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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 40th edition provides information from **July-September 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:

TEMPORARY PROTECTION DIRECTIVE

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SPECIAL NOTE

Recent EMN publications:

- [EMN study on the Integration of migrant women in the EU and Norway: Policies and measures](#)
- [EMN inform on the Application of the Temporary Protection Directive \(Scope and Registration\)](#)
- [EMN inform on Incentives and motives for voluntary departure](#)
- [EMN inform on Bilateral readmission agreements](#)
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Stay tuned for upcoming EMN publications and events:

- EMN inform on Measures to support transition to adulthood for unaccompanied minors
- EMN inform on Possibilities for organising flexible housing in the context of international protection
- EMN inform on Enhancing prospects of displaced populations in non-EU first reception and transit countries
- EMN Youth Day will take place on 16 November 2022 and will focus on youth, migration narratives and policies

TEMPORARY PROTECTION DIRECTIVE

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATE

On 6 July 2022, Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, [presented guidance for supporting the 'Safe Homes' initiative](#) at a dedicated session of the Ukraine Solidarity Platform. The guidance document consolidated experiences, considerations and practices gathered across EU Member States as hundreds of thousands of Europeans opened their doors to host displaced persons from Ukraine.

On 2 August 2022, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) [published an overview of how the EU Temporary Protection Directive has been implemented at the national level](#) in the nine EU Member States, where most people fleeing Ukraine have fled to, (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Spain). It provides an outline of who is eligible for protection under the Directive, whether governments register people, information regarding unaccompanied minors, as

well as the core rights accessible through the Directive such as employment, healthcare, education, and housing.

On 23 August 2022, the EU Justice and Home Affairs network, comprised of nine EU agencies, [published a joint paper on their actions and contributions undertaken towards the EU's solidarity with Ukraine](#). The paper underlines key activities such as reports and analysis, key challenges and potential solutions, the investigation of international crimes, supporting EU national authorities, and contributions to the enforcement of EU sanctions.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) [launched an online survey](#) to collect the views and experiences of people fleeing the war in Ukraine that is ongoing. FRA is also [releasing continuous updates related to fundamental rights](#) and their implications for those fleeing Ukraine, including how the Temporary Protection Directive is being applied at the national level and concrete actions taken at the EU level.

On 6 September 2022, the European Agency for Asylum (EUAA) [signed a plan to activate the deployment of personnel, interpreters, and specialised training](#) to Bulgaria, as over 530 000 Ukrainians have arrived in the country since February.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Austria: On 8 July 2022, the National Council approved an amendment to the [Agreement between the Federal State and the Provinces on Basic Care - Art. 15a Federal Constitutional Act](#) regulating that the federal state and the provinces set up and operate, if necessary, initial reception centres for displaced persons from Ukraine. The federal state has compensated the provinces for the initial care costs with a flat rate of € 190 per person retroactively from 1 March 2022. Furthermore, the scope of application of the Agreement is extended to (non-Ukrainian) third-country nationals who fled Ukraine and whose entry into Austrian territory is allowed pursuant to Art 6 para 5 subpara C of the Schengen Border Code for the purpose of transit and immediate departure.

Bulgaria: On 2 September 2022, a plan for operational support for Bulgaria was agreed with the European Union Agency for Asylum to strengthen the capacity of the state authorities applying the Temporary Protection Directive, as well as to provide specialised training to state officials on the following topics:

- Temporary protection – legal and political framework;
- Communication and information provision;
- Age assessment;
- Conflict Management;
- Communication with special categories of people.

Cyprus: On 2 August 2022, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Open University of Cyprus announced a research position vacant for Ukrainian nationals with academic interests in the field of social sciences. The successful candidate will conduct research and lecture on a topic affiliated to their studies and academic background.

Estonia: On 25 July 2022, [an additional information centre for war refugees from Ukraine was opened](#) in the city of Narva enabling assistance to be offered right at the Estonian border checkpoints.

On 7 July 2022, the [registration of all Ukrainian war refugees](#) who have received temporary protection into a mandatory and free adaptation programme started. The Police and Border Guard Board is sending a referral letter to all adults who have received temporary protection. The first 2 500 recipients of temporary protection have already been invited to study Estonian.

On 1 August 2022, three psychologists started working at the Social Insurance Board to answer the [victim help crisis line](#) in Ukrainian every day between 16:00 and 20:00. It is also possible to arrange video counselling in Ukrainian at a convenient time.

Since 28 September 2022, [Ukrainian nurses who have received temporary protection and who have completed vocational education have the opportunity to continue their professional work](#) in Estonia. All students starting their studies have completed nursing or medical attendant vocational training and have worked as nurses. After completing the curriculum, Ukrainian nurses receive a nursing education and a bachelor's degree in accordance with European Union directives and can apply to be entered in the register of healthcare workers on an equal basis with other nurses who have graduated from an Estonian higher education institution.

Finland: On 27 September 2022, The Ministry of the Interior [sent out for comments a draft of a temporary amendment to the Aliens Act](#) that would ensure the validity of residence permits issued in Finland to recipients of temporary protection for as long as the temporary protection is in effect in the EU.

On 12 September 2022, the Ministry of the Interior started [preparing](#) a special act that would lay down provisions whereby the validity of residence permits issued by Finland on the basis of temporary protection would be extended automatically for the duration of temporary protection in the EU.

France: On 1 July 2022, an [awareness-raising webinar](#) on the risks of human trafficking for displaced persons fleeing the conflict in Ukraine was held at the Interministerial Delegation for Housing and Access to Housing (DIHAL). The objective of this awareness-raising webinar was to facilitate the identification of risk situations and potential victims of trafficking, and to advise on the orientation of these persons towards the appropriate protection and assistance mechanisms.

Greece: Following questions by Ukrainian citizens enjoying temporary protection in Greece (Art. 8 of Directive), about their right to subsequently move to another EU Member State, those concerned have been informed, that Greek residence permits may be withdrawn (according to Art. 15(6) and 26(4) of Directive) in every Greek public service institution abroad (including Consular Offices). Thus, they are able to exercise their right to move, following the spirit of the Directive and the Operational Guidelines of the European Commission.

On 15 September 2022, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), confirmed that "Currently there is a full suspension in place regarding the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme (AVRR), as the conditions are not conducive for safe and dignified assisted return to Ukraine. IOM assesses the situation continually and will lift the suspension when/where possible".

The target group of the HELIOS integration programme, (see the Integration section), consists not only of beneficiaries of international protection but also of beneficiaries of temporary protection (based on the published Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of the Council of the European Union).

Ireland: On 26 July 2022, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth [announced details of the Accommodation Recognition Payment](#). The € 400 monthly payment can be made to households hosting beneficiaries of Temporary Protection, and which have committed to hosting for at least six months. The payments can be backdated to 4 March 2022.

On 17 August 2022, the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science [announced a new scheme](#) to allow Ukrainian students living in Ireland to access certain further education courses free of charge during the 2022/23 academic year. The scheme will also provide qualified Ukrainian students with a bursary paid in monthly instalments.

Latvia: On 8 July 2022, Cabinet Regulation '[Procedures through which a Minor Asylum Seeker shall be Provided with Opportunities for Acquiring Education](#)' came into force in order to determine the regulation of the admission of minor Ukrainian civilians to vocational education programmes, after obtaining basic education.

On 14 July 2022, amendments [to the Law on Assistance to Ukrainian Civilians](#) were adopted, which provide for the additional regulation of another form of primary aid - accommodation of up to 60 days. Local municipalities have pointed to the difficulty of housing Ukrainian civilians for the current amount of compensation and to a critical lack of accommodation in some municipalities. Accordingly, amendments to the law provide that local municipalities may decide on the period of accommodation of the relevant Ukrainian civilian for up to 120 days, or up to 60 days if a longer period is not possible.

On 6 September 2022, Amendments to regulations "Procedure for Awarding Scholarships to Foreigners" [were adopted](#), which allow students and researchers from Ukraine to receive financial support from 1 September until 31 December 2022. Students and researchers from Ukraine may receive support within the framework of Erasmus+ mobility or a state budget grant of € 140 per month. As the war in Ukraine continues, the Ministry of Education and Science has also proposed to provide financial support to Ukrainian civilians in higher education and science next year, which should be examined during the process of preparing the State budget for 2023.

On 22 September 2022, [amendments to the Law on Assistance to Ukrainian Civilians were adopted](#), which aim to promote the integration of Ukrainian civilians into the labour market. Self-employed Ukrainian civilians are entitled to a one-time benefit of € 500 after they have registered their status with the State Revenue Service.

On 23 September 2022, Latvia's Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs together with Ministry of Welfare and State Inspectorate for Protection of Children's Rights had a WebEx meeting with Ukraine's Migration Service on matters concerning unaccompanied minors who entered Latvia from Ukraine after 24 February 2022. The institutions involved in both countries had an opportunity to establish contacts and

clarify matters on questions of emergency custody for unaccompanied minors in Latvia.

Lithuania: On 1 August 2022, after evaluating the steadily decreasing refugee flow from Ukraine, the Ministry of Interior [announced that only one registration centre in Alytus will remain operational](#) for Ukrainian nationals. Throughout the five months when seven registration centres were active in Lithuania, the authorities registered 60,540 refugees, of whom 22,783 were minors.

Luxembourg: On 21 July 2022, a Grand Ducal [regulation came into force concerning the authorization to be granted to managers of education and childcare services](#). The regulation allows for derogations to the professional qualification conditions applicable to childcare personnel following the massive influx of displaced persons from Ukraine. The period of validity of the decision authorizing derogation from the professional qualification conditions for childcare personnel expires on 31 December 2023 at the latest.

The Netherlands: From 19 July 2022 onwards, non-Ukrainian third-country nationals with a Ukrainian temporary residence permit (e.g. for work or for education purposes) are no longer entitled to Temporary Protection in the Netherlands. This [change](#) does not apply retroactively. This means that all persons who had a right to residence in Ukraine, and who registered in the Personal Records Database before 19 July 2022 will maintain the right to Temporary Protection until 4 March 2023.

Poland: In July 2022, Poland notified the European Commission of an electronic document available to refugees from Ukraine (Diia.pl). The document confirms their legal stay on the territory of Poland and enables them to travel within the European Union, as well as to cross its external borders. This is [the first fully digital residence permit in the European Union](#).

Portugal: Within the scope of Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001, following Russia's military aggression against Ukraine on 24 February, and following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022, between 1 July to 30 September a total of 52 818 requests for temporary protection were registered (41 737 from Ukrainian citizens). The Portuguese government has applied the [temporary protection regime](#) to Ukrainian citizens and created a [Portugal for Ukraine platform](#) to coordinate the actions of the national government to support and integrate displaced persons.

Spain: On 19 July 2022, the Council of Ministers [approved a Royal Decree](#) regulating the direct award of grants to 20 entities and organisations that carry out actions in the refugee reception system. The amount of the grant is nearly € 392 million. This funding is intended to strengthen the capacity of the reception system and to respond to the increase in the number of persons applying for international protection or temporary protection during the war in Ukraine.

