

The role of European Migration Network in supporting European migration policymakers: Mechanisms, Tools and contemporary challenges

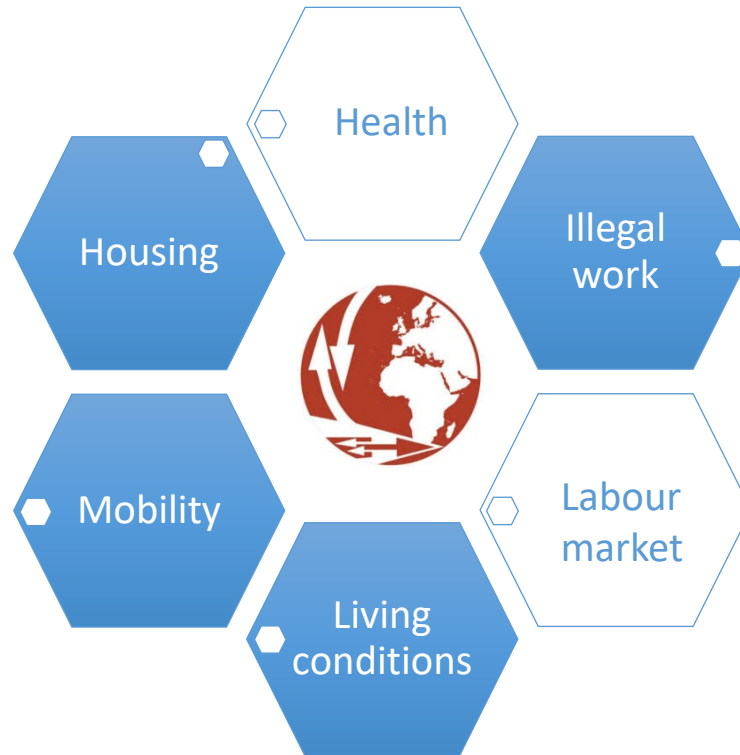
Adolfo Sommaribas
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Tbilisi, 26 March 2021

1. Migration as a research field

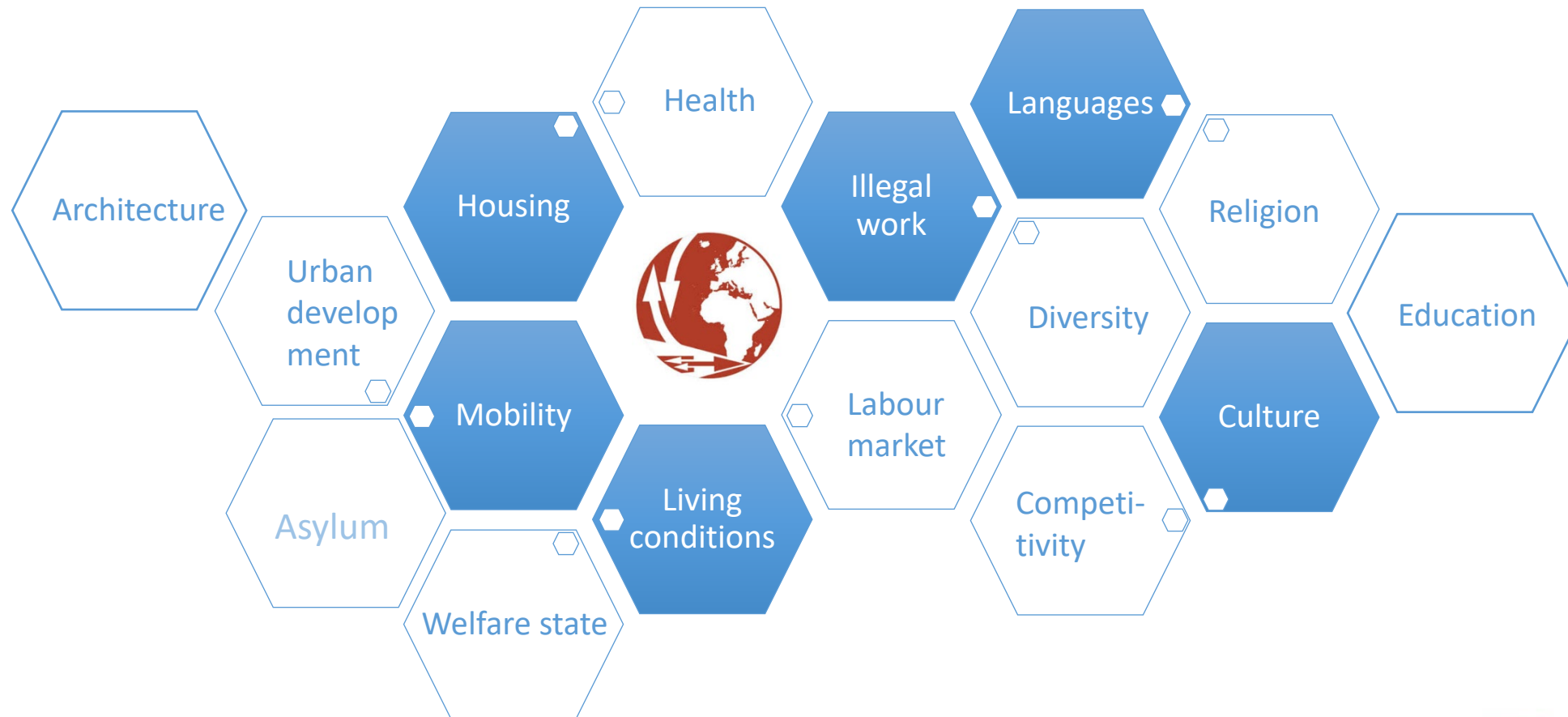


2. Migration as a research field



Source: Aline Muller, LISER, 2017

3. Migration as a research field



Source: Aline Muller, LISER, 2017

4. Migration and academic research

- There is a body of consensual research findings on some areas of migration
- There is very few cross-cutting research (comparability)
- Academic research does not adapt accordingly to the changing migration context
- Research findings often do not shape policy developments
- The capacity of research to move policies is highly contextual
- Politicians can draw on bureaucratic or lay knowledge as well as research findings

