



ANNUAL REPORT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM 2021

EMN INFORM

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This EMN Inform offers a concise overview of the main topics covered in the EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2021. This includes developments in the fields of legal migration, international protection; minors and vulnerable groups; integration; citizenship and statelessness; borders, visa and Schengen governance; irregular migration including smuggling; return and readmission; trafficking in human beings; and migration and development cooperation.



KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND DRIVERS ACROSS ASYLUM AND MIGRATION IN 2021

- The COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact the migration and asylum systems of EU Member States, Norway and Georgia in 2021, albeit to a lesser extent than in the previous year. Travel restrictions and health measures continued in most Member States. As the situation in relation to the pandemic gradually improved throughout the year, 2021 saw an increase in first-time asylum applications in the EU Member States and Norway of 28.2% in comparison to 2020.¹ The number of returns increased significantly, with an 80 % increase in voluntary returns and a 46 % increase in enforced returns, compared to 2020.²
- Political unrest in Europe and beyond, particularly due to the Belarus border crisis and the fall of Afghan government, exerted pressure on the asylum and reception systems of several Member States, which had to deal with these sudden (in)flows.
- The EU and its Member States continued to make steady progress on long-term priorities and strategic commitments on asylum and migration. In September 2021, one year on from the adoption of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Commission published a report taking stock of progress achieved and key developments in the relevant policy areas.
- The protection of vulnerable groups remained a key focus of legislative and policy measures. The EU Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2021–2025) and the EU Action Plan Against Migrant Smuggling (2021–2025) aimed to bolster the fight against migrant smuggling and human trafficking. The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child set out measures to promote the rights of all children, including migrant children, across six thematic areas. At national level, the EU Member States and Norway introduced new measures to reduce vulnerability, particularly of unaccompanied minors reaching adulthood, and to identify and safeguard vulnerable groups, such as asylum applicants with special reception needs.
- Migration management was improved throughout 2021, with efforts to make policies and approaches

1 Eurostat 2022, Asylum statistics, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/MIGR_ASYAPPCTZA__custom_2721614/bookmark/table?lang=en&bookmarkId=a28b6db5-466f-4d58-b51c-7cfd1c0f0213%0D, last accessed on 20 May 2022.

2 Statistics provided by EMN National Contact Points (NCPs). Statistics not available or not provided for DK, RO.

more efficient and effective. Several Member States, Norway and Georgia increased their focus on innovation, simplification of processes, and digitalisation of migration management across the different migration and asylum areas.

- Attracting and retaining highly skilled and qualified workers to meet labour market needs remained a key priority. The European Commission prepared initiatives

INTRODUCTION

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact the migration and asylum systems of EU Member States, Norway and Georgia, albeit to a lesser extent than in the previous year, and countries continued to adapt their policies and approaches in response to the changing situation. The number of asylum applicants increased compared to 2020, as did the number of returns.

In addition to the ongoing pandemic, 2021 was marked by political unrest in other parts of Europe and beyond, which impacted the migration and asylum systems of the EU Member States. The border crisis with Belarus necessitated a response at EU and national level. The European Commission proposed the Council Decision on provisional measures for the benefit of Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.³ At national level, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland each adopted measures to deal with increased border crossings, ranging from the introduction of (temporary) border barriers or other border infrastructure and deterrence measures, to the declaration of a state of emergency in the affected areas.

