

EMN BULLETIN

The EMN Bulletin provides policymakers and other practitioners with updates on recent migration and international protection policy developments at EU and national level. The 16th Edition provides information from July 2016 to September 2016, including the (latest) relevant published statistics.

The Bulletin is organised by policy area. You can directly access the area of your interest by clicking on one of the following themes:

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SPECIAL NOTE

On 19th September, the UN Head Quarter hosted the [UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants](#). The event, which saw the participation of a high-level delegation from the European Union, gathered for the first time world leaders on the topic of large movements of refugees and migrants. The outcome of the Summit was [the New York Declaration](#), which expressed the commitment to saving lives and supporting countries that rescue migrants, protecting rights of all migrants and refugees, and sharing responsibility on a global scale, for instance by strengthening the economic contribution made by migrants to their host countries, and by improving the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Declaration also set an action plan, which features the negotiations for the approval in 2012 of two global compacts, for safe, orderly and regular migration and for refugees, and the development of guidelines on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations.



On occasion of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU, the [second EMN Annual Conference](#), '[Rethinking Returns from the EU. Sustainable Returns and Cooperation with Countries of Origin](#)', took place in Bratislava on 6th and 7th July 2016. The speakers featured high-level representatives of the EU institutions and Member States, countries of origin and international organisations and NGOs. The conference was organised around panels on the topics of i. enhancing cooperation with countries of return, ii. achieving sustainable return and reintegration, iii. countries of origin perspectives on return and reintegration, iv. return, as part of migration management v. approaches to rejected asylum seekers and migrants with challenges to return. The Summary of the Conference Findings is available on the

[conference website](#).

1. GENERAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 28th September, the [Commission reported on the progress](#) made under the **European Agenda on Migration** and in the context of the [EU-Turkey Statement](#). On **relocation**, 5,651 persons have been relocated since the launch of the scheme in September 2015 ([Council Decision 2015/1601](#)), of which 1,196 from Italy and 4,455 from Greece. On **resettlement**, 10,695 persons have been resettled both under the resettlement scheme agreed upon in July 2015 and under the [EU-Turkey Statement](#) of March 2016. In particular, 1,715 persons were resettled under the EU-Turkey Statement since April 2016 and 1,078 were returned to Turkey. The visa liberalisation process is ongoing and 65 out of 72 benchmarks have been fulfilled by Turkey. In its [Sixth report on relocation and resettlement](#), the Commission acknowledged the progress made under the relocation scheme, but also recalled that the target set in the [First Report on Relocation and Resettlement](#), i.e. at least 6,000 relocations per month remained unfulfilled. The Commission therefore called on Member States to start implementing or to speed up the implementation of relocation operations.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ★ **Austria:** On 24th September 2016 the Austrian Federal Chancellor invited ten Heads of Government from the region (Albania, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Croatia, FYROM (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Serbia, Slovenia, Hungary, Interior Minister of Romania) as well as the president of the European Council and the European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship to a Summit in Vienna in order to discuss [migration along the Balkan route](#).

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 13th July 2016, the Commission presented **three legislative proposals** to complete the reform of the Common European Asylum System. The [Proposal for a Regulation establishing common procedures for international protection](#) would repeal the recast Asylum Procedures Directive (2013/32/EU) with the aim to establish an EU asylum procedure that would be "efficient, fair and balanced" and that would achieve greater harmonisation across Member States.

The Commission also proposed the replacement of the [recast Qualification Directive](#) (2011/95/EU) with a [Regulation on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection and for the content of the protection granted](#). The Regulation would harmonise the standards for the qualification for and the content of international protection, so that applicants would have the same chance to receive protection and the same rights thereof. The proposal included an amendment of [Long-term Residents Directive](#) (2003/109/EC) of 25th November 2003 concerning the status of third-country nationals who were long-term residents in the EU, to prevent secondary movements. According to the amendment, the 5-year period after which beneficiaries of international protection were eligible for long-term resident status would be restarted each time the person is found irregularly in another Member State.

Finally, the Commission [proposed a second recast](#) of the [Reception Conditions Directive](#) (2013/33/EU), which would increase the degree of harmonisation of reception conditions across the EU, reduce the incentives for secondary movements and improve the integration perspectives of applicants.

Additionally, as a new measure part of the reform of the Common European Asylum System, the Commission proposed the creation of an [EU Resettlement Framework through a Regulation](#). The Framework would be permanent and would set a unified procedure for the selection and treatment of resettlement candidates across the EU. The resettlement operations carried out under the scheme would be financed by the [EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund \(AMIF\)](#) for up to €10,000 per person. Member States would decide how many people to admit through the resettlement scheme.

- ★ On 29th July 2016, Italy and Greece received € 11 million in [emergency funding within the Internal Security Fund \(ISF\)](#). In **Italy**, the extra funding supported the search and rescue operations at sea. In particular, the Italian Coast Guard was awarded with € 2.2 million, for activities including the provision of food on-board for migrants and for staff costs, and the Italian Navy was awarded with € 1 million to be allocated on new equipment purchases. In **Greece**, the emergency funding was allocated to strengthen the reception capacity and medical services. In particular, the Greek Reception and Identification Service was awarded € 7.3 million, whilst € 500,000 was allocated to the Reception and Identification Centre in Samos, to improve the water supply network and the sewage system.
- ★ On 22nd July, **Greece** received € 82.6 million in [emergency funding within the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund \(AMIF\) and Internal Security Fund \(ISF\)](#). In particular, the Ministry of Health was awarded € 24.2 million to support the provision of primary healthcare to migrants and refugees, at refugees accommodation centres and through the public health system; the Greek Ministry of Defence was awarded € 58.4 million to be allocated on the first reception of migrants, for instance in providing urgent shelters, accommodation, catering healthcare and transportation.

