

ANNUAL REPORT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM 2019

EMN INFORM

2020

This EMN Inform offers a concise overview of the main topics covered in the Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2019 including developments in the fields of legal migration, international protection; unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups; integration; citizenship and statelessness; borders, visa and Schengen governance; illegal migration including smuggling; return and readmission; human trafficking and migration and development.

The year saw a number of important developments across the EU, notably the 9th European Parliament Elections, returning again the highest number of seats to the European People's Party, the appointment of a new European Commission, and the finalisation of negotiations on the departure from the European Union of the United Kingdom, which took place on 31 January 2020. These developments formed the backdrop to developments at EU and national level specifically related to asylum and migration.

The European Agenda on Migration continued to provide the framework to the EU's policy approach in 2019. In July 2019, to overcome the difficult negotiation process of the

2016 Common European Asylum System (CEAS) package, the European Commission's President-designate von der Leyen announced the development of a New Pact on Migration and Asylum, which was to provide a comprehensive approach to migration and asylum to be implemented over the lifetime of the new Commission, covering all aspects including external borders, systems for asylum and return, the Schengen area of free movement, creating legal pathways for migration, and working with partners outside the EU.

Negotiations continued throughout 2019 on the reform of the Common European Asylum System. Significant legal instruments were also adopted including the updated European Border and Coast Guard Regulation (2019/1896) and two Interoperability Regulations (2019/817 and 2019/818) which provided for an interoperability framework between EU information systems respectively in the field of border and visas as well as in the field of police and judicial cooperation, asylum and migration.



LEGAL MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

By the end of 2019, the vast majority of the EU's legal migration *acquis* had been transposed into national law.

The transposition of the Students and Researchers Directive (EU) 2016/801 was still in progress in three Member States and the Intra-corporate Transfers Directive (2014/66/EU) was in progress in one Member State in 2019. The Seasonal Workers Directive (2014/36/EU) was fully transposed in all Member States.

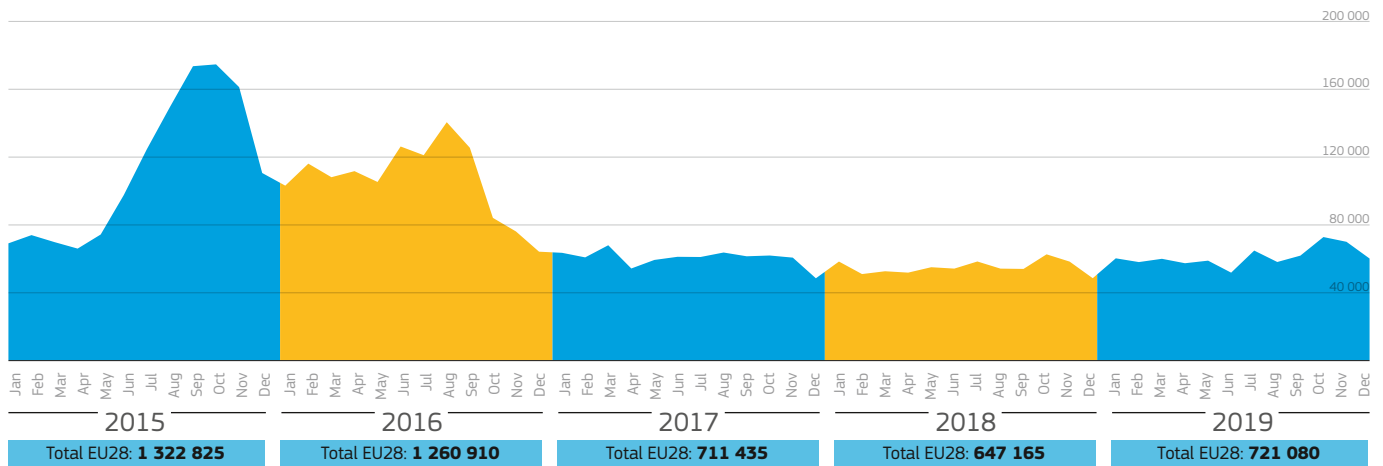
In March 2019, the European Commission adopted the **"Fitness Check on the EU Legislation on Legal Migration"**, which assessed whether the EU legal migration framework is still fit for purpose, identified any

inconsistencies and gaps, and looked for possible ways to streamline and simplify existing rules. Its results were mixed. Whilst the evaluation considered EU law as "largely fit for purpose", it was acknowledged that "the current legal migration framework had a limited impact vis-à-vis the overall migration challenges that Europe is facing", due, for example, to gaps in the Directives' material and personal scope, including that several categories of workers are not covered by the Directives.¹

Member States simplified their administrative and legal requirements to meet the needs of the labour market, in particular, regarding qualified workers, but also regarding a number of low and medium

¹ Not applicable to Ireland; however, Ireland remains bound by [Directive 2005/71/EC](#) (the previous Directive applicable to researchers).

Figure 1 - Member States introducing changes to facilitate admission for specific groups of legal migrants in 2019



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctzm), extracted on 20 April 2020

skilled occupations in several Member States where there were labour shortages.

Efforts among Member States to simplify administrative and legal requirements were directed at both **qualified workers** and, to a lesser extent, at **low and medium-skilled and seasonal workers**. Several Member States reported efforts to reduce the administrative requirements and barriers for third-country nationals working in occupations where a shortage of labour was identified. This emphasis on simplification of administrative and legal requirements often took place alongside the development of new statistical tools to assess labour market needs at national and regional levels.

About a third of Member States adopted measures aimed at **supporting start-ups, entrepreneurs and investors**, mainly by facilitating administrative procedures, setting up support schemes and ensuring that businesses established in Member States were able to access the staff they need.

