

# EMN BULLETIN

The EMN Bulletin provides policymakers and other practitioners with updates on recent migration and international protection policy developments at EU and national level. The 11<sup>th</sup> Edition provides information from March 2015 to May 2015, including (latest) relevant published statistics.

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

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

## SPECIAL NOTE

On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015, the European Commission launched the [European Agenda on Migration](#) defining both urgent measures to respond to the Mediterranean crisis and more long-term actions for the coming years aiming at improving the management of migration. The four main pillars of the new Agenda are:

- ★ A full and coherent implementation of the Common European Asylum System;
- ★ A new policy on legal migration to maintain the EU an attractive destination for migrants;
- ★ Strengthening borders management to save lives and securing external borders; and
- ★ Reducing the incentives for irregular migration.



## WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK (EMN)?

A network co-ordinated by the European Commission, assisted by a Service Provider, in co-operation with National Contact Points (EMN NCPs) established in each Member State plus Norway. Its purpose is to provide up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum, with a view to supporting policymaking in the European Union in these areas, as well as to the wider public. More information, as well as all EMN outputs, is available on the [EMN Website](#).

The [EMN Annual Conference 2015 on "Attracting and Retaining Talent in Europe"](#) was held in Riga, Latvia, on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The conference explored a theme directly relevant to the debate on legal migration, looking in particular at **how to address shortages in specific skills sectors** and to **attract highly qualified migrants** in the EU. It was discussed how well-managed migration policies aiming at attracting skilled migrants can contribute to boosting economic growth and competitiveness, counteracting also the effect of demographic ageing. Presentations provided practical responses Member States have developed to ensure that skill needs can be identified and met in the global context of the 'competition for talent'.

## 1. GENERAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The [EMN Annual Report on Immigration and Asylum 2014](#) has been published. The synthesis report provides an overview of the information collected from 27 Member States and Norway, regarding their national policy developments and [statistical information](#) on migration and asylum policies for the year 2014.

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Finland:** On 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015 the President of the Republic appointed Finland's [new 74<sup>th</sup> Government](#). The new Government headed by Prime Minister Juha Sipilä consists of 14 ministers. The Centre Party has six ministerial posts. The Finns Party and the National Coalition Party have four ministerial posts each.
- ★ **Slovak Republic:** The government approved the draft [National Strategy of Human Rights Protection and Promotion in the Slovak Republic](#). In a separate annex, the Strategy summarises the legal framework for the protection of migrants.

## 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ As part of the new European Agenda on Migration, the European Commission presented an [Emergency response mechanism to assist Italy and Greece](#) with new arrivals of asylum seekers. The mechanism will initially apply to Syrian and Eritrean nationals, who have an EU average recognition rate of international protection status of more than 75%. A total of **40,000 asylum seekers could be relocated from Italy and Greece, under a fair burden sharing and redistribution key, to other EU member States** over the next two years. The implementation of these measures is currently under negotiation.
- ★ **In addition, the Commission issued a [recommendation asking Member States to resettle 20,000 people residing outside the EU](#)** and identified by the UNHCR as in clear need of international protection. The scheme will also apply over the next two years and will be also based on a distribution key. The EU is making 50 million euro available to support Member States participating in the scheme.

### LATEST RELEVANT STATISTICS

- ★ According to the [latest Eurostat data](#), the **number of applications for international protection lodged in the EU continued to rise in Q1 2015**, reaching **202,925 applications**, which is 80% more than the same quarter of the previous year. Also, 91% of the applicants **were first time applicants** (184,800), this number represents an **increase of 86% when compared to Q1 2014**. During the first quarter 2015, the top three countries of origin of asylum seekers were **Kosovo, Syria and Afghanistan**.
- ★ A total number of **124,010 first instance asylum decisions were issued in the EU and Norway in Q1 2015**. Total positive decisions for this period amounted **57,600**, while negative decisions accounted for **66,410** (see Figure 2 in Annex). The largest number of first instance asylum decisions was issued in **Germany**, followed by **Sweden, Italy and France**.
- ★ EASO published its [Quarterly Asylum Report](#) for the Q4 2014. According to the report, in 2014 62% of the total asylum applications in the EU were registered in **Germany, Sweden, Italy and France**.

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** Legal amendments to the Alien Law, which will enter into force in July 2015, provide new measures concerning the reception and support of asylum seekers, leading to comprehensive amendments to the admission procedure, as well as an accelerated asylum procedure for certain groups. The provisions on detention pending return, counselling on voluntary return as well as the reception system for asylum seekers were also subject to amendments.
- ★ **Germany:** On 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015, Chancellor Merkel discussed a catalogue of measures on how to deal with the increasing numbers of refugees within the Federal Government and the Federal States. As a result, the Minister of the Interior announced a special action plan for the six Western Balkan states. Applications from asylum seekers from the Western Balkans will be concentrated in a few preliminary reception centres and a decision will be reached within three weeks following the application. A comparable action plan implemented for asylum applicants from Kosovo (February-May 2015) proved successful.  
The German navy has sent a frigate to support international sea-rescue operations in response to the increasing numbers of refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea in recent months.
- ★ **Ireland:** Following the new measures proposed by the European Commission's European Agenda on Migration, [Ireland has responded](#) by agreeing to accept an additional 300 migrants for resettlement. Ireland has already committed to resettling 220 people, mainly Syrian nationals, up to the end of 2016. The commitment on

resettlement is a part of the Irish Government's response to the crisis in the Mediterranean, which also includes [sending a naval vessel](#) to the Mediterranean to assist with search and rescue operations.

Also, revised arrangements have been put in place by the Office for Refugee Appeals Commission in Ireland with regard to subsidiary protection applications, whereby [any person who makes a new application for refugee status may also make an application for subsidiary protection](#). This is in light of the Court of Justice of the European Union ruling in the case of H. N. v. The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Ireland and the Attorney General, the European Union (Subsidiary Protection) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 426 of 2013) amended by the European Union (Subsidiary Protection) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (S.I. No. 137 of 2015).

★ **Italy:** During the first days of May 2015, more than 400 refugees from Sub-Saharan African countries arrived in the Port of Crotona (Reggio Calabria). The refugees were rescued at sea as part of FRONTEX rescue operations. The Prefecture of Crotona coordinated the operations for the initial assistance and reception of foreigners.

