

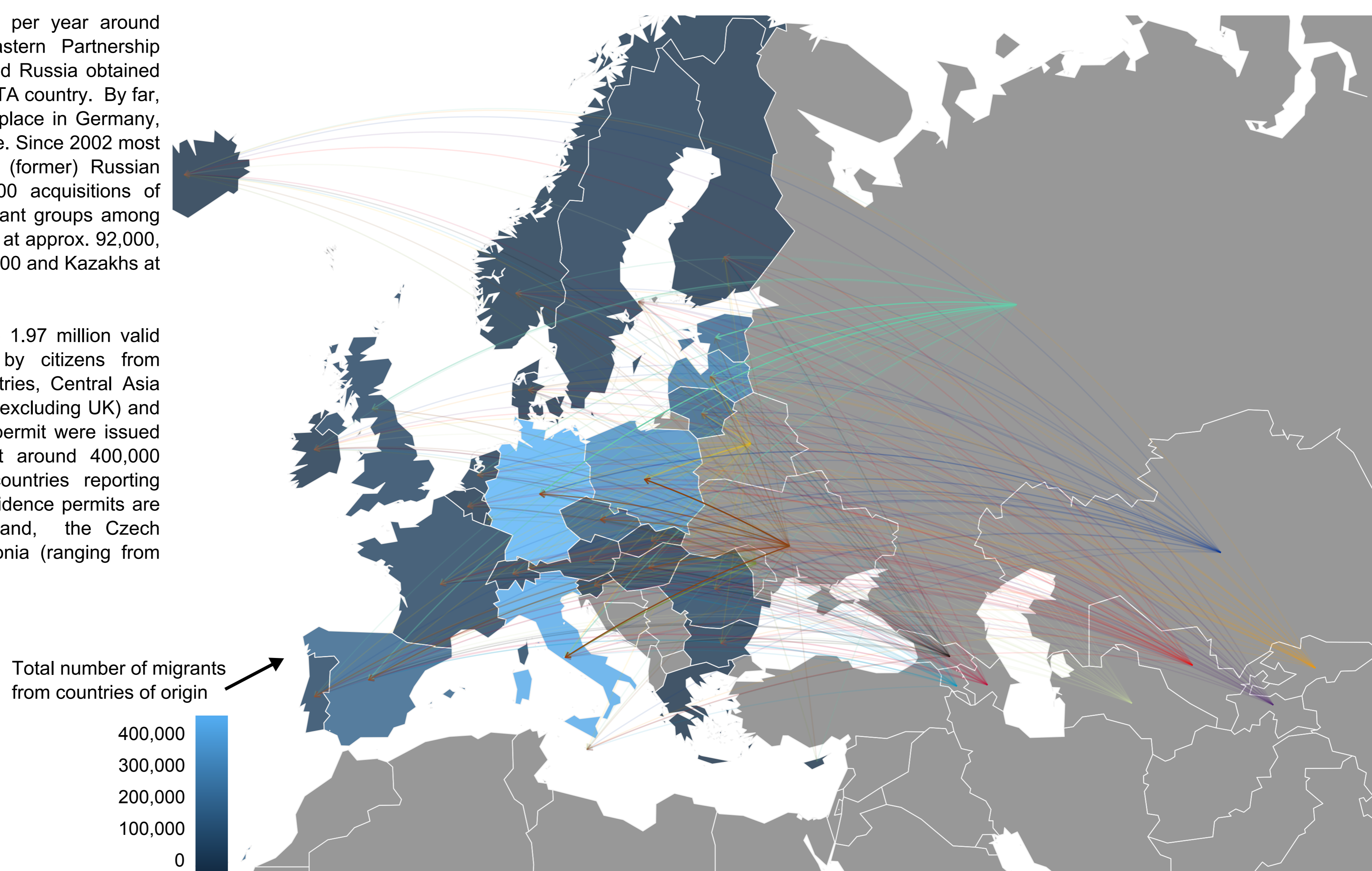
# Migration from Eastern Partnership Countries, Central Asia and Russia to the EU and EFTA

**There were around 3 million immigrants from Eastern Partnership countries, Central Asia and Russia in the EU\* and EFTA\*\* countries in 2012.**

Most immigrants from Eastern European countries reside in Germany and Italy constituting approx. one third of all immigrants from Eastern Partnership countries, Central Asia and Russia. Other important destination countries are Poland, the Baltic countries, Spain and the Czech Republic each with at least some 100,000 immigrants from the East. Most important countries of origin are Russia and Ukraine making up more than half of all immigrants in the EU and EFTA. The two leading countries of origin are followed by Moldova and Belarus as important source countries for migration to the EU and EFTA. Immigrants from Eastern Partnership countries, Central Asia and Russia amount to around 5 to 10 percent of all immigrants from outside of the EU. There is the tendency of female dominated migration to the EU and EFTA and for most countries Eurostat reports more female migrants than male. This is not the case in Belgium, the Czech Republic and Portugal, where more men migrate to. More than 370,000 citizens from the countries of origin have naturalised in the EU and EFTA since 2002.

