



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
agus Comhionannais
Department of Justice
and Equality

Immigration in Ireland

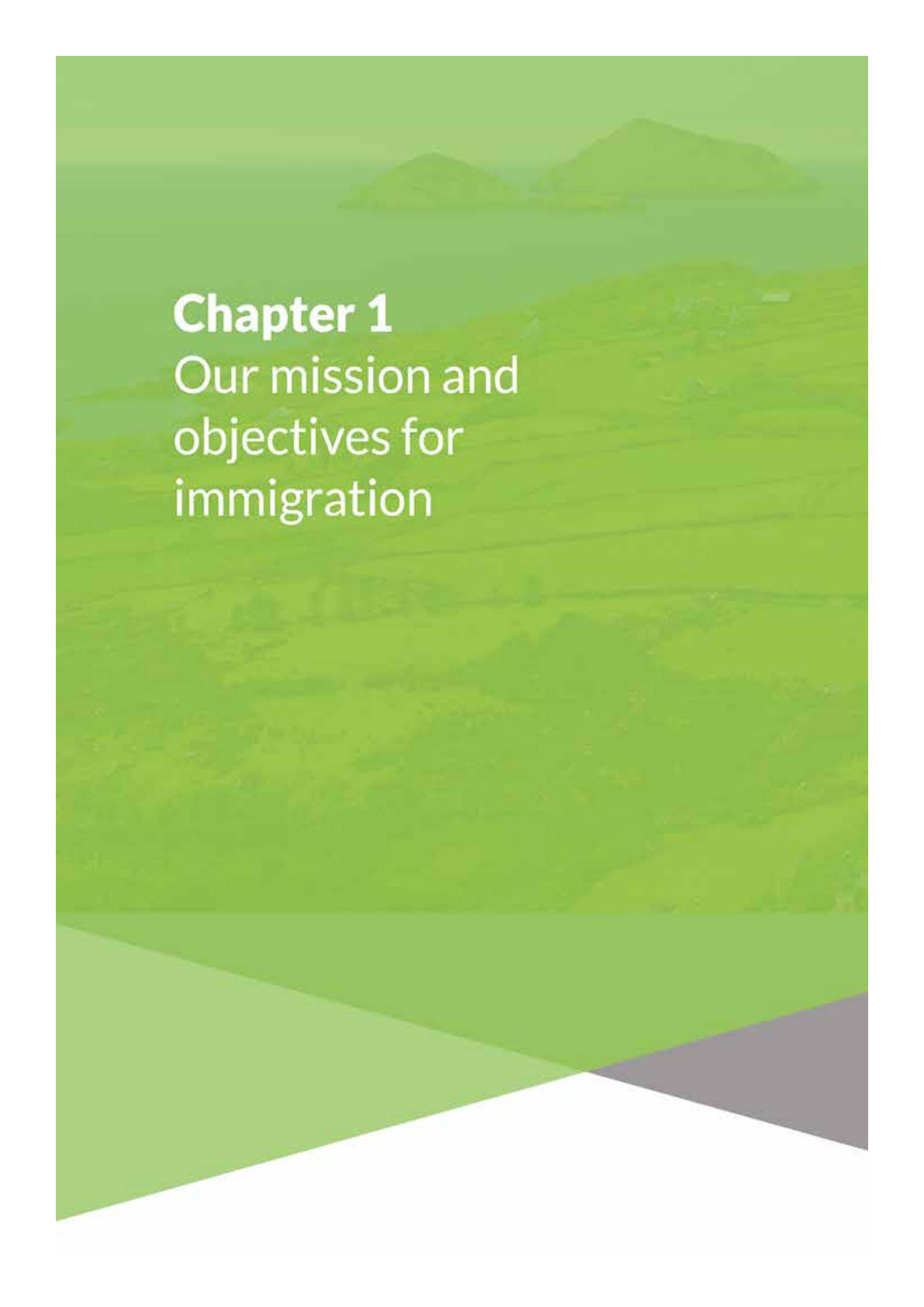
Annual Review 2017

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Chapter 1

Our mission and objectives for immigration

Introduction

The mission of the Department of Justice and Equality is to “work together to advance community and national security, promote justice and equality and safeguard human rights.”

One of the Department’s core objectives is to deliver “a fair and balanced immigration and protection regime.” The strategic objectives and priority actions contained within its Strategy Statement 2016 – 2019 express how this objective will be met.

Strategic objectives	Priority actions
To ensure a streamlined and effective international protection regime, including improvements to the Direct Provision system.	Implement the Single Application system in accordance with the International Protection Act 2015 Improvements to the Direct Provision system particularly for families
To support the relocation and resettlement of programme refugees and relocated asylum seekers	Manage the resettlement and relocation strands of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme so as to fulfil the Government’s commitment towards programme refugees and relocated asylum seekers Co-ordinate the resettlement in Ireland of Programme refugees and relocated asylum seekers who have received a grant of international protection
To enhance immigration controls at the State’s borders	Introduce a number of technology solutions to enhance border security, including checking passenger information, automated checking, electronic gates at ports of entry, further civilianisation of frontline immigration controls
To ensure responsive policies in respect of non-EEA nationals resident in the State and effective implementation of these policies	Regular policy reviews of immigration including for students, retirees, workers, etc. to respond to changing requirements and demands Effective processes for registration of non-EEA nationals, effective dealing with applicants for a wide range of immigration services and citizenship
To provide a balanced visa regime to enable legitimate visitors, tourists and long term applicants to come here whilst ensuring relevant controls are maintained	Continued enforcement of immigration laws including addressing immigration abuses
To continue to effectively operate the Common Travel Area	Continue to work with UK colleagues on enhancing and securing the Common Travel Area (CTA) Ensure Ireland’s position is reflected at EU level on immigration matters Consider and address implications of Brexit on all aspects of immigration including the CTA

2017 in summary

Migration to Ireland

Because of our growing economy and positive international reputation, Ireland is attractive to migrants who want to work, study or settle here. Our immigration numbers are evidence of this.

