



# **National State of the Art Report**

ReEntry – Supporting Migrants into Self-Employment

Prepared by INTEGRA INSTITUTE

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## Socio-economic Profile of Migrants in your country

Statistics show that the number of Slovenian citizens decreases and the number of foreign citizens is increasing. In Slovenia, 1 January 2016, the population consisted of 2,064,188 citizens of the Republic of Slovenia (RS), of which there were 107,766 foreign nationals, or 5.2% of the population. The data show that the largest number of migrants in Slovenia accounted for the residents of the former Yugoslavia. Their share among the citizens of the Republic of Slovenia in the last five years continuously and slowly declining, the proportion of migrants EU Member States and third-country migrants is increasing.

Similarly, as in other new EU member states, Slovenia has the most foreigners (about 90 percent) of immigrants who have come from neighbouring countries; with the largest share of foreigner workers in Slovenia, representing the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Among them are men. The main reasons for immigration in the last few years: employment, seasonal work and family reunification. The largest proportion was settled in Central and Savinja region. Immigrants (third country nationals) are typically employed in particular economic sectors, such as construction and manufacturing, and within them mainly occupy less demanding jobs. This should be a description of the average immigrant, a third country national. However, managers of policies should not only be addressed through superficial examination of the basic demographics of the immigrant population.

The unemployment rate among the 15-64 year-old population of Slovenia, born in Slovenia was 9.3%, the same age group who were born in Slovenia was 11.7%. Slightly larger is the difference in the level of economic activity: from among persons who are not born in Slovenia was 4.3 percentage points lower than among those born in Slovenia. Significant differences were also detected at the level of unemployment among the population of Slovenia aged 15-64, both of whose parents were born in Slovenia was 8.4% among those where at least one parent was not born in Slovenia 13.7%

Among all persons in employment in the 15-64 age group by 11.1% believe that their level of education is higher than would be required for the work that they do. During immigrated to Slovenia in employment, this share is slightly higher, amounting to 14.4%. Education employment of immigrants is on average lower - by 8 percentage points to complete primary school by 9 percentage points to secondary education in tertiary education, this share decreased by as many as 17 percentage points.

90% of foreign workers come to Slovenia from countries in the Western Balkans; among them they are higher or university education only 3.6 percent. Most highly qualified people who in the nineties due to the war emigrated, his career was looking in other European countries. Even today, they are not interesting enough Slovenia, as incomes in comparison with Western countries is low, while Slovenia has relatively restrictive legislation on the acquisition of citizenship. The outlook for Slovenia's migration policy are not good, given the decline in the working population, Slovenia would need on average net migration of 13,500 people per year. (Statistical Office).

## Policy Analysis

The agreement between EU Member States is that the success of migration policy (Community immigration policy) is measured as a dimension in which migrants become integrated into their new societies (language, social conditions, the positive attitude of the population towards migrants, the positive attitude of political actors about the benefits of a diverse and multicultural company). In Slovenia has not yet been made more comprehensive study that would address the progress of the integration of immigrants, citizens of third countries in key areas of social life and attitudes of the majority population towards them - both of which forms the basis for integrated planning of integration policy and its operationalization. Studies to date can be described as partial, because they were confined to the study of individual sub-groups of third country nationals, particularly women, whether they were confined to the study of immigrant integration only in selected areas of society.

The legislative framework, which is directly related to the integration of migrants and a significant influence on the formation of Slovenian integration policy can be divided into:

1. International law and EU law
2. Resolution on Immigration Policy of the Republic of Slovenia (1999)
3. Resolution on the Migration Policy (2002)
4. International Protection Act
5. Aliens Act
6. Temporary Asylum Act

Citizens of EU Member States, European Economic Area (Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland) or the Swiss Confederation, upon entry into the country does not need a residence permit or work permit; the Treaty of Amsterdam, they are granted social rights (health, right to education, employment), the right to work (seniority, pension, taxation of income) and political rights (right to vote). By contrast, an offshoot of migrants from third countries and countries of the former Yugoslavia, they deserve relatively few rights. The disadvantage is the need to highlight the long and complex procedures for obtaining a permanent residence permit (five years of continuous legal residence in Republic of Slovenia). Many more stringent restrictions and the procedures are applicable to migrants on the acquisition of Slovenian citizenship.

The government's policy of gradually introducing amendments and in addition more constructive solutions. So under the governmental jurisdiction has been started to work the newly established Office for the Integration of Migrants. In the field of labor migrations Ministry of Labor, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities closely cooperates with the National Employment Office and other sectoral ministries, especially with the Ministry of the Interior. Department of Employment and Migration prepares proposals for laws and regulations in the field of employment and work of foreigners in Slovenia, monitors the implementation of regulations and resolves complaints against the decisions of the Employment Service to refuse to issue a permit for the work of foreigners.

The same department also participates in the preparation of legislative proposals in the area of free movement of workers and services as well as entry, residence and employment of third-country nationals; its representatives also participate in the Advisory and Technical Committee on the free movement of workers, as well the Committee of Experts and working groups of the EU Council in the field of migration. .