LATEST RELEVANT STATISTICS

- ★ According to the [latest Eurostat data](#), the total **number of applications for international protection lodged in the EU remained stable and only slightly increased by 6% in the second quarter of 2016 (total number April to June: 317,835), compared to the previous quarter (total number January to March: 299,325)**. Figure 1a in the Annex shows that, during 2016, the applications reached the highest monthly number in June (106,770) and then dropped to 97,300 in July, representing a decrease of 7% compared to the same month of the previous year (122,575). As shown in Figure 1b, in the second quarter of 2016, **96%** of the total applications for international protection were **first time applications** (306,385) and the top-three Member States receiving asylum applications were **Germany** (190,685), **Italy** (27,420) and **France** (20,060).
- ★ A total number of **240,110 first instance asylum decisions** were issued in the EU and Norway in the second quarter of 2016. The total positive decisions for this period amounted to **141,260**, while negative decisions were **98,850** (see Figure 2 in the Annex). The largest number of first instance asylum decisions was issued in **Germany**, followed by **Sweden** and **Italy**.
- ★ EASO published its [Latest Asylum Trends](#) for August 2016. According to the document, the number of asylum applications lodged in the EU 28 plus Norway and Switzerland reached 137,688 in August, representing the highest monthly number during 2016. However, asylum applications decreased by 8% compared to August 2015 (149,006). In August 2016, the three top-nationalities of asylum applicants were Syrians (31,552), followed by Afghans (23,871) and Iraqis (13,812). Syrian nationals have accounted for the largest number of asylum applicants since April 2015.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Belgium:** The [list of safe countries of origin](#) was updated by the Royal Decree of 3rd August 2016. Besides the same seven countries as in previous years (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM, Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro and India), the new list now also includes Georgia. In the framework of a decreasing inflow of asylum seekers, the [implementation of the new reception model for asylum seekers](#) – based on the principle that collective reception in open reception centres applies as a general rule, while individual reception in individual housing is reserved for vulnerable asylum seekers – could be resumed.
- ★ **Finland:** The Finnish Immigration Service has registered that more applicants than before do not have grounds for being granted international protection. It was also registered that most of the Iraqis who received a negative decision during the summer were from Bagdad, as well as the Iraqis who withdrew their applications themselves and voluntarily returned home were from the Iraqi capital.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** On 13th June 2016, the Luxembourg Centre for Integration and Cohesion (Lëtzebuenger Integratiouns- a Kohäsiounscenter – LISKO) was inaugurated. This service, provided by the Red Cross and financed by the Ministry of Family and Integration, has been operational since April 2016 and supports, guides and accompanies beneficiaries of international protection in their process of integration into Luxembourgish society.

On 1st July 2016, SYVICOL (Syndicat des Villes et Communes Luxembourgeoises) and Luxembourg Reception and Integration Agency (OLAI) published a [practical guide to the Communal Integration Plan](#) in order to assist the municipalities in developing and implementing a tailor-made integration policy based on a transversal and sustainable approach that considers all domains of communal life.
- ★ **Netherlands:** Due to the lower influx of asylum seekers in the Netherlands in the last months, it is expected that for the remaining months of 2016 and 2017 enough reception facilities would be available. In the event of increased number of asylum seekers, enough housing is available to accommodate asylum applicants in need for shelter and housing and there is [no need for additional reception facilities on the short term](#). In July 2016, the Dutch Council of State judged that the [Minister of Migration has rightly designated Albania as a safe country of origin](#). Two Albanian women who applied for an asylum permit on the grounds of their sexual orientation have been unable to show that Albania in their case was not a safe country for them. Therefore, the Minister of Migration was entitled to refuse the request for their asylum permits.
- ★ **Sweden:** On 21st September 2016, the Swedish Minister of Justice and Migration together with representatives of four opposition parties and the Green party announced that Sweden would increase its annual resettlement quota by 1,500 additional places in 2017. This means that 3,400 persons in need of protection will be resettled to Sweden in 2017. For 2016, and earlier years, the resettlement quota was 1,900 persons. Last October, the Government and opposition parties had agreed to gradually increase the annual Swedish resettlement quota to 5,000 persons by the year 2018.
- ★ **UK:** On the 19th of July a community sponsorship scheme was launched in the UK. The full community sponsorship scheme will enable community groups, including charities, faith groups, churches and businesses, to take on the role of supporting resettled refugees in the UK. Additionally, an online service to help refugees in the UK has been developed to make it easier for any member of the public to support refugees in the UK and allow local authorities to focus support on the goods and services that refugees need.

3. UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

EU AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 20th September 2016, following the pledges made at the [London Conference for Syria held in February 2016](#) to commit € 3 billion to assist Syrians fleeing the conflict, the European Union committed € **90 million via the EU Regional Trust Fund to support UNICEF** in working with children and young persons. In particular, the EU-UNICEF partnership will work to respond to the educational and protection needs of children and young persons in Syrian neighbouring countries, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey both from the Syrian and the host communities.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** On 1st August 2016, the Mandatory Education Act (Ausbildungspflichtgesetz) entered into force. Accordingly, guardians of minors have a duty to ensure that after they have finished school, minors pursue further education or vocational training up to the age of 18 years. This obligation also applies to beneficiaries of international protection.
- ★ **Cyprus:** Due to the rising numbers of unaccompanied minors (UAMs), the Social Welfare Services have taken several actions to provide for their care. One recent action is the funding of a programme run by the NGO "Hope for Children" for foster families for unaccompanied minors. In August 2016, the Social Welfare Services provided financial assistance of € 22.000 for four months for the running of the programme until December 2016, which will be evaluated. The financial assistance may be continued upon evaluation. The scope of the programme is the [identification, evaluation and training of potential foster families](#) to care for UAMs. The programme will run in co-operation with the Social Welfare Services, as the competent authority to approve foster families.
- ★ **Finland:** Reception centres that were established for UAM asylum seekers will be turned into [family group homes or units for supported housing](#). This new initiative by the Finnish Immigration Service and the ELY centres working under the Ministry of Employment and the Economy has already been agreed upon by a number of municipalities and service providers.
- ★ **France:** In a [decision](#) of 1st July 2016, the Ministry of Justice has established targets for proportionate distribution of accommodation of minors temporarily or definitively deprived of the protection of their families. This decision enables the application of [decree](#) n° 2016-840 of 24th June 2016 which has completed law n° 2016-297 of 14th March 2016 on child protection. This decree defines the conditions for the assessment of the situation of minors temporarily or definitively deprived of the protection of their families and the conditions of distribution of these minors in the respective departments.
- ★ **Netherlands:** From 1st August 2016 onwards, there is a [trust officer on every reception location of the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers](#) (COA) where LGBT asylum applicants can raise issues of discrimination and threat. The [trust officers](#) are trained and are linked to the current contact persons for security at the reception centers. At several reception centers, there are also designated areas where vulnerable asylum seekers, like LGBT applicants who fear for their security, are accommodated. This is already in place in the centers in Amsterdam, Almere and Zeist. In September 2016, the Minister for Migration informed the Dutch House of Representatives about the improvements Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers initiated regarding the [protected reception offered to specific groups of UAMs](#). UAMs in the Netherlands are entitled to special reception facilities that fit their age. They are supported by employees that focus on the social development of unaccompanied minors. A guardian from the Dutch NIDOS foundation is assigned to them, and they are under supervision of trained COA workers. COA will focus on 12 points that were deemed to be insufficient in an evaluation by the Inspectorate for Youth Care and the Inspection Security and Justice. The issues that were evaluated and will be improved are: providing a safe and attractive environment, support and guidance for the development of unaccompanied minors, their legal status and the transfer of information regarding subsequent reception.

