

Newsletter of the

European Migration Network

A Virtual Information Exchange
System on Migration and Asylum
in Europe



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This newsletter...

... first and foremost informs all interested parties about the European Migration Network (EMN), its aims and objectives as well as 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.

About the EMN

The EMN provides 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 Liberty and

Security) and co-ordinated by the Berliner Institut für Vergleichende Sozialforschung, fourteen National Contact Points (NCPs) are gathering, co-ordinating, exchanging and analysing information and data on migration and asylum.

Since July 2005...

several EMN relevant meetings have taken place, further EMN research studies have been completed and decisions on future actions of the EMN have been made.

During the 12th EMN meeting in Brussels in October 2005, the study specifications for the 2006 research project on *Return/Repatriation* and the next small scale study on *Managed Immigration and the Labour Market – The Health Sector* were discussed by network members. Also on this meeting's agenda was the programme for the enlarged joint meeting of the EMN and the Integration Contact Points on the first of December 2005 in Brussels. The purpose of the latter is to present the activities of the EMN and Integration Contact Points, including the presentation of the EMN Pilot Project on The Impact of Immigration on Europe's Societies. In the afternoon session, the EMN Green Paper outlining the future mandate and structure of the EMN (from 2007 onwards) will be presented and discussed.

Two internal meetings of the EMN thesaurus working group in Brussels and Rome have taken place in order to agree

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on the categories and the next level of more specific terms to be employed in the EMN thesaurus. The thesaurus will be used from 2006 onwards to describe and search for documents within the EMN database.

Most of the country studies on Reception Systems, their Capacities and the Social

Situation of Asylum Applicants within the Reception System in the EU Member States as well as on *Illegally Resident Third Country Nationals in the EU Member States: State approaches towards them and their profile and social situation* have been finalised by the NCPs and are now downloadable from the EMN website.

Finally we are happy to announce that the network is further growing towards the end of its preparatory phase: New EMN NCPs have been designated by the governments of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia and Slovakia, which will enrich the added value of the EMN in the future.



The European Migration Network during the 12 EMN Meeting

Profile Section

In this section of the EMN newsletter, newly designated NCPs are presented!

The Estonian NCP: The Estonian Migration Foundation

The Estonian Migration Foundation was established by the Government of the Republic of Estonia in June 1992. The Estonian Migration Foundation is a legal entity under private law whose main objective is to raise funds and support migration and integration. The foundation has been financed mainly by the state and earlier on, through foreign aid. The main goal of the foundation is to provide counseling and financial assistance and thereby ease the process of migration. The fact that the first chairman of the foundation's council was the then Prime Minister illustrates the importance placed on enhancing migration in the 1990s. The foundation's primary clients are non-Estonians – mainly Russian speakers who migrated to Estonia during the Soviet occupation – who do not want to integrate into Estonian society due to their wish to return to their homeland or proceed to other countries. Since 1992, the Estonian Migration Foundation has assisted over 25,000 non-Estonians to re-emigrate back

to their ethnic homelands, strictly adhering to the principle of voluntary repatriation.

The second biggest group supported by the foundation are Estonian nationals or citizens who have emigrated from Estonia before the country regained independence or who were born abroad. More than 1,000 Estonians have received financial aid from the Estonian Migration Foundation to assist repatriation back to Estonia.

The foundation has also, to a lesser degree, supported internal migration and assisted institutions responsible for expulsion of illegal residents.

As migration flows in Estonia have been decreasing, the Estonian Migration Foundation has started to refocus its activities. Since 2001, the foundation has organized annual seminars, bringing together main actors and key institutions in the field of migration and integration in Estonia. Last year, two large-scale research projects were launched, the results of which are being finalized now. The first project explored the situation of the non-

Estonian population in Estonia and the push and pull factors for their staying in Estonia or their decision to re-emigrate in the context of EU enlargement. The second project researched the attitude of the general population towards future immigration to Estonia.

Contributed by the Estonian NCP

Reports Section

This section of the EMN newsletter includes contributions by network members on the latest developments in migration and asylum issues within the EU.

35 Years of Immigration in Italy: Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2005

On 27 October the Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2005 was launched through conferences organised throughout the country. The following brief overview shall present the main results emerging from the Dossier.

