

# EMN BULLETIN

JULY 2019

The EMN Bulletin provides policymakers and other practitioners with updates on recent migration and international protection policy developments at EU and national level. The 27<sup>th</sup> Edition provides information from April 2019 to June 2019, including the (latest) relevant published statistics.

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

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

## SPECIAL NOTE

- ★ On 27 May, the European Migration Network (EMN) published its 2018 Annual Report on Migration and Asylum. The 2018 EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum, and the accompanying National Reports for all participating Member States and Norway, provide a rich source of information to inform policy makers and the wider public across a range of issues: What were the main developments in legal migration at EU level in 2018? What have been the main integration-related measures introduced at the national level? What approaches were taken to prevent the misuse of legal migration channels? The report is available on the EMN website [here](#).

## 1. GENERAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 5 June, the European Commission [proposed](#) an EU budget of € 168.3 billion for 2020. The proposed budget to respond to disasters, address migration challenges and strengthen the EU's external borders foresees among others a significant increase in funding for the European Border and Coast Guard Agency following the agreement reached by the European Parliament and the Council in March 2019.

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** In the aftermath of a scandal caused by the Austrian vice-chancellor, Heinz-Christian Strache, the government coalition between the Austrian Peoples Party (ÖVP) and the Austrian Freedom Party (FPÖ) collapsed. Subsequently, following a vote of no confidence, the remaining government was discharged by the Federal President and an interim government was convened. On 30 May 2019, Brigitte Bierlein, the president of Austria's constitutional court, was appointed as head of the interim government and tasked with the formation of a new cabinet consisting of civil servants as ministers. The new government will be in office until the appointment of a new government. Elections are expected to take place on 29 September 2019.
- ★ **Estonia:** Following the Estonian parliamentary elections in March 2019, the new government was formed by the Centre Party, Isamaa Party and the Conservative People's Party of Estonia. In addition to the Minister of the Interior, a new position of the Minister of Population was created within the Ministry of the Interior. The new Minister of Population will be responsible among other topics for new immigrants' adaptation policy.

- ★ **Finland:** On 6 June, the President of the Republic appointed [Finland's 75th Government](#). The Government led by Prime Minister Antti Rinne has 19 ministers. The Social Democratic Party has seven ministers, the Centre Party five, the Greens in Finland three, the Left Alliance two, and the Swedish People's Party of Finland two. Ms Maria Ohisalo (the Greens) is the new Minister of the Interior responsible for migration issues.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** The Dutch Minister of Migration [resigned](#) on 21 May 2019. The primary reason for this was criticism on the way the Ministry of Justice and Security presented statistics on criminal offences committed by asylum seekers in a report. On 11 June, the new Minister was appointed.

Since 1 May 2019, the Minister of Migration no longer had the [possibility](#) to grant residence permits based on "discretionary authority". In the Netherlands, the Minister of Migration had the authority to grant a residence permit to persons in a distressing situation when the person in question did not qualify for any other regular residence permits. This concerned for example cases of children of asylum seekers who had spent many years in the Netherlands but did not qualify for a residence permit. Simultaneously with the abolishment of the discretionary power, the Managing Director of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) will be [mandated](#) to assess officially whether a distressing situation exists during the first application procedure in the Netherlands which warrants the issuing of a regular temporary residence permit. Third-country nationals who apply for a regular or an asylum residence permit for the first time can indicate whether special circumstances apply. The IND will include this in its assessment of the application. It is not possible to submit a separate application for distressing circumstances.

- ★ **Poland:** On 4 June, the new Minister of Interior and Administration, Mrs. Elżbieta Witek, took charge, replace the former minister Mr. Joachim Brudziński.



## 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 24 June, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) [launched](#) its Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union for 2018. The report aims to provide an overview of the situation of asylum in the EU+ and the practical functioning of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), describe and analyse flows of applicants for international protection, major developments in legislation and policies. In 2018, asylum applications in the EU+ decreased for the third consecutive year in 2018, returning to pre-crisis levels.
- ★ On 8 May, EASO [published](#) a chapter on the detention of applicants for international protection in the context of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) as part of its Professional Development Series. The series seeks to create professional development materials to provide courts and tribunal members with a comprehensive overview of the CEAS. The chapter on detention contains two parts: a Judicial Analysis and a Compilation of Jurisprudence.

### LATEST RELEVANT STATISTICS

- ★ On 17 June, Eurostat [published statistics](#) on asylum seekers in 2019. In the first quarter of 2019, the number of first-time asylum applicants in the EU-28 increased by 10 % compared with the same quarter of 2018 and increased by 4 % compared with the fourth quarter of 2018. The number of asylum applicants increased most in absolute terms for citizens of Venezuela (6 600 more applicants compared with the first quarter of 2018), followed by Colombians (4 400 more) and Afghans (2 600 more). Germany accounted for 26 % of all first-time applicants in the EU Member States followed by France (28 100, or 18%) and Spain (25 800, or 16 %).

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

**Austria:** On 21 May, the Austrian Federal Minister of the Interior [enacted](#) a regulation that, among others, limited the recognition fee to € 1.50 per hour for asylum seekers who are involved in non-profit ancillary activities. This regulation was [annulled](#) by the newly appointed Federal Minister of the Interior on 23 May.

On 8 May, the Austrian Regulation on Countries of Origin was [adapted](#) and Namibia, the Republic of Korea and Uruguay were added to the list of safe countries of origin. On 5 June, Sri Lanka was [deleted](#) from the list of safe countries of origin.

- ★ **Cyprus:** On 18 June, the new Administrative Court for International Protection began operating. From 18 July onwards, after the rejection of an asylum application, third-country nationals may submit their appeal to the new Administrative Court for International Protection. Any appeal already submitted to the existing Refugee Reviewing Authority (RRA) will still be examined by the RRA.

On 17 May, a Decision of the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance, based on the relevant provisions of the Cyprus Refugee Law, was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic, according to which applicants for international

protection have the right to access new, extended sectors of the labour market. The applicants for international protection can now work, one month after the submission of their asylum application, in specific professions in, for example animal shelters, restaurants, recreation centres, and hotels, next to the sectors they already were allowed to work (e.g. agriculture, fishery, manufacturing, waste management).

Twenty-one additional staff (13 case workers and 8 clerical staff) were recruited at the Asylum Service in order to deal with the increasing applications for international protection. The new staff is currently being trained by national trainers, EASO and UNHCR.

- ★ **Finland:** An independent [survey report](#) of the asylum procedure in Finland published in June provides information on the standards and efficiency of the asylum procedure and the asylum applicants' legal protection. The survey, examining the entire procedure and all authorities involved, was the first of its kind.

The Finnish Immigration Service is currently developing the general legal [counselling](#) provided at reception centres; asylum seekers will soon receive information about the asylum processes also on video. The counselling refers to providing information about legal aid related to the asylum process and assistance in finding legal aid, which are part of the duties of the centre.

- ★ **France:** An [information note](#) on the missions and the functioning of temporary accommodation centres (CPH) was published on 18 April 2019. It describes the conditions of admission of beneficiaries of international protection in these centres, and specifies their operating guidelines and their missions, as well as their relationships with the existing integration schemes.

