



**Information of the Head of the Office for Foreigners regarding the application of the *Act of 13<sup>th</sup> June of 2003 on Granting Protection to Foreigners within the Territory of the Republic of Poland* (Polish Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1666 as amended) in relation to executing the Republic of Poland's obligations under the *Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* and the *New York Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees* in the year 2020**

**Warsaw, February of 2021**

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## 1. Legal status

*Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, of 28<sup>th</sup> July of 1951* (Polish Journal Laws of 1991, no. 119, item 515) and the *New York Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees of 31<sup>st</sup> January of 1967* (Journal of Laws of 1991, no. 119, item 517) define the material and legal basis for granting refugee status and define the key laws and freedoms of refugees. However, the aforementioned legal acts do not define the rules and procedures of administrative proceedings for granting international protection. In Poland, these matters are defined by the *Act of 13<sup>th</sup> June of 2003 on Granting Protection to Foreigners within the Territory of the Republic of Poland*. In addition, the Act also regulates the rules for issuing documents to refugees and the manner of cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Separate acts in the Polish legal system also define the *non-refoulement* principle, as well as the social and economic rights of refugees.

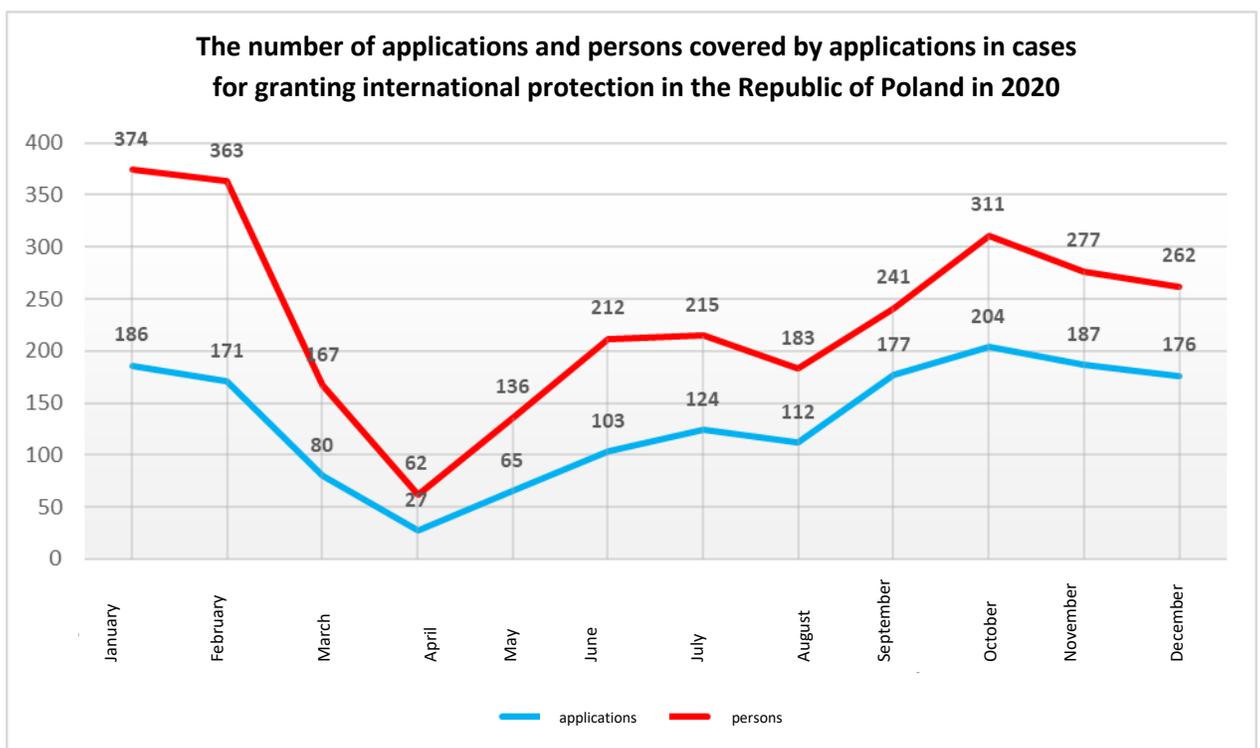
Poland follows the so-called uniform asylum procedure. The course of the procedure for granting international protection involves not only a verification of the criteria which must be met in order to be classified as a refugee, but also – in the case that the criteria are not met – other circumstances resulting in granting protection against the return to the country of origin. A foreigner who does not qualify as a refugee, but who may be subject to a factual risk of serious harm upon re-entry to the country of origin is granted subsidiary protection. International protection may also be granted to foreigners resettled into Poland from third countries or relocated from other European Union Member States.

Beginning from 20<sup>th</sup> July of 2007, the competent authority for matters related to granting protection to foreigners on the territory of the Republic of Poland is the Head of the Office for Foreigners who conducts administrative

**cases for granting international protection via the Department for Refugees Procedures.**

2. The execution of the *Act on Granting Protection to Foreigners within the Territory of the Republic of Poland* in the scope of processing applications on granting international protection

In 2020, 1,612 applications for granting international protection were submitted in the Republic of Poland. The applications covered 2,803 persons, which is a similar number in relation to 2019, i.e., 1,958 applications registered with respect to 4,096 persons. Such a significant decrease in the number of persons applying for international protection was undoubtedly due to the coronavirus pandemic, and the downwards trends were observed in all European Union Member States.



The citizens of the Russian Federation constituted the largest group of persons applying for international protection in 2020 – 1,283 persons

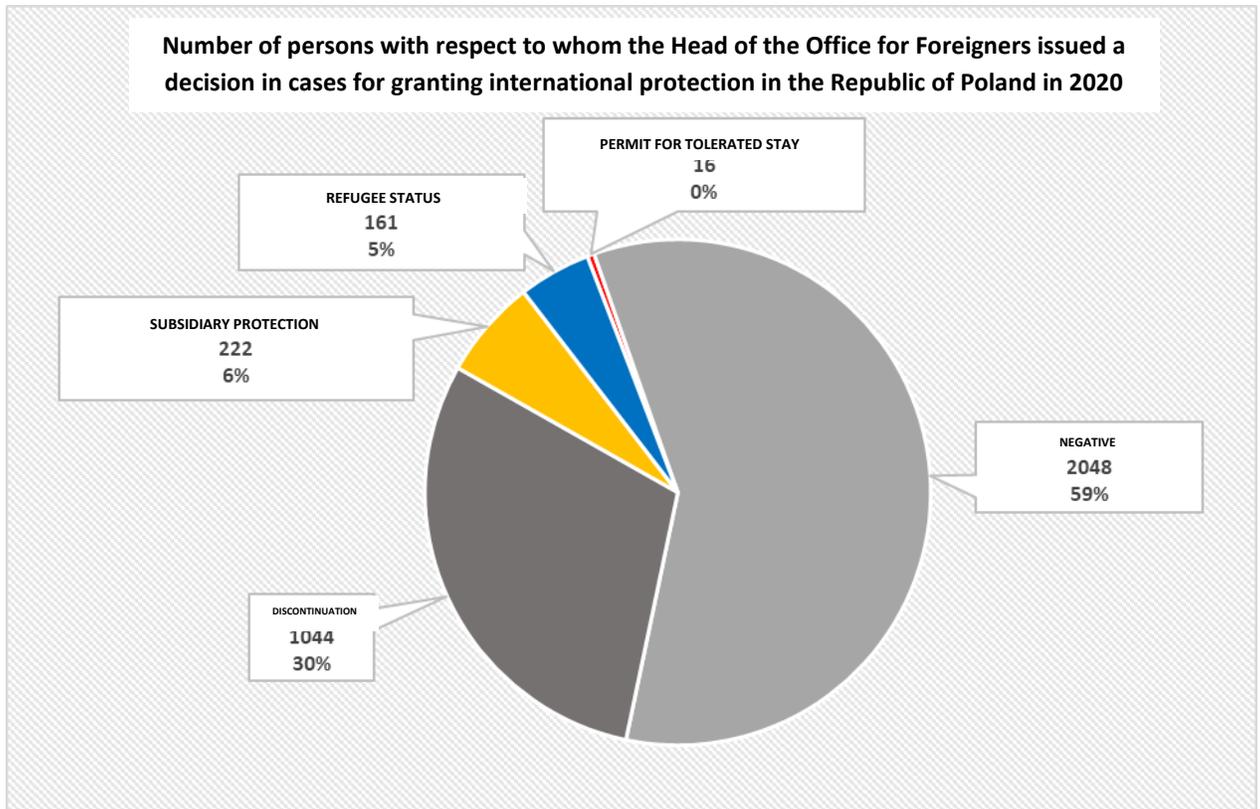
(approximately 45% of the total number of applicants). The majority of the applicants – 1,098 persons – declared Chechen nationality. The citizens of Belarus constituted the second largest group of foreigners – 407 persons (approximately 14% of the total number), while the third group includes Ukraine – 317 persons (approximately 11% of the total number). Moreover, applications for international protection were submitted most often by the citizens of Afghanistan – 120 persons, Tajikistan – 87 persons, Turkey – 74 persons and Georgia – 61 persons.

The analysis of the aforementioned data shows that 2020 has brought the composition changes of nationalities of foreigners applying for international protection in the Republic of Poland. The percentage rate of persons from Russian Federation fell down from approximately 64% in 2019 to approximately 45% in the preceding year. The citizens of Belarus became the second largest group of persons applying for protection – 407 persons, while their number the year prior amounted to just 37. The percentage share of foreigners coming from Ukraine has not changed and amounted to approximately 11% of the total number, similarly to 2019. Similarly to 2019, there has also been a large number of Afghani, Tajik and Georgian citizens applying for international protection. However, the total number of citizens of Iran filing such applications has decreased in comparison to 2019 (from 52 to 19 persons).