On 2 August 2022, the [Council of Ministers approved](#) the provision of direct financial assistance to persons receiving temporary protection who lack sufficient financial resources. The payment of an aid amounting to € 400 per month per adult, plus € 100 per month for a dependent minor, shall be financed and shall last up to six months.

Sweden: On 1 July 2022, [a new law was introduced requiring municipalities to take over the responsibility of arranging housing](#) for people with protection under the Temporary Protection Directive. The aim of the new law is for Sweden's municipalities to share the responsibility of arranging housing, schooling and care for people who have fled the war in Ukraine. Each municipality has been given responsibility to arrange housing for a certain number of people. It is the Swedish Migration Agency that assigns a municipality to the beneficiaries of temporary protection that need reception.

1. GENERAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATE

On 9 September 2022, the European Agency for Asylum (EUAA) [announced that over 4.6 million people had sought safety in Europe by mid-2022](#). The EU+ recognition rate of asylum and subsidiary protection applications reached its highest level since early 2017.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Austria: On 30 August 2022, an amendment to the [Regulation Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals](#) entered into force excluding specific persons from the scope of application of the Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals, namely foreigners who hold a residence permit under the Settlement and Residence Act, who have completed a training for certain health professions and are authorized to practice the profession, as well as certain family members of employees of international organization, NGOs and quasi-international organizations.

Estonia: On 18 July 2022, the new governmental coalition agreement was signed between the Estonian Reform Party, Isamaa and the Estonian Social Democratic Party. As a result, the position of Minister of Interior was taken by Mr. Lauri Läänemets from the Estonian Social Democratic Party.

Finland: On 1 September 2022, [a study was commissioned](#) by the Ministry of the Interior to examine whether future needs for legislative amendments could be anticipated in law drafting and how such needs could be prepared for. The study will consider the amendments made to the Aliens Act and their causes.

On 5 August 2022, the Ministry of the Interior [sent out for comments a draft for amendments to the special legislation on migration](#). The purpose is to enable automated decision-making in the activities of the Finnish Immigration Service. This would make it possible to resolve simpler matters as efficiently as possible.

On 1 September 2022, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment [granted municipalities € 3 million](#) to develop guidance and counselling services for immigrants. The subsidies were awarded to 21 projects implemented by municipalities, which aim to improve the integration and employment of immigrants.

France: On 27 September 2022, the [2023 draft budget was made public](#). It will be discussed within the French Parliament from early October for final adoption by the end of 2022. It provides for a 6% increase in the "immigration, asylum and integration" budget (including an 18% increase for the fight against irregular migration and an increase in the number of accommodation places for asylum seekers).

Greece: On 22 July 2022, [the position of Fundamental Rights Officer \(FRO\) and a Special Fundamental Rights Compliance Committee in the Ministry of Migration and Asylum were established by law](#). The FRO's duties will include the collection and preliminary evaluation of complaints regarding alleged fundamental rights violations during the reception procedures of third-country nationals or in international protection procedures. Subsequently, the FRO will be responsible for transmitting any alleged complaints to the National Transparency Authority or to any other competent body. The Special Fundamental Rights Compliance Committee was established to monitor the procedures and the implementation of national, European, and international legislation regarding border protection and the granting of international protection. It consists of seven members, including the FRO, the governor or a member of the National Transparency Agency, the president or a member of the National Human Rights Committee and the Greek Ombudsman.

On 22 July, an [amendment to the law was adopted](#), according to which, a Registry of Members of NGOs that work on issues of international protection, migration and social integration was set up in the Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MoMA). According to this amendment members/employees/partners of these organisations need to be [registered](#) and this registration is a precondition for their activity within the Greek territory and for any cooperation with public authorities/bodies.

Ireland: On 24 August 2022 the Central Statistics Office [published Population and Migration Estimates](#), which showed in-migration of 120 700 between April 2021-April 2022, representing a 15-year high.

On 19 August 2022 the Central Statistics Office [published Arrivals from Ukraine in Ireland](#) Series 5 which showed that by 7 August there were 47 962 arrivals from Ukraine.

Latvia: During the reporting period, EMN Latvia [launched an interactive migration data visualization tool](#), where users can select and view indicators of interest. This tool helps users become acquainted with data on residence permits issued to third-country nationals, rights to employment and asylum. The data visualization tool does not include Ukrainian civilians with temporary protection status or stateless persons. The data is updated once every six months and is collected by the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs.

Lithuania: On 18 July 2022, the Migration Department [released a statistics report for the first half of 2022](#). The report shows that in the last year, the number of foreigners has increased by almost 60% reaching 145 118. This figure includes more than 50 000 Ukrainian nationals who received temporary protection in Lithuania.

On 3 August 2022, Ministers of the Interior of Lithuania and Moldova [signed agreements that will strengthen cooperation](#) on the prevention of irregular migration and trafficking in human beings, as well as increase the sharing of good practices on migration matters.

On 9 August 2022, the Ministry of Transport and Communications [reported on organising transportation](#) for about 10 500 refugees from Ukraine who wanted to come to Lithuania or had sought to return to Ukraine since 1 March 2022.

The Netherlands: On 25 July 2022, the Minister for Migration [announced that the Aliens Act Implementation Guidelines will be altered](#) to allow foster children to emigrate to the Netherlands with their foster parents. This policy development was introduced as

one of the follow-up actions in response to signals that the human dimension is insufficiently taken into consideration in the Dutch migration and asylum system.

Portugal: On 25 August 2022, Law No. 18/2022, which [amends the legal regime for the entry, stay, departure and removal of foreigners from national territory](#), and is the ninth amendment to Law No. 23/2007, of 4 July (Foreigners' Law), was published. Among the main changes, are: a new type of visa to be issued for Portuguese Speaking Country Nationals only (Visto CPLP); the authorisation, by default, for all student applicants, to work in Portugal; a major simplification for granting residency for working purposes; and the obligation of consulting the immigration and border service (SEF) while issuing entry and stay visas only if security issues are identified by Portuguese Consulates in countries of origin.

On 30 September 2022, Regulatory Decree No. 4/2022, which [amends the regulation of the legal regime for the entry, stay, departure and removal of foreign citizens from national territory](#), and is the sixth amendment to Regulatory Decree No. 84/2007, of 5 November, was published. This Regulatory Decree lays down the administrative rules to fulfil the purposes of the new Foreigners' Law.

Slovenia: [A Consultative Body on Migration, entitled 'A Safe, Solidarity-based and Inclusive Society,' has been established](#) for the purposes of drawing up a new comprehensive national migration strategy based on the principles of solidarity, inclusion and respect for human rights. The first meeting was held on 7 July 2022 and was attended by representatives of state authorities, NGOs, international organisations and civil society working in the area of migration.

Spain: On 26 July 2022, a reform of the regulation of the [Organic Law on Aliens](#) was approved. It facilitates the permanence and work of foreign students and updates the figures on social and labour pathways, as well as family reunification. It promotes regular migration by facilitating the entry of entrepreneurs, favouring hiring in the country of origin and providing more stability to circular migration processes. In the case of labour links, the pre-existing figure is limited to people who are in an irregular situation, but have carried out work in a regular situation during the last two years. A new pathway has also been created for foreigners who have stayed in Spain for two years in an irregular situation if they compromise to follow a formal training for employment.

On 6 September 2022, the European Commission approved a project to strengthen the capacity and resilience of reception, asylum and return systems for the city of Ceuta, which will have a total budget of € 10.8 million of which 90 % will be financed by the EU.

On 27 September 2022, the Council of Ministers approved a direct grant to the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands to the amount of € 50 million to ensure comprehensive, inclusive and quality reception of migrants. It includes actions aimed at improving the possibilities of socio-occupational integration of young people leaving care or guardianship. In this regard, actions in countries of origin to prevent irregular immigration may also be financed.

Sweden: On 11 September 2022, Sweden had a general election. Right-wing parties got more votes than in previous elections. A new government is expected to be appointed in October at the earliest.

Georgia: On 18 July 2022, Governmental Ordinance #314 "On Establishing a State Commission on Migration Issues and Approving its Statute" was [amended with the aim](#)

[to modify, expand and make more effective the functions of the State Commission on Migration Issues \(SCMI\).](#)



2. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INCLUDING ASYLUM AND TEMPORARY PROTECTION

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

In September 2022, [the European Union Agency for Asylum \(EUAA\) released a Quarterly Overview of Asylum Case Law](#). Topics include access to the asylum procedure, the Dublin procedure, first instance procedures, assessment of applications, reception, detention, and return. The overview covers the period from June to August 2022.

On 16 September 2022, the EUAA [published Country of Origin Information reports on Afghanistan](#), showing that Afghan nationals continue to be the largest group of asylum applicants in EU+ countries since September 2021. The reports provide an overview of the impact the Taliban have had since the government take-over a year ago and asylum applications from Afghans since the beginning of 2022.

On 28 September 2022, the EUAA also [published Country of Origin Information reports on Syria](#), showing that in the first half of 2022, Syrians were the second largest group of applicants for international protection in EU+ countries. The reports provide updates on the security situation in Syria 12 years into the conflict, document attacks and human rights violations, and track asylum applications since the beginning of 2022.

LATEST RELEVANT STATISTICS

No relevant statistics were [published](#) during the reporting period.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Austria: On 8 July 2022, the National Council approved an amendment to the [Agreement between the Federal State and the Provinces on Basic Care - Art. 15a Federal Constitutional Act](#) increasing selected maximum cost rates for persons receiving material reception conditions retroactively from 1 March 2022.

Belgium: The saturation of the reception network led to tensions at the Arrival Centre, leading to a decision on 29 August 2022 to move the registration of asylum applications to the building of the Immigration Office. On 30 August 2022, the executive committee of the [Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers \(Fedasil\)](#) decided to go into 'crisis mode,' temporarily postponing a number of projects. In September 2022, the pressure on the reception network continued to increase and, in order to optimise the management of reception places and reduce the pressure on the reception network, Fedasil had to take several measures including the activation of buffer places, the conversion of generic reception places into places for unaccompanied minors, transfers from collective reception centres to individual reception facilities, the creation of new reception places and the reduction of COVID-19 isolation capacity.

On 24 August 2022, [a so-called 'Dublin centre' not far from Brussels airport opened](#). Only asylum seekers who have been registered or applied for asylum in another EU Member State are allocated to this reception centre. According to the Immigration Office, their Dublin procedure will be fast-tracked. If another EU Member State is found responsible for handling their asylum application, the aim is to transfer them to that EU

Member State more swiftly. The Belgian authorities hope this will discourage 'Dubliners' from applying for asylum in Belgium.

Cyprus: On 16 September 2022, the [newly introduced procedural rules of the International Protection Administrative Court \(IPAC\) were published](#) in the Government Gazette. The new procedural rules aim to tackle abuse of asylum procedures and to lead to a more effective asylum system in general.