- ★ **The Netherlands:** A new protection status was [established](#) for third-country nationals who are terminally ill. Temporary residence permit could be granted to persons who are residing on Dutch territory, who only receive palliative care and who are in the terminal phase of their illness, which means that it is expected that they will pass away within 6 to 18 months. All cases will concern somatic illnesses, of which most are cancer. HIV and psychiatric disorders, such as being chronically suicidal, are outside the scope of this protection status.

The Minister of Migration [informed](#) the House of Representatives about further tightening the regime concerning criminal asylum seekers and asylum seekers causing troubles. Problems in and around the reception centres caused by asylum seekers, and in particular around the migrant application centre in Ter Apel, have been the motive for this tightening of approach. At the national level, additional security measures are also taken. One recent development has been the appointment of three dedicated contact persons coming from the police and reception agency to tackle problems concerning asylum seekers causing trouble. Other steps taken are special reception centres with a stringent regime for trouble-makers and prioritizing asylum procedures for trouble-makers.

- ★ **Slovak Republic:** The Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic published a methodological guide on [Competencies of Social Workers in Preventing and Resolving Crisis Situations](#) targeting social field workers in asylum facilities. The guide defines a basic framework for preventing and addressing major crisis situations which social workers may encounter.

### ***Relocation and Resettlement***

- ★ **Croatia:** In May, in the framework of the Croatian resettlement programme, 50 Syrian citizens arrived in the reception centre for asylum seekers in Kutina. Four representatives of the Ministry of the Interior participated in the study visit from June 24 to June 28, 2019 as part of the resettlement programme. The study visit aimed to exchange experiences and best practices with Portuguese colleagues while Portugal was conducting a selection mission in Turkey, Ankara.
- ★ **Portugal:** In the reporting period, 16 relocations and 62 resettlements (from Turkey) to Portugal were carried out.
- ★ **Spain:** As of 20 June, a total of 583 resettlements to Spain were carried out since January.
- ★ **Sweden:** Following a proposal by the government, the [Swedish Parliament decided](#) on 18 June 2019 to extend a Temporary Act, which was originally adopted in 2016 and was set to expire this summer, by another two years. This act restricted the possibilities of foreign nationals to be granted certain types of residence permits in Sweden and aimed to lower certain Swedish asylum standards to the minimum level as required by EU and international law. Among other elements, the Act introduced temporary residence permits for beneficiaries of international protection (instead of permanent permits), restricted the right to family reunification, especially for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, and limited the possibilities to be granted a residence permit on humanitarian grounds. The Temporary Act will now continue to apply until 19 July 2021. The Parliament also decided, however, that beneficiaries of subsidiary protection will have the right to be joined by family members again, under similar conditions as persons with refugee status. This means that

some of the restrictions introduced by the Temporary Act of 2016 have been relaxed again regarding this particular aspect.

To move from temporary rules to more permanent and long-term ones again, the government decided to launch a comprehensive [parliamentary inquiry](#) into how Swedish migration policy, mainly concerning asylum and family reunification, can be based on a long-term vision that has broad support in Parliament. According to the government, Sweden's migration policy shall be humane, legally certain, and effective.



### 3. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

#### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ No new developments.

#### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Bulgaria:** In June, a safety zone for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers was opened in a territorial unit of the State Agency for Refugees, Registration and Reception Centre in Sofia, Voenna Rampa, and is now fully operational. Thirty-nine unaccompanied minors were registered and accommodated in the safety zone during the first week. Psychological assessments were being carried out and various group activities, including sport and board games and English lessons, were also organised for the children. Ten social workers ensure 24/7 care for the children accommodated in the zone.
- ★ **Croatia:** On 6 May, the coordinating body of the Inter-Ministerial Commission for unaccompanied minors (was held a meeting. Representatives of the competent central authorities of the State administration and other stakeholders involved in the protection of unaccompanied children were invited.

From 6-23 April, the Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy [launched](#) a public consultation on the draft proposal of the Ordinance on the method and procedure of family assessment for the performance of foster care, on the central State web-portal "E-Consulting".

- ★ **Greece:** In the reporting period, the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity issued various ministerial decisions, serving as instrumental tools for the implementation of the guardianship system. These relate to the registry for unaccompanied minors, the registry for accommodation centres for unaccompanied minors, as well as the selection criteria, prerequisites, training, etc. of professional guardians. Furthermore, the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity also worked on an exit strategy concerning the gradual decrease of hotels operating as urgent accommodation scheme for unaccompanied minors while proceeding with the development of a pilot scheme concerning supervised apartments for unaccompanied minors aged 16 and above.
- ★ **Italy:** On 29 April, a total of 147 asylum seekers reached Italy thanks to the organisation of a humanitarian flight from Libya. The group included 69 Eritreans, 62 Somalis, 6 Sudanese, 5 Ethiopians and Syrians of whom 60 women, 22 minors with a parent, and 46 unaccompanied minors. Moreover, on 30 May, an additional group of 149 refugees, including 65 unaccompanied minors, reached Italy. Furthermore, Italy is currently the only Member State to realise humanitarian evacuations directly from Libya. In addition, a total of 600 potential beneficiaries of international protection from Ethiopia, Jordan and Niger and who are currently in a state of vulnerability, will safely and legally reach Italy to claim protection over the next two years.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** On 4 June, the Long-Term Staying Migrants Committee, the commission of 'Zwol', presented its [research](#) on the aspects that contribute to third-country nationals staying in the Netherlands for a long time without a residence permit. In the report, the Commission pays particular attention to the position of (families with) minor children. The report argues for speeding up asylum procedures by shortening waiting times.

The Netherlands [accepted](#) 50 refugees from Libya. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) evacuated around 1 200 migrants and refugees from detention centres in war zones in Libya. In April 2019, UNHCR transferred about 160 refugees from Libya to Niger. The Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service and the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers have selected 50 refugees of this group for resettlement to the Netherlands.

During the reporting periods, municipalities in the Netherlands have [taken action](#) against statelessness; about 42 752 people in the Netherlands do not have a nationality and are either recognised as stateless (in 2017: 12 869) or registered as 'nationality unknown'. Against the background of missing national legislation, several Dutch municipalities, among which the municipalities of Amsterdam, Utrecht, Rotterdam and The Hague, have decided to take action regarding the recognition of stateless persons. Utrecht, for example, will now determine independently whether someone is stateless or not.

- ★ **Spain:** In the reporting period, the General Directorate for Integration and Humanitarian Attention participated in various meetings between the different Ministries involved in matters related to unaccompanied minors. These meetings particularly dealt with the current challenges in relation to unaccompanied minors, such as the age determination procedure, overcrowding of reception centres and the adaption of the protection system model to the new profiles of unaccompanied minors.
- ★ **United Kingdom:** The UK [will continue](#) to resettle thousands of refugees under a new scheme set to start in 2020. The new resettlement scheme will consolidate the Vulnerable Persons' Resettlement Scheme, the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme and the gateway protection programme into one global scheme which will be simpler to operate and broaden the geographical focus beyond the Middle East and North Africa.



## 4. LEGAL MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 6 June, the Council of the EU [adopted](#) the proposed amendments to the Visa code. The new provisions aim at providing faster and clearer procedures for frequent travellers to the Schengen territory, and foresees a mechanism whereby the European Commission will regularly assess third countries' cooperation on readmission. If a country is found to be not cooperating, specific restrictive visa measures can be applied. Lastly, the new code increases the fee for a short-stay visa from € 60 to € 80.