Box 1: New residence permit for key personnel of start-ups in the Netherlands

The Netherlands announced the creation of a **future scheme** directed at key personnel for business start-ups. This will allow businesses that are not yet able to meet the salary threshold that applies to the residence permit for highly skilled migrants, to still employ third-country nationals that are considered as essential personnel for the start-up, providing that certain criteria are met (i.e. they are able to demonstrate that they are not sufficiently established to be able to pay such salaries).

Social dumping and labour exploitation were tackled through a variety of measures, including to address the fraudulent or abusive use of posted workers, to increase efforts in the area of labour inspection, to establish a minimum salary in certain sectors, and awareness-raising campaigns.

A third of Member States reported developments relating to the admission and stay of international students and researchers, in the main with the aim of attracting more international students.

Developments included simplified or fast-track procedures and increasing digitalisation of student visa applications and student registration. New measures were introduced to encourage the mobility of researchers in line with the EU *acquis*, as well as to facilitate labour market access for their family members.

Member States extended family reunification rights to certain groups of third-country nationals (e.g. same-sex couples), revised the material requirements or waiting period for exercising the right to family reunification or improved access to rights (e.g. to employment) for family members.

More than a third of Member States introduced mostly legislative changes in relation to these aspects. Case law further influenced the practices of a small number of Member States, with regard to specific categories of migrants wishing to reunite with family or stay in the country (such as ex-spouses who are victims of domestic violence).

The Commission worked with the EU27 Member States to ensure coherence in the overall approach to the **departure of the United Kingdom from the EU**, while recognising the need for national flexibility.



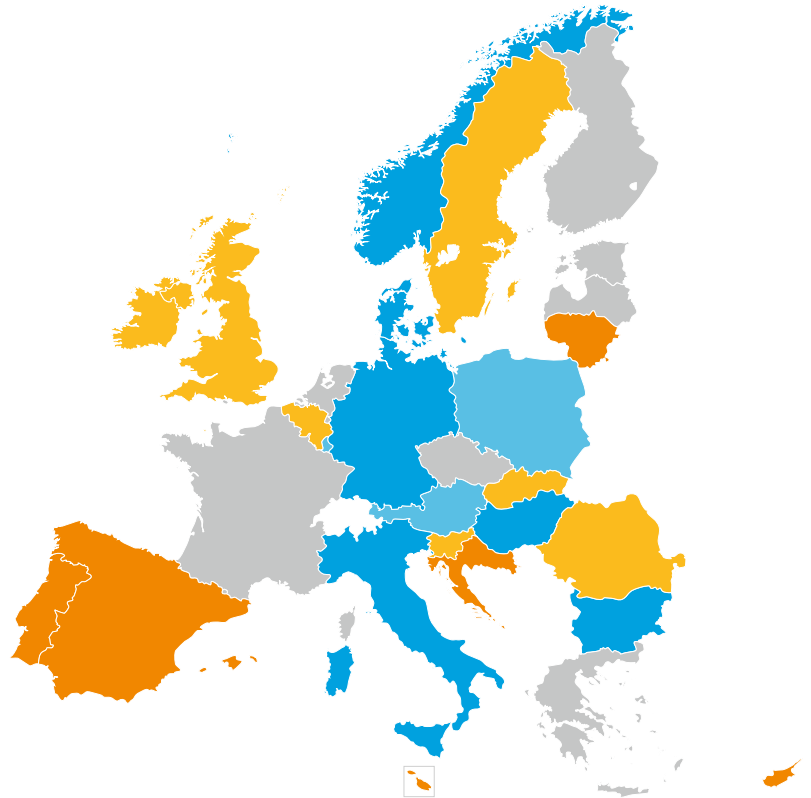
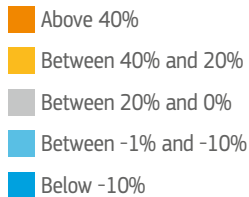
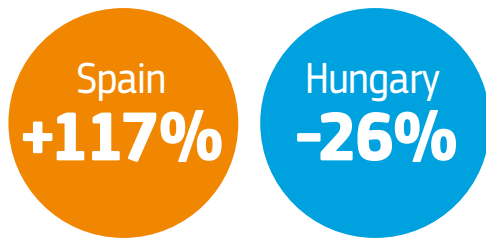
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

In 2019, 721 080 asylum seekers applied for international protection in the EU-28, an increase of 11.4 % compared with 2018 - the first increase in the number of asylum applications since 2015.

The New Pact on Migration and Asylum will relaunch the asylum reforms proposed by the Commission in 2016 aiming to find new forms of solidarity and ensure support to those countries under the most pressure. It will look at

Figure 2 – Variation of asylum applications in 2019 compared to 2018

Variation of asylum applications in 2019 compared to 2018



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza), extracted on 20 May 2020

ways to put in place a seamless asylum and return system as well as a more sustainable, reliable and permanent approach to search and rescue, replacing existing ad-hoc solutions.

Member States focused on improving the efficiency and quality of national asylum systems, as well as on adjusting reception and processing capacities in line with fluctuations in asylum applications.

Member States carried out **independent reviews** of the asylum procedure, new quality control tools were introduced and some undertook the digitalisation of asylum files. Staff training, including to improve quality and efficiency, continued to be a priority in many Member States, including training coordinated by EASO.

Member States adjusted their reception capacities, in accordance with fluctuations in demand as a result of increases or decreases in asylum applications. In Belgium, the establishment of a new reception facility gave rise to protests from (future) local residents and certain political parties, vandalism of buildings intended for reception, and racist comments posted on social media.

