

EMN BULLETIN

The EMN Bulletin provides policymakers and other practitioners with updates on recent migration and international protection policy developments at EU and national level. The 10th Edition provides information from November 2014 to February 2015, including (latest) relevant published statistics.

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

[1. General policy developments](#); [2. Legal migration](#); [3. International protection and asylum](#); [Unaccompanied minors](#); [4. Eradication of trafficking in human beings](#); [5. Schengen borders and visas](#); [6. External dimension](#); [7. Irregular migration and return](#); [8. Integration and citizenship](#); [Annex on EU & Complementary Statistics, Additional information, other EMN outputs and upcoming events.](#)

SPECIAL NOTE

Following the launch in 2009 of the European Integration Forum, the European Commission in cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee, decided to extend the Forum's scope to also discuss issues related to migration and asylum. As a result, **the first meeting of the new [European Migration Forum](#) took place on 26-27 January 2015**. The Forum took as its main theme: "Safe routes, safe futures. How to manage the mixed flows of migrants across the Mediterranean?" and welcomed civil society representatives to contribute to topics such as, migration flows in the Mediterranean and the situation of migrants in countries of origin and transit before departure, amongst others. The Forum was structured around four main parallel workshops:



WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK (EMN)?

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

- ★ Access to the asylum procedure at the borders;
- ★ Integration of beneficiaries of international protection;
- ★ A comprehensive approach to countering migrant smuggling; and
- ★ Providing adequate information in countries of origin and transit.

The Forum gathered representatives from across a range of EU institutions, the EU Presidency, civil society and local and regional authorities.

1. GENERAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Poland:** The Council of Ministers adopted [an Action Plan](#) for the strategic document entitled 'Migration Policy of Poland - the Current State of Play and Further Actions'. The latter lists all the actions to be undertaken in view of implementing the nearly 200 recommendations provided by the document.
Also, in December 2014, the Chancellery of the President of Poland held an important [debate on migration challenges](#) in the light of future demographic imbalances in Poland, which was followed a draft proposal of legislative changes to migration regulations.

2. LEGAL MIGRATION

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The European Commission has announced the set-up of a [temporary informal expert group on economic migration](#). The aim of the group is to gather expertise on issues related to economic migration in order to contribute specifically to the new European policy on legal migration and to the review of the Blue Card Directive. The group will become operational in 2015.
- ★ The first high level EMN Conference in 2015 '[Attracting and Retaining Talent in Europe](#)' will be held under the auspices of the Latvian Presidency of the European Council on 19th and 20th March 2015 in Riga. The Conference will address issues such as: the global challenge and the competition for talent, whether the EU is ready to attract talent vis-à-vis its main competitors, the specific EU and national practices in place for attracting talent to the EU, how EU Member States retain the talent they have succeeded in attracting, the importance of developing a 'welcome' culture plus a discussion on what's in it for the talented migrants themselves and their countries of origin. The Conference conclusions will be available from the EMN website in early April 2015.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Belgium:** The Immigration Law was amended, [new provisions](#) state that foreigners must pay an administrative fee in order to file certain applications to enter or to stay in the territory, which otherwise would be inadmissible.
- ★ **Poland:** On 13th January 2014 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs conducted an [evacuation operation](#) involving 178 persons of Polish descent from war-affected areas in the separatist-controlled areas in eastern Ukraine. Poland had previously provided [humanitarian assistance](#) to Ukraine, including to internally displaced persons. The evacuated people have applied for residence permits under the regular legalisation procedure.

Economic migration

- ★ **Finland:** Since December 2014, a foreign national is able to obtain a [Finnish personal identity code](#) in connection with a positive residence permit decision. The identity code makes a significant contribution to a foreign national's integration in Finland: the code is needed, among other things, for the payment of wages, for opening a bank account and also for access to health care services and other services provided by Finnish authorities.
- ★ **Italy:** On 11th December 2014, the [provisional quotas for the entry of third-country nationals into the state for the purposes of seasonal work](#) were determined. The admission of 17,850 Non-EU nationals was established. The most significant new measure concerns the possibility of entry for non-nationals who intend to set up "innovative start-ups".
- ★ **Latvia:** Following amendments to the Immigration Law and Regulation regarding Residence Permits, as from January 2015 a new option for third-country nationals to request a temporary residence permit is now available. The permit will be granted for third-country nationals who purchase interest-free State securities dedicated to a specific purpose, with the nominal value of €250,000 and pay €25,000 into the State budget. The aim is to attract diverse investment opportunities in Latvia's economy.
- ★ **Lithuania:** As from 1st November 2014 Lithuania tightened the requirements for third-country nationals to establish an enterprise and engage in lawful activities. In order to be granted a residence permit, a foreigner needs to create at least three full time job positions, invest no less than €14,500 and carry out activities for not less than six months before applying for a permit. A category of investors of those who invest at least €260,000 and create at least five job positions was also introduced. Both categories are subject to an accelerated procedure for the issuance of a temporary residence permit. The aim is to prevent the establishment of fictitious companies and to ensure that residence permits are issued only to people engaged in real activities.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** As from the 1st January 2015 a [new scheme](#) has been introduced for ambitious start-ups from third-countries. Third-country national entrepreneurs aiming to start an innovative business in the Netherlands may apply for a residence permit as 'starting' entrepreneur. A [Special Envoy for start-ups](#) has also

been appointed. The latter will lead the new Start-up-Delta initiative, which involves collaboration between government bodies, learning institutes, start-ups, financiers and businesses. The aim of the Special Envoy is to strengthen the international position of start-ups in the Netherlands and persuade innovative foreign start-ups to establish their businesses in the Member State.

