

The European Migration Network

Maltese National Contact Point



SCOPE AND LEGAL BASIS

The European Migration Network is an EU network of migration and asylum experts who work together to provide **objective, comparable and policy-relevant information**. The EMN was legally established under Council Decision 2008/381/EC, amended by Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council in April 2014.

The European Commission (DG Home) coordinates the European Migration Network.



STRUCTURE OF THE EMN

The EMN is made up of different entities such as:

- The EU Commission
- All EU MS NCPs plus Norway
- EMN Steering Board

Expert groups encompass:

- Return Expert Group
- Info Working Group

Multi-Level Network comprises:

- EURINT – European Integrated Return Management Initiative Network
- ERIN – European Reintegration Network

EMN also liaises with:

- FRONTEX
- EASO
- EUROPOL
- JRC and Odysseus Network

STRUCTURE OF THE EMN

- The EMN is funded by the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)**, and a two year budget is allocated to support EMN NCPs.
- **EMN Work Programme** is developed by the EMN and is approved by the EU Commission.
- The **EMN Steering Board** provides strategic guidance on EMN activities. It is chaired by the EU Commission and comprised of one representative from all EU MS as well as observers from EU Parliament and Norway, while the EU Commission is assisted by service providers for coordination.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS

- Ad-Hoc Queries
- EMN Studies
- EMN Annual Policy Reports
- EMN Quarterly Newsletter
- Publishing of Glossary
- Thematic Seminars
- Annual Conferences

EMN STUDIES IN 2018

- Integration Policies for Third Country Nationals across EU Member States and Norway, with focus on Labour Market Integration Measures.
- Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination.
- Attracting and retaining international students and researchers in the EU.
- Beneficiaries of International protection travelling to their country of origin: challenges, policies and practices.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS IN 2018

Outcomes of the Study on the Impact of Visa Liberalisation on Countries of Destination

- Visa liberalisation led to an immediate increase in short-term travel to the EU Member States and Norway from visa-free countries, an increase in control activities to avoid the misuse of visa liberalisation and an immediate reduction in the workload of consulate staff.
- Following visa liberalisation, there has been an increase in the number of resident permits issued to nationals of the eight visa-free countries, mostly for remunerated activities.
- Several Member States reported an overall increase in the number of asylum applications from visa-free countries following visa liberalisation. Most of these applications received a negative decision.
- The number of visa-free nationals overstaying their maximum period allowed increased after visa liberalisation in Member States.
- Available data was limited to establish a clear link between visa liberalisation and the facilitation of irregular migration.
- Most Member States did not report specific challenges related to illegal employment after visa liberalisation was introduced.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS IN 2018

Outcomes of the Study on Labour Market Integration of TCNs in the EU Member States

- Most Member States were found to have dedicated labour market integration policies in place, targeting multiple migrant groups, including first generation third-country nationals.
- These policies combine both mainstream and tailored labour market integration measures: mainstream measures help to ensure third-country nationals receive equal access to general (public employment) services, while tailored measures give specific support needed to help migrants to succeed in a job and a new society, such as language or job qualification training.
- The three most common obstacles to labour market integration relate to the accreditation of job qualifications and assessment of skills; discriminatory behaviours in recruitment processes; and insufficient language skills.
- Public sector integration measures focus primarily on the phase before accessing employment, such as preparing and searching for a job.
- Private sector measures aim more specifically at integrating the migrant worker into the *workplace*, including training and enhancing intercultural relations in the workplace.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS IN 2018

Outcomes of the Inform on Social Benefits and Rights for Beneficiaries of International Protection

Key Findings

- Differences remain across the Member States with respect to the levels of social benefits and rights granted to beneficiaries of international protection; however, it is clear that Member States uphold certain minimum levels of the respective social benefits and rights.
- All Member States treat access to education and access to healthcare as a fundamental right.
- Arrangements for granting respective social benefits and rights vary among Member States, across all five social benefit categories (education, health care, housing, family reunification and financial allowances).
- Most Member States appear to provide the same access to and/or conditions for education, health care, financial allowances housing, family reunification for refugees and for those who are granted subsidiary protection.
- In the majority of Member States, governmental authorities and NGOs cooperate in providing different social benefits for beneficiaries of international protection.

