

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 24th Edition provides information from July 2018 to September 2018, including the (latest) relevant published statistics.

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

[1. General policy developments](#); [2. Implementation of the Common European Asylum System](#); [3. Unaccompanied Minors and Vulnerable Groups](#); [4. Legal migration and Integration](#); [5. Management of EU external borders](#); [6. Irregular migration and return](#); [7. Actions Addressing Trafficking in Human Beings](#); [8. External dimension](#); [Annex on EU & Complementary Statistics, Additional information, other EMN outputs and upcoming events.](#)

SPECIAL NOTE

On 12 September, the European Commission [announced](#) new proposals in the fields of migration and external action during the annual State of the Union speech. The new initiatives aim to:

- ★ [Support](#) the effective management of the EU's external borders by increasing the operational staff of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, creating a standing corps of 10 000 border guards with better equipment and executive powers;
- ★ [Review](#) the rules on return to reinforce the effectiveness of the EU's return policy. Some of the core objectives include the removal of obstacles in the application of the 2008 Return Directive, ensuring simple and transparent procedures, as well as protecting the returnees and their fundamental rights;
- ★ [Facilitate](#) the work of the EU Agency for Asylum (EASO) by providing it with enhanced staff, tools and financial means in order to assist Member States in a more effective and efficient way throughout the asylum procedure;
- ★ [Enhance](#) legal pathways to Europe through a new EU Blue Card, a more efficient resettlement scheme and cooperation with African countries through pilot projects aiming at reducing irregular migration.

1. GENERAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

In August, Greece and Spain received further emergency assistance to respond to the migratory pressure. On 1 August, the European Commission [supported](#) the improvement of reception conditions in Greece with additional € 37.5 million and on 2 August [awarded](#) € 3 million to Spain mainly to cover costs related to additional staff deployed in the borders.

- ★ On 2 July, the European Commission [announced](#) € 45.6 million in emergency assistance to Spain and Greece as a response to the increasing challenges in the migration field. Increased arrivals in both countries call for improvements in reception conditions and the quality of return facilities and infrastructure for return transfers. This emergency funding awarded € 20 million to the UNHCR in Greece and € 25.6 million to the Spanish Red Cross, Ministry of Employment and Social Security and to the Ministry of Interior.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

★ **Germany:** On 17 August, the Federal Minister of the Interior, Building and Community and its Greek counterpart reached an agreement to allow a closer cooperation in terms of rejection at the border and family reunification cases under the Dublin III Regulation. If an internal border check at the German-Austrian border reveals that an asylum applicant has already lodged an asylum application in Greece, it will be possible for Germany to return the person concerned directly to Greece within 48 hours on the basis of this agreement. This does not apply to unaccompanied minors. In return, Germany is prepared to speed up the process of family reunification by the end of 2018. Both sides confirmed their commitment to continue working towards common European solutions and their mutual solidarity and support in case of future migratory challenges.

On 6 August, Germany and Spain reached the same agreement, which entered into force on 11 August.

★ **France:** On 10 September, the [law n°2018-778](#) “for a managed migration and an effective right of asylum and a successful integration” was published. It has three main objectives: firstly, to strengthen the protection of the persons by improving the residence right for vulnerable persons and reforming the integration policy; secondly, to converge the procedures with the European law and practices (e.g. accelerated asylum seeker processing); and thirdly by adapting the French law to the operational realities to improve return policy.

★ **Ireland:** The Department of Justice and Equality launched a consultation process on draft National Standards for accommodation offered to people in the protection process. The feedback will inform the development of the final National Standards, which will apply to all service providers contracted by the Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) to operate and manage accommodation centres.

Estimates show highest net inward migration for Ireland since 2008. The 2018 Population and Migration Estimates released by the Central Statistics Office show that the number of immigrants has increased by 6.7 % year-on-year, from 84 600 in 2017 to 9 300 in 2018. 593 600 non-Irish nationals were resident in Ireland in April 2018, accounting for 12.2 % of the overall population.

★ **Italy:** In July 2018, the Minister of the Interior presented his policy programme on migration and security in front of the Constitutional affairs commissions of the lower and higher chambers. He insisted on the need to reduce flows towards Italy by intercepting would-be migrants before they reach European soil. Along the same line, he emphasised the need to collaborate with Libya, notably to increase the country's standards in human rights matters. To complete the framework, the Ministry of the Interior proposed to increase the number of detention centres holding migrants pending deportation as well as to increase the number of offenses leading to expulsion sanctions.

In line with this programme, a decree on security and immigration is foreseen to be approved in October 2018. The text aims at fixing some of the systems' shortcomings. The innovations introduced are to improve security whilst guaranteeing access to protection for those in need. They notably consist in prolonging the possible duration of stays in detention centres to ease returns and in the identification of a definite list of objective motives for which one may be granted protection.

★ **The Netherlands:** During the reporting period, the [asylum process](#) of two Armenian children elicited discussions on extending Children's Pardon (the regulation meant for long-term residing children of asylum seekers or unaccompanied minors who do not have a residence permit). In May 2008, the children and their mother applied for an asylum permit. Although the request was denied, the mother of the children appealed several times. Nevertheless, after several decrees the judgment towards the mother and children was that they had to return to Armenia. The mother returned to Armenia on 14 August 2017 and on 8 September 2018 the children had to return as well. Shortly before departure, due to developments in the case, the Minister of Migration used his discretionary power to decide that the children could stay in the Netherlands. However, the Minister of Migration and the Prime Minister emphasised that the current regulations on long-term residing children will be maintained, meaning that the Children's Pardon will not be extended. In addition, a commission of inquiry will research whether all organisations involved have acted in accordance with the legal and regulatory provisions in this specific case. Also, another independent commission of inquiry has been established to research the emergence of long-term stay of migrants and the stacking of procedures in general.

In a [letter](#) of 5 July, the Minister presented a timetable for the expected proposals for introducing greater flexibility in the asylum chain. This is part of the 'Comprehensive agenda on Migration' presented by the government. In this agenda, the policy intentions as stated in the coalition agreement are linked by means of six connected pillars. The goal is to implement a more flexible and comprehensive asylum system. Some of the measures are: the development of communal locations for aliens, a common schedule for the asylum process between chain partners, and proposals to accelerate the asylum process in accordance with European rules.

On 11 September, the Minister of Migration informed of the [intention](#) to modernise nationality rights as part of the Coalition Agreement of 10 October 2017. The modernisation includes: (1) an extension of the possibility to possess multiple nationalities for future first generation immigrants and emigrants, and (2) a mandatory moment of choice in which the children of those future generations should choose one nationality. In order to modernise the nationality rights, a legislative proposal has to be implemented, most probably in 2019.



2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 20 August, the European Commission [committed](#) € 9 million in emergency assistance to support healthcare provision for asylum seekers in Italy. Around 42 000 people in need and especially vulnerable groups could benefit from this financial aid across different Italian regions.

- ★ According to a [survey](#) conducted by the Pew Research Centre, released on 19 September, the majority of Europeans citizens are positive towards the idea of receiving refugees from countries where there is war and violence. However, they disapprove the way the EU is dealing with the refugee issue.

Relocation and Resettlement

- ★ On 31 August, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) [urged](#) Greece to transfer people from the Moria hotspot to the mainland due to bad living conditions and overcrowding. On 18 September, the Greek government [announced](#) that it will move around 2 000 asylum-seekers from the island Lesbos to the mainland by the end of September.

Judgment of the European Court of Justice – [Case C-369/17](#)

On 13 September, the Court of Justice ruled that an individual, who is deemed to have 'committed a serious crime', should not be excluded from eligibility for subsidiary protection on the basis of the sole criterion of the penalty provided for a specific crime under national law. The authority or national court that is responsible for the application for subsidiary protection should further investigate the case in order to assess the seriousness of the crime.

