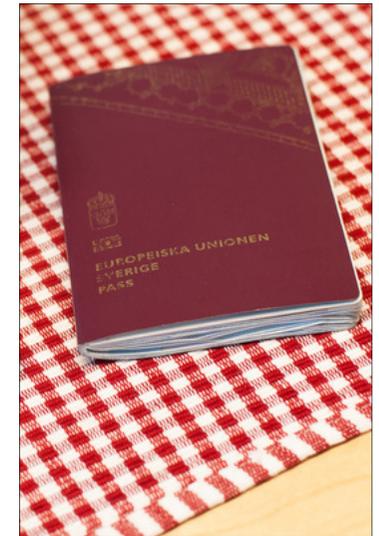




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Pathways to Citizenship in Sweden

Jonas Hols, EMN Sweden, 26 November 2020

Legislation and Basic Principles

- Act on Swedish Citizenship 2001, amended since
 - jus sanguinis
 - the right of the child to acquire citizenship
 - the reduction of statelessness
- **Domicile** (period of legal stay) in Sweden and **permanent residence** decisive for the acquisition of citizenship
- Two main paths:
 - **Naturalisation** (substantiated identity, 18 years of age, permanent permit and habitual residence, normally 5 years, good conduct, discretionary)
 - **Notification** (simplified procedure; permanent permit, habitual residence; mainly applicable to minors, young adults and Nordic citizens, if requirements fulfilled = right to citizenship)



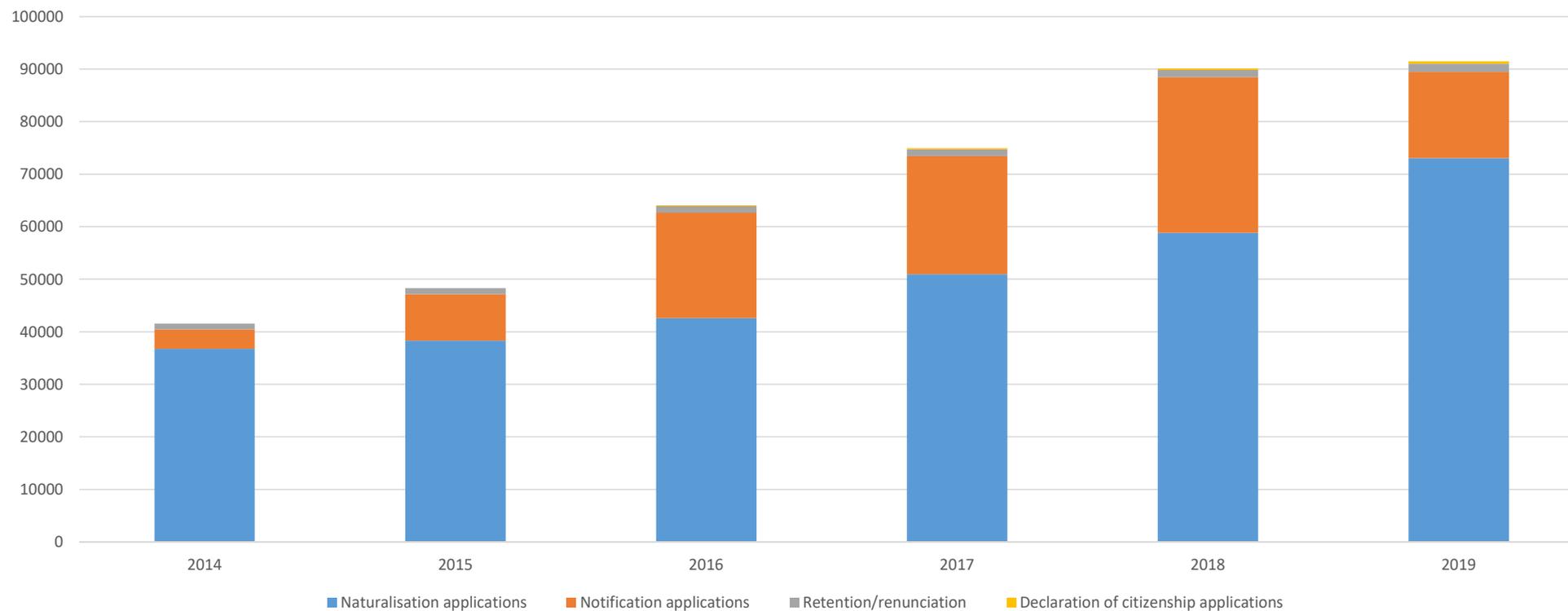
”A significant link with Sweden”

- Act on Swedish Citizenship **preamble**: Citizenship consists of rights and duties. It unites all citizens and it stands for affinity with Sweden (2015)
- Municipalities arrange **citizenship ceremonies**, voluntary participation
- Amendments served to more manifestly use citizenship as a tool in **integration** policies, BUT
 - Limited differences between the rights of Swedish citizens and third-country nationals with permanent residence; registration in population register and domiciled = in principle all rights **except**:
 - Right to vote in parliamentary elections, stand as a candidate, access to certain government jobs, Swedish/EU passport



Facts and Figures

Total number of applications for citizenship 2014-2019, source: Swedish Migration Agency



Language Requirement – Debate and Considerations

- Language requirement originally phased out in early 1980s, but **recurring debate** since
- Commission of Inquiry appointed 29 October 2019, report due 15 January 2021, final report 1 May 2021 to propose
 - successful result on a test of the **Swedish language** and **civic orientation** to be required for the acquisition of Swedish citizenship.
 - Rationale: to reinforce the **status of citizenship** and to **promote inclusion** – fundamental for rights and obligations, e.g. political rights
 - Proposals should take into account **exemptions** (minors, stateless, elderly)
 - Legally certain system, cost effective, fair, equal for men and women
 - Test specifics, possibility to appeal result?
 - Overview of procedures in other countries



Dual Citizenship

- Introduced in the 2001 Act on Swedish Citizenship
 - **"More people connected to more than one country"** – work, studies abroad, multi-national family formations etc.
 - **In reality** already by then large numbers of individuals with dual nationality, e.g. children and beneficiaries of international protection

Challenges?

- 2013 Government Official Report: no negative consequences, increased opportunities for circular migration
- **Civil law** – marriage, divorce, custody. **Travel / Consular assistance**, military service
- Awareness among those that hold dual nationality?
- [Migration Agency](#) and Foreign Ministry: [information leaflet](#), app etc.



Are you a Swedish citizen with dual citizenship or do you have a Swedish residence permit? If so, this travel information is for you.

Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Summary and Conclusions

- Citizenship **topical** – record number of applications and policy development under way
- By comparison liberal legislation. Recent policy proposals in largely restrictive direction, but exceptions
- Government Inquiry Report on language requirement and civic orientation tests 15 January 2021, final report due 1 May 2021
- [Pathways to citizenship for third-country nationals in the EU Member States - National Report Sweden](#)
- ***Dank je!***