4. LEGAL MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

EU AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ The European Union, within the [Creative Europe programme](#), [has allocated more than € 2 million in cultural projects that support refugees' integration](#). The 62 participating organisations include a varied range of sectors, from publishing to dance.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** On 16th August 2016, [the Integration Report 2016](#) was launched by the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs. The Integration Report provides a comprehensive overview of integration in Austria and has been published since 2011.

On 12th July 2016, the new Law on Recognition and Assessment of Qualifications entered into force. The aim of the law is to facilitate integration into the labour market and support efforts taken by immigrants and beneficiaries of international protection to find employment in accordance with their vocational training. Key elements of the law include the introduction of two service facilities: the recognition portal („Anerkennungsportal“) and the national contact point for information and counselling („AST – Anlaufstellen für Personen mit im Ausland erworbenen

Qualifikationen“) as well as the introduction of specific procedures for beneficiaries of international protection to facilitate the recognition of their qualifications in case documents are missing.

- ★ **Belgium:** A [Decree](#) of the government of the French speaking Community – which entered into force on 15th September 2016 – introduced changes regarding the procedure for the recognition of higher education diplomas and certificates issued abroad. As a result, two distinct procedures are now in place: one for full academic equivalence of certificate and diplomas and another solely for assessing the education level to which the certificate or diploma refers. Additionally, the decree also lowers the application fees for graduates from certain countries, introduces a procedure adapted to refugees and beneficiaries of international protection and other distinct procedures for the recognition of qualifications for work and study purposes.
- ★ **Czech Republic:** After the migration project for highly skilled Ukrainian workers had been introduced last year, the Czech Republic launched a new scheme for medium and low skilled workforce on 1st August 2016. The aim of the new Special Treatment Scheme for Qualified Employees from Ukraine is to tackle labour market shortages by increasing by approximately three times the number of applicants for an Employee Card (long-term residence permit) monthly admitted to the Consulate General in L’viv, Ukraine. The scheme is open to Ukrainian workers of Czech employers that have been approved upon request by appointed national commerce chambers and associations. Such companies are required to meet certain criteria in order to prevent potential misuse or abuse of the scheme and mismatch of vacancies and migrants.
- ★ **Germany:** On 8th July 2016, the Bundestag approved a Government’s proposal for a new integration law. The law is intended to facilitate refugees’ integration into the German society and is based on the principle of support and challenge. Asylum seekers who have good prospects of being allowed to stay permanently will be eligible to take integration courses and to take advantage of jobs and trainings opportunities sooner than before and will also be required to work on their own integration. Those asylum seekers who refuse to take an integration course or who do not meet their duties to cooperate can be sanctioned with cutbacks of their social benefits. To avoid concentration in urban areas, the federal states can assign refugees a place of residence during the first three years. The Federal Employment Agency will also suspend its labour market priority check for a period of three years, depending on the regional job situation. This will make it easier for asylum seekers and refugees whose deportation has been suspended to take up work. The law also provides low level introduction into the employment market through Integration programmes for asylum seekers. The requirements of the permanent residence permit for refugees are now graded: refugees speaking German in C1 level and assure their livelihood can get a permanent status after 3 years. Those who speak German only at A2 level and can only partially assure their livelihood can get a permanent residence permit after 5 years.
- ★ **Estonia:** The Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior, the Police and Border Guard Board and Integration and Migration Foundation “Our People” has launched an [awareness campaign for young people with undetermined citizenship](#) living in Estonia. The aim of the campaign is to share information about the new amendments to the Citizenship Act and about the rights and possibilities accompanying the acquisition of Estonian citizenship.
- ★ **Finland:** The [e-service](#) ‘Enter Finland’ can soon be used to submit applications based on family ties from November 2016.
- ★ **France:** The law on foreigners’ rights in France of 7th March 2016 introduced a reform of the reception and integration process for foreign newcomers wishing to settle permanently in France. The first step of the individual integration pathway is the signature of a so-called ‘republican integration contract’ (*contrat d’intégration républicaine*) enforced on 1st July 2016. The [decree](#) of 1st July 2016 elaborates the content of the online information booklet, the conditions of signature of the ‘republican integration contract’ and its content, as well as the procedures for civic and linguistic training. Additionally, the [decree](#) of 29th July 2016 specifies the implementation of the electronic transmission of declarations and statements for seconding to France foreign employees of companies established outside France. It allows the creation of a system for processing personal data in order to allow employers to proceed with obligatory declarations, to monitor their compliance with applicable legal provisions and collective agreements, as well as to follow up statistics on the labour situation of the seconded employee in France.
- ★ **Ireland:** [Changes to the Employment entitlements of Non-EEA Students holding immigration Stamp 2](#) are taking effect from 1st September 2016. Students holding a valid immigration Stamp 2 permission will be permitted to work 40 hours per week only during the months of June, July, August and September and from 15th December to 15th January inclusive. At all other times students holding Immigration permission Stamp 2 will be limited to working 20 hours per week.

The Department of Justice and Equality launched a [public consultation](#) on a review of Ireland’s immigration policy for non-EEA retirees who wish to retire in Ireland. This public consultation has been decided following the increased number of applications from retired persons seeking to move to Ireland: the number of applications in 2015 was of the order of 100 with an additional 150 renewals of permissions granted in earlier years. An internal review of the existing guidance has been conducted by the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) and this public consultation seeks the views of interested stakeholders on the outcome of this internal review. The closing date for submissions is Monday 31st October 2016.

- ★ **Luxembourg:** The ministerial regulation of 30th June 2016 determining the annual average gross income for highly-qualified third country nationals to gain admission was published. The law of 23rd July 2016 amends the law of 24th July 2014 concerning financial state aid for higher education.
- ★ **Latvia:** On 1st of July 2016, amendments to the Immigration Law came into force, which provide that third-country nationals who have received a residence permit for study purposes after graduation from their studies can prolong the residence permit for up to six months in order to find employment.
- ★ **Netherlands:** Divosa, the association of executives in the social domain, and the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) run since 1st July 2016 an [early employment screening to gather information about employment, training and qualifications of asylum permit holders](#). The aim of screening is that new asylum permit holders are linked to certain municipalities, in which the chance that they will find employment in the area of their expertise is higher, thus making it more likely they will be able to access education and employment. This would allow them to participate more actively into the Dutch society, and reduce the probability that they will have to rely on social assistance.

