

European Migration Network

A Virtual Information Exchange
System on Migration and Asylum
in Europe



Issue No. 01/04
July 2004

This Newsletter...

First and foremost informs all interested parties about the European Migration Network (EMN), its aims and objectives and its current stage of development. Furthermore, it reports on important developments and upcoming events in the field of migration and asylum throughout the European Union. In the first few editions the different NCPs will introduce themselves, providing short overviews of their work and EMN work progress.

Though this newsletter will principally be drafted by the National Contact Points of the network, other interested participants are invited to contribute.

About the EMN

The European Migration Network (EMN) is a project that originated in 2002 in response to the need for a regular exchange of information concerning all aspects of migration in the European Union. EMN's intention is to provide the Community, its Member States and in the longer term the general public, with objective, reliable and comparable information on the migration and asylum situation.

Under the general direction of the European Commission (DG Justice and Home Affairs) thirteen National Contact Points (NCPs) have begun to carry out the task of gathering, co-ordinating, exchanging and analysing information and data on migration and asylum.

Since December 2003, the Berlin Institute for Comparative Social Research (BIVS), as scientific and administrative co-ordinator, has assisted in the implementation and preparatory phase of development of the European Migration Network. The Computation and Information Structures (CIS) group of the Technical University Berlin is responsible for establishing a data processing system capable of carrying out research activities.

The aim of EMN is to include all Member States of the European Union in the network in the next one to two years.

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Profiles Section

In this section of the EMN newsletter, NCPs will successively present their work and EMN work progress.

The Dutch NCP

The Immigration and Naturalisation Service Information and Analysis Centre (INDIAC) of the Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) of the Ministry of Justice was founded in 1995 to provide insights in changes in the asylum and migration flows. The Department, consisting of 20 people, is now supporting the staff of the INS and informing the management of the INS, the Minister for Aliens Affairs, on developments in migration flows. One of the main tasks of INDIAC is to collect and analyse relevant information on migration in a sufficient and efficient way. On the basis of this information, the Minister informs the Dutch Parliament. Because of the analysis work in the field of migration, the Department INDIAC has built-up several contacts with researchers, including universities, national research organisations and other ministries in the Netherlands.

In the year 2002, INDIAC was appointed National Contact Point for the European Migration Network. As of September 2003, activities for the EMN are co-financed by the European Commission. The EMN is an extensive project for INDIAC. The Department aims at becoming the main organisation in the Netherlands that contacts and is contacted by other organisations regarding issues within the context of migration (gateway function).

Since a relatively well developed network of migration specialists already existed, INDIAC concentrates on the extension of the network by actively looking for more contacts. Approximately 80 national organisations in the field of asylum and migration have been contacted and ten of them visited. They were informed about

the EMN and asked to participate by making available their publications. For instance, organisations like the Central Bureau of Statistics, University of Amsterdam and EcorysNei are participating. Relevant information received by INDIAC is processed in a database.

Concerning the implementation of the Work Programme under the 2003 budget, the technical possibilities for the collection of data for the EMN are internally under consideration. The large IT project will consume a large portion of the budget granted. The priorities within the Work Program are aimed at maintaining and enlarging contacts with national organisations and working on the specific tasks of the Work Programme 2003, such as the pilot project and the Annual report on Statistics. Apart from that, INDIAC would like to learn from the

experiences of other NCPs in building up the network. For instance, the Austrian NCP was successfully visited in May 2004 by INDIAC and frequent e-mail contacts with other NCPs exist. INDIAC has regular contact with the Dutch Ministry of Justice, as well as the Dutch contact point for the Integration Network.

Other activities to be performed by INDIAC concerning the EMN Work programme under the 2003 budget are, amongst others, the development of a leaflet to inform national partners about the project and publishing information on the INS intranet website. INDIAC is also preparing a national newsletter. INDIAC hopes to achieve co-operation with all national and international partners.

Contributed by Louisa Visser/Linda Spoomaker from the Dutch NCP.

The Irish NCP

The Irish Contact Point of the European Migration Network is located within the **Economic and Social Research Institute**. The ESRI is an independent research body with a mission to produce high quality research, which informs policy-making and societal understanding. The Institute's goals are academic excellence, objectivity, relevance to policy, and widespread dissemination of results.