Box 2: The French Protocol for detainees who want to apply for asylum

In August 2019, France introduced a new protocol regarding the procedure for submitting asylum applications while in detention. The key objective was for the submission to take place while the foreign detainee remained in the detention centre, to ensure that the entire asylum application cycle could be managed remotely and in written form. First, the asylum seeker must contact the one-stop service for

asylum applications which has territorial jurisdiction over the detention centre, with a written request from the detention centre's facilities. Once the Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA) has processed the application, the decision is sent to the Head of the detention centre who in turn delivers it (in a sealed envelope) to the applicant. The prefect informs the detention centre separately of the outcome of the asylum application procedure.

Many **institutional changes in the asylum field** were reported, with the aim to further centralise the asylum procedures or to reallocate responsibilities across different bodies. Two Member States for example reported on developments to combine the accommodation of asylum seekers and the examination of their applications into one comprehensive process.

One third of the Member States reported changes regarding **access to information and/or legal counselling/representation**, in most cases entailing the translation of information material for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection into additional languages.

Five Member States also reported amending their list of **safe countries of origin**, usually by adding further countries.

Almost 30 000 people were resettled by a quarter of Member States and Norway. Those Member States that carried out relocation and resettlement activities usually did so in the framework of EU programmes, though national programmes and humanitarian admission scheme also played a role.

Most resettlement transfers occurred in the framework of EU programmes. The vast majority of resettled persons

were Syrian nationals; other nationalities represented included people of Congolese, Eritrean, Ethiopian or Sudanese origin.

Five Member States reported to have in place programmes for relocation of migrants under the framework of an

intra-EU scheme. These included France, Germany, Italy and Malta who signed the joint 'Malta Declaration' in September 2019, a joint declaration of intent on the disembarkation and relocation of migrants rescued at sea. Most Member States did not report any national relocation mechanism.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

The number of migrant children, including unaccompanied minors, registered as present in the EU remained high. More than 13 500 in Spain, 5 300 in Greece and over 6 000 in Italy were reported in 2019 according to EMN National Reports. According to Eurostat, in 2019, Member States and Norway received 17 225 asylum applications from unaccompanied minors.

Member States further improved the protection and care of unaccompanied minors by promoting inter-agency cooperation, issuing guidance on the best interests of the child and ensuring more child-friendly settings.

Some Member States also strengthened the systems of guardianship (for example by stepping up the training of guardians and introducing new forms of guardianship) and / or revised their age assessment approaches in favour of non-invasive practices. Overall, Member States continued to use the existing channels for communicating information to unaccompanied minors, with many updating and some introducing new websites, often translated in the languages most commonly spoken by unaccompanied minors.

LGBTQI persons and female victims of FGM were amongst vulnerable groups particularly targeted by national measures in 2019.

Almost half of the Member States reported developments in legislation, policy or practice with respect to vulnerable

persons, in particular LGBTQI persons and female victims of FGM, both those applying and not applying for asylum. For example, increased provision of training on gender and sexual orientation for case workers aimed to assist in the identification or safeguarding of LGBTQI persons.

Box 3: Training on sexual orientation and gender identity for protection officers in Belgium and France

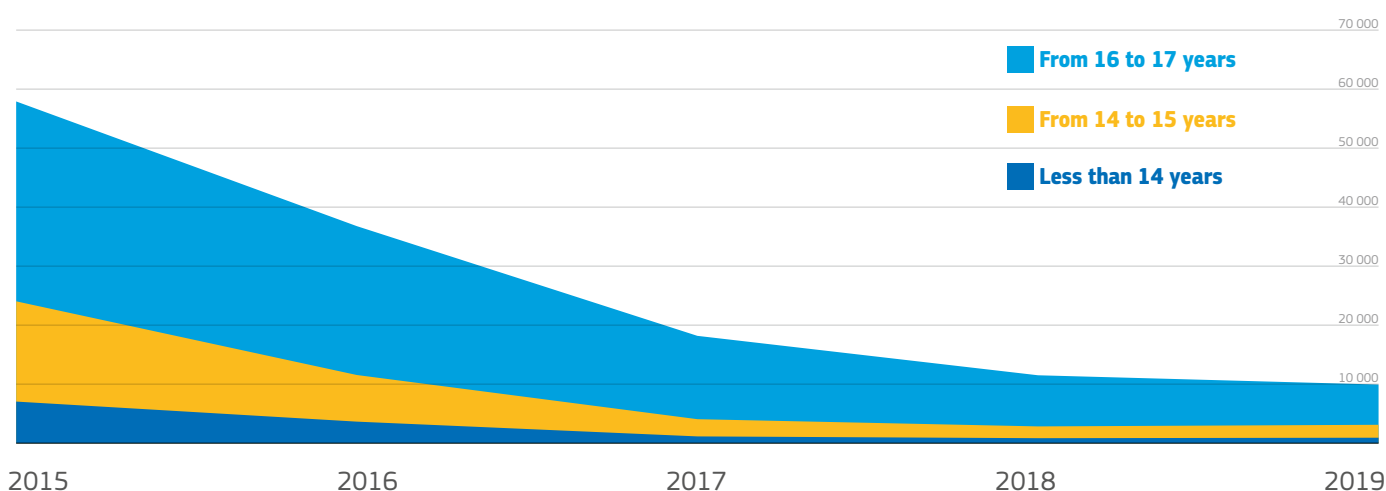
In 2019, Belgium and France held training courses for protection officers on the subject of sexual orientation and gender identity.

In Belgium, the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS) organised a study day focused on the contextualisation of country of origin information (COI) and aspects connected to the assessment of the credibility of sexual orientation related asylum stories.

In France, OFPRA ran training courses for reviewing protection officers (RPOs) on the subject of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. These courses were taught by the

thematic expert group on the basis of in-house documents drafted by external partners, including specialised associations for LGBTQI persons.

