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The EMN Quarterly provides policymakers and other practitioners with updates on recent migration and international protection policy developments at EU and national level. The 38th edition provides information from **January to March 2022**, including the (latest) relevant published statistics.

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

1. **GENERAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS**
2. **INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM**
3. **UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS**
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10. **EXTERNAL DIMENSION**
11. **ANNEX: EU & COMPLEMENTARY STATISTICS, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, OTHER EMN OUTPUTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

SPECIAL NOTE

Recent EMN publications and events:

- EMN inform on [The state of progress in 2020 of the European Commission communication on the protection of children in migration from 2017](#)
- EMN-OECD inform on [Skills mobility partnerships exploring innovative approaches to labour migration](#)
- EMN inform on [Preventing, detecting, and tackling situations where authorisations to reside in the EU for the purpose of study are misused](#)
- On 10 February 2022, the EMN and OECD jointly organised a roundtable event on [Digitalisation and AI in Migration Management](#) which built on the related [EMN-OECD inform](#)
- 24 May 2022 was published the EMN study on [Detention and alternatives to detention in international protection and return procedures](#)
- On 31 March 2022, the EMN held a launch event for the EMN study [on third-country national victims of human trafficking in human beings: detection, identification, and protection](#)

Stay tuned for upcoming EMN publications and events:

- EMN inform on Bilateral return agreements: inventory, characteristics and effectiveness
- EMN inform on Lawful secondary movements of beneficiaries of international protection
- EMN inform on Mapping of mental health services for refugees and migrants
- 2021 EMN Annual Report on Asylum and Migration. The report will be presented in a launch event scheduled on the **15 June at 10 am CET**. Major trends and developments in the migration field will be presented and placed into the context of recent developments, notably the conflicts and subsequent high numbers of refugees fleeing Afghanistan and Ukraine. **Join the event by signing up using [this link](#).**
- EMN Conference on Assisted voluntary return and reintegration: strategy of EU Member States and European coordination, scheduled on **21 June 2022**. This conference will be dedicated to the issue of assisted voluntary return and reintegration, focusing on EU Member States approaches and European coordination. **Please register to attend in person (number of places limited to 300 persons) by sending an email to emn-pfue-dgef@interieur.gouv.fr.**

Note on information regarding Ukraine

The outbreak of the war in Ukraine during the reporting period was reflected in policy developments reported by Member States. Developments included the application of temporary protection following the adoption of Council Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022, defining the scope of temporary protection, and applying leniency in immigration procedures to other persons affected by the war. Furthermore, Member States reported on measures taken regarding initial registration and reception, as well as mid-term and long-term plans regarding the provision of education, healthcare and accommodation. Provision of information for beneficiaries of temporary protection and to volunteers, through websites and helplines, was also reported throughout the Member States.

While EU-level developments are presented, contributions regarding Ukraine for each country are not included in this Quarterly to avoid giving only a partial view of ongoing developments. In the meantime, more information regarding Ukraine may be found for each EMN member and observer country on our [website](#).

Recent National EMN conferences:

- **EMN Austria:** On International Women's Day, 8 March 2022, EMN Austria presented the latest EMN national study "Integration of Migrant Women in Austria: Policies and Measures" in an [online event](#).
On 17 March 2022, EMN Austria organised the [National EMN Conference 2022](#) focusing on how sustainable perspectives for displaced populations can be created. A side event took place at the margin of the conference, where a selected group of more than 30 stakeholders received insights into the needs of displaced populations in three important host countries, namely Lebanon, Pakistan, and Turkey.
- **EMN Belgium:** Skills Mobility Partnerships: The Belgian Case, 1-2 June 2022. The event is held in cooperation with Enabel, the Belgian development agency, and IOM Belgium & Luxembourg. Participants will be able to join the conference both in person and online. For more information, please check the [website of EMN Belgium](#).
- **EMN Estonia:** On 27 January 2022, EMN Estonia held a hybrid Conference "Rethinking migration: Addressing the need for innovation in the field of migration and asylum." A video recording of the conference and the [briefing paper](#) are available on [EMN Estonia's website](#).
- **EMN Malta:** On 28 January 2022, EMN Malta organised a study forum on the 'Integration of Migrant Women: Policies and Measures.'
- **EMN Sweden:** National Conference on the Nordic countries and the Ukrainian refugee situation, 19 May 2022

Upcoming EMN National conferences

- **EMN Lithuania:** National conference on 'Initiatives to support integration of refugees from Ukraine,' 14 June 2022

- **EMN Slovak Republic:** Educational Seminar on Migration, 6 July 2022
- **EMN Spain:** National conference, September 2022
- **EMN Cyprus and EMN Luxembourg:** Joint National Conference 'Six months into applying the Temporary Protection Directive – Lessons learned and shared experiences,' 13 October 2022 in Limassol, Cyprus

1. GENERAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATE

In the face of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military invasion of Ukraine, the EU announced, on 4 March 2022, an important set of solidarity measures to help people fleeing war in Ukraine, as well as the EU countries receiving them. The assistance includes direct humanitarian aid, emergency civil protection assistance, support at the border, as well as a clear legal status allowing those fleeing the war to receive immediate protection in the EU. Within this framework, the [Temporary Protection Directive](#) was activated for the first time ever, to bring clarity and security to people in need, offering rights to welfare support, access to the job market and education. Solidarity between Member States will be facilitated by a 'Solidarity Platform', where Member States can exchange information about reception capacity. The Home Affairs funds for 2021-27 will also bring significant extra resources for Member States to support reception facilities and asylum procedures.

On 19 January 2022, the [new European Union Agency for Asylum \(EUAA\)](#) started work with its enforced mandate, expanding on its previous work as the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). The reinforced mandate will allow the EUAA to contribute to increasing the efficiency of asylum systems, improving assistance through its reserve of experts, consolidating decision-making, enhancing monitoring and reporting, supporting capacity building in non-EU countries, and has establishing a complaints mechanism to ensure that asylum applicants' rights are protected.

Between January and March, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has [released](#) several initiatives and events related to supporting the European Year of Youth, including engagement with young people through dialogue, and how they listen to youth through forums, and [related works](#) conducted by their agency. To name a few, these works cover information such as children's rights, child protection systems, unaccompanied minors, and access to education in the current migration situation.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Austria: On 11 March 2022, the [Regulation on Displaced Persons](#) was promulgated. It determines groups of persons who have a temporary residence permit in Austria after entering the country. This regulation currently only covers groups of persons in connection with the war in Ukraine.

As of 22 March 2022, Austria as the first EU country started implementing a reception program under the EU Solidarity Platform. A total of 2 000 refugees from Ukraine will be accepted by Austria through [this program](#).

Cyprus: On 22 February 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Mr. Nicos Nouris, Minister of Interior and Mrs. Ylva Johansson, European Commissioner for Home Affairs on behalf of the European Commission, for the management of migration flows in Cyprus. The Memorandum was also co-signed by the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), Frontex and Europol. The [full announcement with the officials' statements](#) has been published on the website of the Ministry of Interior.

Finland: On 19 January 2022, the Ministry of the Interior issued for comments draft legislative amendments that would support preparedness for a possible mass influx of migrants. This is a follow-up to the government proposal for amending the reception act last year. [Read more](#).

The Ministry of the Interior has completed an investigation on potential solutions to address the situation of individuals with no right of residence. These investigations are part of a comprehensive package that seeks to prevent social exclusion. [Read more](#).

France: On 14 February 2022, the French Ministry of the Interior updated the deployment schedule for the Digital Administration for Foreign nationals in France (ANEF). The online portal will be open to travel documents (1st quarter 2022), for beneficiaries of international protection (2nd quarter 2022), and for residence permits for family reasons (3rd quarter 2022). In addition, in January 2022, a decree also opened the possibility for users applying for French nationality who live in 9 additional departments to apply via the online portal. Read more on [digital administration for foreigners in France](#) and the [amendment to the deployment schedule](#).

Italy: On 31 March 2022, the National Commission for the Right to Asylum presented together with UNHCR the Standard Operating Procedures for the identification and referral of survivors of - or those at risk of - gender-based violence within the asylum procedure. The national webinar had an operational focus, with the participation of the Department for Equal Opportunities at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the European Commission, addressed to local Commissions and Sections for the recognition of international protection.

Lithuania: On 17 March 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the IOM Vilnius Office [signed](#) a Memorandum of Understanding regarding relocation assistance for citizens of the Republic of Lithuania and persons of Lithuanian descent.