It must be mentioned, that due to the coronavirus pandemic a number of legal as well as practical solutions has been introduced, aiming to limit the transmission of COVID-19, while on the other they allowed to maintain the continuity and efficiency of the implementation of the tasks related to carrying out procedures for granting international protection. And thus, between 16<sup>th</sup> March until 25<sup>th</sup> May of 2020, the Office for Foreigners ceased direct services to the customers, and carrying out face to face interviews was impossible. It was only possible to carry out interviews with foreigners on the current principles in

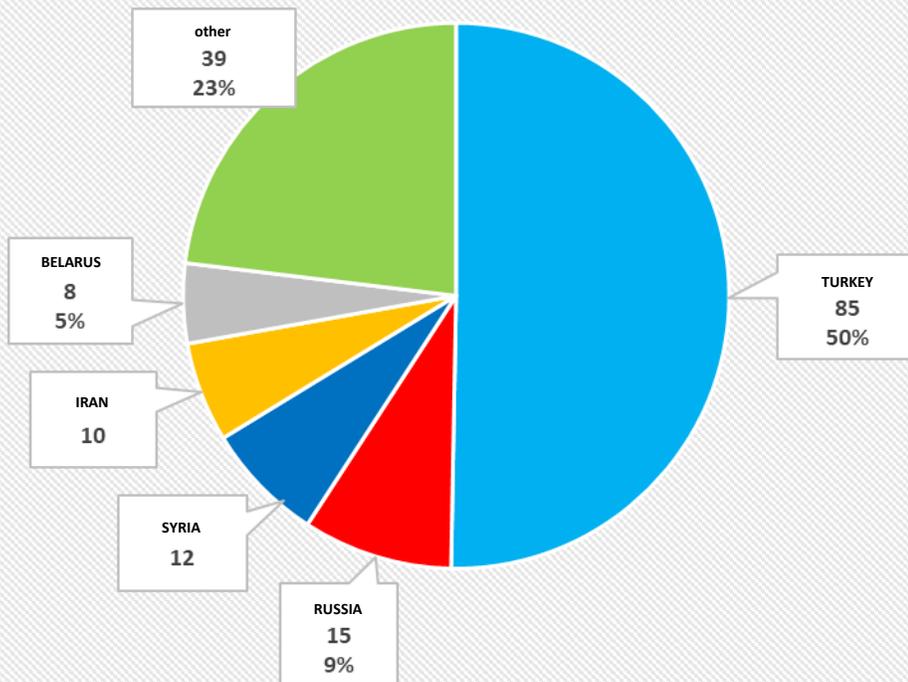
guarded centres for foreigners and in custodies for foreigners in the form of videoconferences. In order to ensure efficient implementation of the procedures for granting international protection, an internal procedure for carrying out interviews during the pandemic has been developed, which covered all the remaining foreigners, and entered into force on 20<sup>th</sup> May of 2020. Most of the hearings in 2020 were therefore carried out in the form of videoconferences. Moreover, the amendment of the *Act of 2<sup>nd</sup> March of 2020 on the special measures introduced to prevent, counteract and combat COVID-19, other infectious diseases and crisis situations* (Polish Journal of Laws, item 568) entered into force on 31<sup>st</sup> March of 2020, providing for particular solutions regarding the cessation or cancellation of the run of the time limits during epidemic hazard or the state of an epidemic. The aforementioned solutions, pursuant to which the run of the time limits for administrative cases related to, among others, cases on granting international protection, did not begin, while the run of the time limits which have already begun was suspended for the duration of the epidemic hazard or the state of an epidemic announced due to COVID-19 were revoked based on the *Act of 14<sup>th</sup> May of 2020 on the amendments of certain Acts with regards to preventive measures due to the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus* (Polish Journal of Laws, item 875).

Decisions in administrative cases regarding 3,491 persons applying for international protection in 2020 and earlier were issued during the past year. That shows a downward trend in relation to 2019, when decisions with regards to 4,000 foreigners were issued.



In accordance with Article 1A, item 2 of the *Geneva Convention*, a refugee is a person who has a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country. That provision has been directly transposed to the *Act on Granting Protection to Foreigners within the Territory of the Republic of Poland* (vide art. 13, item 1).

Number of persons with respect to whom the Head of the Office for Foreigners issued a decision on granting refugee status in the Republic of Poland in 2020



Throughout the previous year, the refugee status was granted to 161 foreigners, including, among others, 85 citizens of Turkey, 15 citizens of the Russian Federation, 12 Syrians and 10 citizens of Iran. In comparison, in the previous year this form of protection covered 131 persons (among others: Turkey – 49 persons, Iran – 19 persons, Iraq – 19 persons). Therefore, the number of persons who were granted refugee status in the past years was approximately 23% higher in relation to 2019.

Pursuant to Article 1C of the *Geneva Convention*, the Convention shall cease to apply to any person, who voluntarily re-availed himself of the protection of the country of his nationality; having lost his nationality, he has voluntarily re-acquired it; has acquired a new nationality, and enjoys the protection of the

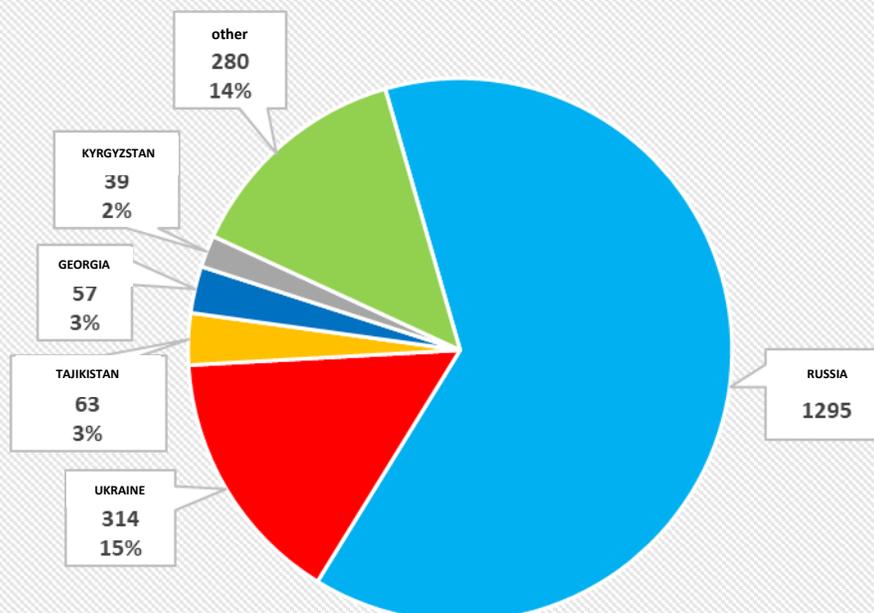
country of his new nationality; has voluntarily re-established himself in the country which he left or outside which he remained owing to fear of persecution or who can no longer, because the circumstances in connexion with which he has been recognized as a refugee have ceased to exist, continue to refuse to avail himself of the protection of the country of his nationality. The clauses indicated above have been included in Article 21, item 1 of the *Act on Granting Protection to Foreigners within the Territory of the Republic of Poland*.

Based on the reasons indicated above, in 2020 the refugee status was revoked from 12 persons – 11 citizens of the Russian Federation and 1 citizen of Sri Lanka. On the other hand, subsidiary protection was revoked from 95 persons – all of whom were citizens of the Russian Federation. With respect to revoking international protection, the situation is similar to 2019, when international protection was revoked from 106 persons.

Negative decisions were issued in relation to 2,048 persons (i.e., decisions declaring the application inadmissible – 1,236 persons, or negative decisions on granting either form of international protection – 812 persons). It is an 18% increase in relation to 2019 (during that year, negative decisions were issued with regards to 1,730 persons).

A portion of the applications submitted in the preceding year was processed under an accelerated procedure. That is particularly important in the case of an application for international protection made by a person who remains under obligation to return. That institution allows to prevent instrumental treatment of the procedure for granting international protection as a method for preventing return. In addition, its presence allows to reduce the time required for the administrative proceedings. The accelerated procedure was applied in relation to 63 foreigners.