5. European Migration Network



6. EUROPEAN MIGRATION NETWORK (EMN)

- Established in 2008 by the European Commission on behalf of the European Council (Council Decision 2008/381/EC)
- 29 National Contact Points, of which 26 are located in EU Member States (Denmark has observer status) plus Norway, Georgia & Moldova.
- The aim of the EMN is to:
 - provide the European and national institutions and agencies as well as the general public with ***up to date, objective, comparable data and information*** concerning migration and asylum related issues
 - in order to provide ***impartial information*** to support the current discourse on migration and
 - to ***support policy decision making*** processes within the European Union

7. Objectives

- Identify, analyse and meet information needs of EU and national policymakers, through the timely provision of relevant information in an appropriate, concise format;
- Share knowledge of policy developments across the EU taking into account specific needs and different approaches of MS by encouraging greater use and facilitate access to EMN publications, documents, dialogues, platforms (such as the EMN-IES) and websites;
- Gather information on MS practices and facilitate practical cooperation with MS on specific aspects of asylum and migration;
- Improve comparability of statistics and other information at EU-level;
- Increase further the impact/effectiveness of the EMN by means of targeted communication and strategic dissemination of EMN outputs in appropriate formats;
- Support policy-makers with tailored products to further engage with media and the general public by providing up to date, objective and relevant information.

8. Dealing with contemporary challenges (1/3)

- In the aim to meet the needs of stakeholders, EMN has adapted its procedures to respond to urgent request of information due to:
 - **Emergency situations:** 2015 « migration crisis » request of information of MS in order to deal with the migration flows
 - **New tasks assigned to the network:** JHA Council Conclusions on Statelessness of 3-4 December 2015 -> EMN Platform on Statelessness -> EMN Inform « Statelessness in the EU » (2016 & 2020)
 - **New events:** EMN policy brief on migrants' movements through the Mediterranean (2017)
 - **Information gaps:** EMN Inform Package on Return Counselling (2019)
 - **Unexpected demand of information:** -> EMN Inform on Detecting document fraud (2018) or EMN Inform on Golden Passports (2019)

8. Dealing with contemporary challenges (2/3)

- **New developments:** 2019 inconsistencies with statistical data on UAM -> EMN Inform on missing unaccompanied minors (published in 2020)
- **Providing assistance to other EU entities (e.g. DG HOME & DG Just):** 2017
Commission Communication on children on migration -> EMN Inform on Children on Migration
- **Crisis management:** Covid-19 pandemic -> provide information through AHQ to MS
-> EMN-OECD series on informs on the Covid-19 pandemic (2020-2021)
- **Modification in the EU priorities on the New Pact on Migration** -> Innovation on Migration (series of informs to be produced during 2021)

8. Dealing with contemporary challenges (3/3)

- In order to deal with the challenges, EMN:
 - Cooperates with external entities competent in migration and asylum (e.g. international organisations, EU institutions and agencies, NGOs)
 - Organise capacity building exercises for practitioners (e.g. representatives of Detention Centers, Cities and migration management, Detection document fraud with law enforcement and immigration authorities)
 - Organise events (conferences, workshops, roundtables) to address the topics, which will target specific audiences (e.g. stakeholders, experts, general public)
 - Use tools to provide information to stakeholders

9. Knowledge Production

- Precise subjects are decided by the Steering Board, and EMN NCPs;
- Data collection for the EMN outputs consist primarily of desk research
 - use of data already available or published at the Member State or international level, including national statistics, legal texts, reports etc.;
- It is complemented, when necessary, by interviews conducted with different stakeholders in the field of migration, asylum, statelessness and integration;
- Collection of information is done in very short time (depending in the output) in order that the information remains relevant.

9. Knowledge Production (Outputs)

- Ad-hoc queries
- Annual Report on Migration and Asylum
- Country factsheets
- EMN Informs
- EMN Situation Reports
- Thematic Studies
- Glossary

10. Ad-hoc queries

- Provide answers to very precise questions launched by COM or a MS on migration and asylum issues
 - Official answers provided in a short period of time (1 – 4 weeks depending on the urgency)
 - Short summary of the compilation of the ad-hoc queries is compulsory
 - 100 - 130 ad-hoc queries launched per year
 - Ad-hoc query working group which establishes the rules of the functioning of the ad-hoc query system
 - Watchdog -> guarantees the quality and the scope of the ad-hoc queries
- Derived products
 - Thematic informs
 - EMN-OECD series on the Covid-19 pandemic
 - Children on Migration (March 2021)
 - How do EU member states treat cases of missing unaccompanied minors? (June 2020)
 - Long-term resident status in the EU (May 2020)
 - Statelessness in the EU (January 2020)

11. EMN ad-hoc queries & derivated outputs



EMN Ad-Hoc Query on Joint ad-hoc query COM & LU EMN NCP on statelessness (part 1)

Requested by LU EMN NCP on 4th May 2016

Miscellaneous

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

Disclaimer:

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

Background information:

Statelessness as a legal anomaly it prevents people from accessing fundamental human, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Hence, most of the current 10 million stateless persons scattered around the world are living in conditions of protracted marginalization and discrimination, facing numerous difficulties, such as the inability of receiving medical assistance, enrolling in educational programs, acquiring property, being legally employed, becoming married or opening up a bank account.