Luxembourg: On 7 February 2022, the Minister for Immigration and Asylum, Jean Asselborn, [presented](#) the 2021 Annual Report on immigration, asylum and reception in Luxembourg. The report presents, among other things, the evolution of key figures as well as legislative and regulatory developments in the field of immigration, asylum, external borders, return and detention.

Malta: The Migrant Learners' Unit (MLU) website provides information of interest to foreigners who seek information on state school enrolment and education in Malta. Beneficiaries of temporary protection such as Ukrainians are guided accordingly through a simple application process that is in line with the Temporary Protection Directive. Students attending state post-compulsory education or further and higher state education institutions may also apply for an exemption from fees. 'Access to education'

Judgments of the European Court of Justice

[Case C-483/20](#)

On 22 February 2022, the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled that a Member State may exercise its option to declare an application for international protection inadmissible on the grounds the applicant has already been granted refugee status by another Member State. However, when the applicant is the father of an unaccompanied minor who has been granted subsidiary protection in another Member State, principles of family unity and the best interest of the child prevail. The case concerned an applicant who had initially been granted refugee status in Austria in 2015, who later lodged another application for international protection to join his two daughters, one of whom was a minor. Belgium had originally refused his application until the decision was overturned on the grounds of family unity.

[Joined Cases C-562/21 PPU and C-563/21](#)

On 22 February 2022, the Court of Justice of the European Union released its judgement that the refusal to execute a European Arrest Warrant needs to be carried out and assessed on a case-by-case basis. The case concerned a Polish national residing in the Netherlands who had a warrant issued for his arrest from Poland. The Amsterdam District Court ruled that a Member State may refuse to surrender the person in question if there is the risk that their right to a fair and independent trial would be breached.

in Malta ensures the freedom of registering in a learning institution whether they be state-owned or private, free or against payment.

Netherlands: On 10 January 2022 the new national government was installed, welcoming also the [new Minister for Migration Eric van der Burg](#).

Portugal: Legislative elections took place on 30 January and a new Government, led by the same Party and Prime Minister, António Costa, was invested on 30 March. The restructuring of the Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service was confirmed, although the date is still to be confirmed.

Georgia: In March 2022, the State Commission on Migration Issues (SCMI) [produced an English version](#) of the 2021 Medium Migration Profile (MMP / Profile) of Georgia. This 4th MMP covers legal and policy developments across 10 migration policy areas, as well as developments specific to the context in Georgia. It also includes migration statistics for 2016-2020.

On 1 January 2022, the [2022 Action Plan](#) of the 2021-22030 Migration Strategy entered into force. The plan includes 105 activities to be implemented by SCMI [member and partner agencies](#) in 2022.



2. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

On 10 January 2022, the European Union Asylum Agency (EUAA, formerly EASO) released its [Country of Origin Information report on Afghanistan](#), providing information regarding the takeover of the Taliban from 15 August 2021 to 8 December 2021. The report connects issues of international protection with the policy development and implementation under Taliban rule.

On 1 February 2022, the International Organization for Migration released its [World Migration Report 2022](#). The report drew from the latest data from around the world to describe the main migration trends and policy developments. The report dives into the paradox we are seeing of global displacement rising despite limitations on mobility as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 24 February, the European Council held a special meeting to [express support for Ukraine](#) following Russia's invasion. On 2 March 2022, the European Commission formally proposed to grant temporary protection in the EU to Ukrainians fleeing the war.

On 4 March 2022, the Justice and Home Affairs Council unanimously adopted the [Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/382](#) on the Temporary Protection Directive to offer support to the mass influx of displaced persons arriving from Ukraine. This marks the first time that the Temporary Protection Directive was [activated](#). The European Commission has since been taking actions and cooperating with EU Member States and partners to respond to the Ukraine crisis.

On 23 March 2022, the European Commission [outlined actions being taken](#) to support Member States to assist displaced persons arriving from Ukraine including: special protection for children, access to education, access to healthcare, access to jobs, and access to accommodation and housing. Enhanced solidarity, responsibility sharing, and increased support from EU Agencies also began. This includes the use of the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism to provide emergency and humanitarian assistance to Member States in need, and the Solidarity Platform developing standard operations for transfers from Moldova as well as of people within the EU to Member States that have reception

capacity. Pathways towards non-EU countries where there is already established Ukrainian communities are also being organised.

On 28 March 2022, The Council of the European Union released a [10-Point Plan](#) on stronger European coordination aimed at welcoming people arriving from Ukraine.

LATEST RELEVANT STATISTICS

On 23 March 2022, Eurostat [published](#) statistics on asylum seekers for the fourth quarter of 2021. The number of first-time asylum applicants in the EU-27 increased by 66 % compared with the same quarter of 2020 and 13% when compared with the third quarter of 2021. The top three nationalities were Syrians, Afghans and Iraqi, lodging 31 500, 29 700 and 10 100 applications respectively. Applications from the Republic of North Macedonia, followed by Egyptians, and Yemenites (an increase of 5 100 in applicants when compared with the third quarter of 2018) contributed most to the overall increase in first-time asylum applicants compared to the same period of 2020 in absolute terms.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Austria: In March 2022, the Federal Ministry of the Interior published its [annual asylum statistics 2021](#). Despite upright COVID-19-related travel restrictions, the number of asylum applications increased by 170 percent compared to the previous year. As in 2020, the largest group of applicants were Syrian nationals, followed by Afghan nationals. In the course of an evaluation process, the annual asylum statistics were adapted and provided now disaggregated data for example on newly arrived asylum applicants and minors.

On 16 February 2022, the [Regional Court of Styria confirmed](#) that the refoulement of a minor Somali on 25 July 2021 to Slovenia disregarded the de facto protection against deportation and thus was unlawful. The conduct of the security authorities deprived the complainant of a fundamental right to initiate asylum proceedings and thus to protection against deportation.

On 12 March 2022, an [amendment to the Regulation on the Implementation of the Asylum Act 2005](#) entered into force, creating regulations for the design of the "ID card for displaced persons", which is also issued to displaced persons from Ukraine.

On 30 March 2022, an [amendment to the Regulation on Countries of Origin](#) was promulgated, according to which Ukraine is no longer considered a safe country of origin.

Croatia: On 19 February 2022, the Croatian Law Centre, on the basis of a contract concluded with the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia, started implementation of the project supported by AMIF "Legal advice in the process of granting international protection".

Finland: On 10 February 2022, based on the decision to continue evacuation from Afghanistan 37 Afghans were brought to Finland. [Read more.](#)

On 7 February 2022, the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) published a multilingual video series on mental health which is aimed at people who have moved to Finland as refugees. The video series has been co-developed together with experts by experience and health professionals. [Read more.](#)

France: On 10 March 2022, a ministerial instruction was issued to the prefects setting out the various modalities for implementing the protection in the application of the 2001 Directive. The prefectures will have to give the status resulting from this international protection in a simple, fluid and immediate way to all the people who can benefit from it. [Read more.](#)

Germany: On 23 February 2022, the German Federal Government presented the [third biannual report on safe countries of origin](#). The report aims at identifying countries of

origin which are regarded as safe due to their general political conditions. The classification allows for the relevant authorities to reject an asylum application as manifestly unfounded. In these cases, the asylum procedure is considerably accelerated.

Greece: On 15 February 2022, a [Joint Ministerial Decision, nr. 78391/2022](#) (Governmental Gazette, issue B'667) was issued regarding the national list of countries of origin which are characterized as safe, which added Egypt, Benin and Nepal to the national list of countries.

Ireland: On 7 February 2022 the International Protection strand of the [Regularisation of long-term undocumented migrants scheme](#) opened. Applications are accepted from people who have been in the international protection process for a minimum of two years. This strand is open for applications until 7 August 2022.

Italy: On 31 March, the National Commission for the Right to Asylum presented together with UNHCR the Standard Operating Procedures for the identification and referral of survivors of - or those at risk of - gender-based violence within the asylum procedure, during a national webinar with an operational focus, addressed to local authorities in charge of recognition of international protection.

Between January and March, a total of 116 people arrived in Italy through humanitarian corridors, including from Lebanon, Ethiopia, Niger, Jordan, and Libya. [Read more.](#)

Latvia: On 29 January 2022, the [Law on measures to reduce extreme energy prices](#) came into force which stipulates that an adult with a refugee or alternative status and who has reached the age for the granting of an old-age pension or who has a specified disability, is entitled to receive aid of € 20 per month until April 2022. Regarding children with refugee or alternative status, a € 50 support per month can be entitled to the parent, guardian, foster family or the head of an institution in charge.

