

EMN BULLETIN

The EMN Bulletin provides policymakers and other practitioners with updates on recent migration and international protection policy developments at EU and national level. The 8th Edition provides information from May 2014 to August 2014, including (latest) relevant published statistics.

The Bulletin is organised by policy area. You can directly access the area of your interest by clicking on one of the following themes:

[1. General policy developments](#); [2. Legal migration](#); [3. International protection and asylum](#); [Unaccompanied minors](#); [4. Eradication of trafficking in human beings](#); [5. Schengen borders and visas](#); [6. External dimension](#); [7. Irregular migration and return](#); [8. Integration and citizenship](#); [Annex on EU & Complementary Statistics, Additional information, other EMN outputs and upcoming events.](#)

SPECIAL NOTE

The role of the EMN as a platform to collect and exchange information in order to facilitate cooperation among Member States and stakeholders in the field of return, was welcomed in the [Council Conclusions on EU Return Policy](#) following the Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting on 5th and 6th June 2014. The EMN was invited to examine in particular the overall efficiency of return procedures including the impacts of incentives to voluntary return and the impacts of entry bans.

In line with abovementioned Council Conclusions, the **EMN Conference 2014 "Irregular Migration and Return: Challenges and Practices"** was held in Athens on the 12th and 13th June 2014.



Overall, the [Conference Conclusions](#) highlighted, amongst other issues, the following:

- ✚ Combating irregular migration remains a key policy priority for the EU and the Member States;
- ✚ An effective return policy is an essential part of a well-managed migration policy;
- ✚ Challenges remain regarding the implementation and practice of EU and bilateral Readmission Agreements.

On this important topic, **two upcoming EMN Studies** are expected by the end of September 2014, these are:

- ✚ The use of detention and alternatives to detention in the context of immigration policies; and
- ✚ Good practices in the return and reintegration of irregular migrants: Member States' entry bans policy and use of readmission agreements between Member States and third countries.

1. GENERAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ On 27th June the [European Council Conclusions](#) were published, including the Strategic Guidelines for the coming years in the area of Freedom, Security and Justice. The Guidelines highlighted, amongst others, the following priorities:
 - ✚ The importance for Europe to remain an attractive destination for talent and skills and thus to maximise the opportunities for legal migration and to pursue active integration policies fostering social cohesion and economic dynamism;
 - ✚ The transposition and effective implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS);
 - ✚ The strengthening of EU migration polices, together with the prevention of irregular migration, with a particular focus on: smuggling and trafficking in human beings; an effective common return policy and the enforcement of readmission agreements; and strengthening and expanding Regional Protection Programmes in close collaboration with UNHCR.

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK (EMN)?

A network co-ordinated by the European Commission, assisted by a Service Provider, in co-operation with National Contact Points (EMN NCPs) established in each Member State plus Norway. Its purpose is to provide up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum, with a view to supporting policymaking in the European Union in these areas, as well as to the wider public. More information, as well as all EMN outputs, is available at www.emn.europa.eu.

2. LEGAL MIGRATION

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Economic migration

- ★ **Estonia:** From the end of 2014, foreigners will be able to receive a secure [Estonian 'e-identity'](#). The overall goal of 'e-residency' is to facilitate business opportunities in Estonia. 'E-residents' are non-resident persons granted a digital identity card to permit access to Estonian e-services for businesses, including: a company registration portal, the 'e-tax board' and internet banks. To obtain e-residency status, applicants will be required to pass a background check, similar to the requirement in the visa application process, and to provide their biometric information.
- ★ **Greece:** On 1st of June 2014 the "**Migration and Integration Code**" entered into force. The latter is based on four pillars: 1) simplification of procedures; 2) review of the conditions of access to the labour market; 3) establishment of a favorable climate for investments of third country nationals and; 4) amendments to the conditions of access to long-term residence status and ensuring the legal residence status of second generation migrants. Overall, the Code encompasses - for the first time- all existing migration laws into one single legal instrument and establishes a new adequate and compatible legislative instrument on legal migration according to the current social and economic situation of the country. The Code, in particular, structured the existing immigration law provisions and modified the existing institutional framework.
- ★ **Ireland:** The new [Employment Permits Bill 2014](#) will come into effect in September and will provide more flexibility to deal with changing labour market, work patterns and economic development needs.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** As from 1st July 2014, the [Single Permit has been cancelled for several categories](#) of employees. These changes are especially relevant for employees of international groups of companies. Categories that are now excluded include: employees within an international group of companies (the so-called key-personnel); trainees within a group of companies and specialists within an international group of companies.
- ★ **Poland:** A [new immigration law](#) came into force on 1st May 2014 introducing various important changes to the Polish regulations applying to immigrants. Foreigners who will benefit the most from the new provisions are: economic migrants, international students and alumni, holders of the Polish Card and foreigners' children. An [Action plan](#) to implement the objectives and recommendations listed in the strategic document 'Migration Policy of Poland – state of play and further actions' was also adopted by the inter-ministerial Committee for Migration and it is currently awaiting the final approval of the Council of Ministers. The plan will be subject to annual evaluation (the first evaluation is expected in the first half of 2015).