The fall of the Afghan government necessitated a similarly urgent response, with the EU and its Member States seeking to evacuate EU citizens and Afghan nationals and their families. The Justice and Home Affairs Council of 31 August 2021⁴ concluded that EU Member States could provide support in the form of resettlement on a voluntary basis, while prioritising vulnerable people, such as women and children. According to the European Commission, the EU and its Member States moved swiftly, with a total of 22 000 Afghans evacuated from the country in August.⁵

Despite these challenges, the EU and its Member States continued to make steady progress on long-term priorities and strategic commitments in migration and asylum

on legal migration, which were collated in the Skills and Talents Package adopted on 27 April 2022. In addition, the revised EU Blue Card Directive (Directive (EU) 2021/1883) aimed to achieve a level playing field between national and EU systems. Member States introduced a range of legislative and policy changes and strategies to fill labour shortages and increase their attractiveness to third-country workers.

policy. In September 2021, one year on from the adoption of the proposal for a New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Commission published a report⁶ to take stock of progress achieved and review key developments in migration and asylum. Strategies and action plans were adopted at EU and national level, setting the groundwork for further legislative and policy actions in the coming years.

The protection of migrants and asylum seekers, including minors and other vulnerable groups, remained a priority in 2021. The European Commission adopted the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child⁷ on 21 March 2021, including protection of migrant children. Member States took several measures to identify and safeguard vulnerable groups, such as victims of violence, particularly gender-based violence.

The EU Member States, Norway and Georgia continued their efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of migration management systems and related policies, including managing irregular migration and return. A continuous and accelerating trend is the focus on innovation, simplification of processes, and digitalisation for migration management.

Figure 1 presents an overview of the total number of third-country nationals currently residing in the EU and Norway, and their share of the total population on 1 January 2021. It also shows the variation in share of third-country nationals of the overall population from 2018 to 2021. In most Member States and Norway, the share of third-country nationals of the total population has remained relatively stable. As of 1 January 2021, third-country nationals represent 5.3 % of the total population in the EU Member States and Norway, on average.

MANAGING MIGRATION IN THE CONTEXT OF OLD AND NEW CHALLENGES

2021 saw several developments, challenges and opportunities in the areas of migration and asylum for EU Member States, Norway and Georgia. As the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic improved - to varying

degrees - throughout the year, 2021 saw an increase in the numbers of both short and long-stay visas issued by the Member States and Norway.

3 European Commission, Proposal for a Council Decision on provisional emergency measures for the benefit of Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, COM(2021), 752 final, 2021, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2021%3A752%3AFIN&qid=1638547296962>, last accessed on 2 June 2022.