- ★ **Poland:** A reciprocal work and [holiday and visa arrangement between Taiwan and Poland](#) entered into force. The agreement enables young people from Taiwan and Poland to work in each other's countries to enjoy an extended holiday during which they may undertake short term jobs and studies.
- ★ **Slovenia:** On 1st January 2015, amendments to the Aliens Act entered into force. These provided for the establishment of the single procedure mechanism, which will apply by September 2015, following the adoption of the new Aliens Employment Act in the first quarter of 2015. Overall, a shorter time-frame for issuing a single permit as well as previous approval from the Employment Service of Slovenia (ESS) is envisaged. In addition, a clearer and wider definition of the concept of family reunification for a person who has been granted international protection is now provided.
- ★ **Spain:** The extension of the regulation of the collective management of recruitment for seasonal agricultural workers from third-countries, agreements that Spain has for example signed on the regulation of migrant worker flows e.g. with Morocco, was approved on January 2015.

Family reunification

- ★ **The Netherlands:** In a [study on Marriage migration in the Netherlands](#), the Institute for Social Research outlined the background to marriage-related migration and the social situation of migrants who go to the Netherlands in order to marry.
- ★ **United Kingdom:** New powers to enable the Home Office to tackle marriages of convenience have been announced. The reforms, which are part of the Immigration Act, will see the notice period in England and Wales for marriages and civil partnerships extended from 15 days to 28 days. For couples including a non-EEA national who are referred under the scheme, the Home Office will be able to extend the notice period from 28 to 70 days where it decides to investigate a suspected marriage of convenience or civil partnership.

Student migration

- ★ **Spain:** The reciprocal youth mobility programme between Spain and Australia came into effect on 23rd November 2014. This visa enables both national youngsters, aged between 18 -30 years, to travel to each other's country for one year and undertake work and study; 500 places will be available for each country per programme year.
- ★ **Poland:** The Ministry of Science and Higher Education presented the long-awaited [draft assumptions to the "higher education internationalisation programme"](#) to start a wide debate on the actions needed to foster the internationalisation process in Poland. The Ministry is also currently working on a [new scholarship programme](#) addressed to African students.

3. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ASYLUM AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

EU AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The European Commission announced on 19th February 2015, that [additional assistance will be provided to Italy](#), in order to cope with the migratory pressure of Lampedusa. Overall, the [Triton Frontex operation](#) will be extended at least until the end of 2015 and an emergency funding amounting to some 13.7 million euro from the Asylum and Migration Fund will be provided.
- ★ On 25th November 2015, the [Second Forum on Relocation and Resettlement](#) took place. Discussions focused on the refugee crisis, in particular in the Middle East and in North Africa and on the share of responsibilities and tools to address the situation between Member States. Measures such as the possibility of intra-EU relocation of beneficiaries of protection in emergency situations and a pilot project on resettlement involving all countries were agreed.
- ★ The UN Refugee Agency published its [Mid-Year 2014 Report on displacement trends](#). The report states that the total number of refugees under UNHCR's mandate reached 13 million people by mid-year 2014, which is the highest number registered since 1996.

LATEST RELEVANT STATISTICS

- ★ EASO published its [Quarterly Asylum Report for the Q3 2014](#). According to the latter, a total of 188,395 **applications for international protection** were lodged in the EU, **representing a 39% increase** when compared with Q2 2014. The five main groups of **asylum applicants** during Q3 2014 **remained the same as the previous quarter, originating from Syria, Western Balkan countries, Eritrea, Afghanistan**, and this time also from **Iraq, Germany, Sweden, Italy and France**, together **received 36% of all asylum applicants** in the EU.

- ★ A total number of **92,830 first instance asylum decisions** were issued in **Q3 2014**. Total positive decisions for this period amounted **42,270**, while negative decisions accounted for **45,505** (see Figure 2 in Annex). The largest number of first instance asylum decisions was issued in **Germany**, followed by **Sweden** and **Italy**.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** The Basic Welfare Support for asylum seekers will be restructured as of mid-2015. Seven distribution centres will be established in the provinces, where decisions on the further course of asylum procedures will take place. The Initial Reception Centres in Traiskirchen and Thalham will be therefore restructured.

Due to the increasing workload related to asylum matters, the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA) is expected to recruit new staff members, as well as to receive additional staff members as a result of an agreement signed on 20th November 2014, between the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) and the Federal Ministry of National Defence and Sport (BMLVS) which will allow for the voluntary transfer of staff members of the latter to the BFA.

- ★ **Belgium:** Due to a shorter asylum procedure and a lower occupational rate, [the government decided to reduce the number of available reception places](#) for asylum seekers.

- ★ **Czech Republic:** Following the on-going armed conflict in Ukraine, as a preventive measure, the Czech government has approved a specific contingency and preparedness plan to accommodate a high number of asylum seekers from Ukraine.

In January 2015 a set of measures to further support mainly Syrian refugees and countries hosting large numbers of asylum seekers from Syria, were approved. The measures include: the setting up of an annual work programme with financial resources allocated to support third countries; strengthening the [MEDEVAC](#) (Medical Evacuation) programme in the Middle East, which provides medical assistance to refugees in third countries and; a small scale resettlement programme of Syrian refugees from Jordan, focusing on families with specific medical needs.

- ★ **France:** On 16th December 2015 the National Assembly approved [the draft bill on the reform of asylum](#) that should give asylum seekers more guarantees and rights, particularly when they are still minors.

- ★ **Germany:** The [Act to improve the legal status of asylum seekers and foreigners](#) whose return has been suspended, took effect on the 1st January 2015. The mandatory residency for asylum applicants and persons with tolerated stay is now limited to three months. The Act also amended the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act and the Social Court Act; hence the decision of the Federal Constitutional Court from 18th December 2012 to raise the levels of cash benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act has been implemented. Also, the suspension of negative decisions on claims of applicants originating from Nigeria and Senegal was revoked on 21st November 2014, due to the recent developments with regard to the Ebola epidemic.

