

EMN INFORM

Impacts of the European Migration Network

1. INTRODUCTION

This EMN Inform draws together examples of impacts that the EMN and its products have had in relation to policymaking and debate on issues of migration and asylum at EU and national levels.

2. KEY POINTS TO NOTE

- ★ EMN [Reports and Studies](#) are widely read by a range of national, EU and international audiences. Study themes are selected by the EMN and the Commission according to their relevance for National and EU level priorities.
- ★ EMN Studies have been used directly to feed into the policymaking process at various stages of the cycle at EU level and national level. For example, at EU level, increasingly EMN Studies are being used as discussion documents to inform policy dialogues, for example, the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA) of the Council of the EU and the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE).
- ★ EU level networking brings together EMN National Contact Points (NCPs) in the Member States and Norway on a regular basis, with relevant EU institutions, agencies and external entities. Since 2014, such networking has included the establishment of the **Return and Reintegration Experts' Group** (RREG) within the EMN.
- ★ At National level, the EMN NCPs are, through their activities, helping to bring together a wide range of national stakeholders to debate policy priorities, often contributing to uniting such stakeholders directly with policymakers.

- ★ The EMN [Ad-Hoc Query](#) tool is widely used by EU and National policymakers as a mechanism to obtain, within a short timeframe, a perspective from across all Member States (and Norway) on specific issues.
- ★ The EMN [Glossary](#) is an established source of high quality and accurate terminology in official languages used by the Member States and Norway, contributing to improving the comparability of information across the EU. The EMN Glossary in Arabic contributed in 2013 to the translation of the EU Immigration Portal into the Arabic language.
- ★ The [EMN Bulletin](#), [EMN Conferences](#), [EMN webpages](#) at EU level plus national newsletters and web-sites disseminate information on migration and asylum to wide audiences including the general public.

3. EMN ANNUAL POLICY REPORTS

The EMN produces [Annual Policy Reports](#) (APRs) setting out the most significant political and legislative (including EU) developments, as well as public debates, in the areas of migration and international protection within the Member States and Norway.

- ★ Since 2009, these have contributed to the Commission's **Annual Reports on Immigration and Asylum**, reviewing progress made in the implementation of EU immigration and asylum policy.
- ★ Information from the APRs has been used by a wide range of EU policymakers and stakeholders, including that relevant to the annual reporting requirements of the **European Asylum Support Office** (EASO), thus avoiding duplication of effort.

- ★ The information presented in the APRs has been used also as a **basis for other products**, including topical policy briefs, '[EMN Informs](#)', that have been translated into some Member State languages and widely disseminated at National level, [Country Factsheets](#), providing succinct information on the most significant political and legislative developments in migration and international protection taking place in the Member States and in Norway, plus the latest migration and international protection statistics, and APRs have also contributed to an **impact analysis** of the EU Stockholm Programme.
- ★ APRs are used at national level in a number of ways. In Belgium for example, the 2011 National Policy Report was used as a key document to organize a national roundtable on migration and asylum policy in March 2012, bringing together 70 stakeholders including high-level policy makers, experts and practitioners as well as civil society to discuss recent developments and key challenges in asylum and immigration in Belgium.

4. EMN STUDIES

[EMN Studies](#) contribute to policymaking in a variety of ways. Topics are selected according to priority by EU and national policymakers. Some relevant examples include:

- ★ **Identification of victims of trafficking in human beings in international protection and forced return procedures** (2014) has been developed in cooperation with DG HOME and the EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator. It is the first Study to specifically examine this issue. The results have been widely disseminated at EU and national level and were also presented to EASO. In **Belgium**, the study has fed directly into reflections on the future action plan to combat trafficking in human beings which will take over from the current plan 2012-2014.
- ★ **The organisation of reception facilities for asylum seekers in different Member States** (2014) Study was developed in cooperation with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and has informed EU and national policymaker / practitioner audiences. The study has been used and promoted also by the **European Network of Asylum Reception Organisations (ENARO)**, an inter-institutional network of 22 European organisations, set up to arrange the reception of asylum seekers. The preliminary results from the study were also presented at a meeting of the European Platform on Reception Agencies (EPRA) in December 2013.
- ★ **Attracting highly qualified and qualified third-country nationals** (2013) provided the Commission with valuable information on the functioning and impact of the EU Blue Card Directive 2009/50/EU, as well as new measures developed by Member States to attract entrepreneurs and investors.
- ★ **Intra-EU mobility of third-country nationals** (2013) was presented as a discussion paper to the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontier and Asylum (SCIFA) of the Council of the EU in its meeting of July 2013. The study feeds into reflexions on the future Justice and Home Affairs agenda.
- ★ **Misuse of the right to family reunification** (2012) was of considerable policy relevance. At EU level, its publication coincided with the close of the public consultation on Directive 2003/86/EC (Family Reunification Directive), and its findings were presented at a Public Hearing on the Right to Family Reunification of Third Country Nationals living in the EU on 1st June 2012.¹ The study was referenced in the EU Roadmap on Action on Migratory Pressures (a Strategic Response) under Strategic Priority V 'Safeguarding and protecting free movement by prevention of abuse by third country nationals'² and its findings presented on the EU's Integration website.³ At national level, the Report was widely shared across national networks and presented to the March 2012 General Directors' Immigration Services Conference (GDISC) workshop.
- ★ **Immigration of international students to the EU** (2012) was published expressly to coincide with the Commission's proposal for an amendment of the Student Directive 2004/114/EC, and was shaped to feed relevant findings directly into the consultation process. The Study was presented during the EMN Conference in Cyprus (see also Section 9 below) in 2012 and at the International Metropolis Conference in Finland in 2013.
- ★ **Practical measures for reducing irregular migration** (2012) was distributed widely, has been referenced in subsequent Reports⁴ and was promoted at the EMN Conference in 2011 plus other EU events, such as the Annual Conference of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), also in 2011.