In 2017, the number of people from non-EU countries legally living here increased by 13,000 over 2016. In 2016 there were 115,000 people in this category; in 2017 there were 128,000 people. Visa applications have also increased dramatically over the past few years. In 2017, there were over 125,000 visa applications.

Citizenship

In 2017, 8,199 people became Irish citizens. There were citizenship ceremonies at the University of Limerick and the Convention Centre in Dublin. Since citizenship ceremonies began in 2011, over 110,000 people have received their citizenship certificates at a citizenship ceremony.

Common Travel Area

Keeping the Common Travel Area (CTA) with the UK is one of the key Brexit priorities of Government, and this is reflected in the EU-UK joint report on the progress during Phase 1 of the Brexit negotiations. During the negotiations, it was recognised that Ireland and the UK may continue to make arrangements relating to the movement of people within the CTA and that both countries will fully respect the rights of people under European Union law.

International protection: changes under the International Protection Act 2015

The International Protection Act 2015 came into effect on 31 December 2016. The Act simplifies and streamlines existing international protection arrangements in Ireland. Applicants will be able to get a final decision on their protection application in a more straightforward and timely fashion.

Two key developments in 2017 as a result of the Act were the establishment of the International Protection Office (IPO) and the International Protection Appeals Tribunal (IPAT). The IPO investigates applications for international protection. The IPAT hears appeals on decisions by the IPO.

2017 in summary (continued)

International protection: refugees and asylum seekers

As part of the Government's response to the migrant crisis, the Irish Refugee Protection Programme accepted 755 people into the country in 2017. Ireland will provide a safe haven for up to 4,000 people under EU Relocation and Resettlement programmes. A significant number of people will qualify under family reunification.

In June 2015, the final report of the Working Group to Report to Government on Improvements to the Protection Process, including Direct Provision and Supports to Asylum Seekers was published.

In June 2017, the third and final report on the progress made on improving the protection process was published. This report showed:

- 133 of the 173 recommendations have been fully implemented; and
- 36 recommendations are in the process of being implemented or are partially implemented.


This means 98% of the recommendations have been fully or partially implemented.

The average length of time people spend in State-provided accommodation centres has been reduced. In 2015, the average was 38 months. At the end of 2017, it was 23 months. This is expected to get shorter as the provisions in the International Protection Act take effect.



Chapter 2

A fair and balanced immigration system



Residence: Living in Ireland for work, study or family reasons

At the end of 2017, 127,955 non-EEA nationals had permission to live in Ireland. At the end of 2016, there were just over 115,000.

In 2017, just over 108,000 new or renewed registrations of permission to remain in the State were issued by INIS or by An Garda Síochána.

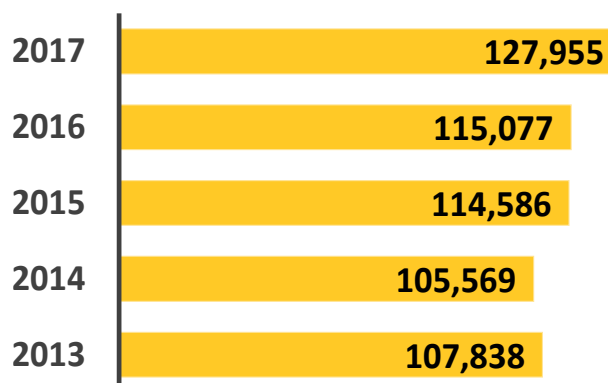


Figure 1: Registrations by year

All non-EEA nationals living in the State for longer than 90 days are required to register with INIS (in the Dublin region) or An Garda Síochána (outside Dublin).

Registered nationalities

The current top 10 registered nationalities, which account for over 50% of all people registered are Brazil (14.6%), India (13.5%), China (9%), USA (7.4%), Pakistan (5.7%), Nigeria (4.2%), Philippines (3.6%), Malaysia (2.7%), Canada (2.6%), and South Africa (2.5%). Most people with permission to remain in the State are working or studying.