Figure 3 – Number of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in Member States and Norway by age, 2015-2019



Statistics 2019 not available for Cyprus and Spain
Source: Eurostat (migr_asynaa), extracted on 6 May 2020



INTEGRATION

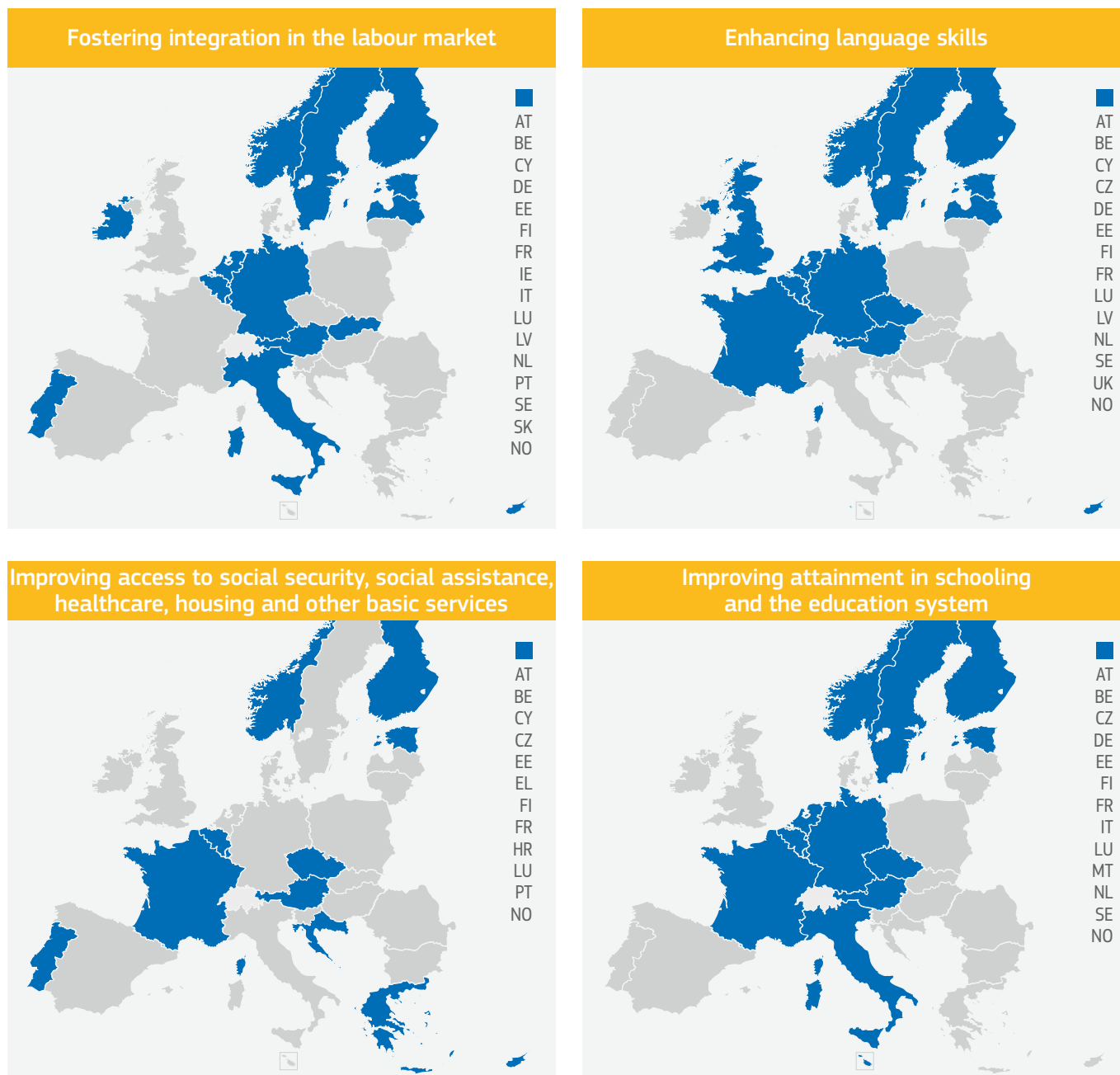
Developments at EU and national level focussed on socio-economic integration, notably labour market integration, language acquisition as well as education, with some Member States introducing mandatory policies and programmes. Member States' activities targeted, in particular, beneficiaries of international protection, children and young people.

The European Commission continued to support Member States in their integration policies notably through the work and activities of the European Integration Network, plus initiatives to encourage a multi-stakeholder approach to foster labour market and social integration at the local level. New activities in the year focused on labour market integration and migrant empowerment, as well as the

inclusion of migrant women and the social orientation of newly arrived third-country nationals. The Commission brought together national authorities responsible for all relevant EU funds (AMIF, ERDF, ESF etc.) plus intermediary bodies and key stakeholders, to discuss their strategies for integration.

Member States also focussed on socio-economic integration, in particular labour market integration, language acquisition as well as education. Several countries introduced mandatory integration policies and programmes, for example in Austria, Belgium, France, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Norway, requiring the participation of third-country nationals.

Figure 4 – New integration measures in the European Union and Norway



Source: European Migration Network

Member States also focused on promoting civic integration, non-discrimination approaches and pre-departure measures targeting prospective migrants.

Over a third of Member States continued to promote civic integration during 2019 through practices aimed at providing opportunities for third-country nationals to become actively involved in their host society as well as through new or revised civic integration- or orientation programmes.

Alongside direct support to migrants, a third of Member States focussed also on non-discrimination, whereby new policies and practices were most commonly aimed at raising awareness of discriminatory practices, providing policy recommendations and practical tools for municipalities and local authorities, and providing training to those working directly to promote integration.

Some Member States involved countries of origin and diaspora groups in information campaigns aimed at prospective migrants.

