



July-September 2024

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- EMN study on the Illegal employment of third-country nationals: 2017-2022 situation analysis

#### NEWS FROM THE EU

In September, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) released its [analysis](#) on asylum trends, showing that by June 2024, EU Member States had received 513 000 applications for international protection, similar to the first half of 2023. Applications could reach one million by the end of the year.

On 1 August it was [announced](#) that BE, CZ, DE, EE, EL, IE, IT, PT and RO would receive tailored expertise under the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) for four months until the end of November 2024 to prepare for the [Pact on Migration and Asylum](#) (the Pact) in areas such as asylum procedures, screening, migration management, resettlement, integration, the external dimension of migration, and the strategic use of EU funds.

The [revised EU Anti-Trafficking Directive](#) entered into force on 14 July with stronger rules to fight trafficking in human beings. EU Member States have until 15 July 2026 to transpose the new rules into national law. On the 26 and 27 of June 2024, [the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator \(EU ATC\)](#) and the Chair of Eurojust's Anti-Trafficking Team co-chaired the [annual meeting](#) of the Focus Group of specialised prosecutors combating trafficking in human beings.

Between September 17 and 20 in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands, 76 experts from 27 countries collaborated during this [third edition of the EMPACT Hackathon](#) to combat online-enabled human trafficking, a growing cross-border threat. This activity is part of the operational action plan 2024 – 2025 on trafficking in human beings that has been created within the EMPACT framework, under the responsibility of the NL driver.

On 9 September the European Commission and the Republic of Armenia announced a [visa liberalisation dialogue](#) to support Armenia achieve a visa-free regime for short-stays with the EU, provided the relevant conditions are in place.

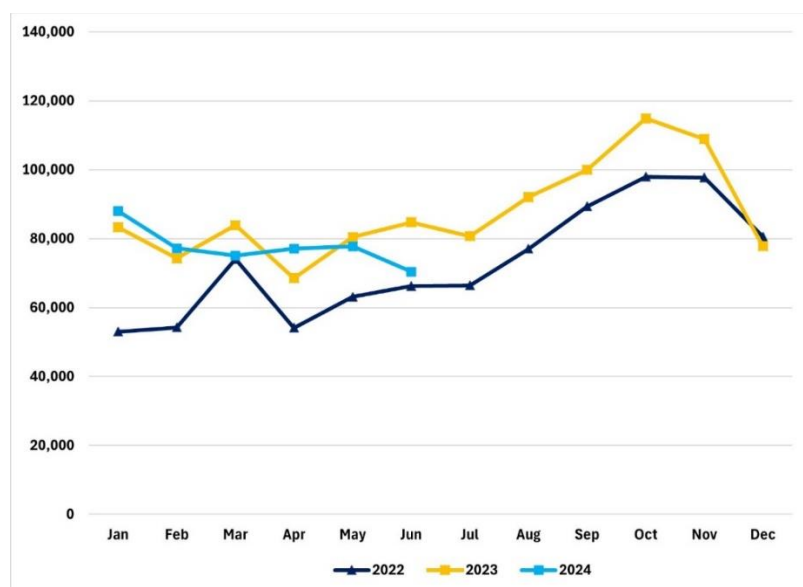
The European Commission launched [a new programme](#) under the umbrella of the Talent Partnership with Bangladesh to boost labour mobility and step-up cooperation on migration on 8 July.

### **CJEU ruling on the right to basic income for long term residents in Italy (joint cases C-112/22 and 223/22)**

On 29 July, the [CJEU](#) determined that Council Directive 2003/109/EC (the 'Long-Term Residents Directive') precludes legislations of a Member State which subjects the access to a social security, social assistance or social protection measure to the requirement – which also applies to nationals of the Member States – of having resided in the territory of the Member State for at least 10 years, of which the last 2 are consecutive. The Court found such residence requirement to be indirectly discriminating EU long-term residents as compared to the nationals of the Member State since for the former it may be more difficult to meet the residence requirement laid down by the national legislation. The joint cases concerned access by EU long-term residents to the state-provided 'citizenship income' discontinued with effect from 01 January 2024.

