

European Migration Network



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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.

About the EMN

The EMN aims 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. The European Commission's Directorate General for Justice, Freedom and

Security (DG JLS) is responsible for the development of the EMN, in close co-operation with the EMN Co-ordinator (Berlin Institute für Vergleichende Sozialforschung (BIVS) plus European Dynamics (ED)), who have been appointed since 28th July 2006 until the end of 2006, as well as other EMN Members (currently 17 formal National Contact Points (NCPs, from AT, BE, CZ, DE, EE, FIN, FR, GR, IE, IT, LV, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, UK) plus 5 Observers, from CY, DK, HU, LT, PL). Attempts to involve representatives from the remaining Member States are underway.

The EMN is a Preparatory Phase action until the end of 2006. A proposal for a possible legal base beyond this is currently being developed.

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Since January 2006...

The European Migration Network has continued its projects and activities, developed guidelines for its future work and produced several comparative reports related to the ongoing EMN studies, as well as holding five EMN meetings in Brussels in order to discuss work progress. The following sections describe the specific activities in more detail.

Recent EMN Publications

This section highlights recent publications and research undertaken by the network

Following presentation at last years [EMN Conference](#), the EMN's pilot Research Study I on the "[Impact of Immigration on Europe's Societies](#)" was published as a booklet with cd-rom (ISBN: 92-894-9505-7) in March 2006.

Soon after this, in May 2006, the EMN's Small-Scale Study I on "[Reception Systems, their Capacities and the Social Situation of asylum applicants within the Reception Systems in the EU Member States](#)" was published in May 2006 (ISBN: 92-79-02660-7). This study included (for the Reference Year 2004) a description of reception facilities in the Member States (the number, capacities and location of such accommodation centres and of other accommodation); an analysis of the social situation of asylum applicants within the accommodation centres; a description of the administrative and legal frameworks of the asylum application procedures; and, in light also of the implementation of the directive on reception conditions for

asylum seekers (2003/9 of 27 January 2003), an outline of new policies which have been developed in some Member States.

More recently, in November 2006, the EMN completed its Small-Scale Study II on "[Managed Migration and the Labour Market - The Health Sector](#)". The aim of this study was to contribute to the development of appropriate policies by presenting the current situation of and needs for migrant healthcare workers in the 11 participating Member States (AT, BE, DE, EE, GR, IE, IT, LT, NL, SE, UK), in a comparative manner. Whilst this is not yet published, the Country Study of each participating EMN NCP and the comparative Synthesis Report are available upon request or via the EMN website.

The EMN's Research Study II on "[Illegally Resident Third-Country Nationals in EU Member States: state approaches towards them, their profile and social situation](#)" has also recently been completed and

again this is available upon request or via the EMN website.

Similarly, the [Annual Policy Report 2005](#) is now available. This report (again consisting of a Country Study from each participating EMN NCP and the comparative Synthesis Report) provides an overall insight into the most significant political discussions, legal developments, as well as enforcement polices and administrative practices. Currently, preparation of the [Annual Policy Report 2006](#) is underway, with a view to completion in the first quarter of 2007.

EMN Members have also made a significant contribution to the "[Migration and Asylum in Europe in 2002](#)" statistical report, as well as for the 2003 report which will become available by the end of 2006.

Upcoming EMN Publications

EMN has recently completed a number of research studies which are now being prepared for publication by the end of 2006

Research Study III: Return

The main objectives of this study are to reach a better informed understanding of the different state approaches towards dealing with return in the Member States and in the European Union at large; to develop comparable and reliable data on return measures and programmes; to provide policy and decision makers with more

detailed and up to date knowledge about return policies, especially in view of the proposal for a Directive on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally residing third country nationals (COM(2005) 391) which is currently under discussion in the European Council and European Parliament; to detect research gaps where further

research is necessary; and to further examine the strengths and weaknesses crucial to the effective functioning of the EMN, particularly with respect to its analysis and research activities, thus, also drawing lessons for the future development of the Network.