Regarding integration, a [proposal](#) to make the participation certificate a mandatory part of the Dutch integration examination from July 1 2017 onwards is tabled. This means that all newcomers as part of their integration exam must first go through the process of obtaining the participation certificate at the municipality. This certificate consists of an introduction to Dutch values and norms. This project allows newcomers to get acquainted with the rights, obligations and the fundamental values of the Dutch society. The section is concluded with signing a declaration by which the newcomer states that she or he has understood and will respect the values of the Dutch society. The proposal still needs to pass the Parliament before it can be implemented into the Dutch law.

The Dutch Immigration Service (IND) is developing [digital services](#). As of 1st September 2016 a [portal](#) is available to all recognized sponsors who wish to submit applications for scientific researchers or highly skilled migrants. Also applications to renew a permanent residence permit can be submitted digitally.

- ★ **Poland:** For travellers crossing the border, the Customs Service and Polish Border Guard launched [a new application for mobile devices - "Assistant Border"](#). It is a virtual guide to the road, air, rail, sea and pedestrian crossing points. The traveller will find out how the procedures at customs and border checking points and which documents they need to cross the border. The application is available in Polish, English, French, Spanish, German, Russian and Italian.

On 4th July this year, Poland temporarily suspended the application of the provisions of agreements on local border traffic (LBT) with Russia and Ukraine. This decision was motivated by security reasons concerning the organisation in Poland of the NATO Summit and the World Youth Day. Traffic on the Polish-Ukrainian border has already been resumed, however, the traffic with the Kaliningrad Oblast remains suspended.

Following the high inflow of Ukrainians to Poland, Ukrainian students in Polish universities formed the Ukrainian Students' Association which aims to integrate the Ukrainian youth environment in Poland and to create optimal conditions to its social, cultural, scientific and professional development.

5. MANAGEMENT OF THE EU EXTERNAL BORDERS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 6th October, the [European Border and Coast Guard Agency, proposed by the Commission in December 2015](#), was officially launched. The Agency, which builds upon Frontex, has a strengthened mandate aimed at overcoming Frontex' limitations in border cooperation and return management compared to its predecessor. In particular, Frontex did not have a mandate to perform search and rescue operations and could act only upon Member States' request in return and border management operations. The new mandate allows the Agency to intervene when deficiencies in border management are identified that could threaten the Schengen area, even without request by the Member State. It also gives it a stronger role in return and in cooperation with third countries. Moreover, periodic risk assessments and the newly introduced vulnerability assessments will be delivered to ensure that the Unions standards and implemented. The new mandate also increases the Agency's permanent staff and allows to purchase its own equipment. The Agency will have a pool counting 1,500 experts, which would be deployed for rapid interventions, when requested by Member States or the Council.
- ★ On 19th September, [the Commission agreed to award Bulgaria with €108 million emergency funding](#) to support and strengthen border surveillance and border control activities at the external border. The funding, which is on top of Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and Internal Security Fund (ISF), will be devoted also to increase the capacity of Bulgarian asylum service. Since August 2016, following the request of assistance by the Bulgarian authorities, Frontex had intensified its activities at the border with Turkey and Serbia.
- ★ On 14th October, the Commission adopted the [Regulatory Fitness and Performance \(REFIT\) Evaluation of the Visa Information System \(VIS\)](#), which is part of the broader evaluation the Commission is carrying out on EU's information systems for borders and security. The evaluation looked at whether the VIS ["is fit for purpose, delivers on its objectives at reasonable cost, is relevant, coherent and has EU added value"](#).

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Netherlands:** Persons with the nationality from Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Tuvalu from July 2016 onwards do [no longer need to apply for a visa for short stay](#) (maximum 90 days) in the Netherlands and the rest of Schengen.
- ★ **Poland:** Between 29th August and 2nd September as well as 5th and 9th September in the Training Centre of the Border Police in Ungheni, Republic of Moldova, Polish officers provided a training for officers of Moldova (in total 28 persons). The main aim of the training was to improve intervention techniques, direct coercive measures and the use of firearms.
- ★ **Portugal:** Since July, there is a new tool at Lisbon airport, RAPID4ALL, which allows an exit control in the e-gates to citizens from Australia, Brazil, Canada, USA, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Singapore and Venezuela.
- ★ **UK:** On the 19th of August 2016, it was reported that the global roll out of the UK's new digital applications service for visit visas was complete. In 2014 the Home Office introduced a new digital application service for customers in China to apply for visitor visas online. Following its successful launch, [Access UK](#) has now been made available for customers applying to visit the UK in over 180 countries and 10 languages. Over half a million visitor visa applications have been received so far by the new service.

6. IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

No relevant EU developments have been registered.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Austria:** The Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum (BFA) intends to further increase and accelerate the voluntary return through more information and consulting regarding the supporting services. A new scheme of monetary return assistance is being tested at the moment for nationals of Afghanistan, Morocco and Nigeria. The earlier an asylum-seeker decides to return voluntarily, the higher the amount of monetary assistance.
- ★ **Belgium:** As of 24th July 2016, [an administrative fine of EUR 200](#) can be imposed on third-country nationals and EU citizens who did not meet certain legal requirements regarding entry or stay on the territory.
- ★ **Croatia:** On the 7th and 8th September 2016, two police officers from the Border Directorate of the Ministry of Interior participated in the 5th summer border police course organized by UNHCR in Slovenia. The course covered topics such as: access to asylum system, importance of asylum seeker early identification and dedicating special attention to the vulnerable groups, especially unaccompanied minors. The Ministry of Interior has finished with building and equipping a transit reception centre in Tovarnik. Building of the reception centre has been financed through the Schengen Instrument and national budget. On the 3rd July 2016 Ministry of Interior has opened the newly built accommodation for the vulnerable persons in the reception centre in Ježevo.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** On 18th May 2016, the Government introduced to Parliament the Bill no 6992 amending the law of the detention centre allowing to hold in detention families with children who are going to be returned from 72 hours to seven days.
- ★ **Netherlands:** The Minister for Migration decided to implement a postponement of decision and departure for asylum seekers from Burundi. This decision follows questions from the [House of Representatives and a letter from the Minister of Foreign Affairs](#). The Secretary of State wrote that the human rights situation in Burundi is alarming. According to the UN, since February nearly 100 people are brutally killed due to police violence or extrajudicial killings by the secret services and the ruling political party affiliated with the group Imbonerakure. There has also been lethal violence by armed oppositions against the police, politicians and soldiers.
- ★ **Netherlands:** From August 2016 onwards, following a change in the [Foreigners Circular](#), the Dutch Immigration Services ([IND](#)) [will assess asylum applications from persons originating from Albania, Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Bosnia and Montenegro](#) in the national procedure. The IND will no longer review for persons originating from these countries if the applicant is registered in another country where he/she should go through the procedure (Dublin claim). The asylum applicant in this case will have a decision on his claim within one to two weeks and might also be returned faster to the country of origin. Furthermore, migrants residing in the Netherlands can be eligible for support for voluntary departure via the REAN programme, implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and financed by the Dutch government. The Minister for Migration however has decided to [exclude migrants from Albania, Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro](#) (the six Western Balkan countries) from the REAN programme as of 28th September 2016, for a duration of one year. This is due to the high influx of migrants from these countries in the Netherlands. The aim of this measure is to see whether the influx of migrants originating from these safe countries will decline after the exclusion.
- ★ **Poland:** The most important tasks of the Border Guard on security during NATO Summit was to conduct monitoring activities under the temporary reintroduction of border control at internal borders of Schengen, to ensure effectiveness of border checks of the participants of NATO Summit, intensify supervision over conducting security checks of luggage and passengers departing from airports, which were exploit by the participants of the NATO Summit, and the control of persons entering the National Stadium in Warsaw. As result: more than 100,000 people

were controlled on the internal border within the framework of temporary reintroduction of border control, nearly 20,000 checked persons entering the National Stadium and more than 420 pyrotechnic checks of columns of VIP vehicles at the Warsaw Chopin Airport.

- ★ **Sweden:** On 22nd September 2016, the Swedish Government presented a number of measures aiming at improving the return of rejected asylum seekers. Among these measures there is a clearer division and allocation of responsibilities between the relevant authorities, mainly the Swedish Migration Agency and the Police, possibilities to detain persons in other facilities than ordinary detention facilities, and extended possibilities for authorities to confiscate passports and ID-documents as well as to take fingerprints at internal checks on foreigners.

7. ACTIONS ADDRESSING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

EU DEVELOPMENTS AND UPDATES

- ★ On 16th October 2016, on occasion of the **10th EU anti-Trafficking Day** (on 17th October) the Commission organised a press conference in Vienna, where it participated in the [Eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#). The conference included several events on trafficking of human beings, especially of women and children.
- ★ On 23rd September 2016, the [Comprehensive Policy Review of Anti-Trafficking Projects](#), foreseen by the [EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings \(2012-2016\)](#), was also released by the Commission. The Report analysed the distribution of the funded project and their contribution to the objectives of the EU anti-trafficking strategy.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Finland:** The [assistance system for victims of human trafficking received a record number of applications](#) in the beginning of this year. A total of 73 persons were proposed for the assistance system. At the same time last year, the total number of proposals was 44. This means that the number of proposals has almost doubled.
- ★ **Finland:** The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman has published the report "[Nigerian victims of human trafficking and sexual abuse in Finland: procedure for applying the Aliens Act](#)". Included in the report are propositions for amendments to the law as well as suggestions for improving the operations of the Finnish Immigration Service.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** On 27th June 2016, the Government introduced to Parliament the Bill no 7008 to strengthen combating prostitution, procuring and trafficking of human beings (THB).
- ★ **Latvia:** The Ministry of the Interior has revamped a web page on THB [www.trafficking.lv](#). The updated version of the web page was launched on 30th July 2016 which is World Day against Trafficking in Persons.
- ★ **Netherlands:** The Minister for Migration concluded, after a recently published report by the Research and Documentation Center WODC, that the operation of the [Multidisciplinary Team 'Marriages of Convenience'](#) (MDT) would be extended by at least one year. This team is an example of a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to immigration fraud, consisting of Dutch Immigration Services (IND) employees and employees of several national and municipal government organizations. The aim is to lay a solid foundation for the future approach to marriages of convenience.
- ★ **Poland:** On 17th August 2016 the Council of Ministers adopted the "National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2016-2018". The priority tasks for the coming years are: improving and defining the national referral mechanism, continue increasing public awareness on current threats regarding trafficking in human beings, and collect and analyse data on THB.
- ★ **Portugal:** Migration experts have participated in many national surveillance operations on agricultural land to identify potential victims of trafficking, especially "Pokhara Operation", which aimed at the fulfillment of search warrants and arrest and also the rescue of 23 victims of labor exploitation from Nepal. The experts also attended high level several conferences, meetings and launch of campaigns related to prevention, fight and punishment in human trafficking.

The Association for Family Planning (AFP) created the Algarve Specialized Multidisciplinary Team on Trafficking in Human Beings. Furthermore, the Office of the National Rapporteur on THB (Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality) hosted a meeting about the 3rd Action Plan to Prevent and Fight THB (2014-2017) and a second one with the members of RAPVT (Support and Protection Network to Trafficking Victims).

Legislative changes regarding the combat to modern forms of force labour included the approval of Law 28/2016 of August 23rd by the Portuguese Parliament, the elaboration of the 2nd Trimestral Report on THB in Portugal by OTSH (Observatory on Trafficking in Human Beings) and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Indicators on THB.

8. EXTERNAL DIMENSION

- ★ On 28th July 2016, the Commission took another step in the implementation of [the Facility for Refugees in Turkey](#) established in March 2015. A **Special Measure**, worth over €1.4 billion, was taken to support refugees in accessing to education, health, municipal and social infrastructure, and in providing socio-economic support. The Fund, which addresses refugees in Turkey, is allocated in different modalities: as direct grants to the Turkish ministries for

education and health; through delegation agreements with International Financial Institutions, to support education and health-related infrastructure; and through the [EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis](#). Overall, the EU committed €3 billion to be allocated to the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, and, as of September 2016, €2.155 have been already allocated.

