

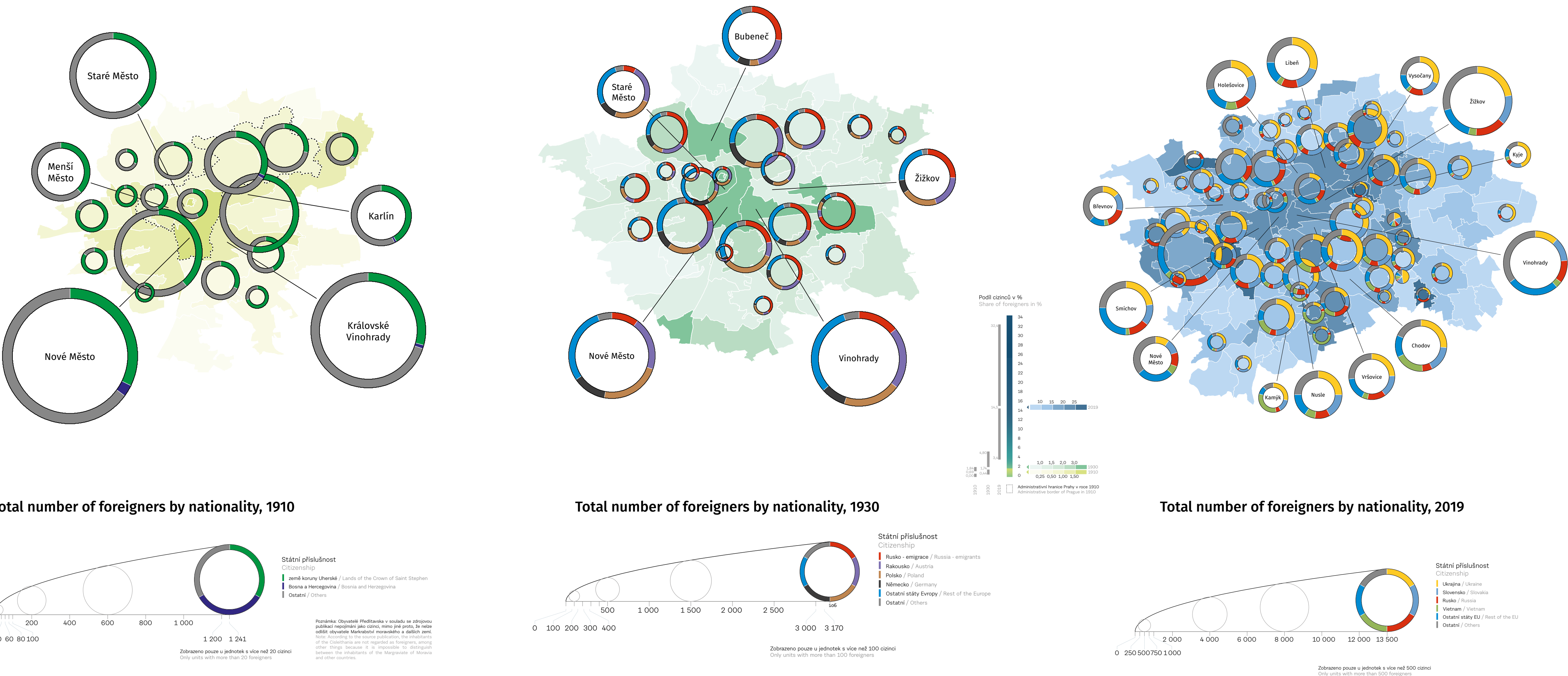
FOREIGNERS

A full list of references can be found here:

EN

Today’s Prague, which was inhabited by more than 235,000 foreigners (approximately 17.5% of the population) in 2021, is a true phenomenon among the cities of Central and Eastern Europe in this respect. However, Prague was a magnet for diverse peoples from all over the world even in earlier times – whether as an important cultural and commercial centre of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the capital of the inter-war First Republic or a western outpost for the allied countries within the Eastern Bloc.