Since 1970, the number of immigrants has increased thirty times, from less than one hundred thousand to almost three million people. Immigrants were at one time a marginal part of Italian society but have now become one of the most significant phenomena.

Three closely tied factors have greatly influenced the increase in immigrant numbers in Italy: its geographic location and extensive borders in an area with heavy immigration pressures in confluence with the African and Asian continents and the gateway to Eastern Europe; the quantitatively weak and operationally ineffective management of flows; and the regularisation of illegally employed immigrants without residence permits.

According to the Dossier, the legal foreign

resident population was 2,600,000 in 2003 and 2,786,340 at the end of 2004, of which legal foreign residents were divided among the continents as follows: Europe 1,289,000; Africa 647,000; Asia 472,000; America 314,000; and Oceanic and stateless persons 7,000.

If this trend continues, especially if family reunion and work flows increase, there will be three million legal foreign residents in Italy by 2006.

The most important factors that have contributed to making immigration a rooted phenomenon in Italy are:

- Significant number of immigrants, which places Italy in fourth place after the big immigration countries (Germany, France and the UK).
- A constant pace of immigration growth that has accelerated over the past few years and is higher than the pace of growth in other European countries.
- Distribution of immigrants throughout the country and consequently national visibility.

- Demographic normalisation of the immigrant population with a significant numerical balance between the two sexes.
- Increasing tendency towards stability of residence with approximately 60% of the foreign population regularly residing for more than five years.
- Elevated and growing need of additional manpower by the Italian labour market.
- Irreplaceable role in some sectors. For example, non-Italians comprise five out of six domestic workers in Italy, a total of half a million workers, and are an indispensable solution to the inadequate coverage by the public social welfare network.

Dossier Statistico Immigrazione 2005

Caritas/Migrantes

511 pages

October 2005

Available in Italian

www.dosierimmigrazione.it

EMN Activities

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

Second EMN Small-Scale Study

Managed Migration and the Labour Market – The Health Sector

This second small-scale study aims to contribute to an area of increasing importance in political and academic debates on future migration and migration management and to provide comprehensive information to all EU Member States and the relevant EU institutions. The labour market has been

a central focus of such debates, especially the supply of and the demand for economic immigrants in fields such as the health sector. More and more, this sector has been seen as one in which various types of labour immigrants are in demand. In some EU Member States, health institutions are widely dependent on an immigrant labour

supply largely due to a demographic revolution. For example, a great share of the personnel increasingly needed for elderly care are being found in immigrant circles or are recruited directly from other countries. To meet market demand, health sector specialists are also often recruited from abroad, for

Brief News from the Network Members

Hungary

There will be a meeting on 10–11 November 2005 in Budapest at the Ministry of the Interior. On 10 November, members from the Italian and Austrian national contact points will visit the ministry and the refugee station in Bicske. On 11 November, two additional Austrian NCP members will join the delegation. The NCPs will hold a lecture for Hungarian experts about the system of NCPs and share their experiences, particularly in networking. The main objective of the meeting for Hungary, currently a member of the EMN with observer status, is to take a more active part in the network and activities of the NCPs.

Latvia

On 16–17 August an EMN information exchange meeting was held in Riga. The meeting was sponsored by TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument of the Institution Building unit of Directorate-General Enlargement of the European Commission) and discussed the EMN and NCP structure and activities, the EMN database and documentation issues, future developments beyond 2007 as well as networking possibilities and the setting up of a national network in Latvia. Participants, which included Nathalie Schlenzka (BIVS) and Michel Poulain (University Catholique de Louvain), also discussed EU regulation on migration and asylum community statistics.

Germany

On 25–26 October the German partners of the EMN met for the second time at the Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF) (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees in Nuremberg). The meeting's

main purpose was to expand and strengthen cooperation among partners. Participants exchanged

information on recent developments at BAMF and network partners and held presentations and discussions

universities, healthcare providers, private research groups and the pharmaceutical industry.

This study will review the legal framework of migration policy in this sector, covering local, regional, national and EU regulations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agreements. Information on recruitment policy and procedures, and on the experiences with regard to these interventions, will also be included. Moreover, the study will provide quantitative data on the employment and activities of immigrants in the health sector. It will provide a statistical overview of the labour market situation in this sector, as well as data on immigration status and standard of living of labour migrants involved, including comparative information on income differences, employment status,

type of job undertaken, and average length of labour activities. Furthermore, the changing role of educational institutions and training methods in regards to training and re-training migrants.