¹ http://www.intercultural-europe.org/site/sites/default/files/7th%20EIF%20report%20static_38_597214446.pdf

² See: register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/12/st08/st08714-re01.en12.pdf

³ <http://familyreunification.eu/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/European-Website-on-Integration.pdf>

⁴ See: http://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/89397/An%20update%20on%20the%20situation%20of%20irregular%20migrants%20in%20Greece_SLM.pdf

- ★ **Establishing identity for international protection: challenges and practices** (2012) was targeted mainly at a national / practitioner audience and identified measures to further develop and share know-how of how to determine or attribute identity, for example, via modules on identity under the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) training curriculum⁵; developing guidelines and an EU-wide network of competence centres; and sharing expertise on identity establishment.
- ★ **Temporary and circular migration: policy, practice and future options in EU Member States** (2012) was used widely as an important source of information in an under-researched thematic area. Specifically, it was used by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to inform their work to develop a common international statistical definition of *circular migration*.
- ★ **Satisfying labour demand through migration** (2011) proved to be both topical and timely within a number of policy debates, and was widely disseminated. The European Parliament translated the Synthesis Report into DE, ES, FR and IT and circulated it to members of their LIBE Committee and their Employment Committee. The Study's findings also contributed to, and were referenced in, the Communication on the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility⁶.

5. EU NETWORKING

The EMN facilitates regular EMN NCP meetings, organised and hosted by the Commission, which bring together all EMN NCPs and wider stakeholders at EU / International level. The meetings focus on discussing the findings from EMN Studies and Reports, addressing issues and monitoring the delivery of the outputs set out in the EMN Work Programmes. The inclusion of wider EU / International stakeholders in network activities ensures that Work Programmes and activities are not developed in isolation, that opportunities to develop synergies and avoid duplication of work are maximised, that policymaker needs are better understood and addressed through the outputs developed, and that the most relevant available statistics are used in EMN Studies and Reports. In 2013, for example, in regular attendance at these meetings were representatives from the European Parliament, relevant EU Agencies (Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and Frontex), Eurostat, the EU anti-trafficking coordinator, plus OECD.

⁵ The training system of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO)

⁶ COM(2011) 743 final (p.3)

Member States expressed on several occasions the need to strengthen their operational cooperation in the field of return especially in relation to voluntary departure and reintegration of irregular migrants. The Commission therefore proposed as a first step forward to create a platform in the context of the EMN, the "**Return and Reintegration Experts' Group**" (REG) which met for the first time on 14th February 2014. This group is a one stop forum to primarily exchange statistics, experiences and information on all the programs implemented at national level to support the (voluntary) return of irregular migrants and on all the initiatives taken towards the countries of origin or transit.

6. NATIONAL NETWORKING

Each EMN NCP has developed and maintained a national network consisting of a wide range of relevant stakeholders. Activities consist of visibility actions at national level, for example, through the organisation of national conferences, networking events and setting up / maintaining national websites and newsletters, with the aim of sharing information on relevant migration and asylum issues. Almost all EMN NCPs organise each year one or more national network meetings and other events involving their network partners, often in conjunction with a twinning/cluster meeting with other EMN NCPs. A high number of national networking events act as a channel for collecting and feeding a range of perspectives on specific issues directly into national policy and legislative debates.

EMN NCPs also used their network as a vehicle to inform national audiences on perspectives from other Member States on issues of specific national relevance.