★ **Luxembourg:** On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015, a governmental amendment to Bill N°6779 on international protection and temporary protection was adopted by the Council of Government. The amendment aims at introducing the possibility of case-by-case regularisation for irregular residents forced to leave the country, following a return decision in cases where they exercise parental authority over a minor child living in their household and schooled in Luxembourg for at least four years. The same possibility for regularisation holds for children who have reached majority and who have received their schooling in Luxembourg.

Following an international appeal launched by UNHCR in 2013 the Luxembourgish Government took the decision to host Syrian refugees. As a result, on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015 Corinne Cahen, Minister for Family, Integration and the Greater Region, welcomed 43 Syrian refugees at the national airport of Luxembourg.

★ **Poland:** The Prime Minister announced Poland would [receive 60 Christian families](#) from Syria. The initiative triggered many different reactions, including those claiming that religion should not be a selecting factor. In addition, family members of refugees and foreigners granted subsidiary protection who arrive in Poland on the basis of family reunification are now granted right to benefit from one-year long individual integration programmes. The programmes provide for both financial and non-financial assistance. Previously, assistance was only provided to recognised refugees and foreigners granted subsidiary protection, not to their family members.

★ **Spain:** Following the global resettlement priorities identified by both UNHCR and the European Union and as agreed by the Council of Ministers of 13 December 2013, Spain has conducted a National Resettlement Programme that includes the reception of 127 Syrian refugees from camps in Jordan and Amman. The arrival and reception of the different groups was staggered with the first group arriving on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and further groups arriving on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

### 3. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

#### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

★ The **EMN study** [Policies, practices and data on unaccompanied minors](#) was published on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The Study was based on contributions from 27 Member States and Norway. The study provided updated information regarding policies and practices in Member States and Norway in relation to unaccompanied minors. The Study and its related EMN Inform plus national reports are available via the EMN website.

#### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

★ **Croatia:** The Ministry of Social Policy and Youth has developed a new database on unaccompanied migrant children (UMC) in the Republic of Croatia and collected data for the year of 2014.

★ **Italy:** The [Ministry of the Interior initiated a procedure](#), reserved for local authorities, to apply for funding to provide reception services to asylum-seeking and non-asylum seeking unaccompanied minors in their local communities. Under such funding scheme a total of 1,000 new accommodation spaces should be provided.

In addition, the Ministry – under the Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration - [published a public call for funding projects](#) aimed at activities for the temporary reception of unaccompanied minors in highly specialised facilities. The funding is expected to create at least 414 new accommodation spaces daily.

★ **Luxembourg:** The Council of Government committed itself to strengthen the capacity of childcare facilities and to provide the Ministry of Family, Integration and the Greater Region with budget appropriations and the necessary resources to cope with current and future demands.

★ **Sweden:** The number of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) applying for asylum in Sweden has been rising significantly in recent months. Overall, during the first five months of 2015, an increase of 80% was registered when compared to the same period in 2014. As a result, contingency planning has been developed, under which Sweden created a surplus of available accommodation for UAMs at the beginning of 2015. However, this surplus is now exhausted, and new accommodation will need to be found. The reception of UAMs in Sweden is based on voluntary agreements between the Migration Agency and municipalities. When voluntary agreements are not sufficient to accommodate all UAMs, municipalities can now be forced to provide the necessary accommodation.

## 4. LEGAL MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The **EMN study** '[Admitting third-country nationals for business purposes](#)' was published on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The Study was based on contributions from 24 Member States; both the Study and national contributions are available via the EMN website.
- ★ The EMN will soon release its up-coming 2015 Study on '[Determining Labour Shortages and the need for Labour Migration](#)'. National Reports are being made available on the EMN website in advance of the publication of the Synthesis Report of the Study.
- ★ On 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015, the European Commission launched a [public consultation on the EU Blue Card](#) aiming to foster the debate and collect feedback on the actions EU should take to increase its attractiveness for highly qualified migrants, helping business in recruiting talented workers, and how to improve the "EU Blue Card" scheme. The consultation will remain open until 21<sup>st</sup> August 2015.

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015 the results of the [Migrant Integration Policy Index \(MIPEX\)](#) were presented in Austria. Overall, Austria's integration policies were evaluated as being "halfway favourable", however the results also showed that there is room for improvement in areas such as political participation and access to nationality.
- ★ **France:** In order to improve the reception conditions of migrants, an internal memorandum has been sent to the competent services on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2015, to abolish the medical examination compulsory for certain categories of migrants, in particular foreign students applying for a change of status.
- ★ **Italy:** As of 18<sup>th</sup> May 2015, applications for Italian citizenship may be submitted electronically. As a result, the new service, provided by the Ministry of the Interior - Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration – is faster and data entry streamlined.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015, the law of 27 February 2015 on the organisation of a national referendum concerning various questions in relation to the drawing up of a new Constitution was published in the *Mémorial* (official journal of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg). One of the three questions submitted to the referendum relates to the approval of the active voting rights of non-Luxembourg nationals in parliamentary elections.

On 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015, the Luxembourg Reception and Integration Office (OLAI) together with the Directorate of Immigration, launched a call for projects on actions funded under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF 2014-2020), as well as the submission requirements for a co-funding application.

- ★ **Poland:** The [first report](#) on the implementation of the Action Plan to the "Migration Policy of Poland" in 2014 was approved by the inter-ministerial Committee for Migration. According to the report, there is still room for improvement regarding the integration of foreigners.

Also, a cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary team with the aim to prepare a [model of immigrant integration](#) was formed in Gdansk, one of the largest cities in Poland. This is the first Polish city to work on an integration policy in such a participatory and interdisciplinary way.

