

Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2023: Ireland Report Launch

23 January 2025

European Migration Network Ireland
Economic and Social Research Institute

Agenda

- 1. Statistics (10 minutes)**
 - Q&A
- 2. Developments (10 minutes)**
 - Q&A
- 3. Research (5 minutes)**
- 4. Case law (10 minutes)**
 - Q&A

I. Statistics



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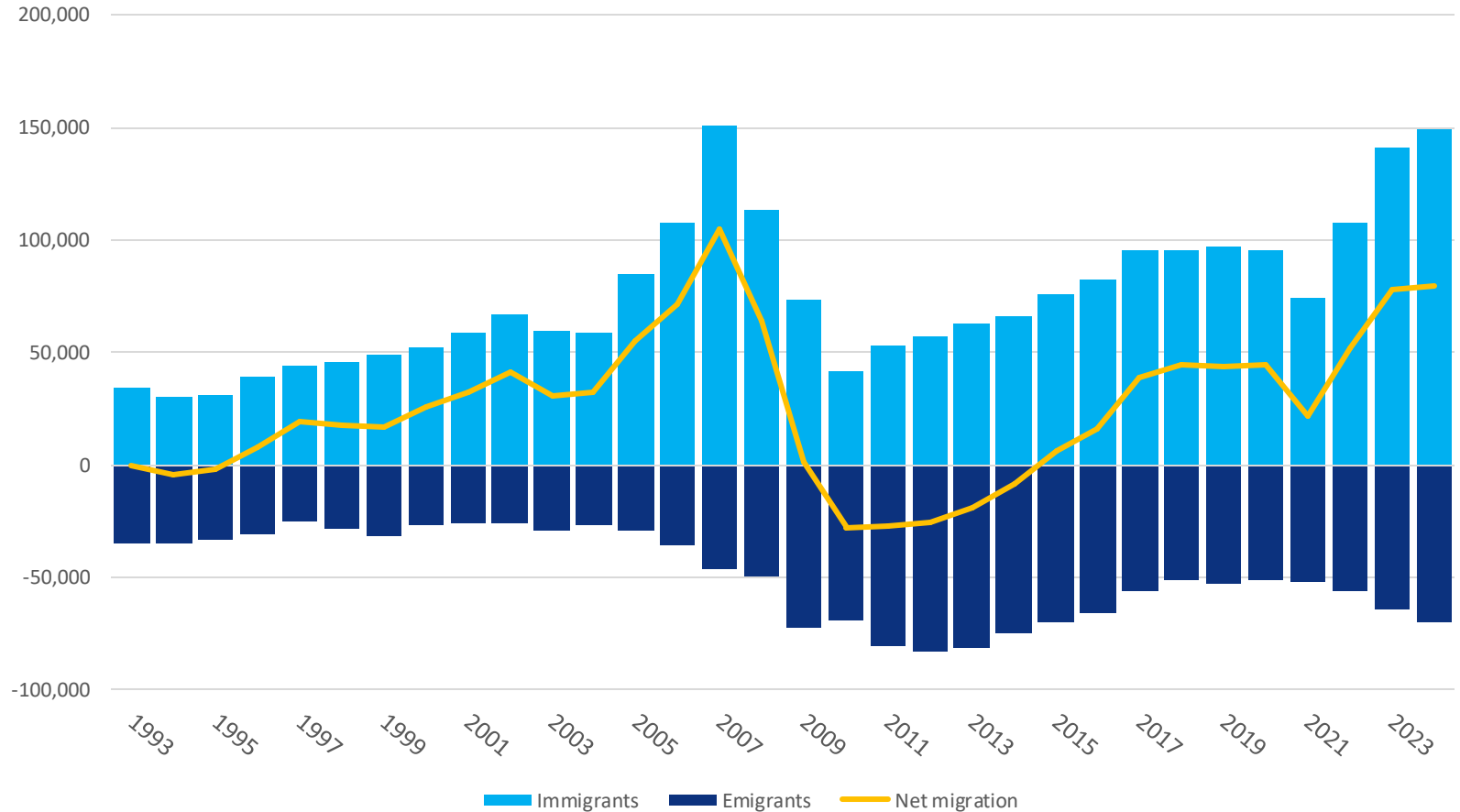


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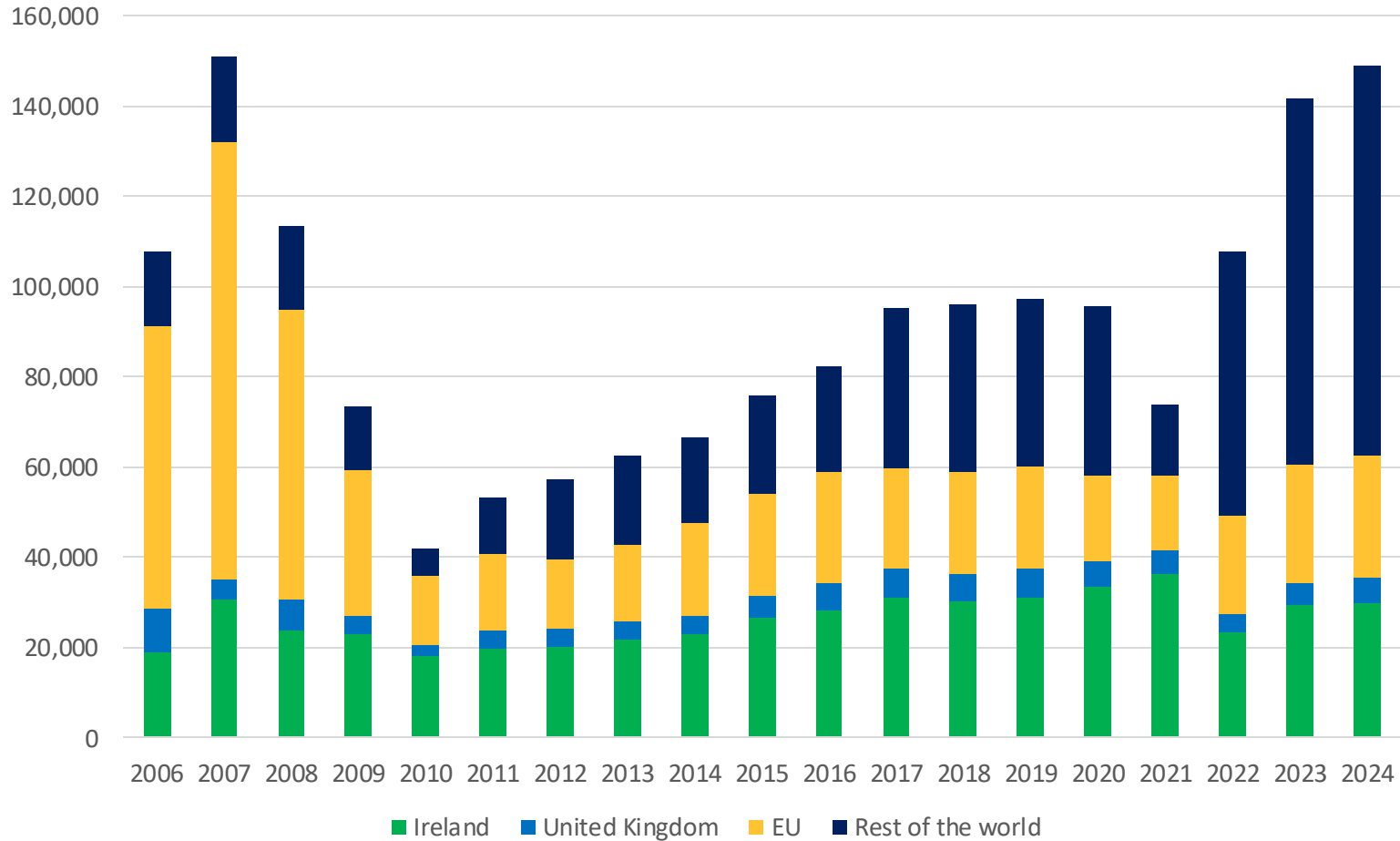
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Migration overview: gross and net migration



Source: Central Statistics Office (2024) 'Population and Migration Estimates April 2024', extracted 27 August 2024.

Immigration: nationalities



Source: Central Statistics Office (2024) 'Population and Migration Estimates April 2024', extracted 27 August 2024.