Box 4: Addressing racism and hate crime in Ireland

Ireland established an anti-racism committee, including membership from both State and non-State actors, to include a public sector strand to examine how public sector organisations can further implement anti-racism measures and an expert strand to consider how to develop a clear understanding of the nature and prevalence of racism in Ireland and how to combat it. A consultation on hate speech was launched as part of a review of the existing law in this area, and *An Garda Síochána* (the national police force) published its Diversity and Integration Strategy 2019 – 2021, which also included an emphasis on “enhancing the identification, reporting, investigation and prosecution elements of hate crime”.²



CITIZENSHIP AND STATELESSNESS

A Member State expert group was established by the European Commission to improve transparency and good governance around Investor Citizenship and Residence Schemes

The European Commission published a report on ‘Investor Citizenship and Residence Schemes in the European Union’ on 29 January 2019, outlining some potential risks (e.g. tax-evasion, money laundering), and established a Member State expert group to develop a risk management process and improve transparency and good governance in implementing these schemes.

Following Malta’s accession in December 2019, 25 Member States and Norway have now acceded to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons.

Member States introduced developments in relation to the acquisition of citizenship, widening access in some cases, including dual citizenship, while in other cases introducing restrictions on access.

Over a third of Member States and Norway reported on substantial legislative changes in relation to the acquisition of citizenship, focussing on extending the groups that were eligible to acquire citizenship, removing some previous requirements, introducing specific legislation for minors and to widen access to dual citizenship. In some cases, the changes introduced stricter requirements for citizenship acquisition. Other measures focused on improving procedures, notably through digitisation.

New developments in stateless determination, status and rights were implemented in almost a quarter of all Member States.

Developments included introducing new statuses and access to rights and benefits. Some countries introduced measures at the municipality level to improve advice and support to stateless persons on citizenship procedures and the registration process.

Box 5: Multi annual residence permits to stateless persons and their family members

Since 1 March 2019 in France, stateless persons can be issued a multi-annual residence permit, for a maximum of four years, stating “beneficiary of the stateless status” when they receive their stateless status. On expiry of this permit, under the new law, a 10-year permit will be issued. Family members of recognised stateless persons can also be granted a multiannual residence permit stating “family member of a beneficiary of the stateless status.”

The EMN published a new inform updating information on Statelessness in the EU

The EMN’s Platform on Statelessness continued its work on raising awareness and connecting relevant stakeholders and developed during the year a new EMN Inform ‘Statelessness in the EU’, updating the position since November 2016, which was published in January 2020.



BORDERS, VISAS AND SCHENGEN

At EU level, the new European Border and Coast Guard Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 came into force, strengthening the Agency’s mandate and capacity. Further Status agreements were initialled and signed between the EU and third countries.

Developments in cooperation between the EU and third countries to better protect the EU’s external borders, manage irregular migration and to enhance security took place in 2019, including the entry into force of the EU’s Status Agreement with Albania. Status agreements were initialled in 2019 with Bosnia and Herzegovina (adding to those

2 An Garda Síochána (October 2019) *An Garda Síochána Diversity and Integration Strategy 2019 – 2021*, p. 5. Available at: www.garda.ie

which were initialled in 2018 with North Macedonia) and signed with Montenegro and Serbia.

An update to the Visa Code (Regulation (EU) 2019/1155) was agreed by the Council in June 2019.

Based on the results of the Schengen evaluation process, the European Commission considered in October 2019 that Croatia had taken the measures needed to ensure that the necessary conditions for the full application of the Schengen rules and standards were met. Cyprus submitted its application to become part of the Schengen area in September and has entered a period of technical evaluation.

Over half of the Member States reported on the implementation of new technical measures aiming to reinforce border control and management of the external borders, and increasing their effectiveness was a priority for most Member States and Norway.

Member States upgraded existing equipment or acquired additional technical equipment with the aim to achieve more streamlined and efficient border checks. This included document readers, fingerprint scanners, and automated border control systems, based on biometric identification. Particular attention was given by some Member States to the improvement of surveillance either by upgrading technical equipment or introducing new surveillance methods. Legislative amendments in some countries strengthened authority to implementing ministries.

Six Member States reinforced their cooperation on border controls with third countries through bilateral or multi-lateral agreements, mainly with countries in the Balkans (Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia), Africa (in the Sahel region) and east of the EU external borders (Moldova, Ukraine) as well as Georgia and Uzbekistan.

More than half of the Member States and Norway reported on new developments in relation to visa policies, including the Visa Code and the Visa Information System (VIS).

Such developments included efforts to streamline and simplify visa application procedures via external service providers or through consular cooperation. Six Member States (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden), together with Norway and Switzerland established a working group aiming to compare, exchange and streamline visa outsourcing practices. Legislative developments to national visa policies were also common, with one third of Member States changing their national acts in line with EU requirements or altering visa requirements for certain groups of third-country nationals.

Several developments took place with regard to Schengen governance, plus Member States began to prepare for the implementation of the new Entry/Exit System and European Travel and Authorisation System (ETIAS).

Several Member States introduced internal border controls. In Austria this was due to concerns over secondary movements, terrorism risks plus the continued migration situation in Greece, Turkey and Syria; Germany continued temporary internal border controls at the German-Austrian land border due to persisting migratory and security circumstances. In accordance with the Schengen Borders Code, Sweden and Norway reintroduced internal border controls.

Member States introduced legislation and policies to develop their national ETIAS and Entry/Exit systems.



IRREGULAR MIGRATION INCLUDING MIGRANT SMUGGLING

Across the EU, 141 846 illegal border crossings were detected in 2019, representing a 4.9% decrease compared with the number of detections recorded in 2018.

