



## **EMN FOCUSSED STUDY 2017**

### **"Changing Influx of Asylum Seekers in 2014 - 2016: Member State Responses"**

Top-line "Factsheet" (National Contribution)

*National contribution (one page only)*

*Overview of the National Contribution – introducing the study and drawing out key facts and figures from across all sections of the Focussed Study, with a particular emphasis on elements that will be of relevance to (national) policymakers.*

During 2014–2016 the SR did not experience any significant fluctuation in the number of asylum applications; in 2016 the number reached a 22-year low (the total number of applications was 146). The number of asylum applications as well as the number of recorded irregular migration cases has been showing a long-term decreasing trend (see Q1). The SR faced a significant increase in the number of asylum applications during the period of conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and right before the accession to the EU in 2004. In 2004 the number of asylum applications (11,395) reached the historical maximum in the SR which represented a more than 700% increase compared to 2000. In 2001 – 2004 the SR established new reception centres and rented another facility to increase its accommodation capacity. During this period other measures were also adopted to speed up the asylum proceedings (see Q3).

The Slovak legislation does not explicitly define the change in the number of asylum applications (increase, decrease or mass arrival of asylum seekers). However, variations of the term "significant influx" are used by public authorities in practice (see Q2).

Policies and the legislation

The topic of migration has been resonating in Slovakia mainly since 2015 in the political but also media and social contexts. The policy making and adoption of measures in the areas of forced as well as irregular migration in Slovakia has been influenced by the situation in the Mediterranean territory and since 2014 also by the conflict in Ukraine (see Q1).

The legislative changes in the SR in the areas of migration and international protection in 2014 – 2016 were related more to the transposition of the European Parliament and Council directives than to the migration situation in the EU then. However, a number of regulations, internal regulations and other strategic documents (e. g. National Plan of Border Control Management of the SR 2015 – 2018) as well as measures directly reacting to the situation were adopted. In this period the SR started preparing the state integration programme for beneficiaries of international protection in the territory of the SR.

The SR also participated in policy making on the European level during its first presidency in the Council of the EU in the second half of 2016. The priorities included sustainable migration and asylum policies based on the protection of external borders, Schengen integrity, cooperation with third countries and solidarity.

Currently the SR is preparing an update of the Security Strategy of the SR and Defense Strategy of the SR for 2017 – 2027. Relevant preparatory documents of this strategy also refer to the topic of migration.

## Measures

In relation to the development of migration flows in the European area and fulfilling international commitments of the SR regarding migration and security policies, several measures were adopted. The most important measures were related to the strengthening of internal structures and human resources (e. g. *recruiting Police Force and Migration Office employees, creation of a staff, Task Force for migration and position of the Ambassador-at-Large for Migration*), building capacities and providing training in crisis management (*organisation of several common security forces training sessions*), cooperation with the non-profit sector (*financial support for the citizens' initiative 'Výzva k ľudskosti' (Plea for humanity) amounting to €500,000*), as well as development and humanitarian aid (adding Syria and neighbouring Near and Middle East countries among territorial priorities of the Official Development Assistance, etc.) (see Q5).

In the given period the SR cooperated with multiple Member States and EU agencies. Measures adopted within this cooperation included mainly border control and maintaining public order (e. g. *establishing a foreign police unit to protect the Schengen border, posting of police officers abroad, participation in Frontex agency operations*); combatting smuggling (e. g. *multilateral police and justice cooperation, participation in joint investigation teams*) and international protection (e.g. *providing temporary accommodation for migrants who applied for asylum in Austria; posting of EASO Asylum Support Team experts into hotspots in Greece and Italy*) (see Q7).

In 2014 – 2016 the SR also responded to the measures adopted in the neighbouring Member States. During the introduction of temporary border control between Germany and Austria the SR adopted temporary measures in the Slovak-Austrian and Slovak-Hungarian border crossing points in September 2015. The Hungarian decision to suspend transfers within the Dublin procedure contributed to the increased number of TCNs in the Police Detention Centres for Aliens in Slovakia which had to arrange new premises to accommodate them (see Q8).

With respect to forced and irregular migration, the SR remains a transit country and is not currently facing significant migration pressures, as well as does not prepare any new measures related to such situations apart from those already prepared. The SR will continue to cooperate with the EU Member States and to provide them with assistance in assisting the adoption of systemic measures to cope with mass influx of irregular migrants into the Schengen Area, as well as to post more police officers and asylum experts to joint operations abroad (see Q22b).

## **Section 1: Overview of national context**

*This section will briefly outline the developments in Member State policies adopted in the timeframe 2014 – 2016 to manage a changing influx of asylum applicants. NCPs are welcomed to add background information needed to provide a complete overview of the developments in their Member State during this period (e.g. existing asylum influx for 2009-2013 and/or organisational information of Asylum and Migration Policies).*

*Please note that information about actual measures taken (structural or ad-hoc) are covered in Section 2 instead.*

**Q1. Brief overview of legislative changes and policies announced and/or introduced to address or manage fluctuations in the number of asylum applications or better control of migration flows over 2014 – 2016. Please specify when these changes happened and what the goal of each change introduced) was.**

The number of asylum applications<sup>1</sup> as well as the number of recorded irregular migration<sup>2</sup> cases has been showing a long-term decreasing trend. The Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the SR) did not observe any significant fluctuation in the number of asylum applications in 2014 – 2016. In 2014 331 application for asylum were

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<sup>1</sup> Statistical report of the Ministry of Interior of the SR – Asylum and Migration, available at: <https://www.minv.sk/?statistiky-20> (consulted on 11/10/2017).

