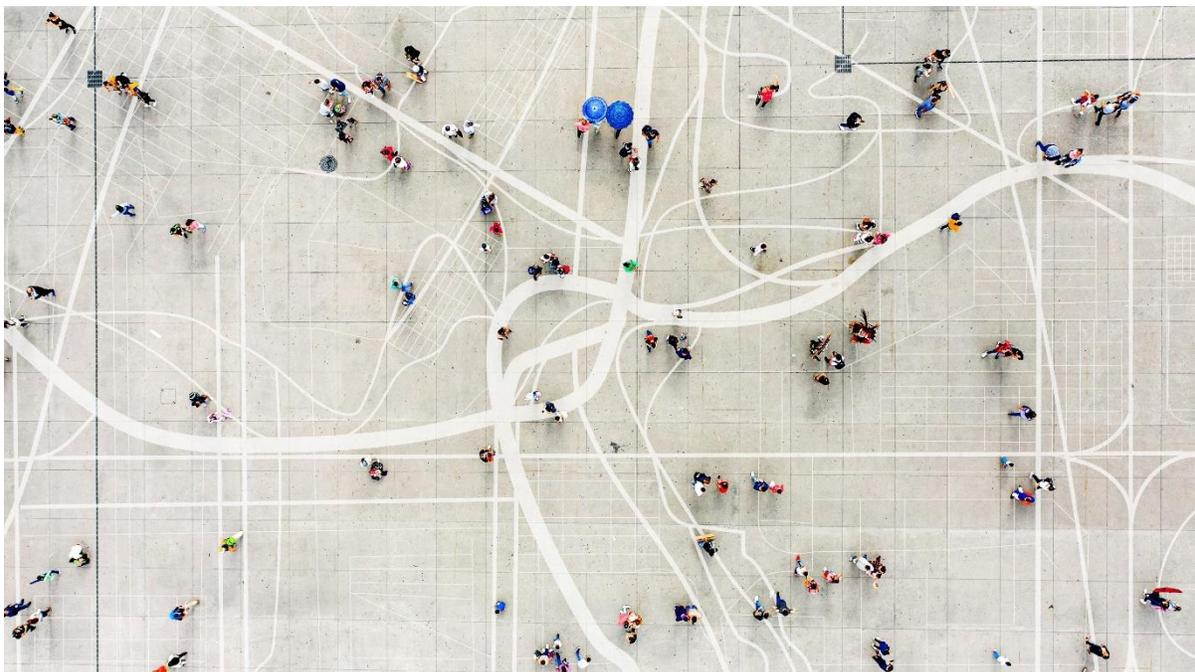




August 2022

Welcome to the EMN Quarterly Flash, our selection of the key developments in the areas of migration and asylum from April to June 2022. **The full PDF version of the EMN quarterly can be found [here](#).** If you know someone who would be interested, please share this [link](#) so they can subscribe to the quarterly flash.

EMN news



As well as finding out about the latest publications and events, you can scroll to key thematic areas using the buttons below.

[International protection](#)

[Unaccompanied minors](#)

[Legal migration and integration](#)

[Return](#)

[Human trafficking](#)

[Border management](#)

Note on information regarding Ukraine

The 39th edition of the EMN quarterly includes information on arrivals from Ukraine, with major EU-level updates and examples of national responses under each relevant section for the reporting period.

However, for detailed information please refer to the recently published [EMN inform on the Application of the Temporary Protection Directive \(Scope and Registration\)](#).

Stay tuned also for other upcoming EMN publications related to the Temporary Protection Directive (regarding the provision of services and the provision of accommodation and housing).

In the meantime, more information regarding Ukraine may be found for each EMN member and observer country on our [website](#).

[Back](#)

News from the EU

Texts on Eurodac and screening regulations approved. On 22 June 2022, the Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) adopted [Council negotiating mandates on the Eurodac and Screening Regulations](#). Both proposals are part of the Pact on Migration and Asylum presented in 2020. The Eurodac database contains the fingerprints of irregular migrants and asylum applicants who have been registered in EU Member States and associated countries, whereas the screening regulation focuses on controls on persons at the external borders. The Council press release states that the texts agreed would facilitate tackling irregular movements and the return of people in an irregular situation and provide that screening at the external borders will apply to all persons who do not fulfil the conditions for entry.