## **General developments**

**Figure: First-time asylum applications in the EU-27 (April-June 2024)**



Source: Eurostat [[migr\\_asyappctzm](#)], first-time asylum applicants, extracted on 11 October 2024.

## **NEWS FROM EMN MEMBER AND OBSERVER COUNTRIES**

### **1. General developments**

#### **Austria**

##### **Tuition fee exemption**

On 17 July, the Tuition Fee Regulation was [amended](#), exempting students with Ukrainian nationality from the tuition fee for the summer semester 2024 and the winter semester 2024/25.

##### **Amendments regarding displaced persons from Ukraine**

On 4 July, the Settlement and Residence Act, the Act Governing the Employment of Foreign Nationals, the Asylum Act 2005, and the Compulsory Education Act were [amended](#). Changes allow displaced

persons with job access to switch to regular settlement, permit them to stay after their temporary right expires, and include those under 18 in compulsory education.

## Ireland

### Confirmation of Ireland's participation in the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Ireland will [opt-in](#) to 7 of the 10 legal instruments of the Pact. Legislative changes include: full repeal of the International Protection Act 2015, greater focus on returns for unsuccessful applicants, and accelerated processing for those from safe countries, those with no or false documents, and those who have crossed borders illegally.

### Weekly payments to beneficiaries of temporary protection in government accommodation reduced

From [9 September](#), all Ukrainians covered by the EU Temporary Protection Directive living in designated accommodation centres will receive a weekly payment of € 38.80 for an adult and € 29.80 for a child, the same as for applicants for international protection.

## Lithuania

### Temporary protection for those fleeing the war in Ukraine extended

In August, the Government approved the [extension](#) of temporary protection for those fleeing the war in Ukraine until 4 March 2026. This mechanism provides collective protection, including rights to residency, employment, housing, and medical care, as well as access to education for children.

## Poland

### Act on assistance to Ukrainian citizens amended

Changes to the Special Act for the temporary protection of Ukrainian citizens took effect on [1 July](#), broadening eligibility and introducing new temporary residence permits, including a three-year card for those with UA status since 4 March. Residence permits are extended to 30 September 2025, support tools are introduced, and cash benefits for hosts providing accommodation and meals are ended.

### Changes concerning the education of children from Ukraine

From [1 September](#), education became mandatory for Ukrainian children beneficiaries of temporary protection aged 7-18, similar to Polish children. Online education is available for students in their final year of Ukrainian secondary school. Polish language classes (at least four hours per week) will be offered individually or in groups of up to 15 students, and schools will employ intercultural assistants to help those with limited Polish proficiency.

## Norway

### Important changes to the right to apply for collective protection

As of [28 September](#), Ukrainians from areas considered safe by the Norwegian authorities, such as: Lviv, Volyn, Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil and Rivne, will no longer be granted collective protection in Norway. Instead, they will be assessed according to the regulations for individual protection.

## 2. Legal migration

### Belgium

#### New law on family reunification

On 1 September, the [law amending](#) the right to family reunification came into force. The changes have an impact on the right to family reunification for parents of accompanied minors with international protection, the right to family reunification for stateless persons, the assessment of minority in the asylum procedure or residence procedure for stateless persons, and more.

### France

#### New administrative fine against the illegal employment of foreign nationals

As of 1 September, [Decree No. 2024-814](#) pursuant to the Law on Controlling Immigration, Improving Integration of 26 January, considers the direct and indirect employment of foreign nationals unauthorised to work as illegal employment, imposing fines on employers, and clients who knowingly use these employers.

### Germany

#### Migration agreements with Kenya and Uzbekistan

Germany signed migration agreements with [Kenya](#) on 13 September and [Uzbekistan](#) on 15 September, to boost the migration of skilled workers to Germany, and facilitate the repatriation of irregular migrants.

