

METHODOLOGY ON STATISTICS OF RESIDENCE PERMITS

The study of persons granted a residence permit covers the following categories of persons:

- Third-country nationals residing in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as members of their families who have been granted a permit for prolonged, long-term and permanent residence on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria based on the **Law for foreigners**;
- Third-country nationals who are family members of EU citizens, according to the **Law on the entry, stay and departure of the Republic of Bulgaria to citizens of the European Union who are not Bulgarian citizens and members of their families**.

Basic concepts

Third-country nationals are defined as persons who are not citizens of the European Union within the meaning of Article 17.1 of the Treaty on European Union.

Reason for stay is the reason on which basis a residence permit is granted.

First residence permit is a residence permit granted to a third-country national for the first time, as well as residence permit issued after at least 6 months after the expiry of the previous residence permit, irrespective the year of issuance.

Renewed residence permit is a residence permit granted to a third-country national, up to 6 months from the time when the previous residence permit expired and where the reason for stay is the same.

Single permit is a residence permit issued by the authorities of a Member State within a simplified procedure that allow a third-country national to “reside legally in its territory for the purpose of work”(Art 2 (c) Directive 2011/98/EU)

EU Blue Card entitles its holder to reside and work at the territory of a Member State under the terms of Council Directive 2009/50/EC. The person must have appropriate and specific competence, proven by high professional competence.

Types of residence permits according to the article 23 of the Law on Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria:

- prolonged - up to 1 year;
- long-term – initial 5 years term permitted and a possibility of renewal;
- permanent – unspecified term.

Data source

Source of data on residence permits is Ministry of Interior, Register of foreigners. Data on third-country nationals granted residence permits in Bulgaria is disaggregated by duration and reason for stay.