania. This, it is already noticeable from the data above on labour immigration.

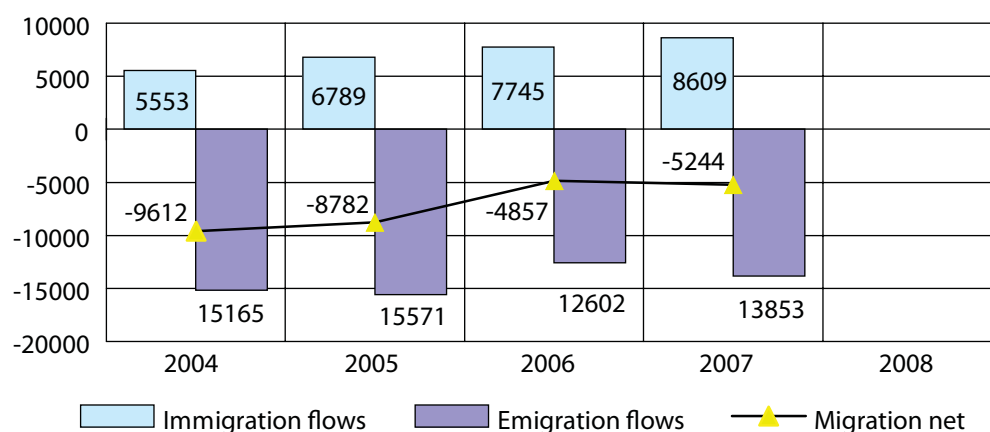
In the context of better border management and cross-border cooperation some other initiatives can be mentioned as well: in May 2007, a new Bardinai Frontier Station has been opened (at the Lithuanian–Russian border). Also, in February 2007 the first Latvian – Lithuanian border guard Contact Point was opened in Grenctale – Saločiai, which secures the exchange of information on undocumented migration, fighting crime and other issues of border control.⁴⁹

Also, in the first half of 2009 a visa facilitation regime is expected to be adopted for frontier residents: i.e. that people, living along the borders with Belarus within the range of 50 km will be able to cross borders without visas.⁵⁰

General migration trends

The comparison of data on migration trends (from 2004 to 2008) shows an increase in immigration movement: from 5 553 in 2004 to 8 609 in 2007. Emigration movement increased as well in 2005 (in comparison to 2004) and decreased in 2006 (in comparison to 2005). In 2007 an increase in outflow is seen again:

Registered Migration Trends in Lithuania, 2004–2008



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Lithuanian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Note: no data on migration in 2008 is available

⁴⁹ <http://Soderkoping.org.ua/>

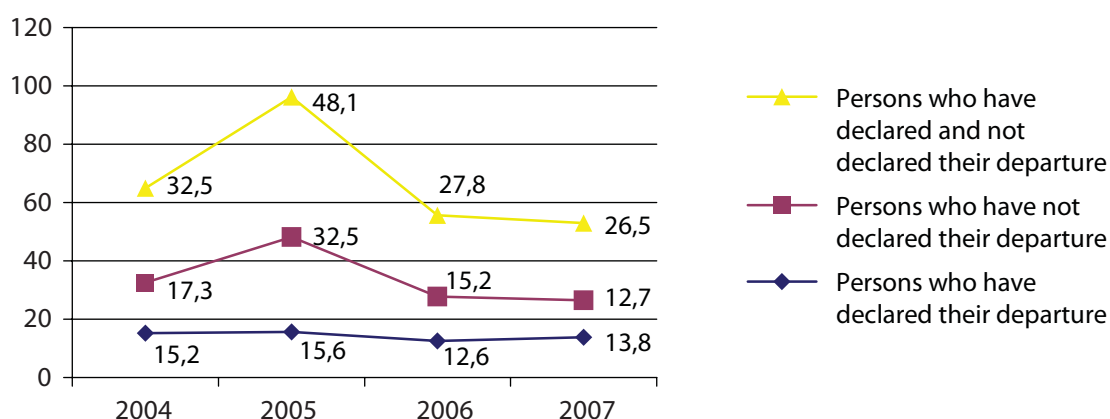
⁵⁰ <http://Soderkoping.org.ua/page21780.html>

Emigration

Statistics⁵¹ show, that in 2007, 13 853 persons left Lithuania to stay in foreign countries permanently or for a period longer than 6 months which is 1 300 (or 4,7%) less than in 2006. The largest number of persons who emigrated in 2005 (15 571). These are official numbers since in 2007, 12 700 emigrants did not declared their departure.

According to the Statistical Office of Lithuania (Statistics Lithuania), the data is based on the declaration of the place of residence and results of the Survey on Undeclared Emigration which estimated the number of residents of the Republic of Lithuania who had emigrated from the country. In 2006 and 2007, Statistics Lithuania carried out surveys on undeclared emigration. According to the research, each second/third person declares his/her departure from Lithuania. Nevertheless, the *official* numbers of emigrated Lithuanian citizens in 2006 and 2007 are respectively 12 602 and 13 853. Comparing the *official* numbers (i.e. declared emigration) during the period from 2004 to 2008, big changes can be identified: from 2004 to 2005 emigration flow slightly increased from 15 165 to 15 571 while in 2006 it decreased to 12 602. During 2007, emigration increased again to 13 850 (see data on declared and undeclared emigration in the table below).

Declared and undeclared emigration from Lithuania

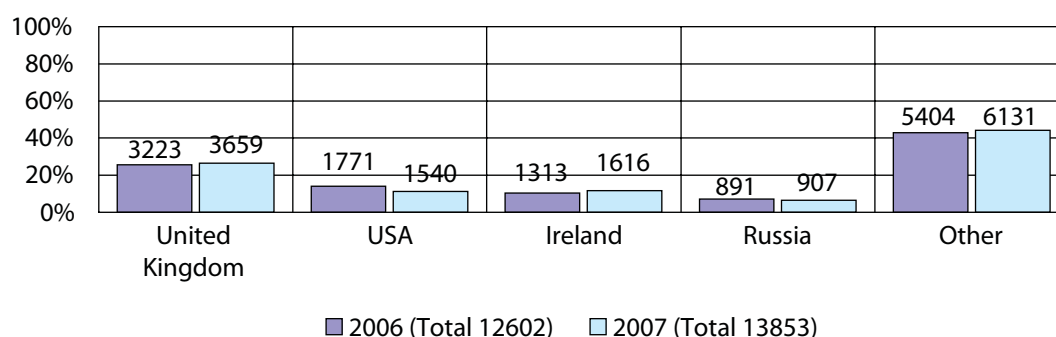


Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Statistics Lithuania.

The EU countries are the most attractive destinations for Lithuanian emigrants. Emigration to a particular country illustrates general emigration trends. For instance, emigration to Ireland significantly increased from 1 009 in 2004 to 2 073 in 2005 while it decreased to 1 313 in 2006 and increased again in 2007. Contrary to emigration trends in Ireland, Germany became less attractive for Lithuanian migrants: the emigration movement to this country decreased from 1 727 in 2004 to 1 114 in 2006 with a slight increase to 1 277 in 2007.

The number of emigrants going to the UK increased from 3 525 in 2004 to 4 223 in 2005 while it decreased to 3 223 in 2006 and increased again to 3 659 in 2007. The USA (like Germany) became less attractive as well: the emigration flow to USA gradually decreased from 2 980 in 2004 to 1 540 in 2007. This trend could be explained by the fact that the UK did not apply any restrictions for Lithuanians willing to work in UK.

Emigrants who have declared their departure by country of next residence in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Lithuanian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

⁵¹ Office of Statistics Lithuania (Statistics Lithuania): <http://www.stat.gov.lt/en/catalog/>

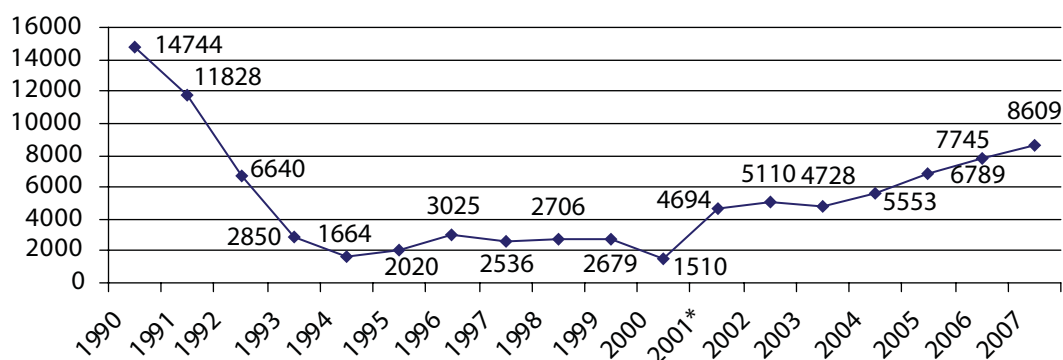
Comparing the statistical data from 2004 to 2008, some other specific trends were identified. As the general emigration movement (from 2006 to 2007) increased, the number of persons who emigrated to particular countries increased as well. For instance, if (comparing the period of 2004 to 2006) the number of persons going to Denmark, Italy, Spain, Canada, and the Russian Federation decreased, then the number of persons concerned (comparing 2006–2007) slightly increased.

Consequently, apart from Ukraine, Lithuania became the country with the biggest emigration rate per 1 000 persons in SP countries (according to Eurostat): the crude emigration rate in Lithuania increased from 3,7 in 2006 to 4,1 in 2007. The crude immigration rate increased as well from 2,3 to 2,6 respectively. Also the Eurostat data⁵² shows that Lithuania had the biggest negative net migration figures (per 1 000 persons) in the EU in 2005. Also the analysis shows that Lithuania is the only country where negative net migration increased (from 1,4 in 2006 to 1,6 in 2007).

Immigration

Regardless of large emigration movement, an increase in immigration to Lithuania became visible. Official statistics show that from 2004 to 2007 immigration movement started to increase, 5 553, 6 789, 7 745 and 8 690 respectively. In 2006, 7 745 persons immigrated to Lithuania, which is nearly a thousand more than in 2005. The same trend is seen when comparing 2006 and 2007:

Immigration to Lithuania (1990–2007)



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data of Statistics Lithuania: <http://www.stat.gov.lt/en/>

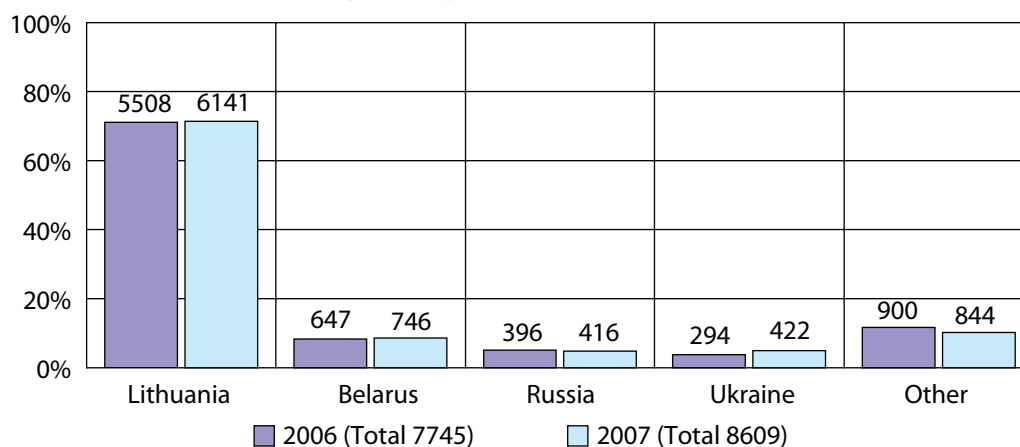
Note: Since 2001 foreigners who come to Lithuania for one year or longer are subsumed under the definition of immigrant.

In 2006 the majority of persons (~5 500 or 71,1%) who arrived in Lithuania were citizens of the Republic of Lithuania; in 2007 the percentage increased to 71,3% (~6 100 persons). Comparing the period of 2004 to 2006 the same trends were identified: the majority of those who arrived in Lithuania were citizens of Lithuania – 3 397 in 2004 and 4 705 in 2005. This trend shows the beginning of a remigration process (however, it is not clear for what period of time Lithuanian migrants have been coming back to Lithuania).

The three other biggest groups were citizens of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The number of citizens of Belarus increased from 203 in 2004 to 309 in 2005. In 2006 the number concerned almost doubled (in comparison to 2005) to 647 and then in 2007 slightly increased again to 746. The number of citizens of the Russian Federation decreased from 441 in 2004 to 294 in 2005 followed by an increase to 396 in 2006 and 416 in 2007. The number of Ukrainians increased from 246 in 2004 to 294 in 2006 and 422 in 2007. Also, the number of citizens of Moldova increased from 16 in 2004 to 29 in 2006 and 83 in 2007. Citizens of Belarus and Ukraine are also the two major groups of foreigners in Lithuania with issued work permits.

⁵² Population and social conditions Eurostat, 81/2008: http://epp.Eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-08-081/EN/KS-SF-08-081-EN.PDF

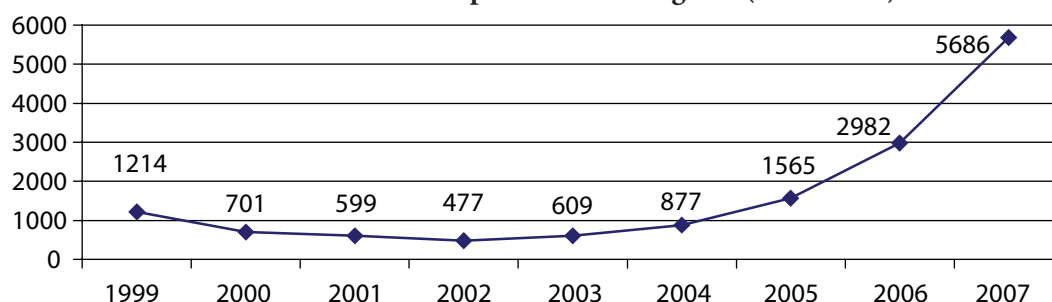
Immigrants by citizenship in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data of Statistics Lithuania: <http://www.stat.gov.lt/en/>

This data allows one to assume that in 2006 and 2007, return migration to Lithuania became more significant. Despite this trend, significant emigration movement have resulted in labour force shortages like in other new EU member states. Due to the changes in the structure of the Lithuanian labour market, a significant increase in the inflow of labour migrants to Lithuania is seen. Comparing data during the period of 2004 to 2007, the number of issued work permits for foreigners almost doubled: in 2004, 877 work permits were issued for foreigners in comparison to 1 565 in 2005, 2 982 in 2006 and finally 5 686 in 2007:

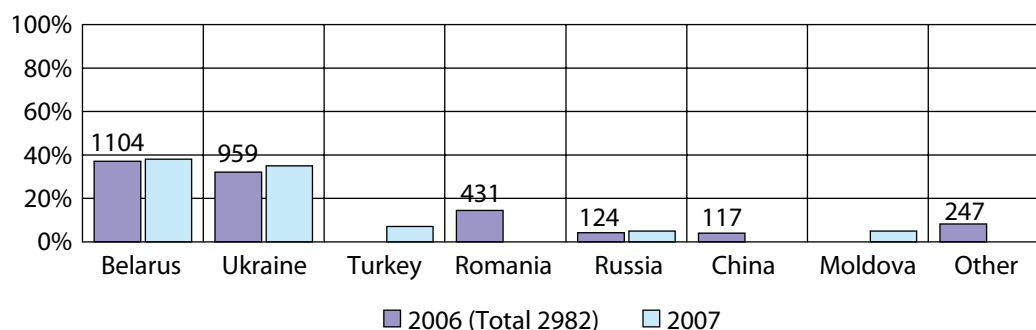
Number of issued work permits for foreigners (1999–2007)



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from the Lithuanian Labour Exchange: <http://www.ldb.lt>

The majority of foreigners with issued work permits in 2006 and 2007 came from Belarus and Ukraine:

Work permits issued for foreigners in 2006 by country 2006–2007*

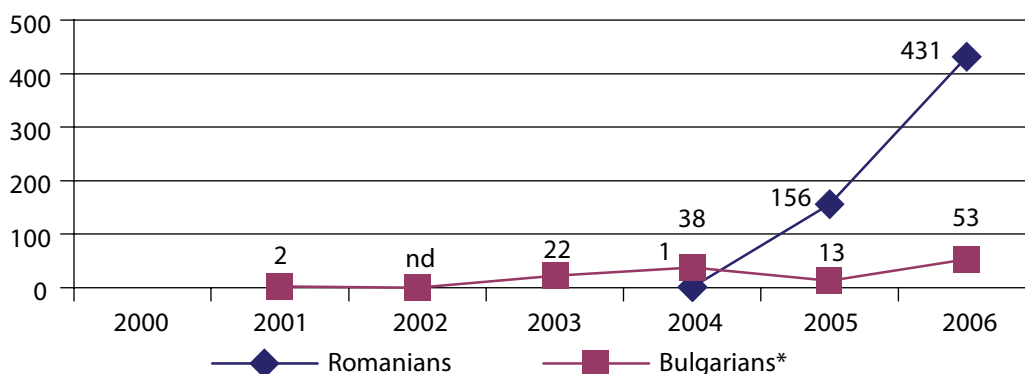


Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from the Lithuanian Labour Exchange: <http://www.ldb.lt>

* In 2007 data only in percentages were available. Citizens of Belarus constituted 36% of the total number of foreigners with issued work permits, citizens of Ukraine– 34%, Turkey – 7%, Moldova – 5% and the Russian Federation– 5%.

After Lithuania joined the EU (2004), a significant increase in foreign workers from Romania was identified, while the number of citizens of Bulgaria remained minor. The data presented in the graph highlight this trend. After 2007, when Romania and Bulgaria joined the EU, Lithuania did not apply restrictions for citizens of Romania and Bulgaria willing to work in Lithuania, which means that workers from Romania and Bulgaria do not need a work permit. Consequently, from 2007 no work permits were issued for the workers concerned and they are no longer reflected in the statistics on foreign labour.

Work permits issued for foreigners from Bulgaria and Romania (2000–2006)



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data of Lithuanian Labour Exchange: <http://www.ldb.lt>

* In this graph Bulgaria was presented only as an illustration together with Romania to show differences in the impact of the EU enlargement for both countries.

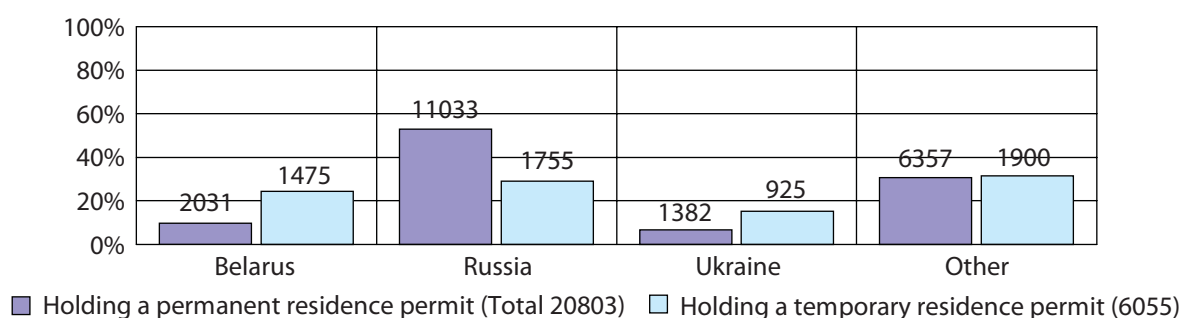
Residence permits

Foreigners with valid residence permits

The number of foreigners residing in Lithuania (including residents with temporary, permanent, and permanent residence permits of the European Community and residence permits of the European Community) increased from 30 200 in 2004 to 32 600 in 2005. The number concerned decreased from 35 300 in 2006 to 33 100 in 2007, while by the 1 of January 2008 it increased to 33 400. Also it is important to note that foreigners (as of the 1 of January 2008) composed 0,99% of the total population residing in Lithuania, which is one of the lowest percentages of foreign population Europe wide.

In 2006 the majority of foreigners who were staying in Lithuania with permanent residence permits were citizens of the Russian Federation (13 056), Belarus (3 058) and Ukraine (1 762). In 2007, the numbers decreased to 11 033, 2 031 and 1 382 respectively. Opposite trends were identified when comparing those with temporary residence permits: in 2006 the 3 biggest groups were citizens of the Russian Federation (1 615), Belarus (930) and Ukraine (775). In 2007 the numbers increased respectively to 1 755, 1 475 and 925 respectively. The biggest increase was identified in the number of citizens of Ukraine holding temporary residence permits:

Number of foreigners residing in the Republic of Lithuania with permanent/temporary residence permits as of the beginning of 2007 by citizenship



Number of foreigners residing in the Republic of Lithuania with permanent/temporary residence permits as of the beginning of 2007 by citizenship

	2005	2005	2006	2006	2007	2007	2008	2008
	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary
Belarus	2 153	872	3 085	930	2 031	1 475	1 938	1 708
Russian Federation	12 728	1 765	13 056	1 615	11 033	1 755	10 235	1 586
Ukraine	1 469	686	1 762	775	1382	925	1 226	1 041

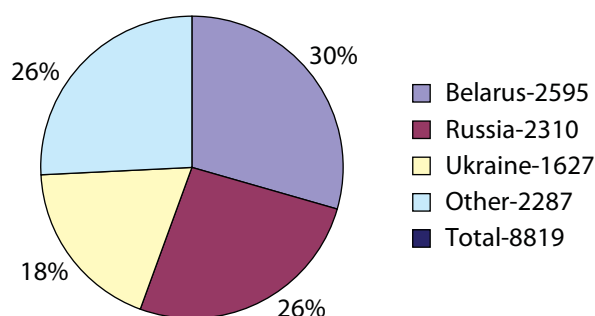
Source: graphs and table prepared by authors based on data of Migration Department of Lithuania: <http://www.migracija.lt/index.php?-484440258>

Note: the total number of foreigners residing in Lithuania with all kinds of residence permits (including temporary, permanent, permanent residence permits for the European Community and residence permits for the European Community) as of the 1 of January 2007–33 100.

Number of residence permits issued per year

The number of temporary residence permits issued/replaced for foreigners in Lithuania increased from 7 369 in 2006 to 8 819 in 2007. The majority of those who received permits (issued or replaced) in 2007 were citizens of Belarus (2 595); the Russian Federation (2 310) and Ukraine (1 627):

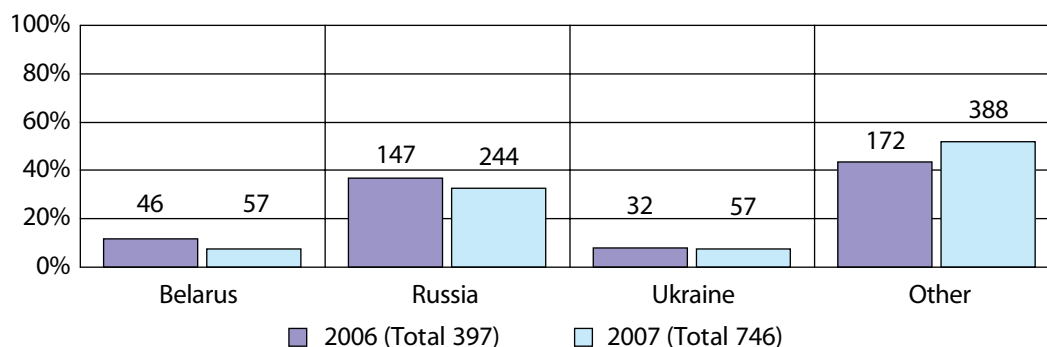
Temporary residence permits in the Republic of Lithuania issued / replaced for foreigners by citizenship in 2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data of Migration Department of Lithuania: <http://www.migracija.lt/index.php?-484440258>

The number of foreigners who have received permits for long term residence increased from 397 in 2006 to 746 in 2007. The majority of those who received permits in 2007 were also citizens of Belarus (57), the Russian Federation (244) and Ukraine (57):

Foreigners who have received permits for long term residence in the Republic of Lithuania to reside in the European Community by citizenship in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data of Migration Department of Lithuania: <http://www.migracija.lt/index.php?-484440258>

Also, the statistics show that the number of citizens of the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Belarus who received long term residence permits sharply decreased from 2003 to 2007. The number of citizens of the Russian

Federation with long term residence permits decreased from 741 in 2003 to 244 in 2007; the number of citizens of Ukraine – from 191 in 2003 to 57 in 2007 and citizens of Belarus – from 231 in 2003 to 57 in 2007.

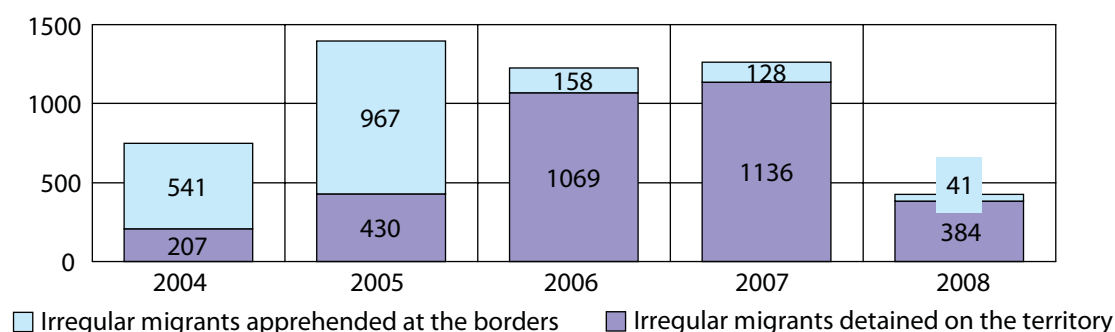
The total number of replaced⁵³ permits for long term residence also decreased from 3 344 in 2006 to 3 102 in 2007. The majority of those with replaced long term residence permits were also citizens of Belarus (348), the Russian Federation (1 247) and Ukraine (358).

Irregular Migration

According to the press-release⁵⁴ by the State Border Guard Service, after Lithuania became a member of the Schengen Area, the number of persons illegally crossing the state border and detained in the territory increased by 2,5 times. Also, recent new patterns of illegal entry to the Republic of Lithuania and other EU Member–States were identified. Border guards stated that Lithuania remains an attractive destination country for citizens of the Russian Federation, Moldova, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and other former soviet republics. Also, an increasing number of irregularly residing persons in Schengen Area with fake passports of citizens of the EU member states, residence permits, Schengen visas or passports of third country nationals was identified.

The comparison of data on apprehension and detention shows different trends: The number of undocumented migrants detained in the territory of Lithuania increased as follows: 207 in 2004; 430 in 2005; 1 069 in 2006 and 1 136 in 2007 (384 were detained during the first half of 2008), while the number of apprehended persons decreased from 541 in 2004 to 128 in 2007:

Irregular migrants detained in the territory and apprehended at the borders of Lithuania, 2004–2008



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Lithuanian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Apprehension at the borders⁵⁵

According to statistical data, the Lithuanian–Belarusian border is the main crossing point for irregular migrants. During 2006, from a total number (158) of irregular migrants, 63 were apprehended at the Lithuanian–Belarusian border, 28 – at the Lithuanian–Russian border and 19 – at the Lithuanian–Polish border. During 2007, similar trends were identified: from a total number (128) of persons concerned, 38 irregular migrants were apprehended at the Lithuanian–Belarusian border, 31 – at the Lithuanian–Polish border and 26 – at the Lithuanian–Russian border.