- ★ **Italy:** On 12th December 2014, the Council of Ministers approved a [Regulation on the procedures for the recognition and withdrawal of international protection](#). The Regulation aims to accelerate procedures as a result of the provisions introduced, including the involvement of territorial committees and provides greater clarity on the validity date of an application for international protection, the indication of the applicant's residence and free legal aid.

In order to [foster voluntary work of asylum seekers](#), the Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration, invited all Prefects to sign Memorandums of Understanding with local authorities. The aim is to deal with the migrants inactivity within the of the reception/integration system.

- ★ **Luxembourg:** In December 2014 a selection mission took place in Istanbul where 46 refugees were selected for resettlement.

- ★ **Poland:** [Amendments](#) to the Act providing foreigners' protection in Poland are also on-going. The amendments aim to implement the EU provisions introduced by the re-cast asylum package (namely the Asylum Procedures and Qualification Directive as well as the Dublin Regulation). The government announced it would receive [100 Syrian refugees](#) under a 2016-2020 resettlement programme.

- ★ **Norway:** Immigration regulation changes regarding resident permits for children who have remained in Norway over a long period of time, entered into force on 8th December 2014. The amendments stipulate the assessment criteria on whether children who have strong ties to Norway may be granted a residence permit. The aim is to ensure greater emphasis on the children's situation, hence on best the interest of the child.

4. ERADICATION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The Fundamental Rights Agency published [initial data from its research on national child protection systems](#) in the 28 EU Member States. The mapping exercise aims to provide an EU overview on the functioning of national child protection systems.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Denmark:** The Danish Centre against Human Trafficking, together with relevant stakeholders, published [guidelines for companies and employers](#) regarding the risk of human trafficking for forced labour and methods to avoid being unintentionally associated with such cases.
- ★ **Germany:** In November 2014 the German project proposal "Improvement of structures in asylum procedures in order to combat trafficking in human beings" was accepted by the Roma-Lyon-Group (G7-States). The project aims to collect information on victims of trafficking in asylum procedures within the G7-member states and to identify best practices.
- ★ **Poland:** Two projects of preventive character were launched, both implementing actions incorporated into the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2013-2015. Their aim is to improve the cooperation structure to prevent trafficking in human beings at the regional level and set up awareness-raising campaigns addressed to particular target groups.

5. SCHENGEN BORDERS AND VISAS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 23-24 February the LIBE Committee together with the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments held an [Inter-parliamentary Committee meeting on "the Smart Borders Package: European challenges, national experiences, the way ahead"](#). The aim of the meeting was to discuss the Commission's legislative proposals on the Entry/Exit System (COM(2013)95) and the Registered Traveller Programme (COM(2013)97).
- ★ On 27th November 2014, the European Commission adopted the [Sixth bi-annual report on the functioning of the Schengen area](#). The report provides a clear overview of the state of the Schengen area for the coherent interpretation and implementation of the common rules amongst the Member States.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** Amendments to the Border Control Act came into effect on the 1st January 2015. The new Border Control Act provisions prevent both persons whose travel documents have been withdrawn and minors who do not have the consent of their guardians, to cross Austrian borders.
- ★ **Ireland:** The Department of Justice and Equality introduced the [civilisation of the border control at Dublin Airport](#) with the 42 civilian immigration officers commencing border control duties in January 2015.
- ★ **Romania:** [Ordinance 25](#), which entered into force at the end of November 2014, adopted the EU Regulations No. 610/2013 and No. 562 establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Border Code), the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement, as well as Council Regulations (EC) No. 1683/95 and (EC) No. 767/2008 and (EC) No. 810 /2009 on the method of calculation of the period of short stay for third-country nationals in the territory of the Member States.
- ★ **Slovenia:** The law amendment to the Aliens Act also envisages a clearer period of stay for foreigners who are allowed to enter and stay in Slovenia without visa. An extension of categories for foreigners, to whom a long-term visa (Visa D) may be issued, is also envisaged.

6. EXTERNAL DIMENSION

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Poland:** The [Pilot Project on Illegal Migration of the Prague Process](#) was launched. The aim is to strengthen the capacity of participating states in the sphere of establishing identity and/or nationality of irregular migrants through the exchange of best practices in this sphere. Poland is a leading state with the support of Romania. In addition, the [EU Twinning Project](#) "Support the State Migration Service for Strengthening of Migration Management in Armenia" (implemented jointly by SE and PL) and the [EU-funded project](#) "Supporting the Establishment of Effective Readmission Management in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia" finalised and presented their results which include important changes in legislation regarding countries of origin.

7. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The European Migration Network **Return Expert Group** has recently published EMN Informs on key topics including [Challenges and good practices in return and reintegration to Western Africa](#); [Practical approaches and good practices in return and reintegration to Afghanistan and Pakistan](#); and [Incentives to return and reintegration support](#). In addition, the EMN REG has developed the [EMN REG Directory Connecting Return Experts across Europe](#). The Directory provides comparative information on national policies, practices and programmes, including joint / collaborative programmes from across the EU Member States and Norway. All publications are available on the [EMN website](#).

- ★ The EMN 2014 Study [Good practices in the return and reintegration of irregular migrants: Member States' entry bans policy and use of readmission agreements between Member States and third countries](#) was published at the end of 2014. The Study was based on contributions from 23 Member States and Norway, both the Study and national contributions are available via the EMN website.
- ★ The Frontex [Joint Operation "Triton"](#) will be extended until the end of 2015, in order to continue to support Italy at its maritime borders and help save the lives of migrants stranded at sea. Since 13th February 2015, resources have concentrated in the [rescue efforts](#) to save more than 3,000 migrants who departed from Libya. Since the launch of the Triton operation, around [11,400 migrants](#) have been rescued.