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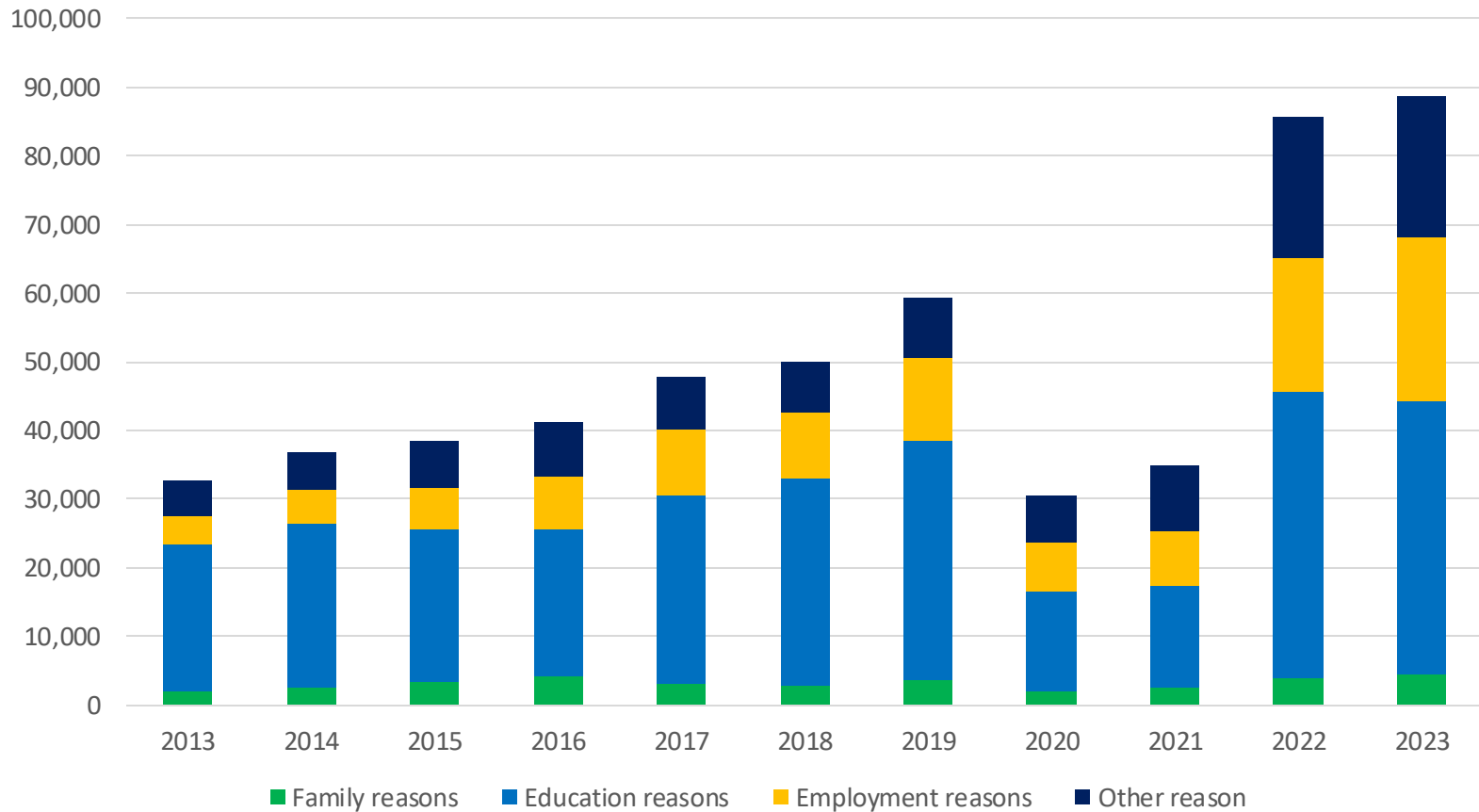
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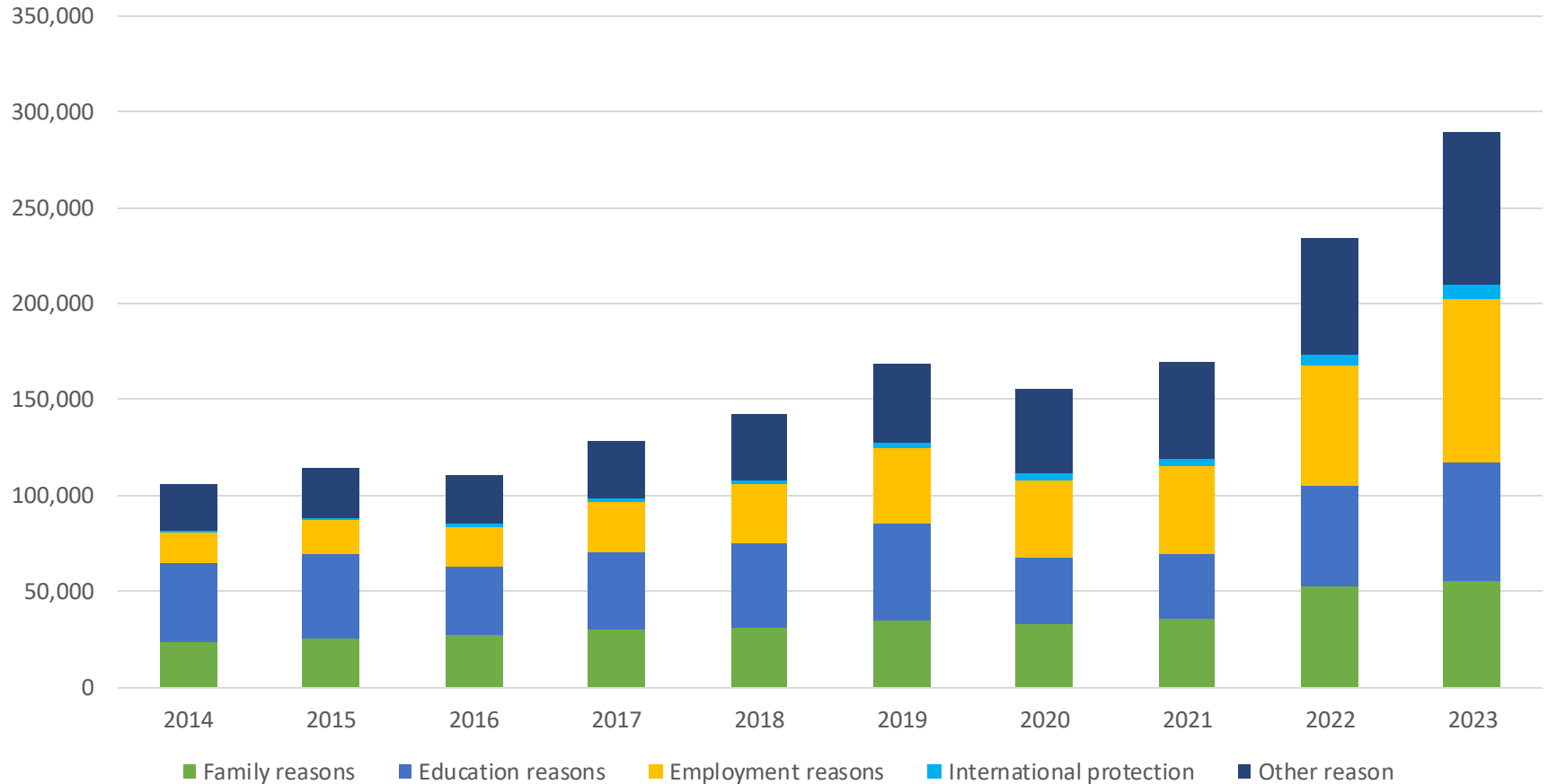
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Immigration: reasons (flows, non-EU)