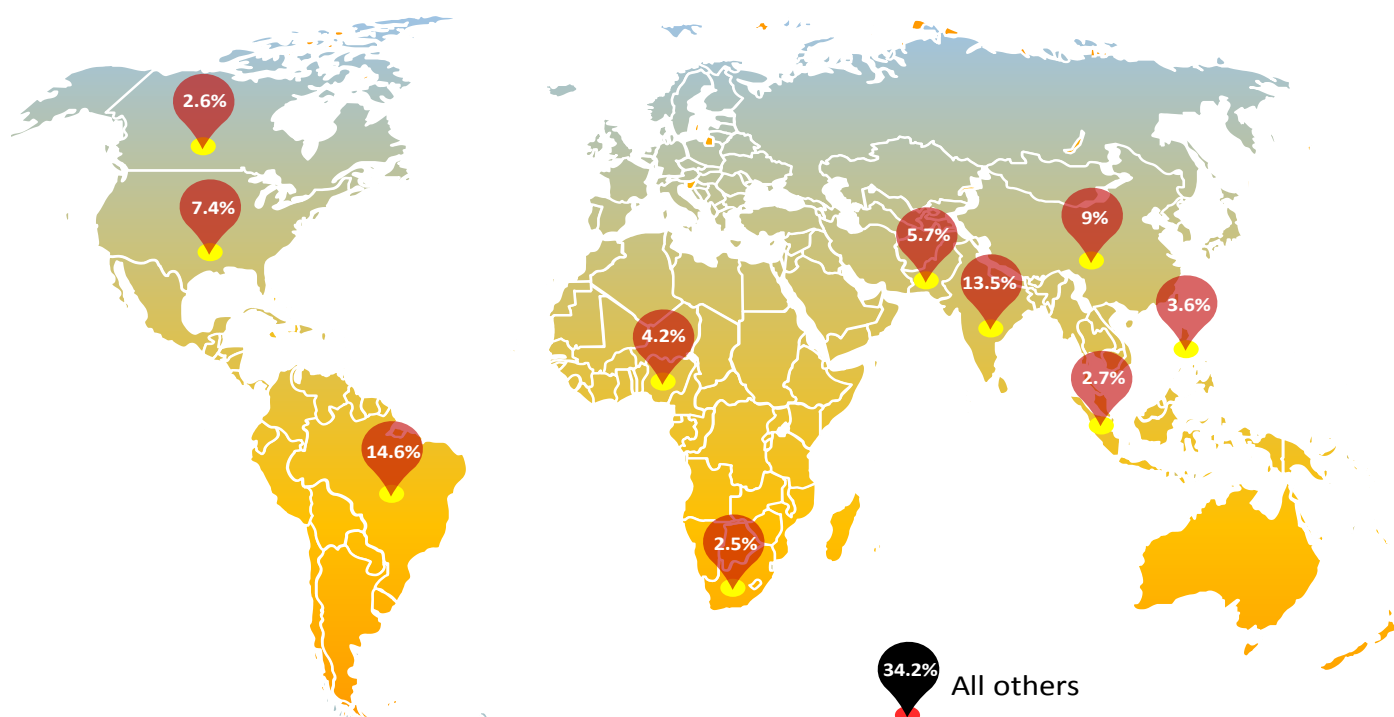


Figure 2: Top 10 registered nationalities in 2017

Residence: Living in Ireland for work, study or family reasons (continued)

2017 Long Term Residency Applications (based on age at application)				
Nationality	Age Group			Total
	18-34	35-64	65+	
Bangladesh	0	6	0	6
Belarus	0	1	0	1
Brazil	1	4	0	5
Canada	2	0	0	2
Chile	0	1	0	1
China (including Hong Kong)	8	12	0	20
Egypt	1	3	0	4
India	6	7	1	14
Iraq	0	1	0	1
Israel	1	0	0	1
Kazakhstan	1	0	0	1
Korea, Republic Of (South Korea)	1	0	0	1
Malaysia	1	2	1	4
Mauritius	1	0	0	1
Mongolia	0	2	0	2
Morocco	0	1	0	1
Nigeria	0	3	0	3
Pakistan	2	4	0	6
Philippines	1	5	0	6
Recognised Non-Citizen~Latvia	0	1	0	1
Russian Federation	4	0	0	4
South Africa	2	2	0	4
Sudan	1	3	0	4
Thailand	0	1	0	1
Ukraine	0	3	0	3
United States Of America	3	1	0	4
Total	36	63	2	101

Table 1: Long term residency applications

Identification: the new Irish Residence Permit (IRP)

In December 2017, the Irish Residence Permit (IRP) was introduced. This replaces the GNIB card. The new card is being rolled out on a phased basis as existing GNIB cards expire.

The new Irish Residence Permit (IRP) is based on common EU standards across all member states, including:

- New design, based on EU colour and layout rules
- New information, including a brief description of the card holder's immigration permission
- New features, including robust security and identity protection



The IRP does not give holders any new rights or entitlements. For example, an IRP does not allow holders of the card to travel to or live freely in other EU countries. All existing travel and immigration rules still apply. However, it does allow other EU Member States to verify the authenticity of the IRP.

Holders of the IRP have the same responsibilities as they had with the GNIB card as follows:

- carry their IRP card at all times; and
- present their card to an immigration officer or member of An Garda Síochána if requested.

It is particularly important that holders of IRPs carry them when they leave or re-enter Ireland.

Applications for permission to live in the State

Certain types of application to live in the State need to be made to the Minister through INIS. These cases are more complex and require detailed analysis and consideration before a permission is granted. When permission is granted, the applicant then registers in the normal way. The Residence Division of INIS received over 14,600 such applications in 2017.

Visas: Visiting Ireland for short or long stays

Applications processed

In 2017, INIS received 125,527 applications for short-stay and long-stay visas. This is a 1% increase on 2016, and a cumulative increase of 41% since 2012.

In 2017, INIS granted 110,403 visas, an increase of 5,831 visas on 2016.

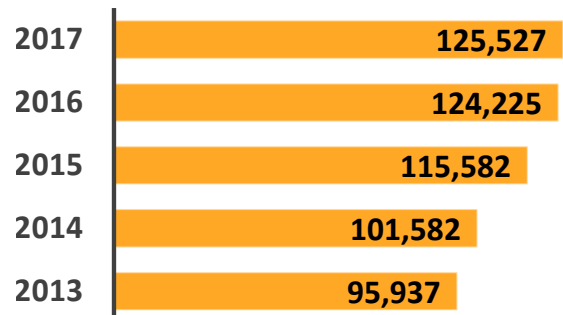


Figure 3: Visa applications by year

There was a small reduction in the percentage of applicants that were granted visas when compared to 2016. In 2017, 89% of applicants received visas. In 2016, 90% of applicants received visas.

This means that even though more visas were granted, the grant rate decreased. This is because INIS processed and refused a large number of outstanding applications from previous years for EU Treaty Rights (EUTR) visas. When EUTR cases are excluded, the total grant rate for visas was 90% in 2017, which is similar to the 2016 rate.

More re-entry visa applications were processed in 2017. There was a 15% increase on 2016. In 2017, 51,543 applications were processed. In 2016, 44,812 were processed.