LATEST RELEVANT STATISTICS

- ★ On 20 September, Eurostat published its [quarterly report on asylum](#). The first-time asylum applicants in the EU decreased by 12% in the second quarter of 2018 compared with the same quarter of 2017. Out of 151 000 asylum applications, 137 000 (91%) were first-time applicants. Syrian, Afghan and Iraqi were the top 3 citizenships of asylum seekers, lodging 18 300, 9 200 and 8 400 applications respectively. The highest number of first-time asylum applicants in the second quarter of 2018 was registered in Germany (33 700, or 25 % of all applicants), followed by France (26 100, or 19 %), Greece (16 300, or 12 %), Spain (16 200, or 12 %) and Italy (13 700, or 10 %).

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** On 14 August, the Act Amending the Aliens Law 2018¹ was passed in the Austrian National Council, amending – among others – the Settlement and Residence Act, the Aliens Police Act 2005, the Asylum Act 2005, the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum Procedures Act, the Citizenship Act 1985 as well as the Federal Basic Care Act 2005.

One of the main goals of the Act Amending the Aliens Law 2018 was the transposition of Directive 2016/801 (students and researchers) into Austrian national law. Besides the mentioned transposition, the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum Procedures Act was adapted in order to establish new provisions. Now, authorities are allowed to evaluate data carriers of asylum seekers and confiscate cash of foreigners of up to € 840.² Furthermore, the period for appeal was changed for certain procedures according to the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum Procedures Act.

The new provision in the Federal Basic Care Act 2005 foresees that asylum seekers receiving support according to this law are now obliged to contribute to the costs of the support by means of their confiscated cash.³

The adapted Aliens Police Act 2005 now includes penal provisions regarding unlawful stay in Austria despite a valid entry ban or a prohibition of stay after having left Austria because of such decisions. In such cases a fine from € 5.000 Euro to € 15.000 or imprisonment of up to six weeks can be imposed.⁴

¹ BGBl. I Nr. 56/2018.

² Para 35a, 39a and 39 Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum Procedures Act.

³ Para 2 subpara 1b Federal Basic Care Act 2005.

⁴ Para 120 subpara 1c Aliens Police Act 2005.

The Asylum Act 2005 was adapted regarding the cessation of the asylum status. Where concrete indications exist, such as travelling to the country of origin or the application and issuing of a passport of the country of origin, a withdrawal procedure has to be initiated.⁵

The Citizenship Act 1985 was adapted as well, rising the waiting period for the Austrian citizenship to ten years for persons with asylum status.⁶

★ **Croatia:** On 4 July, the Ordinance on the participation in the payment of accommodation costs of asylum seekers, persons granted subsidiary protection and persons granted international protection (Official Gazette 59/2018) entered into force on grounds of the Act on International and Temporary Protection.

★ **Cyprus:** In 2018, Cyprus has been subject to severe migratory pressures, predominantly from persons in need of international protection. The latest statistical data confirm that Cyprus is one of the top receiving Member States in ratio to its population. During the first eight months of 2018, international protection applications continued to show an increasing trend, namely 55% higher than in the corresponding period of 2017. In August 2018, the pending cases were 5 257 compared to 2 262 pending cases in August 2017.

★ **Germany:** The draft law of 1 August amending the Asylum Act provides that applicants for international protection are not only required to cooperate in the asylum procedure, but also if a revocation or a withdrawal procedure has to be conducted. In case of a refusal of cooperation, the draft law also includes a penalty payment. Interior Minister Horst Seehofer further explained that the asylum decisions which have particularly been taken between 2015 and 2017 should be reviewed.

On 1 August, following extensive discussions, the first so-called 'anchor centre' (Centre for Arrival, Decision and Return) was launched in Bavaria. According to Interior Minister Horst Seehofer, the so-called anchor centres should, inter alia, speed up the expulsion of asylum seekers whose applications have been rejected. Until their right to stay is determined, the asylum applicants will be housed in these centres. These facilities are part of the 'Migration Master Plan' which was submitted by the Interior Minister and discussed within the Government coalition in July 2018.

In summer 2018, an unprecedented number of 850 rejected asylum seekers enjoyed the protection of the church. As a matter of fact, the practice of church asylum is discussed controversially not only in the public but also within the churches. According to some politicians, the church asylum can be considered as a threat to the rule of law and the separation of powers. Even though an agreement was reached between the churches and the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, some politicians have become increasingly uncompromising towards this practice. Hence, the district administration of Rhein-Hunsrück-Kreis filed a complaint against nine pastors who provided a shelter for rejected asylum seekers.

★ **Finland:** The Finnish Immigration Service updated its [decision-making practices](#) with regard to asylum seekers from Afghanistan. The update was performed because, on 30 August 2018, UNHCR published its guidelines on assessing the need for international protection of asylum seekers from Afghanistan.

On 3 July, the Ministry of Interior launched a [project](#) to investigate and draft possible amendments to the Aliens Act concerning the processing of subsequent applications for international protection and the implementation of the Finnish Immigration Service's decisions enabled by the EU Asylum Procedures Directive. In connection with this project, an amendment required by the Court of Justice of the European Union will also be made to the Aliens Act. Under this amendment, the base date for assessing a refugee's age in family reunification cases should be the date on which the application for international protection was submitted.

So far in 2018, about 2 300 persons have [applied](#) for asylum this year. About 1 100 of the applications are from applicants who have previously received at least one asylum decision. By the end of July, the largest number of subsequent applications was submitted by Iraqis (about 710 applications), who are the largest group of asylum seekers in Finland.

★ **The Netherlands:** On 17 August, following the publication of a new country report, changes in policy for asylum applicants from China were [announced](#). The report stated that the situation of political opponents, human rights lawyers and political dissidents has deteriorated. On this basis, the Minister of

Judgment of the European Court of Justice – [Case C-585/16](#)

In its judgement of 25 July, the Court of Justice ruled that Palestinians that have been granted refugee status from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and are beneficiaries of effective protection or assistance from the agency are not entitled to refugee status under EU law. If, however, a Palestinian is at serious risk, cannot receive UNRWA's assistance and had to leave the UNRWA area of operations, that person could obtain refugee status in the EU.

⁵ Para 7 subpara 2 Asylum Act 2005.

⁶ Para 11a subpara 7 Citizenship Act 1985.

Migration concluded that these specific groups are now seen as a risk group, making it easier for aliens to obtain an asylum permit if they make it plausible they are part of one of these groups.

On 31 July, changes in policy for asylum applicants from Iraq were [adopted](#). For example, stateless Palestinians from Iraq, with the exception of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, are now viewed as a vulnerable minority group and the definition of a 'single woman' was changed in accordance with the country policies towards Afghanistan and Somalia.

Judgment of the European Court of Justice – [Case C-213/17 X](#)

On 5 July, the Court of Justice ruled in the case C-213/17 X that where an applicant for international protection has been surrendered by one Member State to another Member State under a European Arrest Warrant and is staying on the territory of that second Member State without having lodged a new application for international protection there, that second Member State may request the first Member State to take back that applicant and is not required to decide to examine the application lodged by that applicant.

On 26 July, changes regarding the list of groups that are at risk in Somalia [took effect](#). Added to this list are: leaders of clans who support the government and politically active persons (e.g. important politicians, members of the Somali army, human rights activists and members of NGO's who attract the negative attention of Al-Shabaab). Beneficiaries of international protection who return to areas of Al-Shabaab are no longer viewed as being at risk of group persecution. However, as an individual, they are still at risk to be viewed as a spy and therefore should fear persecution by Al-Shabaab.

On 11 July, the Minister of Migration [informed](#) that asylum requests from Afghan families with minor children will no longer be rejected on the basis that

they could ostensibly choose to settle in another part of Afghanistan. This change in policy follows the recently published thematic situation report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Country Guidance Notes on Afghanistan from the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). The special asylum policy for Afghanistan will otherwise remain in effect. Various groups will retain their recognition as at-risk groups, including ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTI individuals, converts and Afghan journalists.

