

Why was the EMN established?

In order to address the need to exchange information on all aspects of migration and to contribute to a common asylum and immigration policy, the European Commission was invited to consider the "development of a European system for exchanging information on asylum, migration and countries of origin" by the [Laeken European Council](#) in 2001. The result was the **European Migration Network**, which was launched in 2003 as a Pilot Project, and since 2004 as a Preparatory Action until the end of 2006. The [Thessaloniki European Council](#) (2003) welcomed the "establishment of a European Migration Network and will examine the possibility of setting up a permanent structure in the future". The current [Hague Programme](#) has reinforced the need for common analysis of migratory phenomena (the collection, provision, exchange and efficient use of up-to-date information), and the EMN is one means towards this goal.

What is the EMN's objective?

To improve the availability of, and access to, information concerning migration and asylum at European and Member State level in order to support policy- and decision-making in the EU. This will involve providing the Community, its Member States and, as a longer term objective, the wider public with objective, reliable and comparable information on the migration and asylum situation.

Who are the main actors?

Currently, the European Commission (under the direct responsibility of the **Directorate General for Justice, Freedom and Security**, Contact: Stephen.Davies@ec.europa.eu) is responsible for the development of the EMN, in co-operation with an **EMN Co-ordinator** (currently [Berlin Institute for Comparative Social Research](#), BIVS, EMN@emz-berlin.de), supported by [European Dynamics](#) (ED, emn-project@eurodyn.com) with respect to the further development of the EMN Information Exchange System, until the end of 2006) and other **EMN Members** from most EU Member States who act either as formal EMN National Contact Points (NCPs) or as Observers, with a view to possibly joining at a later stage. Currently there are 17 formal EMN NCPs (from AT, BE, CZ, DE, EE, FN, FR, GR, IE, IT, LV, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, UK) plus five Observers (from CY, DK, HU, LT, PL). In turn, each Member State representative is asked to develop a national network, involving all relevant stakeholders to develop a comprehensive view of the situation within their Member State on a particular migration or asylum topic.

The EMN NCPs and Observers, who have been designated by their Member State government, consist of Ministries of Interior and of Justice; National Statistical Offices; Research Institutes; Non-Governmental Organisations; and a national office of an International Organisation.

What does the EMN do?

Firstly, the EMN responds to existing and new information needs in the form of specifically designed **studies**.

What type of analysis does the EMN undertake?

The EMN does not engage in primary research per se, instead drawing together, evaluating and making accessible already available data and information. This improves availability, comparability and harmonisation of existing information, as well as contributing to evidence-based policy-making. The "desk research" undertaken ranges from a longer-term detailed analysis of a particular migration phenomenon to short-term Ad-Hoc Requests, arising from the development of a particular policy by a Member State.

What does the EMN produce?

The EMN produces [Annual Policy Reports](#), [Research Studies](#), and [Small-Scale Studies](#), all related to migration and asylum in Europe, as well as providing Member State contributions to the [Annual Report on Statistics](#). The various responses to [Ad-Hoc Requests](#) are also compiled as one document.

What is the scope of this research?

Small-Scale Studies are intended to provide valuable information to policymakers and stakeholders about current trends within a short period (typically three months). Studies produced so far are on "[Reception Systems, Their Capacities and the Social Situation of Asylum Applicants within the Reception Systems in the EU Member States](#)"; "[Managed Migration and the Labour Market – The Health Sector](#)" and "[The Conditions of Entry and Residence of Third Country Highly-Skilled Workers in the EU](#)".

Research Studies provide an opportunity for a more in depth analysis of a chosen topic. Studies produced so far are on the "[Impact of Immigration on Europe's Societies](#)"; on "[Illegally Resident Third Country Nationals in the EU Member States: State approaches towards them, their profile and social situation](#)"; and on "[Return](#)".

How are topics selected?

Topics are selected based on proposals made by an EMN NCP(s) and/or the Commission and are based on their relevance to Member States and the Commission to current policy development. Particular attention is paid to the relevance of such studies to their target audience, typically policy-makers at both EU and Member State level.

How does the EMN produce its studies?

The EMN takes advantage of its multi-level structure by first asking each participating NCP to produce a **Country Study**, often involving contributions from members of their national network. Subsequently a comparative **Synthesis Report** is produced, which aims to summarise the key findings from each Country Study, highlighting the most important aspects and placing them as much as possible within an EU perspective (e.g. by relating to recent policy initiatives). This report is normally produced by the EMN Co-ordinator in collaboration with the participating EMN NCPs and European Commission.

Secondly, the EMN monitors the multidimensional phenomenon of migration and asylum and identifies information gaps by **collecting and documenting data and other resources** related to their research and networking activities.

What type of information is collected?

The information on the legal, demographic, economic, social, and political dimensions of migration includes: national legislation, case-law, publications, and contact details of organisations/individuals working in the field, as well as links to other relevant information sources.