Judgment of the European Court of Justice Case [669/13](#)

On 17th July 2014 the Court ruled that according to the Long-term Residence Directive, Articles 4(1) and 7(1) must be interpreted as meaning that family members, as defined in Article 2(e) of that directive, of a person who has already acquired long-term resident status may not be exempted from the condition laid down in Article 4(1) of that directive, under which, in order to obtain that status, a third-country national must have resided legally and continuously in the Member State concerned for five years immediately prior to the submission of the relevant application. And that Article 13, as amended by Directive 2011/51, must be interpreted as not allowing a Member State to issue family members, as defined in Article 2(e) of that directive, with long-term residents' EU residence permits on terms more favourable than those laid down by that directive.

- ★ **Sweden:** Since 1st August 2014, the Swedish Migration Board may undertake post-arrival checks regarding residence permits issued for employment purposes. The aim is to improve the detection and prevention of cases of misuse of the labour immigration system by untrustworthy employers. Post-arrival checks may focus on specific types of industries or businesses, and include spot checks.

Student Migration

- ★ **The Netherlands:** The Minister of Education announced in July 2014 the [creation of a five million euro scholarship programme](#) to stimulate international exchanges among talented students. The underlying idea is for international exchange to boost standards and strengthen the international character of the Dutch education system. The scholarship will enable up to 1,000 top students per year to study in the Netherlands or, conversely, Dutch students to study abroad.
- ★ **Poland:** In August, the Minister of Science and Higher Education presented a new scholarship programme "[Polish Erasmus for Ukraine](#)" under which Poland will grant **550 scholarships to Ukrainians** affected by the military operations. The first 100 scholarships will be made available in 2014.

3. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ASYLUM AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

EU AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The [EASO Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union in 2013](#) was published on 7th July 2014. The report focuses on three asylum flows that underline the very different characteristics of asylum applicants in the EU: Syria, Russian Federation and Western Balkans countries. In June 2014 EASO also published its [Annual Activity report 2013](#).
- ★ On 26th June 2014, the Commission launched a [proposal to amend Regulation No 604/2013](#) in order to establish clearer EU rules for unaccompanied minors seeking international protection. The proposal aims to improve, in particular, the situation of those unaccompanied minors applying for international protection who have no relatives on the EU territory.

LATEST RELEVANT STATISTICS

- ★ According to the EASO Annual Report, published in July 2014, **435,760 persons applied for international protection** in the European Union - the **highest number** of applications for international protection since the beginning of EU data collection in 2008.
- ★ **Syria became the main country of origin of asylum seekers in the EU 28 in 2013**, registering a 109% increase in the number of applications for international protection. However, in 2014 there has been a substantial **increase in the numbers of Eritreans** arriving in Italy and applying in a number of northern countries Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.
- ★ EASO also published its [Quarterly Asylum Report for the Q1 2014](#). The report states that during the Q1 2014, a total of 120,215 applications for international protection were lodged in the EU, representing a 9% decrease compared with Q4 2013; however this decrease is attributed to the seasonal patterns. The five main groups of **asylum applicants during Q1 2014 originate from Western Balkan countries, Syria, Afghanistan, Russia and Pakistan**; and the main destination countries are **Germany, France and Sweden**, together receiving 55% of all asylum applicants.
- ★ EASO statistics also showed that a **significant rise** in the numbers **of Ukrainian citizens applying for asylum** in the EU has been registered since March 2014.
- ★ A total number of 82,560 **first instance asylum decisions** were issued in the period from January to May 2014.¹ Total positive decisions for this period amounted at 36,865, while negative decisions accounted for 46,695. The largest number of first instance asylum decisions were issued in **Germany** (21,285); followed by **France** (16,690), **Sweden** (10,035), **Italy** (7,380) and **Belgium** (5,100).

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Belgium:** Following the adoption of the [Royal decree from 15 May 2014](#) (published on 25th July 2014), as of the 4th August 2014 reception centres can impose [internal measures and sanctions](#) to guarantee or restore 'order, security and tranquillity'. The decree provides that in case of severe infringements of the centre's rules, the director or manager may impose a sanction on a resident, ranging from a formal warning to a one month exclusion from the right to social assistance.

¹ Figures exclude Austria as statistics are not yet available

Regarding resettlement activities, on 31st August 2014, a team of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS) interviewed Syrian refugees in Ankara, Turkey, for the purpose of the resettlement of refugees in Belgium. As a result, [75 Syrian refugees](#) (particularly vulnerable, including families and minors of age) will be resettled in Belgium in November 2014.