Ukraine in focus. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen referred to a reconstruction plan for Ukraine in her [speech](#) at the World Economic Forum on 24 May 2022 – a reference some have termed a Marshall Plan for Ukraine. The platform would serve to map investment needs and coordinate relief efforts after the war with Russia in the short, mid-, and long-term.

Additional steps were taken to protect those fleeing the war. On 31 May 2022, the European Commission [launched an EU platform for the registration beneficiaries of temporary protection](#), to facilitate the exchange of information between EU Member States and register people in real time, and to grant refugees fleeing Ukraine effective access to their rights and benefits, as well as address the issue of multiple registrations and limit possible abuse. On 9 June 2022, the Council adopted [conclusions on the EU strategy on the rights of child](#),

focusing on protecting their rights in situations of crisis or emergency. As a result of the war in Ukraine, the Council has given specific attention to the need to protect children from recruitment by armed forces, illegal adoption, trafficking in human beings, sexual exploitation, and family separation.

Updated guidance on Afghanistan. With the aim to harmonise approaches across EU Member States, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) released an updated [‘Country Guidance’](#) for Afghan applicants on 20 April 2022, to assist national authorities in deciding who qualifies for international protection.

Actions against human trafficking. [‘Upholding victims’ rights and strengthening assistance’](#) was the title of the high-level conference of 4 April 2022, held by the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings. The provision of comprehensive assistance, durable solutions, and (re)-integration of victims were at the heart of the agenda.

On 11 May 2022, the [EU Solidarity Platform](#) presented a [Common Anti-Trafficking Plan](#) to address the risks of trafficking in human beings and potential victims. This was one of the goals of the [10-Point Action Plan](#) established for stronger European coordination on welcoming people fleeing the war against Ukraine.

[Back](#)

News from the EU Member States

General developments

Citizenship legislation was amended in **Austria** and **Latvia**: In Austria, a law was promulgated extending the rights of Austrian citizenship to specific groups and their descendants, including former citizens deported by the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP) authorities before 9 May 1945 or those who were not able to enter or return to Austrian territory between 30 January 1933 and 9 May 1945 due to fear of persecution, as well as the descendants of citizens who died due to persecution by the NSDAP authorities.

In **Latvia**, a supplement to the Citizenship Law was adopted to include a condition for the withdrawal of Latvian citizenship in case of violations of generally recognised international law against another democratic state in cases where this would create an indirect threat to Latvia's democratic establishment and constitutional values. These amendments were adopted in the context of the war on Ukraine launched by Russia. Latvian citizenship may be withdrawn only in case of dual citizenship; no one can become stateless.