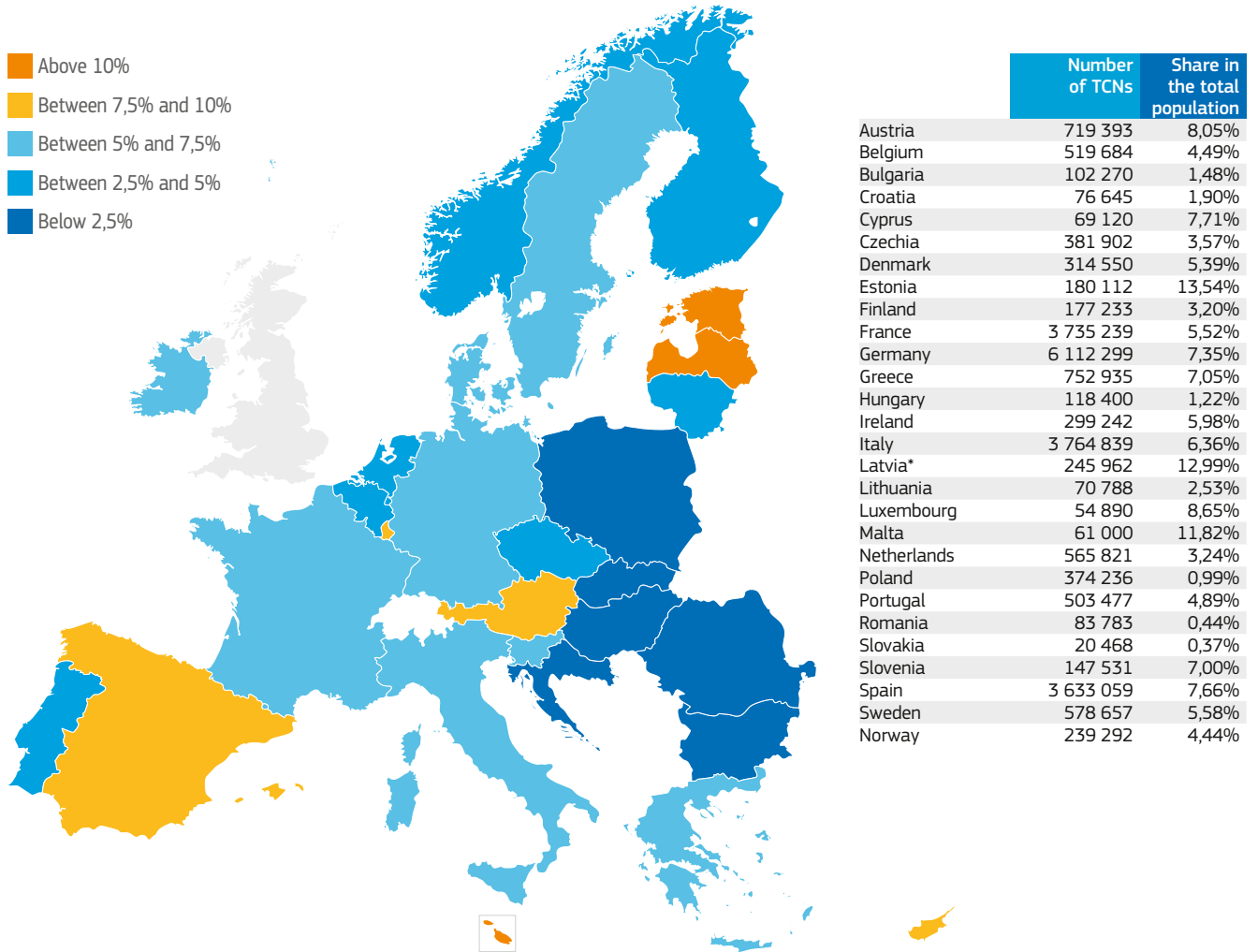
4 See: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/jha/2021/08/31/>, last accessed on 2 June 2022.

5 European Parliament Briefing, 2021, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/698776/EPRS_BRI\(2021\)698776_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/698776/EPRS_BRI(2021)698776_EN.pdf), last accessed on 2 June 2022.

6 European Commission, 'Report on Migration and Asylum', COM(2021) 590 final, 2021, <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/report-migration-asylum.pdf>, last accessed on 2 June 2022.

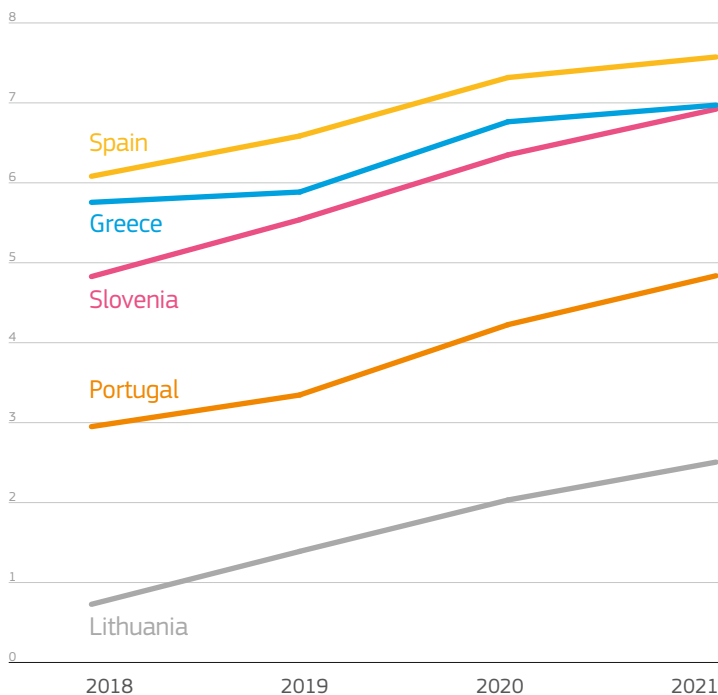
7 European Commission, 'EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child', 2021, https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/rights-child/eu-strategy-rights-child-and-european-child-guarantee_en, last accessed on 18 May 2022.

