



Migration in Hungary



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Introduction

The aim of this country report is that of trying to provide a picture of Hungary with regard to immigration through the insertion of graphs based on tables downloaded from the Eurostat database.

The information contained in the report concerns the dimensions and characteristics of the migrants in Hungary, the composition of the inflows, the main channels of entrance and the level of integration achieved by making a focus on the labour market.

Thanks to the use of the data, the report represents a story of the phenomenon in the country and it makes it possible to have a precise idea of the development and of the current situation in Hungary with regard to immigration.

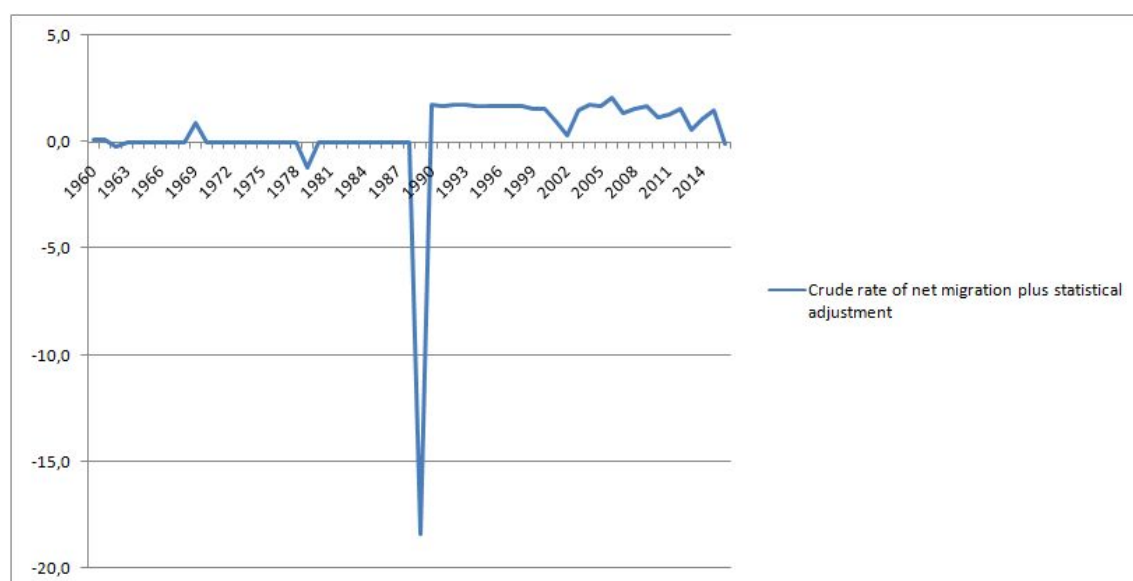
The number of foreign citizens residing in Hungary in 2018 is 156.000¹.

1. Dimension and characteristics of migration

1.1. The phenomenon of immigration

In order to assess whether Hungary is a country of recent or old immigration we found it useful to take all the data available since 1960 to 2016 concerning the population change with regards to the crude rate of net migration. When the data overcome 0 it means that net migration is positive and, therefore, that the immigration rate is higher than the emigration one and vice versa.

Tab. 1.1.1 Crude rate of net migration (1960-2016)