The Luxembourgish government has been very interested on the issue of statelessness and asked the EU EMN NCP to launched an ad-hoc query on recognition of statelessness on 12 March 2015. This ad-hoc query allowed to determine the state of play on the recognition procedures in the EU.

The LA EMN NCP following the Justice and Home Affairs Council conclusions of 3 and 4 December 2015 which considered the EMN as a platform for exchange of information and good practices, decided to dedicate this year conference to the subject of statelessness. The conference entitled "Tackling Statelessness: Exchange of Experiences and Good Practices", on the 15th of April 2016, grappled with the issue of statelessness.

Although the framework was interdisciplinary (policy makers, academics, lawyers, NGOs and international organizations) and hence, the presentations variegated throughout the panels, the strategies and approaches intended to efficiently prevent statelessness emerged as common themes. Certain groups, among which migrants and refugees, minorities and more specifically minors are particularly vulnerable and hence jeopardized.

Following these conclusions, COM and the IJEMNCP would like to update the ad-hoc query launched and enhance knowledge on minors born in exile as well as unaccompanied minors particularly at risk of being stateless.

For these reasons the present ad-hoc query will be launched in two parts. The first one will comprehends general questions and the second part comprehends questions regarding minors born in exile and unaccompanied minors.

Questions


1. Does your MS have made any legislative or administrative changes in the recognition procedures of statelessness since 2015? (Please refer to the LU EMN NCP Ad-hoc query on recognition of statelessness launched on 12 March 2015).
2. Is your MS a State Party to the 1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness? If yes, please indicate the date and the legislation in question?



If no, please indicate the reasons why your MS did not ratify the convention and if your MS is planning to do so. Do you have a determination procedure of nationality for deal with stateless persons? (This is an update of the LU EMN NCP Ad-Hoc Query on recognition of stateless persons requested on 28th February 2015, so if there have not been any changes please refer to the answer of your MS to this query).

3. Does the recognition of the statelessness status to an individual grant a right to a residence permit in your MS? If the answer is no, please explain what is the procedure that the beneficiary has to fulfill to obtain a residence permit. If your MS does not have a procedure for the recognition of statelessness status, how are stateless persons granted a residence permit?
4. Does your MS facilitate the access to nationality to individuals who have been granted the stateless status? Can you please explain the procedure?

Responses

	Country	Wider Determination	Response
	Austria	Yes	<p>1. No. Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>2. Yes. Austria ratified the Convention in 1972. It entered into effect in Austria as of 13 December 1975 (Federal Law Gazette No. 536/1974 as most recently amended by Federal Law Gazette III No. 222/2013) and was transposed into national law within the framework of the 1983 Citizenship Act (Staatsbürgerschaftsgesetz 1983). Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>3. Austria has no procedure for recognizing statelessness. With regard to issuing residence titles, stateless persons are equal to other third-country nationals. The provisions governing the procedure for issuing a residence title are specified in the Settlement and Residence Act (Niederlassungs- und Aufenthaltsgesetz). Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>4. Stateless persons normally have to meet the same general requirements as other persons applying for citizenship. These include at least ten years of uninterrupted legal residence in Austria, of which at least five of those years were under a Settlement Permit. Applicants for citizenship must additionally provide evidence of proficiency in German at B1 level, of adequate means of subsistence and of "irreproachability" (Unbedenklichkeit). "Irreproachability" of the applicant for citizenship signifies that the person has not been convicted with final effect by an Austrian or foreign court of law to imprisonment on account of one or more deliberate acts; the person has not been convicted with final effect by an Austrian court of law to imprisonment on account of a financial offence;</p>



STATELESSNESS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

EMN INFORM

2020

1. INTRODUCTION

UNHCR's *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2018* reports data on approximately 5.9 million stateless people worldwide. Statelessness is a global phenomenon which is also present in the European Union. At the end of 2018, UNHCR estimated the total number of stateless persons in the European Union plus Norway at 399,283 individuals. This includes both stateless individuals and persons of undetermined nationality.² UNHCR and UNICEF also estimate that, in 2017, there were 2 100 children registered stateless in Europe, a fourfold increase since 2010.³ Article 1 of the 1954 *Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* defines a stateless person as 'a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law'.

Statelessness is a legal anomaly, which can prevent those concerned from accessing fundamental human, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. As a result, such persons often live in conditions of protracted marginalisation and discrimination, facing numerous difficulties, such as the inability to receive medical assistance, enrol in educational programmes, acquire property, obtain legal employment, marry or open a bank account.

Even though statelessness can occur in various contexts, its most common causes include state succession, ill-defined or discriminatory nationality laws, and arbitrary deprivation of nationality. Statelessness can also be a consequence of forced displacement and forced migration.

and can result when people face difficulties accessing civil registration documents, including birth certificates, necessary to acquire or confirm nationality.

