

JEAN MONNET CHAIR EUROPEAN MIGRATION STUDIES

ECONOMICS OF MIGRATION IN EUROPE (ECMEU)

REPORTS PRESENTATION

COUNTRY: PORTUGAL

2022/2023

PROF.SSA ALESSANDRA VENTURINI



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



**UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO**

Portugal-Country Report

Prepared by: Elahe Masoumi

Maria ElisabettaD'Angelo

Sara Tavakoli

Alice Agyeiwaa

Elaheh Komrani Najafabadi

Daniele Zuccoli

Table of contents

1. Introduction

2. Relevant data for countries of destination

2.1. Stock of total population

2.2. Stock of migrants in the last 10 years

2.3. Immigrant stock by category (sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration)

2.4. Population growth

2.5. Flows of migrants in the last 10 years, Immigration flow (by sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration)

2.6. Total number of asylum seekers by sex and age

2.7. Share of refugees on total migration

2.8. Migrants' integration indicators

3. Conclusions

1-Introduction

Portugal is a country located in southwestern Europe, on Iberian Peninsula, it has Atlantic Ocean on its west and south borders while on north and east borders there is Spain.

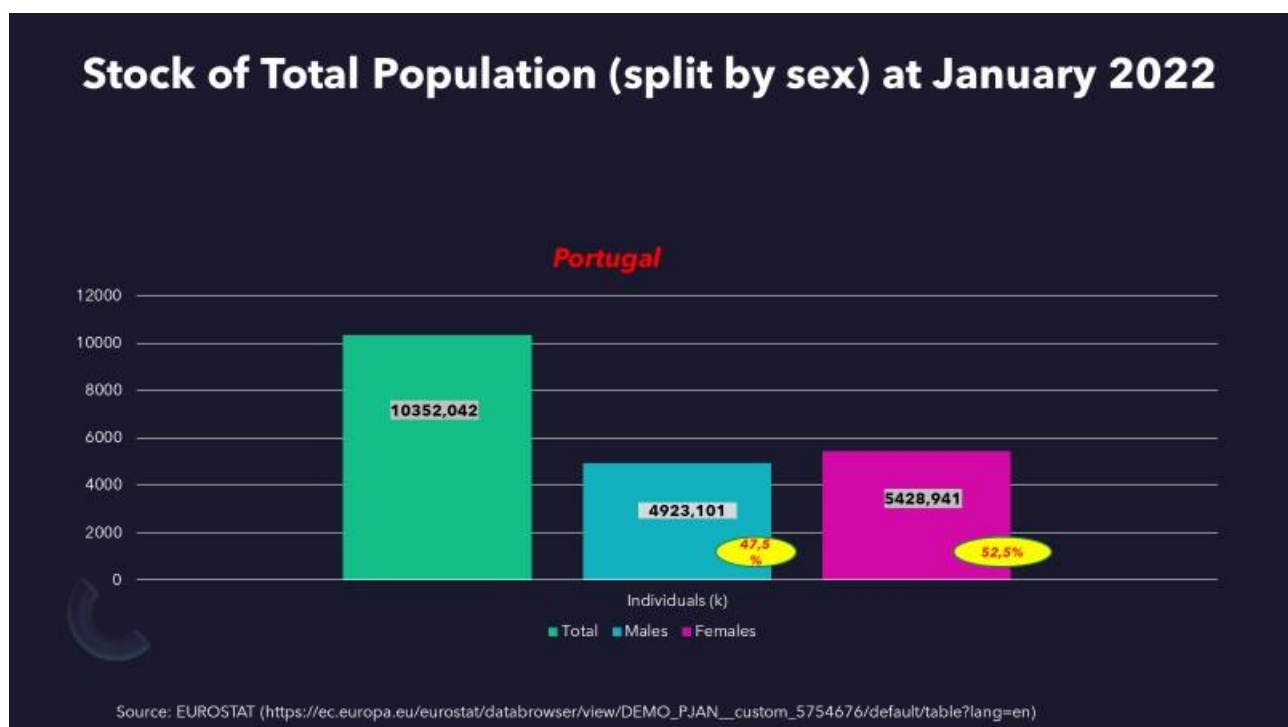
The migration history of the contemporary Portugal began receiving high inflows of migrants from portuguese-speaking countries in Africa from the '70s (as for example Cape Verde, Angola, and Mozambique). From the '90s the country received also relevant inflows of migrants from Brazil and the Eastern European countries as Ukraine, Moldova and Russia.