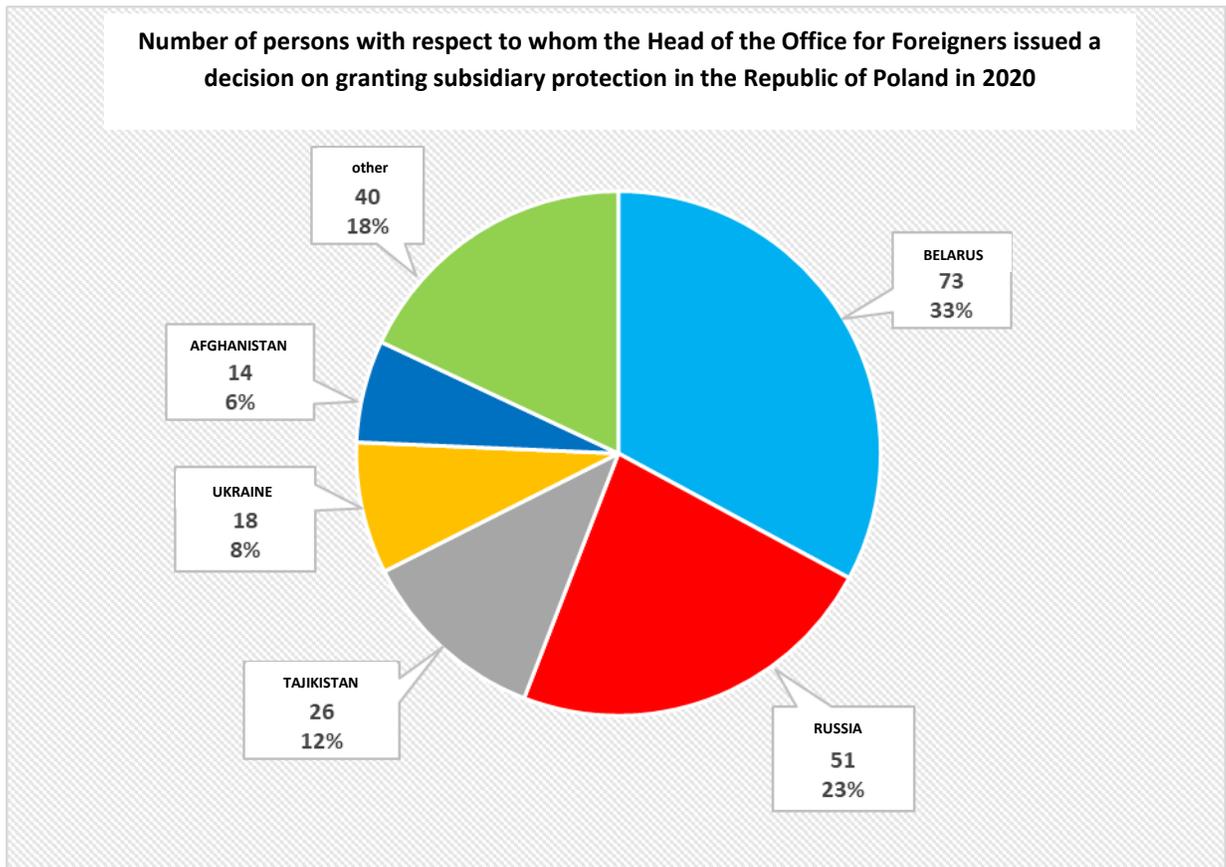
Number of persons with respect to whom the Head of the Office for Foreigners issued a negative decision on granting international protection in 2020



During the previous year, there were 2 cases where the so-called exclusion clause was applied, as specified in Article 1F of the *Geneva Convention* – with respect to citizens of Libya and Turkey. It should be mentioned, that the circumstances which result in excluding the possibility to use the laws granted by the *Convention* were directly indicated in the *Act on granting protection to foreigners within the Territory of the Republic of Poland* (vide Article 19, item 1(3)). The exclusion clause was also applied in 1 case regarding subsidiary protection – with respect to a citizen of Morocco.

As mentioned earlier, in the case of a negative decision on granting refugee status, the need to grant subsidiary protection to a foreigner is decided ex officio. In 2020, subsidiary protection was granted to 222 persons, among others 73 citizens of Belarus, 51 persons from the Russian Federation, 26

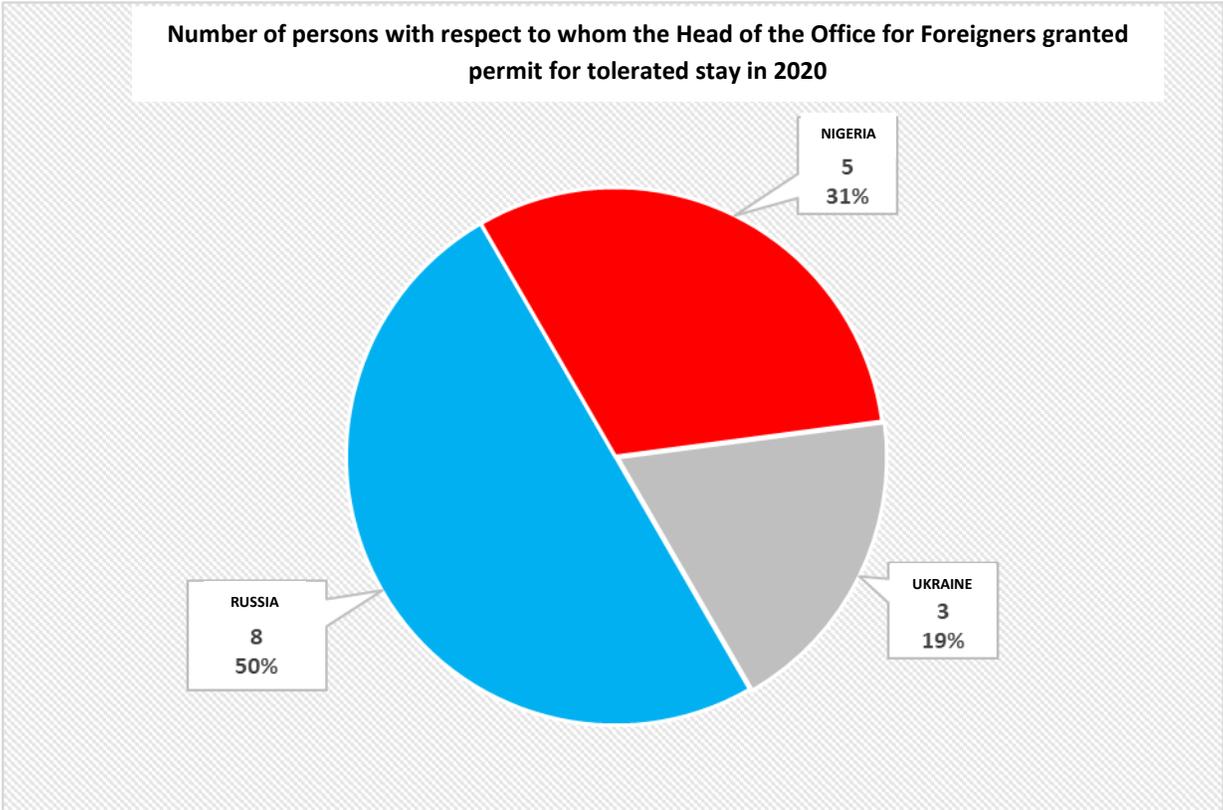
citizens of Tajikistan, 18 persons from Ukraine and 14 from Afghanistan. That number is approximately 72% lower in relation to 2019 – when subsidiary protection was granted to 130 foreigners.



In administrative cases initiated prior to 1<sup>st</sup> May of 2014, in the case that a foreigner did not meet the conditions for granting refugee status or the conditions for subsidiary protection, the Head of the Office for Foreigners examined the need to cover the foreigner with protection in the form of issuing a permit for tolerated stay. The permit for tolerated stay within the territory of the Republic of Poland was granted to a foreigner in the event that his expulsion would result in returning only to the country, which posed a threat to his life, freedom and personal safety, where he could be subject to torture, inhuman or

degrading treatment, punishment, forced labour, be excluded from the right to just court proceeding or be subject to punishment without legal basis pursuant to the *Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, concluded in Rome on 4<sup>th</sup> November of 1950* or would violate the right to family life within the meaning of the aforementioned *Convention*, or violate child laws as defined in the *United Nations General Assembly Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20<sup>th</sup> November of 1989* to an extent which poses a significant threat to the child’s mental and physical development.

In 2020, 16 persons received negative decisions on granting refugee status and subsidiary protection while the consent to tolerated stay was issued to 16 persons – four times less in comparison to 2019, while a half of the beneficiaries were citizens of the Russian Federation.



The data indicated above shows that in 2020, 399 foreigners were granted international and domestic protection in Poland. That constitutes approximately 14% of the persons who applied for a refugee status – 8 percentage points lower in relation to 2019.

A thorough assessment of the validity of the applications for granting international protection would not be possible without comparing the situation of the applicants to the factual situation in their countries of origin. Only that perspective allows to carry out a proper assessment if the person applying for international protection may, in fact, be at risk of persecution or serious harm within the meaning of the *Act on Granting Protection to Foreigners within the Territory of the Republic of Poland*. In 2020, the Country of Origin Information Unit of the Department of Refugees Procedures prepared 493 studies regarding the situation in the countries of origin. The studies pertained to 65 countries, while the majority related to: The Russian Federation (88), Ukraine (38), Turkey (35), Afghanistan (22), Tajikistan (20), Iran (19), Armenia (16), Iraq (16), Syria (16) and Belarus (14). The scope of subjects covered by the Country of Origin Information Unit was particularly wide, and covered matters such as: safety in a given country and threats to the civilians, the situation of a selected national or ethnic group, situation of a specific religious groups of communities, situation of particular social group (e.g. women, LGBTI), law enforcement and the possibility to obtain protection, judiciary and penitentiary system in a given country, the situation of persons returning to the specific country, military service, medical care system, the possibility to treat a specific disease, information on specific cities or towns and events, information on specific persons.

Additionally, jointly with external experts, the Country of Origin Information Unit prepared two large reports on the situation of women in Africa and the judiciary system in the Russian Federation. Moreover, it has organised four trainings which have been carried out on-line due to the epidemiological

situation. The trainings were carried out by external experts and related to the following issues: the situation in selected African countries, justice system in the Russian Federation, the situation of Kurds in Turkey and Iraq and the situation of women in Northern Caucasus.

In 2020, the Country of Origin Information Unit of the Department for Refugees Procedures continued to maintain a book depository. By the end of the preceding year, the collection included approximately 10,000 publications. Despite the generally difficult conditions under which the depository operated, 194 books were rented out to the interested employees of the Office for Foreigners. Simultaneously, the labelling of books included in the collection in the electronic library system was continued (added cover photos, table of contents, reviews, as well as wider descriptions related to certain publications).

