

Is the EU the Next Migration Destination for Uzbeks?

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Research Design & Data Sources

Research Question

Is the EU—especially Germany—becoming a structurally significant destination in Uzbek labor migration?

Data & Methods

Quantitative analysis of Schengen visa statistics, bilateral migration agreements, and labor market data (2018–2024)

Scope

Comparative migration systems: Russia, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Japan, Poland, Turkey, Germany & EU

Policy Analysis

Review of bilateral agreements, visa frameworks (Chancenkarte, §18g AufenthG), and sectoral labor demand

Conceptual Frame

Migration driven by: visa accessibility, linguistic-cultural proximity, and established migrant networks

Time Frame

Focus on 2018–2024 with projections to 2030 based on Uzbekistan's labor market growth trajectory

What the Data Tells Us

38M+

Uzbekistan's population

600K+

Youth entering labor market/yr

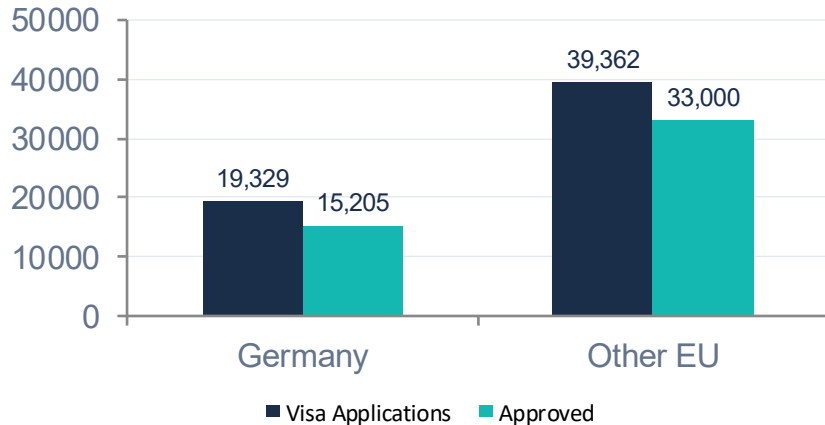
+26.2%

Schengen visa applications 2024

87,600

Uzbeks residing in South Korea

2024 Schengen Visa Applications (Uzbek Citizens)



Germany is the top EU destination for Uzbek migrants, with 19,329 applications in 2024.

Russia & Kazakhstan remain dominant due to visa-free access and cultural ties.

1.4M+ unfilled jobs in Germany (late 2024) create structural demand for foreign labor.

Bilateral labor agreement (UZ-DE) signed 2024, in force 2025—a landmark shift.

Administrative barriers (recognition, language, Chancenkarte uptake) still limit inflows.

Recommendations for Sending & Receiving Countries

DE For Germany & the EU

- Streamline administrative procedures for skilled-visa applications
- Improve and accelerate qualification recognition systems
- Scale up language & vocational training pathways pre-departure
- Expand bilateral frameworks beyond Germany to other EU states
- Promote the Chancenkarte more effectively in Uzbek labor markets

UZ For Uzbekistan

- Invest in pre-departure language (German) and vocational training capacity
- Expand institutional capacity to support legal migration channels
- Develop workforce pipelines aligned with EU sectoral shortages
- Build on the 2024–2025 bilateral agreement to further diversify destinations
- Protect returning migrants' skills through reintegration programs

Not a sudden shift—but a gradual, selective reorientation of Uzbek labor mobility toward Germany & the EU.

For Additional Context (Not for Presentation)

Policy & Legal

- Germany Skilled Immigration Act (Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz), 2020 & 2023 amendments
- Uzbekistan–Germany Bilateral Labor Migration Agreement, signed 2024
- Germany §18g Aufenthaltsgesetz – Chancenkarte provisions

Statistics & Data

- Schengen Visa Statistics 2024 – European Commission (ec.europa.eu/home-affairs)
- IOM Uzbekistan Migration Profile – iom.int
- Institute for Employment Research (IAB) – Job vacancies data 2024

Institutional Sources

- German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (DIHK) Labour Shortage Report 2024
- South Korea–Uzbekistan Employment Permit System (EPS) – hrdkorea.or.kr
- Uzbekistan State Committee on Statistics – stat.uz