TOTAL NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS BY NATIONALITY IN PRAGUE



**1910**

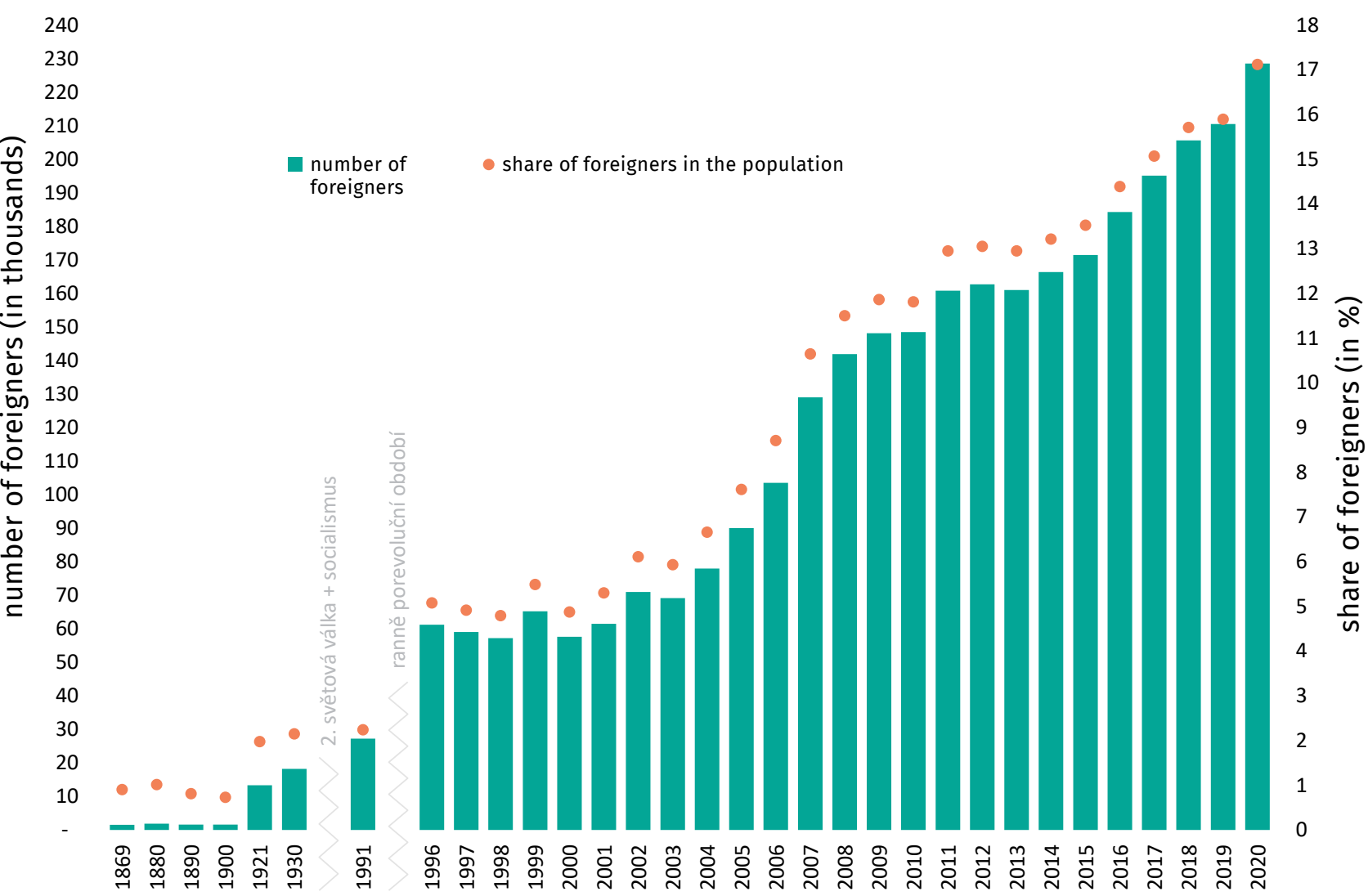
The structure of the foreign population was largely influenced by the Czech lands’ affiliation with the multi-ethnic Austro-Hungarian Empire. All the inhabitants of the Pre-Lithuanian Commonwealth (with home rule in the kingdom and in the countries represented at the Imperial Council) were regarded as the native population, while those from other parts of the empire were not. The highest proportion of foreigners from all parts of Prague and the suburbs was in the Nové Město, but the figures were generally very low. In most of the districts, towns and villages, foreigners from outside Austria-Hungary formed the majority, with only Žižkov being an exception among the largest units. Zalitavians comprised a dominant share of the foreign population in Střešovice or Břevnov.