Estonia: On 16 August 2022, [the law amending the State Border Act and other related legislation came into force](#), to ensure the protection of public order and national security in an emergency situation caused by a mass influx, taking into account the norms and jurisprudence of EU and international law. The law stipulates that in the event of a threat to public order or national security, the Police and Border Guard Board may refuse to accept the application for international protection of any foreigner who has illegally crossed the external border in an emergency situation caused by a mass influx and send them back without issuing a return decision or an entry ban. Immediate return of a person who has crossed the border illegally is permitted only in case of danger to public order or national security and on the condition that the person had not tried to enter Estonia legally, i.e. through an open border point.

The Police and Border Guard Board and the Estonian Defence League held a joint training exercise 'Müür' (Wall) on 14 to 18 September 2022, to practise the implementation of an emergency plan in case of a mass influx of migrants. The exercise was carried out in the framework of the AMIF project "Increasing the capacity of reception and return of persons entering the country during a mass influx".

Finland: On 8 August 2022, [more than 37 000 persons were registered in the reception system](#), which is more than ever before. By 4 August 2022, those fleeing Ukraine due to the Russian military attack had submitted 35 074 applications for temporary protection. Current numbers are even higher.

On 6 September 2022, an assessment by [UNHCR found the best interests of the child to be a primary consideration in asylum decisions issued by the Finnish Immigration Service](#). The assessment was done at the request of the Finnish Immigration Service.

Germany: In September 2022, [the capacity for housing refugees reached its limit](#). In twelve of the 16 Länder, it is currently not possible to distribute any newly arriving refugees. The high number of refugees from Ukraine and other countries, in combination with a lack of availability of suitable housing, made it difficult to find and provide housing in sufficient capacity. More than 980 000 people fleeing Ukraine have arrived in Germany since the war began. The German Federal Government is supporting the Länder by making 318 federal properties available and is looking into other support measures.

Greece: On 31 August 2022, two Mobile Registration Units were established. They became operational on 1 September 2022 in the mainland (in Malakasa and in Diavata Temporary Accommodation Centres). Both the units operate under the supervision of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, as do the registration centres where the reception and identification procedures of third-country nationals take place. These procedures entail the provision of information, identification and nationality verification, fingerprinting, health and vulnerability checks and channelling to asylum procedures in case a person wishes to apply for asylum. Unregistered third-country nationals can book an appointment through the following link: <https://apps.migration.gov.gr/international-protection-registration>

On 12 September 2022, a [Joint Ministerial Decision on the procedure for issuing a Residence Permit to beneficiaries of International Protection Status was published](#). According to the new procedure a) bureaucratic difficulties are eliminated, b) the administrative burden of the services that had led to delays has been reduced, c) the required supporting documents have been reduced and simplified, d) electronic communications with the competent Asylum Service have been promoted, as in the process of renewing a residence permit. Finally, the rights of married couples, with regard to Residence Permits are now equated with those having a civil union/ registered partnership.

On 12 September 2022, a [Joint Ministerial Decision was issued that regulates administrative issues regarding the imposition of a fine](#) of € 100 for a delayed application for residence permit renewal. The delay in the submission of an application leads to an important increase of the workload of the authorities regarding the examination of applications, resulting in a delay in the issuance of the permits. Beneficiaries have the right to submit their application no later than 30 days before the expiration of their permit, through an electronic application. In case of a justified delay, the competent authority does not impose this fine.

Ireland: On 18 July 2022, the Government of Ireland [announced the temporary suspension of the Council of Europe Agreement on the Abolition of Visas for Refugees](#). The suspension will be in place for 12 months, at which point it will be reviewed.

Lithuania: On 4 August 2022, the Ministry of the Interior [reported that Lithuania had accommodated 224 Ukrainian nationals from Moldova](#). In total, the authorities plan to accommodate approximately 2 000 Ukrainian refugees currently staying in the territory of Moldova.

Luxembourg: On 12 September 2022, a [new temporary accommodation structure for applicants for international protection "Gasperich" opened its doors](#). The structure has a projected capacity of 197 beds. It is managed by Caritas and hosts a mixed population, including families and single men and women.

On 26 September 2022, [a new school for refugee children established in a European Investment Bank \(EIB\) building in Kirchberg was inaugurated](#). The new school hosts specialised state reception classes. Some 80 students from three to twelve-years-old, including children of Ukrainian refugees and children of applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection, are now being welcomed there.

The Netherlands: In July 2022, [the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers \(COA\) signed rental contracts for two cruise ships](#) with space for up to 1 000 people each for six months. The ships will be operable by the end of September. One ship will moor at Velsen, while [a second ship will dock](#) in the port of Amsterdam. The government is also working to provide temporary land locations (size 500+), preferably for six months or longer.

On 9 August 2022, the government announced [measures to relieve the pressure on the asylum system and housing capacity](#). The most important measures include establishing 225 additional crisis emergency shelters per security region (*veiligheidsregio*), and creating a taskforce which will assist municipalities in building flexible residences for beneficiaries of international protection. An exceptional measure is the deployment of a legal instrument through which the government, instead of municipalities, can license the establishment of new reception facilities.

On 23 August 2022, the Minister for Migration [extended the decision and departure moratorium](#) for political dissidents from Sudan for a duration of six months. No decisions on asylum applications by political dissidents from Sudan are being taken and applicants do not have to return for the duration of the moratorium. The moratorium has been announced because the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State ruled that it is currently insufficiently clear whether this group has to fear prosecution from the Sudanese authorities.

On 24 August 2022, the Minister for Migration [announced an extension of the decision and departure moratorium](#) for Ukrainian nationals for a duration of six months. This moratorium had been issued on 28 February 2022.

On 26 August 2022, [the government announced additional acute measures](#) to relieve the pressure on the asylum system, which include:

- The issuing of visas to family members who have been granted a permit for family reunification with beneficiaries of international protection will temporarily be extended to a maximum period of 15 months to guarantee that reception and housing is up to a decent standard.
- The Netherlands will not select new refugees for resettlement under the EU-Turkey Statement until the end of 2023.
- The standard decision period for asylum applications has been extended by 9 months (to a maximum of 15 months).

Portugal: Between July and September 2022, 410 asylum applications were registered. Within the scope of Portugal's continuous support to voluntary relocation in the Central Mediterranean, 10 asylum seekers were relocated to Portugal from Malta.

During the third quarter of 2022, evacuations from Afghanistan were ongoing. An additional 21 Afghans were brought to Portugal, which makes a total of 883 Afghans evacuated since mid-August 2021.

Spain: On 5 July 2022, 78 Syrian refugees arrived from Lebanon under the National Resettlement Programme. With this arrival, the total number of people resettled in Spain is 658, more than half of the target planned for the whole year.

On 12 August 2022, the referral process of 357 Afghan refugees who were evacuated and arrived in Spain was completed. The group of refugees consists of 96 families who are now in one of the facilities dedicated to the international protection system.

Georgia: On 4-8 July 2022, Georgia [hosted an official delegation from North Macedonia](#) aiming to introduce its asylum system and share good practices in the area of international protection.

On 5 July 2022, experts from the EUAA conducted a training on Art. 15 of the EU Qualification Directive for the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which is the Georgian asylum authority.

On 12-13 September 2022, ministries, members of the State Commission on Migration Issues (SCMI), ([Ministry of Justice \(MoJ\)](#), [Ministry of Internal Affairs \(MIA\)](#) and [Ministry of Health \(MoH\)](#)) hosted the State Secretary for Asylum and Migration of Belgium and their accompanying delegation. During the meetings in the relevant ministries, Georgian

asylum and healthcare systems were introduced and the importance of effective migration management was discussed in the context of European integration.

On 26-27 September 2022, 43 staff members from the MIA Migration Department were trained on 'The rights of disabled persons and communication standards.'



3. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

Judgment of the European Court of Justice

[Case C-720/20](#)

On 1 August 2022, the CJEU provided a judgment on the Dublin III Regulation (EU) 604/2013, stating that an application for international protection lodged by a minor cannot be rejected as inadmissible on the ground that their parents already have been granted protection in another EU Member State. The case concerned a minor, legally represented, and the Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Federal Republic of Germany), who was born in that EU Member State and whose family members had received protection in another EU Member State prior to their birth.

[Case C-19/21](#)

On 1 August 2022, the CJEU found that unaccompanied minors have the right of appeal against a refusal of care by an EU Member State where relatives reside.

[Joined cases C-273/20, C-355/20 et C-279/20](#)

On 1 August 2022, the CJEU ruled that the refusal to issue a national visa for the purposes of family reunification to the parent of an unaccompanied minor who has come of age during the procedure is contrary to EU law.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Bulgaria: In August 2022, the first meeting of the Permanent Expert Working Group (PEWG) was held. The task of the PEWG is to monitor the implementation of the Coordination mechanism for interaction between the authorities and organisations working on cases of unaccompanied minors or foreign children separated from their families in Bulgaria, including children seeking and/or receiving international or temporary protection. (Coordination Mechanism). The meeting discussed and outlined the problems and difficulties in the practical implementation of the Coordination Mechanism.

Cyprus: On 17 August 2022, the new 'safe zone' for unaccompanied minors at Pournara Reception Centre became operational. The new units, installed by the EUAA, will house unaccompanied minors who are applying for asylum.

Finland: On 15 September 2022, representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Ministry of the Interior met with Consul Daniil Kononenko from the Embassy of Ukraine in Finland to discuss helping children in need of child protection. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health said that Finland would be [prepared to receive Ukrainian children in need of child protection services](#) if Ukraine considered there was still a need for this.

On 15 September 2022, the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare [published a study that reported how members of the queer community with a foreign background face multiple discrimination in Finland](#). The research report contains recommendations for improving the situation covering eight different themes related to employment,

healthcare and social services, trans rights, immigration services, the police, religion, and language and research.

Greece: On 20 July 2022, the law 'National Guardianship System and the Accommodation Framework of Unaccompanied Minors and Other Provisions Under the Jurisdiction of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum' was adopted, introducing a new regulatory framework for the guardianship of unaccompanied children and a transitional period up until November 2022. The new law:

- creates a flexible/efficient guardianship system adapted to the needs of unaccompanied minors;
- maintains a high level of supervision/accountability;
- provides that the state holds a coordinating/guiding/supervising role, prosecutorial authorities constitute the impartial institutional guarantee for appointing the guardian, whereas public/private legal entities act as guardians;
- includes three functions in the guardianship: 1) representation in all legal/administrative procedures, 2) appropriate care for minors (accommodation, access to education and health care, overall wellbeing of the child), 3) support in property issues;
- establishes a framework for rules/procedures applicable to the accommodation system for UAMs;
- regulates the National Emergency Response Mechanism for UAMs in precarious living conditions;
- establishes an online database for the registration of data of UAMs found in Greece;
- sets the framework for secure and organised escorts for unaccompanied minors in the country.

Italy: On 1 July 2022, the contribution to local authorities for the reception of minors increased to € 60 per day per capita. The same amount was set as the lowest bid limit for the activation of Extraordinary Reception Centres for minors.

On 4 August 2022, the project 'Strengthening of services for unaccompanied foreign minors' was approved under AMIF. The project aims to strengthen the first reception system for unaccompanied foreign minors in order to activate 1 000 daily reception places distributed by region.