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** On 22 May, the Austrian Integration Act was [amended](#), stipulating among others, that the Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs has to provide language courses for persons granted asylum and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection in order for them to reach a language level of at least B1, instead of the previously stipulated level of A2. Furthermore, value and orientation courses now have to be provided by the Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs also for third-country nationals who are receiving benefits in the frame of the General Social Assistance Act.

On 19 April, the Austrian Federal Minister of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection [set contingents](#) of 1 263 foreigners for the temporary employment (up to six or nine months) in tourism, 2 727 foreigners for the temporary employment (up to six or nine months) in agriculture and forestry and additionally 228 foreigners for short term employment (up to six weeks) as harvest workers. Foreigners subject to transitional provisions of the EU freedom of movement and seasonal workers who have been legally employed within the contingent in the last five years (according to Art. 5 Act Governing the Employment of Foreigners) shall be prioritised.

The Republic of Austria [amended](#) the existing agreement with Germany on the representation of the Republic of Austria in the process of issuing Schengen visas. As of 1 April 2019, German representation of the Republic of Austria at the duty station Tashkent is limited to owners of service or diplomatic passports of Uzbekistan.

The existing agreement with the Slovak Republic on the mutual representation in the process of issuing visa was [amended](#). The duty station Abu Dhabi was removed from the annex with effect from 1 April 2019.

- ★ **Bulgaria:** Amendments to the Foreigners of the Republic of Bulgaria Act (FRBA) were adopted. The amendments *inter alia* concern the status of residence of unaccompanied minors, providing for the issuance of long-term residence until the age of majority. Furthermore, a provision was introduced to regulate the court procedure for granting a substitute consent from the court when there is disagreement between the parents of foreign children when providing the right of residence. The amendments also provided that highly qualified employees and seasonal workers no longer have to apply for a new residence permission when changing the employer during the period of residence in Bulgaria; they merely have to request a new residence card. Lastly, provisions were introduced regarding the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU without an agreement. In such a case, British citizens residing in Bulgaria will be subject to the terms and conditions of the Foreigners of the Republic of Bulgaria Act and the Regulation for Implementation of the Foreigners of the Republic of Bulgaria Act. British citizens who have established themselves on the territory of Bulgaria and have created lasting ties with the country will be exempted from these provisions. Instead, such persons will be eligible to obtain a specific status.

- ★ **Croatia:** On 19 June, amendments to the Decision on determining the annual quota of permits for the employment of foreigners for the calendar year 2019 was adopted. The total annual quota permits for 2019 for the employment of foreigners in the Republic of Croatia was increased from 65 100 to 68 100 permits. The total quota is set at 43 010 permits for new employment; 8 340 permits for seasonal work in agriculture, forestry, tourism and hospitality; 250 permits for ICT; 1 500 permits for strategic investment projects; 15 000 permits for the extension of already issued employment permits for foreigners.

As of 15 April, in order to reduce the administrative burden of employers, a new system was [introduced](#) to lodge work and stay permits. Applications for work and stay permits on the basis of annual quota for employment of third-country nationals can now be lodged electronically, via email to the competent police administration/police station.

On 7 May, the final conference of the project “The Danube Region Information Platform for Economic Integration of Migrants – DRIM”, funded by the INTERREG European Union Programme, was held. The key project outcomes were presented at the conference, outlining the information platform “Danube Compass”, which is designed to facilitate migrants’ economic and social integration into the community, providing key information on all important aspects of life in an easily accessible way. “Danube Compass” is thus a central place for all integration services that migrants can use, as well as the institutions and organisations that work with migrants. The Croatian version of “Danube Compass” is available in Croatian and English and the most widely spoken languages among people who have been granted international protection.

- ★ **Cyprus:** As of June 2019, the national policy on the total duration of a temporary employment permit has changed for the following sectors: farming and agriculture, domestic workers, specialty cooks and chefs, priests, and tourist representatives. The third-country nationals that hold an employment permit for working in the above-mentioned sectors have now no restriction in renewing their annual permit. Before that, they could only renew it up to four-six years.

In June, the Migrant Information Centres (MiHub) resumed their operation. These are located in the four major cities of Cyprus and provide information, advice and support to all migrants in areas such as housing, employment, education, language lessons, social benefits, asylum procedures.

On 17 May, a Decision of the Minister of Labour and Social Insurance was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic, according to which third-country nationals with a student’s permit have the right of access to new, extended sectors of the labour market. The third-country nationals with a student’s permit can now work, under certain conditions, in specific professions in domestic activities, waste management, restaurants, recreation centres and cleaning services next to the sectors they already were allowed to work, i.e. wholesale trade-repairs, health/social care, agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery, manufacturing and food delivery.

- ★ **Czech Republic:** On 18 June, the Chamber of Deputies again approved the amendment to the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals, which was returned by the Senate to the Chamber of Deputies on 2 May 2019 with the amendments. The amendment will enter into force on 31 July 2019.
- ★ **Estonia:** In June, Ülemiste Health Centre, which assembles all necessary health related services and a team of long-term experts in various fields of healthcare, who provide high-quality and evidence-based specialised medical care and primary family medicine service, was opened. The services are aimed at locals as well as foreigners as the family doctors also speak foreign languages.
- ★ **Finland:** On 1 May, an [amendment](#) to the Nationality Act came into force, providing that a person found guilty of certain serious offences may lose their Finnish citizenship. An individual may lose their Finnish citizenship only if they are also a citizen of another country and have sufficient de facto ties to that country. The decision on the annulment of citizenship will be made by the Finnish Immigration Service.
- ★ **France:** The [decision](#) of 6 May 2019 presented a new template of the Republican Integration Contract that included: a new section dedicated to professional integration; an evaluation form to be filled upon the first interview summarising the skills of the beneficiary; and the services and training sessions migrants should be directed towards in order to help them integrate into French society.

On 19 April, following the announcement of France’s new attractiveness strategy towards international students in November 2018, two decisions were published to specify the amount and the requirements attached to the different tuition fees applicable to international students. A [decision](#) laid down the tuition fees in public higher education establishments, effective from 2019-2020, and the applicable conditions of these fees. The [decree No. 2019-344](#) concerning tuition fees exemption for third-country students enrolled in public higher education institutions under the jurisdiction of the Ministry in charge of higher education, broadened the grounds for exemption by the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the headmaster of the concerned institution for students eligible in addition to scholarships offered by the French Government.

On 5 April, a partnership charter concerning the orientation and professional integration of newly arrived third-country nationals in France [was signed](#) by the Directorate General for Foreigner Nationals in France of the Ministry of the Interior, the General Delegation for Employment and Professional Training, the French Office of Immigration and Integration, and the public agency for employment in France.