LATEST RELEVANT STATISTICS

- ★ The [Frontex Risk Analysis Report](#) for the third quarter of 2014 was released on 13th February 2015. A **general increase in most indicators of irregular migration** was registered, the only decrease observed was in the number of effective returns. The increase in illegal border-crossings was the highest- quarterly data-registered since 2007. When compared with 2013 Q3, there was an **increase of 150% more detections of illegal border crossing**. Detections at sea border counted for 90% of **all detected illegal border-crossings**, and **Italian and Greek sea borders represented a threefold increase** in Q3 2014.
- ★ **Syrian nationals** registered the highest number of those detected in Q3 2014 (37,533 detections) which represents **a 228% increase compared to Q2 2014**. The latter were followed by **Eritreans** nationals (13,672), although their numbers drop compared with last quarter, **Sub-Saharan Africans** (12,491), **Afghani nationals** (7,532) who represented a **278% increase when compared with Q2 2014**. The top-five countries of origin of third-country nationals refused entry were **Ukraine** (5,198) followed by **Russia** (3,230), **Albania** (3,028), **Serbia** (2,153) and **Belarus** (1,473). The top five nationalities found in **illegal stay** were **Syrians** (25,923) the number represented a **175% increase** when compared to **Q2 2014**, **Eritreans** (13,676), **not specified** (8,400), **Moroccans** (6,594) and **Albanians** (4,733).

Judgment of the European Court of Justice Case [562/13](#)

On 18th December 2014 the Court ruled, according with provisions of the Return Directive (2008/115/EC) in connection with article 14 of the Charter of Fundamental Right of the EU, that Member States should take into consideration the health conditions of a TCN during the enforcement of a return decision. National legislation must provide for suspensive effect of an appeal against a return decision if the concerned person is suffering from a serious illness and where the enforcement of the decision may expose him/her to a serious risk of grave and irreversible deterioration in his/her state of health. Moreover, emergency health care and essential treatment of illness should be available for the TCN during the period in which the removal is postponed following the lodging of the appeal.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Italy:** Following the Decree of 20 October 2014, the Minister of the Interior approved the Regulation on [criteria for organising and managing the Centres for Identification and Deportation](#) (CIEs) for better rule enforcement and uniform reception levels in the Centres established within national territory. A charter on the rights and obligations of non-nationals in the CIES was also introduced.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** Regulations concerning [entry bans are being adjusted](#) to encourage irregular staying third-country nationals to work actively on returning to their country of origin. Uncooperative irregular third-country nationals staying in the NL for a longer period, contrary to the rules, will be subject to a longer entry ban.

Following a decision of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) on a complaint regarding the provision of shelter to failed asylum seekers (90/2013), the Dutch municipalities were given the temporary obligation to provide basic reception facilities to failed asylum seekers. The Dutch Minister for Immigration confirmed, in January 2015, that temporary funding will be provided to those municipalities that have to incur costs for giving asylum seekers- whose application has been rejected- "a bed, a bath and bread."
- ★ **Poland:** In response to a [civil petition](#), the Ministry of the Interior vetoed the idea to introduce and enforce laws banning the detention of immigrant children.

Judgment of the European Court of Justice Case [249/13](#)

On 11th December 2014 the Court ruled, according to Article 6 of the Return Directive (2008/115/EC), that an illegally staying third-country national has the right to effectively express his/her point of view on the legality of his/her stay and on the detailed arrangements for his/her return, before the adoption of a return decision. Before expressing his/her view, the TCN should be informed about the illegality of his/her stay and the reasons which might avoid the return decision. However, the national authority is not obliged to inform the TCN that it is contemplating adopting a return decision or to disclose the information justifying that decision, or to allow the TCN for a period of reflection before seeking its observations. The TCN may have recourse to a legal adviser, provided that the return procedure progress is not affected. This right does not require MS's to bear the costs of that assistance by providing free legal aid.

- ★ **Romania:** [Ordinance 25](#) on employment and posting of third-country nationals also transposed the recommendations issued on the Return Directive (2008/115/EU) report and the correlated provisions of the Employers Sanctions Directive (2009/52/EC)
- ★ **Slovenia:** Following the law amendment to the Aliens Act that entered into force in January 2015, the return decision is now divided in two independent procedures. Both procedures are now based on two different sets of legislation and with different responsible authorities in charge of the appeal procedures. Also, a criminal act committed by a third-country national cannot be used as a reason for expulsion from the Member State.
The law amendment also envisages an administrative unit or consular sector, within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as an additional responsible authority to decide and/or issue the decision on the time limit for voluntary return.

8. INTEGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

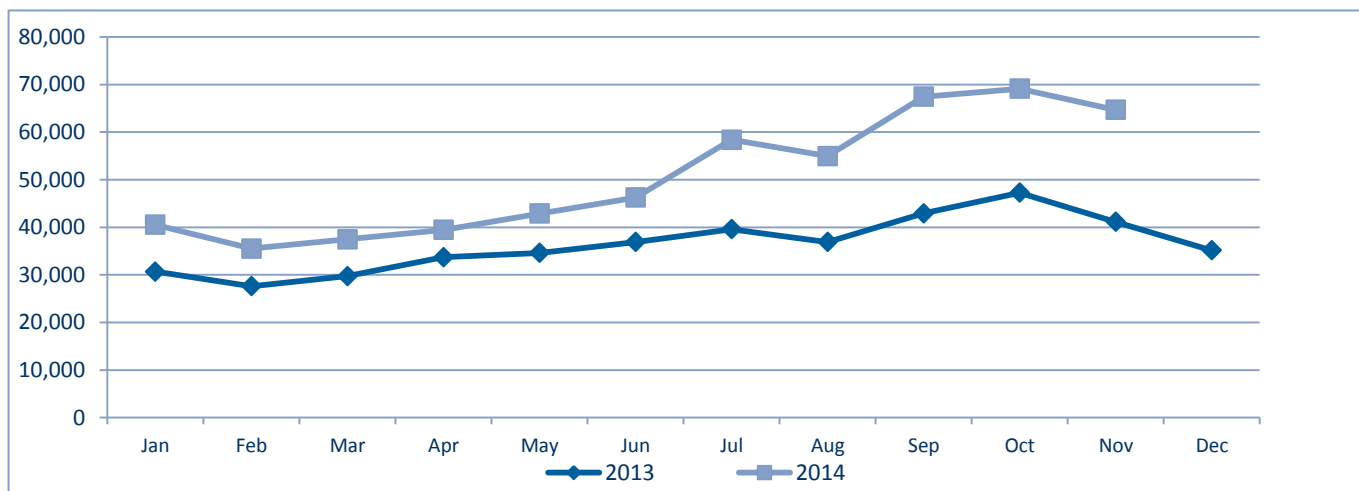
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** Amendments on the Citizenship Act entered into force on the 1st January 2015. The new Citizenship Act provisions allow the state to revoke the Austrian citizenship from dual nationals who voluntarily and actively engage in armed conflicts abroad.
- ★ **Estonia:** On 29th December 2014 the Government approved the new Strategy of Integration and Social Cohesion 2020. The overall aim of the strategy is to increase the social cohesion of Estonia's society, where people of different cultural and linguistic background take active part in the societal life.
- ★ **France:** On 23rd January 2015, the Constitutional Court confirmed that the constitutionality of deprivation of nationality for terrorism does not affect the principle of equality.
- ★ **Germany:** Citizens raised in Germany and attaining the majority of age, are [no longer required to decide between their German and foreign citizenship](#) acquired by birth. Their multiple nationalities will be permanently accepted.
- ★ **Italy:** As from the 1st January 2015, long-term residents are entitled to receive a "[baby bonus](#)". For each child born or adopted between 1st January 2015 and 31st December 2017, families are now entitled to receive, for up to three years, a yearly bonus of €960, to be paid on a monthly basis.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** The five-year [report](#) of the Luxembourg Reception and Integration Office (OLAI) was published in December 2014. The report reviews the actions undertaken by the OLAI between 2009 and 2013. It is based on the five fields of activity of the OLAI, which are laid down in the Law of 16 December 2008 concerning the reception and integration of foreigners.
On 4th November 2014, a [draft bill](#) on a referendum concerning the elaboration of a new constitution was proposed at the Chamber of Deputies/Parliament. The Governmental Programme of 2013 foresees to consult the population via referendum on imperative questions and in particular on the political rights of non-Luxembourgish nationals.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** The Minister of Security and Justice will soon be able to withdraw [Dutch nationality from jihadists](#) fighting alongside a terrorist organisation abroad without necessarily having any prior criminal conviction. Such jihadists are considered to constitute a direct and immediate threat to national security.
- ★ **Poland:** An [agreement on social security](#) between Poland and Moldova entered into force. This is the eight agreement, regulating coordination of social security issues, concluded by Poland. Also, the [local elections](#) held in November 2014 had the biggest number of candidates with migrant background (mainly EU nationals, but also Poles of Vietnamese and Syrian, Sudanese, Ukrainian and Turkish origin).
- ★ **Spain:** The General Secretariat for Immigration and Emigration, through the Spanish Observatory on Racism and Xenophobia has launched the first phase of the EU funded project "Training for the prevention and detection of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance in the classroom", in collaboration with the National Centre for Educational Research and Innovation of the Ministry of Education. The aim of the project is to train teachers, to prevent and detect forms of action against racist and xenophobic incidents in the school environment and to develop measures to prevent such actions including xenophobia and hate crimes.
- ★ **Norway:** In order to combat radicalisation and violent extremism, an official study has been initiated to consider the introduction of rules on loss of citizenship in cases concerning seriously prejudicial conduct to the vital interests of the state or the voluntary entry into a foreign military force. The report is expected to be published by 24th March 2015.