This decrease occurred primarily due to fewer detections on the Western and Central Mediterranean routes.

Checks on misuse of legal migration channels and cooperation with third countries, including capacity building activities, were intensified.

A few Member States reported an increase in the number of persons refused entrance at the border from visa-free countries. Where required, Member States intensified checks on visa-free country nationals and increased cooperation with countries of origin to target the misuse of these legal migration channels. For example, as part of the joint operation “Coordination Points Air 2019”, border guards from various Member States were deployed to Kutaisi Airport in Georgia to provide advisory services during the pre-checks before departure.

Several Member States also adopted legislative or practical measures to reduce the misuse of legal migration channels by third-country national workers, students and researchers, as well as those arriving through family reunification channels. Policy and practical initiatives were implemented to combat the use of false travel documents, including the

provision of training to police officers and border guards in several Member States, as well as the introduction/upgrading of the technologies used to analyse travel documents.

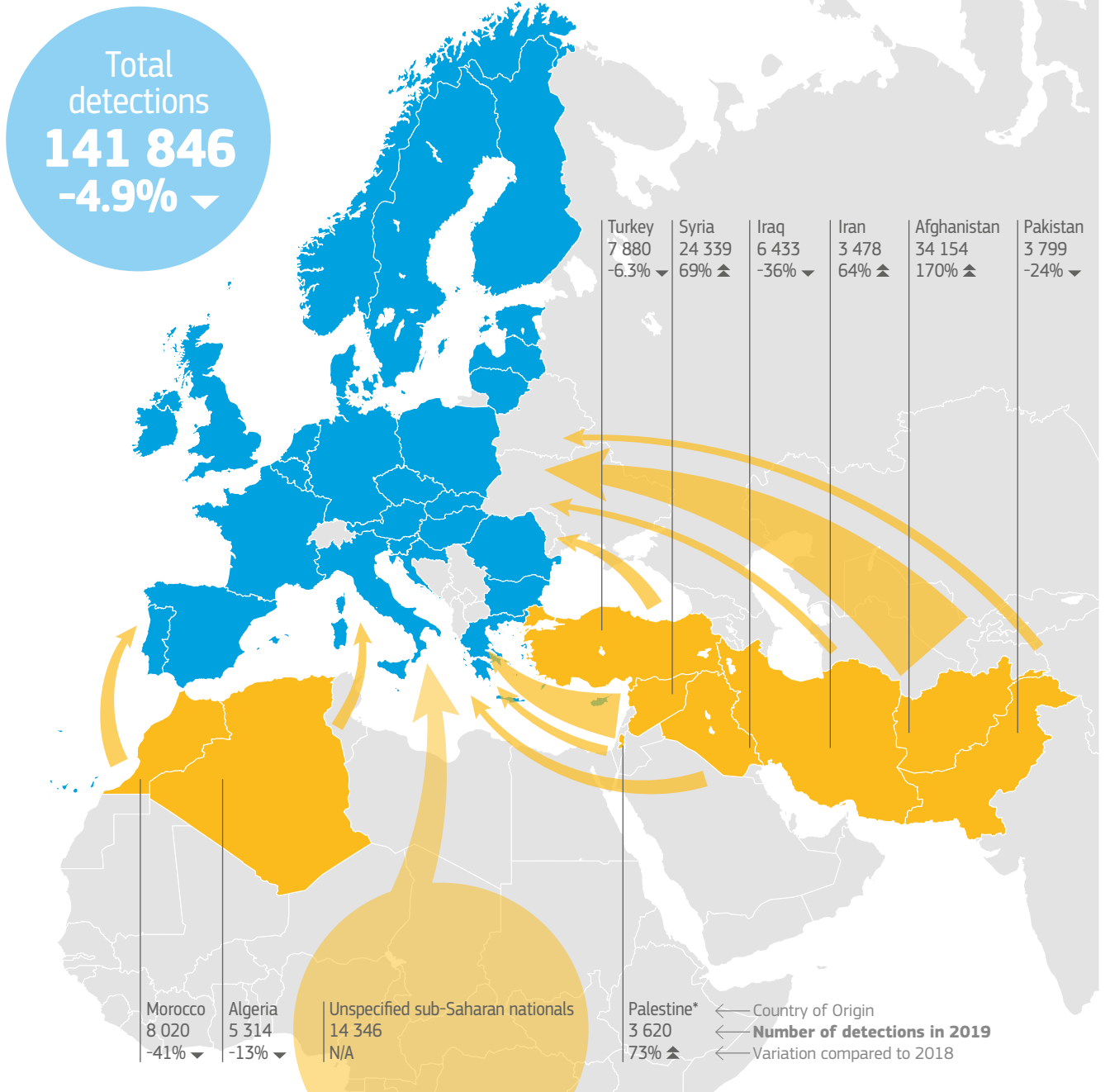
About half of the Member States as well as Norway introduced initiatives aimed at more effectively preventing, detecting and/or investigating the fraudulent acquisition and use of false travel documents.

Several Member States provided training to police officers and border guards to combat the fraudulent use of false travel documents. Technologies to analyse travel documents were also introduced or upgraded.

Awareness raising campaigns and increased sanctions against the facilitation of irregular migration and illegal stay aimed to combat migrant smuggling.

Member States stepped up efforts to prevent and fight irregular migration and migrant smuggling. The initiatives included awareness raising campaigns and capacity building activities in third countries, reinforcement of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in migration and security issues, deployment of liaison officers, cooperation with Frontex and EUROPOL and strengthening sanctions against the facilitation of irregular migration and illegal stay.

Figure 5 – Detection of irregular border-crossing between border crossing points. Top ten nationalities detected at the external borders



*The designation of Palestine shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

Source: Frontex Risk Analysis for 2020



TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

In 2019, the European Commission started the data collection phase for the Third Progress Report in the fight against Trafficking in Human Beings (THB).