Figure 1 – Number of Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) and their share in the total population on 1 January 2021, EU and Norway



Change of % of TCNs in total population in 2018-2021

Top 5 countries by variation



| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2018-2021 variation |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|
| Austria | 7,79 | 7,82 | 7,87 | 8,05 | 0,26% |
| Belgium | 4,18 | 4,31 | 4,46 | 4,49 | 0,31% |
| Bulgaria | 1,08 | 1,22 | 1,37 | 1,48 | 0,40% |
| Croatia | 0,88 | 1,20 | 1,67 | 1,90 | 1,02% |
| Cyprus | | | | 7,71 | |
| Czechia | 2,83 | 3,10 | 3,27 | 3,57 | 0,74% |
| Denmark | 5,19 | 5,34 | 5,43 | 5,39 | 0,20% |
| Estonia | 13,46 | 13,47 | 13,51 | 13,54 | 0,08% |
| Finland | 2,76 | 2,89 | 3,04 | 3,20 | 0,44% |
| France | 5,21 | 5,22 | 5,44 | 5,52 | 0,31% |
| Germany | 6,68 | 6,96 | 7,23 | 7,35 | 0,67% |
| Greece | 5,82 | 5,95 | 6,84 | 7,05 | 1,23% |
| Hungary | 0,89 | 1,12 | 1,25 | 1,22 | 0,33% |
| Ireland | 5,05 | 5,49 | 5,94 | 5,98 | 0,93% |
| Italy | 6,09 | 5,95 | 6,02 | 6,36 | 0,26% |
| Latvia* | 14,07 | 13,75 | 13,41 | 12,99 | -1,08% |
| Lithuania | 0,73 | 1,40 | 2,05 | 2,53 | 1,80% |
| Luxembourg | 7,78 | 8,00 | 8,43 | 8,65 | 0,87% |
| Malta | | | | 11,82 | |
| Netherlands | 2,85 | 3,06 | 3,31 | 3,24 | 0,39% |
| Poland | 0,56 | 0,69 | 0,86 | 0,99 | 0,43% |
| Portugal | 2,98 | 3,38 | 4,27 | 4,89 | 1,91% |
| Romania | 0,31 | 0,33 | 0,41 | 0,44 | 0,13% |
| Slovakia | 0,32 | 0,34 | 0,36 | 0,37 | 0,06% |
| Slovenia | 4,88 | 5,60 | 6,42 | 7,00 | 2,12% |
| Spain | 6,15 | 6,66 | 7,40 | 7,66 | 1,51% |
| Sweden | 5,43 | 5,76 | 5,82 | 5,58 | 0,14% |
| Norway | 4,22 | 4,41 | 4,58 | 4,44 | 0,22% |

The number of first-time asylum applications rose to 535 000 in the EU Member States and Norway, representing an increase of 28.3 % on 2020, and bringing the total back to 2014 levels (before the large influxes in 2015 and 2016). The number of first-instance decisions (523 000) more than doubled from 2020 (212 970), of which 38.6 % were positive (i.e. applicant granted refugee status, subsidiary protection, or humanitarian status).⁸

An 80 % increase in voluntary returns was observed compared to 2020, with a 46 % increase in enforced returns and an overall significant increase in assisted voluntary returns.⁹ Germany, France and Greece reported particularly significant increases in the number of returns.

Continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration management

Similar to 2020, EU Member States, Norway and Georgia extended or implemented various travel restrictions and quarantine measures to limit the spread of COVID-19. For example, some Member States¹⁰ temporarily introduced an obligatory passenger locator form to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Member States reported efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among asylum applicants living in reception centres, through the use of quarantine measures and other measures, such as the provision of separate accommodation for applicants,¹¹ and requiring a negative COVID-19 test before accessing reception accommodation.¹² Portugal prioritised applicants for international protection living in reception centres as a group to receive COVID-19 vaccination.

In light of COVID-19, Member States¹³ amended aspects of the Dublin Regulation procedure, with some reducing¹⁴ and suspending¹⁵ transfers due to the closure of Schengen borders in response to the pandemic.

Some Member States¹⁶ adopted specific measures to address the impact of COVID-19 on the labour market and integration of third-country nationals. Ireland adjusted its employment permit eligibility for certain occupations in the agriculture, hospitality and transport/logistics sectors to address labour shortages. Portugal increased unemployment and other benefits to improve the social protection of all workers affected by the pandemic, including third-country nationals. Sweden increased resources for subsidised introductory jobs for newly arrived immigrants to support labour market activation post-COVID-19.

Conflict and geopolitical instability

2021 saw large increases in first-time applicants for protection from Syria (98 895 applications, constituting an 18 % increase compared to 2020), Afghans (83 760, a 15.6 % increase) and Iraqis (25 995, 4.8 % increase). Conflicts and political unrest in Europe and other regions (primarily the Belarus border crisis and the fall of Afghanistan's government) likely had an impact on the numbers of individuals seeking protection in the EU and Norway. Syria and Afghanistan remained the top two applicant nationalities since 2018, Iraq was in the top five during that period, and there was a large increase in overall numbers of applicants compared to 2020.

Following political turbulence in Belarus, the EU adopted restrictive measures in respect of the Belarusian financial sector. In response, in June 2021, Belarus began to organise flights and internal travel to facilitate the transit of migrants, primarily Iraqi, Afghan and Syrian nationals, towards Latvia, Lithuania and Poland,¹⁷ leading to an increase in the flow of irregular migrants at the EU's eastern external borders. Lithuania reported the arrival of over 4 000 irregular migrants at its external borders in the second half of 2021, compared to 81 in the whole of 2020. A state of emergency was declared across the three Member States and measures were taken to strengthen border surveillance, including physical infrastructure. Poland adopted a new act on building a border dam equipped with optoelectronic devices for monitoring the EU's external border in order to enhance security and border control. Latvia passed a law aimed at ensuring rapid and efficient construction of infrastructure at the external borders, driven by the increase in illegal crossings. In July 2021, the Lithuanian Parliament passed a resolution declaring that the mass influx of migrants constituted a hybrid aggression¹⁸ and asked the government to use the Lithuanian military to help to protect the state borders.

When the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan under the Taliban was reinstalled in August 2021, most Member States evacuated/offered protection to Afghans.¹⁹ Several²⁰ admitted Afghan nationals who worked for or cooperated with Member States' governments, the EU, the United Nations (UN) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), as well as any person particularly at risk, such as human rights activists and their immediate families. Member States adopted different approaches and measures to facilitate admission and protection of Afghan nationals. France put in place specific conditions for examining the visa applications of at-risk Afghan nationals who

8 Eurostat 2022, Asylum statistics, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/MIGR_ASYAPPCTZA__custom_2721614/bookmark/table?lang=en&bookmarkId=a28b6db5-466f-4d58-b51c-7cfd1c0f0213%0D, last accessed on 20 May 2022.