- ★ **Cyprus:** On June 5th 2014 EASO and Cyprus signed a Special Support Plan. Under the latter, EASO provided support to Cyprus (until July 2015) in a number of prioritised areas, such as: training of staff, vulnerable groups, age assessment procedures, enhancing the reception conditions, as well as on data collection and analytical capacity (i.e. statistics and information technology).
- ★ **Finland:** The Finnish Immigration Service announced a [reduction in the number of reception centres](#) and accommodation places as from 1st July 2014. The reception centres in Punkalaidun and in Ruukki will be closed down completely by September 2014 and November 2014 respectively.
- ★ **France:** [Two draft laws on asylum reform and the stay and removal of foreign nationals](#) were introduced. The asylum reform intends to respond to the overloading of the asylum procedure and the reception arrangements. The stay and the removal reform aims at improving the reception and integration of foreign nationals, attracting foreign talents and fighting criminal networks and irregular migration.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** Following the increased number of asylum seekers in the Netherlands, on 6th July 2014 the [Secretary of State suggested that capacity for the reception of asylum seekers would be increased by the use of unconventional facilities](#), such as hotel boats and tent pavilions. However, refugee organisations such as 'VluchtelingenWerk Nederland' have challenged this measure, raising concerns that the necessary quality reception conditions would not be met. On 3rd July 2014 the State Secretary presented the Study "[Traces of the Past](#)" which makes recommendations to the Dutch Government on the use of medical examinations during asylum assessments to identify traces of abuse which may contribute to the assessment of the request.
- ★ **Spain:** On July 22nd 2014 the **Framework Protocol on actions for Unaccompanied Foreign Minors** was signed by all relevant Spanish Ministries. The Framework Protocol, which is based under the principle of the best interests of the child, aims to coordinate the actions of all relevant institutions and administrations. Overall, it reinforces the guarantees of the minor's protection system for unaccompanied minors, particularly considering international protection and the prevention of trafficking of human beings.
- ★ **Norway:** A fast track for asylum claims from particular groups of unaccompanied minors was enforced in June 2014. Categories include unaccompanied minors applying for asylum after being apprehended by the police and those coming from **Libya, Morocco, Algeria** and **Tunisia**. The fast track project applies also to asylum seekers who clearly look like adults (but who claim to be unaccompanied minors) and who are registered in the Eurodac system. An unaccompanied minor asylum seeker will be subjected to the fast track project also in case of an acute threat to her/his security in Norway. In addition, the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) is funding a two year project to develop improved methods and basis for medical age assessments of teenagers and young adults, involving researchers in Norway, Italy and the UK.

Judgment of [Case 604/12](#) of the European Court of Justice

On 8th May 2014 the Court ruled that according to the Qualification Directive, the principle of effectiveness and the right to good administration do not preclude a national procedural rule, such as that at issue in the main proceedings, under which an application for subsidiary protection may be considered only after an application for refugee status has been refused, provided that, first, it is possible to submit the application for refugee status and the application for subsidiary protection at the same time and, second, the national procedural rule does not give rise to a situation in which the application for subsidiary protection is considered only after an unreasonable length of time, which is a matter to be determined by the referring court.

4. ERADICATION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

EU AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The 'World Day against Trafficking in Persons' was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution [A/RES/68/192](#), and was inaugurated on 30th July 2014. The aim was to promote a call to action to end the crime of trafficking in human beings and give hope to victims.
- ★ On the 30th June 2014, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), as part of the EU's anti-trafficking strategy released a [handbook to strengthen national guardianship systems for children in Europe](#). The guidance is intended to enhance the protection of child victims of trafficking.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Finland:** During Spring 2014, [the number of victims of sexual exploitation](#) proposed for acceptance into the assistance system was particularly high. Most of the victims of human trafficking in Finland are, however, victims of work-related trafficking, which is exceptional in international terms. During the first half of the year, the

assistance system for victims of human trafficking, coordinated by the Joutseno Reception Centre, accepted 21 persons into the system.

- ★ **France:** On 14th May 2014 [the national plan \(2014-2016\) for the fight against trafficking in human beings](#) was launched. The plan sets 23 measures to identify victims to better protect them, prosecute and dismantle trafficking in human beings (THB) networks and make the fight against THB a policy in its own right.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** On 13th May 2014, the National Rapporteur released the report '[Trafficking in human beings, visible and invisible II](#)'. The quantitative study shows an overview over the period between 2008 and 2012 and provides new information about victims and their protection, perpetrators and their methods, detection and prosecution. Overall, the study aims to provide an overview of the current situation and to show areas of improvement to the relevant organisations.
- ★ **United Kingdom:** The UK Government is preparing a [comprehensive activity programme to tackle modern slavery](#). The latter includes: trialling child trafficking advocates, establishing safeguarding and trafficking teams at the border, working with the private sector to address modern slavery in supply chains and reviewing the National Referral Mechanism. The programme is expected to be published in the autumn.

5. SCHENGEN BORDERS AND VISAS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The [second progress report regarding Kosovo fulfillment of the requirements of the visa liberalisation roadmap](#) was published by the Commission on 24th July 2014. While good progress has been noticed, the Commission considers that further efforts are required to obtain visa-free travel for Kosovo's citizens.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Ireland:** The '[British Irish Visa Scheme](#)' permitting visitors to travel between Ireland and the United Kingdom on a single visa will commence in the autumn and will be open first to Chinese and Indian visitors.
- ★ **Norway:** Due to a reported serious threat to public policy and internal security, [border controls were introduced at Norway's borders](#) initially from 24th to 28th July 2014, and then extended to August 2014.