Where is this information stored?

The information and resources that EMN Members collect and document forms the basis of the [EMN Information Exchange System](#), which is accessible for the EMN members and its partners through the Network's website.

What information is made available?

And who can access it?

All the EMN studies, including the [Country Study](#) and [Synthesis Reports](#) are published on the European Migration Network's website and are accessible to all. However, the database, because it is still in the developmental stage, is currently restricted to EMN Members and their national partners, plus other relevant EU entities only.

Thirdly, the EMN has the task of establishing a **multi-level network** to aid its activities. On the [European level](#), EMN Members (Co-ordinator, NCPs, Observers) meet regularly, as well as network and collaborate with other European level institutions and organisations.

At [national level](#), each EMN NCP aims to develop a network involving partners within their Member State with an interest in migration and asylum from a wide range of stakeholders in order to have a cross-section of views and information, e.g. from Member State governments, (academic) research community, NGOs.

How will the EMN be developed beyond 2006?

The Commission is in the process of developing a proposal for a legal basis for the EMN, which would be based on Article 66 of the EC Treaty, requiring Qualified Majority Voting of the Council and consultation of the EP. The intention is for this to be formally presented to Council in the first quarter of 2007.

Meanwhile, some EMN activities will continue in order to *inter alia* maintain the collaborations between EMN Members.

Who are the current EMN Members?

- **AUSTRIA:** The AT EMN NCP is represented by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Vienna. The IOM assists the Austrian government in meeting the growing challenges of migration management. IOM's goal is to provide an advanced understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants. Three key issues are defined as IOM's strategy for migration management: migration information, migration related services, research and policy.
Information: www.emn.at
Contact: ncpaustria@emn.at
- **BELGIUM:** The BE EMN NCP is part of the Immigration Service of the Federal Public Service (Ministry) of the Interior. The FPS Interior is in charge of migration matters including the proper application of the Immigration Act regarding the access to the territory, the residence, the establishment, and the removal of foreigners. The Immigration Service represents Belgium in EU working groups and other international for dealing with migration and asylum.
Information: www.dofi.fgov.be
Contact: benedikt.vulsteke@dofi.fgov.be
- **CYPRUS:** CY holds Observer status and is represented by the Civil Registry and Migration Department in the Ministry of Interior.
Information: www.moi.gov.cy
Contact: cmavrommati@asylum.moi.gov.cy
- **CZECH REPUBLIC:** The CZ EMN NCP has been designated within the Department for Asylum and Migration Policies of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. The Department acts as the co-ordinator of affairs relating to immigration and asylum, both at the legislative and the implementation level and is also partly responsible for the general integration of non-Czech citizens. In addition, the Department represents the ministry in court appeals and acts as a supervisory administrative body to the Directorate of Alien and Border Police. The Department is also active in the field of foreign development assistance.
Information: www.mvcr.cz
Contact: opu@mvcr.cz
- **DENMARK:** DK holds Observer status and is represented by the Danish Immigration Service.
Contact: www.nyidanmark.dk/en-us
Contact: tmo@udlst.dk
- **ESTONIA:** The EE EMN NCP is the Estonian Migration Foundation, which was established by the Government of the Republic of Estonia in June 1992. The Estonian Migration Foundation is non-profitable organisation, a legal body in private law whose main objective is to support the migration and integration processes and to raise funds to undertake these tasks. The main goal of the foundation is to help with counselling and financial assistance and, thereby, smoothing the migration process.
Information: www.migfond.ee
Contact: emn@migfond.ee
- **FINLAND:** The FIN EMN NCP is integrated into Statistics Finland, which combines collected data with its own expertise to produce statistics and information services for the needs of society. Statistics Finland works in partnership with the Ministry of Interior Affairs, the Ministry of Labour and the Directorate of Immigration in its EMN-related activities.
Information: www.stat.fi
Contact: mauri.nieminen@stat.fi
- **FRANCE:** The FR EMN NCP is the Observatoire Statistique de L'Immigration et de l'Integration (OSII). This Statistical Observatory was founded in July 2004. OSII analyses statistical categories and integration indicators. The Observatory explores new statistical grounds and works together with the INSEE (Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques), eight ministries, two public bodies (Office des Migrations Internationales, Office Français de Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides), and INED (Institut National des Etudes Démographiques).
Contact: caroline.bray@hci.pm.gouv.fr
- **GERMANY:** The DE EMN NCP is the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), which also processes applications for asylum and subsidiary protection. As the Central Migration Agency, the Federal Office is responsible for the integration of immigrants and is at the head of a national integration programme. BAMF carries out scientific research on issues of migration and integration to obtain analytical conclusions regarding the control of immigration. Moreover, BAMF observes and evaluates the research sector at national and international level, including providing advice to the Federal Government on immigration policy matters. The voluntary return of foreigners is supported by providing them with advice and information.
Information: www.emn-germany.de
Contact: Manfred.Kohlmeier@bamf.bund.de
- **GREECE:** The GR EMN NCP is the Centre of Planning and Economic Research (KEPE), which is involved with economic research in a broad field of applied economics, of both Greek and international interest, and also in areas that are of interest to the Greek Government. It is an entity of private law supervised by the Ministry of Economy and Finance.
Information: www.emn.gr
Contact: kepe@kepe.gr