Recently Portugal started to receive a decent number of EU citizens from the United Kingdom and Spain.

The goal of this report is analyzing the trends of migration in Portugal. In the beginning we reported some information about the context (country's population), while in the following sections we proceed in examining migration stock and flows and the level of social inclusion of migrants.

2-Relevant data for countries of destination

2.1- Stock of total population



The total population of Portugal as of January 2022 is 10.352.042. In the chart we reported the division by sex: we can see that the percentage of women is higher than males, with a gap of exactly 5%.

2.2- Stock of migrants in the last 10 years

Stock of migrants in the last 10 yrs

The overall stock of migrant people reached 1,2 mln in year 2022, and grew by 36% over the last decade

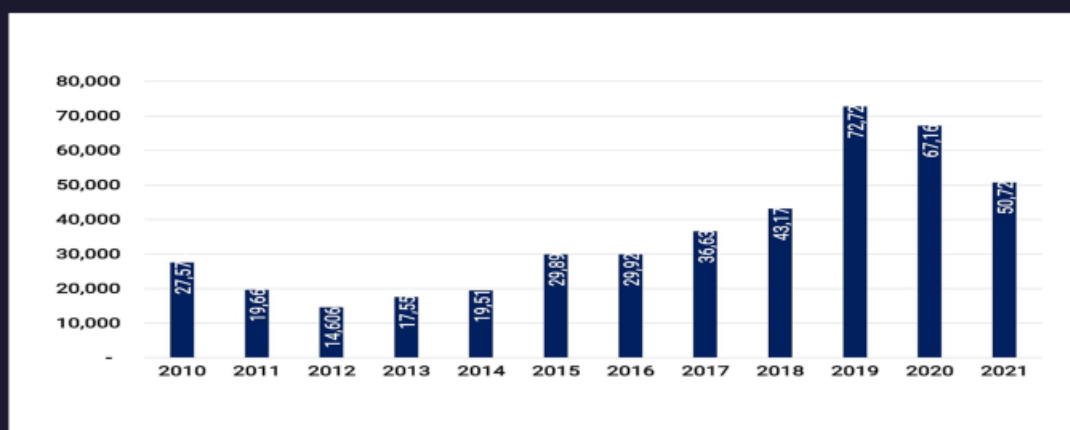


Source: EUROSTAT (https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_pop3ctb/default/table?lang=en)

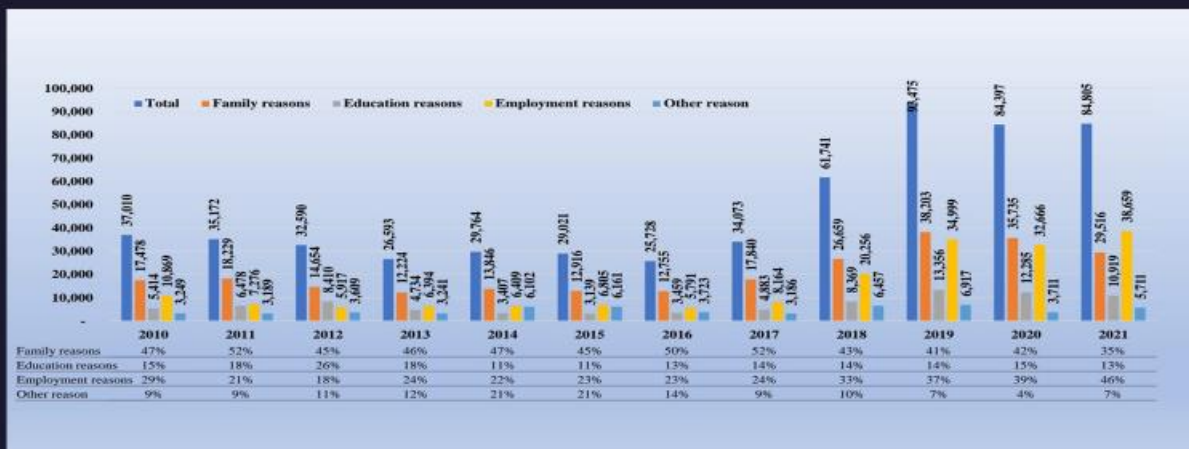
The total amount of migrants in Portugal during these ten years remained stable from 2013 up to 2017, while from 2018 to 2022 a vertiginous growth occurred.

