



EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Climate change and migration

Requested by Christelle CAPORALI-PETIT on 29th March 2018

Miscellaneous

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Sweden, United Kingdom, Norway (23 in total)

Disclaimer:

The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

Background information:

For several years, a lot of discussions and reports have been published on the question of climate change and migration. Indeed, recent reports (World Bank, IDMC, ICMPD, etc) refer to the role for migration policies and the impact of climate change as a driver for migration. The FR EMN NCP would be interested in the other MSs' debates / policies / practices related to this issue.

Questions

1. 1- Do you experience / have you experienced any debate on the topic of climate change and migration?
2. 2 - Can you indicate if there is any current discussion on legislative changes due to the impact of climate change on migration in your country?
3. 3 - Have you implemented any specific measures (or do you plan implement such measures soon) to manage / host TCNs concerned by climate change?

Responses

| | Country | Wider Dissemination | Response |
|--|----------------|----------------------------|---|
|  | Austria | Yes | <p>1. The topic of environment (also including climate change) was treated in the discussions accompanying the preparation of the report of the Migration Council, however, not as a separate issue. The topic is also discussed cross-divisionally in the preparation of the Austrian Migration Strategy. --- Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>2. Currently, there are no discussions concerning this topic in Austria. --- Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> <p>3. Until now, no corresponding measures have been implemented and they are not in the immediate planning. This shall not imply by any means that Austria does not attach importance to this topic, as the dealing on the strategic level shows. --- Source: Ministry of the Interior</p> |

| | | | |
|---|----------------|-----|--|
|  | Belgium | Yes | <p>1. The relation between climate change and migration, even if sporadically addressed, is not per se a sustained debate in Belgium. As proof, only few questions have been asked by Members of the Parliament since a couple of years.</p> <p>2. The latest parliamentary question sent to the current State Secretary in charge of Asylum and Migration questioned the possibility to grant international protection to “climate refugees”. The State Secretaries responded that according to figures Belgium is not facing any phenomenon such as “climate refugees”. Therefore, no provision is foreseen to modify the Belgian law at the moment.</p> <p>3. No specific measures have been implemented or foreseen to manage / host TCNs concerned by climate change (See question 2).</p> |
|  | Croatia | Yes | <p>1. 1. No. There can be found only articles, reports on this topic prepared by few researches.</p> <p>2. 2. No.</p> <p>3. 3. No.</p> |
|  | Cyprus | Yes | <p>1. There is currently not such a debate in Cyprus.</p> <p>2. There is currently not such a discussion in Cyprus.</p> <p>3. No.</p> |
|  | Czech Republic | Yes | <p>1. No</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. No</p> |

| | | | |
|---|---------|-----|--|
|  | Estonia | Yes | <p>1. At the national level there has not been any noteworthy debates on the topic of climate change and migration.</p> <p>2. There are no current discussions on legislative changes due to the impact of climate change on migration.</p> <p>3. No.</p> |
|  | Finland | Yes | <p>1. There has been some public debate on the issue in the media, although it has not been very active topic lately.</p> <p>2. There are no current discussions on legislative changes regarding this topic.</p> <p>3. No specific measures, legislation allows climate change to be taken into account already at present in individual cases, although this has not been used. The Finnish Immigration Service also has contingency plans for large-scale immigration, e.g. due to natural disasters.</p> |
|  | France | Yes | <p>1. Since the COP21, the 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change organized in Paris in 2015, several discussions on the issue of climate change and migration have emerged.</p> <p>2. non applicable</p> <p>3. there is no specific measure / process for these TCNs.</p> |
|  | Germany | Yes | <p>1. The debate on climate change and migration in Germany is mostly academic, some projects in German scientific institutions work on gaining insight into the complex nexus between environmental change and migration patterns. (e.g. TransRe, University of Bonn). A major debate on the issue of immigration to Europe due to climate change took place in Germany in December 2017. Even though the authors of the study starting the debated described the political implications of their findings, the debate mostly stayed academic and was not picked up by prominent policy makers. With COP23</p> |