6. EXTERNAL DIMENSION

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Hungary:** In the framework of the EU-Moldova Mobility Partnership, Hungary hosted a study-visit of the MIGRECO project between the 16th and 18th June 2014. During the visit, participants from Moldova and Belarus visited a detention centre and received detailed information concerning best practices of the Hungarian border management system and the Hungarian Migration Strategy.

7. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The [first annual report of the Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights](#) was presented at the end of July 2014. The report provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the Forum, including strategic planning, joint operations, risk analysis and training.
- ★ The Commission presented on the 27th May 2014, an [overview](#) of the [progress](#) and steps undertaken by the Task Force Mediterranean.

LATEST RELEVANT STATISTICS

- ★ The [Frontex Risk Analysis Report](#) for the first quarter of 2014 was released in August 18th 2014. Detections of illegal border crossing reported at the **Italian sea border represented almost 50% of all detected illegal border-crossings** in Q1 2014. Compared to the first quarter of 2013, in Q1 2014 Italy reported a sevenfold increase on illegal border-crossings, while numbers in Greece more than doubled. Overall, **Mali** nationals were the most reported nationality at that maritime border, followed by **Eritreans** and **Syrians**.
- ★ In July 2014 Frontex released its [Eastern European Borders Annual Risk Analysis 2014](#) and its [Western Balkans Annual Risk Analysis 2014](#). The Eastern European Borders report indicates that the regular passenger flow continued to increase in 2013, up by roughly 10% since 2012. During the reporting period, detections of illegal border-crossing at the eastern borders remained low (1,316) in comparison with other sections of the EU's external borders, representing only 1.2% of all illegal border crossings in the EU.

The Western Balkans report highlights a 27% increase in the detection of illegal border-crossing at regional and common green borders (more than 40,000), when compared to 2012. In 2013, detections of transiting non-European irregular migrants remained at similar levels (22,000) as in 2012. However, significant differences emerged in terms of countries of origin. **The region experienced sharp decline of migrants from**

Afghanistan (-44%), **North Africa** (-36%) and **Somalia** (-58%) and an **unprecedented increase of detected West Africans** (+1 316%)

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Belgium:** The [Royal Decree of 8th May 2014](#) which determines the operating rules specifically applied to residents in detention centers who do not adapt or pose a risk to the group scheme, has been published. According to the latter, some occupants of the group scheme (such as former prisoners, drug addicts, persons with psychological disorders, etc.), following their behavior before or during their stay at the center, are removed from [the group scheme based on the management of the center's decision and placed in a single room scheme](#). The Royal Decree further stipulates the rights of the occupants in the single room scheme (in terms of room equipment, activities, etc.).
- ★ **Germany:** Following the ruling of the European Court of Justice on the Joint cases C-473/13 and C-514/13 and in Case C-474/13, in the case of the Federal Structure of the Member State, the Court clarified that it acknowledges that the Member State which has a federal structure is not obliged to set up specialised detention facilities in each federated state, Germany must nevertheless ensure that the competent authorities of the federated states without such facilities, can provide accommodation for third-country nationals in specialised detention facilities located in other federated states.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** On 5th August 2014, the Dutch Scientific Research and Documentation Centre (WODC) presented a [report on the Dutch entry ban](#), which was developed in relation to the implementation of the Return Directive (2008/115/EG). The report concludes that the effects of the entry ban are somewhat paradoxical, given that while the ban was developed to tighten the policy, it actually seems to limit the opportunities to prosecute undesirable behaviour.
- ★ **Poland:** Following the entry into force of the new immigration law, the border guard's role in combating irregular migration and carrying out return proceedings has been reinforced (i.e. the exclusive right to issue a decision obliging foreigners to return, issuing decisions on granting protection to foreigners on humanitarian grounds and imposing penalties on carriers). Other changes introduced by the new law include the introduction of alternatives to detention and the extension of the maximum period for which a foreigner may be placed in detention centre.
- ★ **United Kingdom:** [The Immigration Bill](#) received Royal Assent on 14th May 2014 introducing a series of reforms on the functioning of the immigration system. This includes further action on sham marriages, requiring landlords to check the immigration status of tenants accessing private rented housing and a requirement for temporary migrants to make financial contributions to the National Health Service (NHS).

8. INTEGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The EMN Study '[Migrant access to social security and healthcare: policies and practice](#)' was published in July 2014. The Study maps the policies and administrative practices that shape third-country nationals' access to social security, including healthcare in 25 EU Member States.
- ★ A high level **international conference** "[Roma inclusion on the ground- the ROMACT approach](#)" to discuss the progress and lessons learned in **integrating Roma** at the local level, with the support of the ROMACT programme, has been convened by the European Commission in cooperation with the Council of Europe. The conference will take place on 2nd and 3rd October 2014.