Luxembourg: On 1 March 2021, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, and Syvicol (Association of Luxembourg Cities and Municipalities) [launched](#) a call for solidarity from municipalities for the creation of new accommodation structures for applicants for international protection.

Portugal: Between January and March 2022, the number of asylum applications registered increased compared to the same quarter of the previous year: 657 (175 in 2021). Within the scope of Portugal's continuous support to voluntary relocation in the Central Mediterranean, 17 asylum seekers were relocated in Portugal: 16 from Italy and one from Malta.

During the first quarter of 2022 evacuation from Afghanistan was still ongoing and 48 Afghans were brought to Portugal, which represents a total of 816 Afghans evacuated since mid-August 2021.

Netherlands: On 1 January 2022 the pilot on austere reception conditions for asylum seekers [ended](#). During the pilot (2020-2021), asylum seekers with low chances of obtaining a positive decision were hosted separately and under austere conditions, to discourage low-chance applicants, lower pressure on the asylum system, and to prevent nuisance. The pilot was evaluated as successful and the separate and austere reception conditions for this category of asylum seekers will continue with a small adjustment.

On 25 February 2022, the Minister for Migration has decided to [extend the decision and departure moratorium](#) for Afghanistan by six months until 26 August 2022. This means that decisions on asylum applications of people from Afghanistan can be postponed. Moreover, no Afghans are returned if their application has been rejected, and they retain their right to reception.

On 1 March 2022, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) [announced](#) that a new group of approximately 180 evacuated Afghans who arrived in the Netherlands that

day, will also undergo a shortened asylum procedure, as was the case for 2 000 evacuated Afghans in December 2021. The IND has a team available that will handle the applications at the reception location.

Spain: On 23 February 2022, Spain implemented the Protocol of action on violence of gender in the reception system together with the UNHCR. The protocol establishes clear guidelines for action in cases of gender-based violence. [Read more](#).

On 29 March 2022, the Council of Ministers approved a [Royal Decree](#) that regulates the international protection reception system. The decree establishes three phases (assessment and referral, lasting a maximum of 30 days, reception and autonomy), strengthening the efficiency of the system by establishing a harmonised catalogue of reception conditions and adjusting capacity to needs; it complements the current legal framework and provides greater legal certainty to the system with a regulation comparable to that of surrounding countries. It also introduces a new long-term financing instrument.

Slovenia: Between January and March, Slovenia saw a 230% increase of applications for international protection compared to the same quarter of 2021.

Slovak Republic: On 17 March 2022, the Act on Asylum was amended, and will enter into force on 1 June 2022.

The Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic published its [2021 Statistical Report](#) which contains among others an overview of the number of asylum applications, number of granted asylum or subsidiary protection statuses and granted citizenships in 2021. The report includes data on citizenships, ethnicities, age and unaccompanied minors applying for asylum.



3. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

Between 1 and 3 February 2022, the Council of Europe's Steering Committee [held a plenary session](#) on the rights of children in migration, including age assessments and guardianship for unaccompanied minors.

On 17 February 2022, the European Commission [discussed guardianship](#) for unaccompanied minors in EU Member State, where the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) also presented its report related to the topic.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Croatia: Croatian Red Cross is implementing the project "Integrative Support to Unaccompanied Children". During the project, an initial needs assessment was conducted, and psychosocial support was provided for 30 unaccompanied children, and 77 people were trained to work with unaccompanied children, including Red Cross staff and volunteers, employees of social welfare centres and institutions.

On 5 January 2022, the proposal of the Decision on the Establishment of the Interdepartmental Commission for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors was accepted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the procedure for appointing a representative of the Interdepartmental Commission is in the process.

Finland: On 8 March 2022, the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) published a report on the support and services for youth who are in child welfare after-care and minors who have entered the country without a guardian. The report found that some young people on the verge of adulthood have a special risk of social exclusion. The report offers development proposals for wellbeing services counties to establish a functional assistance system. [Read more](#).

France: On 7 February 2022, the [French government enriched the Law on the Child Protection](#), including provisions regarding unaccompanied minors (UAM):

- 1) A broadening of the criteria for the distribution between departments of UAMs present in the country.
- 2) A prohibition on re-examination of the situation of isolation or minority of a UAM by the department when the minor has already been recognized as a UAM in another department.
- 3) The obligation for the departments to use the automated data processing system to support the evaluation of minority and isolation.
- 4) The clarification of the conditions of access to residence for UAMs entrusted to trustworthy third parties.

On 3 February 2022, the French Human Rights Ombudsman published its report on the situation of unaccompanied minors and the legal challenges they are facing in France. Among the recommendations provided are: systematic presence of a lawyer with unaccompanied minors as soon as they are placed in a waiting zone; harmonisation of the asylum procedures for unaccompanied minors; and setting up of day-care accommodation centres coupled with the possibility of an unconditional and immediate night shelter for unaccompanied minors in transit. [Read more](#).

On 30 and 31 December 2021, the French Council of State delivered two decisions clarifying the specific procedures regarding the issuance of residence permits to foreign nationals facing health issues. [In the first decision](#), the Council of State indicates that it is not necessary to seek equivalence between third countries and Europe's health system in terms of quality of care. [The second decision](#) specifies the legal regime for simultaneous applications: the diagnosis of an illness constitutes a new circumstance which allows an asylum seeker to apply for a residence permit for "health reasons" within three months after the diagnosis.

Germany: On 21 March 2022, Anne Spiegel, the Federal Minister for Family, Elderly, Women and Youth announced the [establishment of a coordination unit for orphans](#) and entire orphanages arriving from Ukraine. The coordination unit collaborates closely with the Federal States and supports the finding of suitable accommodation in Germany. The main goal is to keep larger groups together, including the caretakers, to ensure as much continuation and stability as possible.

Italy: On 4 March 2022, the Panel on Unaccompanied Foreign Minors at the Ministry of the Interior met for the first time to address the protection and management of unaccompanied minors in a coordinated and shared manner with all the actors involved, in a context that will be particularly critical.

Following a competitive call for expression of interest launched on 8 February, the Fondazione Iniziative e Studi sulla Multietnicità (ISMU) is conducting a [market survey](#) to acquire expressions for carrying out a study on unaccompanied foreign minors. The study is carried out in the framework of the "Linguistic literacy and access to education for MSNA - ALI MSNA 2° Volo" and is launched by the Ministry of Education, Department for the Educational System of Education and Training - Directorate General for Students, Inclusion and School Orientation.

On 18 February the [Kick-off meeting for the start of the MSNA Project - ALI 2-](#) was held. The pilot project ("ALI Language Literacy and Access to Education for MSNA") seeks to guarantee the adoption of measures to support and sustain the learning pathways of the unaccompanied minors, through the creation of personalised educational plans based on the assessment of the individual educational needs of each unaccompanied minor and the implementation of actions to strengthen their language skills and help them learn school subjects.

Poland: In March 2022, more than 622.000 foreigners were registered for temporary protection, including 621 000 Ukrainians. In the first quarter of 2022, 3 021 applications for international protection were lodged in Poland. The main countries of origin of asylum applicants were Belarus (946 persons), Ukraine (926), Iraq (339), Russia (328) and Afghanistan (119). Most of Iraqi citizens seeking protection entered Poland illegally, and their applications were submitted in detention after receiving the obligation to return. Belarusians and Afghans came to Poland legally on the basis of visas and applied for protection mostly in Warsaw. 84 persons were granted refugee status, including 39 Belarusians and 24 Afghans. Subsidiary protection status was granted to 600 applicants, including 569 Belarusians, in the reporting period.

Portugal: Between January and March 2022, 14 unaccompanied minors and young adults were relocated to Portugal. This falls in line with the European Programme of Voluntary Relocation from Greece of Unaccompanied Minors and families, to be transferred under the procedure foreseen in article 17(2) of Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013.

Slovak Republic: As of 30 March 2022, a [government regulation](#) entered into force that allows appointing an adult accompanying a minor who is not in their custody as their legal guardian. The regulation was adopted in the context of mass influx of foreigners to the Slovak Republic caused by the war in Ukraine. Based on the adopted legislation the minor and their legal guardian are considered as one household and can be provided with assistance.

Judgment of the European Court of Justice

[Case C-432/20](#)

On 20 January 2022, the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled on the Directive (EU) 2003/109/EC regarding Long Term Residents. The directive determines that the status of third-country nationals may be at risk if they leave the EU territory during the 12 consecutive months required to gain status, even for a total duration of only a few days. The case concerned a Kazakh national whose application to renew their long-term residence status was refused in Austria on this basis.