- ★ **Portugal:** The Strategic Plan for Migration 2015-2020 (*Plano Estratégico Para as Migrações- PEM*) was adopted in Portugal as a result of the contribution and cooperation of several ministries and public bodies (e.g. ACM/SEF/General Directorate for Consular Affairs and Portuguese Communities). The Plan is based on five political priorities such as; immigrant integration, promotion of the integration of new citizens, coordination of migration flows, strengthening legal migration and the quality of migration-related services, as well as the promotion, monitoring and assistance to the return of emigrants.
- ★ **Spain:** During April 2015, the Official Gazette in its Resolution of 10 March and 13 March 2015, published the call for grants, according to the categories established by AMIF, in the areas of asylum and refugees and vulnerable immigrants for medical care in Centres of Temporary Stay of Immigrants in Ceuta and Melilla, as well as calls for development of programmes aimed at facilitating the integration of immigrants and development of programmes for assisted voluntary return of immigrants.
- ★ **Sweden:** The Swedish Government has announced a number of new initiatives to facilitate the establishment of newly-arrived immigrants in society and on the labour market. These initiatives have been developed against the background of strongly increasing numbers of new immigrants (primarily beneficiaries of international protection and people immigrating for family reasons). The new policy initiatives include additional funding for social activities, study circles, acquisition of the Swedish language, mentorship and activities of sports associations. Their purpose is to enable newly-arrived to meet people who are already established in Sweden and who can share knowledge and experiences. The target group for free language tuition (Swedish for immigrants) will be



widened so as to include beneficiaries of international protection who are still living in accommodation for asylum seekers (due to the lack of ordinary and affordable housing). The Government intends to provide additional funding to increase the refugee reception capacity in municipalities. Tripartite talks (with employers' organisations and trade unions) have been launched regarding a 'fast track' for newly-arrived beneficiaries of international protection into the labour market. Pilot schemes to investigate and identify newly arrived asylum applicants' vocational skills at an early stage of the asylum procedure and to provide relevant internships are being tested in some Swedish regions.

- ★ **United Kingdom:** As of 6<sup>th</sup> April 2015, all nationals from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) arriving to the UK for longer than six months, will be required to pay a 'health surcharge' as part of their visa application. The health surcharge will be £200 (about 280 euros) per year and £150 (about 210 euros) per year for students and will be paid online for the total period of their UK visa. Dependants will generally pay the same amount as the main applicant. The surcharge does not apply to anyone applying for a visitor visas. However, non EEA visitors will continue to be fully liable for the costs of any NHS treatment at the point they receive it.

#### *Economic migration*

- ★ **Estonia:** On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015 the Estonian Ministry of Economics and Communications approved the first nationwide action plan for the attraction of foreign talents, for the years 2015-2016. The plan creates a framework and a comprehensive systematic approach for the attraction and retention of highly skilled migrants. The main aim of the plan is to make Estonia more attractive to foreign talents and to develop the Estonian economy. As a part of the plan, the portal "[Work in Estonia](#)" was created, which includes information about the recruitment of foreigners, work and life in Estonia.
- ★ **Italy:** The [procedures for entry and residence permit applications have been simplified](#) for third-country nationals who intend to perform highly qualified jobs (EU Blue Card). An employer who has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, may now notify the proposed 'residence contract' to the Single Desk for Immigration, without applying and waiting for an authorisation.
- ★ **Poland:** In response to an increased rate in the misuse of the 'simplified system of employment of foreigners' (based on registration of declarations of intent to entrust work to a foreigner and addressed to citizens of six countries - Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine), [restrictions were introduced](#) as of 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

Also, on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015 [new regulations](#) on the access of foreign employees to the labour market were introduced. The main changes include: granting unrestricted access to the Polish labour market (right to take up employment in Poland without the need to obtain a work permit) to foreign students and doctoral students staying in Poland on the basis of a student visa, foreigners giving occasional lectures, speeches or presentations of a particular scientific or artistic value.

- ★ **Spain:** In April 2015 an [assessment of the implementation of the International Mobility Section of the Entrepreneurial Support and Internationalisation Act of 27 September 2013](#) was undertaken by the Ministry of Employment and Social Security, through the Secretariat General for Immigration and Emigration. The report provides a very positive assessment and highlights the contribution to the establishment of a framework for the internationalisation of the economy and the improvement of the international opinion of Spain as a destination for investment and talent. The report also contains recommendations to enhance the potential impact of the new mobility framework (e.g. regulatory adjustments, broader transposition of the new ICT Directive and, progress in promoting the regulation by means of an Awareness-Raising Plan).

#### *Student migration*

- ★ **Poland:** The [President presented and signed](#) the draft legislative amendments to enhance the innovation of the Polish economy. The draft contained, among others, solutions that support the further internationalisation of Polish science and higher education institutions.

A student exchange agreement with the United Arab Emirates was also signed. This is the second agreement Poland has signed with an Arabic country. Similar agreements are being negotiated with Qatar and Kuwait.

## 5. MANAGEMENT OF THE EU EXTERNAL BORDERS

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The Commission adopted on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 a [proposal for a Regulation on a new uniform format for visas](#). The current EU visa sticker is part of the common EU visa policy, including also the Visa Information System (VIS). The main aim of the proposal is to fight the fraud of visa stickers, which has increased over the last few years.

- ★ On 25<sup>th</sup> May 2015 the Commission adopted its [7<sup>th</sup> bi-annual report on the functioning of the Schengen area](#). The document highlights that the reporting period was characterised by the tragedy of increasing numbers of migrants risking their lives to cross the Mediterranean Sea and an increasing threat posed by radicalized persons, including foreign terrorist fighters. An overview of the measures taken to address these challenges, focusing on the actions taken within Schengen framework, is also provided in the report.
- ★ The [Commission announced](#) that as of the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015, third-country nationals travelling to Europe will need a valid passport fulfilling the following criteria: the passport validity shall last until at least three months after the intended date of departure from the territory of the Member States and, the passport shall have been issued within the previous 10 years.

## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Portugal:** The Member State was chosen to start up the European Project “Smart Borders”, thus the project was launched in Lisbon’s airport on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The project aims to reduce the delays at border crossing points and penalise those who do not comply with the rights of stay, as well as to increase the security at border checks. In addition, the project comprises a European record of third-country nationals’ entries and departures, which contains biometric data and a Registered Travellers Programme also for third-country nationals, which enables them to use automatic borders – in the Portuguese case RAPID electronic borders.
- ★ **United Kingdom:** As from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2015, changes have been made to the way in which biometric information, including fingerprints and facial images are being managed. The new rules will mean that anyone registering or naturalising as a British Citizen will need to provide their biometrics as part of their application. Non-EEA nationals applying for a residence card, derivative residence card or permanent residence card will also need to submit their biometrics. The changes will help align existing legislation and tighten up checks for those applying to stay in the UK.