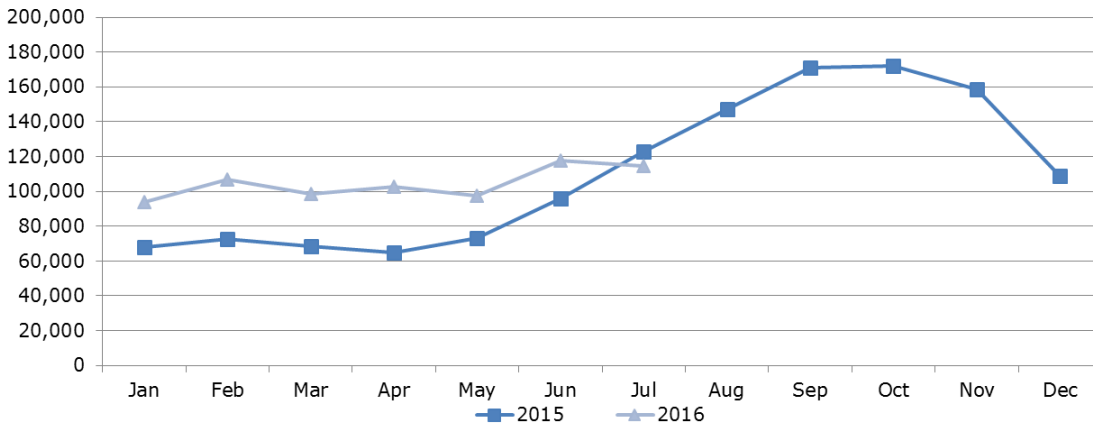
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- ★ **Hungary:** The European Union signed a Mobility Partnership with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 2014. The JEMPAS project started on 1st January 2016 and aims to provide support to the Jordanian government in two specific thematic areas: strengthening outreach to and engagement with Jordanian expatriates and countering trafficking in human beings. As a member of JEMPAS, Hungary will provide in-kind contributions to the second area of project, such as in the development of the new anti-trafficking strategy, capacity building for labour inspectors and law enforcement, and implementation of the national referral mechanism. The first Project Steering Committee meeting took place on 13th July 2016 in Amman, Jordan.

ANNEX: EU & COMPLEMENTARY STATISTICS, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, OTHER EMN OUTPUTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

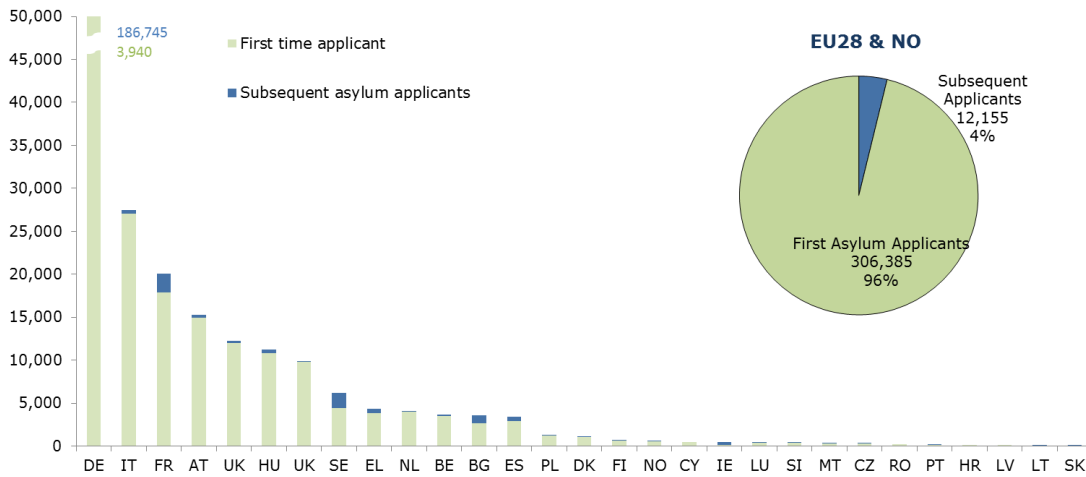
EU Figures

Figure 1a: Asylum applications in the EU-28, January 2015 – July 2016.



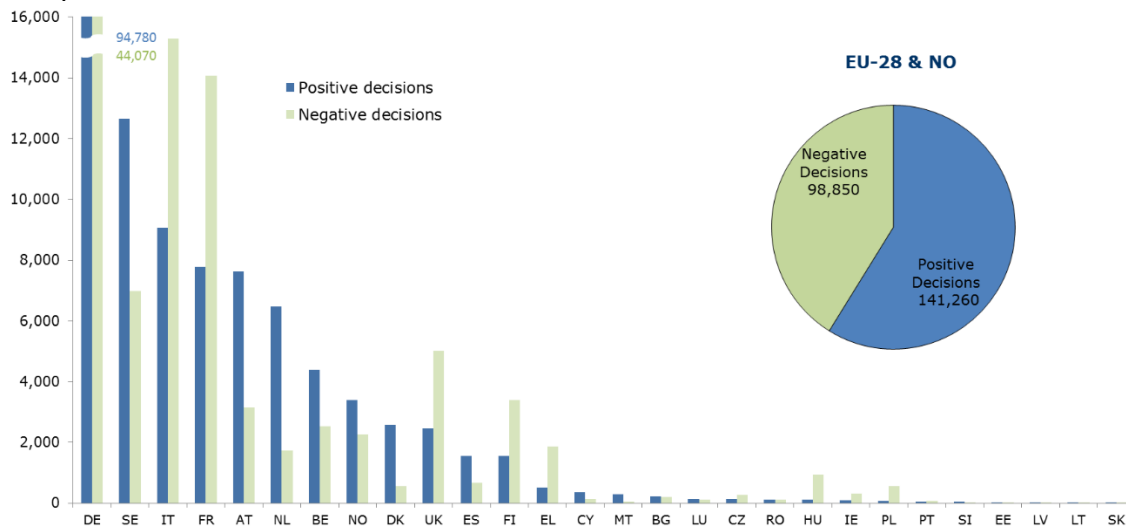
Source: Eurostat [[migr_asyappctzm](#)], total asylum applicants, accessed on 11th October 2016.

Figure 1b: First time asylum applicants and subsequent applicants (together, total asylum applicants) in Q2 2016 (April-June), in the EU-28 and Norway (quarterly data)



Source: Eurostat [[migr_asyappctzm](#)], accessed on 11th October 2016

Figure 2: First instance asylum decisions in EU-28 and Norway for non-EU citizens, second quarter 2016 (quarterly data)



Source: Eurostat [[migr_asydcfstq](#)], accessed on 11th October 2016 – Negative decisions include also "Dublin decisions" (according to Art. 4, EC Regulation n. 862/2007).