<sup>2</sup> Yearbook of the Bureau of the Border and Aliens Police of the Police Force Presidium, available at: <https://www.minv.sk/?rocniky> (consulted on 11/10/2017).

received; in 2015 it was 330 applications (including the 149 applications of internally resettled Iraqis for whom the SR provided ad hoc humanitarian reception<sup>3</sup>) and in 2016 it was 146 applications.<sup>4</sup> In 2016, the number of applications reached a 22-year low (146).<sup>5</sup>

In 2014 the topic of migration and international protection was not subject to public attention<sup>6</sup> in comparison to the situation in 2015 and 2016 when it started to attract much more attention from politicians, media and the society. The topic of forced and irregular migration into the EU were even covered in the election campaign in 2015 and the new Government Program Statement for 2016 – 2020 of the SR also refers to it. These topics were repeatedly discussed by the Parliament, Government and Security Council of the SR and commented on by the President and the Public Defender of Rights.<sup>7</sup> The policy making and adoption of measures in the areas of forced and irregular migration in Slovakia has been influenced by the situation in the Mediterranean, and since 2014 also by the conflict in Ukraine as the SR and Ukraine share the Eastern Schengen border (see Q1).<sup>8</sup>

The legislative changes in the Act on Residence of Aliens<sup>9</sup>, Act on Asylum<sup>10</sup> and other laws on migration and international protection in 2014 – 2016 were related more to the transposition of the European Parliament and Council directives than to the migration situation in the EU then. However, a number of regulations, internal regulations and other strategic documents (e. g. *National Plan of Border Control Management of the SR 2015 – 2018*) as well as measures directly reacting to the situation were adopted. In this period the SR also started preparing the state integration programme for beneficiaries of international protection in the territory of the SR.<sup>11</sup>

The situation regarding the forced and irregular migration into the EU reflected also in the Focus of Bilateral Development Cooperation of the SR for 2016 which added Syria and neighbouring countries of Near and Middle East among the territorial priorities of the Official Development Assistance (ODA). Ukraine is a long-term territorial priority of ODA SR. This situation also indirectly influenced the mechanism of humanitarian aid provision incorporated in the new *Act No. 392/2015 Coll. on Development Cooperation*<sup>12</sup> which entered into force in 2016.<sup>13</sup>

Currently the SR is preparing an update of the Security Strategy of the SR and Defense Strategy of the SR for 2017 – 2027. Relevant preparatory documents of this strategy also refer to the topic of migration.<sup>14</sup>

The SR participated in the policy making on the European level also during its first presidency in the Council of the EU in the second half of 2016. The priorities included sustainable migration and asylum policies based on the protection of external borders, Schengen integrity, cooperation with third countries and solidarity.<sup>15</sup>

## **Q2. To what extent is the concept of a change in asylum applications (either a significant increase or decrease) defined in your (Member) State (e.g. in legislation,**

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<sup>3</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2015 (2016), p. 31. (consulted on 11/10/2017).

<sup>4</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>5</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2015 (2016), p. 13. (consulted on 11/10/2017). Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2016 (2017), p. 32. (consulted on 11/10/2017).

<sup>6</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2014 (2015), p. 18. (consulted on 11/10/2017).

<sup>7</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2016 (2017), p. 12. (consulted on 11/10/2017).

<sup>8</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2014 (2015), p. 18. (consulted on 11/10/2017).

<sup>9</sup> Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Aliens as amended

<sup>10</sup> Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts.

<sup>11</sup> Information provided by the MO MoI SR.

<sup>12</sup> This Act replaced Act No. 617/2017 on Official Development Assistance which amended Act No. 575/2001 Coll. on the Organization of the Activity of the Government and on the Organization of the Central State Administration as amended.

<sup>13</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2016 (2017), pp. 67 – 68. (consulted on 11/10/2017).

<sup>14</sup> Source: Starting points for the update of the Security Strategy of the SR and Defense Strategy of the SR available at: <http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=25849> (consulted on 12/10/2017).

<sup>15</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2016 (2017), p. 19. (consulted on 12/10/2017).

**policies and/or plans)? How is it determined what a significant influx is? Please also mention the responsible authority.**

Slovak legislation does not explicitly define the concept of the change in the number of asylum applications (increase, decrease or mass arrival of asylum seekers). Regarding the application of the temporary protection<sup>16</sup> the SR proceeds in accordance with the transposed Council Directive 2001/55/EC. The Directive, Letter d) defines the follows: "mass influx' means arrival in the Community of a large number of displaced persons, who come from a specific country or geographical area, whether their arrival in the Community was spontaneous or aided, for example through an evacuation programme."

However, variations of the term "significant influx" are used by the public authorities in practice (see Q2). In the past EMN study the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the SR (hereinafter referred to as MO MoI SR) stated that in 2003 and 2004 the SR experienced a massive influx of asylum seekers as the number of asylum applications increased from 1,556 in 2000 to as much as 11,395 in 2004. This represented a 700% increase.<sup>17</sup>

**Q3. Did your (Member) State experience significant changes in the influx of asylum applicants before 2014 (2000 onwards e.g. the increased influx related to the war in former Yugoslavia)? If so, what measures were introduced to enhance the preparedness of your Member State as a response to these changes in the influx of asylum applicants? Please consider previous experiences of influx when defining the fluctuations over 2014 – 2016 and substantiate your answer below, giving also an overview of the baseline of your Member State in reference to migration flows and the definition of preparedness used in your Member State.**

After the establishment of the SR in 1993 MO MoI SR registered a relatively small number of asylum applications although the trend was increasing due to the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia. A breakpoint came in 1999 when the number of applications doubled compared to 1998 and another significant increase was observed in 2001 when 8,151 persons applied for asylum (in 2000 only 1,556 applications were received)<sup>18</sup>. The trend continued until 2004 when the number of asylum applications (11,395) reached the historical maximum in the SR which represented a more than 700% increase in comparison with 2000. The increasing trend was related to the arrival of applicants from former Yugoslavia and the fact that in 2004 the SR become an EU Member State.<sup>19</sup>

In 2001 – 2004 the SR established new reception centres and rented another facility to increase its accommodation capacity due to the influx of asylum seekers. During this period other measures were also adopted to speed up the asylum proceedings. There were multiple reasons why the SR was almost exclusively a transit country and after several days in the reception facility most applicants tried to continue their journey and cross the Western border to Austria.<sup>20</sup>