In August 2022, the [mid-year report on Unaccompanied Foreign Minors in Italy](#) was published. The number of unaccompanied foreign minors recorded on 30 June 2022 was 15 595, showing a sharp increase compared to 2021 (+99.9%) due to the Ukrainian crisis. The majority of unaccompanied minors are male (80.1%), arriving mainly from Ukraine, Egypt, Albania, Bangladesh and Tunisia. The Report monitors the number, characteristics and reception of unaccompanied minors, new arrivals and returns, applications for international protection, family investigations in the countries of origin and the conversion of residence permits upon coming of age.

In August 2022, the Ministry of Education's project '[Language Literacy and Access to Education for unaccompanied minors](#)' was launched to promote the part played by schools in the inclusion process of unaccompanied minors within the national school system, facilitating their journey towards full integration into the Italian society.

On 16 September 2022, the new regulation on unaccompanied foreign minors was approved by the Council of Ministers. The new regulations concern the issuance of residence permits and the conversion of permits upon coming of age, in particular.

Luxembourg: The Grand-Ducal Regulation of 12 August 2022 amending the Grand-Ducal Regulation of 4 November 2022 relating to the composition and functioning of the advisory commission for the assessment of the best interests of unaccompanied minors came into force. [The main change introduced is to add a representative from civil society](#) as a member of the commission.

The Netherlands: As of 7 July 2022, in family reunification procedures where the applicant is an unaccompanied minor and the statutory decision term has been exceeded, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service [no longer considers circumstances \(i.e. signs of independence\) that occurred after the date the family reunification application was submitted](#). This change is in line with recent case law and is meant to reinstate a sense of priority and urgency towards unaccompanied minors as a particularly vulnerable group.

Portugal: During the third quarter of 2022, 20 unaccompanied minors and young adults were relocated to Portugal, in line with the European Programme of Voluntary Relocation from Greece of Unaccompanied Minors and families. Their transfer occurred under the procedure foreseen in article 17(2) of Regulation (EU) N. 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013. Currently a total of 94 unaccompanied minors and young adults have been transferred in 2022.



4. LEGAL MIGRATION

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

No new developments.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Austria: On 7 July 2022, the [Regulation for Skilled Workers 2022 was amended](#) extending the list of shortage occupations to also include hotel professionals and waiters/waitresses, for example.

Also on 7 July 2022, the [Seasonal Quota Regulation 2022 was amended](#) by increasing the quota in the tourism branch.

On 19 July 2022, a [federal law gazette was promulgated](#), facilitating the admission criteria for the Red-White-Red Card (which is a residence permit allowing the holder to reside in Austria and pursue gainful employment with a specific employer), including by reducing the minimum income limit. Furthermore, the promulgated amendments include provisions implementing the EU Directive 2021/1883 (EU Blue Card Directive) in Austria.

Cyprus: On 20 July 2022, [an amendment of the Aliens and Immigration Law went into force](#) regarding the issuance, modification or renewal of a single permit. The applicant must hold a valid passport or other travel document on the date of submission of the application, which needs to be at least six months after the expiration of the permit requested. The abovementioned prerequisite of requested proofs and their validity has also been applied to the residence permit for family reunification purposes and the blue card for working purposes for third-country nationals

Estonia: On 1 September 2022, [amendments to the Aliens Act came into force](#), restricting the circle of family members who can receive a short-term or long-term visa under the same conditions as a third-country national who has been admitted for studies. According to the amendment, if a third-country national who has been admitted to study in an educational institution (for vocational training, professional higher education, a Bachelor's programme, integrated curricula or a Master's programme) and they are a parent raising a minor, their child may be issued a short-term or long-term visa under the same conditions. The amendment does not apply to third-country nationals who already have a visa and have been admitted to doctoral studies.

Finland: On 6 September 2022, the Ministry of the Interior [sent](#) a draft proposal for an amendment to the Aliens Act out for comments. The proposal would increase flexibility with regard to travel document requirements when issuing residence permits as it would allow a residence permit and an alien's passport to be issued to applicants whose lack of a travel document is the sole impediment to issuing a residence permit.

On 25 August 2022, the Government [proposed](#) amendments to the Aliens Act to make it easier to apply for and receive work-based residence permits in Finland. The reform is part of a broader package that aims to reduce the average processing time of permits to a maximum of one month. The reform would also increase automation of the application process and allow certification of employers.

On 1 August 2022, [a new advisory service for employers to help international recruitment was launched](#). Finland aims to increase work-based immigration significantly in order to ensure the availability of labour and strengthen the growth potential of the economy. The new nationwide Work in Finland service is responding to employers' demands by offering practical support and advice that facilitates international recruitment.

Germany: During the reporting period, a pilot project for [a joint state-society resettlement programme 'Neustart im Team \(NesT\) continued](#). The project is planned to become a regular resettlement programme for refugees starting from January 2023, for which up to 200 additional admissions are planned for the year.

Italy: On 29 August 2022, The Ministry of Labour and Social Policies signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with employers' organisations. The Protocol includes simplified procedures for the entry into Italy of non-EU workers for the purpose of being employed, as provided for by the Flows Decree adopted for the year 2021 and to be adopted for the year 2022.

Latvia: On 24 September 2022, [amendments to the Immigration Law entered into force](#), terminating the possibility of extending temporary residence permits for citizens of Russia and Belarus who received a residence permit based on investments or the purchase of real estate in Latvia (except in cases of family reunification, international protection, EU law statutory employment, public interest or humanitarian considerations). Amendments to the Immigration Law also provide that citizens of the Russian Federation, who were citizens of Latvia or non-citizens of Latvia before receiving the citizenship of another country and who reside in Latvia with a permanent residence permit, must submit a document certifying the passing of the national language knowledge test (A2 level) to the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs by 1 September 2023.

On 19 July 2022, ['Amendments of Regulations Regarding Residence Permits' came into force](#), which provide for the continuation of practices launched in the context of the

COVID-19 pandemic, including the submission of a residence permit and a sponsorship application remotely.

On 30 August 2022, [amendments to the 'Regulation Regarding the States for whose Citizens an Additional Assessment shall be Performed when Issuing a Visa or a Residence Permit' were approved](#) in order to include the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Cameroon and the Russian Federation in the list of countries whose nationals require additional checks. Until 2 September 2022, additional checks had been carried out on citizens of the Russian Federation, whose place of residence or birth was Chechnya, Dagestan, Ingushetia and North Ossetia.

Lithuania: On 1 August 2022, new amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Foreigners came into force. These included [facilitating employment conditions](#) by removing the List of Approved Establishments, [simplifying the rules to obtain an EU Blue Card](#), [reducing the restrictions for foreign students to enter the job market in Lithuania](#), and [extending the validity of residence permits for foreigners working in start-ups](#).

Luxembourg: On 8 July 2022, the Government Council [approved the roadmap for the development of a national talent attraction](#), development and retention strategy "Luxembourg Talents Hub."

The Grand Ducal regulation of 30 June 2022 [prolonged the temporary entry restrictions](#) to the territory of the Grand Duchy of third-country nationals residing outside the European Union or the Schengen area until 30 September 2022 inclusive. These restrictions apply to all travel to Luxembourg, regardless of the means of transport.

The Netherlands: On 1 July 2022, there was [an announcement regarding United Kingdom \(UK\) nationals residing in the Netherlands](#). Those who have not yet applied for a residence permit following the withdrawal of the UK from the EU can do so until 1 October 2022 at the latest. Until this date, the reason why the application was submitted late is not relevant. After 1 October 2022, the rules will be tightened and applicants will need to demonstrate a justification for the late application.

On 29 August 2022, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service [made an announcement regarding residence permit applications from Turkish nationals](#). From 1 October 2022 onwards, applications for a residence permit (except asylum) by Turkish citizens, including those falling under the EU-Turkey Association Agreement and their family members, will be denied if the person concerned has not obtained a provisional residence permit (MVV). This policy change relates to the civic integration duty of all Turkish citizens and their family members which was implemented on 1 January 2022.

Poland: Starting from 1 August 2022, [Airport Transit Schengen Visa were introduced for citizens of Armenia](#).

Portugal: On 14 July 2022, Decree n^o2/2022, [approving the Agreement between the Portuguese Republic and the Kingdom of Morocco on the Employment and Stay of Moroccan Workers in the Portuguese Republic](#), made in Lisbon and Rabat, on 12 January 2022, was published.

On 21 July 2022, Order No. 184/2022, which makes the first amendment to Ordinance No. 183/2020, of 5 August, which [creates Portuguese courses as a host language](#) called "PLA courses", was published.

On 2 August 2022, Dispatch n° 9425/2022, which establishes the creation of a group known as [the “Coordination and Monitoring Group for the Expedition of Visas” was published](#).

In August 2022, Portugal resumed the opening of service posts addressed to the issuance of resident cards to British citizens in the scope of the Withdrawal Agreement, which started in February in Azores and the Madeira Archipelagos. On 10 August 2022 the Cascais (Lisbon) post started work, followed by Loulé (in the Algarve) on 7 September; Lisbon centre main post on 23 September, and Porto on 26 September. Adequate training in legal aspects, fraud detection and the use of the IT equipment was provided to both the Portuguese Border and Immigration Service (SEF) and the partner municipalities’ staff prior to the posts opening. Further openings are scheduled to follow in October.

Slovak Republic: On 23 July 2022, a [government regulation came into force](#) that enables granting a national visa in the interest of the Slovak Republic to relocated third-country nationals and their family members. It aims at attracting talents from abroad and creating highly qualified jobs also for Slovak employees, among others in the field of information technologies. A national visa for the purpose of employment can be granted to a highly qualified third-country national being relocated from a company of a foreign entity established outside of the Slovak Republic to a company of the same foreign entity established in the Slovak Republic.

Slovenia: On 22 July 2022, [the Act on Reducing Inequality and Harmful Policy Interventions and Ensuring Respect for the Rule of Law was adopted](#). The Act reintroduced the possibility for a student in the process of being issued a temporary residence permit for study purposes to prove the condition of sufficient means of subsistence with a written statement from their parents or legal representative, stating that they will support them during their studies or education.

On 30 July 2022, the [rules on the method of means testing for sufficient funds in the issuing procedures for residence permits entered into force](#), which, among other things, defines new sources with which a foreigner can demonstrate the fulfillment of the condition of sufficient means for subsistence in the procedures for issuing residence permits.

On 25 August 2022, [information was published on the national portal for foreigners](#) in several foreign languages about the mandatory attachments needed for applications for the issuance or renewal of a residence permit, which will help third-country nationals to submit a complete application.

Spain: On 28 September 2022, a new edition of the circular migration programme of Collective Management of Recruitment in Origin (GECCO) was launched. The aim is to bring more than 16 000 Moroccans to work in different agricultural campaigns in Spain.

Sweden: On 1 September 2022, a [government bill for increased maintenance requirements for labour migration was submitted](#). The proposal was mainly aimed at strengthening the position of labour migrants and at counteracting the unfair competition of low wages as the current regulatory framework is considered to facilitate corrupt employers to employ cheap labour, to dump wages and to exploit workers.

STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS

Cyprus: From September 2022, free Greek classes for Ukrainian nationals are available in the four main cities of Cyprus. Interested candidates may enroll in the classes through schools that are listed to host the new incoming students.



5. INTEGRATION

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

No new developments.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Cyprus: On 7 September 2022, the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth announced the [requirements for the smooth integration of Ukrainian students](#) in the Cyprus educational system. All students under 15-years-old should be enrolled in schools whether national or international, public or private. Public school students shall enjoy access to free lunches and psychological support whenever it is deemed necessary.

Croatia: On 6 July 2022, [a roundtable was held](#) in the Hotel Dubrovnik in Zagreb with the aim of presenting the publication, 'the Media Representation of Migration: Discursive Constructions of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Croatian Media and Recommendation for Media Reporting on Migrants and Refugees.' The aim of the roundtable was to raise awareness of the role of the media in shaping Croatian public opinion regarding forced migration and, consequently, the integration of migrants, with special emphasis on persons granted international protection, into the host society. In August 2022, the Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities [produced an informative video to raise awareness](#) of the importance of the successful integration of persons granted international protection. The video is a part of the INCLuDE project financed by AMIF, which aims to strengthen the preconditions for the social inclusion of third-country nationals with an emphasis on persons granted international protection in the Republic of Croatia. The video is available in seven languages (Arabic, English, Farsi, French, Kurdish, Pashto and Turkish). In this way, the information mentioned in the video can be useful not only to bodies and organizations that provide services to persons under international protection, but also to persons under international protection themselves.

Estonia: On 14 August 2022, [amendments to the Citizenship Act came into force](#). The amendments, specified the revocation of citizenship for persons who have obtained Estonian citizenship by naturalization. Revocation is possible in case of their admission to the state or military service of a foreign state or military organization, if such a service is associated with a threat to public order or national security. Estonian citizenship obtained by naturalization can also be revoked in the case of a conviction for a crime against humanity or a crime of aggression. The amendments were introduced in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Finland: On 15 September 2022, the Government [proposed](#) amendments to the Integration Act and the Reception Act to ensure services for those fleeing Ukraine. In order to secure their access to integration services, the Government proposes that the central government could pay compensation to municipalities and wellbeing services for service provision.

On 23 August 2022, The Ministry of the Interior [launched a series of immigration dialogues](#). The idea is for various actors across Finland to organise discussions on

immigration. The aim of the discussions is to increase understanding of different perspectives and the changing nature of immigration.

France: On 13 July 2022, the Minister of Interior launched the second stage of the deployment of [the global and individualised support programme for refugees \(AGIR\)](#), designed to systematise support towards employment and housing for beneficiaries of international protection. The aim is to deploy AGIR in 25 new departments from the beginning of 2023.

Germany: On 6 July 2022, [the German government adopted the first migration package](#). The most important elements are the introduction of the *Chancenaufenthaltsrecht*, easier immigration of skilled workers, direct access to integration courses and more consistent expulsion of offenders. Through the *Chancenaufenthaltsrecht*, persons with long-term tolerated status are given the opportunity to fulfil the necessary requirements for a right to stay by means of a one-year residence permit. This includes securing their livelihood and clarifying their identity. People who have resided in Germany for five years as of the cut-off date of 1 January 2022, have not committed any criminal offenses and are committed to the free democratic basic order will benefit from this.

Greece: The [HELIOS integration program](#) has been implemented since June 2019 by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with the aim of promoting the integration of beneficiaries of international protection into Greek society, through: a) integration courses, b) accommodation support, c) employability support, d) integration monitoring, and e) sensitization of the host community. Since 21 June 2022, according to an amendment of the relevant programmatic agreement between IOM and the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the target group of the HELIOS integration programme consists not only of beneficiaries of international protection but also of beneficiaries of temporary protection (based on the published Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of the Council of the European Union). [Feedback from HELIOS programme beneficiaries has been provided.](#)

On 28 August 2022, [the MULTAKA project started](#), which includes intercultural tours in Athens conducted by migrants, refugees and persons with a migrant background, trained as Intercultural Guides. The tours are open to the public, offered for free, conducted in Greek, English, French, Arabic and Farsi and facilitate the interchange of diverse cultural experiences.

On 3 August 2022, the action "Promote integration of the refugee population into the labour market" started, to promote integration of refugee populations and -to some extent- migrants with residence permits by a) further developing and sustaining an effective mechanism of job integration and b) implementing complementary and interconnected activities regarding both appropriate preparation of refugees and structured cooperation with firms and other stakeholders.

On 5 September 2022, the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the Ministry of Health, and SOS Children's Villages Greece signed an MoU and stated their willingness to contribute to the implementation of the project "Mental Health Hub for the PSS of Unaccompanied minors in Greece", initiated by the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum and implemented by SOS Children's Villages. The project is based upon three complementary levels of intervention, (mental health, prevention & treatment), that create a holistic approach to

securing effective mental health care services offered to children on the move, children exposed to trauma, as well as adequate support to front-line professionals that are in direct contact with the population of concern.

On 12 September 2022 the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, the Ministry of Rural Development and Food and IOM signed a Memorandum of Cooperation for facilitating the integration of beneficiaries through their employment in the aquaculture sector, for the socio-economic benefit for both host communities and the third-country nationals, while promoting economic development at regional level and the European way of life.

On 19 September 2022 the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, and the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens agreed to cooperate regarding actions for the language education of third-country nationals with migrant and refugee backgrounds as essential elements for their social integration.

Ireland: On 26 July 2022, the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth [announced € 1 million in funding](#) under the International Protection Integration Fund 2022. The funds will be made available to community organisations to support the integration of international protection applicants in Ireland.

On 15 July 2022, the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth [launched a call for proposals under the Integration and Employment of Migrants](#) activity of the Programme for Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) 2021-2027. The Activity targets migrants with permission to enter employment in Ireland, including beneficiaries of Temporary Protection.

Italy: On 19 July 2022, the report "Living conditions of migrants working in the agri-food sector" was published. Within the framework of the 2020-2022 three-year plan to combat labour exploitation in agriculture and caporalato, the Report presents the results of an in-depth survey. More than half of the Italian municipalities filled in a questionnaire on the number, flows, characteristics of migrant farm workers and accommodation arrangements: from private homes and facilities, whether they are temporary or permanent, public or private, informal or spontaneous unauthorised settlements. The services available to guests were also surveyed, as well as the housing integration measures promoted by the Municipalities themselves.

On 21 July 2022, [the report on the activities carried out by the associations enrolled in the Register in 2021 was published](#). The report provides an overview of the organisations, with details on the type of activities carried out, the funds used, the beneficiaries of the actions and the human resources employed. Also attached is a reflection on the theme of combating labour exploitation and its links with the efforts made by the associations on the Register. <https://www.integrazionemigranti.gov.it/AnteprimaPDF.aspx?id=3540>

On 19 September 2022, the [report on 'Foreigners in the Italian labour market' was published](#). According to the report, which presents and analyses data from 2021, there are 2.3 million foreign employees in Italy, 10% of the total number of employed persons. Their employment rate is at 57.8% (that of Italians is 58.3%), unemployment is at 14.4% (the rate for Italians is 9%), inactivity is at 32.4% (35.9%), but the indicators worsen considerably if only women are taken into account. The sectors with the highest proportion of foreign workers include agriculture (18.0% of the total number of employed persons), construction (15.5%) and hotels and restaurants (15.3%).

However, it is in other collective and personal services that the share of foreign workers is highest: 34.3%.

Lithuania: On 16 September 2022, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour [announced that Lithuania is leading the integration of Ukrainian nationals into the labour market](#). In the country, 53% of working-age Ukrainians have found employment since the beginning of the war in Ukraine.

Luxembourg: On 22 July 2022, there were [modifications to the electoral law](#) that abolished the five-year residence clause for foreign nationals wishing to register on the electoral lists for the municipal elections and by extending the deadline for registration on the said lists. The purpose of these changes is to facilitate the participation of foreign nationals in municipal elections. [Information concerning the new provisions of the electoral law was provided](#) to municipalities as well as information on an awareness campaign for non-Luxembourgers with a view to their registration on the electoral lists.

In view of the next municipal elections taking place on 11 June 2023, the Ministry of Family, Integration and the Greater Region has launched an information and awareness campaign ["I can vote,"](#) in order to motivate non-Luxembourgish residents to register on the electoral lists.

On 22 July 2022, the Government Council [marked their agreement](#) with the National Action Plan 2022 - 2030 for the implementation of [the European Child Guarantee](#).

Malta: After the introduction of a training allowance, provided through AMIF, participants have been more committed to attend training in basic language for employment. Additionally, following a revision through an addendum to the AMIF budget, a work exposure opportunity of 120 hours has been introduced to facilitate the transition into employment. An hourly rate of € 4.57 is paid. In addition, new publicity activities have been included for the new Job Brokerage.

Spain: 13 July 2022, the [SCORE Project](#): Sporting Cities Opposing Racism in Europe was launched. The project aims to create a coalition of European cities and local authorities for the promotion of inclusive sport, as well as for the prevention and fight against racism, xenophobia and intolerance in the field of sport.

Sweden: On 7 July 2022, [the government granted funds to the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions](#) to investigate to what extent nursery schools that are available for both parents and children, even if they are not enrolled, can shorten the period of labour market integration and further integrate foreign-born women. Increasing employment rates among foreign-born women is a clear priority for the government.

Georgia: During the reporting period, 11 persons under international protection enrolled and five of them successfully completed the beginner-level Georgian language course II (A1.2 level). Moreover, 25 Ukrainian beneficiaries (who live in Georgia due to the situation in Ukraine) enrolled and 10 of them successfully completed the same learning course. In addition, 12 persons under international protection enrolled and four of them successfully completed the elementary level Georgian language course II (A2.2).

6. MANAGEMENT OF THE EU EXTERNAL BORDERS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

On 11 July 2022, [the EU Support Hub for Internal Security and Border Management in Moldova was launched](#). The hub will facilitate cooperation between the EU, its agencies, EU Member States and the national Moldovan authorities, and will be coordinated by the Delegation of the European Union to Moldova. The initiative builds on the [10-Point Plan](#) that was presented in March by the European Commission to coordinate efforts supporting people fleeing the war in Ukraine. On 6 September 2022, the European Commission [proposed a full suspension of the EU's Visa Facilitation Agreement with Russia](#) (a partial suspension has already been in place since 25 February 2022). Subsequently, on 9 September 2022, the European Commission [presented guidelines on stricter visa processing for Russian citizens](#), meaning that Russians will now face a longer visa approval procedure if they wish to travel to the EU and will be requested to present additional supporting documents. Additionally, on 30 September 2022, the European Commission [released updated guidelines](#) to coordinate an EU approach on visa processing and border controls for Russian citizens, aiming to increase security scrutiny while still fully respecting EU asylum law.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Bulgaria: During the reporting period, a set of measures were launched or continued to be implemented in order to improve the security of the state borders due to increased migratory pressure:

- Specialised Security Units patrol the Bulgarian–Turkish border and in the adjacent area of the border with Greece. Formations of the Ministry of Defence are also included in the protection of the state border;
- The border security includes a helicopter and a "drone" surveillance system;
- Measures are implemented for the timely repair of damaged equipment and provision of the necessary financial means for spare parts;
- The Ministry of Agriculture repairs and maintains the main rolling and frontal roads used by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defence in order to protect the border;
- A joint operation "TERRA 2022", coordinated by Frontex is being implemented on the Bulgarian – Turkish border.

