LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY
No relevant changes were reported in 2017.

ECONOMIC MIGRATION
Arrivals of highly-qualified migrants increased by 13% in 2017, continuing a trend experienced also in the previous years.

A second call for the Rising Start Up Spain programme was launched in the framework of Strategy for the Internationalisation of the Spanish Economy 2017-2027. In line with the strategy, Spain continued to evaluate also the impact of migration of highly-qualified workers.

PROMOTING LEGAL MIGRATION CHANNELS
In 2017, through an EU funded pilot project, Spain has worked within the framework of pilot projects on legal migration to promote training, entrepreneurship and work in the field of circular migration.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION
No relevant changes were reported in 2017.

MANAGING MIGRATION AND MOBILITY
No relevant changes were reported in 2017.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM
33,950 asylum applications were submitted in 2017, which marked a 115% increase compared to 2016.

KEY POINTS
Recent migratory flows showed a rise of highly-qualified migrants which further increase the heterogeneous composition of migrant population forcing Spain to adapt its integration system.

Spain continued to be fully committed to implement migration policies through joint actions involving countries of origin, transit and destination. Cooperation with third countries is one of the pillars of migration policy and a way to maximise the link between migration and development.

Spain started adjusting and resizing its asylum system to address both the direct increase of asylum seekers as well as to comply with its relocation and resettlement commitments.

In order to meet this change of influx, Spain started a gradual resizing of the national asylum system and of the reception and integration mechanism, by increasing its budget and capacity as well as optimising procedures.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS
No new developments were reported in 2017. However, it should be noted that during 2017, the
application of the 2014 Framework Protocol for actions concerning unaccompanied minors continued, improving coordination among institutions and administrations. On 23 June 2017, the Spanish government doubled the funds to improve the services of the reception centres of unaccompanied minors in Ceuta and Melilla.

**INTEGRATION**

No new developments were reported in 2017. However, a continuous effort is made to strengthen and adapt Spain’s integration policy to guarantee cohesion and avoid future problems in the face of increasingly heterogeneous migration profiles.

**IRREGULAR MIGRATION**

The number of irregular migrants increased by 101.4% compared to 2016 in spite of the prevention work done by Spain in cooperation with countries of origin and transit.

Migratory pressure particularly increased in the Western Mediterranean. Despite the decrease of irregular immigration in the Canary Islands (-37.8% compared to the previous year) and Ceuta (-44%), entries by sea increased by 170.8%. Entries by land also witnessed an increase of 5.6%.

**RETURN**

During 2017, actions with regard to return continued to be carried out based on the following fundamental principles: (i) establish adequate return instruments that respect human rights; (ii) promote cooperation with countries of origin and transit to ensure that return and readmission is an effective measure to combat human trafficking; (iii) encourage voluntary return over forced return; and (iv) create a reintegration policy in parallel to a return policy.

**ACTIONS AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**


The work that Spain has been doing in this area has been recognised by the GRETA Report of 2018. However, important challenges remain, such as the appearance of new trafficking networks (e.g. Chinese and Nigerian women), or growing new forms of trafficking such as forced marriages.

**MAXIMISING DEVELOPMENT IMPACT OF MIGRATION AND MOBILITY**

One of the dimensions of the Spanish immigration policy that has been defended in all instances is the cooperation with countries of origin and transit throughout the entire migration cycle. This entails (i) working hand in hand to address the root causes of migration; (ii) establishing legal pathways for migration; (iii) fighting against irregular channels, trafficking and trafficking in persons and; (iv) establishing return and reintegration channels.

The V Master Plan of Spanish Cooperation for the period 2018-2021 was approved by the Council of Ministers on 27 March 2017. It contained the objectives and priorities of Spanish cooperation and it acknowledged migration as one of the existing issues to be addressed by development cooperation.

**STATISTICAL ANNEX**

The Statistical Annex provides an overview of the latest available statistics for Spain on aspects of migration and international protection (2014-2017), including residence, asylum, unaccompanied minors, irregular migration, return and visas. Where statistics are not yet available, this is indicated in the Annex as “N/A”.

1. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ASYLUM

Figure 1: Asylum applications as a share of the total population in Spain, EU average and EU high and low (2014-2017)

![Graph showing asylum applications as a share of the total population in Spain, EU average and EU high and low (2014-2017)](image)

Source: Eurostat migration statistics [migr_asyapoctra](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat), data extracted 24.08.18

Figure 2: Number of asylum applications and as a share of the total number of applications in the EU (2014-2017)

![Graph showing number of asylum applications and as a share of the total number of applications in the EU (2014-2017)](image)

Source: Eurostat migration statistics [migr_asyapoctra](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat), data extracted 24.08.18

### Table 1: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities (2014–2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>% of total</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>% of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>1,510</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>5,725</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>3,960</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>12,875</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>3,345</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>2,975</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>4,195</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>2,570</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>3,805</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>740</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>2,260</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Eurostat migration statistics [migr_asyapoctra](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat), data extracted 24.08.18
Figure 3: Asylum applications: Top five third-country nationalities as a share of EU totals per given nationality (2017)

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asyaportza), data extracted 24.08.18
Note: the figure reads as: Spain received 12,875 asylum applications from Venezuela or 88.76% of all asylum applications launched by Venezuela in EU in 2017.

Table 2: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2014-2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total decisions</th>
<th>Positive decisions</th>
<th>Of which:</th>
<th>Humanitarian reasons</th>
<th>Negative decisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Refugee status</td>
<td>Subsidiary protection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>3,620</td>
<td>1,585</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3,240</td>
<td>1,020</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>10,250</td>
<td>6,855</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>13,345</td>
<td>4,670</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>4,080</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydfsta), data extracted 30.03.18

Figure 4: Asylum applications - First instance decisions by outcome (2014-2017)

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydfsta), data extracted 24.08.18

Figure 5: Negative decision rate for the top five nationalities of applicants at the first instance in comparison with EU for the same given nationality (2017)

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_asydfsta), data extracted 24.08.18
2. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Table 3: Unaccompanied minors (2014-2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied minors (total)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccompanied minor asylum applicants</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Eurostat Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age and sex Annual data (rounded) (migr.asylum), data extracted 04.04.18; EMN NCPs

3. LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Table 4: First residence permits: Top five third-country nationalities (2014–2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>36 162</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>37 184</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China (incl. Hong Kong)</td>
<td>12 135</td>
<td>China (incl. Hong Kong)</td>
<td>12 581</td>
<td>China (incl. Hong Kong)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>9 313</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>9 582</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>8 283</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>7 383</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>8 205</td>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>7 249</td>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr.resfirst), data extracted 13.07.18; EMN NCPs
Figure 9: Resident population of third-country nationals as a share of total population in Spain, EU average, EU high and low (2014-2017)

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_pop1ctz), data extracted 30.03.18. Population on 1 January.

4. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

Table 5: Number of third-country nationals refused entry at external borders (2014–2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refused entry at external borders</td>
<td>172 185</td>
<td>168 345</td>
<td>192 135</td>
<td>203 025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Found to be illegally present</td>
<td>47 885</td>
<td>42 605</td>
<td>37 295</td>
<td>44 625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordered to leave</td>
<td>42 150</td>
<td>33 495</td>
<td>27 845</td>
<td>27 340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returned following an order to leave</td>
<td>15 150</td>
<td>13 315</td>
<td>10 185</td>
<td>10 785</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Eurostat migration statistics (migr_eirf5) (migr_eirp) (migr_esord) (migr_eirto) data extracted 02.05.18

Table 6: Third-country nationals returned (2014–2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Returned as part of forced return measure</th>
<th>Returned voluntarily</th>
<th>Returned through an Assisted Voluntary Return Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>12 289</td>
<td>5 850</td>
<td>3 392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>10 960</td>
<td>5 671</td>
<td>2 794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2 639</td>
<td>1 845</td>
<td>1 047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>10 167</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1 277</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: EMN NCPs

5. SECURING EUROPE’S EXTERNAL BORDERS

Table 7: Number of Schengen visas applications (2014–2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uniform visas (short-stay visas)</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 923 016</td>
<td>1 629 753</td>
<td>1 583 848</td>
<td>1 624 276</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DG Migration and Home – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States
Figure 10: Uniform visa applications received in Spain as a share of the total number of uniform visa applications in all Schengen states consulates (2014-2017)

Source: DG Migration and Home Affairs – Complete statistics on short-stay visas issued by the Schengen States

Table 8: Top five countries in which the highest number of visa applications for Spain was lodged (2014-2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>893 849</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>481 284</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>155 690</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>165 924</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>109 776</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>142 890</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>94 616</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>119 805</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>80 904</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>82 289</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DG Migration and Home Affairs