[Case C-624/20](#)

On 17 March 2022, the Court of Justice of the European Union released its opinion regarding the scope of temporary residence and its potential transition into long-term residence status. The case concerned a Ghanian national who was living in the Netherlands with their son who holds a Dutch nationality. While they had been granted temporary residence for the purposes of family unity, their application for long-term residence permit had been refused. The question the Court addressed was whether having a family member who is a citizen of an EU Member State is sufficient to be granted long-term residence. Based on the [Directive \(EU\) 2003/109](#) and Article 20 of the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#), a third-country national who enjoys a derived right of residence can only be granted residence on a temporary basis.



4. LEGAL MIGRATION

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

On 15 February 2022, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs [voted](#) on and approved a draft legislation addressing 'citizen by investment' schemes and the use of 'golden visas' proposed by Members of European Parliament (MEPs). MEPs called on ban for 'golden visas' on the grounds that it is ethically, legally and economically questionable and poses a security risk. In the draft legislation, MEPs suggested a phase-out of golden visas and increased regulation.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Austria: On 14 January 2022, an [amendment to the Regulation on the Implementation of the Settlement and Residence Act](#) was promulgated, according to which, in connection with measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the authority may waive the taking of

papillary line imprints or the submission of original documents and evidence in the case of applications for renewal and change of purpose for the legal stay in the country.

Cyprus: On 11 March 2022, the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance, published the Gazette of the Republic of Cyprus, the revised decree regarding the employment of third country national students. The decree expands the sectors/professions in which students can be employed including the hotel sector and the food industry. The revised decree with all sectors listed, can be found in the Gazette in [Greek](#).

Croatia: On 27 January 2022, the Management Board of the Croatian Employment Service has decided to supplement the list of occupations for which the employer is obliged to request a labour market test with the professions of maids, cleaners, assistant chefs and assistant waiters for: Istria County, Primorje-Gorski Kotar County and Dubrovnik-Neretva County.

On 28 January 2022, the Croatian Parliament passed the new Social Welfare Act that regulates the activity of care, users, rights and services and procedures for their realisation, the manner of performing activities and other important issues.

On 24 February 2022, the Ordinance on the stay of third-country nationals in the Republic of Croatia came into force. On 21 February 2022 the Croatian Bureau of Statistics published the average monthly paid off net earnings and gross earnings per person in paid employment in legal entities in the Republic of Croatia for 2021.

Finland: On 11 February 2022, the President approved legislative amendments, which will enable the introduction of a long-term visa. The amendments will enter into force on 1 June 2022. A long-term visa is related to work-based immigration and a fast-track procedure for entry into the country. In the first phase, a long-term visa can be issued to senior specialists, start-up entrepreneurs and their family members. [Read more](#).

On 4 February 2022, a new working group of State Secretaries has been set up to drive the achievement of Finland's goal to significantly increase the immigration of skilled labour. [Read more](#).

France: On 13 April 2022, under the aegis of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the National Programme for the Emergency Reception of Scientists and Artists in Exile (PAUSE) and the French National Research Agency launched a relay mechanism allowing the reception of Ukrainian researchers for an additional six months at the end of the special "Ukraine Solidarity" fund. [Read more](#).

Greece: On 9 March 2022, a Joint Ministerial Decision (19319/20220) amended previous decision by adding extra number of residence permits to be granted for employment in order to cover labour market needs in specific regions of the country and in specific fields.

On 24 March 2022, a new [law](#) amended the provisions regarding seasonal work of TCNs and the main amendment is that it provides the possibility of granting a residence permit for seasonal workers with a duration of 1 to 5 years.

On 30 March 2022, [a Decision of the Minister of Migration & Asylum](#) was issued to ensure the legitimacy of residence for third-country nationals whose titles of residence expired from 1 January 2022 until 31 March 2022.

Ireland: On 8 March 2022, [changes to working arrangements and immigration permissions](#) for most non-EEA doctors were announced. The changes are intended to make Ireland a more attractive location for doctors, to help retain medical staff and to reduce the administrative burden on doctors and their employers.

Latvia: On 24 March 2022, [amendments of the Immigration Law entered into force](#), providing for the implementation of the Regulation No. 201/1240 of the European

Parliament and of the Council of 12 September 2018 establishing the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) obligations in the national legal acts, determining the competent authorities, their obligations and rights. The law will enter into force when the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) becomes operational in accordance with 2018/1240 Article 88.

Poland: In the first quarter of 2022 there were 52 applications for international protection in Poland lodged by unaccompanied minors. Most of them were from five countries: Iraq (11 applicants), Ukraine (10), Belarus (9), Russia (6) and Afghanistan (5).

Between January and March 2022, more than 83 000 residence permits were issued by Polish authorities, including 76 000 temporary residence permits. There were 9 000 negative decisions and 3 000 withdrawals.

Slovak Republic: The Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Police Force Presidium published the [Statistical Overview of Legal and Illegal Migration in the Slovak Republic for the year 2021](#), which provides data on both legal and irregular migration including returns.

Entering into force on 1 April 2022, the Slovak government adopted a [regulation](#) that simplifies access to Slovak labour market to highly qualified foreign workers with university degree from non-EU countries by granting them a national visa. A national visa will be granted to a third-country national for the purpose of looking for employment for a period of 90 days; or employment for the duration of such employment, for a maximum period of one year.

Slovenia: On 14 February 2022, the Republic of Slovenia started [issuing new forms of residence permits](#) to third-country nationals (including those who are family members of a citizen of the European Union, a Swiss Confederation or a Slovenian citizen) and residence registration certificates for EU / EEA citizens, which comply with Regulation (EU) 2017/1954 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1030/2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third-country nationals.

Spain: On 21 February 2022, the Social Security Agreement with Senegal entered into force, allowing for social security rights for workers who move between countries to be managed. It aims to guarantee a return with full rights and promotes regular migration.

On 28 March 2022, a kick-off meeting took place for a project seeking to strengthen relations on the basis of collaboration on regular migration. The project called Wafira involves 250 Moroccan women who come to Spain seasonally for the strawberry harvest. More information on the project, funded by the European Union through the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF) is available [here](#).

Netherlands: On 1 January 2022, the standard validity period of various permits for employment [has been extended](#) from one to a maximum of three years (unless the duration of the employment contract is shorter). This concerns people wanting to work in the Netherlands based on a combined residence and work permit (GVVA), the [International Trade Regulation](#) and the Regulation for [Essential start-up personnel](#).

On 1 January 2022, the Asian Catering Industry Scheme [expired](#) for new, initial applications. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment decided to stop the scheme after receiving signals of abuse. For the admission of new cooks, a combined work and residence permit (GVVA) application can be made to the IND.

Georgia: On 27-29 March 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) implemented communication activities to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the visa-free travel to the EU/Schengen states. Activities included *inter-alia* [statements](#) of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and [screening](#) of a graphic video at all main outdoor digital monitors throughout Georgia and national televisions.

STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

On 31 January 2022, the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission [launched](#) a call for applications for the expert group for the Community of European Research and Innovation for Security (CERIS). CERIS is assisting to determine capability gaps and research needs and enable the EU and its Member States to use research and innovation to address current and future security challenges.



5. INTEGRATION

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

On 26 January 2022, the [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](#) (FRA) [presented](#) information from the [Handbook on Governance Statistics](#) at a meeting of the Praia Group Task Team on Non-Discrimination and Equality, a group established by the UN Statistical Commission. The presentation covered information on measuring non-discrimination and equality through surveys and statistical analysis.

On 8 March 2022, the European Commission [adopted](#) a proposal for Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE) that would allow Member States and regions to provide emergency funding to people fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine (towards assistance in entering the labour market, finding childcare, providing basic needed materials including food, as well as training, counselling, and psychological support). In addition, funding available under REACT-EU of up to €10 billion can be used if in line with the objective of ensuring recovery after the pandemic.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Austria: Since 1 January 2022, the compulsory orientation and values courses [last three days](#) instead of one. The course concerns persons granted asylum or beneficiaries of subsidiary protection status aged 15 or older as well as third-country nationals receiving social assistance.

The Art. 4 para 3 of the Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals, which regulates the issuance of employment permits, was considered to be contrary to the principle of the rule of law and was therefore repealed by the [Constitutional Court](#). This information was promulgated on 3 February 2022 in the [Federal Law Gazette](#).