After two years of decline, the [occupation](#) of asylum reception services has increased in the past three months. As a consequence, the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) has taken about 2 000 reserve places at current reception locations into use that fall within existing management agreements with relevant municipalities. The increase in asylum reception is partly due to the fact that the housing of permit holders lags behind the objectives, caused by housing shortage.

- ★ **Poland:** By the end of June, 2 100 [applications for international protection](#) were lodged in Poland, mainly by citizens of Russia and Ukraine. The conditions for granting international protection were met by a total of 255 people. 1 300 received a negative decision and 1 000 proceedings were discontinued.

There is a growing number of Georgian citizens interested in living in Poland. In the first half of this year, applications for temporary residence permits were submitted by 4 000 Georgian - five times more than in the same period of 2017.

- ★ **Sweden:** In July, a new pilot project for the processing of asylum applications was initiated by the Swedish Migration Agency. The aim of the project is to speed up and increase the efficiency of the asylum procedure, and to combine the accommodation of asylum seekers and the examination of their applications into one comprehensive process. The pilot's ambition is that 50% of all new asylum applications shall be decided within 30 days. The project is based on an already existing method of sorting asylum applications into different tracks, depending on the characteristics of each case, which has been used since 2017. The pilot will be carried out within the Migration Agency's administrative region West, which includes the city of Gothenburg. The title of the project is "Asyl 360", which shall symbolise the pilot's all-encompassing perspective.
- ★ **United Kingdom:** On 3 August, [updates](#) to policy guidance on asylum seekers with care needs were published. These reflect changes brought about by the Care Act 2014 and to clarify expectations on the circumstances in which local authorities may be bound to accommodate asylum seekers with care needs.

Relocation and Resettlement

- ★ **Croatia:** In July, a third group of Syrian refugees, consisting of 24 persons, was resettled to Croatia from Turkey.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** On [15 July](#) and [9 September](#), Luxembourg relocated a total of 20 people of Sudanese, Eritrean and Somali nationality from Malta.
- ★ **Spain:** The relocation and resettlement processes continued to be carried out.



3. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 3 August, the United Nations Committee against Torture [ruled](#) against the expulsion of an Eritrean torture survivor from Switzerland to Italy under the Dublin Regulation. The Committee stated that the expulsion would be a violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment since the torture victim would be deprived of the necessary conditions for his rehabilitation.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Croatia:** By the Government Decision as of 30 August 2018 a new Protocol in dealing with unaccompanied minors has entered into force. With the Protocol more effective and efficient national system will be put in place in relation to unaccompanied minors.
- ★ **Greece:** In July 2018, a new guardianship law ([Law 4554/18.7.2018](#)) was adopted by the Hellenic Parliament. It foresees the possibility of foster care for unaccompanied minors among the mixed migration flows and the establishment of a state network of professional guardians, providing targeted support to this population, facilitating access to legal protection and basic social services as well as ensuring the assessment and determination of unaccompanied children's best interest and thus increasing their protection from trafficking and exploitation risk. For the first time in the Greek legislation on aliens, reception and asylum procedures, a guardianship system is established. The new law covers non-Greek nationals and stateless unaccompanied minors, as well as separated children and introduces the possibility to appoint a professional guardian. It also provides that a Best Interest Assessment and Determination with the use of specific tools should precede any decisions made regarding the minor.

Following the adoption of the law n. 4540/2018 (see [23rd EMN bulletin](#)), the three-month period foreseen for the smooth transition of the responsibility for the protection of unaccompanied and separated minors from the Ministry for Migration to the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity, has now expired. The two Ministries are currently working in close cooperation on issues concerning unaccompanied minors and separated minors. Since May 2018, Law 4540/2018 has been implementing in relation to unaccompanied minors who are accommodated in safe zones within the reception and identification centres (RICs), especially set up for them by the Reception and Identification Service and other agencies involved. Therein, unaccompanied minors are safe and spend their time with tailor-made educational and recreational activities.

The Reception and Identification Service, in cooperation with other agencies, is currently compiling a Standards and Procedures Manual for the protection of vulnerable groups, victims of human trafficking and gender violence victims residing in hotspots.

In the reporting period, the National Centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) continued to lead BID (Best Interest Determination) panels with other key stakeholders in order to review cases, under the DUBS scheme programme with the view to resettle unaccompanied children to the United Kingdom. Furthermore, during August, EKKA undertook an impact assessment for the 'Capacity building plan for strengthening quality of care in accommodation centres for unaccompanied minors' which had been initiated in November 2017. The assessment will partly inform EKKA's strategy on assessing and monitoring accommodation centres for unaccompanied minors.

In September, EKKA, as a partner in the EU funded (AMIF) Project "TRAM – Trafficking along Migration Routes: Identification and Integration of Victims of Trafficking among Vulnerable Groups and Unaccompanied Children", organised a training seminar in Thessaloniki, in collaboration with the Lead partner – ICMPD. The seminar was addressed to public stakeholders, such as the Reception & Identification Centre (RIC) of Fylakio, Evros and the Open Accommodation Facilities of the Reception & Identification Service and civil society organisations and UNHCR to discuss the outcome of TRAM research on identification of victims of trafficking.

- ★ **Italy:** In early July 2018, the Ministry of the Interior together with the Conference of the Presidents of Italian Universities (Conferenza dei Rettori delle Università italiane – CRUI) and the National Association for the Right to University Studies (Associazione Nazionale degli Organismi per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario – ANDISU) launched 100 scholarships for beneficiaries of international protection who were forced to quit their studies in their country of origin.

Moreover, Italy announced that € 14 million of Italy's AMIF allocation are to be used for the qualification and empowerment of the national reception system for unaccompanied minors, as well as the development of their inclusion pathways.

- ★ **Luxembourg:** The [Law of 20 July 2018](#) approving the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence enables victims of a forced marriage who were coerced to leave the territory to recover their residence permit through a simplified procedure.

Furthermore, the text foresees that victims of domestic violence can be granted an authorisation of stay for private reasons if his or her stay is necessary in regards to his or her personal situation or if required for the cooperation of the victim with the competent authorities in investigation or criminal proceedings. The same law also made female genital mutilation a criminal offence.

- ★ **The Netherlands:** On 4 July, the Minister of Migration announced that the Naturalisation Service (IND) will change the way it assesses the credibility of LGBT asylum seekers and converts. IND interviewers and decision-makers will ask asylum seekers about their personal experience, making it easier for asylum seekers to tell their own authentic story. LGBT cases will no longer focus on the awareness process or the level of self-acceptance. This shift in approach is the Minister's response to a motion in which the government has been asked to ascertain whether the assessment of this type of asylum application could be improved.
- ★ **Poland:** Around 878 [school-aged children](#) are currently within the procedure for applying for international protection in Poland. The vast majority have started a new year of education in primary schools during the reporting period.
- ★ **Sweden:** Between July and September, roughly 10 500 young migrants applied for a residence permit for upper-secondary school studies in Sweden. As reported in the last edition of the EMN bulletin, a new law that aims at making it possible for young unaccompanied asylum seekers, whose asylum applications were rejected, to apply for a residence permit for studies at upper secondary schools, was passed by the Swedish Parliament in June. This law (of a temporary nature) is expected to regularise the legal situation of several thousand young migrants who had come to Sweden as unaccompanied minors and had their asylum applications rejected following long waiting times. The time frame for residence permit applications under the temporary law ended on 30 September 2018.
- ★ **United Kingdom:** On 26 July, the Lord Chancellor decided to lay an [amendment](#) to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO) to bring unaccompanied and separated children back into the scope of legal aid for immigration matters.



4. LEGAL MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ No relevant updates.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** On 13 September, the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs and the Expert Council for Integration presented the annual [Integration Report 2018](#). A focus was put on the integration of women with migration background, a heterogeneous group, which requires differentiated integration policies. The report furthermore presents data on subjective impressions regarding integration and living together in the society, looking at topics such as the sense of belonging of persons with migration background.