## Greece

### Additions to the New Migration Code

Article 48 of the new law [5130/1.8.2024](#) prioritises national visa applications from seasonal workers who have previously complied with their obligations. Article 49 requires information on the rights, obligations, and procedural safeguards of seasonal workers to be displayed on the Ministry of Migration's website and communicated when visas are issued.

## Italy

### Information system for combating exploitation in agriculture introduced

In July, a new information sharing system was [introduced](#), which was designed to support information sharing between state administrations and regions, and fight illegal hiring in agriculture, and undeclared work in general. Information will be shared on labour relations, farms, residence permits, social security data, housing and transport, and inspection results.

## Latvia

### New requirements for permanent residence permits for Russian citizens

On 18 July, amendments to the [Immigration Law](#) came into force, stipulating that Russian citizens who have received permanent residence permits under the [Foreigner Law](#) will also have to pass the official language examination, and limiting the validity of their residence until 15 July 2025 if the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs does not receive the necessary documents by 30 June 2025. The new requirements will apply to approximately 5 000 Russian citizens.

## Luxembourg

### Immigration Law amended

Amendments to the Immigration Law brought national legislation in line with Directive 2014/36/EU on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of seasonal employment. The [amendments](#) ensure that seasonal workers from third countries are correctly and fully informed of their employment rights.

## Slovenia

### Adoption of the Act on Measures for the Optimisation of Certain Procedures in Administrative Units (ZUOPUE)

The Act [abolishes](#) the local jurisdiction of administrative units in procedures for issuing residence permits and EU residence registration certificates, and introduces the possibility of filing an application at any administrative unit. It also introduces the possibility of employment before obtaining the first single permit for employment, under specific conditions relating to legal residence and consent of the Employment Service.

### Adoption of a decision on temporary measures for extensions for foreign workers

Measures related to the optimisation of certain procedures at administrative units for applications for first single permits have been [extended](#) for three months, to also include applications submitted between 1 October to 31 December.

## 3. International protection including asylum

### Austria

#### Defining conditions for using asylum seekers in charitable aid activities

On [15 July](#), the Federal Minister of the Interior issued a regulation defining the conditions under which asylum seekers and certain other foreigners can be used for charitable aid activities, with their consent, by organisations under the decisive influence of a regional authority or municipal association, as well as non-governmental organizations.

### Finland

#### Legislative amendments to prevent asylum seekers from switching application procedures

On 4 July, the government introduced legislative [amendments](#) preventing asylum seekers from switching application procedures. Applicants for international protection or persons whose application has been rejected can no longer obtain a residence permit on the basis of employment, self-employment or studies.

## France

### Specific house arrest and detention conditions for asylum seekers

The decree dated 8 July, pursuant to the Law on Controlling Immigration, Improving Integration of 26 January, modifies regulatory provisions concerning [house arrest and detention](#) for asylum seekers to consider their vulnerabilities and special needs.

## Greece

### Extension of Asylum Units for Vulnerable Groups

The Asylum Units for Vulnerable Groups in Attica and Thessaloniki have been granted a two-month extension until 31 October. This extension, as per Circular no [218389/22-08-2024](#), applies specifically to unaccompanied and separated children.

## Ireland

### High court finds the State failed to meet the basic needs of international protection applicants

The [ruling](#) describes a failure to meet the basic needs of international protection applicants, including accommodation, as a breach of Article 1 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

### Expansion of safe countries of origin list

Brazil, Egypt, India, Malawi and Morocco were [designated](#) safe countries of origin in the process of international protection claims in Ireland.

## Italy

### A new 'Practical Guide for applicants for international protection in Italy' is online

In July, an updated version of the new multilingual practical guide for applicants for international protection was [published](#), prepared by the National Commission for the Right to Asylum and UNHCR.