The ESRI has been involved in migration related research since its inception in 1960. The focus of this research shifted from emigration to immigration during the 1990s, reflecting Irish demographic trends. Among a variety of migration research projects, the ESRI is responsible for the Irish reports to SOPEMI, the OECD

Continuous Reporting System on Migration; these reports have been produced on an annual basis since 1994.

The ESRI currently employs over 90 full and part time staff. Two staff members run the Irish Contact Point of the European Migration Network. Research Professor Gerry Hughes is the Director of the Irish Contact Point. Ms Emma Quinn works full time on the EMN as Researcher/Archivist. The Irish Contact Point of the EMN also receives funding from the Irish Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

Contributed by Emma Quinn from the Irish NCP.

Reports Section

This section of the EMN newsletter includes contributions by the NCPs on the latest developments in immigration and integration issues within the EU.

Irish Citizenship

The issue of Irish-born children and the proposed citizenship referendum

The issue of Irish citizenship continues to dominate the immigration debate in Ireland. There are two dimensions: whether having an Irish-born child entitles non-EU national parents to reside in Ireland, and whether citizenship should be granted to all children born in Ireland. The Irish Constitution as it stands, states that any person born in Ireland is entitled to Irish citizenship. A Supreme Court ruling in 1989 found that such children have a right to the care of their family in the State. This ruling meant that non-national parents were therefore generally granted residency. In January 2003 a further Supreme Court ruling ended this practice by finding that non-EU parents to Irish children did not automatically gain residency rights. The Government announced that immigrants could no longer seek residency based on their child's Irish citizenship and suspended the processing of 11,000 residency claims lodged on that basis. Deportation orders have been served on a number of these families who will be obliged to take their Irish citizen child with them when they leave.

Due to the fact that Irish citizenship carries with it freedom of movement within the EU, the issue is also one of interest at European level. Ireland is the only country in the EU that grants citizenship on the principle of *jus soli* (place of birth) alone. The Government has proposed a referendum on the question of a Constitutional amendment that would move the acquisition of citizenship towards *jus sanguinis* (the principle of citizenship based on blood descent). In order to acquire Irish

citizenship a child born in Ireland would have to have at least one Irish parent. Opponents of the referendum claim that the numbers of women coming to Ireland to give birth do not warrant what they see as a hurried Constitutional amendment. The referendum is scheduled for the 11th June 2004, on the same day as local government and European elections are due to be held in Ireland.

The recent European Court of Justice 'opinion' in the case of *Chen v UK* has been interpreted by the Government as evidence of the need for a Constitutional referendum in Ireland. Ms Chen travelled from China and gave birth to a child in Belfast. She applied for the right to live in the UK with her Irish-citizen child. When the British Home Secretary denied her residency, she appealed the decision to the European Court of Justice under EU law. The preliminary judgment was in her favour and it is expected the final ruling will confirm this finding later this year.

The accession of the new Member States

Since 1st May, nationals from the new accession state have had unlimited access to Ireland's labour market. In a related development, new restrictions have been introduced on access to social welfare in Ireland. Access to social assistance and child benefit is now dependent on meeting a "habitual residence" requirement. The test involves consideration of the length/continuity of residence, employment prospects, reasons for coming to Ireland and centre of interest (e.g. family). The most basic requirement is for any person to have been legally resident in Ireland or the UK for two years before making an

application for social welfare.

Asylum seekers from the accession states are now entitled to remain in Ireland but they no longer qualify for State-run direct provision accommodation. Many have not been resident in Ireland long enough to pass the habitual residency test for social welfare. Newspaper reports suggest that about 1000 individuals from the new accession states are affected by these changes.

Recent Publications on Irish Citizenship

- Kelly, Nuala (2004), *Work Permits in Ireland: A Recommendation for Change*, Migrant Rights Centre, Dublin.
- Kenna, Padraig and MacNeela, Padraig (2004), *Housing and Refugees: The Real Picture*, Vincentian Refugee Centre, Dublin.
- Millward Brown IMS (2004), *Opinions on Racism and Attitudes to Minority Groups*, Know Racism, Dublin.
- National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (2004), *International Perspectives Relating to the Future of Irish Born Children and their Non-National Parents in Ireland*, Advocacy Paper Series, Paper 2, NCCRI, Dublin.

Contributed by Emma Quinn from the Irish NCP.