9 Statistics provided by EMN NCPs. Statistics not available or not provided for DK, RO.

10 For example, AT (pre-travel clearance), CY, CZ, DE, EE, LV, PL.

11 CZ, DE.

12 CZ, HR, PT, SI.

13 BE, DE, HR, NL.

14 BE.

15 DE, HR.

16 AT, IE, IT, SE.

17 See: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eastern-partnership/belarus/>, last accessed 1 May 2022.

18 'Hybrid threats' describe the mix of conventional and unconventional, military and non-military, overt and covert actions that can be used in a coordinated manner by state or non-state actors to achieve specific objectives while remaining below the threshold of formally declared warfare (see: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/it/MEMO_16_1250), last accessed 13 April 2022).

19 BE, BG, DE, EE, EL, ES, FR, HR, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SK.

20 BE, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, LT, LU, LV.

had fled their country, including applications for asylum and family reunification purposes, to rapidly respond to their protection needs. The Swedish Government removed the requirement that a person of concern must be in a third country before they could be resettled to Sweden. This meant that Afghans could be evacuated directly from Afghanistan, with the resettlement process finalised on their arrival in Sweden. Ireland approved the Afghan Admission Programme, offering temporary Irish residence to people whose freedom or safety was at risk, whether resident in Afghanistan or in certain neighbouring countries having fled from Afghanistan since 1 August 2021, and with close family members in Ireland.

Asylum system and reception challenges

These developments, combined with a general increase in the number of people seeking protection and specific events such as the severe floods in Belgium, all posed challenges to national asylum systems, particularly

in relation to reception. As highlighted above, the number of first-time asylum applications to EU Member States and Norway increased by 28.2 % compared to 2020. Cyprus reported that its national asylum system was overburdened by the sharp increase in arrivals by sea and by land.²¹ The Netherlands experienced a shortage of reception capacity due to the high influx of asylum seekers and the limited outflow of beneficiaries of international protection to regular housing. Belgium faced an unprecedented reception crisis, dealing simultaneously with an increase in applicants for international protection, the longer duration of asylum procedures, evacuations from Afghanistan, and the consequences of the severe floods in Wallonia. Croatia began the complete renovation of the reception centres for asylum applicants in Zagreb and Kutina that were destroyed in the 2020 earthquakes. Overall, these challenges necessitated new,²² or emergency reception facilities,²³ and the adaptation of existing facilities by increasing the number of beds available²⁴ or renovating reception centres.²⁵



NEW STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS IN MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

2021 was the first year of the implementation of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. The European Commission published its Report on Migration and Asylum,²⁶ highlighting progress made and setting the groundwork for legislative and policy actions in the coming years.

As announced in the Pact, the European Commission prepared legal migration initiatives that were presented in the Skills and Talents Package,²⁷ which was adopted on 27 April 2022. In addition, the revised EU Blue Card Directive (Directive (EU) 2021/1883) was adopted. The revised Directive allows Member States to retain their national schemes, while at the same time ensuring EU added value and a level playing field between national and EU systems. As noted above, the European Asylum Support Office became a fully-fledged European Union Asylum Agency (EUAA).²⁸

The EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion²⁹ that was adopted in November 2020 began to be implemented in 2021. In addition, protection of vulnerable groups and fight against trafficking and exploitation received a

strategic boost with the adoption of the EU Action Plan Against Migrant Smuggling, the EU Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2021–2025), Communication on the Sanctions Directive, and the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child.

2021 saw several Member States³⁰ draft or adopt new migration strategies. In Finland, the Ministry of the Interior initiated a project to define the long-term objectives of its comprehensive migration policy. In the context of increased migration flows, the project aimed to map social expectations of migration, identify areas of development, and prepare a policy framework to serve as a foundation for political debate and decision-making. The Slovak Government approved the 'Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic: Perspective until 2025', which defines strategic priorities in all main migration areas.

Several Member States and Georgia³¹ adopted strategies on the internationalisation of higher education. Georgia, for example, adopted the 'Study in Georgia' programme to facilitate the admission of international students to Georgian universities.

