

## Webinar

### “Maintaining labour migration in essential sectors in times of pandemic”

European Migration Network (EMN) –  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

21 October 2020, 10.30 – 11.45 (CEST)

#### I. Context and aims

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the flow of migrants who planned to enter the EU and OECD countries as workers in essential sectors (e.g. health- and care-workers, hospital auxiliary staff, agricultural workers) as well as those who were residing on a temporary or renewable basis for the purpose of work in these sectors.

From the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, the EMN and the OECD have independently been monitoring how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting migration in the EU and beyond, in order to provide information useful to governments and policy makers at all levels. The EMN and OECD are now collaborating with DG HOME to address this urgent agenda in the short and medium terms. Such a collaboration aims to generate synergies and avoid duplication of effort to address this issue.

The result of the collaboration is a series of five Informs on measures taken at national and EU level in response to COVID-19 and their impacts on migration to address the negative consequences of the pandemic. Other topics include:

- ★ [Residence permits and migrant unemployment](#) (July 2020);
- ★ Impact on [international students](#) (September 2020);
- ★ Impact on remittances (November 2020, tbc); and
- ★ Impact on return procedures (December 2020, tbc).<sup>1</sup>

EMN and OECD will host a webinar to present the key findings of each Inform.

#### II. Overview of the event

This webinar will serve to launch the third EMN-OECD Inform on the impact of COVID-19 in the migration area which focuses on the flows of legal migrant workers in essential sectors in times of pandemic.

This Inform examines in particular whether workers in certain occupational sectors – essential or otherwise – were exempted from general mobility restrictions at the external and internal borders of the EU resulting from policies to contain the pandemic. In addition, the measures implemented at national level, as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, to facilitate entry into the territory and access to the labour market of migrant workers in essential

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on EMN events: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/content/emn-events\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/content/emn-events_en)

occupations/sectors are also explored. Given their importance to the labour market of many Member States, the impact on seasonal workers is also examined.

A detailed agenda can be found below.

Agenda	
10.30 – 10.35	<b>Opening session</b> <b>Zane Rozenberga</b> , EMN Luxembourg and EMN Communication and Dissemination Working Group co-chair
10.35 – 10.50	<b>COVID-19 and Migrant Workforce: Contributions and Vulnerabilities</b> <b>Jacopo Mazza</b> , Project Officer, JRC, European Commission
10.50 – 11.05	<b>EMN OECD Inform “Maintaining labour migration in essential sectors in times of pandemic”: presentation of key findings</b> <b>Sabina Hrovatin</b> , Expert in migration policy and legislation, EMN Slovenia
11.05 – 11.20	<b>Singling out essential workers for special treatment in OECD countries: exemptions and safeguards</b> <b>Cecile Thoreau</b> , Statistician and Policy Analyst, OECD
11.20 – 11.35	<b>Q&amp;A session</b>
11.35 – 11.45	<b>Closing remarks</b> <b>Magnus Ovilius</b> , Head of Agencies and Networks Coordination Sector and Chair of the EMN, DG HOME, European Commission

Moderator: **Zane Rozenberga**