Detention in the territory

The majority of detained persons were citizens of neighbouring countries: the number of detained Russian citizens increased from 86 in 2004 to 186 in 2005 and 512 in 2006. During 2007 the number concerned decreased to 434; during the first half of 2008 – to 158. The number of detained citizens of Belarus increased from 33 in 2004 to 246 in 2006 and 354 in 2007 (87 citizens of Belarus were detained during the first half of 2008). The third biggest group consisted of citizens of Ukraine: 119 persons were detained in 2007 while during the first half of 2008 – 46.

⁵³ I.e. extended or renewed residence permits.

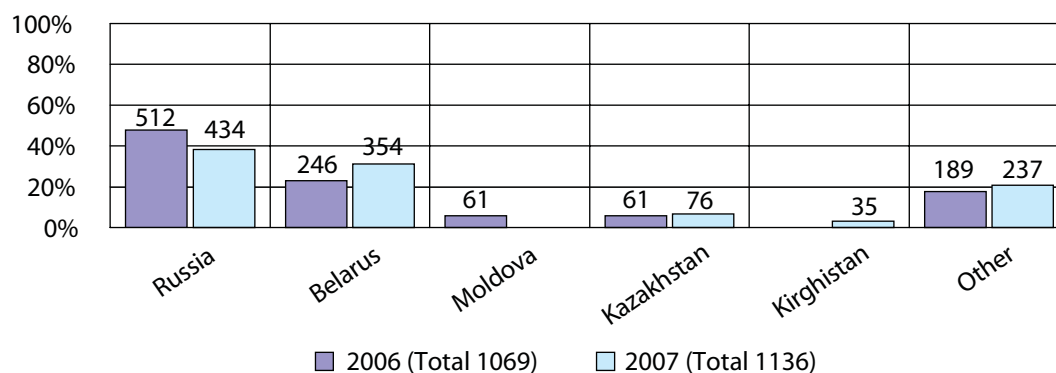
⁵⁴ http://www.alfa.lt/straipsnis/10248097/?Neteisetai.per.Lietuva.vykusiu.ar.joje.buvusiu.asmenu.padaugejo.pustrecio.karto=2009-01-22_14-37

⁵⁵ Data on apprehensions at the borders by nationality is not available.

The analysis of statistical data by citizenship shows new trends in irregular migration from Central Asia to Lithuania. The number of citizens from Kazakhstan increased from 12 in 2004 to 61 in 2006 and 76 in 2007. The number of detained citizens of Kyrgyzstan increased as well: from 16 in 2006 to 35 in 2007. These changes could be related to the fact that a circulation of second-hand car traders from Central Asia, especially Kazakhstan, to Lithuania has developed in the past few years: they obtain cars sold in Lithuanian market places that were brought from Western Europe and often fixed and renovated in Lithuania.

Also, new countries of origin of detained irregular migrants emerged: during the period of 2004 to the first half of 2006, none of the citizens of Armenia were detained, while during the second half of 2006 – 15, and during 2007 – 14 Armenians were detained in the territory of Lithuania.

Undocumented migrants detained on the territory of Lithuania in 2006–2007 by citizenship

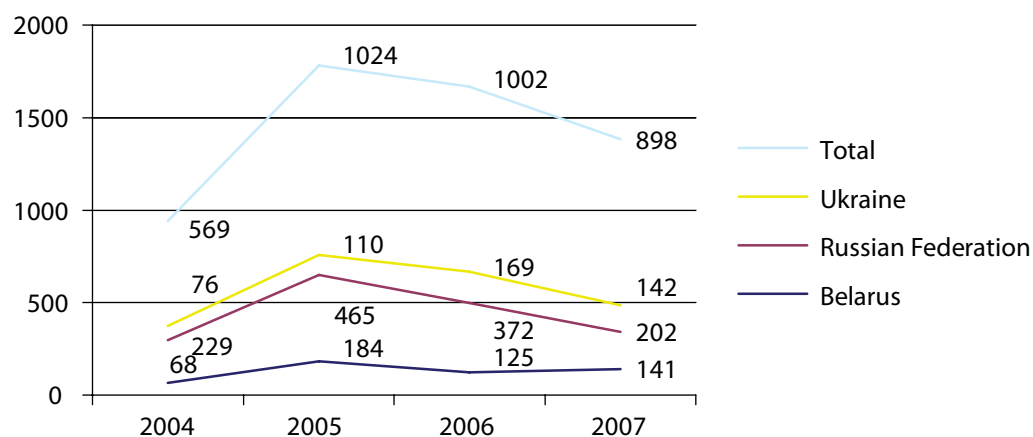


Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Lithuanian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Expulsion of irregular migrants

The data on expulsion from the territory of Lithuania during the period of 2004 to 2007 shows significant changes. The majority of those who were obliged to leave the country were citizens of the Russian Federation. The number of persons concerned almost doubled in 2005 (in comparison to 2004) but then, during the period of 2006–2007, it decreased. The number of citizens of Ukraine who were obliged to depart from Lithuania, gradually increased (from 2004 to 2006) followed by a slight decrease in 2007.

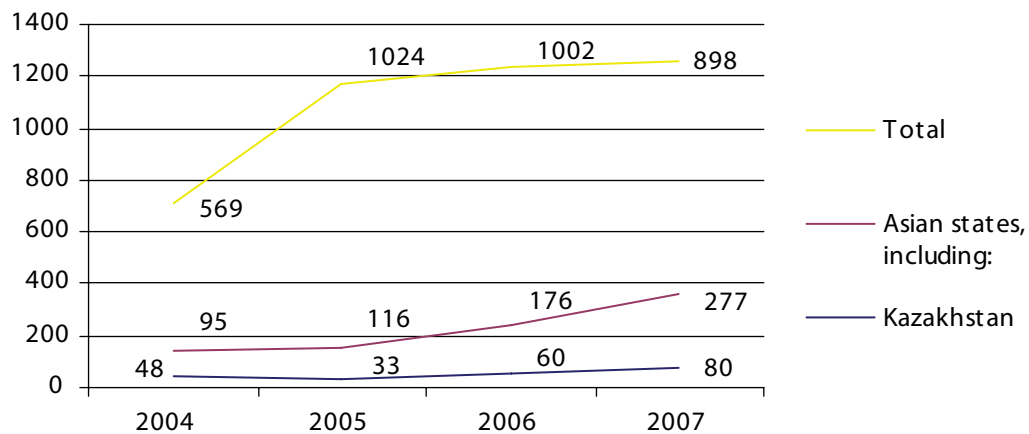
Number of foreigners obliged to depart from the Republic of Lithuania, by citizenship (2004–2007)



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Lithuanian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Regarding the data on expulsion, a trend of an increasing number of migrants from Kazakhstan has emerged. The number of Asians who were obliged to leave Lithuania gradually increased from 95 in 2004 to 277 in 2007, where citizens of Kazakhstan in 2007 constituted the majority (from the total number of Asians who were obliged to leave the country): these numbers by and large are in parallel to the numbers on detentions.

Number of foreigners obliged to depart from the Republic of Lithuania, by citizenship (2004–2007)



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Lithuanian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Poland

Poland is one of the countries in the EU that have significant emigration movement: in 2007 Poland was – after Lithuania – the second country that had negative net migration (-0,5 per population of 1 000) from all of the SP countries. However, 2006–2007 were marked with a trend of decreasing negative net migration from -0,9 in 2006 to -0,5 in 2007. This trend is in parallel to what can be observed in some of the other countries during the same period, such as the Baltic countries, and might be related to remigration of citizens of Poland back to Poland, an economic upturn and lesser pressures for emigration, as well as increased immigration.

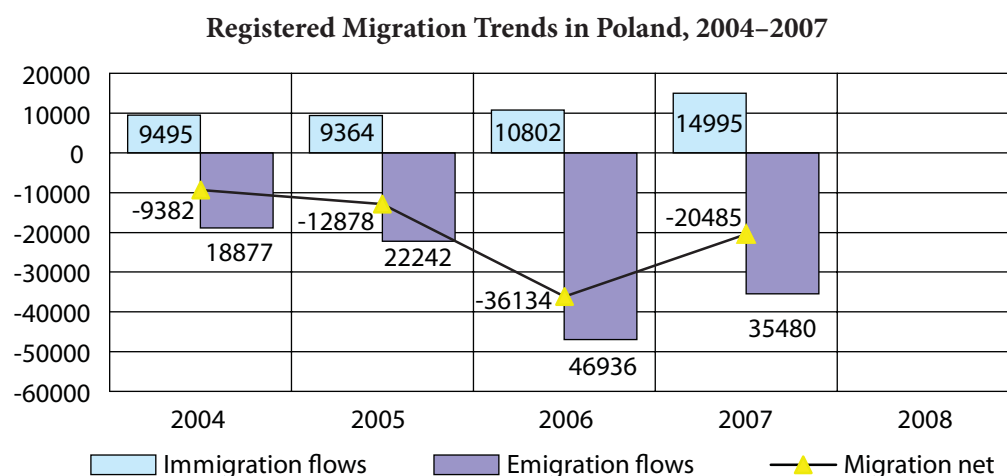
Management of migration processes

In May 2007 the Parliament of Poland passed an Act amending the Act on aliens where article 18 of this Act made it possible to legalise the stay in the territory of Poland of those foreigners who were residing in the territory of Poland illegally. The abolition was applied to foreigners who fulfil all of the following conditions indicated in the Act:

- They have stayed on Poland's territory continuously since at least the 1 January 1997;
- On the day the Act enters into force their stay in the Poland's territory is irregular;
- They will submit an application for residence permit for a fixed period within 6 months from the day the Act enters into force;
- They will indicate the premises where they intend to stay and present the legal title to occupy these premises;
- They have obtained a promise of a work permit on Poland's territory or a written statement from the employer about their intention to employ the person concerned or to entrust them with other gainful work or functions in the management boards of legal persons conducting business activity if no work permit is required;
- They have enough income or assets to provide maintenance for themselves and their dependants, including medical expenses, without the need to use material aid from social assistance funds within the period of 1 year.⁵⁶

Regular migration

The comparison of data from 2004 to 2007 shows that emigration from Poland significantly increased from 18 877 in 2004 to 46 936 in 2006 followed by a decrease to 35 480 in 2007. Data regarding immigration⁵⁷ shows that from 2004 to 2005 Poland experienced a slight decrease from 9 495 to 9 364, while from 2005 to 2007 it increased to 14 995:



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Polish state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Note: no data on migration in 2008 is available

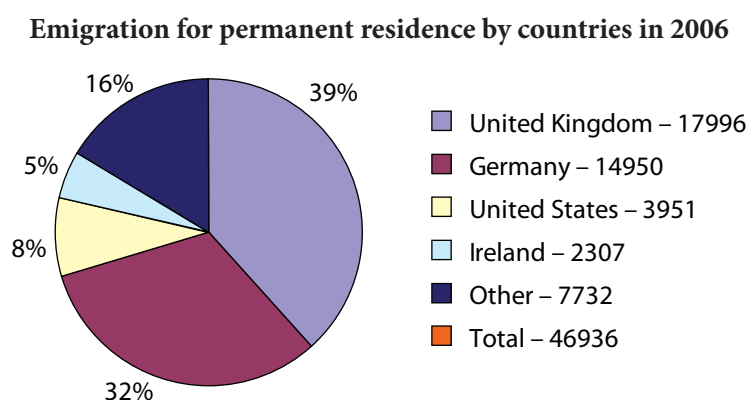
⁵⁶ Amendments to the Act on aliens in Poland <http://Soderkoping.org.ua/page15252.htm>

⁵⁷ No data on immigration by citizenship available.

Emigration

Precise figures on emigration in Poland (like in Lithuania, Latvia and other SP countries) are difficult to obtain since most people do not declare their emigration. But the national Labour Force Survey⁵⁸ provides us with data estimating that in the second quarter of 2007; about 537 000 Poles were abroad for more than two months (about half of them were abroad for more than 12 months). A large emigration movement after the EU enlargement had an impact on Poland's socio-economic situation as labour emigration was disproportionately young and well educated. The main destination countries for Polish migrant workers are the UK and Ireland. Also, a large migration movement to Germany, Norway and Sweden has been identified as well. On the other hand development of Poland's economy (with rising wages) saw trends of emigration slowing down in the second half of 2007.

Regarding the newest data on international migration from Poland, in 2007 more than 35 500 persons departed abroad for permanent stay while in 2006 the numbers were much higher – 46 936. According to Polish statistics, the main destination countries were Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States and Ireland. Comparing the period from 2004 to 2006, the increased number of those who emigrated to Germany is identified: from 12 646 to 14 950. Also, the UK became much more attractive for Polish migrants since it opened its labour market to Polish workers right after the EU enlargement in 2004. The number concerned soared from 543 in 2004 to 3072 in 2005 and 17 996 in 2006. The number of citizens of Poland who chose Ireland as a destination country increased from 405 in 2005 to 2 307 in 2006, after the Irish labour market became accessible to citizens of the “new” EU Member states in 2004.



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data of *Demographic Yearbook of Poland (2007)*.

The beginning of the process of return migration to Poland has been seen since, according to Poland's Central Statistical Office, the majority of those arriving in Poland by nationality in 2006 and 2007 were citizens of Poland (the same trend was identified in Lithuania).

Immigration

When considering the years 2006 and 2007 other essential changes are noticeable: Poland could be seen as not only one of the major sending countries, but also immigration as well as a transit country. For instance, since July 2007, Poland has experienced a sharp increase in the number of asylum seekers, particularly Chechen and Ingush persons from the Russian Federation. Also, despite the significant emigration movement there was an increase in the number of persons arriving in the country for permanent stay (from 10 802 in 2006 to 14 995 in 2007).

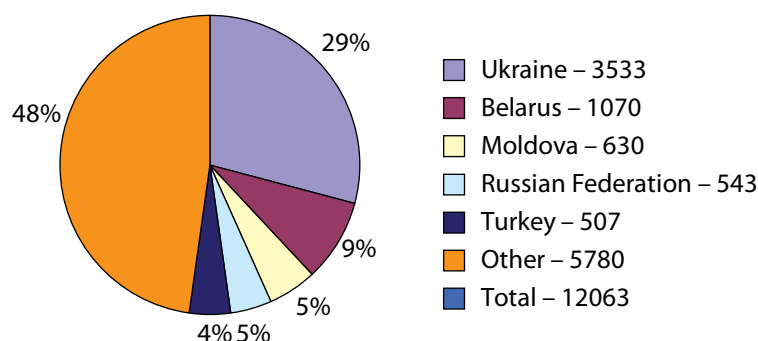
Another visible trend is seen in labour immigration: due to big emigration movement to Western European countries, Poland (as well as Lithuania and Latvia) started to face new issues related to migration – labour force shortages that mostly appeared in the sectors of agriculture and construction. In response, the Department of Migration of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy was established with the main task of constructing labour migration policy including immigration and emigration as well as the economic and social integration of migrants. In consideration of labour force shortages they aimed to reduce undeclared work, in July 2007, Poland's government simplified the conditions for the admission of labour force from the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Belarus who were willing to work in Poland.⁵⁹ Employer fees for hiring workers were significantly reduced as well. Up to the time of these decisions, a trend of labour immigration from these countries was identified: the

⁵⁸ International Migration Outlook 2008: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/56/61/41256095.pdf>

⁵⁹ <http://Soderkop.org.ua/>

statistics shows that in 2005 more than 11 000 work permits were issued to foreigners while in 2006 this figure was more than 12 000. More than a fourth of all permits (3 533) were issued to citizens of Ukraine, which has been the country of origin for the largest number of immigrants in Poland since the 1990s.

Foreigners who received work permits in Poland by citizenship in 2006



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data of *Demographic Yearbook of Poland (2007)*.

On the other hand, undeclared labour immigration to Poland and irregular workers prevail, the majority of them being from Ukraine. This irregular position outside of the labour legislation puts migrants at risk of widely reported abuses including non-payment, exploitation, etc. However, no solutions stimulating the legal employment of foreigners in 2007 were adopted.⁶⁰

The development of the Schengen Agreement raised costs for those willing to enter Poland, but from the other side provided the opportunity to travel across the whole Schengen Area (i.e. that labour migrants have a choice between undeclared labour in Poland and undeclared labour in other Schengen states). Currently it is impossible to evaluate the impact of the development of the Schengen Agreement. However, many sources⁶¹ in Poland report an outflow of refugees and, to a lesser degree, Ukrainian migrant workers to the West.

Residence permits

Foreigners with valid residence permits

According to the population register, approximately 55 000 foreigners were permanent residents of Poland at the end of 2006 (i.e. 0,14% of the total population of Poland). Three main national groups were citizens of German (21%), Ukraine (9%), and the Russian Federation (6%)⁶² (also, it is important to note that Poland has separate statistics on EU and non EU members⁶³).

Number of residence permits issued per year

As it can be seen from statistics, the majority of those with issued permits to settle in Poland are citizens of Ukraine, Belarus and the Russian Federation (respectively 1 438, 602 and 286 in 2006; 1 609, 567 and 224 in 2007; 936, 337 and 139 in the first half of 2008). The number of citizens of Ukraine with permits to settle increased while citizens of Belarus and the Russian Federation decreased:

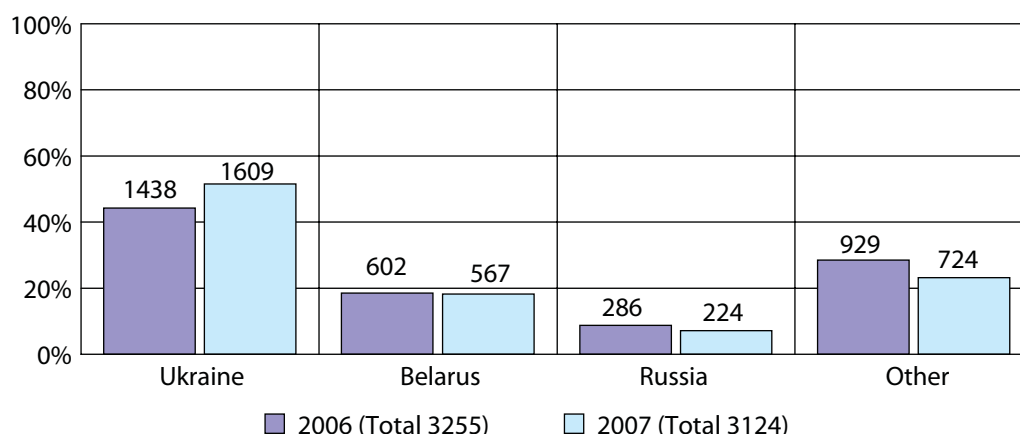
⁶⁰ Frelak J., Bieniecki M. Fifteen commentaries from ten different countries on the important events and changes which took place in the field of migration last year (2007):<http://www.migrationonline.cz/centraleasterneurope/2007/>

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² International Migration Outlook 2008, OECD: http://www.oecd.org/document/63/0,3343,en_2649_33931_41241219_1_1_1_1,00.html

⁶³ (1) The European Union citizens and their family members; (2) Foreigners who received settlement permit as well as those who received residence permits for a fixed period; (3) Refugees – the data refers to the number of persons, who have applied for refugee status on the territory of there public of Poland and (4) foreigners who received permits for tolerated stay in Poland. Also, (5) people returning to Poland within repatriation.

Number of persons with issued permits to settle in Poland by citizenship in 2006–2007

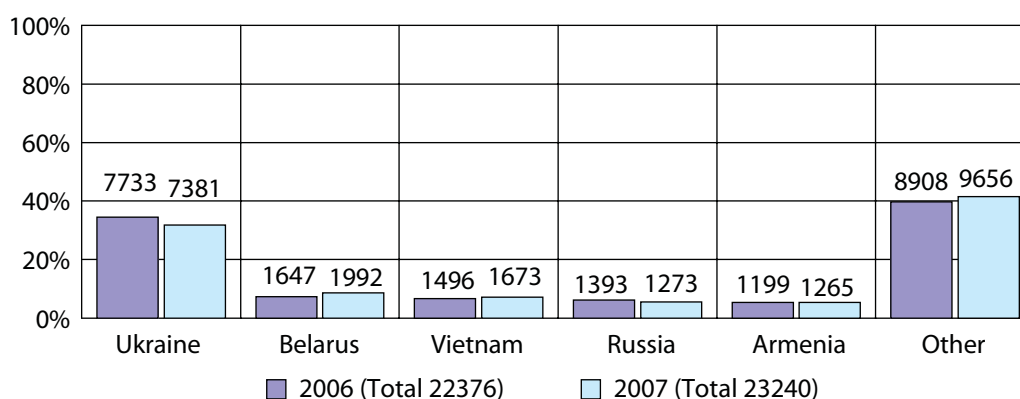


Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Polish state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

The same trends are seen when permits for a fixed period are analyzed: the majority with residence permits for a fixed period are citizens of Ukraine, Vietnam Belarus and the Russian

Federation (respectively 7 733, 1 496, 1 647 and 1 393 in 2006; 7 381, 1 673, 1 992 and 1 273 in 2007; 3 986, 1 274, 1 253 and 695 in the first half of 2008). The number of citizens of Ukraine and the Russian Federation with residence permits for a fixed period decreased while citizens of Belarus, Armenia and Vietnam, traditionally the largest non-European group of migrants, increased:

Foreigners with issued residence permits for a fixed period in Poland by citizenship in 2006–2007

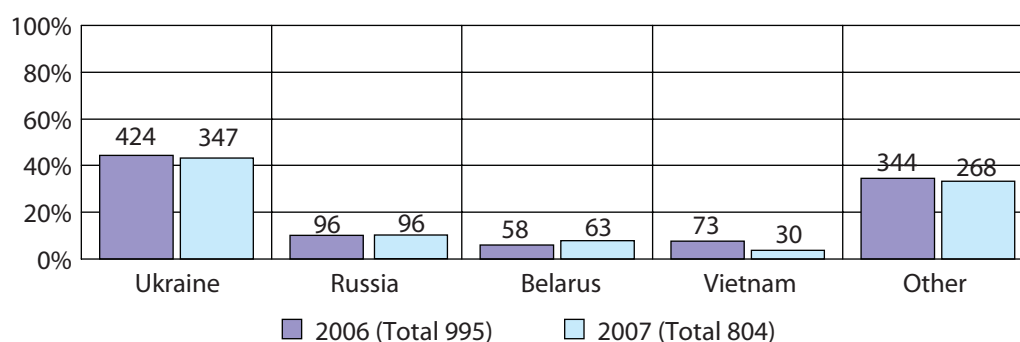


Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Polish state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

The number of long-term residence permits issued decreased from 995 in 2006 to 804 in 2007 (345 long-term residence permits were issued during the first half of 2008). The main nationalities were citizens of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

The number of citizens of Vietnam, India and China who were issued long term residence permits significantly decreased from 73 to 30; from 73 to 37 and from 23 to 5, while the number of citizens of Belarus and Armenia increased from 58 to 63 and from 26 to 44.

Foreigners who were apprehended while attempting to illegally cross the Polish state border by country in 2006–2007



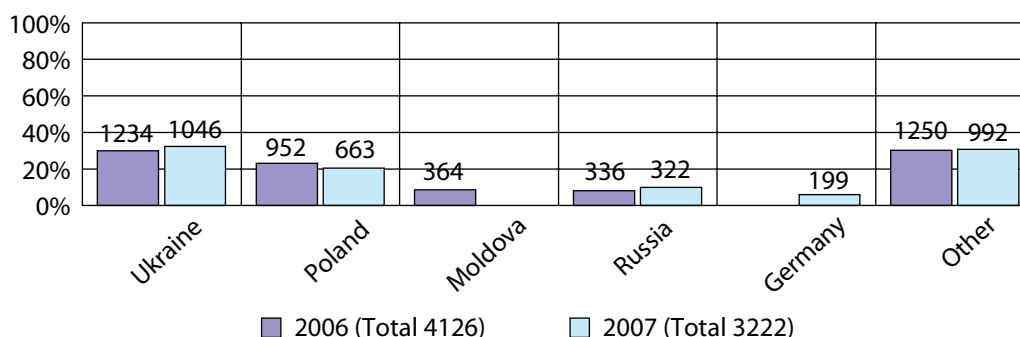
Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Polish state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Irregular migration

Apprehension at the borders⁶⁴

Analysing the data from 2006, 2007 and the first half of 2008, a main trend of decreasing numbers of apprehended undocumented migrants at the borders of Poland can be seen: 4 126, 3 222 and 2 874 respectively. The majority of apprehended migrants came from Ukraine (1 234, 1 046 and 1 250), Poland (952, 663 and 167), Moldova (354, 151 and 116) and the Russian Federation (336, 322 and 196):

Foreigners who were apprehended while attempting to illegally cross the Polish state border by citizenship in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Polish state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

The biggest increase in the number of apprehended undocumented migrants can be seen in the Slovak Republic: in 2006 and 2007 together only 11 persons from the Slovak Republic were apprehended while in the first half of 2008, 398 were.⁶⁵ The number of apprehended persons from Lithuania also increased from 18 in 2007 to 174 during the first half of 2008 while the number of apprehended persons from the Czech Republic decreased from 330 in 2004 to 164 in 2007 and 93 during the first half of 2008. The number of apprehended persons from Ukraine decreased as well from 1 884 in 2004 to 1 234 in 2006 and 1 046 in 2007, but during the first half of 2008 increased again to 1 250.

Apprehensions of migrants from Moldova increased from 276 in 2004 to 355 in 2005 while it decreased to 151 in 2007 and 116 during the first half of 2008. Considering that during the first half of 2008, 116 persons were apprehended, the total number of apprehended persons during the entire year (2008) may increase again.

⁶⁴ Note: data on the detention of undocumented migrants in the territory of Poland was not provided by official authorities.

⁶⁵ It is not entirely evident as to what was the reason and circumstances of apprehending migrants from the Slovak Republic, especially if they were Slovak citizens travelling when the Schengen agreement was in place. However, the specific information about what is included into the provided figures is not available to the authors of this report.

The number of apprehended migrants from the Russian Federation gradually decreased from 557 in 2004 to 322 in 2007 and 196 during the first half of 2008. The decreasing number of apprehended persons from Belarus was also identified: the number gradually decreased respectively from 101 in 2004 to 58 in 2007 and 51 during the first half of 2008. The number of apprehended citizens of Vietnam significantly decreased as well: from 325 in 2005 to 197 in 2006 and 103 in 2007:

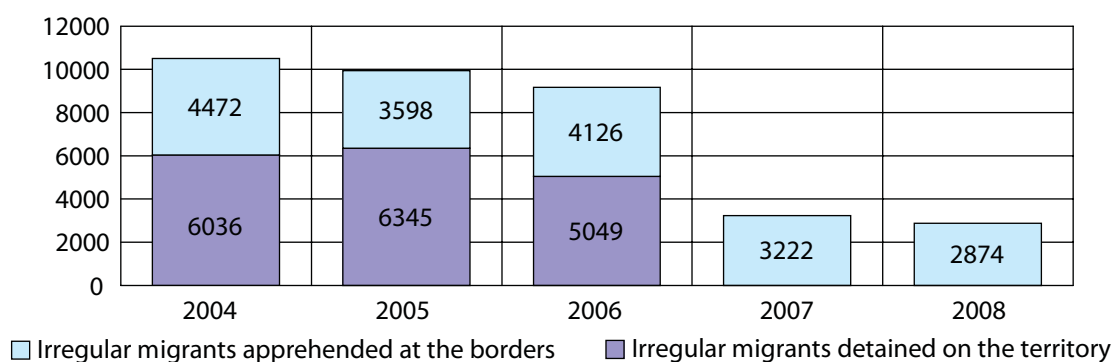
Number of persons apprehended at the Polish state border

Country	2006	2007	I-VI 2008	Total
Total	4 126	3 222	2 874	10 222
Ukraine	1 234	1 046	1 250	3 530
Poland	952	663	167	1 782
Russian Fed.	336	322	196	854
Moldova	354	151	116	621
Czech Republic	240	164	93	497
Slovak Republic	5	6	398	409
Vietnam	197	103	105	405
Germany	137	199	59	395
Lithuania	24	18	174	216
Belarus	69	58	51	178
Other	578	492	265	1 335

Source: table received from Polish state authorities by official request for the purposes of this report.

