

# Migration Policy in Hungary

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# Stakeholders in Hungary

- Major change in Aug 2006: the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice were merged into the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement
- The new Ministry has a specialized department for migration policy & migration management (used to be a separate department, now part of the Department of JHA Cooperation & Migration)
- Other ministries involved in migration policy:
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - Prime Minister's Office
  - Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor

# Other Important Stakeholders

- Government Bodies: OIN, Police
- UNHCR, IOM
- NGOs

# Main Topics in Hungary

(visa policy and refugee affairs are not included)

Background: Hungary has a low migrant population (below 5%, 130k long-term residents), there are no serious tensions between the indigenous and migrant population, thus migration matters are not so „hot” as in Western EU MSs.

1. When talking about migration, the most important topic in Hungary is the situation of ethnic Hungarian minorities in surrounding countries (Ukraine and Serbia).
  - visa regime changes with EU accession
  - 2004 referendum
  - legislative changes
  - „national visa” and „national residence permit”
  - local border traffic with Ukraine

# Main Topics in Hungary (cntd.)

2. Hungary's role as a transit country of irregular migration heading West
  - recent event: 15 Kosovo Albanians drowned in River Tisza when trying to cross the blue border illegally
  - the Hungarian Government is aware of the huge responsibility of guarding the external border of the Schengen Area
  
3. Legal Background of Migration Management
  - the EU acquis largely predetermines the legislation on migration
  - 2001 Aliens Act was drafted with a view to compliance with the provisions of the acquis
  - 2007: two new acts
  - current amendments: VIS and Visa Code
  - future amendments: Return Directive

# Main Topics in Hungary (cntd.)

4. Institutional background of migration management
  - 2000: Office of Immigration and Nationality
  - policemen → civil servants
  - Jan 2008: Border Guard merged into the Police
5. Hungary has a decreasing and aging population. Can migration solve this?

**Thank you for your attention!**