★ **Germany:** On 7 June, the German Bundestag approved a package of migration-related laws to make it easier to integrate migrants:

- **Skilled Labour Immigration Act:** This law provided the framework for the orderly immigration of qualified third-country workers. Depending on labour market needs, it regulated the entry of university graduates and those with qualified vocational training. The term specialist will now cover both university graduates and employees with a qualified vocational training.
- **Encouraging German skills, training and employment:** the Foreign Nationals Employment Act intended to provide more support primarily to asylum seekers with a temporary residence permit and to those with tolerated residence status. The law provided for better access to integration courses and occupation-specific German courses, as well as training assistance. Asylum seekers with good chances of being granted permission to stay in Germany will receive assistance to help them take up work at an early stage.
- **Strengthening training and voluntary work:** To encourage and motivate asylum seekers to undertake training and to foster their subsequent integration into the labour market, the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act was reformed. The benefits of asylum seekers would no longer be discontinued after 15 months to counteract the problem of refugees prematurely breaking off training and degree courses. Refugees engaging in voluntary work could receive financial benefits.

★ **Greece:** In April, certain improvements were adopted regarding the procedure of issuing a residence permit for third-country nationals who invest in Greece, taking into consideration the needs of the Greek economy, the interest of foreign investors and the relevant international practice. In particular, the number of beneficiaries per investment plan was increased. Moreover, new categories of residence permit for third-country nationals were introduced, which pertain to investments in intangible products, notably capital injection, bonds and shares purchase or term deposit. The new provisions, which complete and modify the Immigration Code, are to come into force as of 1 July 2019.

On the occasion of the World Refugee Day celebrated on 20 June, the Ministry of education and Religious Affairs issued a [press release](#) with comprehensive information on the education situation for refugee children. In line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Independent Department of the Coordination and Monitoring of the Refugee Education, in collaboration with the Directorate of Special Education, initiated a systematic monitoring system and measures to facilitate the integration of refugee children with disabilities in schools. In parallel, throughout the country, psychologists have been recruited in schools where refugee children are students. In any case, taking into account the fact that mobility constitutes an important factor as far as the population is concerned, the above measures will be continued for the academic year 2019 - 2020 and all the effort is made to include all the children into the mainstream educational system. During the academic year 2018 – 2019 the total number of enrolled refugee/migrant students to the Greek public schools amounts to 12 867 students.

The Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs joined the project of the Council of Europe for the recognition of qualifications held by refugees ([European Qualifications Passport for Refugees-EQPR](#)). The project aimed at providing a valid methodology for the assessment of qualifications of refugees who claimed to have completed or partially completed studies at the level of upper secondary school and above, including qualifications for which there was insufficient or missing documentation. The current phase of the project involved evaluation sessions, the last of which took place on 1-5 April 2019 in Athens. Forty-six refugees had their qualifications assessed during an evaluation session organized in the context of the EQPR project

★ **Ireland:** On 28 June, the Minister of State with responsibility for Equality, Immigration and Integration, submitted a [progress report to Government on the Migrant Integration Strategy 2017-2020 and announced that the Government will establish a new Anti-Racism Committee](#) to help in the fight against racial discrimination in Ireland.

On 22 June, the Minister for Justice and Equality announced [a new 5-year multi-entry visa option for Chinese tourists coming to Ireland](#).

The [Department of Justice and Equality announced the abolition of Ireland's re-entry visa system](#) with effect from 13 May 2019. Visa-required nationals who hold a valid Irish Residence Permit/GNIB card will no longer need a re-entry visa to travel to Ireland. Their Irish Residence Permit/GNIB card and passport will be sufficient.

On 22 April, [new employment permits regulations came into existence](#). The regulations included changes to the Critical Skills and Ineligible Lists of Occupations (formerly the Highly Skilled Eligible Occupations List and Ineligible Categories of Employment List), as well as other technical amendments.

On 30 April, agreement was reached between the Department of Justice and Equality; Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport; Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; and the

Workplace Relations Commission in mediation on the [scheme for employment of non-EEA fishers in parts of the Irish sea-fishing fleet](#).

- ★ **Italy:** On 5 June, the Italian government set up a 100 scholarships for beneficiaries of international or subsidiary protection who had to interrupt their studies in their country of origin. The scholarships shall help these beneficiaries of protection continue their studies in Italy.

In April, the Italian and Tunisian governments launched the “Savings without borders” project. The project is a collaboration between Italian and Tunisian postal services to ease the transfer of remittances towards Tunisia. A total of 9 000 post offices in Italy will allow the transfer of savings towards a 1 000 post offices in Tunisia.

- ★ **Latvia:** The NGO "Shelter "Safe House"", in cooperation with partners from six countries, launched the project "Migrant Talent Garden". Its aim is to involve migrants aged 15 to 29 in creating business, including to provide support to this target group, knowledge of national laws, and conditions for setting up their own business.

In June, a comparative analysis of the National Integration Evaluation Mechanism in 14 EU Member States was [published](#). This report on the implementation of various areas of integration policy towards beneficiaries of international protection in Latvia was the result of an evaluation of migration and integration policies in the EU Member States implemented as part of the project “The National Integration Evaluation Mechanism (NIEM)”.

- ★ **Lithuania:** On 5 June, the Parliamentary Committee for Social Affairs and Labour approved the governmental proposal to introduce quotas for workers coming to Lithuania from third countries. The proposal will be deliberated further in the Parliament.

On 2 May, the Migration department and the State Tax Inspectorate signed a cooperation agreement on data sharing required while assessing the applications for temporary residence permits for business activities.

On 24 April, the Ministry of the Interior, the Migration department and the Ministry of the Economy and Innovation signed a memorandum of understanding to establish the Start-up Employee Visa scheme in Lithuania.

- ★ **Luxembourg:** On 13 June, the Minister of National Education, Childhood and Youth presented a [trilingual French - Tigrigna - Luxembourgish dictionary](#) that was produced within the Successful Migration Project - implemented by ASTI and financially supported by the Grand Duchess Charlotte National Relief Service, the Luxembourg Office for Reception and Integration and the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund. The dictionary was developed in close collaboration with Eritreans, settled in Luxembourg for a long time. The dictionary contains 1,590 French and Luxembourgish words translated into Tigrigna.

On 28 May, the Government adopted the [Law approving the Convention on Social Security between the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Government of the Republic of Korea](#). One of the principles covered by the agreement inter alia is equal treatment with nationals of the contracting country.

On 8 May, in terms of reception and integration of beneficiaries of international protection, [the Council of Government](#) decided to set the ceiling of the amount of rent subsidised by the State at 100 % of the prices announced by the Habitat Observatory (*Observatoire de l'Habitat*); previously, this was set at 80 %. The aim is to further support municipalities in their efforts to rent housing from landlords to beneficiaries of international protection and persons eligible for housing assistance.

In April 2019, bill n°7406, bill n°7409, bill n°7412 and bill n°7421 were approved by Parliament. Following bill n°7406, the [Law of 8 April 2019](#) modifying the modified law of 29 August 2008 on the free movement of people and immigration regulates the status of British citizens who are public and municipal servants in the framework of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the EU. The law allowed that by derogation of the general status of public servants of the State or of the municipalities, the British citizens who worked before the date of the exit of the UK would maintain their qualities, rights and obligations. With this law, the Luxembourgish government aimed to anticipate the impacts of the Brexit could have on the Luxembourgish public service.

In bill n°7409, the [Law of 8 April 2019](#) modifying the law of 28 October 2016 on the recognition of professional qualifications provided dispositions that recognised the evidence of formal qualifications issued in Great Britain for the degrees in the following areas: medical specialist/general practitioner, nurse, dentist, specialized dentist, veterinary doctor, midwife, pharmacist and architect. The aim was to ensure that the qualifications for the aforementioned professions, obtained in the United Kingdom after the withdrawal of the UK from the EU, would still be eligible for automatic recognition by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research.