In 2005 the number of asylum applications rapidly fell. Between 2008 and 2012 the number of applications was annually decreasing until 2012 when 49% (732) increase (compared to 2011 - 491) was registered. The MO MoI SR had to adapt to the developments in the number of asylum applications in terms of reception facilities management as well as regarding the procedure of issuing the decision on asylum applications.<sup>21</sup>

**Q4. Did your Member State experience a significant fluctuation in number of asylum applications (both increase and decrease) in the years 2014, 2015 and/or 2016? Could you please specify and explain the period(s) in which there was such a fluctuation, and the nature of the fluctuation (increase/decrease)? Please make a distinction between a fluctuation in the sense of an increase and a decrease of asylum seeker numbers.**

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<sup>16</sup> The Directive on temporary protection was transposed into the Slovak legislation during the adoption of the Asylum Act in 2002. The term "temporary protection" was not transposed literally, instead the term "temporary shelter" was adopted.

<sup>17</sup> Michálková M., EMN study The Organisation of Reception Facilities for Asylum Seekers in the SR, (2013), p. 42 (consulted on 12/10/2017).

<sup>18</sup> Michálková M., EMN study The Organisation of Reception Facilities for Asylum Seekers in the SR, (2013), p. 14 (consulted on 12/10/2017).

<sup>19</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>20</sup> Michálková M., EMN study The Organisation of Reception Facilities for Asylum Seekers in the SR, (2013), p. 42 (consulted on 12/10/2017).

<sup>21</sup> Ibidem.

**Please indicate: Yes / No See Q1**

If **yes**, please fill out the field below and continue with question 6. If **no**, please go to question 5.

N/A

**Q5. If your Member State did not experience a significant fluctuation over 2014 – 2016 in the number of asylum applications, please elaborate how and if the absence of such a fluctuation has impacted national policies and approaches.**

*Note: only to be filled out if the answer to question Q4 was no*

During 2014 – 2016 the SR did not experience any significant fluctuation in the number of asylum applications<sup>22</sup>. However, in relation to the development of migration flows in Europe and fulfilling international commitments of the SR regarding migration and security policies several measures were adopted. The most important measures pertained to strengthening of internal structures, capacity building and providing training in crisis management, cooperation with the non-profit sector, as well as development and humanitarian aid. Further measures pertaining to international cooperation are listed in Q7.

Strengthening of internal structures and human resources

In Slovakia no key organisational or institutional changes regarding the state administration in this field took place.<sup>23</sup> Due to the cross-cutting nature of the topic of migration and to enhance cooperation, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR (hereinafter referred to as MoFEA SR) established a Task Force for Migration which regularly evaluated current developments in the migration agenda. In 2016 MoFEA SR also established the position of Ambassador-et-Large for Migration.<sup>24</sup>

In 2015 the Committee for Migration and Integration of Foreigners<sup>25</sup> established a working group for asylum with the focus on the integration of beneficiaries of international protection. Its task is to prepare the state integration programme for beneficiaries of international protection (see Q1).<sup>26</sup>

Within the Government Council of the SR for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality a working group for refugees and migrants rights was established in 2015.<sup>27</sup>

In 2015 the MoI SR established a mechanism (staff)<sup>28</sup> with the main task of solving the situations resulting from the increased irregular migration in the territory of the SR promptly, efficiently and in a comprehensive way. The main responsibility of the staff is to decide on strengthening the capacities to detect irregular migration in the territory of the SR and continually monitor and evaluate the state of irregular migration across the internal or external borders of the SR (see Q 21).

In November 2015 the Government of the SR approved an increase in the number of Police Force (hereinafter PF) members and of MoI SR employees. In the case of the PF this accounted for 300 jobs to create an international police unit for the protection of the EU Schengen border (see Q7). In case of the MO MoI SR, its personnel increased by 20 new employees within its sections. These changes were caused by an urgent need to strengthen the personal capacities of MoI SR with regards to the development of migration flows in Europe, in compliance with new

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<sup>22</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2015 (2016).; Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2016 (2017).

<sup>23</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2016 (2017), p. 19. (consulted on 12/10/2017).

<sup>24</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>25</sup> The Committee for Migration and Integration of Foreigners is a coordinative, interinstitutional, expert and initiative authority which manages the performance of tasks resulting from the Migration Policy Perspective of the SR until the year 2020 (and its Action Plan) and Conception of Integration of Foreigners in the SR.

<sup>26</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2015 (2016), p. 12. (consulted on 12/10/2017).

<sup>27</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2015 (2016), p. 19. (consulted on 12/10/2017).

<sup>28</sup> Decision of the Minister of Interior of the SR (No. 126/2015) on the staff for addressing the increased rate of irregular migration.

migration policy international commitments of the SR (such as relocations, resettlement, postings into EASO Asylum Support Teams) or coordinated adoption of relevant safety measures<sup>29</sup> (in the case of the PF).

Year 2015 also saw an increase in the ETC (Emergency Transit Centre) maximum capacity from 150 to 250 persons. The Centre is used for humanitarian transfers into countries of permanent resettlement which are organized by Slovakia based on trilateral agreement among the Government of the SR, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

#### Building capacities and crisis management exercises

Several joint exercises of security forces were organized during 2014 - 2016 in order to evaluate the ability to use practical experience if more asylum seekers entered Slovakia.<sup>30</sup>

A country-wide crisis management exercise "Zelená vlna"- (Green Wave) was organized on June 3 – 5, 2014 in the Eastern Slovakia. Representatives of MoI SR and of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the SR were present. A total of nearly 900 soldiers practised the processes of securing and managing a higher number of asylum seekers from a neighbouring state and of adopting appropriate security measures in the territory of the SR in cooperation with other governmental bodies and non-government organizations.<sup>31</sup>