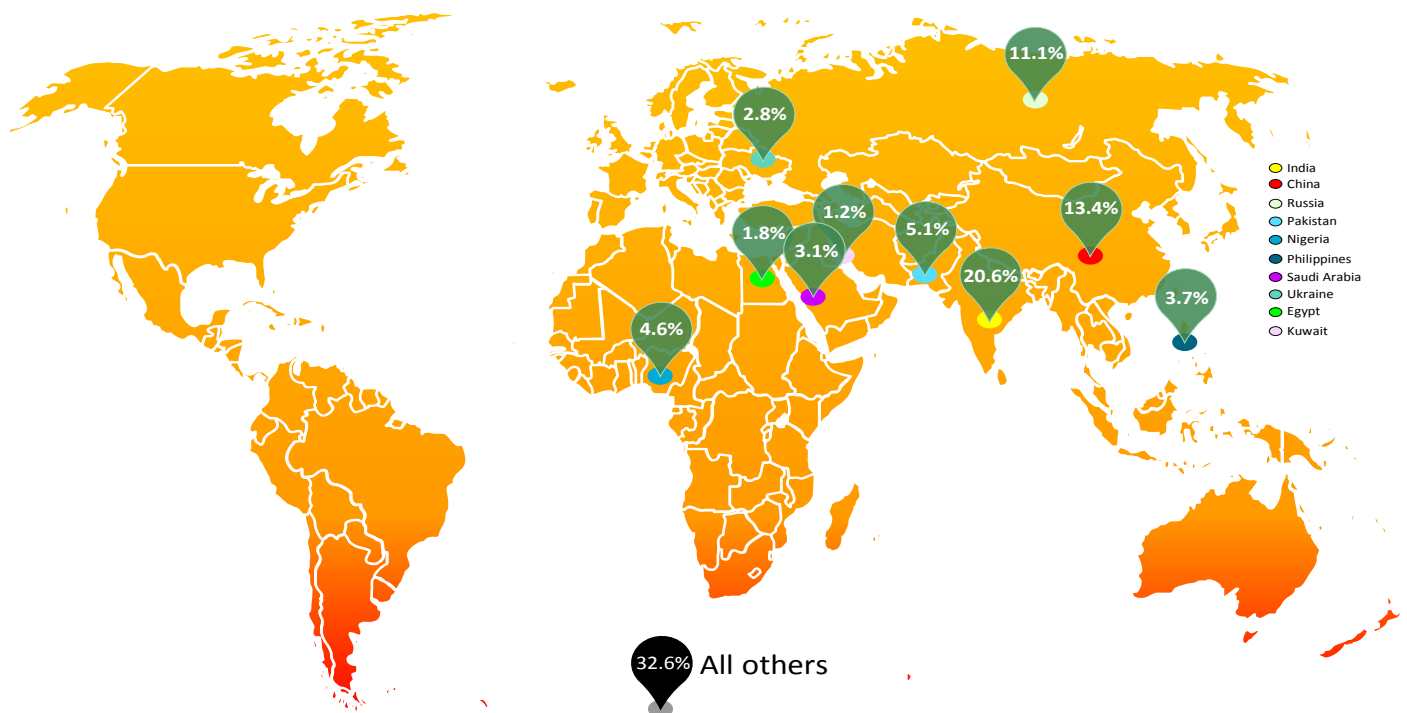


Figure 4: Top 10 nationalities for which visas were decided in 2017

Citizenship: Welcoming Ireland's newest citizens

Improvements in application processing

Since 2011, decisions have been made in over 110,000 citizenship applications. The processing time for most standard applications has been reduced from 31 months in 2011 to less than 6 months, despite a significant increase in valid application volumes over the same period.

Applications granted in 2017

INIS issued 8,199 citizenship certificates in 2017. The top 10 nationalities awarded citizenship were Poland, Romania, India, United Kingdom, Nigeria, Latvia, Pilippines, Pakistan, Brazil, and China.

Citizenship ceremonies

In 2017, there were 16 citizenship ceremonies. These were held in the Convention Centre in Dublin and at the University of Limerick.

Due to the national weather emergency caused by Storm Ophelia, the citizenship ceremony due to take place in October 2017 in the Convention Centre Dublin had to be cancelled. This decision was taken in the interests of the health and safety of all concerned.

The Minister agreed that the ceremony would be re-scheduled as quickly as possible. On 27 November 2017, 3,200 new citizens took their citizenship oath in the Convention Centre in Dublin.

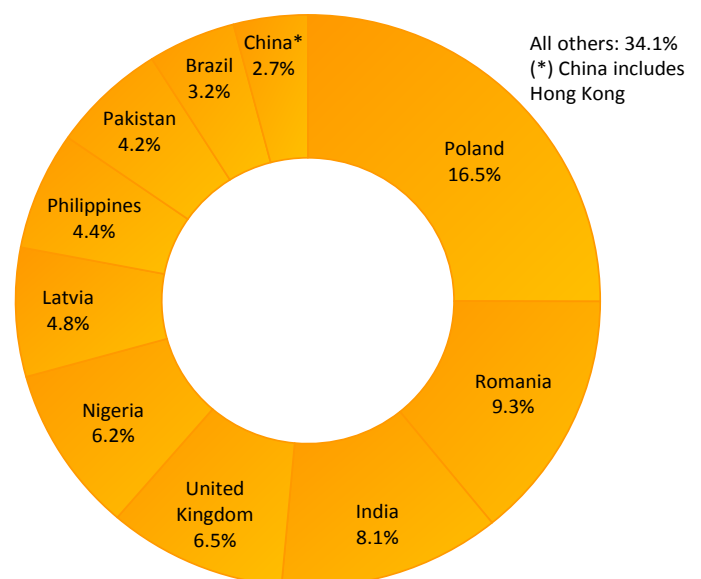


Figure 5: Top 10 nationalities for which citizenship was awarded in 2017

Citizenship: Welcoming Ireland's newest citizens (continued)

2017 Citizenship Applications based on application date						
Nationality	Age Group					Total
	0-17	18-34	35-64	65+	Unknown	
Poland	226	471	1051	6	0	1754
Romania	168	332	480	1	1	982
United Kingdom	29	77	497	215	1	819
India	194	264	316	4	0	778
Nigeria	162	198	317	5	0	682
Pakistan	123	290	229	3	0	645
Philippines	101	92	225	0	0	418
Latvia	54	104	245	4	0	407
Brazil	55	114	166	0	0	335
China (including Hong Kong)	73	82	155	1	0	311
Others	614	1534	2113	70	0	4331
Total	1799	3558	5794	309	2	11462

Table 2: Citizenship applications based on application date



Chapter 3

Enhanced immigration and border controls

Enhancing border security

The enhancement of immigration controls at ports of entry to the state remains a priority of INIS. This includes a range of measures including rigorous checks by staff at ports of entry, backed up by improved technological support.