In the context of this study, a

workshop in Brussels was organised on 17th/18th July 2006. This workshop was open to all EMN members, as well as representatives from their national networks who were closely involved in the study. The workshop served as an opportunity for the network members to share their initial findings and review each other's progress and was considered largely successful by the participants.

The workshop opened with a general

overview of return policy in the EU provided by Philippe DE BRUYCKER from the [Odysseus Network](#). This was then followed by presentations from the various network members participating in the study. These presentations served to highlight the different sections of the study and to compare the initial findings of the individual country studies. The workshop concluded with contributions from the Commission on Community Return activities plus re-admission agreements, and a

presentation on the [MIREM project](#), which focuses on return migration to the Maghreb.

Currently, the comparative Synthesis Report is under preparation, with most of the [Country Study](#) reports now completed. These also are available upon request or via the EMN website.

Small Scale Study III: Conditions of entry and residence of Third Country Highly-Skilled Workers in the European Union

With the projected decline in the European labour force, the immigration of highly skilled workers from third countries is integral to maintaining European competitiveness. The aim of this study, therefore, is to contribute to the development of a proposed directive on the entry of third-country highly-skilled workers to the EU by providing an overview of the situation in each Member State participating in this study, particularly its policy, practice and

needs in regard to third-country highly-skilled workers. Topics covered will include the legislation currently in place, and any current reviews/proposed changes to this; details and experiences with current programmes; and the rights and obligations of such workers. Complementary statistical data, to the extent possible, will also be provided.

Eleven EMN NCPs (AT, BE, DE, EE, GR, IE, IT, LT, NL, SE, UK) are participating in this study and a workshop was

held in September to discuss initial results. As for the "Return" study, the comparative Synthesis Report is now under preparation, with most of the [Country Study](#) reports now completed. These also are available upon request or via the EMN website.

Other EMN Activities

In this section the additional activities of EMN are highlighted

Future EMN Studies

At the 17th EMN meeting in September 2006, the topic for Small-Scale Study IV was discussed and it was decided to undertake this on "Family Reunification and Family Formation". Specifications for this study are currently being developed, with the aim to undertake this, if

possible, in early 2007.

Discussions have also taken place with the [European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia \(EUMC\)](#) with a view to a joint EMN-EUMC project on immigrant youth education: anti-racist policies and initiatives. Currently the

project is in the specification phase with a view also to undertake the study in 2007.

EMN Website

www.european-migration-network.org

Following the appointment of the new EMN Co-ordinator, it was possible to re-launch the EMN website, which is now online and functioning once again. As well as including the EMN's outputs, it also serves as the portal for EMN Members to upload and search for documents within the [EMN Information Exchange System](#). European Dynamics organised a Training Session for this system at the time of the 16th EMN Meeting in June 2006.

Ad Hoc Responses

The collaborative links between network members have served to provide a very efficient means for quickly exchanging information on topics of relevance to the current development of policy in particular Member States. Recent topics for which information has been requested from EMN Members included on unaccompanied minors, on a single-step Asylum procedure and on legislation concerning the detention of illegal foreigners.

Metropolis 2006 Workshop,

2nd-6th October 2006

In the context of the Metropolis conference in Lisbon/Portugal, the Austrian, Dutch and UK NCPs successfully applied for and organised a workshop related to identifying best practices in optimising knowledge networks in the area of migration, asylum, and integration. Other organisations contributing to this workshop included EUMC, IMISCOE, IGC, and CARIM.

Training Sessions

Following the recommendation of the action plan developed jointly by the Italian and Dutch NCPs, the EMN held a training session, primarily for new network members, on 20th June 2006 in Brussels. The session sought to share best practices, organisational and networking techniques, as well as to inform new network members on grant agreement procedures and the EMN information exchange system.