## 6. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

Following the launch of the European Agenda on Migration, the Commission presented on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2015 the first agenda initiatives to improve the management of migration in all its aspects. These included:

- ★ An [EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling \(2015 - 2020\)](#) providing concrete actions to prevent and reduce migrant smuggling. Actions include amongst others: enhanced cooperation and exchange of information with financial institutions, internet service providers and social media, to detect and remove the advertised content used by smugglers, as well as the set of a list of suspicious vessels.
- ★ [Guidelines for fingerprinting](#) were also developed, these set out a best practices approach for fingerprinting newly arrived applicants for international protection.
- ★ A [new Operational Plan for the Joint Operation Triton](#) foresees that during the peak summer season, Triton will deploy 3 airplanes, 6 Offshore Patrol Vessels, 12 patrol boats, 2 helicopters, 9 debriefing and 6 screening teams. The Operational Plan also extends the geographical area of Triton southwards to the borders of the Maltese search and rescue zone to cover the area of the former Italian Mare Nostrum operation.

### LATEST RELEVANT STATISTICS

- ★ The [Frontex Risk Analysis Report](#) for the last quarter of 2014 and the [Annual Risk Analysis Report](#) were released in April 2015. Due to the lower migration pressure of the winter season, **most indicators of irregular migration slightly decreased** compared to the previous quarter, the **only rise** observed being **detections at the external borders (160% more than Q3 2014)**. Migratory pressure at the EU’s external border remained high, with little variation in the routes: fewer detections were reported at the Central Mediterranean route, whilst detections on the Western Balkans route increased. The year 2014 has seen **an unprecedented number of illegal border crossing detected (280,000)**, which is mainly due to the Syrian crisis. Also **detection of facilitators has increased 41% when compared to 2013** (from 7,252 to 10,234). In 2014, **more than 114,000 refusals of entry were issued** at the EU’s external borders, 11% fewer than in 2013.
- ★ **Detections of illegal stay** in Q4 2014 were **higher than any previous fourth quarter** and 35% higher than in the previous year. These rose from 345,098 in 2013 to **441,780 in 2014**, mainly due to the high number of Syrians and Eritreans who later applied for international protection. The number of **effective returns was 161,309**, a slight increase compared to 2013 (1%)
- ★ **Syrian nationals** registered the highest number of those detected in Q4 2014 (22,414 detections) although detections decreased by **41% compared to Q3 2014**. The latter were followed by **Kosovar** nationals (17,569), where numbers **increased by 432% compared to the last quarter**, **Afghan** (9,308) and **Albanian nationals** (3,208). The top-five third-country nationalities refused entry were **Ukrainians** (4,578) followed by **Albanians** (3,650), **Russians** (2,815), **Serbians** (2,277) and **Georgians** (2,113). The top five nationalities found in **illegal**

stay were **Syrians** (22,869) whose number represented a **114% increase** when compared to **Q3 2014**, **Afghans** (8,645), **Kosovars** (6,968) which **increased of 374% compared to Q3 2014**, **Moroccans** (6,529) and **Eritreans** (6,508).

## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** In February 2015 the Austrian Administrative High Court ruled that there is a lack of legal definition in the Austrian Aliens Police Act of 'significant flight risk' within the meaning of the Dublin III regulation, subsequently in March 2015 the Austrian Constitutional Court ruled that the procedural rules for legal remedy in case of detention pending removal are unconstitutional. As a result, detention pending removal is currently not applied but will be resumed following the amendment of the Alien law 2015 that will enter into force on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015. In addition on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015, the Federal Minister of the Interior issued a Regulation which reinstated with immediate effect the possibility of detention for Dublin cases.

The annual report "Organised Human Smuggling" was published by the Federal Criminal Police Office on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015. According to the report, in 2014, a total of 34,070 persons were intercepted, hence an increase of about 24% compared to 2013 (27,486 persons).

- ★ **Croatia:** A 'Monitoring of Forced Removal' agreement has been made between the Ministry of the Interior and the Croatian Law Centre (HPC), as a monitoring organisation. The agreement foresees 20 monitoring activities in total; ten will be carried out in the Reception Centre for Foreigners, five in the Vukovar-Srijem Police Department and five in the Zagreb Police Department. The first monitoring period will last until mid-2015.
- ★ **France:** A [new package on assisted voluntary return and reintegration](#) entered into force on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015. The new instrument mainly redefines the financial assistance, divided into three categories according to country of origin. It provides that any beneficiary should be able to prove a minimum of six-month presence on French territory to be granted a package, and diversifies the reintegration assistance available by providing three levels of financial aid, which can be combined for a better follow up of beneficiaries' needs.

A [decree adopted on March 30<sup>th</sup> 2015](#) aims at combating the fraudulent posting of workers and illegal employment. In particular, it sets out the obligations of employers based outside France who post workers in France and specifies how the obligation to monitor and the responsibility of contracting authorities and ordering parties towards their sub-contractors and joint-contractors should be implemented, as well as the conditions for liability of the joint-contractor.

- ★ **Greece:** On 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015 as a result of a joint law enforcement action, the Greek law enforcement authorities, with the support of Europol, [dismantled an organised criminal group](#) suspected of facilitating the entry of irregular migrants - mainly Syrian nationals - into Greece from Turkey via maritime routes.
- ★ **Poland:** The Border Guard and National Labour Inspectorate signed a [new cooperation agreement](#) to better address growing misuse related to illegal employment of foreigners.

## 7. ACTIONS ADDRESSING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 the European Commission and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs Security Policy adopted a [joint Communication on an EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for the period 2015-2019](#). The plan is composed of 32 actions, amongst which the issue on trafficking in human beings is included.

### LATEST RELEVANT STATISTICS

- ★ The [2015 edition of the second working paper at the EU level on statistics on trafficking in human beings](#) was published by Eurostat. The second revised edition contains statistical data for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 from all 28 EU Member States and the following EU Candidate and EFTA/EEA (Iceland, Norway) countries: Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey.

## NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** The fourth ["National Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking"](#) (2015–2017) was adopted on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 by the Austrian government. The Plan covers the areas of national/international cooperation, prevention, victim protection, prosecution and evaluation/monitoring. The [third Austrian Report on Combating Human Trafficking](#) was also adopted. The report overall highlights the implementation of measures stipulated in the third NAP (2012–2014) and its challenges.
- ★ **Croatia:** A second evaluation visit to Croatia from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015 was carried out by a delegation of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). During the visit, the GRETA delegation met representatives of state authorities, NGO's, the Centre for Missing and Abused Children,

Mobile Team against Human Trafficking, the International Organization (IOM) for Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). GRETA will prepare and adopt a final report to be published in 2015.

- ★ **France:** Following the adoption of the National Interministerial Action Plan to combat trafficking in human beings in May 2014, an [instruction was published](#) to specify the process for residence permit applications for victims of human trafficking who lodged a complaint or acted as a witness. In particular, the process allows the renewal of temporary residence permits throughout the duration of the criminal procedure and in the event of final conviction it allows the issuance of a ten year residence permit. This instruction also sets out exemption from taxes and stamp duties when residence permits are issued and renewed.
- ★ **Germany:** On the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015, an amendment to the Act on Benefits for Asylum Seekers came into force. As a result, third-country nationals who are victims of human trafficking and have agreed to give testimony against offenders in a criminal case in Germany, no longer receive benefits under the Welfare Law for Asylum-seekers but are now recipients of social assistance benefits under the Social Code, which includes access to a broader range of benefits.

## 8. EXTERNAL DIMENSION

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

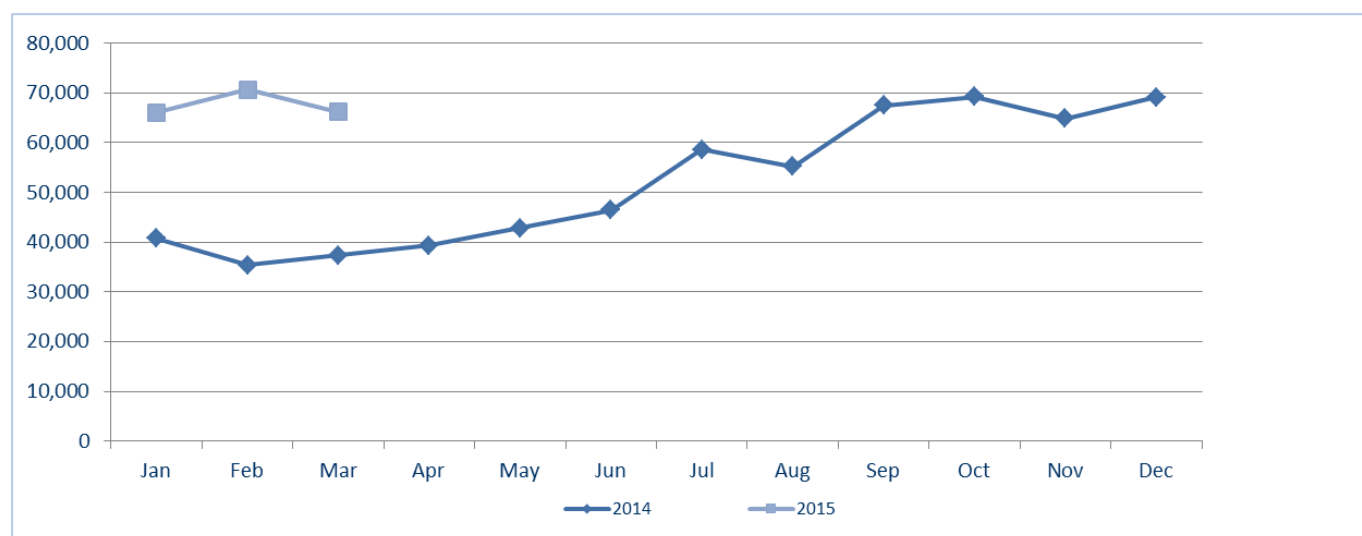
- ★ **Hungary:** As an integral part of the project “Support to the Silk Routes Partnership for Migration under the Budapest Process” (the so-called Silk Routes Project) the pilot project “Establishment of Migration Information Centres and Raising Awareness on Migration in Pakistan” was launched in March 2015. The aim is to raise awareness on migration related questions in Pakistan, with specific focus on increasing accessibility to general and specific information on migration, on providing potential migrants with information and counselling, as well as on raising awareness on regular and irregular migration and its serious concerns. Hence, two Migration Information Centres will be established and an awareness raising campaign on migration will be launched in the country. The Migration Information Centres will on the one hand aim to contribute to the definition and implementation of a migratory policy adapted to national, regional and international levels and on the other hand to provide up-to-date, practical information on migration processes. A television series based on case studies of legal and irregular migration will be broadcast in Pakistan, as part of the awareness-raising campaign.