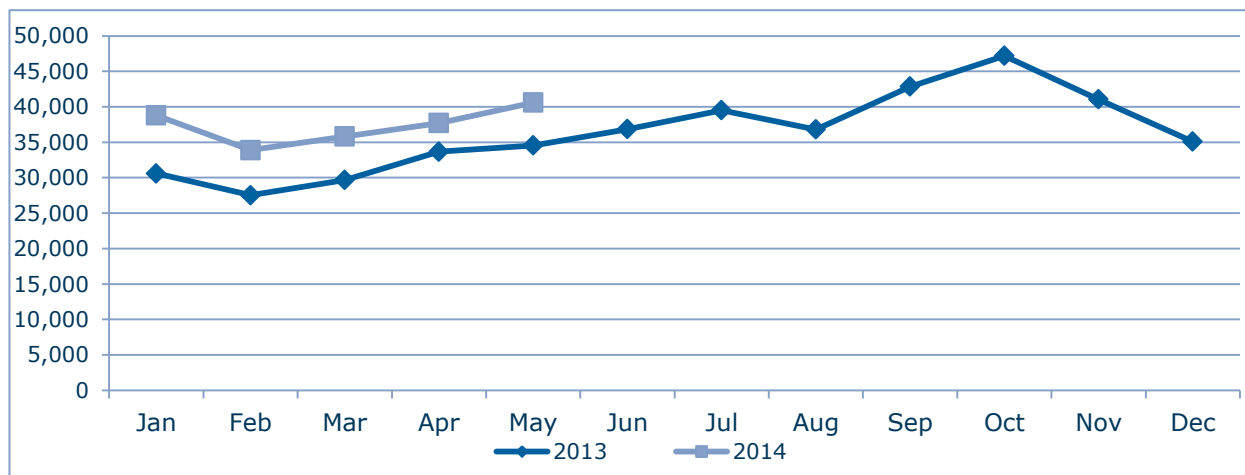
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** On 28th July the [Integration Report 2014](#) was launched. The report consists of an evaluation of integration measures prepared by the Expert Council for Integration. The report also includes a statistical yearbook, presenting the latest statistics and indicators on integration in Austria and an online database providing information about integration projects in Austria.
- ★ **Germany:** Following an amendment on the [Nationality Act](#), citizens raised in Germany and attaining the majority age, will be no longer required to decide between their German and foreign citizenship acquired by birth. Their multiple nationalities will be permanently accepted once the amended Nationality act enters into force.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** In July 2014 the Minister of Security and Justice proposal to withdraw the Dutch citizenship to people involved in terrorist training camps was [approved by the Council of Ministers](#). In order to withdraw an individual of his Dutch citizenship, a criminal conviction needs to be definitively established by facts. However, the measure can only be applied to people with multiple nationalities. The text of the bill and the Council of State's advisory opinion will be published when they are submitted to the House of Representatives.

ANNEX: EU & COMPLEMENTARY STATISTICS, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, OTHER EMN OUTPUTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