As well as presentations on these latter aspects, the Commission also

provided a general introduction to the activities of EMN, including the expected role of the new network members. The Dutch, Austrian, Italian, and Irish NCP all participated in the training session, providing the viewpoint of established contact points, while the Latvian NCP offered the viewpoint of a "new" NCP.

Twinning and National Meetings

In the context also of the action plan, a number of joint meetings between „twinning NCPs“ have occurred in order to strengthen the collaborative links between its members. To date, meetings have occurred between the EE, NL and SE EMN NCPs in Tallinn on 28th September 2006, between IE and SK on 19th/20th October 2006 and on 16th November 2006 between IT and SI. A future meeting between the DE, LV and the possible participation of LI and PT also, is planned in December 2006.

The NL (January 2006) DE and IT (both October 2006) EMN NCPs have

also organised meetings of their national network members, with a representative of the Commission attending the meetings in The Netherlands and Germany. The EE EMN NCP also organised a national network meeting for 23rd/24th November 2006, with members of the AT, BE, NL, SE EMN NCPs and Commission attending, and the SE EMN NCP is organising its national network meeting for 11th December 2006.

Development of EMN Legal Base

Following publication, in November 2005, of a Green Paper on the "Future of the European Migration Network (EMN)" (COM (2005) 606), the Commission organised a Selected Experts' Meeting in April 2006 to discuss further the 32 [contributions](#) received and possible next steps for the development of a legal base proposal.

The hearing included presentations from the Commission and Network Members, including the Belgian and Austrian contact points, as well as third party organisations, such as the Odysseus Network and GHK Consulting. The hearing began with a discussion of the future mandate of EMN and the role that this mandate should fulfil. The hearing

also focused on the future structure of EMN, including the future organisation of EMN activities.

Following the successful completion of the hearing, the Commission is now in the final stages of developing a draft for a legal base proposal, consulting also twice the Committee

on Immigration and Asylum. This proposal 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.

Italy

The Italian NCP recently published a bilingual edition of the results of their contribution to the EMN Research Study II entitled *Irregular migration in Italy*. Around 400 people attended the press conferences and almost all the printed copies of the book were distributed to ministries, policy makers, NGOs, the Caritas dioceses, international organisations, universities, local bodies, research centres, journalists and individual researchers and experts interested.

The Italian NCP also participated in the "IX Consensus Conference on Migration" organised by the Italian Society of Migration and Medicine (SIMM) in Palermo from the 27th to 30th April 2006. Here the Italian NCP had the opportunity to give more visibility to the EMN by presenting the main results of the *Small Scale Study II on the Health Sector*. The SIMM was part of the ad hoc scientific committee created to support and contribute to the development of the study and composed not only by representatives of the health sector, but also of the economic sector.

The Italian NCP also organised the first networking event at the national level, a meeting of the Italian national network in Rome on the 26th June 2006. The meeting was focussed on the present and the future of the EMN and on the presentation to the experts of the network of the new books and researches published by the Italian NCP. More than 30 participants attended the meeting.

Brief News from Network Members

Austria

In June 2006, the Austrian NCP organised a seminar about "Intercultural Approaches in the Austrian Health Care System in Science and Practice" together with the Austrian Academy of Sciences/Commission for Migration and Integration Research. The seminar aimed at bringing together researchers and practitioners working in the health sector.

Belgium

The Odysseus network has organised the 5th European Conference for lawyers specialising in asylum and immigration in Europe, held on the 26th of September 2006. The conference focused on reception conditions for asylum seekers in the EU and provided a comparative overview of the implementation by member states of the 2003 Council directive on minimum standards for asylum seekers. The Commission has used this opportunity also to disseminate the small scale study publication on "Reception Systems, their Capacities and the Social Situation of Asylum Applicants within the Reception System in the

EU Member States".