A joint military exercise "Nový Horizont 2015" - (New Horizon 2015) took place on July 28 – 30, 2015 near Nitra. It was organized jointly by MoI SR, Ministry of Defence of the SR (hereinafter MoD SR) and the Armed Forces of the SR (hereinafter AF SR). A total of 250 soldiers, police officers, firemen, paramedics and members of other MoI SR departments participated.<sup>32</sup>

A joint event "Akcia JUH" - (Action SOUTH) was organized on October 29, 2015 by the PF, AF SR, Military Police of MoD SR and the Fire and Rescue Force in order to train the response to potential cases of migration pressure. A total of 129 police officers, 138 soldiers and 50 firemen took part in the event. Joint mixed patrols were created and posted along the entire Slovak-Hungarian border as well as in close vicinity to the internal border with Austria.<sup>33</sup>

"Nový Horizont 2017" exercise took place on July 10 – 13, 2017 in Eastern Slovakia. Some 200 soldiers and 100 members of MoI SR departments undertook practical activities aimed at the evacuation of population, defence of the state border in the state of war or during war and removing combat-caused damages. In a mock reception centre, they were responsible for the admission of asylum seekers, registration including addressing of health, sanitary and social area related issues, and the subsequent transfer to reception centre in Humenné.<sup>34</sup>

#### Strengthening cooperation with non-profit sector

In 2015, the Government of the SR adopted a document on cooperation with the non-governmental sector in solving refugee crisis<sup>35</sup>. It contains a financial scheme for distribution of €500 000 contribution (in a form of a gift from national lottery company TIPOS, a. s.). The "Výzva k ľudskosti" (Plea for Humanity) civic initiative, via the Open Society Foundation, has started distributing the contribution in between the organizations which had provided practical help during worsening migration situations.<sup>36</sup>

#### Development and humanitarian aid

Reacting to the development in Ukraine and the potential for the influx of refugees into Slovakia, the Government of the SR expressed preparedness to receive and place approx. 1,000 migrants in the territory of the SR, while being

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<sup>29</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2015 (2016), p. 61. (consulted on 12/10/2017).

<sup>30</sup> Information provided by the MO MoI SR.

<sup>31</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2014 (2016), p. 30. (consulted on 14/10/2017).

<sup>32</sup> Information provided by the MO MoI SR.

<sup>33</sup> Information provided by Bureau of Border and Alien Police of PFP.

<sup>34</sup> Information provided by the MO MoI SR.

<sup>35</sup> Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 568/2015 on the Information on the support of activities of non-governmental organizations related to humanitarian and integration support of refugees, submitted by the initiators of the petition of "Výzva k ľudskosti" (Plea for Humanity).

<sup>36</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2016 (2017), p. 21. (consulted on 14/10/2017).

able to increase the number up to 10,000. The SR has also provided Ukraine with humanitarian aid as well as offered healthcare assistance in the territory of the SR, which Ukraine accepted.<sup>37</sup>

As a result of the development of forced and irregular migration into the EU, humanitarian aid has become one of the key areas of development cooperation of the SR. In 2015 and 2016, the financial amount allocated to this area increased severalfold. Government scholarships for Syrian students were approved by the *Focus of bilateral development cooperation of the SR for 2016* (see Q1) starting in 2017/2018. They were able to enrol into a 10-month long preparatory course of Slovak language and vocational training.

**Q6. To what extent was cooperation at national level (i.e. between national organisations and authorities) strengthened over the period 2014-2016 in response to the changing influx in asylum applicants coming to your Member State? How was this achieved?**

The SR did not experience an increase in asylum applications during 2014 - 2016 however, the overall migration situation in the EU stimulated the strengthening of cooperation among national institutions responsible for forced and irregular migration (see Q1 and Q5).

**Q7. To what extent did your Member State consult with other Member States during the period 2014-2016 specifically in regards to dealing with a changing influx? If consultation was followed by cooperation approaches, please explain in which domains cooperation between Member States was most effective? Please elaborate on such cooperation and its impacts. If relevant, a reference to relocation agreement can be included.**

In the given period, the SR consulted and cooperated with several EU MS in border control, maintaining public order, combatting smuggling as well as in the field of international protection and solidarity towards countries under more intense migration pressure.

Border control and maintaining public order

In October 2015, representatives of the SR and Hungary agreed to post 50 PF members for a month-long monitoring of the border between Hungary and Serbia.<sup>38</sup> The SR consequently sent 20 PF members for a month-long monitoring of the Slovenia-Croatia border and for maintaining public order inland.<sup>39</sup>

In November 2015 a foreign police unit to protect the Schengen border of the EU was created. Its role is mainly to fulfil tasks related to border control within EU MS and third countries as well as to border control in the territory of the SR.<sup>40</sup> Police officers are posted based on bilateral agreements on police assistance between individual EU MS or within the joint operations organized by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex).<sup>41</sup> Under bilateral agreements with Slovenia, Macedonia, Hungary and Serbia, 185 police officers were posted in order to maintain public order.<sup>42</sup>

Between 2014 and 2016, the SR cooperated and provided assistance to EU MS in control of all types of external borders (land, air and sea) within the joint operations organized by Frontex. From 2014 till 2016 the SR posted a total of 228 members of the national reserve into the European Border Guard teams, mainly for border surveillance and control, return operations, interviewing and screening of migrants, identification of false documents, registration and record keeping of migrants etc. Regarding the technical equipment, the SR provided patrol vehicles, police dogs and a patrol aircraft for the joint operations and police cooperation.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2014 (2015), p. 43, 61. (consulted on 14/10/2017).

<sup>38</sup> Information provided by the BBAP PFP.

<sup>39</sup> Information provided by the BBAP PFP.

<sup>40</sup> Information provided by the BBAP PFP.

<sup>41</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2015 (2016), p. 61 (consulted on 15/10/2017).

<sup>42</sup> Information provided by the Bureau of Border and Alien Police of PFP.

<sup>43</sup> Ibidem.