Croatia: On 5 April 2022, the Report on consultations of the Draft Proposal of the National Plan for the Development of Relations of the Republic of Croatia with Croats Outside the Republic of Croatia until 2027 and the Draft Proposal of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Plan for the period from 2022 to 2024 was published.

On 27 January 2022, the City Assembly of the City of Zagreb has [adopted the Action Plan of the City of Zagreb](#) for the Integration of Applicants for and Beneficiaries of International Protection for 2022. Measures and activities include social protection, health care, language learning and education, work and employment, strengthening local capacities and intercity and international cooperation. The Action Plan will be implemented in cooperation with civil society organisations that have experience in integration of foreigners.

The Croatian Red Cross continued providing assistance to persons under international protection in integration process. During first three months of 2022, Croatian Red Cross organised social activities like swimming school for children, educational excursions, and empowerment education. Following the activities of the project co-financed by AMIF "INCLuDE – Interdepartmental Cooperation in the Empowerment of Third-Country

Nationals", the publication "[Social inclusion of beneficiaries of international protection in the Republic of Croatia](#)" was published.

Finland: On 30 March 2022 a study was published by the Labour Institute for Economic Research, according to which integration programmes and language training increase employment of immigrants. An active labour market policy is most effective for people who have greatest difficulty in securing employment. Financial sanctions, on the other hand, are likely to work best for the highly educated. [Read more](#).

Municipal integration programmes increase cooperation and commit decision-makers to promotion of integration. However, the programmes would benefit from performance targets and increased monitoring of such targets, according to a report by Innolink Group and the Migration Institute of Finland. [Read more](#).

France: Since 1 January 2022, third-country nationals who have signed a republican integration contract and who have reached a certain level of proficiency in French have the possibility of obtaining their language level certified. The cost of this certification is paid by the State. Since 1 January 2022, language training, which lasts a maximum of 600 hours, can be increased by a maximum of 60 hours as needed. [Read more](#).

On 1 February 2022, the annual instruction for prefects setting out the main [guidelines for the integration](#) of newly-arrived foreign nationals, including refugees, was published. The instruction defines the objectives, priorities and governance of the integration policy in France for 2022. The document also details the integration actions that can be financed (in terms of employment, access to rights, coexistence and appropriation of the values and principles of the Republic).

On 4 February 2022, the French government has updated the "citizen's booklet" (Livret du citoyen) provided to foreign nationals applying for French nationality. The booklet presents the French Republic's core values and key dates as well as examples of knowledge expected from French citizenship's applicants. The authorities invite applicants to familiarise themselves with the contents of the booklet in order to prepare the interview with the prefecture's agent. [Read more](#).

On 11 March 2022, in the context of the crisis in Ukraine, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Integration and the Minister Delegate for Citizenship [convened](#) the [first steering committee on the professional integration of foreign nationals](#). On this occasion, the two ministries examined the deployment and development of the AGIR programme, to be launched in June 2022, which aims to offer more systematic support to refugees in finding employment and housing, and to better coordinate the actors and the common law measures or specific solutions adapted to the needs of the beneficiaries.

Germany: On 3 January 2022, the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research announced the continuation of its initiative in collaboration with Stiftung Lesen (Reading Foundation) to [foster reading among children in reception centres](#) for protection seekers. Reading early on is considered to be effectively supporting the children's education.

On 23 February 2022, following the coalition agreement, the German Federal Cabinet appointed Reem Alabali-Radovan as [Federal Government Commissioner for Anti-Racism](#). Her tasks are to coordinate all efforts related to anti-racism at the federal level and she announced the development of a national diversity strategy. Reem Alabi-Radovan is also the Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees, and Integration.

Greece: Between 7 and 22 January 2022, the "[National Strategy for the Social Integration of Applicants for and Beneficiaries of International Protection](#)" (formulated by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum in November 2021) was put to public consultation.

Since January 2022, the HELIOS (Hellenic Integration Support for Beneficiaries of International Protection) program is being implemented by IOM and funded directly by the Ministry of Migration and Asylum for a six-month period, through a programmatic agreement which has been conducted between Ministry of Migration and Asylum and IOM. During the new programming period 2021-2027, it is planned that the HELIOS program will continue being funded by the European Social Fund (ECF +).

The Ministry of Migration and Asylum is a partner at the Consortium Agreement "Breaking silos, promoting young third-country national women's access to targeted vocational training and labour market opportunities through social economy- MOMENTUM of Cooperation — MOMENTUM' ('action')" (AMIF 2020), which has been implemented since the beginning of 2022, and will last until the end of the year.

On February 25, 2022 the Ministry of Migration and Asylum signed a Programme Agreement with Athens Development & Destination Management Agency to implement the "Multaka: Intercultural tours in Athens" project (funded by AMIF 2014-2020), in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Sports. It aims to train twenty migrants, refugees and persons with a migrant background as Intercultural Guides, who will provide open tours to four museums and archaeological sites, in four languages (Greek, English, French, Arabic, Farsi). The project aims to facilitate the interchange of diverse cultural, personal and historical experiences through dialogue and discuss.

Ireland: On 7 March 2022, the Department of Social Protection published information on [supports for arrivals from Ukraine](#) under the EU Temporary Protection Directive.

Italy: Between 1 January 2022 and 31 March 2022, 6 832 migrants, including 889 unaccompanied minors, landed and were registered in the country.

On 16 March 2022 the Circular of the Ministries of the Interior, Labour and Agriculture of 16 March 2022 [extended the deadline](#) for submitting applications to convert a permit issued for other reasons into a residence permit for work to 30 September 2022. The same extension also applies to employers who want to bring to Italy and hire foreign citizens trained abroad.

Between 21 December 2021- 19 January 2022, the reception capacity of the SAI network (Reception and Integration System) was [enhanced](#), providing second-level services aimed at the integration of holders of relevant forms of protection. In relation to the emergency in Afghanistan and the consequent flow of refugees, an additional 3 000 places in the SAI projects already running in the ordinary category have been admitted for funding.

On 17 March 2022, [470 new places](#) in already existing SAI Reception and Integration System) projects for Afghan and Ukrainian refugees were considered eligible for funding to increase places for newcomers without creating separate centres.

Luxembourg: On 14 January 2022, a circular was sent to municipalities to [inform](#) them about the call for projects and subsidies to public entities in the municipal sector initiating and supporting projects for the integration and reception of foreigners.

On 17 January 2022, the municipality of Hesperange [signed](#) the "Pakt vum Zesummeliewen". The aim of the 'pact' is to give municipalities the opportunity to initiate a dynamic process of local integration in which citizen participation is a key element. In March 2022, four more municipalities [signed](#) the pact (Schifflange, Steinfort, Echternach and Bettembourg).

On 8 March 2022, a new study on racism and ethno-racial discrimination in Luxembourg was [published](#). The quantitative survey conducted by LISER (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research) measures the perceptions of the resident population and minority groups. The qualitative survey carried out by CEFIS (Centre d'Étude et de Formation Interculturelles et Sociales) identifies the dominant perceptions of actors in the field and experts in the various societal domains, directly or indirectly related to racism and discrimination in Luxembourg.

The Minister for National Education, Children and Youth, Claude Meisch, [announced](#) the opening of a sixth European public school in Luxembourg in September 2022. The opening is part of the efforts to diversify the school offer in order to meet the challenges of an increasingly heterogeneous school population.

As part of the National Action Plan on Integration, the Department of Integration [produced](#) a video campaign to present 10 ongoing projects each based on one of the two areas of intervention "Diversity and combatting discrimination" or "Language acquisition and practice". The achieved results of the NAP 2020 projects are available [here](#) on the website of the Department of Integration.

Malta: The Human Rights Directorate entered into an agreement with the Directorate for Research, Lifelong Learning and Employability to provide literacy courses in the Maltese and English languages from January to June 2022. The completion of these courses will facilitate students' admission into the Stage 1 I Belong Programme.

The Final round of training sessions under the '[Equality for all in Malta](#)' project was held in February 2022 and an awareness raising campaign was completed in January 2022.

As of 1 March 2022, a two-year project in partnership with the European Network on Racism and other partners was launched. The project aims to improve the response of Maltese public authorities' to racism and xenophobia. Following the 'whole of society' approach, the project includes actions involving civil society, academia, and the public. The Project paves the way for the second Anti-Racism Strategy.