Estonia

On 12th April 2006, Ms Teinbas of the Estonian NCP office made a presentation at the annual seminar of Estonian consular officers (around 50 participants), where she introduced Estonian Migration Foundation (EST EMN NCP) and the EMN – its goal, structure and activities. The Estonian consular officers showed interest towards the EMN activities, especially towards the outcomes of some studies (labour migration, illegal immigration etc) and the ad hoc request tool.

The EE EMN NCP also presented the second EMN Small-Scale Study "Managed Migration and the Labour Market – the Health Sector" at the Estonian National Library on the 23rd May 2006. Twenty-two people from different state organisations, hospitals, research institutes, as well as media outlets attended the presentation. Additionally, the Estonian NCP recently hired Mrs. Lilia Zujeva as the new EMN co-ordinator.

Ireland

Networking activities continued in 2006 and the Irish NCP was pleased to be asked to join the steering group of the RAXEN network of the EUMC. The contact point also made a contribution with the Dutch NCP to an International Symposium entitled: "Immigration in the course of the EU Enlargement and the Globalisation: challenges and chances for the European Union" in Weimar, Germany in May 2006.

Latvia

On the 8th of May the Latvian NCP organised the informative seminar on the European Migration Network for the Latvian NCP partners from the national network and the mass

media. In this seminar information was provided about the European Migration Network. Additionally, the second small scale study on managed migration and the labour market in the health sector in the Republic of Latvia and the statistical report on migration and asylum (reference year 2003) in the Republic of Latvia were presented.

The Netherlands

On January 19, 2006 the Dutch NCP organised a seminar for its national network, which about 50 representatives of various organisations in our national network, ranging from NGOs to state agencies, as well as a representative of the European Commission

attended. Some of the workshops offered focused specifically on EMN research, including the study on return – especially in relation to the current Dutch debate on return as well as on a common European migration policy. The seminar offered a good opportunity to more closely involve the national network with the EMN and produced fruitful and frank discussion on the role and position of the EMN and the national contact points.

Upcoming Events

This section features upcoming conferences, meetings and other events

7.12.2006

European Migration Network Conference, Brussels, Belgium

The purpose of the conference is to take stock of the significant progress made by the EMN, since its inception in 2003, and to discuss its possible future. The one day conference will consist of a morning session focussing on the Role, Development and Activities of the EMN within context of EU policy development, including the next steps in developing a legal base proposal. The afternoon session will then focus on the findings from recent studies undertaken by the EMN, in particular its study on "Return" and on "Managed Migration and the Labour Market - The Health Sector." Brief presentations on some of the EMN's many other activities will also be given and the intention is to have sufficient time for discussions.

Participants at the meeting will primarily be members of the EMN, plus also representatives from a wide range of relevant stakeholders.

Contact: Stephen.Davies@ec.europa.eu

14.12.2006 – 17.12.2006

EUROFOR Marie Curie Conference: European and National Agencies Dealing with the "Non-Accepted", Berlin, Germany

The European Research Forum on Migration and Ethnic Relations (EUROFOR) will be holding a conference in Berlin on the different approaches of state agencies and NGOs to enhancing the "efficiency" of migration flow management, with particular focus on resettlement and return. The conference will also serve as a forum for discussion of the ethical dimensions of social research, as well as of the responsibilities of migration researchers.

Contact: conferences@emz-berlin.de

Contact Details of the EMN Members

European Commission

Justice, Freedom and Security Directorate
General, Immigration and Asylum Unit (B.2)
Office: LX46 06/155
1049 Brussels, Belgium
Stephen.Davies@ec.europa.eu

**Berlin Institute for
Comparative Social Research**

Schliemannstr. 23,
10437 Berlin, Germany
www.emz-berlin.de
EMN@emz-berlin.de

European Dynamics

Kifissias 209, 15124,
Maroussi, Athens, Greece.
www.eurodyn.com
emn-helpdesk@eurodyn.be