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

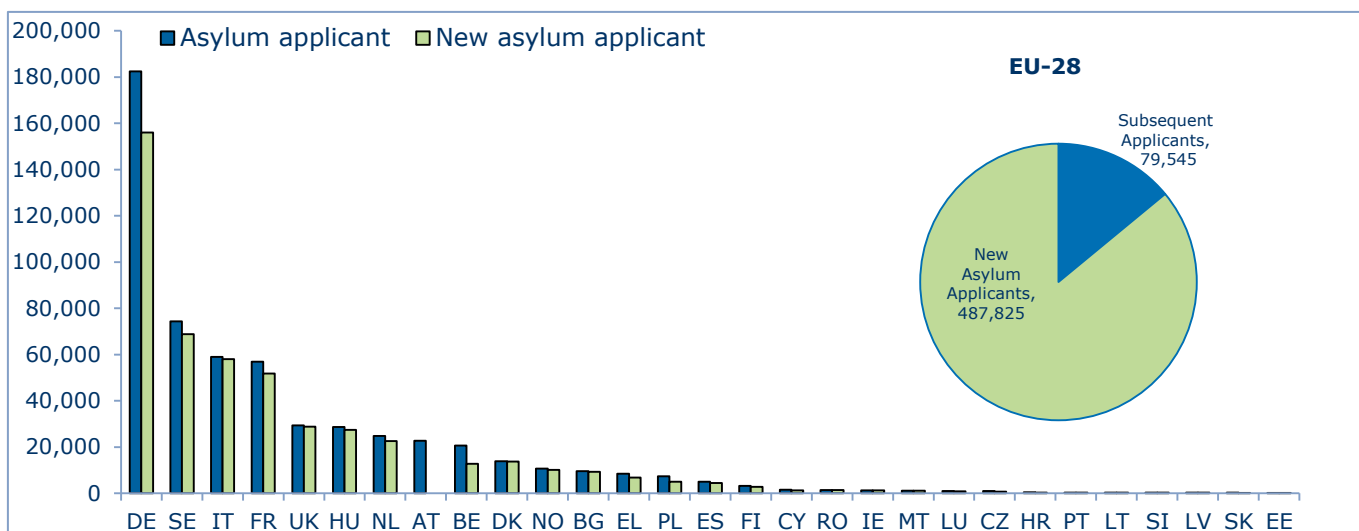
EU Figures

Figure 1a: Asylum applications in EU-28, January 2013 – November 2014



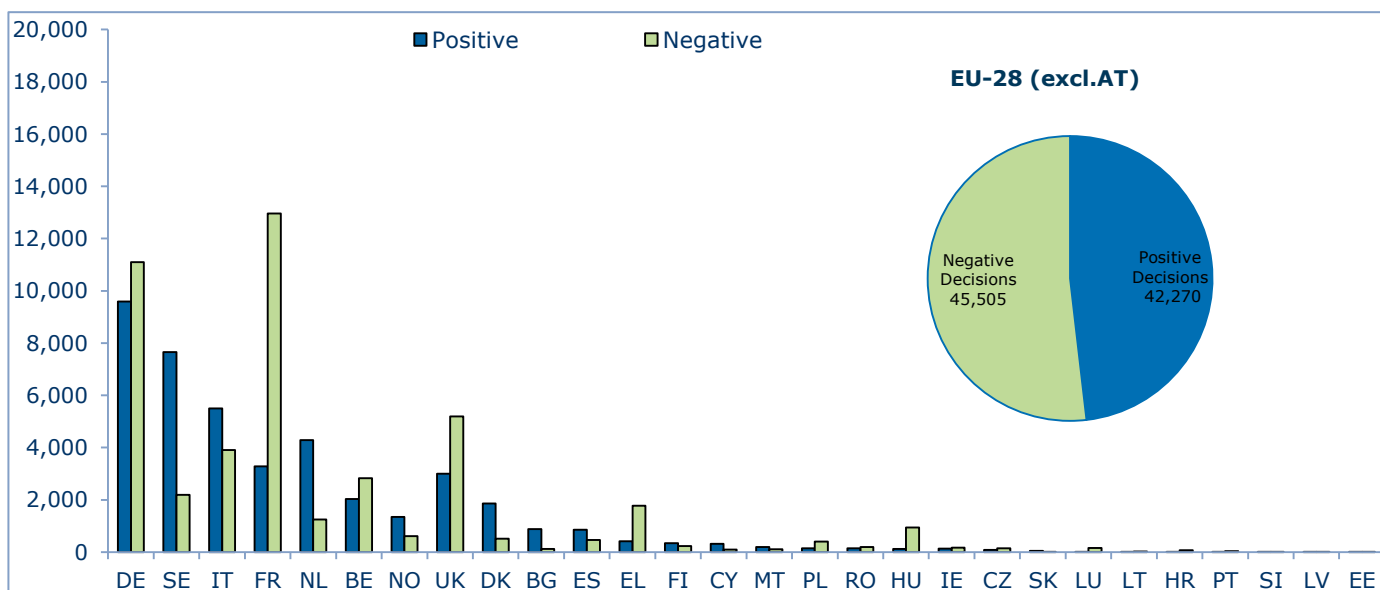
Source: Eurostat [migr_asyappctzm], accessed on 20th February 2015, NL data is provisional.

Figure 1b: Asylum and new asylum applicants in EU-28 and Norway, January – August 2014 (monthly data)



Source: Eurostat [migr_asyappctzm], accessed on 20th February 2015. Data for NL is provisional. No data available for Austria on new asylum applications.

Figure 2: First instance asylum decisions in EU-28 and Norway, third quarter 2014 (quarterly data)



Source: Eurostat [migr_asydcfstq], accessed on 20th February 2015– Negative decisions include also "Dublin decisions" (according to Art. 4, EC Regulation n. 862/2007) Data were not yet available for Austria.

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

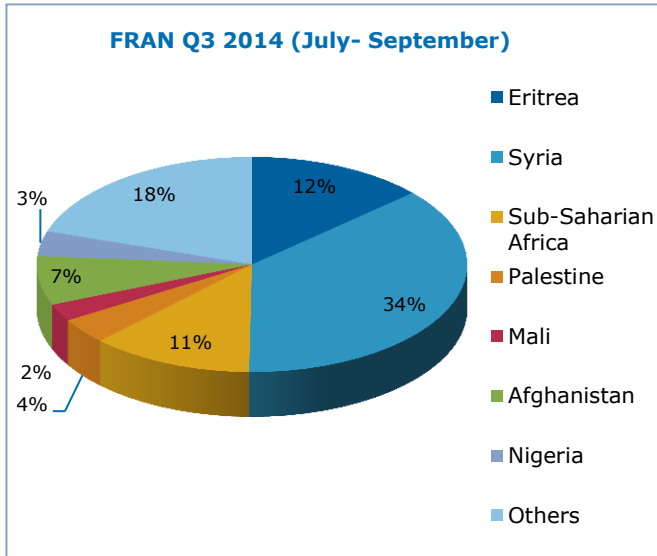


Figure 3b: Refused entry–Top nationalities (in %)