Croatia: During the reporting period, the Law on Amending the Law on State Border Control was drafted, with the aim of adapting that act to the Schengen Acquis which will be applied after border controls at Croatian internal borders are abolished.

From 19 to 23 September 2022, a pedagogical - instructional seminar took place at the Policy Academy for the first group of participants - 20 police officers (lecturers/multipliers) of the border police.

Estonia: As of 18 August 2022, in accordance with [Governmental regulation No 42](#) on the 'Establishment of the sanction of the Government of the Republic in connection with the aggression of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus in Ukraine,' all citizens of the Russian Federation who had valid visas for the purpose of tourism and business travel, including participation in sports competitions or cultural events in Estonia, were prohibited from entering Estonia. The restriction concerned valid visa

holders in connection with the decision of the Government of the Republic of 11 August 2022 to [limit the issuance of visas and the entry of Russian citizens](#) into the country with a Schengen visa issued by Estonia. There were some exceptions to whom visas were still issued and entry is allowed.

According to the sanction Estonia implements restrictions on applications for Estonian visas: visas can be issued only to those Russian nationals who come to Estonia to visit a direct ascendants/descendants (children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents); a spouse, a person with whom one shares minor children, a close relative who lives in Estonia and is an Estonian citizen or has a long-term residence permit; Russian diplomats working in Estonia and their family members; staff working in the international transport of goods and passengers; individuals who are allowed entry based on European Union law, and people who Estonia considers eligible for a visa on humanitarian grounds.

As an exception, the residence permits of students in Estonia who are due to complete their studies at an Estonian institution of higher education will be extended for one year. Russian nationals who have a visa issued by another member of the Schengen area or who are already in the Schengen area can enter Estonia.

On 19 September 2022, the [governmental order on 'Temporary Restriction on Crossing the State Border by Citizens of Russian Federation' came into force](#). With this order, and according to the State Borders Act, new restrictions were introduced which bar entry to Estonia for all Russian nationals with a short-stay Schengen visa. The restrictions are subject to exemptions and entry is still allowed on humanitarian grounds and for border crossings with a long-term visa. Similar restrictions will also enter into force in Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

Finland: On 29 September 2022, the Finnish Government [issued](#) a resolution to significantly restrict the entry of Russian tourists into Finland. The entry restrictions entered into force on 30 September 2022, and they will remain in force until further notice. The resolution aims to stop tourism and related transit from Russia altogether. It will drastically limit the capacity of Finland to receive visa applications in Russia.

On 20 September 2022, Finland [sent](#) a letter to the European Commission requesting that the Commission issue a recommendation to allow Schengen countries, when they refuse entry of Russian nationals at their border, to either annul or revoke a person's visa or impose an entry ban on them in accordance with ordinary Schengen practices. If one Member State refuses the entry of a Russian national and revokes the person's visa or imposes an entry ban in the Schengen Information System (SIS), other Member States can refuse the person entry on their border. The purpose would be to prevent the same persons from trying to enter the Schengen area at some other land border or airport.

France: A decree of 10 August 2022 created, a "pre-registration device" for the implementation of the "Entry/Exit System" (EES) at the French external borders. It aims to improve and facilitate external border controls for travellers by air, sea, road and rail.

Latvia: On 27 September 2022, [Latvia declared a state of emergency](#) following the decision made in the Russian Federation to declare partial mobilisation. The state of emergency was declared at border crossing points in the Republic of Latvia with Russian Federation until December 27, 2022. The state border guard will carry out enhanced

border surveillance of the state border of the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Federation.

On 9 September 2022, [a cabinet order "On the entry of citizens of the Russian Federation into the Republic of Latvia" came into force](#), which aims to strengthen the security of the Republic of Latvia in conditions of aggression by the Russian Federation. The purpose of the Order is to restrict the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to enter the Republic of Latvia, but provide for exceptions for certain categories of persons with essential reasons to enter, who are still allowed to enter the Republic of Latvia.

Lithuania: On 29 August 2022, the Government [reported](#) that the construction of a 4-metre-high and about 550-km-long physical barrier at the Lithuanian border with Belarus had been finished. The authorities believe the new physical barrier is a necessity to stop potential attempts by the Belarus regime to instrumentalise migration for political goals.

On 19 September 2022, the Ministry of the Interior [decided to tighten controls](#) on Russian citizens travelling to the EU via Lithuania. The Government has established exceptions for Russian citizens who will be admitted to Lithuania through an external border that include travel for humanitarian reasons, diplomats' transit, persons holding residence permits issued by an EU Member State, those with a long-stay Schengen national visa, or members of an EU citizen's family.

Poland: On 31 August 2022, Bohdan Paszkowski, the Council representative of the Podlasier region, signed an ordinance [extending the ban on being physically present within 200 meters of the state border with Belarus](#). The ban will be in force until 30 November this year. It is related to the installation of electronic elements on the dam on the Polish-Belarusian border.

On 19 September 2022, Poland [tightened the entry restrictions on Russian citizens](#), which are currently in force on the basis of a regulation of the Minister of the Interior and Administration. This came as a result of agreements between the prime ministers of Poland, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. As part of these arrangements, a common, regional position on travel opportunities has been developed. Pursuant to the new regulations, citizens of the Russian Federation will not be able to enter the territory of the Republic of Poland through the external border, e.g. economic, sports, tourist or cultural purposes. The possibility of entry at air and sea border crossings for all air and sea traffic has also been limited for citizens of the Russian Federation. The change in this respect applied from 26 September 2022. As a result of this regulation, services will be able to counteract direct threats to public order and state security even more efficiently.

Georgia: Based on the Entry/Exit Law requirements, from 1 July to 30 September 2022, 551 citizens of Georgia intending travel to the EU/Schengen area were refused permission to depart from the country.

In the framework of cooperation between the Ministry of Interior and Frontex, Frontex officers were deployed to Tbilisi and Kutaisi International Airports, while three Georgian patrol police officers were placed in EU Member States (from 13 July to 10 August – in Austria and Italy, and from 10 August to 7 September - in Poland).



7. IRREGULAR MIGRATION

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

On 20 July 2022, [a study commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee, was published](#). The study aims to support policy making to more effectively protect the fundamental rights of irregular migrant workers in the EU. It identified 'protection gaps' and presents strategies for how they can be reduced.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Austria: On 28 September 2022, a [regulation introduced temporary border controls](#) on the internal border to Slovakia to maintain law, order and public safety. This regulation expires ten days after its introduction. During that period, internal borders may only be crossed at points of entry.

Finland: On 15 July 2022, new [amendments to the Border Guard Act entered into force](#). Amendments to the Border Guard Act help prepare for hybrid influence activities that exploit situations such as migration.

On 15 September 2022, [new provisions added to the Aliens Act](#) and the Act on Migration will enable Finland to make use of the support from the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) to make the authorities' processing of personal data as smooth as possible in the event of a mass influx of migrants.

Lithuania: On 2 September 2022, in response to decreasing irregular migration flows from Belarus, the [Ministry of Interior closed a temporary foreigners' registration centre](#) in Medininkai.

Portugal: Portugal registered nine detentions for illegal immigration, there were 63 notifications of voluntary return, 24 cases of judicial deportation (accessory penalty) and three drives to the border. All incidents took place in the Lisbon and Tejo Valley Region between July and September 2022. Data from other regions is not yet available.

8. RETURN

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

In September 2022, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights [published its yearly overview on the state-of-play of forced migration monitoring systems across the EU](#). The publication shows that all EU Member States have some form of monitoring on returns by law, but also identifies the gaps that are present in practice. Among other findings, it showed that the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on returns and monitoring in 2021.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Greece: On 12 July 2022, Greece organized a Joint Return Operation with Frontex to return via charter flight 10 Georgian nationals and 20 Pakistani nationals.

On 20 September 2022, Greece organized a National Return Operation via charter flight to return ten Georgian nationals and 20 Pakistani nationals.

Italy: On 30 September 2022, the Assisted Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration [project "Re-Build" ended](#).

The Netherlands: On 23 August 2022, the Minister for Migration extended the [decision and departure moratorium](#) for political dissidents in Sudan for a duration of six months. No decisions on asylum applications by political dissidents from Sudan are taken and applicants do not have to return for the duration of the moratorium. The moratorium has been announced because the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State ruled that it is currently insufficiently clear whether this group has to fear prosecution from the Sudanese authorities.

Portugal: During the reporting period, 122 people returned to their country of origin with the support of IOM's Voluntary Return Programme. Data is not yet available from all regions.

Sweden: On 1 August 2022, [the law on expulsion on the grounds of criminal offences was amended](#) to tighten the rules. Expulsion was now possible for a lower degree of severity of the penalty.

Georgia: Georgia participated in six Collecting Return Operations coordinated by Frontex. As a result, within the reporting period 245 Georgian citizens were safely returned from EU Member States. Additionally, between July and September 2022, expulsion decisions on 47 foreigners were issued and 34 foreigners left country based on those decisions.

9. ACTIONS ADDRESSING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

On 8 July 2022, [the European Commission and Morocco launched a renewed partnership](#) on migration to tackle trafficking in human beings and human smuggling networks. Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson and the Spanish Home Affairs Minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, met with the Moroccan Minister of the Interior, Abdelouafi Laftit, as part of regular political dialogues between the EU and Morocco, to strengthen cooperation and shared responsibility. Renewed partnership includes support for border management, increased police cooperation, awareness raising on the dangers of migrating through smuggler networks, and facilitating legal migration pathways.

29 July 2022 marked the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Union [called for more use of technology to combat trafficking in human beings](#) and outlined ways in which technology can be implemented to this end. Comments came from high-level officials, such as John Brandolino, UNODC Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs, and Diane Schmitt, the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator.

On 13 September 2022, collaboration between EU Member States national law enforcement bodies together with Eurojust and Europol [led to the arrest of migrant smugglers and the dismantling of a migrant smuggling network](#).

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Croatia: On 14 July 2022, Croatia accepted the "[Report on the Implementation of Measures from the National Plan for the Suppression of Human Trafficking for the period from 2018 to 2021, for 2021](#)". The report was shared to all competent authorities and was published on the website of the Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

Ireland: On 27 July 2022, the Department of Justice [published the General Scheme of the Criminal Justice \(Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking\) Bill 2022](#). The Bill amends

the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to identify and protect victims of human trafficking. Under the new Bill, a broader range of actors will be involved in identification.

On 19 July 2022, the Trafficking in Persons Report 2022 was published, in which [Ireland's ranking was upgraded](#) from the Tier 2 Watchlist to Tier 2. The return to Tier 2 was attributed to 'significant efforts' to combat trafficking in human beings.