The comparison of statistical data on detention and apprehension (from 2004 to 2007) shows different trends: the number of detained persons slightly increased in 2005 (compared with 2004) and decreased in 2006 (compared with 2005) while the number of apprehended persons decreased from 4 472 in 2004 to 3 598 in 2005 followed by an increase to 4 126 in 2006 and a decrease to 3 222 in 2007:

Irregular migrants detained in the territory and apprehended at the borders of Poland, 2004–2008



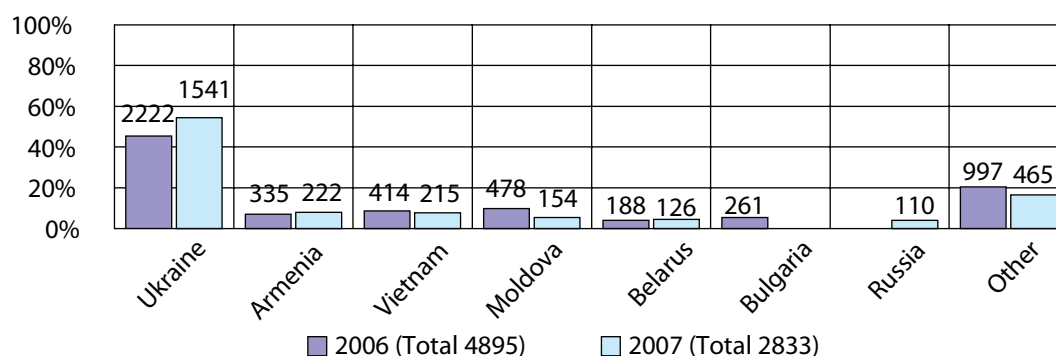
Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Polish state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Note: data on detention of undocumented migrants in the Poland's territory was not provided by official authorities.

Expulsion of irregular migrants

The number of undocumented migrants with the decision of expulsion from the country decreased from 4 896 in 2006 to 2 833 in 2007 and 2 234 in the first half of 2008. The decreasing number of citizens of Ukraine constituted the majority of them: 2 222, 1 541 and 1 332 respectively. The trends of a decreasing number of issued decisions of obligation to leave Poland are also seen concerning all countries except the Russian Federation. The number of irregular migrants with Russian citizenship with issued decisions of expulsion increased from 110 in 2007 to 131 during the first half of 2008 while the number of Bulgarian citizens significantly decreased from 261 in 2006 to 3 in 2007 and 0 in 2008 (this trend could be explained by the fact that Bulgaria joined the EU and now citizens of Bulgaria can enter Poland freely).

Number of irregular migrants with issued decisions of expulsion from the territory of Poland in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Polish state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Number of irregular migrants with issued decisions of expulsion from Poland's territory

Citizenship	2006	2007	I-VI 2008	Total
Total	4 895	2 833	2 234	9 962
Ukraine	2 222	1 541	1 332	5 095
Vietnam	414	215	213	842
Moldova	478	154	119	751
Armenia	335	222	68	625
Russian Fed.	182	110	131	423
Belarus	188	126	96	410
Bulgaria	261	3	0	264
China	122	89	51	262
Mongolia	105	48	34	187
Georgia	78	35	17	130
Other	510	290	173	973

Source: table received from Polish state authorities by official request for the purposes of this report.

The Slovak Republic

A significant emigration movement in 2006 and a growth of GDP of up to more than 8% brought new migration trends for the Slovak Republic: it started to feel labour force shortages. Consequently, new measures to encourage the immigration of foreign workers were initiated.

After the Slovak Republic's entrance into the Schengen Area on December 2007, the border between the Slovak Republic and Ukraine became the only external Schengen border for the Slovak Republic. From the date concerned, the only external EU border posts on the Slovak-Ukrainian border and at international airports are functioning up to EU standards.

After the enlargement of the Schengen Area, the majority of migrants living in the Slovak Republic are able to move more freely due to the facilitation of procedures for those willing to travel abroad, particularly to the West. However, the procedures became stricter for those trying to get to the Slovak Republic across the 98 kilometres long Schengen Ukrainian-Slovak border due to increased protection.⁶⁶

Management of migration processes

In autumn 2007, a new Department of Migration and Integration of Foreigners at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic was established.⁶⁷ The Department works on integration, migration policies as well as on issues of labour migration. During the same year more institutions regarding migration processes were established: in June 2007, the Border Police Directorate in Sobrance was created. After, the necessity to identify and assess the risk resulted in the establishment of the Risk Analyses and Strategic Management Department within the Border Police Directorate in Sobrance. It was created in order to provide risk analysis and risk management information regarding illegal immigration and cross-border crime. Because of necessity to identify and evaluate the potential risk to the internal security and border protection, a unified risk analyses system was adopted as well. At the same time the Department of Analysis of Travel Documents within the Bureau of Border and Alien Police came into existence as well. The following main tasks characterize the department's work: the analysis of new travel documents, assessment and diagnostics of false and forged travel documents; specialised training and further education for police officers.⁶⁸

With regards to tackling irregular migration, on the 15 November 2007 bilateral consultative discussions were organised in Kyiv, where the existing situation on the common border and outlined prospects of its development for 2008 were discussed. The measures to counteract illegal migration and smuggling on the border concerned were discussed as well. Special attention was paid to the Slovak Republic's accession to the Schengen Area and to possible consequences.⁶⁹ Also, the EU assessment commission monitored the preparation of the Slovak Republic to meet the border with the EU Member States standards.⁷⁰

However, some facilitation considering border management has also been made: in 2008 the Slovak Parliament passed an agreement under which citizens of Ukraine from border regions are able to enter the territory of the Slovak Republic without visas.⁷¹

Regular migration

The comparison of data on migration⁷² trends from 2004 to 2007 shows a significant increase in the immigration movement from 4 460 in 2004 to 12 600 in 2006 followed by a decrease to 8 600 in 2007. The same trends were identified with regards to emigration: the number concerned increased from 1 586 in 2004 to 3 100 in 2006 while in 2007 it decreased to 1 800:

⁶⁶ Annual Overview of International Migration in Central and Eastern Europe: Fifteen commentaries from ten different countries on the important events and changes which took place in the field of migration last year (2007) <http://www.migrationonline.cz/centraleasterneurope/2007/>

⁶⁷ Odbor migrácie a integrácie cudzincov, <http://www.employment.gov.sk/index.php?SMC=1&id=420>

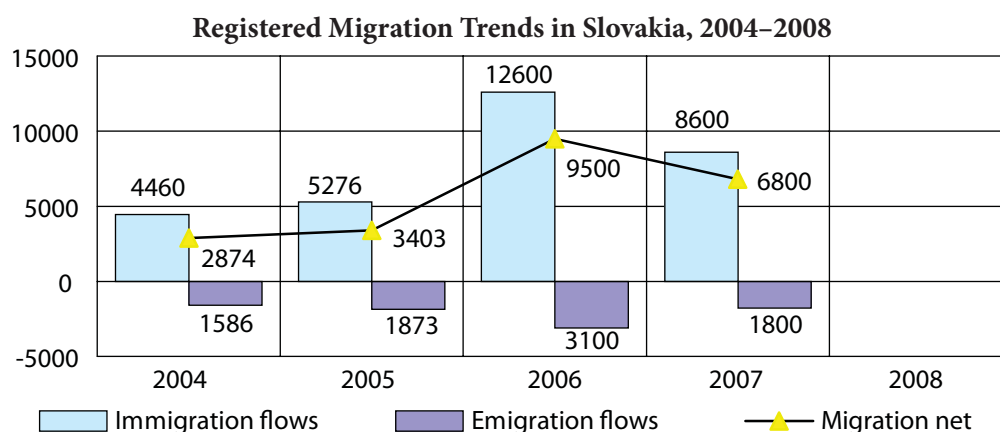
⁶⁸ Ministry of Interior of Slovak Republic. Bureau of Border and Alien Police. Migration Yearbook 2007.

⁶⁹ <http://Soderkoping.org.ua/page16459.html>

⁷⁰ <http://Soderkoping.org.ua/page13345.html>

⁷¹ <http://Soderkoping.org.ua/page18954.html>

⁷² No data on immigration by citizenship is available.



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Slovak state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Note: no data on migration in 2008 is available

Emigration

The analysis of data on international migration (Eurostat) in the Slovak Republic shows, that in 2007 the Slovak Republic had the smallest crude emigration rate (per 1 000 persons) in all SP countries (0,6 in 2006 and 0,3 in 2007). Comparing 2006 and 2007, the emigration movement has decreased twice: i.e. that in 2006, 3 100 persons have left the country in comparison to 1 800 in 2007. Official data on emigration shows that about 1 700 persons left the country in 2006. However, this figure constitutes only a small part of real outflows as the majority of persons do not register their departure.

Immigration

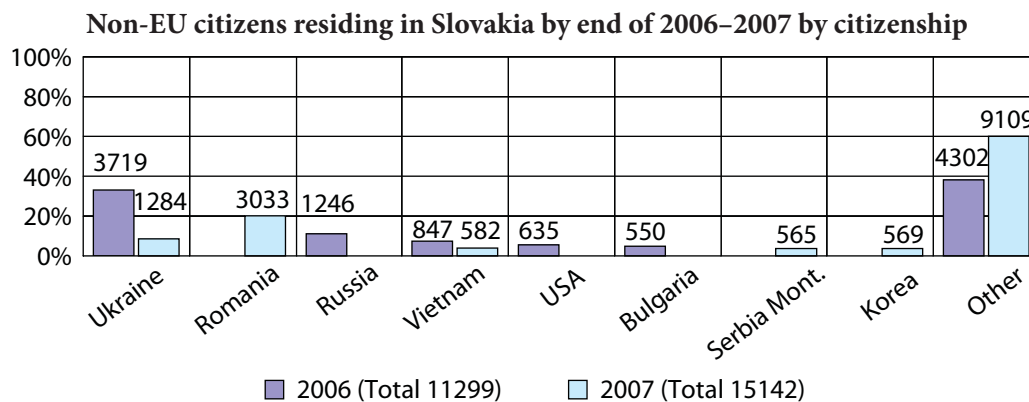
The Slovak Republic also experienced the biggest decrease in immigration movement: the crude immigration rate decreased from 2,3 (12 600 persons) in 2006 to 1,6 (8 600 persons) in 2007. The Slovak republic experienced the biggest increase of positive net migration as well: from 0,7 in 2006 to 1,3 in 2007.

Residence permits

Foreigners with valid residence permits

The total number of foreigners with valid residence permits living in the Slovak Republic decreased from 12 631 in 2005 to 11 299 in 2006 and increased to 15 142 in 2007. After Romania, in 2007 the Slovak Republic had the lowest percentage of foreigners⁷³ with valid residence permits from the total population – 0,23%.

In the Slovak Republic, the majority of persons with valid residence permit in 2006 and 2007 had citizenship of Ukraine (3 719 and 1 284 respectively) followed by citizens of Russia (1 246 in 2006; no data available in 2007). Despite these trends, the most outstanding example is in Romania: in 2006, 421 citizens of Romania lived in the Slovak Republic with valid residence permits while in 2007 the number increased to 3 033. The number of citizen of Ukraine residing in the Slovak Republic decreased respectively from 3 719 to 1 284:



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Slovak state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Note: No data on Russian citizens is available in 2007.

⁷³ Non EU citizens.

Also, a foreigner can stay on the territory of the Slovak Republic with short-term residence permit (when the stay does not exceed a period of 90 days in half year). Last year, 2 174 829 of third-country nationals were registered for short-term residence (i.e. residence with a Slovak Republic's visa or under the no-visa-agreement). The majority of the registered no-visa foreigners came from the Czech Republic (914 682), Germany (272 614), Poland (218 255) and Hungary (132 344). The majority of those with registered visas came from Ukraine (30 745), the Russian Federation (20 394), Serbia and Montenegro (5 920) and Belarus (4 419).

Irregular migration

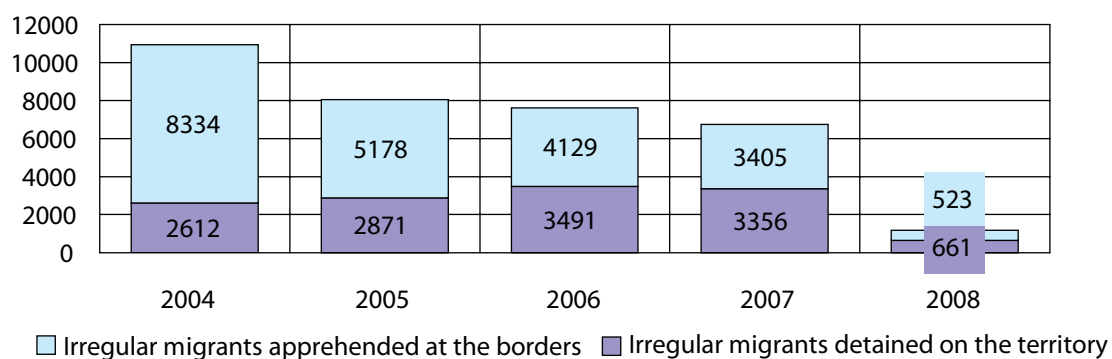
The Slovak Republic is a transit country for undocumented migrants from third countries going to the West. According to the Migration Yearbook 2007 (Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic) in the case of apprehension, usually undocumented migrants apply for asylum in order to legalize their stay in the Slovak Republic and escape from immediate repatriation. Frequent escapes from detention and accommodation centres confirm the fact that undocumented foreigners are attempting to continue their journey to Western European countries.⁷⁴ It also shows that the Slovak Republic is a transit country.

There is another trend of foreigners overstaying in the Slovak Republic as well. The majority of those who overstay come from Ukraine. Ukrainians arrive in the Slovak Republic legally, but they do not depart on time and remain in the Slovak Republic without any valid travel document. Also, the use of fake travel documents is closely related to undocumented migration and unauthorised stays in the Slovak Republic.⁷⁵ The new trend in abusing documents issued by the Schengen member states as well as by the new EU member states was identified. The majority of those who were using false travel documents were citizens of Moldova and Ukraine. The latter figures refer to a long term trend.

Analysis of the statistical data shows that undocumented migration to the Slovak Republic continued to decline: the number of apprehended undocumented migrants in the Slovak Republic gradually decreased as follows: 8 334 in 2004; 5 178 in 2005, 4 129 in 2006 and 3 405 in 2007. During the first half of 2 008 only 523 migrants were apprehended.

The number of detained persons in the territory of the Slovak Republic slightly decreased (as has also been the case in Belarus and Estonia) from 3 491 in 2006 to 3 356 in 2007 (during the first half of 2008, 661 persons were detained). Looking at the period from 2004 to 2006, different trends were identified: the number concerned increased from 2 612 in 2004 to 2 871 in 2005:

Irregular migrants detained in the territory and apprehended at the borders of the Slovak Republic, 2004–2008



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Slovak state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

⁷⁴ Ministry of Interior of Slovak Republic. Bureau of Border and Alien Police. Migration Yearbook 2007.

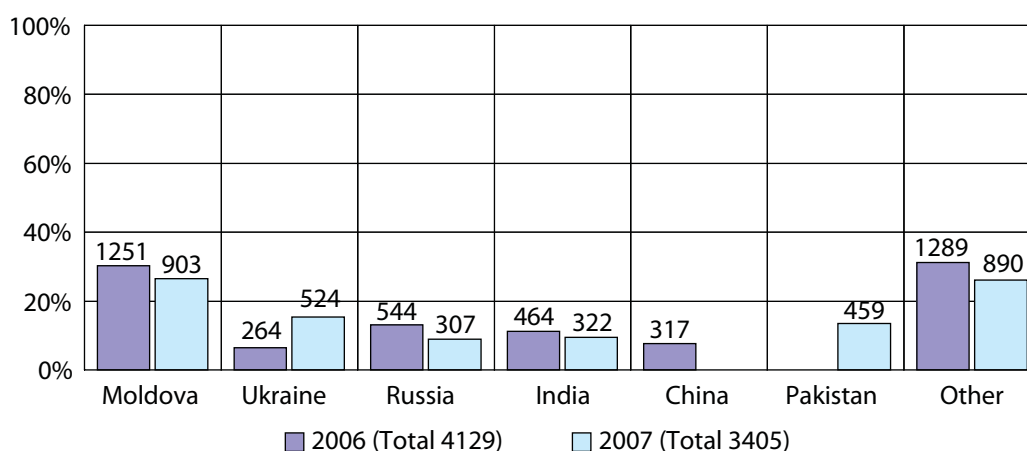
⁷⁵ Ministry of Interior of Slovak Republic. Bureau of Border and Alien Police. Migration Yearbook 2007.

Apprehension at the borders

The majority of apprehended persons were citizens of Moldova: the number of persons increased as follows: 941 in 2004, 1 126 in 2005 and 1 251 in 2006, but the number of persons concerned decreased to 903 in 2007. The number of apprehended citizens of Ukraine increased from 166 in 2004 to 524 in 2007; as well as the number of citizens of Pakistan, from 192 in 2005 to 459 in 2007, while the number of citizens of the Russian Federation significantly decreased as follows: 1 921 in 2004, 1 278 in 2005, 544 in 2006 and 307 in 2007.

Also the number of apprehended persons with Chinese citizenship gradually decreased from 993 in 2004 to 80 in 2007; as well as the number of those who had citizenship of India – from 1 295 in 2004 to 322 in 2007. The number of citizens of Georgia decreased from 828 in 2004 to 221 in 2006, but slightly increased to 264 in 2007. The number of citizens of Pakistan decreased from 455 in 2004 to 192 in 2005, but increased again to 233 in 2006 and 459 in 2007.

Foreigners apprehended at the borders of Slovakia in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Slovak state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

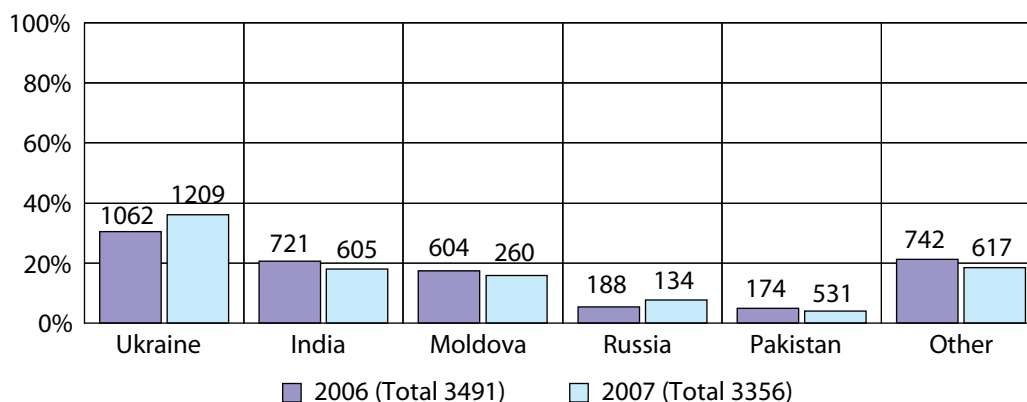
The analysis of those who were apprehended at the Ukrainian-Slovak border shows explicit trends: from all (4 129) irregular migrants which were apprehended during 2006 more than half (2 308) were apprehended at the Ukrainian-Slovak border. This particular trend of irregular migration shows that the Ukraine-Slovak border is the main crossing point for irregular migrants. Also it testifies that border management and cross-border cooperation between Ukraine and the Slovak Republic is essential an element of the management of migration movements (since the border concerned became the only external Schengen border for the Slovak Republic).

Unfortunately the break-down of Ukrainian statistics by particular border regions is not available. However, the general number of citizens of Pakistan and citizens of India apprehended in Ukraine were higher than in the Slovak Republic: there were 522 Pakistanis apprehended at the borders of Ukraine in 2006. The number concerned decreased to 68 in 2007; the number of citizens of India decreased as well from 741 in 2006 to 298 in 2007. In 2006–2007, neither citizens of Pakistan nor citizens of India were not among the most numerous four groups of migrants apprehended by Ukraine at its borders. However, there was an increase in numbers of citizens of Georgia (from 991 in 2006 to 1 323 in 2007) detained in the territory of Ukraine in 2007.

Detention in the territory

During the period from 2004 to 2007 the number of detained citizens of Ukraine significantly increased from 116 in 2004 to 923 in 2005; 1 062 in 2006 and 1 209 in 2007 (during the period revised in this study, citizens of Ukraine constituted the majority of detained persons). The number of citizens of Moldova increased from 289 in 2005 to 604 in 2006 but then decreased to 260 in 2007. The number of citizens of Pakistan significantly increased from 130 in 2005 to 531 in 2007, while the number of persons with Indian citizenship varied as follows: it decreased from 884 in 2004 to 288 in 2005, but then increased to 721 in 2006 and decreased again to 605 in 2007.

Number of undocumented migrants detained on the territory of Slovakia in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Slovak state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Considering the total number of those apprehended at the borders and detained on the territory as undocumented migrants, the Slovak Republic (as well as Estonia) was the exception to other SP countries in that the numbers decreased: from 7 620 in 2006 to 6 761 in 2007. The number of detained persons gradually increased from 2 612 in 2004 to 3 356 in 2007 while the number of apprehended persons decreased from 8 334 in 2004 to 3 405 in 2007 (see annexes). These trends could be explained by the effort to increase border security due to preparations to enter the Schengen Area (i.e. that until 2008 the Ukrainian–Slovak border had to meet EU standards). Considering this issue, some specific events were initiated (see Management of migration processes).

Hungary

During the last two decades international migration in Hungary had a positive balance (net), even though levels of migration were changing. According to the report of OECD, migration movements play a limited role in Hungary. This appears to be the case for both in- and outflows. Immigrants account for less than 2% of the population, and the vast majority of these are Hungarian speaking minorities from neighbouring countries.⁷⁶

Management of migration processes

In 2007 Ukraine and Hungary signed an agreement on cross-border traffic and in 2008 a border cooperation plan for 2008. Also, in 2008 Hungary opened its labour market for Romanian workers without restrictions: from the 1 of January 2008 Romanians have been able to work in all areas of the Hungarian economy without a permit. Considering these amendments it is important to specify that labour migrants from Romania have deeply influenced the shadow economy. In 2006 legal employed EEA and third country nationals constituted more than 70 000 persons, while the number of undeclared workers was perhaps twice as big (i.e. 3–5% of the total employed population).

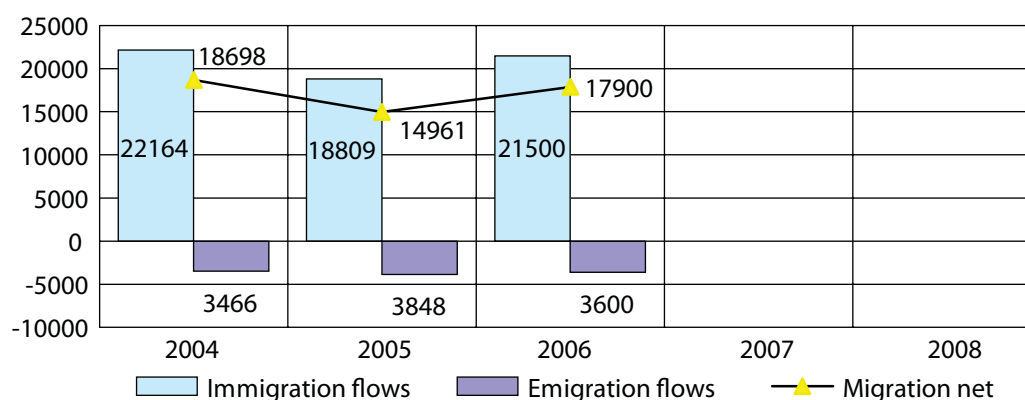
In 2006 a specific Migration Department was established by the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement. Since the 1 of August 2006, this Department has dealt with all migration issues that were earlier in the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior. Also, significant development was achieved in the legislative field as well. The act which regulated the entry and residence of foreigners (both third country nationals and citizens of the European Economic Area) was elaborated into two different acts: two new legislations became valid from July 2007 regarding the (1) Entry and Residence of Persons with the Right of Free Movement and Residence and (2) Entry and Stay of Third Country Nationals.

In 2007 immigration policy in Hungary was influenced by the transposition of EC Directives, the Schengen Acquis, The Hague Programme and other EU laws in national legislature.⁷⁷

Regular migration

According to Eurostat, in 2006 Hungary had the lowest crude emigration rate (0,4 per 1 000 population) of all the SP countries while during the same year Hungary was the third country (after Lithuania and the Slovak Republic) to have a crude immigration rate of 2,1 per 1 000 persons. Also, Hungary had the highest positive net migration in 2007 (1,4) of all the SP countries. However, in comparison to 2006, we can see that the rate decreased since before it was 2,1.

Registered Migration Trends in Hungary, 2004–2008



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Hungarian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Note: no data on migration in 2007 and 2008 is available

⁷⁶ International Migration Outlook (2008), OECD http://www.oecd.org/document/63/0,3343,en_2649_33931_41241219_1_1_1_1,00.html

⁷⁷ <http://Soderkoping.org.ua/>

Annual Overview of International Migration in Central and Eastern Europe: Fifteen commentaries from ten different countries on the important events and changes which took place in the field of migration last year (2007): <http://www.migrationonline.cz/centraleasterneurope/2007/>

Commentaries 2006: Eleven commentaries from seven different countries on the important events and changes which took place in the field of migration: <http://www.migrationonline.cz/e-library/?x=1977180>

International Migration Outlook 2008, OECD: http://www.oecd.org/document/63/0,3343,en_2649_33931_41241219_1_1_1_1,00.html

Immigration⁷⁸

After a significant immigration movement of 25 600 foreign nationals in 2005, immigration to Hungary decreased by 14% to about 19 400 in 2006. Citizens of Romania remained the main nationality concerned (about 6 800 in 2006 compared to more than 12 100 in 2004), followed by citizens of Ukraine and China with almost 1 500 in 2006 (compared to about 550 in 2005).⁷⁹

Emigration

Neither the Office of Immigration and Nationality, nor the Hungarian Central Statistical Office collect data on emigration.