2.3- Immigrant stock by category (sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration)

IMMIGRATION STOCK BY CATEGORY (sex, age, country of birth)



REASONS FOR MIGRATION



Portugal has become an increasingly popular destination for immigrants in recent years. Many factors have contributed to this trend, including the country's improving economic and social conditions, favorable immigration policies, and its status as a member of the European Union.

Immigrants who come to Portugal often do so for a variety of reasons, including work, study, family reunification, or seeking asylum. The largest group of immigrants in Portugal come from Brazil, followed by Cape Verde, Ukraine, Romania, and Angola.

The majority of immigrants who come to Portugal for work are employed in the service sector, such as tourism and hospitality, health care, and domestic work. Some also work in the construction and agriculture sectors.

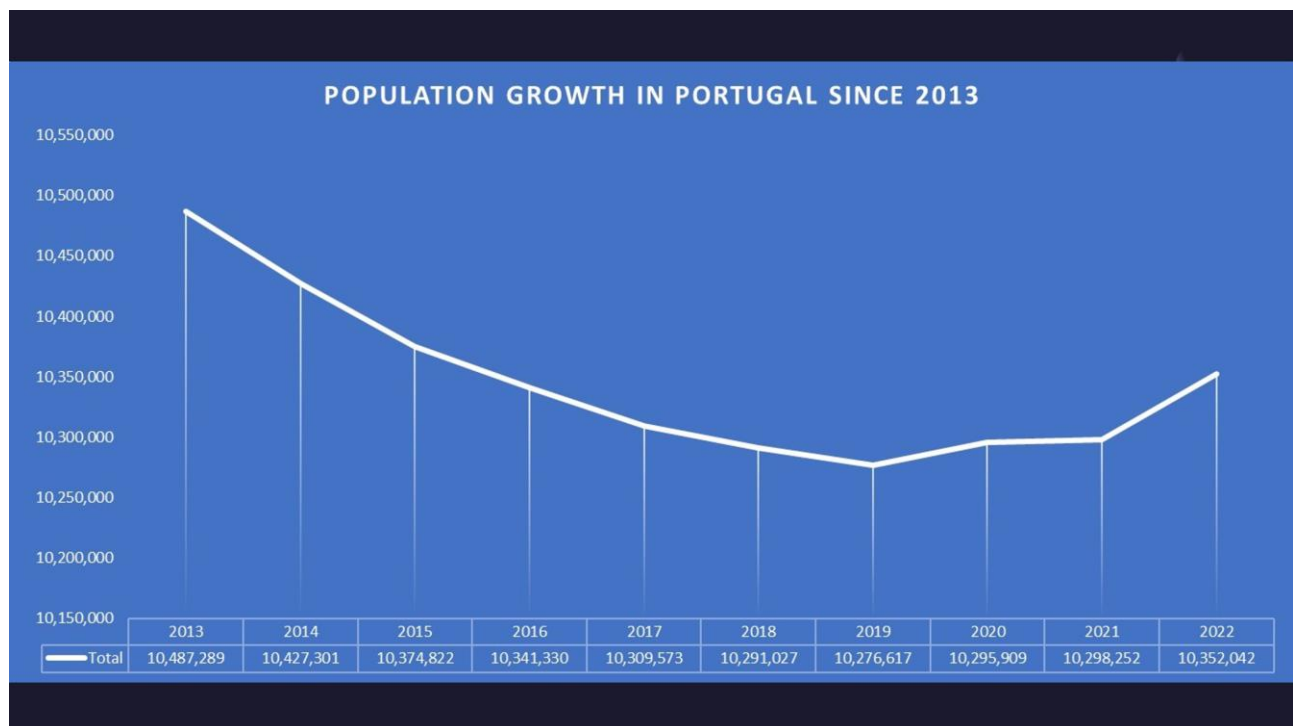
Many immigrants who come to Portugal to study enroll in universities or other educational institutions. Portugal has a number of high-quality universities that offer a wide range of programs in various fields, including medicine, engineering, and business.