In bill n°7412, the [Law of 8 April 2019](#) modifying the modified law of 29 August 2008 on the free movement of people and immigration incorporated the withdrawal agreement into national legislation with regard to the right of residence of British nationals and the rights of frontier workers. According to the law, UK national and his/her family members with a



residence document issued prior to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU were allowed to stay in Luxembourg for one year after the date of withdrawal. During this period, they had the right to pursue a salaried or independent activity.

Lastly, as provided by bill n°7421, the [Law of 8 April 2019](#) modifying 1. the modified law of 12 September 2003 on Persons with Disabilities; 2. the modified law of 28 July 2018 on the social inclusion revenue (REVIS) allowed all British nationals who benefitted from the REVIS or an income for Persons with Disabilities before the exit date to keep their rights after the date of the withdrawal.

- ★ **Malta:** In the reporting period, the Migrant Learners' Unit (MLU) within the Ministry for Education and Employment (MEDE) organised two *Making Friends Bringing Friends Clubs*. This Club targeted young migrant learners attending both mainstream classes as well as Induction Classes and Maltese students. The objective of the Club was to encourage a process of inclusion between Maltese and newcomer learners through various activities.
- ★ **Poland:** On 27 April, amendments to the Act on Foreigners came into force at the end of April. The Act primarily provides for solutions regarding the entry and stay of foreigners for the purposes of studies, scientific research, internship and participation in volunteering as part of the European Voluntary Service program. It also provides for solutions aimed at eliminating the so-called "stay tourism". The Act aims to transpose the Students and Researchers Directive ((EU)2016/801) into national law.

The President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda, signed the [amendment](#) to the Act on the Polish Card - a document confirming belonging to the Polish nation. The main purpose of the revision is to enable all persons with Polish roots living abroad to obtain the Polish Card. It will be issued to persons who do not have Polish citizenship on the day of submission of the application or the date the Polish Card is issued; to persons who do not have permanent residence on the territory of the Republic of Poland; or to stateless persons.

- ★ **Portugal:** On 28 June, in the framework of celebrations for the 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service (SEF) the Smart SEF ID Pilot Project was launched. This tool was expected to allow the creation of a digital identity for college students to renew their Residence Permit. It was an innovative project, in partnership with the University of Coimbra, which aimed to enable a complete digital process for the renewal of the Residence Permit for university students. The creation of a digital mobile entity for foreign university students generated through a mobile application and the use of registration kiosks available at the accredited universities represented a further step of the SEF to modernisation.

The Ordinance no. 99/2019 of 4 April 2019 was the first amendment to Decree No. 328/2018 of December 19 and defined the regime for the certification of companies for the reception of third-country nationals wishing to develop a highly qualified activity in Portugal.

- ★ **Spain:** In light of Spain's priorities for the management of migratory flows and in the framework of the strategy for an orderly, safe and regular migration, the Secretariat of State for Migration implemented, in close cooperation with Senegalese authorities, a *pilot project on legal migration*, leading to the arrival of 49 Senegalese workers to Lérida to work on agricultural campaigns.

Moreover, the Secretariat of State for Migration launched a pilot project for the granting of 500 to 1 500 visas for the search for employment for children and grandchildren in 2019 of Spaniards, who reside in Argentina and who do not have Spanish nationality. Once the first selection phase is finished, around 1 000 candidates can apply for a visa at the Consulate of Spain in Argentina and, if they meet the requirements, they can look for work and settle in Spain. The main sectors among which these professionals have been selected are computer, scientific, marketing and financial.

Regarding the integration of immigrants, work has continued on the preparation of the new *Strategic Plan for Citizenship and Integration*, which will be launched in the following months.

Lastly, in the reporting period, the General Directorate for Integration and Humanitarian Attention convened grants firstly for encouraging the coexistence and social cohesion of immigrants, co-financed with funds from the European Union (AMIF and ESF), and secondly for subsidies for the reception and integration of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection, stateless persons, those covered by the temporary protection regime, as well as for the social protection and healthcare in the Centres for the Temporary Stay of Immigrants in Ceuta and Melilla.

- ★ **United Kingdom:** The UK Home Office [published](#) the 2019 Indicators of Integration framework. The framework was produced by the Home Office in collaboration with a group of leading academics and with input from local authorities, charities and from refugees themselves. It provided practical ways to understand and measure the integration of refugees and migrants.



## 5. MANAGEMENT OF THE EU EXTERNAL BORDERS

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 17 April, the European Parliament and the Council reached a political [agreement](#) on the reform of the European Border and Coastguard (EBCG) and consequently on a revised version of the proposal launched by the European Commission in September 2018. As a result of this reform, the EBCG be strengthened in terms of staff and technical equipment and given a broader mandate to support Member States' activities on border protection, return and cooperation with third countries. Furthermore, the European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR) will be incorporated into the Frontex framework.
- ★ On 22 May a Regulation on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems in the field of borders and visa was [adopted](#). The Regulation aimed at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of checks at the external borders, preventing and combating illegal immigration and enhancing security in the EU.

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Bulgaria:** In the reporting period, Bulgaria noted increased pressure on the external border of the country, mainly on the Bulgarian-Turkish border. A total of 808 third-country nationals attempted to cross the external border illegally, which marked an increase of 118 % compared to the first quarter of 2019. In response to this pressure, the Ministry of Interior and Chief Directorate Border Police continued implementing various measures, such as the deployment of specialised police operations at the borders with Turkey and Greece, as well as the preparation of an action plan in case of emergency.
- ★ **Croatia:** On 14 June, the border crossing points in Vitaljina and Gornji Brgat were opened. The border crossing point Dvor has been in operation since 18 April.

Through the project "EMAS" - Emergency Assistance Project "Strengthening border control activities on the Croatian side of the external border due to increased migration pressure", eight training sessions were conducted involving 78 police officers. The training sessions were conducted in the field of EU and Schengen Law, Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings and Fundamental Rights.

Moreover, in April 2019, two Specialist Border Police Training sessions for border guards were held.

- ★ **Finland:** On 15 April 2019, the Council of the European Union adopted its development [recommendations](#) for Finland's external border control. The recommendations were based on a European Commission report on a Schengen evaluation of Finland's external border control.
- ★ **Italy:** Ahead of the summit of Southern EU member states in Malta held in June 2019, the Italian Ministry of the Interior, Matteo Salvini, and the Maltese Prime Minister, Joseph Muscat, agreed on the need to reinforce their common strategy to stem incoming migratory fluxes and preserve human lives. Salvini and Muscat shared the imperative of collaborating with Libyan authorities with a view to reinforce rescue-at-sea and border control capabilities. More generally, they also agreed on the necessity to collaborate with the countries of origin to prevent the root causes of irregular migration, fight against human trafficking and increase returns.

### Judgment of the European Court of Justice – [Case C-720/17](#)

In its judgement of 23 May, the Court of Justice ruled that a Member State must revoke subsidiary protection status in the case that the status was granted when the conditions for granting it were not met, in reliance on facts which have subsequently been revealed to be incorrect, and notwithstanding the fact that the person concerned cannot be accused of having misled the Member State on that occasion.