Sarah

Sarah was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo as a dual national, to a Congolese mother and a Rwandan father. After her parents were arrested on allegations of spying, Sarah fled to Europe (currently aged 15). Her nationality situation was not resolved until she was unable to remove her. While applying for a temporary residence permit (the only option for 'non-returnable' people in her situation) she realised she had lost both her previous nationalities and was stateless. Because her previous refusals were based on missing documents, she was also unable to obtain the temporary residence permit in country X. Now, more than twelve years later, she remains in the same situation, unable to (re)acquire Congolese or Rwandan nationality. Because of her family history, Sarah is not eligible for regularisation stateless persons. Sarah has no solution in sight. She is unable to study, work or start a family.

The European Migration Network (EMN) was entrusted by JHA Council Conclusions of 3 and 4 December 2015 with the creation of a platform to exchange information and good practices in the field of statelessness.

¹ <https://www.who.int/csr/don/20180605-s5067007unhcr-global-trend-2018/en/>

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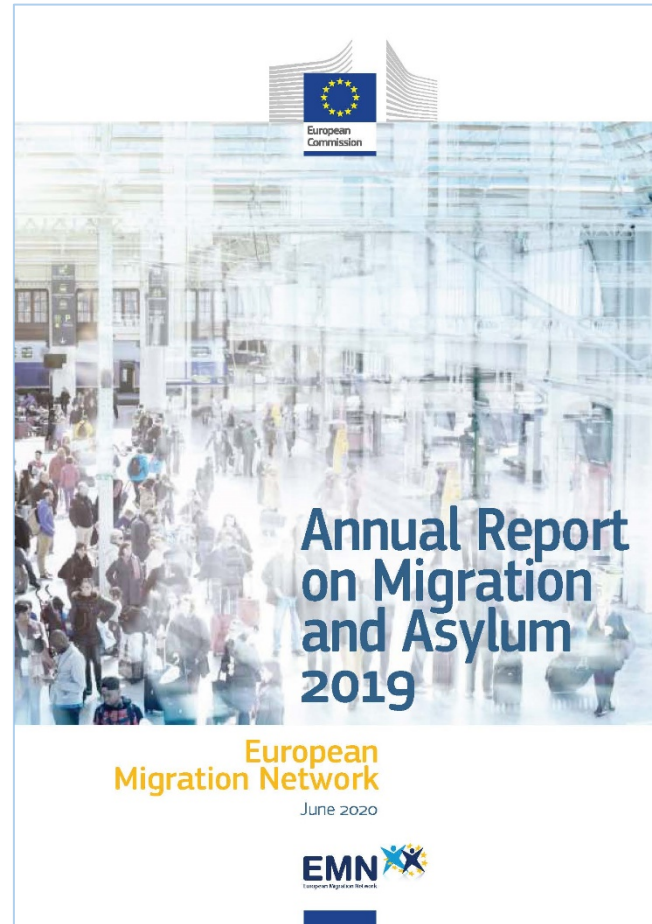
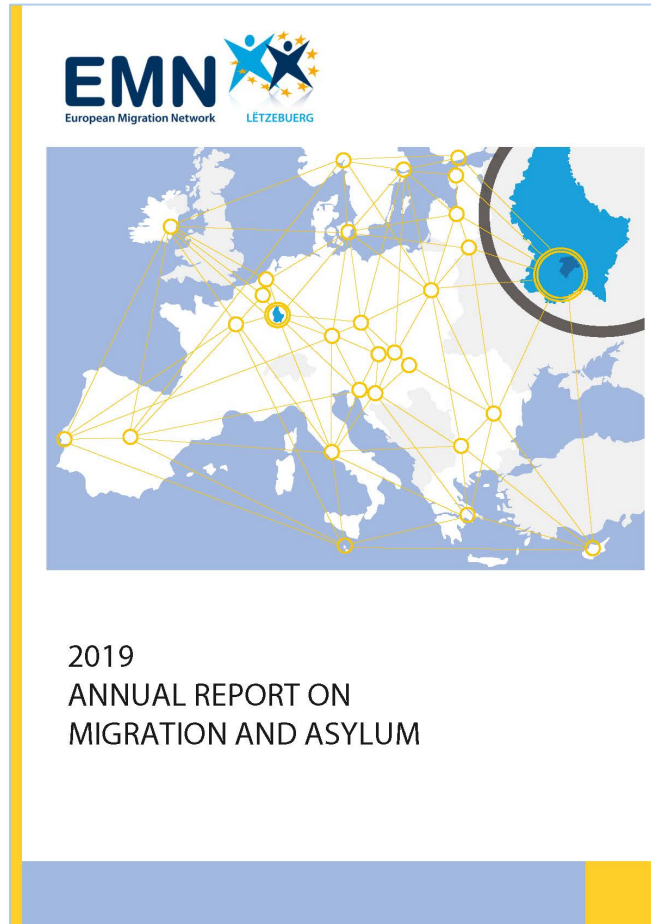
² UNHCR and UNICEF urge action in Europe to end childroot states: ref 14 February 2012. Available at: <https://www.refugees.org/en/2012/02/14/unhcr-unicef-urge-action-europe-end-childroot-states/>



12. Annual Report on Migration and Asylum

- Provides an overall insight into the most significant political and legislative (including EU) developments, as well as public debates, in the area of migration and asylum;
- It serves national needs so the structure of the report must remain flexible in order to adjust it to the national audiences (part 2);
- A synthesis of Member States National Annual Reports and a Statistical Annex of key asylum and migration statistics shall be completed;
 - Coherence of the EMN's report with EASO's annual report shall be ensured, in order to avoid duplication.