**1930**

There is an emerging gradient in the spatial pattern of the proportion of the foreign population from the centre (higher values) to the outskirts of the city. The first major wave of migration to Czechoslovakia was due to the influx of Russians fleeing the Bolshevik terror - these were mainly social elites who were attracted to the values of the new state and Slavic culture and language. Other numerically significant groups were the inhabitants of neighbouring countries (Austria, Poland, Germany), but those from more distant European countries and even non-European countries were also significantly represented. Bubeneč and Dejvice are considered to be the traditional centre of the Russian-speaking minority, but in 1930 Russians also accounted for almost three quarters of all foreigners in Strašnice and half in Břevnov.

**2019**

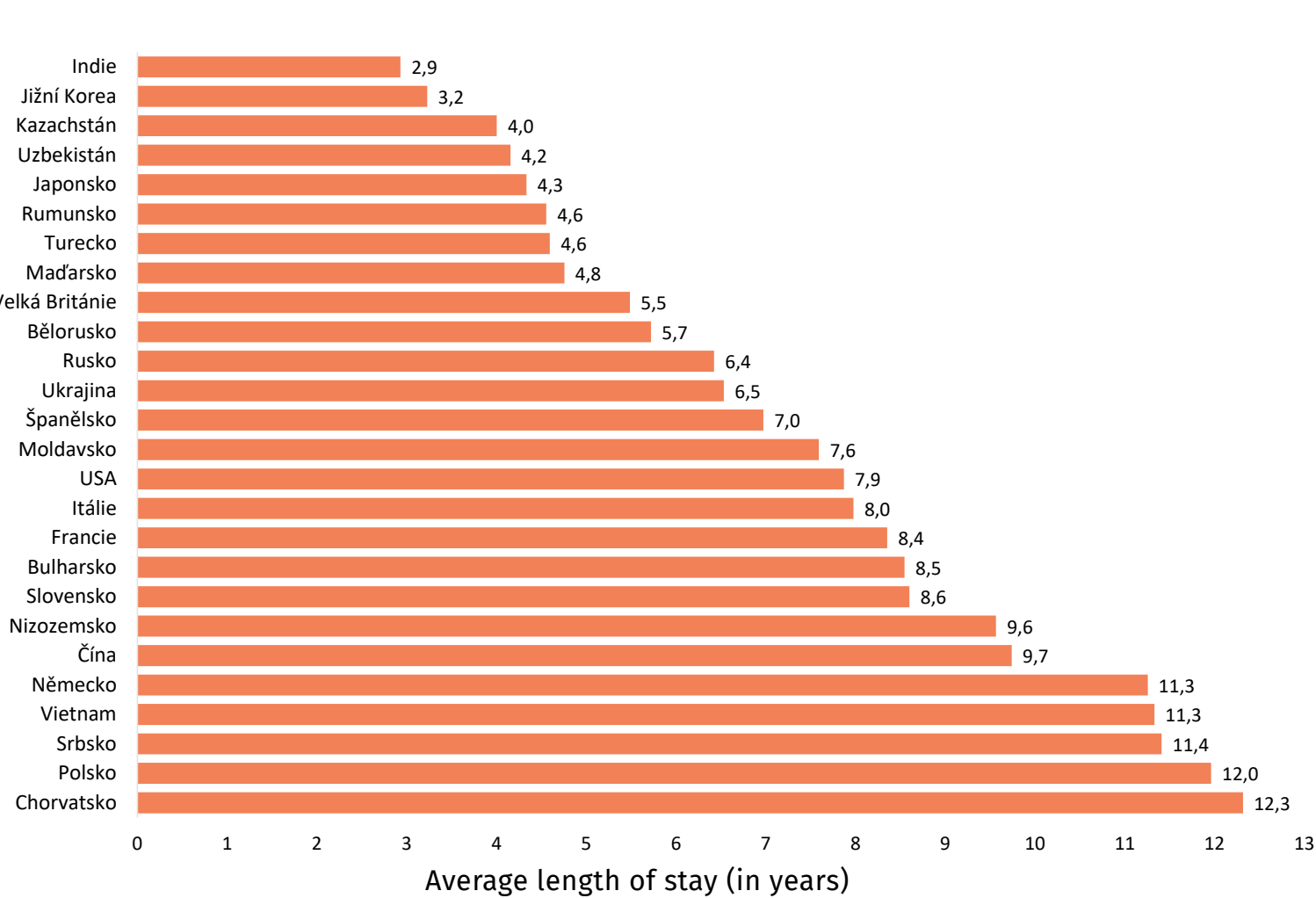
The gradient in the share of foreigners in the population of individual districts from the centre to the periphery more or less persists, although it is distorted in places by specific localities. A significant change over the last few decades has been the explosive growth of the proportions - in some parts of Prague, foreigners now make up a quarter (in extreme cases up to almost a third) of the total population. In the central parts of Prague, citizens of European countries and other countries of the world are highly represented, while on the outskirts it is more Ukrainians and Vietnamese. The distribution of the Ukrainian, Slovak and Russian population is more even, whereas the Vietnamese are traditionally concentrated in the southern part of Prague.