On 30 August, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection has specified a contingent of 500 foreigners for the temporary employment in agriculture and forestry. This contingent was allocated to four of the nine Austrian provinces. Work permits were issued from 1 September 2018 until 31 October 2018. Foreigners subject to transitional provisions of the EU free movement of workers and seasonal workers who have been legally employed within the contingent in the last five years shall be prioritised.

By the exchange of notes on 13 August 2018 and 20 August 2018, the existing agreement between the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malta on the mutual representation in the process of issuing visa was amended. Effective as of 1 August 2018, the duty station "Caracas" was erased from the annex of the mentioned agreement.

By the exchange of notes on 22 May 2018 and 22 June 2018 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary and the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria have agreed to amend the annex of the existing agreement between the two countries on the mutual representation in the process of issuing visa. Effective as of 1 July 2018, the duty station "Addis Ababa" was erased from the annex of the mentioned agreement.

- ★ **Croatia:** The Croatian Ministry of the Interior strongly supports the opening of the "house for integration" and "house of encounters" by the Jesuit Refugee Service. These provide "Women for Women" workshops to prepare them for an independent life in the new surroundings, STEM trainings for learning of IT skills, and cultural events.
- ★ **Cyprus:** As of 27 August, a contract signed by the employer and employee must be submitted when applying for an entry permit of a worker in the area of agriculture/ livestock farming.

★ **Czech Republic:** During the reporting period, the Czech Republic extended two projects focusing on legal migration. As the Special Treatment Procedures for Skilled Professionals from Ukraine (Project Ukraine) for highly qualified workers from Ukraine proved to be very efficient, the same scheme was newly applied also for the highly qualified workers from India. The Czech Republic also extended the scope of project focusing on unskilled and medium skilled workers. As of June 2018, Serbia became an eligible country for this project besides Mongolia and Philippines. The main aim of both projects is to facilitate the lodging of applications for employment cards (single permit for the purpose of employment) at the Embassies of the Czech Republic.

★ **Estonia:** On 12 September, the Parliament of Estonia adopted [amendments](#) to the Citizenship Act expanding the Estonian language learning opportunities for people who seek Estonian citizenship. During the upcoming year Estonia will start providing the so-called citizen agreements for free Estonian language courses and for obtaining a paid study leave from work. People who have been living in Estonia on a legal basis for at least five years and wishing to apply for Estonian citizenship and who meet the main requirements set for the citizenship application procedure can sign this agreement.

On 15 July, the amendments to the Aliens Act came into force. The new amendments foresee that the top specialists are excluded from the calculation of fulfilment of the immigration quota. The amendments also foresee the prolongation of the short-term employment period in Estonia, permitting short-term employment for up to 365 days within 455 consecutive days unless otherwise provided by the Aliens Act.

There were additional provisions enacted which foresee that upon the extension of a residence permit for employment, the applicant is required to have the Estonian language proficiency at least at the language proficiency level A2, with some exceptions.

In July, a new [action plan](#) was adopted by the Ministry of the Interior in order to prevent illegal employment. In relation to the action plan new amendments were introduced to the Aliens Act and to the Public Procurement Act in order to prevent illegal employment.

★ **Greece:** In August 2018, the Migration Code was amended to include rights of stay of the family members of Greek and EU citizens stemming from their registered partnership.

In September 2018 and pursuant to Law 4546/18 (GG 101 A), the fees for the majority of third-country national residence permits and their renewal were reduced. This was necessary to harmonise Greek legislation with the EU legal framework and to preserve a stable economic framework for the residence permit system.

★ **Finland:** By the end of June, the Finnish Immigration Service had granted a total of about 6 500 [seasonal work permits](#). Since the beginning of this year, people coming to Finland to do seasonal work have been required to get a permit. The majority of them work during the summer season on berry farms and in agriculture.

★ **France:** As part of the inter-ministerial committee of integration which took place on 5 June 2018 in Paris, a [national strategy for the reception and integration of refugees](#) was defined. It focusses on seven priorities, which need to be implemented through concrete measures and suitable means: strengthening the management of the integration policy, involving each refugee in a reinforced integration pathway, improving the knowledge of French language and the access to training and employment for refugees, ensuring the access to accommodation for refugees, improving the access to healthcare for the asylum seekers and refugees, improving the access to the rights, encouraging the relations between refugees and France.

In September 2018, Pôle-Emploi (French unemployment agency) published a [booklet](#) with useful advice about job hunting for foreign nationals, translated in different languages (German, English, Spanish, Chinese, Dari (Persian afghan) Pashto (Afghanistan, Pakistan), Tigrinya (Eritrea, Ethiopia)). This booklet made for the new-comer job seekers or foreign nationals who do not have a good knowledge of French, presents the practical procedures and the role of Pôle-emploi, and informs the job seekers about their rights and obligations related to active job hunting.

★ **Ireland:** The Department of Enterprise, Business and Innovation published a [Review of Ireland's Economic Migration Policy](#). In the context of a changing economy and labour market, the findings of the report will inform an update of Ireland's employment permits system. Recommendations aim to allow the system to more easily respond to proven labour shortages in lower skilled occupations and include the introduction of a seasonal employment permit.

★ **Italy:** On 5 July, Italy announced that € 40 million of its AMIF allocation are to be used for language tuition and civic education for migrants over the period 2018-2021. A total of € 36 million shall be devolved to the regions and autonomous provinces whilst € 4 million shall support experimental training for vulnerable groups such as the illiterate, women and unaccompanied minors.

★ **Latvia:** In summer 2018, the Latvian start-up environment platform www.startuplatvia.eu, developed by the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia, commenced its activities. An informative site for foreign businessmen and investors will allow to get aggregated information about the environment of Latvian Start-ups, success stories, companies, contacts, events and opportunities.

★ **Lithuania:** The Migration Department reports that the number of foreigners coming to Lithuania for employment reasons continues to grow: Lithuanian authorities issued almost twice as many D visas for employment reasons in the first half of 2018 compared to the same period in 2017.

In cooperation with the visa application processing service provider, Lithuania expanded its [network of visa centres in Ukraine to 17](#). Due to the rising number of applicants from Ukraine, centres for visa applications were established in strategically convenient cities around Ukraine.

On 1 July, an amendment to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens came [into effect](#). These new changes will provide more favourable conditions for third-country nationals to enter and reside in Lithuania on the grounds of conducting scientific research or studies, volunteering or doing a traineeship/placement in voluntary service programmes recognised by any of the Member States. New changes include: possibility to stay after studies and look for job for a longer period (up to 12 months); residence period during studies will be counted in full when calculating the time foreign national has resided in Lithuania (previously this time was halved); family members of PhD candidates will be able to apply for a temporary residence permit with more favourable conditions.

★ **Luxembourg:** On 21 August, Luxembourg and Taiwan signed a '[Working Holiday](#)' agreement, allowing people of Luxembourgish or Taiwanese nationality between the ages of 18 and 30 to stay in the other country for the duration of one year.

On 13 July, the Council of Government approved the [National Action Plan on integration](#). The plan is based on two areas of action - the reception and social follow-up of applicants for international protection and the integration of Luxembourg's non-Luxembourgish residents – and on three transversal domains, namely access to information and interaction, the quality of services and national cooperation and coordination.

The [Law of 13 July 2018](#) broadens the school offer in Luxembourg to respond to the needs of the country's increasingly heterogeneous school population. It extends the European public school offer by putting in place three new accredited European schools with varied language education.

The Law of 28 July 2018 regarding the [social inclusion revenue](#), which replaces the guaranteed minimum wage, details that beneficiaries of international protection and their family members are exempted from the five-year residence condition that applies to third-country nationals.

★ **Malta:** The Ministry for Education and Employment set up an integration unit within the Malta College for Arts Science and Technology (MCAST). The unit will specifically work with NGOs, agencies, academics and the private sector to provide a variety of support to migrants, including advocacy, integration, professional service referrals, language and Maltese culture classes and outreach. Furthermore, the MCAST Integration Unit will carry out research on integration to inform internal policies and practices.