13. Annual Report on Migration and Asylum



14. Country Factsheets



- Present up-to-date information on policy developments in migration and asylum in (Member) States;
- Include relevant and comparable Eurostat statistics, supplemented by national statistics, presented in tables and diagrams



15. Informs


- Provide succinct key findings and messages targeted for policymakers on a specific topic based on the results of information gathered and analysed by the EMN (i.e. Annual Reports in Migration and Asylum, Studies and Ad-Hoc Queries);
- Up to 12 EMN Informs per year;
- Produced by the EMN Service Provider or by one or a group of EMN NCPs (with one NCP taking a leading role);
- They are based on a selection carried out by EMN NCPs together with the EC among the list of study topic proposals;
- Ad-hoc informs can be produced as the need arises.

16. EMN Inform & EMN Flash



HOW DO EU MEMBER STATES TREAT CASES OF MISSING UNACCOMPANIED MINORS?¹

EMN INFORM 2020







1. KEY FINDINGS

The phenomenon of migrant children going missing has recently received increased attention from the media in several Member States and the European Parliament. The debate focusses on unaccompanied minors who go missing. There is concern that the disappearance of unaccompanied minors is not addressed yet in an effective manner, as reflected in several recent publications by international organisations² and European NGOs³.

In response to this concern, the EMN, at the request of the European Commission, has mapped how cases of unaccompanied children going missing are being treated in the Member States, and respectively, how data on missing children is collected. NGOs have been asked to reflect on the outcomes of this mapping exercise. This has resulted in the following key findings:

- It is not possible to accurately quantify the phenomenon of missing unaccompanied children in the EU due to **lack of comparable data**. Many Member States do not have reliable or complete data on missing unaccompanied minors, and the existing data is not comparable. Bearing in mind the shortcomings mentioned above, based on the data provided, the majority of missing unaccompanied children reported over the period 2017-2019 were over the age of 15, and the vast majority were males. The three most frequently cited countries of nationality of missing unaccompanied children were Afghanistan, Morocco and Algeria.
- Almost all Member States and Norway reported **elaborate procedures** in place for dealing with unaccompanied minors going missing, which are often **identical and/or similar to the procedures for the national/EU children who disappear**. These included procedures and rules for determining when an unaccompanied minor should be reported as missing, rules on who is responsible for reporting the disappearance and for issuing alerts (nationally and cross-border), and rules on who is responsible for following up on the disappearances (generally, the Police).
- The authorities responsible for dealing with cases of missing unaccompanied minors make an assessment of the **urgency of the case**. Often this includes an assessment of whether there are **worrying circumstances** surrounding the disappearance. The fact that it concerns an unaccompanied minor is not explicitly mentioned as a factor that is in itself considered sufficient to classify the case as 'worrisome'. Save the Children and Missing Children Europe note that **risk assessments** are crucial in this respect, but that in their opinion in practice such assessments vary in quality.
- There is **no uniform mechanism for cross-border cooperation**. Nevertheless, missing person alerts in the Schengen Information System (SIS)⁴ and the exchange of supplementary information on these alerts amongst the SIRENE⁵ Bureau⁶ are widespread. However, Save the Children and Missing Children Europe (based on testing through case simulations in 6 Member States) points out that in their experience the formal procedures may not always be followed in practice.⁸

1 This Inform also covers Norway and the United Kingdom.
2 International Organisation for Migration, Fatal Journeys Volume 4: Missing Migrant Children (2018), <https://publications.iom.int/book/data/journeys-volume-4-missing-migrant-children>.
3 Missing Children Europe, 'Working together to protect children from disappearances - from European priorities to local realities', 2018, <https://www.savechildren.eu/IMG/2018/09/20/Working-together-to-protect-children-from-disappearances.pdf>, and 'Summary Report: Best practice and key challenges on inter-agency cooperation to safeguard unaccompanied children from going missing', <https://missingchildreurope.eu/IMG/2019/09/20/Summary-Report-Best-practice-and-key-challenges-on-inter-agency-cooperation-to-protect-children-from-going-missing.pdf>.
4 Missing Children Europe INTERACT, Report on multi-agency practical simulations on fictional cases in Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, the United Kingdom and Sweden (2019), available at <https://missingchildreurope.eu/What-we-do/Disappearance-of-children-in-migration/INTERACT-Missing-Children-Europe-Best-practice-and-key-challenges-for-inter-agency-cooperation-to-protect-unaccompanied-migrant-children-from-going-missing-2019>, available at <https://missingchildreurope.eu/What-we-do/Disappearance-of-children-in-migration/>.
5 For example, identification and management of cases of abuse, trafficking and exploitation and related measures; risk assessment.
6 The largest security information system used in all EU member states (except Ireland and Cyprus) and also in the UK, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland. All national law enforcement authorities use SIS along national systems.
7 Supplementary information requested at the National Entry.
8 Each Member State operating SIS has a national SIRENE Bureau, operational 24/7, that is responsible for any supplementary information exchange and coordination of activities connected to SIS alerts.
9 Europe INTERACT, Report on multi-agency practical simulations on fictional cases in Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, the United Kingdom and Sweden (2019). How better cross-border cooperation will prevent trafficking of children in migration (2019), available at <https://missingchildreurope.eu/What-we-do/Disappearance-of-children-in-migration/>.