### Publications on international protection jurisprudence

A new [journal](#) entitled 'In itinere: Pathways of International Protection' has been published by the National Asylum Law Commission. This inaugural issue includes a review of case law from both international and national courts related to international protection. The journal is produced in collaboration with the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and UNHCR.

## Lithuania

### Refugee reception centre to become part of the Reception and Integration Agency

In September, the government approved a [decision](#) to include the Refugee Reception Centre under the jurisdiction of the Reception and Integration Agency. This new agency will provide social services for irregular migrants and manage temporary accommodation facilities.

## The Netherlands

### Permission granted to transfer asylum seekers from Ter Apel to other municipalities

On 4 September, the Minister of Asylum and Migration [reported](#) that the Ter Apel registration centre had exceeded its maximum capacity of 2 000 people due to high demand. To alleviate this, the Central Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (COA) was instructed to distribute at least one additional asylum seeker to each reception centre in the Netherlands, temporarily reducing the Ter Apel occupancy rate below 2 000.

### Revision of the individual situation in the case of an indiscriminate violence assessment

The Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State [has amended](#) its guidance on assessing the risk of indiscriminate violence under Article 15(c) of the Qualifications Directive. In line with a ruling by the European Court of Justice on 9 November 2023, which emphasised the necessity of considering individual circumstances, the Council of State ruled that the risk assessment must not rely solely on the general level of violence but must account for the specific situation of each applicant.

## Slovak Republic

## Amendments to the Asylum Act

As of 1 July, the [Act on Asylum](#) was amended, stipulating new conditions for providing state subsidies related to the accommodation of beneficiaries of temporary protection. The act simplifies the process of granting temporary protection, adds to the reasons for terminating asylum proceedings, and restricts the provision of the one-time integration allowance.

## Sweden

### Declining number of asylum seekers

In August, the then, Swedish Minister for Migration [reported](#) that Sweden had net emigration for the first time in fifty years during the period January-May 2024. Furthermore, this year Sweden is likely to see the lowest number of asylum seekers since 1997.

## Republic of Serbia

### Participation of Western Balkan Countries in the work of EUAA networks

EUAA [invited](#) Western Balkan Countries to participate in the work of EUAA networks.

## 4. Unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups

## Austria

### Report on female genital mutilation (FGM/C)

In September, the Federal Chancellery published its first [report](#) on female genital mutilation. Almost 11 000 girls and women with a migration background are affected by FGM/C in Austria, and 1 700 to 3 000 more girls are considered to be at risk.

### GREVIO country review report on Austria

In September, GREVIO (Group of Experts on action against violence against women and domestic violence) published its country [review report](#) on Austria, encouraging the Austrian authorities to ensure that all measures in place to protect victims during investigations and judicial proceedings are implemented accordingly. Particular attention should be paid to women victims of violence who face intersectional discrimination, for example migrant women, who may need specific measures of protection and support in criminal proceedings.

## Greece

### Standard Rules for the Operation of Emergency Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors published

On 18 July, the Ministerial Decision concerning the Standard Operating Procedures of Emergency Accommodation Facilities for Unaccompanied Minors was [published](#) in the Government Gazette. The decision defines Standard Operating Procedures for building specifications, premises and equipment, as well as general conditions, capacity, staffing, and the services provided.

### EU-funded project 'FORTIFY- Empowering to protect from and prevent delinquency'

The [project](#), launched in September, is designed to empower Greek systems to effectively protect unaccompanied minors who present delinquent behaviour, promote their integration, and ensure their safety and well-being. It is implemented by Zeuxis and NORCAP in collaboration with the Secretariat General, funded by EEA grants.

## Italy

### New regulation for unaccompanied foreign minor migrants' initial interviews

The Italian government has adopted and [published](#) an implementing regulation on the procedures for initial interviews of unaccompanied foreign minors entering reception facilities. The interviews, conducted by social workers, psychologists, or educators, must occur within three days of arrival and ensure active listening and communication.