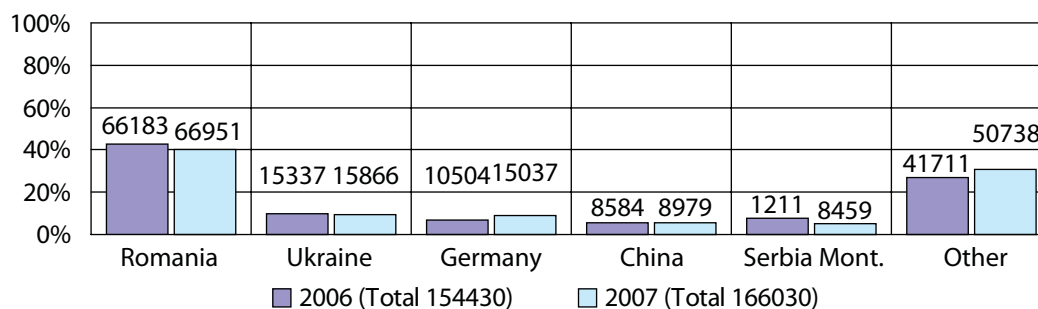
Despite the lack of detailed data (the current registration system in Hungary is not designed for monitoring long-term emigration) according to the information received by the government on emigration movement from Hungary, the main destination countries such as Austria, Germany, United Kingdom and Ireland can be roughly identified.

Residence permits

Foreigners with valid residence permits

In 2007 Hungary had the third (after Estonia and Latvia) highest percentage of foreigners with valid residence permit out of the total population – 1,67 (i. e. 166 030 persons) among Söderköping Process states. In 2007, the majority of foreigners with valid residence permits were citizens of Romania (66 951) followed by citizens of Ukraine (17 289), Germany (14 436) and Serbia (13 721). The impact of Romanian immigration in Hungary after its accession to the EU (2007) is significant: during the first half of 2008 where there were 65 836 citizens of Romania residing in Hungary with valid residence permits in comparison to 66 951 registered during the whole of 2007:

Foreign citizens residing in Hungary by country of origin as of the 1 of January 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Hungarian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Irregular migration

Apprehension at the borders and detention in the territory

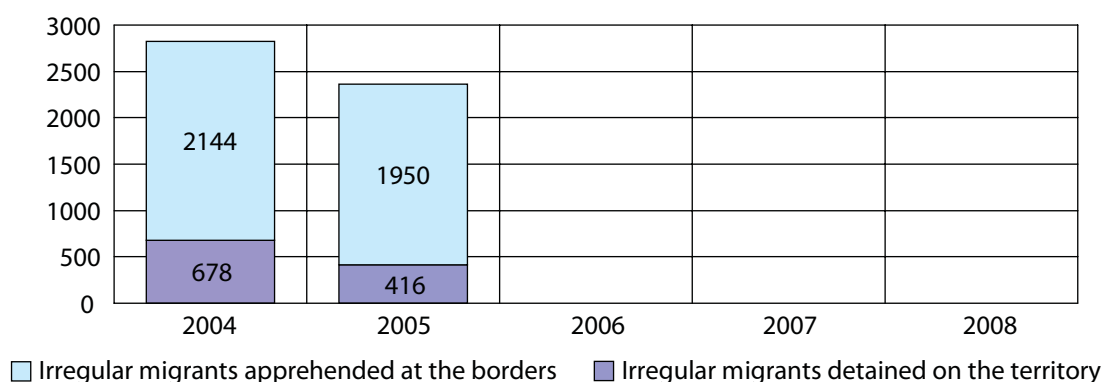
Due to Hungary's new detention centres system, there is no distinction between those apprehended at the borders and those detained in the territory. After new migration legislation came into force on the 1 July 2007 (Act No. II On the entry and stay of third-country nationals), the system of the detention centres has been reorganized: all centres are managed by the Police. As for now, Hungary has four detention centres for undocumented migrants: the first is situated at the Budapest (Ferihegy) International Airport; the three others are in Győr, Kiskunhalas and Nyírbátor. Due to the above-mentioned changes, the statistics covered all detained migrants within the period of 2006–2008.

⁷⁸ Under the data received by official request, the immigration movement were considered as persons possessing residence permit or different types of permanent residence permit.

⁷⁹ International Migration Outlook (2008), OECD
http://www.oecd.org/document/63/0,3343,en_2649_33931_41241219_1_1_1_1,00.html

The numbers of undocumented migrants, which were apprehended at the borders and detained on the territory increased from 372 in 2006 to 458 in 2007 (during the first half of 2008, 251 persons were apprehended and detained).⁸⁰

Irregular migrants detained in the territory and apprehended at the borders of Hungary, 2004–2008

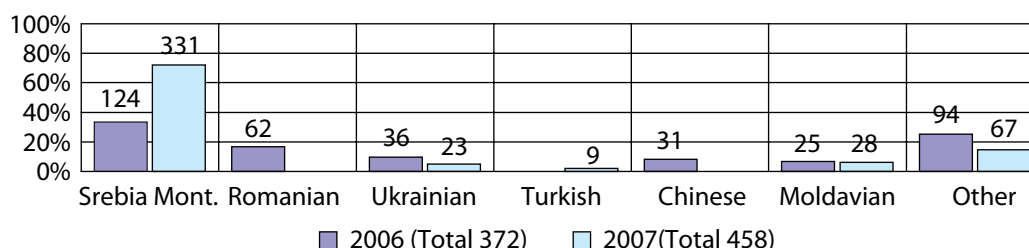


Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Hungarian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Note: due to Hungary's new detention centres system, there is no distinction between those apprehended at the borders and those detained in the territory.

In 2007 the majority of detained and apprehended persons were citizens of Serbia–Montenegro (331) followed by Moldova (28) and Ukraine (23). The number of detained and apprehended citizens of Serbia and Montenegro significantly increased from 124 in 2006 to 331 in 2007 while the number of Romanians sharply decreased from 62 to 8 respectively, which is connected to the accession of Romania to the EU and the ensuing changes:

Foreigners detained at the border and on the territory of Hungary in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Hungarian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Data on the first half of 2008 show that the second biggest group of apprehended and detained persons were citizens of Kosovo (54) (i.e. after the Assembly of Kosovo declared Kosovo's independence on February 2008⁸¹), and the number concerned was no longer placed in the category of Serbia–Montenegro.

⁸⁰ It can be noted that before 2006, Hungary would show considerably higher statistics about apprehended migrants. Unfortunately, data inconsistencies between various sources are too great for making comparisons over time. It may be noted once again that Hungary changed its methodology regarding the collection of data about irregular migrants in 2008.

⁸¹ In March 2008, Hungary recognised Kosovo as an independent state.

Romania

Migration movements in Romania were marked by the EU enlargement in 2007. After Romania's accession to the EU in 2007, economic migration became an outstanding issue in relation to migration. "Old" EU member states expressed concern regarding massive inflows of Romanian workers after January 2007. It has led to impositions of labour market restrictions. From the other side mass emigration has led to labour force shortages in particular sectors of the Romanian labour market.

Management of migration processes

During the period revised, Romania initiated a series of legislative procedures regarding migration processes: in 2007 Romania decided to simplify its procedures for granting citizenship. The policy of citizenship and visa in Romania has attracted the attention of Moldova's citizens: according to Romanian legislation, citizenship might be granted to those citizens of Moldova whose parents or grandparents were Romanian citizens before 1940 (when Moldova was part of Romania). The prospect of gaining Romanian citizenship, which allows visa-free movement throughout the EU, has led to one in eight of Moldova's 4,3 million population apply for a Romanian passport.⁸²

In 2007 Romania introduced free of charge visas to citizens of Ukraine travelling to Romania and Ukraine abolished visas for the citizens of Romania as well.⁸³

Some other institutional changes were implemented: in July 2007, the Romanian Office for Immigration was established, which unites the functions of separate offices and agencies.⁸⁴ The new Office is responsible for granting visas, employment authorisation, receiving and decisions on asylum applications, and managing national data and information on foreigners, etc.

Regarding labour immigration, some specific changes were made in 2007 as well: Romania introduced a new residence permit for work purposes which replaced the previously required separate work and temporary residence permits.

On the 26 of November 2008, the Romanian Government approved the national strategy on Romania joining the Schengen Area. Romania is expected to join the Schengen Area by 2011. The strategy also includes an action plan of what particular institutions should do in order to join the Schengen Area by 2011 since it depends on how prepared Romania will be.

Regular migration

The data on immigration/emigration movement in Romania was not provided by Romanian state authorities. All data concerning migration movement in and from the country was taken from Eurostat.

The comparison⁸⁵ of statistical data (2004–2007) shows that immigration movement in Romania increased from 1 102 in 2004 to 9 600 in 2007. The number of emigrants increased as well from 13 082 in 2004 to 14 200 in 2006 followed by a decrease to 8 800 in 2007.

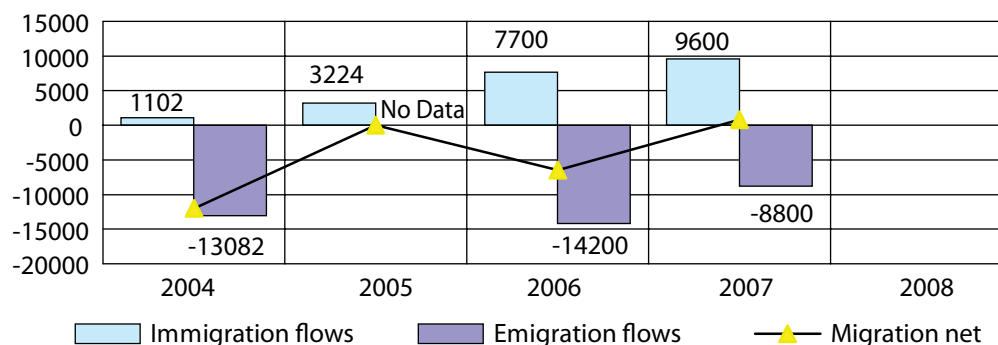
⁸² <http://soderkoping.org.ua/page15634.html>

⁸³ <http://soderkoping.org.ua/page11793.html>

⁸⁴ Including the Office for Labour Force Migration.

⁸⁵ Data (2006–2007) concerning migration movement in and from the country were taken from Eurostat, while data from 2004 to 2006 were taken from previous study on "Migration Trends 2004–2006. Söderköping process countries".

Registered Migration Trends in Romania, 2004–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Romanian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Note: no data on migration in 2008 is available. Also, no data on emigration in 2005 is available.

Emigration

According to the data of Eurostat, the crude emigration rate (per 1 000 persons) decreased from 0,7 in 2006 to 0,4 in 2007 (i.e. that in 2006, 14 200 persons had left the country in comparison to 8 800 in 2007). From the other side, Romania had the lowest crude immigration rate of 0,4 in all SP countries in 2007 (as well as in 2006). Also Romania was on of the 4 countries (together with Latvia, Lithuania and Poland), in which net migration in 2006 was negative. However, during 2007 Romania experienced a change from negative net migration (-0,3 per 1 000 population) in 2006 to positive net migration (0,0) in 2007.⁸⁶

In 2006, about 68 000 persons left Romania under temporary employment contracts. The main destination countries of Romanian migrants are Italy, Spain and the UK.⁸⁷ However, in Romania (as well as in other SP countries with significant emigration movement), official statistics mismatch actual emigration as persons do not necessarily report his/her departure to the local authorities.

Because of the increased migration movement after the EU enlargement in 2004, the EU member states applied restrictions on the movement of workers from Romania to the EU for the period of two years (after accession in 2007). These restrictions might potentially remain for up to 7 years. Some EU-25 Member states have indicated that they intend to fully open their labour markets to Romanian workers; others intend to allow more restrictive access which in practice means a need for a work permit.

The first phase of the agreements on free movement ended on the 31 December 2008. Until then, Bulgarian and Romanian workers were free to work in 10 member states while the other 15 member states applied restrictions. EU-25 countries that wanted to continue to apply restrictions during the second phase of the transitional arrangements had to notify the Commission before the 1 January 2009.

Consequently, Greece, Spain, Hungary and Portugal have lifted restrictions on access to their labour markets for Bulgarian and Romanian workers. These four countries joined 10 other EU member states which had already opened their labour markets for Bulgarian and Romanian workers while restrictions remain in 11 member states. However, all EU Member states will have to fully open their labour markets to citizens of Romania (and citizens of Bulgaria) by 2012 (*the restrictions to the labour market of accession countries are indicated in the table below*).

⁸⁶ Lanzieri G. (2008) Population and social conditions Eurostat, 81/2008
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-08-081/EN/KS-SF-08-081-EN.PDF

⁸⁷ Living abroad on a temporary basis. The economic migration of Romanians: 1990–2006. Soros Foundation Romania: http://www.soros.ro/en/fisier_acord_articole.php?document=27

Member State	Restrictions (1st phase: up to 31 December 2008)	Restrictions (2nd phase: from 1 January 2009)
BE	Yes	Restrictions remain
CZ	No	Free movement of workers
DK	Yes	Restrictions remain
DE	Yes	Restrictions remain
EE	No	Free movement of workers
IE	Yes	Restrictions remain
EL	Yes	Free movement of workers
ES	Yes	Free movement of workers
FR	Yes	Restrictions remain
IT	Yes	Restrictions remain
CY	No	Free movement of workers
LV	No	Free movement of workers
LT	No	Free movement of workers
LU	Yes	Restrictions remain
HU	Yes	Free movement of workers
MT	Yes	Restrictions remain
NL	Yes	Restrictions remain
AT	Yes	Restrictions remain
PL	No	Free movement of workers
PT	Yes	Free movement of workers
SI	No	Free movement of workers
SK	No	Free movement of workers
FI	No	Free movement of workers
SE	No	Free movement of workers
UK	Yes	Restrictions remain

Sources: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=466&langId=en>

Other sources: *Restrictions on Romanians and Bulgarians to stay:*

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2008/1231/1230581504980.html>

REGION: *Denmark, Greece and Spain Lift Labour Restrictions for citizens of Romania and Bulgaria:*

<http://www.seeuropa.net/?q=node/16731>

Regardless of the restrictions indicated above, the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the EU (2007) showed significant emigration movement from these countries to Western Europe: the outflow of Bulgarian and Romanian citizens to the UK almost tripled in a year. Nearly 60 000 citizens of new EU member states arrived in the UK between December 2006 and February 2007 in comparison to almost 23 000 Bulgarian and Romanian citizens who entered the UK between December 2005 and February 2006.

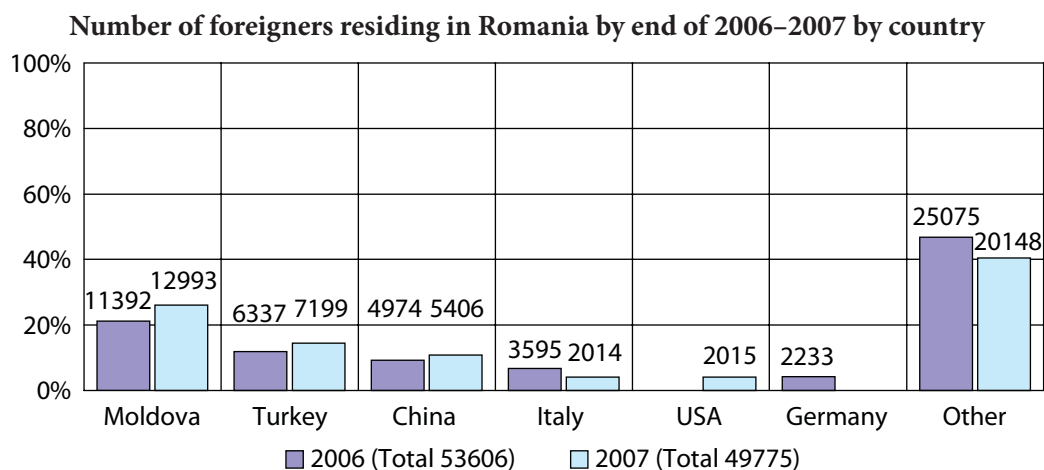
A large inflow of migrant workers in Italy was noticed as well. Statistics testify to a significant increase: there were about 270 000 Romanian workers in Italy in 2005 while the number has almost doubled to 556 000 in 2006. Also it was estimated that more than 1,5 million Romanians were working abroad in 2007 where more than half of them resided to Italy: the number of new temporary migrants from Romania to Italy in 2007 ranged from about 60 000 to 100 000).

Together with increasing emigration, remittances to Romania increased as well: in 2006 it constituted about EUR 5,3 billion (i.e. more than 5% of GDP and an increase of 40% of what it was in 2005). On the other hand, just as other SP countries with significant emigration movement, Romania experienced an increase of labour immigration: In 2006, the total number of issued work permits constituted almost 8 000 – more than twice that of 2005. The majority of foreigners with work permits were citizens of Turkey (27%) followed by citizens of Moldova and China.

Residence permits

Foreigners with valid residence permits

In the period concerned, among Söderköping countries, Romania was an example of the lowest percentage of foreigners residing in the country with valid residence permits of the total population with only 0,22%. The number of foreigners residing in the country with valid residence permits decreased from 53 606 in 2006 to 49 775 in 2007. In 2005, 2006 and 2007 the majority of foreigners residing in Romania with valid residence permit were citizens of Moldova, Turkey and China. The numbers of foreigners residing in Romania increased in all 3 cases concerned.

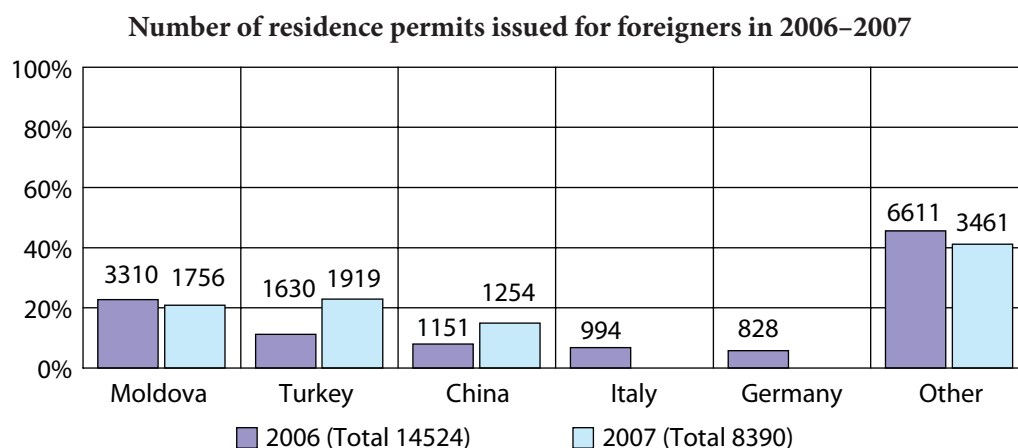


Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Romanian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Number of residence permits issued per year

In the period of 2006–2007, Romania was the only country from all of the SP countries in which the number of issued residence permits decreased (from 14 524 in 2006 to 8 390 in 2007). The rest of the countries experienced a slight increase in the number of issued residence permits. In the first half of 2008, the number of issued permits in Romania significantly increased to 14 486 and exceeded the level of 2006. This can be an indicator of the fact that since Romania has become an EU Member, it is becoming a more attractive destination for migrants.

In 2005, 2006 and 2007, the majority of residence permits were issued for citizens of Turkey (respectively 3 470, 1 630 and 1 919) followed by Moldova (4 977, 3 310 and 1 756) and China (3 019, 1 151 and 1 254). The number of issued residence permits for citizens of Turkey and China increased while the number of residence permits issued for citizens of Moldova decreased from 3 310 in 2006 to 1 756 in 2007:

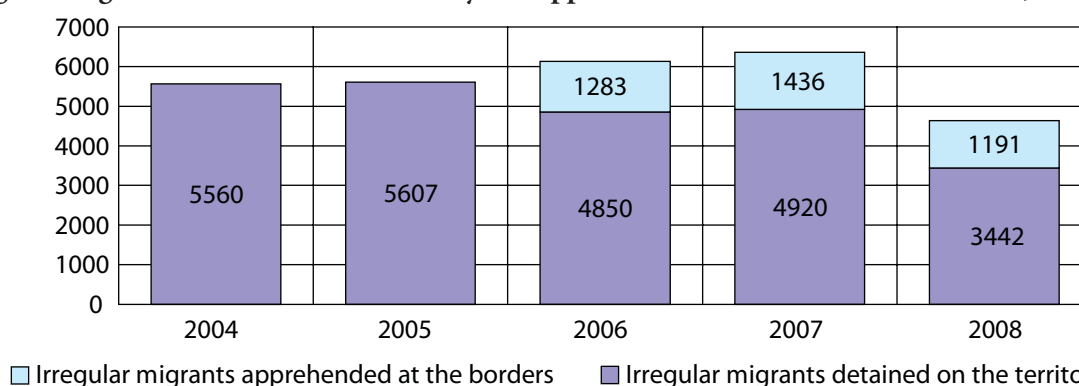


Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Romanian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Irregular migration

Romania (along with Latvia and Ukraine) experienced an increase in the number of persons that were apprehended at country borders: from 1 283 in 2006 to 1 436 in 2007 (1 191 foreigners were apprehended during the first half of 2008). The number of detained persons in the territory slightly increased in 2005 (in comparison to 2004), while in 2006 it decreased (in comparison to with 2005). In 2007 the number concerned slightly increased again. An increase in apprehensions may be related to the fact that since December 2008, Romania's borders with other EU states became the borders of the Schengen Area: this may have resulted in irregular migrant flows shifting from those states that became part of the Schengen Area and had to secure their border security at proper level towards Romania. It may also be related to the fact that Romania is also expected to develop and maintain border management so that it can join the Schengen Area in 2011 and thus applies stricter border controls than before.

Irregular migrants detained in the territory and apprehended at the borders of Romania, 2004–2008



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Romanian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

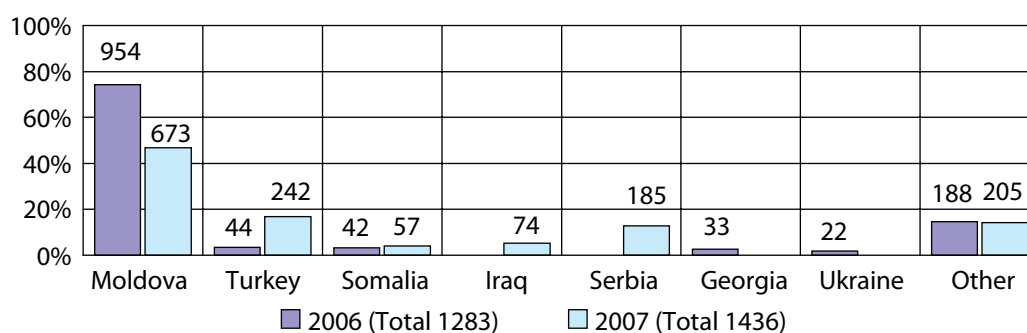
Note: no data on apprehensions of undocumented migrants at the borders in 2004 and 2005 is available.

Apprehension at the borders

The analysis of data on apprehension of undocumented migrants on the territory of Romania (2006–2007) by citizenship shows the same trend as the data regarding residence permits: the majority of apprehended persons were citizens of Moldova (respectively 954 and 673), followed by citizens of Turkey. The number of apprehended citizens of Moldova significantly decreased from 954 in 2006 to 673 in 2007 while the number of citizens of Turkey, Serbia and Iraq sharply increased from 44 to 242, from 7 to 185 and from 7 to 74 respectively. The number of citizens of India increased as well: during 2006 and 2007 only 7 persons were apprehended while during the first half of 2008 – 155.

The number of apprehended citizens of Bulgaria is low, but it has more than doubled from 12 in 2006 to 26 in 2007 as well as the number of citizens of Ukraine respectively increased from 22 to 41, while the number of citizens of China decreased from 33 to 1. The number of apprehended citizens of Georgia decreased as well: from 33 to 6 respectively:

Number of persons apprehended at the Border of Romania in 2006–2007

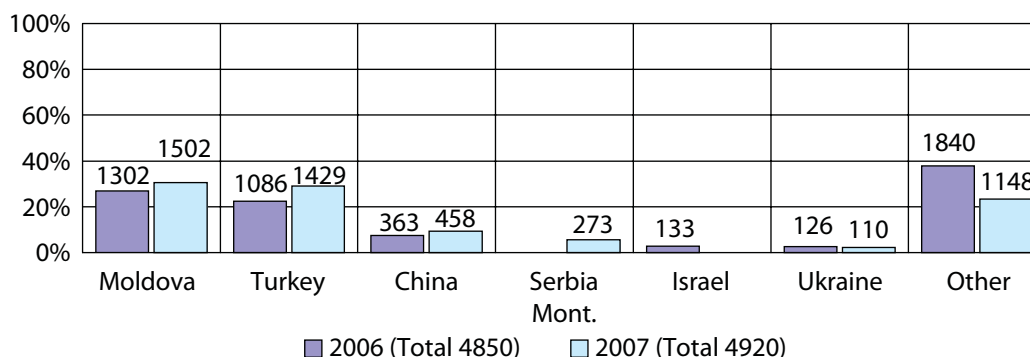


Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Romanian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Detention on the territory

Also, Romania is the second SP country (after Ukraine) with the biggest number of undocumented migrants detained on the territory. Romania is among the countries (along with Lithuania and Latvia) in which the number of detained persons increased (from 4 850 in 2006 to 4 920 in 2007). The majority of detained as well as apprehended persons in 2006–2007 were citizens of Moldova (respectively 1 302 and 1 502) followed by citizens of Turkey (1 086 and 1 429) and China (363 and 458). The number of detained respectively Moldova, Turkey, China and Serbia increased while respectively Ukraine decreased:

Number of undocumented migrants detained on the territory of Romania in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Romanian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Belarus

The enlargement of the EU and the development of the Schengen Area has been related to an increase in the cost of Schengen visas for citizens of Belarus (the cost of a one-entry visa rose from 35 to 60 Euros) as well as to a more complicated issuance of visas to the citizens of EU neighbouring countries. These changes may have caused a low number of citizens of Belarus to enter the EU.⁸⁸

The new Law on On Granting Refugee Status, Complementary and Temporary Protection to Foreign Citizens and Stateless Persons in the Republic of Belarus was adopted in May 2008, and entered into force in 2009.

Management of migration processes

In March 2007, Lavoriškės border post was opened at the Belarusian–Lithuanian border. The post was built in accordance with the European requirements set for the EU external border security with financial support from the EU.

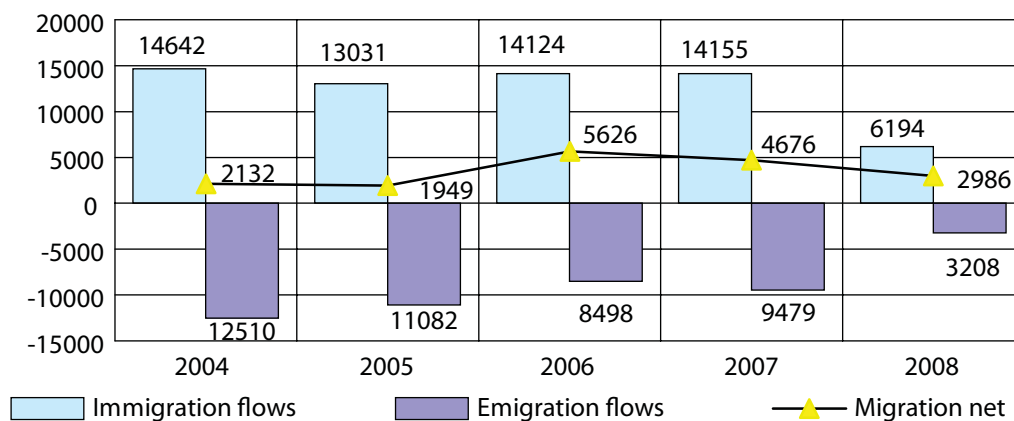
Regular migration⁸⁹

The analysis of Eurostat data shows, that Belarus (together with Lithuania and Moldova) experienced a slight increase in the crude emigration rate (per 1 000 persons) from 0,9 in 2006 to 1,0 in 2007.