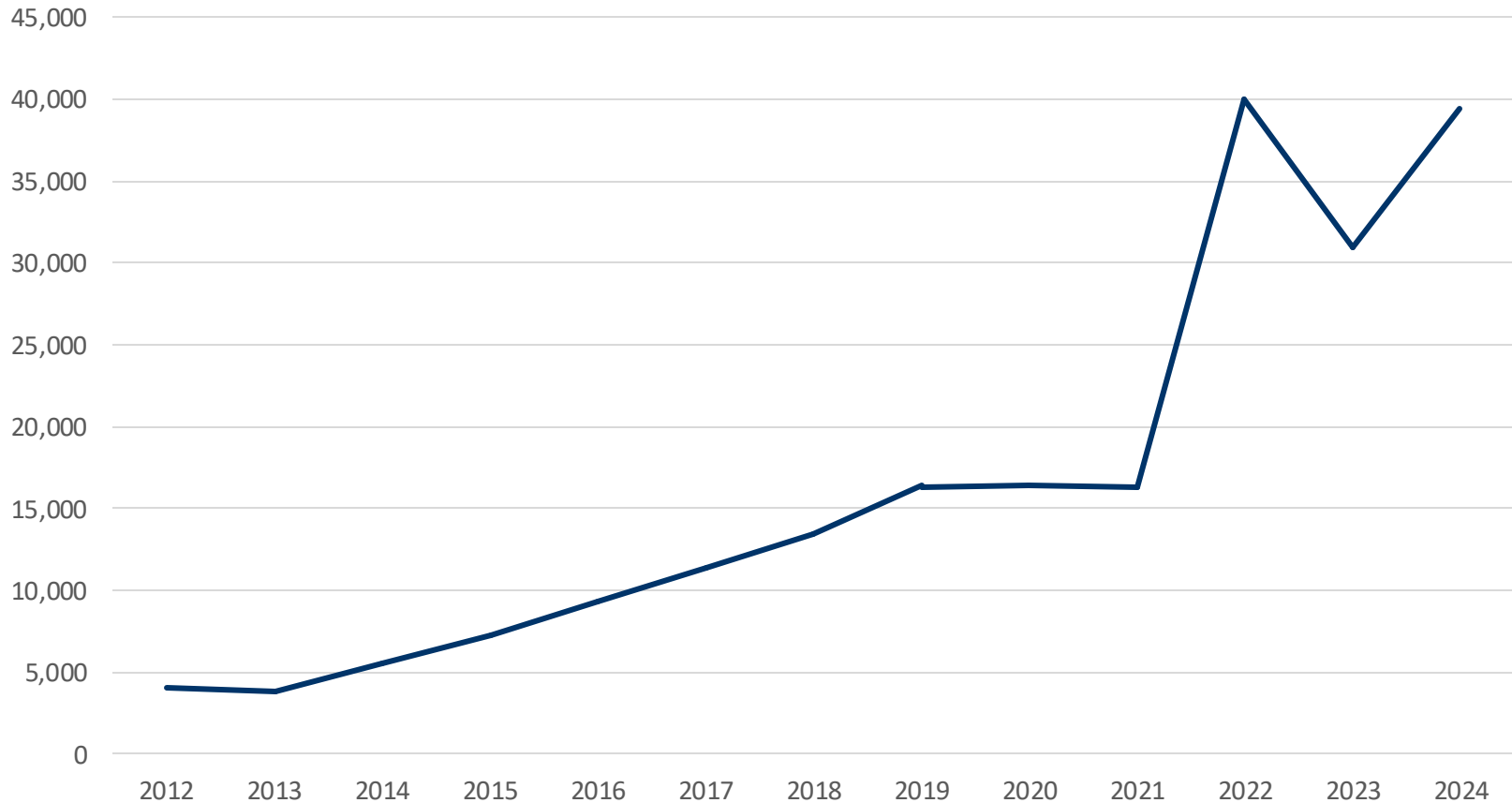
Source: Eurostat (2024). 'First permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship', extracted 22 July 2024.

Immigration: reasons (stocks, non-EU)



Source: Eurostat (2024). 'All valid permits by reason, length of validity and citizenship on 31 December of each year', extracted 23 August 2024.

Employment permits



Source: DETE (2024). 'Employment permit statistics 2023'.



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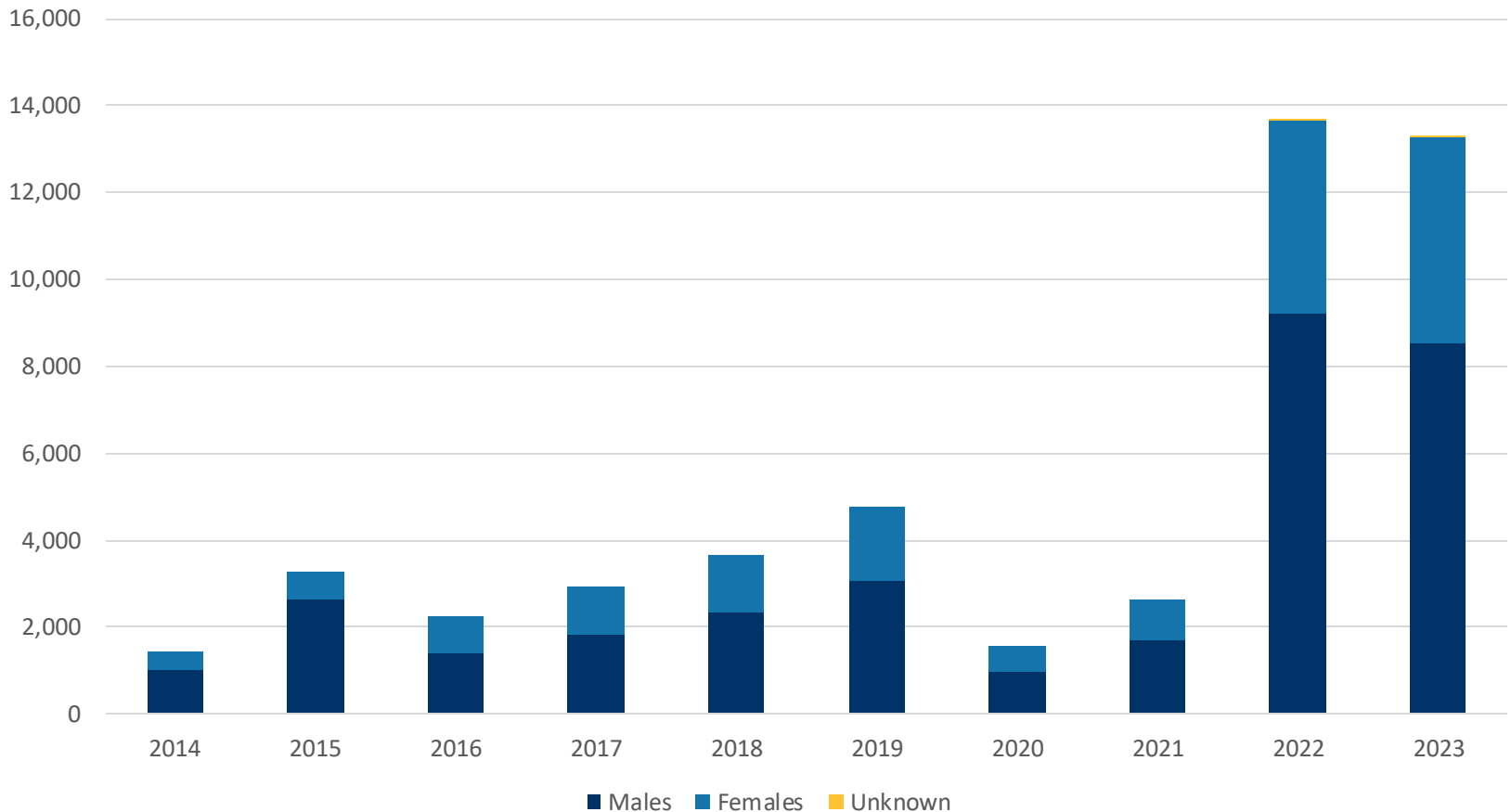
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International protection: applications