21 Through the Green Line, which refers to the demarcation line between the Turkish and Greek parts of Cyprus.

22 BE, EL, CY, LU, MT, NL.

23 FR, LU, NL.

24 BE, FR, HR, IT, MT.

25 HR.

26 European Commission, 'Report on Migration and Asylum', COM(2021) 590 final, 2021, <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/report-migration-asylum.pdf>, last accessed on 29 April 2022.

27 European Commission, 'Communication on attracting skills and talent to the EU', COM/2022/657 final, 2022, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2022%3A657%3AFIN&qid=1651223944578>, last accessed on 7 June 2022.

28 Regulation 2021/2303 on the European Union Agency for Asylum entered into force on 19 January 2022, transforming EASO into the EUAA, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021R2303>, last accessed on 29 April 2022.

29 Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0758&qid=1632299185798>, last accessed on 25 May 2022.

30 BG, CY, EE, FI, IE (part of Department of Justice Statement of Strategy 2021-2023), IT, MT, SK.

31 CZ, FR, SK and GE.



INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

The EU Member States, Norway and Georgia sought to find new or improved ways of managing their asylum and migration systems, including at the external borders of the EU and through cooperation with third countries.

Most Member States and Georgia introduced or proposed overarching changes to their migration system,³² organisational changes,³³ and/or legislative changes.³⁴ These changes sought to simplify administration, enhance cooperation between relevant actors, and strengthen operational capability.

In Belgium, the State Secretary and the asylum and migration services at federal level reviewed the functioning of the migration system. A commission was appointed to establish a new Migration Code, and additional funding was granted to the migration sector to recruit staff for

the asylum and migration authorities. France presented a new impact roadmap to foster the attractiveness of talent and support for higher education and research institutions in the context of strong international competition. In Sweden, a number of major changes to the Swedish Aliens Act entered into force, including modifications to the conditions for granting temporary residence permits, conditions for converting a temporary residence permit into a permanent residence permit, rules for family reunification and family formation, and rules for granting residence permits on humanitarian grounds.

Some Member States simplified their application procedures for visas and/or residence permits.³⁵ Poland, for example, established a streamlined procedure for granting temporary residence permits, with shorter processing timelines.



INNOVATION AND DIGITALISATION

As part of their efforts to improve effectiveness and efficiency, throughout 2021, Member States, Norway and Georgia accelerated their efforts to further digitalise migration management. Several Member States³⁶ planned or established new online platforms for legal migration, including digitalising the processing and issuance of residence permits. Croatia introduced an online application system for certain categories of permits to simplify and speed-up the process for issuing residence and work permits.

Many Member States reported using digital technologies to improve operational aspects of the asylum procedure,³⁷ with a clear trend towards the creation and updating of the digital systems used to process applications.³⁸ Other

operational changes included the introduction of new electronic registration systems³⁹ and new remote procedures.⁴⁰

In border management, Member States reported ongoing implementation of large-scale EU information technology (IT) systems, the EES and the ETIAS.⁴¹ Several Member States prepared or implemented legislative amendments or introduced new laws for the EES⁴² and/or the ETIAS,⁴³ or launched procurement procedures for IT systems and equipment for the Entry/Exit System (EES)⁴⁴ and/or the European Travel Authorisation System (ETIAS).⁴⁵ They also organised or established national units/entities responsible for the EES⁴⁶ and/or the ETIAS,⁴⁷ or participated in relevant working groups.⁴⁸



PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

The protection of migrants and asylum seekers, including minors and other vulnerable groups, remained an important area of legislative and policy developments at EU and national level. The number of unaccompanied

minors applying for asylum increased by 72 % in 2021 and represented 4.4 % of total asylum applications.