When looking at the period of 2004 to 2006, a significant decrease in the emigration flow was identified: from 12 510 in 2004 to 11 082 in 2005 and 8 498 in 2006. During 2007 emigration increased again to 9 479, and reached 3 208 in the first half of 2008.

The analysis of the statistical data from the period of 2004 to 2008 shows that immigration movement decreased from 14 642 in 2004 to 13 031 in 2005 while it increased to 14 124 in 2006 and 14 155 in 2007 (6 194 persons immigrated during the first half of 2008). Consequently, Belarus experienced changes (a decrease) in positive net migration from 0,6 in 2006 to 0,5 in 2007:

Registered Migration Trends in Belarus, 2004–2008



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Belarusian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Note: data on the first half of 2008.

Emigration

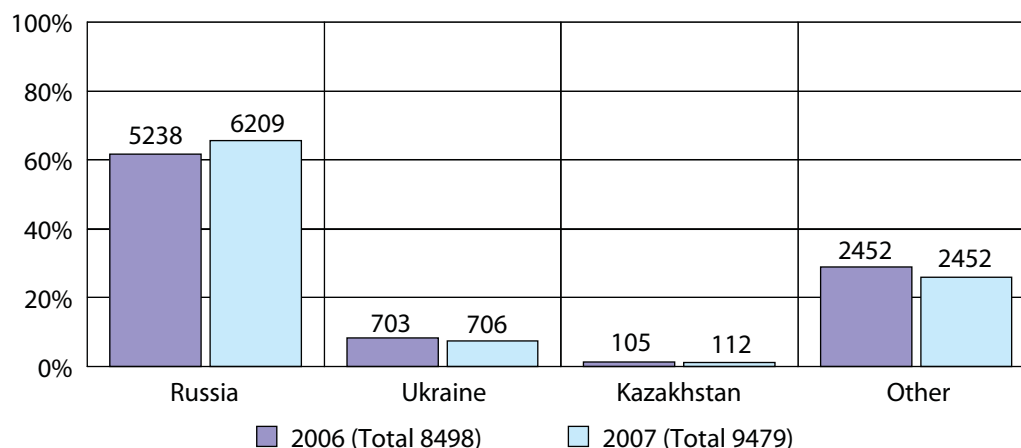
Data on emigration provided by the government of Belarus does not actually include citizens of Belarus who emigrated, but refers to citizens of other countries who have de-registered in Belarus.

The majority of foreigners who left Belarus were citizens of the Russian Federation (the number of persons concerned increased from 5 238 in 2006 to 6 209 in 2007). The number of citizens of Ukraine and Kazakhstan remain stable. These trends show remigration process of citizens of the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Kazakhstan (the data on the emigration of citizens of Belarus is not available):

⁸⁸ Annual Overview of International Migration in Central and Eastern Europe: Fifteen commentaries from ten different countries on the important events and changes which took place in the field of migration last year (2007): <http://www.migrationonline.cz/centraleasterneurope/2007/>

⁸⁹ The data on residence permits were not provided.

Emigration from Belarus by citizenship in 2006–2007

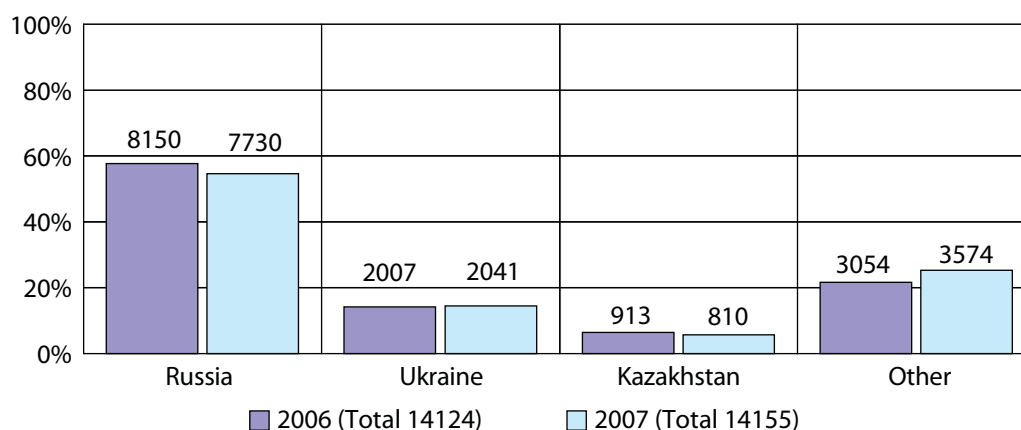


Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Belarus state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Immigration

The majority of persons which immigrated in 2006 and 2007 were citizens of the Russian Federation (8 150 and 7 730) and Ukraine (2 007 and 2 041 respectively). Apart from the neighbouring countries, a significant increase of arriving citizens of China and Vietnam can be identified –from 41 in 2006 to 280 in 2007 and from 64 in 2006 to 155 in 2007.

Immigration in Belarus by citizenship in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Belarus state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Also, other migration trends in Belarus can be identified. The total number of transit migrants in Belarus increased: in five months of 2007 the state authorities registered more than 50 000 such persons while total registrations in 2006 were more than 124 500 and in 2005 over 111 300.⁹⁰

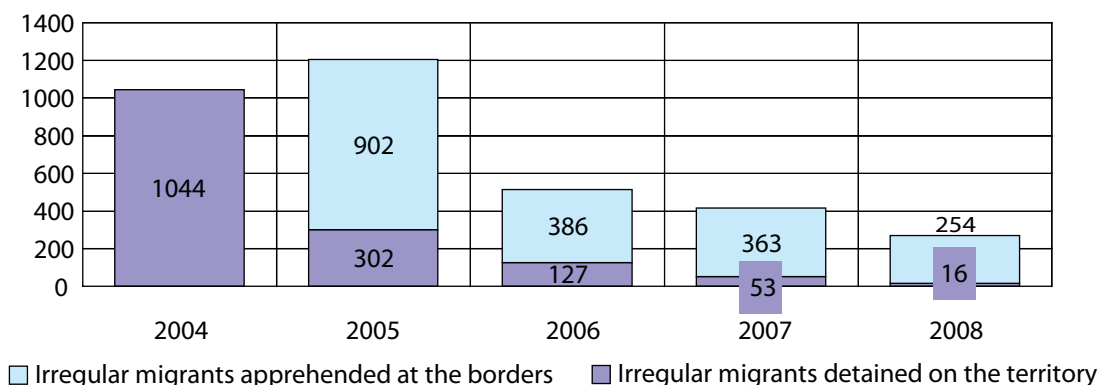
Irregular migration

In Belarus (as well as in other SP countries such as Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and the Slovak Republic) the number of undocumented migrants apprehended at the borders has significantly decreased from 902 in 2005 to 386 in 2006 and 363 in 2007.

Also, Belarus (as well as Estonia and the Slovak Republic) experienced a significant decrease in the number of undocumented migrants detained in the territory as follows: from 1 044 in 2004 to 302 in 2005; from 127 in 2006 to 53 in 2007 (during the first half of 2008 only 16 persons were detained). Belarus is the most outstanding example of the lowest number of detained persons in all SP countries in 2006 and 2007 as well an example of the lowest total number of detained and apprehended persons in 2007:

⁹⁰ Number of illegal migrants apprehended in Belarus decreased by 10 times <http://Soderkoping.org.ua/page15498.html>

Irregular migrants detained in the territory and apprehended at the borders of Belarus, 2004–2008



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Belarus state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

The information on irregular migration in and from Belarus (which is presented below) was made available by the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus. No other alternative information sources (like statistics or demographic yearbooks) on irregular migration in Belarus were available.

The estimations of the State Border Committee of Belarus suggest that the movements of undocumented transit migration to Western Europe come from countries and regions such as Asia, Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Congo, Sierra Leone, Egypt, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Vietnam, China, etc. Many migrants from these countries have developed networks in EU MS. These networks help criminal groups to carry out preparation for undocumented crossing through borders using forged documents. The entrance of undocumented migrants to Belarus is carried out under fictitious activities such as training in high schools or invitations from particular companies. However the analysis of available information shows that many of foreign citizens actually do not study.

Also, according to information from the State Border Committee of Belarus, the majority of those with undocumented stay in Belarus try to legalize themselves through marriage, work, residence permits, refugee status, etc. Also, parts of the undocumented migrants try to find an opportunity to enter Western European countries with forged documents.

Criminal organizations use forged new EU member-state passports and other countries. For instance, citizens of China use passports of Taiwan and Japan; citizens of Iraq – passports of the countries of the Middle East, Cuba and Portugal; citizens of Sri Lanka – passports of India; citizens of Moldova and Ukraine – passports of Lithuania.

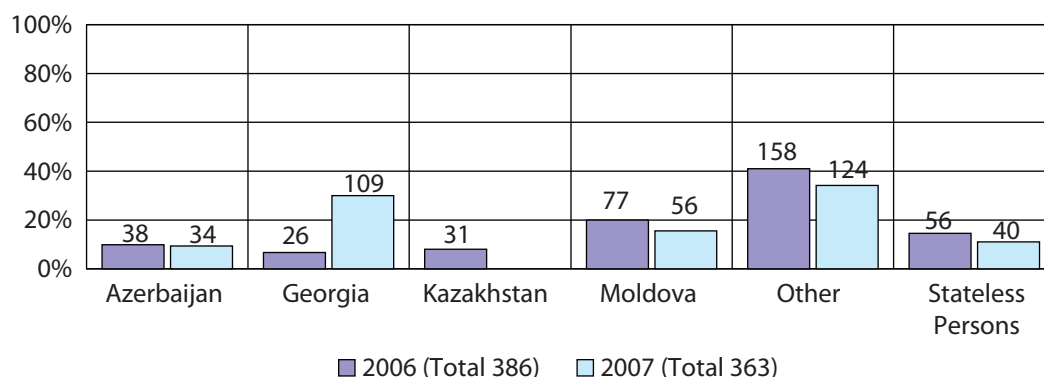
A trend of undocumented border crossing through the Belarusian–Lithuanian border of migrants from the Russian Federation can be identified. The route goes to Lithuania or through Lithuania to Scandinavian and Western European countries. Also, other forms of undocumented migration (that is characterized as labour migration) of persons (Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan) through the territory of Belarus to the Baltic States continues to remain. In this case, the forged passports of the citizens of the Republic of Lithuania are also used.

Considering the development of the Schengen Agreement, when the Baltic States and Poland were included into the Schengen Area, the State Border Committee of Belarus predicted that in the near future the significant growth of intellectual, working and undocumented transit migration of foreign citizens through the territory of Belarus to the EU member-states will prevail with these basic directions: (1) the Russian Federation – Belarus – the Baltic States; (2) the Russian Federation – Belarus – Poland; (3) the Russian Federation – Belarus – Ukraine – the Slovak Republic as well as (4) Belarus – the Russian Federation – Ukraine – the Slovak Republic and (5) Poland. It all may become a challenge for migration regulation since there is no certainty about the development of effective border management with the Russian Federation.

Apprehension at the borders

The majority of apprehended persons came from Georgia (the number significantly increased from 10 in 2005 to 26 in 2006 and 109 in 2007) and Moldova (the number increased from 47 in 2005 to 77 in 2006 but then decreased to 56 in 2007). Also, the number of apprehended persons without nationality increased as well from 56 in 2006 and 40 in 2007 to 117 in the first half of 2008:

Foreigners apprehended at the borders of Belarus in 2006–2007



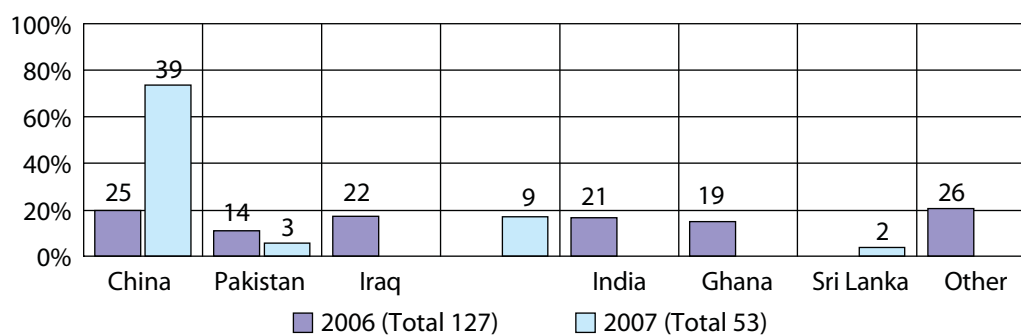
Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Belarus state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

As citizens of those and other former Soviet Union countries⁹¹ do not need visas to enter Belarus it can be assumed, that they have been apprehended while trying to exit the country, which points to the importance of Belarus as a transit country for the CIS region.

Detention on the territory

The majority of detained persons in the territory of Belarus in 2005, 2006 and 2007 were citizens of China (65, 39 and 53) followed by citizens of Vietnam (111, 3 and 9).

Foreigners detained on the territory of Belarus in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Belarus state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

⁹¹ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan, <http://www.mfa.gov.by/en/consular/visa/>

Ukraine

Since Ukraine's borders with Hungary, Poland and the Slovak Republic became the border of the Schengen Area, the struggle against undocumented immigration and trans-border criminality became more conspicuous and issues of the security of the EU–Ukrainian border became more relevant than before. It led to new measures of migration management and initiatives of more efficient cross-border cooperation.⁹²

Management of migration processes

The expansion of the Schengen Agreement raised new obstacles for citizens of countries outside the Schengen Area, including Ukraine. The first steps towards reaching a visa free regime were signing agreements with (1) neighbouring EU countries on local border traffic and with (2) the EU on the simplification of processing visas, the Visa facilitation agreement.

In 2006, the cooperation on the Ukrainian–Moldovan border was highlighted resulting in the signing of a protocol on the simplification of border-crossing procedures for residents of the bordering regions of these countries. In February 2007, the Protocol between Moldova and Ukraine was signed which amends and supplements the Agreement on the Moldovan–Ukrainian Border Checkpoints and Simplifies Admission of Border Area Residents. In 2007 Ukraine established a free visa regime with Bulgaria and Romania. The resolution amends the rules of entry to Ukraine for foreigners and stateless persons, their exit from Ukraine, and transit through its territory. Ukraine and Hungary signed a bilateral agreement on procedures on cross-border crossings. This agreement was very important for Ukraine due to Hungary's accession to the Schengen agreement. The agreement foresees visa-free travelling for Hungarian and Ukrainian nationals living within a joint 50 km border line. In 2008, the Slovak parliament passed a similar agreement under which citizens of Ukraine from border regions will be able to enter the Slovak Republic without visas (i.e. those citizens of Ukraine living in the border regions would need only a permit and passport to cross the Slovak border).

In June, 2007 Ukraine adopted a “State Special Purpose Law Enforcement Programme for the establishment and reconstruction of the state border”. The objective of the Programme is to enhance border management. Also in June, a working agreement between FRONTEX and Ukraine was signed, which sets the basis for jointly improving border security arrangements, border control efficiency and a reliable exchange of information.

In July 2007, the President of Ukraine signed a document which acknowledged that the state migration policy of Ukraine is not conceptually determined and the real threat to the national security of Ukraine is created by illegal migration. The Decree emphasized that conducting measures for the implementation of the migration policy of Ukraine will include separate elements⁹³ of management of migration movement, etc.

Readmission policy

Experts say that readmission agreements between countries of destination and origin (i.e. establishing common readmission policy among countries) are one of the best instruments to deal with the issues of undocumented migration. Ukraine uses these instruments with regards to common readmission policy in the EU framework followed by separate bilateral agreements with particular countries: the EU – Ukraine Readmission Agreement⁹⁴ signed in 2006 will fully come into force in 2010. It will regulate the return of undocumented Ukrainian citizens from the territory of the EU MS and the return of third country nationals who have transited Ukraine on their way to the West. In March 2007 Ukraine signed a visa facilitation and readmission agreement with Denmark. Since most of the undocumented migrants come to Ukraine through the Russian Federation, one of the most important developments in the migration sphere was the signing of the Readmission Agreement between Ukraine and the Russian Federation in 2008, which aims to create legal conditions necessary for coordination and cooperation on the issues concerning prevention and counteraction of illegal migration and human trafficking.⁹⁵

⁹² Annual Overview of International Migration in Central and Eastern Europe: Fifteen commentaries from ten different countries on the important events and changes which took place in the field of migration last year (2007): <http://www.migrationonline.cz/centraleasterneurope/2007/>

⁹³ (1) Regulation and differentiation of immigration influxes to Ukraine; (2) Improvement of national legislation on refugees, creation of legal institutes for implementation of rights of persons who are in need of complementary and temporary protection; (3) Effective counteraction to illegal migration, reinforcement of responsibility for offences related to it. See: The Decree on “Improvements of State Migration Policy of Ukraine” (No. 657/2007).

⁹⁴ The main objective is to establish a procedure for the efficient identification and safe return of persons who do not meet requirements for entering and residing on the territory of Ukraine or the EU member states.

⁹⁵ Illegal migration in Ukraine (ICPS newsletter). A publication of the International Centre for Policy Studies. March, 2006 No. 8 (312).

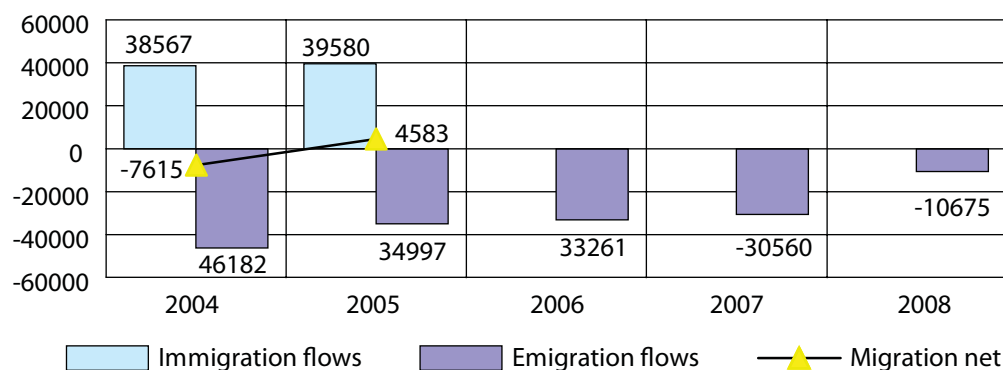
Regular migration

Emigration

The analysis of statistical data on emigration from 2004 to 2007 shows that the number of those who left the country gradually decreased as follows: 46 182 in 2004, 34 997 in 2005, 33 261 in 2006, 30 560 in 2007 and 10 675 during the first half of 2008:

According to Ukrainian state authorities, 33 261 persons left Ukraine in 2006 (compared with 30 000 indicated by Eurostat) while the number of those who emigrated decreased to 30 560 in 2007 (compared to 741 500 as indicated by Eurostat⁹⁶):

Registered Migration Trends in Ukraine, 2004–2008



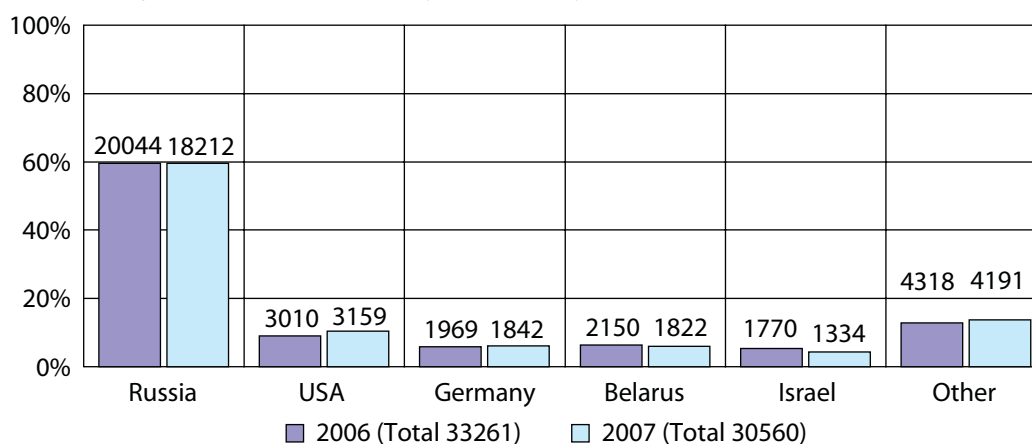
Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Ukrainian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Note: data on immigration in 2006, 2007 and 2008 is not available.

Emigration

The majority of those who left Ukraine have chosen the Russian Federation, USA, Belarus, and Germany as countries of destination. The number of citizens of Ukraine who emigrated to Russia decreased from 20 044 in 2006 to 18 212 in 2007 (5 851 persons emigrated during the first half of 2008). The number of those who emigrated to Belarus, Germany and Israel decreased as well, while the number of citizens of Ukraine who emigrated to the USA increased from 3 010 in 2006 to 3 159 in 2007:

Emigration from Ukraine by the country of next residence in 2006–2007



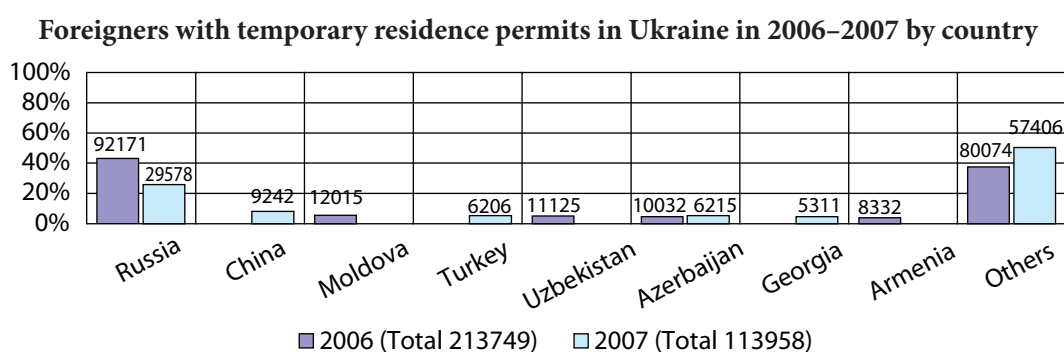
Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Ukrainian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

⁹⁶ Considering data on emigration and immigration in Ukraine, there is a mismatch of data indicated in Eurostat and in this report. This report relies mostly on the newest available data as provided directly by the SP country governments, however, in cases where there is a general picture provided, comparisons are made, we quote data as they are provided by Eurostat. As can be judged on the basis of Eurostat data, the greatest changes are noticeable in Ukraine: in 2006 the crude emigration rate was only 0,6, while in 2007 it increased to 15,9 (see chart No. 1 and annexes) which must be related to change in data collection methodology or other reasons.

Residence permits

Foreigners with valid residence permits

The number indicating the issuance of temporary residence permits for foreigners in Ukraine decreased significantly from 213 749 in 2006 to 113 958 in 2007 and 93 666 in 2008. The percentage of persons with temporary residence permits comprised a small part of the total population in Ukraine – 0,25%. The majority of those with temporary residence permits in 2007 were citizens of the Russian Federation (29 578), followed by China (9 242), Azerbaijan (6 215), and Turkey (6 206). The total number of the decrease in the number of temporary residence permit reflects the number concerned by citizenship. The largest decreased is seen in the number of citizens of the Russian Federation holding temporary residence permits – from 92 171 in 2006 to 29 578 in 2007; the number of citizens of Azerbaijan, Moldova, Belarus and Kazakhstan significantly decreased as well: from 10 032 in 2006 to 6 215 in 2007; from 12 015 in 2006 to 5 098 in 2007; from 5 401 in 2006 to 1 955 in 2007 and from 3 990 in 2006 to 887 in 2007 respectively:



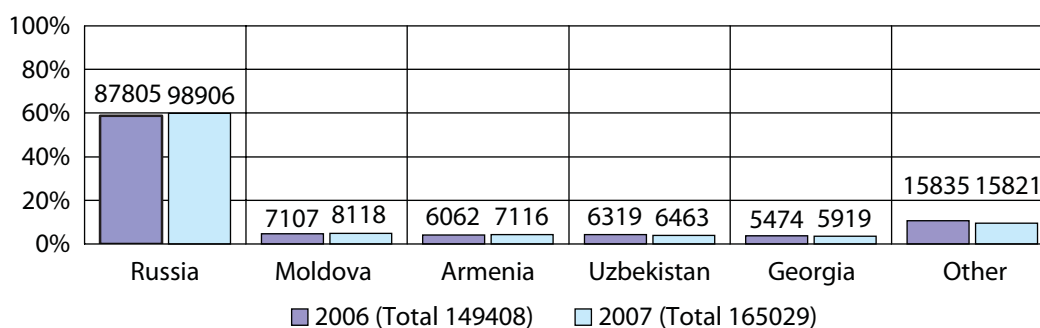
Foreigners with temporary residence permits in Ukraine by country

Country	2006	2007	2008
Russian Federation	92 171	29 578	22 593
China	8 112	9 242	8 474
Turkey	4 724	6 206	5 159
Azerbaijan	10 032	6 215	4 858
Uzbekistan	11 125	5 197	4 577
Georgia	8 310	5 311	4 301
Moldova	12 015	5 098	3 794
Jordan	3 189	2 860	2 835
India	2 940	3 069	2 831
Armenia	8 332	4 129	2 762
Syria	3 673	3 178	2 730
Iran	2 831	3 984	2 484
Vietnam	2 733	2 427	2 368
Belarus	5 401	1 955	1 529
Kazakhstan	3 990	887	774
Stateless	4 781	326	253
Other	29 401	24 296	21 344
Total	213 760	113 958	93 666

Source: graphs and table prepared by authors based on data from Ukrainian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

The number of foreigners with long term residence permits increased from 149 408 in 2006 to 165 029 in 2007 and 170 733 in the first half of 2008. The majority of long term residents were citizens of the Russian Federation. The number concerned increased from 87 805 in 2006 to 102 640 in 2008. The number of citizens of Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Vietnam holding long term residence permits increased as well, while the number of citizens of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan slightly decreased:

Foreigners with long term residence permits by country in 2006–2007



Foreigners with long term residence permits by country

Country	2006	2007	2008
Russian Federation	87 805	98 906	102 640
Moldova	7 107	8 118	8 597
Armenia	6 062	7 116	7 463
Uzbekistan	6 319	6 463	6 423
Georgia	5 474	5 915	6 134
Azerbaijan	4 301	5 170	5 428
Belarus	3 398	3 920	4 073
Vietnam	3 021	3 220	3 373
Kazakhstan	3 068	3 328	3 300
Stateless	7 018	7 052	7 018
Other	15 835	15 821	16 284
Total	149 408	165 029	170 733

Source: graphs and table prepared by authors based on data from Ukrainian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Due to mismatches between various sources of data and due to a substantial increase in the numbers attributed to emigration and immigration regarding 2007 in Eurostat data, it may be too risky to make generalisations. A clearer picture is likely to emerge after Ukraine completes the process of harmonisation and upgrades the statistics.