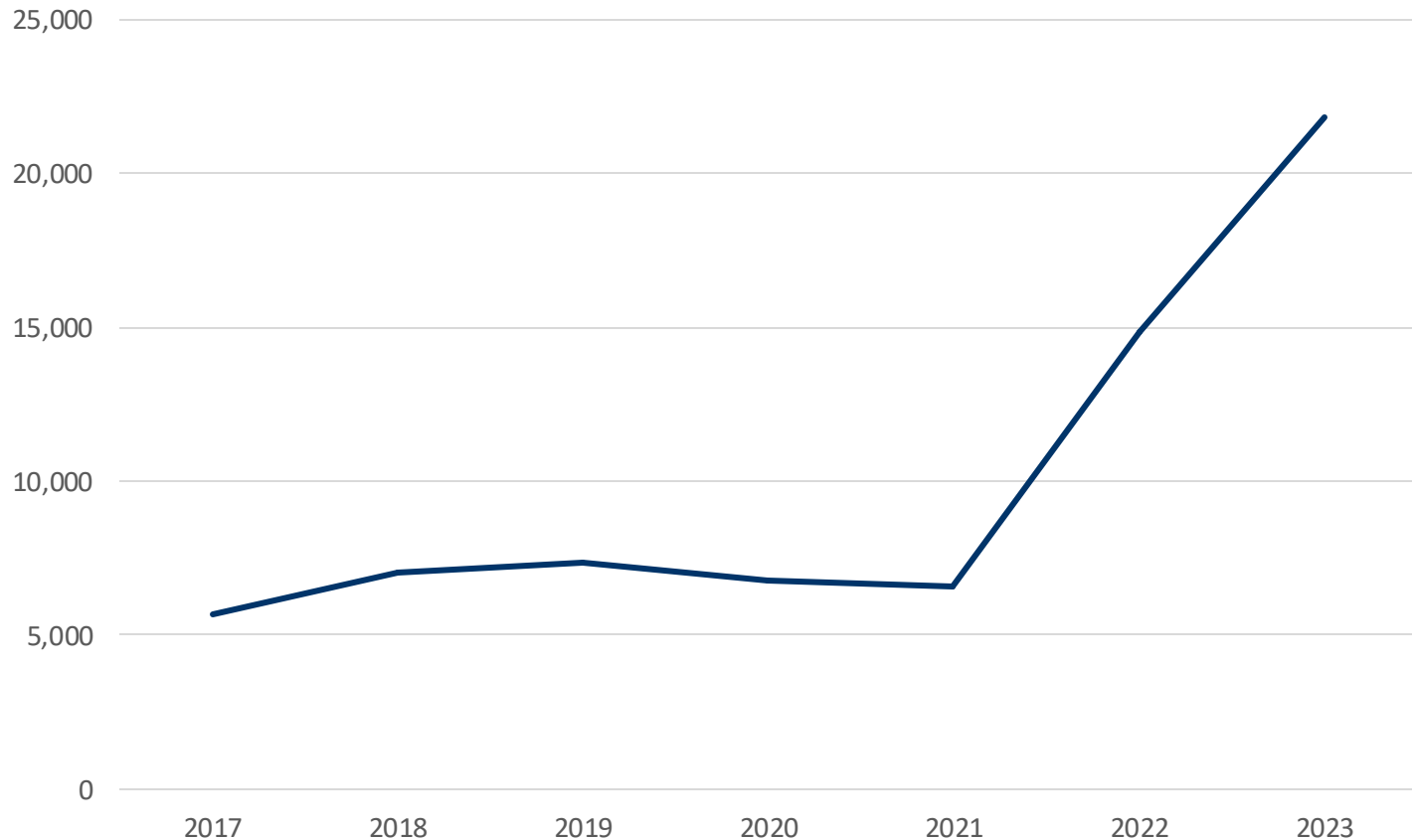
Source: Eurostat (2024) 'Asylum applicants by type of applicant, citizenship, age and sex – Annual aggregated data', extracted 26 June 2024.

EMN

European Migration Network
Gréasán Imirce na hEorpa



International protection: applications pending at year end



Source: Eurostat (2024) 'Persons subject of asylum applications pending at the end of the month by citizenship, age and sex – Monthly data', extracted 26 June 2024.



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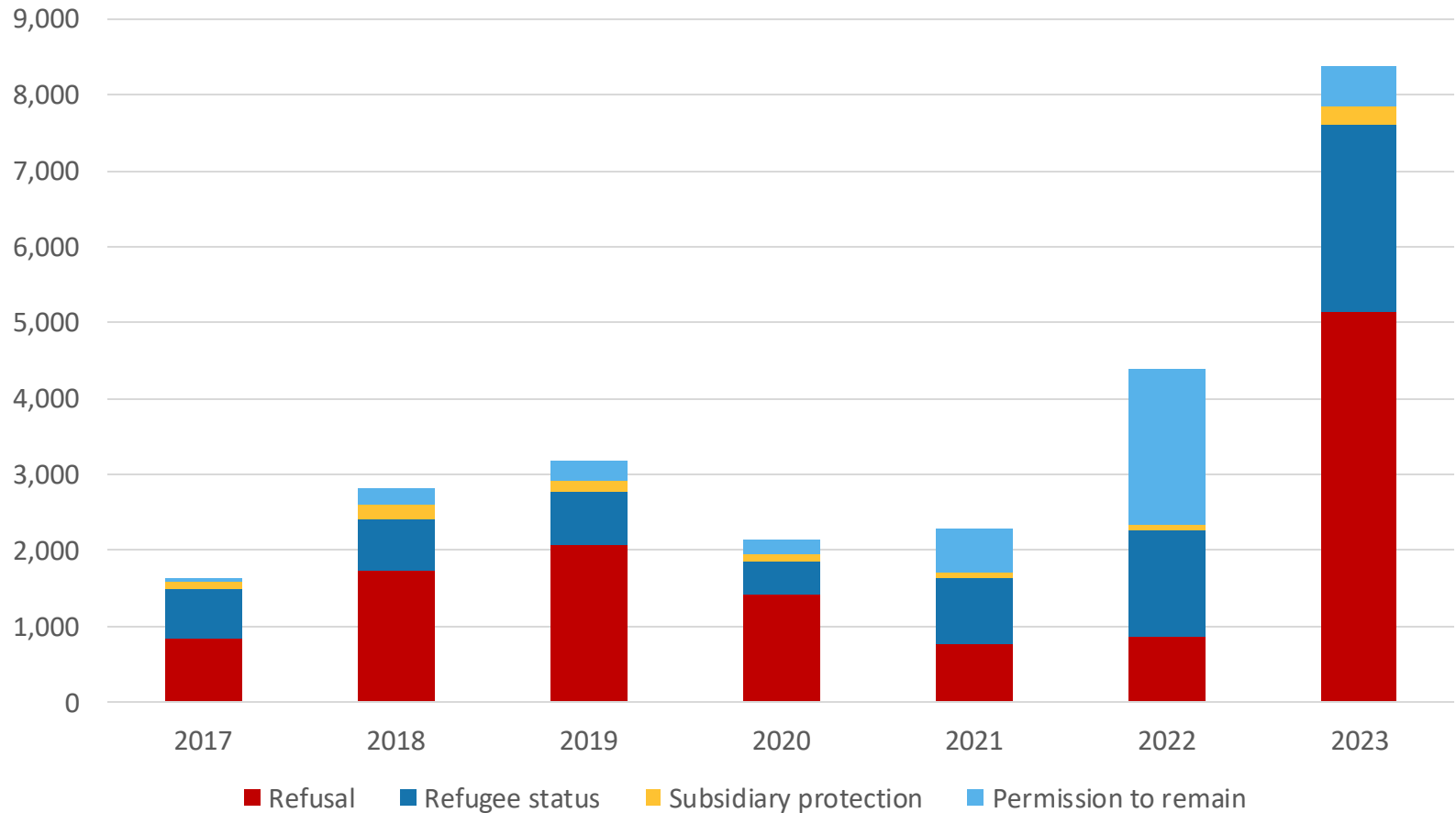