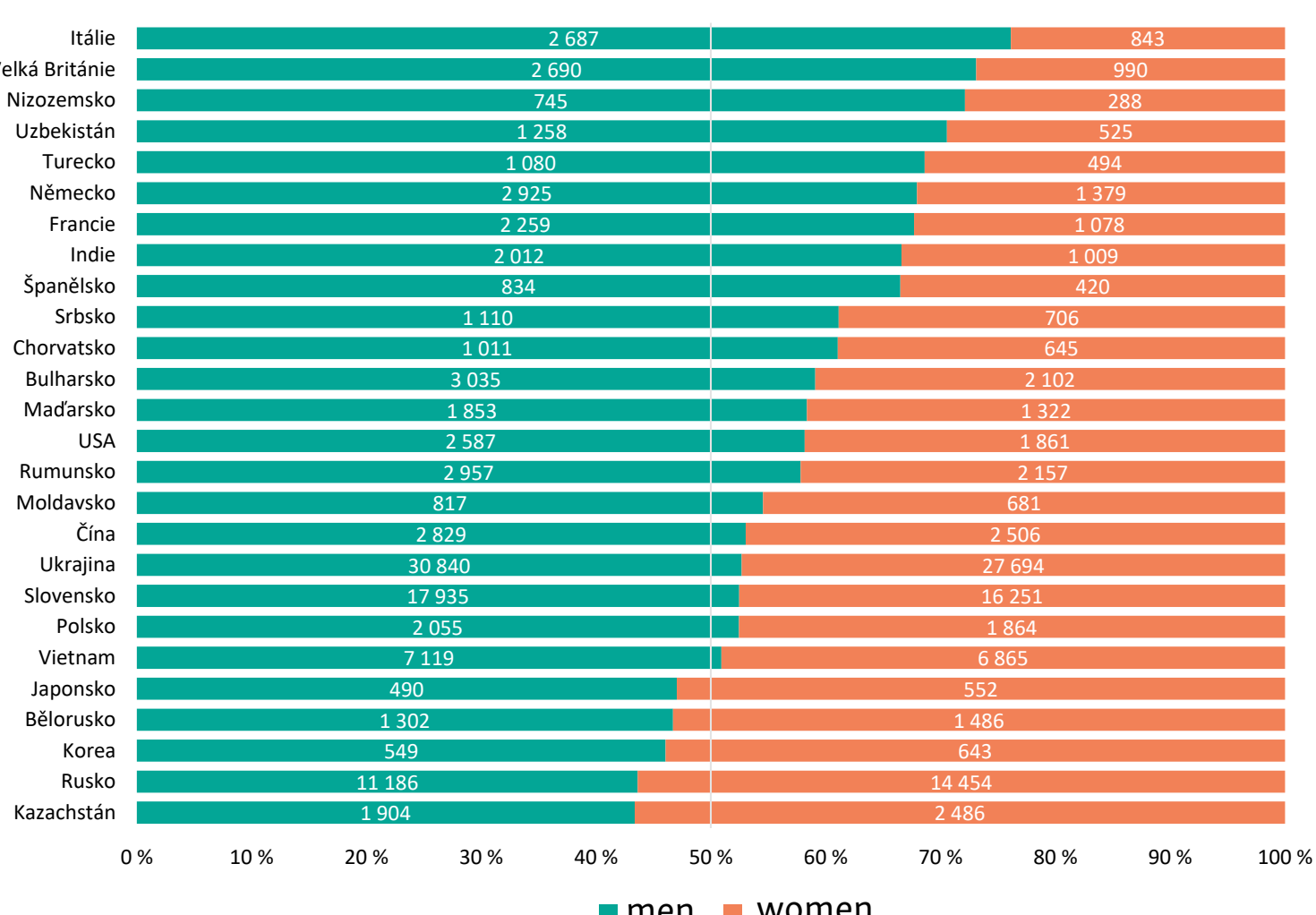
Development of Prague’s foreign population (1869–2020)