The basic act in the field of labour migration is the "Law on Employment, self-employment and work of foreigners", which sets out the terms and conditions of employment, self-employment and work of foreigners and the related tasks of the State to regulate and protect the domestic labor market. In Slovenia, there are two basic regime of employment and work of foreigners, namely:

- Free movement of workers and services between EU Member States, EEA and Swiss Confederation
- Employment and labor of third country nationals

Specific basis in terms of promoting and encouraging entrepreneurship of immigrants actually are not represented yet. Immigrants who have a work permit and permission for (temporary) residence and are therefore registered with the Employment Service, obtain the right to work, employment and self-employment. On this basis they may build businesses in the Republic of Slovenia, the procedure is the same as for the citizens of RS.

## National Initiatives and Programmes

### 1. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF SLOVENIA <https://www.ess.gov.si>

#### 1.1. Project: Promoting employability, education and social inclusion of migrants and their families

The quality of implementation of those activities by overcoming language and cultural barriers in communication with users is the key to enhance training, employability, migrants' voluntary work, as well the concrete experience of migrant workers in certain programs and projects aimed to integrating other immigrants (new comers) into the Slovenian environment. Under the auspices of the project it has successfully operated the "Info point for foreigners."

#### 1.2. DRIM – Danube Region Information Platform of Economic Integration of Migrants

The main aim of DRIM (Danube Region Information Platform of Economic Integration of Migrants) is to improve the capacity of public institutions to respond to the needs of newly arrived as well as resident migrants through effective information sharing. This– will be a corner stone of an information infrastructure that will facilitate economic integration in the Danube region.

#### 1.3. eCounseling – Portal for Foreigners

Promoting employment and self-employment for foreigners on the basis of individual employment counselling and consulting how to "Work in Slovenia".

### 2. SLOVENIAN ENTREPRENEURIAL FUN (SEF): <http://www.podjetniskisklad.si>

Promoting entrepreneurship for specific target groups (youth, women, social entrepreneurs, micro-entrepreneurs, immigrants); Support for growth and development in a simple and quick method of funding for a particular purpose. The Country Strategy paper (CPS) is based on Slovenia's Development Strategy 2014 - 2020. Slovenia's Development Strategy represents an overarching strategic document that sets out the vision and objectives of Slovenia until 2020.

The document identified four priority areas:

- Competitive Economy
- Knowledge and Employment
- Green living environment
- Inclusive Society

### 3. Sindikat delavcev migrantov slovenije <http://sindikatsdms.si/>

The union of migrant workers of Slovenia is an independent, non-political and non-partisan organization, in which the workers voluntarily unite in an organized manner to protect the economic and social situation of residents in the Republic of Slovenia with revenues from abroad.

### 4. STEP INSTITUTE <http://www.step-institute.org/>

Step Institute is a non-profit organization, passionate about people development. By enhancing individual empowerment in work environments, they are helping them to discover and nurture their talents, brushing soft skills and realizing entrepreneurial ideas into practice. With the clear and step-by-step career guidance institute's experts empower

people for entrepreneurship, especially in the field of social entrepreneurship. Institute was the partner in one of the successful EU projects SENTIM – Social Entrepreneurship for Immigrants <http://sentim.org/>

## 5. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CENTER OF SLOVENIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS

<http://isim.zrc-sazu.si/sl/programi-in-projekti/>

### 5.1. STEP-IN! Building Inclusive Societies Through Active Citizenship <http://www.stepin-grundtvig.org>

The project starts from the assumption that successful integration processes not only require the efforts of minorities, but also the efforts of the majority population and institutions. In this context, the target groups of the project: (1) immigrants and members of ethnic minorities, (2) members of the receiving countries, particularly members of political parties, non-governmental organizations and public institutions, and (3) Adult education providers.

## 6. REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

<http://www.mgert.gov.si/>

### 6.1. Regional Conference on Social Economy (April 2017) - SEE2: SCALING UP SOCIAL ECONOMY ENTERPRISES IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE

[HTTP://WWW.MGERT.GOV.SI/EN/AREAS\\_OF\\_WORK/SOCIALNO\\_PODJETNISTVO/REGIONAL\\_CONFERENCE\\_ON\\_SOCIAL\\_ECONOMY/#C19354](HTTP://WWW.MGERT.GOV.SI/EN/AREAS_OF_WORK/SOCIALNO_PODJETNISTVO/REGIONAL_CONFERENCE_ON_SOCIAL_ECONOMY/#C19354)

The main purpose of the conference is to boost social economy enterprises in the Southeast Europe (SEE), in the following countries: Slovenia, Croatia, Greece, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Romania and Bulgaria. It provides a platform for the exchange of public and private experiences across Europe for development of social economy enterprises in SEE, as well as for establishing links and a common strategy of the region. The conference will operate on both top-down and bottom-up levels: firstly, to create and develop synergies between States, local authorities and social economy actors; and secondly, to boost social economy enterprises, and identification and anticipation of their needs on the decision making policy levels. The final goal of the conference is to create a medium-term plan for boosting social economy enterprises in SEE.

## 7. PINA – OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE <http://www.pina.si/>

### 7.1. We are All Migrants

The aim of the project is to raise awareness of the general public regarding the positive effects of the integration of migrants in Slovenian society as well as the positive contribution of migrations, to contribute to the development of a multicultural sensibility, to raise the knowledge of a high-quality coexistence among people with different cultural and language background and to contribute to the development of an efficient, supportive and cooperating environment for their active integration in the Slovenian society. The important emphasis is based on more holistic integration approach, including Entrepreneurial, educated and active female and male migrants among us as well.