HOW DO EU MEMBER STATES TREAT CASES OF MISSING UNACCOMPANIED MINORS?¹

EMN FLASH #10 - 2020

Introduction to the EMN Inform on Missing Unaccompanied Minors.

The phenomenon of migrant children going missing has recently received increased attention from the media in several Member States and the European Parliament, an issue that has not yet been addressed in an effective manner, as reflected in several recent publications by international organisations and European NGOs.

European Commission has mapped how cases of unaccompanied children going missing are being treated in the Member States. The EMN asked: who is in charge of reporting the disappearance of missing unaccompanied minors and what are the procedural steps taken by authorities? What cross-border networks are in place? What national data is available for this group of children?

In response to this concern, the EMN, at the request of the

Key findings

- It is not possible to accurately quantify the phenomenon of missing unaccompanied children in the EU due to **lack of comparable data**. Many Member States do not have complete data on missing unaccompanied minors, and the existing data is not comparable. However, data provided over the period 2017-2019 showed that the majority of such children reported were over the age of 15, the vast majority were males, and the three most frequently cited countries of nationality were Afghanistan, Morocco and Algeria.
- Almost all Member States reported **elaborate procedures** in place for dealing with unaccompanied minors going missing, which are often **identical and/or similar to the procedures for the national/EU children who disappear**. These included rules and procedures for determining when an unaccompanied minor should be reported as missing, and who is responsible for reporting the disappearance, for issuing alerts (nationally and cross-border), and for following up on the disappearances (generally, the Police).
- At the same time several NGOs note that, in their experience, there are **discrepancies between existing frameworks in place and the practice**. For example, the NGO Save the Children notes that in practice the registration of a disappearance may not always be followed up by the police as in the case of missing national children. According to them, the problem is sometimes one of insufficient **cooperation between various authorities**: police, asylum, social and child protection authorities do not always have protocols and safeguards in place to work together in case a child goes missing, preventing a proper and swift response once this happens.
- The authorities responsible for dealing with cases of missing unaccompanied minors assess the **urgency of the case**, often including an assessment of whether there are **worrying circumstances** surrounding the disappearance. The fact that it concerns an unaccompanied minor is not explicitly mentioned as a factor that is in itself considered sufficient to classify the case as 'worrisome'. Save the Children notes that **risk assessments** are crucial in this respect, but in their opinion, in practice such assessments vary in quality.
- There is **no uniform mechanism for cross-border cooperation**. Nevertheless, the use of missing person alerts in the Schengen Information System (SIS) and the exchange of supplementary information on these alerts amongst the SIRENE Bureau are widespread. However, Missing Children Europe (based on testing through case simulations in six Member States) points out that in their experience the formal procedures may not always be followed in practice.
- Member States have implemented systems to ensure that data is kept up to date and to avoid duplication, however, **some gaps and weaknesses** were identified in the collection and updating of the data.

Some good practices in the collection of data on missing children have been detected such as collection of data at centralised level on missing children, either at the reception centres level or by using a dedicated database on missing children.

Data available in the EU Member States, Norway and the United Kingdom on the number of unaccompanied minors going missing

- Data available 2017-2019
- Data available from multiple sources (for one or more years)
- Data not available
- Countries not included in the research



1 This Inform also covers Norway and the United Kingdom.

FIND OUT MORE

- About the Inform: [Click here for the Inform](#)
- About the EMN: <https://www.emn.europa.eu/en>
- EMN Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EMNInform>





D.G. Migration & Home Affairs

17. Thematic Studies

- 4 studies per year on migration and asylum topics;
- Studies are approved by the Steering Board after a voting procedure between the EMN NCPs;
- The template of the study is drafted by an advisory group composed by MS, the EMN SP and external experts;
- The national reports have to be drafted and submitted in a 3 month period after the launching of the study;
- They are designed with the intention that the information collected is comparable and can be used to produce a synthesis report.


18. National Studies




First Study 2018

Impact of visa liberalisation on countries of destination


Luxembourg



Co-funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund



LE GOUVERNEMENT DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Intégration
Office luxembourgeois de l'Asile et de l'Intégration



UNIVERSITÉ DU LUXEMBOURG



Federal Office for Migration and Refugees



Attracting and Supporting International Start-Ups and Innovative Entrepreneurs in Germany

Study by the German National Contact Point for the European Migration Network (EMN)



Working Paper 88
Janne Grote
in cooperation with: Ralf Sängler / Kareem Bayo

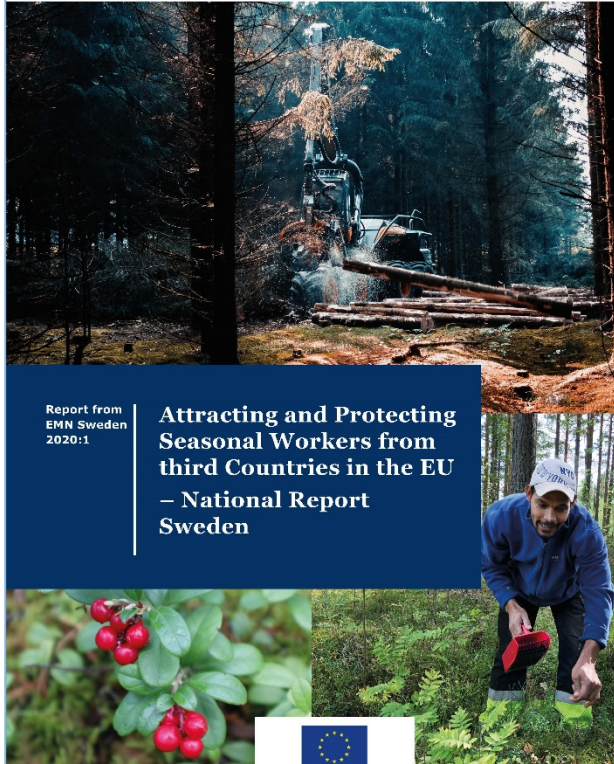


Forschung




Co-financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union





Report from EMN Sweden 2020:1



Attracting and Protecting Seasonal Workers from third Countries in the EU – National Report Sweden



Funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

19. Synthesis reports, Informers & Flash





PATHWAYS TO CITIZENSHIP FOR THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS IN THE EU

EMN INFORM 2020

KEY POINTS TO NOTE

- Policies on the acquisition of citizenship have evolved over the past five years, with Member States reporting trends that have had the impact of making access to citizenship either more liberal or more restrictive.** Trends in the numbers of individuals granted citizenship of an EU-28 Member States have shown an overall decline in the period of time covered by the study.
- The criteria for granting citizenship and the procedures in place are broadly similar across the Member States but the specific conditions and requirements that apply vary considerably, depending on whether more liberal or restrictive policies are in place.** Processing times, the costs to applicants and available support were found to all vary significantly.
- For many aspiring citizens, naturalisation can be a lengthy and costly process, with limited available support, and a positive outcome is in general not guaranteed, even where all conditions have been met.**
- The majority of Member States now allow for dual citizenship,** which may acknowledge the demographic reality that many migrants have ties to more than one country. Other Member States – in practice – apply exemptions where the renunciation of a previous citizenship cannot reasonably take place. However, dual citizenship brings both benefits and challenges.
- Citizenship is seen by Member States as either the culmination of the integration process or as facilitating the integration process.** However, in most Member States, third-country nationals are not actively encouraged to apply for citizenship, and support is limited.

SCOPE AND AIMS OF THE STUDY

The study provides a comparative overview of the frameworks in place across the Member States of the European Union (EU) for access to national citizenship for new migrants from third countries, through naturalisation. The increase in the number of new migrants who have arrived in the EU in recent years, either as beneficiaries of international protection, for work, or other purposes, has shed light on the importance of their integration. Thus, the acquisition of citizenship, whether as the final step in the integration process, as a means of facilitating integration and/or as an incentive to become part of a new society, is the focus of this EMN Study. Its scope gives priority to the acquisition



of national citizenship through ordinary naturalisation for new migrants, i.e. third-country nationals who do not have pre-existing ties with the Member State, and does not include the situation of the second and third generation (i.e. individuals born in and residing in a country that at least one of their parents or grandparents previously entered as a migrant). The study is based on national information and data collected by the authors, from National Contact Points established in each participating Member State and reflects the situation and developments that have occurred in the last five years.



METHOD AND ANALYSIS

The information used in this Synthesis Report came primarily from secondary sources provided by 25 EU Member States.¹ National contributions were based on desk analysis of existing legislation and policy documents, reports, academic literature, internet resources, reports and information from national

authorities. In some Member States, primary data collection through interviews with national stakeholder was carried out. Statistics were sourced from Eurostat or provided by national authorities.

¹ AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LU, LT, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, SE, SK, UK. This publication was part of the 2019 EMN Work Programme and therefore includes contributions from the United Kingdom as an EU Member State up to 31 January 2020.





HOW CAN THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS OBTAIN CITIZENSHIP OF AN EU MEMBER STATE?

EMN FLASH #13 - 2020

Introduction to the EMN Study on Pathways to citizenship for third-country nationals in the EU

The increase in the number of new migrants who have arrived in the EU in recent years, either as beneficiaries of international protection, for work, or other purposes, has meant that their integration has become an important policy topic in many Member States. Thus, the acquisition of citizenship, whether as the final step in the integration process, as a means of facilitating integration and/or as an incentive to become part of a new society, is an important topic.

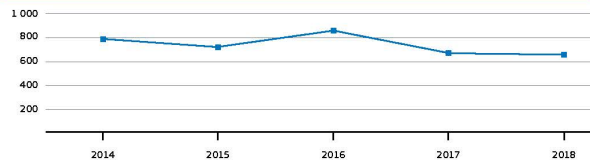
How have national policies evolved over the past five years in relation to the acquisition of citizenship? What are the criteria and procedures in place, and how costly and long is the process? What type of support do Member States provide to third-country nationals wishing to acquire citizenship? Is citizenship seen as the culmination of the integration process, or as a key tool to facilitate the integration of migrants into a host society?

By exploring the national policies in EU Member States regarding the acquisition of citizenship for third-country nationals, the EMN Study provides a comparative overview of recent trends, frameworks and good practices from 25 Member States. At a glance, the main research findings are introduced below.