Irregular migration

Ukraine is becoming the main transit country⁹⁷ for undocumented migrants who try to find their way to the EU.⁹⁸ The route of undocumented migration movements through Ukraine is becoming an issue not only for the EU but for Ukraine as well since significant flows of undocumented migrants might have a negative impact on sectors of employment and housing as well as on the socio-economic situation at large. Also, extra financial costs are involved in the identification, detention and return of undocumented migrants.

According to Ukrainian experts,⁹⁹ entry of irregular migrants to Ukraine could be divided into routes which can be identified by the nationality of incoming migrants: citizens of Vietnam, Pakistan-India, Sri Lanka-Bangladesh, Afghanistan, China, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan as well as Kurdish and Chechen channels. The diversity of migrants' routes show the complex structure of immigration to Ukraine.

Ukraine remains the main transit country for migrants from Moldova, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. According to data from the State Border Service of Ukraine, the number of undocumented migrants detected in January – February in 2007 was almost 2,5 times higher than over the corresponding period in 2006. In 2006 this number constituted 2 073 while in 2007 it had already showed 5 010. 272 persons were detained for illegal crossing; 4 271 foreigners were prohibited to enter the territory of Ukraine and 465 persons were detained for

⁹⁷ The vast majority of migrants (from China, South East and South West Asia, the Middle East and even Africa) entering Ukraine usually come through the border with the Russian Federation. However, the effectiveness of management of Ukrainian–Russian border is not well known and remains a considerable challenge.

⁹⁸ Illegal migration in Ukraine (ICPS newsletter). A publication of the International Centre for Policy Studies. March, 2006 No. 8 (312).

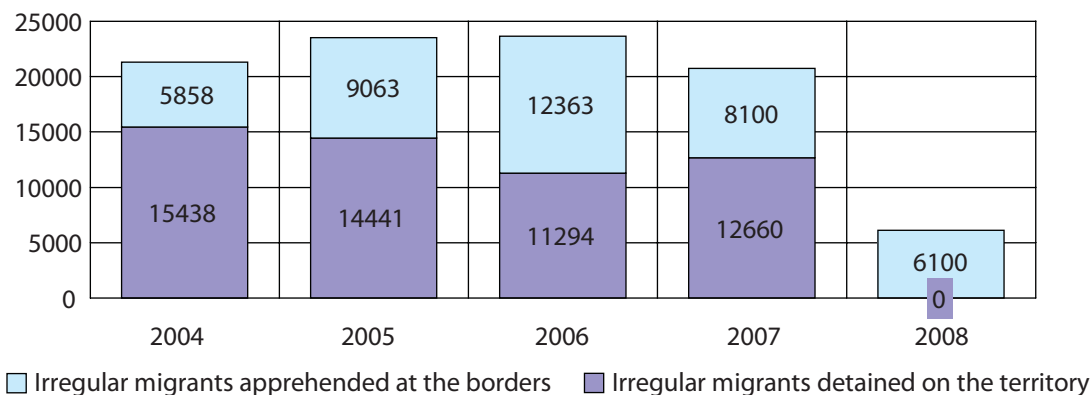
⁹⁹ Illegal migration in Ukraine (ICPS newsletter). A publication of the International Centre for Policy Studies. March, 2006 No. 8 (312).

violations of the rules of stay in Ukraine. The majority of detained foreigners were nationals of Moldova (1 734), Uzbekistan (825), Tajikistan (727), etc.¹⁰⁰

The analysis of the data of undocumented migration in SP countries shows that Ukraine meets the biggest challenges concerning border management and regulation of migration movement: Ukraine, which is the largest country among the SP countries, has the highest number of apprehended persons (see annexes).

The analysis of data on the detention of undocumented migrants in the territory of SP countries shows that the number of those detained has been shifting annually as follows: it decreased from 15 438 in 2004 to 14 441 in 2005 and 11 294 in 2006, but increased to 12 660 in 2007. The number of apprehended undocumented migrants significantly increased from 5 858 in 2004 to 12 363 in 2006, but then decreased to 8 100 in 2007 and 6 100 in 2008.

Irregular migrants detained in the territory and apprehended at the borders of Ukraine, 2004–2008



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Ukrainian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Note: No data on detention in 2008 is available.

Apprehension at the borders

Trends of apprehended irregular migrants at the borders of Ukraine show significant changes in terms of the total number of apprehended persons as well as in apprehensions by country of origin.

From 2004 to 2008 the majority of apprehended persons came from Moldova followed by the Russian Federation. The number of apprehended citizens of Moldova significantly increased from 1 717 in 2004 to 3 604 in 2005, but then decreased to 3 472 in 2006 and increased again to 3 500 in 2007. The number of apprehended citizens of the Russian Federation also increased from 1 393 in 2004 to 1 548 in 2005, but then started to decrease annually and reached 900 in 2008 (see table below and annexes).

From 2004 to 2008 citizens of Georgia, Pakistan, Belarus, India and China were among the largest groups of irregular migrants apprehended at Ukrainian borders. The number of citizens of Pakistan increased while citizens of Belarus, India and China decreased (see table below).

Foreigners apprehended for irregular border crossing in Ukraine

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Moldova	1 717	3 604	3 472	3 500	2 100
Russian Federation	1 393	1 548	1 221	1 200	900
India	245	523	632	600	200
Georgia	338	534	361	400	500
Pakistan	228	197	368	400	500
Belarus	375	492	407	400	300
China	617	752	401	400	100
Total	5 858	9 063	12 363	8 100	6 100

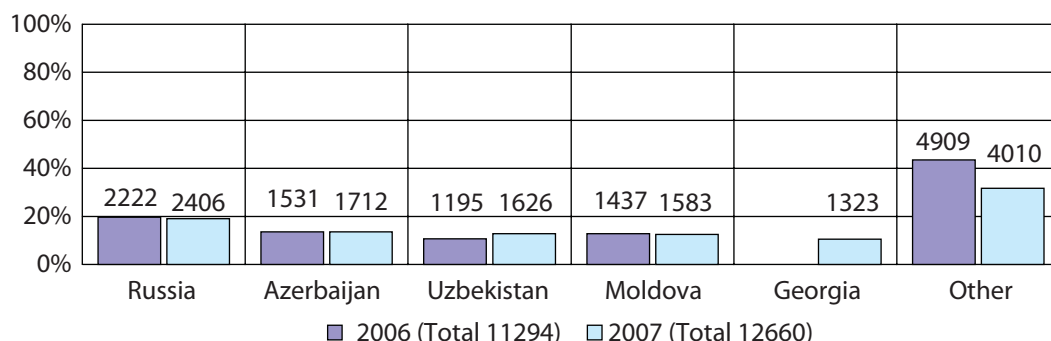
Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Ukrainian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

¹⁰⁰ Armenia (395), Azerbaijan (352), Kyrgyzstan (208), Georgia (182), Russia (177), India (71), Turkey (60), Pakistan (42), Iraq (38), Vietnam (30), and China (24).

Detention on the territory

The biggest number of detained persons came from the Russian Federation (the number decreased from 3 176 in 2004 to 2 222 in 2006 and increased to 2 406 in 2007), Azerbaijan (the number decreased from 2 371 in 2004 to 1 531 in 2006 and increased to 1 712 in 2007), Uzbekistan (increased from 1 060 in 2004 to 1 226 in 2005, then decreased to 1 195 in 2006 and increased to 1 626 in 2007), Moldova (decreased from 1 782 in 2004 to 1 437 in 2006 and increased to 1 583 in 2007) and Georgia (the number increased from 958 in 2004 to 1 172 in 2005, decreased to 991 in 2006 and increased to 1 323 in 2007) (see graph below and annexes):

Number of undocumented migrants registered by the Ministry of Interior of Ukraine in 2006–2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Ukrainian state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

In terms of the total number of undocumented migrants which were detained in the territory and apprehended at the borders of SP countries, Ukraine remains as one of the most outstanding examples (see annexes: Irregular migrants detained in the territory and apprehended at the borders of SP countries).

Apart from the aforementioned data, Ukrainian statistics register “the number of foreigners refused entry to Ukraine”. The numbers of those who were not allowed to enter the territory of Ukraine was gradually increasing over the last few years: in 2004, 21 594 foreigners were prohibited to enter Ukraine while this number increased to 26 912 in 2005, 36 700 in 2007 and 38 200 in 2008. A break down into the main countries of origin of those refused entry may shed some light on where there is the greatest interest of possible migration to: in 2008, 6 100 citizens of Uzbekistan, 2 700 citizens of Tajikistan and 14 000 citizens of Moldova were not allowed to enter Ukraine. The data about foreigners that were denied entry to the territory of Ukraine is not broken down into reasons of denial. Therefore, these statistics may be seen as an approximate indicator of the existing interest to migrate to or through Ukraine, but it still may be difficult to predict a realistic potential immigration.

Moldova

Moldova is one of the most outstanding cases of a country where emigration has had a huge impact on society and the whole economy: about 40% of households in Moldova depend on remittances. According to the World Bank report *Migration and Remittances: Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union*, remittances sent by citizens of Moldova working abroad cover approximately 27% of Moldova's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This is the highest rate among Eastern European and the former Soviet Union countries. With regards to income from remittances sent from abroad, Moldova is the second highest in the world.¹⁰¹

Management of migration processes

In April 2007, the first "Common Visa Application Centre" in the history of the EU visa policy was opened in Moldova. The Centre facilitates the issuance of visas for citizens of Moldova. In February 2007, a Protocol between Moldova and Ukraine was signed which amends and supplements the Agreement on Moldova-Ukraine border checkpoints and simplifies the admission of border area residents. Also, in October 2006, Moldova and Romania signed an Agreement on a new travel regime, establishing a visa regime for the citizens of Moldova.

Regarding migration issues, relations between Moldova and the EU are an essential factor. These relations are based on a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement which was signed in 1998, and the EU - Moldova Action Plan, which was signed in 2005. The latter stipulates the harmonisation of national legislation with European one. The Action Plan is related with issues of development as well as with migration processes: comprehensive state border management, the fight against human trafficking as well as migration management, including the readmission agreement between the EU and Moldova.

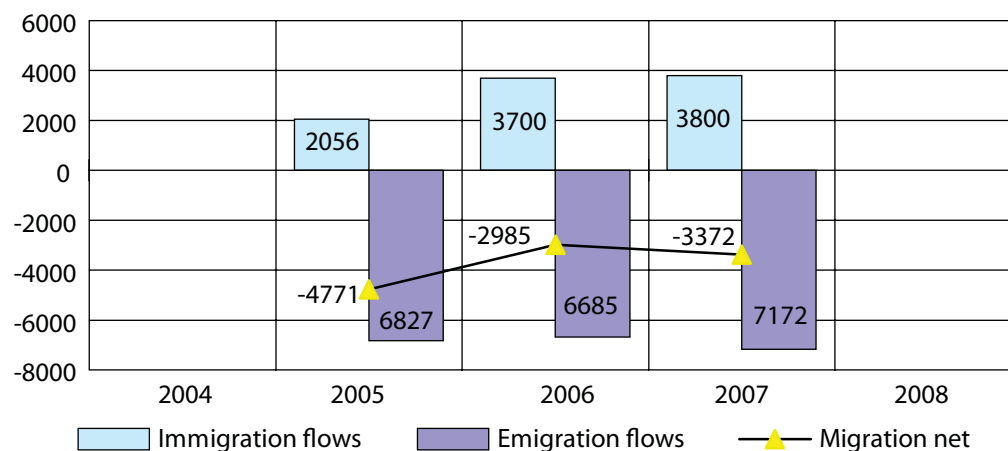
Consequently, in 2008 the EU has adopted a multidimensional decision on Moldova (which, according to Deputy Foreign and European Integration Minister, will contain separate chapters on the free trade and the visa regime's liberalization). Also, the same year evidenced the signing of the EU - Moldova joint declaration on a mobility partnership in order to improve management of migration movement.

As it was mentioned in the introduction, Moldova is developing bilateral relations with neighbouring countries. For instance, new measures for 2009 were initiated in 2008 in order to improve better management of the Moldovan-Ukrainian border with the special attention on meeting European standards. Also, In August 2008, regarding the management of external borders, working agreement between FRONTEX and the Republic of Moldova was signed as well.

Regular migration

According to data received upon official request, emigration movement from Moldova decreased from 6 827 in 2005 to 6 685 in 2006 and increased to 7 172 in 2007. Eurostat data show that immigration movement gradually increased from 2 056 in 2005 to 3 800 in 2007:

Number of undocumented migrants registered by the Ministry of Interior of Ukraine in 2006-2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Moldovan state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Note: data on migration in 2004 and 2008 are available. Data on immigration movement in Moldova was not provided by state authorities and was taken from Eurostat.

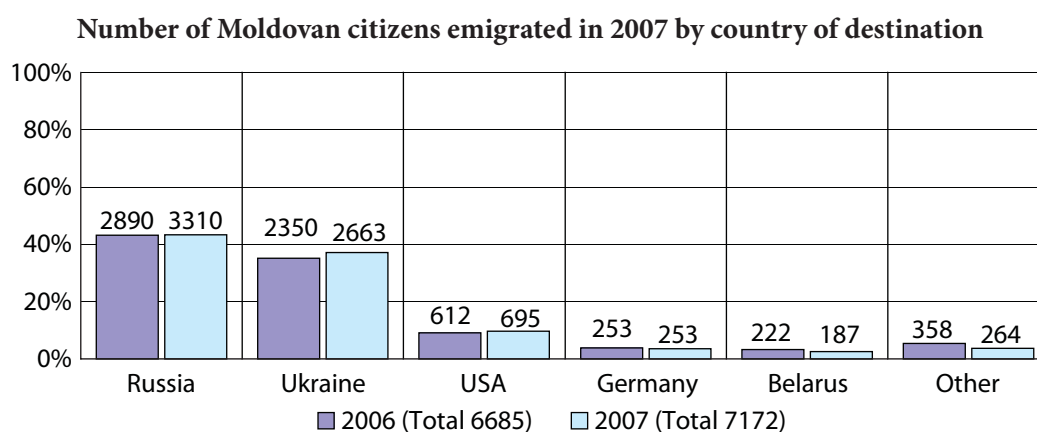
¹⁰¹ Remittances make up 27% of Moldova's GDP <http://Soderkoping.org.ua/page15906.html>

Emigration

Mass emigration also has other impacts on the socio-economic situation inside the country: according to “Commentaries 2006”,¹⁰² 35 000 children had at least one parent abroad, the number of candidates to migrate is high and opportunities are few. These trends lead to high costs and undocumented migration. The most significant changes and challenges considering migration processes in Moldova was the EU enlargement in 2007.

Regarding the enlargement of the EU, new trends can be identified: Romanian officials have reported that the numbers of citizens of Moldova applying for Romanian citizenship has significantly increased. By some estimates, about 800 000 citizens of Moldova started the process of receiving citizenship in 2007.¹⁰³ When considering the total population of Moldova (which is around 3,2 million excluding the region of Transdnistria), these numbers are huge, especially when one includes the 600 000 citizens of Moldova which already work abroad. A study on poverty factors behind migration states that Moldovan migrants choose the Russian Federation “due to its large labour market, visa free movement, reduced migration costs and socio-cultural proximity”¹⁰⁴ followed by Ukraine, USA, Germany and Belarus.

The main destination countries in 2005, 2006 and 2007 were the Russian Federation (3 310, 2 890 and 3 110), Ukraine (2 057, 2 350 and 2 663) and USA (568, 612 and 695) respectively:



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Moldovan state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Note: No data on immigration in Moldova is available.

According to Eurostat data, the crude emigration rate per 1 000 persons in Moldova (as well as in Lithuania and Belarus) has slightly increased from 1,9 in 2006 to 2,0 in 2007. The analysis of the period of 2004 to 2008 does not show big changes in emigration patterns: in 2004, 6 827 citizens of Moldova left the country officially while in 2006 the number decreased to 6 685 and increased again to 7 172 in 2007.

Immigration

The crude immigration rate also increased by 0,1 percent – from 10 in 2006 to 1,1 in 2007. Moldova, together with Belarus (from the SP countries) did not experience any significant changes in positive net migration in 2006–2007. The analysis of the period from 2004 to 2007 shows an increase in immigration movement from 2 056 in 2005 to 3 700 in 2006 and 3 800 in 2007.

Residence permits

Data on the number of persons with valid residence permits residing in Moldova were not provided.

Number of residence permits issued per year

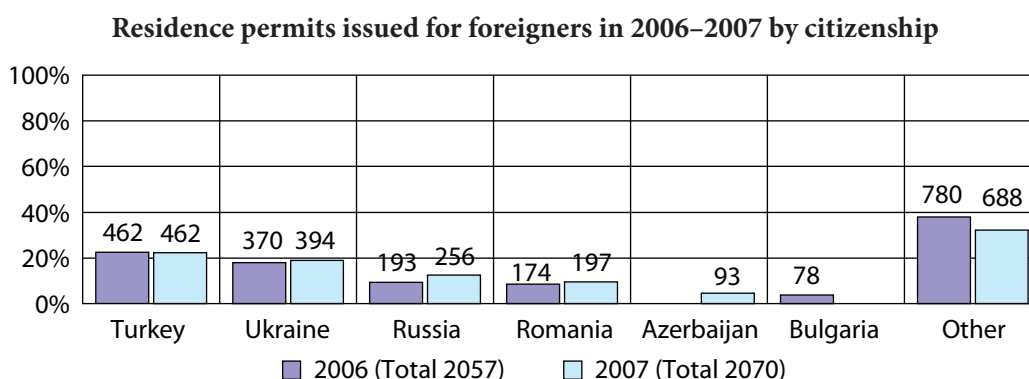
In Moldova no noticeable change in the number of issued residence permits was identified (from 2 057 in 2006 to 2 070 in 2007; in the first half of 2008 – 1 442). In 2006 and 2007, four major groups which received residence

¹⁰² Commentaries 2006: Eleven commentaries from seven different countries on the important events and changes which took place in the field of migration: <http://www.migrationonline.cz/e-library/?x=1977180>

¹⁰³ Record numbers of Moldovans apply for Romanian citizenship <http://Soderkoping.org.ua/page12634.html>

¹⁰⁴ Pantiru M.C., Black R., Sabates-Wheeler R. Migration and Poverty Reduction in Moldova. Working Paper. Sussex Centre for Migration Research. Institute for Development Studies. Issued by the Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty, February 2007, p.10.

permits were citizens of Turkey (462 each year), Ukraine (respectively 370 and 394) the Russian Federation (193 and 256) and Romania (174 and 197):



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Moldovan state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

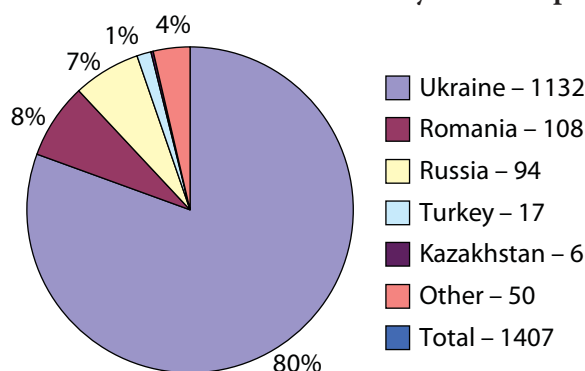
Irregular migration

One of the factors that has an influence on irregular migration to or through Moldova, is a complex situation in border management of and with the separatist region of Transnistria, which controls around one third of Moldova's 1 200 km external border with Ukraine, ensuing in the lack of a clear management of the border controls between Transnistria and Ukraine and of the territory between Transnistria and de facto Moldova. So far, some cooperation on migration issues between the two territories (involving NGOs on both sides and IOM) took place in the area of preventing human trafficking.¹⁰⁵ For a considerable period already, poor control of the Transnistrian segment of the border remains important for all kinds of migration, from irregular transit migration to cross-border smuggling.¹⁰⁶

Apprehension at the borders

Only overall data from 2006 to 2008 on apprehension of undocumented migrants is available. Since the data on apprehension of undocumented migrants is aggregated, the comparison with the previous period and identification of particular trends is hardly possible. However, the data concerned shows that the majority of apprehended persons had citizenship of Ukraine (1 132) followed by citizens of Romania and the Russian Federation:

Number of persons apprehended at the border of Moldova by citizenship: 2006 – the first half of 2008



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Moldovan state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

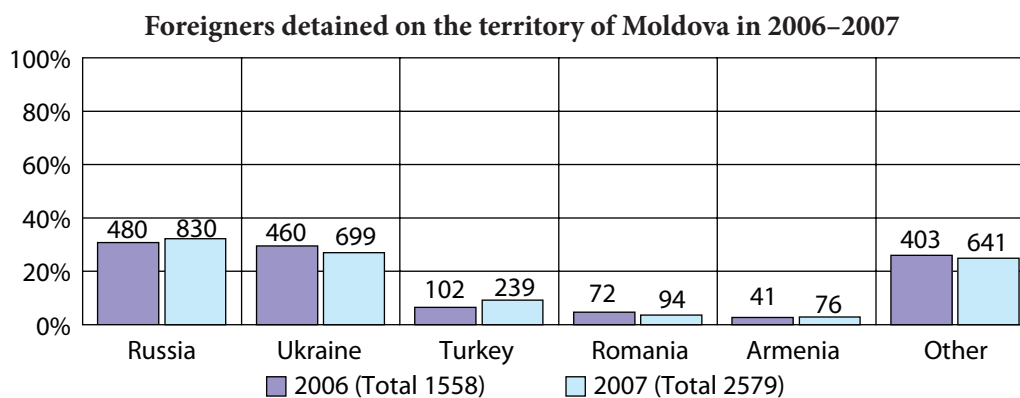
Detention in the territory

Moldova is the most visible example (together with Ukraine) where the number of persons detained in the territory significantly increased from 1 558 in 2006 to 2 579 in 2007 (in the first half of 2008, 1 615 persons were detained). The majority of detained persons in 2006 and 2007 had citizenship of the Russian Federation (480 and 833) followed by citizens of Ukraine (460 and 699), Turkey and Romania. The number of detained citizens

¹⁰⁵ Migration Trends and Policies in the Black Sea Region: cases of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine (2008) Chisinau: Institute for Public Policy, Institute for Development and Social Initiatives "Viitorul", International Centre for Policy Studies. P. 14.

¹⁰⁶ See more: Dura G EU Border Guards and Moldova's Economic Reintegration. Journal of Foreign Policy of Moldova, issue: 04/2004 (www.ceeol.com).

of the Russian Federation from 2006 to 2007 almost doubled – from 480 to 830. Also the number of detained citizens of Ukraine increased as well –from 460 to 699 respectively:



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from Moldovan state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

V. Summarising regular and irregular migration in 2006–2008

The EU enlargement in 2007 brought new challenges both for new EU member states and its neighbours. After the EU enlargement, labour migrants from Bulgaria and Romania had a privilege over non-EU migrants and these countries experienced considerable emigration, resulting in labour force shortages. These changes triggered immigration from Moldova and Ukraine. Consequently, a new migration chain started to emerge while at the same time all neighbouring non-EU countries faced pressure from the EU to match their standards to Schengen requirements.

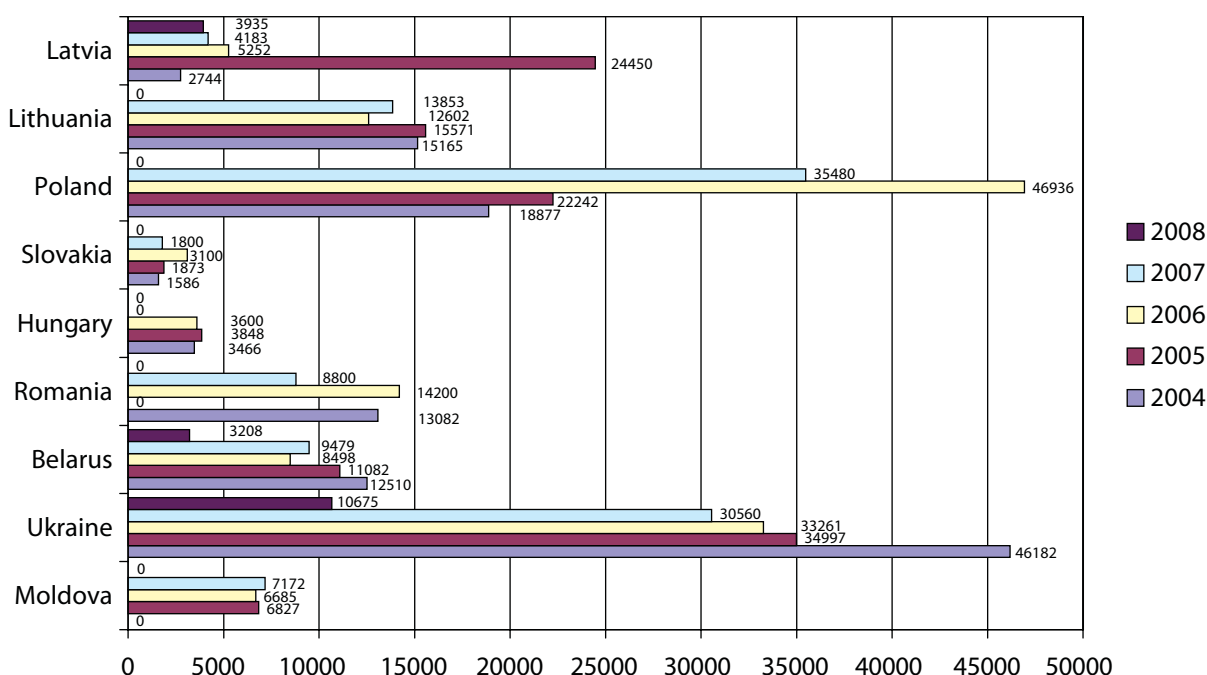
These new migration patterns raised new challenges in Central and Eastern Europe: firstly, a significant increase in the numbers of undocumented labour migrants were identified in most new member states; secondly, in 2006 a huge increase in returned undocumented migrants across the borders of Poland, the Slovak Republic, Hungary and Romania to Ukraine was observed (during the same year, the readmission agreement between the EU and Ukraine was signed¹⁰⁷). Thirdly, due to the denied access to legal migration channels to the Western Europe, Ukrainian migrants are forced to go deeper into undocumented migration and shadow economic activities. Also, there are indications that Ukrainian and Moldovan migrants replace undeclared workers in those countries and those sectors where Polish and Lithuanian migrant workers used to prevail (such as Great Britain).¹⁰⁸

On one hand, the extension of migration management (including cross-border cooperation, bilateral and multilateral agreements and other measures within the framework of the SP) to the East (particularly to Ukraine and Moldova) created a larger system of migration management. On the other hand, the restriction of legal migration for non-EU migrants in favour of labour migration inside the EU raises concerns over potentially negative consequences for current migrants and for economy and society as well.