Italy: Between June and September 2022, the new 2022-2025 National Anti-Trafficking Plan was completed. Aiming to include a gender sensitive approach, the National Anti-Trafficking Plan paid particular attention to the vulnerable groups, including persons that are not officially registered upon arrival in Italy, ethnic minorities, religious minorities, victims of trafficking with physical and mental disabilities and LGBTIQ+ victims.

The State Police continued its activities to combat trafficking. Italian and foreign individuals were arrested for trafficking in human beings for the purpose of serious exploitation of labour and prostitution. Minors and women fleeing the war in Ukraine are at greater risk of trafficking and exploitation. There is also an increase in forms of sexual recruitment and exploitation via the web, particularly of migrants from Pakistan. A methodology based on children's rights has been developed, identifying criteria for recognising underage victims of trafficking.

On 8 July 2022, a new national tender for projects of assistance to the victims of trafficking was approved. The projects would be implemented locally to ensure beneficiaries have adequate accommodation, food, and health care, assistance and social integration. The Government's financial commitment to support the actions amounts to € 27 million. The activities will be related to health protection, combating exploitation, forced marriages, identification of the victims of trafficking, legal assistance and advice, reception, status recognition, training, inclusion and integration, and unaccompanied minors.

Malta: During the week of 25 – 30 July 2022, [a series of events were held](#) as part of the National Awareness Raising Blue Heart Campaign including outreach events among the general public, televised adverts, lighting up of buildings in blue, and networking sessions among ambassadors and Government officials. The theme for this year's campaign was "Use and Abuse of Technology".

An Inter-Ministerial Committee is being set-up for the purpose of coordinating anti-trafficking activities including the drafting of the [National Strategy and Action Plan Against Trafficking](#). The Strategy and Action Plan shall establish a formal national referral mechanism, build a system for data gathering, and establish the required reporting framework. The Strategy shall also include more practical measures to achieve more focused outcomes, such as training, campaigns to raise awareness, the sharing of best practices, and so on.

[An outreach session was organised](#) as part of the Blue Heart Campaign 2022 targeting migrants residing in open centres, community, and detention centres with the aim to raise awareness on what is human trafficking, how to identify signs of trafficking, where to report it and the services available to potential victims of trafficking. The session was coordinated by the Human Rights Directorate in collaboration with the Agenzija Appogg, and the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS).

Poland: During the reporting period, ['Recommendations for persons supervising the implementation of the rights and obligations of a temporary guardian'](#) were developed in

regards to the Act on Assistance to Ukrainian Citizens in Connection with Armed Conflict on the Territory of Ukraine.

The Ministry of the Interior and Administration has [published a handbook entitled "Human trafficking - practical aspects of conducting proceedings."](#) The publication is dedicated to people who conduct proceedings related to human trafficking as part of their everyday duties.

On 27 July 2022, the Director General of the Ministry of Interior and Administration signed Order No. 26 amending the Order on Approval of the Internal Organisational Regulations of the Department of International Affairs and Migration of the Ministry of Interior and Administration. The aforementioned document creates the Team for Coordination of Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings, which will constitute a separate organisational unit reporting directly to the Deputy Director of the Department for International Affairs and Migration. This solution will shorten the decision-making process in the area of counteracting trafficking in human beings, make the management process more flexible and increase the effectiveness of the performed tasks.

Portugal: On the 12 July 2022, [the structure for the Training Action on "Child Trafficking: from Prevention to Protection" was established](#) between the Public Security Police (PSP), the Observatory on Trafficking in Human Beings and the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality. The Training will occur between October 2022 and February 2023. Aimed at PSP Officers, with a multidisciplinary team of trainers, the training is based on the National Referral Mechanism on Child Trafficking.

Between 11 and 13 July 2022, a training action aimed at health professionals was held, in particular for the Focal Points for Vulnerable Communities, Teams for the Prevention of Violence in Adults (EPVA), Support Centers for Children and Young People at Risk (NACJR). This training was given by the Ministry of Health, the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality, the Observatory on Trafficking in Human Beings, the Criminal Police and the Family Planning Association.

During the reporting period and beyond, between 27 March and 31 October 2022, there were two Surveillance Operations aimed at detecting Trafficking in Human Beings. The numbers reflect the current government policy, with the allocation of inspectors of the Organic Units under SEF's Lisbon and Tejo Valley Regional Direction to national airports, by determination and priority of the Ministry, according to the contingency plan defined by the Minister for Home Affairs for the period called IATA Summer, which ends on 31 October 2022. Data from other regions is not yet available.

Spain: In August 2022, the approval of the procedure for the prevention, detection, care and referral of potential victims of trafficking in human beings in reception, care and referral centres (CREADE) took place.

Spain is currently implementing a series of information and awareness-raising campaigns, which are funded through the European Social Fund (ESF) and The Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF). These projects included the following:

- The Lilith Program, which promotes the prevention, protection, and comprehensive care for women in situations of sexual and labour exploitation and victims of trafficking.

Georgia: On 22-23 July 2022, an inter-agency working group meeting was held on issues relating to trafficking in human beings. During the meeting, the discussion

focused on existing challenges on fighting against trafficking crime and possible solutions.

On 30 July- 1 August 2022, the Ministry of Justice of Georgia [organised a Moot Court competition on trafficking in human beings](#) in close cooperation with the partner agencies and international organizations. The event was devoted to the International Day against Trafficking in Human Beings.

On 30 July 2022, an information campaign was launched, calling on people who may be a witness of trafficking in human being crime to come forward and report any information to the police or victim assistance structures. The main message of the campaign was "Trust your Gut Feeling". In cooperation with IOM, banners, video announcements and flyers in different languages were placed at all three international airports in Georgia and on the busiest land border crossing point of Sarpi on the Black Sea coast. Informational material was also distributed through Public Service Halls of the Ministry of Justice.

10. EXTERNAL DIMENSION

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

On 30 July 2022, the Council of the European Union [released a statement on the continued concern for the socio-economic crisis and migratory challenges in Lebanon](#). The commitment of the EU and its Member States to support Lebanon through humanitarian funding and financial assistance for Syrian refugees in the country and vulnerable Lebanese was reaffirmed.

On 2 August 2022, Ukraine joined the European Migration Network as an Observer Country.

On 23 September 2022, [Montenegro joined the European Migration Network as an Observer Country](#).

The expansion of the European Migration Network will further increase the exchange of comparable information on migration and asylum and signifies an important step towards reinforcing cooperation with third countries that will support policymaking.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Croatia: From 6 to 8 July 2022, a session of the Council of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for Croats outside of Croatia was held in Zagreb. As part of the Council session, a panel entitled "Challenges of return and integration of Croatian emigrants/diaspora - development perspective" was held, in which representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Labour, the Pension System, Family and Social Policy, and the Central State Office for Croats Abroad participated. Additionally, a returnee from Argentina, a senior research associate at the Institute for Migration and Nationalities, participated.

In July 2022, the National Plan for the Development of Relations between the Republic of Croatia and Croats outside the Republic of Croatia until 2027 was adopted. The Plan was based on the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia until 2030, which emphasises the importance and potential of Croats outside of Croatia. The Plan contains three special goals, including a goal focusing on the return of Croatian emigrants/diaspora and their descendants to Croatia.

Georgia: On 12 August 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Georgia [hosted an awarding ceremony](#) for the winners of the 2022 Diaspora Grant Programme. Within the grant programme, diaspora representatives from 23 countries submitted 76 project proposals. The MFA selected and funded 43 projects in the following sub-programmes: 1. "Be a Young Ambassador of Your Country"- (16 projects); "Supporting Diaspora Initiatives"- (17 projects); and "Supporting Georgian Folk Dance and Song Ensembles Abroad"- (10 projects).

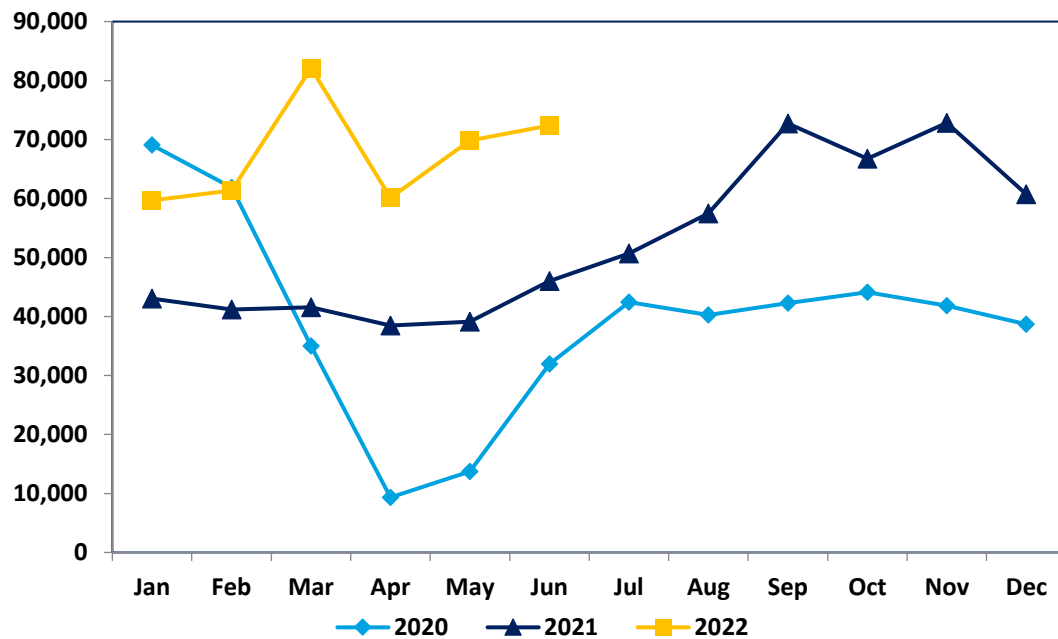
On 27 September 2022, a meeting between the Georgian diaspora and the business sector [was held](#) in Nuremberg, Germany. The purpose of the meeting was to share the knowledge and experience of Georgian compatriots living in Germany on local production standards, as well as partnership relations, access to the German market and interests of foreign investors. The event was conducted in the framework of the EU funded project - "European Union's innovative project for the competitiveness of the private sector in Georgia" implemented by IOM Georgia.

UPDATES ON EU LEGISLATION TRANSPOSITION

Italy: On 4 August 2022, [the law on the Blue Card to implement the new EU Directive was adopted](#). The measure concerns the transposition of 12 European directives and the adaptation of national legislation to 21 European regulations. Among the directives included is the new Directive 2021/1883 amending the rules on the EU Blue card (Directive 2009/50/EC) on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment. The new Directive simplifies entry procedures and offers more advantageous conditions of stay for blue card holders. It includes the following new provisions: a reduction in the minimum duration of the work contract (six months) and the minimum salary to be offered (between one and 1.6 times the average salary), less constraints for changing jobs once in Italy and more advantageous procedures for family reunification. The new law also delegates the government to adopt one or more legislative decrees to adapt national legislation to Regulation (EU) 2019/816, which provides for a centralised system to identify Member States in possession of information on convictions handed down against third-country nationals and stateless persons and to integrate the European Criminal Records Information System.