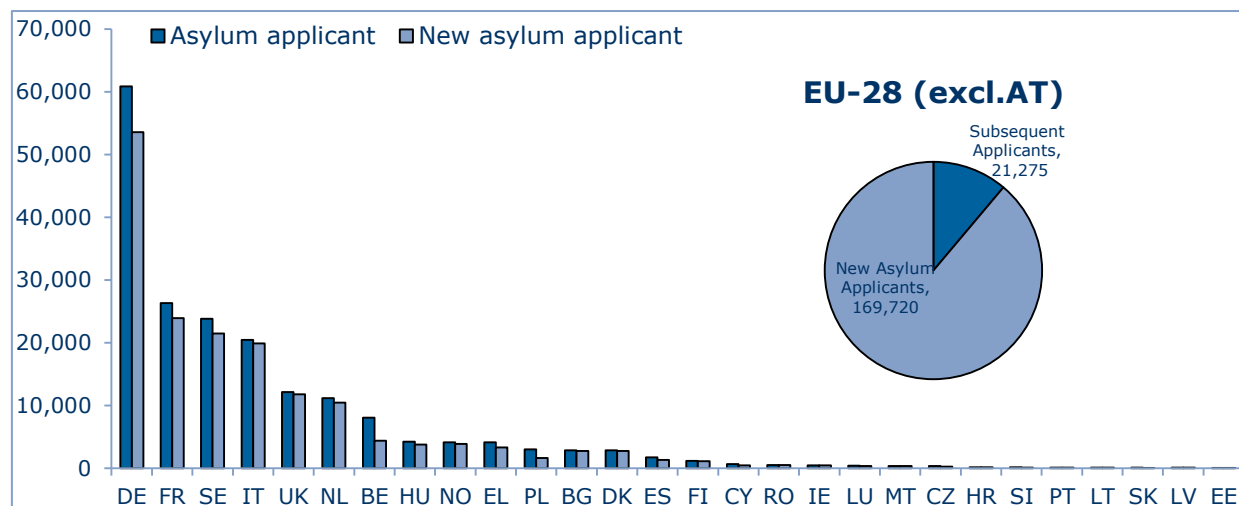
EU Figures

Figure 1a: Asylum applications in EU-28, January 2013-May 2014



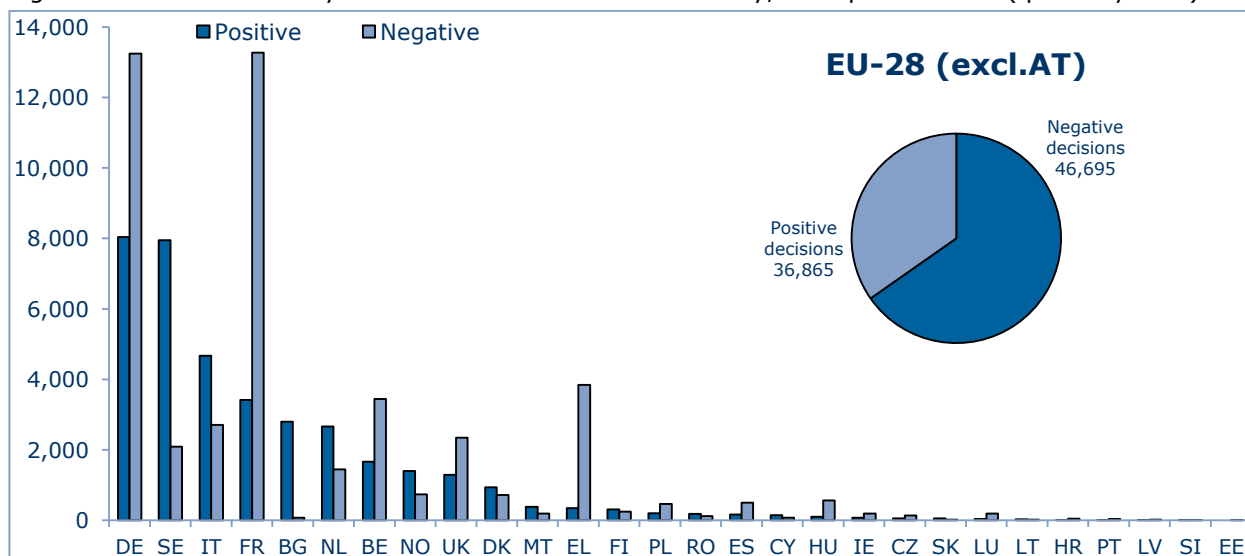
Source: Eurostat, accessed on 1st September 2014. Data for January- May 2014 were not yet available for Austria.

Figure 1b: Asylum and new asylum applicants in EU-28 and Norway, January-May 2014 (monthly data)



Source: Eurostat, accessed on 1st September 2014. Data were not yet available for Austria.

Figure 2: First instance asylum decisions in EU-28 and Norway, first quarter 2014 (quarterly data)



Source: Eurostat, accessed on 1st September 2014- Negative decisions include also "Dublin decisions" (according to Art. 4, EC Regulation n. 862/2007) Data were not yet available for Austria.

Figure 3a: Illegal cross-border crossing – Top nationalities (in %)

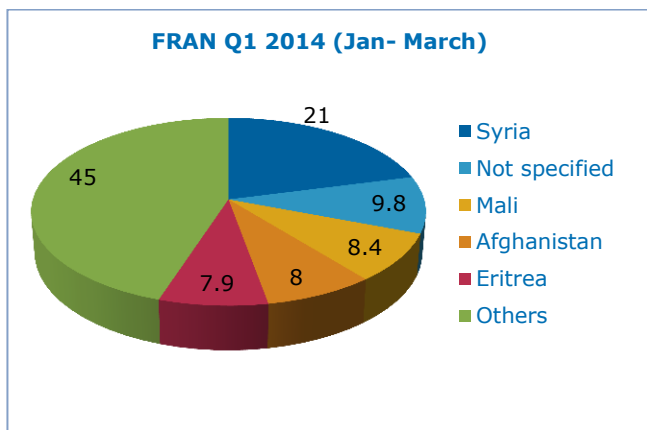


Figure 3c: Illegal stay – Top nationalities (in %)

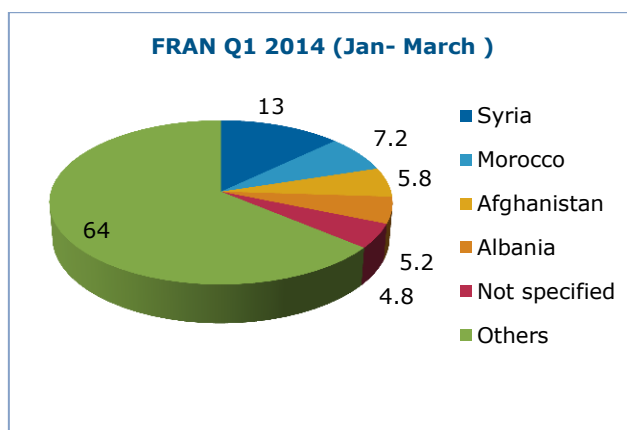


Figure 3b: Refused entry – Top nationalities (in %)