Jobsplus, the Maltese Public Employment Service, administers an AMIF-funded project Employment Support Services for Migrants. The project aims to improve employment services for migrants by providing courses in basic Maltese, business English, cultural awareness, life skills and work ethics. An addendum was approved for a new initiative aimed at increasing participation in training activities. Thus, in the first quarter of 2022, a training grant of € 4.50 per hour was provided as an incentive to attract more participants for training.

Netherlands: On 1 January 2022, the [New Civic Integration Act](#) went into effect. The municipalities are responsible for its execution. Newcomers to whom the act applies are required to participate in society as soon as possible, preferably through employment.

The municipalities will support these newcomers with their civic integration through a tailor-made approach ([Plan Integration and Participation](#)).

The [New Civic Integration Act](#) also raised the expected language level for newcomers from level A2 to B1, including for Turkish nationals, who were previously exempt from the language requirement. From now on, third-country nationals who must participate in civic integration, also have three different learning pathways to meet their civic integration obligation.

Georgia: Since January 2022, 43 foreigners have been enrolled in the State Language Teaching and Integration Program.

6. MANAGEMENT OF THE EU EXTERNAL BORDERS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

On 2 February 2022, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre released a publication '[Data Innovation in Demography, Migration and Human Mobility](#).' Data and innovative technological tools are increasingly being applied to predict, forecast, and anticipate migration flows and to consequently inform policy development.

On 4 March 2022, the European Commission provided Member States [guidelines](#) on external border management at the border with Ukraine to facilitate border crossings.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Croatia: During the first quarter of 2022, the following trainings for police officers were conducted: (1) Course for Fundamental Rights Trainers, Development Meeting Anti-Trafficking Training for Border Guards "Firearms Detection Course," (2) Entry Exit System Train the Trainers Online Course, (3) Integrated Border Management, (4) Application in Airports, (5) Training of Trainers. Through EMAS, 5 trainings for border police officers were held as part of "Strengthening border control activities on the Croatian part of the external border due to increased migratory pressure".

Cyprus: Cyprus made two more steps towards becoming a full member of the Schengen area. On 23 February 2022 "The Law on the Operation and Use of the Second-Generation Schengen Information System (SIS II) Law 2020" was ratified. Furthermore, on 21 March 2022, the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy published the call of tenders for 'The provision of services for the implementation, maintenance and operation of the National ETIAS Information System of the Republic of Cyprus (CY-ETIAS). The deadline for submitting the tender is on 3 June 2022.

Estonia: Based on the proposal of the Police and Border Guard Board, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) has [sent additional border guards](#) to the Estonian external border.

On 2 March 2022, Estonia temporarily restored its [Schengen border control](#) on the Estonian-Latvian border. The purpose of the border control is to streamline the entry of people fleeing the war in Ukraine and their initial contact with the country.

Finland: On 15 March 2022, The Ministry of the Interior started a project to examine and prepare legislative amendments to enable the introduction of the border procedure in Finland. The border procedure would allow the processing of potentially unfounded asylum applications immediately at the border or in its vicinity. [Read more.](#)

Georgia: Based on the [new amendments to the Entry/Exit Law](#), from January to March 2022, 642 citizens of Georgia intending to travel to EU/Schengen area were refused to depart from the country.

Italy: 19 January 2022, Operation 'Skalinos' was launched regarding air patrol over the eastern Mediterranean Sea route. This came following the technical coordination board meeting pursuant to art. 12 of the Interministerial Decree of 14 July 2003, held at the Central Directorate of Immigration and Border Police.

Latvia: On 16 March 2022, [Amendments of the State Border Guard Law](#) came into force, providing for the definition of cases and criteria for the establishment of a patrol zone and a surveillance zone for border markers at the external border, as well as for the definition of a national border zone along water bodies. The driver of these amendments was the situation on the border of Latvia - Belarus, as well as data provided by the State Border Guard and the Lithuanian Border Guard on the large number of irregular border crossings. This information indicated that a hybrid attack is being implemented with the support of the Belorussian authorities, posing a direct threat to national security and the external border of the European Union.

Luxembourg: On 31 January 2022, the list of third countries whose residents should not be affected by a temporary external border restriction on non-essential travel to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg was [updated](#) by removing Argentina, Australia and Canada from the list.

On 1 March 2022, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs [informed](#) that the temporary restrictions on entry into the territory of the Grand Duchy for third-country nationals residing outside the EU or the Schengen area have been extended until 30 June 2022 inclusive.



7. IRREGULAR MIGRATION

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

No new developments

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Croatia: The Republic of Croatia has had independent monitoring of the treatment of migrants by NGOs since 2008. The independent control mechanism is being implemented in the Republic of Croatia at the external border of the European Union.

Cyprus: In January 2022, inspectors of the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance, carried out checks in a number of premises in industrial areas and zones as part of the campaign against undeclared labour. The campaign aims to raise awareness on the consequences of undeclared work and non-compliance with the relevant law which entails certain regulations and fines imposed to employers who violate it. A Pancyprian phone number (77778577) has also been announced for the provision of information and reporting regarding cases of undeclared work or violations of labour terms.

Hungary: There is a significant amount of [migrant smuggling](#) using the method of hiding in trucks, typically involving Turkish transport companies and Turkish drivers. Around 40% of the lorries checked result detection. Following agreement on 6 December 2021 by both parties, Turkey offered to send 50 Turkish guest officers to Hungary to facilitate the border crossing of Turkish citizens and trucks. The first Turkish contingent started their duties at the border crossing points of Röske and Nagylak.

Ireland: On 31 January 2022, the [Regularisation of long-term undocumented migrants scheme](#) opened. Online applications will be accepted for six months until 31 July 2022. Primary applicants must have a period of four years undocumented residence in the

State, or three years in the case of those with children. Successful applicants will receive immigration permission to reside, access to the labour market and can begin on a path to citizenship.

Italy: On 29 March 2022, the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Andrea Orlando, [signed the ministerial decree](#) stipulating the distribution of the € 200 million allocated to 37 municipalities. The funding was distributed on the basis of the national survey carried out by the municipalities, under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, in order to dismantle illegal settlements of migrants in irregular situations employed in the agricultural sector.

Poland: On 4 January 2022, the Border Guard signed three agreements on the construction of a dam on the Polish-Belarusian border. The dam will be over 186 km long. The security of the border will be 5.5 meters high, five meters of which are steel poles, topped with a coil of wire to block unregulated crossings. Modern, electronic methods of border management (motion sensors along the entire border, cameras) will also be used. [Read more](#).

8. RETURN

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

No new developments

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Belgium: Within the Belgian government an agreement was reached to allocate €100 million to a new strategic plan to increase the return of irregularly staying third-country nationals. A key element of this plan is the construction of four new detention centres, namely in Jabbeke, Zandvliet, Steenokkerzeel and Jumet.

Croatia: From January until March 2022 border police officers participated in joint FRONTEX operations in the Republic of Serbia, Romania, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro and Lithuania regarding protection of state border and prevention of illegal migration.

Cyprus: On 1 February 2022, the Minister of Interior the European Commission, held an official meeting in Cyprus for the signing of an agreement on the standard operation procedures on returns.

This marks the first time an agreement has entered into force in Cyprus in which Frontex and European Commission are also involved. Throughout the meeting, the Minister stressed the current situation on migratory flows in Cyprus and discussed with Mrs. Gminder the issue of returns and EU funding, Relevant announcement on the Press and Information Office website of the Republic of Cyprus, in [Greek](#).

On 16 of February 2022, the Republic of Cyprus and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) reached an agreement on the implementation of an Operational Action Plan for returns. As per the agreement, Frontex shall send additional return experts and experts on the verification of documents of third country nationals. The agency shall also conduct regular paid return flights and provide technical support for the upgrading or development of the system for managing migration flows and returns. Read more [here \(in Greek only\)](#).

Judgment of the European Court of Justice

[Case C-519/20](#)

On 10 March 2022, the Court of Justice of the European Union released its judgement that interpreted Articles 16 and 18 of the Returns Directive, regarding the notions of "specialised detention facility" and "emergency situation". The case concerned a Pakistani national who was detained in Hannover for three months following the refusal of his asylum application on the grounds of an expulsion warning that had been issued to them in 2017. Awaiting return, the Court ruled that the aspects of the detention centres must be in line with the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Return Directive under Articles 16 and 18 that must be interpreted as complementary to each other in the protection they offer.

France: On 17 March 2022, several associations (Forum réfugiés-Cosi, France terre d'asile, Groupe SOS Solidarité - Assfam, La Cimade and Solidarité Mayotte) published their joint annual report of 2021 (in French) on the situation in administrative detention centres and facilities. The associations have noted failures in terms of respect for legal guarantees in these places of deprivation of liberty, they have drawn up an evaluation of the situation of detainees in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic and call on the French public authorities "to fundamentally rethink the use of detention".