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

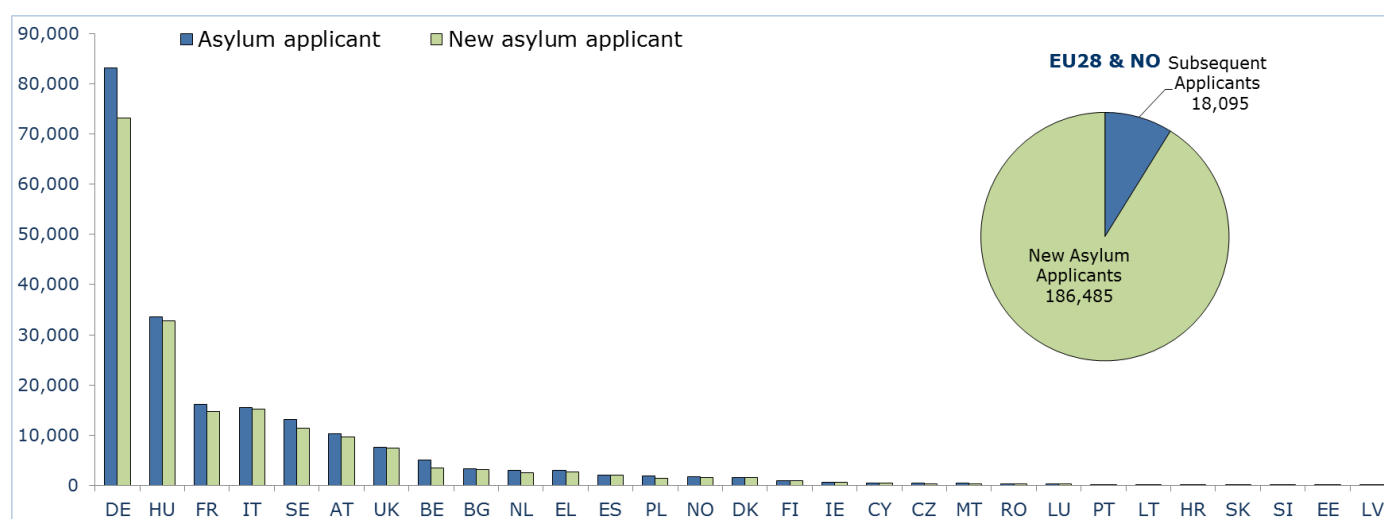
## EU Figures

Figure 1a: Asylum applications in EU-28, January 2014 – March 2015



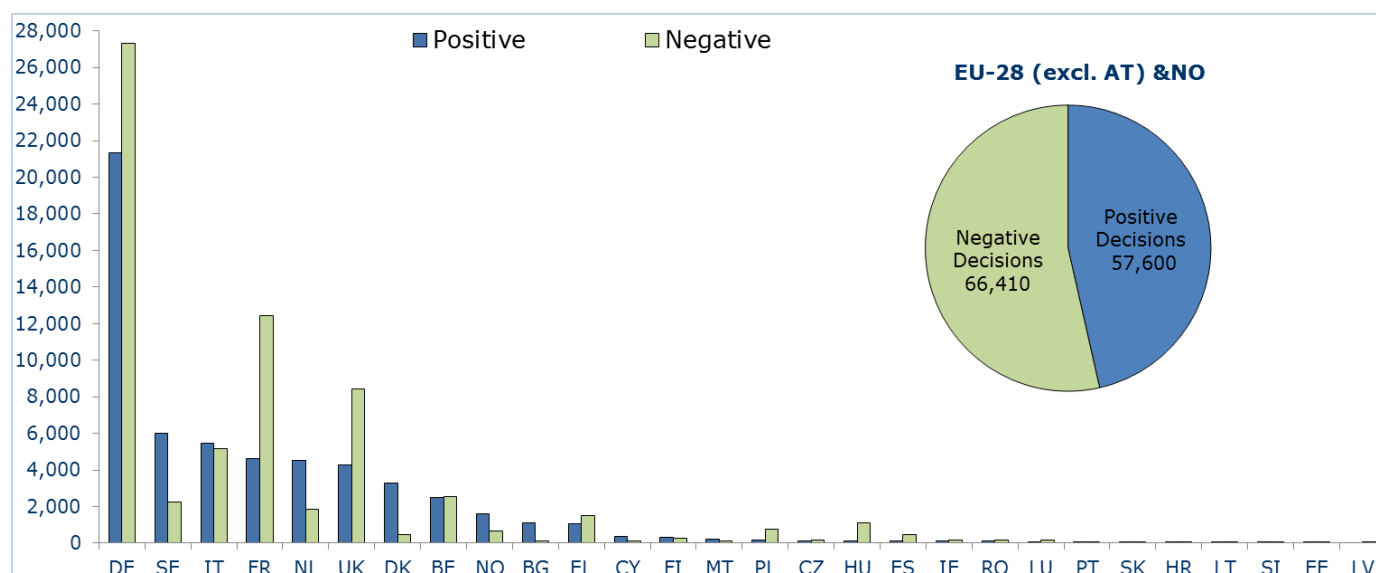
Source: Eurostat [[migr\\_asyappctzm](#)], accessed on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015.

Figure 1b: Asylum and new asylum applicants in EU-28 and Norway, January – March 2015 period



Source: Eurostat [[migr\\_asyappctzm](#)], accessed on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015

Figure 2: First instance asylum decisions in EU-28 and Norway, first quarter 2015 (quarterly data)



Source: Eurostat [[migr\\_asydcfstq](#)], accessed on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 – Negative decisions include also "Dublin decisions" (according to Art. 4, EC Regulation n. 862/2007) Data were not yet available for Austria.

Figure 3a: Illegal cross-border crossing – Top nationalities (in %)

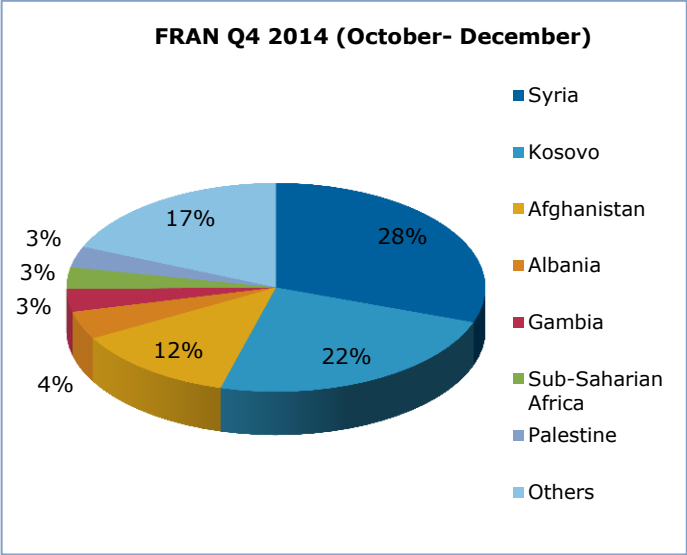


Figure 3b: Refused entry–Top nationalities (in %)

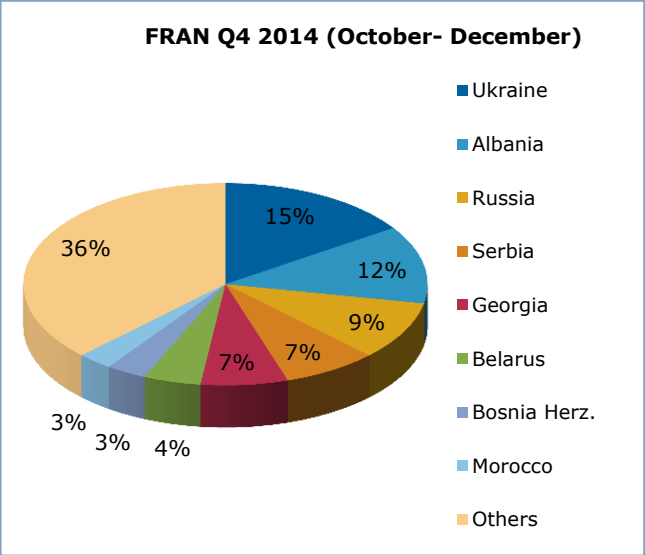


Figure 3c: Illegal stay – Top nationalities (in %)