Within Frontex joint operations the SR also hosted members of the border guards from EU MS and third countries.<sup>44</sup>

#### Combatting smuggling

Between 2014 and 2016 the National Unit to Combat Irregular Migration of the Bureau of the Border and Aliens Police of the Police Force Presidium (hereinafter NUCIM BBAP PFP) joined several Europol Joint Action Days (JAD), established Joint Investigation Teams (JIT) and carried out intense multilateral police and justice cooperation in detection and investigation of organized irregular migration crimes coordinated by Europol and Eurojust. The NUCIM BBAP PFP became a member of a joint investigation team (JIT) formed with Hungarian police in 2016. The team focused on detection, investigation and prosecution of offenders from the organized smuggling network on the Western Balkan route. Regarding the Western Balkan countries, a NUCIM BBAP PFP took part in several conferences and work negotiations. In 2016, NUCIM BBAP PFP representatives attended also several coordination strategic and operational meetings with foreign partners on specific open smuggling cases.<sup>45</sup>

The result of joint negotiations on the Visegrad Group level was the creation of a working group composed of official entities from Poland, Slovakia and Hungary (with a promise for future involvement of Germany) to cooperate in detection and investigation of organized irregular migration from the Western Balkans countries to the territory of the involved countries.<sup>46</sup>

#### International protection

The SR provided asylum seekers from Austria with accommodation in its facility in Gabčíkovo<sup>47</sup> at the time of peak migration crises when Austria did not have enough of its own capacities. Between September 2015 and the end of 2016 the SR provided temporary accommodation (i.e. during asylum procedure) to approx. 1,220 applicants, with maximum 500 accommodated persons at any given time.<sup>48</sup>

In the area of relocations, the SR voluntarily committed to accept 100 persons based on the Council Decision (EU) 2015/1523 establishing provisional measures in the area of international protection for the benefit of Italy and of Greece (the so called First Relocation Decision). In accordance with the Decision, in May 2016 the SR submitted a pledge for relocation of the first 10 persons from Greece, opting to focus on vulnerable groups, mainly lone women with children. Condition set by the SR was that these persons are holders of valid documents since it cannot verify reliably persons without travel documents. In August 2016, the first three persons were relocated from Greece. The SR consequently submitted two further pledges for relocation of 10 persons each under the same conditions, out of whom 6 persons from Greece were admitted. All relocated persons were granted asylum on humanitarian grounds.<sup>49</sup> In 2017, the SR continued with relocations.

Apart from relocations, in 2015 the SR also organized ad-hoc humanitarian admission of 149 internally displaced persons from Northern Iraq and discussed the possibilities of cooperation with the first voluntary initiative "Kto pomôže (Who Would Help)" (now Mareena) in the area of integration of beneficiaries of international protection.<sup>50</sup>

From the summer of 2015 the SR has also begun to regularly post experts within EASO Asylum Support Teams to "hotspots" in Greece and Italy. By the end of 2016 the MO MoI SR employees had worked in these hotspots for more than 350 man-days.<sup>51</sup>

**Q8. To what extent did measures taken in neighbouring Member States (or other EU Member States in general) have an effect on your Member State's policies and practices, even if your Member State did not experience a change in the influx? Please refer to both increase and decrease.**

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<sup>44</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>45</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2016 (2017), p. 38 (consulted on 15/10/2017).

<sup>46</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>47</sup> Based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the SR and Austria on 21 July 2015, valid for two years.

<sup>48</sup> Information provided by the MO MoI SR.

<sup>49</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>50</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2015 (2016), p. 13 (consulted on 15/10/2017).

<sup>51</sup> Information provided by the MO MoI SR.

Increased inland control activity was carried out between 2014 and 2016 in Slovakia in order to detect irregular migration and to continuously monitor the situation near its internal borders with Hungary, Austria and Czech Republic.<sup>52</sup>

Due to the introduction of temporary border control between Germany and Austria the SR adopted temporary measures in the Slovak-Austrian and Slovak-Hungarian border crossing points in September 2015.<sup>53</sup>

The Hungarian decision to suspend transfers of asylum seekers within the Dublin procedure contributed at the turn of 2015 to the increased number of TCNs in the Police Detention Centres for Aliens (hereinafter PDCAs) in Slovakia which could not receive more persons due to limited capacity. New PDCA premises had to be arranged to accommodate them.<sup>54</sup>

## **Section 2: Overview of the national responses over 2014-2016**

*The purpose of this second section is to provide a detailed overview of the responses of the Member States to the fluctuations of number of asylum applications over the period 2014 to 2016.*

*This Section should be completed only by Member States who experienced a change in the influx of asylum applications.*

*It first starts with a table where NCPs are asked to indicate the specific area where measures were taken and which was impacted as a result (Q9). This is a short overview of table to understand which areas were impacted by the various Member States. The question that follows (Q10) maps in detail the specific details of each of the measures taken.*

### **2.1 Measures taken, their Impact and Responses to the changing influx in Member States that experienced a change in the influx of asylum applicants**

**Q9. Please indicate in the table below which specific areas were impacted by a change in the influx of asylum applicants in your (Member State) that your Member State identified. Please specify further in the column 'Explanation' whether information provided relate to an increased or to a decrease in the influx.**

*Additional details on the measures are requested in the tables below under question 10. Therefore please only briefly highlight all measures taken.*

<b>Area</b>	<b>Directly impacted (yes/no)</b>	<b>Time period (when)</b>	<b>Very brief explanation on the basis of short titles (how and what the impact was, including whether it concerned an increase/decrease)</b>
1. Border control ( <i>please specify if it refers to external border control, temporary control at internal borders and/or police controls in border</i> )	N/A	N/A	N/A

<sup>52</sup> Information provided by the BBAP PFP.

<sup>53</sup> Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2015 (2016), p. 13 (consulted on 15/10/2017).

<sup>54</sup> Information provided by the BBAP PFP.