Greece: On 11 February 2022, a joint Ministerial Decision was issued, amending a previously issued (nr. 8038/23/22-1Y/2015, GG B'118) regarding the establishment and function of Pre-Departure Centres in the Closed Controlled Access Centres in Samos, Leros and Kos where special detention facilities will be run by the National Police Force. The decision is available [here](#) in Greek.

Through the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme provided by IOM Greece, counselling to administratively detained third-country nationals against whom a return decision is provided in order to motivate them to depart voluntarily. In a total of 112 beneficiaries, 5 departed voluntarily to their country of origin.

Lithuania: On 18 February 2022, Minister of the Interior [reintroduced](#) a €1 000 pay-out to irregular migrants agreeing to return to their countries of origin voluntarily until 21 May. In total, 983 persons, 510 during this year, returned to their countries since the beginning of the irregular migration flows organised by the Belarus regime [based](#) on data presented by the Ministry of the Interior on 17 March.

Luxembourg: On 19 January 2022, the bill n°7954 amending the amended law of 29 August 2008 on the free movement of persons and immigration was [submitted](#) to the Chamber of Deputies. The main objective of the bill is to clearly structure the different categories of removal measures in order to better manage the phenomenon of illegal stay of third-country nationals on Luxembourgish territory. To this end, a generic definition of the term "removal" (French: "éloignement") was introduced.

Malta: In March 2022, the Returns Unit (Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality) started organising outreach activities on voluntary return in different migrant frequented localities around Malta. The first outreach activity was held in the locality of Hamrun. Return Officers entered various migrant owned shops (supermarkets, bars and restaurants) and spoke with several migrants on return opportunities. Information material was also disseminated to supplement return counselling.

In March 2022, the Returns Unit established a communication channel with the Foundation for Social Welfare Services, specifically APPOGG, which is the entity responsible for sheltering homeless persons in Malta. Both counterparts agreed that homelessness is a multi-faceted challenge which requires a multi-solution approach. In the near future, the Returns Unit will be organising return counselling sessions in various homeless shelters around the Maltese islands.

Also in March 2022, the Returns Unit updated the Ministry's in-cash incentive policy offered to voluntary returnees. The revised policy offers different amounts based on country of origin, vulnerability and stage of asylum.

Netherlands: On 25 February 2022, the decision and departure moratorium for persons from Afghanistan was [extended](#) by six months. On 28 February 2022, a six-month moratorium [was also implemented](#) for persons from Ukraine, and on 24 March 2022 for certain [refugees from Sudan](#) (political opponents of the Sudanese authorities). As a result, temporarily no returns will be carried out for these groups.

Slovenia: Introduction of the first cases into NADRA system (National Database and Registration Authority) in relation to identification and return to Pakistan from Slovenia.

Georgia: Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) participated in three Collecting Return Operations coordinated by Frontex. As a result, within the reporting period 122 Georgian citizens were safely returned from EU Member States to Georgia.

Within the reporting period, expulsion decisions on 72 foreigners were issued and 40 foreigners left Georgia based on those decisions.

9. ACTIONS ADDRESSING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

On 17 February 2022, the EU [released](#) new funding amounting to €7 million for projects for a period of 24 months to combat trafficking in human beings.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Belgium: In March 2022, a bill on the decriminalisation of sex work that was discussed in the federal parliament in 2021 was adopted in the Belgian parliament. The law may have a positive impact on the detection of victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. At the same time, the law may limit their access to the protection status of victims of trafficking, as criminal investigations and prosecutions may in the future be based on the new crime of "abuse of prostitution" instead of trafficking.

Croatia: From 22 until 24 February 2022, a seminar was held for 20 police officer's lecturers, who are seen as multipliers of the border police in the field of "Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings". The Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities initiated the process of drafting the National Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2022 to 2027 and the accompanying Action Plan for the period from 2022 to 2024.

On 24 February 2022, an online Regional Conference entitled "Reporting Trafficking in Human Beings, Resolving Compensation to Victims and Identifying Other Key Issues Related to Combating Trafficking in Human Beings" was held, co-organised by the Croatian Academy of Law and the Office and the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, with the financial support of the Embassy of the United States of America in the Republic of Croatia.

Finland: On 17 February 2022, the Ministry of Interior started a legislative project to review the provisions on the Assistance System for Victims of Human Trafficking. The project will make amendments to the Act on the Reception of Persons Applying for International Protection and on the Identification of and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings. [Read more.](#)

On 21 January 2022, the Annual Review of the Assistance System for Victims of Human Trafficking was published. According to the review, the number of minors referred to the Assistance System for Victims of Human Trafficking has doubled compared to previous years. [Read more.](#)

Italy: Projects continued to be implemented in the area of international cooperation involving migration. These included: (1) the Support to Integrated Border and Migration Management in Libya; (2) The Border Programme for the Maghreb Region, launched in collaboration with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) to implement a modern coastal radar surveillance system in Tunisia, and (3) the International Training at the Egyptian Police Academy, which aims to provide specialised training in the field of border control and migration management for police officers in about 20 African countries. The programmes are implemented by the Central Directorate for Immigration and Border and funded by the European Union.

Portugal: On 17 March 2022, the Observatory on Trafficking in Human Beings jointly with the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality launched the Project "[Improved prevention, assistance, protection and \(re\)integration system for victims of sexual exploitation](#)" (EEA Grants). The Project Promoter is the Observatory on Trafficking in Human Beings within the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Slovenia: On 18 March 2022 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia signed an agreement on cooperation in the fight against trafficking in human beings and child abuse with the Republic of Northern Macedonia.

Georgia: From January 2020, the psychological-social Service Centre for children victims of violence has been operational in Georgia. The centre represents the facility where different services will be available in a single place (so-called barnahus model).

On 8 February 2022, within the scope of pre-deployment preparation for European Union Training Mission in Central African Republic, 50 military service-members of Platoon of the National Guard participated in training "Trafficking in Peacekeeping Operations".

On 17-18 March 2022, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in cooperation with the Prosecutor's Office organised a regional workshop "Enhancing response to trafficking in persons, particularly in women and girls for sexual exploitation, through cross-border criminal justice cooperation in Southern Caucasus and Central Asia" – funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden. The workshop gathered representatives of states of origin, transit and destination, with a focus on Central Asia and Southern Caucasus region.

For the first time in Georgia, with support of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe a national simulation-based training on Trafficking in Human Beings is being planned. A working group composed of relevant state entities and two NGOs was set up and subsequent working process is underway.

10. EXTERNAL DIMENSION

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

On 17 January 2022, the Council of the European Union released an [Implementing Decision \(EU\) 220/40](#) on the Operational Coordination Mechanism for the External Dimension of Migration. The mechanisms build on previous arrangements provided by the [Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2018/1993](#) on the EU Integrated Political Crisis Response Arrangements, however creates new mechanisms directly intended to cooperation and build relations with third countries in the field of migration.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Greece: On 7 February 200, a Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility between the Hellenic Republic and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was signed, according to which the two countries intent to engage in technical and operational discussions at high administrative level on the establishment of a common framework of understanding and cooperation in the fields of both regular and irregular migration and mobility.

