



Diaspora engagement mapping VIETNAM

Facts & figures

Terminology: *Viet Kieu* refers to Vietnamese people living outside of Vietnam; those who left Vietnam prior to the Vietnam war, those who left as refugees during the war or the newer immigrants who grew up post-war. The term is used by people in Vietnam to refer to ethnic Vietnamese living outside the country. Additionally, the term “Overseas Vietnamese (OV)” has been used in official English reports, events as well as media.

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections
for citizens residing abroad²



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP: **3.26%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **14,000**

Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from UNDESA (2024) and remittances from the World Bank (2023).

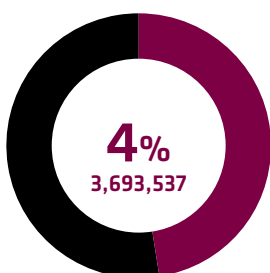
Emigration



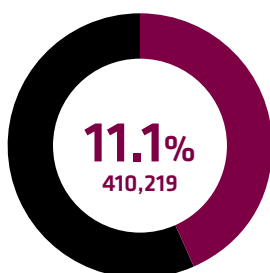
% of emigrants in
total population



% of which
in the EU



♂ 47.6
♀ 52.4%



♂ 43.6%
♀ 56.4%

Top countries of destination



United States of America	1,434,631
Japan	589,874
Australia	294,435
China, Taiwan Province of China	263,078
Republic of Korea	260,609

¹ In 2025, Vietnam approved major amendments to its nationality law to allow dual citizenship, in the hopes of attracting skilled professionals abroad to contribute to national development. The updated law waives the 5-year residency requirement upon proof of contributions to national development, as well as makes it easier for applicants to prove Vietnamese origin using family records, community letters and other evidence.

² <http://en.dangcongsan.vn/news-and-events/where-do-overseas-vietnamese-vote-389473.html>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 1986** ● **Doi Moi reforms** was a set of economic reforms to transition Vietnam from a command economy to a socialist market economy. The reforms saw the Vietnam government loosening up control of foreign trade and allowing consumer goods to be sent back home by Vietnamese who worked or studied in other socialist countries. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the reforms emphasised that in a post-communist market economy, Vietnam should continue to keep its door open to foreign trade and investment.
- 2004** ● **Resolution 36³** was a law on the rights of the Viet Kieu, entitling them to certain privileges, such as incentives to buy property and invest in business and an exemption from visas. It was the first resolution of the Communist Party of Vietnam that addressed Viet Kieu issues. It aimed at creating favourable conditions and supporting them to “stabilise their life, integrate into the society of residing countries and maintain close links with the homeland”. As a result of this law, important legislation, such as visa exemption, home ownership, single price system and dual nationality, have subsequently been passed.
- 2008** ● The **Law on Vietnamese Nationality** encourages and creates favourable conditions for persons of Vietnamese origin residing abroad to maintain close relations with their families and homeland, as well as contribute to the building of their homeland. It also protects the lawful rights of Vietnamese citizens abroad through domestic state agencies and overseas Vietnamese representative missions. In 2025, the law was revised to provide new revisions on how overseas Vietnamese can apply for, confirm or retain their Vietnamese nationality. It involves several key updates, namely: (1) providing a simplified naturalisation route for applicants who can demonstrate contributions to national development; (2) allowing for dual nationality in cases where foreign nationality is considered beneficial to Vietnam; (3) requiring those holding government, judicial or military positions to renounce their other nationalities; (4) easing requirements for proof of Vietnamese origin (e.g. family records, community letters); and (5) allowing for the combination of Vietnamese and foreign names on official documents for personal and professional continuity. Vietnamese nationality may also be revoked if obtained by fraud or if the individual poses a threat to national security. Moreover, overseas Vietnamese who never officially renounced their nationality are still considered Vietnamese citizens.
- 2023** ● **Decision 1334/QĐ-TTg** issued on 10 November 2023 approved the Scheme on “Promoting the resources of overseas Vietnamese (OV) to serve national development in the new context” with an aim to establish a holistic and sustainable framework for relevant stakeholders to optimise the OV’s potential in local- and national-level development. Underlining the importance of OV in homeland development, the scheme establishes sustainable mechanisms for: 1) regulation revision and coordinated implementation among ministries, sectors and localities to ensure equitable treatment to the OVs in engaging in business, scientific research, technology and cultural activities in Vietnam; and 2) encouraging OV’s participation in the country’s development. In the long run, the scheme aims to also strengthen the global OV networks by ensuring their development and integration in the host countries.
- 2025** ● **Decree 282/2025** requires overseas Vietnamese returning to Vietnam to declare their stay. Those travelling with a Vietnamese passport and staying outside their registered permanent residence must register their temporary residence on the VNeID application or the Public Service Portal, while those staying with relatives must notify the authorities of their stay. Failure to comply will result in a fine of 500,000 to 1,000,000 VND. Vietnamese diaspora with foreign passports are considered foreigners temporarily residing in Vietnam and must declare themselves through their accommodation provider or with the commune/ward police.