Family reunification is another common reason for immigration to Portugal. Immigrants who are already in Portugal may apply to bring their spouses, children, or other family members to join them.

Finally, some immigrants come to Portugal seeking asylum. The country has a well-established asylum system and has granted asylum to refugees from a variety of countries, including Syria, Venezuela, and Angola.

Overall, immigrants in Portugal face some challenges, including language barriers and discrimination, but the country has made efforts to integrate immigrants and promote diversity and inclusion. The Portuguese government has implemented policies to facilitate the integration of immigrants, such as language classes and job training programs.

2.4 – Population growth

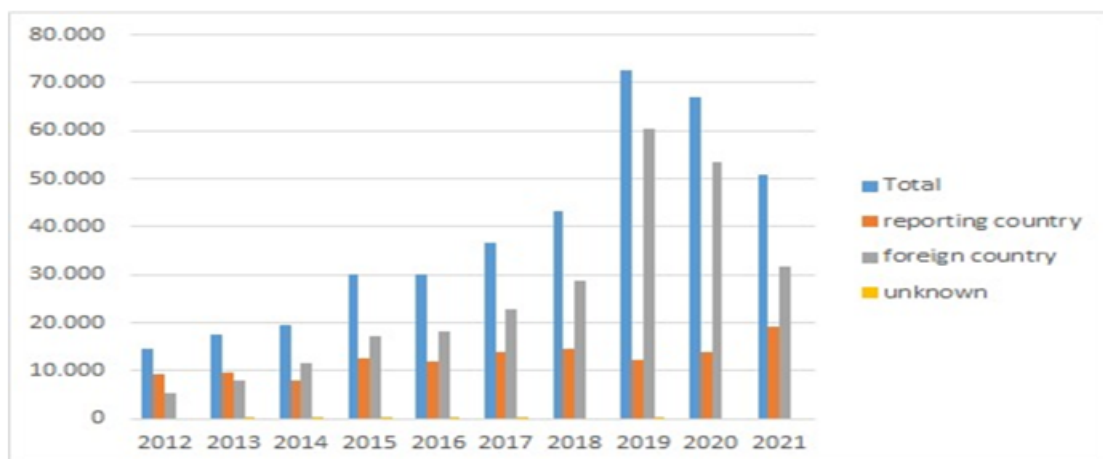


This graph presents the change of Portuguese population growth over the past 10 years. Looking at the trend, we can see how the Portuguese has been subjected to the ups and downs in the population growth over the past 10 years. From the graph we can also see the total population in 2013

which was 10,487,289, but from 2014 up to 2019 their total population kept reducing gradually each year to 10,276,617, and 2020, 2021 and 2022 their population began to rise again from 10,295,909 in the year 2019 to 10,352,042 within the year of 2020 to 2022.

2.5 – Flow of migrants in the last 10 years (by sex, age, country of birth and reason for migration)