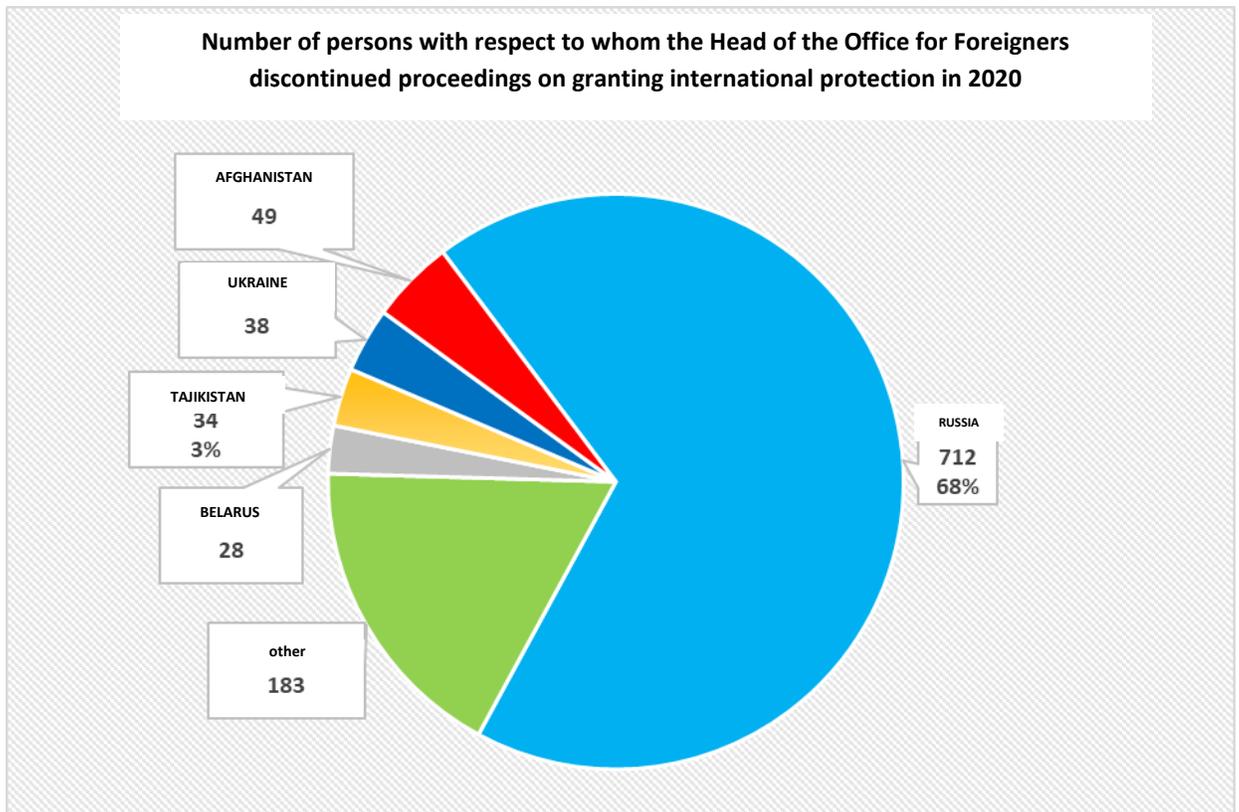
Moreover, the employees of the Country of Origin Information Unit have carried four photo albums of fact finding missions to the countries of origin (Ethiopia, Turkey and India), carried out in 2018 and 2019 under the AMIF project *“Increasing the capacity of the employees of Department for Refugees Procedures for collecting, storing, analysing and disseminating information on countries of origin 2017-2020.”*

The employees of the Country of Origin Information Unit were also involved in cooperation with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). The most important activities within the cooperation with EASO included: preparation of the content to the EASO report on the security situation in Afghanistan, preparing a peer-review of the EASO report of a study mission to Ukraine, related to the situation of the health service in that country, performing a peer-review report regarding the security situation in Iraq.

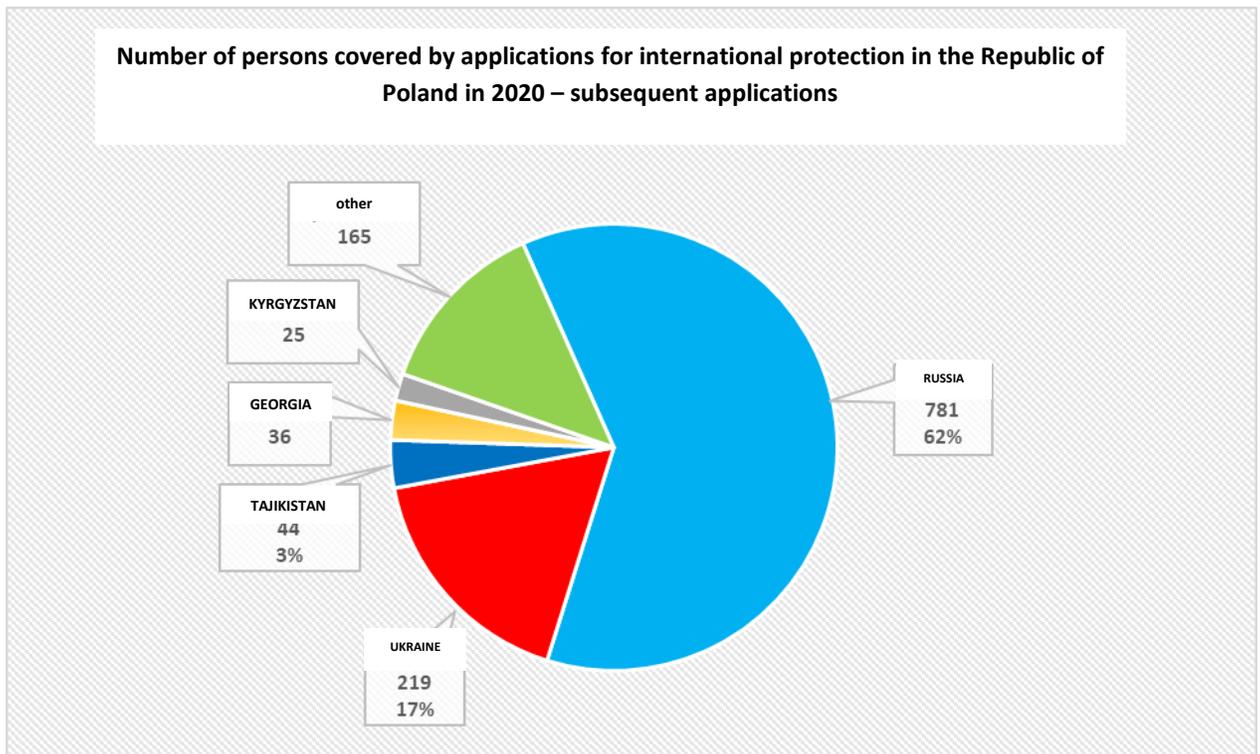
Coming back to the administrative proceedings for granting international protection carried out by the Head of the Office for Foreigners, it must be added that in 2020, cases involving persons 1,044 were discontinued, including 712

citizens of the Russian Federation, 49 foreigners from Afghanistan, 38 citizens of Ukraine and 34 foreigners from Tajikistan. The number of persons whose procedures were concluded in such outcome was over two times smaller than in comparison to 2019 (2,025 persons), which was undoubtedly related to the epidemic and the travel restrictions which were introduced in the majority of the European Union member states. Most often, the decisions on discontinuing the proceeding were issued due to withdrawal of an application for international protection (including the so-called implicit withdrawal).

It should also be pointed out, that the percentage share of such decisions in comparison to all types of decisions issued in the year prior has significantly decreased. While in 2016, they constituted 79% of the decisions, 51% in 2018, 44% in 2018, while in 2019 they exceeded half of all the issued decisions, they reached the level of only approximately 30% in 2020.



Similarly, to preceding years, in 2020 there were cases of foreigners lodging subsequent applications for international protection. The phenomenon of lodging subsequent applications by a foreigner has been occurring since 2003, when 93 persons lodged subsequent applications for granting refugee status (approximately 1.3% of the total number of all applicants). The tendency continued to increase in the following years: 2004 – 137 persons (approximately 2%), 2005 – 1,141 persons (approximately 21%), 2006 – 3,280 persons (46%). The number of persons lodging subsequent applications for obtaining refugee status decreased to 2,842 persons for the first time in 2017, constituting 28% of the total number of applicants. In 2008, the percentage amounted to 15% (1,316 out of 8,517 applicants), while in 2009 – 10% (1,538 out of 15,336 applicants). 2010 saw an upward trend – subsequent applications were lodged by approximately 34% persons (2,204 out of 6,534 applicants), in 2011, 2012 and 2013 – a further decrease, at around 26% (1 801 out of 6 534 applicants), 15% (1 579 out of 10 753 applicants) and 8% (1 219 out of 14 996 applicants) respectively. The trend has changed in 2014 – subsequent applications were lodged by approximately 16% applicants (1,072 persons). The level remained stables in the years that followed – in 2015, subsequent applications were lodged by 1,970 persons (approximately 16% of all applicants), in 2016 – 2,481 foreigners (approximately 20% of all applicants), in 2017 – 2,228 foreigners (approximately 44% of all applicants). In 2018, the tendency changed and the percentage of applicants lodging subsequent applications for international protection decreased to approximately 39% (1,621 foreigners). The downward trend continued in 2019 – subsequent applications were lodged by 1,389 persons, constituting approximately 34% of all applicants, while the last year saw an increase to the level of approximately 45% – 1,267 persons from 2,803 applicants have applied for international protection again. That is the highest value since 2006.