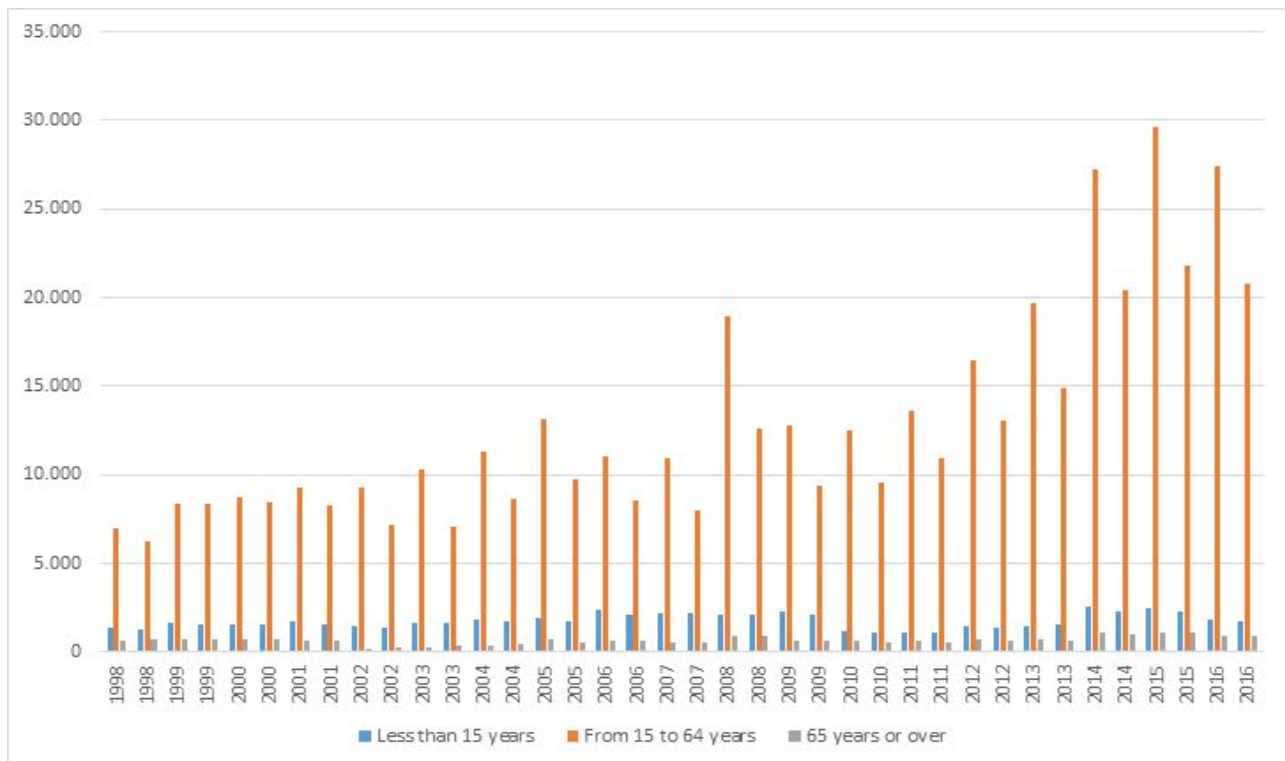
Source: Eurostat [demo_gind]

¹ https://www.ksh.hu/docs/eng/xstadat/xstadat_annual/i_wnvn001b.html

1.2. Characteristics of the migrants

We also want to analyse the composition of the inflows in terms of sex and age. For each year, the first column indicates men and the second one indicates women.

Tab. 1.2.1 Immigration by age group and sex in thousands (1998-2016)