Installing eGates

Since November 2017, Automatic Border Control 'eGates' have been operating at Dublin Airport. Twenty eGates have been installed: 10 in Terminal 1 and 10 in Terminal 2. Irish and other EU travellers who have a passport with an electronic chip and are 18 years or older may use the eGates. Statistics show that many travellers are already using the eGates. INIS expects that over half a million passengers will use the eGates in the first full quarter of operation. The eGates integrate with national and international watch lists and use facial recognition technology to provide highly secure automated passport validation and security checks on passengers.



In 2018, INIS will consider whether to permit holders of the Irish Passport Card and non-EU passports to use the eGates. This would help regular visitors, such as business travellers, enter Ireland more quickly. If this is introduced, it will be managed through a registered trusted traveller programme.

Additional eGates may be installed at Dublin Airport and at other ports of entry if it makes operational and financial sense to do so. Crucially, the eGates have added capacity to the immigration service at a time of increasing passenger growth. In 2017 the immigration services at Dublin airport processed a record 14.8 million arriving passengers. Overall, passenger numbers at Dublin airport have grown by 58% since 2011, from 18.7 million to 29.6 million.

Civilianisation programme

In 2015, immigration officers from INIS took on full 24/7 responsibility for passport checks at Terminal 1. The transfer of functions at Terminal 2 was completed in 2017. There are now almost 150 civilian staff deployed at the airport, carrying out front-line immigration checks.

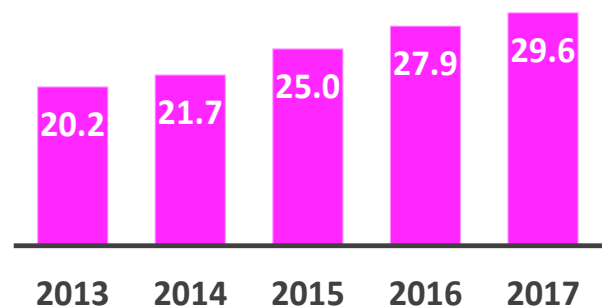


Figure 6: Dublin airport passenger numbers (in millions)

Enhancing border security (continued)

The civilianisation programme has released Gardaí for operational duties, including investigations into immigration-related abuses such as fraudulent applications to live in Ireland.

The Irish Passenger Information Unit

During 2017, the Minister secured a budget of €4m to establish a new Irish Passenger Information Unit (IPIU). This cross-agency unit, which will be based within INIS, will include representatives of An Garda Síochána, Revenue and the Defence Forces.



This unit is being established to ensure Ireland's compliance with a new EU Directive on Passenger Name Record (PNR) data. This directive comes into force in May 2018.

The EU Directive on Passenger Name Record data is aimed at the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime. It will help protect the safety and security of the Irish people.

The IPIU will be responsible for processing passenger data to meet those objectives, initially processing data from non-EU flights and, in its second phase, intra-EU flights.

The proposed new legislation on PNR will reflect the EU Directive, and it will include robust data protection provisions. Under the directive, PNR data can be kept for up to five years. It must then be destroyed unless it is relevant to legal proceedings that are already under way. Also, after six months PNR data must be depersonalised. This is achieved by masking personal data elements in the PNR data. There will also be a data protection officer within the Passenger Information Unit. This officer will be responsible for monitoring compliance with data protection requirements.

A further safeguard in the legislation will be that the Passenger Information Unit will have a data protection officer who will be responsible for monitoring and ensuring compliance with data protection requirements.

In 2017, a new technology solution to deliver automated passenger data screening of flights originating from outside the EU was installed. The system will be used to meet Ireland's obligations under EU legal instruments relating to advance passenger information and Passenger Name Records.

People removed from the State during 2017

In 2017, 3,968 people were deported or otherwise removed from the State. Of these, more than 90% (3,746 people) were refused entry into the State, and were returned to the place they had travelled from.

As well as this, 140 people who had unsuccessfully applied for international protection, or who were living illegally in Ireland, were deported, while 82 EU Nationals were returned to their countries of origin on foot of EU Removal Orders.

In addition to these, a further 56 applicants for international protection were transferred under the Dublin Regulation to the EU country in which they had first made such an application.

Legislative changes to improve enforcement

Important changes to immigration legislation were introduced as part of the International Protection Act 2015. These changes will improve our capacity to enforce deportation orders in situations where people seek to evade or frustrate the authorities. Any person who is the subject of a deportation order is legally obliged to remove themselves from the State.

These amendments will make existing legislation more effective. They will allow for arresting, detaining and removing non-nationals who are subject to a deportation order and people who are refused leave to land.

Voluntary Returns

Figures show that a total of 181 people chose to return home voluntarily in 2017. Of that number, 96 were assisted by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), with funding provided by the Department of Justice and Equality.



Figure 7: Top 10 nationalities removed From the State in 2017

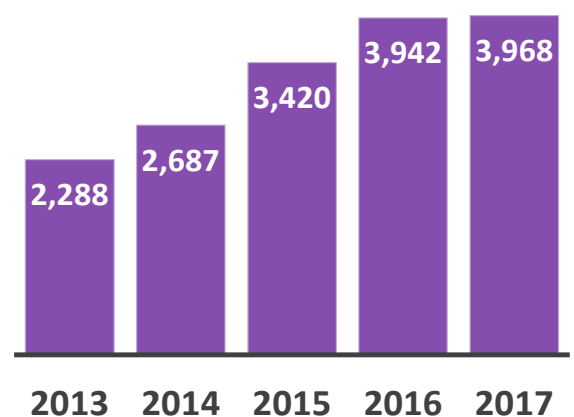


Figure 8: Removals / Deportations

Tackling illegal immigration

All modern States need to enforce immigration laws. Ireland is no different. This means that some people who travel to Ireland will not qualify for immigration permissions. It also means there is a need to robustly investigate immigration abuses, including through Operation Vantage.

INIS continues to contribute to Operation Vantage, which was set up by the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) in August 2015 to tackle illegal immigration, including marriages of convenience. This inter-agency operation has been very successful.