There are two reasons why foreigners lodge subsequent applications for international protection – an attempt at avoiding or executing the return decision or the possibility of using the benefits for foreigners applying for international protection.

Foreigners who do not agree with the decisions issued in their cases have the right to appeal against the decisions to the Refugee Board. In 2020, in the majority of cases, the second instance authority has recognised the decisions made by the Head of the Office for Foreigners as correct, valid and compliant with the applicable regulations – the Refugee Board has maintained the validity of nearly 95% of the decisions appealed against.

2020 is the fourth year during which information and legal assistance are provided free of charge.

The free legal information in the first instance proceeding is available to an applicant and a foreigner who are undergoing administrative proceedings on revoking refugee status or subsidiary protection. The free legal information involves providing the applicant or foreigner undergoing administrative proceedings on revoking refugee status or subsidiary protection with information regarding the applicable legal regulations on granting international protection, revoking the refugee status or subsidiary protection and the regulations governing the proceedings carried out before public administration offices in matters falling within the scope of competences of these authorities, taking into account the specific situation of these persons. The legal information is provided free of charge by the employees of the Office for Foreigners.

The free legal assistance involves:

- drawing up an appeal against the following decisions: denial of granting refugee status or subsidiary protection, discontinuation of the proceedings for granting international protection, transferring the applicant to the Member State responsible for examining the application for international protection and discontinuing the proceeding, declaring the application for international protection inadmissible, refusing to take into account the applicant's declaration of intention to continue to apply for international protection, revoking refugee status or subsidiary protection,

- legal representation in appeal proceedings concerning: granting international protection, transfer of the applicant to the Member State responsible for examining the application for international protection, revoking refugee status or subsidiary protection.

The free legal assistance is provided personally by: an attorney, a legal advisor or a person other than an attorney or a legal advisor, hired by a public benefit Non-Governmental Organization, authorised to provide free legal assistance. In 2020, 165 legal advisors, 177 attorneys and 3 Non-Governmental

**Organizations declared readiness to provide free legal assistance: The Rule of Law Institute Foundation (Lublin), Association for Legal Intervention (Warsaw) and the Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre.**

**In 2020, 311 entitled foreigners used the free legal assistance, and the total cost of the free legal assistance amounted to approximately PLN 253,789.34. In comparison, there were 304 beneficiaries in the previous year and the total cost amounted to approximately PLN 237,097.**

### 3. Administrative proceedings for granting international protection carried out with regards to special groups of applicants

The following groups of foreigners are under special protection in the course of administrative proceedings for granting international protection: minors residing on the territory of the Republic of Poland without legal or customary representative (unaccompanied minors), victims of violence and persons with disabilities, as well as elderly persons, pregnant women, single parents, victims of human trafficking, ill persons. Special treatment may consist in the provision of special social assistance and/or special procedural support to such persons.

Therefore, such persons give their testimonies in conditions adapted to their needs and perception. Actions in the course of the proceedings are carried out with the involvement of a psychologist or a pedagogue (in the case of unaccompanied minors), a psychologist or medical doctor (in the case of other categories of persons), only by employees adequately qualified in this respect. As a rule, persons whose mental and physical condition may justify the presumption that they have been subject to violence, unaccompanied minors or persons with disabilities cannot be placed in the arrest for foreigners or in a guarded centre for foreigners.

The specific manner of procedure does not stem directly from the *Geneva Convention*. However, it meets the recommendations of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees regarding standards of refugee procedures. Furthermore, it implements the provisions of *Council Directive 2003/9/EC of 27<sup>th</sup> January of 2003 laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers*. (OJ UE 31, 6.2.2003), *Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1<sup>st</sup> December of 2005 on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status*(OJ L 326, 13.12.2005), *Directive 2013/32/EU of the*

*European Parliament and of the Council of 26<sup>th</sup> June of 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (recast) and the Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26<sup>th</sup> June of 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast), implemented in the Polish legal system.*

4. Legal proceedings carried out against foreigners who illegally arrive or remain in the territory of the Republic of Poland

Pursuant to Article 33, item 1 of the *Geneva Convention* "*No Contracting State shall expel or return ("refouler") a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.*" In respect of the restriction indicated above, the Polish legislator has forbidden the execution of the decision imposing the obligation to return until the final decision on granting international protection is delivered to the foreigner.

The use of this privilege by applying for international protection by persons who do not have a well-founded fear of being persecuted but are afraid of being sent back from Poland has led the legislator to introduce legal solutions to counteract that phenomenon.

For instance, Art. 87 – 89 cb regulate the issue of placing persons applying for international protection in a guarded facility, placing them in a guarded centre or under detention. In the case of a foreigner with an undetermined or questionable identity, these provisions allow to put the person under arrest for the purpose of collecting the information included in the application or for the purpose of carrying out a transfer pursuant to the so-called Dublin III Regulation, in the event of a substantial likelihood of such a person escaping, for the purpose of issuing or executing a decision imposing an obligation to return or in relation to a foreigner posing a threat to national defence or security or public safety and order. The Border Guard authorities also have the possibility to apply alternative measures to detention, such as: reporting to a designated authority in accordance with a specific schedule, paying cash collateral or remaining at a designated place.

In 2020, 321 foreigners applying for international protection were detained and placed in guarded centres for foreigners, which is twice as many as in the year 2019 (the number of detained person at that time amounted to 181 persons). Alternative measures in comparison to detention were applied in turn against 157 persons (1,288 persons the year prior).

## 5. Assistance for foreigners applying for international protection

The *Geneva Convention* does not regulate issues related to the public aid provided to the applicants for international protection by the host country. The *Act on Granting Protection to Foreigners within the Territory of the Republic of Poland* provides for the possibility to provide such persons with social assistance and medical care and, optionally, assistance in voluntary return to the country to which they have the right to enter or providing assistance in transfer to the country responsible for examining the application for international protection. Social assistance includes assistance provided in the centre or assistance provided outside the centre, consisting in the payment of a financial allowance to cover own costs of stay on the territory of the Republic of Poland. In addition, the person who covered the funeral costs of a foreigner who died during the proceedings is entitled to receive a funeral allowance.

In 2020, in connection with the aforementioned statutory tasks, the Office for Foreigners spent the total amount of PLN 42,070,623.26 – approximately 9% less in comparison to 2019 (the total amount of expenditures in that year amounted to PLN 46,323,381.33). The aforementioned funds were allocated, among others, to:

- accommodation of foreigners in the centres – PLN 15,027,866.61,
- placing and stay of underage foreigners in care and educational institutions – PLN 101,445.40,
- financial allowances – PLN 13,802,801.51,
- medical services – PLN 10,999,651.84,
- commissioned nutrition – PLN 1,725,961.26,
- purchasing food products – PLN 305,963.43,
- assistance in voluntary departure from the territory of the Republic of Poland – PLN 5,170.28.

A large part of benefits is provided in centres for foreigners applying for international protection. 10 centres existed as of 31<sup>st</sup> December of 2020: 4 own facilities of the Office for Foreigners (2 reception and 2 stay centres) and 6 rented – similarly to the year prior. All of the aforementioned centres have had jointly 1,962 accommodation places at their disposal.

At the end of 2020, a total of 3,182 persons benefited from the assistance of the Office for Foreigners, out of which 2,351 were individuals granted assistance in the form of a financial allowance to cover own costs of stay on the Territory of the Republic of Poland. The total number of persons benefiting from social assistance and medical care was therefore comparable to 2019 (in that year, it amounted to 2,935 persons).

Pursuant to the *Act of 13<sup>th</sup> June of 2003 on Granting Protection to Foreigners within the Territory of the Republic of Poland*, the Head of the Office for Foreigners may provide assistance in voluntary return to a foreigner who has resigned from requesting international protection after filing a relevant application. With respect to organising assistance in voluntary return, the Office for Foreigners cooperates with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), which carries out the returns of foreigners based on an agreement concluded between the Republic of Poland's Ministry of Interior and Administration and the International Organisation for Migration. In 2020, the assistance provided by the cooperation between OFF – IOM with respect to voluntary returns was used by a total of 25 people (16 from Russia, 4 from Belarus, 3 from Angola, 1 from Georgia and 1 from Lebanon). The assistance in voluntary return organised by the IOM is financed from European funds and the funds of the Office for Foreigners.

It must be indicated, that within the scope of its duties, the Office for Foreigners cooperates with non-governmental organisations through executed projects, workshops as well as activation and education classes. The

representatives and volunteers from non-governmental organisations provide assistance with homework, conduct language classes, provide psychological support and individual psychological support for the residents of the centres. They also assist the residents in preparing documents and remote contacts with lawyers. Foreigners participating in the procedure for granting international protection use, among others, free legal assistance provided by non-governmental organisations, such as: The Rule of Law Institute Foundation (Lublin), Association for Legal Intervention (Warsaw) and the Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre.

Moreover, per request, the Office for Foreigners allows non-governmental organisations to carry out activities within the centres for foreigners applying for international protection. In 2020, the following organisations were active in the centres for foreigners: Foundations – *Civic Perspective, Dialog, Polish Migration Forum, EMIC, Foundation for Freedom, Voluntary Work Centre Association and The Rule of Law Institute*. In November 2020 the previously issued permits to enter the area of the centres were revoked from entities whose presence at their area was not necessary, while in the case of other entities, the entry was restricted only to healthy individuals with the respect of an appropriate sanitary regime. The possibility of online contact was granted to foreigners using psychological consultations and legal assistance.