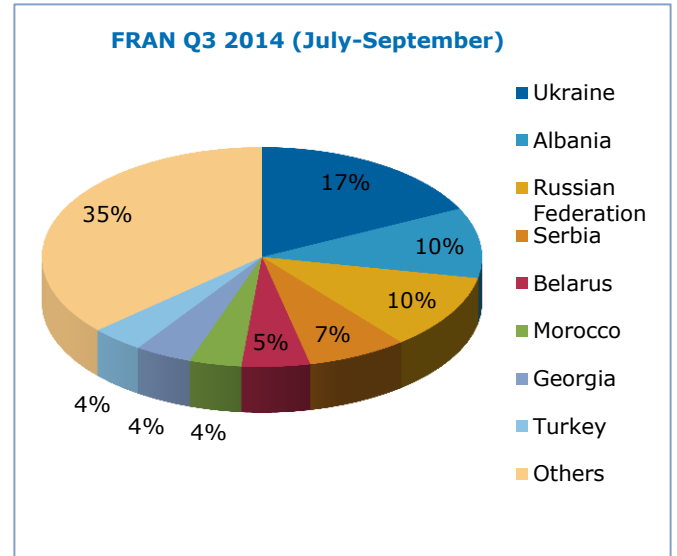


Figure 3c: Illegal stay – Top nationalities (in %)

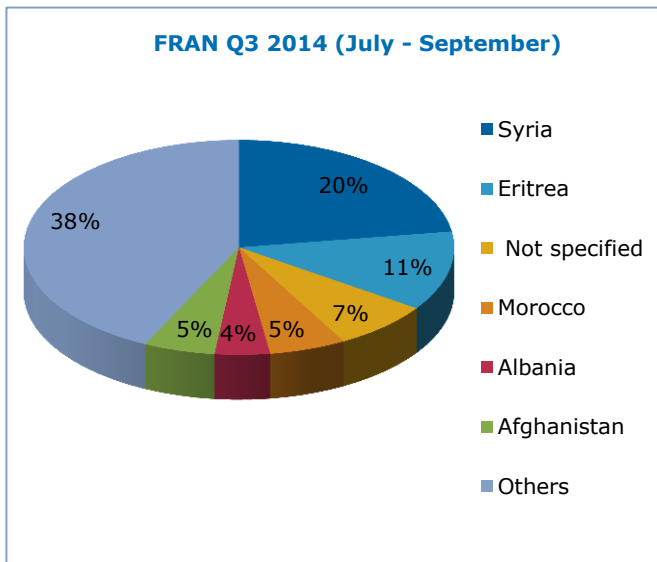
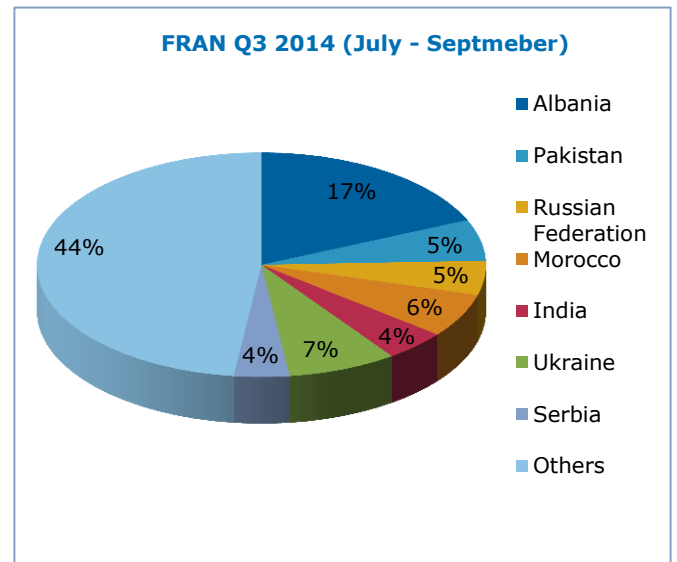


Figure 3d: Effective return–Top nationalities (in %)



Source: FRONTEXT FRAN Q3 2014 (July-September)

Latest available national statistics

LEGAL MIGRATION

- ★ **Germany:** The 2013 [Migration Report](#) was published on 21st January 2015. The report shows that during 2013 the immigration reached the highest level since 1993, mainly as a result of intra-EU-migration (60%) and migration for asylum and education purposes. The "[Atlas on Migration, Integration and Asylum](#)" (Minas) was also published on 19th November 2014 as an update on thematic maps and graphics providing a world overview on migration, including Germany and Europe.
- ★ **Finland:** The Finnish Immigration Service published [key statistical figures for 2014](#). The report shows that despite a slight increase in the number of asylum seekers, the situation remains stable compared to previous years. Also, Finland has published its [preliminary population statistics](#) for 2014, stating that 76% of population growth in 2014 consisted of net immigration.
- ★ **France:** The Directorate-General for Foreigners published [data related to migration trends](#) in France in 2014.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** On 30th January 2015, the Directorate of Immigration published its [Annual Report 2014](#) regarding asylum and immigration.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** In January 2015 the Statistics Netherlands published a [report](#) which describes a first effort to delineate the group of expats in the Netherlands.
- ★ **Poland:** In 2014 a [sharp increase](#) in immigration was registered, mainly due to the situation in Ukraine, introducing more favourable migration regulations (in May 2014) and Poland's macroeconomic performance.
- ★ **Slovak Republic:** In December 2014, the Statistical Office issued the 2013 [International Migration Statistics](#) providing the basic indicators of international migration based on permanent residence. An analytical part of the publication called "International Migration and Foreigners in the Slovak Republic in 2013" has also been issued.
- ★ **United Kingdom:** The Office for National Statistics' published its [report on Migration Statistics Quarterly](#) (produced with Home Office, Department for Work and Pensions and National Records of Scotland) on 27th November 2014 providing the latest national figures on UK migration flows.