Flows of migrants in the last 10 years

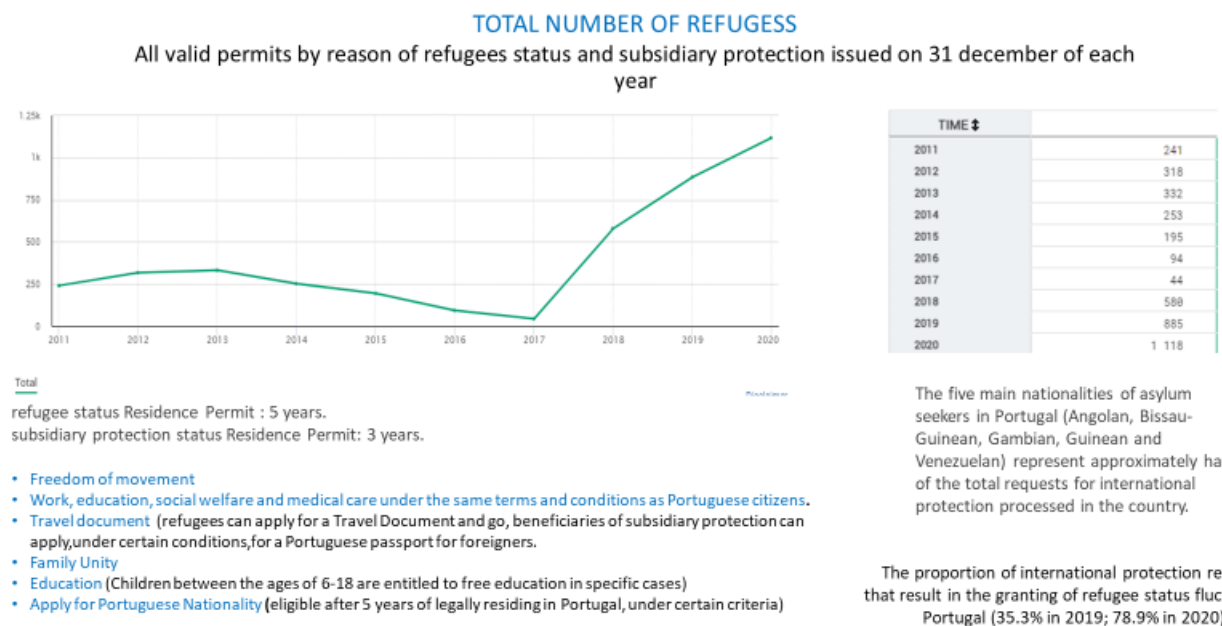


Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tps00176/default/table?lang=en>

The given chart illustrates the comparison of flows of migration in four different categories including reporting countries, foreign countries, and total numbers from 2012 to 2021.

As we can clearly see in 2019 the flow reaches the highest point in groups of other countries and the total number. However, although the numbers show a vivid fluctuation for Portugal, the peak of the flows takes place in 2021, by almost 20,000 people.

2.6 – Total number of Refugees



Source EUROSTAT [migr_resvalid], European Commission (European website on integration)

The Immigration and Borders Service (SEF) is the entity responsible for implementing the immigration and asylum policy in Portugal. At the level of its specific duties in the area of asylum, it decides on the acceptance of requests for international protection, as well as the instruction of the processes for granting this type of protection. The competent institution

for the integration of asylum seekers and refugees in Portugal, is the High Commissariat for Migration, with the task of receiving and integrating asylum seekers and refugees, namely through the development of transversal policies, centers and offices to support asylum seekers and refugees, providing an integrated response of public services.

From the first graph we can notice how the proportion of international protection requests that result in the granting of refugee status in Portugal increased after 2017, and in particular fluctuates between 35.3% in 2019 and 78.9% in 2020 ... This phenomenon was due to, inter alia, the fact that In response to the covid-19 pandemic, the Portuguese Government decided that all immigrants with residence permit applications that were pending at the (SEF) on 18th March would have received permission for temporary residence and have access to the same rights as all other citizens. The measure also includes asylum seekers. In this regards, The Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Eduardo Cabrita, who oversees the SEF, stated that, 'In a State of Emergency, the priority is the defense of collective health and safety. It is in these moments that it becomes even more important to guarantee the rights of the most fragile, as is the case of migrants.

The refugees are granted some rights, as

- Freedom of movement
- Work, education, social welfare and medical care under the same terms and conditions as Portuguese citizens.
- Travel document (refugees can apply for a Travel Document and go, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection can apply, under certain conditions, for a Portuguese passport for foreigners.
- Family Unity
- Education (Children between the ages of 6-18 are entitled to free education in specific cases)

- Apply for Portuguese Nationality (eligible after 5 years of legally residing in Portugal, under certain criteria)