Pre-integration activities conducted in 2020 by the Office for Foreigners were implemented mainly under the project "*Material and educational support for foreigners applying for international protection in Poland*", co-financed under AMIF. Day-care activities for school-age children who remained under care of the Office for Foreigners and lived in the centres were provided until 12<sup>th</sup> October of 2020. The main aim of the day-care activities was to actively manage the children's free time and facilitate their positive emotions, i.e., a sense of safety, joy and satisfaction. The classes supported the child's development with respect

to their social, linguistic, motor and manual development. They taught proper social attitudes and shaped their abilities with respect to peaceful conflict resolution based on dialogue and compromise.

Within the scope of its competences, Office for Foreigners also provides foreigners using social assistance with Polish classes and basic materials required to learn the language. Polish language learning is carried out through compensatory classes and homework assistance. Children who start their compulsory schooling in Poland have the opportunity to participate in a Polish language course designed to facilitate their adaptation to the school community; in addition, the conducted classes include components regarding factual as well as socio-cultural knowledge. A teacher's handbook containing lesson scenarios and educational materials for children were developed under the Programme. The Program was developed from AMIF funds from the project *"Material and educational support for foreigners applying for international protection in Poland."* Adult foreigners applying for international protection and remain under the care of the Office for Foreigners also attend Polish classes. The classes are carried out in groups based on unified didactic materials at A1 and A2 level including B1 components. The programme takes into account the specific communication needs of persons applying for international protection in Poland, including real-life and socio-cultural content. Polish as a foreign language learning courses are also carried out since August of 2020, aimed for adult foreigners applying for international protection, who reside in Warsaw. In addition, both own and rented centres offer educational and adaptation classes for children between the ages of 3-6, carried out by qualified and experienced teachers.

Challenges related to the reception faced by the Office for Foreigners in light of the COVID-19 pandemic were related to maintaining the sanitary-epidemiological safety in the centres for foreigners and preventing the transmission of the virus. Numerous activities focused both on prevention, as

well as proper reaction to epidemiological hazards were implemented. All activities were taken in agreement with the State Sanitary Inspectorate, Ministry of Health, medical operator providing medical care to foreigners applying for international protection in the territory of the Republic of Poland – Petra Medica company, while some also with the territorially competent voivodeship offices. The COVID-10 pandemic forced the need to adapt the existing procedures to the new conditions of functioning. Educational and informational materials regarding the proper behaviour in light of COVID-19 were developed and distributed to employees; after translating to the languages spoken, they were also provided to foreigners applying for international protection in Poland. Moreover, informational materials were provided to the website of the Office for Foreigners, and telephone medical services are provided under primary healthcare. Recommendations and procedures including the guidelines of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Ministry of Health, Ministry of National Education with respect to conducting educational and adaptive classes, Polish language classes and day-care classes in the centres have also been prepared. The employees of the centres were provided with permanent personal protective equipment, i.e.: masks, single-use gloves, aprons with the intended safety reserve; a rotating working system and the rules for minimising contact were also applied. Access to disinfectants was guaranteed in the facilities of the Office for Foreigners, the principle of temperature measurement was introduced with respect to the persons entering the facility, and a special infrastructure use plan was developed in case the inhabitants of the centres had to undergo quarantine. In addition, special rules for decontaminating communication routes, handrails, light switches and handles were introduced.

6. Implementation of the *Geneva Convention* and the *New York Protocol* with regards to issuing documents to refugees

Article 28, item 1 of *the Geneva Convention* states that the Contracting States shall issue to refugees lawfully staying in their territory travel documents for the purpose of travel outside their territory, unless compelling reasons of national security or public order otherwise require. The Annex to the *Geneva Convention* contains specific provisions relating to travel documents for refugees. These standards are fully implemented in Poland.

The travel document issued to refugees recognised by the Head of the Office for Foreigners remains in accordance with the specimen set out in the said Annex. According to paragraph 3 of the Annex, the fees charged for the issue of a document should not exceed the lowest fees charged for a national passport. In Poland, the fees for issuing travel documents referred to in the *Geneva Convention* are completely waived.

Except in special or exceptional cases, the document should be issued for as many countries as possible (§ 4 of the Annex) and it should remain valid for one or two years, at the discretion of the issuing authority (§ 5 of the Annex). In conjunction with the provisions of the *Council Regulation (EC) No 2252/2004 of 13<sup>th</sup> December of 2004 on standards for security features and biometrics in passports and travel documents issued by Member States* (OJ L 381, 23.12.2004), beginning from 28<sup>th</sup> August of 2006, travel documents provided for in the *Geneva Convention* were issued with a validity period of 1 year. Pursuant to the aforementioned Regulation, travel documents with a validity period exceeding 12 months must contain suitably secured storage media containing biometric data, i.e., the facial image and fingerprints of the holder. This requirement was met as of 29<sup>th</sup> June of 2009 and therefore travel documents under the *Geneva Convention* are issued for a period of 2 years.

In 2020, the Head of the Office for Foreigners issued 538 first or subsequent travel documents to recognised refugees. The beneficiaries of international protection were also issued 973 residence cards (first or subsequent). In turn, a document due to persons who apply for international protection is a foreigner's temporary ID document and the Head of the Office for Foreigners issued 941 such documents in 2020. It is significantly lower than in 2019, when 681 travel documents, 1504 residence cards and 3,062 foreigner's temporary ID documents were issued.

The provisions of the *Act of Special Support Instruments in Connection with the Spread of the SARS-Cov-2 Virus* (Polish Journal of Laws, item 695) regarding the validity of the foreigner's temporary ID documents apply since 18<sup>th</sup> April of 2020. Pursuant to the act amending *the Act of 2<sup>nd</sup> March of 2020 on the special measures introduced to prevent, counteract and combat COVID-19, other infectious diseases and crisis situations* (Journal of Laws, items 374, 567 and 568) the validity of the foreigner's temporary ID documents which validity period indicated in Article 55a items 2 and 3 of the *Act of 13<sup>th</sup> June of 2003 on Granting Protection to Foreigners within the Territory of the Republic of Poland* expired during the epidemic hazard or the state of an epidemic are extended to the 30<sup>th</sup> day of the withdrawal of the states to expire last.

It should also be mentioned that Poland is party to *the European Agreement on the Abolition of Visas for Refugees, signed in Strasbourg on 20<sup>th</sup> April of 1959*, and the *European Agreement on the Transfer of Responsibility for Refugees, signed in Strasbourg on 16<sup>th</sup> October of 1980*.

## 7. Cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Pursuant to Article 35, item 1 of the *Geneva Convention*, States are required to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or any other United Nations agency that may replace it in the performance of its functions, in particular in order to facilitate its duty to supervise the application of the Convention.

*The Act on Granting Protection to Foreigners within the Territory of the Republic of Poland* grants a representative of the UNHCR's a number of powers, including the right to freely contact a foreigner, access to information about the course of administrative proceedings, access to case files and the right to submit opinions, documents and materials to the case file.

Similarly, to the previous years, in 2020, the Head of the Office for Foreigners cooperated with the UNHCR Representation in Poland on all issues relevant for refugees and applicants for international protection. UNHCR's views on the situation in the countries of origin of applicants have been taken into account in the process of carrying out administrative cases for international protection.

UNHCR provided the Office for Foreigners with valuable support due to the current epidemiological situation. A remote meeting with the participation of UNHCR and the representatives of the Department for Refugees Procedures related to the practical aspects of conducting cases for granting international protection during the pandemic was held on 29<sup>th</sup> April of the current year. In addition, UNHCR provided a document titled "*Practical Recommendations and Good Practice to Address Protection Concerns in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic*" for further application and use.

## 8. Implementation of the *Geneva Convention* and the *New York Protocol* in the context of the Republic of Poland's accession to the European Union

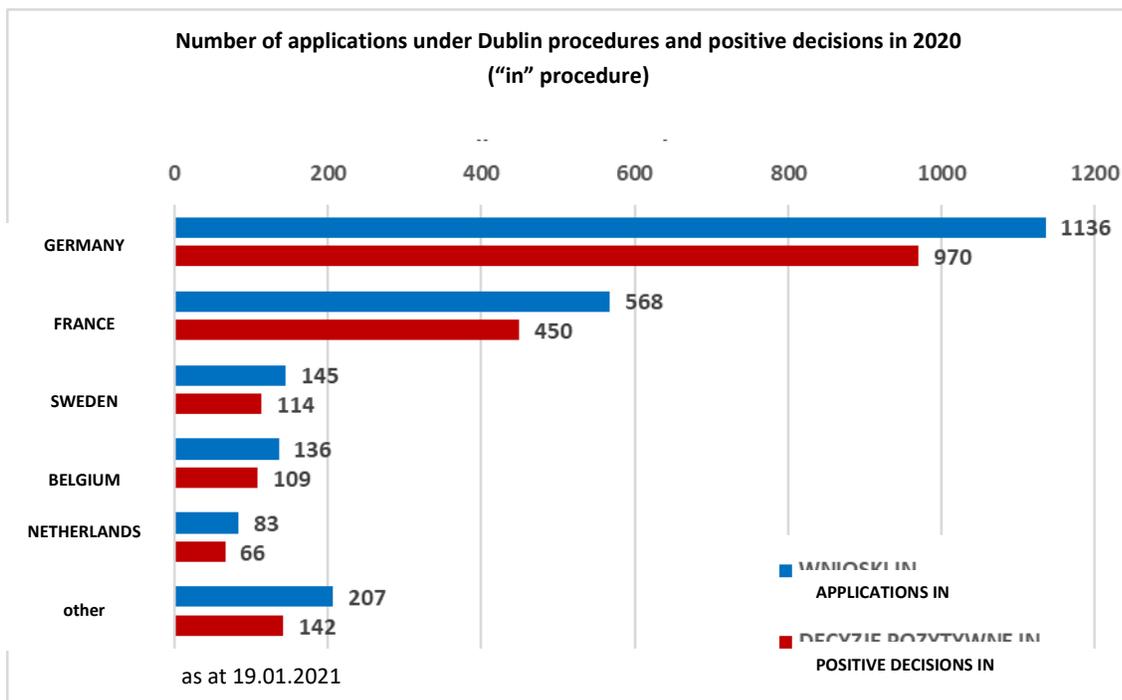
The *Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 of 18<sup>th</sup> February of 2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national* (OJ L 50, 13.2.2003) entered into force in Poland upon accession to the European Union. As of 1<sup>st</sup> January of 2014, the *Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26<sup>th</sup> June of 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (recast)* (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, p. 31) shall apply to issues of responsibility for examining applications for international protection.