Figure 4a: Illegal border crossing – Top nationalities (in %)

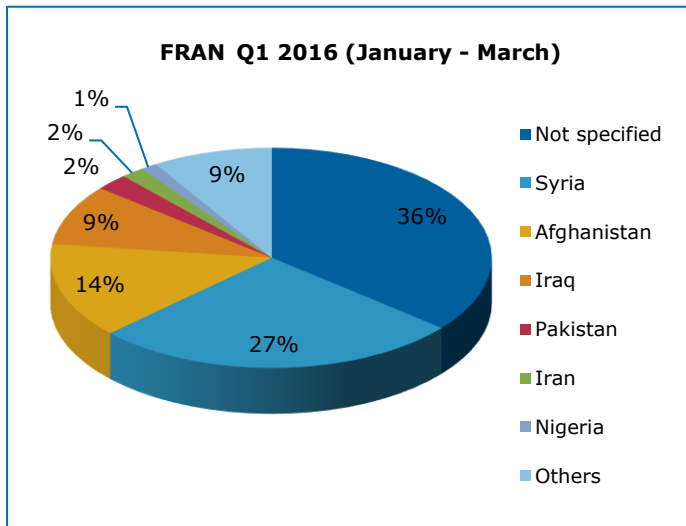


Figure 4b: Refused entry–Top nationalities (in %)

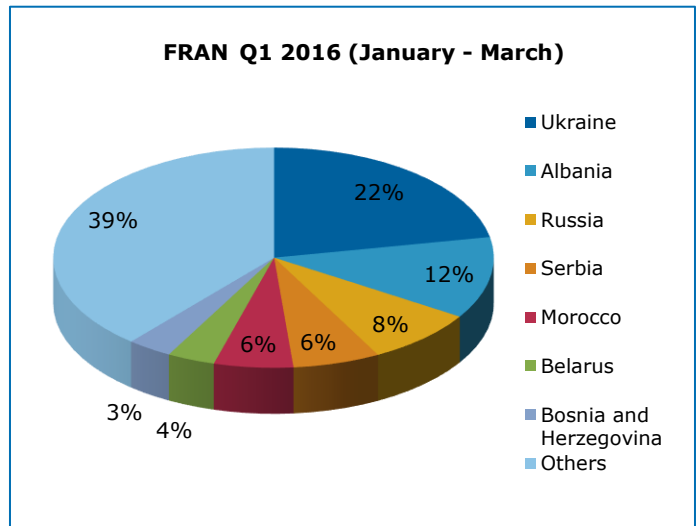


Figure 4c: Illegal stay – Top nationalities (in %)

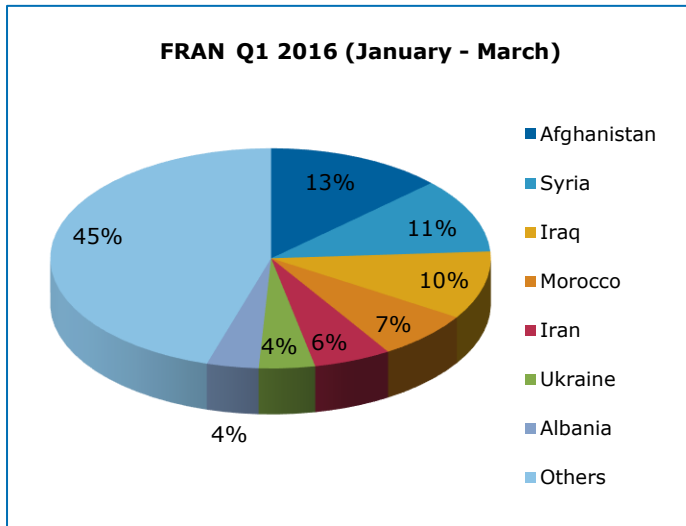
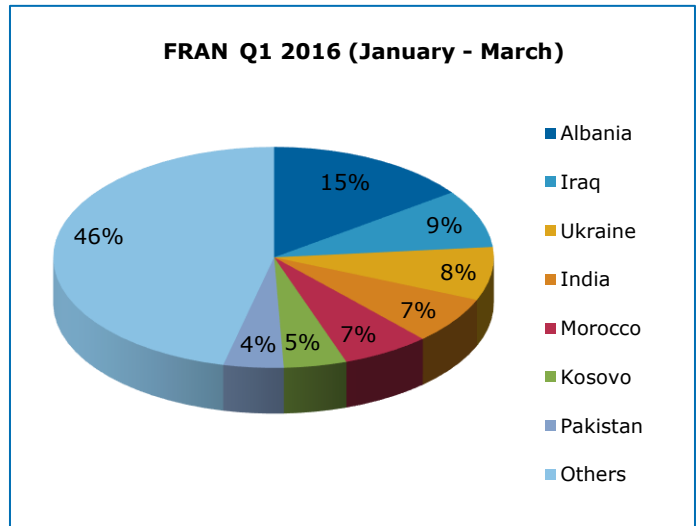


Figure 4d: Effective return–Top nationalities (in %)



Source: [FRONTEX FRAN Quarterly Report Q1 2016](#) (January – March 2016)

Latest available national statistics

RELOCATION AND RESETTLEMENT

- ★ **Croatia:** In relation to the Government Decision on Relocation and Resettlement of the third country nationals or stateless persons who meet conditions for approval of the international protection from 16th July 2015 ("Official Gazette", No 78/145), on the 1st of July 2016 4 persons have been reallocated from Italy of the Eritrean nationality, and on the 23rd August 2016, 10 persons of the Syrian nationality have been reallocated from Greece.
- ★ **Estonia:** In August 2016 the first two families (in total 11 persons) were resettled from Turkey to Estonia (under the EU-Turkey agreement). By the end of September Estonia has received altogether 60 persons from Greece and Turkey under the EU migration scheme.
- ★ **Ireland:** 500 refugees, out of a quota of 520, have been resettled in Ireland under the refugee resettlement programme in 2016. All of the refugees resettled in the year to date have come from Lebanon. Additional refugees are expected to arrive from Lebanon in November 2016.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** On 26th July 2016, a group of 20 Eritreans was relocated from Italy to Luxembourg, and, on 11th August 2016, 33 people were relocated from Greece to Luxembourg.
- ★ **Portugal:** In the framework of the European Agenda for Migration, Portugal has already relocated and resettled 555 persons from Italy and Greek who were granted international protection status.
- ★ **Spain:** The Relocation and Resettlement processes in Spain are being promoted and particular attention is being paid to vulnerable groups. Until 29th September 2016, 394 people were relocated and 279 people were resettled, which makes a total number of 673 people.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