★ **Norway:** On 1 September, the rules for obtaining a residence permit for trainees in Norway were changed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Herewith, the Norwegian authorities wish to restrict residence permits for interns to those who are in need of practical training as part of their education. Various conditions for receiving this residence permit apply, including that the trainee must be studying for a Bachelor's or Master's degree, has not previously completed higher education at the same level and must be between 18 to 30 years old.

On 1 September, an [amendment](#) to the Introduction Act entered into force. The amendment states that training in Norwegian culture and values and training in the Norwegian language has become mandatory for asylum seekers in reception centres from 1 September. The municipalities have a duty to provide the training and are obliged to provide the training in a language that the asylum seekers understand. The duty applies to all asylum seekers who are above 16 years of age living in reception centers, inter alia excluding those subject to the Dublin procedure or an accelerated procedure.

★ **Poland:** At the beginning of July, as part of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Greater Poland Province Office in Poznań began the implementation of the projects "Safe Harbor" and "Greater Poland Common Aims". The main objective of the projects is to improve the quality of services provided to third-country nationals and to comprehensively upgrade the standards of integration services for third-country nationals in the Greater Poland Voivodeship.

★ **Portugal:** On 11 September, Regulatory Decree No. 9/2018 entered into force, changing the regulation of the legal regime of entry, stay, departure and removal of foreign nationals from the national territory. New schemes have been introduced for foreigners who wish to attend professional education courses in

Portugal and for entrepreneurial and highly-qualified immigrants, linked to entrepreneurship, technology and innovation

- ★ **United Kingdom:** In July and September, the UK government launched two new funding programmes to support the implementation of the Integrated Communities Strategy (published March 2018). The £ 7 million [Integrated Communities Fund](#) (a) will support approaches which build more integrated communities. The £ 6 million [integrated communities English language programme](#) (b) will support councils, charities and other providers who run new programmes which offer creative ways of teaching English to adults.



5. MANAGEMENT OF THE EU EXTERNAL BORDERS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 12-13 July, an informal meeting of home affairs ministers was [held](#) in Innsbruck to discuss various topics, including the effective protection of EU external borders and the EU asylum policy.
- ★ On 18 July and 20 September respectively, the EU reached an [agreement](#) with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and an [agreement](#) with Serbia on operational cooperation. The agreements foresee that officers of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency will be deployed in the two bordering countries. These agreements aim to protect and enhance security at the EU's external borders while improving cooperation on migration with neighbouring countries.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Cyprus:** Since the beginning of July, 74 interactive BorderXpress Kiosks have been installed at Larnaca and Pafos International Airports. This equipment provides the ability to passengers who are holders of machine-readable travel documents to scan the documents themselves and after being provided with the relevant printing, to present themselves with their documents before a Border Guard for final passport control. Among others, the above-mentioned kiosks have the ability to check passenger data as well as the security features of the travel documents, and with the use of face-recognition software, to proceed with the identification of the document to the passenger.

Following Article 3 of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (2016/1624/EU), the Cypriot police has the obligation to create a National Integrated Border Management Strategy. To this end, a Specialised Committee was established to develop a national strategy addressing issues of border control, risk analysis, search and rescue activities, etc. The development procedure for elaborating the above-mentioned strategy is yet in a primary stage.

The Cypriot police is now implementing the PNR (Passenger Name Record) which inter alia focuses on the improvement of flight security levels, the empowerment of the external border control, the prevention, as well as combating terrorism and other serious offences. The effective use of PNR data will be essential for the productive prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorism and serious crimes and for the empowerment of internal security of EU Member States.

- ★ **Italy:** On 27 September, the Italian Minister of the Interior met with Tunisia's president and Minister of the Interior. An agreement was passed between the two countries with a view to guarantee security and stem irregular migration.

On 5 July, the Italian Minister of the Interior announced the provision of 12 patrol vessels to Libya by Italy, with 17 more to come, in addition to training activities.

- ★ **Lithuania:** On 10 September, a group of 12 Lithuanian officers were deployed on a joint EUNAVFOR operation 'Sophia' in the Mediterranean near the coast of Libya. The main tasks of the operation include identifying ships that could possibly be trafficking migrants or weapons.
- ★ **Poland:** On 24 September, the Deputy Minister of Poland [participated](#) in a cornerstone ceremony of new Border Guard post in Dubieninki. The post in Dubieninki operates under Warmia-Mazury Border Guard Unit. The new post will cost more than 14.6 million PLN and is financed by the Programme for Uniformed Services Modernisation and Internal Security Fund. In the next three years, Warmia-Mazury Border Guard Unit will receive equipment worth more than 3 million PLN.



6. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 24 July, the European Commission [announced](#) the expansion of two concepts: control centres and regional disembarkation arrangements. The first concept aims to improve the distinction between irregular migrants and people in need of international protection, while the second one concerns disembarkation centres situated on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea along the coast where individuals will be divided into persons in need of international protection (possible resettlement to the EU) and irregular migrants (assistance throughout return and reintegration to countries of origin).

- ★ The latest Eurobarometer survey “EU citizens and development cooperation”, [published](#) in September, revealed that seven out of ten European citizens consider financial aid for developing countries as an effective way to address irregular migration. Overall, development cooperation is seen as a means to tackle irregular migration. Moreover, one out of ten of Europeans citizens view migration and hosting refugees as a challenge that is a pressing item for the future of developing countries.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Belgium:** Following the entry into force of the Royal Decree of 22 July 2018 on 11 August, [irregularly staying families with minor children can be detained](#) with a view to removal in family housing on the grounds of the closed detention centre of Steenokkerzeel. The families may only be detained as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.
On 17 July, the [Belgian State Secretary for Asylum Policy and Migration and his Tunisian counterpart signed an agreement](#) which focuses on cooperation regarding migration and the return of Tunisian nationals who are irregularly staying in Belgium (e.g. regarding identification).
- ★ **Croatia:** On 5 July, the [Ordinance on the Free Legal Aid in the Return Procedure](#) (Official Gazette 57/18) entered into force. The Ministry of Interior published a Public Call for Applicants of Administrative Courts in Zagreb, Split, Rijeka and Osijek to provide legal aid to third-country nationals in the return procedure.
On 28 July 2018, the [Ordinance on the Treatment of Third Country Nationals](#) entered into force (Official Gazette 68/18). This Ordinance inter alia prescribes the layout and content of the Refusal of entry into Croatia, Return Order, Return Decision, Decision on Deportation, European passport form for the return of irregularly resident third-country nationals to third-country nationals as indicated in Article 130, paragraph 2 of the Aliens Act.
- ★ **Finland:** A new [detention unit](#) will be established in Heikinharju in connection with the Oulu reception centre by summer of 2019, following the needs for more beds in detention units. The unit will have 30 beds. At the moment, Finland has two detention units; one is in Helsinki and the other is connected to the Joutseno reception centre in Konnunsuo. These centres have a total of 109 beds.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** On 26 September, the European Court of Justice answered [questions](#) from the Council of State about the deportation of rejected asylum seekers during an appeal. These questions related to two asylum cases. The Court argued that according to European rules, these asylum seekers may be deported before their appeal has been completed. In the last two years, the Council of State was reluctant in such cases as this is not regulated in Dutch law.
On 1 July, the Minister of Migration [decided](#) to grant the International Organization for Migration (IOM) more rights to enable it to support a larger group of voluntarily returning aliens. This new group of aliens are: aliens from the western Balkan (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) and the southern and eastern ring of Europe (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey, Belarus and Russia). These aliens can receive a support contribution between € 100 and €2 00, for their voluntary return, when they meet the conditions.
- ★ **Poland:** Border Guard officers from Legnica completed [investigations](#) concerning an international criminal group which was legalising the irregular stay of foreigners from Turkey, Palestine, Albania and Egypt through marriages of convenience with Polish women. Allegations against 15 members of the group included facilitating the irregular stay of foreigners, false representation, falsifying companies' financial documentation, falsifying medical documentation and drug possession.
- ★ **United Kingdom:** In July, an [evaluation](#) of government progress on improving welfare in the detention of vulnerable persons was published.