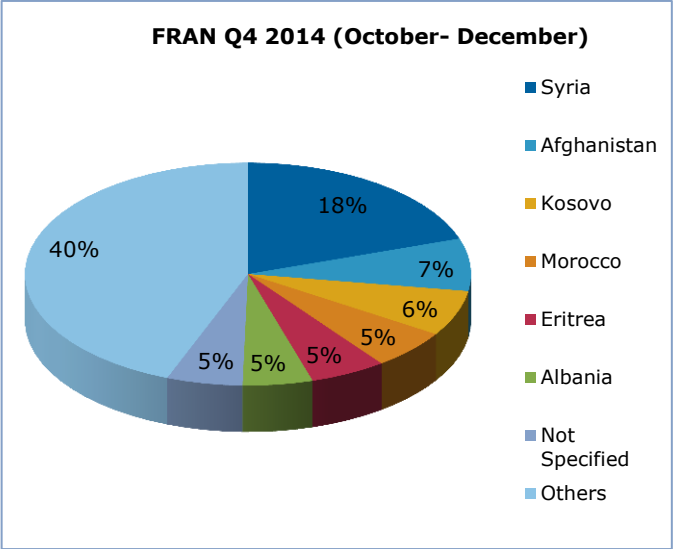
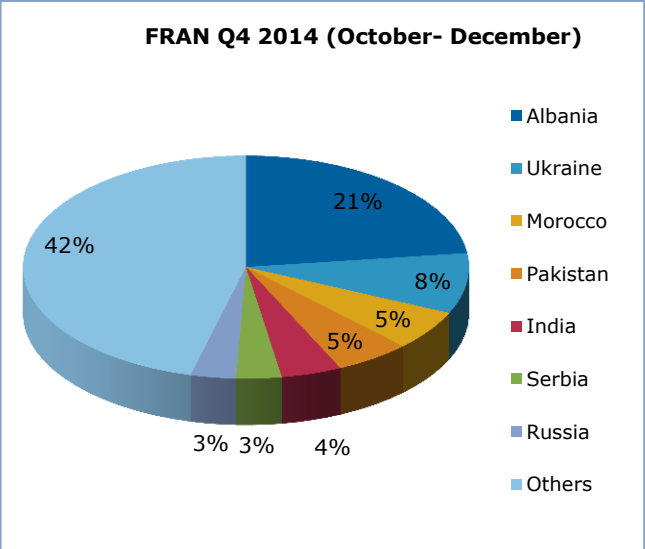


Figure 3d: Effective return–Top nationalities (in %)



Source: FRONTEX FRAN Q4 2014 (October - December)

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM**

- ★ **Austria:** In the first quarter of 2015, Austria received 10,207 asylum applications. This is 2.5 times as many as in Q1 of 2014 and the numbers continue to increase. In the beginning of May, Austria received 230 asylum applications per day. Consequently, Austria's reception capacities are under constraint and due to a lack of reception facilities in the provinces, the federal initial reception facilities are overcrowded. As a result, during May, Austria set up tents as emergency accommodation.
- ★ **Finland:** The [number of asylum seekers has increased](#) by over a third in comparison to 2014. The number of people seeking asylum in Finland was 38% higher in January–April than in the same period in 2014. At the beginning of 2015, the average number of asylum seekers per month was 338, whereas in 2014, the figure was 245.
- ★ **Poland:** Between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 and end of May 2015, nearly 2,000 asylum applications were recorded.
- ★ **Slovak Republic:** the Migration Office published the [Statistical Report 2014](#) which contains an overview of the number of asylum applications, number of granted asylum or subsidiary protections and granted citizenships in 2014. The statistical report also includes data on nationalities, citizenships, age and unaccompanied minors.

### **UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS**

- ★ **Sweden:** In 2014, almost 7,050 UAMs applied for asylum in Sweden, **representing the highest number among EU Member States**. In May 2015 a total of 1,157 asylum applications by UAMs were received. When compared to the overall number of asylum applicants coming to Sweden, UAMs now also stand for a much larger share than before. During the first five months of 2015, 14% of all asylum seekers were UAMs, whereas in 2014, the UAMs' share was 8.7% of all asylum applicants in Sweden.

### **LEGAL MIGRATION & INTEGRATION**

- ★ **Austria:** According to figures published by Statistics Austria in May 2015, a total of 1,925 people obtained Austrian citizenship from January to March 2015. The number of naturalizations has increased by 9.9% compared to the first quarter of 2014 (1,751 cases). 35.5% of the new citizens were born in Austria and more than a third (36.6%) were children under 18 years.
- ★ **Finland:** According to [Finland's Annual Policy Report 2014](#), third-country nationals go to Finland for reasons related to family, employment and studying; hence only a small minority of people migrating to Finland are asylum seekers. The policy report and the [statistical review](#) published by the European Migration Network offer a unique and comprehensive overview of migration in Finland in 2014.
- ★ **Italy:** According to [official data from the Chamber of Commerce](#), in 2014 there were 335,000 firms established by migrants in Italy (1 out of 10 self-businesses). Data suggest that migrant's self-businesses are better equipped to face the economic crisis, compared to the Italian ones. The highest numbers of foreign entrepreneurs are from Morocco, followed by Chinese and Egyptian nationals. In 2014, the highest increase in the number of newly set-up businesses is due to Bangladeshi citizens (4,900).
- ★ **Poland:** The year 2014 saw a [record-breaking number](#) of registered employer declarations on the intention to entrust a job to a third-country national (so-called simplified system of employment of foreigners). Ca. 64% more declarations were registered in comparison to 2013. The increase is mostly due to a massive upsurge in number of declarations issued to Ukrainian citizens. This [tendency persisted](#) through the first quarter of 2015 – compared to the same reference period in 2014, the number of declarations rose by 150%. Also, from the beginning of 2015 to the end of May 2015 over 40 thousand applications for different types of residence permits were submitted, whereas in the entire year 2014 the numbers were around 65 thousand. This is due to situation in Ukraine and liberalisation of immigration law that took place in May 2014.