Between 2008 and 2011 per year around 47,000 citizens from Eastern Partnership countries, Central Asia and Russia obtained citizenship in an EU or EFTA country. By far, most naturalisations took place in Germany, followed by UK and France. Since 2002 most naturalised citizens were (former) Russian citizens at almost 150,000 acquisitions of citizenship. Further important groups among naturalised are Ukrainians at approx. 92,000, Moldovans at approx. 48,000 and Kazakhs at approx. 28,000.

In 2011 there were some 1.97 million valid residence permits held by citizens from Eastern Partnership countries, Central Asia and Russia in the EU-27 (excluding UK) and Norway. Most residence permit were issued in Italy and Germany at around 400,000 each. Other important countries reporting significant numbers of residence permits are in descending order Poland, the Czech Republic, Spain and Estonia (ranging from 100,000 to 200,000).



### Armenia

Number of immigrants: 52,000  
Main destination countries: France, Germany and Spain.  
In total the gender distribution among immigrants is balanced, although there are slightly more women migrating to Spain and Germany.  
Valid residence permits: 52,000 (mostly Spain, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece as well as Norway, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic).

### Azerbaijan

Number of immigrants: 32,000  
Main destination countries: Germany followed by Latvia, France and Sweden. In total there are about as many women as men migrating to the EU.  
Valid residence permits: 20,000 (mainly Germany, but there are also higher numbers of residence permits in France, the Netherlands and Sweden).

### Belarus

Number of immigrants: 267,000  
Main destination countries: Poland, Latvia and Lithuania but also Italy and Germany. Generally, most immigrants from Belarus are female (this is not the case however in Italy).  
Valid residence permits: Over 116,000 residence permits, mainly Poland (approx. 62,000) and Germany (approx. 16,600).

### Kazakhstan

Number of immigrants: 100,000  
Main destination countries: More than half in Germany. There are slightly more women among Kazakh migrants in the EU and EFTA.  
Valid residence permits: Over 60,000, mostly in Germany (almost 44,000).

### Kyrgyzstan

Number of immigrants: 16,000  
Main destination country: Germany.  
More women are among migrants from Kyrgyzstan to Western Europe.  
Valid residence permits: 12,600, mainly in Germany (almost 7,600), Belgium (1,200) and Italy (1,100).

### Georgia

Number of immigrants: 50,000  
Main destination countries: Germany, Spain, Italy and France. There are more women among migrants from Georgia.  
Valid residence permits: Almost 58,000 mostly issued in Greece (16,500), Germany (10,000), Italy (9,500) and Spain (7,600).

### Moldova

Number of immigrants: 270,000  
Main destination countries: Around half in Italy, followed by Romania, Portugal, Spain and Germany. In most but not all countries there are more women than men among Moldovan immigrants.  
Valid residence permits: Almost 240,000, mainly in Italy (148,000), followed by Romania, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Germany (over 10,000 each).

### Russia

Number of immigrants: over 1.2 million  
Main destination country: Germany, followed by the Baltic countries, Italy, Spain and the UK. The majority of migrants from Russia are female.  
Valid residence permits: Almost 600,000 mostly issued in Germany (approx. 171,000), followed by Estonia (98,000), Spain (40,000), Latvia (40,000) and Italy (37,000).

### Tajikistan

Number of immigrants: 4,000  
Main destination countries: Germany, Latvia and Lithuania. Gender distribution is balanced among migrants from Tajikistan.  
Valid residence permits: 1,487, mainly issued in Germany (624) and the Czech Republic (124).

### Turkmenistan

Number of immigrants: 4,000  
Main destination countries: Germany, Latvia and Lithuania. There are slightly more women registered among migrants from Turkmenistan.  
Valid residence permits: Approx. 1,800 mainly issued in Germany (1,100).

### Ukraine

Number of immigrants: over 1,000,000  
Main destination countries: Poland and Italy, followed by Germany, the Czech Republic and Spain. Ukrainians are among the most important groups of immigrants in Poland and the Czech Republic.  
Generally, more women migrate from Ukraine, though not in all countries (e.g. Czech Republic).  
Valid residence permits: 787,000, mostly in Italy (224,000), the Czech Republic (119,000), Germany (112,000) and Poland (111,000).

### Uzbekistan

Number of immigrants: 28,000  
Main destination countries: Germany, Sweden, Latvia, Italy, Czech Republic and Lithuania. Tendency of more women but this is not the case in all countries, especially in the Czech Republic where predominantly men are immigrating from Uzbekistan.  
Valid residence permits: over 20,000 residence permits, mainly in Germany (8,200), Sweden (2,200) and the Czech Republic (1,800).