## Latvia

### Amendments to 'Procedures by which minor asylum seekers shall be provided with opportunities for acquiring education'

On 20 August, [amendments](#) were adopted to the Cabinet Regulation specifying that support and funding should continue to be provided to Ukrainian citizens registered in the National Education Information System.

## 5. Integration and inclusion

### Austria

#### Publication of Integration Report and Statistical Yearbook 'Migration & Integration'

In July, the [Integration Report 2024](#) was published. In the report, the Expert Council for Integration focuses on the integration and language acquisition of adults. The [Statistical Yearbook 'Migration & Integration 2024'](#) presents a compilation of relevant data in the field of integration, highlighting, for example, that more than one in four persons in Austria have a migration background.

### Croatia

#### One-Stop Shop – Welcome Centre for Refugees and Migrants opened in Zagreb

On 18 September, the City of Zagreb, in cooperation with UNHCR Croatia and civil society organisations, [officially](#) opened the One-Stop Shop - Welcome Centre, a central information point for applicants for international protection, persons under international or temporary protection, and foreign workers with a permit to stay and work in the Republic of Croatia.

#### SINERGY project for improving integration started

The Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities started the implementation of the SINERGY project, co-financed by Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). The [project](#) aims to strengthen multi-level cooperation in the application of international and national standards for the integration of third-country nationals, with an emphasis on persons who have been granted international protection.

### Estonia

#### New support groups for independent language learning starting in September

Participation in the [new support groups](#) is open to everyone who has successfully acquired the A1 language level and is free of charge.

### Finland

#### Government approves an action plan to combat racism and promote equality

The [action plan](#), introduced on 5 September, focuses on the actions of the public administration, with a variety of measures to improve the social climate, raise awareness and combat racism and discrimination. In addition to the central government, local actors and civil society are included in the implementation stage.

### France

#### Implementation of a 'Commitment to Respect the Principles of the Republic' contract

On 8 July, a [decree](#) introduced the 'Commitment to Respect the Principles of the Republic' contract, required for foreign nationals applying for a residence permit, complementing the Republican Integration Contract (CIR), which focuses on language and professional integration. Unlike the CIR, this contract ties the residence permit to compliance with the principles of the Republic and allows for its withdrawal in the event of violations.

### Greece

#### HELIOS project supports integration of protection beneficiaries in Greece

The [HELIOS project](#), run by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), aims to integrate beneficiaries of international and temporary protection into Greek society. It offers integration courses, accommodation support, and employability assistance. The project provides rental subsidies until 30 November, but new enrolments and other services were discontinued as of 1 September.

### Slovenia

#### Slovenian language courses at subsistence level started in practice

Initial groups of third-country nationals have started the Slovenian language [programme](#) at 'subsistence' level. The programme has been accessible to eligible individuals since amendments to the Foreigners Act and the Decree providing integration assistance for non-EU citizens came into force.

#### Amendments to the Decree for persons with temporary protection

Effective from [7 September](#), financial support for private accommodation has been reduced for individuals with temporary protection status obtained two years ago. They will now receive 85% of rent and other costs, capped at amounts specified in the decree.

## Sweden

### Report on the integration of Ukrainians in Sweden

The [IOM report](#) indicates overall positive developments, including that 66 percent of those of working age participate in the labour market, and more than half reported speaking Swedish well or very well.

## 6. Citizenship and statelessness

### Belgium

#### New law on statelessness

On 1 September, a [law on statelessness](#) came into force, stating that applications for admission to stay on the grounds of statelessness must now be submitted directly to the Immigration Office by registered mail. In the event of a positive decision, admission to stay for a limited period is granted. After a period of five years, the foreigner is in principle admitted to stay for an unlimited period.