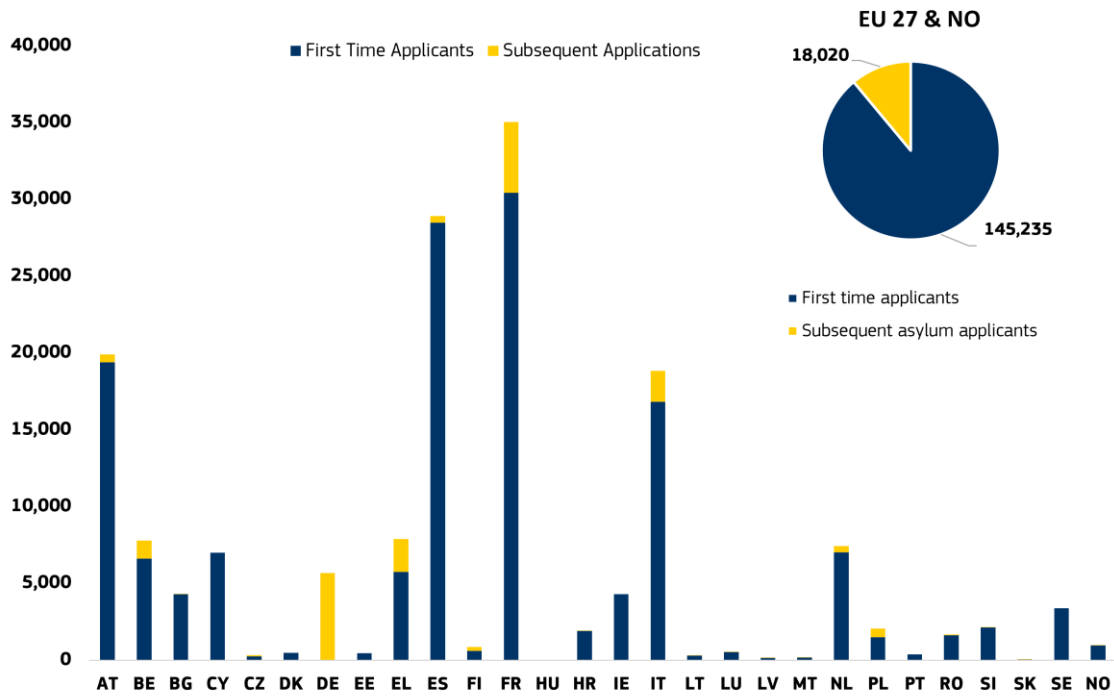
ANNEX: EU & COMPLEMENTARY STATISTICS, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, OTHER EMN OUTPUTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Figure 1: Asylum applications in the EU-27, January – June 2022



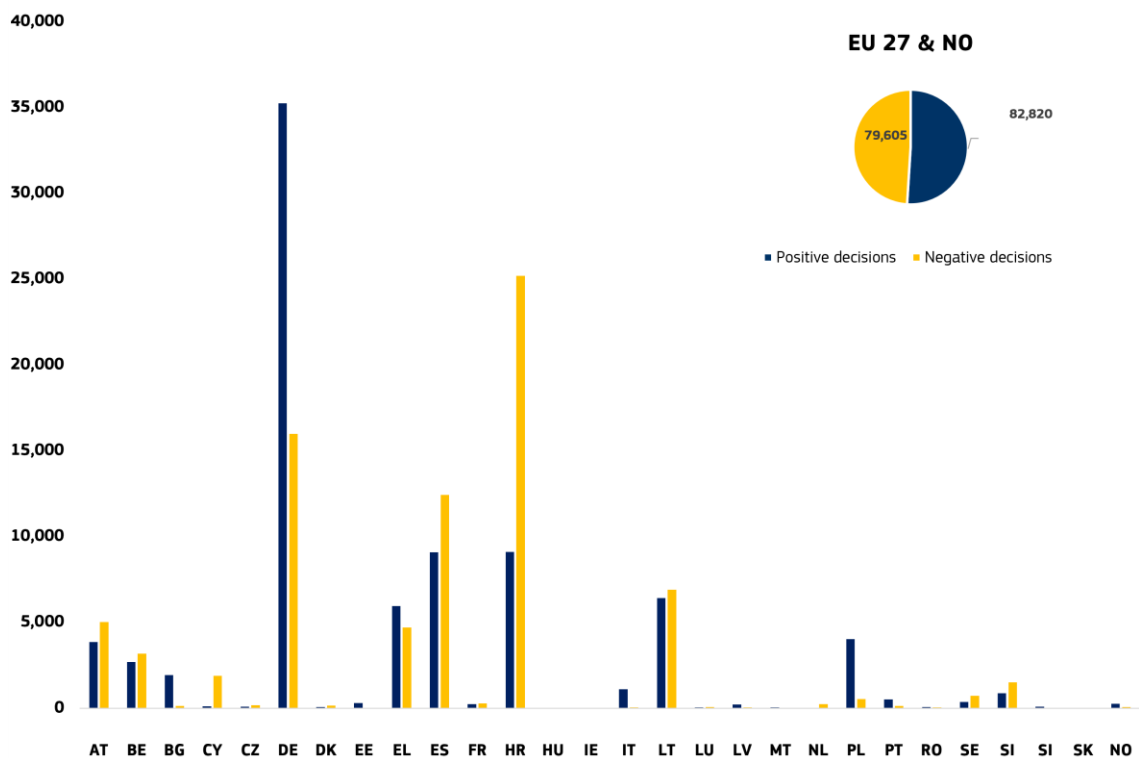
Source: Eurostat [[migr_asyappctzm](#)], total asylum applicants, extracted on 12 October 2022.

Figure 2: First time asylum applicants and subsequent applicants (together, total asylum applicants) in the EU-27 and Norway, Q1 2022 (quarterly data)



Source: Eurostat [[migr_asyappctzm](#)], accessed on 12 October 2022.

Figure 3: First instance asylum decisions in EU-27 and Norway for non-EU citizens, Q1 2022



Source: Eurostat [[migr_asydcfstq](#)], accessed on 12 October 2022.

Updates on EU legislation transposition

No new developments.

EMN National Contact Points: National Events and Publications

Recent National EMN conferences:

- **EMN Austria:** On 8 September 2022, [EMN Austria organized a workshop entitled "Integration of Migrant Women: What Policy Approach to Take?"](#) at the 25th International Metropolis Conference in Berlin. Based on the EMN Synthesis Report "Integration of Migrant Women", EMN Austria, EMN Germany and EMN Luxembourg presented the cases of their respective EU Member States and compared the policy approaches taken towards the integration of migrant women.
- On 26 September 2022, [EMN Austria organized a panel entitled "Integration von Migrantinnen: Eine vergleichende Betrachtung politischer Ansätze und aktueller Herausforderungen angesichts der COVID-19-Pandemie"](#) at the 7th Biennial Conference on Migration and Integration Research in Austria. Based on the EMN Synthesis Report "Integration of Migrant Women", EMN Austria, EMN Germany and EMN Luxembourg presented the cases of their respective EU Member States and compared the policy approaches taken towards the integration of migrant women.
- **EMN Croatia:** On 5-6 July 2022, a [hybrid induction training for the members of the EMN](#) took place in Zagreb. Training was organised by EMN Croatia with the support of EMN Luxembourg. The aim of the training was to ensure a common understanding of the structure and role of the EMN and how it fits into the wider migration and asylum landscape at national, EU and international levels, as well as to ensure a common approach to EMN national networks and products developed at the national level. EMN NCPs were provided with support in their roles in developing and contributing to EU level outputs and in relation to managing, monitoring and reporting on EMN grants.
- On 29 September 2022, the [12th meeting of the National Migration Network was held](#). The meeting was attended by approximately 20 participants of the National Migration Network, which consists of national authorities and non-governmental and international organizations. The meeting was an opportunity for all participants to present news in their departments and work since the last meeting. EMN Croatia members presented some of the EMN publications so that the members of the network were familiar with outputs within the EMN.
- **EMN Estonia and EMN Georgia:** On 20 September 2022 EMN Georgia and EMN Estonia held a [joint Conference in Tbilisi on "Advancing Data-Driven Decision-Making in Migration Management."](#) Thematic accent was focused on the ways in which data can be used to enrich decision-making processes in migration management and how to facilitate the development of a data-driven decision-making culture in the field. The Conference was held as a hybrid event and gathered around 100 participants from EMN member and observer countries.
- **EMN France:** On 22 July 2022, the Mission for Unaccompanied Minors (MMNA) attached to the Ministry of Justice published its annual [activity report for the year 2021](#). This report presents the changes in the mission's activity, including a 19% increase in the number of unaccompanied minors who benefited from a protection measure in France in 2021 and the continuation in 2021 of the relocation operation for unaccompanied children from Greece.

- On 21 October 2022, as part of the integration week organised by the Directorate of Integration and Access to Citizenship (DIAN) of the Ministry of the Interior, EMN France presented the Destination Europe educational tool. EMN France presented main findings of the European study on the integration of migrant women as part of an expert roundtable dedicated to “social and professional integration of migrant women: European perspectives and good practices”.
- **EMN Ireland:** On 14 September 2022 EMN Ireland [launched](#) its national report ‘The integration of non-EU migrant women in Ireland’, which received significant media interest.
- **EMN Latvia:** In the beginning of July 2022, EMN Latvia actively participated in the [annual conversation festival “Lampa” by introducing and organising the discussion tool “Destination Europe” sessions](#). There were two parallel sessions organised where different groups of society were participating e.g. youth, school children, retired persons and economically active persons. Between the sessions of the tool some people changed, so more had opportunity to try out the “Destination Europe”. EMN Latvia had a moderator who introduced the tool to the audience and also commented the scenarios of the tool. EMN Latvia received very good feedback from the participants as some of them enjoyed various roles especially the ones of the local level.
- **EMN Malta:** On 28 October 2022, the national conference on ‘The new geopolitical challenges in Migration - Tackling cultural and religious diversity’ took place. This conference is in collaboration with the European Consortium for Church and State Research & the Faculty of Civil Law, University of Malta and took place at the Malta Marriott Hotel in Malta.
- **EMN Georgia:** On 19 September 2022, ahead of the EMN Georgia/Estonia joint conference EMN Georgia hosted [introductory meeting](#) for EMN NCPs and conference speakers to introduce Public Service Development Agency’s online services and concept of the Public Service Hall (PSH), which was followed by the guided tour at the Tbilisi PSH.

Upcoming EMN National conferences

- **EMN Slovenia:** An EMN national event is planned on the topic of trafficking in human beings at the end of October/early November. It will target national practitioners with expertise in this area. A presentation of the national system on combatting trafficking in human beings is planned, followed by a presentation of activities aimed at raising awareness within vulnerable groups, the general public and various professionals in the field and a presentation of main findings of the [EMN study Third-Country national victims of trafficking in human beings: detection, identification and protection](#).