Reports Section

Longitudinal Research Programme

*on Refugee and Migrant Integration
in the U.K.*

In order to understand how refugees and legal migrants are successfully integrated in the longer term, and how full economic and social integration of those permanently settled in the UK can be achieved, the Immigration Research and Statistics Service (IRSS) has been commissioned to conduct a programme of longitudinal research on refugee and migrant integration.

The longitudinal research programme, scheduled to run between April 2004 and 2008, has the following aims:

1. Establish a longitudinal database of information about migrant integration from primary data collection.
2. Develop and test a method for accessing and linking longitudinal data in other government departments (in the first instance).
3. Provide a range of outputs that describe and assess the integration of defined groups of migrants.

The programme consists of four proposed projects. Only one is described here but more information can be obtained from the UK contact point.

The longitudinal survey of refugees arriving under the Gateway Protection Resettlement Programme

Research and the refugees arriving as part of the new Gateway Protection Programme is currently underway. The United Kingdom Gateway Protection Programme was designed as part of the UK Government's commitment to develop an effective international protection regime. The Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 provides for the development of this programme which aims to resettle up to 500 refugees permanently in the UK per year from countries such as Liberia. IRSS is responsible for developing longitudinal research to examine the integration of the resettled refugees and their experiences in the UK over time. Specifically, a census of the resettled refugees will be conducted - with all refugees arriving under the resettlement programme being asked to participate in the research. Repeat interviews will be conducted with the refugees at six weeks, six months and twelve months after their arrival in the UK. These interviews will collect information about the resettlement experience of those arriving in the UK and how they integrate and become part of their communities. The research will provide important new information on refugees' experience

in various aspects of their lives (for example, getting access to services, finding work, developing language skills and making connections with their communities). The research aims to identify factors which help the refugees resettle in the United Kingdom and those which prevent them from achieving their full potential in their new communities.

Contributed by Victoria Richardson from the UK NCP

Information on Other European Networks

This section of the EMN newsletter will profile various networks, organisations and projects in the field of migration.

The INTI Network:

INTI- Integration of Third Country Nationals

The cooperation and careful harmonisation of fields of action between different projects and initiatives working in the field of migration and asylum, is essential to developing synergy effects and avoiding duplication of effort.

Like EMN, another project that aims at being a valuable instrument in monitoring the multidimensional phenomenon of migration, is currently in its early phase of implementation.

INTI is a European Union (EU) funding programme for preparatory actions promoting the integration of non-EU citizens into EU member states. Its aim is to promote trans-national dialogue, develop integration models, seek out and evaluate best practices in the integration field and set up networks at a European level. Initially the exchange of information will take place within the three policy fields suggested in the 2003 Commission Communication on Immigration:

- integration and employment

- language training
- the participation of immigrants in civil society as well as in cultural and political life.

Member States vary considerably in the way they conceive the integration of third-country nationals and in the extent to which they have developed and implemented integration policies. Some countries have a long experience in this area whereas others have only just started developing national policies. Member States of varying degrees of experience will benefit from the INTI programme. Third countries can participate in the activities undertaken by Member States, although they cannot apply or receive financial support in this framework.

The underlying principle of INTI is to promote new and innovative ways of integrating immigrants, building wherever possible on past experience. Priority is given to actions facilitating the empowerment of migrants. INTI encourages

co-operation between member states and the creation of transnational partnerships and networks.

In April 2004, fourteen Member States and six acceding countries met in Lisbon to discuss civic participation of immigrants as an important factor in their integration. Cultural, religious, political and social participation were the central themes of the one-day event which included panel sessions as well as three parallel workshops. The discussions took place against the backdrop of diverse immigration experiences, legal and policy frameworks across Europe.

Contributed by the Berlin Institute for Comparative Social Research

EMN Activities

This section of the newsletter highlights the ongoing work progress of the network.

In the second phase of its implementation the EMN has begun to make progress in very practical ways. With the assistance of a scientific and administrative coordination team, the NCPs have started to produce more concrete outputs in the following fields:

Pilot Study Research

Project: Currently the NCPs are drawing up a country report on "The Impact of Immigration on Europe's Societies". This first comparative **pilot study** focuses primarily on third country nationals and is subdivided into three chapters: economic impact, civil society and cultural context, as well as the political impact of migrants on their host society. The realisation of the pilot study will enable the participating National Contact Points, the administrative and scientific coordinator and the Commission, to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the system and reveal how the network and its working structure might be modified.