- ★ **Latvia:** On 18 June 2019, the Ministry of Interior held a fourth meeting of the Border Security Working Group in the framework of the US-Baltic Security and Cooperation Dialogue. The objective of the meeting was to strengthen the security of the borders of the Baltic States, to exchange information on the state border security situation and on the factors affecting the security of the national border, to identify shortcomings for which a regional approach was needed in cooperation with the United States. At the same time, an agreement was reached on joint training plans for the Baltic States in the area of national border security.

- ★ **Poland:** From May-June, a contingent of 30 border guard officers carried out the fifth joint operation in 2019 with the Macedonian police. Participants of the mission will provide support in the direct protection of the Macedonian-Greek border, supporting actions aimed at preventing illegal migration.



## 6. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 7 June, the Council of the EU [adopted](#) its partial common position on the recast Return Directive. This negotiating position *inter alia* included clearer and faster procedures for issuing return decisions and for lodging appeals, such as an obligation to issue a return decision at the same time or shortly after a decision ending a legal stay. It also foresaw the development of a common, non-exhaustive list of objective criteria to determine the risk of absconding, as well as more efficient rules on voluntary return. The European Commission had published the [proposal](#) for a recast Returns Directive in September 2018.

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** On 9 May, the Austrian Interior Minister [enacted](#) a regulation, re-introducing temporary border controls between 13 May 2019 and 13 November 2019 on the internal borders to Slovenia and Hungary to maintain law, order and public safety. During that period, internal borders might only be crossed at points of entry. Austria [explained](#) the measure with the security situation in Europe and continuous significant secondary movements.

On 19 June 2019, the Act Establishing the Federal Agency for Care and Support Services [entered into force](#). The new federal agency will *inter alia* be responsible for implementing and providing material reception conditions, providing legal counselling, return counselling and return assistance. On the same date, the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum Procedures Act was amended. Among others, it stipulated that legal counselling can be provided free of charge to all foreigners involved in proceedings before the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum as far as possible. With the exception of certain specific cases, there was no legal claim to legal counselling.

- ★ **Belgium:** On 4 April, the Council of State partly suspended the execution of the Royal Decree pertaining to the detention of families with children with a view to return them. This decision followed the request made by various associations to suspend several articles of the Royal Decree pertaining to the detention of children. The reason invoked by the Council of State was that the Royal Decree did not preclude the possibility to detain children in places where they were likely to be exposed to airport nuisance, while this detention could last up to a month.

- ★ **Croatia:** In June, the Ministry of the Interior announced that it would carry out 25 forced removals. The Croatian Law Centre conducted and sent reports to monitor six cases of forced removals.

On 27 May, a Decision on the allocation of funds for the implementation of the project "Monitoring of forced removal" was adopted within the framework of the national program of Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

- ★ **Czech Republic:** On 18 June, selected employees of the Prison Service representing prisons with placed foreigners were trained by the Voluntary Return Unit of the Ministry of the Interior. The aim of the training was to present the activities of the Voluntary Returns Unit and services associated with voluntary return, which the Ministry of the Interior offers so that they can be used for social work with imprisoned foreigners. Follow-up cooperation on specific cases was planned to continue in the summer months.

On 1 June, IOM launched a project called 'Assisted Voluntary Returns and Reintegration' with the support of AMIF. The project is mainly focused on raising awareness among target groups of the possibility to apply for assistance with voluntary return, support and assistance in implementing voluntary departure for selected categories of state third-country nationals as well as possible reintegration assistance for returnees.

- ★ **Germany:** The package of migration-related laws adopted by the German Bundestag on 7 June (*see Section 4. Legal migration and Integration*) also included measures related to the return of rejected asylum seekers. According to the Orderly Return Act, to ensure that unsuccessful asylum-seekers leave Germany within the period set, it was intended to improve practical repatriation. Asylum seekers who failed to help clarify their own identity could expect sanctions to be imposed, for instance. It will also be easier for authorities to detain unsuccessful asylum seekers in order to enforce their obligation to leave the country and it will be possible to return asylum seekers found guilty of criminal offences more

### Judgment of the European Court of Justice – [Joined Cases C-391/16 C-77/17 C-78/17](#)

On 15 May, the Court of Justice ruled in the Joined Cases C-391/16 C-77/17 C-78/17 that both a national of a non-EU country and a stateless person with a well-founded fear of persecution in his or her country of origin or residence must be classified as a refugee for the purposes of the Qualification directive and the Geneva Convention, regardless of whether he or she has been formally granted refugee status as defined in the directive.

swiftly. Individuals entering Germany unlawfully, who already have protected status in another EU state, will receive reduced social welfare benefits.

- ★ **Italy:** On 28 June, an agreement between the Italian and Slovenian Border Police was signed with the aim to reinforce the activities to fight irregular migration on the Balkan route. This agreement concerns the implementation of mixed patrolling at the border between Italy and Slovenia. More specifically, these border checks will be in force into the provinces of Trieste and Gorizia from the Italian side and in Koper and Nova Gorica from the Slovenian side.

On 15 June, the new decree on security matters, adopted by the Council of Ministers earlier in June, entered into force. The decree contains a series of measures aimed at curbing irregular migration. It notably provides for the possibility to limit the entry into Italian ports of boats suspected of facilitating irregular migration. Sanctions against boats violating their entry ban range from monetary fines to asset requisition. The decree also makes substantial resources available for the fight against facilitation of irregular entry and under-cover police operations.

- ★ **France:** On 4 June, [decree No. 2019-555](#) about several dispositions concerning the posting of employees and the strengthening of the fight against illegal employment was published. The text detailed the conditions for posting workers and enhances the control measures and the sanctions for illegal employment.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** On 26 March 2019, the Government introduced [bill n°7429](#) in Parliament approving the Protocol between the Republic of Armenia and the Benelux States (the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands) implementing the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the readmission of persons in an irregular situation, signed in Brussels on 20 June 2018.
- ★ **Malta:** In the reporting period, 1 015 irregular migrants arrived in Malta by boat from Libya. Given the physical and demographic size of the island, this number was relatively high and as such Malta was experiencing a substantial pressure on its reception facilities, asylum determination process and healthcare system amongst others.
- ★ **The Netherlands:** Over the past five years, at least 60 Vietnamese children [disappeared](#) from the accommodation centres in the Netherlands according to the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA). The Minister of Migration announced that the Expertise Centre for Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling (EMM) would start an investigation on the disappearance of these Vietnamese children and investigate whether there were indications of human trafficking.
- ★ **Sweden:** In late April, the Swedish Migration Agency opened a new detention centre in the town of Ljungbyhed. The new centre has a capacity of 44 detainees, and the Migration Agency recruited around 60 employees ensure the operation of the centre. Sweden now has six detention centres, and its overall detention capacity increased to approximately 500 people.
- ★ **United Kingdom:** ePassport gates have been [available](#) to British and EU nationals since 2008. Since May, visitors from Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and the United States were also eligible to use ePassport gates at ports across the UK and juxtaposed controls in a move designed to speed up border controls for low-risk countries.