The EMN study will be concluded in February 2006. A synthesis report will be drafted bringing together the various findings from the national reports and place them into a European context.

At least ten NCPs, i.e. Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom, will contribute to the second EMN small-scale study.

Contributed by BIVS

main purpose was to expand and strengthen cooperation among partners. Participants exchanged



Network of the German contact point

information on recent developments at BAMF and network partners and held presentations and discussions

on the following topics:

- EMN's activities in 2005,
- Results of the pilot research study *The Impact of Immigration on the German society*,
- Results of the 2005 research project *Illegally Resident Third-Country Nationals in Germany: Policy approaches, profile and social situation*,
- Recent developments in the field of migration and asylum at the EU level,
- Statistics from BAMF and the Central Register of Aliens – opportunities and limits,
- Information management at BAMF – Migrations InfoLogistik (MILO) and EMN databases.

The meeting ended by defining the scope of future cooperation. It was characterised by an open and fruitful exchange that will certainly bring the German and the European networks closer together.

Upcoming Events

This section features upcoming conferences, meetings and other events

until 15.01.2005 'Project Migration' Art Exhibition in Köln (Germany)

Launched by the Federal Culture-Foundation in 2002, the Migration Project was designed to depict the societal changes that migration movements have brought about. The Migration Project was designed as a multiple-stage process spanning several years. Rather than set out on new research approaches or artistic projects, the Migration Project serves as a clearinghouse, among other things, working to promote broader, deeper ways of perceiving the issues migration involves. In autumn 2005 the results of two and one-half years' work in research, development and networking will be brought together in a major, transdisciplinary exhibition. The exhibition will be on display at the Kölnischer Kunstverein and at other locations in the Cologne city center.

contact: Kölnischer Kunstverein, Hahnestrasse 6, D-50667 Köln, phone +49-221-8697647, fax +49-221-8697648, www.projektmigration.de, info@projektmigration.de

15.11.05-14.03.06 Cultural Aspects of Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

The British Refugee Council organises training courses in several cities across the UK to support service providers

in their work with asylum seekers and refugees. Courses cover a wide range of topics in policy and practice, and provide skills development and networking opportunities.

Contact: BRC, Bondway House – 3-9 Bondway, GB-London SW8 1SJ, phone +44-20-78203000, fax +44-20-75829929, info@refugeecouncil.org.uk, www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

01.12.05-04.12.05 IV. International Psychological Trauma Symposium

The fourth symposium in Istanbul (Turkey) will discuss the effects of man-made traumas such as war, terrorism and torture on individuals and communities, psychological consequences, coping mechanisms and forced migration.

Contact: Human Rights Foundation Turkey, Menekse 2 Sokak No. 16/6-7-8 Kizilay, TR-06440 Ankara, phone +90-312-4177180, fax +90-312-4254552, tihv@tr.net, www.r.u.h.s.a.l.t.r.a.v.m.a.2.0.0.5.o.r.g, www.tihv.org.tr

08.12.-11.12.05 International Organisations and the Settlement and Integration of Migrants and Refugees, Marie Curie Conference in Mellieha (Malta)

The fourth conference in the series on migration management is taking shape, bringing together a wide range of actors engaged in migration and migration policy research for a fruitful exchange

of knowledge, experiences and best practices. The conference will be held parallel to the Phare Small Seminar on New Governance of Immigration, Refugee Protection and Minority Politics in a New Europe: The EU Enlargement as a challenge to the European Union Migration Regime.

Contact: EUROFOR, Schliemannstr. 23, 10437 Berlin, phone +49-30-44651065, fax +49-30-4441085, conferences@emz-berlin.de, www.emz-berlin.de

09.-12.03.06 European and National Management of Immigrant Exclusion and Integration, Marie Curie Conference in Ljubljana (Slovenia)

The fifth conference in the series on migration management will spotlight new approaches, theories and policies that deal with the integration of 'strangers' and cultural minorities in the enlarged European Union. Discrimination, exclusion and integration politics in different social contexts will be analysed. Special focus will be accorded to the management of integration processes in the new EU member states.

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