Trends in regular migration

Emigration: key points

Emigration from Söderköping Process countries (2004–2008)



Source: graph prepared by authors based on 2006–2008 data from state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report. 2004–2005 data are based on a previous report of Migration Trends in Söderköping Process countries. Notes: For 2008, the first half of the year is reported. 0 is indicated for those countries where data was not available.

¹⁰⁷ To deal with migration movement from non-traditional countries, to meet international responsibilities with regards to the UN Refugee Convention, to accept increasing numbers of returnees from Western European countries or to offer economic opportunities to its voluntary new immigrants.

¹⁰⁸ Commentaries 2006: Eleven commentaries from seven different countries on the important events and changes which took place in the field of migration <http://www.migrationonline.cz/e-library/?x=1977180>

It is important to note that when measuring emigration trends from a particular country, official and unofficial data should be taken into consideration. National statistical offices provide data of declared emigration, while undeclared emigration movement is much higher. Consequently, the total number of persons which have left a given country is higher than seen in statistics.

Emigration is substantial in all SP countries, however, in some countries (Lithuania, Moldova and Belarus) the crude emigration rate (per 1 000 persons) has increased while in the others (the Slovak Republic, Romania, Poland and Latvia) it decreased from 2006 to 2007.

The extent of emigration from Ukraine remains a challenge to measure. The statistics seem to show a decreasing trend with 30 560 in 2007 being the lowest reported emigration in the last four years; however, the Eurostat estimate was 741 500 in 2007. Other estimates claim that there are 50 000 – 300 000 citizens of Ukraine, depending on the season, who live illegally in Poland.¹⁰⁹

Lithuania is a country with the biggest emigration rate per 1 000 persons (with 3,7 in 2006 and 4,1 in 2007) of all SP countries: in 2006, 12 602 persons emigrated from Lithuania in comparison to 13 853 in 2007 (see charts and annexes). According to Eurostat data, Lithuania had the biggest negative net migration (per 1 000 persons) in the European Union in 2005 (-2,6).

In the other extreme, the lowest emigration rate can be identified in the Slovak Republic. When comparing emigration trends in 2006 and 2007, the crude emigration rate has decreased twice: from 0,6 to 0,3 respectively: it means that in 2006, 3 100 persons left the country compared to 1 800 in 2007 (see charts and annexes).

A visible decrease in emigration movement can also be seen in Latvia: the crude emigration rate (per 1 000 persons) decreased from 2,3 (5 252 persons) in 2006 to 1,8 (4 183 persons) in 2007 (see charts and annexes).

Poland and Lithuania have large groups of its population that have moved to other countries over the last decade and they have formed certain 'traditional' patterns of migration to particular countries. Romania is likely to belong to this cluster of emigration countries too. Polish and Romanian communities are the largest of the EU-27 citizen communities in other EU countries by absolute numbers and by proportion.¹¹⁰

Poland, Lithuania and Latvia play significant roles in the current international migration processes from Central and Eastern Europe to Western Europe where emigration from these countries has become prominent. Conspicuous remittances from emigrants to the countries concerned showed the importance of new labour migration in contemporary Europe: according to the data from the World Bank, the proportions of remittances from 2003 to 2006 increased by 541% in Lithuania, 279% in Latvia and 164% in Poland (in 2006, remittances to Poland amounted to about 4,36 billion USD).¹¹¹

However, the current global economic crisis could significantly influence migration patterns from and to the countries concerned. Immigration from Poland, Lithuania and Latvia probably contributed to the largest inflow of migrants in to the United Kingdom, which may now turn to outflow.¹¹² On the other hand, mass emigration movement has led Baltic countries and Poland to face new challenges such as labour force shortages and labour immigration – particularly from Ukraine and Belarus.

Another set of countries, having substantial emigration – Ukraine and Moldova, have even more barriers for migrants willing to migrate to the countries of the EU, but nevertheless have substantial emigrant communities and substantial flows of remittances as well. According to the World Bank's report on Migration and Remittances

¹⁰⁹ Canek M. Enlargement of the Schengen Area and possible consequences for the visa regime towards Ukrainian citizens. A comparative analysis of the Czech and Polish cases: <http://www.migrationonline.cz/e-library/?x=2054732>

¹¹⁰ Herm A. (2008) Recent migration trends: citizens of EU-27 Member states become ever more mobile while EU remains attractive to non-EU citizens. Eurostat http://epp.Eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-08-098/EN/KS-SF-08-098-EN.PDF

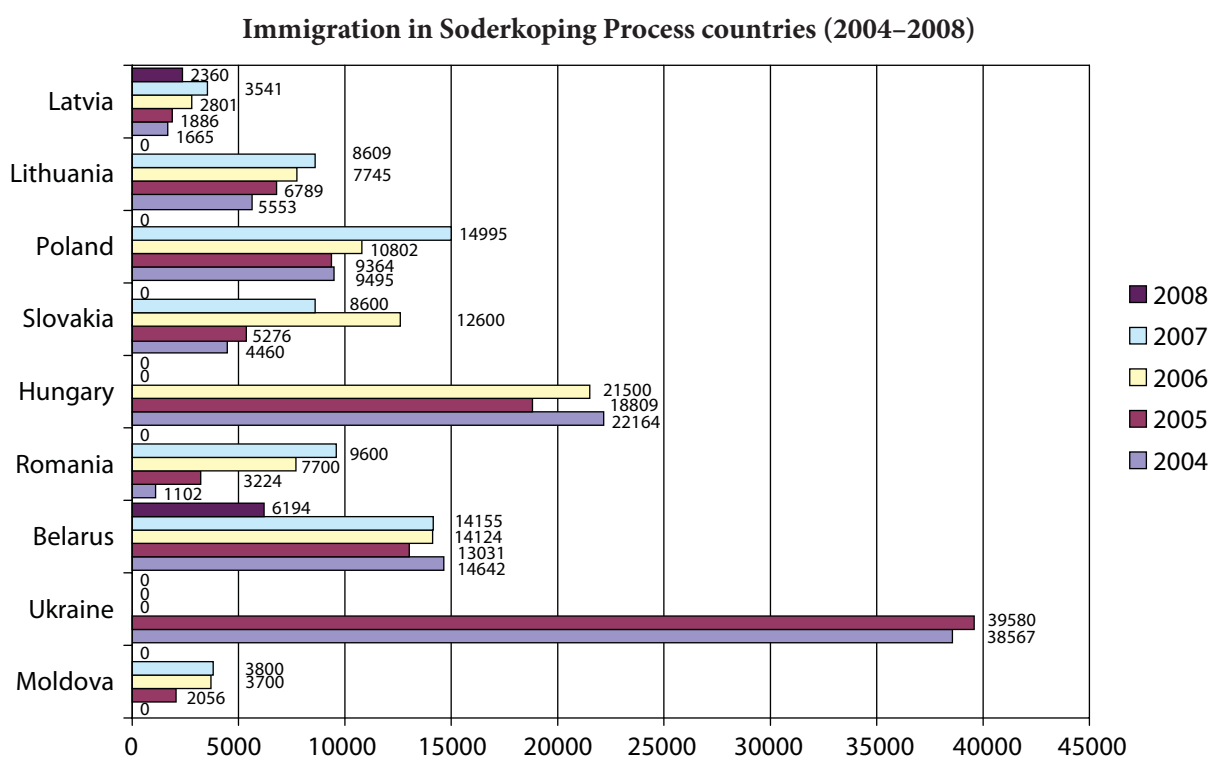
¹¹¹ Kaczmarczyk P., Okolski M. Economic impacts of migration on Poland and Baltic states. Fafo-paper, 2008

¹¹² However, according to the latest data, the unemployment rate in the United Kingdom started to rise and the predictions of the Commission of Equalities and Human Rights testify that about one million economic migrants could leave the country due to the economic crisis and relatively low labour force demand (Recession will send 1 million immigrant workers home, race chief says: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/3275200/Recession-will-send-1-million-immigrant-workers-home-race-chief-says.html>). This mass outflow of labour migrants could be the biggest emigration wave in the history of the United Kingdom. As is seen from migration trends and official predictions, huge emigration movement from Poland and Baltic States as well as the global economic crisis can make an impact on the shape of migration movement not only in the new member states of the EU, but also in Western Europe, particularly in the UK.

(2008)¹¹³, Moldova, with more than 36% of its GDP coming from immigrants who send money home, has the highest value of remittances in the world.

To generalize, the data for 2004–2005 and for 2006–2007 registered considerable emigration from most SP countries. It remains to be seen how the emigration trends will be shaped by new factors: on the one hand, the global economic recession and lower demand for labour may reduce emigration levels. It may also intensify return migration; however, it may not be at the same levels to all SP countries and will depend on opportunities available in home countries.

Immigration: key points



Source: graph prepared by authors based on 2006–2008 data from state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report. 2004–2005 data is based on a previous report of Migration Trends in Söderköping Process countries.

Notes: For 2008, the first half of the year is reported. 0 is indicated for those countries where data was not available.

A trend that can be observed when analysing SP countries from 2006–2007, is that countries with higher emigration rates (Lithuania, Moldova and Belarus) also have higher immigration rates (i.e. countries with increasing emigration also experience an increase in immigration).

In three SP countries (Lithuania, Moldova and Belarus) the immigration rate has increased while in other countries (the Slovak Republic, Romania, Poland and Latvia) it has decreased (see charts and annexes).

The biggest decrease in immigration flow is seen in the Slovak Republic: the crude immigration rate decreased from 2,3 (12 600 persons) in 2006 to 1,6 (8 600 persons) in 2007. The lowest crude immigration rate was identified in Poland and Romania: in 2007 both countries had 0,4 immigrants per 1 000 persons (see charts and annexes).

A more detailed understanding of immigration can be obtained by looking at the structure of immigration and countries of origin, we will address this issue after analysing the relationship between flows of emigration and immigration as seen in net migration.

Summarising migration movement: net migration in SP countries

As is seen from the chart about Net migration, in 2006 and 2007, four countries (Romania, Poland, Lithuania and Latvia) had negative net migration per 1 000 persons while other countries such as Belarus, Moldova, the

¹¹³ World Bank. Migration and Remittances Fact book 2008 <http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTDECPROSPECTS/0,,contentMDK:21352016~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:476883,00.html>

Slovak Republic, Ukraine, Hungary and Romania had positive net migration. Romania experienced a change from negative net migration (-0,3, or 6 500 persons) in 2006 to positive net migration (800 persons) in 2007, whereby the overall net for the period remained negative.

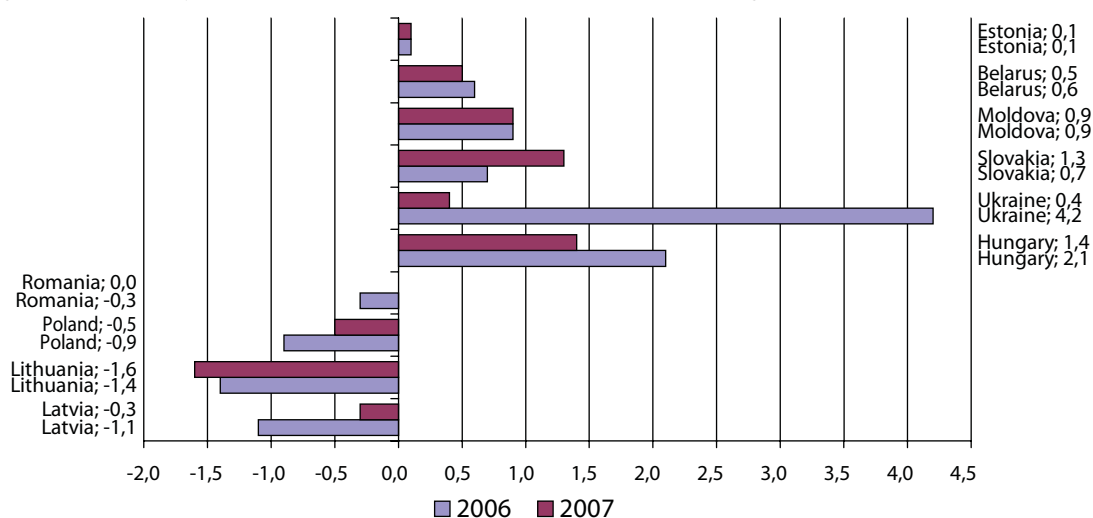
Some of the countries with positive net migration (Moldova and Belarus) did not experience any significant change from 2006–2007 while in Hungary and in Ukraine¹¹⁴ a decrease in positive net migration can be seen.

In the Slovak Republic, the biggest increase in positive net migration was identified, while migration in general was becoming less intensive – both immigration and emigration levels in 2007 were lower in comparison to 2006.

The only country where negative net migration in 2007 is larger than it was in 2006, is Lithuania (a change from -1,4 to -1,6, which corresponds with an increase in emigration during this period).

The general picture of net migration in SP countries shows that positive net migration prevails, or negative migration net is decreasing. However, in order not to overestimate this trend (or the significance of this indicator), one should keep in mind that large flows of emigration may not be fully captured by statistics, and that demographic aging and population decline is still taking place in all SP countries.

Net migration plus adjustment* per 1 000 population in Söderköping process countries (2006 and 2007)



Source: graph prepared by authors based on Eurostat: <http://epp.Eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

Notes: No data on migration in Estonia is available. No data on migration in Hungary in 2007 is available. Therefore, adjustments were included in calculations.

* Since several countries either do not have accurate figures on immigration and emigration, or have no figures at all, net migration is sometimes also estimated as the difference between the total change and the natural change between the two dates concerned. These estimates of net migration may therefore be affected by all the statistical inaccuracies in the two components of this equation and are therefore considered as inclusive of adjustments.

Structure of immigrant population

The data about residence permits (issued volumes and share of inhabitants with residence permits) is the main available indicator from the SP countries to assess the composition of the immigrant population.

In the period of 2006 to 2007, a slight increase in the number of issued residence permits was noticeable in all countries except Romania, where the number of issued residence permits decreased from 14 524 in 2006 to 8 390 in 2007, and in Moldova, where no noticeable change in the number of issued residence permits was identified (2 057 in 2006, and 2 070 in 2007).

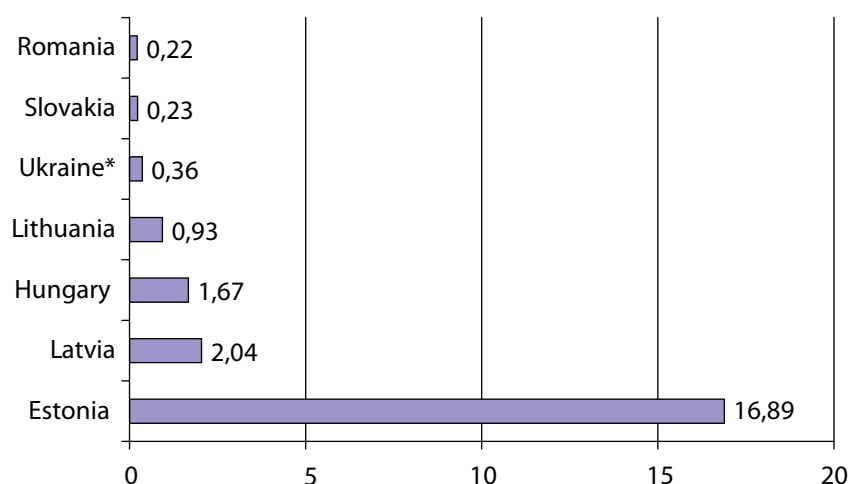
The highest increase in the number of issued residence permit can be seen in the Slovak Republic: from 11 299 in 2006 to 15 142 in 2007 (see annexes).

The share of persons with valid residence permits within the total population of particular SP countries is relatively low. The only outstanding example is Estonia where persons with valid residence permits comprise almost 17% of the total population (this is a special case that is related to large numbers of ex-Soviet non-

¹¹⁴ Herm A. (2008) Recent migration trends: citizens of EU-27 Member states become ever more mobile while EU remains attractive to non-EU citizens. Eurostat http://epp.Eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-08-098/EN/KS-SF-08-098-EN.PDF

citizens). In other countries (where data on issuance of residence permits was available) the share of persons with valid residence permits comprises a small part of the total population: from 0,22%, 0,23% and 0,36% in Romania, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine to 1,67% in Hungary and 2,04% in Latvia:

Percentage of persons with valid residence permits as a share of total population in 2007



Source: graph prepared by authors based on data from state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Note: Data on number of persons with valid residence permits in Poland, Moldova and Belarus is not available.

* With regard to Ukraine, the number of foreigners with long-term residence permits.

With reference to the main countries of origin, foreigners from the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Belarus comprise the largest groups of foreigners with residence permits in Poland and Baltic States (with the exception of Latvia, where citizens of Lithuania make up a substantial part of the foreign population with permanent and temporary residence permits). Citizens of Romania and Ukraine form the major groups of foreigners with valid residence permits in the Slovak Republic and Hungary.

While it is mainly the countries of the region that 'send' their communities to SP countries, there are also instances of larger immigrant groups from countries beyond Eastern Europe. For instance, citizens of Turkey and China in Romania, citizens of Turkey in Moldova, citizens of Kazakhstan in Belarus, and citizens of Armenia in Ukraine are among the largest foreign communities in a country.

The formation of these new diasporas seems to have begun before the EU's eastern enlargement in 2004, and the aforementioned communities were already seen in the migration statistics of the 2004–2006 review of the SP countries (it is worth noticing that similar groups of migrants can be observed both in regular and irregular flows, to be examined later). Some of these groups may be a part of labour-related migration that became an increasingly important factor in some SP countries over the reviewed period of 2006–2008.

Three largest groups of holders of residence permits according to country of origin in 2006 and 2007

SP country	Country of residents' origin		
Estonia	Russian Federation	Ukraine	Belarus
Latvia	Russian Federation	Lithuania / Ukraine	Belarus
Lithuania	Russian Federation	Ukraine	Belarus
Poland	Russian Federation	Ukraine	Belarus
Slovak Republic	Romania	Ukraine	Vietnam
Hungary	Romania	Ukraine	Germany
Romania	Moldova	Turkey	China
Belarus	Russian Federation	Ukraine	Kazakhstan
Ukraine	Russian Federation	Moldova	Armenia
Moldova	Turkey	Ukraine	Russian Federation

Source: table prepared by authors based on data from state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Labour-related immigration in SP countries

Although labour migration was not a part of this research and data about labour migration (such as numbers of work permits) was not among the data supplied by the SP country governments, it is important to mention that labour migration became an important dimension in certain SP countries in the reviewed period.

Due to large emigration movements and demographic decline most SP countries experienced labour force shortages together with increasing numbers of economic migrants. Labour force shortages were identified in Estonia, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Slovak Republic and Romania. The increasing interest in facilitating labour migration was reflected in policy initiatives in several SP countries that are EU member states: Poland, Baltic States and the Slovak Republic initiated measures for better management of labour migration movement. Although the need for foreign labour may decrease in the background of the economic downturn, the momentum in migration policy development should be used to create a secure and balanced environment for migration.

Due to the lack of data, no conclusions could be made regarding labour immigration into Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova. However, these countries are among the main suppliers of migrant workers to neighbouring SP countries.

In order to better understand the trend of labour migration and its significance as a factor in SP countries, the data on migrant workers and on work permits should be included among the indicators for future reviews of migration trends.

Structure of incoming movements: demographic characteristics of immigrants to Central European countries as of 2006¹¹⁵

On the basis of available country data from 2006, Eurostat carried out an analysis of the composition of international migration to the EU member states and compared three categories of incoming flows:

- return immigration by nationals of a given country,
- immigration by citizens of EU-27 countries to member states where they are not nationals,
- immigration by non-EU citizens.

In general in the entire EU, non-EU immigrants prevailed, but it was not the case in some SP countries. Incoming EU citizens outnumbered non-EU immigrants in Hungary and the Slovak Republic.¹¹⁶

Return migration seems to have become an important element in migratory processes to many countries. There were more returning nationals than other types of immigrants to Lithuania.

While immigration to the EU in 2006 showed a typical pattern where half of the immigrants were younger than 29 and were mostly men (114 men to 100 women among foreign immigrants), the gender differences were more visible in some countries than in others: Eastern European countries make up the top of the list where men among foreign immigrants prevail. In Lithuania and the Slovak Republic, nearly two thirds of foreign immigrants were men; men also significantly prevailed in Romania and the Czech Republic (hypotheses can be made about the prevailing labour immigration to and about types of labour needed in those countries). Poland, in contrast, recorded more incoming women than men. It can be noted, that in the EU as a whole, the gender composition of non-EU immigrants is rather balanced, while male prevalence is more visible among non-national EU migrants; male prevalence is especially visible among foreign migrants of working age (15–64).

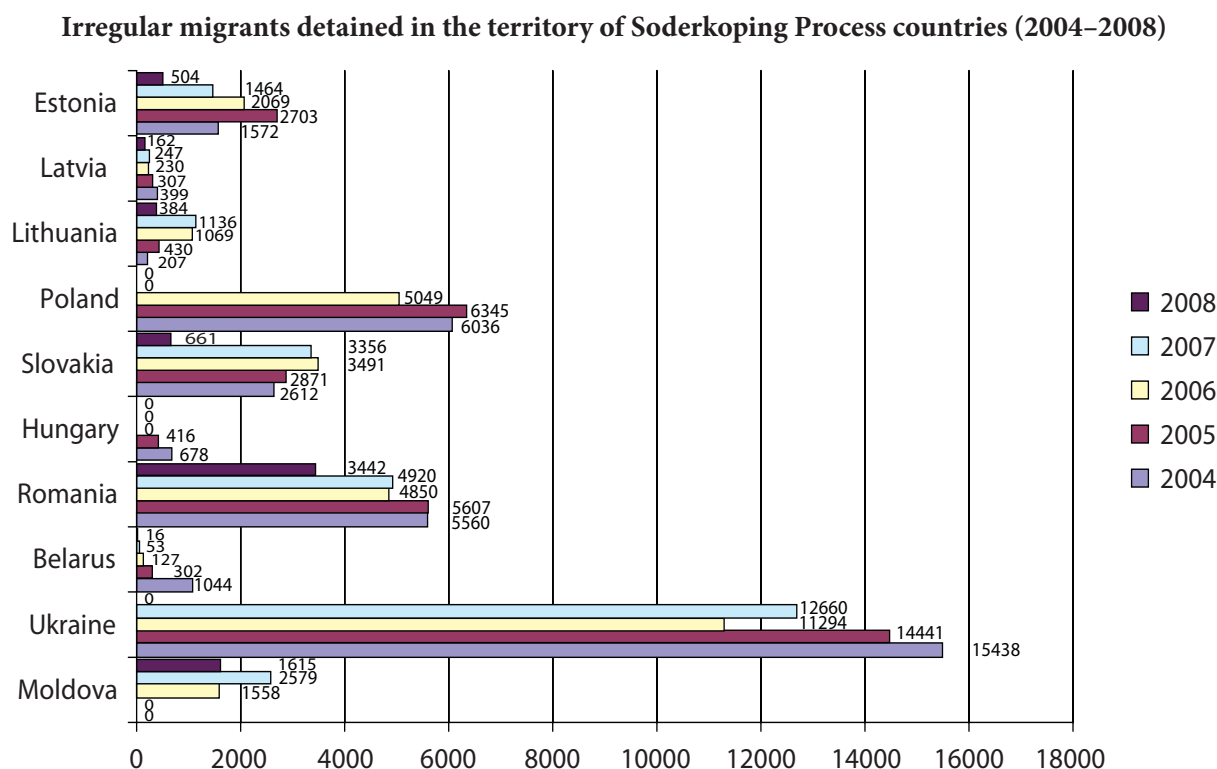
It is also noticeable that immigrants to Central European EU member states, on average, tend to be older than immigrants to the EU. More than half of the immigrants to the Czech Republic were older than 30 (mainly returning nationals), in the Slovak Republic– more than 32. The median age of incoming non-EU citizens was highest in Lithuania (31,9 years). With regard to return migration, a relatively older age of migrants is noticeable: e.g., a median age for Czech and Slovak nationals coming back to their country was 33.

¹¹⁵ Based on: Herm A. Recent migration trends: citizens of EU-27 Member states become ever more mobile while EU remains attractive to non-EU citizens. Eurostat: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-08-098/EN/KS-SF-08-098-EN.PDF

¹¹⁶ In case of Hungary, this may be related to Hungary's welcoming policies towards the Romanian citizens of ethnic Hungarian origin.

Trends in irregular migration

Detention in the territory



Sources: (1) data from state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Poland was not included in the chart due to the lack of data on undocumented migrants detained on Poland's territory.

Hungary was also not included due to the lack of data on undocumented migration.

In the analysis of undocumented migration in the territory of SP countries some particular main trends could hardly be identified. The most outstanding example of an increasingly large number of detained persons is Moldova, where the number of persons concerned increased by more than 60% (from 1 558 in 2006 to 2 579 in 2007) pointing to a new transit route. The second example is Ukraine: the number of detained undocumented migrants in the territory of Ukraine increased by 9% (from 11 294 in 2006 to 12 660 in 2007). Trends of slightly increasing numbers also could be seen in Lithuania, Romania and Latvia (see chart and annexes).

In other countries (Belarus, Estonia and the Slovak Republic) the number of undocumented migrants detained on the territory has decreased. In spite of the general decrease, especially noticeable is a higher detention of citizens of Ukraine in the Slovak Republic, whose number increased from 116 in 2004 to 1 200 in 2007.

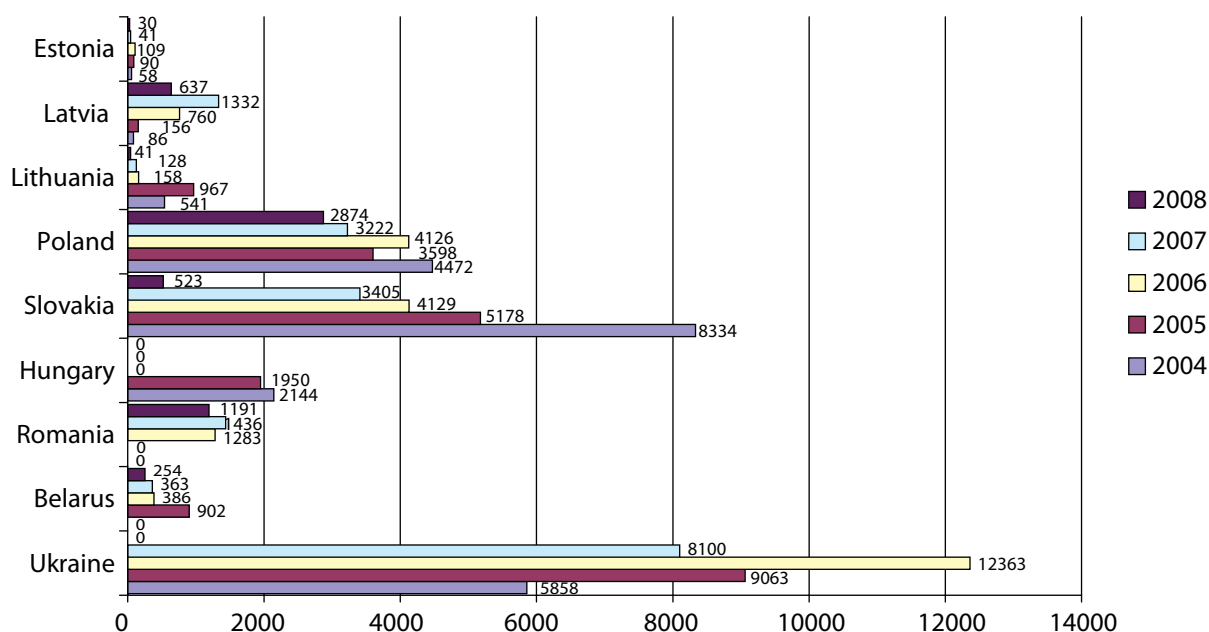
The most visible decrease is seen in Estonia –from 2 069 in 2006 to 1 464 in 2007 respectively (see chart and annexes). The most outstanding example of the lowest number of detained persons is Belarus.