The Regulation assumes the responsibility of only one Member State for examining an application for international protection. A foreigner who submits a subsequent application in another State where the Regulation is applicable shall be transferred to the State which is responsible for examining his application, in accordance to the criteria contained therein. When determining the responsibility of a State for examining the application, the following shall be taken into account, inter alia, the circumstances surrounding the entry and residence of the foreigner into the territory of the States applying the Regulation and the possibility of reuniting the foreigner with family members who have received international protection in other States.

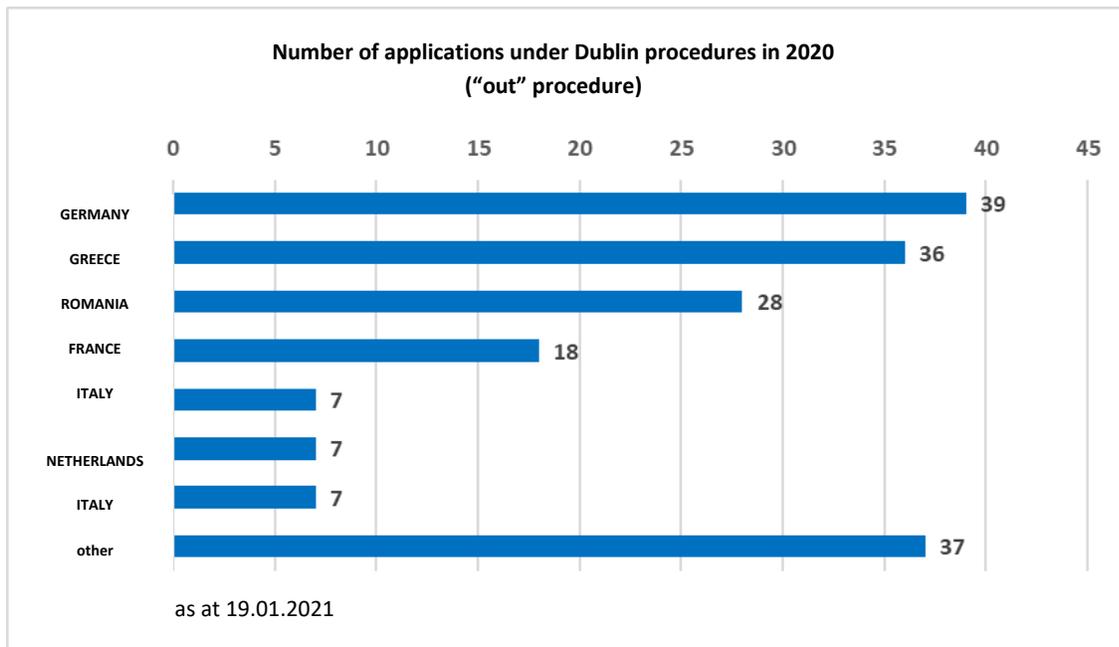
The experience to date shows that Poland is treated by foreigners as a transit country, and the real goal of a large part of the persons applying for international protection in Poland is the legalisation of stay in other countries, which provide access to the highest social benefits. However, upon the

foreigner's entry to Poland and filing an application, the Regulation makes it practically impossible to him/her to effectively apply for international protection in subsequent countries which apply it.

2,275 applications were submitted from other countries to Poland based on the provisions of the aforementioned Regulation. The greatest number of applications were submitted to Poland by: Germany – 1,136 applications, France – 568 applications, Sweden – 145 applications and Belgium – 136 applications. 1,851 applications were assessed positively (approximately 81%). 222 foreigners were transferred to Poland in 2020.



Poland submitted 179 applications to other countries, the greatest number to Germany – 39, Greece – 36, Romania – 28 and France – 18. 97 applications were assessed positively (approximately 54%). In 2020, 16 persons were transferred to Poland from other countries applying the Regulation.



The data indicated above shows that in relation to 2019 (3,984 applications, 3,218 positive decisions – approximately 81%, 687 transferred foreigners), the previous year brought a decrease in the number of applications submitted to Poland from other countries and a decrease in the number of transfers, while the percentage of positively handled cases remained exactly the same.

With respect to the “out”-type proceedings, there have been clear downward trends with respect to applications filed by Poland to other countries (2019 – 201 applications), decrease was noted also with respect to recognition rate (2019 – approx. 60%) and the number of transferred foreigners (2019 – 38 persons).

The downward trends observed in 2020 with respect to the Dublin procedure are a consequence not only of the lower number of foreigners applying for international protection, but also due to significantly lower mobility

of persons who filed such applications, which was due in particular to the movement restrictions introduced in connection with the coronavirus pandemic.

*The Act on Granting Protection to Foreigners within the Territory of the Republic of Poland* complies with legal acts in force in the European Union in the field of refugees. The following legal acts were transposed to the Act:

- *Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20<sup>th</sup> July of 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof* (OJ L 212, 07.08.2001);

- *Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13<sup>th</sup> December of 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted* (OJ L 337, 20.12.2011, p. 9);

- *Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26<sup>th</sup> June of 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (recast)* (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, p. 60);

- *Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26<sup>th</sup> June of 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast)* (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, p. 96);

- *Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26<sup>th</sup> June of 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (recast).*

The consequence of Poland's membership in the European Union is not only the need to adapt the national law to the EU regulations, but also the

possibility to use EU funds, including the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

In 2020, the Office for Foreigners was the beneficiary of the following projects co-financed under AMIF:

- *Renovation of the centre in Linin* no. 18/1-2015/BK-FAMI;
- *Study visits carried out by the personnel of the Office for Foreigners* no. 10/1-2015/BK-FAMI;
- *Material and educational support for foreigners applying for international protection in Poland* no. 8/1-2015/BK-FAMI;
- *Increasing the ability of the employees of the Department of Refugee Procedure of the Office for Foreigners to collect, store, analyse and disseminate country of origin information, 2017-2022* no. 2/1-2015/BK-FAMI;
- *Development and implementation of a long-term communication strategy for the Office for Foreigners* no. 6/1-2015/BK-FAMI;
- *Adaptation of the seat of the Office for Foreigners to provide services to foreigners* no. 1/4-2017/BK-FAMI;
- *Renovation of the Service Point for Foreigners at 33 Taborowa St.* no. 2/4-2017/BK-FAMI;
- *Renovation of the centre in Czerwony Bór* no. 5/1-2015/BK-FAMI;
- *Modernization of the Pobyt v.2 System and the IT infrastructure used in the Pobyt v.2 System and the National Consultation System* no. 1/3-2017/BK-FAMI;
- *Migrational Analytical Centre* no. 3/8-2018/BK-FAMI;
- *Renovation of the centre in Biała Podlaska* no. 4/1-2015/BK-FAMI;
- *Modernisation of Pobyt v.2 SYSTEM in the scope of implementation of the electronic registration system for foreigners – SERCE* no. 2/8-2018/BK-FAMI (concluded in 2020);

- *Modernization of Pobyt v.2 System in the scope of creating case management module no. 1/8-2018/BK-AMIF.*

In addition, the Office for Foreigners was also a partner under the project *Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration* carried out by the International Organization for Migration no. 1/9-2019/FAMI.

## 9. Conclusion

In the opinion of the Head of the Office for Foreigners, the Republic of Poland has fully fulfilled its obligations arising from *the Geneva Convention* and *the New York Protocol* in 2020.