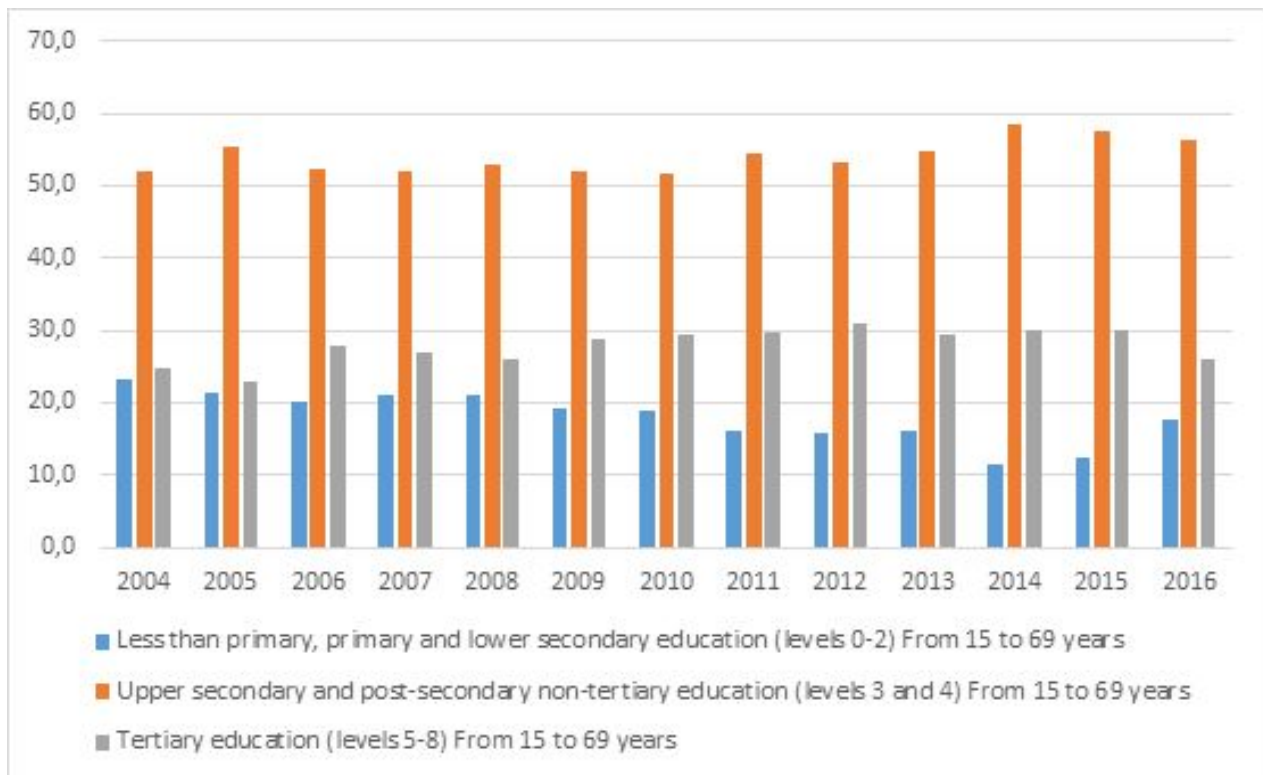


Source: Eurostat [migr_imm3ctb]

1.3. Level of education

In order to analyse the level of education of immigrants, we chose to focus the attention on people in working age.

Tab. 1.3.1 Immigrants by educational attainment in working age in percentage (2004-2016)



Source: Eurostat [edat_ifs_9912]

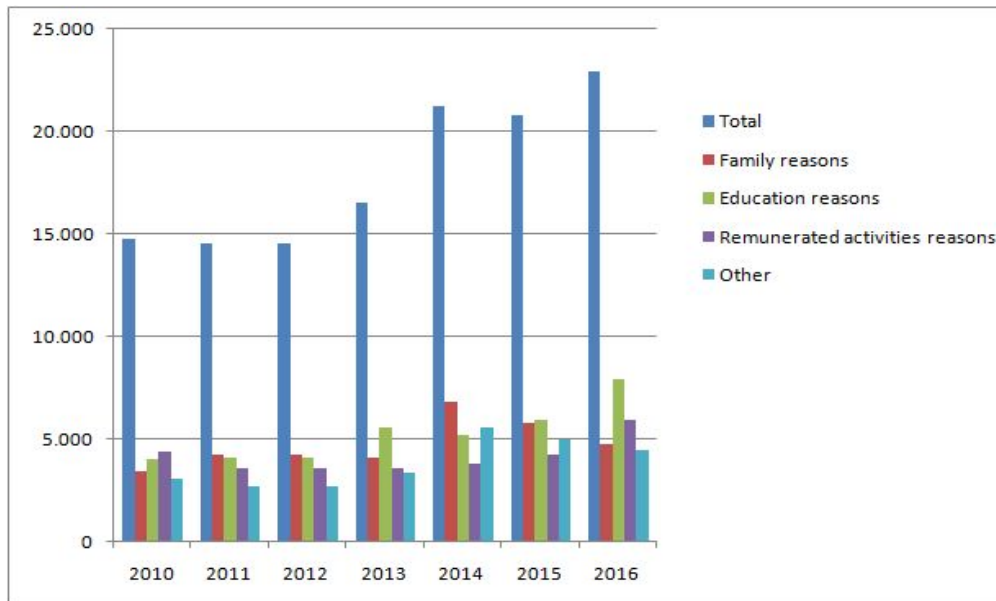
Here the references to levels of education (0-8):