RESEARCH LAUNCHED 2018

Study on Beneficiaries of International Protection Travelling to their Country of Origin: Challenges, Policies and Practices

The aim of study is to procure information about the reasons for beneficiaries of protection travelling to their country of origin.

This is in view of the fact that:

- Both international refugee and EU Asylum law encompass several grounds, whereby protection status may come to an end in circumstances, where it is apparent that protection is no longer necessary nor justified, being referred to as cessation grounds.
- Furthermore, this study aims to analyse the possible consequences of such acts on the international protection status and residence rights of the persons concerned.

2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- **Topic** - Legal Migration and the Labour Market in the EU: Perspective from Member States
- **Speakers** – Academics, Jobsplus, ID Malta, Austrian NCP, Swedish NCP, Slovenian NCP
- **Issues discussed:**
 - Overview of the Legal Migration Legislative Framework in the European Union
 - Procedures in place for living and working in Malta.
 - Tangible data as to the number of residence permits issued in Malta, from 2011 to 2017, followed by reason.
 - Due diligence and verification checks
 - Simplification of procedures
 - Overview of Legal Migration in Austria: From Historical Development to Current Trends.
 - The Swedish experience in the implementation of the directives –EU Blue Card Directive, Intra-Corporate Transferee Directive and Seasonal Workers Directive
 - Negative and positive aspect of labour migration in Slovenia

ACTIVITIES IN 2018

- **Cluster Meeting** held on the 27th April - This meeting offered the opportunity to EMN National Contact Points to share their experiences in reaching national policymakers. NCPs from Hungary, Poland, Sweden and UK attended the meeting. National policymakers from the Maltese government shared their own perspective by expressing their information needs and giving examples of relevant experiences. Focusing on challenges encountered and solutions to be addressed, the cluster meeting was an occasion for mutual learning among participants.



ACTIVITIES IN 2018

- **Seminar** on “The Involvement of Academics and Students at UM in EMN” held on 26th June 2017. It aimed at bringing academics and students together with EMN MT NCP, while focusing on how to engage academia and students within the European Migration Network. The outcome was a positive one, with academics stating that, primarily there was not enough knowledge about the European Migration Network.



2017-2018 CLOSURE

- Programme ended on 31st December 2018
- Utilisation of funds – approx. 90% i.e. 215,000 euro out of 236,000

WORK PROGRAMME 2019-2020

- Proposal submitted in December 2018
- New Grant Agreement signed in May 2019.

Estimated eligible costs (per budget category)/						EU contribution	
A. Direct personnel costs	B. Direct travel and subsistence costs	C. Direct costs of subcontracting	E. Other direct costs	F. Indirect costs	Total costs	Reimbursement rate %	Maximum EU Contribution
A.1 Employees	B.1 Travel		E.1 Equipment E.2 Other goods and services				
115,135.00	28,750.00	0.00	49,312.00	15,494.29	236,841.29	95	224,999.23

PERSONNEL

- National Coordinator – 50% of working week
- 2 Project Administrators – Full-time (one position is vacant)
- 2 Support Staff – few hours per week



TRAVEL

- EMN NCP meetings (at least 4 per year)
- Steering Board meetings (2 annually)
- Return Expert Group (Government Experts and NGOs)
- Info Working Group
- Glossary and Thesaurus Working Group
- Communication and Dissemination Working Group



OTHER DIRECT COSTS

- Logistics for events – venue, audio-visual services, catering, interpretation, speaker fees, brochures
- Promotional material
- Design and Printing of Newsletter
- Printing of Glossary Version 6

EVENTS FOR 2019 AND 2020

- 3 Stakeholder Meetings (April 2019, January and December 2020)
- Three thematic seminars
- 2 Annual Conferences
- Joint EMN-OECD event on 27 May
 - The aim is to reflect on the European Parliament's elections and launch the 2018 EMN Annual Report on Migration and Asylum.
- EMN Day
 - Starting from this year an EMN Day will be organised at EU level annually in June.