7. ACTIONS ADDRESSING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 22 August, an organised crime group (OCG) involved in recruiting and trafficking men and women into the European Union was [dismantled](#) after several synchronised searches and arrests carried out by European national authorities with the support and cooperation of Eurojust and Europol.
- ★ Following the signing of the [2018 Joint Statement of commitment to working together to address trafficking in human beings](#) in June 2018, the Heads of ten EU Agencies have continued working on actions to address trafficking in human beings, implementing a key action of the [2017 Communication](#) stepping up action to address trafficking in human beings. This builds on the work done and the synergies created since the [2011 Joint Statement](#) was signed.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Finland:** By the end of June, 76 new clients have [entered](#) the Finnish Assistance System for Victims of Human Trafficking this year. It has been estimated that for 30 of them, the exploitation indicating human trafficking started in Finland.
- ★ **Lithuania:** In the 2017 [Trafficking in Persons Report](#), Lithuania was praised for its efforts to fight trafficking in human beings. The report stated that the government demonstrated serious and sustained efforts by enacting new legislation to reform the institutional child care system; increasing funding to non-governmental organisations for victim assistance programs; identifying more victims; and investigating and prosecuting a significant number of traffickers. Lithuania remains on Tier 1.
- ★ **Latvia:** On 26 – 27 September, the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Latvia hosted the first meeting of the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings of the Council of the Baltic Sea States under the Latvian Presidency. Current work and planned activities of the Task Force are strongly linked with the priority “Integrity and Societal Security” set by the Latvian Presidency which aims at facilitating harmonized actions in the Baltic Sea Region when facing threats to public security, strengthening of cooperation and continuing initiatives in the field of civil protection, the fight against trafficking in human beings and organized crime, as well as border management.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** In the period from the summer of 2017 until now, sixteen [workshops](#) on human trafficking were organised by relevant ministries and stakeholders, such as the Taskforce Human Trafficking and the Strategic Consultation on Human Trafficking. Following these workshops, several follow-up actions have been taken and conversations started with the Association of Dutch Municipalities and investigative authorities. The Minister also wants to incorporate an initiative from CoMensha (expertise and coordination centre for addressing human trafficking) to conduct a systematic analysis about the most important factors that influence the field of human trafficking and the effects of measures in the field of human trafficking.
- ★ **Poland:** As a member of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), Poland was involved in the recently launched international project against Human Trafficking – Paving the Way for a Harmonised Operational Framework in the Baltic Sea Region (HOF BSR). The project is funded by the Swedish Ministry of Social Affairs and the Swedish Institute (SI).

A Transnational Referral Mechanism for professionals working in the Baltic Sea Region and beyond will be developed to provide them with the right tools in order to successfully assist victims. Secondly, a more unified approach is also currently needed to support the media with reporting on human trafficking issues. The project will seek to develop a manual and a glossary for journalists to aid their reporting and to improve visibility of human trafficking for all forms of exploitation.

- ★ **Portugal:** In August, a shelter for the accommodation and protection of children victims of trafficking in human beings (THB) was built by AKTO, a non-governmental organisation. This was done in the framework of the recommendations for the second Evaluation Round of Portugal carried out by GRETA.

Furthermore, in August, the Observatory on Trafficking in Human Beings published a new edition of the “[Flagging Card of Victims of THB](#)”. This is a set of indicators and contacts to help professionals with flagging presumed THB victims. It also acts as a product used by partners of the National Referral Mechanism in their training actions. More than 2 000 were already disseminated.

- ★ **United Kingdom:** On 25 September, the UK developed, alongside the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, principles for nations to adopt to tackle modern slavery in global supply chains:
 - Take steps to prevent and address human trafficking in government procurement practices;
 - Encourage the private sector to prevent and address human trafficking in its supply chains;
 - Advance responsible recruitment policies and practices;

- Strive for harmonisation.



8. EXTERNAL DIMENSION

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

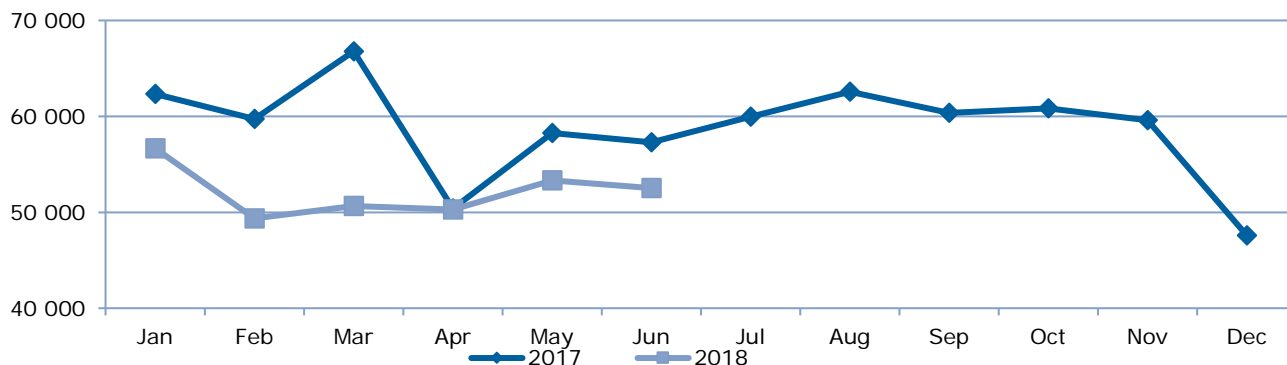
★ No relevant updates.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

★ No relevant updates.

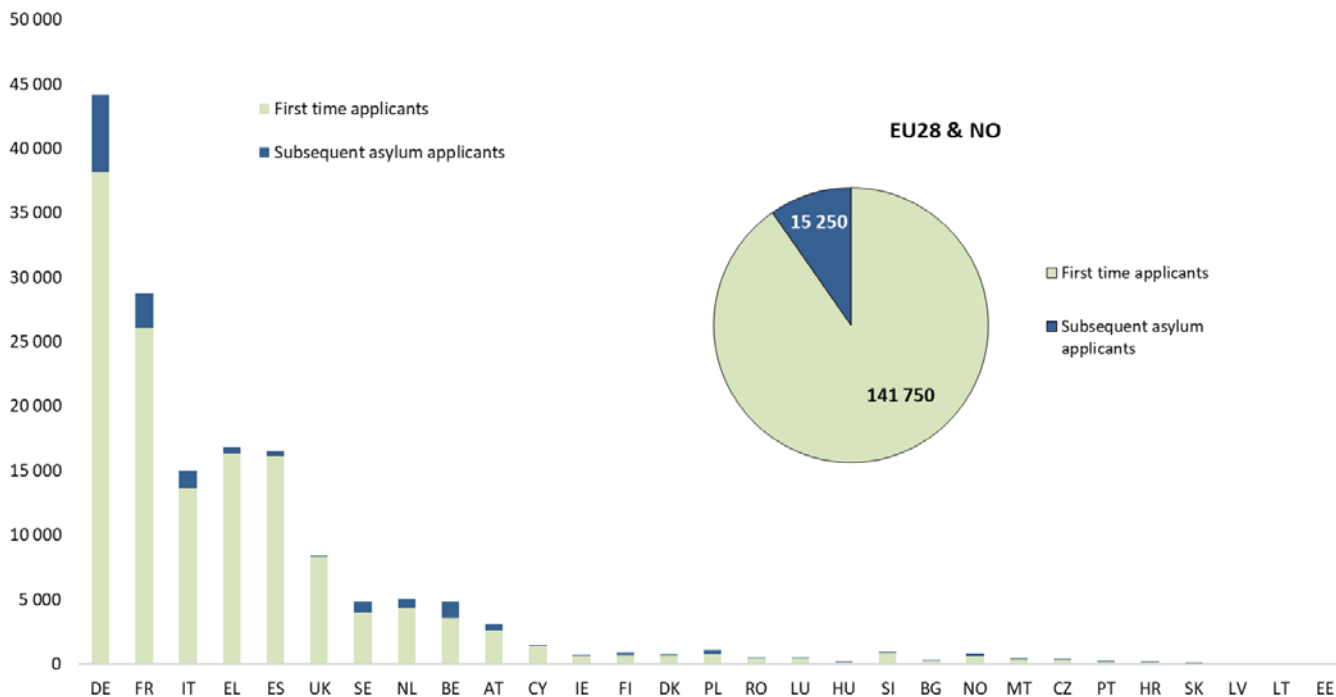
ANNEX: EU & COMPLEMENTARY STATISTICS, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, OTHER EMN OUTPUTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Figure 1a: Asylum applications in the EU-28, January 2017 – June 2018.