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/edat1_esms.htm#stat_pres1512048381182

1.4. Channels of entry and countries of origin

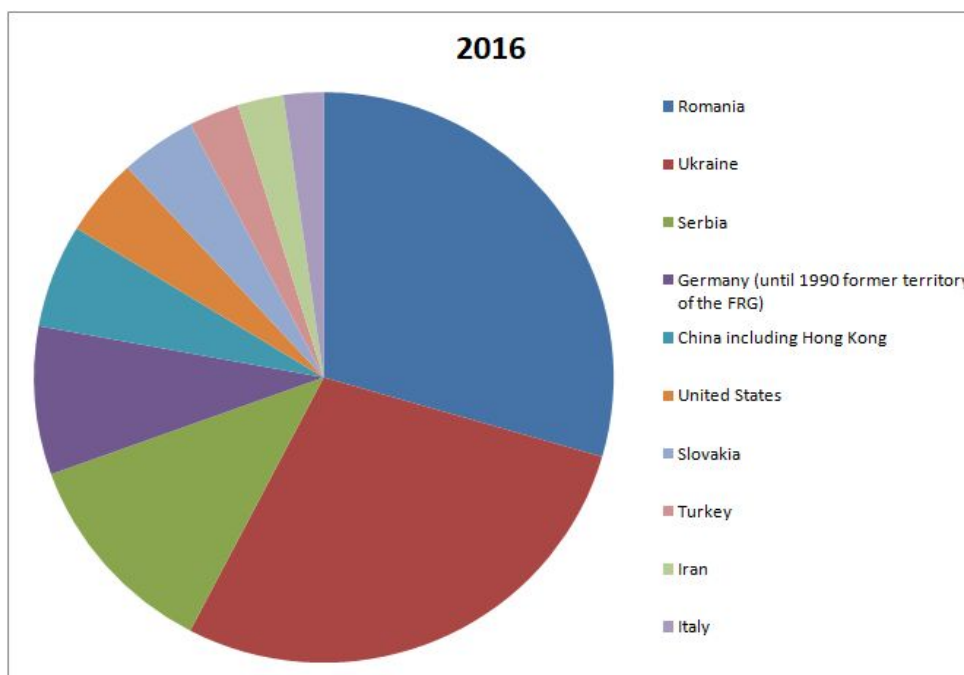
In order to analyse the composition of immigrants in Hungary, we found it appropriate to make a research on the channels of entry by looking at the typology of the first permits by reason and to look at the main countries of origin.

Tab. 1.4.1 Channels of entry (2010-2016)



Source: Eurostat [migr_resfas]

Tab. 1.4.2 Top ten countries of origin of immigrants (2016)



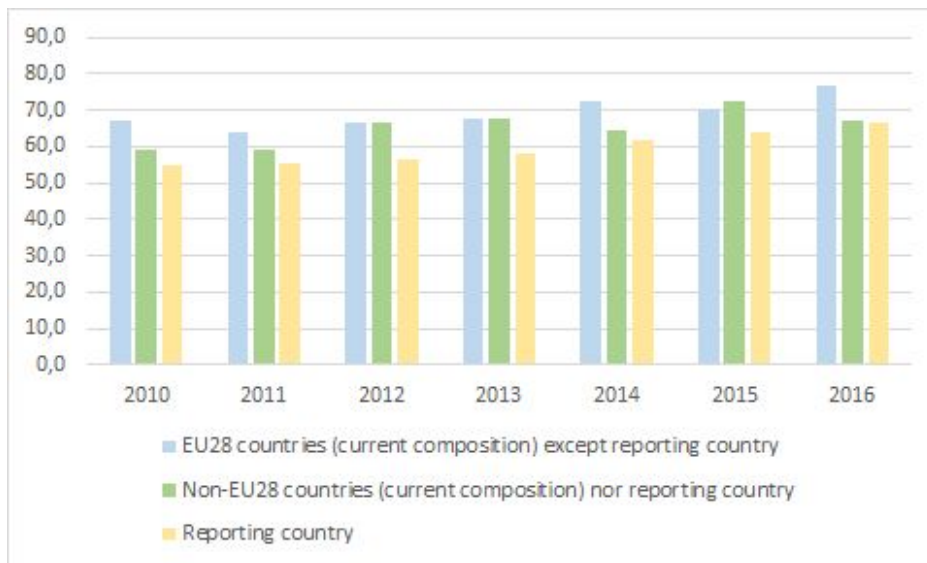
Source: Eurostat [migr_imm3ctb]