AT: International Organization for
Migration Nibelungengasse 13/4
A-1010 Vienna, Austria
www.emn.at
ncpaustria@iom.int

BE: Réseau Européen des Migrations
Point de contact belge
Direction Générale Office des Etrangers
WTCII, Chaussée d'Anvers 59B
1000 Bruxelles
www.dofi.fgov.be
benedikt.vulsteke@dofi.fgov.be

CY: Civil Registry and Migration
Department
Ministry of Interior
Cyprus
www.moi.gov.cy
cmavrommati@asylum.moi.gov.cy

CZ: Ministry of the Interior
Unit of International Relations and
Information on Countries of Origin
Department for Asylum and Migration
Policies
MV -P.O. Box 21/OAM
170 34 Prague 7
www.mvcr.cz/english
asoamp@mvcr.cz

DE: Bundesamt für Migration
und Flüchtlinge
Frankenstraße 210,
90461 Nürnberg, Germany
www.emn-germany.de
Manfred.Kohlmeier@bamf.bund.de

DK: Danish Immigration Service
Ryesgade 53
2100 Copenhagen, Denmark
www.nyidanmark.dk/en-us
tmo@udlst.dk

EE: Estonian Migration Foundation
Kopli 33/Paavli 1
10412 Tallinn, Estonia
<http://www.migfond.ee/>
emn@migfond.ee

FI: Statistics Finland
P.O. Box 4B, Statistics Finland
FIN-00022, Finland
www.stat.fi
mauri.nieminen@stat.fi

FR: L'Observatoire des Statistiques de
l'immigration et de l'intégration du Haut
Conseil à l'intégration
35, rue St. Dominique
75007 Paris, France
Caroline.bray@hci.pm.gouv.fr

GR: Centre of Planning
and Economic Research
Hippokratous 22,
Athens 10680, Greece
www.emn.gr
kepe@kepe.gr

HU: Ministry of Interior
Office of EU Co-operation
József Attila u. 2-4
1903 Budapest
P.O. Box 314
zbencsik@bm.gov.hu

IE: Economic and Social Research
Institute
Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay,
Dublin 2, Ireland
www.esri.ie
emn@esri.ie

IT: IDOS/Dossier Statistico Immigrazione
c/o Caritas Italiana
Viale F. Baldelli 41, 00146 Rome, Italy
www.emnitaly.it
info@emnitaly.it

LT: Ministry of the Interior
Migration Department
Sventaragio Str. 2
LT-01510 Vilnius
www.vrm.lt/
evelina.gudzinskaite@vrm.lt

LV: The Office of Citizenship and
Migration Affairs
Rai a Boulevard 5
Latvia, LV-1050
www.pmlp.gov.lv
coordination@pmlp.gov.lv

NL: Immigration and Naturalisation
Service Information and Analysis Centre,
Ministry of Justice
Dr. H. Colijnlaan 341
2283 XL Rijswijk
www.ind.nl/en
EMN@ind.minjus.nl

PL: Office for Repatriation and Aliens
International Co-operation Department
ul. Koszykowa 16
00-564 WARSAW
www.uric.gov.pl
integracja@uric.gov.pl

PT: Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras
Rua Conselheiro
José Silvestre Ribeiro, # 4,
1649-007 Lisboa, Portugal
www.sef.pt
emn@sef.pt

SE: Statistics Sweden
701 89 Örebro, Sweden
www.scb.se
emn@scb.se

SI: Ministry of the Interior
Bureau for administrative internal affairs
Beethovnova 3, 1501 Ljubljana
Slovenia
www.mnz.gov.si
Dominika.marolt-maver@gov.si

SK: National Police Academy
Sklabinska 1
83517 Bratislava, Slovakia
www.apz.minv.sk
emn@minv.sk

UK: Home Office. Immigration Research
and Statistics Service
Apollo House, 36 Wellesley Road,
Croydon CR9 3RR, United Kingdom
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration.html
christine.larsen@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk