



## **EMN Ad-Hoc Query on COM AHQ on Identification missions**

Requested by Salvatore SOFIA on 9th January 2017

### **Irregular Migration**

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Blocked / Unknown, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Norway (25 in total)

#### Disclaimer:

*The following responses have been provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs have provided, to the best of their knowledge, information that is up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided does not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.*



### **Background information:**







Identification missions from third countries to EU Member States (MS) can be a useful tool for identifying irregularly staying migrants (for instance when important number of persons need to be identified at the same time), complementing on ad-hoc basis the day-to-day cooperation on identification with consular authorities. Given the efforts and costs the preparation of such identification missions involve, considering their more frequent use, and taking into account mixed results of some of them, it is appropriate to make an assessment of their effectiveness so as to draw lessons and identify best practices. You are therefore invited to reply to this query, by 6th February 2017. Its results will be used in a seminar on identification missions tentatively planned for 13 14 February 2017 by Frontex.












### **Questions**






1. This Ad-Hoc Query consists of several questions with tables to compile. Please download the attached word document, insert the data in the respective table and upload your reply as 'supporting document'.

### **Responses**

	<b>Country</b>	<b>Wider Dissemination</b>	<b>Response</b>
	Austria	No	
	Belgium	Yes	<b>1.</b> The Belgian response to the Eurint Call for information 'MS experience in organising identification missions (Task Forces) 2015 - 2016' of September 2016, still applies. Belgium has not received incoming identification missions from third countries in the years 2015 and 2016. However Belgium is working on "videoconferencing for identification" as an alternative to identification missions from third countries to EU Member States. On the occasion of the open call launched by the European Commission in the framework of the Community Actions 2013 for the European Return Fund, the Belgian Immigration Office submitted a project proposal entitled "Videoconferencing for Identification". This project was approved, involving, besides Belgium as project leader, the Polish Border Guard and the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project allowed to test / pilot the use of videoconferencing infrastructure for the

			purpose of identification of irregularly staying foreigners residing in the Member States. The project aimed at improving efficiency and obtaining economies of scale in the identification process. In 2016, the tools were tested, demonstrations were made to the different services likely to use them, and new tools were purchased. The tools were used inter alia to conduct identification interviews from December 2015 until December 2016 (33 interviews – 15 from prison – between a foreigner and a consul and 20 interviews - 3 from prison – between a foreigner and the unit responsible for the identification of detained persons, Immigration Office). The Belgian Immigration Office, as project leader and coordinator of the European Return Liaison Officers (EURLO) network, is also involved in EURLO's proposal for an action grant to support video-conferencing as a tool for identifying irregularly staying migrants.
	Blocked / Unknown	Yes	1. -
	Bulgaria	Yes	1. There were not identification missions from third countries to Bulgaria during the reference period.
	Croatia	Yes	1. Croatia has not organised such missions.
	Cyprus	Yes	1. NO IDENTIFICATION MISSIONS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED OR TAKEN PLACE IN CYPRUS.
	Czech Republic	Yes	1. The Czech Republic has not organized such missions.
	Estonia	Yes	1. Unfortunately Estonia has not organized any identification missions from third countries and therefore we do not have practical input into the questionnaire.
	Finland	Yes	1. Finland's response included as an attachment.

	France	No	
	Germany	Yes	<b>1.</b> Please see the already attached EURINT questionnaire. Nothing has to be amended or supplemented.
	Ireland	No	
	Italy	No	
	Latvia	Yes	<b>1.</b> Latvia has not used identification missions during the requested period and within the mentioned formats.
	Lithuania	Yes	<b>1.</b> Lithuania has not organized such missions in 2015-2016.
	Luxembourg	Yes	<b>1.</b> See attached document.
	Malta	Yes	<b>1.</b> Attached
	Netherlands	No	
	Poland	Yes	<b>1.</b> see attachment
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<b>1.</b> Slovak Republic has not organised any identification mission from a third country. The only ones were organised from diplomatic missions of third countries. In 2016, Slovak Republic had only the following identification visits conducted by consular representatives (with no financial costs borne by the Slovak Republic): - One identification mission from an Afghan embassy in

			Prague in the detention facility in Medved'ov. The reason was to identify third-country nationals and to issue them travel documents. As a result, emergency travel documents were issued to these 3 Afghan nationals. However, one person from this group refused to be returned and stopped cooperating. - One identification mission from Vietnamese embassy in Bratislava in detention facility in Medved'ov (16.03.2016). 2 returnees were interviewed and identified, ETD was issued, return was realised through AVR project. - One identification mission from Indian embassy in Bratislava in detention facility in Sečovce (15.01.2016). 3 returnees were interviewed, ETD were not issued. - One identification mission from a Russian embassy in Slovakia in detention facility in Sečovce (16.08.2016). 1 returnee was interviewed, ETD were not issued. Further detailed information about the visits is not available.
	Slovenia	Yes	1. NTC.
	Spain	Yes	1. Please see document attached.
	Sweden	Yes	1. Please see the attached document
	United Kingdom	Yes	1. Please see the supporting document.
	Norway	Yes	1. See attached files. Note that supplementary information may be provided orally at the 13-14 February meeting on some of the items where the NA reply has been given, and be entered into the files following that meeting.