Apprehension at the borders

Hungary was not included in the chart due to the lack of data on undocumented migration. Moldova was also not included because only overall data (from 2006 to 2008) on apprehension of undocumented migrants is available which is not disaggregated by country of origin.

A similar trend is observed in the numbers of apprehensions of undocumented migrants at the borders of SP countries. Ukraine remains with the highest volume of apprehended persons and the biggest increase in their number from 5 858 in 2004 to 12 363 in 2006. After 2006, the number of apprehended irregular migrants began decreasing and dropped to 8 100 in 2007 and 6 100 in 2008. Romania experienced a slight increase of apprehended persons while in Latvia the number of apprehended undocumented migrants has almost doubled – from 760 in 2006 to 1 332 in 2007 (see charts and annexes).

Irregular migrants apprehended at the borders of Soderkoping Process countries (2004–2008)



Sources: (1) data from state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

In other countries (Estonia, Lithuania, Belarus, Poland and the Slovak Republic) the number of undocumented migrants which were apprehended at the borders decreased in 2007 in comparison to 2006. The biggest decrease was identified in Poland (from 4 126 in 2006 to 3 222 in 2007) and the Slovak Republic (from 4 129 in 2006 to 3 405 in 2007) (see charts and annexes). While numbers of persons apprehended at the borders decreased in Poland and the Slovak Republic from 2006 to 2007, the Slovak Republic still has a volume of apprehended migrants that is high relative to the length of its external border with the EU Member States.

The number of apprehended undocumented migrants at the borders decreased in most new Schengen member states (except in Latvia) and increased in a non Schengen EU member state – Romania. This data suggests that the routes of undocumented migration may be shifting towards non Schengen countries.

Summarising irregular migration in SP countries: general trends

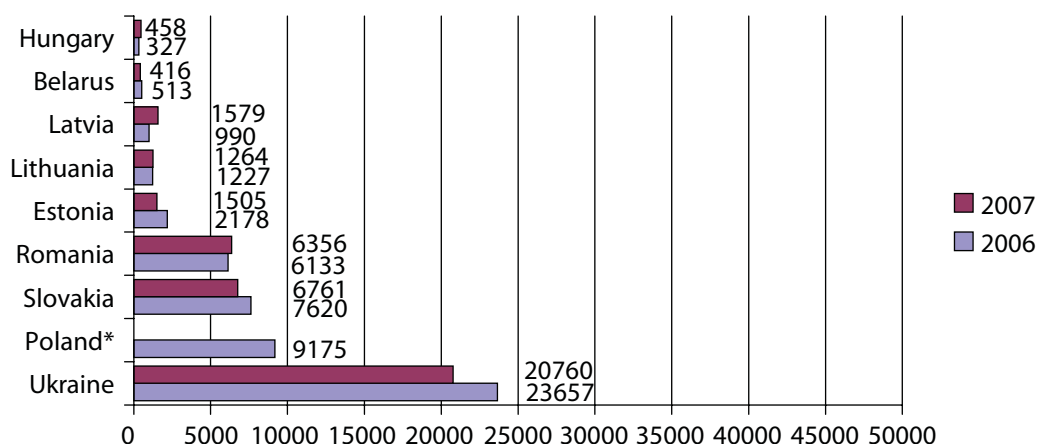
The total number of detained and apprehended irregular migrants in the entire SP region decreased from 23 657 in 2006 to 20 760 in 2007. The highest volume of undocumented migrants that were detained in the territory and at the borders of SP countries is in the largest country of the region – Ukraine.

According to the data, four countries (Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania) experienced an increase and three countries (the Slovak Republic, Estonia and Ukraine) showed a decrease in the total number of detained undocumented migrants in the territory and at the borders.

The flows of irregular migrants attempting to cross borders illegally might be shifting away from the Schengen countries to other routes, such as Romania which saw a slight increase in apprehended irregular migrants in 2007, along with an increased number of apprehended irregulars in Moldova. Also, it is important to point out the situation in Ukraine where a high number of foreigners that were denied entry to Ukraine can be found (for instance, in 2007 the number of persons that were not let into the country was 4,5 times higher than the number of those who were actually apprehended at the borders). The number of those apprehended had been growing till 2006, and then went down in 2007 and 2008. However, since 2004, Ukrainian statistics annually register an increasing number of those who were not allowed to enter Ukraine. While formally this is not a part of irregular migration, it gives a certain indication of an existing interest and potential to migrate to or through Ukraine.

Uncertainty about irregular migration movement remains with regard to Belarus, which has one of the lowest rates of apprehended irregular migrants, while its neighbouring countries Latvia and Lithuania apprehended more persons in 2007 than in 2006.

Undocumented migrants detained in the territory and apprehended at the borders (2006–2007)



Sources: data from state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

* There is no data on undocumented migrants detained on Poland's territory in 2007 available. Moldova was not included because only overall data (from 2006 to 2008) on apprehension of undocumented migrants is available.

Changing tendencies in irregular migration

Volumes of irregular migration that is being captured by national statistics are higher in the region of SP countries in comparison to the previous period (2004–2006). The general picture of all SP countries considered in a 2,5 year period is that there were 54 604 irregular migrants apprehended at the country borders during 2006, 2007 and the first half of 2008. This marks a considerable increase in comparison to the previously reviewed 2,5 year (2004, 2005 and the first half of 2006), when 32 082 persons were apprehended when irregularly crossing borders. A similar increase was identified in the number of undocumented migrants detained in the territories of SP countries: 58 407 persons in comparison to 38 293 during the previous review period.¹¹⁷

However, when the time frame of 2006, 2007 and the first half of 2008 is considered, there seems to be a decreasing trend in the number of those apprehended at the borders and detained in the territory. The total number of irregular migrants apprehended at the borders of all SP countries peaked at 23 641 in 2006 and decreased to 18 485 in 2007. The total number of irregular migrants detained in the territory of all SP countries decreased as well: from 28 343 in 2006 to 24 065 in 2007 (see annexes: Total number of irregular migrants apprehended at the borders and detained in the territory of SP countries).

Countries of origin

With regards to the main countries of origin, by and large the same flows of migration prevail both in regular and irregular migration (in other words, part of the migration flow between certain countries goes through regular channels, while the other part at the same time fills the existing channels of irregular migration). That means that the largest countries of the region of and around SP countries such as the Russian Federation and Ukraine are the main source of both regular and irregular migrants in SP countries. However, Moldova, even though it is a smaller country, is also among the main three origin countries of apprehended irregular migrants in Latvia, Belarus, Ukraine, the Slovak Republic, Hungary and Romania.

In terms of sub regional differences between the SP countries, the prevailing migrant movements coming to the Baltic countries and Poland, both regular and irregular, are from the countries in the SP region or Eastern Europe. The same tendency is noticed in Moldova.

The Central European states Slovak Republic, Hungary and Romania encounter more movements from the Balkans – an increase in irregular migrants from Serbia/Kosovo was a trend throughout 2006–2008 in all three of these countries. At the same time, Hungary and Romania seem to have become established as destination countries for migrants from China and Turkey (the latter also reaching Moldova), reflected in figures of regular and irregular migration both in the previous review period of 2004–2005 and in 2006–2008. While Romania is traditionally a receiver of a substantial movement of Moldovan population, it also seems to be occasionally

¹¹⁷ The total number of irregular migrants (apprehended at the borders and detained in the territory) was calculated on the basis of available national statistics for illuminating the general situation in the SP region. However, please be aware that there are certain differences between national methodologies with regards to data collection about irregular migration, and that not all countries provided detailed data.

tried out as a new route by other flows of migrants: from Serbia, Iraq, India (2007–2008). India and Pakistan is a noticeable element in apprehension statistics in the Slovak Republic and Romania in 2007–2008 pointing to a particular transit route.

Belarus and Ukraine are receiving more migrants from CIS countries in comparison to other SP countries. However, in terms of irregular migrants that are being detained, there is a variety of migrants from a range of Asian countries (e.g. in Belarus, irregular migrants from China were among the more numerous). It can be stated that Ukraine is experiencing more diverse immigrant flows than the rest of the SP countries. This is related to the distant border that Belarus and Ukraine have with the Russian Federation, and to the fact that the effectiveness of the management of this border is not well known and remains a considerable challenge.

While most trends of regular and irregular immigration remain the same over the previously reviewed period (2004–2006) and at present (2006–2008), there are two factors that noticeably affect the structure of immigration in the most recent period: the political conflicts in the countries outside the SP region, and processes related to labour-migration.

Immigrant flows related to political instability

The review of data about detained migrants by country allows us to notice some countries of origin that are beyond Eastern Europe and/or are characterised by specific push factors such as military conflicts or political instability. In the period under review (2006–2008), Serbia was stood out as the country of origin of apprehended migrants in Hungary, Georgia – in Belarus. Citizens of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan were among the larger detained groups in Ukraine.

In comparison to previous years (2004–2005), Georgia was noticed as a country from which the number of migrants apprehended in Belarus, Ukraine and the Slovak Republic increased. Similarly, the appearance and detention of citizens of Pakistan in the Slovak Republic was new. On the contrary the apprehensions of irregular migrants from the Russian Federation, decreased from 2006–2008 in comparison to 2004–2005 in most countries, especially in Poland (this may be related to a decreased flow of Chechen refugees, when part of them were being detained as irregular migrants).

With regard to labour migration which has been discussed previously, it can be mentioned that labour-related migration may well become interrelated to other types of migration movements due to developing migrant communities. As far as larger diasporas are concerned, it may be once again mentioned that irregular migrants from China were among the more numerous in Belarus and Romania, Romania has also detained certain numbers of migrants from Turkey, the Slovak Republic– from Pakistan and India.

VI. Conclusions

The data that is currently available from the governments with regard to migration is often limited and not streamlined. The change, however is noticeable in the **increase in awareness of such data problems**: the shortcomings of the traditional statistical practices in a number of states and the need for revision of data collection methodologies is not only being emphasized by researchers or policy experts, but is increasingly being recognised by the governments.

Regardless of information shortcomings, the data nevertheless confirms the existence of the trends that were observed during the last decade, and enable us to make assumptions about new migration tendencies

Emigration is substantial in most SP countries, but it **decreased in 2007** in all the reviewed EU members except Lithuania. The emigration from the countries on the Eastern side of the EU border – Belarus and Moldova – on the contrary, increased.

However, emigration, a continuing massive trend both in 2004–2006 and in 2007–2008, is likely to have effects on some SP countries in the future – in that returning emigrants may become a factor influencing return migration and diaspora policies. Baltic countries, Poland and Romania belong to this cluster of emigration countries that over the last decade formed **certain ‘traditional’ patterns of migration to particular countries**. The choice of countries of destination for migrants from these and other recently acceded EU Members is largely influenced by “old” EU countries opening their labour markets after the EU enlargements in 2004 as well as 2007.

It is clear to see that all the SP countries are increasingly becoming destination countries. While it was commonplace for more than a decade to observe that these countries were transit countries and sending countries, now many countries have a positive net migration (Ukraine, Hungary, the Slovak Republic, Moldova, Belarus and Estonia) or the negative net migration decreased from 2006 to 2007 (in Latvia, Poland, and Romania; it has increased only in Lithuania).

The SP countries establish themselves as destination countries for non-EU citizens. While the share of the population living with residence permits is not substantial in most countries (ranging from 0,22% in Romania to 2,04% in Latvia¹¹⁸), the number of residence permits issued for foreigners increased in most countries from 2006 to 2007.

With regards to the main countries of origin, by and large the same tendencies of migration prevail both in regular and irregular migration (in other words, part of a migration flow between certain countries goes through the regular channels, while other part simultaneously fills the existing channels of irregular migration). This means that the largest countries of the region neighbouring the SP states, such as the Russian Federation, but also Ukraine are the main source of both regular and irregular migrants in SP countries. However, Moldova, even though a smaller country, is also among the origin countries of apprehended irregular migrants.

Most data about the countries of origin of irregular migrants shows similar tendencies from 2006–2008 as they were from 2004–2005. In the period under review (2006–2008), citizens of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan were among the largest detained groups in Ukraine. Irregular migrants from China were among the more numerous in Belarus and Romania; Romania has also detained certain numbers of migrants from Turkey. As a new flow, Georgia was noticed as a country from which the number of migrants apprehended in Belarus, Ukraine and the Slovak Republic increased. Similarly, the appearance and detention of an increased number of migrants from Pakistan and India in the Slovak Republic was new.

Those SP countries that are EU members are destination countries also for migrants from EU member states, including countries participating in the Söderköping Process.

Return migration, although not part of this research must be mentioned as **a significant element in immigration** to many of the reviewed countries and was also noticed in the Eurostat analysis of 2006 data. It is especially noticeable as a part of immigration to Lithuania, otherwise having the greatest negative net migration, and to a lesser extent also Poland.

Irregular migration movements in the SP region seem to be affected by migration management measures, most of which are related to the emergence of one large migration management system – the enlarged Schengen Area. On the one hand, volumes of irregular migration, as captured by national statistics, **in the region of SP countries over the period of 2006–2008 are higher in comparison to the previous period (2004–2006)**. On

¹¹⁸ Estonia's nearly 17% is a special case related to large numbers of ex-Soviet non-citizens

the other hand, we observed a decreasing trend in the numbers of apprehended and detained irregulars in all SP countries from 2006 to 2008.

The movement of irregular migrants attempting to cross borders illegally might be shifting away from the Schengen countries to other routes, such as Romania. The slight increase in apprehended irregular migrants in Romania in 2007, along with an increasing number of apprehended irregular migrants in Moldova and an increasing number of foreigners who were not allowed to enter the territory of Ukraine, can be seen as pointing to this assumption. While numbers of persons apprehended at the borders decreased in Poland and the Slovak Republic from 2006 to 2007, the Slovak Republic still has a volume of apprehended migrants that is high relative to the length of its external EU border with Ukraine. Uncertainty about irregular migration movement remains with regard to Belarus, which has one of the lowest rates of apprehended irregular migrants, while its neighbouring countries Latvia and Lithuania apprehended more persons in 2007 than in 2006.

Irregular migration movements from the Russian Federation decreased from 2006–2008 in comparison to 2004–2005 in most countries, especially in Poland.

Given the uncertainty related to the global economic crisis, there is also ambiguity about the stability of the migration trends that were observed in 2006–2008. Strengthening economies connected to EU accession were conducive for attracting incoming migration to the countries reviewed. However, so far one can only speculate what the effects of the economic slow-down will be. It is important to realize that even though there is a slow-down in the economies of the countries concerned, the slowing down is a relative process. Thus, even though demand for labour may somewhat decrease, the demand for cheap labour (usually represented by immigrant workers) may well remain. And finally, certain migration networks that were established during recent years may remain viable and ready to react vividly to any new opportunities, should they appear.

This means that there are powerful factors that may influence migration movements in the near future, and that future years will need both effective monitoring and creative thinking in order to keep migration policies relevant.

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ANNEXES

Main abbreviations and terms used

SP – Söderköping Process

N/D – no data

FRONTEX – European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member states of the EU

Crude rate – the crude rate is estimated as the ratio of the number of events to the person-years of exposure to the risk in a given year, the person-years being estimated from the average population. For clearer presentation, it is multiplied by 1 000.¹¹⁹

Net migration plus adjustment – since several countries either do not have accurate figures on immigration and emigration or have no figures at all, net migration is sometimes also estimated as the difference between the total change and the natural change between the two dates concerned. These estimates of net migration may therefore be affected by all the statistical inaccuracies in the two components of this equation and are therefore considered as inclusive of adjustments.¹²⁰

¹¹⁹ From „Population and social conditions“, Eurostat, 81/2008: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-08-081/EN/KS-SF-08-081-EN.PDF

¹²⁰ Ibid.

Immigration / emigration movement and migration net in Söderköping Process countries

	Latvia			Lithuania			Poland			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Immigration movement	1 665	1 886	2 801	3 541	2 360	5 553	6 789	7 745	8 609	N/D
Emigration movement	2 744	2 450	5 252	4 183	3 935	15 165	15 571	12 602	13 853	N/D
Migration net	-1 079	-564	-2 451	-642	-1 575	-9 612	-8 782	-4 857	-5 244	N/D
	Romania			Hungary			The Slovak Republic			
Immigration movement	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Emigration movement	1 102	3 224	7 700	9 600	N/D	22 164	18 809	21 500	N/D	N/D
Migration net	13 082	N/D	14 200	8 800	N/D	3 466	3 848	3 600	N/D	N/D
	Moldova			Ukraine			Belarus			
Immigration movement	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Emigration movement	N/D	2 056	3 700	3 800	N/D	38 567	39 580	N/D	N/D	N/D
Migration net	N/D	6 827	6 685	7 172	N/D	46 182	34 997	33 261	30 560	10 675
	Estonia									
Immigration movement	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Emigration movement	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	-7 615	4 583	N/D	N/D	N/D
Migration net	N/D	-4 771	-2 985	-3 372	N/D					

NOTES:
Time frame: Data under review are 2006–2007 and the first half of 2008.
Comparability: Due to differences in national methodology of data collection and definitions, a comparison between particular countries might be inaccurate.

Sources: (1) data from state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report; (2) national data resources: websites of respective statistical offices and other institutions (see references); (3) Eurostat: since all collected and revised statistical data on immigration and emigration movement corresponds to data provided by Eurostat, the data for particular periods, that was not provided by the countries for this study directly, were supplemented with Eurostat data (the data of Eurostat is rounded up), i.e.: Romania – immigration and emigration in 2006 and 2007; Hungary – immigration and emigration in 2006 and 2007; Moldova – immigration and emigration in 2006 and 2007; The definitions of emigrant and immigrant in the legal bases of the SP countries are different. For instance until 2008, the category of emigrant in Lithuanian statistics referred to a person who has left the country for a period that is, or is likely to be, longer than 6 months (the same period of time applied for immigrants). But since 2008, the period of time was extended to up to 12 months.

Immigration and emigration movement in Söderköping Process countries. Eurostat data:

Country	Immigration		Emigration	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
Latvia	2 800	3 500	5 300	4 200
Lithuania	7 700	8 600	12 600	13 900
Poland	10 800	15 000	46 900	35 500
Romania	7 700	9 600	14 200	8 800
Hungary	21 500	N/D	3 600	N/D
The Slovak Republic	12 600	8 600	3 100	1 800
Moldova	3 700	3 800	6 700	7 200
Ukraine	44 200	758 300	30 000	741 500
Belarus	14 100	14 200	8 500	9 500
Estonia	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D

Source: Eurostat: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

Net migration in Söderköping Process countries: Eurostat data:

Country	Net migration plus adjustment ¹²¹ (per 1 000 population)		Crude immigration rate (per 1 000 population)		Crude emigration rate (per 1 000 population)	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Latvia	-1.1	-0.3	1.2	1.6	2.3	1.8
Lithuania	-1.4	-1.6	2.3	2.6	3.7	4.1
Poland	-0.9	-0.5	0.3	0.4	1.2	0.9
Romania	-0.3	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.4
Hungary	2.1	1.4*	2.1	N/D	0.4	N/D
The Slovak Republic	0.7	1.3	2.3	1.6	0.6	0.3
Moldova	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.9	2.0
Ukraine	4.2	0.4	0.9	16.3	0.6	15.9
Belarus	0.6	0.5	1.5	1.5	0.9	1.0
Estonia	0.1	0.1	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D

Source: Eurostat: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

* Provisional

¹²¹ Since several countries either do not have accurate figures on immigration and emigration or have no figures at all, net migration is sometimes also estimated as the difference between the total change and the natural change between the two dates concerned. These estimates of net migration may therefore be affected by all the statistical inaccuracies in the two components of this equation and are therefore considered as inclusive of adjustments.

Countries whose citizens were the most numerous immigrants to the EU Member states in 2006

Czech Republic		Denmark		Germany		Greece		Spain	
Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number
Ukraine	30 150	Poland	3 616	Poland	152 733	Albania	36 841	Romania	131 457
The Slovak Republic	6 781	Germany	2 743	Turkey	30 720	Bulgaria	13 210	Morocco	78 512
Vietnam	6 433	Norway	1 880	Romania	23 743	Romania	5 034	Bolivia	77 755
the Russian Federation	4 675	USA	1 840	Hungary	18 654	Egypt	4 843	UK	42 535
Moldova	2 377	Ukraine	1 650			Ukraine	3 290	Columbia	35 621
France		Cyprus		Latvia		Lithuania		Luxembourg	
Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number
Algeria	28 454	Sri Lanka	1 838	the Russian Federation	803	Belarus	647	Portugal	3 796
Morocco	24 054	UK	1 575	Lithuania	269	Russia	396	France	2 510
China	11 232	Philippines	1 443	Germany	223	Ukraine	294	Germany	929
Tunisia	10 345	Greece	1 236	Estonia	80	USA	141	Belgium	911
Turkey	8 760	Poland	941	Ukraine	76	Germany	84	Italy	619
Hungary		Netherlands		Austria		Portugal		Romania	
Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number
Romania	6 813	Germany	7 150	Germany	16 223	Ukraine	7 063	Moldova	4 349
Ukraine	2 365	Poland	6 772	Serbia and Mont.	7 423	Brazil	6 036	China	364
China	1 466	UK	3 583	Poland	6 035	Moldova	2 646	Italy	313
Germany	1 176	USA	3 121	Turkey	4 897	Cape Verde	1 723	USA	292
Serbia and Mont.	1 120	China	2 908	Romania	4 757	Romania	1 610	Turkey	273
Slovenia		The Slovak Republic		Finland		Sweden		UK	
Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number	Nationality	Number
Bosnia and Herz.	7 871	Czech Republic	1 294	Estonia	2 468	Iraq	10 850	Poland	59 771
Serbia and Mont.	4 447	Poland	1 132	the Russian Federation	2 146	Poland	6 347	India	56 850
Macedonia	2 097	Ukraine	1 007	Sweden	749	Denmark	5 137	China	25 927
Croatia	1 146	Germany	913	China	512	Somalia	2 974	South Africa	16 213
Ukraine	357	Serbia and Mont.	640	India	504	Germany	2 883	Australia	26 004

Source: Herrm A. Recent migration trends: citizens of EU-27 Member states become ever more mobile while EU remains attractive to non-EU citizens. Eurostat: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-08-098/EN/KS-SF-08-098-EN.PDF

Note: No data of the year 2006 of Italy and Belgium are available.

Residence permits issued per year and number of persons with valid residence permits in Söderköping Process countries:

	Latvia		Lithuania		Poland			Romania			Hungary				
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008			
Number of persons with valid residence permits	40 475 ¹²²	45 870	N/D	35 300	33 100	33 400	N/D	N/D	N/D	53 606	49 775	53 711	154 430	166 030	174 697
Residence permits issued per year	6 166	7 613	N/D	11 110	12 667	N/D	26 626	27 168	16 470	14 524	8 390	14 486	N/D	N/D	N/D
	The Slovak Republic		Moldova		Ukraine			Belarus			Estonia¹²³				
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008 ¹²⁴	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Number of persons with valid residence permits	11 299	15 142	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	149 408	165 029*	170 733	N/D	N/D	N/D	229 600	220 837	218 210
Residence permits issued per year	N/D	N/D	N/D	2 057	2 070	1 442	213 749	113 958**	93 666	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D

Sources:

- (1) data from state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report;
- (2) national data resources: websites of respective statistical offices and other authorities (see references);
- (3) * Number of foreigners with long-term residence permits.
- (4) ** Number of foreigners with issued temporary residence permits.

NOTES:

Time frame: Data under review are from 2006–2007 and the first half of 2008.

Comparability: Due to differences in the national methodology of data collection and definitions, a comparison between particular countries might be inaccurate.

¹²² 2006 (data by 15 of January, 2007); 2007 (data by the 1st of January, 2008).

¹²³ 2006 (data by the 1st of January, 2007); 2007 (data by the 1st of January, 2008); 2008 (data by the 1st of July, 2008).

¹²⁴ During the first half.

Irregular migrants detained in the territory and apprehended at the borders of Söderköping Process countries

	Latvia			Lithuania			Poland			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Irregular migrants detained on the territory	399	307	230	247	162	207	430	1 069	1 136	384
Irregular migrants apprehended at the borders	86	156	760	1 332	637	541	967	158	128	41
Total:	485	463	990	1 579	799	748	1 397	1 227	1 264	425
	Romania			Hungary ¹²⁵			The Slovak Republic			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Irregular migrants detained on the territory	5 560	5 607	4 850	4 920	3 442	678	416	N/D	N/D	N/D
Irregular migrants apprehended at the borders	N/D	N/D	1 283	1 436	1 191	21 44	1 950	N/D	N/D	N/D
Total:	N/D	N/D	6 133	6 356	N/D	2 822	2 366	327	458	251
	Moldova ¹²⁶			Ukraine			Belarus			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Irregular migrants detained on the territory	N/D	N/D	1 558	2 579	1 615	15 438	14 441	11 294	12 660	N/D
Irregular migrants apprehended at the borders	N/D	N/D	1 407 (total in 06-07-08)			5 858	9 063	12 363	8 100	6 100
Total:	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	N/D	21 296	23 504	23 657	20 760	N/D
	Estonia			NOTES:						
	2004	2004	2004	2004	2008	2008				
Irregular migrants detained on the territory	1 572	2 703	2 069	1 464	504					
Irregular migrants apprehended at the borders	58	90	109	41	30					
Total:	1 630	2 793	2 178	1 505	534					

Sources:

(1) data from state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report;

(2) national data resources: websites of respective statistical offices and other institutions (see references).

Time frame: Data under review are from 2006-2007 and the first half of 2008.
Comparability: Due to differences in the national methodology of data collection and definitions, a comparison between particular countries might be inaccurate.

¹²⁵ Only overall data on undocumented migration (detained on the territory and apprehended at the borders) is available.

¹²⁶ Only overall data (from 2006 to 2008) on apprehension of undocumented migrants is available.

Total number of irregular migrants apprehended at the borders and detained in the territory of SP countries

	2006	2007	2008 (VI)	Total number (2006–2008-VI)
A. Apprehended at the borders in all SP countries	23 641	18 485	12 478	54 604
B. Detained in the territory in all SP countries	28 343	24 065	5 999	58 407
Total number of detained (A + B)	51 984	42 550	18 477	113 011

Sources: data from state authorities received by official request for the purposes of this report.

Notes: No data available on (1) Detained irregular migrants in Poland's territory in 2007 and 2008 and (2) detained irregular migrants in the territory of Ukraine in 2008.

Hungary: Only the total number of apprehended and detained irregular migrants was provided. The average was calculated.

Moldova: Only an aggregated number (2006 – first half of 2008) of apprehended irregular migrants was provided. The average was calculated.