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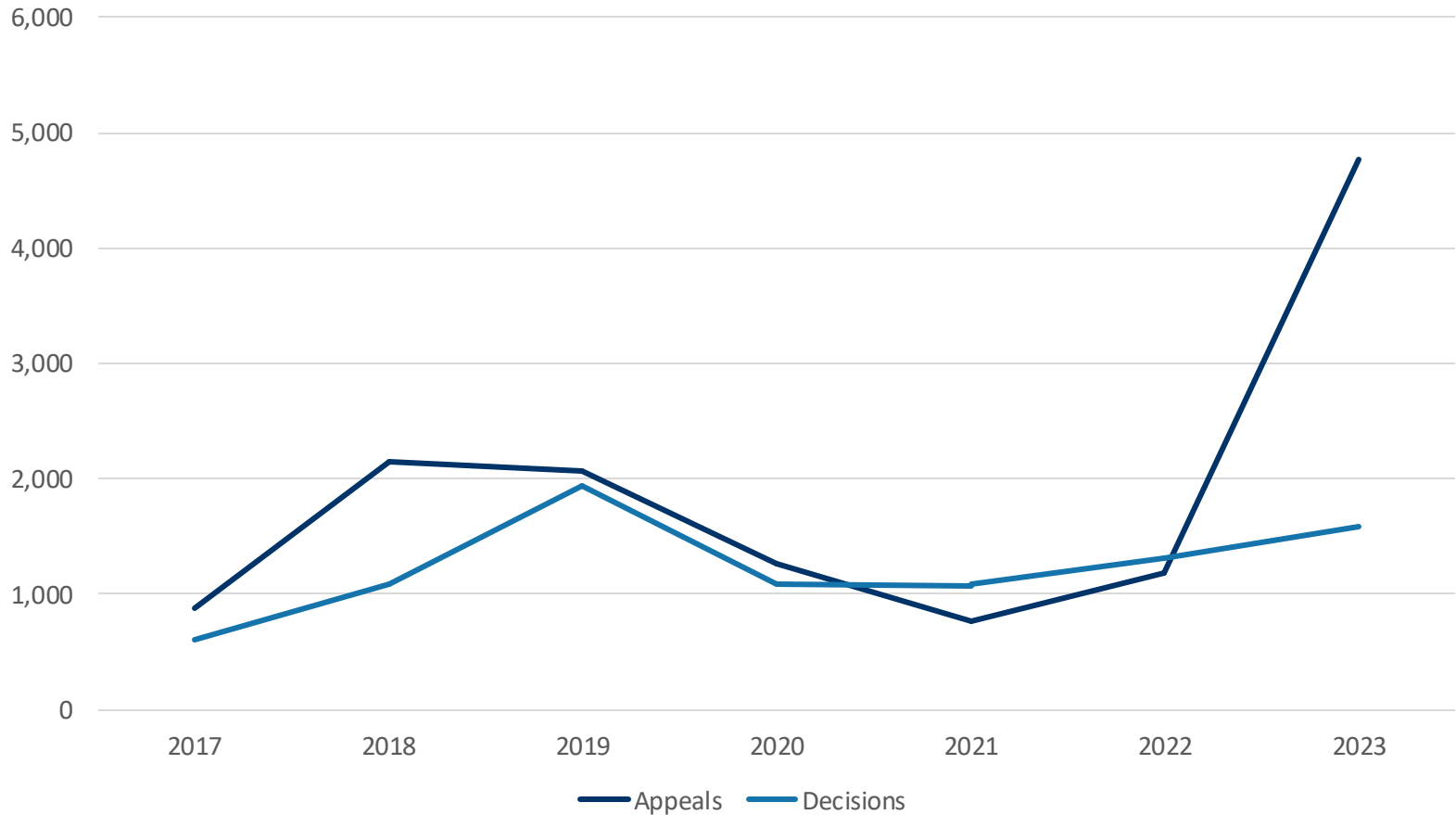
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International protection: decisions



Source: Correspondence with the IPO, November 2024.

International protection: appeals



Source: IPAT annual reports 2017–2023.



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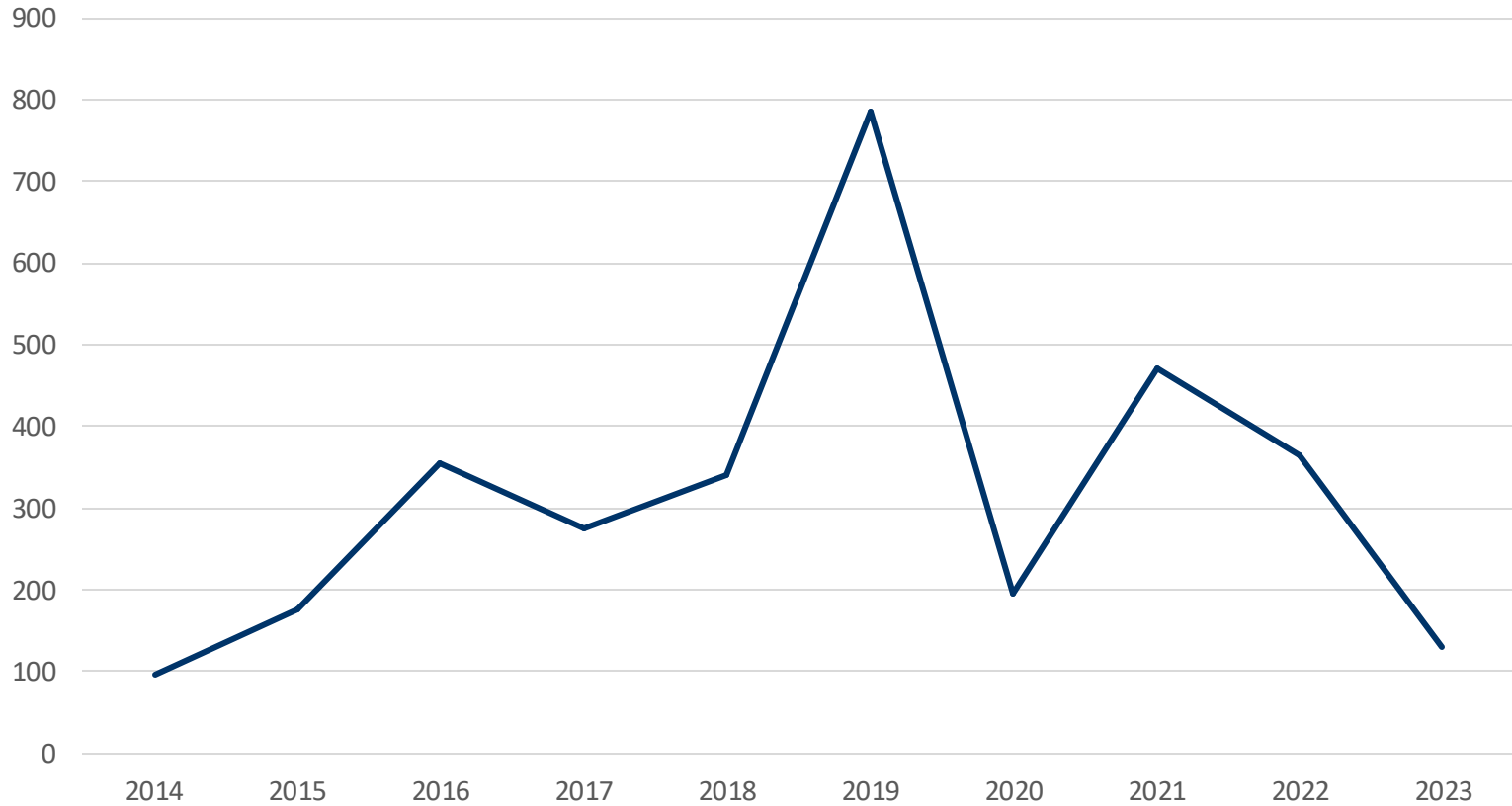