<i>areas)</i>			
2. Reception centres / accommodation arrangements and other housing	N/A	N/A	N/A
3. Wider reception services (social services, health services), rights afforded to applicants	N/A	N/A	N/A
4. Registration process of the asylum seeker	N/A	N/A	N/A
5. Asylum procedure (at first and second instance)	N/A	N/A	N/A
6. Infrastructure, personnel and competencies of the responsible authorities	N/A	N/A	N/A
7. Law enforcement	N/A	N/A	N/A
8. Integration measures for asylum applicants	N/A	N/A	N/A
9. <i>Other, please specify</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Q10. Fill out the table below on specific elements of the measures indicated in the previous table. Note that numerous questions are simply to establish the typology of the measure, and only the selected options need to be indicated (such as rows a) and b)). Further details are provided from row c), with a general explanation in row e).**

Please copy the entire table below for to provide an overview of additional measures. There is no limit for numbers of measures to be included, as long as they are coherent with the requested information.

<b>Measure 1</b>	<p><b>Please select the area</b> corresponding to those highlighted in Q9 by removing the lines that do not apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Border control</u></li> <li>2. <u>Reception centres</u> / accommodation arrangements and other housing</li> <li>3. <u>Wider reception services</u> (social services, health services), rights afforded to applicants</li> <li>4. <u>Registration process</u> of the asylum seeker</li> <li>5. <u>Asylum procedure</u> (at first and second instance)</li> <li>6. <u>Infrastructure</u>, personnel and competencies of the responsible authorities</li> <li>7. <u>Law enforcement</u></li> <li>8. <u>Integration measures for asylum applicants</u></li> <li>9. <u>Other, please specify</u></li> </ol>	
	a) Year and month the measure was established	N/A
	<b>b) Typology of measures</b> (please indicate which of the options apply)	
	Measure following an <u>increase</u> or <u>decrease</u> in numbers	N/A
	<u>New measure</u> or <u>change to an existing measure</u>	N/A
	<u>Structural</u> or <u>ad-hoc</u> (temporary) measure	N/A

<p>Type of measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>(National) Action plan</u></li> <li>- <u>Legislative instruments</u></li> <li>- Specific interinstitutional / multi-agency <u>working group</u> on the situation</li> <li>- <u>Soft measures</u> (handbooks, circulars, policy guidance)</li> <li>- <u>Resources</u> (staff or financing)</li> <li>- <u>Emergency/contingency plan</u></li> <li>- Other, please specify</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Other elements</b></p>	
<p>c) General aim of the measure (what was intended?)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>d) Intended and actual duration of the measure</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>e) Key elements of the measure (description of the measure)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>f) Authorities involved in <u>drafting</u> the measure</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>g) Authorities involved in <u>proposing and approving</u> of each measure</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>h) Authorities implementing measures</p>	<p>N/A</p>

	i) Other	N/A
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<b>Measure 2</b>	<p><b>Please select the area</b> corresponding to those highlighted in Q9 by removing the lines that do not apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Border control</u></li> <li>2. <u>Reception centres</u> / accommodation arrangements and other housing</li> <li>3. <u>Wider reception services</u> (social services, health services), rights afforded to applicants</li> <li>4. <u>Registration process</u> of the asylum seeker</li> <li>5. <u>Asylum procedure</u> (at first and second instance)</li> <li>6. <u>Infrastructure</u>, personnel and competencies of the responsible authorities</li> <li>7. <u>Law enforcement</u></li> <li>8. <u>Integration measures for asylum applicants</u></li> </ol>	
	a) Year and month the measure was established	N/A
	<b>b) Typology of measures</b> ( <i>please indicate which of the options apply</i> )	
	Measure following an <u>increase</u> or <u>decrease</u> in numbers	N/A
	<u>New measure</u> or <u>change to an existing measure</u>	N/A
	<u>Structural</u> or <u>ad-hoc</u> (temporary) measure	N/A

<p>Type of measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>(National) Action plan</u></li> <li>- <u>Legislative instruments</u></li> <li>- Specific interinstitutional / multi-agency <u>working group</u> on the situation</li> <li>- <u>Soft measures</u> (handbooks, circulars, policy guidance)</li> <li>- <u>Resources</u> (staff or financing)</li> <li>- <u>Emergency/contingency plan</u></li> <li>- Other, please specify</li> </ul>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Other elements</b></p>	
<p>c) General aim of the measure (what was intended?)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>d) Intended and actual duration of the measure</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>e) Key elements of the measure (description of the measure)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>f) Authorities involved in <u>drafting</u> the measure</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>g) Authorities involved in <u>proposing and approving</u> of each measure</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>h) Authorities implementing measures</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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	i) Other	N/A
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**Q11. To what extent were any of the measures put in place by non-state entities mandated by a government authority via funding or project/by law/by measure? Please elaborate further.**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Extent of involvement of non-state entities (if yes, to what extent)</b>
Border control ( <i>please specify if it refers to external border control, temporary control at internal borders and/or police controls in border areas</i> )	N/A
Reception centres / accommodation arrangements and other housing	N/A
Wider reception services (social services, health services), rights afforded to applicants	N/A
Registration process of the asylum seeker	N/A
Asylum procedure (at first and second instance)	N/A
Infrastructure, personnel and competencies of the responsible authorities	N/A
Law enforcement	N/A
Immediate integration measures for asylum applicants	N/A
<i>Please add rows where necessary</i>	N/A

**Q12. In view of the impact of the fluctuations of the influx on local authorities, how and to what extent were local authorities impacted by measures taken by the national government/authorities responsible? To what extent local authorities were able to influence this process?**

*While it is beyond the scope of the study to be able to describe and analyse impacts on all different local authorities concerned, please elaborate on how national measures taken generally impacted on regional or local authorities.*