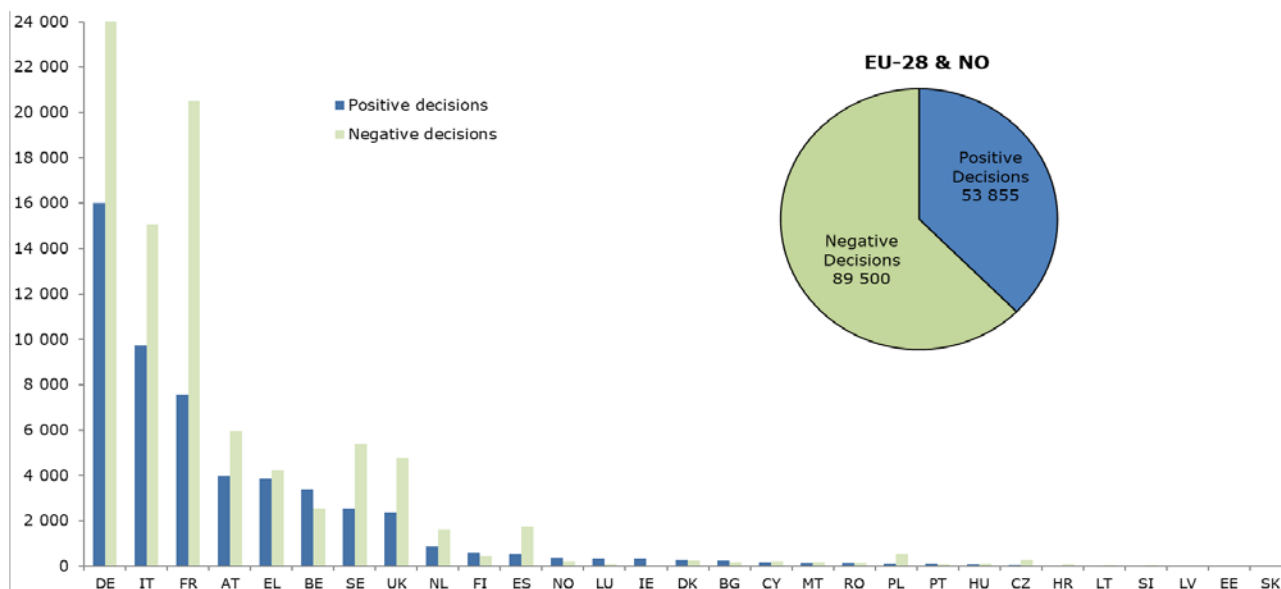
Source: Eurostat [[migr_asyappctzm](#)], total asylum applicants, extracted on 26 September 2018.

Figure 1b: First time asylum applicants and subsequent applicants (together, total asylum applicants) in the EU-28 and Norway, Q2 2018 (quarterly data)



Source: Eurostat [[migr_asyappctzm](#)], accessed on 19 October 2018.

Figure 2: First instance asylum decisions in EU-28 and Norway for non-EU citizens, Q2 2018



Source: Eurostat [[migr_asydcfstq](#)], accessed on 19 October 2018.

Figure 2a: Illegal border crossing – Top nationalities (in %)

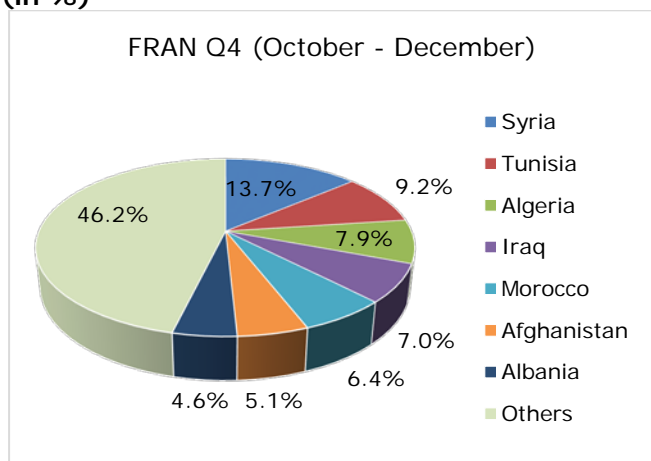


Figure 2b: Refused entry – Top nationalities (in %)

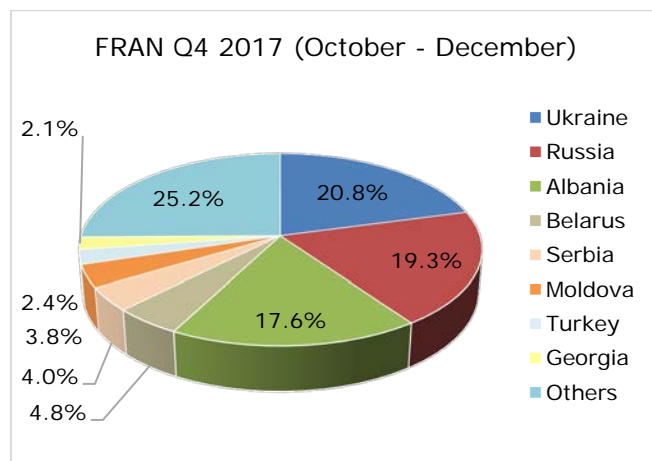


Figure 2c: Illegal stay – Top nationalities (in %)

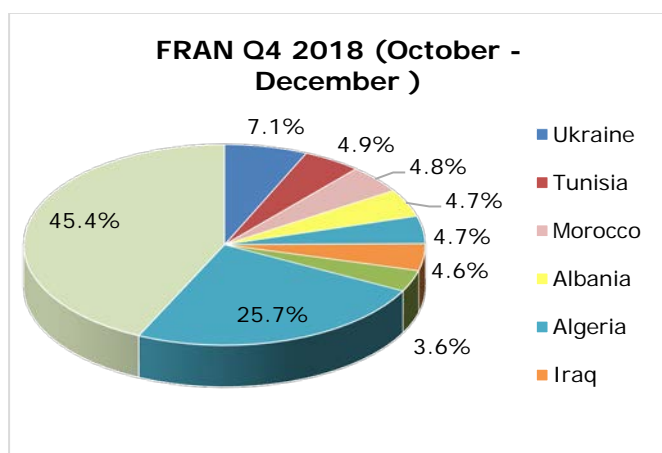
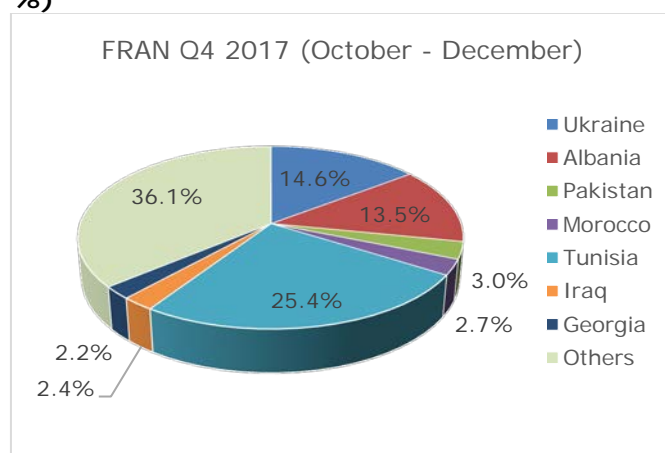


Figure 2d: Effective return – Top nationalities (in %)



Source: [FRONTEX FRAN Quarterly Report Q4 2017](#) (October - December 2017)

Latest available national statistics

- ★ **Austria:** On 13 September, Statistics Austria published the [“Statistical Yearbook on Migration & Integration 2018”](#). The data shows that in 2017, on average some 1.970 million people (22.8% of the population) with foreign background lived in Austria, about 350 000 more than in 2013 (1.622 million). This is mainly the result of intensive immigration to Austria during the last five years. Yet, in 2017 both the number of immigrants as well as net migration to Austria decreased significantly due to a reduced number of asylum seekers from third countries.