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ASYLUM AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

- ★ **Austria:** The Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA) annual statistics showed that asylum applications in 2014 rose by 60%, to a total of 28,027. Syrians made up the largest group of asylum seekers (7,754), followed by Afghan (5,070) and Russian (1,996) nationals. In 2014, the BFA reached a total of 64,477 decisions, of which 37,299 were related to Alien Law and 27,178 to Asylum Law. In particular, 18,196 asylum status decisions were taken, of which 39% were positive.
- ★ **Belgium:** The number of asylum applicants and the number of people provided with a refugee status significantly increased in 2014. Almost half of asylum applications (46.8%) [have been positively answered](#) by the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons.
- ★ **Estonia:** There has been a noticeable increase in the number of asylum applications from Ukraine nationals. In 2014 there were 58 asylum applications lodged by Ukrainian nationals compared to none in the previous year. Ukrainians are therefore the largest group (37%) that sought asylum in EE during 2014. There was also a remarkable increase in the number of first residence permits for work and family reunification purposes for Ukrainian nationals (an increase of 43% and 29% respectively, when compared to 2013)
- ★ **Lithuania:** Similar trends have been registered in Lithuania. In 2014 there were 70 asylum applications lodged by Ukrainian nationals compared to five in the previous year.
- ★ **Poland:** In 2014, [asylum applications](#) decreased when compared to the previous year (despite of a significant increase in number of applications lodged by Ukrainian nationals – 2,318 persons compared to 46 in 2013). Notwithstanding, international protection was granted to a higher number of foreigners.

SHENGEN BORDERS AND VISAS

- ★ **Finland:** The Ministry for Foreign Affairs informed that the number of [visa applications processed decreased](#) by 23% in 2014 compared to 2013.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

- ★ **Finland:** The International Organization for Migration (IOM), responsible of managing the assisted voluntary return programme in Finland, published its [statistics](#) for 2014.
- ★ **Poland:** The number of foreigners refused entry in 2014 in Poland decreased by 35% when compared to 2013, whereas the number of foreigners found illegally present, as well as apprehended for illegally crossing the border, raised by 23% and 19% respectively. The increase is contributed by a notable rise in irregular migration of nationals of Ukraine (especially with regard to persons apprehended for illegal border crossing).

- ★ **United Kingdom:** The Home Office's [Immigration Statistics for the period June to September 2014](#) were published on 27th November 2014 providing the latest national figures on those subject to immigration control.

INTEGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

- ★ **Ireland:** The [100th Citizenship Ceremony](#) took place in Ireland in January 2015. The total number of people who have been granted Irish citizenship at a citizenship ceremony since their introduction in June 2011 has reached more than 59,000. Also, the Central Statistics Office published [Personal Public Service Number \(PPSN\) Allocations, Employment and Social Welfare Activity for third country nationals](#). Of the 127,048 third-country nationals aged 15 years and over who were assigned PPSNs in 2008, 25,904 (20.4%) had employment activity at any time during 2013.
- ★ **Poland:** After a significant increase in the number of persons granted Polish citizenship between 2006 and 2013, the number of naturalized foreigners in 2014 remained stable when compared to 2013 (approx. 5,100 persons).

National legislative updates

LEGAL MIGRATION

- ★ **Greece:** Four ministerial decisions were adopted, these concerned: 1) the admission of TCNs for the purpose of paid or seasonal employment, of hiring fishermen and of highly qualified employment; 2) the integration criteria of applications for family reunification; 3) the recognition of TCNs sickness insurance, issued by private insurance companies, when applying for residence permits; and 4) the minimum daily wage or the minimum period of insurance for the renewal of a residence permit including the supporting documents required.
- ★ **Poland:** The lower House of the Parliament adopted the [Act on ratification of the Convention](#) on preventing and combating violence against women, including migrant women.
- ★ **Romania:** By the end of November 2014, the [Ordinance 25](#) on employment and posting of third-country nationals in Romania and modification and completion of some legal documents on third country nationals' regime entered into force. The Ordinance transposed the Single Procedure Directive (2011/98/EC).

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ASYLUM AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

- ★ **Germany:** since 18th November 2014 group based persecution by non-state actors is assumed for Yazidis, Christians and Mandaens at the whole territory of Iraq. Previously such a group based persecution only considered Christians and Mandaens from Central and South Iraq. This regulation was extended in August to Yazidis coming from regions under the control of the Islamic State (IS).

Also, on 6th November 2014 the [Law for the determination of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia](#) as safe countries of origin entered into force.

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

- ★ **Czech Republic:** On 26th November the EMN National Conference on Business Migration was held in Prague. The conference discussed the effectiveness of the current immigration system, including schemes for foreign investors and entrepreneurs, as well as possible changes in the future. The conference brought together policy makers, chambers of commerce, as well as, local trade and revenue offices.
- ★ **Hungary:** On the occasion of the International Metropolis Conference, the HU EMN NCP organised a workshop on "Migrants in the media" on 3-7 November 2014. The aim was to present the issue of migration in the media by providing examples of countries with high and low number of migrants, new and old experiences of hostile public attitude towards migrants and their conservative and recent methods of communicating with the public.
- ★ **Italy:** The International Conference "[Managing Asylum Flows: Strengthening the Tools, Strengthening the System](#)" was held in Rome on 18th- 19th November 2014. The Conference was organised by the Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration, Italian Ministry of the Interior, in cooperation with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). The event was an opportunity to discuss the need to enhance intra-EU solidarity tools in order to strengthen the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).
- ★ **Poland:** On 2nd December 2014 the PL EMN NCP held a [national conference](#) on challenges of the common return policy in the EU and the organisation of voluntary and involuntary return of foreigners.
- ★ **Norway:** An annual dialogue conference is being organised by the government to obtain input from immigrants and Norwegian-born to immigrant parents. The [first dialogue conference](#) took place on 29th October 2014, where 250 participants gathered to discuss and give inputs to the government on issues such as health, quality of life, work and child protection. Next conference will take place on 20th October 2015.