<b>Area</b>	<b>Impact on local authorities</b>	<b>Influence on the process</b>
Border control ( <i>please specify if it refers to external border control, temporary control at internal borders and/or police controls in border areas</i> )	N/A	N/A
Reception centres / accommodation arrangements and other housing	N/A	N/A
Wider reception services (social services, health services), rights afforded to applicants	N/A	N/A
Registration process of the asylum seeker	N/A	N/A
Asylum procedure (at first and second instance)	N/A	N/A
Infrastructure, personnel and competencies of the responsible authorities	N/A	N/A
Law enforcement	N/A	N/A
Integration measures for asylum applicants	N/A	N/A
<i>Please add rows where necessary</i>	N/A	N/A

## 2.2 Scaling down or dismantling measures following a decrease in numbers of asylum applications

**Q13. Many Member States experienced a decrease in the influx of asylum applications in the third and fourth quarters of 2016, while several Member States experienced a more irregular decrease at certain intervals after the period 2014-2016. If your (Member) State experienced a decrease in asylum applications, were any changes made to (the scope of) previously adapted or introduced measures?**

*This question seeks to understand if and how measures adopted during the previous increase were changed. Please elaborate on the process on how the assessment was made (by the government) to scale down the scope of measures.*

N/A

**Q14. To what extent did the decrease result in adapting or abolishing/dismantling measures taken in periods of increase?**

N/A

**Q15. To what extent did the decrease lead to a shift in political and administrative prioritisation of measures taken (e.g. from asylum procedure to integration and or return)?**

N/A

**Q16. To what extent did the decrease lead to measures (and/or debate) about maintaining established admission, housing and integration capacities as well as preserving gained expertise (e.g. regularly training of former staff; maintaining infrastructure; increasing capacities within other admission procedures such as resettlement, relocation, humanitarian admission)?**

N/A

### **Section 3: Effectiveness of the measures taken**

This phase concerns the period after the implementation of new practices and ad-hoc measures and their follow-up. Only Member State who implemented national measures in response to a fluctuation of the influx are required to reply. Please copy the entire table below for all the measures listed in Q10.

**Q17a. Please indicate the impacts and effectiveness of each measure mentioned above.**

<b>Measure 1</b>	<b>Immediate impact</b> (in the first days or weeks after its implementation)	N/A
	<b>Medium or longer term effect</b> (a month or longer after its implementation)	N/A
	<b>Collateral or side effect(s) and unexpected/unforeseen effects</b> (effects not initially considered when the measure was implemented)	N/A
	<b>Was the measure evaluated for effectiveness? If so, by whom?</b>	N/A
	<b>What was the outcome of the evaluation?</b>	N/A

<b>Measure 2</b>	<b>Immediate impact</b> (in the first days or weeks after its implementation)	N/A
	<b>Medium or longer term effect</b> (a month or longer after its implementation)	N/A
	<b>Collateral or side effect(s) and unexpected/unforeseen effects</b> (effects not initially considered when the measure was implemented)	N/A

	<b>Was the measure evaluated for effectiveness? If so, by whom?</b>	N/A
	<b>What was the outcome of the evaluation?</b>	N/A

**Q17b. Did the changing influx of asylum applicants prompt changes in national approaches for other types of migration, e.g. economic migration or family reunification? The question seeks to establish whether the increased number of asylum applications brought about changes in other policy areas, such as for example a stricter approach to family reunification, or reduced labour immigration quotas.**

N/A

#### **Section 4: Financing of the implemented measures, other resources, and administrative burden**

**Q18a. How were the implemented national measures financed? (i.e. on the basis of an emergency budget passed in parliament, additional budget allocation by the responsible ministry/authority, budgetary contributions from multiple authorities, a budgetary contribution key)**

N/A

**Q18b. Was the financing plan of ad-hoc measures different from the financing of already existing and structural measures for national asylum policies/national asylum system? How? Please elaborate.**

N/A

**Q19. Did the fluctuation of the influx bring an increase/decrease in the administrative burden for national authorities responsible of asylum applicants? If yes, how did your Member State deal with that? Please consider as administrative burden the recruitment of additional personnel, additional trainings, changes in procedures, etc.**

N/A

**Q20. To what extent did the adoption of additional measures directly result in an increase in staff/human resources at national (ministry, national services) or local level? You can report on one or two case studies if differences are significant among large numbers of local municipalities.**

N/A

## **Section 5: The way forward - future preparedness**

This Section is relevant for all Member States and Norway, including those countries which did not experience significant fluctuations in the number of asylum applications.

**Q21. Following the fluctuations between 2014 and 2016, did your Member State put in place any new structural (emergency planning) mechanisms to adapt to the (possible) changing influx of asylum applicants in the future?**

Yes / No    Yes

*Please substantiate your answer below.*

In 2015, the MoI SR established a mechanism (staff)<sup>55</sup> with the main task of solving the situations resulting from increased irregular migration in the territory of the SR promptly, efficiently and foremost comprehensively. The main tasks of the staff are to decide on strengthening the capacity to detect irregular migration in the territory of the SR and to continually monitor and evaluate the state of irregular migration across the internal or external borders of the SR. If necessary, the staff should also arrange the posting of sufficient numbers of forces and means to detect irregular migration in the territory of the SR and adopt related measures.

Establishment of the staff was initiated mainly by the armed conflict in Ukraine as well as by the subsequent development and increase of mixed migration from the African continent into the Schengen Area. If an increased rate of irregular migration occurs in the territory of the SR, the staff is to prepare and implement various measures regarding, for example, the creation of temporary infrastructure and placing the asylum seekers applying for international protection at the external Slovak border with Ukraine or regarding a mass influx of irregular migrants across the internal Slovak border.

Members include not only the BBAP PFP and MO MoI SR, which is responsible for the proceedings of asylum procedure in the territory of the SR, but also the Fire and Rescue Force, several Police Force departments and MoI SR.<sup>56</sup>

If a migration pressure in Slovakia exceeds the current accommodation capacities of the MO MoI SR, crisis measures are in place, for example establishment of a tent camp. The preparedness of such measures is regularly tested (see Q5).<sup>57</sup>

A foreign police unit to protect the Schengen border of the EU was also established in 2015 (see Q7).