Under the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the number of foreigners in the city was only in the hundreds of thousands. In the 20th century, transport options continued to develop and international mobility was on the rise. Prague, as the capital of a young, confident republic, became more visible on the global map with its political independence in 1918. Complicating matters however was the sudden change in status of many German-speaking residents who found themselves in the new state. The increase in the number of foreigners was therefore a logical outcome of the situation between 1900 and 1921/1930. The spatial growth of Prague also played a role. Unfortunately, there is no reliable data on the number of foreign nationals during the socialist period. On the one hand, it is certain that international migration more or less stopped. On the other hand, there were many students and workers from ‘friendly countries’ inside the country. The stay of the Russian occupation troops between 1968 and 1991 was a separate chapter. The key migratory boom was caused by the country’s reintegration into global structures after the Velvet Revolution and Czechia’s accession to the European Union. The number of foreigners in Prague has been growing continuously since 2003.

Average length of stay of foreigners in Prague by citizenship (2020)\*



Foreigners in Prague by citizenship and gender (2020)\*



The graphs show the current foreign population in greater detail. It is harder to see a clear trend in average length of stay. The high figures for the Balkan countries are probably the result of the successful integration of the migration wave associated with the wars of the 1990s. Poland and Germany are culturally and geographically close countries, and Czechia has long been a popular country for the Vietnamese because of the size of the local community and specific networks. Higher proportions of men are observed more often among expats from developed Western countries as they frequently work in multinational companies in Czechia. Conversely, a higher proportion of women is more characteristic of Russian-speaking groups.

\*groups with more than 1,000 nationals living in the city