| | | | |
|---|--------|-----|---|
| | | | <p>(Climate Change Conference) taking place in Bonn in November 2017, the debate became more pronounced, mostly in German media. Media reporting on the nexus of environmental change and migration has gained a certain frequency. The tone of most reports thereby seems to be balanced and mostly stresses that there is no mono-causal link between the two factors. Reports also mostly echo the current scientific debate (e.g. on the issue of trapped populations). On a political level, however, the topic has not gained much importance. Nevertheless, the German Federal Government acknowledges that there is a link between environmental changes and migration and that climate change can be an aggravating factor if not a root cause of migration that needs to be tackled, e.g. through development cooperation. MPs have used the argument of increased migration to call for climate action. Since 2012, Germany has been working to establish mechanisms to provide adequate protection to people affected by climate- and disaster-induced displacement in disaster prone countries as part of its humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. From July 2016 until January 2018 Germany has been the chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD), with Bangladesh as vice chair. The main objective of the PDD is to address the protection needs of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and climate change. The PDD follows up on the work of the Nansen Initiative to implement the recommendations of the “Agenda for the protection of cross-border displaced persons in the context of disasters and climate change”, endorsed by 109 governmental delegations during a Global Consultation in October 2015. Since January 2018 Bangladesh is the new chair of the PDD, with France as PDD vice-chair.</p> <p>2. No, currently there is no debate on Federal level on legislative changes due to the impact of climate change on migration in Germany.</p> <p>3. see question 1</p> |
|  | Greece | Yes | <p>1. Not at national level although Greece attend discussions on the Global compacts where quite extensive mention to climate change triggered mass migratory movements is made.</p> <p>2. No such discussion at the moment.</p> <p>3. No</p> |

| | | | |
|---|------------|-----|---|
|  | Hungary | Yes | <p>1. The Immigration and Asylum Office of Hungary has not experienced any debate on the topic of climate change and migration on the MS's level.</p> <p>2. There is not any current discussion on legislative changes relating to the impacts of climate change on migration in Hungary.</p> <p>3. N/A</p> |
|  | Ireland | No | |
|  | Latvia | Yes | <p>1. No. Latvia has not experienced any debate related to the climate change and migration.</p> <p>2. In Latvia there are not any legislative changes planned or measures implemented that would be related to the climate change and migration.</p> <p>3. In Latvia there are not any legislative changes planned or measures implemented that would be related to the climate change and migration.</p> |
|  | Lithuania | Yes | <p>1. No.</p> <p>2. No, there are no current discussions on this matter.</p> <p>3. No.</p> |
|  | Luxembourg | Yes | <p>1. The discussion is relatively new in Luxembourg and it has been mainly conducted by civil society. On 25 January 2017 the several ONG. Including Etika, the NGO Circle, Caritas Luxembourg, ALOS-LDH, ASTI, ASTM-CITIM, CEFIS, Medecins sans frontiers, PADEM, SOS-FAIM and ATTAC Luxembourg organized three events around the title "Climate change, engine of migrations" (http://etika.lu/Le-changement-climatique-moteur-des-migrations-Mercredi-25-janvier). During this event the Atlas of Environmental Migrations was presented by Dina Ionesco, specialist on migration issues related to the environment and climate of the International Organization of Migrations. This</p> |

| | | | |
|---|-------------|-----|--|
| | | | <p>event was published also in the official website of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (http://www.luxembourg.public.lu/fr/agenda/plurio/2017/01/2017-01-25-pr-sentation-atlas-des-migrations--luxem/index.html). On World Food Day (16 October 2017) the NGO SOS-FAIM released a press release entitled “Changing the future of Migrations. Investing in food security and rural development” (https://www.sosfaim.lu/changeons-lavenir-des-migrations-investissons-dans-la-securite-alimentaire-et-le-developpement-rural/). On 4 March 2018 there was a debate organized by the CLAE during the 35th edition of the “Festival des Migrations” entitled “Climate refugees: It is time to act for Europe” (Réfugiés climatiques: Il est temps d’agir pour l’Europe). In this debate participated one of the members of the Luxembourgish parliament (David Wagner – déi Lenk) and a member of the European Parliament from Luxembourg (Claude Turmes – déi Greng).</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. No.</p> |
|  | Malta | Yes | <p>1. No.</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. No.</p> |
|  | Netherlands | Yes | <p>1. The Netherlands pays attention to a broad spectrum of motives, therefore we take into consideration the root causes of climate change. Nevertheless, there are no debates or legislative changes related to this issue.</p> <p>2. see question 1</p> <p>3. see question 1</p> |
|  | Poland | Yes | <p>1. Even though we see the importance of the problem connected with consequences of climate change and its influence on migration, we cannot say that the debate on the topic of this relations is developed</p> |

enough in Poland. Although the studies about relation between migration and environment are one of the least developed, we can find more articles about this every year. Foremost, more often we can read in newspapers about the events and find analysis from foreign press or scientists. There is more information about reports of World Bank or IPCC. Furthermore, we can notice that climate change issues appear more frequently among reasons of migration in the scientific literature devoted to the analysis of international migration. Nevertheless, there is the tendency to focus mainly on the two dimensions of the phenomenon of migration: economic migrants and refugees. The question of victims of climate change is neglected. It should be noted that in 2015-2018 the Centre of Migration Research of the University of Warsaw conducted a project entitled “Environmental conditions of migration from countries of North Africa” (“Środowiskowe uwarunkowania migracji z krajów Afryki Północnej”). The main objective of this project is to indicate the relationship between the degradation of the natural environment and the migration of populations from the desert and semi-arid areas of North Africa. A hypothesis was put forward that migration of people from these areas is related to the degradation of the environment and the constraints which puts the human economic activity, in particular agriculture and pastoralism. Therefore, migration from these areas can be classified as forced by changes in the environment (environmentally forced) or motivated by these changes (environmentally motivated migration). Soon, next to other EU countries, Poland will also face the challenge of accepting a growing number of migrants from North African countries. The complementary objective of this project is to determine the share of environmental migrants among immigrants from this area in Poland and the reasons for Poland’s choice as a destination. Publications related with this topic are published by the Polish scientific institutions such as The Polish Institute of International Affairs, Centre of Migration Research or Institute of International Relations at the University of Marie Skłodowska Curie. It is worth mentioning that 29th November 2017 in Warsaw took place the conference entitled “Climate changes: a threat to international peace?” (“Zmiany klimatyczne: współczesnym zagrożeniem dla pokoju?”). The event was organized by Warsaw Peace Research Institute in cooperation with Heinrich Böll Foundation in Warsaw. Issues such as access to basic natural resources, climate migrations and the impact of changes in the natural environment on everyday life were raised. To sum up, the topic of migration and climate change is not unnoticed, but it is also not widespread enough in the Polish debate.

2. No.

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|--|
| | | | 3. No. |
|  | Portugal | Yes | <p>1. No</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. No</p> |
| | Slovak Republic | Yes | <p>1. No.</p> <p>2. Currently, no legislative changes are planned in this regard.</p> <p>3. No.</p> |
|  | Sweden | Yes | <p>1. Not explicitly on climate change and migration but in the Swedish Aliens Act there is a paragraph concerning environmental disasters. In Chapter 4 Section 2 of the Aliens Act it is stated that: "In this Act a 'person otherwise in need of protection' is an alien who in cases other than those referred to in Section 1 is outside the country of the alien's nationality, because he or she 1 feels a well-founded fear of suffering the death penalty or being subjected to corporal punishment, torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, 2 needs protection because of external or internal armed conflict or, because of other severe conflicts in the country of origin, feels a well-founded fear of being subjected to serious abuses or 3 is unable to return to the country of origin because of an environmental disaster." In other words an environmental disaster, which can be caused by climate change can be a ground for being granted residence permit as a "person otherwise in need of protection".</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>3. Please see the answer to question 1.</p> |

| | | | |
|---|----------------|-----|---|
|  | United Kingdom | Yes | <p>1. Yes. There has been academic debate, research and media coverage in the UK. Please find below some examples: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-and-global-environmental-change https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/287717/11-1116-migration-and-global-environmental-change.pdf https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/refugee-crisis-is-climate-change-affecting-mass-migration-10490434.html https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jul/13/climate-change-threat-serious-as-nuclear-war-uk-minister http://www.csap.cam.ac.uk/media/uploads/files/1/climate-change--a-risk-assessment-v11.pdf http://www.climatemigration.org.uk</p> <p>2. No.</p> <p>3. No.</p> |
|  | Norway | Yes | <p>1. YES. There has been an even flow of articles as well as attention to research in the Norwegian media on the issue of climate refugees for many years, at the very least, for more than a decade. See some examples below. https://www.dn.no/nyheter/2017/12/22/0533/Klima/forskere-mener-klimaendringer-kan-gi-dramatisk-okning-i-antall-asylsokere-til-europa Dec. 2017 http://www.cicero.oslo.no/no/posts/klima/de-usynlige-flyktningene 2017 https://agendamagasinet.no/artikler/klimaflyktninger/ 2016 https://energi.tekna.no/klimaflyktninger/ 2016. (Jan Egeland) https://forskning.no/innvandring-klima/2016/08/miljofordrevne-en-egen-kategori-flyktninger 2016 https://putsj.no/artikkel/pa-flukt-uten-status 2016 https://mrbloggen.com/2015/01/06/klimaflyktninger-et-juridisk-gap/ 2015 http://www.utrop.no/Nyheter/Utenriks/29675 2015 https://forskning.no/klima-juridiske-fag/2014/04/klimaflyktninger-rammes-hardt-av-uklare-lover 2014 https://nu.no/saker/klima/fakta-klima/2014/06/klimaflyktninger/ 2014 https://forskning.no/klima-vaer-og-vind/2011/10/torke-kan-sende-400-millioner-pa-klimaflukt 2011 http://www.verdidebatt.no/innlegg/4228-320-000-klimaflyktninger-til-norge 2009 https://www.flyktninghjelpen.no/ressurs/rapporter/future-floods-of-refugees-a-comment-on-climate-change-conflict-and-forced-migration/ 2008 https://www.lorenzk.com/norsk/2006/snart-50-millioner-milj%C3%B8flyktninger/ 2006</p> |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | | <p>2. There is no current debate going on in regards to this matter in Norway.</p> <p>3. Norway has not implemented any measures related to this matter and has at present, has no plans to do so.</p> |
|--|--|--|--|