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGESS

First instance decisions on applications by age and sex

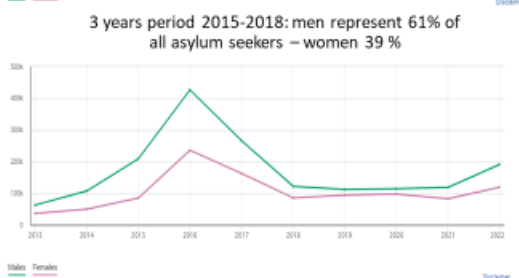
annual aggregated data

ASYLUM SEEKERS BY SEX



Total First instance decisions on applications

SEX	Males ↕	Females ↕
TIME ↕		
2012	175	95
2013	225	80
2014	165	65
2015	245	125
2016	395	280
2017	595	355
2018	630	410
2019	455	285
2020	285	135
2021	350	155
2022	520	345



Total positive First instance decisions on applications

SEX	Males ↕	Females ↕
TIME ↕		
2012	60	40
2013	95	40
2014	75	35
2015	110	85
2016	195	125
2017	325	175
2018	365	255
2019	180	70
2020	55	35
2021	200	185
2022	375	295

Source EUROSTAT [migr_asydcfina], European Commission (European website on integration)

3 years period 2015-2018: men represent 61% of all asylum seekers – women 39 %

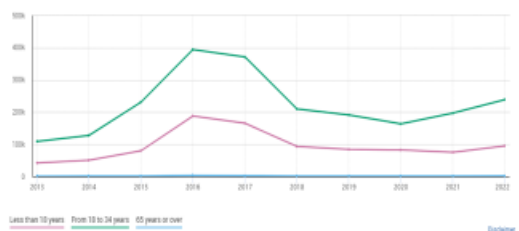
From these two graphs, it is clear that the number of Male asylum seeker is dramatically higher than those of women, however, in proportion, the number of positive decisions is slightly higher for women.

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGESS

First instance decisions on applications by age and sex

annual aggregated data

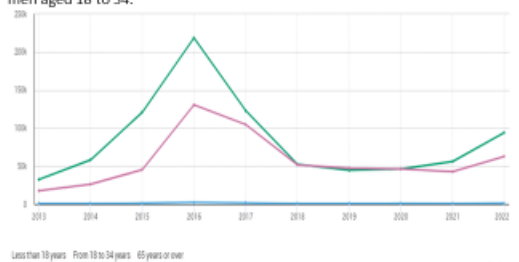
ASYLUM SEEKERS BY AGE



Total First instance decisions on applications

AGE	Less than 18 years ↕	From 18 to 34 years ↕	65 years or over ↕
TIME ↕			
2012	28	128	0
2013	28	140	0
2014	28	180	0
2015	28	160	5
2016	45	240	0
2017	120	350	0
2018	170	380	5
2019	85	255	0
2020	55	155	0
2021	85	185	0
2022	165	245	0

Half of all asylum seekers – 55% of men and 45% of women – are aged 18 to 34. Asylum seekers aged 18-34: men 64% - women 36 % of the total. Hence, one third of all asylum seekers who arrived in Portugal between 2015 and 2018 are men aged 18 to 34.