The European Commission adopted the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child⁴⁹ on 21 March 2021 to enhance the protection of children, including migrant children. The

32 AT, BE, CY, CZ, EL, FI, HR, IE, LT, NL, PT, PL, SE, SK and GE.

33 For example, AT, EL, FR, MT and GE.

34 BE, HR, MT, LU, PL, SE.

35 FI, FR, PL.

36 BE, EL, ES, FI, FR.

37 AT, BE, DE, FR, HR, IE, LT, LU, LV, NL, SE.

38 BE, CY, DE, HR, IE, LT.

39 BE.

40 FR, DE, SE.

41 AT, BE, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FI, HU, LT, LU, MT, NL, SE, SI and BE, CY, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, SE, SI, respectively.

42 AT, EE, FI, HU, MT, NL.

43 ES, FI, NL, SE.

44 EE, HR, LT, MT, SE, SI.

45 BE, ES, HR, LT, LU, PL.

46 LT, LV.

47 BE, CY, DE, EE, FR, LU, LV, PL, SE, SI.

48 HR, LU, SI (EES) and CY, LU (ETIAS).

49 European Commission, 'EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child,' https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/rights-child/eu-strategy-rights-child-and-european-child-guarantee_en, last accessed on 18 May 2022.

Strategy sets out measures in six thematic areas to address the rights of the most vulnerable children, including highlighting that migrant children should enjoy the same rights and level of protection as EU children.

At national level, some Member States and Norway introduced arrangements for unaccompanied minors approaching/reaching adulthood.⁵⁰ These new measures aimed to reduce the vulnerability of these young adults and to ensure that they were adequately supported by the relevant authorities. Member States also introduced different vulnerability assessment tools and procedures

to determine whether an asylum applicant has special reception needs, the nature of those needs and the support required.⁵¹

Finally, Member States took several measures to identify or safeguard vulnerable groups, such as victims of violence, particularly gender-based violence. Some introduced new accommodation centres for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) applicants for international protection, as well as for other vulnerable groups.

FULL STUDY PUBLICATION

More detailed information can be found in the EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2021. The Annual Report was prepared on the basis of annual National Reports on Migration and Asylum from 27 EMN NCPs (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Norway and Georgia) according to a common template developed by the EMN and completed by EMN NCPs to ensure, to the extent possible, comparability.

More detailed information on the topics addressed in this EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2021 may be found in the available annual National Reports on Migration and Asylum for 2021, and it is strongly recommended that these are consulted as well.

EU level updates were provided by the relevant units of DG Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission. The European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) were also consulted in the development of the EMN Annual Report.

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/networks/european-migration-network-emn/emn-publications/emn-annual-reports_en

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

50 EL, ES, FR, IE, IT, NL and NO.

51 CY, DE, IE, HR, LU, MT, SK.



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Croatia <https://emn.gov.hr/>

Cyprus www.moi.gov.cy/moi/crmd/emnncpc.nsf/home/home?opendocument

Czechia www.emncz.eu

Denmark www.justitsministeriet.dk/

Estonia www.emn.ee/

Finland www.emn.fi/in_english

France www.immigration.interieur.gouv.fr/Europe-et-International/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM3/Le-reseau-europeen-des-migrations-REM2

Germany <https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/EMN/emn-node.html>

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

Hungary www.emnhungary.hu/en

Ireland www.emn.ie/

Italy www.emnitalyncp.it/

Latvia www.emn.lv/en/home/

Lithuania www.emn.lt/en/

Luxembourg <https://emnluxembourg.uni.lu/>

Malta <https://emn.gov.mt/>

The Netherlands <https://www.emnnetherlands.nl/>

Poland <https://www.gov.pl/web/europejska-siec-migracyjna>

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

Romania <https://www.mai.gov.ro/>

Spain <https://extranjeros.inclusion.gob.es/emn-spain/>

Slovak Republic <https://emn.sk/en/>

Slovenia <https://emm.si/en/>

Sweden <http://www.emnsweden.se/>

Norway <https://www.udi.no/en/statistics-and-analysis/european-migration-network---norway>

Georgia https://migration.commission.ge/index.php?article_id=1&clang=1

Republic of Moldova <http://bma.gov.md/en>