**Q22a. Please elaborate to what extent the experience over 2014-2016 helped the government (national, regional, local level) to be prepared for any future changing influx in asylum applications, such as for 2017?**

*Please elaborate.*

Between 2014 and 2016 the SR engaged intensely in coordination meetings of responsible bodies as well as in field exercises of forces which contributed to strengthening preparedness of the SR for the potential mass arrival of asylum seekers and irregular migrants from neighbouring EU MS

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<sup>55</sup> Decision of the Minister of Interior of the SR No. 126/2015 on the staff for addressing the increased rate of irregular migration.

<sup>56</sup> Information provided by the BBAP PFP.

<sup>57</sup> Information provided by the MO MoI SR.

or Ukraine into the territory of the SR (see Q5).<sup>58</sup> The situation also intensified the need for the state integration programme for beneficiaries of international protection in the territory of the SR as a systemic approach of the state to integrate this group of persons. Preparation of the programme started in 2015 as one of the tasks defined in the Government Resolution.<sup>59</sup>

**Q22b. Have any potential future measures been planned? Are new measures under consideration? Please elaborate.**

With respect to forced and irregular migration, the SR remains a transit country and is not currently facing significant migration pressures, as well as does not prepare any new measures related to such situations apart from those already prepared.<sup>60</sup> The SR will continue to cooperate with the EU MS and provide them with assistance in the adoption of systemic measures to cope with mass arrivals of irregular migrants into the Schengen Area, as well as to post more police officers into joint operations abroad.<sup>61</sup> The SR will continue in providing assistance to EU MS under migration pressure, be it by means of posting MO MoI SR experts into EASO Asylum Support Teams or by providing accommodation capacities. If migration pressure in Slovakia exceeds the current accommodation capacities, crisis measures are in place (see Q21).<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Information provided by the BBAP PFP; Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 568/2015 on the Information on the support of activities of non-governmental organizations related to humanitarian and integration support of refugees, submitted by the initiators of the petition "Výzva k ľudskosti" (Plea for Humanity).

<sup>59</sup> Information provided by the MO MoI SR. Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 568/2015 on the Information on the support of activities of non-governmental organizations related to humanitarian and integration support of refugees, submitted by the initiators of the petition "Výzva k ľudskosti" (Plea for Humanity).

<sup>60</sup> Information provided by the BBAP PFP.

<sup>61</sup> Information provided by the BBAP PFP.

<sup>62</sup> Information provided by the MO MoI SR.

## **Section 6: Good practices and lessons learnt**

Section 6.1 examines the existing challenges and obstacles for the design and implementation of specific policies to adapt to changing influx of asylum applications. EMN NCPs are kindly asked to justify their answers by identifying (a) for whom the issue identified constitutes a challenge, (b) specifying the sources of the information provided (e.g. existing studies/evaluations, information received from competent authorities or case law) and (c) why it is considered to be a challenge.

Section 6.2 aims to highlight any good practices of the (Member) States that have successfully implemented and managed fluctuations of influx of asylum applicants. This section can include also lessons learnt from the practical implementation of specific policies and measures. EMN NCPs are kindly asked to justify their answers by identifying (a) who considers it to be a good practice, (b) specify the sources of information provided and (c) why it is considered to be a good practice.

### 6.1. CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES FOR THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC POLICIES TO ADAPT TO CHANGING INFLUX OF ASYLUM APPLICANTS

**Q23. What are the main challenges and/or obstacles that your Member State had to overcome in designing strategies, structural mechanisms and measures to adapt to the influx of asylum applicants?**

N/A

### 6.2. GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNT

**Q24. Did or will your Member State undertake a national evaluation of the policies and measures implemented over 2014-2016? If it already took place, please elaborate on the findings.**

N/A

**Q25. Could you identify good practices in your Member State with regards to ensuring flexibility and adaptability of the national asylum system and associated services in order to deal with a changing influx of asylum applicants? If yes, please elaborate.**

N/A

**Q26. What are the key lessons learnt by key national authorities involved over the period 2014-2016? Please elaborate and add as many rows as needed.**

Lesson learnt	Responsible authority/stakeholder
1. N/A	N/A
2. N/A	N/A
3. N/A	N/A
4. N/A	N/A

## **Section 7: Conclusions**

*The Synthesis Report will outline the key findings, main observations of the Study, present conclusions relevant for policymakers at national and EU level and identify policy pointers for future actions. Specific conclusions drawn by (Member) State should be included in the Top Line Factsheet to prevent duplication of efforts.*

**Note: not to be drafted by NCPs.**

## Bibliography

### Publications

Bachtíková I., Oboňová S., EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum Policies in the Slovak Republic for 2014, (2015). ISBN: 978-80-89506-61-3.

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Micháľková M., EMN study The Organisation of Reception Facilities for Asylum Seekers in the SR. (2013). ISBN: 978-80-89506-39-2

### Documents/Other Resources

EMN Questionnaire filled by the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic Migration, 2017.

EMN Questionnaire filled by the Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Police Force Presidium, 2017.

Starting points for the update of the Security Strategy of the SR and Defense Strategy of the SR, The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, available at: <<http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=25849>>

Statistical report of the Ministry of Interior of the SR – Asylum and Migration, available at: <<https://www.minv.sk/?rocenky>>.

Yearbook of the Bureau of the Border and Aliens Police of the Police Force Presidium, available at: <<https://www.minv.sk/?statistiky-20>>.

### Legislation

Resolution of the Government of the SR No. 568/2015 on the Information on the support of activities of non-governmental organizations related to humanitarian and integration support of refugees, submitted by the initiators of the petition "Výzva k ľudskosti" (Plea for Humanity).

Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on Residence of Aliens as amended.

Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on changes and amendments to some acts.

Decision of the Minister of Interior of the SR (No. 126/2015) on the staff for addressing the increased rate of irregular migration.