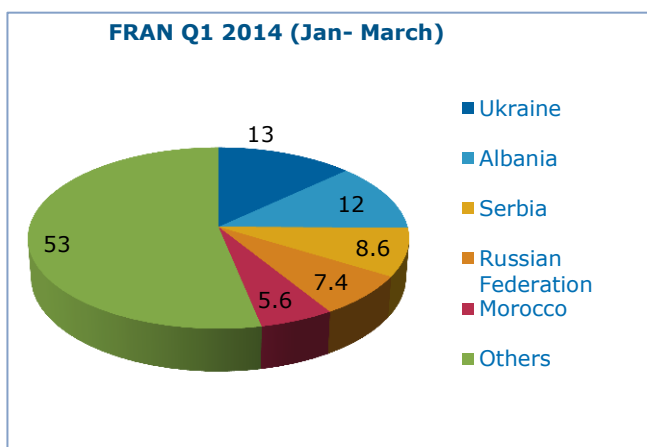
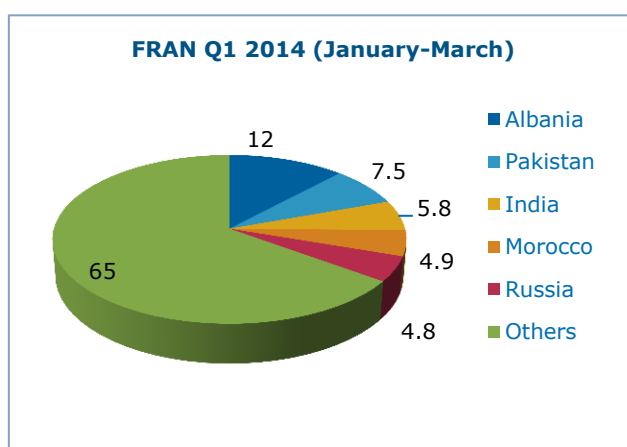


Figure 3d: Effective return – Top nationalities (in %)



Note: Data were not yet available for Austria.

Source: FRONTEXT FRAN Q1 2014 (January – March)

Latest available national statistics

LEGAL MIGRATION

- ★ **Austria:** According to a recently published Statistics report "[Migration and Integration 2014](#)", in 2013 around 1.63 million first and second generation migrants (i.e. persons whose parents were born abroad) were living in Austria. They accounted for around 19.4 % of the total Austrian population. Around 59 % of the first and second generation migrants are foreign nationals, whereas 41 % have Austrian citizenship.
- ★ In **Finland** the Finnish Immigration Service granted 7,887 residence permits between January and June 2014. The number was slightly higher than in the same period of 2013 when the total number of residence permits issued was 7,487. Residence permits were most often issued on the basis of employment or family ties in the first half of 2014. The Finnish EMN NCP also produced a publication on "[Key figures on immigration 2013](#)".
- ★ In **Italy** [new relevant data on non-EU Citizens holding a resident permit](#) became available on 5th August 2014. Data shows that by the 1st of January 2014 there were 3,874,726 non-EU foreigners holding a residence permit in Italy. Data also shows an increase in 2014 of approximately 110 thousand units when compared to 2013. The most relevant citizenships are: Morocco (524,775), Albania (502,546), China (320,794), Ukraine (233,726) and Philippines (165,783).
- ★ In **the Netherlands**, according to [recent figures released](#) on 11th August 2014, there was an increase of immigrants living in the country in the first half of 2014 when compared to the same period during 2012.
- ★ **Poland:** statistics registered an **increased number of nationals of Ukraine** applying for temporary residence permits. The rise appears to stem from the deterioration of situation in Ukraine, the entry into force of the new immigration law (simplifying procedures), as well as the expiry of the residence permits granted to migrants who legalised their stay in Poland during the 2012 regularisation.
- ★ In **Slovakia** the Bureau of Border and Aliens Police of the Police Force Presidium published its [Statistical Overview of Legal and Illegal Migration in the Slovak Republic](#) which provides information related to the first half of the year 2014.
- ★ In the **United Kingdom**, the [Migration Statistics Quarterly Report](#) was published on the 22nd May 2014. The report brings together statistics on migration.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ASYLUM AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

- ★ **The Netherlands** reported a small but increasing group of people applying for asylum. Statistics provided in a [report released on 11th August 2014](#) show that currently there are relatively many asylum requests from Syrians and Eritreans. In the first half of 2014, **nearly 3,000 Syrian asylum seekers registered in a Dutch municipality**, compared to 600 in the same period of 2013.
- ★ **Poland:** A significant decrease (approx. 70%) in the number of asylum applications lodged was recorded in the period January-July 2014 when compared to the corresponding period in 2013. However, due to situation in Ukraine, **the number of nationals of Ukraine submitting asylum applications continues to rise sharply** (1424 applications recorded between 1 January and 4th September 2014 compared to 46 applications filed in 2013). Negative decisions and decisions on discontinuation of the proceedings represent the vast majority of decisions (290 out of 298 by 17th August 2014) granted in the course of asylum procedure to Ukrainians who submitted their application in 2014.
- ★ **Estonia:** A **major change** in the inflow of international protection **applicants from Ukraine** has been registered in Estonia (compared to 2013 when no Ukrainian citizens were registered) bringing Ukraine to the top of the list of applicants for international protection. A total of 32 Ukrainian applicants were registered by the end of August 2014, however no positive decisions have been made so far.
- ★ **Norway:** A [recently released report](#)- based on the available registrations of non-resident persons charged with crimes in 2010- has estimated that around 2% of such charges were against asylum seekers or irregular third country nationals.

