

EMN Cluster Meeting

EMN Research – Optimising NCP's National Reports

Vienna 22 September 2015

The National Contact Point (NCP) Austria in the European Migration Network (EMN) organized an internal cluster meeting to focus on optimizing EMN research by improving the national reports.

EMN NCP representatives from 12 different EU Member States participated in the meeting that took place on 22 September 2015.



During this working meeting the participants discussed how to optimize the quality of national EMN studies. This topic was one of the key findings of the external evaluation of the EMN. EMN outputs are generally considered to be of high quality by stakeholders, but more emphasis should be placed on the quality of national reports. The evaluation found that the general quality of national contributions varied in terms of the research methodology, and that quality assurance processes could be quite heterogeneous.

The meeting started with a tour de table revealing interesting insights in best practice examples of the different NCPs on their modalities of publishing the respective national reports of the EMN studies. The modalities vary and range from publishing the information in the format of the initial common template, drafting a stand-alone product adapted to the national context, to different variations such as summaries and short reports including the main results of the study. After a discussion, common suggestions for way forward were agreed upon.

The topic of the second part of the meeting focused on possible ways of optimizing the quality of national contributions. The participants reflected on the methodology that they use to conduct research and elaborated on the quality control mechanisms they have in place. This showed that very different methods and review processes are in place in the different EMN NCPs. This led to the conclusion that in future when preparing the study templates, more attention should be paid to the methodology to be engaged for the respective study.

The last part of the working session was dedicated to the question of how quality could be improved in terms of reliability and comparability of data and statistics. The topic was introduced by quoting the “Checklist for collecting, providing and presenting migration and asylum statistics in EMN outputs” that was developed by the EMN Statistics Working Group in 2014. Following a discussion, the participants agreed to better promote the checklist in order to increase its application when conducting national studies.

The Austrian NCP will present the results of the cluster meeting to the European Commission and the other NCPs at the upcoming 75th NCP Meeting in Brussels with the aim to present the next steps forward within the EMN.