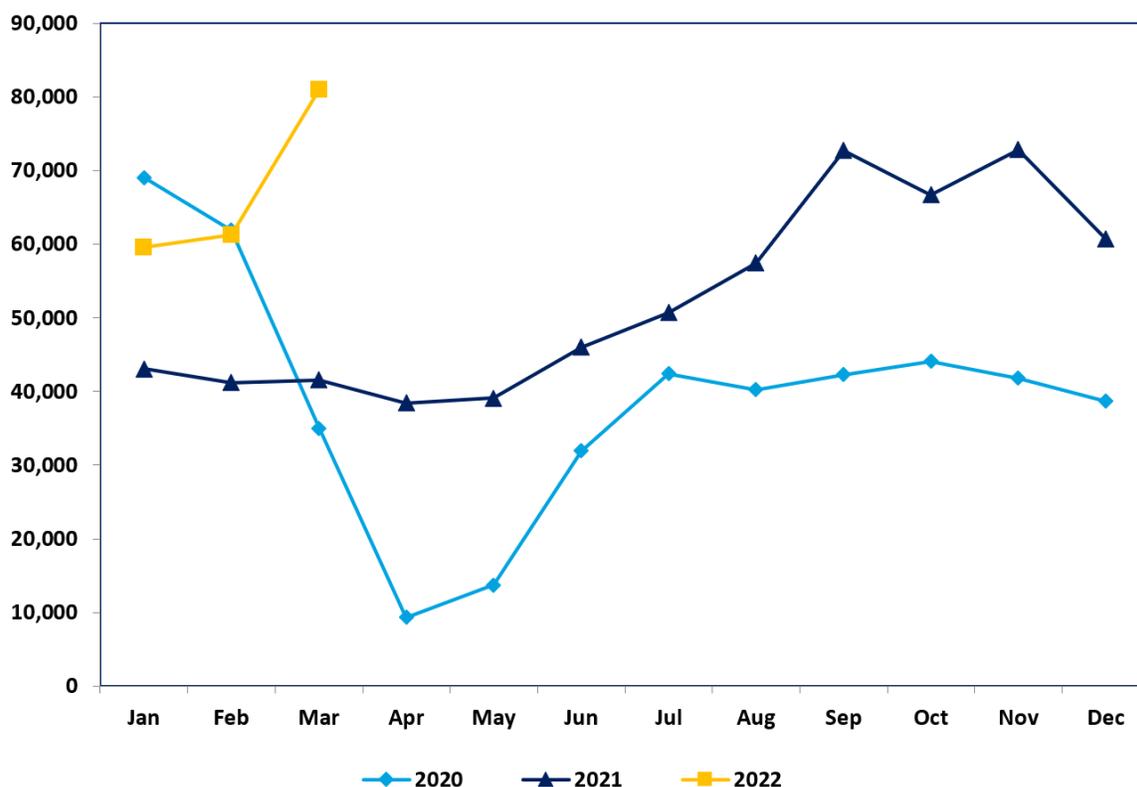
Estonia and **Lithuania** reported on measures on visas for Russians and Belarusians. In Estonia, restrictions were introduced on the short-term employment of Russian and Belarusian citizens and on the issuance of temporary residence permits or visas for employment or engagement in business. In Lithuania, the parliament extended a state-wide emergency until 15 September 2022, and the country continues to apply a strict visa regime for Russian and Belarus citizens by suspending decisions on their visa applications. The exception applies to cases where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is an intermediary in issuing visas.

On 11 May 2022, **Georgia** and Switzerland signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in migration-related issues. The document will enhance legal migration programmes, strengthen the protection of migrants' rights, and ensure the management of migration flows and work for the prevention of irregular migration.

[Back](#)

International protection including asylum and vulnerable groups

Figure 1: Asylum applications in the EU-27, Q1 2022 (January-March 2022)



Source: Eurostat [[migr_asyappctzm](#)], total asylum applicants, extracted on 11 July 2022.

Protection measures for people fleeing the war in Ukraine were reinforced and implemented throughout Europe, as Member States increased funds and reception capacities for Ukrainians. Efforts to coordinate voluntary offers to support those fleeing the war were also undertaken, for instance in **Estonia** and **Luxembourg**, where mechanisms were introduced to connect war refugees from Ukraine with residents wishing to offer them accommodation or family reception; another new project guides interested people to organizations offering voluntary activities.

EU Member States also introduced new legislature, administrative procedures, or even institutions, mainly to welcome and manage the flows of Ukrainian refugees. 'One-stop-shops' for applicants for temporary protection were opened for Ukrainian applicants for temporary protection in **Ireland** and **Luxembourg**. Starting from 1 June 2022, beneficiaries of temporary protection are eligible for social benefits in **Germany**: support for living expenses, housing and heating, as well as health insurance. In **Croatia**, since

law amendments in April, persons under temporary protection are also granted benefits and services within the social welfare system and are allowed access to health care to the same extent as an insured person under national legislation. In **the Netherlands**, a pilot project was launched to hand out 'residence stickers' to demonstrate the lawful residence of beneficiaries of temporary protection and their right to work for the duration of time the Temporary Protection Directive is in force. Additionally, a National Reception Organisation (NOO) was established to realise adequate reception and support for Ukrainian refugees as well a structured government strategy to coordinate the reception of beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine.

Poland introduced a law amendment allowing the issuance of national visas to foreigners who are already in Poland since it is currently not possible for Polish consular posts to issue visas in Ukraine. The **Czech Republic** amended its 'Lex Ukraine II', which regulates the procedures for requesting temporary protection, whereas in **Greece**, a new Code of Legislation entered into force for the reception, international protection of third country nationals and stateless persons and temporary protection in case of a mass influx of displaced persons.