### Finland

#### Stricter requirements for acquiring Finnish citizenship

On 5 July, the President of the Republic approved a [bill](#) on the Citizenship Act extending the period of residence required for citizenship from five years to eight years. It underlines successful integration as a prerequisite for acquiring citizenship and enables addressing security concerns more effectively. For certain groups, including those who meet the language skills requirement, the required period of residence will be five years.

## 7. Border management and irregular migration

### Estonia

#### Amendments to the Health Services Organisation Act and other associated acts

From [1 July](#), the Estonian Health Insurance Fund will replace the Ministry of Justice in organising and funding the provision of health services to detainees, to harmonise the national healthcare system. The Ministry of Justice will ensure the necessary conditions to enable health care institutions to provide health services for detainees both in detention centres/prison and, if necessary, outside of them.

#### Amendments to the programme of the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (BMVI)

The Government [approved](#) amendments to the programme, accompanied by additional funding, to enable Estonia to introduce IT systems that provide an improved overview of third-country nationals entering and leaving the Schengen Area. The total of the BMVI programme has increased to € 53 128 375.22, of which, € 2 million is provided by the European Commission and allocated to the implementation of the 'Smart Borders' system across Europe.

### Finland

#### Enactment of legislation to combat instrumentalised migration

On 16 July, the President of the Republic [approved](#) a bill aiming to improve border security and ensure effective means to combat instrumentalised migration and serious instances to put pressure on Finland.

### Germany

#### Border controls at all German land borders reintroduced

From 16 September, [border controls](#) at all land borders were temporarily reintroduced, to combat cross-border crime and further limit irregular migration. The extent, length and specific locations of border checks depend on the security situation.

### Ireland

#### Increased fines on carriers who fail to ensure that passengers have appropriate documentation

As of 12 August, the [penalty](#) imposed by the Courts, Civil Law, Criminal law and Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2024, was increased from a maximum of € 3 000 to € 5 000 per offence, on carriers such as airlines and ferry companies.

### Latvia

#### Border security regime extended



On 10 September, the Cabinet of Ministers [decided](#) to extend the enhanced border security regime at the Latvian-Belarusian border until 31 December, instead of 12 September, as previously decided.

### **Construction of the border fence completed**

The [construction of the border fence](#) on the Latvian – Belarusian border, along the land and public waters, has been completed, constructing almost 145 km of border fencing.

## **The Netherlands**

### **Financial support for National Aliens Facility abolished**

The Netherlands [announced](#) the end of financial support for the National Aliens Facility project, effective 4 September. Launched in 2019, this project provided temporary accommodation and meals for individuals who had exhausted all legal procedures but could not be returned.

## **Poland**

### **Border zone temporary ban extended for another 90 days**

The Ministry of the Interior and Administration has extended the [temporary ban](#) on staying in the border zone adjacent to Belarus for another 90 days, effective 11 September. The measure, initially introduced to reduce migratory pressure, has led to a 64% decrease in migration compared to the same period before the implementation of the buffer zone.

## **8. Trafficking in human beings**

### **Ireland**

#### **New legislation on sexual offences and human trafficking passed**

The criminal [bill](#) on Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking, puts the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) on statutory footing, and acknowledges the role of NGOs and state bodies outside of the national police and security service in identifying victims.

### **Italy**

#### **Special Envoy on Trafficking in Human Beings**

On 28 June a Special Envoy on the issues of trafficking in human beings was [appointed](#), with the task of liaising with European and international organisations and other partners, and of coordinating at technical level the different national administrations involved.

### **Lithuania**

#### **Action plan to combat human trafficking approved**

In July, the Minister of Internal Affairs approved the 2024–2026 [Action Plan](#) to enhance the fight against human trafficking. The plan includes training on identifying victims among asylum seekers and migrant workers, as well as specialised training for migration experts on case recognition and victim support.