RESEARCH FOR 2019 AND 2020

- **Continuous replies to Ad Hoc Queries:**

- Overview of AVRR assistance for Tunisia
- International students seeking employment after graduating
- Access conditions of TCNs to social benefits and grants
- Resettled Persons

RESEARCH FOR 2019 AND 2020

- **Updating of EU Immigration Portal**

- Information for TCNs wishing to work in Malta: conditions to fulfil and procedures to follow, as well as the rights of foreign workers.

- **Updating of EMN Bulletin**

- The implementation of the Common European Asylum System
- Unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups
- Legal migration and integration
- Management of the external borders
- Irregular migration and return
- Actions addressing trafficking in human being

RESEARCH FOR 2019 AND 2020

- **Updating of the EMN Glossary and Thesaurus**
 - Participation in the Glossary and Thesaurus Working Group
 - Discussion and translation of new terms
 - Printing of Glossary Version 6
 - Examples of terms under discussion

Term	Current definition
EU Action Plan on Return	A document presenting a series of concrete actions to enable EU Member States and the European Union to substantially improve the efficiency of their return system.
European Agenda on Migration	A strategic document of the European Union presented in May 2015 outlining a comprehensive approach to migration management addressing the asylum and migration challenges as well as defining steps to be taken to ensure strong borders, fair procedures and a sustainable system able to anticipate future problems in the context of asylum and migration.
European migration liaison officer (EMLO)	A specialised liaison officer seconded in EU Delegations in third countries tasked to coordinate and represent EU interests in the field of migration with the aim of maximising the impact of EU action on migration in third countries and enhancing the engagement of key countries of origin and transit on the entire spectrum of migration issues.

RESEARCH FOR 2019 AND 2020

- **Launched Studies**

- Comparative overview of national protection statuses in the EU and Norway
- Migratory pathways for start-ups and innovative entrepreneurs in the EU and Norway

- **Studies in the pipeline**

- Pathways to citizenship in the EU Member States and Norway (SE NCP)
- The nexus between migration and threat to national security

RESEARCH FOR 2019 AND 2020

- **Annual Report on Migration**

- The Annual National Report on Migration 2018 was launched in November 2018. This is an extensive and holistic report where all Ministries and Government entities are involved.
- The synthesis report and the statistical annex lead to the Country Factsheet, which includes up-to-date information on the administration and legal structure of migration.
- In this report all entities give an overview of a year's work, what would have been accomplished during the year, with possible expectations for the upcoming year.
- The Synthesis Report for 2018 was launched on 27th May during the EMN-OECD joint Event.

RESEARCH FOR 2019 AND 2020

- **Quarterly Journal**
 - Latest developments in migration policy
 - Latest trends in migration
 - Latest EMN publications
 - Articles from stakeholders, both government and NGOs



OTHER INITIATIVES

- **IT & Data Protection Workshop**
 - Aimed at data protection officers and IT developers working in the field of migration.
- **EMN Website**
 - An optimisation of the search engine was carried out. COM was also working on improving the user-friendliness for mobile devices.
- **Information sharing and cooperation with third countries**

FINAL REMARKS

You are our stakeholders too!

- Please do not hesitate to put forward any queries or suggestions focusing on EMN Work or regarding EMN MT NCP events.
- We will be glad to discuss such issues with all stakeholders, either through email or if need be by setting up meetings.
- We are also looking forward to more input and more diverse topics for our EMN Quarterly Journal. So please feel free to contact us with new topics highlighting the various spheres of migration.

Thank you for your attention!