As part of this operation, the INIS EU Treaty Rights Investigation Unit investigates applications for residence cards by the non-EEA family members of EU citizens who are exercising their right to free movement under EU directives.

As part of the overall operation, nearly 1,700 applications for residence cards have been reviewed by INIS. Over 1,050 of these investigations have been finalised, and these completed investigations have a combined refusal or revocation rate of 92%.

Following due process, 147 deportation orders have been made by INIS in recent months. The number of cases reviewed by INIS in 2017 increased by almost 120% from 2016. There was also a near 250% increase in the number of residence cards revoked in 2017 from 2016.

In addition, the EU Treaty Rights Investigation Unit responded to over 6,000 queries in 2017 from many Government departments and State agencies, including the Garda National Immigration Bureau, the Civil Registration Service, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, the Border Management Unit and embassies.

Planning for Brexit: protecting the Common Travel Area (CTA)

Negotiations on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union are continuing. Throughout 2017, INIS has been engaged in a series of discussions to support the Irish Government's position on Brexit.

The EU-UK Joint Progress Report on the UK's Withdrawal from the EU of 8 December 2017 records the issues upon which the EU and the UK negotiators have reached agreement in principle. During the negotiations, it was recognised that Ireland and the UK may continue to make arrangements relating to the movement of people within the CTA and that both countries will fully respect the rights of people under European Union law.

Ireland and the United Kingdom have always cooperated closely on immigration and border matters, particularly in relation to keeping the CTA secure. Ireland and the UK will continue to cooperate on these issues after the UK leaves the EU, and both Governments have publicly declared their commitment to making sure there is no hard border on the island of Ireland. Our EU partners understand how important the CTA arrangement is to Ireland, and this is reflected in the EU Commission's negotiating mandate.

The work done in 2017 on a draft Withdrawal Agreement was published by the European Commission on 28 February 2018. These proposals include specific provisions for continuing the CTA while fully respecting the rights of people under EU law, including freedom of movement for EU citizens and their qualifying family members. The European Council adopted guidelines on the framework for the future of EU-UK relations on 23 March 2018.

Ireland of course remains a committed member of the European Union and will continue to uphold the right of free movement for all EU citizens after the UK leaves the EU.



Chapter 4

A streamlined and effective international protection system

Applications for International Protection

The International Protection Act 2015 was commenced on 31 December 2016.

The Act introduced a single application procedure, which enables all grounds for examining and deciding on all applications for international protection (refugee status and subsidiary protection) or permission to remain in the State for other humanitarian reasons to be determined in one process, rather than sequentially as before.

There are two types of international protection - refugee status and subsidiary protection.

A refugee is a person who cannot return to their own country for fear of persecution based on either their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or because they belong to a particular social group (for example, due to their sexual orientation).

A person who is eligible for subsidiary protection is not a refugee but does face a real risk of suffering serious harm if returned to their own country.

In 2017, 2,926 applications for international protection were made, of which 515 were transferred to the State from Greece under the EU Relocation Programme. Some 1,780 cases were finalised during the year by the International Protection Office. As a result, the number of cases awaiting processing has now risen to 5,100 at the end of 2017.

The top 10 countries of application in 2017 were Syria, Georgia, Albania, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Nigeria, South Africa, DR Congo, Iraq and Algeria. The vast majority of Syrian applicants are under the EU Relocation Programme (see page 27/28).

Subsidiary protection

There were 406 subsidiary protection cases outstanding at the beginning of 2017, but this number was significantly reduced to 48 at the end of 2017. Revised subsidiary protection regulations were introduced in October 2017 to take account of rulings by the Court of Justice of the European Union.

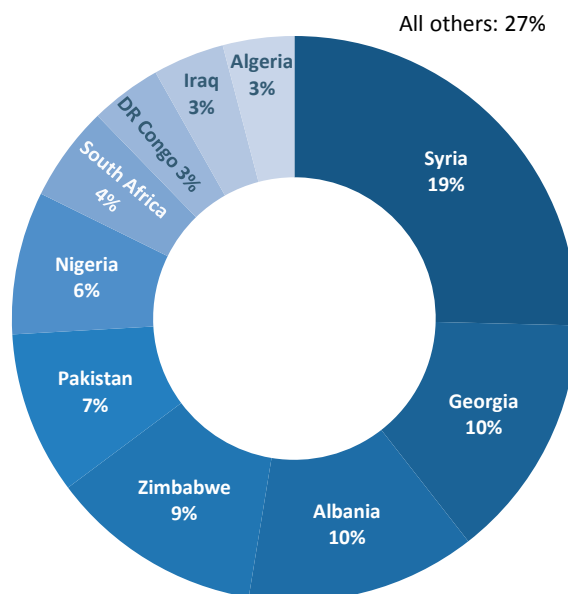


Figure 9: Top 10 nationalities for International Protection in 2017

International protection and the right to work

An interdepartmental taskforce was established in July to address the implications of the Supreme Court judgement in *N.V.H. v Minister for Justice and Equality*.

The Court held on 30 May 2017 that an absolute prohibition on the right to work for international protection applicants is contrary to the right to seek employment under the Constitution. The Court's finding is based on our international protection system having no time limits as to when the application process will be concluded.

The taskforce is chaired by the Department of Justice and Equality with representatives from all relevant Government departments and the Office of the Attorney General.

In November, the taskforce recommended to Government that Ireland opt in to the EU (recast) Reception Conditions Directive, which lays down standards for the reception of international protection applicants. Due to the opt-in process, it is likely to be June 2018 before Ireland has opted-in to the directive.

On 30 November 2017, the Supreme Court decided that from 9 February 2018 the order made by the court on 30 May would take effect. This decision strikes down the Section of the International Protection Act 2015 which prohibits applicants from accessing employment.

A temporary arrangement has been put in place. These arrangements make two provisions.

- Until the date of entry into force of the EU directive, all applicants for international protection will be able to access the Employment Permits System of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation on the same basis as other non-EEA nationals.
- Under his discretionary powers, the Minister will introduce an administrative scheme to allow eligible applicants to be self-employed. Eligible applicants are people who have been waiting nine or more months for a first decision on their application.