The need to step up efforts to bring THB perpetrators to justice and to protect children against THB remained high in the EU agenda to combat THB. The protection of children against THB also remained high in the EU's agenda.

Most Member States revised their national strategic approach on trafficking in human beings.

The majority of Member States introduced new legal and policy measures to revise their national strategic approach to THB, either by adopting new legislation to step up the fight against THB, adopting or drafting new national strategies or plans to fight THB, including the protection of child victims, or by nominating new contact points/national coordinators for THB. Additionally, some Member States also increased their capacity to assist trafficking victims by opening new facilities and centres for these individuals. In practice, some Member States increased their capacity to assist trafficking victims by opening new facilities and

centres to host victims, taking account of their age and gender, and any special care needs.

Other developments focused on raising awareness, reinforcing cooperation mechanisms and the provision of assistance at national level.

Most Member States organised awareness-raising campaigns consisting of the distribution of brochures in several languages to NGOs, law enforcement authorities and (potential) trafficking victims, social media campaigns and the launch of new websites for example, in some cases, in cooperation with former trafficking victims.

Moreover, a number of Member States reinforced cooperation mechanisms at national level to better assist victims of THB, by adopting new guidelines for the provision of services to victims of THB and improving communication and cooperation among the different stakeholders involved. Additionally, Member States continued reinforcing cooperation on the provision of assistance to victims of THB at EU level, mostly through the participation in multilateral meetings (i.e. the meetings of EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinators and Rapporteurs) or action days on this topic (EUROPOL and Eurojust Action Days).

Some Member States reported on developments to enhance cooperation with third countries to combat THB. Most of the reported developments focused on the delivery of capacity building and awareness-raising activities.

Box 6: App “Acting against Trafficking in Human Beings” in Portugal

The Portuguese Observatory on Trafficking in Human Beings in cooperation with the NGO “*Movimento Democrático de Mulheres*” developed a free App for smartphones named “Acting against Trafficking in Human Beings” (ACT). The main objective of this App is to act as a digital tool to support professionals on the identification and assistance to THB victims in the framework of the National Referral System as well as to act as a tool to be used by the general public and potential vulnerable groups. The App will be available in Portuguese, English, Spanish, Russian, Romanian and French and will provide information on: a) General overview of what is THB; b) Legal framework; c) Main indicators; d) Contacts for the assistance and support to THB victims; e) How to prevent; f) Main resources; g) How to denounce.



RETURN AND READMISSION

Throughout 2019, the European Commission continued to work with third countries on the implementation of the existing 23 readmission instruments (17 agreements and 6 non-legally binding arrangements).

Negotiations of new readmission agreements (with Nigeria, Tunisia and China) were advanced and a readmission agreement with Belarus was finalised. The updated Visa Code was adopted by the EU Council in June 2019, introducing a provision (art. 25 a) linking visa policy to readmission cooperation. The enhanced mandate of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) now includes a role to support Member States’ activities, including on return.

In line with EU priorities, throughout 2019, Member States worked to speed up return procedures, prevent absconding and secondary movements and increase the rate of returns.

More than a third of Member States passed new legislation, mainly to simplify, speed up and improve the enforcement of return decisions. New developments included restrictions on subsequent applications by third-country nationals subject to an earlier negative decision on their admission or stay; tightening requirements to obtain identity documents from countries of origin; increasing surveillance of third-country nationals subject to return decisions; and simplifying return procedures for citizens from safe third countries of origin. Policy changes included a “return track” system to prioritise cases where documents for return were available and the third-country national was within a reception centre.

Member States introduced new legislative changes with regard to the issuing of return decisions and implemented activities to further support assisted voluntary return.

In the majority of cases, such changes aimed to further clarify the legal basis and scope of return decisions, whilst

others aimed to speed up or simplify their implementation. Amendments were also introduced to tighten national rules with regard to the issuing entry bans.

Member States extended the scope of assisted voluntary return programmes and national authorities further invested efforts in providing information regarding assisted voluntary returns including legal and psychological support.

Box 7: “Reach Out” project in Belgium

This project was launched on 1 October 2019 by the Federal Agency for the reception of asylum seekers (Fedasil) in collaboration with the *French Office français de l’immigration et de l’intégration* (OFII) and with the support of the European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN) and EURO CITIES, a network of major European cities.