Passengers arriving at the UK border [are now](#) no longer required to complete landing cards. Non-European travellers had been required to fill out a landing card with basic information about themselves and their travel since 1971. The move is part of Border Force's ongoing digital transformation of border controls.



## 7. ACTIONS ADDRESSING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

No new developments.

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Belgium:** On 11 June, Myria, the national independent rapporteur on human trafficking [published](#) the English version of its 2018 annual report on trafficking and smuggling of human beings. This report focused on the detection, reception and support of child victims of human trafficking. According to the findings of Myria, Nigerian minors were a particularly vulnerable group.
- ★ **Croatia:** In the reporting period, various training sessions in the field of trafficking in human beings (THB) were held, such as a seminar on combating THB for police officers. Between March and June 2019, more than 1 500 police officers were trained on the subject of THB.

- ★ **Cyprus:** On 10-13 June, the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) of the Council of Europe visited Cyprus for the third evaluation round concerning trafficking in human beings and held meetings with the authorities and other relevant stakeholders. This evaluation round focused on trafficking victims' access to justice and effective remedies.
- ★ **Latvia:** On 13-14 June, the last of the Working Group on trafficking in human beings in the Latvian Presidency of the Council of Baltic Sea States Presidency (CBSS) was chaired by a representative of the Ministry of Interior. The meeting of the Working Group was attended by delegated officials of all CBSS Member States.  
  
On 24 April, the Information Centre for Newcomers organised a seminar "Marriages of convenience as a form of human trafficking in the region of the Baltic Sea States: trend, practices and their link to migration" in order to exchange experience with institutions and organisations working in the area of integration, as well as to ensure effective cooperation between institutions.
- ★ **Greece:** On 17 May, the Parliamentary Committee on human trafficking and exploitation [was convened](#) to inform members of parliament on trafficking of minors. Representatives from State Agencies and NGOs contributed to this informative session.  
  
In April, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched an initiative with the Greek Church to fight against Trafficking in Human Beings (THB). Collaboration in training sessions of clerics and raising awareness of the congregation were agreed. The project aimed to focus on reducing the demand for services or products supplied by victims of THB and on expanding the existing national referral mechanism network for the identification of presumed THB victims.  
  
Training sessions on the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and the standard operating procedures to be followed, took place in Reception & Identification Centers located in Greek islands. In April, the National Center for Social Solidarity, that managed the NRM, issued an [information leaflet](#) on the Mechanism.
- ★ **Portugal:** Protocol between the Observatory on Trafficking in Human Beings and the International Organization for Migration/Migrant Protection and Assistance Division in the framework of contributing with data on Trafficking in Human Beings into the IOM's Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC) – a Global Data Hub on Human Trafficking. The CTDC is the first global data hub on human trafficking with data contributed by organizations from around the world. Portugal, via the Observatory is one.

## 8. EXTERNAL DIMENSION

### EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 14 June, the Council today [adopted](#) new rules to improve the functioning of the European network of immigration liaison officers and improve coordination. These new rules, *inter alia*, foresaw a stringer role for liaison officers in combating migrant smuggling and collecting information to assist third countries in preventing illegal migration flows and to support border management at the EU's external borders.
- ★ On 21 May, the first joint operation of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency outside the EU was [launched](#) and marked a new phase for border cooperation between the EU and its Western Balkans. Specifically, the Agency, in cooperation with the Albanian authorities, will deploy its staff and Albanian border guards at the Greek-Albanian border to strengthen border management and enhance security at the EU's external borders, in full agreement with all concerned countries.
- ★ On 10 April, the European Commission [published](#) its third annual report on the implementation of the Facility, showing solid results on EU support to refugees and host communities in Turkey. The Facility was launched in March 2016 and since then, numerous projects in the areas of humanitarian assistance, education, healthcare and socio-economic support were carried out. More than € 2 billion have been disbursed since March 2019.
- ★ On 4 April, the European Commission announced further [support](#) to the Sahel countries in their efforts to enhance security, migrant protection and development projects. The new financial support will be provided under the framework of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. In particular, the European Commission adopted five new programmes and three top-ups of current programmes worth € 115.5 million.

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Czech Republic:** In April, the MEDEVAC programme deployed three medical teams to Jordan. The teams were specialised in pediatric heart surgery, ophthalmology and traumatology.

The very first reconnaissance mission to Ghana took place in June. The purpose of the reconnaissance mission was to identify partner hospitals and local needs as well as initiate cooperation between the Czech medical teams and their Ghanaian partners. The reconnaissance mission will be followed by a medical mission, the estimated time frame being autumn 2019.

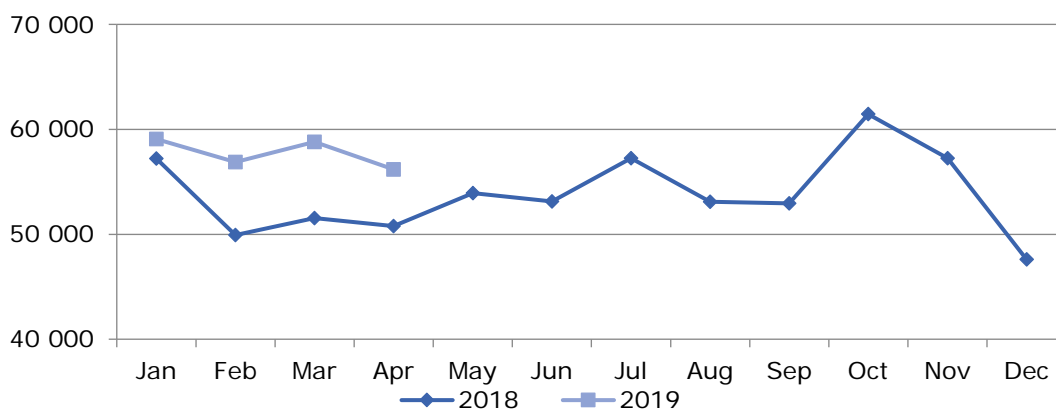
On 1 April 2019, the Czech Government approved a donation in the amount of CZK 25 million for Northern Macedonia. Under the programme of the Ministry of the Interior Aid in Place, funds will be used to purchase and restore special vehicles and other technical equipment for border control on the Western Balkan migration route.

In May, two Prague hospitals hosted trainees from Ukraine specialised in the fields of physiotherapy and ergotherapy. These fields are still almost absent in Ukraine and are not accessible to low income patients.



