

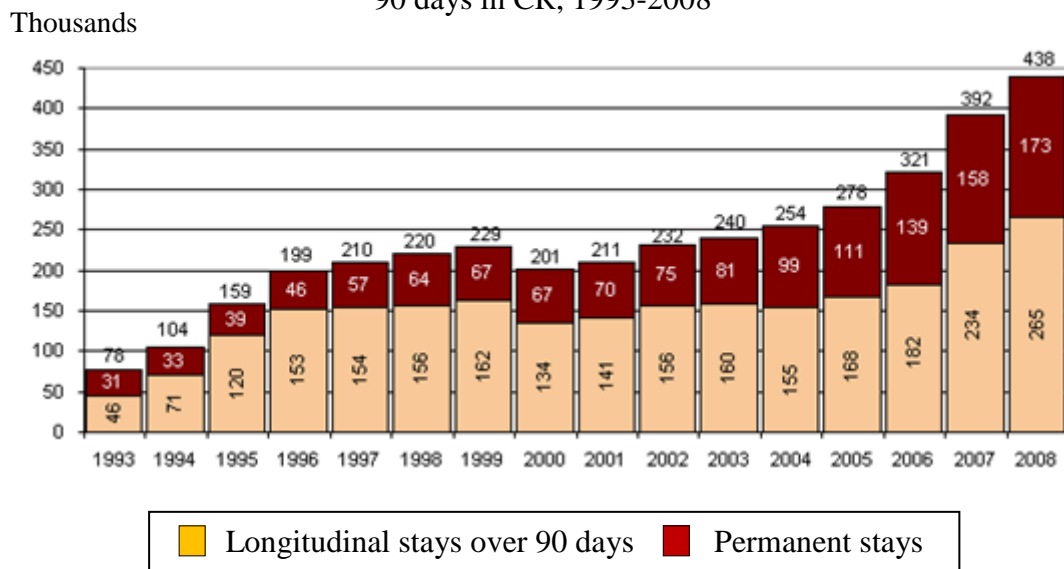
## Multiculturalism, Migration, Mathematics Education and Language

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### DATA ON NATIONAL MINORITIES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Republic is situated in central Europe. It is bordered by Slovakia in the east, Austria in the south, Germany in the west, and Poland in the north. The official language is Czech. The majority of population speaks Czech as their first language.

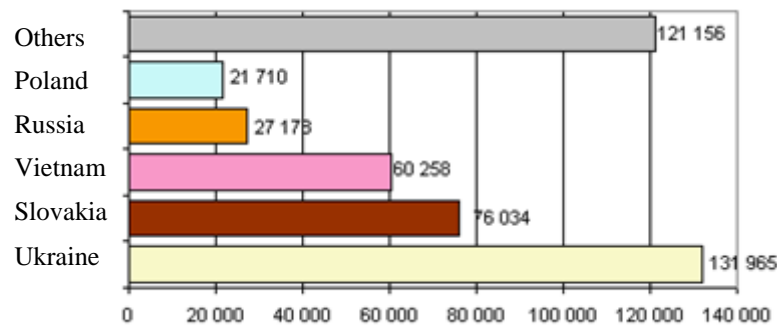
Fig. 1. Development of the number of foreigners with permanent or longitudinal stays over 90 days in CR, 1993-2008



#### *National minorities*

The Czech Republic is very homogeneous by nationality. In 2001, 94% of its inhabitants were of Czech (90,4%), Moravian (3,7%) or Silesian (0,1%) nationality. The number of foreigners in the Czech Republic is growing. At the end of 2008, there were 438 301 foreigners registered in the Czech Republic. Most of them were from Ukraine (30%) and Slovakia (17%). Further most represented nationalities were: Vietnam (14%), Russia (6%) and Poland (5%).

Fig. 2. Five most numerous nationalities of foreigners – 31.12.2008



According to the Czech legislative system, a national minority is a community of Czech Republic inhabitants living at the contemporary Czech Republic territory, who differ from other inhabitants usually by their common ethnic origin, language, culture or traditions, create a minority group of inhabitants in numbers and at the same time express their willingness to be considered as a minority group with the aim to preserve and develop together their proper distinctiveness, language and culture.

Another determination is from the socio-cultural perspective. It is based on cultural or social differences of two groups that are in touch (in language, religion, historical memory, social structure etc.). In this sense, the notion of a national minority overlaps with the definition of an ethnic group or ethnic minority in the country.

At present, there are 12 national minorities in the Czech Republic:<sup>1</sup>

- Bulgarian (4 363 inhabitants)
- Croatian (1 585 inhabitants)
- German (11 764 inhabitants)
- Greek (3 219 inhabitants)
- Hungarian (14 672 inhabitants)
- Polish (51 968 inhabitants)
- Roma (11 746 inhabitants)
- Ruthenian (1 106 inhabitants)
- Russian (12 369 inhabitants)
- Serbian (1 801 inhabitants)
- Slovak (193 190 inhabitants)
- Ukrainian (22 112 inhabitants)

<sup>1</sup> The number in brackets is the number of inhabitants who declared their membership to the corresponding national minority in the last census in 2001. The numbers of individual groups are subjects of numerous discussions. The largest discussion concerns the number of members of the Roma minority; the number in the census is several times smaller than the expected one. It does not correspond with the real situation: the non-official estimations speak about 200-300 thousands, i.e. 2-3% of the Czech Republic inhabitants.