SCHENGEN BORDERS AND VISAS

- ★ **Poland:** Between the 1st January and 31st July 2014 Poland recorded a 20% raise in the [number of visas issued to nationals of Ukraine](#) (the majority of which are Schengen visas) compared to the respective period of 2013.
- ★ **Norway:** Since February 2013, the National Police Immigration Service has been controlling the fingerprints of all new asylum seekers against the VIS-database. Between February 2013 and April 2014, totally 813 asylum seekers to Norway have been found to be holders of Schengen visas.

INTEGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

- ★ In **Finland**, the number of [citizenship applications grew considerably](#) at the beginning of 2014. Between January and June, a total of 6,103 persons applied for Finnish citizenship. The number of applications was 40% higher than in the first half of 2013 when 4,340 persons applied for citizenship.

- ★ **Luxembourg:** Regarding the voting rights for foreigners, a reclassification of public petition n° 346 for the **right to vote** of foreigners in Luxembourg to ordinary petition was admitted on 16th June 2014, since it did not obtain the threshold of required signatures. This was followed by a reclassification of public petition n° 342 **against granting the right to vote** to non-Luxembourgers to ordinary petition. These two petitions were subsequently followed by a reclassification of the public petition n° 371, for compulsory vote for residents with at least 5 years residence in Luxembourg, to ordinary petition on 29th July 2014.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

- ★ In **the Netherlands**, a [study by the WODC](#) (the Dutch Scientific Research and Documentation Centre), published on 12th May 2014, shows that the number of rejected asylum seekers who have voluntarily returned to their home country has increased between 2001 and 2011. The publication also shows that the length of time between the date of the negative asylum decision and the actual date of departure has decreased. The report notes that voluntary return rates fluctuate and are subject to many factors, beyond the scope of Dutch policy.
- ★ In **Poland** the number of foreigners who returned voluntarily to the country of origin rose by 50% between 1st January and 31st July 2014 when compared with the respective period in 2013. The majority of returnees were of Russian nationality (84%).
- ★ In the **United Kingdom** the Home Office's Immigration Statistics for the [period January to March 2014](#) were published on the 22nd of May 2014, providing the latest national figures on those subject to immigration control.

National legislative updates

LEGAL MIGRATION

- ★ **Czech Republic:** Following the transposition of the Single Permit Directive (2011/98/EU), the Ministry of the Interior introduced a new type of single permit- an employee card. The employee card replaces the visa for a stay of over 90 days for the purpose of employment, the permit for long-term residence for the purpose of employment and the Green Card, which will no longer be issued.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** Following the European Commission's [recommendations](#) addressed to Luxembourg regarding high unemployment rates amongst young people, including those with a migrant background, the Law of 24th July 2014 on State financial aid for higher education was introduced (Memorial A-139 of 31st of July 2014).

ERADICATION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

- ★ **Poland:** Following the entry into force on 1st May 2014 of the new immigration law, [significant changes](#) were introduced with regard to provisions applying to victims of human trafficking as foreseen by Directive 2011/36/EU.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ASYLUM; UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

- ★ **Poland:** The President signed the [amended Act on granting protection to foreigners](#) whose aim is to transpose the Qualification Directive (2011/95/EU).

IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

- ★ **Luxembourg:** The Law of 26 June 2014 amending the Law of 29 August 2008 on free movement of persons and immigration entered into force after its publication in the Memorial A-113 of 1st July 2014. The Law adapts the Luxembourgish immigration legislation concerning returns in accordance with the Return Directive (2008/115/EC).

INTEGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

- ★ **Poland:** A [civic petition](#) was launched urging the Council of Ministers to sign the 1992 Convention on the Participation of Foreigners in Public Life at Local Level, according to which long-term residents shall be granted a voting right in local elections. According to the Ministry of Interior, since the beginning of the information campaign 'Racism. Say it to fight it' in March 2014, the [number of reports of hate crimes](#) to the Human Rights Protection Team has risen significantly.

Other EMN outputs and upcoming events

- ★ **Estonia:** On 15th August 2014 the Centre for Migration Studies and the EMN NCP for Estonia held a debate on defining and attracting exceptional talent / highly qualified workers to Estonia at the [Festival of Opinion Culture](#). The festival provided the opportunity to exchange opinions about social and political issues, gain new knowledge and fresh ideas, and participate in workshops.
- ★ **Hungary:** On the 2nd and 3rd June 2014, the kick-off conference for the project "Support to the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration under the Budapest Process" took place at the Ministry of Interior in Budapest. The conference gathered around 73 senior officials from 28 countries, including: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Iraq, Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan.
- ★ The EMN, national and international events, that will take place in different Member States are provided in the [EMN website](#).