³ http://viet-studies.net/kinhte/VietKieuComeHome_Sojourn.pdf



Practices

Explore 520+ practices by country, SDG or sector of engagement in the [interactive database!](#)



[Come Home Pho Good](#)

The programme aims to attract high-skilled Vietnamese talent from the diaspora. Increased demand for talented professionals makes private sector companies keen to recruit from overseas Vietnamese professionals because they have a wide exposure to international experience and technology. The programme seeks to convince companies to attract Vietnamese diaspora professionals and provide the mechanism for companies to secure talent. For instance, the recruitment agency Robert Walters identifies and connects with Vietnamese diaspora professionals who are keen to return and potentially interested in jobs in Vietnam, based on their extensive database.

[Vietnam Summer Camp annual since 2004](#)

The SCOV organises an annual camp in 10 localities across the country at which the diaspora comes to Vietnam to pay their respects to former President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum in Hanoi and visit other cultural and historical sites across Vietnam. There are also social activities, such as presenting gifts to relatives of martyrs, orphans and children in need, and interacting with local Vietnamese in several provinces. Since 2004, the camp has attracted 2,000 members of the diaspora from 30 countries and gives them a chance to connect with other Vietnamese in Vietnam and the diaspora.

[Xuan Que Hong \(Homeland Spring\) Programme annual](#)

The Homeland Spring Programme brings together Vietnamese diaspora from around the world to strengthen solidarity between them and people in the homeland. It also seeks to inspire national pride and reiterate traditional cultural values amongst the diaspora. The programme includes a day of various activities, such as incense offering, ceremony for peace, and a food festival.

[Trip to Truong Sa \(Spratly\) archipelago Since 2011](#)

This trip brings Vietnamese diaspora to the archipelago in the East Sea, which is also the nation's sacred territory. In 2019, the eighth such visit welcomed 50 diaspora members from 19 countries. The visitors attended commemorations events of martyrs and also donated gifts of essential food, equipment and cash to the soldiers and people in Truong Sa.

[The Vietnamese Language Day in the Vietnamese Diasporic Community \(2023–2030\) Initiative](#)

In 2022, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh declared 8 September the day of Vietnamese language appreciation for communities abroad with a view to encouraging appreciation of the language abroad, including its use within Vietnamese families abroad. The annual celebration is due to include a conference to connect Vietnamese entities within and outside of Vietnam and a competition to choose a Vietnamese language ambassador. In addition, the Vietnam National University in Hanoi is set to create an online portal to teach Vietnamese to Vietnamese abroad.

Annual Global Forum of Young Vietnamese Intellectuals

The forum aims to serve as a platform where young Vietnamese from around the world can gather and discuss how they can contribute to the national development through their intellect, talent and creativity. Beyond academic dialogue, it also aims to provide avenues for young Vietnamese to contribute solutions and policy recommendations to the government's development agenda. Over five editions, more than 1,000 young Vietnamese intellectuals based both in Vietnam and abroad have participated.