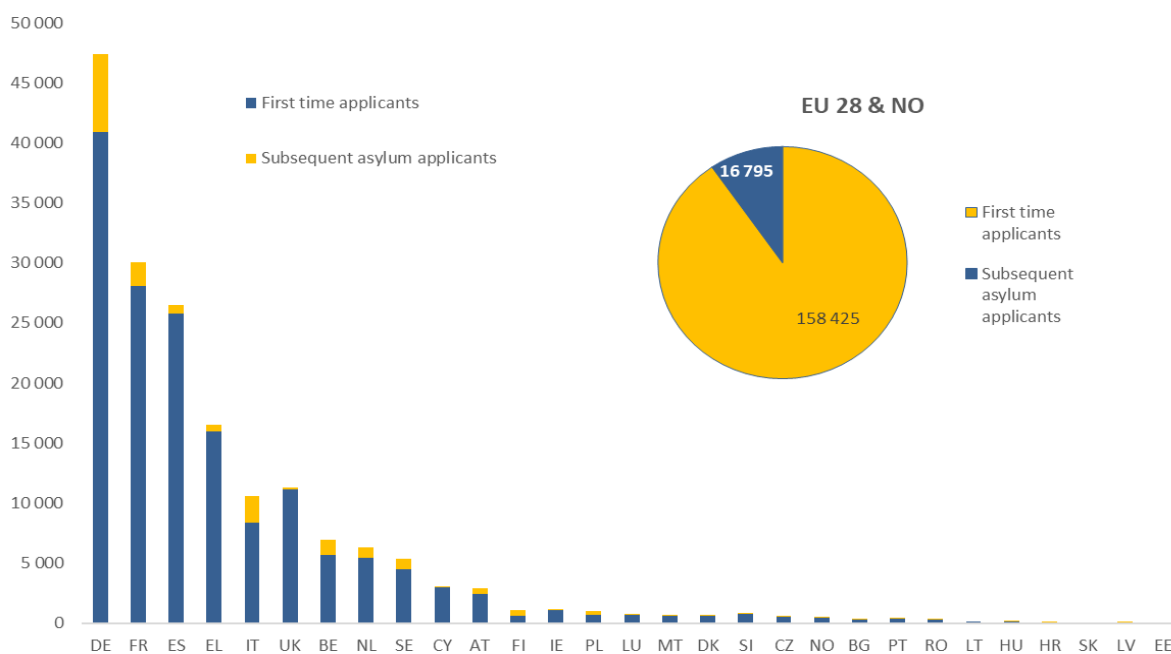
## ANNEX: EU & COMPLEMENTARY STATISTICS, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, OTHER EMN OUTPUTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**Figure 1a: Asylum applications in the EU-28, January 2018 – April 2019.**

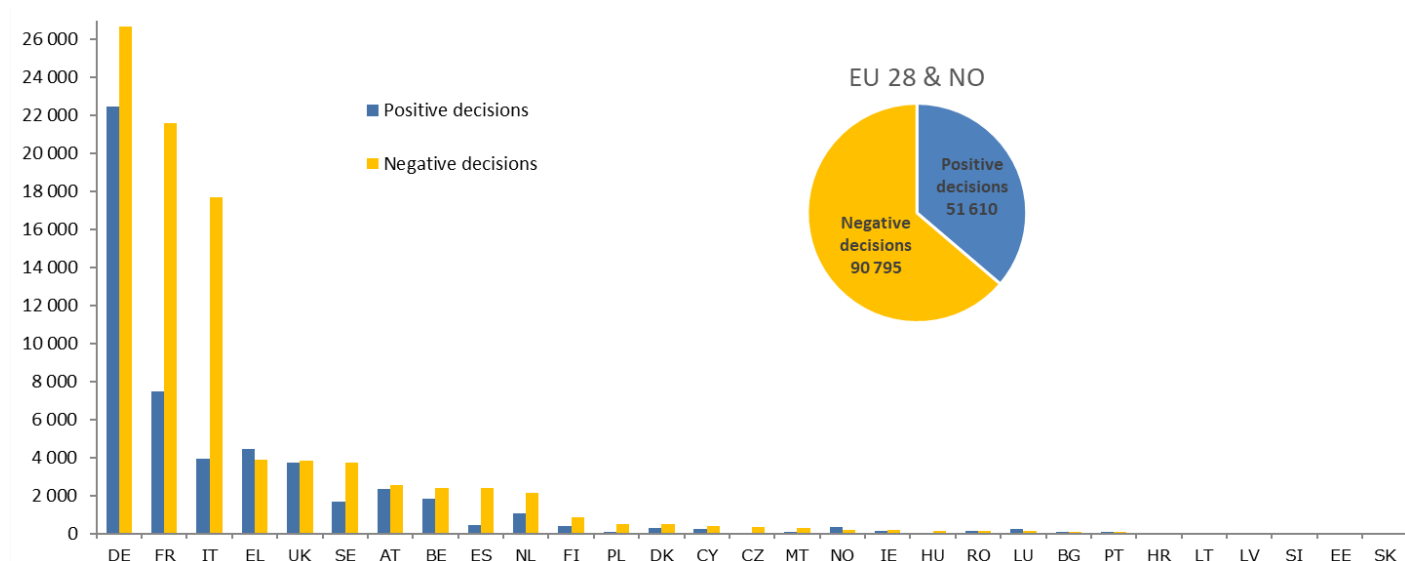


Source: Eurostat [[migr\\_asyappctzm](#)], total asylum applicants, extracted on 16 July 2019.

**Figure 1b: First time asylum applicants and subsequent applicants (together, total asylum applicants) in the EU-28 and Norway, Q1 2019 (quarterly data)**



Source: Eurostat [[migr\\_asyappctzm](#)], accessed on 16 July 2019.

**Figure 2: First instance asylum decisions in EU-28 and Norway for non-EU citizens, Q1 2019**

Source: Eurostat [[migr\\_asydcfstq](#)], accessed on 16 Jul 2019.

### Latest available national statistics

- ★ **Estonia:** In April, the Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with the EMN Estonia published an Overview of Estonian Migration Statistics 2014-2018. The document is also available in [English](#).
- ★ **France:** On 12 June, the Directorate General for Foreign Nationals in France of the Ministry of the Interior presented the annual statistics on migration, asylum, return and the acquisition of French nationality for 2018.

### Updates on EU legislation transposition

No relevant developments.

### Other EMN outputs and past/upcoming events (see also the EMN website)

- ★ **Czech Republic:** The Czech National Contact Point of the European Migration Network (EMN), attending the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EU membership on 9 May 2019, took part in the Concert for Europe on Střelecký Island in Prague. During this event, the representatives from EMN and the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic aimed to bring the asylum and migration agenda closer to the public and inform about the current situation.
- ★ **Poland:** On 3-4 June, the Polish National Contact Point of the European Migration Network organised the national conference "Cooperation with third countries in fight against smuggling and trafficking on human beings" which was held in Poland, Warsaw in the Ministry of Interior and Administration premises.
- ★ **Portugal:** The EMN co-funded Report on Immigration, Borders and Asylum (RIFA) 2018, an exhaustive and broad statistical report on last year's migration within the Portuguese territory, was presented by the PT EMN NCP Coordinator.
- ★ **Slovak Republic:** EMN Slovakia is organising the 7<sup>th</sup> Educational Seminar on Migration entitled *Impacts and Opportunities of International Migration* to be held in Bratislava on 20-22 August 2019. The Seminar will welcome international experts who will be lecturing on the following topics: politics and migration; how and why people decide to migrate; good governance as a way forward in migration and migration in urbanizing world. The event targets mainly professionals from the Slovak public administration and non-profit organisations, research institutions and academia who deal with or are interested in topics of migration and international protection. The seminar is also aimed at representatives of EMN National Contact Points from other EU Member States and Norway. More up-to-date information can be found on the webpage [www.emnseminar.sk](http://www.emnseminar.sk).

- ★ **Spain:** On 8-10 May, on the occasion of the Spanish Presidency of the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration and Asylum (IGC), the Secretariat of State for Migrations held its Full Round Meeting, with the participation of high level representatives who debate on legal migration issues.