On 9 February 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding on Migration and Mobility was signed between the Hellenic Republic and the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

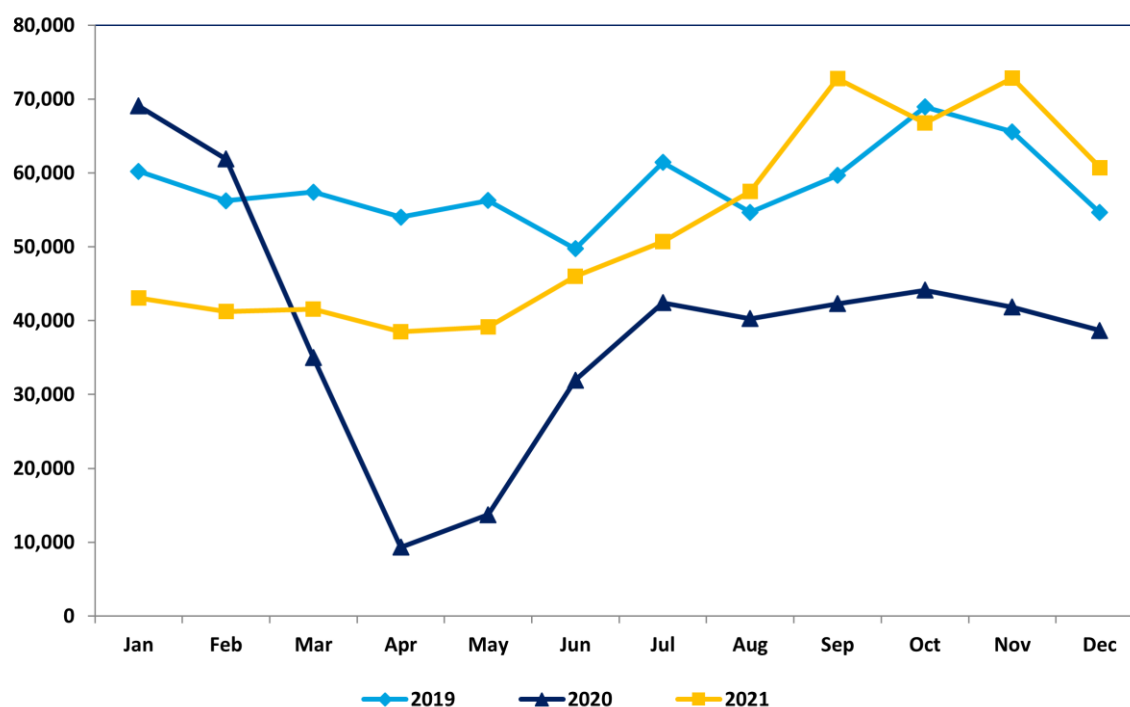
Italy: The National Association of Italian Municipalities presented the National Strategy against Anti-Semitism and the IHRA's operational definition of anti-Semitism, drafted in line with the resolution on the fight against anti-Semitism adopted by the European Parliament on 1st June 2017, and pursuant to Declaration No. 13637/20 of 2 December 2020 of the Council of the European Union, calling on Member States to integrate the fight against anti-Semitism. The final report was published during the reporting period and available [here](#) in English.

Netherlands: In February 2022, a group of 294 Afghans were [evacuated](#) to Pakistan: Dutch residents, Afghans who have performed high-profile duties for the Netherlands in an international military or police mission, Afghan NGO staff, and their family members. Some did not have valid travel documents, but the Pakistani authorities gave permission for this particular group to travel to the Netherlands. Apart from this group, many Afghans traveling to the Netherlands as country of destination nowadays use the route through Teheran.

Poland: A report on the implementation of the National Action Plan for 2021 was prepared and then submitted to the members of the Team for Counteracting Trafficking in Human Beings of the Minister of the Interior and Administration.

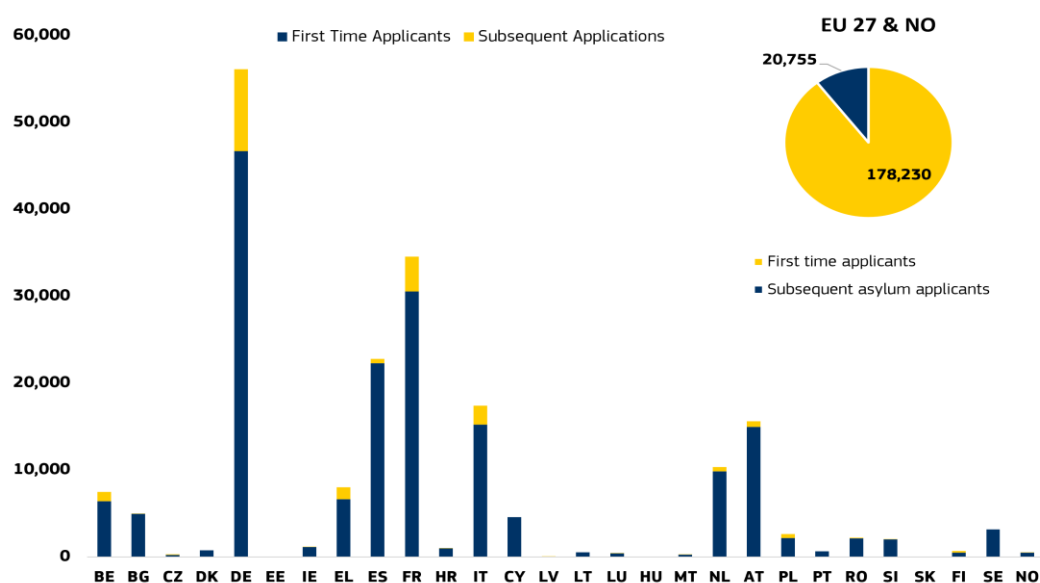
ANNEX: EU & COMPLEMENTARY STATISTICS, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, OTHER EMN OUTPUTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Figure 1: Asylum applications in the EU-27, January 2021 – December 2021



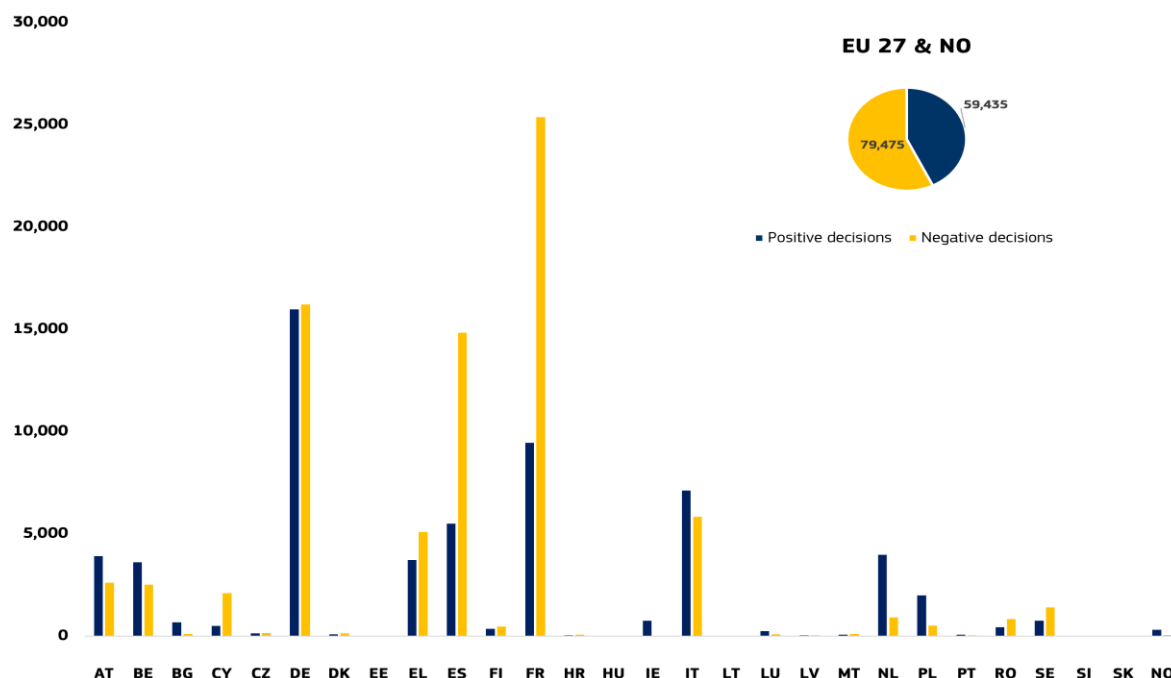
Source: Eurostat [[migr_asyappctzm](#)], total asylum applicants, extracted on 9 May 2022.

Figure 2: First time asylum applicants and subsequent applicants (together, total asylum applicants) in the EU-27 and Norway, Q4 2021 (quarterly data)



Source: Eurostat [[migr_asyappctzm](#)], accessed on 9 May 2022.

Figure 3: First instance asylum decisions in EU-28 and Norway for non-EU citizens, Q4 2021



Source: Eurostat [[migr_asydcfstq](#)], accessed on 9 May 2022.

Updates on EU legislation transposition

Latvia: On 5 March 2022, the [Law on Assistance to Ukrainian Civilians](#) came into force which transposes Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof.

Italy: Pursuant to Declaration No. 13637/20 of 2 December 2020 of the Council of the European Union, calling on Member States to integrate the fight against anti-Semitism, the National Association of Italian Municipalities presented the National Strategy against Anti-Semitism and the IHRA's operational definition of anti-Semitism, drafted in line with the resolution on the fight against anti-Semitism adopted by the European Parliament on 1st June 2017.