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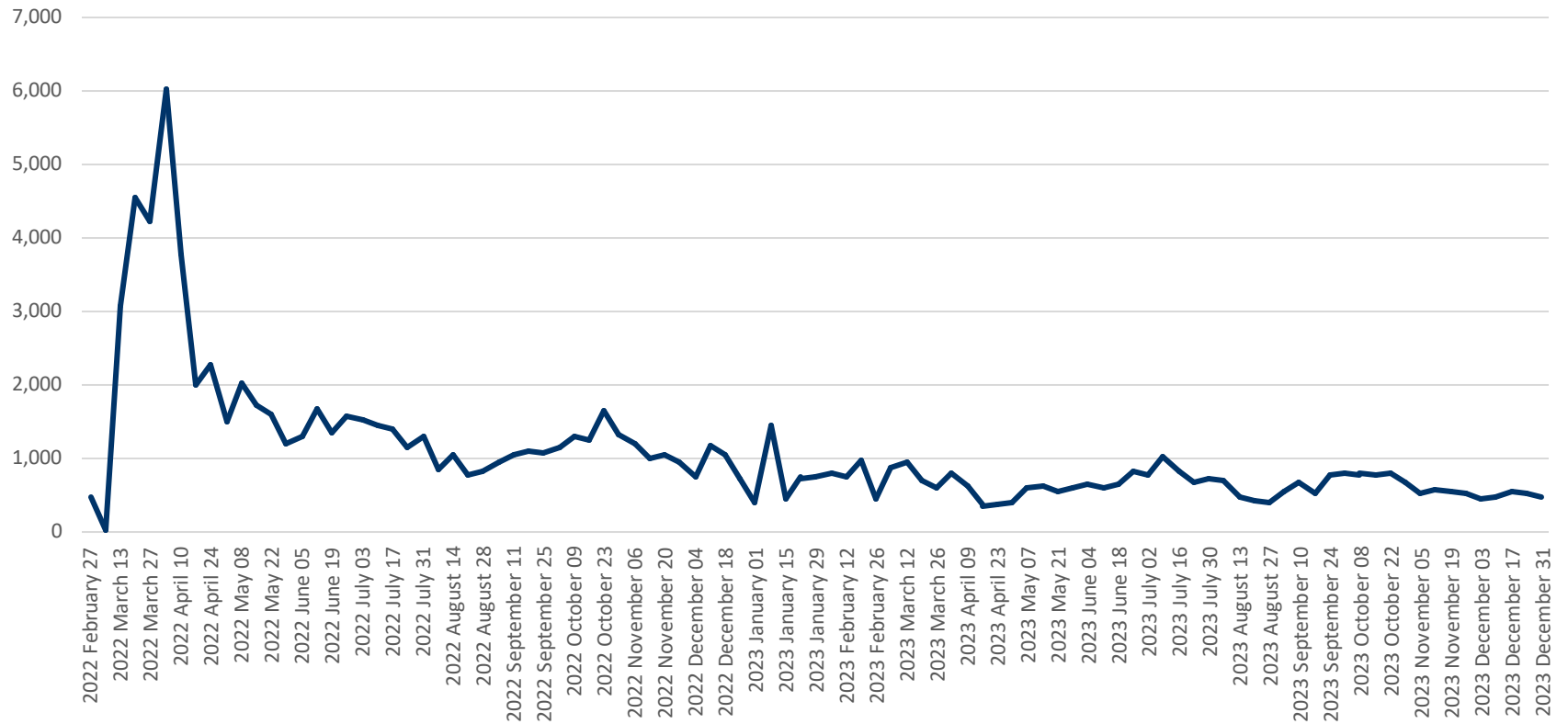
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Resettlement



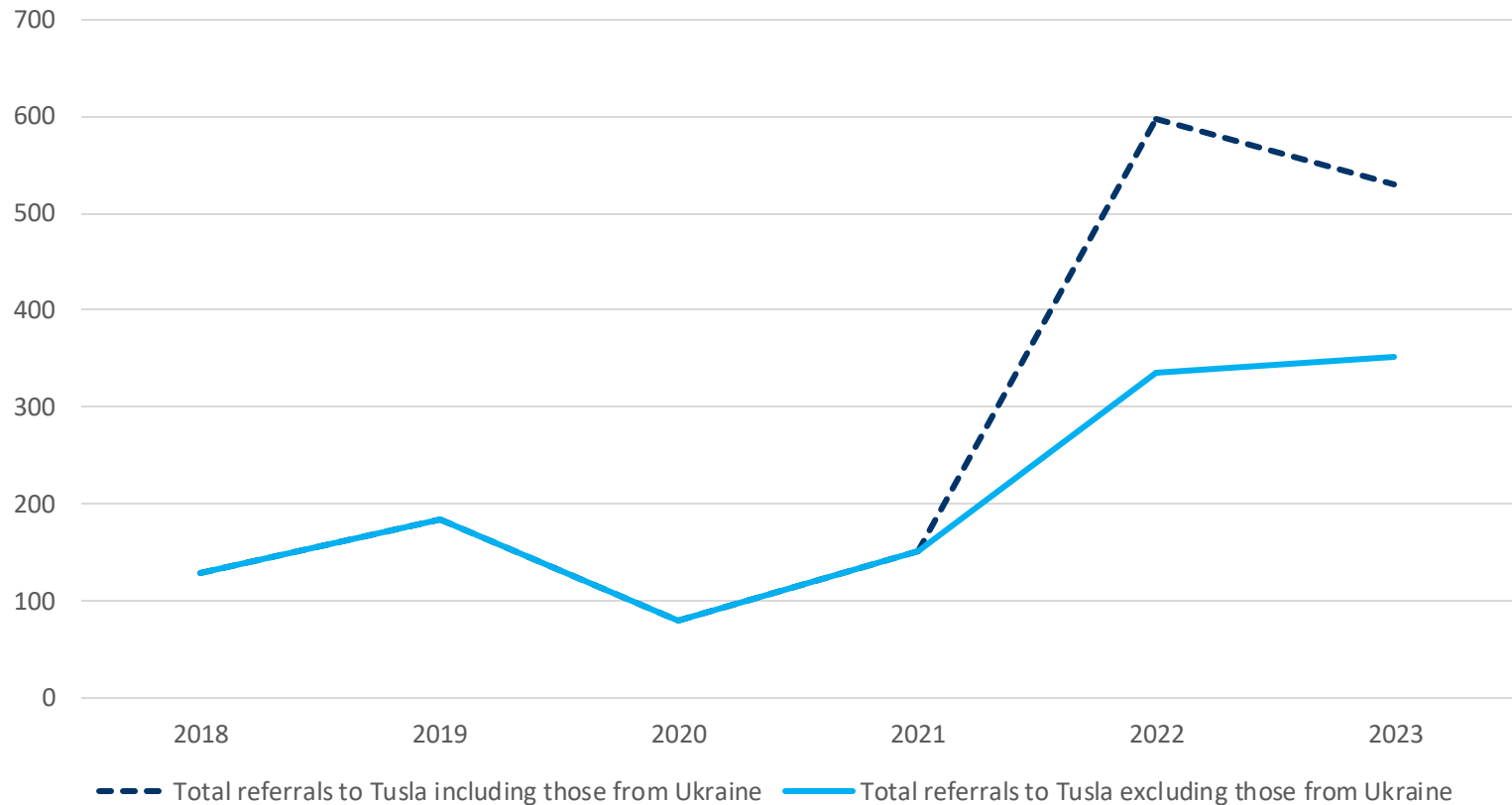
Source: Eurostat (2024). 'Resettled persons by age, sex and citizenship – Annual data (migr_asyresa)', extracted 27 June 2024.