This year's **Annual Policy Report**, which the NCPs will draw up within the next six months, will concentrate on the most important discussions on immigration and integration in each Member State. Furthermore, it will focus on new legal developments, including the implementation of EU legislation, new policy developments and administrative practices, as well as the perspectives of the various

stakeholders regarding these developments (NGOs, public institutions, researchers, etc.). This report is designed for policy makers on national as well as on European level and shall serve as a basis for a common European policy on migration and asylum issues.

Networking: The ongoing process of building up a well-balanced and manageable national network is a main focus of the EMN. NCPs have identified potential partners and exchanged ideas concerning possible future cooperation. In view of the research activities, contacts will be reinforced within the next few months to obtain the necessary support from partners. Most of the NCPs have already organised roundtables and are currently planning common activities with their contacts.

Documentation/Database:

In the last six months, the co-ordination team has implemented a web-based information retrieval system, which allows for the NCPs to enter contact information about their partners and publications used for both the pilot study and policy report. Further templates concerning the documentation of legal documents and statistics on migration and asylum will follow this year.

Contributed by the Berlin Institute for Comparative Social Research

Upcoming Events

This section features conferences and meetings proposed by the NCPs which are of inherent interest to EMN.

•01.-14.07. Belgium: The Odysseus Network will hold the 4th edition of the Summer School on "European Union Immigration and Asylum Law and Policy," from 1-14 July 2004, at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium). The aim of the Summer School is to provide its participants with an extensive understanding of the immigration and asylum policy of the European Union (EU) from a legal point of view.
<http://www.ulb.ac.be/assoc/odysseus/SUMMERFORM2004.doc>

•08.07. Brussels: 7th Meeting of the NCPs of the European Migration Network. Meeting will include the presentation and discussion of the draft specifications concerning the priorities of the EMN work Programme under the 2004 budget and the presentation of the Euro-Mediterranean Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM).

•12.-17.07. Konjic, Bosnia-Herzegowina: "Democracy and Human Rights in Multiethnic Societies". Organised by the Institute for Strengthening Democracy in Bosnia. Themes include: nationality as linked to ethnic group and nationality as linked to state. For more information contact:
Institute for Strengthening Democracy in Bosnia
Tel: +387-36-729806,
izjd-ko@bih.net.ba

•18.-21.08. London, United Kingdom: "Racism, Sexism and Contemporary Politics of Belongings" by ISA (International Sociology Association). Research Committee on Ethnic, Race and Minority Relations (RC05) and ISA Research Committee on Women in Society (RC32). For more information contact:
RC05: n.yuval-davis@uel.ac.uk
RC32: kkannabrian@sancharnet.in

•02.-05.09. Barcelona, Spain: World Congress on Human Movements and Immigration (HMI), an event organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) together with the Universal Forum of Cultures Barcelona 2004.
<http://www.iemed.org/>

•16.-19.09. Maratea, Italy: "International Management of Migration Flows". Conference by EUROFOR (European Research Forum on Migration and Ethnic Relations) in cooperation with the European Commission. The conference is part of the series on "From Immigration Politics to Migration Management- Changes in Migration Management" in the framework of the Marie Curie Programme. BIVS (Berlin Institute for Comparative Social Research)
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•30.09.-02.10. Amsterdam, Netherlands: "Gendered Borders" International Conference on Women and Immigration Law in Europe.
www.rechten.vu.nl/genderedborders

New Publications

The following research publications were published recently.

- May 2004: Information dissemination to potential asylum seekers in countries of origin and/or transit.
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/r220.pdf>
- Country of origin information: a user and content evaluation.
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hors271.pdf>
- An assessment of the impact of asylum policies in Europe 1990-2000.
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hors259.pdf>
- Refugee integration: Can research synthesis inform policy? Feasibility study report.
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/rdsolr1302.pdf>
- March 2002: Asylum seekers' experiences of the voucher scheme in the UK: fieldwork report.
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/asylumexp.pdf>
- Immigrants in Belgium: Immigration and the Labour Market - Final report of a study ordered by the Federal Ministry of Employment and Labour and funded by the Federal Science Policy Office.
(You can find a summary in English at the address: http://www.belspo.fgov.be/belspo/home/pub/pub_ostc/WM/UN1201_en.pdf)

Proposed by the UK NCP and the Belgium NCP.

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