EMN NCP Italy: National Conference 2013: *the Conference brought together the national stakeholder network representing policymakers, practitioners, researchers and non-governmental organisations to debate the issue of EU and national policies to attract highly qualified and qualified third-country nationals to the EU. The national situation was presented, followed by case studies comparing different national policies and approaches presented by EMN NCPs representatives from nine Member States and Norway.*

7. EMN AD-HOC QUERIES

EMN Ad-Hoc Queries continue to be a highly responsive mechanism for collecting, in a short timeframe (normally within four weeks), comparative information from across Member States and Norway, on specific, topical issues. Almost all EMN NCPs and the Commission launched at least one Ad-Hoc Query in

2013. Lithuania was the most active EMN NCP, launching 7 Ad-Hoc Queries, followed by Estonia and Luxembourg.

Almost 500 Ad-Hoc Queries have been launched since 2008, responding to a wide range of migration and asylum issues. In 2013, on average, 6 Ad-Hoc Queries were launched every month, with responses provided from, on average, 20 (Member) States. Issues related to **international protection** were explored most frequently in 2013, accounting for 17% of all queries launched. A number of Ad-Hoc Queries concentrated on the specific circumstances of asylum seekers from countries such as Syria, Russian Federation, North Caucasus Region, Iraq and Mali. **Residence** accounted for a further 16% of Ad Hoc Queries. Other thematic areas addressed were **return**, implementation of the **EU acquis** and **irregular migration**.

The EMN Ad-Hoc Query tool has been used to inform EU and national policy-making in a number of ways:

- ★ **To provide direct and timely information to policymakers at EU level on specific issues.** For example, the Commission launched a number of EMN Ad-Hoc Queries in the course of 2013, which provided information on topics such as: *"First Experiences with the use of the Visa Information System (VIS) for Return Purposes,"* used to inform the preparation of a Communication on EU Return policy; and an Ad-Hoc Query on *"Voluntary Return Policy"* was initiated to provide an up to date mapping of activities carried out at national level in the field of voluntary return in preparation for the first meeting of the EMN Return and Reintegration Experts' Group in 2014.
- ★ **As a source of information in the preparation of policy-relevant EMN Informs** (policy briefing papers). The EMN Informs **"A brief overview of recent findings on return"** and **"Approaches and tools used by Member States to identify labour market needs"** drew from, among other sources, information provided in Ad-Hoc Queries, and were developed in response to policymaker requests, then disseminated to a wide audience.
- ★ **To provide direct and timely information to policymakers at National level on specific issues.** Answers to Ad-Hoc Queries provide **timely information to Member States** in their daily work, amending or developing regulations, investigating or evaluating policies, reviewing practices, or when facing specific challenges or problems. In **the Netherlands** for example, the State Secretary for Security and Justice recently informed the Dutch Parliament in a letter, that the EMN's Ad-Hoc Query tool had been used in order to gather information on investors/wealthy immigrants.

8. EMN GLOSSARY

The EMN Glossary Version 2.0 publication (currently available in six⁷ European language versions (DE, EN, ES, FR, IT, PT) plus Arabic, will be updated in 2014 and Version 3.0 launched in September 2014. The EMN Glossary is increasingly used by EU legislators and policymakers as the main source of common migration and asylum terms, used in the development of legal and policy documents. The EMN Glossary Version 2.0 in Arabic was used as a tool in the development of the Arabic language version of the EU Immigration Portal⁸. The updated EMN Glossary terms will be incorporated into Inter-Active Terminology for Europe (IATE).⁹

9. EMN DISSEMINATION

A range of dissemination activities takes place at EU and National levels:

- ★ The **EMN Bulletin**, produced on a quarterly basis, provides updates on EU and National legal and policy developments, plus latest available statistics, on a wide range of topical issues as well as links to EMN outputs and other developments. The EMN Bulletin has a circulation list of over 1 000 recipients.
- ★ High level **EMN Conferences** each year highlight specific issues and topics of EU and international importance and draw together legislators, policymakers, practitioners, researchers and NGOs with relevant thematic interests.
- ★ The EMN **website** makes available to a wide audience all of the EU and National outputs produced by the EMN.

Dissemination activities by **EMN NCPs at National level**, including national websites, events, conferences and newsletters have helped to raise awareness of the work and products of the EMN amongst national policymakers, practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders, including the wider public, and have been valuable in developing discussion and debate, feeding into national policymaking.

10. FURTHER INFORMATION

You may obtain further details on this EMN Inform and/or on any other aspect of the EMN, from: HOME-EMN@ec.europa.eu. All EMN products described above are available on the [EMN website](#).

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⁷ The MT EMN NCP has also developed a version in Maltese.

⁸ <http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/>

⁹ <http://iate.europa.eu/>