Arrivals from Ukraine



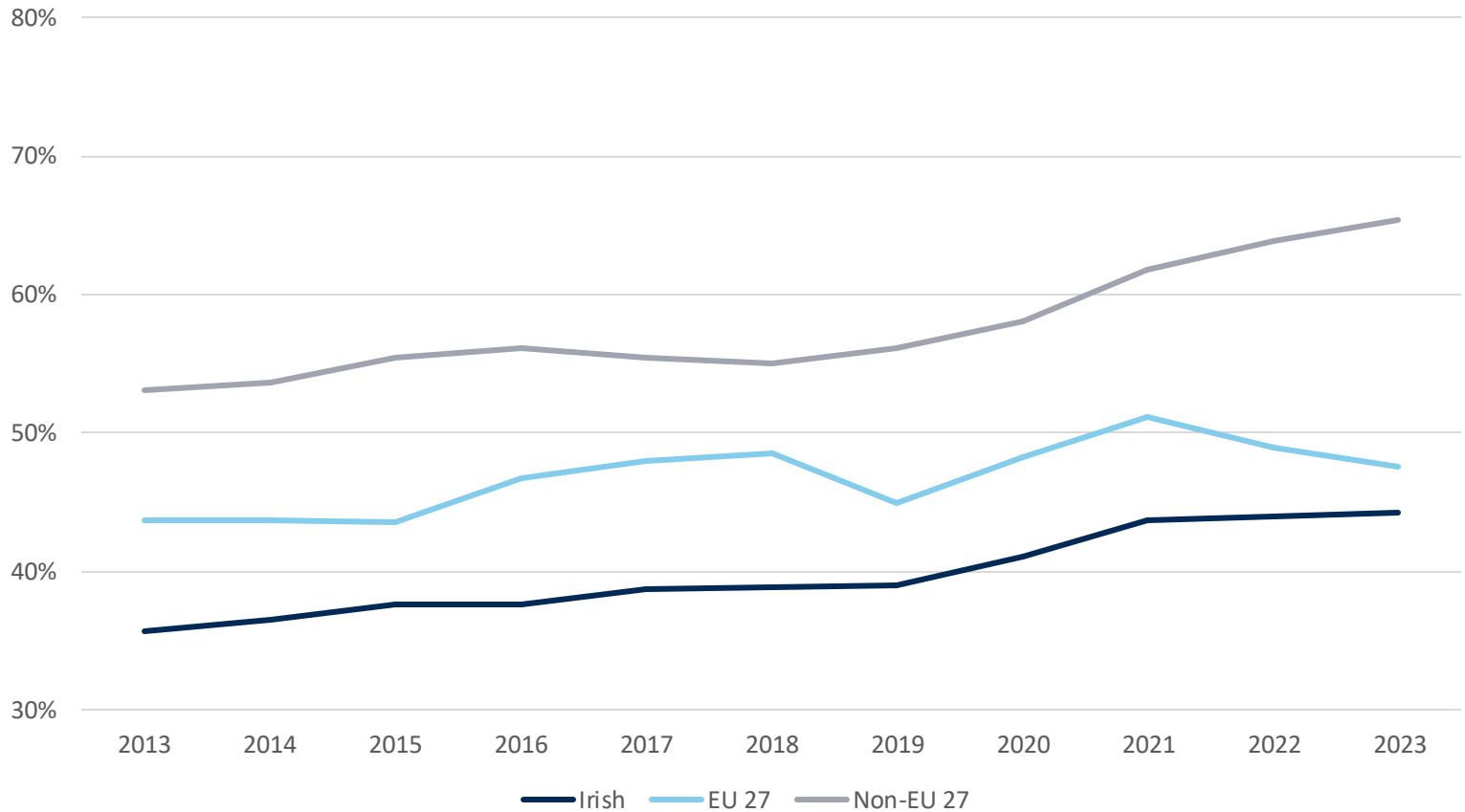
Source: Central Statistics Office (2024). 'UA07 PPSN Registrations of Arrivals from Ukraine, extracted 10 September 2024.

Unaccompanied minors



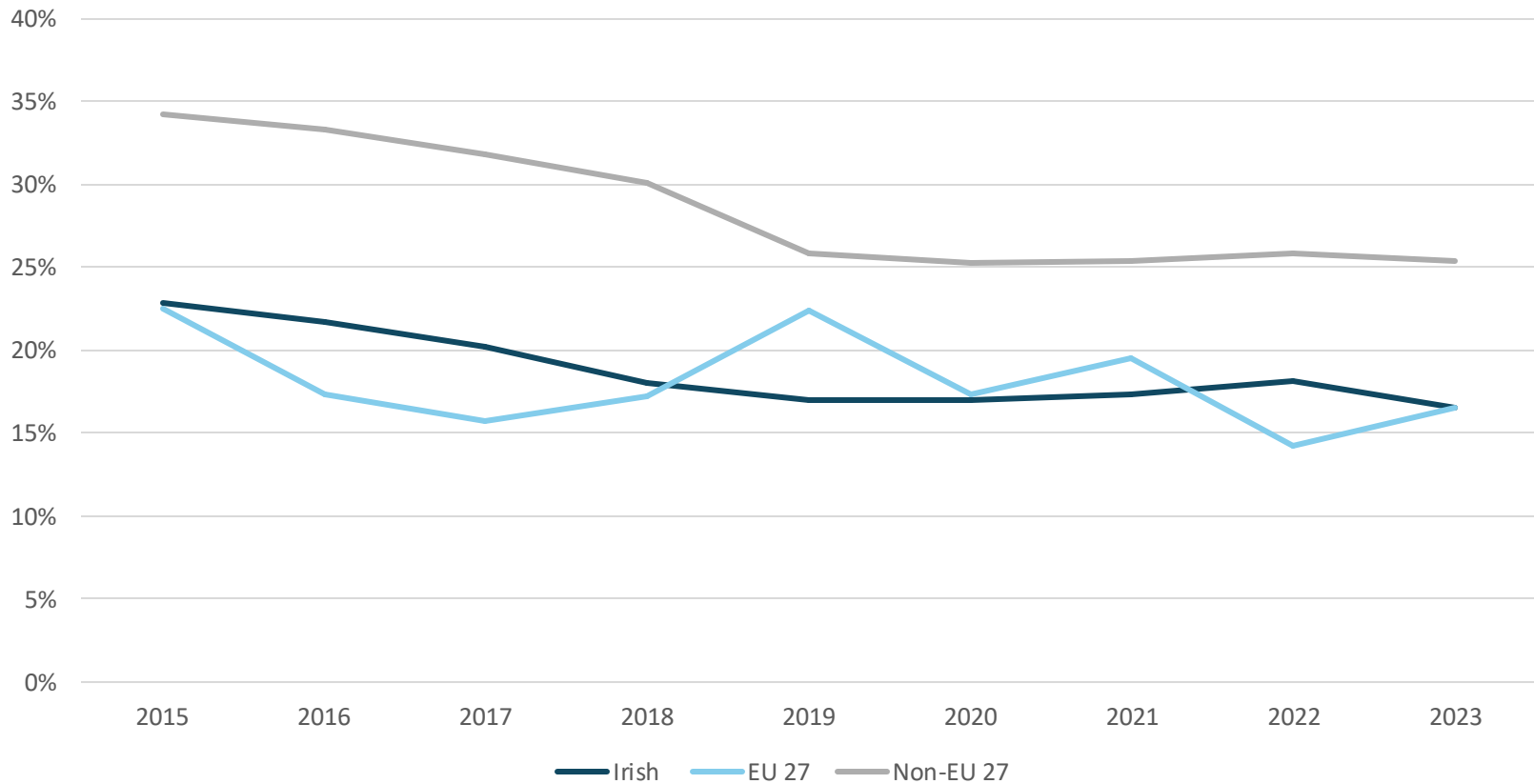
Source: EMN Ireland annual reports on migration and asylum 2018, 2019 and 2021; Tusla annual reports 2020, 2022 and 2023.

Integration: third-level education



Source: Eurostat (2024). 'Population by educational attainment level, sex, age and country of birth', extracted 15 July 2024

Integration: at risk of poverty and social exclusion



Source: Eurostat (2024). 'Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion by group of country of birth (population aged 18 and over)', extracted 15 July 2024.

Statistics Q&A



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II. Developments: policy, law, practice



Overarching developments

- **Pact on Migration and Asylum**
 - Proposed in 2020, adopted in 2024
 - **11 pieces of legislation**, many already in existence
 - Ireland opting into 7 of the 11
 - **Border procedure, solidarity** mechanism, **contingency plans** for reception, legally binding **timelines**
 - Ireland: redesign of international protection procedure, extensive changes to ensure compliance

Legal migration

- Largest **expansion of occupations lists** to date
 - Large number of submissions
- **Closure of immigrant investor programme** to new applicants
 - Increased scrutiny, increased applications, review
- 2024 update:
 - **Employment Permits Act 2024** (see 2022 report)
 - Seasonal employment permits, more flexibility, possibility for additional requirements attached to permits

International protection (1)

- Pressure on **international protection reception system** and responses
 - January-June, December on: unable to accommodate all arrivals
 - Assessed for significant vulnerabilities on arrival
 - Daily Expense Allowance increase by €75 per week for unaccommodated
 - Extensive media attention, NGO advocacy, legal challenges
 - High Court April 2023: ‘did not come close to what was required by law’ (prior to DEA increase)
 - Test cases on damages – referred to CJEU
 - IHREC proceedings

International protection (2)

- **White Paper on Ending Direct Provision** implementation
 - Local authority integration teams
 - HIQA inspections of permanent IPAS centres
 - Funding for Children and Young People’s Services Committees, family support practitioners
- **International Protection Modernisation Programme:** progress against Catherine Day recommendations and revised approach for increased applications
 - Increased IPO staffing, ‘digital first’ model in IPO
- Joint Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth report on refugees and integration – 96 recommendations



International protection (3)