Total positive First instance decisions on applications

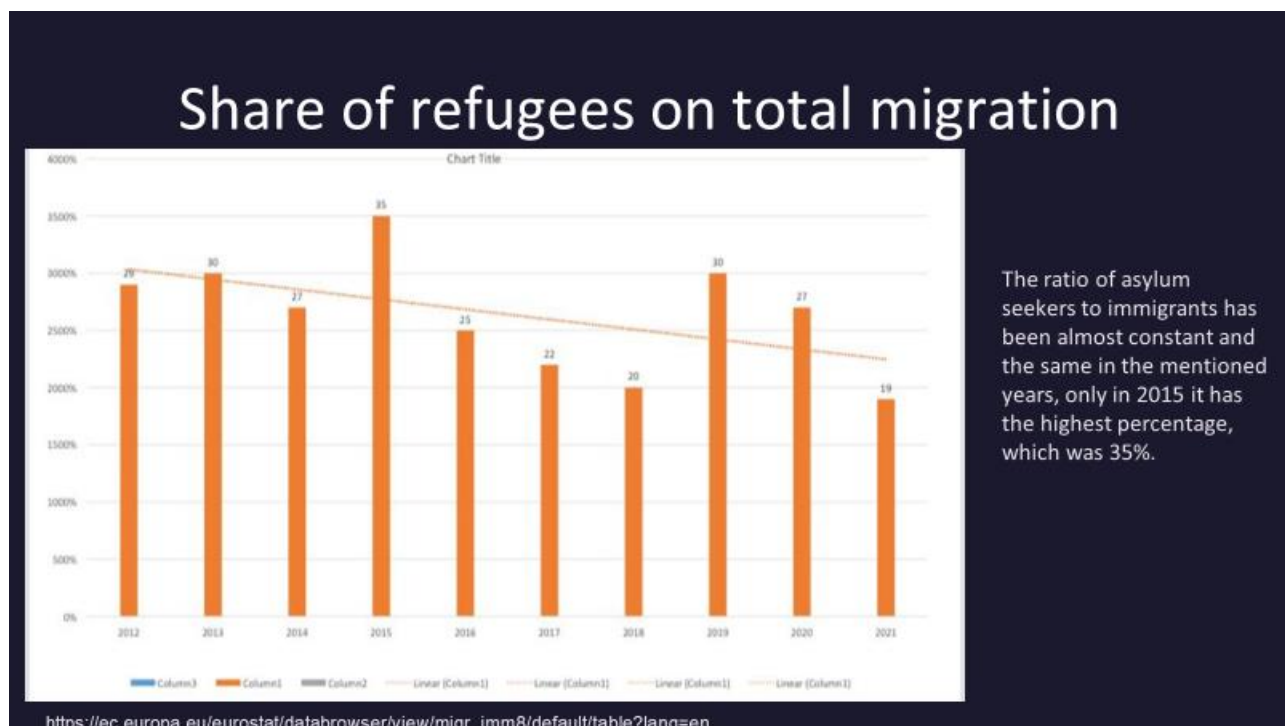
AGE	Less than 18 years ↕	From 18 to 34 years ↕	65 years or over ↕
TIME ↕			
2012	10	40	0
2013	15	55	0
2014	15	40	0
2015	10	60	0
2016	35	185	0
2017	80	175	0
2018	130	155	0
2019	30	45	0
2020	25	15	0
2021	75	85	0
2022	155	150	0

Source EUROSTAT [migr_asydcfst], European Commission (European website on integration)

From this graph, we can notice how the number of refugees is significantly higher in the age range of 18-34, while almost null in that from 65 years on.

What we can derive by examining all this graphs, if we focus for instance in the three years period 2015-2018 is the fact that Men represent 61% of all asylum seekers who arrived in Portugal, they are also over-represented among all age groups, but especially so among asylum seekers aged 18 to 34, where they represent 64% of the total. Half of all asylum seekers – 55% of men and 45% of women – are aged 18 to 34. Hence, one third of all asylum seekers who arrived in Portugal between 2015 and 2018 are men aged 18 to 34.

