



National State of the Art Report

ReEntry – Supporting Migrants into Self-Employment

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Socio-economic Profile of Migrants in your country

Today the foreigners make up 1.7 percent of population and their number is slowly, yet continuously increasing. In 2016, there were 93 247 foreigners with residence permits in Slovakia. Traditionally, the most numerous category of foreigners in Slovakia (42 %) is formed by the citizens of neighbouring countries, who are mostly linked to Slovakia by work, family and social relations.

Another important group of migrants is formed by the citizens of the south-eastern European countries (Romania, Bulgaria, Russia, Serbia), who represent 21.4% of all migrants in Slovakia. Migrants from the Asian countries (Vietnam, China, Korean Republic, Thailand), who were dynamically growing group of foreigners in Slovakia in the past, form together less than 7.4% of all foreigners in Slovakia; their number amounted to almost 6,900.

The majority of the migrants are men – in average, there are 60 % of men migrants. In some communities, it is 80 %. The majority of migrants are between 25 and 39 years old. The majority of migrants are in Bratislava region, then in Kosice and Presov region.

In addition to migration based on social reasons, such as family reunification or marriage to a Slovak citizen, the most significant component of legal migration is currently migration for work and study. There were 35 090 foreign workers in the SR in 2016. Currently, there is one foreign worker per 71 national employees. Among the foreign workers, men constitute a substantial majority; they form almost 75% of all employed foreigners.¹

There were 4879² migrants from third countries in Slovakia in 2016, which were granted an entrepreneur residence permit. However, there are most probably many more migrant entrepreneurs, but this is not a subject of any identified statistics. Other entrepreneurs might be among the groups with different types of residence permits and also there is a big group of migrants from the EU, who do not need any special type of residence permit to be entrepreneurs.

Policy Analysis

The integration policy was signed in 2014 and aims to integrate the migrants into the labour market. The aim is to lower the burden of administrative obligations and also to attract highly qualified workforce from abroad (this is a part of a concept document Minerva 2.0 – Slovakia to the first league). Another aim is to prevent so called brain waste, when the migrants accept jobs that require much lower qualification.³

Nevertheless, entrepreneurship of migrants is not specifically mentioned in the Integration policy, so there are not any specific actions planned. The problem of migrant entrepreneurship is discussed under other fields of integration activities like employment and labour market, education and cultural and social integration.⁴

There is a complicated legislation regarding the entrepreneurship of migrants. There are laws about type of residence permits, the laws about asylum, many social laws, laws about

¹ <http://www.iom.sk/en/about-migration/migration-in-slovakia>

² http://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/policia/uhcp/rocnky/rok_2016/2016-rocenka-UHCP-SK.pdf

³ <https://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/ministerstvo/integracia-cudzincov/>

⁴ http://www.sbagency.sk/sites/default/files/sprava_z_mapovania_politik_a_opatreni_v_oblasti_sptk.pdf

entrepreneurship etc. The entrepreneurs from the EU and the migrants with asylum have the same conditions as the citizens from Slovakia. The entrepreneurs from other countries than EU need a special type of residence permit, they need to prove that they are financially stable – regarding their stay and also their entrepreneur activities and they have a few more administrative obligations.⁵

National Initiatives and Programmes

According to the document Migration policy of the Slovak Republic - Perspective until the year 2020, despite the existence of international and national structures ensuring the implementation of the migration policy, currently there is no unified interdepartmental body allowing fulfilment of the tasks related to the full-scale implementation of the migration policy of the Slovak Republic from one centre, while pursuing the fulfilment of international treaties and commitments in the area of international protection of immigrants. Therefore the creation of the Immigration and Naturalization Office (hereinafter referred to as “INO”) represents a task that is to be fulfilled in future. Within the performance of state administration activities, INO will ensure especially full-scale activities related to the legal entry of immigrants to our territory, granting of residence permits, execution of first instance proceedings concerning international protection, integration into the society, and the possibility to apply for citizenship of the Slovak Republic.⁶

In the meanwhile, it is mostly the non-governmental organisations, which offer initiatives in encouraging migrant entrepreneurship.

Firstly, there is the **International Organisation for Migration** based in Bratislava. Their key program is the *Migration Information Centre* (based in 2006), which offers to the immigrants complex services regarding legislation, social system, carrier counselling, further education, language courses and courses on culture orientation. Migration Information Centre also offers financial help for educational and requalification courses for foreigners, which might help them to better succeed on the labour market.⁷

Another example is the **Slovak Business Academy**, which implemented the project “Improving the conditions of the labor market and entrepreneurs for immigrants from third countries”. The main objective of the project was to identify barriers and propose measures to eliminate barriers to business and employment of third-country nationals and improve the economic integration of third country nationals. The main outputs of the project include the *creation of information materials* for third-country nationals in different languages, which include procedures for starting a business and recommendations and proposals of measures to eliminate barriers to the economic integration of third country nationals⁸. They are available for a free download in 6 languages: <http://www.sbagency.sk/zlepsenie-podmienok-na-trhu-prace-a-podnikania-statnych-prislusnikov-tretich-krajin>

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http://www.ivo.sk/buxus/docs/publikacie/subory/Otvorena_krajina_alebo_nedobytna_pevnost_Slovensko_migranti_a_uteccenci.pdf

⁶ http://www.emn.sk/phocadownload/documents/migration_policy_sr_2020_en.pdf

⁷ <http://www.iom.sk/sk/aktivita/integracia-migrantov>

⁸ <https://www.podnikajte.sk/start-podnikania/c/2129/category/podpora-podnikania/article/podnikanie-cudzincov.xhtml>