According to the April data communicated by the Lithuanian Ministry of Interior, the number of Ukrainian nationals who fled the war in their country and have registered in **Lithuania** consists of 1.7 per cent of the total country population, exceeding the EU average by 3.4 times. In May, the Ministry of the Interior proposed to create an institution responsible for the reception and accommodation of refugees coming to Lithuania by April 2023.

Other developments include the distribution of information materials with regard to the reception and assistance of Ukrainians in **Italy, France and Finland**. Meanwhile, evacuations from Afghanistan continued: 46 Afghans were brought to **Portugal**, whereas in **Spain**, the Ministry of Inclusion and Reporters Without Borders signed a collaboration agreement for the integration of 500 refugee journalists from Afghanistan and Ukraine. As of 30 June 2022, **the Netherlands** will resume issuing decisions on asylum applications from Afghanistan.

In April, **Georgia** launched a campaign to identify and document stateless persons, resulting in the collection of data on 34 potential beneficiaries.

[Back](#)

Unaccompanied minors

Steps were taken to protect the rights of children and tend to their specific needs for safety, protection from trafficking and abuse, access to education and to justice. In **Cyprus**, the construction of a new safe zone for vulnerable persons and unaccompanied minors (UAM) was completed with the support of EUAA. It is now mandatory in **the Netherlands** for cases where unaccompanied minors' asylum applications have been rejected for the Minister of Migration to vigorously investigate whether adequate reception facilities can be provided in the country of origin.

Upon the request of Ukraine, **Finland** committed to receive a transfer of vulnerable persons from Ukraine: 20 persons with reduced mobility and their immediate family members, and 30 unaccompanied minors. **Luxembourg** made legislative changes to

respond to the influx of Ukrainian refugee children, foreseeing actions like an increase in staff resources and provision of intercultural mediators in charge of supervising Ukrainian pupils. Meanwhile in **Portugal**, the Figueira da Foz coast border post reported five unaccompanied minors from Ukraine to judicial authorities to ensure their protection. **Moldova** has increased inter-sectoral cooperation to identify, assist, and monitor children at risk who have come from Ukraine.

[Back](#)

Legal migration and integration

Efforts to expand access to study and employment continued in some countries. New regulations to simplify access to the labour market were reported by the **Slovak Republic**, whereas in **Cyprus** and in **Finland**, amendments easing the conditions – notably employment possibilities – of international students were introduced. **Ireland** extended the option for a five-year multi-entry short-stay visa to all visa-required countries.

Conversely, stricter regulations went into force in **Sweden**: an employment contract became a requirement to be granted a work permit in order to counteract the exploitation of labour migrants, and employers may be obliged to notify the authorities if the terms of employment change. A maintenance requirement is also required for family members.

Spain launched the 'Mograsafe Africa' project, reflecting efforts to promote legal pathways to the EU and to support safe, orderly and regular migration – focusing here on eight African countries (Morocco, Senegal, Cape Verde, Tunisia, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria and Ethiopia). Under the Protocol for the implementation of 'Humanitarian Corridors from Lebanon', 73 beneficiaries arrived in **Italy** between May and June 2022, while the Protocol for the Implementation of Humanitarian Corridors from Ethiopia, Niger and Jordan was recently concluded, with the arrival of 46 beneficiaries on 25 May 2022.

Moldova approved derogations from its law on the regime of foreigners so displaced persons from Ukraine could stay more than 90 days on the territory of the country; and so granting/extending the right of residence could be done on the basis of a travel document whose term had been extended for more than 10 years.

In the Netherlands, the House of Representatives accepted a legislative proposal that is being discussed in the Senate to introduce a judicial procedure to establish the statelessness of a person. In addition, a legislative change now allows stateless, undocumented minors to acquire Dutch nationality after five years of residence. Following a law amendment in **Bulgaria**, third-country national workers who enjoy temporary protection do not need special permission anymore to access the Bulgarian labour market. In **France**, beneficiaries of temporary protection are now authorized to carry out self-employment activities. The **Slovak Republic** also adopted measures to facilitate access to employment and information to people holding temporary protection including translation of all vacancies on the state portal.

Overall, the trend of easing the requirements for access to work for beneficiaries of temporary protection applies to all such beneficiaries. Member States deployed extra efforts and resources to assist Ukrainians in their search for work. For example, in **Germany** the Chambers of Industry and Commerce and the Confederation of Skilled Crafts started a joint initiative to match Ukrainian jobseekers with open vacancies more quickly.