2. Integration in the labour market

In order to analyse the employment and unemployment rates of Hungary, we have done the research based on sex, age, educational attainment level and the country of birth. With regard to the age, we took into consideration one broad group, from 15 to 64 years, and we made a comparison between the reporting country, the EU 28 and non-EU 28 countries.

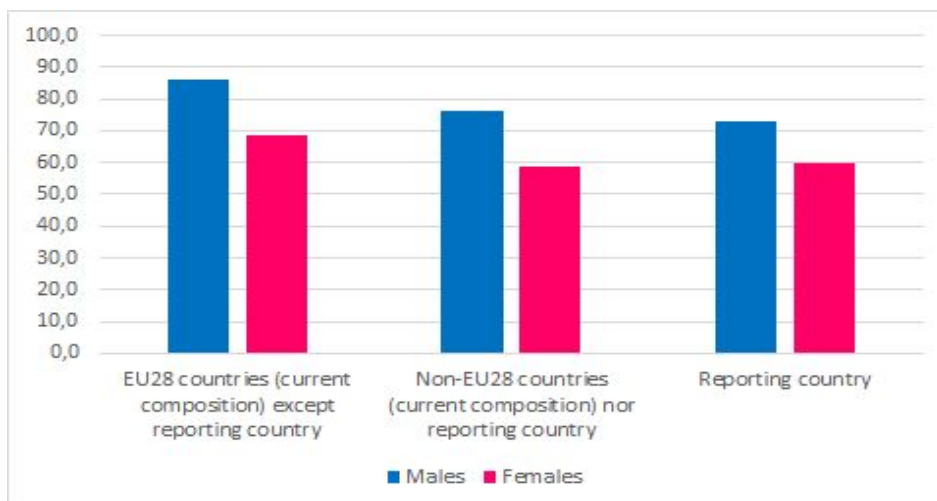
2.1. Employment rates by country of birth

Tab. 2.1.1 Employment rates by country of birth (2010-2016)



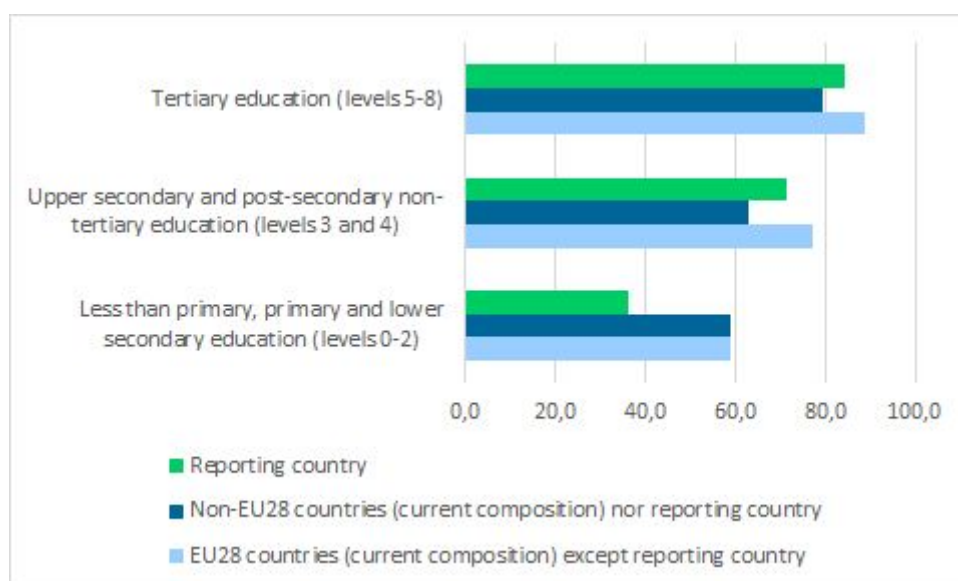
Source: Eurostat [lfst_r_lfe2emprc]

