

WHAT WERE THE NEW TRENDS IN LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND PRACTICES ACROSS THE EU ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN 2019?

EMN FLASH #12 – 2020

Introduction to the EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2019

Background

Important developments took place across the EU in 2019 including the 9th European Parliament Elections, the appointment of a new European Commission, and negotiations on the departure from the European Union of the United Kingdom on 31 January 2020. These formed the backdrop to asylum and migration developments at EU and national levels during the year. The Commission President von der Leyen announced the development of a New Pact on Migration and Asylum. This will be launched in early summer 2020, and will provide a comprehensive approach to migration and asylum to be implemented over the lifetime of the new Commission, reflecting

the realities of the global situation in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ARM 2019 provides a comprehensive overview of EU and national developments across a wide range of migration and asylum topics, including legal migration, international protection; unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups; integration; citizenship and statelessness; borders, visa and Schengen governance; illegal migration including smuggling; return and readmission; human trafficking and migration and development.



Key trends and findings



721 080 asylum seekers

In 2019, 721 080 asylum seekers applied for international protection in the EU-28, an increase of 11.4 % compared with 2018 - the first increase in the number of asylum applications since 2015. Member States focused on improving the efficiency and quality of national asylum systems, as well as on adjusting reception and processing capacities in line with fluctuations in asylum applications.

30 000 people resettled

Almost 30 000 people were resettled by a quarter of Member States and Norway. Those Member States that carried out relocation and resettlement activities usually did so in the framework of EU programmes, though national programmes and humanitarian admission scheme also played a role.

Strengthened legal pathways

New integration measures at EU and national level focussed on socio-economic integration, notably labour market integration, language acquisition, education and migrant empowerment. Some Member States introducing mandatory inclusion policies and programmes. Member States' activities targeted, in particular, beneficiaries of international protection, children and young people.

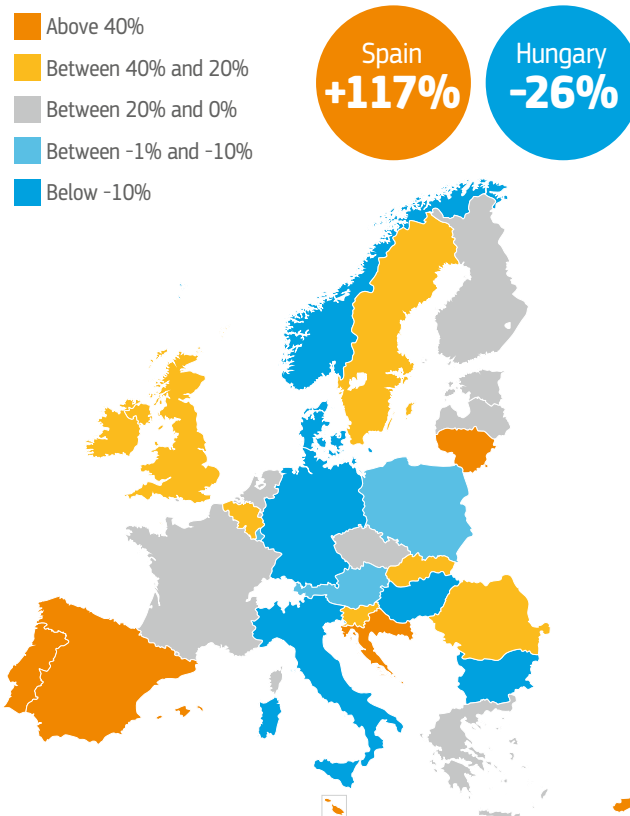
Enhanced inclusion programmes

By the end of 2019, the vast majority of the EU's legal migration acquis had been transposed into national law. Member States simplified their administrative and legal requirements to meet the needs of the labour market, in particular, regarding qualified workers, but also regarding a number of low and medium skilled occupations in several Member States where there were labour shortages.

161 755 returns

In line with EU priorities, Member States worked to speed up return procedures, prevent absconding and secondary movements and increase the rate of returns, introduced new legislative changes with regard to the issuing of return decisions and implemented activities to further support assisted voluntary return. The European Commission continued to work with third countries on the implementation of the existing 23 readmission instruments (17 agreements and 6 non-legally binding arrangements).

Fluctuations of the number of asylum seekers in 2019 compared to 2018



Source: Eurostat (migr_asyappctza), extracted on 20 May 2020

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