Observations

The “Observations” and “Obstacles” sections contain additional information on the context of diaspora engagement that does not fit directly into the other sections. They are based on a combination of literature review and comments from the authors. New information is incorporated during the annual updates. Readers are invited to verify the relevance of the information at the time of reading, as the context may have evolved.

The legal framework for diaspora engagement in Vietnam is not very developed. However, the government has increasingly recognised the critical importance of diaspora engagement through activities that promote Vietnamese culture and the provision of incentives to attract the diaspora back home. Incentives include facilitating buying property and investing in businesses, visa exemption, allowance for dual nationality and a single price system. Through such measures, Vietnam has benefitted from economic growth. In the early 2000s, there were only 50 listed companies in Vietnam, whereas today there are over 750 companies with market capitalisation of around \$150 billion.⁴

Vietnam has also focussed heavily on promoting its culture to the diaspora by inviting them to summer camps or cultural programmes in Vietnam. The private sector is also tapping into the fact that many overseas Vietnamese - encouraged by the government's fight against Covid-19 - wish to come home. Companies are using this opportunity to encourage diaspora with academic qualifications and experience working in leading multinational corporations to return and work in Vietnam's growing economy.⁵

Following the 4th World Conference of Overseas Vietnamese (OV) and the 2024 Forum of OV Intellectuals and Experts⁶, the government acknowledged and endorsed the diaspora's contributions in green growth, high technology, promoting the Vietnamese language and culture, strengthening national unity, and enhancing Vietnam's international presence through people-to-people diplomacy.

4 <https://www.euromoney.com/article/b11192v8p6q9bh/vietnams-diaspora-returns-with-attitude>

5 <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/business/vietnamese-diaspora-professionals-inspired-to-return-by-nation-s-covid-19-success-4131881.html>

6 <https://hanoitimes.vn/vietnam-seeks-further-contributions-from-overseas-vietnamese-327760.html>

Obstacles



- **Lack of policy framework:** Vietnam lacks an overall policy framework for diaspora engagement, which prevents the various government ministries and private sector companies from working together more coherently. It also means that there is a lack of an overall guidance on what should be done to better the government's diaspora engagement.
- **Divisions within the diaspora:** More than 45 years after the Vietnam War, the Vietnamese diaspora remains divided due to the country's complex tapestry of migration.
- **Emphasis on financial linkages:** The State Commission for Overseas Vietnamese (SCOV) has focussed mainly on establishing financial linkages to Vietnam to speed up national development, but has not put in place activities or policies to heal emotional and political scars.

Annex:

List of Actors

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 520+ institutions](#)

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level**

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) 1987

IOM operates under a cooperation agreement with the government of Vietnam. It has provided English training courses to migrant workers prior to departure overseas and more recently, it cooperated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to implement a project to promote development friendly migration policies in Vietnam. It has also paid particular attention to the issue of human trafficking during migration out of Vietnam.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) 1992

Vietnam rejoined the ILO in 1992 and an ILO Country Office was opened in Hanoi in 2003. The main aims of the ILO in Vietnam are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues. The TRIANGLE in ASEAN programme is a part of the ILO's global efforts to promote fair migration. Through delivery of technical assistance and support to governments, social partners, civil society and regional bodies, TRIANGLE in ASEAN aims to create a set of policies, tools and services that enhance the contribution of labour migration to stable and inclusive growth and development. It involves six ASEAN countries, including Vietnam, and is funded by Australia and Canada.

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1945

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the central government institution charged with leading the foreign affairs of Vietnam.

- Sub-ministerial level

The State Committee on Overseas Vietnamese Affairs is an agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which handles overseas Vietnamese affairs and its contribution to national development. The agency provides consultancy to the Party and the State by implementing policies related to the overseas Vietnamese. It also helps mobilise overseas Vietnamese to support the homeland.

The HCMC Committee for Overseas Vietnamese, a sub-division of the MFA, for matters pertaining to Viet Kieu based in Hoh Chi Minh City as it is the main destination for most returning migrants. The ministry offers reintegration assistance to returning migrants, including support for finding work and accommodation, and organises events for diaspora who return every year for the Vietnamese New Year celebrations. Returning Vietnamese are also taken on tours of central investment projects in Ho Chi Minh City in order to make them aware of the city's economic achievements.