### **Georgia**

#### **Ministry of Justice hosts Group of Experts on Combating Human Trafficking (GRETA)**

On 23-27 September, GRETA carried out an [evaluation visit](#) to Georgia as part of the 4<sup>th</sup> evaluation round of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (THB). The delegation met with the secretariat of the THB Council, its member agencies, the THB Task Force, parliament, judges, the Ombudsperson's office and civil society organisations, and visited the Imereti region.

## **9. Return and readmission**

### **Austria**

#### **Amendments regarding legal advice and legal representation**

After a December 2023 Constitutional Court ruling, the Federal Act Establishing the Federal Agency for Reception and Support Services and the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum Procedures Act was [amended](#), taking effect on 23 July. Changes ensure the independence and autonomy of legal advisors and introduce new regulations for cost accounting, quality assurance and interpreter services.

#### **Declaration of intent on migration with Ghana**

On 13 September, Austria signed a [declaration](#) of intent on migration with Ghana. According to the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs this reflects a genuine partnership and mutual interests in the areas of irregular migration and readmission, and also in skilled migration.

## Cyprus

### Cyprus Strengthens Reception and Return System

Cyprus has initiated a € 75 million co-funded [project](#) to construct the 'Limnes' Accommodation Centre for applicants for international protection and a pre-removal Centre for repatriation. The project aims to address significant migratory pressures, through enhancing the management of international protection applicants and expediting the return process for third-country nationals.

## France

### Modification of appeal deadlines for expulsion procedures

A [decree](#) from 2 July, under the Law on Controlling Immigration, Improving Integration of 26 January, adjusted appeal deadlines for expulsion procedures to one month for expulsion orders, seven days for house arrest and 'Dublin' transfers, and 48 hours for detention-related expulsion, with decisions due within six months, 15 days, and 96 hours respectively.

### New deadline for rejected asylum seekers to leave France post-residency expiry

The 8 July [decree](#), pursuant to the Law on Controlling Immigration, Improving Integration of 26 January sets a 15-day deadline for issuing an obligation to leave French territory after the prefecture is notified of an asylum seeker's loss of right to stay. The initial detention period is extended to four days from 48 hours.

## Germany

### Repatriations from Germany to Afghanistan

On 30 August, [Afghan nationals were returned from Germany](#) to their country of origin, for the first time since August 2021. All returnees were Afghan nationals who have been convicted of criminal offences, carry no legal residency and were subject to return orders.

## Luxembourg

### First 'return home' for persons staying illegally

From 1 September, the first temporary return home was [set up](#) in the premises of the semi-open return facility under the management of the detention centre. The return home accommodates persons residing illegally on the territory of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, obliged to leave the territory, as well as persons subject to a transfer to another EU Member State under the Dublin III Regulation.

## 10. Migration and development

### Czech Republic

#### Aid for humanitarian projects in Ukraine and Moldova approved

On 24 July, support for [three projects](#) in Ukraine and one in Moldova for a total of € 3 million was approved. In Ukraine, the projects focus on assistance to internally displaced persons and humanitarian demining activities. In Moldova, border police capacity will be increased.

## 11. EU legislation transposition

### Cyprus, Luxembourg and the Slovak Republic

#### Transposition of the new EU Blue Card Directive

In Cyprus migration legislation N. 111(I)/2024 was [amended](#) on 1 August to harmonise with Directive (EU) 2021/1883 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment (Blue Card). Practical implementation of the amended legislation is pending.

In Luxembourg, [amendments](#), effective from 4 June, simplify the process for obtaining the European Blue Card. They focus on short-term mobility, more flexible admission conditions for highly qualified workers, and easier family reunification with improved labour market access for family members.

As of 15 July, the new EU Blue Card Directive was [transposed](#) in the Slovak Republic. Among other changes to national legislation, the conditions for issuing and cancelling confirmations of the possibility of filling job vacancies corresponding to high-skilled employment were modified by e.g. lowering the salary threshold for high-skilled jobs, permitting bachelors' degrees for certain roles and streamlining employment conditions for Blue Card holders.