Updates on EU legislation transposition

COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

- ★ **Ireland:** The [European Communities \(Reception Conditions\) Regulations 2018](#), which came into operation on 30 June 2018, were adopted to transpose the recast Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU) into national law. The Regulations place the provision of material reception conditions for international protection applicants on a statutory basis for the first time.

LEGAL MIGRATION

- ★ **Croatia:** On 19 July, an amendment to the Ordinance on the Status and Work of Third-Country Nationals in the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette NN 61/2018) entered into force to transpose the Students and Research Directive (2016/801/EU).
- ★ **Finland:** On 1 September, an [act](#) entered into force implementing the EU Directive on students and researchers (2016/801/EC). The new act stipulates the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training and voluntary service. The new act extends the length of the first residence permit granted to both students and researchers to two years (previously one year). Both students and researchers may also be granted a residence permit for job-seeking or starting a business, after they have completed their studies or research. Moreover, the new act will enable researchers and higher education students who have been issued with a residence permit in another Member State to arrive in Finland to carry out research and to study for a certain period without an obligation to apply for a residence permit in Finland.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** The [Law of 1 August 2018](#) modifying the law on the free movement of people and immigration and the law on young au pairs transposes the Students and Researchers Directive (2016/801/EU); it aims to facilitate and to simplify the procedures for intra-European mobility of third-country national researchers and students and introduces incentive mechanisms to retain students and researchers. To this end, it proposes that students and researchers, once they have completed their studies or research, can be issued a residence permit for “private reasons” for a duration of nine months at most in view of finding employment or creating a business. Finally, the bill intends to regulate the family reunification of a researcher staying in Luxembourg in the context of short- and long-term mobility.
- ★ **Latvia:** On 7 August 2018, in order to transpose the Students and Researchers Directive (2016/801/EU), Cabinet Regulation No. 492 “Amendments to the Cabinet Regulations No. 564 “Regulations Regarding Residence Permits”⁷ and Cabinet Regulations No. 491 “Amendments to the Cabinet Regulations No. 225 “Regulations Regarding the Amount of Financial Means Necessary for a Foreigner and the Determination of the Existence of Financial Means”⁸ were adopted. Furthermore, on 11 September 2018, Cabinet Regulation No. 566 “Amendments to the Cabinet Regulations No. 564 “Regulations Regarding Residence Permits” was adopted.⁹ The amendments of the Cabinet Regulations are supplemented with the procedure whereby an EU Blue Card may be issued to an applicant if he / she does not have a higher education in specialty or industry in which he will be employed in Latvia in a profession included in the national statistical classification.¹⁰
- ★ **Slovak Republic:** On 20 July, an Amendment to the Act on Asylum No. 198/2018 which transposes the Art. 31 par.3 to 5 of Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection entered into the force.

⁷ Cabinet Regulation No. 492 “Amendments to the Cabinet Regulations No. 564 “Regulations Regarding Residence Permits”” adopted on 7 August 2018.- *Latvijas Vēstnesis* No. 157, 09.08.2018 - [came into force on 10.08.2018]

⁸ Cabinet Regulations No. 491 “Amendments to the Cabinet Regulations No. 225 “Regulations Regarding the Amount of Financial Means Necessary for a Foreigner and the Determination of the Existence of Financial Means” were adopted on 7 August 2018.- *Latvijas Vēstnesis* No. 157, 09.08.2018 - [came into force on 10.08.2018]

⁹ Cabinet Regulation No. 566 “Amendments to the Cabinet Regulations No. 564 “Regulations Regarding Residence Permits”” adopted on 11 September 2018.- *Latvijas Vēstnesis* No. 182, 13.09.2018 - [came into force on 14.09.2018]

¹⁰ “Occupation Classifier” (See at: <http://www.lm.gov.lv/text/80>) in the first or second major group. The regulatory framework will have a beneficial effect on the economy, reducing the time required for employers to attract highly skilled specialists from abroad.¹⁰

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

- ★ **Greece:** In July 2018, the fourth Directive 2015/849/EU on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering or terrorist, was transposed into national law (Law 4557/18). In compliance with the Directive, the national legal framework provides for measures to tackle money laundering related to proceeding derived from acts constituting criminal activities described as “predicated offenses”, such as Trafficking in Human beings (art.323A of the Greek Penal Code) and Trading in humans (art.351 G.P.C.).

Other EMN outputs and past/upcoming events (see also the [EMN website](#))

- ★ **Slovak Republic:** On 22-24 August, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as the EMN coordinator for the Slovak Republic, organised the 6th EMN Educational Seminar on Migration entitled “Causes and Consequences of Forced migration” in Bratislava. The seminar welcomed 15 experts from international organisations, the non-governmental sector, research institutions and academia. Lecturers discussed migration myths and data based migration policy-making, migration governance and future scenarios of international migration, current migration development from the countries of origin perspective, vulnerabilities and human rights of migrants, environmentally induced migration as well as labour migration and the risks of modern slavery. More information can be found on the [seminar webpage](#).
- ★ **Spain:** On 19 September, the [Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\) among The National Council of Judiciaries, the National Prosecutor, the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social Security, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture and Sports, Ministry of the Presidency and the Centre for Judicial Research, for the institutional cooperation to fight against racism, xenophobia LGBTI fobia and other intolerance](#) was renewed for further three years. Civil society organisations participate as observers, and in the framework of the MoU progress measures are being taken to fight hate speech online, analysing and improving statistics on hate crime, as well as training of civil servants working with vulnerable populations.

On 19-21 September, the first study visit to Spain of an institutional Moroccan delegation took place in the framework of the project “Living together without discrimination: an approach based on human rights and the gender dimension”. The project is funded by the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa and its main objective is to strengthen institutional and non-institutional actors in Morocco to develop actions and strategies to fight racism and xenophobia against migrants taking into account the new Moroccan migration policy based on human rights protection.

In September, the Study “Best practices and comparative study: services, structures, strategies and methodologies on Proximity Policing against racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance” was published in [Spanish](#) and [English](#). The publication was produced in the framework of the PROXIMITY project, cofounded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the EU. The aim of this transnational project is to promote non-discrimination and living together at local level, paying special attention to the role of the local/proximity police in prevention and as mediators in conflicts in the neighbourhood they protect.

In August, the study on “Integration of children of migrants in the labour market” was [published](#). It provides an analysis of potential discrimination against migrant children in the labour market compared to the situation of young nationals. Additionally, a survey on the employment selection processes was included to identify whether these favour or hinder access to employment of young immigrants.

In August, the report on [“Analysis of cases and judicial verdicts related to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other intolerance”](#) and its [summary](#) were published. The report was produced in the framework of the MoU for the institutional cooperation to fight against racism, xenophobia LGBTI fobia and other intolerance. The aim is to provide a description of the number and characteristics of judicial verdicts as well as the challenges to reach these judicial verdict.