- ★ **Cyprus:** In the last few months, approximately 80 persons, including a small number of UAMs, arrived to Cyprus, at the area of Pyrgos, in the north-western part of Cyprus. They departed from Mersin, Turkey, by boat and, unlike other boat arrivals, Cyprus was the final destination of these people, who, in their majority, had relatives already residing in the island.).
- ★ **Finland:** By the end of August 2016, the [Finnish Immigration Service](#) has made asylum decisions for the about 25,000 asylum seekers who arrived in Finland during 2015 and 2016. About 14,000 asylum seekers are still waiting for a decision at reception centers. Approximately 2,500 of them are children who have applied for asylum alongside their parents. Their applications are often decided on without an asylum interview together with their parents' applications. The amendment to the Aliens Act in May 2016 which removed humanitarian protection from the Act and the Finnish Immigration Service's new guidelines for making decisions concerning Iraq is starting to show in the distribution of asylum decision for Iraqis. The [share of negative decisions for Iraqis has increased significantly](#). The Finnish Immigration Service has informed those in charge of reception centres of new terminations of contracts. The [accommodation capacity will be reduced by more than 2,000 beds](#), mainly by the end of March 2017.
- ★ **France:** A notification of 29th July 2016 on tender offers for projects on the French department level foresees the creation of 500 additional places in temporary accommodation centres in 2017. Due to the increase in the number of asylum applications and the evolution of the asylum seekers' typology, the government decided to increase sthe [availability in temporary accommodation centres for asylum-seekers](#) by means of two national tender offers.
- ★ **Ireland:** 273 refugees have already arrived in Ireland under the refugee resettlement programme from Lebanon and the remainder of the 520 refugees will be resettled in Ireland by autumn 2016. Ireland has also committed to take a further 260 refugees from Lebanon under the resettlement strand of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) in 2017.
- ★ **UK:** Home Office's [Immigration Statistics April to June 2016](#) were published on the 25th of August. It provides the latest UK figures on those subject to immigration control, for the period up to year ending June 2016. Topics included: admissions, visas, asylum, settlement, citizenship, detention, removals and voluntary departures. Furthermore, the Office for National Statistics' [Migration Statistics Quarterly](#) (produced with Home Office, Department for Work and Pensions and National Records of Scotland) was published on the 25th of August. This provides quarterly data on UK migration flows, visas, asylum and settlement.

LEGAL MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

- ★ **Finland:** The Finnish Immigration Service estimates that a total of about [12,000 applications based on family ties](#) will be submitted this year. This is 22 per cent more than in 2015, when 9,471 applications based on family ties were submitted. Furthermore, an [increase in applications for residence permits for studies has been observed, the number of other applications is about the same as before](#) as a total of 12,153 foreign nationals applied for a first residence permit in Finland in January–June 2016. Most applications came from familiar nationalities: Russians, Chinese, Ukrainians, Indians and Vietnamese.

MANAGEMENT OF THE EU EXTERNAL BORDERS

- ★ **Poland:** Polish Border Guard officers took part in the following missions:

- ★ 30 officers were sent to Macedonia, to 28th October, to support Macedonian police in protection of the Greek-Macedonian border. The support is the response on the appeal of Macedonian Border Guard;
- ★ 25 BG officers and 25 police officers were sent to Hungary. Representatives of both services support the Hungarian police in the protection of the Hungarian-Serbian border;
- ★ 30 BG officers started a mission in Bulgaria. The activities are carried out within joint operations coordinated by Frontex Agency;
- ★ A helicopter crew is patrolling the sea area around the Lesbos island from the air.

IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND RETURN

- ★ **Austria:** During the first half of 2016, Austria registered 5,163 returns, including 3,195 voluntary returns according to the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum. This represents an increase by 24 per cent compared to the reference period in the previous year.
- ★ **Netherlands:** [More and more migrants are leaving voluntary from the Netherlands](#). In the first half of this year, about 2500 people from Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia, Iran and Iraq returned voluntary with the help of the International Organization for Migration. These are twice as many returnees as the same period a year earlier. The organization has different regulations for people who wish to return. Earlier this year, a return bonus for Ukrainians was stopped because of widespread abuse.
- ★ **Poland:** The largest group of the people detaining in Poland for illegal residence and work are citizens of Ukraine. Polish Border Guard officers detected 9 Ukrainians who have been working illegally in harvest of raspberries. Another four worked as manual labourers. In addition, Border Guard officers arrested two people involved in the falsification of documents who enabled the arrival to Poland hundreds of foreigners. Other nationalities which recently tried to irregularly cross the Polish border were Vietnamese, Tajiks, Russians (mostly of Chechens nationality) and Georgians.

ACTIONS ADDRESSING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

- ★ **Netherlands:** The number of reports of possible victims of human trafficking has dropped since last year, compared to the previous year. In 2015, 1321 potential victims were identified, where in 2014 this number was 1,561. [Corrine Dettmeijer, National Rapporteur on Trafficking, however believes that this is worrisome](#). According to her, there is no reason to assume that there are fewer victims. A possible reason for the drop in the reports might be the changing priorities of the Royal Marechaussee and the police. The Royal Marechaussee focusses more on migrant smuggling instead of human trafficking, and the police has recently been through a major reorganization, which might be the cause of reduced attention.

Updates on EU legislation transposition

LEGAL MIGRATION

- ★ **Hungary:** Act XXXIX of 2016 carried out substantial modifications of Act II of 2007 on [the entry and residence of third-country nationals as regards legal migration of third-country nationals](#) to Hungary. The modification was primarily carried out in order to transpose the Seasonal Workers (2014/36/EU) and the Intra-Corporate Transferees Directives (2014/66/EU). These modifications entered into force on 30th September 2016 and resulted in the introduction of a residence permit for seasonal employment purposes.
- ★ **Luxembourg:** On 18th May 2016, the Government introduced the Bill no 6992 which transposes Directives 2014/36/EU (seasonal workers) and 2014/66/EU (intra-corporate transferees), and creates a new investors' residence permit and eliminates the 12-months' waiting period for family reunification in most cases.
- ★ **Latvia:** On 21st of July 2016 amendments in the Residence Permit Regulations came into force. One of the aims of these amendments was to introduce legal norms provided for in the Intra-Corporate Transferees Directive.

Other EMN outputs and upcoming events (see also the [EMN website](#))

- ★ **Belgium:** On 8th November 2016, the Belgian NCP will organize a [conference in Brussels](#), which will focus on the integration of beneficiaries of international protection into the labour market.
- ★ **Poland:** On 20th October 2016, Polish EMN NCP organised a [National Conference](#) on the subject of the fight against trafficking in human beings.