Tab. 2.1.2 Employment rates by sex and country of birth (2016)



Source: Eurostat [lfst_r_lfe2emprc]

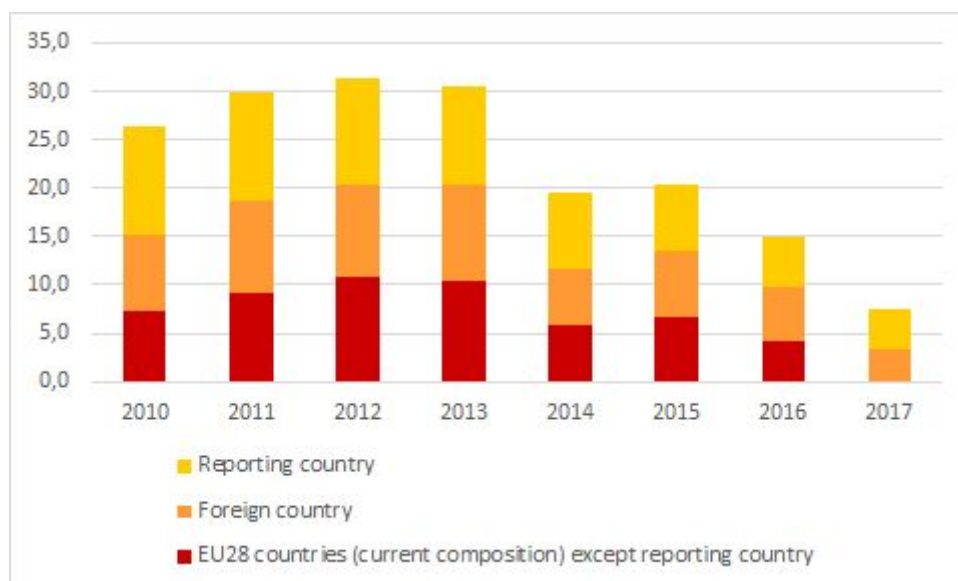
Tab. 2.1.3 Employment rates by educational attainment level and country of birth (2016)



Source: Eurostat [lfst_r_lfe2emprc]

2.2. Unemployment rates by country of birth

Tab. 2.2.1 Unemployment rates by sex, age and country of birth (%) (2010-2016)



Source: Eurostat [lfsa_urgacob]

Conclusions

Hungary represents a destination country since 1990s, after the big drop of 1989 caused by the fall of the Berlin wall which led many people to emigrate from the country. However, due to the fact that the right-wing majority government won against the left side in 2010, an anti-immigrant attitude took place. According to the MIPEX research, indeed, there has been “no major change on integration since 2010: +1 point in 2014 due to EU-required single residence/work permit”².

With regard to the characteristics of immigrants, the majority of them belongs to age group that corresponds to the working age (15-64 years). A small percentage of them is very young (less than 15 years) and an even smaller one corresponds to the oldest group (65 years or more). According to the data, the male percentage of migrants is always higher than the female one, with the highest level reached in 2015. These trends have never changed over time. In general, considering only the working age class, they mostly have an upper secondary or postsecondary (but non-tertiary) education.

The main countries of origin from which the migrants come from are Romania, Ukraine, Serbia, Germany and China and the privileged channel of entry in 2016 is education followed by remunerated activities and family reasons.

Regarding the integration in the labour market, the graph 2.1.1 shows that the employment rates of migrants in Hungary are lower than those of the other EU and also non-EU countries. In particular, we found that male migrants are more employed than women and that highly skilled migrants have more possibilities to find a job, in conformity with the data of the other EU and non-EU countries. The unemployment rates, instead, have decreased over the years and in 2016 they were similar to those of the other countries. In general, Hungary “has not tried to create the effective targeted programmes successful in other countries and creates longer delays equal access to jobs and training for non-EU legal residents not in employment, education and training”³.

² <http://www.mipex.eu>

³ *ibidem*.