## 10. Appendices (statistical tables)

**Table 1: Number of applications for international protection lodged in 2020 and the number of persons covered by the applications**

NATIONALITY	applications	persons
AFGHANISTAN	113	120
ALGERIA	8	8
ANGOLA	2	5
ARMENIA	16	30
AZERBAIJAN	9	20
BANGLADESH	3	3
NO NATIONALITY	12	13
BELARUS	310	407
BRAZIL	1	1
BULGARIA	4	4
BURKINA FASO	1	1
CHILE	3	3
CHINA	3	3
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	1	1
DJIBOUTI	1	1
EGYPT	9	9
ERITREA	6	6
ETHIOPIA	1	1
PHILIPPINES	1	2
FINLAND	1	2
FRANCE	1	1
THE GAMBIA	2	2
GHANA	3	3
GEORGIA	34	61
GUINEA	1	1
INDIA	5	5
IRAQ	41	46
IRAN	18	19
YEMEN	6	14
JORDAN	1	1
CAMEROON	4	4
CANADA	0	1
KAZAKHSTAN	11	25
KYRGYZSTAN	10	30
COMOROS	1	1
CONGO	4	6
KOSOVO	1	2
CUBA	5	7
LEBANON	3	3
LIBYA	4	6
LITHUANIA	1	1
MALI	1	1
MOROCCO	10	10
MOLDOVA	4	6
MONGOLIA	3	4

NEPAL	1	3
Germany	1	1
UNSPECIFIED	4	5
NIGERIA	11	11
PAKISTAN	9	12
PALESTINE	1	1
RUSSIA	504	1283
<i>including Chechnya</i>	<i>428</i>	<i>1098</i>
SERBIA	2	2
SOMALIA	6	6
SRI LANKA	10	10
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	1	1
SUDAN	2	2
SYRIA	38	40
TAJKISTAN	36	87
TANZANIA	1	3
TUNISIA	4	4
TURKEY	51	74
TURKMENISTAN	2	2
UGANDA	2	2
UKRAINE	214	317
UZBEKISTAN	10	11
VENEZUELA	11	14
VIETNAM	10	10
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	1	1
ZIMBABWE	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1612</b>	<b>2803</b>

**Table 2: The number of persons covered by applications for international protection in 2020 – first and subsequent applications**

NATIONALITY	FIRST	SUBSEQUENT	TOTAL
AFGHANISTAN	119	1	120
ALGERIA	5	3	8
ANGOLA	1	4	5
ARMENIA	11	19	30
AZERBAIJAN	4	16	20
BANGLADESH	1	2	3
NO NATIONALITY	10	3	13
BELARUS	387	20	407
BRAZIL	1	-	1
BULGARIA	-	4	4
BURKINA FASO	-	1	1
CHILE	3	-	3
CHINA	3	-	3
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	-	1	1
DJIBOUTI	1	-	1
EGYPT	8	1	9
ERITREA	6	-	6
ETHIOPIA	1	-	1
PHILIPPINES	2	-	2
FINLAND	-	2	2
FRANCE	-	1	1
THE GAMBIA	2	-	2
GHANA	1	2	3
GEORGIA	25	36	61
GUINEA	-	1	1
INDIA	3	2	5
IRAQ	39	7	46
IRAN	12	7	19
YEMEN	10	4	14
JORDAN	1	-	1
CAMEROON	3	1	4
CANADA	-	1	1
KAZAKHSTAN	10	15	25
KYRGYZSTAN	5	25	30
COMOROS	1	-	1
CONGO	5	1	6
KOSOVO	2	-	2
CUBA	1	6	7
LEBANON	3	-	3
LIBYA	6	-	6
LITHUANIA	-	1	1
MALI	1	-	1
MOROCCO	7	3	10
MOLDOVA	2	4	6
MONGOLIA	4	-	4
NEPAL	3	-	3
Germany	-	1	1
UNSPECIFIED	4	1	5
NIGERIA	5	6	11

PAKISTAN	8	4	12
PALESTINE	1	-	1
RUSSIA	502	781	1283
<i>including Chechnya</i>	<i>n/d</i>	<i>n/d</i>	<i>n/d</i>
SERBIA	-	2	2
SOMALIA	6	-	6
SRI LANKA	9	1	10
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	1	-	1
SUDAN	2	-	2
SYRIA	38	2	40
TAJIKISTAN	43	44	87
TANZANIA	3	-	3
TUNISIA	4	-	4
TURKEY	71	3	74
TURKMENISTAN	1	1	2
UGANDA	1	1	2
UKRAINE	98	219	317
UZBEKISTAN	7	4	11
VENEZUELA	14	-	14
VIETNAM	7	3	10
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	1	-	1
ZIMBABWE	1	-	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1536</b>	<b>1267</b>	<b>2803</b>

**Table 3: Number of persons with regards to whom the Head of the Office for Foreigners issued decision under a procedure for granting international protection in 2020**

NATIONALITY	REFUGEE STATUS	SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION	PERMIT FOR TOLERATED STAY	NEGATIVE	DISCONTINUATION	TOTAL
AFGHANISTAN	5	14	-	-	49	68
ALGERIA	-	-	-	7	2	9
ANGOLA	-	-	-	4	1	5
ARMENIA	-	1	-	15	16	32
AZERBAIJAN	-	-	-	25	6	31
BANGLADESH	-	-	-	10	-	10
NO NATIONALITY	4	-	-	2	7	13
BELARUS	8	73	-	21	28	130
BRAZIL	-	-	-	1	-	1
BULGARIA	-	-	-	-	4	4
CHILE	-	-	-	-	3	3
CHINA	1	-	-	-	3	4
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	-	-	-	2	-	2
DJIBOUTI	-	-	-	-	1	1
EGYPT	2	-	-	13	1	16
ERITREA	-	1	-	-	1	2
ETHIOPIA	-	-	-	2	1	3
FINLAND	-	-	-	-	2	2
FRANCE	-	-	-	-	1	1
THE GAMBIA	-	-	-	1	3	4
GHANA	-	-	-	1	-	1
GEORGIA	-	-	-	57	27	84
GUINEA	-	3	-	6	-	9
INDIA	-	-	-	14	3	17
IRAQ	-	6	-	9	11	26
IRAN	10	-	-	15	8	33
YEMEN	-	7	-	-	-	7
JORDAN	-	-	-	1	-	1
CAMEROON	-	-	-	2	1	3
CANADA	-	-	-	1	-	1
KAZAKHSTAN	2	3	-	23	3	31
KYRGYZSTAN	3	-	-	39	1	43
COLOMBIA	-	-	-	1	-	1
CONGO	-	-	-	2	-	2
KOSOVO	-	-	-	2	-	2
CUBA	-	-	-	8	2	10
LEBANON	-	-	-	6	10	16
LIBYA	-	4	-	1	3	8
LITHUANIA	-	-	-	-	1	1
MALI	-	-	-	-	1	1
MOROCCO	-	-	-	1	8	9
MOLDOVA	-	-	-	7	1	8
MONGOLIA	-	-	-	-	1	1
NEPAL	-	3	-	2	-	5
Germany	-	-	-	-	1	1
UNSPECIFIED	-	-	-	1	2	3
NIGERIA	-	-	5	9	2	16
PAKISTAN	3	-	-	11	2	16
PALESTINE	-	1	-	-	2	3

RUSSIA	15	51	8	1295	712	2081
<i>including Chechnya</i>	8	44	8	1109	616	1785
SENEGAL	-	-	-	-	1	1
SERBIA	-	-	-	1	2	3
SIERRA LEONE	-	6	-	1	-	7
SOMALIA	-	2	-	-	1	3
SRI LANKA	-	-	-	3	-	3
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	-	-	-	1	-	1
SUDAN	-	-	-	2	1	3
SYRIA	12	2	-	1	9	24
TAJIKISTAN	1	26	-	63	34	124
THAILAND	-	-	-	1	-	1
TANZANIA	-	-	-	2	-	2
TOGO	-	-	-	1	-	1
TUNISIA	-	-	-	1	4	5
TURKEY	85	-	-	25	12	122
TURKMENISTAN	7	-	-	-	1	8
UGANDA	-	-	-	-	1	1
UKRAINE	3	18	3	314	38	376
UZBEKISTAN	-	-	-	7	5	12
VENEZUELA	-	1	-	-	-	1
VIETNAM	-	-	-	8	3	11
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	-	-	-	-	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2048</b>	<b>1044</b>	<b>3491</b>

**Table 4: The number of persons with regards to whom the Head of the Office for Foreigners issued a decision revoking international protection**

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>REVOKING REFUGEE STATUS</b>	<b>REVOKING SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
RUSSIA	11	95	106
SRI LANKA	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>107</b>

**Table 5: Application of the Dublin III Regulation in 2020**

STATE PARTY	APPLICATIONS IN	POSITIVE DECISIONS IN	TRANSFERS IN	APPLICATIONS OUT	POSITIVE DECISIONS OUT	TRANSFERS OUT
AUSTRIA	30	24	8	3	-	-
BELGIUM	136	109	3	-	1	-
BULGARIA	-	-	-	5	5	-
CROATIA	-	-	-	-	-	-
CYPRUS	-	-	-	1	1	-
CZECH REPUBLIC	50	42	6	2	1	1
DENMARK	17	10	1	2	2	-
ESTONIA	-	-	-	2	2	-
FINLAND	6	5	-	4	2	2
FRANCE	568	450	21	18	12	3
GREECE	2	1	-	36	-	-
SPAIN	8	5	-	2	2	-
IRELAND	3	2	-	-	-	-
ICELAND	1	-	-	-	-	-
LIECHTENSTEIN	-	-	-	-	-	-
LITHUANIA	13	10	2	7	8	-
LUXEMBOURG	3	-	1	-	-	-
LATVIA	1	-	-	1	1	-
MALTA	3	-	-	1	1	-
THE NETHERLANDS	83	66	9	7	5	1
Germany	1136	970	134	39	27	6
NORWAY	15	9	8	1	1	-
PORTUGAL	-	-	-	-	-	-
ROMANIA	1	-	-	28	18	1
SLOVAKIA	1	-	-	-	-	-
SLOVENIA	1	-	-	2	1	-
SWITZERLAND	21	18	3	3	2	-
SWEDEN	145	114	26	6	4	2
HUNGARY	-	-	-	1	-	-
GREAT BRITAIN	19	10	-	1	-	-
Italy	12	6	-	7	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2275</b>	<b>1851</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>16</b>