The Implementation Group, established by Government, will continue to make all arrangements for the State to opt in to the EU (recast) Reception Conditions Directive as soon as possible.

Accommodation for International Protection applicants

At end 2017 there were 5,096 applicants for international protection living in State-provided accommodation centres funded by the Reception and Integration Agency. Not all of these people were awaiting decisions on their applications for international protection. Almost 450 have been granted some form of status, but they continue to live in State-provided accommodation while they look for private accommodation. Another 269 have deportation orders requiring that they remove themselves from the State.

Implementing recommendations on Direct Provision

The Report of the Working Group on improvements to the protection process, including direct provision and supports to asylum seekers, had a significant impact in this area. Improvements in the accommodation facilities continue to be made. As of the end of 2017 full self catering was available in Mosney, Clonakilty and Ballyhaunis and has since been installed in Athlone. Communal catering is available in St Patrick's in Monaghan, Great Western in Galway, both centres in Tramore, Kinsale Road, and Mount Trenchard in Limerick.

Improvements to facilities for international protection applicants in State-provided accommodation will continue in 2018 with the publication of a Request For Tender (RFT) in line with the McMahon recommendations for future accommodation requirements as well as improvements to existing accommodation.

The average length of time spent in State-provided accommodation centres has gone down since 2015. In 2015, it was 38 months. It was 23 months at the end of 2017.

The final progress report on the Working Group report, published in July 2017, showed that 133 of the 173 recommendations had been fully implemented, with a further 36 in progress or partially implemented. This represents 98% full or partial implementation.

Residents of all accommodation centres were also granted access to the Ombudsman's office – the first report by the Ombudsman in relation to complaints from this area was published in January 2018.

In July 2017, Minister Flanagan and Minister Stanton published the report of consultations with **children in direct provision**. The aim of this innovative measure was to hear the views of children and young people living in these centres to find out what they like, dislike and would like to change or improve about the places they live. This report is an important contribution to future policy development in this area.

Family reunification

In November, a new family reunification scheme was launched to support refugees and their families. Under this scheme, up to 530 family members of refugees from conflict zones will be able to come to Ireland as part of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme.

The programme will be in addition to the family reunification provisions provided for in the International Protection Act 2015, which allows for the family reunification of immediate family members in line with the permissions operated by other EU Member States.

Irish Refugee Protection Programme

In 2015, the Irish Government approved the establishment of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme and agreed that this programme would accept people seeking protection under the EU Relocation and Resettlement programmes.

Relocation arrivals			
Year	Adults	Minors	Total
2016	132	108	240
2017	283	232	515
Total	415	340	755

Table 3: Relocation arrivals 2016-2017

In 2017, 515 cases were transferred to Ireland from Greece under the EU Relocation Programme to be processed by the International Protection Office. During the year, under the International Protection Act 2015, 400 recommendations were made for that caseload.

In September 2017, Minister Flanagan announced that Ireland intends to make a pledge to accept 600 programme refugees in 2018. This commitment has been made as part of a new EU resettlement pledging exercise under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, for the period 9 December 2017 - 31 December 2018.

This includes a commitment to take an additional 330 programme refugees above the 270 people who are due to arrive in 2018.

Resettlement arrivals			
Year	Adults	Minors	Total
2015	73	90	163
2016	167	189	356
2017	123	150	273
Total	363	429	792

Table 4: Resettlement arrivals 2015-2017

Irish Refugee Protection Programme (Continued)

EU Resettlement Programme

Under this programme, people arriving in Ireland have already been selected under the UNHCR Resettlement Programme and granted refugee status.

Ireland had committed to accept 1,040 refugees by the end of 2017 under the resettlement strand of the programme. Currently 792 people have arrived, and the rest are expected to arrive as early as possible in 2018.

The Minister has recently announced that in 2018, Ireland will take in a further 345 refugees bringing the total to 1,385. The Minister has also decided to make a new pledge to the EU to take a further 600 programme refugees in 2018.

EU Relocation Programme

Under this programme, people arrive in Ireland from other EU member states, and have their claims for international protection assessed here.

Ireland has committed to accept 2,622 asylum seekers under the relocation strand of the programme. This total is composed of 1,089 people from Greece, 623 people from Italy and 910 people as yet unallocated.

The relocation of people from Italy to Ireland has not commenced due to security considerations, while the EU Commission has not assigned the remaining cohort of 910.

To date, 755 people have arrived. By early 2018, it is expected that Ireland will have relocated its entire cohort from Greece. This is subject to local authorities finding homes in communities around Ireland and the Greek Asylum Service providing the case files to Ireland.

Irish Red Cross – pledged accommodation

The Irish Red Cross has been working closely with the Department of Justice and Equality to resettle asylum seekers in pledged accommodation, and 54 people have now been matched with accommodation drawn from a mixture of shared accommodation and single occupancy property types.

The Red Cross have also found jobs for some programme refugees, which shows what can be done with a refugee sponsorship programme at community level.

The Migrant Integration Strategy

The Migrant Integration Strategy sets out the framework for a range of actions by Government departments and other agencies to help migrants to participate fully in Irish life. The Strategy is intended to cover EEA as well as non-EEA nationals, including economic migrants, refugees and those with legal status to remain in Ireland.

Each of these groups will have differing needs depending on their situation. The diversity of migrant needs has implications for the integration-related issues potentially facing Government departments and for the services provided by departments, agencies and other service providers.

A Migrant Integration Strategy Monitoring and Co-ordination Committee has been established, chaired by Minister of State David Stanton. The committee includes Government departments, key public bodies, local authorities and NGOs, and they will review implementation of all actions under the Strategy. Several subcommittees have been established to focus on particular themes.

INIS chairs a subcommittee on the 'Active Citizenship' theme, which involves several areas of INIS responsibilities (citizenship, long-term residency, registration of minors, statistics and fees). This subcommittee also covers issues related to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Sport Ireland and the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration.