Key findings

- Policies on the acquisition of citizenship have evolved over the past five years, with Member States reporting trends that render access to citizenship either more liberal or more restrictive.** Trends in the numbers of individuals granted citizenship of an EU-28 Member States have shown an overall decline in the period of time covered by the study.
- The criteria for granting citizenship and the procedures in place are broadly similar across the Member States but the specific conditions and requirements that apply vary considerably, depending on whether more liberal or restrictive policies are in place.** Processing times, the costs to applicants and available support all vary significantly.
- For many aspiring citizens, naturalisation can be a lengthy and costly process, with limited available support, and a positive outcome is in general not guaranteed, even where all conditions have been met.**
- The majority of Member States allow for dual citizenship,** which may acknowledge the demographic reality that many migrants have ties to more than one country. Other Member States, in practice, apply exemptions where the renunciation of a previous citizenship cannot reasonably take place. However, dual citizenship brings both benefits and challenges.
- Citizenship is seen by Member States as either the culmination of the integration process or as facilitating the integration process.** However, in most Member States, third-country nationals are not actively encouraged to apply for citizenship, and support is limited.

Number of third-country nationals having acquired the citizenship of an EU Member State, EU-28, 2014-2018





Year	Number of third-country nationals
2014	800
2015	750
2016	850
2017	650
2018	650



Source: Eurostat mig_xxx, extracted 7 May 2020

FIND OUT MORE

- About the Study:** [Click here for the Study](#)
- About the EMN:** <http://www.ec.europa.eu/emn>
- EMN Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/EMNMigration>



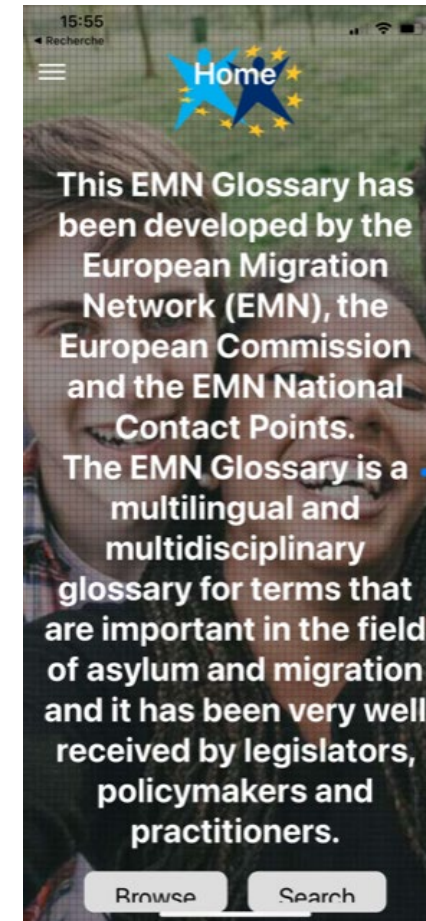
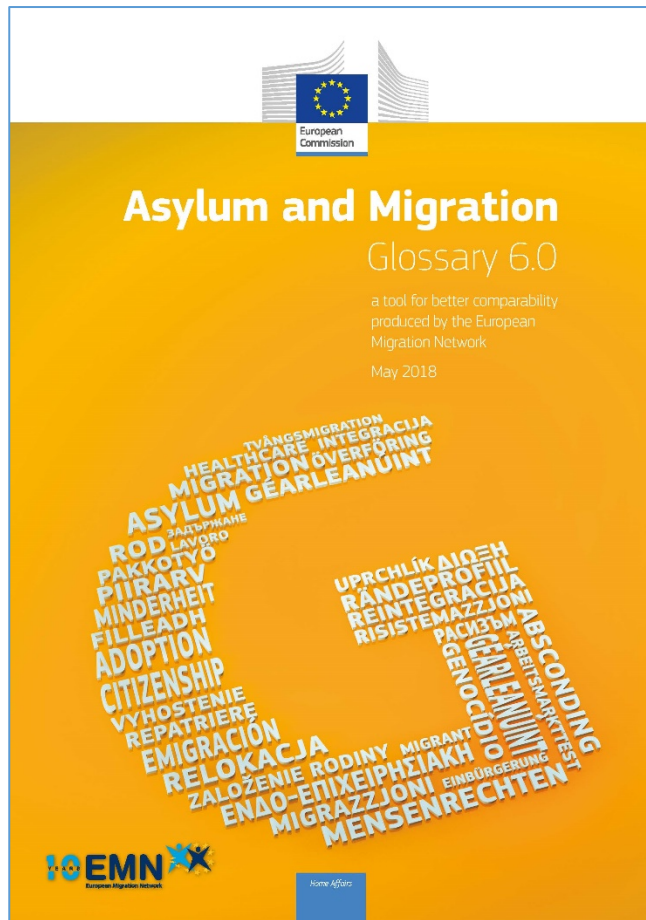
Funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund



20. EMN Glossary (and EMN Glossary App)

- Improves comparability by enabling a common understanding and use of terms and definitions relating to asylum and migration;
- Draws on a variety of sources, but primarily on the legislation of the EU asylum and immigration acquis;
- Makes terms available in the majority of EU Member State languages;
- Considers developments in the external dimension, at the same time acknowledging the needs of practitioners working in the field;
- Available in English (v. 6.0), German, Finnish (v.5.0), French, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, Lithuanian and Arabic (v. 3.0)
- EMN Glossary App available in English, German, Finnish, Latvian, Italian. Available for free download both at App Store and Play Store.

21. EMN Glossary (EN, DE & APP)



22. Conclusions

- EMN knowledge production differs from academic research in the fact that it is mainly based in desk research and specific interviews with stakeholders;
- All the information collected is validated by official sources;
- It is produced in a very short period of time depending on the product;
- Topics are chosen in accordance with EU and national needs;
- The information is managed according to the target group that it wishes to reach (Studies, Informs, Flashes etc.).

Thank you for your
attention!

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