The number of [foreigners registered as unemployed](#) in poviats labour offices (0.21% of all registered unemployed persons) decreased by 13.4% by the end of 2014 when compared to the same period in 2014. Interestingly, in 2014 the number of unemployed foreigners fell despite the significant extension of the catalogue of foreigners entitled to apply for unemployment benefits.

- ★ **United Kingdom:** The Office for National Statistics' published its report [Migration Statistics Quarterly](#) (produced with Home Office, Department for Work and Pensions and National Records of Scotland) on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014 providing the latest national figures on UK migration flows.

### **IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN**

- ★ **Austria:** The number of alien smugglers increased from 352 (2013) to 511 (2014) and the number of smuggled aliens from 12,323 (2013) to 20,768 (2014). The number of persons having illegally entered or stayed decreased from 14,811 (2013) to 12,791 (2014). Most of the smuggled aliens came from Syria (6,510, 2013: 1,951), Afghanistan (4,069, 2013: 1,632), Kosovo (1,429, 2013: 690), Iraq (925, 2013: 256), and the Russian Federation (897, 2013: 1,661).

- ★ **Slovak Republic:** The Bureau of Border and Aliens Police of the Police Force Presidium published [the 2014 Statistical Overview of Legal and Illegal Migration in the Slovak Republic](#) which provides data on both legal and illegal migration including returns.
- ★ **United Kingdom:** The Home Office's [Immigration Statistics for the period January to March 2015](#) were published on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 providing the latest national figures on those subject to immigration control.

## Updates on EU legislation transposition

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

- ★ **Austria:** On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015, an amendment to the Alien law 2015 was adopted by the National Council. The legal amendment, which will enter into force on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015, aims to transpose the recast Asylum Procedures (2013/32/EU) and Reception Conditions (2013/33/EU) Directives.
- ★ **Croatia:** A draft International and Temporary Protection Act was sent to legislative procedure to the Croatian Government. The Act aims to transpose the recast Asylum Procedures Directive (2013/32/EU) and the Reception Condition Directive (2013/33/EU) as well as to ensure the implementation of the Eurodac Regulation (EU) No.603/2014, Dublin III Regulation (EU) No.604/2014 and the Implementing Regulation (EU) No.118/2014.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015, a bill on the reception of applicants for international protection was filed in Luxembourg to transpose the recast Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU) into national law. Similarly, but on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015, a bill on international protection and temporary protection was filed to transpose the recast Asylum Procedures Directive (2013/32/EU). In order not to impair the legibility of text and for the sake of legal consistency, the authors of the bill have opted for a repeal of the amended Law of 5 May 2006 on the right of asylum and complementary forms of protection.
- ★ **Slovak Republic:** The National Council adopted the amendments to the Act on Asylum which refers to the transposition of the recast Asylum Procedures (2013/32/EU) and Reception Conditions (2013/33/EU) Directives. The Amendment will enter into effect on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

### LEGAL MIGRATION

- ★ **Croatia:** Amendments to the Ordinances on stay and work of highly-qualified third-country nationals and on the method of determining the conditions of entry and residence in Croatia for citizens of the Member States of the European Economic Area and their family members and family members of Croatian nationals, as well as ordinance on the status and employment of foreigners on amendments came into force on 11 April 2015. ("Official Gazette " No. 38/2015.)

### IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

- ★ **Croatia:** The Regulation on Free Legal Aid during Expulsion and Return of Foreigners ("Official Gazette", No. 28/14), has been implemented since February 2015.

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

- ★ **Estonia:** On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015, the EE NCP organised its 5<sup>th</sup> international Migration Forum on challenges to resettlement. Estonia has so far not taken part in refugee resettlement and relocation activities; therefore the event looked into the experience of other countries as Ireland, Italy, Finland and Lithuania, in order to understand the impact of resettlement (and relocation) on the receiving society. The conference focused on the selection criteria of resettled refugees, challenges to integrate refugees and possible security threats posed by refugees and immigrants.
- ★ **Finland:** The FI NCP organised a seminar called - "[The Best Interest of the Child in Migration Processes](#)" on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The starting point for the seminar was the EMN study on "Policies, Practices and Data on Unaccompanied Children in 2014". The aim of the seminar was for the EMN to approach the subject from many different angles in order to gain a good overview, e.g. practitioners from the Finnish Immigration Service legal guardians of children, and international actors, such as the Red Cross.
- ★ **France:** On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 the FR NCP organised its annual national conference on the topic: "Unaccompanied Minors in France and in the EU".
- ★ **Italy:** The Ministry of Interior in collaboration with the National Research Council (CNR) and the Centre for Social Investment Studies (CENSIS), organised a national conference entitled "A strategy for the future: multilevel governance policies for migrant integration" on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The event, which was attended by 350 participants, including representatives of the Italian Regions, Municipalities and beneficiaries of the European Fund for the integration of third-country nationals (EIF), provided an opportunity to discuss future immigration and integration challenges, as well as an analysis of the interventions so far implemented under EIF.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** The NL NCP organised on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 a national conference on 'Economic Migration' given the increasing interest in attracting talent, high-skilled migrants, start-ups, business people and investors, the conference hence aimed at discussing the latest approach in economic migration across the EU.
- ★ **Norway:** on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015 the NO NCP organised its V EMN national conference, on this occasion the conference topic was "Resettlement: Regional Solutions and Humanitarian Assistance". The conference aimed to present and

discuss the current policy and practices, as well as challenges in the field of resettlement and to examine the topic from different angles, as well as to debate how resettlement may be viewed as part of overall solutions to refugee situations. Participants included researchers, policy makers and civil organisations. The streamed conference is available on the following [link](#).

- ★ **Poland:** The PL NCP organised on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 its [IX National Conference](#), on this occasion the theme will be "Can you make business in Poland? Business activity among immigrants – policy and reality". The conference was held in Warsaw at the Ministry of Interior.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- ★ **Slovak Republic:** The SK NCP will organise an EMN Educational Seminar on the topic: "Irregular Migration – Borders and Human Rights" on the 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** The next annual EMN Annual Conference will take place in Luxembourg on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and its topic will be "'30 years of the Schengen Agreement. The future of Schengen: challenges and opportunities".