- **Community engagement**
 - Tensions throughout 2023
 - Community Engagement Team in DCEDIY
 - Department of An Taoiseach communication strategy
- **Community recognition fund**
 - €50 million
 - Targeted, local design, used by whole community
- **Reports: External Advisory Group report, Ombudsman for Children's report on safety and welfare of children in Direct Provision**

Temporary protection

- Extension of the Temporary Protection Directive – now to 2026
- **Accommodation/supports**
 - **Governance:** MoU between Departments and local authorities to identify refurbished properties, Irish Red Cross funded by DCEDIY to coordinate pledged accommodation
 - New accommodation **contracts:** self-catering, contribution to accommodation and rates renegotiated – 7.5% of providers lost
 - Changes to accommodation **supports** – maximum of 90 days, reduced social welfare for new arrivals (2024: social welfare changes extended to all arrivals in state accommodation)
 - **Absence** protocol: seven days within 6 month period
 - **Rapid Build** Programme: target 700 (previously 500), 10 sites complete, contribution model developed

Unaccompanied minors & vulnerable groups/citizenship

- Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence **Agency Act 2023**
 - Establishes Cuan – opened in 2024
 - Part of Zero Tolerance strategy
- Online citizenship applications
- Amendments to Irish **Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956**
 - Reduced residence requirements for naturalisation of **children born in Ireland** (3 years, previously 5 years)
 - Clarification on **continuous residency** (70 days absence + 30 days in exceptional circumstances)

Integration

- Publication of **National Action Plan Against Racism**
 - Foresees a **Coordination Committee** and **Special Rapporteur**
 - Ireland Against Racism **Fund** - €1.3 million awarded in 2023
- **Local authority integration teams**
- Public consultation on **Migrant Integration Strategy** (expired 2021)
- **Hate crime** and hate speech legislation
 - Debates in 2023, passed in October 2024 without incitement to violence or hatred provisions

Trafficking

- Third National **Action Plan 2023-2027**
 - Strengthen **whole-of-government approach** to combating trafficking
 - Governance: **oversight committee**; governance and **strategy group**
- **National Referral Mechanism** for victims of trafficking
 - Bill published in Dáil and passed committee stage 2023 – signed in 2024
 - Designated competent authorities: Departments, Tusla, HSE, WRC, AGS
 - Some NGOs designated as trusted partners for referral
- **Dedicated accommodation** unit for victims of human trafficking – IPAS



Irregular migration, visas, borders, return

- Extension of **visa requirement for recognised refugees** from other Council of Europe countries
- **Electronic serving of notices**
 - Email or portal
 - To make it easier to serve notices where somebody cannot be reached by post
- Removal of option of voluntary return for **persons convicted of serious offences**
- Longer voluntary return **notice period** for unsuccessful international protection applicants – from 5 to 30 days



Developments Q&A



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III. Research



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Legal migration

ESRI: Wages and working conditions of non-Irish nationals

- Lower quality jobs, less trade union membership
- Migrant wage gap – 22% less per hour worked, worse for women

ICOS: Accommodation survey of international students

- 55% felt that mental health had suffered
- Less than half had lease agreement, 10% victim of accommodation scam

Privalko et al.: How migrants fare in the labour market

Murphy et al.: Migrant fishers' experiences of hyper-precarity and hyper-dependency

International protection (1)

Irish Refugee Council: ‘Now I live on the road’

- Applicants, NGOs and service providers
- Concerns: safety and experiences of assault and harassment, issues with access to medical care, lack of identification of vulnerabilities
- Recommendations: access to full social welfare entitlements, ending the reliance on NGOs and homeless service providers, guidance for local authorities to prevent rough sleeping

Smith et al.: Family reunification with young refugees

- Heavy burden on young sponsors, significant risk of housing precarity and homelessness for families on arrival

International protection (2)

LGBT Ireland: LGBTI+ people living in IPAS accommodation

- Poor management and existing complaints procedure cannot guarantee safety

Oireachtas Library and Research Service: Refugees in Ireland, the EU, and worldwide

ESRI/EMN Ireland: Labour market integration of international protection applicants

Irish Refugee Council: experiences of families and children in Direct Provision

Temporary protection

Migration Policy Institute: Lessons from the **Ukraine** hosting response for refugee sponsorship programmes

Daly & O’Riordan: Divisions of care within Ireland’s **response to Ukrainian** refugees and **impacts on asylum seekers**

Unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups

Immigrant Council of Ireland (policy paper): Migrant experiences of domestic abuse in Ireland

- Lack of legal certainty (discretionary guidelines), discrepancy between policy and practice (sometimes more favourable, confusion)
- Barriers to reporting and accessing state services

UNHCR Ireland: Mapping **statelessness** in Ireland

- Lack of statelessness determination procedure, lack of guidance for staff who encounter statelessness – evidence of positive engagement
- Need to identify at registration stage of international protection application, difficult to change later
- Prolonged legal limbo

Integration (1)

ESRI: Monitoring Report on Integration 2022 (8th)

- Outcomes for migrants compared with Irish nationals – employment, education, social inclusion, active citizenship
- Significant increase in African employment rate

ESRI: Comparing migrant integration in Ireland and Northern Ireland

- Highly skilled in both – more so in Ireland
- Experiences of cross-border travel
- Attitudes more positive in Ireland than NI: explained by optimism about the future, migrant social networks, voice heard in politics

Integration (2)

Martin et al.: Refugee and migrant children's experiences of educational integration

McGinnity et al.: Post-school expectations and outcomes among migrant origin young people

Gilmartin: Migrants' experiences of local authority integration efforts



Trafficking/Irregular Migration

IOM and Department of Justice: human trafficking on the island of Ireland

- More prevalent than official data implies
- Recommends closer collaboration between stakeholders in Ireland and Northern Ireland

Toronto Metropolitan University: Regularisation of migrants in Europe

IV. Case Law



2023 cases

Reception conditions

- 21 Apr 2023 – SY v Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- 18 Dec 2023 – SA & RJ v Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

Dublin III Regulation

- 19 Dec 2023 – RG v International Protection Appeals Tribunal & ors

International protection procedure

- 25 May 2023 – T (Russian Federation) v International Protection Appeals Tribunal & ors
- 28 Jun 2023 – MH v International Protection Appeals Tribunal & anor
- 20 Jul 2023 – TF v Minister for Justice

Temporary protection (child protection)

- 25 Jul 2023 – IF v JG



2023 cases

Residence permission

- 1 Feb 2023 – Middelkamp v Minister for Justice and Equality

Citizenship

- 9 May 2023 – A, B & C v Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

Deportation

- 14 Nov 2023 – Odum & ors v Minister for Justice and Equality (No. 2)

Racism

- 9 Dec 2023 – Onyemekeihia v. Minister for Justice and Equality & anor

SY v Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

21 April [2023] IEHC 187

Facts

- 17-year-old Afghan national, applied for international protection.
- No accommodation available, €28 voucher for Dunnes Stores, address of charity.
- Slept rough for three weeks and did not have access to basic hygiene facilities.

Reasoning and decision

- Accommodation not only requirement – other material reception conditions under Directive 2013/33/EU.
- Applicant deprived of the most basic standard of living.
- Alternative steps should be in place – voucher and addresses insufficient.
- Declarations granted, including breach of Article 1 of Charter of Fundamental Rights.

A, B & C v Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade & ors

9 May [2023] IESC 10

Facts

- Same-sex couple in the UK - A was an Irish national, B was a British national.
- Child was born via gestational surrogacy. B was the biological father of the child.
- A and B subsequently obtained parental order transferring parental rights.
- *Was the child entitled to Irish citizenship at birth as child of A?*

Reasoning and decision

- A not the child's father for section 7(1), Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956 – genetic father of the child.
- Cannot alter the legislative scheme from which the provision was enacted.

Odum & ors v Minister for Justice and Equality (No. 2)

14 November [2023] IESC 26

Facts

- Mr. Odum, Nigerian national, arrived to Ireland irregularly in 2007.
- Married, but not registered, and had three children. Couple separated in 2014.
- Applied for residency, issued with deportation order.

Reasoning and decision

- Distinct from other deportation rulings – unmarried couple and non-national children.
- Constitutional rights of non-nationals in Ireland.
- Where parent in precarious situation in the State, need exceptional circumstances to invalidate the deportation order.

Q&A



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