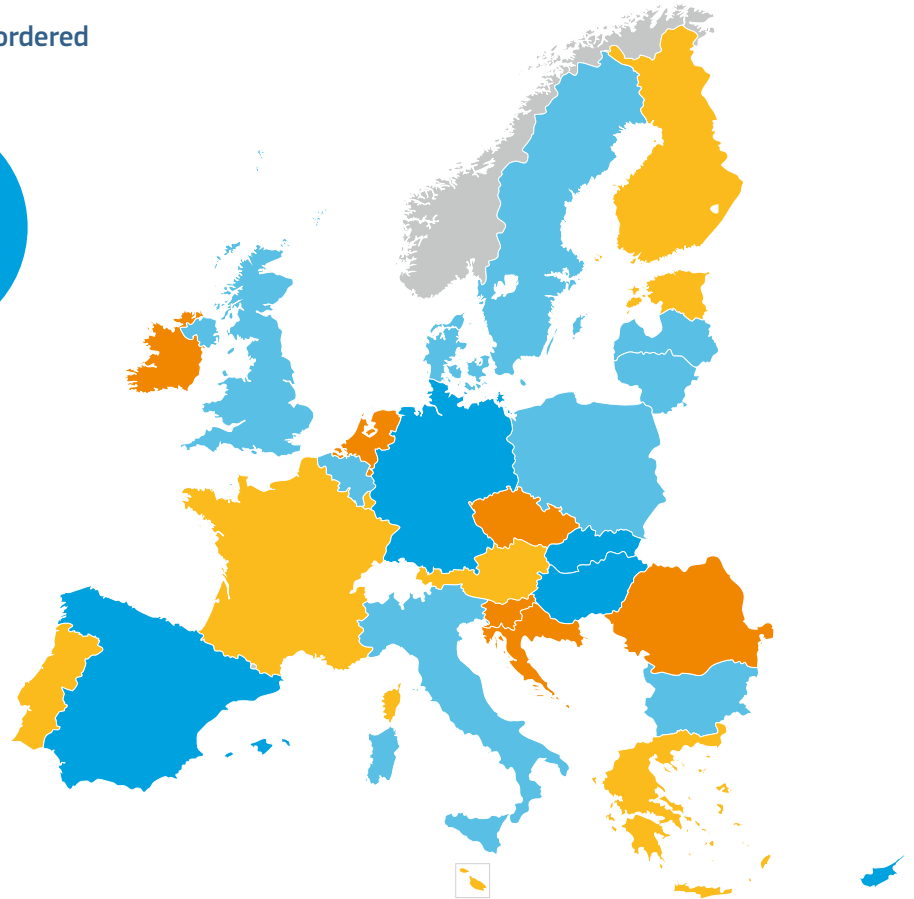
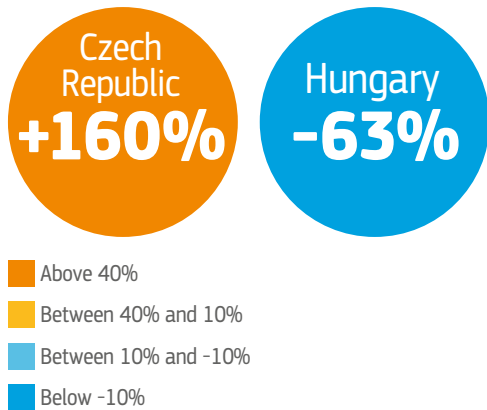
The Reach Out project aimed to build trust with undocumented and homeless migrants and inform them of their rights, and create a community of practice on outreach and return across Belgian and other European cities.

The use of alternatives to detention were expanded for specific groups whilst provisions for third-country nationals in detention were made stricter.

Eleven Member States adopted changes to their use of detention in return procedures. These included clarifying the criteria for placing third-country nationals pending return in detention or its alternatives, to minimise the risk of absconding and reviewing preventive detention of minor third-country nationals, in an effort to prevent them from going missing or becoming victims of exploitation. In some cases, detention capacity was increased, with corresponding positive results reported in Sweden. Other countries implemented new alternatives to detention, for example, for children over 15 years of age in the Netherlands, and

Figure 6 – Variation of third-country nationals ordered to leave in 2019 compared to 2018

Variation of third-country nationals ordered to leave in 2019 compared to 2018



Source: Eurostat (migr_eiord), extracted on 6 May 2020

following requests made by various human rights associations, in one case (Belgium) detention of families with children was suspended.

The majority of Member States reported cooperation activities with third countries with regard to return and readmission.

This included consultations and negotiations with third-country authorities, strategic visits to third countries to discuss and strengthen awareness of return priorities as well as negotiating/signing new readmission agreements. Awareness-raising on return was one of the main priorities, with activities being implemented both within the EU and directly in third countries.



MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Fourteen Member States and Norway reported on new developments in 2019 in the field of migration and development.

Measures were focussed on supporting refugees in third countries, engaging with the diaspora, and fostering regular migration and labour mobility. The actions targeted a wide range of countries across the Middle East, the Western

Balkans and Africa, with Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Ethiopia and Morocco amongst those most commonly addressed.

A third of Member States and Norway used national funds to implement actions aimed at facilitating migration and development with third countries, mostly to support efforts to protect refugees, displaced persons and people on the move.



FULL STUDY PUBLICATION

More detailed information can be found in the Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2019 as well as in the National Annual Reports on Migration and Asylum produced by each of the national contact points of the EMN. The most important developments and statistics per Member State can be found in the Country Factsheets produced by the EMN.

About the report: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports_en

About the National Reports: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/nationalreports_en

About the EMN: <http://www.ec.europa.eu/emn>



Keeping in touch with the EMN

EMN website www.ec.europa.eu/emn

EMN LinkedIn page <https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-migration-network/>

EMN Twitter <https://twitter.com/EMNMigration>

EMN National Contact Points

Austria www.emn.at

Belgium www.emnbelgium.be

Bulgaria www.emn-bg.com

Croatia www.emn.hr

Cyprus www.moi.gov.cy

Czech Republic www.emncz.eu

Denmark https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/authorities/denmark_en

Estonia www.emn.ee

Finland www.emn.fi

France <https://www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/Europe-et-International/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM3/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM>

Germany www.emn-germany.de

Greece <http://emn.immigration.gov.gr>

Hungary www.emnhungary.hu

Ireland www.emn.ie

Italy www.emnitalyncp.it

Latvia www.emn.lv

Lithuania www.emn.lt

Luxembourg www.emnluxembourg.lu

Malta <https://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/mhas-information/emn/pages/european-migration-network.aspx>

Netherlands www.emnnetherlands.nl

Poland www.emn.gov.pl

Portugal <http://rem.sef.pt>

Romania www.mai.gov.ro

Slovak Republic www.emn.sk

Slovenia www.emm.si

Spain <http://extranjeros.empleo.gob.es/en/redeuropeamigracion>

Sweden www.emnsweden.se

United Kingdom https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/authorities/united-kingdom_en

Norway www.emnnorway.no