The process of implementing this integration plan will be monitored to make sure it is effective and efficient.

Year	Total Population	Total Non-Irish Population	Percentage change of Non-Irish Population
2002	3,917,203	224,261 (5.6% of total) Male: n/a; Female: n/a	n/a
2006	4,239,848	419,733 (10% of total) Male 223,717; Female 196,016	+ 87.2% increase
2011	4,588,252	544,357 (12% of total) Male 271,864; Female 272,493	+ 29.7% increase
2016	4,761,865	535,475 (11.2% of total) Male: n/a; Female: n/a	- 1.6% decrease

Table 5: Population data

Unaccompanied Minors

When announcing the Refugee Protection Programme in September 2015, the Government recognised the importance of addressing the position of unaccompanied children. In November 2016, the Dáil passed an all-party motion committing Ireland to taking 200 children from the former Calais migrant camp.

On foot of the Government decision, Tusla (the Child and Family Agency) of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, launched the Calais Special Project (CSP).

As of 31 December 2017, 30 unaccompanied minors had arrived in Ireland under this initiative three of whom were reunited with family here in Ireland with the remaining children placed in the care of Tusla.

All of the unaccompanied minors that have been identified in cooperation with the French authorities as suitable for relocation to Ireland have been accepted into Ireland and provided with the appropriate supports.

No more young people will be placed in Ireland from the Calais camp, as it no longer exists.

Resettlement of unaccompanied minors from Calais as of 31 December 2017	
Country of origin	Total
Eritrea	7
South Sudan	4
Afghanistan	15
Ethiopia	3
Syria	1
Total	30

Table 6: Calais unaccompanied minors



Chapter 5

Looking forward to 2018

Looking forward to 2018

In 2018, as always, INIS will continue to meet its strategic commitments, which are listed in Chapter 1 of this review.

The objectives set for the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service for 2018 include:

- Continue to participate in Brexit discussions about:
 - the CTA;
 - free movement for people entitled to it; and
 - enhancing controls to make sure the CTA is not abused.
- Review immigration legislation and how our immigration system operates to make sure our system meets current and evolving requirements. This objective complements our work in relation to the International Protection Act 2015.
- Review how effective and efficient the INIS service is to make sure it can meet the demand for services. This review will include implementing IT systems and procedures to support the work of INIS.
- Implement the EU Passenger Name Records Directive in May 2018.
- Improve immigration controls and security at ports of entry, including:
 - more use of information technologies; and
 - enhanced legislative measures.
- Improve the processing rate for international protection applications so that, as soon as possible, all first-instance decisions are made within nine months of the date of application.
- Implement the EU (recast) Reception Conditions Directive in cooperation with the European Commission to:
 - provide a legal basis for access to the labour market; and
 - protect the rights of people seeking international protection.
- Process over 250,000 immigration applications, including:
 - visas;
 - registration;
 - residence;
 - EU Treaty Rights;
 - family reunification (including the Family Reunification Humanitarian Programme); and
 - citizenship.
- Represent Ireland at EU and international forums about immigration and international protection, including forums about the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) that is being negotiated at EU level.
- Administer the Immigrant Investor Programme with the Interdepartmental Steering Committee, which approves applications under the programme.

Glossary

Asylum seekers - see International Protection.

Citizenship - see Naturalisation.

Civilianisation Programme - a series of actions designed to transfer specific functions from An Garda Síochána to civilian staff, including INIS staff. The programme started in 2014 with the transfer of border management functions at Dublin Airport to INIS. This was followed by the transfer of immigration registration in the Dublin Metropolitan District in 2016.

Direct provision – a means of meeting the basic needs of food and shelter for international protection applicants directly while their claims are being processed. The State provides applicants for international protection with full-board accommodation, and ancillary services like food and medical care. It also gives applicants (adults and children) a weekly personal allowance of €21.60.

EU (recast) Reception Conditions Directive – a directive to ensure better and more consistent standards of reception conditions throughout the European Union. It ensures that applicants for international protection have access to housing, food, clothing, health care, education for minors and access to employment under certain conditions. This Directive was revised in 2016 to further improve standards and consistency. Ireland will opt in to this directive in 2018.

EU Relocation Programme - the transfer of asylum seekers from one EU State to another. Their asylum applications are examined in the Member State where they are relocated. Eligibility for the relocation scheme is limited to applicants who are in clear need of international protection and are a national or stateless resident of those countries for which the EU-wide average recognition rate is more than 75 percent.

EU Resettlement Programme - the transfer of refugees into EU countries, including Ireland. The people transferred under this programme have already been granted refugee status in another country. People arriving under this programme are sometimes referred to as programme refugees.

Glossary (continued)

Family Reunification - people who hold immigration permission in the State, may be able to apply for their family members to enter and live in the State. The exact rights in relation to family reunification depend on the specific type of immigration permission held.

International Protection - there are two types of international protection:

- refugee status, and
- subsidiary protection.

People applying for such status are often called asylum seekers. A refugee is a person who cannot return to their own country for fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or because they belong to a particular social group (for example, due to their sexual orientation).

A person who is eligible for subsidiary protection is not a refugee but does face a real risk of suffering serious harm if returned to their own country.

Operation Vantage - a multi-agency operation, involving An Garda Síochána, the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, the Revenue Commissioners, the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement (ODCE), and the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC). It is focussed on preventing marriages of convenience from taking place and taking a fresh look at past cases with a view to revoking immigration permissions that may have been obtained under false pretences.

Naturalisation - the process whereby a foreign national living in Ireland may apply to become an Irish citizen. To apply for naturalisation in Ireland, you must have been physically resident in Ireland for a certain length of time.

NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation

Single Application Procedure - the International Protection Act 2015 introduced a single procedure which enables one consideration of all grounds for examining and deciding on all applications for international protection (refugee status and subsidiary protection) or permission to stay in the State for humanitarian reasons.

UNHCR - the United Nations Refugee Agency.



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
agus Comhionannais
Department of Justice
and Equality