

SLOVAKIA

1 Arrivals

1 Total number of applications for asylum lodged and percentage variation between years

2004: 11,391 (2003:10,358) +10%

Source of information: Archive of the Migration Office.

Comments

Slovakia has seen a steady increase in the number of applications for asylum being submitted in the last few years. In 2002 the figure was 9,743. Slovakia appears to be a transit country for many asylum seekers who are trying to access western European countries. This did not change in 2004.

2 Breakdown according to the country of origin/nationality of applicant, with percentage variation

Table 1:

	2004	2003	%
India	2969	1639	+81.1
Russian Federation	2413	2646	-8.8
China	1271	1079	17.8
Georgia	989	580	+70.5
Moldova	826	587	+40.7
Pakistan	799	-	-
Bangladesh	544	544	0
Afghanistan	393	660	-40.5

Comments

There was a big increase in the number of Indian nationals arriving in Slovakia. This is possibly due to changed smuggling routes out of this region. The increase in arrivals from Georgia and Moldova could be explained by the bad economic situations in those countries, together with their proximity to Slovakia. The decrease in applications from the Russian Federation could indicate an improving situation in Chechnya, but the increase is not remarkable.

5 Unaccompanied minors

2004: 196 (2003: 707)

2 Recognition Rates

6 The statuses accorded at first instance and appeal stages as an absolute number and percentage of overall decisions

Table 2:

	Number applications decided	Temporary protection status	Asylum granted at first instance	Asylum granted on appeal
2004	1,312	0	No. 15 % 1.14	0
2003	432	0	11 2.55	0

8 Subsidiary and other status granted (as an absolute number and as a percentage of total decisions) according to country of origin, at first instance and appeal stages

Table 3:

	Country of origin	Number of granted refugees	Number of decisions	Percentage rate
1	Russia	5	295	1.69%
2	Iran	4	2	50.00%
3	Congo	2	1	100.00%
4	Stateless	1	2	50.00%
5	Kuwait	1	1	100.00%
6	Egypt	1	1	100.00%
7	Angola	1	2	50.00%
Total		15		1.14%

3 Returns, Removals, Detention and Dismissed Claims

11 Number of applications determined inadmissible
2004: 239.

5 Legal & Procedural Developments

18 New legislation passed

2004 – Amendment implementing the Directive on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons.

2005 – Amendment implementing the Directive on minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers.

Under the Directive on minimum standards for giving temporary protection, an accelerated procedure was adopted and a new rule stopped the processing of an asylum case where an asylum seeker remains outside of an asylum facility for more than seven days without permissions. It is possible to speed up an accelerated procedure further in certain circumstances, e.g. manifestly unfounded cases, so that the Migration Office takes a decision within only seven days. In the case of rejected, inadmissible or manifestly unfounded cases the appeal no longer has suspensive effect. The process for delivering asylum decisions was set out in detail. Free basic health care is now provided to asylum seekers by the state (In January, a new law altered this to emergency health care only – but the practice has not changed much as a result) and it was also made possible for people had been awarded refugee status to remain in asylum facilities in certain circumstances for a small fee.

The following alterations have been made in line with the transposition of the Reception Directive:

- quarantine camps have been changed into refugee facilities. There are two types of reception facilities in Slovakia; reception camps and accommodation camps. A medical examination is made within 30 days of arrival at a reception camp, following this asylum seekers are transferred to an accommodation camp to await for the decision on their application.
- specific police facilities were denoted places where applications could be made.
- unaccompanied minors are now appointed a guardian both for the procedural aspects of their cases and accommodation.
- Asylum seekers have access to the job market if a decision has not been reached on their case in one year.
- There is a duty to provide Slovak language classes for recognised refugees.
- The state may ask an applicant to share costs where this is appropriate.
- Medical assessment to determine the age of unaccompanied minors has been introduced

22 Developments regarding readmission and cooperation agreements

A readmission agreement with Ukraine came into effect in 2005 at the beginning of the Juscenko presidency. Due to cooperation agreements between Ukraine and Slovakia, since May 2005 Ukrainians no longer have to pay for visas to enter Slovakia.

Biography

Zelmira Gerova

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