Targeted efforts to integrate displaced persons from Ukraine also included extended educational measures such as local language courses (**Austria, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Georgia**) as well as funds and regulations to ensure basic education and orientation for Ukrainians (**Austria, Estonia, Italy, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg**). In **Austria**, an amendment to the law entered into force allowing the recognition and assessment of foreign educational or vocational qualifications of displaced persons from Ukraine.

[Back](#)

Return

Outreach activities, collaboration with external partners such as Frontex, and incentives for voluntary return were some of the measures reported by Member States.

The number of returns increased compared to last year from **Portugal** and **Sweden**. In June, the Swedish government tasked the relevant agencies and services to ensure greater effectiveness in the return procedure; the number of returns should increase by 50 % in 2023, compared to 2021. **The Netherlands** reported that the Return and Repatriation Service is no longer required of investigate the accessibility of healthcare in the country of return if a person's claim of inadequate access to necessary care has been accepted by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service.

The period was also marked by a new ministerial instruction in **France**, which details the use of preparation centres for return schemes (DPAR) in return procedures, with precisions on issues such as the target groups likely to be accommodated in the scheme, the terms and conditions for house arrest, and the procedure for admission to the scheme.

[Back](#)

Addressing human trafficking

Amping up efforts across Member States to combat trafficking in human beings included a high-level international conference in May in Dubrovnik, **Croatia**, with the focus on combating demand in South-eastern Europe, as well as the Medusa 2022 exercise on combating trafficking in Human Beings organized by the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum in **Greece**, and the 'Do not trust implicitly. Do not become a victim of human trafficking' information campaign in **Poland**.

In **Hungary**, the Trafficking in Human Beings Unit of the National Bureau of Investigation participated in an online joint action day 'Hackathon' to detect criminal networks attempting to recruit Ukrainian refugees for sexual and labour exploitation via websites, social media platforms and the DarkWeb.

[Back](#)

Border management and irregular migration

The reporting period was marked by increased border controls and preparedness measures for massive flows. On 30 June 2022, **Poland** completed the construction of a physical dam on the Polish-Belarusian border.

Slovenia carried out training in the field of management of external borders, and in the framework of cooperation with Frontex, 16 Frontex officers were deployed to **Georgia**, while one Georgian patrol police officer was placed in **Poland**.

Based on risk analysis, and to respond to a massive increase in passenger traffic flows during the summer of 2022, a Summer Contingency Plan (SCP) was developed in **Portugal** for its external air borders. Portugal also detected the facilitation of some illegal immigration networks mainly involving nationals from Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and India. In **Italy** 22 178 migrants landed on its southern shores from 1 January 2022 to 15 June 2022, including 2 505 minors. Italy also reported that the work on the adoption of the Schengen Borders Code Revision Regulation and the so-called Screening Regulation continued with more confidence following the political statement on the relocation mechanism in favour of the Mediterranean external border states.

EMN publications and events

Recent EMN publications and events

- [2021 EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum](#), along with its accompanying Statistical Annex, presented at a launch event on 15 June 2022
- [EMN study on Detention and Alternatives to detention in international protection and return procedures](#)
- [EMN inform on Attracting and retaining international researchers](#)
- [EMN inform on Mapping of mental health services for refugees and migrants](#)
- [EMN inform on Incentives and motives for voluntary departure](#)

Stay tuned for upcoming EMN publications and events:

- EMN study on the Integration of migrant women in the EU and Norway: Policies and measures
- EMN inform on Bilateral return agreements: inventory, characteristics, and effectiveness
- EMN inform on Lawful secondary movements of beneficiaries of international protection
- EMN inform on Measures to support transition to adulthood for unaccompanied minors
- EMN Estonia and EMN Georgia joint national conference '[Advancing Data-Driven Decision-Making in Migration Management](#)', which will take place on 19-20 September 2022 in Tbilisi, Georgia.
- EMN Cyprus and EMN Luxembourg joint national conference 'Six months into applying the Temporary Protection Directive – Lessons learned and shared experiences, which will take place on 13 October 2022 in Limassol, Cyprus

[Back](#)



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