- **HUNGARY:** HU holds Observer status and is represented in the EMN by the Ministry of Interior, Office of EU Co-operation.
Contact: zbencsik@bm.gov.hu
- **IRELAND:** The IE EMN NCP is located within the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), which is the principal institution engaged in economic and social research in Ireland. It is an independent research body with a mission to produce high quality research, which informs policymaking and societal understanding. The Institute's goals are academic excellence, objectivity, relevance to policy, and widespread dissemination of results.
Information: www.esri.ie
Contact: emn@esri.ie
- **ITALY:** The IT EMN NCP is the research institute IDOS/ Dossier Statistico Immigrazione, designated by the Italian Ministry of Interior. IDOS consists of a group of researchers working within Caritas since 1991, producing every year the most important annual report on migration in Italy - the Dossier Statistico Immigrazione - and managing other national and European projects in the different fields linked with the migration phenomenon (education, integration, minors, welfare, labour market).
Information: www.emnitaly.it
Contact: info@emnitaly.it
- **LATVIA:** The LV EMN NCP was confirmed on the 25th of October 2005 by the government of Latvia (the Cabinet of Ministers). The LV EMN NCP is located within the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs of the Ministry of Interior. It was founded on 19 April, 1991 and it is responsible for implementation of state migration policy, maintenance of the Population Register and issuance of identification and travel documents.
Information: www.pmlp.gov.lv
Contact: coordination@pmlp.gov.lv
- **LITHUANIA:** LT holds Observer status and is represented in the EMN by the Ministry of the Interior, Migration Department,
Information: www.vrm.lt
Contact: evelina.guzinykaite@vrm.lt
- **THE NETHERLANDS:** The NL EMN NCP is within INDIAC (Immigration and Naturalisation Service Information and Analysis Centre), which is part of the Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) of the Ministry of Justice. It was founded in April 1995 to provide insights on changes in asylum influx and migration flows. The main aims of the department are research in the field of migration, supporting the staff of the INS and informing the Directors of the INS, the minister, parliament and external organisations.
Information: www.ind.nl
Contact: EMN@ind.minjus.nl
- **POLAND:** PL holds Observer status and is represented in the EMN by the Office for Repatriation and Aliens International Co-operation Department
Information: www.uric.gov.pl
Contact: integracja@uric.gov.pl
- **PORTUGAL:** The PT EMN NCP is integrated in the Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras (Aliens and Border Control Service), a central government authority, belonging to the Internal Affairs Ministry which deals with immigration issues. It is responsible for the entry, sojourn, exit and removal of foreigners, as well as for the technical assistance concerning immigration and asylum policies. The PT EMN NCP works in close partnership with the National Statistics Institute and the High Commissioner for Immigration and Ethnic Minorities, both governmental institutions.
Information: www.sef.pt
Contact: emn@sef.pt
- **SLOVAKIA:** Since October 2005, the SK EMN NCP has been based in the National Police Academy. As an educational institution, the academy can collect migrant on related data from all stakeholders and use them for further analysis, distribution and research.
Information: www.minv.sk
Contact: emn@minv.sk
- **SLOVENIA:** The SI EMN NCP is the Ministry of Interior, which heads an intergovernmental body comprising also the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and the Statistical Office.
Information: www.mnz.gov.si
Contact: Dominika.marolt-maver@gov.si
- **SWEDEN:** The SE EMN NCP is part of Statistics Sweden, situated within the unit responsible for population, migration and asylum statistics. The SE EMN NCP works independently and is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A close partnership is established with the Migration Board in implementing the work plan and there is collaboration with universities and other organisations in preparing analytical reports.
Information: www.scb.se
Contact: emn@scb.se
- **UNITED KINGDOM:** The UK EMN NCP is the Immigration Research and Statistics Service (IRSS), part of the Research Development and Statistics Directorate (RDS) of the Home Office, which is embedded within the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND). It consists of a multi-disciplinary group of nearly 40 statisticians, researchers and administrators helping policy, operations and management colleagues in IND to meet their objectives. IRSS has provided statistics and analysis for many years on all aspects of the immigration and asylum system. IRSS also carries out a social research programme supporting IND's business agenda in areas such as asylum processes and refugee integration, managed migration, borders and enforcement and international comparisons.
Information: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/emn.html
Contact: emn@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Further information, including the EMN's various outputs, is available from:

<http://www.european-migration-network.org>