Diaspora organisations in Europe

Deutsch-Vietnamesischer Freundeskreis e.V. (DVFAachen)

1999 Germany

Read more about diaspora organisations
in "[Starting guide: What is a diaspora
organisation](#)"



- ☑ Development activities
- ☑ Integration activities

DVFAachen aims to build and maintain friendships between people from Germany and Vietnam through cultural exchange, integration aid and promotion of education for Vietnamese youth. The organisation also provides support for people in need in Vietnam post-natural disasters. [[f](#)]

Làm Cha Me CZ (LCMcz) Czech Republic

- ☑ Integration activities

Làm Cha Me is a Vietnamese for “parenting”. LCMcz started as a Facebook group for Vietnamese parents in the Czech Republic to share useful information, explain issues that others might face and provide tips on how to educate children. At present, they find teachers to provide extra classes for children, help parents find suitable schools for their children, provide information on the healthcare system in Czech Republic, post useful information about traditional Czech festivals and holidays and basic knowledge about living in the Czech Republic and conduct community outdoor activities for children. [[f](#)]

Reistrommel e.V. association 1993 Germany

- ☑ Integration activities

Provides counselling for migrants and their family members, implements integration measures through language courses or migration advice, promotes Vietnamese culture, publicly educates and lobbies politically about living conditions of Vietnamese migrants. [[f](#)]

Vietnamese Entrepreneurship Society in Finland (VietES) 2019 Finland

- ☑ Integration activities

VietES guides Vietnamese arriving in Finland for higher education to embark on start-up ventures. The group incubates Vietnam-connected start-ups in Finland by combining the strengths and ecosystems of Finland and Vietnam. [[f](#)]

Union Générale des Vietnamiens de France (UGVF) 2016 France

- ☑ Development activities
- ☑ Integration activities

UGVF aims to promote social activities, studies and integration into French society while maintaining and developing the cultural identity of the Vietnamese community, including helping the younger generation to understand Vietnamese culture. It also participates actively in the development of Vietnam by providing humanitarian and emergency aid. Key activities include cultural activities, celebration of traditional Vietnamese festivals, Vietnamese and French language courses and trips to Vietnam. [[f](#)]

General Association of Vietnamese in Belgium (GAVB)

- ☑ Development activities

Strengthened solidarity among overseas Vietnamese in the country and contribute to the development of Vietnam.

Confederation of Vietnamese Associations in Europe 2016

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

It gathers Vietnamese diaspora in Europe to build a united, developed and successful community in Europe. They conduct projects and activities that connect the community, create favourable conditions for integration, development and contribution to local societies.

Business Association of Vietnamese in France France

- ☑ **Development activities**

An organisation that aims to capitalise on the skills and talent of the Vietnamese diaspora, French people of Vietnamese origin and all individuals with strong links to Vietnam in order to promote trade between Vietnam, France and European countries.

Association of Vietnamese in Malta 2022 Malta

- ☑ **Development activities**
- ☑ **Integration activities**

Gathers the Vietnamese community in the country, protects their legitimate rights and interests, and strengthens their role as connectors between Vietnam and Malta.

The Vietnam Innovation Network in Europe (VINEU) 2021

Based in Berlin, Germany, VINEU aims to bring together Vietnamese intellectuals and experts to contribute to the sustainable development of Vietnam. Its main activities include consultation and training, investment and business networking, as well as developing a community for Vietnamese experts and technicians. It closely coordinates with the National Innovation Centre (NIC) and the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) to support Vietnam's innovation activities domestically and internationally. VINEU is the fifth sub-network of the Vietnam Innovation Network (VIN), an MPI-led initiative with currently 1,000 members across 20 countries, and four sub-networks in Germany, Japan, Australia, and South Korea.

Original research:
Dr Ronojoy Sen
Editing & update:
EUDiF (2026)



Implemented by



Funded by
the European Union



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