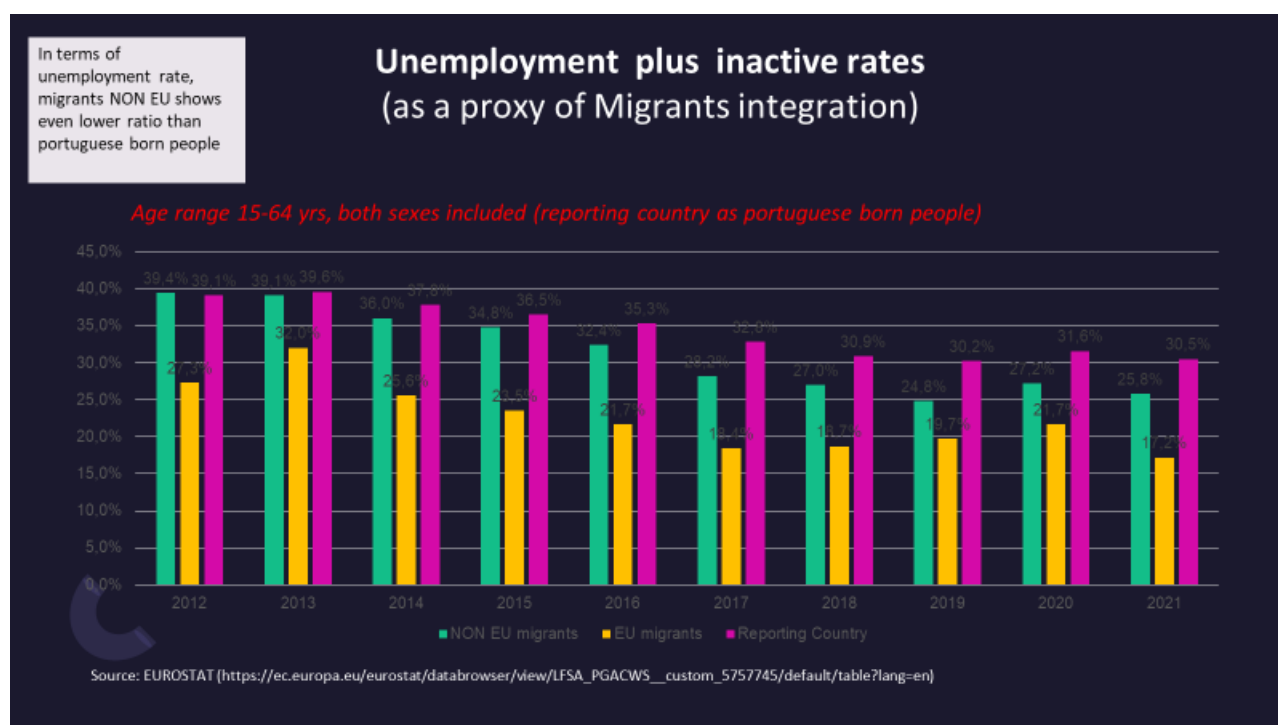
2.7 – Share of refugees on total migration



https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_imm8/default/table?lang=en

According to the statistics regarding the share of asylum seekers compared to immigrants in the last ten years in Portugal, it can be said that we have not witnessed such a noticeable ups and downs, and during all these years, there has been a fluctuation between 20 and 30 percent, for example, in 2015, this amount reaches its highest level, i.e. 35%, and after that, it goes down until 2018, and in 2019, we see a ten percent growth again, and after this year, until 2021, this rate will decrease again.

2.8 – Migrants' integration indicators



We chose (as suggested by the chart) unemployment and inactivity rates as the most meaningful proxy of migrants integration within the Portuguese society. Unemployed are those people but are looking for a job, while inactive may be defined as those people who don't have a job and don't even search for it.

We compare in this graph the rates of unemployment among migrants population (both EU and non-EU countries) and non-migrant population (Reporting country) during the period of time from 2012 to 2021. We can notice that the lowest rate of unemployment among total population during working age is achieved by EU migrants.

Only in 2013 it reached almost the rates of the other two groups. It is interesting to observe that the rates of unemployment of Portuguese people is quite similar to the NON EU migrants for only two years (2012/2013), but for the other years the rate of unemployment of Reporting Country's People became higher than NON EU migrants. We can also notice that the rates of unemployment during this decade sees a constant decrease.

A gradual path of better integration may be seen, when you compare the U+I rate of the latest year available (2021) with the U+I rate of year 2015, for example: the latter is 6 percentage points higher, well above 23% while the 2021 data went down at 17%.

On the other hand when we have a look in this chart at the comparison over time of U+I rates between NON EU migrants and EU migrants, we still see a major ground to recover for the first group. Actually there is still, in the most recent year 2021, an eight percentage points gap between the two groups.

3-Conclusion

To conclude we can observe a decrease of reporting country's population overtime, while on the other hand there is an increase of immigrants (especially for family and labour reasons) during the decade analyzed.

We can also notice how the general rate of unemployment+inactive decreases over the period.

However it remains very high among portuguese people and NON-EU migrants.

Portugal is well known for its liberal immigration policies, about the acceptance and integration of refugees and actually we analyzed first how during the observed period of time the number of accepted asylum requests continued to increase over the years. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/21, the government decided to suspend the quota system for the employment of third-country nationals for menial work,

which exists in sectors such as agriculture and restaurants, wholesale and retail trade and construction.

In addition, illegal immigrants living temporarily in the country had the opportunity to regularize their stay, provided they submitted the necessary documents between March 2020 and April 2021. The goal was to make it easier for them to access public services.